

Talk of the Town



City of Victoria

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www.victoriaks.com

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From the Mayor...

The City Council and I are proud to announce that an agreement has been reached with Trego Water District #2 to connect to their water system. This water will blend very easily with our existing water and will be beneficial to the City. Our existing well field will still be the primary water source, and the Trego water will be our supplemental source.

In addition to connecting to Trego #2, there are several other water projects that will occur at approximately the same time:

- ◆ Our two highest capacity water wells will be offset and re-drilled. These wells provide 60% of our current water. The down hole casing and screens for both of these wells are original to when they were drilled and are 36 and 51 years old. The new offset wells will be designed with a similar capacity to the existing wells.
- ◆ A new water tower will be built on the northern edge of town. The current water tower was built in 1921 and had a life expectancy of 75 years. We should consider ourselves lucky that the original tower has lasted 22 years longer than designed, and hopefully, it will continue with relative ease until the new water tower is operational.
- ◆ Several of the older water lines around town will be replaced and looping of all lines completed to improve quality in low use areas. These lines are also well past their intended useful life, and their replacement is overdue.

The main reason for taking on so many projects at one time was so we would be able to apply for federal grant money. Through the help of several USDA agencies, we have been awarded a \$1.441 million grant for this project. Total estimated cost for the entire project is \$4.507 million. The \$2.966 million balance will be funded by a 40 year, low-interest USDA bond.

The current timeline for these projects to begin will be in September 2019 and will hopefully be completed by September 2020. Much of the unseen work on these projects was completed by past and current water board members. Thank you goes out to those members: Brad Schmidtberger, Harland Rupp, Mark Karst, Curt Unrein and Kenny Pfeifer.

City Officials

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Utilities Clerk: Nancy Piatt

City Treasurer: Jerry

Schmidtberger

City Superintendent:

Brad Schmidtberger

Public Works Assistant:

Terry Riedel

Police Chief: Cole Dinkel

Patrol Officer: Ryan Mauch

Fire Chief: Verlin Hammerschmidt

Assistant Fire Chief: Kevin Klein



In observance of Veterans' Day, the City office will be closed on Nov. 12. Trash will be picked up on Nov. 13. The office will also be closed Nov. 22 & 23 for Thanksgiving.

Beginning January 1, all city customers will see a \$1.00 increase in their sewer bills. This will increase the base rate from \$4.93 to \$5.93



Thank you, firefighters!

Jayson Basgall

Chris Brungardt

Cole Dreiling

Connor Gagnon

Dave Gagnon

Verlin Hammerschmidt

Kevin Klein

Doug Kuhn

Dylan Kuhn

Nathan Kuhn

David Richardson

Terry Riedel

Robert Schmidt

Tom Tholen

Pat Toth

Kelton Unrein

Grant Weber

John Weber

Kami Weber

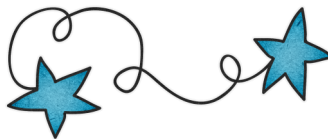
Scott Wellbrock

Herzogfest Update

Beginning next year, the annual Herzogfest will be held the second weekend of August (Aug. 9 & 10). Dace Winkelman, president, says his group had feedback from the community that the new date would be easier for many wanting to attend.

The committee would like to thank the City of Victoria, John & Kami Weber & Weber Body Shop, Robben Construction, the VHS football team, Trilogy, Ken Billinger, the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, the vendors who participated as well as the residents of Victoria.

Winkelman stated that the corn hole tournament was a success with all spots filled and prizes awarded; the stein hoist was something different this year and it went well. A lot of food was sold and new activities introduced.



Want to know more about our City? Check our City website: victoriaks.com. It contains a wealth of information including City officials, City Council minutes, City ordinances, businesses, history and more. There is also a link to making your payment for city services there.

Did you know that *The Russell County News* is the official newspaper for both the City and the school district? If you are interested in reading coverage of sports, school events, features about our citizens as well as legal notices, this is the place to go!

REMINDERS

- ◆ The City offers the option for receiving your monthly bill by email.
- ◆ The City now provides customers the choice of paying by credit card.
- ◆ Citizens 65 or older can receive a small discount on their trash bill if they fill out the required form with proof of age.
- ◆ Customers' water usage from December –March is averaged to figure their sewer charges for the next year.
- ◆ Pet tags will be available after January 1. Both dogs and cats are required to be licensed with proof of rabies vaccination. Cost is \$2.00 for spayed/neutered pets or \$5.00 for those not neutered. Deadline is March 1.
- ◆ The City office would like to have a current phone number for each of our customers. If you have switched to a cell & not notified us, we would appreciate the information.
- ◆ ATV owners need to renew their licenses after January 1. Current insurance is needed with payment.

Pieskers open new bed and breakfast in Victoria

The newly repurposed building in Victoria now known as Herzog Haus, owned by Terry and Jan Piesker, has had many lives before this new one as a bed and breakfast. In the time that Pieskers have owned it, it was their personal residence, a gift shop known as Sister Act, and later a rental. Prior to their ownership, it was an antique shop called Pegasus, owned and operated by Dan and Peggy Prockish. The building is one of the oldest structures in Victoria, having been built in 1896.



The Haus will sleep 10 and has a large living room, modern kitchen, a sun room, a cozy sitting porch and an English garden. When their guests choose to sit on the porch, they can enjoy a view of the Cathedral of the Plains as well as a variety of birds and butterflies due to the plantings in the area. In addition to offering their guests all the basic comforts of home, Jan says she and Terry are even willing to cook for them if they are given enough time to make arrangements. Because of its proximity to the Cathedral, they hope that bridal parties will be some of their guests.

As an avid collector of home interior items and antiques, Jan says she had no problem finding the right touches of wall décor and other things to give each room personality and warmth.

Rather than handle the business arrangements themselves, they chose to contract with a Denver property management group called Evolve. They in turn handle the listings, payment arrangements, insurance and more. Potential guests can find them on Airbnb as well as Trip Advisor and HomeAway.

"We're still rookies," Jan says about their venture. They first listed the Haus on August 20 and are beginning to fill their calendar with bookings with groups as small as two and as large as eight. With so much to learn, Jan credits Kris Dinkel of Victoria with helping her plan and become aware of the details involved. Dinkel handles the Airbnb owned by Bob Schwarz.

While they are both excited to see where this venture takes them, Jan remarked that there are some drawbacks. It is definitely a commitment to be there and when bookings get closer together, there is little turnaround time for cleaning and laundry before the next guests arrive.

HOT OFF THE PRESS! Available at City Hall is the new promotional, color brochure of our town, sponsored by area businesses and filled with a wealth of facts about the founding, historical sites and an updated listing of commercial entities. Stop by and pick one up.



**PLAN TO ATTEND THE HAYS AREA CHAMBER CHAT
AT THE VICTORIA SUNFLOWER BANK NOVEMBER 16 AT 9:00 AM. REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE PROVIDED.**

News from Victoria Rec

Victoria Rec announces that they will have open gym at the elementary gym on Wednesday nights when religion is in session. If religion classes are cancelled for any reason, so will the open gym. Time is from 6:30-7:30 pm. This could be a time for drop-in basketball, volleyball or whatever participants choose.

Sessions for men will be Nov. 7 & 28, Dec. 5, Jan. 9 & 23. Sessions for women will be Nov. 14, Dec. 19, Jan. 16 & 30.

Those interested in having a child participate in Bidy Basketball (3rd-6th grades) need to have forms turned in by Nov. 7th.

Anyone with questions about Victoria Rec programs can call Sharon Bleske @ 785.735.2454.

The public is invited to support the VHS all-school production 'After Happily Ever After' Nov. 10 at 7:00 pm in the high school auditorium.



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS! Did you know that Victoria is part of the Dillons Community Rewards Program? When you enroll online in the Dillons Community Rewards, each time you swipe your Dillons Plus Shopper's Card, the district automatically starts earning a rebate. The school also receives money for its activity fund from the Box Tops for Education program. According to Shelly Huser, VES earned \$13,649.79 just by clipping those little Box Tops. The school also collects pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Money from those goes to help with the operating costs of the house. Last year, 163 pounds of pop tabs were delivered to Topeka over Spring Break.



Senator Jerry Moran spent a morning recently visiting and touring the junior/senior high building. A stop in the Board office for a photo was the end of his time. Pictured here are Kori Braun, counselor, Dylan Dronberger, principal, seniors Kali Weber, Ally Dinkel and Ashlyn Windholz, Moran and Kent Michel, superintendent/principal.

New program in progress at VES

For everyone at Victoria Elementary a new program is officially underway. All students as well as teachers and staff are part of a new school family.

Anne Dinkel, one of the coordinators, explains: "Our hope is that the school family will create a sense of belonging, a sense of safety, and a sense of purpose!"

The new program consists of nine families, each one made up of students from each grade level as well as a teacher and other staff members. These families will meet every Monday morning for fifteen minutes for some kind of interpersonal group activities.

Another goal is giving upper elementary students a sense of responsibility as they model kindness and good character to the younger students.



New School Board member Sean Rodger began his term as replacement for Shannon Radke at the August meeting.