

Talk of the Town

City of Victoria

February 1, 2022

Volume 35, #1



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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



From the Mayor...

With it now being February, I thought this would be a good time to update everyone on some major projects around town. The water system upgrades should be wrapping up around March 1st. The planning for this project began around five years ago, and the actual construction began about two years ago. The new water tower is almost completely full now, and the connection to the Trego Water District #2 has been made. There are also upgrades being made to the well field south of town. Our two largest capacity wells are being offset and re-drilled to increase their efficiency. Aside from the wells, the only portion of the water project that remains is a few lines that need to be replaced near Cathedral Street. That work should be completed soon.

Our next big improvement will be the rebuilding of Cathedral Street. This is a joint project between Ellis County and the City. This rebuild is from 6th Street to the K-255 connection that is just north of 13th Street. The reason why the project begins at 6th Street is because Cathedral Street south of 6th Street is out of the city limits, while north of 6th Street is in the city limits.

Once this project begins, Cathedral will be a one-lane-only street, with only south-bound traffic and no parking. For most of this project, you should be able to get north out of town by using 13th Street. There will be some days, however, that the road just north of 13th will not be accessible, so please be prepared to use alternative routes.

The corner of 10th and Cathedral will remain open most of the time since that is one of the busiest intersections in town. But once again, there will be a few days when that intersection will have to be closed, so please bear with us. The Cathedral rebuild should take around six months to complete, weather permitting.

John Schulte



Trash pickup as usual

February 21, 2022

HERZOGFEST VICTORIA, KS

The Herzogfest Committee would like to thank everyone who attended our December events. The "Ugly Sweater Party" on Dec. 4 provided fun for all who attended. The annual caboose lighting with kids' activities and soup sale was also a success. Thank you to the City of Victoria and their employees for the goody bags for the children as well as their help in getting the caboose ready. Another thank you goes to the fire department for providing transportation for Santa, who did a great job of interacting with all in attendance!

The committee is hoping for a great festival in 2022. With those plans, we are in need of a volunteer who would be willing to help us bring back the car show. In prior years, this was a big event associated with the festival and we're seeking guidance from a strong volunteer who could help us reestablish it.

Your feedback on the event is greatly appreciated. We would love to hear what you would like to see at this year's event as well as things that you have enjoyed in the past. You can contact a committee member or email us at Herzogfest@gmail.com.

VFW VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The VFW will be selling Stars and Stripes Breakfast Tickets starting on February 14th for the Breakfast on March 13th in Hays at the VFW.

If wishing to purchase tickets, please contact the following:

Harland Rupp	785-623-1368
Chris Brungardt	785-735-4252
Dave Richardson	785-806-6095
Doug Kuhn	785-650-1058
Marion Miller	785-735-9353
John Braun	785-623-0680



The Victoria Knights of Columbus is holding a raffle of four quarters of processed beef to benefit the Hays ARC Park. A \$20 donation results in one ticket. Drawing will be held on Mar. 4 at the K of C Fish Fry. Winners need not be present to win.

Tickets are available from Troy (735-4625), Leroy (639-3570), Harland (623-1368), John (623-0680) or any Knights member.

ATV Reminders

- ◆ Drivers must be at least 16 1/2 years of age;
- ◆ All juvenile operators and passengers must wear helmets;
- ◆ Eye protection is a must- only substitutes are a full-face helmet or windshield that covers as high as the top of the tallest rider's head;
- ◆ All legal ATVs must be equipped with headlights, taillights and brake lights;
- ◆ NO ATV is permitted on city streets after dark;
- ◆ If violations are committed, the owners and operators will be cited.



It's time to renew pet tags for all dogs and cats. Cost is \$2.00 for spayed/neutered pets and \$5.00 otherwise. Proof of rabies vaccination is required. Deadline is March 1.

All ATV tags also need renewed. Cost is \$25.00 and proof of current insurance is needed.

Sewer averaging for the next year is based on customers' consumption during the months of December through March. The new rates will be reflected on May bills.

Snow removal is the property owner's responsibility within 12 hours after a snow or ice storm. Thank you for your cooperation.



Any City residents considering household projects such as new sidewalks, fences, patios, decks, sheds, ramps, additions, etc. should check with City Hall PRIOR to beginning work on them. A building permit is required and some projects require approval from the building inspector AHEAD OF TIME to be sure that the project will be in compliance with city ordinances.

Fire Department News

The Victoria Volunteer Fire Department's **new officers** for 2022 are as follows: City Chief, John Weber; City Asst. Chief, Scott Wellbrock; Secretary, Kami Weber; Treasurers, Cole Dreiling, Kami Weber, Scott Wellbrock, Captains, Dylan Kuhn, David Richardson, Grant Weber.

Chief Tom Tholen retired in November after being with the department for 22 years. Thank you, Tom, for your dedication and leadership over the years.

The department had almost every **-county fires** in December. Mem- on the 15th, came home for about paged again. Firefighters spent any- on scene over the three days. We members (Fork That Bakery, VHS-Kim Woolf, Connie Braun and FCS students, Kori Braun for the delivery of food made by students, Sunflower Bank, Jason Kippes, Peggy Wohler, Gari Herdt, Total Convenience, and The Library) for food, drinks, and other delivered items. We are also thankful for the employers who allow us to go out every time our pagers go off!



Victoria firefighter out on the **four** members were paged about 12:45 pm an hour and a half and then got where from 16.75 to 41.25 hours

are thankful for the community members (Fork That Bakery, VHS-Kim Woolf, Connie Braun and FCS students, Kori Braun for the delivery of food made by students, Sunflower Bank, Jason Kippes, Peggy Wohler, Gari Herdt, Total Convenience, and The Library) for food, drinks, and other delivered items. We are also thankful for the employers who allow us to go out every time our pagers go off!

Robben Insurance ends longtime service to Victoria

Longtime Victoria businessman Joe Robben is officially closing up shop on Feb. 1. Owner of Robben Insurance since 2008, Robben says "Everything fell into place" to make this the right time. While he still plans to do some parttime work with Jason Kippes, he is looking forward to "travel, golf, fishing and hunting and most importantly, staying healthy and young!" His wife Gail will also be officially retired by then so they will hit the road in their RV, spending time in Texas with four other couples.

Robben says he will miss the routine of coming to work, seeing what the day will bring, and helping his customers. He has enjoyed the people his agency has brought him and the satisfaction of seeing that his people were covered for all their needs.

The Robben name has been associated with the insurance business back to when his dad Norbert owned it in 1976 and later passing on to his sister Sue in 1997.

Robben's assistant Summer Nowlin, who has been with him since the beginning of his ownership of the business, will move to Kippes Insurance to continue to serve the customers of their organization. The Robben building will become the business office of Frank's Oilfield Service.

Longtime colleagues Joe Robben and Summer Nowlin will be parting ways as Robben retires, and Nowlin moves on to the Kippes Insurance Agency effective Feb. 1, 2022.



Over breakfast one morning, a woman said to her husband, 'I bet you don't know what day this is?' 'Of course I do,' he answered indignantly, as he slammed the door and drove to his office. At 11 am, the doorbell rang. The wife answered, and there at her front door was a UPS driver, holding a box containing 12 red roses. Later, at 2 pm there was another knock at the door. This time it was a deluxe box of Belgian chocolates. Eventually the husband came home, tired after a hard day's work. His wife greeted him by saying: 'First the flowers, then the chocolates, I've never had a more wonderful Groundhog Day in my life!'



The possibility of a community recreation center is definitely now in the talking phase, thanks to a group of citizens led by Sean Rodger and the Victoria Recreation Commission.

A community meeting was held in December to discuss what a center might look like and what the community would support. "The benefits are to help build a strong, safe and inclusive community where social interaction, volunteerism, civic pride and aesthetics are available within the community."

Afterward, Rodger commented that he was pleased with the "turnout, discussion, and enthusiasm." Committees are currently being formed. Rodger further stated that "Location and funding will be the biggest obstacles to overcome."

Anyone with questions, comments, concerns or ideas is encouraged to contact Rodger at (785) 4830-9229 or sean_rodger@yahoo.com.



The annual citywide clean-up and garage sale is set for the weekend of May 13. Dumpsters will be available from Friday evening—Sunday afternoon. Details coming in the May newsletter.



SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS

New administrators implement goals, visions

Kim Woolf, hired last spring as superintendent and JH/HS principal of Victoria USD 432, and Deena Clark, new elementary principal, feel that they have taken on their new positions with high energy and enthusiasm and have accomplished much during their first semester with students, staff and the community. These leaders value goals in the area of relationships and relevance and are focused on integrating the motto **“Together We Inspire eXcellence.”** TWIX has helped guide district-wide professional development and is woven into every assembly with students. Both agree that having a common vision and mission is crucial to guide the district forward. With their collaborative approach to shared leadership, they plan to gather input from ALL shareholders for district goals in 2022-23.

Proud moments for Woolf in her principal role include establishing a renewed sense of Knight Pride with an integrated social-emotional program, focusing on a monthly character trait. The entire JH/HS meet every day on a morning meeting via ZOOM live from Woolf’s office while grabbing a breakfast snack. Woolf has worked with staff to re-establish tardy rules with consequences and a **Zeroes Aren’t Permitted** policy to help students with missing assignments get the academic support needed. In the area of curriculum, a committee is in process of reviewing and selecting a new language arts textbook series for grades 7-12.

As superintendent, Woolf has established an updated **five-year capital outlay plan** to guide fiscal decisions and maintain quality facilities as part of her vision for the district. In addition, she continues to seek input and uses for the ESSER funds to impact students’ success.

Victoria Elementary has a renewed sense of **‘school family’** after being unable to meet in small groups last year due to Covid. This year, the multigrade small groups meet once a month, encouraging peer mentoring and relationships throughout the building. Clark has also incorporated the new social-emotional curriculum, which is taught in the school family setting as well as during school-wide assemblies and daily in the morning announcements. Under her direction, VES has implemented the **Fast-bridge screener**, which allows staff to track academic progress and implement appropriate intervention to aid students.

Both administrators have prioritized communication and increased family involvement. A thriving **Site Council and PTO** composed of community businesses, students, parents and staff members act as a liaison between home and school. This again, helps the administration’s focus on relationships as the foundation for Victoria schools.

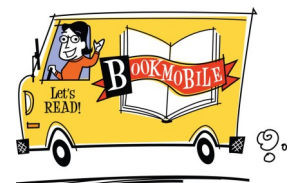
EXCELLENCE is never an accident. It is the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities.



Administrators Deena Clark and Kim Woolf (front) have had a busy, rewarding semester in their new positions. This includes working closely with the Board of Education led by Tammy Lichter, president.



Sean Rodger reports that The Building Better Knights Basketball Camp ran for two weekends in December for 3rd-6th grade boys and girls, focusing on building the foundation skills through drills focusing on the fundamentals. Nearly 40 kids attended the free camp. Helpers included Ryan Lichter, Brinley Lichter, Chris Teeter and Danielle Windholz. Rodger expresses his thanks to parents, coaches, USD 432 for the use of facilities and VRC for the use of equipment.



UPCOMING VISITS at the park

Feb. 11, 3-4 pm

Mar. 11, 3-4 pm

Apr. 8, 3-4 pm