

Talk of the Town



City of Victoria

November 1, 2022

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Fire Department promotes fire awareness

It's a tradition! Every October members of the Victoria Volunteer Fire Department plan a slate of activities for the elementary students to increase their awareness of fire dangers, prevention, and more.

This year students arrived at the station to be active learners as they donned firemen's gloves, learned to wrestle a hose, feel the weight of firemen gear and then after a question and answer session with firefighter Kami Weber, crawl through a room thick with smoke. This experience both showed them what it's like for firefighters and how they should maneuver if they ever encountered a similar situation.

They were also provided a tour of an EMS ambulance and had opportunity to ask attendants questions.

Another October activity for the department was sponsoring its

second annual poker run on Oct. 22, with 5 planned stops, a silent auction, a supper meal and more. Goals of the event are to fund some of the department's needs and to provide an enjoyable afternoon for participants.



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Patrol Officer: Ryan Mauch

Fire Chief: John Weber

Assistant Fire Chief: Scott Wellbrock

In observance of Veteran's Day, City Hall will be closed Friday, November 11



Victoria Coalition continues toward building goals

The Victoria Community Coalition is moving forward with its efforts to repurpose the former St. John nursing home. Speaking to the merits of this endeavor, Betty Johnson of the Dane G. Hansen foundation referred to it as a "game changer." A holiday tour of homes the weekend of Dec. 3 and 4 is set to add funds to their treasury. They completed their second round of popcorn ball sales as well, with many volunteers rolling up their sleeves to help.

At a recent community meeting, President Jeff Pfeifer provided an update on the project. A Wichita architect has completed a blueprint of the planned facility, the Board is working to submit a grant application by Dec. 30, and a lease with the Ellis County Historical Society is in the process of being finalized. The organization is also awaiting approval of its 501(c)3 application.

A main purpose of the meeting was to establish fund raising committees in three categories: donor campaign, fundraiser ideas, and manpower. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Pfeifer or board members Marilyn Braun, Brenda Dreiling, Jim Dreiling, or Nancy Piatt.


Board member Marilyn Braun thanked all the community members who filled out the HAT survey as well as those who worked to gather the information. Many important pieces of information were gathered that are necessary for the grant process. Results showed a total of 49 area businesses, 228 residents over the age of 66, and 321 home owners.

St. Fidelis News

Rosie Kreutzer, on behalf of the St. Fidelis Thrift Shop, reports that donations have slowed down and they would be happy to receive items that could benefit others. Their crew of volunteers is ready to sort and display new contributions.

The St. Fidelis Food Pantry is once again up and running. Anyone wanting to make use of this program can call the church office at 785 -735 -2777 and make their request and someone will prepare a box of items for them to pick up.



"My family told me to stop telling Thanksgiving jokes, but I said I couldn't quit cold turkey." 

HERZOGFEST VICTORIA, KS

The 2022 Herzogfest was a great success! Thank you to all of our amazing sponsors, food and market vendors, car show and 5K participants, The City of Victoria, volleyball and cornhole players, volunteers and everyone who attended. Shortly after, we hosted our annual fundraising softball tournament. Six teams participated, with the Express Well Service team as overall winners.

We are gearing up for an even bigger 2023 as this will be the 40th Annual Herzogfest. In our planning we are in search of vintage Herzogfest memorabilia. We'd love to borrow any old photographs or apparel that you have from previous years.

Tell us about what you'd like to see at Herzogfest 2023. Feedback helps us tremendously. As always, we welcome anyone interested in volunteering or joining the committee.



Free smoke alarms offered to residents

Fire Chief John Weber wants to remind the public of the special fire alarm program sponsored in conjunction with the Kansas State Fire Marshal. The program provides homeowners with free smoke alarms which will be installed by members of the Victoria Fire Department. The program especially hopes to target homes with 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 which is done by members of the department. 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, etc.

VETERANS
DAY



What is a veteran?

A veteran—whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve, is someone who, at one point in his/her life wrote a blank check to the United States of America for an amount of "up to and including his life." That is honor!



VHS Alumni return for Homecoming 2022

The Victoria Alumni Association helped the community celebrate a great Homecoming 2022! Twenty-one teams kicked off the day at the Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course for the 26th Annual VHS Golf Classic. For the parade, Cora Schulte from the class of 1955 served as grand marshal. The Knights' game was well-attended by alumni from near and far. Afterwards, the Victoria VFW hosted one of the best attended Friday night socials in years with around 150 in attendance. On Saturday, the Memorial Mass at the Basilica of St. Fidelis was the highlight for many. After Mass, the annual banquet was held at the Hays VFW where Marilyn Stoffel '72 and Elden Stang '58 were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame. The dance featuring "Anthony and the Anamals" provided the entertainment for everyone until the wee hours of Sunday morning.

Talk about Housing



Since the last newsletter, discussion was held at a City Council meeting regarding the possible expansion of the Knights' Housing Addition. Chris Wente and Chris Dreiling were present to answer questions. Two streets have already been platted and if "sufficient interest" is expressed by potential buyers, the bank would be ready to proceed with the construction of one street. Anyone interested in learning more can contact Dreiling directly (785 625-7345) for more information or leave their name at City Hall and we will forward it.

People in Our Neighborhood

Our community is fortunate to have a great number of people with a variety of interests and talents. Beginning with this newsletter, we will introduce you to one or more of them. Our first is Alberta Schmidtberger — a tatter. If you've never heard of tatting as an art form it's because it is a rare one and it happens to be her passion.

Tatting is done using any color of thread(s) and a tool called a shuttle. The patterns created are chains, knots, etc. that form a wide variety of designs. Alberta's creations range from tree ornaments, to crosses, icicles, table scarves, placemats, etc. She is especially proud of a 3-D snowflake that is an original design.

Alberta credits her sister with getting her interested about 10 years ago, but she has been at it 'big time' for about five years. She has a sister-in-law in California who serves as her agent and is responsible for selling her works to individuals in many parts of the US. She also has local customers whose special orders she will fill.

Eventually her goal is to set up a shop for crafters and teach classes. For now, she is a happy one-person operation, spending many hours a day with her hands busy while she watches TV.



Show and tell! Alberta Schmidtberger displays some of her tatting art.

REMINDER

- ✓ Pet tags and ATV tags need to be renewed after January 1.
- ✓ We still need cell phone numbers on file for customers who have given up their land lines.
- ✓ The enclosed ACH form is included to enable customers to be free of worry about paying their monthly bill once the paperwork is complete.

Hello Victoria!

I'm Mae and I do Outreach for the Hays Public Library. I come over to Victoria once a month with the Bookmobile. I would love to see more visitors to our wonderful Bookmobile, so mark the days down and come by and visit me. We have adult, young adult and children's books of all kinds available to check out. We also have books on CD, large print books, Kansas Room picks, some cookbooks and children and adult Blu Rays and regular DVDs available for check-out as well. I will be in Victoria with the Bookmobile on the following Saturdays, weather permitting:

Saturday, Nov. 19 from 9:30 am - 10:30 am and Saturday, Dec. 17 from 9:30 am - 10:30 am.

I hope to see you all there. I love meeting all the wonderful people from Victoria every chance I get.





Some Drone Basics

By Police Chief Cole Dinkel

Many times we are asked about laws pertaining to drones or unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs). Some concern the basic rules for their usage; others are inquiring whether or not they're being used in a criminal manner. Before I get into this, please understand that there are many rules and laws covering drones and UAVs, so I will not be able to explain them all. For a better understanding, you might refer to the Federal Aviation Administration website at (<https://www.faa.gov/uas>.) While FAA is the only official body in the US with authority over airspace, there are other online resources that may help with understanding more local rules and laws. This one (<https://uavcoach.com/drone-law-kansas/>) is very informative.

More and more industries and businesses are turning to drones and UAVs to improve their day-to-day operations, so it's becoming more common to see them flying. Drones have also made their way into the hands of recreational users as well. Rules and laws are different for each and every type. For profit or non-profit usage can make a difference in registration and licensing. Weights of drones factor in as well.

Different classifications of operators include Recreational, Certified Remote Pilots or Commercial Operators, Public Safety & Government, Educational Users and also Advanced Operations where drones and UAVs may be used for package deliveries or agriculture chemical dispensing. Each of these has its own specific rules and laws.

I often hear the question "May I legally shoot a drone down if it's over my property, or I feel harassed or threatened by it?" The answer is **NO**. If it is somehow weaponized and attacking you, that may be the only exception. If you feel you are being harassed or having unnecessary photos or videos taken of you and your property, contact your local law enforcement to make a report. FAA prohibits drones from being weaponized and being used in harassing manners. FAA also prohibits drones and UAVs from interfering with law enforcement and emergency response situations. Also remember that it is illegal to operate a drone or UAV while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Years ago, Prairie Village, Kansas, passed a drone ordinance making it illegal to fly a drone near people without their consent, over large events without permission or over private property without authorization. This is an example of restrictions that a municipality can enact.

The FAA is constantly changing guidelines. Hopefully, this information will give you a little more understanding. Always feel free to contact your local law enforcement with questions or concerns.

Stop dreaming about pizza delivery by drone! It's a pie-in-the-sky idea!



Beginning with this school year, the **Victoria PTO** is now district wide, pre-K-12! According to President Jacquelyn Stoffel, the decision was made to "share the love" in both buildings.

For many years the elementary PTO has been responsible for a wide variety of activities and gestures for students and staff. Those have included teacher appreciation gifts, meals during parent/teacher conferences, student activities such as movie days and more. Last year the PTO treasury was able to purchase 'family' shirts for all students and staff, 15 music stands for band students, two wireless headsets, sketch books for all students, a washer and dryer, a snowblower, a weed eater and a leaf blower. All of these would not be possible, according to Stoffel, without the support of parents.

This year's fundraising raffle has already raised over \$15,000 and 55 students had not yet turned in their sales.

The organization received a \$3,000 grant through Heartland Community Foundation that financed a border around the playground as well as a wheelchair ramp.

Current officers are Stoffel, Vice President Jeanna Wellbrock, Secretary Raena Kuhn and Treasurer Tianna Dreiling. Board of Directors are Marci Heier, Elizabeth Jacques, Jeanette Brungardt, Katie Leikam, Katelyn Schmidt, Jenna Scherrer, and Amanda Truan.

Elementary Principal Deena Clark has put out a call for help: "We have many people/families who utilize our playground outside of school hours. We have placed trash cans near our doors and ask that people place their trash in them. I wonder if there are any community groups or businesses who would like to "adopt" it as their project. Our preschoolers were picking up beer cans after homecoming and "helping" clean up on their own. I'd rather our students not do that."

C Y O

Eighteen students and 10 parents are California-bound the second week in November to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference in Long Beach. According to sponsor Jeanna Wellbrock, the funds for this event were made possible by parent donations, fund raising efforts including a recent 'successful breakfast' and bake sale that yielded over \$3,000. This is the first time the event has been held in California. Later in the year, members have a ski trip to Monarch, Colorado, to look forward to. That usually involves up to 20 students.