

# Talk of the Town



City of Victoria

785 735-2259

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## Plans set for Herzogfest #41

The 41st Annual Herzogfest is quickly approaching. Join us August 9 around 11:00 am when the festival kicks off. Defiance Brewing will have “The Zog” back from last year’s festival with a freshly brewed batch of the beer. Give this German pilsner a try, available on the festival grounds! Fun will start with our “Zog Olympics.” Teams of two can enter for \$40 (age 21 or older) and participate in five competition games including beersbee, civil war, swing ring, flip cup tic tac toe, and mega beer pong. At 6:00 pm, the horseshoe tournament will start. Parker Ryan will take the stage at 7:00 pm and Gannon Fremin & Crew will start at 9:00 pm. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy this free entertainment.

Saturday will begin with the 5k Run/Walk at 8:00 am. The Heritage Market will kick off at 9:00 am. Shop the vendors on the festival grounds. The Herzog Hot Rods Car, Truck & Tractor Show will start at 10:00 am. 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament will also begin at 10:00 am. The Cornhole Tournament will start at 11:00 am. Bring your valve cover car out for the competition at noon. The annual Polka Mass will start at 4:00 pm with the Polka Dance to follow. The adult Stein- hoist Competition will take place at 6:30 pm. Rounding out the festival we will have entertainment from Wes Cossman at 7:00 pm and the Huser Brothers Band at 9:00 pm.

We have fun things for the kids planned at this year’s festival on Saturday. PBS will be there with Clifford at 9:00 am. Grab a selfie, participate in the fun activity, or tour emergency vehicles with the Big Red Dog. Jammin Randy will bring his entertaining show at 10:00 am. Kids can also participate in their own steinhoist competition (with root beer of course) at noon. Free swimming will be from 1:00-4:00 pm.

Registration for the festival events can be found online through our Facebook page and website.

The festival wouldn’t happen without donations from our generous supporters. You can also support the festival by attending, supporting beer sales at the festival beer booth, purchasing limited edition merchandise, participating in our competitive events, volunteering, or donating directly to the festival. We hope to see you both days!

## City Officials

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**City Clerk:** Jamie Sterling

**Utilities Clerk:** Rachel VonFeldt

**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:** John Weber

**Assistant Fire Chief:** Scott Wellbrock



Summer sports wrapped up in mid- July. Thank you to all the players and coaches for a successful season.

Hunter's Education will be held Aug. 3 and 4 for 11 year-old boys and girls at the VHS cafeteria. If more information is desired contact Sean Rodger or Sharon Bleske.

Tennis and pickleball are ongoing through the summer on Sunday nights from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Once again our community owes thanks to the individuals who have added their gardening talents to give our streets wonderful colors and blossoms to admire. It is a labor of love to keep them looking pretty in the heat and they are willing to haul the water and make it happen.

So THANK YOU to Chelsea Conrad, Kathryn Dickens, Marci Heier, Sabina Hoffman, Tammy Lichter, Joel Muller, Linda O'Neal, Andrea Ottley, Makayla & Kelby Parton, Nancy Piatt, Doug & Diane Richards, Spud & Misty Richardson, Carla Schmeidler, Nolan Schmeidler, Andrea Schmidtberger, Jerry Schmidtberger, Leroy & LeeAnn Schmidtberger, Jamie Sterling, Jerry & Rhoda Urban, & Total employees. We appreciate each of you!



## Work continues for Ellis County Historical Society addition

Work is progressing on the Ellis County Historical Society portion of the St. John's Place renovation.

According to board member Mary Kay Schippers, the roof is nearing completion and will be entirely moisture proof. Their portion of the second floor is earmarked to be a storage facility for many of their artifacts. They are in the final demo stage and once that is accomplished, the HVAC work will be next; then they will be able to move items in. She estimates this could be accomplished in about two months.

Schippers expressed her sincere appreciation to Frank Dreiling for volunteering to do many hours of demo on their part, in addition to all of that he has done on the VCC part.

Many unseen but vital steps are underway including work on utilities including water and electricity.

Ultimately the vision for the space is to have the east wing devoted to a discovery center for children and a satellite branch of the Ellis County Library, while the west wing would house the Gallery of artifacts planned and featuring the Volga German heritage.

At Herzogfest, the organization will be kicking off a special feature planned for the facility that will be devoted to featuring original Victoria families.

Ultimately the ECHS goal to have the project completed by 2026 in time to celebrate the sesquicentennial of Volga Germans arriving in Victoria.

### SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM — PROVIDES FOOD AND FUN



This year's summer lunch program has grown and flourished according to co-organizer Jerry Schmidtberger. He and his brother Leroy are the men who make it happen, planning menus, ordering supplies, recruiting volunteers and ensuring that everyone who shows up is fed!

Jerry can recall when the numbers they served were far less than this year's, which have ranged from the high 40s all the way up to the 90s. He guesses the daily average would be around 70. One day each month June and July birthdays are celebrated with cake, ice cream, watermelon or cookies donated by parishioners.

The program is supported by the parishioners of St. Fidelis and proceeds earned at the thrift store. This year donors provided enough hamburger that none had to be purchased. Menus for each week are published in the church bulletin allowing 'customers' to see their offerings. The number of volunteers this year totaled 18 making enough for three each per day. All volunteers received personalized aprons to identify them as part of the summer crew.

Jerry commented: "It's wonderful to see everyone, young and old, gather at the PAC for lunch. We pray together, eat together and make life-long friends. We will most definitely continue this program. A very special thank you to Fr. Jim and his staff for giving us the facility and finances to have this program. And it goes without saying, a very special thank you to all the volunteer help. Without those people, this program would be dead in the water. And a special thank you to my bro for his patience and vitality in making this program grow."

## St. John's Place Update

A new roof is now covering the entire roof able to withstand any future rains.

Construction is well underway on the Phase 1 apartments (12 units for independent disabled and senior residents on a moderate income. Contact Brenda Dreiling (785) 735-4141 with questions.

A community childcare needs assessment is underway with the intent to provide support to current providers, parents and the community. Links to a childcare survey are available at [VictoriaKSCommunity.com](http://VictoriaKSCommunity.com) and Victoria Community Coalition's Facebook page. Contact Jeff Pfeifer (913) 904-8618 for more information.

Kansas Department of Commerce has awarded VCC state income tax credits. Anyone interested in making a donation and receiving a tax credit (better than a tax deduction), please contact Jeff Pfeifer (913) 904-8618.

## People in our Neighborhood

Childcare provider Peggy Wohler ended her decades of caring for little ones in May. Her career began in 1984 when she first became registered and cared for 10 children.

She later became licensed which meant having to meet all the added requirements to move to that level of care. Those requirements included an FBI background check, home inspections, a list of rules and required classes. Over time, those classes included instruction in health and nutrition, intrusion, weather safety, first aid and CPR, toddler and infant care, safety awareness, safe sleep and handling diabetes. She chose to take many of those beyond what was required because she found them to provide valuable help.

In 2009, her husband Fritz lost his job and so they became a team and were able to move to the status of a group home, enabling them to have a total of 15. Fritz died in 2013 and after only five days off, she resumed her job.

Peggy has a wealth of stories and memories about her kids over the years. Many needed to be toilet trained, weaned from their bottles, comforted when teething or suffering from earaches, treated for head lice, and taught to sleep in the way mandated by the state: no objects in the bed and lying on their backs.

Always a believer in outdoors activities, her little ones were outside on most days, either playing in the backyard or going on adventures to the playground or the park for 'bear hunts and trips to the troll bridge.' Neighbors were used to seeing her crew with Peggy pulling a wagon with the little ones onboard and the older ones tethered together.

Part of every day for Peggy's kids included both breakfast and lunch, play time in the toy room, puzzles, books and games, craft activities and nap time. Peggy enjoyed the meal times with the older ones helping the littles and introducing them to new foods. Her grocery bills were always substantial as she is a believer in providing lots of fresh fruits in addition to other healthy choices.

Peggy says she will definitely miss her charges and the fun that they had: table talk, movie sharing, holiday fun, etc.

Over the years Peggy says she has cared for over 250 children. Enough to furnish her with hundreds of happy stories and memories. Her reason to close was prompted by health concerns of one of her grandchildren and the family as needs arise. Meanwhile, she will still use her child skills as well as her cleaning talents as she now works full time for the Victoria school district.

She looks forward to more flexibility with her new job and the chance to travel to visit her adult children and their children.

## Watering Guidelines "Corrected Version"

In the May newsletter, the city's watering guidelines were published incorrectly.

Here are the correct guidelines:

\*\*No watering can take place between the hours of 10:00 a.m and 7:00 p.m.

\*\*South of 10<sup>th</sup> Street may water their lawns on Wednesday and Saturday.

\*\*North of 10<sup>th</sup> Street may water their lawns on Thursday and Sunday.

\*\*Gardens, trees and shrubs can be watered any day, but not between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

\*\*The washing down of hard surfaces such as driveways, parking lots, windows, etc. is prohibited.

\*\*No filling of swimming pools, hot tubs, or water storage containers is permitted.

\*\*Wasting of water is prohibited.



Victoria veterans Harland Rupp and Marion Miller participated in this year's "Taps across America" by raising the colors at the beginning of the event. This was the third year for it to be held.



When school opens in August, the Victoria PTO will have new leadership at the helm, ready to go with enthusiasm and many projects ahead of them.

Leading the organization will be Kaylee Robben, president, Katelyn Schmidt, vice-president, Heather Kuhn, secretary, and

Amanda Truan, treasurer. Board of Directors are Corina Dreiling, Jeanette Brungardt, Sheena Gagnon, Andrea Hoffman, Kylie Sander, Ashley Herl and Amber Washburn.

Goals are to support classroom teachers and provide them with funding for class projects. During the year the activities include working concessions, conducting a Halloween costume store for families to have access to outfits and to donate for others, Christmas gingerbread houses, meals for teachers during conference weeks, a parents' night out event, the spring ice cream social, teacher appreciation week and the year-end play day.

Robben was emphatic in expressing appreciation to the former board for their many hours of time and leadership and support. She also wanted to publicly thank Kippes Insurance for the donation of hundreds of bottles of water available at every event.

Robben hopes to expand their membership and to encourage more attendance and involvement at their meetings. Parents, grandparents, Victoria residents are all encouraged to become involved as they are able.

"It's going to be a great year," Robben predicts.

## Graduates construct disc golf course

Three May VHS graduates can proudly identify their senior civics project in the community. Greg Huser, Landon Schmidtberger, and Quincy Pickering chose to create a disk golf course because they wanted something that was hands-on for them and something that would be enjoyed by multiple people

First, they had to seek approval from City Council to proceed. Council members agreed it would be a worthy endeavor and to help with a \$1,500 donation, used for buying supplies like metal, paint and concrete. Cole Dreiling donated the pipe to create the supports.

Manual labor was definitely involved as pieces for each basket had to be welded and made to look uniform and neat. Each dig spot had to be cleared to be free of lines or any underground obstacles.

Another challenge was time management. Quincy commented, "We were working almost every day of the second semester for an average of about three hours per day." It was a close call to the finish, but they made it.

There are nine holes/baskets along the 1.2 mile course taking players through a large part of Victoria. It starts by the school and then loops around the back side of the school and football field all the way to near the beginning of the downtown area. There is an app called Udisc which allows people to see all the exact parts of the course and distance for each hole.

With the project completed and being enjoyed by many, Quincy commented: "There is a real sense of accomplishment when we drive by and see how good it looks. And, we have all enjoyed playing the course numerous times."

## FCCLA members

### finish strong!

Retiring FCCLA sponsor Connie Braun had a memorable finish to her years as she took her final group to the annual FCCLA Leadership Conference in Spokane.

Senior Ben Dome was selected to a national office—the first time for anyone from Victoria to reach that distinction. Selected at the conclusion of a long process including holding former offices, filling out an application, giving a speech, taking an FCCLA knowledge test and participating in a panel interview. He will serve as the 2024-45 National VP of Development.

Brody Nowak and Kennedy Amrein placed tenth in the nation in Professional Presentation: Avery Windholz, Jillian Schmidt and Sienna Schmeidler received gold in Interior Design, level 3 and Brinly Lichter, Emma Dinkel and Shelby Dorzweiler, juniors, received a silver in Interior Design Level 2. Saige Moos and Aurora Nowlin also attended the event for their positions next year. Moos as district B President and Nowlin for serving on the state FACTS Peer Education Team.

Braun commented, "I could not be more proud of all these students. They worked so hard all year with this as their goal."



