

# Talk of the Town

City of Victoria

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www.victoriaks.com

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## Schwarz starts Airbnb

Although there is no sign to tell the public, Victoria has a new business right on Main St. It is an Airbnb suite available for rent, owned and operated by Bob Schwarz Financial.

Originally intended to be his 'man cave' whenever Schwarz was in town, he and his staff decided to rent it during the times that he is not.

The space has been converted to a suite that can sleep four, is handicapped accessible and features most of the comforts of home: refrigerator, microwave, big screen TV, etc. There is off-street parking behind the building.

The building has been totally renovated by contractor Mike Kruger of Silver Lake and took over nine months to complete. Guests so far have come from as far as Japan and all over the U.S. Management has been handled by Schwarz' Victoria staff Kris Dinkel and Cortney Dale. Rates vary according to season but start as low as \$55 per night.



**TRASH TO BE COLLECTED  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

## Rodger Photography opens

New business owner Andrea Rodger has dreamed about opening her own photography studio for five years. And now the dream has become a reality as her newly renovated space is open and customers are coming for sittings in the new space located at 201 E. Main. The rehab of the building took 12 weeks of hard work and included taking the premise down to the studs, adding new plumbing and electrical. Prior to this, Rodger has been working out of her home.

**Rodger's 'very favorite' is photographing newborns** and she also enjoys working with children and families. She does not do weddings.

Before long, she hopes to stock a variety of products for sale and has hopes of renting out the space for a **variety of purposes: showers, girls' night, yoga, kids' classes, etc.** She is excited about the possibilities and **envisions it as a "creative space."**

She has a Facebook page and is working on a new website. She can be reached at 785.650.9059.



Andrea Rodger welcomes clients to her new studio in Victoria.

## City Officials

Mayor

John Schulte

Shultz@ruraltel.net

City Council

Erica Dinges

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Zach Kanzenbach

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City Clerk: Mary Pfeifer

Utilities Clerk: Nancy Piatt

City Treasurer: Jerry

Schmidtberger

City Superintendent:

Brad Schmidtberger

Public Works Assistants:

Jacob Nuss

Terry Riedel

Police Chief: Cole Dinkel

Patrol Officer: Ryan Mauch

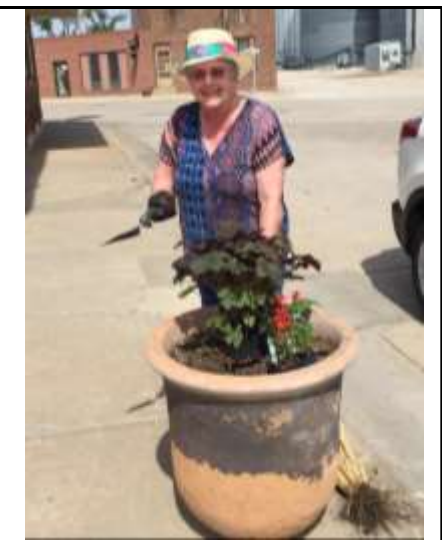
Fire Chief: Verlin Hammerschmidt

Assistant Fire Chief: Kevin Klein

**POOL CLOSING AUGUST 17**

CITYWIDE FALL CLEANUP  
 DUMPSTERS AVAILABLE  
 Friday Oct. 5: 4-7 pm  
 Saturday Oct. 6: 9 am —7 pm  
 Sunday Oct. 7: 9 am—4 pm

Note to Property Owners  
 City Council members have recently been made aware of some sidewalks in the community that are in a serious state of disrepair and in need of replacement for safety reasons. According to City ordinance, a defective sidewalk can be condemned and a replacement required. **This is the homeowner's responsibility.** Once a sidewalk has existed, it must be maintained in good order. It cannot simply be removed.



Karen Schueler created the arrangement for the flower pot at City Hall.

Public Works Thanks You

We would like to extend a thank you to all citizens of Victoria for your ongoing help in keeping our town clean and very well represented. The recent Fourth of July celebrations were abundant and an impressive representation of the community's pride! Your help and responsibility in cleanup of the holiday was impressive to say the least.

Please continue to help by properly bagging trash and containers and placing in the designated pick-up areas the day of refuse removal. Bag all trash in containers that are over 30 gallons in size and remember **yard waste, grass, tree branches, weeds, etc. must go to the compost site. They are not allowed in refuse removal.**

The recycling trailers are taken to Hays twice weekly to keep up with our increasing participation. We are doing our best to keep the trailers available. The City of Hays' recycling has been going through growing pains and has on occasion as of late not allowed us to dump. They are expanding the capacity and assure us they are working on this. Please be patient through this process!

Again, thank you for your help in maintaining the cleanliness and look of our great town!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me:

Public Works  
 Brad Schmidtberger 785-735-8133

HERZOGFEST UPDATE

- ◆ Everyone is encouraged to visit the new website: [www.theherzogfest.com](http://www.theherzogfest.com). From there, everyone can print off documents for tournaments, make a donation, and check out the events of the weekend.
- ◆ Knockerball, laser tag, stein hoist and a corn hole tournament will all be offered this year. Those doing the stein hoist are asked to comply with game rules and be safe. Those who plan on participating in the corn hole tournament are encouraged to sign up early.
- ◆ There will be wheelchair ramps available for those who need them.
- ◆ Resurrection Winery will be a vendor this year, selling sealed products.
- ◆ The festival layout will be different this year: the beer garden will be closer to the stage and the small stage just south of the caboose facing south.
- ◆ The committee is looking for volunteers for the basketball tournament and anyone else willing to help out.



*A bouquet of thanks to our citizens who cared for the flowers in the city adopt-a-pot program: Sheena Gagnon, Gertie Staab, Bob Schwarz staff, Katie Leikam, Sara Boyd, Joel & Cam Mueller, A shley Kanzenbach/Herzogfest Committee, the Ryan Lichter family, the Kent Schmeidler family, DJ Kuhn, Cora Schulte, Rosie Kreutzer, Carla Pruitt, Edna Rupp, Jerry Schmidtberger, Det Younger, Leroy & LeeAnn Schmidtberger, I lona Patterson, Karen Schueler. Your efforts made our community a prettier place!*

## Citizens hear 'First Impressions'

Victoria residents had the opportunity to learn what a team of trained visitors found notable when they paid a visit to our community as part of First Impressions, a program sponsored by K-State with funding by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. Nadine Sigle presented the findings in the form of a PowerPoint presentation to an audience of about 30 residents, including Mayor John Schulte and Council member Ryan Lichter.

The most positive qualities noted were the tidiness of the downtown area, the pride reflected in residential areas, and the beauty of the St. Fidelis Basilica and the cemetery with its old crosses. The biggest obstacles found were the need for improved signage throughout the town and the need for more business enterprises.

Observers were asked to evaluate a number of elements including health care services, housing observations, faith and civic organizations, infrastructure, recreation and tourism. Sigle's presentation featured multiple pictures to accompany each category as well as remarks from the visiting team with pauses to allow for comments and questions from the audience.

In addition to the team feedback, Sigle provided a number of facts about the city found in the most recent census information: population:1214; high school education rate: 97.8%; college: 29.4%; median house value: \$136,000; poverty rate: 6.2%; median age: 35.5.

The visiting team was a group from Hoxie. The team that visited Hoxie representing Victoria was Jan Brungardt, Jane Wagner, and Jerry Schmidtberger.

Reflecting on her experience, Wagner commented: "As a participant, I was much more aware of the community than if I had just driven through or stopped to see a friend. Knowing we were evaluating the community made me notice the positives and negatives, and I found myself comparing that community to our town."

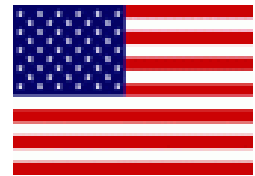
Schmidtberger also weighed in on his involvement: "The interaction with locals was the highlight of the trip. Listening to how they viewed their community, the good as well as the bad. It was equally enjoyable to hear the perspective of another community visiting Victoria and noting their observations. It opened my eyes to some areas the community needs to work on."

As a result of the visiting group's findings, the City will pursue some possible funding through the Dane G. Hansen Foundation that would allow for the purchase of new signs to replace outdated ones or to identify locations in the City that currently do not have signs. Jane Wagner has volunteered to take the lead in this effort.

Reminders: Boats and campers are prohibited from being stored on city streets. **Maintenance of alleys is the resident's responsibility, including mowing as well as keeping them free of debris.**



Kris Dinkel of Bob Schwarz Financial offered beverages to Ivan and Verda Werner and all those in attendance at the First Impressions presentation.



Victoria VFW Post 1751 is holding a raffle drawing to help fund the replacement for a new air conditioner.

Tickets are priced at \$25.00. The drawing is scheduled to be held on Oct. 29 at 1:00 pm at the VFW Hall in Victoria.

Prizes will be as follows: two \$500; one \$300; twelve \$100. Winners need not be present to win.

To purchase tickets, contact any Post member of call 7855.623.1368.

Fun but frivolous facts!

- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.
- Peanuts are one of the ingredients in dynamite.
- There are 293 ways to make change from a dollar.

# New administrators take the helm at USD #432



**Kent Michel officially began his duties as new superintendent July 2.**

When school let out last May, Dylan Dronberger was finishing his seventh year at VJ/SHS as a classroom teacher. When school begins in August, he will be the new principal!

During his tenure in the classroom, Dronberger taught government, American history, world history, world geography, and international relations. He served as STUCO sponsor as well as on the Site Council. He also coached high **school boys' basketball, four years as a head coach and one as an assistant.**

He is excited about his new position because he hopes **that it will be a way "to help influence more people."**

In addition to his principal duties, he will be the athletic director as well as the director of transportation. His philosophy is to **"put everyone's happiness before mine."**

Dronberger and his wife Ashley just purchased a home in Victoria and are looking forward to being a bigger part of the community .

Ashley is a case manager at Hays Medical Center and they

New Victoria Superintendent/Elementary Principal Kent Michel, a native of Russell, is happy to be back in this part of Kansas after four years in Atchison serving as principal of a school of 900 students.

While the duties and responsibilities of superintendent will be new to him, the elementary principal part of his job will feel comfortable. Prior to his time in Atchison, he served as principal at Bickerdyke and Simpson Elementary Schools in Russell.

Michel began his career in education in Carbondale, Kansas, working for one year. From there, he and his wife Charlotte, also an elementary teacher, moved to Delano, California, where they lived and taught for three years. He looks back on that time **as a 'great experience' partly due to the diversity of cultures in the school.** During that time, their son Zach was born.

When the Michels chose to return to Kansas, they found new teaching positions, Charlotte in Gorham, and Kent at Bickerdyke and later at Ruppenthal Middle School. **It was during this time that the couple's daughter Haley was born.**

Michel then ventured outside education for three years, working in the banking industry at **United National Bank in Russell but "the banking business was not for me."** During that time, he served on the School Board of USD 407 for three years. After that experience, he became principal of both elementary schools in Russell.

Currently, Charlotte is employed as the director of curriculum and instruction in Effingham, Kansas, which means that for the present time they will be living apart. Michel says their 32-year marriage is strong and they will make it work.

In the short time he has been on the job in Victoria, he already credits the people with being accepting, hard-working, and dedicated.

Looking toward the future, Michel says his initial goal is to continue the successes **the district is known for and "to work in tandem with the staff."**

**Michel's educational background includes an undergraduate degree in elementary education from Washburn University and a master's degree from Fort Hays State, where he has also just recently completed the work for his superintendent's license.**

are the parents of Ila, almost three and Lou, four months old.

Dronberger is a native of Beloit, and a graduate of FHSU for both **his bachelor's and master's degree in Education Administration.**

**He hopes to see that "Every kid gets a quality education and that his staff will continue to grow in their chosen profession."**



**New Victoria Junior/Senior High School Principal Dylan Dronberger spent some early days unofficially on the job preparing for the new school year. Four month-old Lou came along to see how well his daddy could multi-task. Dronberger replaces Stuart Moeckel, who was hired as a superintendent in Madison, Kansas.**