

Talk of the Town

City of Victoria
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November 1, 2019
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Volume 32, #4
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Fire Prevention Week, a community tradition

Every October, members of the Victoria Volunteer Fire Department engage in activities to promote Fire Prevention Week. This year the week began with the department members doing kitchen duty as they sponsored a community breakfast. A free-will offering was accepted at the door. About 200 meals were served. Funds from the event went into the account that enables them to buy items like gloves, helmets with flashlights, a projector for programs and to add to the scholarship fund.

On Tuesday, members directed their efforts toward the students at the elementary school. Three stations were set up. One was to enable students to tour the fire truck and ambulance; another was to have fun with a fire hose playing tug of war; the third was to complete an obstacle course working around orange cones carrying a hose on their shoulders.

Also on that day, the winners of the coloring contest were dropped off at the fire station and given a ride to school in the firetrucks. This year's theme was "All Heroes Don't Wear Capes!" Winners were as follows: preschool Linkyn Kanzenbach, Lyndon Leiker; kindergarten, Bekah Dinkel, Emmie Dreiling; 1st, Hadley Leiker, Sadie Wasinger; 2nd, Keaton Gottwald, Kynlee Nuss; 3rd, Jasper Hammersmith, Hadley Lichter; 4th, Zoe Dinges, Lyla Rodger; 5th, Mackenzie Hattenbach, Kaylee Kuhn; 6th, Jameson Toon, Hailey Zeman.

According to Kami Weber, secretary/treasurer, one of the kids' favorite celebrities every year is Sparky the Dog, a member of the department disguised in costume.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer fireman, is encouraged to talk to someone currently in the department or inquire at City Hall.



Jason Stoffel and Hailey Anderson team up to put a hose together. (L)

Greg and Kylie Sander and their boys and nephew came out to support the fire department's breakfast. (R)



City Officials

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City Treasurer: Jerry

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City Superintendent:

Brad Schmidtberger

Public Works Assistants:

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Jeff Dorzweiler

Police Chief: Cole Dinkel

Patrol Officer: Ryan Mauch

Fire Chief: Tom Tholen

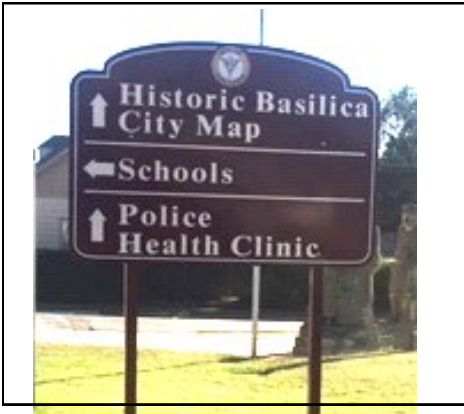
Assistant Fire Chief: Kevin Klein



In observance of Veterans' Day, the City office will be closed on Nov. 11. Trash will be picked up on Nov. 12.

The City office will also be closed Nov. 28 and 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

City acquires new signs



Thanks to the grant-writing efforts of Jane Wagner and the financial support from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, Victoria now has new signs posted strategically around our town.

The new signs resulted from a project the City participated in several months ago. The endeavor entitled 'First Impressions' was sponsored by K-State in conjunction with Dane Hansen. A team of visitors came and evaluated a number of elements of our City including faith and civic organizations, infrastructure, recreation and more.

One of the team's recommendations was to update the signs. The signs were designed by Rick Rupp and installed by the City work crew.

Mayor John Schulte expressed his gratitude to everyone involved in this project.

Our apologies to Val Schumacher who was incorrectly identified in the Senior Companion photo in our last edition.



Not a month goes by that we at City Hall have a need to be in touch with some of our residents and are unable to do so because we do not have their cell numbers. Please give us yours if you haven't already. Thanks!

Herzogfest

Fundraising for Herzogfest 2020 is well underway after a successful softball tournament in September. Taylor Rome's team 'The Nationals' took first place and Jeremy Harder's 'Chicks and Sticks' came in second. The Committee would like to thank the Helping Hands of God for their help in cooking, the Victoria Rec as well as the City for their help in getting the field ready.

The next fundraising venture will include a tree, some lights and maybe Santa! Save the date for Sat., Dec. 7, for a Holiday Pop-Up Bar to be held at the VFW. You're encouraged to pull out your ugliest sweater for a chance to win a prize and get ready to sing in Christmas karaoke. The cash bar will serve drinks such as Rudolph the Red Wine Reindeer, Jingle Bell Juice and more. (Leave the kiddies at home)

The Committee is passionate about bringing fun events and activities to our community throughout the year while raising funds for the main event: Herzogfest 2020! If you would like to help, call Ashley at (785) 639-0788 and be sure to follow Herzogfest Inc. on Facebook .

FYI

As of November 1, trash rates for the City will be increased by 10%. This is due to increased costs incurred by the City at the Ellis County landfill.

* Pet tags for 2020 will be available for purchase after Jan. 1. The deadline is March 1. All dogs and cats over six months of age are required to have a tag. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required at the time the tag is issued. Cost is \$5.00 for non-neutered pets and \$2.00 for those who have been spayed or neutered.

* All ATV owners are reminded that their licenses need to be renewed after Jan. 1. Proof of current insurance is needed at the time of renewal plus the \$25 tag fee.

* We now have 242 customers who pay their monthly City bill by ACH (automatic payment). If you are interested in making this change, a simple form will do the trick. Recent individuals who have

done this tell us life is simpler with one less check to write or credit card payment



**Nov. 5,
2019**

"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting." -- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Most of us Americans have a stereotype of what the original Thanksgiving was like. In reality, much of what we accept as fact is actually myth.

1. The settlers at the first Thanksgiving did not refer to themselves as Pilgrims but rather as 'Saints.'
2. The first Thanksgiving was not a solemn religious occasion but rather a 3-day harvest festival that included drinking, gambling, athletic games.
3. The first Thanksgiving actually took place sometime between late September and the middle of October. By November, people were working to prepare for winter, salting and drying meat and making their houses as wind resistant as possible.
4. None of the Pilgrims wore the large hats with buckles on them so often seen in sketches and rendering. They didn't dress in black or wear buckles on their shoes and didn't wear hats at all.
5. The meat on the table was NOT turkey but deer. The colonists repeatedly mentioned venison as the meat. They also dined on oysters, clams, Indian corn, native berries and plums.

Sand Plum Lodge offers hospitality



Sand Plum Lodge, the Victoria bed and breakfast presently owned and operated by Joe Brungardt, has an interesting history. Built in 1914, the house was originally located in downtown Victoria and then moved to its present location on Cathedral Avenue in 1947.

It was originally used as a summer house by the Balthaser Brungardt family of Salina.

Brungardt inherited the house from his uncle Fr. Al Brungardt when he passed away three years. As the new owner, he spent three years doing renovations and decided to open it as a bed and breakfast rather than turning it into a rental home.

Hard work was very much a part of the process as he painted, installed composite wood flooring, new fixtures and bedding. The place has a "guest friendly" feel to it thanks to the bedrooms, inviting kitchen and dining room. He positioned antiques throughout the house for "added charm."

Opened in May of 2019, he says the name of the lodge coincides with the nature trail he operates just west of Victoria called the Sand Plum Nature Trail.

The lodge, which can accommodate six guests, has attracted visitors from Chicago, Austin, Amarillo, Kansas City and Fort Collins. Two of his guests have even made a return visit. Brungardt says he definitely enjoys hosting and the surprise of meeting guests for the first time.

There are challenges involved in the operation including the number of hours of cleaning required when a group leaves and sometimes having to wait up for late-arriving guests.

Jan Piesker, owner of the Herzog Haus, was a source of help as he worked through all of the stages of getting things up and running. He has promoted his enterprise through Facebook and Evolve Vacation Rentals on the internet.

Sand Plum Lodge is one of three bed and breakfasts now operating in Victoria.



SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS



When school opened this year, students arrived to find the gym floor project at the junior/senior high school completed with new logos to enhance the finished product. This project reflects the dedicated efforts of community members, as well as area donors and alumni. One anonymous donor even made a cash donation to pay for new equipment for the gym as well. The fundraising efforts began in 2015 when then Superintendent David Ottley approached the Victoria Alumni Association with a request for assistance, which eventually reached \$26,389.50. The other huge part of the cost was paid through a community fundraiser in the spring. Total cost of replacement was \$56,250

Jacy Littrell is now a full-time faculty member at VHS. Two new classes were added to the curriculum this year: Agri-Science and Ag Leadership and Communications. Littrell is also the sponsor of the Victoria Chapter of FFA.

The community is invited to enjoy an evening of light-hearted fun and support the students at the high school in their fall production set for Saturday, Nov. 16, at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. This year's play entitled *A Bad Hair Day* will feature a cast of 25 students with several others behind the scenes. Directors are Ruth Ann Zimmer and Tammy Dreiling. Tickets will be available at the door. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and middle school students. Those sixth grade age and younger will be admitted at no charge.

Come rain or shine, the junior/senior high band comprised of 32 members played for all the home football games. Music instructor Luke John reports he is "extremely excited about these students' enthusiasm, school spirit and effort." Their Christmas concert is set for Dec. 18 at 7:00 pm. Come second semester, the band's number will increase to 40, the largest in many years.



Dillons Community Rewards

Please consider signing up to support our school district with this simple fundraising activity. Each time you use your Dillons Plus Card, money will be donated to our school. A customer can just follow the steps below to register and begin supporting USD 432. Last year the school received \$1,585.06!

1. Visit the website www.dillons.com.
2. Click on **Sign In** to create an account.
3. Enter the 12-digit number from the back of your Plus Shopper's card.
4. Click on **"Create Account"** link at the bottom.
5. Back on the Dillons home page, click on **"Save"** then **"Dillons Community Rewards."**
6. Click on **"I'm a customer-view details."**
7. Enter 20045.
8. Click **"Enroll."**



VES is again collecting Box Tops and Pop Tabs. We have earned \$14,215.50 for VES just by clipping that little Box Top. You can now get a mobile app, scan your receipt and earn cash for our school.

The Pop Tabs are delivered to Topeka to the Ronald McDonald House where they are recycled; the money goes to help with the costs of operating the house. Last year we collected 165 pounds of pop tabs which totaled \$75. Pop Tabs will be delivered over Spring Break. Box Tops will be turned in at the end of February. Ask grandparents, neighbors and anyone else you know to help with these projects.



Thanks to new art teacher Kaylene Gabel, the elementary school sign received a facelift prior to the beginning of the new year. Gabel replaced Scott Lee and now teaches art to all elementary classes as well as Art I, II, and III at the high school.