



Talk of the Town

City of Victoria

November 1, 2013

Volume 26, Nov. 4



New Store Comes to Town

Beginning Nov. 4, Victoria residents will have a new place to shop. Gift 'n Thrift, a new enterprise sponsored by St. Fidelis Church, will open its doors on Main St. in the former F & M Insurance building on Main Street.

Coordinator Jan Brungardt says that this is a project that has been talked about for some time and the timing just seemed right to move forward. With the space being donated through the generosity of Frank Brungardt and a list of volunteers ready to go to work, the doors will be open. All merchandise will come from donations within the community. The store will stock clothing items, small household items, and toys. Donations can be dropped off during regular business hours.

The store will be open Mon.-Sat. from 10:00—2:00 p.m. and on Wed. evenings from 5:00 -8:00 p.m. If anyone has items to donate and is unable to drop them off, pick-up can be arranged through the church office.

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

Julius Windholz

Public Works Assts.

Terry Riedel

Robert Schmidt

Police Chief

Cole Dinkel

Here Comes Santa Claus...

Saturday, Dec. 7th, Santa will make his appearance on the plaza in front of the church at 6:00 p.m., arriving by fire truck. He's hoping to see lots of good little girls and boys (and their parents). If the weather is inclement, Santa will be in the grade school gym. He's also hoping to see lots of homes lit up for the season.



City Hall will be closed on
Veterans' Day, Monday, November 11.

★ The Victoria City Council would like to extend its gratitude to Maria Goetz for her years of service to the community as the city's utility clerk. She will be missed.

Thanksgiving 8000 Calorie Poem

May your stuffing be tasty,
May your turkey plump,
May your potatoes and gravy
Have nary a lump.
May your yams be delicious
And your pies take the prize,
And may your Thanksgiving dinner
Stay off your thighs!
- Anonymous

2014 Dog Tags to be Due



The 2014 dog tags will be available January 1st. Victoria City Code requires all owners of any dog over six months of age to have their dog immunized against rabies and to obtain a city dog tag **BEFORE** March 1st. The fee for a tag is \$2.00 for each neutered or spayed dog. It is \$5.00 for each dog that is not spayed or neutered. A current rabies immunization certificate must be presented before a dog tag can be obtained. Owners failing to purchase dog tags before March 1st will be charged a late registration fee of \$1.00 per month (including the months of January and February) and also risk the chance of receiving a \$50.00 fine plus \$50.00 in court costs should their dog get loose and be picked up without a tag.

Calendar of Events



November

- 3 Daylight Savings time begins
- 11 Veterans' Day - City Hall closed
- 12 School Board Meeting
- 17-21 National Education Week
- 18 City Council Meeting
- 28 Thanksgiving Day—City Hall closed
- 29 City Hall closed



December

- 9 School Board Meeting
- 16 City Council Meeting
- 23 Christmas Vacation begins
- 24 Christmas Eve -City Hall closed
- 25 Christmas Day -City Hall closed



January

- 1 New Year's Day—City Hall closed
- 6 School resumes
- 20 No School
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 29 Kansas Day



Sewer Averaging Time Coming Up

Once again, it is time for sewer averaging. The yearly sewer average will be taken between December 20 and March 20. The average is based upon your water usage. The average remains with you for one year. The new average will appear on the May water bill. If that average seems high, there are several factors to take into consideration: the number of persons living in the household, the length of showers being taken, the number of loads of laundry done. Simple ways of reducing consumption include turning the faucet off while brushing your teeth, keeping cold water in the refrigerator rather than running the tap until it gets cold, doing only full loads of laundry, etc. Promptly fixing leaky faucets and toilets can also make a difference. Low flow showerheads and toilets over time can make a considerable difference as well. Many times it's the little things that amount to a lot!



Remember, if you would like to avoid writing checks for your monthly utility bills as well as save the price of envelopes and stamps to mail them, the City Office can provide you with the form to have the money automatically withdrawn from your checking account.

Winter Weather Reminder



With the arrival of snowy and icy weather, we would like to remind the community that City Ordinance requires that property owners and/or occupants are required to remove all snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property within 12 hours after a snow or ice storm ceases, in order to make the sidewalk safe for pedestrian travel. Cooperation in this regard is appreciated!

Fire Department Promotes Awareness Activities

Fire Safety Week was observed in October with a variety of activities planned by the Victoria volunteer firefighters. Victoria Elementary students preK-sixth grade were involved. Winners of the Fire Safety Poster Contest received a ride to school on the city's fire trucks. Then students visited the fire station for a variety of activities that included a video on fire safety, a talk by Chief Tom Tholen, access to the fire trucks, and an opportunity to spray water from the fire hoses.

In addition, members of the Victoria EMS were on site to share information and allow students access to the ambulance.

Victoria Elementary Principal David Ottley commented, "Chief Verlin Hammerschmidt helped coordinate the morning's events and did a great job of organizing everything. It was an excellent event teaching safety and awareness. I really appreciate the time that our firefighters put in to stay up-to-date and then to educate our youth! Victoria is very lucky to have such a dedicated volunteer fire department."



Victoria Elementary winners of the Poster Contest received a ride to school in the fire trucks. They are fifth grader Emily Sterling, preschooler Piper Nowlin, first grader Lauren Klein, third grader Janet Hugunin, sixth grader Mason Robbins; kindergartner Treydon Gottwald, third grader Shelby Schmeidler, and second grader Lindsey Scheck.



(Photos courtesy of Kami Weber and Brenda Dreiling)



Christmas Lights

When decking the halls this season, LED lights are the way to go! LEDs consume far less electricity than incandescent bulbs, and decorative LED light strings are no different. In addition, here are some other advantages:

Safety: Because they are much cooler than incandescent lights, there is less risk of combustion or burnt fingers;

Sturdiness: Because LEDs are made with epoxy lenses, not glass, they are much more resistant to breakage;

Longer life: The same LED string could still be in use 40 holiday seasons from now;

Ease of installation: Up to 25 strings of LEDs can be connected end-to-end without overloading a wall socket.



ARE YOU...

looking for a great stocking stuffer or something to use as a one-size-fits-all-gift?

Through the Victoria Recreation Commission, discount movie tickets are available for purchase at both the high school and grade school offices for \$4.00 each.



American Idol
VHS Fall Play
November 16
7:00 p.m.



Sewer Rates to Increase

Victoria residents will notice on their December 1st billing that city sewer rates have increased based upon a unanimous City Council vote at the October meeting. The minimum charge will now be \$4.93 and \$5.52 per thousand gallons based on averages of December, January, and February. This is the first increase in this charge since 2001. Prior rates were set at a base of \$3.08 and \$3.45 per thousand gallons.

Rec Commission Completes Project



Community members stepped up to help erect the goals for the city's new basketball court.



Ready for some action on the new court are Victoria Elementary students Scarlett Nowlin, Kiara Sweat, Brooklin Robben, and Haylee Winter.

Thanks to a project funded by the Victoria Recreation Commission, residents of Victoria now have a new place to shoot hoops. The new basketball court, adjacent to the tennis courts, measures 80 X 50 and features four goals. The concrete work was completed by T & J Construction of Hays; the labor and equipment needed to install the goals was donated by Jay Dinkel Construction of Victoria, assisted by a group of community volunteers. Land for the project was donated by the Victoria School District. The commission is now investigating the feasibility of adding lights.

Current members of the Rec Commission include Darian Dinkel, Shannon Radke, Alan Schulte, Brenda Dreiling, and Amanda Pruitt. Sharon Bleske serves as athletic director and Marla Robben as bookkeeper.

Reminder

Stage 2 Water Restrictions are still in effect. Everyone is encouraged to continue conserving our city's water resources within their households.

Who knew... ?

While everyone recognizes November as the month of Thanksgiving, check out some of the other occasions that have been designated for this month:

- Banana Pudding Lovers' Month
- Aviation History Month
- Peanut Butter Lovers' Month
- Spinach and Squash Month
- World Sponge Month
- NoSHAVember Month
- Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month
- National Adoption Month
- Real Jewelry Month
- International Drum Month
- Child Safety Protection Month

Remember that the city's recycling site continues to be open throughout the winter.