

# Talk of the Town

City of Victoria

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## City adopts new property tax plan

With assistance from the Grow Hays organization, the City Council recently passed a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NRP) for the City of Victoria. In a nutshell, if you apply for the NRP and are accepted, you can receive 70% of the City property taxes back for a 10-year period. That does not mean that the portion of your property taxes that goes to other entities will be returned, just the City of Victoria's share.

Here are the important details. If you make improvements to your property and the assessed value of your property increases by \$10,000.00, then you can receive 70% of your Victoria property taxes back. There are several forms that you will need to fill out before you begin your improvements, both at City Hall and at the Ellis County administrative building in Hays. For more details, please stop by City Hall, and the entire NRP can be explained to you in greater detail.

### ATTENTION ALL UTILITY CUSTOMERS

Due to an increasing number of customers' checks and ACH payments being returned due to insufficient funds, the Victoria City Council has adopted the following new policy effective immediately:

The first returned check/ACH: a notice will be sent giving the customer five days to pay the NSF amount and a \$30 NSF fee, along with the bank charges incurred. Only cash, cashier's check or money order will be accepted.

The second returned check/ACH: the customer's account will be subject to immediate disconnection without notice and the account will be placed on a CASH ONLY basis for 12 months. Any checks received during this time will be returned without being processed and the account will remain unpaid until cash, cashier's check or money order is received.

A copy of this policy with further details is available at City Hall.

### DOLLAR GENERAL

According to communications from DG headquarters, the Victoria store is expected to be open by the end of the year.

November 7, 2023



## City Officials

### Mayor

John Schulte

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### City Council

Erica Dinges

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Ryan Lichter

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Matthew Orr

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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

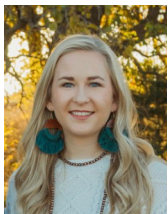
Jeff Dorzweiler

**Police Chief:** Cole Dinkel

**Patrol Officer:** Ryan Mauch

**Fire Chief:** John Weber

**Assistant Fire Chief:** Scott Wellbrock



## Klaus offers different learning options

When Jacy Klaus resigned from her position at Victoria Junior/Senior High School after six years of teaching agriculture classes and sponsoring FFA, she was already planning her next career move as an educator. Her new enterprise, Wildfire Education, is up and running, operating in the building next to Sunflower Bank.

For secondary students, Klaus offers a setting where students will do their high school curriculum in the mornings and then afternoons will include instruction on 'real life' skills like planning, budgeting, taxes and insurance, etiquette and more. They are also encouraged to have part time jobs, hopefully in some area where they have a real interest like veterinary clinics, office settings and more. She also plans to be the liaison between some businesses and her students as time and opportunities allow.

In addition to high school students, Klaus has different options for junior high age as well as grade school. "I love grade school kids," she says and she offers tutoring for those who might need it as well as social opportunities to work with older students on community projects.

Anyone interested in learning more can contact her by phone at 785 639-9400 or @jacyklaus@wildfireedu.com.



## Victoria Rec sponsoring many activities



Drop-in volleyball players take time out for a photo op. This is one of the many opportunities the Rec has offered recently.

The Victoria Recreation Commission has provided community members with new options for activities in recent months. Drop-in Tennis was held on Sunday evenings this summer through the fall; Drop-In Volleyball is ongoing in the VES gym from 6:30-7:30 on Wednesdays through the winter.

In other news the outdoor volleyball court is scheduled to be completed in October. The Commission sends a special thank you to Josh VonLintel (J2 Lease Services) and Shane Roder (Roder Concrete and Construction) for donating time and equipment for the volleyball court.

Pet waste stations have been placed in six locations around town and four park benches will be installed around the outdoor basketball and volleyball courts. These items were secured through a grant from the Heartland Community Foundation.

The process of grant writing and securing funding for a Pickleball Court has begun.

Building Better Knights Basketball Camp will be coming in November for third through sixth grade students.

If anyone has ideas for an activity they'd like to see, you are encouraged to contact Sharon Bleske or Sean Rodger.

**They did it again! The Victoria Fire Department devoted a day to bring activities and awareness about fire prevention to the elementary students. Thank you for your dedication to the community.**



**Fire Department obtains sizable grant**

**The Victoria Fire Department has received a grant for new fire hoses for the City's trucks. This grant in the amount of \$22,675 will cover 90% of the cost of 2400 feet of fire-hose. The firehose grant was made possible by the work of Fire Chief John Weber, Fire Secretary Kami Weber, and Hays firefighter Tim Detrixhe. Tim did most of the paperwork for the grant, and did so without payment. The City of Victoria wants to thank each of them for the work they did to obtain this grant.**

Es Ist Wunderbar! 40 years in the making and you made it count! If you made it to this year's Herzogfest Volga German celebration, you ate, drank and had TOO MUCH FUN! Your Herzogfest Committee was dedicated to bringing back old traditions and beginning new ones. Amongst others "The Zog "-German Pilsner brewed by Defiance Brewing Co., valve cover races, horseshoe tournaments and beer Olympics were a handful of activities at this year's event. This year's entertainment didn't let the weather rain on their parade and put on great shows both nights! Your committee is proud to see community members wearing the limited edition 40th Anniversary merchandise around town and at other local events, the support we have had has been unmatched.

Shortly after Herzogfest, the committee locally hosted the 5th Annual Herzogfest Co-Ed Softball Tournament. There was a great turnout of teams and community members that came out to watch games or snag breakfast or lunch from the committee booth. Out of eight teams and a battle to the end, Los Brewers from Great Bend, KS were the champs and received special Champion t-shirts.

Committee members want to give a big Thank You to the sponsors; without them it would be impossible to host these successful events. To the community, showing up and contributing to the Herzogfest fundraisers means the world and the committee is so grateful for the support. Planning has already started for Herzogfest 2024, make sure to check out the Facebook page for event information and ways to support this non-profit event. See you in the draw on August 9th & 10th in 2024!

**People in our Neighborhood**

**Carolyn Robinson** is fairly new to Victoria, moving here from Colorado Springs in 2019. She was looking for a small town and with her realtor's assistance, she found us on the map. She purchased a house on Grant St. and began working to make it feel like home. She is definitely happy with her choice as she finds Victoria people friendly and helpful.

One of her big projects has been to convert her front yard to a xeroscape layout and she completed it this summer planting all succulents and making it so colorful people driving by stopped to take pictures. Before that project, she tackled her backyard and built raised beds for her vegetable garden. Her efforts there have yielded a wealth of vegetables: cucumbers, carrots, potatoes, beets, lettuce, and onions. She's also produced tomatoes and this year an abundant crop of watermelons.

"My favorite place is in the kitchen," Carolyn says. She loves to can and has a well-stocked pantry to show for her efforts including spaghetti sauce, salsa, corn, green beans and tomatoes. She also uses a process called 'hot canning' which is done in her oven and can ensure the shelf life of foods like split peas and beans for 25 years!

Some of her kitchen efforts have yielded her an income as well as the satisfaction of bringing tasty treats to her customers. She markets her jellies (strawberry champagne, Palisade peach and apricot) to customers at The Library and at the local spring and fall community markets. She also makes a unique confection called peppermint kisses, a melt-in-your-mouth treat, that she also enjoys giving as gifts. When she is not in the kitchen, she can be found making knitted kitchen towels and decorative gnomes. .

Prior to her retirement, she worked at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs for 25 years. She began as "a computer nerd" and also worked as an office administrator/ secretary and more. During those years, she became a friend to many cadets and remembers them paying her with chocolate when she did them favors. They called her Grandma Carrot, a name that still makes her smile.

One of her hopes for our community is that there will be farmer's market. She sees that as something everyone could benefit from and she would have lots to contribute.



**Thank You!**

The Victoria Community Coalition wishes to thank everyone who has been supportive of their efforts for St. John's Place, especially helping them reach the matching \$100,000 grant from the Schmidt Foundation.

Thank you also to the Victoria Fire Department who devoted a night's work to interior demolition work.

Their fundraising efforts continue with their next scheduled event, the Second Annual Holiday Tour to be held in early December.



## Coach Nuss achieves career milestone

Sarah Nuss, head coach for the Victoria High School girls' volleyball team, recently achieved a career high: 200 wins! It was exciting for her and her team and former players who were there. The Lady Knights defeated Russell in two games.

"I have been humbled and honored by all the posts, texts, comments, player written notecards I have received. I appreciate all the players that have worked hard for me these last eight years, so this should be more of a congratulations to all of them. The team and I also appreciate the community support as well, and I want to thank the parents who have given me the opportunity to work with their daughters."

In her eighth year at Victoria, Nuss currently coaches a team of 19 players, three of them seniors. Their record so far is 20-13 and she says some of them have been real battles, "close point-to-point fights until the end with quite a few against ranked opponents." The Lady Knights placed fourth in the CPL tournament and are ranked second in substate to be played at Tescot.

Looking back, she commented, "With the success we've had over the last few years, it makes it easier for the girls to buy in to what I am teaching. Plus, the girls coming in as freshmen have already had me, either in rec, club or at cAmp. So by the time they get to high school they have an idea of what I expect."

## Black Knights host season finale



The Victoria Black Knights' football team hosted the championship game for their eight-man Central Kansas Football League on Saturday, Oct. 21. This league is comprised of players grades fourth through sixth grade and from ten communities. The Victoria team is coached by head coaches Nathan Schippers and Gus Pfanenstiel and assistants Curt Pfanenstiel and Steve Washburn. The Black Knights have 23 players.

This event capped off their season of six games with area teams. The championship game included five games, so nine teams visited Victoria.

To feed the visitors that day, two food trucks were engaged: TK's Smokehaus and Taco Riendo. A Victoria team of mother and daughter volunteered to make 500 bierocks to be sold to game spectators.

The Black Knights also conducted a gun raffle as a fundraiser. Katelyn Schmidt has been the primary contact person for the event. A host of volunteers were enlisted to fill all the positions needed for the day. Last year's event drew over 3,000 people.



## COMMUNITY PROJECT SEEKS PARENTAL INPUT

The high school FCS Community Connections class has put together a child care survey for the residents of Victoria and the surrounding area in an effort to determine the need for more child care options. They have been working with the Community Coalition and St. John's Place who are proposing a child care home within the building, but they need data to prove there is a need in order to submit a grant. If you are currently using child care or will need child care in the future, we ask you to fill out the simple anonymous survey and return in the envelopes provided at the city and several other businesses in Victoria. In addition, each grade school family will receive a survey that can be returned to the grade school. Thank you so much for your help. Your input will help secure more child care options in town.



In November, the St. Fidelis CYO will be attending the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indiana. This is the largest youth ministry event in the nation. The group has been busy with fundraising activities for this trip including a food both at Herzogfest and a recent community breakfast. Cost per individual is \$900. Twenty-eight youth and chaperones plan to attend. Anyone wishing more information can contact Jeanna Wellbrock.

