

Talk of the Town

City of Victoria
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www.victoriaks.com

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For the convenience of our citizens, the Ellis County Clerk's office has placed a drop box for election ballots in front of City Hall. Officials will collect them on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the eligible voting time. Please do not drop your city bill in there by mistake!



From the Mayor...

The water project for our City has been delayed a bit, but progress is beginning to pick up. The foundation for the water tower was completed recently and the tower itself should be completed before spring. Painting of the tower is dependent on the weather, so don't be concerned if you detect a lull in this part of this project.

The water line replacement part of the project is also making headway. Part of this phase may require some temporary traffic control measures. Please bear with the City and the contractor as these inconveniences will be short-lived.

The connection to Trego Rural Water District #2 is close to completion. By the time the new water tower is operational, the Trego connection will also be ready to provide supplemental water for our town. In addition, part of the water well field south of Victoria will be improved as one of the later stages of the project. All of these improvements should be completed before the end of 2021.

On another matter, the City received over \$65,000 in grant money through the Ellis CARES program. The bulk of this is going to the fire department to improve gear and equipment it needs in this new era of living and dealing with COVID-19. A small amount was used to purchase laptop computers for City staff, in case the need arises for them to work from home. Hopefully, that does not occur, but if it does, we are ready. The remainder of the money was used to reimburse the City for expenses incurred due to the pandemic.

**In observance of Thanksgiving,
City Hall will be closed Nov. 24 & 25.**

City Officials

Mayor

John Schulte

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City Council

Erica Dinges

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Zach Kanzenbach

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Ryan Lichter

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Harland Rupp

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Dustin Schumacher

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City Clerk: Mary Pfeifer

Utilities Clerk: Nancy Piatt

City Treasurer: Jerry
Schmidtberger

City Superintendent:

Brad Schmidtberger

Public Works Assistants:

Terry Riedel

Jeff Dorzweiler

Police Chief: Cole Dinkel

Patrol Officer: Ryan Mauch

Fire Chief: Tom Tholen

Assistant Fire Chief: John Weber



Post 1751 would like to thank all who have rented the hall in these last few months. It was a difficult time when events had to be cancelled or made smaller so those months definitely impacted our income. However, the recent months have been better.

We know we all need to work together to stop this terrible disease, so we are using the governor's guidelines when events are held: clean up and help disinfect all tables and chairs; encourage masks and social distancing as much as possible.

When we had to cancel events, we had just begun the planning stages of a fundraiser to help us purchase and install a new hood vent over the stoves, along with a new ceiling and lights and new paint in the kitchen. Our goal is \$20,000 to remodel and update the kitchen.

If you would like to help with a donation, you can mail it to P O Box 23, Victoria, KS 67671.

The Post is very appreciative of Victoria residents and all who have rented the hall. We are proud of the hall and have hopes to remodel the entire building as time and income allow.

Victoria Clinic reopens



As of Oct. 1, the Victoria clinic has a new name and a new manager/care provider. Golden Rule Clinic has replaced First Care and Jamie Schneider, nurse practitioner, is open to see patients Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Contact number is 785 623.3840.

Schneider has worked in family practice for 8+ years and now hopes to grow her practice in the new facility. She holds a BSN from FHSU as well as a master's and doctorate degree. Until it is financially feasible for her to be full-time at the clinic, she is also working in the ER at Great Bend.

She offers a range of services that include lab tests, physicals, COVID testing and more. She is credentialed with BCBS, United Health Care and Medicare.

She just added CNA Angeleah Sterling to assist with the many facets of the clinic.



Our committee is currently running a Ranger raffle fundraiser for a 2020 Polaris Ranger. Tickets are \$100 each and we are only selling 250! We hope to raffle this at a surprise event in December. Contact any committee member to get your tickets.

On Sept. 12, we held our second annual coed softball tournament. Thanks to the community, it was a success again this year. We started at 8:00 a.m. and ended the championship game around 2:30 a.m. Both our champions and runners-up were local Victoria teams. Our two-time champions were Taylor Rome and the Nationals; runners-up were Jake Boor and Off Constantly. Off Constantly generously donated their winnings back to Herzogfest. It was a beautiful day for softball, food, and beer, and we hope to keep bringing this event back every year.

We are hard at work planning the 2021 festival as well as working to bring a few other events to our community. Follow our Facebook page@theherzogfest to keep up to date on the latest happenings. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or committee member, please contact Ashley at 785 639.0788.



The Victoria Housing Authority currently has a vacant position on the Board of Commissioners. The VHA was established to provide decent, safe, sanitary and drug-free housing for persons of lower income. It is financed by federal subsidy, rental income from tenants, grants, etc. The Board meets every other month on the 4th Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Commissioners serve for four years and are appointed by the Mayor. If you have any questions or to let me know you are interested, please call 785 735.2620 or stop by the office.



Superintendent Kent Michel accepts the Sunflower Bank donation from Marci Heier and Gina Oberle.

USD 432 participated in Sunflower Bank's ABC program, supporting education during the 2019-20 school year. The length of the program was expanded to a full year to provide more time to drive school donations. At the end of September, Sunflower Bank presented a check for \$2,385.54 to the district. Local branch associates are currently registering schools to participate in the next donation cycle. Students grades K-12 are invited to drop off their report cards to the Victoria branch by Nov. 30 for a chance to earn up to \$100 for their A's. The drawing will take place on Dec. 1.



Fire Department hosts Poker Run



The Victoria Volunteer Fire Department recently sponsored a day of combined fun and fundraising, holding its first Poker Run. All sorts of vehicles were involved: motorcycles, UTV's, SUV's and more. All sorts of people were involved: singles, couples and families.

The event began with participants gathering at The Library where they registered and picked up their first card. The other establishments involved were The Getaway in Schoenchen, Sonny's in Liebenthal, The Well in Munjor and then the last stop where prizes were awarded was the Victoria VFW. A silent auction was also held at the Victoria Fire Station.

Prizes were awarded in the amounts of \$300, \$150 and \$50; winners were Leonard Kern, Chris Teeter, and Matt Sander. Sponsors for the day included Vanderbilt's, Goodtimes Motorcycles, Doerfler Moto Supply, Briney Motor Sports, and Sore Loser Tattoo.

According to fire department member Kami Weber, the number of participants and the amount of funds raised indicated that this could become an annual event.

Victoria Alumni Association

The Victoria Alumni Association saw a drastically reduced slate of activities for Homecoming 2020. Almost all events were cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic. Only the annual golf tournament and cash raffle took place. Both were held at the Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course on Sept. 25. The tournament saw 20 teams tee off. After a couple hours catching up with friends and classmates, everyone finished their rounds and awards were given out. The raffle drawing resulted in \$1500 in prizes being handed out, \$250 of which were given back to the association. The alumni board is already making plans for Sept. 17 & 18, 2021, hoping that a **'normal' homecoming can be held then.**

St. Fidelis News

The parishes of St. Fidelis, St. Boniface, and St. Ann welcome Fr. Jim Mester, OFM, Cap., as their new pastor.

The St. Fidelis Thrift Shop had its best month ever in September. Thank you to everyone who supports us in any way.

A reminder that the PAC Center has a food pantry that is well-stocked and available to anyone simply by calling the parish office at 735.2777. Please **don't hesitate to ask.**

Victoria Rec Commission

Victoria Recreation Commission Director Sharon Bleske reports that they are looking for someone to lead instructional basketball for first and second graders. If interested, you can contact her at 785 735.4081.

Those signing up for Biddy Basketball grades third through sixth will need to pick up their forms during November.



The Hays Public Library Bookmobile comes to Victoria on the second and fourth Fridays of every month. They now park in the church parking lot from 3:00—5:00 pm. You can request books online and they will have them on board for you, as well as check out a wide variety of materials. Masks are required.



Pet tags will be available Jan. 1. All dogs and cats are required to have one. Proof of rabies vaccination is required. Cost is \$2.00 for spayed and neutered pets and \$5.00 for others. Deadline is March 1.



All ATV licenses need to be renewed after Jan. 1. Cost is \$25 and current insurance is required.



When it snows, property owners are responsible to remove snow and ice from sidewalks within 12 hours after a snow or ice storm ends. This is required by City Ordinance.



SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS



From Principal

Dylan Dronberger...

With a few weeks left until the end of the first quarter, I just want to commend everyone for adapting during these unusual times.

Students, thank you for your patience and flexibility. We appreciate your adaptiveness to all the changes.

Parents & Families, your support has been crucial to the positive start of the year. Your ability to adapt to changes and to support the goal of staying in school has not gone unnoticed.

Teachers and staff, your passion & love for our students has made this year so successful. You are an amazing group and there are not enough thank you's to show our appreciation.

Community, thank you for your constant support, grace and understanding. We are all in this together and we appreciate your efforts for our schools!

As we continue to move forward, please continue to be patient, flexible, and support one another. If we all do our part, our students will benefit the most.



Since the beginning of the school year, both school buildings have gained new staff members.

At the elementary they include kindergarten teacher Alyson Reed, secretary Carla Schmeidler, custodian Monte Kitchen, cook Laurie Sutton, and paras Brenda Dreiling and Tiffany Boardman.

At the junior/senior high are Spanish teacher Daniel Escudero, special education teacher Anne Haas, and paraeducator Beverly Hartsook.

From VJHSH Counselor

Kori Braun...

Things are going really well here. In spite of the craziness surrounding us, students are doing great and spirits are high! Masks, social distancing, sickness, social unrest, political quarreling, the looming shadow of the unknown are all factors trying to bring us down, **but we are continuing to look at the bright side!**



I am still able to pull in my junior high students for weekly **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) time**. Those sessions are the highlights in my days. We are blessed to have a wonderful group this year, and I look forward to getting to know them even better. Should we be forced to go remote learning, the students have already requested that we continue these sessions via Zoom.

Regretfully, we have been forced to cancel our **college tours** this year in addition to cancelling college representative visits. Hopefully, we can still arrange some individual student campus visits and match each student to his/her optimal school.

We will still offer the **ACT test** here at VHS. It will be administered twice, once for juniors and seniors in October and then again in the spring for juniors only.

Since we will not be able to hold a senior **FAFSA** night, all our seniors and their parents will be receiving a very detailed video that will walk them through the process.

I was very grateful that we were able to celebrate **Homecoming** and that our athletes are still able to play sports.

From VES Counselor

Christie Sander...

Our students, families, and community are blessed with amazing educators and staff who work with our students and each other on a daily basis. Our teachers are working intensely in their classrooms to help support the social-emotional needs of our kids.

At VES. I work with the teachers to help support the efforts and needs of their students. This year, we are working on teaching all the students **K-6 Zones of Regulation** — a program that helps students identify their feelings and how they can then use strategies to help them self-regulate.

One of the most important jobs as an educator is to help build each student's toolbox of skills to prepare them for future success. As a counselor, I work with each classroom, teaching standards based on social-emotional, academic, and career needs at each level.

Individually, I work with students based on needs brought to my attention by parents, staff, or self-referral. During this time, everyone can use a little extra love and support, and that is my goal with my students, coworkers, and families.



As a result of Alan Schulte's resignation from the Board of Education, Sean Rodger was selected to fill the position.

Current Superintendent/Elementary Principal Kent Michel has announced his resignation effective June 30, 2020.