



# Talk of the Town



City of Victoria

February 1, 2015

Volume 28, #1

## Community benefit draws large crowd



Lisa Gagnon and Sharon Bleske have reason to smile as they greet the crowds.



Peddling Bingo cards are volunteer firefighters Dave Gagnon, Verlin Hamerschmidt and Terry Riedel.



Going to the highest bidder, Stuart Dome was the winner of this limestone sign created and donated by Wilmer Dinkel, Jr.

January 10 was a true night of community in Victoria as people came together to assist one of their own. A benefit for the Robert Schmidt family provided an occasion for many to lend a hand. Following a Mass at St. Fidelis, hundreds gathered to enjoy a pulled pork dinner, a bake sale, bingo, a raffle and auction.

Schmidt, who is battling cancer, and his family were on hand to receive the support and good wishes of their family, friends, classmates and neighbors.

Estimates were that 450+ people were served. At the end of the evening, both Schmidt and his wife Melissa expressed their thanks for such an outpouring of generosity and support from all those in attendance.

## New city ordinance requires cat tags

Following the passing of a new city ordinance at the January City Council meeting, cat owners will now be required

to purchase tags for their cats, just as they do for their dogs. Proof of rabies vaccination will be required and prices will be the same as for dogs: \$2.00 for spayed/neutered cats and \$5.00 for those that are not. Tags are available at City Hall. After March 1st, a \$1.00 per month late charge will be added for each cat.



Victoria residents are urged to assist our city workers with trash pickup. Trash placed in receptacles **should not exceed 30 pounds and must be placed in bags. Otherwise, all trash should be able to be lifted by one individual and if not in a receptacle, should be set out in bags that will not tear.**



### City Officials

#### Mayor

Curtis Unrein

#### City Council

Jerry Brungardt

Erica Dinges

Kenneth Pfeifer

Jan Piesker

Leroy Schmidtberger

#### City Clerk

Mary Pfeifer

#### Utilities Clerk

Nancy Piatt

#### City Superintendent/

#### Building Inspector

Jacob Nuss

#### Public Works Assts.

Brad Schmidtberger

Scott Zimmerman

#### Police Chief

Cole Dinkel

#### Patrol Officer

Ryan Mauch

## Calendar of Events

February



- 8— Super Bowl
- 9—School Board Meeting
- 13, 16—No School
- 14—Valentine's Day
- 16—City Council Meeting
- 16—Presidents' Day



March

- 8—Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 9—School Board Meeting
- 16—City Council Meeting
- 16-20 — Spring Break
- 17—St. Patrick's Day
- 20—First Day of Spring
- 29—VES Fundraiser Breakfast

April



- 3—Good Friday
- 5—Easter
- 13—School Board Meeting
- 20—City Council Meeting
- 22— Earth Day
- 22 — Administrative Assts. Day
- 25—Citywide Garage Sale
- 25 — VHS Prom

## Council Comments

### From Jerry Brungardt:

Victoria citizens are to be commended for their diligent observance of the Stage 3 water conservation program currently in effect. City officials have been in contact with Post Rock Rural Water District and Trego Rural District #2 discussing the possibility of acquiring water rights to support and maintain our water fields. There is no doubt that additional water would benefit us all. Perhaps the greatest factor would be Mother Nature providing much-needed rainfall. City officials will meet with Trego representatives in February to present our needs based on our conservation program as well as historical use.

Additionally, throughout the past our city has ben blessed with great employees, each of whom possess solid values and attitudes as well as job skills second to none. Yes, at times the public has questions or concerns that may not play out as they would have liked. However, everyone tries to do a fair and equitable job.

### Super Bowl Fun Facts



- 8 million pounds of guacamole is consumed on Super Bowl Sunday;
- 14,500 tons of chips are eaten along with that guacamole;
- Of the top 10 most watched American television programs of all time, nine of them are Super Bowls;
- The Super Bowl is measured in Roman numerals because a football season runs over two calendar years;
- Over 700,000 footballs are produced annually for official NFL use and 72 of them are used for the Super Bowl;
- The NFL has a policy against holding Super Bowl games in stadiums that have a climate of less than 50 degrees Fahrenheit, unless it is an enclosed stadium.



Victoria Girl Scouts will have cookies for sale beginning Jan. 31 through Mar.8. Cost is \$4.00 per package or the buyer may donate a Cookie Share to the St. Fidelis Food Bank, military, or any other approved organization. If you are not contacted by a local Girl Scout but would like to make a purchase, contact a Victoria leader: Laurie McQuade (785) 639-3397; Dawn Wasinger (785)735-8148 or Primrose Hockersmith (785) 735-8182. **This year's selections** include a gluten free option as well as the usual varieties.

APRIL

15





April 25

Whether you are wanting to clean out the basement, attic, or garage and rid yourselves of used items, or you are a bargain hunter who enjoys **the ‘thrill of the hunt’**, mark your calendars for the upcoming Victoria citywide garage sale Saturday April 25. If you would like to be listed in the newspaper ad, contact City Hall at 735-2259 or drop off a short list of items and the address where the sale will be held by April 1st. Cost is \$7.00 per listing to help defray the cost of the ad.

If you would like to avoid writing checks each month for your city bill as well as avoid the concern about late fees, the City offers the option to have your payment automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account. The City Office can provide you with the form to have this done.



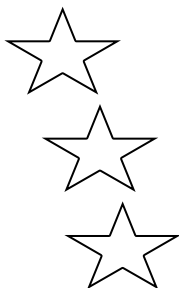
When your May city bill arrives, it will reflect the new sewer average for your household. This average is based upon your water usage between December 20 and March 20. This new average remains constant for the year beginning in May.

**Dog tags for 2015 are now available at City Hall. Victoria City Code requires all owners of dogs over six months of age to have their dog immunized against rabies and to obtain a city tag BEFORE March 1. Fee is \$2.00 for each neutered or spayed dog and \$5.00 for each dog that is not spayed or neutered. A current rabies immunization certificate must be presented before a tag can be issued. Owners failing to purchase tags before March 1 will be charged a late fee of \$1.00 per month (including the months of January and February. They also risk the chance of receiving a \$50 fine plus \$50 in court costs in the event that their dog gets loose and is picked up without a tag.**



**Give us a call. . .**

The City Office tries to keep an updated list of individuals who do jobs like mowing, weeding, painting, snow removal, childcare, etc. If you would like to have your name on this list, please contact us with your information. If you have been on the list in the past but no longer wish to be, please contact us as well.



Victoria Rec Commission still has discount movie tickets available for \$4.00 each. These can be purchased in either the elementary or high school office.

**Thrift 'N Gift Update**

The Victoria thrift store continues to experience "wonderful success" according to Jan Brungardt, project director.

In the near future those wishing to donate will have the option to drop off their items in the back where a new storage shed will be erected. When that is established, the old post office part of the operation will be closed.

The store no longer accepts electronics because they take up too much space and do not sell well.

Brungardt credits a large part of **the project's success to Rosie Kreutzer** and her host of volunteers.

The City continues to provide recycling dumpsters south of town to reduce the amount of trash within our city. Glass, aluminum, and plastic may all be bagged together. Another bin allows for paper and light cardboard. Another receptacle is available for corrugated cardboard. Using these containers is a great way to reduce the amount of refuse that ultimately ends up in the landfill.



**Dear Patrons & Knight Fans,**  
**I wanted to thank you immensely for your generous gifts to our school. We truly appreciate when community members and patrons like yourselves are able to bestow a gift that will serve our students/ athletes. It was an exciting football season to be sure, and our boys and coaches represented VHS with sportsmanship, hard work, and pride! Please accept my wholehearted thank you for your donations on behalf of our students and staff.**  
**Stuart Moeckel**



**We would like to thank the entire community for all of the support you have given us throughout our football season. Without your support, we would not have been so successful. We are extremely happy that we could bring another state championship to our hometown. We truly appreciate everything you do for us. GO KNIGHTS!**



**Bryan Dome, Noah Dreiling  
 for the 2014 VHS football team**



Provided by USD #432

**Superintendent David Ottley...**

January was School Board Recognition Month. Our district is fortunate to have seven board members who are passionate about their district. Under their guidance great things are happening at VES and VJH & JSHS! Please thank a school board member the next time you have the chance.


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We have just completed the VJSHS auditorium roof project. It was beyond repair and has been replaced with a rubberized commercial roof. Also, the VJSHS gym roof was in need of repairs. Those repairs have been completed and we should be water tight.

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On a positive note, the Board of Education approved a resolution which allows us to re-finance the school bond. The result of this action will be approximately a \$60,000 savings to the patrons of our district. We continue to find ways to improve our district inside and out! Our students are our best advertisement and our future.

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 **“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Nelson Mandela**

 **Blast from the Past!** 

The city keeps on file newsletters dating back to 1992! In looking back at some of them, here are some items residents might find interesting from the March 2000 edition:

\*Contact America opened its facility in Victoria. As a full-service call center, the company hired both part and full-time employees and ran both a dayshift and a nightshift.

\*Keith Billinger opened an insurance office at the current location on Ball Park Road, moving from his prior location in Hays.

\*Victoria City Motors, owned by Jeff Hertel, opened its doors at the Highway 40 location.

\*The Victoria Post Office at its present location held a grand opening on March 2.

\*Council members at that time were Jerry Brungardt, mayor, and Neil Nickelson, Ilona Patterson, Norman Schumacher, Julius Windholz, and Rod Goetz.

\*Don Pruitt was honored with an award recognizing him for 25 years of service to the city as a law enforcement officer.





# Meet the Council Candidates



Dustin Schumacher has filed for the position of City Council stating his "desire to be a leader and to have a positive impact on the community I live in." He sees Victoria as a very friendly community "where everyone looks out for each other." He also stated that he is impressed with the support he sees for the youth of the community. He also sees Victoria as an excellent place to raise a family.

He and his wife Becky have lived in Victoria for one and a half years. They are the parents of twins Dalton and Brynn (nine months old) who keep life "very interesting."

Schumacher was born and raised in Hays, and after finishing high school, graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in education. He has spent his entire professional career working for Shelter Insurance first as a claims representative and now as a contracted agent.

In his spare time, Schumacher is in his eighth year as an assistant baseball coach at Thomas More Prep and in his seventh year as head coach of the American Legion baseball team. He also enjoys hunting and fishing.



I, Erica Dinges, am running for a position on the Victoria City Council because I care about Victoria and you, the citizens of Victoria. I enjoy being involved in the community and I want to assist in maintaining, improving and growing our town. I am currently a member of the Council and have enjoyed representing the city in this capacity. I enjoy listening to the concerns of our citizens, being a spokesperson to represent and communicate citizens' needs and wants, and being a part of the solution.

I was born, raised, and educated in Victoria, as was my husband, Eric, and our children Zoe and Zeek will also be.

Therefore I have a strong, vested interest in this community. As a senior accountant for the FHSU Foundation, I have financial experience that can aid the city in budgeting, reporting and making wise financial decisions.

I believe our community has many positive aspects: a strong community that sticks together, a safe town where we feel protected, a clean town what we can take pride in. We are privileged to have an excellent school system as well.

I believe in this community and as your councilwoman will continue working for it. Thank you for you support. God bless you, God bless Victoria, and God bless America.



I am running for a position on the Victoria City Council. I am going to become a parent this year and I want to help keep Victoria as nice of a place for my children and future generations as I have found it to be. I have no prior experience in the political field.

Victoria is a great community because it is a place where the people are friendly, hardworking, and appreciate what they have.

I have only lived here for seven years, but my family has had ties to Victoria since 1998 when we opened Smoky Hill Meat Processing, Inc. where I am currently employed as a butcher. I completed meat cutting school in Oklahoma in 2007 and then joined the business full time. I am now a partner with my parents.

My wife Ashley works at Little Sprouts Daycare in Hays. We are expecting our first child this summer. In late 2013, we moved into our new home that was built in the new addition here in Victoria. We enjoy spending time together outdoors, sitting on the porch or patio.



# Election Day April 7

## Meet the Mayoral Candidates



I am running for mayor because I have a deep interest in this community and a sincere concern for the welfare of the people. I believe my prior experience will allow me to make effective and objective decisions that are responsive to the citizens and for the betterment of the city. I am currently completing my 22nd year as council member and/or mayor. My entire life has been spent in the community except while serving in the US Army and training with the Kansas National Guard. The first 21 years were at the family farm south of Victoria, the remainder in the city.

Victoria has many positive aspects, too many to mention in this space. However, simply put it is a great community based on solid family values and strong Christian beliefs. It is rich in concern for others and the desire to help others when in need.

Currently I manage the family farm previously owned by my parents and grandparents.

My wife Mary and I raised our four children Dale, Michele, Shannon Karst and Jessica Dale in Victoria. We are the proud grandparents of eight. I am a graduate of VHS, class of 1962. I am also a graduate of FHSU, holding a BA in Political Science and an MS in Guidance and Counseling.

My memberships include St. Fidelis parish, Knights of Columbus, American Legion, VFW auxiliary of Hays. My community involvement includes serving as the Victoria Baseball Association president and as a volunteer basketball coach for boys' and girls' recreation and summer leagues.

If elected, I will do my best to serve the people honestly and to the best of my ability. Thank you. **Jerry Brungardt**



In 1997 when looking for a place to open our business, the city/community of Victoria were very welcoming and I would like to give back to the community through this service. I have no prior experience.

Our family opened our business, Smoky Hill Meat Processing, Inc. in 1998. This is a family business that I own along with my wife and son.

We became residents of Victoria in 2008. The people of the community and the willingness to help others are certainly positive aspects of Victoria. Since moving here, we have come to really enjoy the peaceful, laid back and secure feeling of the small community.

My wife is Judy. She is the secretary at our business. We have a son, Zach, and a daughter, Courtney. Zach is married, lives in Victoria, and also works/owns Smoky Hill Meat Processing, Inc. Courtney attends FHSU and will graduate in May with her Master's in Business.

I have been a volunteer fireman for the Victoria Fire Department since 2010, and in 2013 I became an Emergency Medical Responder. **Jerry Kanzenbach**



**“Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by NOT voting.”**

Franklin D. Roosevelt