

Talk of the Town



City of Victoria

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785 735.2259

www.victoriaks.com

victoria@ruraltel.net

City honors Retiring Chief Hammerschmidt

Victoria Fire Chief Verlin Hammerschmidt isn't a man who enjoys being in the limelight. But as he marks the end of his 42-year tenure, first as a firefighter and then 18 years as chief, his department and the City are not willing to let him go unnoticed.

Recently the department surprised him with a gathering in his honor that included a host of community friends and present and former colleagues as well as a symbolic gift and a cake. The City will hold another public reception for him on Feb. 10 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at the fire station.

Hammerschmidt has collected a lot of memories during his years of service. He recalls when the department moved to the new firehouse at its present location, the expansion of the working partnership with the city of Hays, the city of Ellis and Ellis County, and the improvement of equipment the City of Victoria has acquired to enhance the safety of its residents.

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Verlin listens as fellow fireman Tom Tholen entertains the audience with stories about their years together.



Longtime friends Carol and Gib Billinger congratulate Verlin on his retirement.

**You're
Invited**

**to a public reception
honoring Verlin Hammerschmidt
Feb. 10 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
at the Victoria Fire Station.**

City Officials

Mayor

John Schulte

Shultz@ruraltel.net

City Council

Erica Dinges

ericadinges@hotmail.com

Zach Kanzenbach

KanzenbachVCC@gmail.com

Ryan Lichter

ryanlichter@hotmail.com

Harland Rupp

hrupp@ruraltel.net

Dustin Schumacher

DSchumacher

@Shelterinsurance.com

City Clerk: Mary Pfeifer

Utilities Clerk: Nancy Piatt

City Treasurer: Jerry
Schmidtberger

City Superintendent:

Brad Schmidtberger

Public Works Assistant:

Terry Riedel

Jeff Dorzweiler

Police Chief: Cole Dinkel

Patrol Officer: Ryan Mauch

Fire Chief: Verlin Hammerschmidt

Assistant Fire Chief: Kevin Klein

Effective Dec. 20, all city customers, both commercial and residential will see a \$1.00 increase on their base sewer rate.



You may have noticed a new face among our City crew. Jeff Dorzweiler joined our ranks in November. Jeff has been a resident of Victoria for 13 years and is originally from Ellis. He formerly worked for Ellis County Public Works. We're happy he is among us!

Good News!

Renovations will soon be underway at Victoria Post 1751, largely due to a grant from the Home Depot Foundation. Work to remodel the two existing bathrooms will begin in late January. The goal is to make two handicapped-accessible stalls in both the men's and women's restrooms. The work will also include new stools, urinals, sinks, flooring, lights and painting. If possible doors will also be widened.

According to Quartermaster Harland Rupp, the grant will go a long way in helping get this project done.



Hammerschmidt retires

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As Chief, some of his duties have included seeing that equipment is up to date, arranging for training for his department, chairing the regular department meetings, and overseeing the budget. As with most things today, he observes that the paperwork has increased significantly during his time as chief. He credits secretary Kami Weber with making this part of his job easier as she is the one who has done much of the record keeping.

Talking about his management style over the years, Hammerschmidt admits. "I'm a stubborn German who has always done things on his own terms."

He hopes that at the City reception in February, the public will view it as an opportunity to see the equipment, get acquainted with some of the members of the department and bring their children - not just as a time to recognize him.

Mayor John Schulte commented, "The City Council and I would like to convey our appreciation to Verlin for his 42 years of service to our community. Verlin has been an institution for the City as our fire chief and he is leaving very large shoes for the next chief to fill. We wish him all the best during his well-deserved retirement."

One of the reasons Hammerschmidt had planned to retire at this time was to spend more time with his wife, Glenda. Sadly she passed away in December.

His successor will be chosen at the Feb. 4 department meeting.



Reminders

The deadline for getting a new tag for your dog or cat is before March 1. Cost is \$2.00 if spayed or neutered, or \$5.00 otherwise. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required.

All ATV owners are required to renew their licenses for 2019. Cost is \$25. Please stop by the office with a copy of your current insurance information at your earliest convenience.

Sewer averaging for the next year is figured on customers' consumption during the months of December through March. The new rates will be reflected on the May bill.

We are still in need of cell phone numbers for our citizens who have given up their land lines. Without them, we have no way to reach you in an emergency.

Property owners are reminded that they are responsible to remove all snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property within 12 hours after a snow or ice storm ends. This is required by City Ordinance. Thank you.



To all of our citizens who turned in the LMI surveys that were mailed out, a big thank you! We appreciate your willingness to help us in our efforts to secure grant funding. Your \$2.00 discount will be reflected on this month's bill.

Victoria Rec News



Victoria Recreation will be offering spring soccer, volleyball and flag football for preschool (depending on age) thru 6th grades. Forms are due by February 6 and are available at the school or by contacting Sharon Bleske @785.735.4081.

Chopped! Victoria Rec Style is coming to town. We will be offering this to 1st thru 6th grades. Forms are due by February 11 and are available at the school or by contacting Sharon Bleske.

HERZOGFEST

THANK YOU! Thank you to the community for your support with our annual Stars and Stripes Breakfast fundraiser! We appreciate everyone for buying tickets and attending with us.

WATCH FOR upcoming events including the annual Herzogfest Golf Tournament scheduled for April and a softball tournament in the works for sometime this summer.

CONTACT US: The committee welcomes comments from the community. There would be no festival without you! If you would like to be a donor, a vendor, a volunteer, or if you just have suggestions for us, please get in touch.

Ashley Kanzenbach—785.639.0788

Jordan Robben—785.735.8078

FIND all the committee members on our website www.theherzogfest.com.

FOLLOW US on social media for the latest information on the planning of the fest!

FB:@theherzogfest

INSTA: herzogfest2.0

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

HERZOGFEST 2019 August 9 & 10



Firefighter Chris Brungardt was recognized for 25 years of service to the Victoria Volunteer Fire Department at the December meeting of the Victoria City Council. Chief Verlin Hammerschmidt and Mayor John Schulte made the presentation of an engraved clock as a token of the City's appreciation.

We continue to be a drop off site for UPS packages.



Citywide Event

April brings showers, spring cleaning and the annual Victoria citywide garage sale and cleanup. Mark your calendars for **April 27** for the citywide garage sale. If you wish to advertise your sale, please provide us with a short list of your items and an \$8.00 fee to help cover ads in the Hays and Russell newspaper **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 12. The dumpsters will be available the following weekend May 3-5. Beginning with this May date, the dumpsters will only be provided once a year.**



Superintendent News & Views

By Kent Michel

Good Day! First of all, I am honored and very excited to be your Superintendent of Schools. The Victoria School District is one of the best districts in the state. Since being here, I have learned the tradition of excellence that exists is due to the wonderful people of this community and the hard work of our students and staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about my family and myself. First and foremost, I am a husband and father. My wife Charlotte and I have two adult children. Our son Zach is 26 and lives and works in Overland Park. Our daughter Haley is 22 and attends Washburn University. My wife lives in Effingham, Kansas, where she is the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. I tell you this because my experiences as a husband and father have helped to shape me as an educator and a leader.

I deeply believe in a quality and comprehensive education for all students. Victoria is known not only for its excellence in academics and extracurricular programs, but also for the support from parents and a dedicated teaching and support staff.

My mission as superintendent is also my passion and the reason I am in education. That is, to preserve and grow a rigorous and relevant teaching and learning environment that provides every student with the best education possible. This includes a sense of belonging, while growing intellectually, emotionally and socially. It is critical to all students' success that they graduate from high school with the skills necessary to pursue and achieve beyond USD 432.

I cannot believe that half the year has already gone by. I have been so blessed to be here in Victoria. I have been humbled by the way the community has accepted me. Rest assured I will do my best to propel USD 432 forward.

St. Fidelis News

The St. Fidelis Thrift Shop continues to do well. The volunteers at the shop take their jobs seriously, constantly sorting and cleaning to make it an enjoyable experience for anyone who visits.

A reminder that St. Fidelis Church does have a food pantry for those who may need little help with food throughout the month. Contact the office at 735.2777 for more information or if you know of someone that may benefit from the pantry.

Another project St. Fidelis sponsors is taking supplies to Options, the domestic abuse and violence shelter in Hays. If you have any shampoo, soap, or any other items from hotels, we take them and distribute them. We also take donations of regular size items like shampoo, conditioner, etc. as well as toothpaste, combs, razors, deodorant and large purses or tote bags that you no longer need. Many times when a person leaves home because of abuse or violence, they have very little time to gather these things. Call Jan at the office number above for more information.

High School Hoops

When talking to new Victoria boys' head basketball coach Colin Schmidtberger and veteran assistant coach Troy Anderson, one thing is very clear: they both share a passion for the game.

Schmidtberger says it has been a dream of his to land a head coaching position, but he didn't think it would be in his hometown. He is a graduate of VHS and played on the Knights' basketball team that went to state his senior year. Prior to his present post, he coached middle school for four years and served as an assistant at the high school for one year.

Meanwhile Anderson is a newcomer to Victoria, having lived here for less than two years. He retired from teaching and coaching at Moorland, Oklahoma, where he coached players from third grade through high school in basketball, football and track. He says this new position was "God-sent." He saw a notice in the church bulletin that prompted him to apply.

Before the season began, the two coaches had never met. But it didn't take them long to figure out their respective strengths and to blend their philosophies.

As the season progresses they are hopeful to see their efforts pay off in terms of morale, confidence and performance on the court.

