

Talk of the Town

City of Victoria

August 1, 2022

Volume 35, #3

785 735-2259

www.victoriaks.com

victoria@ruraltel.net

HERZOGFEST VICTORIA, KS

Plans are set for Herzogfest #39 on Aug. 12 and 13. Festivities will kick off Friday evening with opening ceremonies at 6:00 pm. Food vendors will be ready to offer a variety of choices. Local talent, Tom Pfeifer, Bob Dreiling and Blake Ruder will provide music beginning at 7:00 pm.

Saturday's events will begin with the 5K run/walk at 8:00 am. Beginning at 9:00 am visitors will have the opportunity to see the antique car, truck and tractor show and shop at the Heritage Market on festival grounds. Activities for kids will begin at 10:00 as well as cornhole and volleyball tournaments and horseshoes at 11:00. Bingo and pinochle will kick off at 1:00 at the VFW. The annual polka mass will begin at 4:00 followed by the polka dance at 5:00.

The main stage will open at 6:00 with committee and sponsor recognition immediately followed by the stein hoist competition. Wes Cossman, the opening concert act, is set for 7:00 with headliner Mike Ryan taking the stage at 9:00.

Everyone is encouraged to 'like' the Facebook page and get more details as well as registration forms. The official website is www.theherzogfest.com.

Mary Pfeifer retires as city clerk

Retiring City Clerk Mary Pfeifer officially turned in her keys on July 8 after having served the City for a total of 23 years. When first hired, Pfeifer worked as the utilities clerk for three years before moving up to the position of clerk.

During her tenure with the City, Pfeifer worked with five mayors and 17 City Council members as well as three city superintendents and numerous other city employees. Looking back over her years, Pfeifer says what she will miss the most is the contact with the people who frequent the office on a regular basis for a variety of reasons.

While her plans for retirement are indefinite, she knows there will be opportunities for travel and more time with grandchildren. She and her husband Steve have nine grandchildren so

there will be many ballgames, concerts, and babysitting occasions to look forward to.

Mayor John Schulte offered the following observation, "Mary has done an excellent job in her role as city clerk which involves so many different areas of knowledge. We appreciate her dedication and hard work and wish her well in her future. She will be missed!"

Pfeifer's replacement is Jamie Sterling.



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

Matthew Orr

paddle30@hotmail.com

City Clerk: Jamie Sterling

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: John Weber

Assistant Fire Chief: Scott Wellbrock



Thank you to pool manager Karen Nowak and our team of lifeguards who provided care for our pool visitors: Valerie Dome, Macy Hammerschmidt, Micah Hilbert, Kayla Noller, Brooklyn Nowak, Audrey Staab, Morgan Staab, Kassi Weber, Kaitlyn Windholz. You are appreciated!



Victoria's Greenway Trail is ready! With permission from the City, USD 432 and Jeff Pfeifer to go through their property, it is mowed and awaiting users. While very simple, I hope it will generate interest and hopefully take on a life of its own, expand and grow.

It's a 2.15 mile trail, mostly off the beaten path although you will have to cross streets, use sidewalks and a little bit of the street. Everything is marked and should be easy to follow. Use it to walk, run, bike, train, etc.

Please check in each time you use it, so we'll know how much it is getting used.

Enjoy it and please let me know what you think!

The man with the mower: Sean Rodger 785.483.9229

Jamie Sterling replaces Mary Pfeifer

New City Clerk Jamie Sterling has spent the past several weeks training for her new position. She was officially appointed to the post at the June City Council meeting.

Sterling and her husband, Shawn, have been residents of Victoria for nine years. For seven of those years, she was employed by the school district as a custodian and for three of those she also assisted with the junior high basketball program. Her prior office experience was working as a human resource assistant for the City of Hays.

Her husband works in Hays as a federal security officer for the Social Security office. Their daughter Gracie will be a junior. They also have three adult children.

Reflecting on her new post, Sterling commented, "Although I have some big shoes to fill, I feel very blessed to be given this opportunity."

St. Fidelis News

Again this summer, the St. Fidelis parish provided a weekday lunch program for any youngsters who showed up. The program began the first week school was out and continued through the end of July.

Jerry Schmidtberger, the coordinator of the program, had two crews of helpers who were happy to give their time to the project. They included Jan Brungardt, Kathy Kuhn, Darlene Braun, Louise Robben, Carol Pfeifer, Connie Braun, Laura Prater, Diane Pfeifer, Marci Heier and Christie Sander. The entire program was underwritten by contributions from parishioners as well as from the church budget.

The number of those served varied by day but increased substantially during the week of Vacation Bible School.

Schmidtberger observed: "It goes without saying that this program would not function without the assistance and dedication that I get from our volunteers. It's a job, but it's a job well worth doing."



Kristi Reeve of Bison is the new postmistress for Victoria. She has been a postal employee for seven years and previously worked at the Bison and the LaCrosse locations. Kristi says that as a kid she always liked mail and that continues in her work today. She enjoys meeting the public and is happy to have a new 'home.' Welcome, Kristi!



Thanks to the Ellis County Emergency Management, Victoria residents can now monitor local weather from a new site: weatherlink.com. Once you establish a user name and password, you can log on and stay updated on the area weather conditions. The equipment for this service is mounted atop the EMS building.



Thank You!

Once again, a group of Victoria residents devoted their time and energy to tending the city's flower pots. From planting to watering and dispensing TLC, these volunteers helped make our town more eye appealing. Thank you Kris Dinkel, Sheena Gagnon, Kristin and Mya Mauch, the Ryan Lichter family, Chelsea Conrad and daughters, Katie Leikam, Joel & Camille Mueller, Ilona Patterson, Karen Sander, the Kent Schmeidler family, Andrea Schmidtberger & daughters, Andrea Ottley, the Shawn Sterling family, Michelle Geist & granddaughters, Leroy & LeeAnn Schmidtberger, Jerry Schmidtberger, Sabina Hoffman, Jerry & Rhoda Urban, Jeanne Brungardt, Marci Heier, Linda O'Neal & Misty Richardson . Your efforts are appreciated.



Free smoke alarms offered to residents

Fire Chief John Weber wants to make the public aware of a special fire alarm program being sponsored in conjunction with the Kansas State Fire Marshal. The program will provide homeowners with free smoke alarms which will be installed by members of the Victoria Fire Department. The program especially hopes to target residences that consist of children and the elderly since these categories are most affected by fire-related deaths.

Anyone interested in securing alarms for their home should call City Hall at 785 735-2259 and ask to be placed on the list. Once the number of requests totals 12, the department can then place an order to receive them. Upon delivery, the homeowners will be contacted to schedule a time for installation. There is an installation form that must be completed by the installer and then submitted to the fire marshal's office. Rental properties are not eligible for this program.

While on site, the installers will also provide instruction on how the alarms work, how to test and maintain them, what to do if the alarm sounds and how to create a home fire escape plan and practice it.



Coalition receives grant



Jeff Pfeifer, president of the Victoria Community Coalition, announced recently that the organization has received a \$5,000 grant from the Heartland Community Foundation through the Dane G. Hansen Fund. This is the first grant the group has received. The Coalition was created earlier this year with the goal of repurposing the former St. John Nursing Home in Victoria.

The funds will be used to secure architectural advice needed to determine the plausibility of redeveloping the property into senior housing, day care, and use by the Ellis County Historical Society. The project is intended to bring people together to support the growth of Victoria.

In acknowledgment, Pfeifer stated: The Heartland grant is exactly the boost we needed to help keep our efforts going. Heartland has been involved in Victoria since January. I don't think they would be so supportive if it weren't for the community's enthusiasm and consistent involvement."

New Business

Aleck and Sandy McAlonan, new owners of Mac's Liquor Shack, have been open since May 30, following renovations. But they will celebrate officially with a grand opening set for Saturday Sept. 10.

Meanwhile they are enjoying seeing customers and busy updating their inventory to keep up with current trends. They also welcome requests.

The shop has a very active presence on social media with a Facebook page, Instagram account, cash drawings and more.

Anyone who stops in and mentions this item can receive 10% off a bottle of wine through Aug. 31.

Since our May newsletter, the City has gained 12 renters, 5 new home owners, 1 new business owner and approved building permits for 36 roofs.



**TRASH WILL BE PICKED UP
ON TUESDAY**

