

Talk of the Town



City of Victoria

785 735-2259

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www.victoriaks.com

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St. John's Place holds groundbreaking event



There was cause for celebration recently as the Victoria Community Coalition Board and community members gathered for a ceremonial groundbreaking for St. John's Place, a project that has been in the planning stage for nearly two years.

Construction is set to begin in early May and be completed in April 2025. RDH Electric and Construction is the contractor.

Walking group to tour our town

In addition to Mother's Day and VHS Graduation on Sunday, May 12, there will be another activity happening in Victoria. An organization known as the Sunflower Sod Stompers will be visiting our community for a city walkabout.

The group is a part of a national organization called The American Volkssport Association, which sponsors a host of activities for its members. On this Sunday, participants will arrive in town beginning at 1:00 pm to explore our community with maps in hand and prepared for whatever weather they might encounter. The same week they will have walks in Hill City, Nicodemus, WaKeeney, and Ellis. The event is titled Huffin' and Puffin' on the High Plains of Kansas and offers walkers a choice of a 5K or 10K hike.

According to their publication, the walk is non-competitive and offers people a chance to meet new friends and participate in exercise. The activity is not connected to any fund raising.

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City Superintendent:

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Police Chief: Cole Dinkel

Patrol Officer: Ryan Mauch

Fire Chief: John Weber

Assistant Fire Chief: Scott Wellbrock



Come Swim with Us!

City Pool opens May 24



NEW WATERING SCHEDULE

South of 10th St.

Wednesdays/Saturdays

North of 10th St.

Thursdays /Saturdays

Victoria Rec has been awarded a \$1,000 Community Fund Grant through Midwest Energy to help replace sports equipment.

Adult activities (volleyball and pickleball) were extremely successful this winter—thank you to everyone who attended.

VRC has applied for a \$50,000 grant for a pickleball court through the AARP Community Challenge. They will know in May if they receive it.

The Victoria Greenway Trail is mowed and marked for users' benefit.

Happy summer!

Notice

The Water Consumer Confidence Report can be found at this website:

victoriaks.com/2023CCR.pdf

If you have any questions,



It's that time again. The Citywide Garage Sale and Cleanup is set.

Dumpsters will be available as follows:

May 17 — 4:00 pm—8:00 pm

May 18 — 9:00 am—8:00 pm

May 19 — 9:00 am—4:00 pm.

(No tires, batteries, paint or household hazardous wastes. No appliances with freon.)

Garage sales will be held on May 18. \$5.00 listing fee. Contact City Hall if wanting to advertise.

Recycling Reminders

Remove all items from bags

No Styrofoam

Paper goes in front compartment of trailer

Cardboard goes in south trailer

Glass, plastic, aluminum and tin go in rear compartment

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING!



Dates set

for summer lunch program

Once again, St. Fidelis will be sponsoring the summer lunch program beginning on June 3 and lasting for two months. Organizers report that the menus are planned and supplies are being ordered. Last year a crew of community volunteers happily agreed to serve, and residents of all ages were welcomed to enjoy the meals.

Victoria residents now have the option for physical therapy services without leaving town. Curtis Sohm, PT, has established his practice at the Victoria Clinic under the name Breakthrough Physical Therapy and Wellness. He offers services three days per week. He can be reached by phone at (785) 324-1460 or by email Breaktpt@gmail.com.



Wanda Karlin has been an essential fixture at Sunflower Bank for 47 years! During that time she has worn various hats, but no matter her title, one thing has remained a constant: her commitment to the bank and its customers. Wanda always gave her job the absolute best she could and set the tone for being “all in.” On behalf of Sunflower Bank, we wish Wanda great happiness in her retirement.

People in our Neighborhood



Not many musicians can say they have played their instrument for almost 70 years, but **Rosie Dinkel** can make that claim. Dinkel, a member of the VHS class of 1960, began playing the saxophone as a freshman in high school and she is still at it.

Dinkel's parents Wendelin and Clairita Braun instilled a love of music in their daughter and for years she was one of the members of their band. For awhile the band also included her late husband Donnie, who played the guitar.

Through the years, Dinkel added to her band experience playing in the Ed Pfeifer Band and to this day, plays with the Wes Windholz Band. A versatile group, they have played for weddings, anniversaries, New Year's Eve parties as well as entertaining residents in area rest homes.

When a community band was started in Victoria years ago, she was one of the senior citizens playing alongside junior high and high school band members. During the years of the Victoria Sweet and Sauerkraut productions, she switched from being in the band to being on stage as a singer.

Part of her band experiences has included road trips. She remembers traveling to Oklahoma and Colorado as well as nearer locations in Kansas including Goddard and WaKeeney. For several years, the Windholz band played in Hays for Oktoberfest; one year she remembers the weather being so cold they played with their coats on.

Widowed at the age of 33, Dinkel raised seven children by herself, although crediting her parents for a great amount of help. All seven were band members when in school. She remembers at one point her son Craig even sat in to play with the band, chuckling that he never came back after intermission.

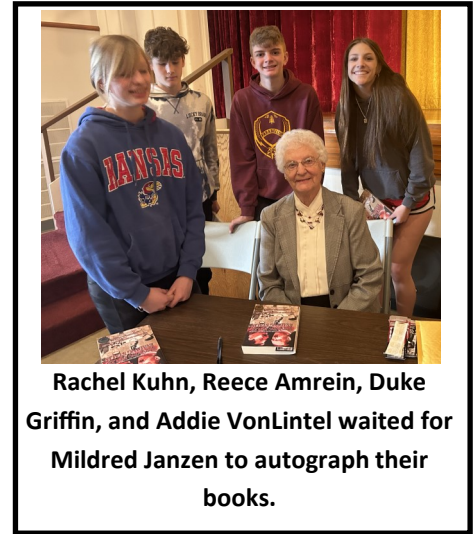
Dinkel is the proud grandmother of 16 and great-grandmother to five, with two on the way. She stays busy with family events and hosting them for holidays.

Currently doing physical therapy for a hip replacement, she's hoping she can be ready in a couple of weeks to play a gig at the Rose Garden.



Residents are reminded that they may see a change in their sewer charges based on new averaging. This fee will be in effect for one year.

Holocaust author addresses Victoria audience



Rachel Kuhn, Reece Amrein, Duke Griffin, and Addie VonLintel waited for Mildred Janzen to autograph their books.

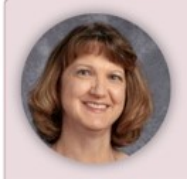
Victoria students and community members had the opportunity to hear some living history recently when 95 year-old Holocaust author Mildred Schindler Janzen visited the school and shared some of her story.

At the beginning of the school year, Janzen donated a class set of her book *Surviving Hitler, Evading Stalin* to Kim Nowak's eighth grade class. Students read the book and journaled about it, knowing that upon completion they would have the chance to meet her in person. One of Janzen's passions is talking to students about what life at that time in Germany was like.

Janzen, who lives in Ellsworth, was born in Kansas to parents who were German immigrants. They returned to Germany when she was three years old because they were needed to help on the Schindler farm in Radach, Germany. Schindler's father was taken by the Germans and they never knew what happened to him. Mildred, her brother and their mother experienced being driven from their home, separated from each other and the brutality of both the Germans and Russians.

Following her presentation, Nowak and the students presented her with a book containing their class photos as well as a journal sample from each student. She was also given a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her generosity and with good wishes for her 95th birthday.

Two longtime Victoria educators announce retirement



Retiring instructor **Connie Braun** began her tenure with the Victoria district as a substitute teacher for two years prior to moving into a full-time position, which she has held for 27 years. During those years, Braun has taught students seventh through twelfth grades.

Braun's curriculum for all of those years has been in the area of Family and Consumer Science. Subjects included parenting, living skills, personal finance, career and family life, interior design, nutrition and wellness, culinary essentials, career development, family studies, and human development. In addition to those, she taught various FCS exploratory classes.

Of all the courses, Braun says she thinks parenting was probably her favorite because "I hope and pray it will be the most helpful to my students in the future when they become parents." She also loved interior design and sewing- the creative side of her curriculum.

A huge part of her job has been serving as FCCLA sponsor, the activity that took her students to competitions and leadership roles. As her members won top honors at state competitions, they qualified for nationals which allowed them and Braun to travel to many educational and fun places including Boston, Anaheim, San Diego, Nashville as well as San Antonio, Orlando, Washington DC, and Denver. Part of those travels meant having to raise funds and one of the ways they have done that was selling homemade cinnamon rolls. Braun estimates they made over 300+ dozens for each of the past 12 years. As a career finale, Braun will be taking 11 finalists to Seattle this summer.

In retirement, Braun hopes to have more time with her two daughters and her grandchildren, do some type of volunteer work and do household projects.

Longtime educator **Kim Novak** has served students in Victoria for 21 years, beginning as a full-time K-12 librarian.



Thinking back, Novak says she loved working in the library, holding book fairs and taking students to Emporia for the William Allen White trips. When she first came to Victoria the William Allen White program was unknown, but by last year she had 54 students who attained the goals of the program. In connection with that, she served on the Reading Circle Committee, the William Allen White Selection Committee and as Treasurer of the Kansas School Library Association.

When it comes to book fairs, she guesses that she has organized around 40: two per year until Covid with one being online. "I loved seeing children find a good book and then convince their parents that they would read it. Seeing the joy of a student having their very own book is something that words cannot express enough."

Coaching has also always been an integral part of her career. At Victoria she served three years as head track coach 7-12 and assistant for two; seven years as a junior high basketball coach, four as head and three as assistant, and 13 years as a high school assistant volleyball coach.

Eventually, her job description and responsibilities changed, moving from library management and instruction to include seventh grade PE, seventh and eighth grade reading and language arts, sixth grade reading, full-time sixth grade teacher and ending with seven-through ninth grade language arts. In leaving the classroom, Novak says she will most miss "those lightbulb moments!"

She looks forward to more time with her children, grandchildren and "a different job interacting with people but that won't entail decision making."

Miss Kansas visits schools



Victoria students pre-K-12 had the opportunity to meet and learn from a real live celebrity recently. The current Miss Kansas 2023, Courtney Wages, made appearances at both district buildings to bring her messages about seat belt safety and how to interact with blind and visually impaired individuals.

Wages' visit was arranged by the SAFE organization at VHS who wanted to have her present her program on seatbelt safety. During that portion of the program, she discussed the hazards of distracted driving as well as the correct way to wear a seatbelt. She included statistics on seatbelt usages and stories of victims injured when they had not been wearing them. At the end of the program, she led the students in the Seatbelt Pledge.

Another part of her program discussed her passion for helping the blind and visually impaired, using student volunteers to demonstrate some basic practices one would use in assisting someone with that disability.

The Victoria PTO provided some of the funding for her to come to Victoria. Christie Sander is the SAFE sponsor.

**You're
invited**

**To view the VHS seniors'
Civics Projects
May 6, 6:00 pm, high school gym**