



January 2006

Victoria Newsletter

City of Lakes and Parks

7951 Rose Street, P.O. Box 36 Victoria, MN 55386 (952) 443-2363

2005 State of the City by Mayor Jerry Bohn

2005 was a busy year for Victoria. Victoria downtown redevelopment is gaining momentum. The KidTalk building and the Wennsman condos were completed in 2005. New businesses added downtown in 2005 include a coffee shop/wine bar, a hair salon, a flower/gift shop, a broadband internet supplier, and a publishing company. The creamery building has been sold to a developer and we expect to see a redevelopment proposal for this property in 2006.

A new school was completed in Victoria in 2005. Victoria Elementary School is located south of town on a beautiful site that includes a new 20 acre park with ball fields and play equipment. Other significant buildings completed in Victoria in 2005 include two churches, a memory care facility, and a group home.

We continue to build 150 homes per year that add about 400 new residents annually. Our population is now close to 5600. We annexed 500 acres in Laketown Township in 2005 and new housing developments are being approved there. Construction on a new church will begin in 2006 in the annexation area as well.

Our new water treatment plant will be completed in 2006. This \$10,000,000 project includes a rehab and expansion of the fire station. The project will be funded from two sources: two thirds of the cost will be funded by water hook up charges paid when a new home is built; one third will be funded by a modest increase in everyone's quarterly water bill. That increase occurred in 2005.

The city budget for 2006 is close to \$3,000,000. The council and staff were able to maintain current service levels, and lower the tax rate by 8.3% by carefully managing city expenditures. You will not see an increase in the city portion of your property tax in 2006, even if the value of your home increased 8-10%

Road reconstruction is underway on the city streets in Victoria. This is a priority with this city council. A number of roads in Victoria are 25 years old and need to be rebuilt. The council has determined the fairest method to pay for this program is to assess 50% of the cost to benefiting property owners and to pay 50% from the general tax dollars. This is an expensive and painful process that nobody likes to pay for, but it has to be done. This problem is not unique to Victoria, most cities have many more miles of roads to rebuild than we do.

On a less positive note, Steve Sarvi, our city administrator, was called up once again to serve in the military. This time he will be on active duty for 18 months and will spend the last 12 months serving in Iraq. Our prayers are with him and his family. The council has hired Dave Urbia as interim city administrator to serve in Steve's absence. Dave has over 10 years experience as a city administrator and we are fortunate to have found such a qualified candidate to take Steve's place.

Thanks to city staff and the council for continuing to strive to make Victoria a great place to live!

Water Treatment Plant

The City of Victoria's Water Treatment Facility Plant and Fire Station expansion is well under-way. Why was the Water Treatment Facility Plant needed? Although Victoria's water meets all Drinking Water Standards set by Federal and State Agencies, it has had problems with iron and manganese levels. Iron and manganese are two naturally occurring minerals that are not health concerns but can cause colored water, which can stain household fixtures, clothing and can produce undesirable tastes and odors. The City routinely flushes all hydrants and water mains twice a year to remove minerals from the system, but the wells continue to replace the materials that are flushed out. The Water Treatment Facility Plant is expected to be completed in 2006. For more information and to see a picture of the completed plant, go to our website at www.ci.victoria.mn.us.

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Updating the City of Victoria's Comprehensive Plan

City Staff has begun to review the Comprehensive Plan System Statements that the Metropolitan Council recently provided the City as a guideline for updating the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. Staff is also analyzing the demographic forecast of the City with what the Metropolitan Council has projected for population, households, and employment by the year 2030.

A Comprehensive Plan is an official statement used to guide development, redevelopment, and preservation of the City and the orderly annexation area by setting forth community-wide goals, policies, plans and programs governing land use, transportation, and community facilities. The Comprehensive Plan was last revised and amended in March 2005.

The process of updating the Comprehensive Plan will involve a series of public hearings and events in 2006 and 2007. Citizens will have the opportunity to voice interests and concerns regarding the future of Victoria. A citizen survey will also be conducted to collect information from the general public to help guide the planning process.

The process of adopting the revised Comprehensive Plan will include review and recommendation by the Planning Commission and other city committees and adoption by the City Council. The Comprehensive Plan will then be reviewed by the Metropolitan Council for final approval by the year 2008.

The Metropolitan Council System Statement projects a population of 30,200 people with an expectation of having an overall density between 3 to 5 units per acre, including 11,000 households, and 1,240 in jobs by the year 2030. City Staff believes that the Metropolitan Council's employment forecast is too low.

For more information regarding the Comprehensive Plan, please check out the city's website for updates at www.ci.victoria.mn.us. The website will include a timeline of the planning process, upcoming public participation events, and research results. The public is welcome to contact Eric Zweber or Angie Perera with the Planning Department at 952-443-2363 with any questions or to find out how citizens can stay informed and get involved in this process.

Building Permits

Not all home improvement projects require building permits and inspections. For the Victoria homeowner, there are seven types of projects that do not require building permits:

1. One-story detached accessory structures, used as tool and storage sheds, playhouses, and similar uses provided the floor area does not exceed 120 square feet.*
2. Fences not over six feet high.*
3. Retaining walls that are not over four feet in height, measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless special conditions exist.
4. Sidewalks and driveways that are not part of an accessible route.
5. Decks and platforms not more than 30 inches above adjacent grade and not attached to a structure with frost footings and which is not part of an accessible route.
6. Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, countertops and similar finish work.
7. Prefabricated swimming pools, which are less than 24 inches or less in depth and do not exceed 5,000 gallons.

While these seven types of projects do not require building permits, items indicated with an asterisk (*) do require zoning permits.

Winter Reminders

The City of Victoria is requesting cooperation from its residents regarding the following ordinances and policies. Abiding by these guidelines will assist the City to provide you with a safe winter season:

Hydrants: Residents abutting hydrants are asked to maintain a clear access to them at all times during the year. A clear path to a hydrant may prove critical to a prompt response in the event of a fire.

Snow Removal from Sidewalks: Residents abutting sidewalks are required to remove snow and ice within 24 hours after its accumulation.

Snow Clean-up: Depositing of snow in the streets, alleys or onto walkways is prohibited.

Winter Parking: Residents shall not park any vehicle on public streets, alleys or public parking lots at any time two or more inches of snow has accumulated on any public street or alley until plowing is complete.

Snow Plows: Drivers should stay a safe distance away from any snow plow. Plows spreading salt and sand on the roads generally move slower than other vehicles. Drive cautiously when snow plows are at work.

The Victoria Field House



Victoria Field House Membership Benefits

The Victoria Field House has a wide array of amenities for the whole family to enjoy. New membership options include daycare or fitness classes. The Victoria Field House has partnered with Blue Cross Blue Shield Fitness Discount Program to provide a great membership benefit. Field House members with qualified BCBS coverage, may be entitled to receive up to a \$20.00 per month per adult credit, for up to 2 adults per household, on their membership fee by fulfilling certain requirements. This will be extended to other health care providers as their programs become available. **Senior Memberships** for citizens ages 60 years and up are only \$107.00 for the entire year!

Victoria Field House Amenities

The *walking track* is free to all Victoria Residents and is available whenever the Field House is open. The *gymnasium* and the *ice rink* are a great places for the whole family to exercise. For open skate and gym hours, please call the Field House at (952) 443-3140. A wide variety of *fitness classes* are offered, and there is a wide variety of *fitness machines* for all levels of work-outs. *Wi-Fi Internet* access is available at the Field House as well as a *computer* is available for public access to the internet. The Field House is located at 8475 Kochia Lane in Victoria.

Parks & Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Committee has completed a City of Victoria Parks Master Plan with a horizon line of 2020. This coincides with the 2020 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Park Master Plan is intended to provide a guide to maintaining and enhancing existing parks and facilities and laying down a blueprint for the development of future parks within the city. The plan acknowledges the unique characteristics of the City that provide excellent recreation opportunities for parks, trails, and open space. The Parks Master Plan is important to provide a framework guide to planning, development, and park administration for the future.

The Victoria Parks and Recreation Department offers year-round programming for all ages and maintains 21 parks, softball fields, baseball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, soccer fields, an ice rink, park shelters and an extensive trail system. Registration for programs can be done online at www.ci.victoria.mn.us. Just a few of the upcoming Winter Programs are:

Youth Programs

- Learn to Skate
- Soccer Skills and Drills
- Intro to Dance

Adult Programs

- Women’s Self Defense
- First Aid & CPR
- Fitness Classes

Senior Programs

- Senior Health Fair
- Science Museum Trip, Treasure Island Trip
- AAA Driver Refresher

Fire Department

The Victoria Fire Department is looking for enthusiastic individuals who want to be part of a professional volunteer organization. In addition to extinguishing fires, the Department protects life, property, the environment, they provide medical services, and they promote fire prevention and education through multiple programs. The City is served by one fire station located centrally at 1500 80th Street. The Victoria Volunteer Fire Department is comprised of 28 members who work or reside within the City.

For more information, or if you would like to join a rewarding team of volunteers, call Chief Tim Walsh at (952) 443-2771 and leave a message or pick up an application at City Hall, located at 7951 Rose Street.



**19th Annual Fishing Contest
on Stieger Lake
February 5, 2006
12:30-2:30 P.M.**

The Victoria Fire Department will be hosting their 19th Annual Fishing Contest on Stieger Lake, on February 5, 2006 from 12:30-2:30 P.M. The Fishing Contest is a great way to show your support to the individuals who volunteer their time to help protect the lives and property of the community.

Numerous prizes donated by local businesses, organizations and people will be given away at the contest. Food and beverages will be for sale by local vendors.

For more information call (952) 443-2771.



7951 Rose
P.O. Box 36
Victoria, MN 55386

**PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #1
Victoria MN**

*Victoria Resident
Victoria, MN 55386*

Victoria City Council Members

Mayor: Jerry Bohn (952) 292-6431
E-mail: mayor@ci.victoria.mn.us
Council Members:
Terrence Bishop (952) 443-2023
Kim Roden (952) 443-1866
Mary Hershberger Thun (952) 470-1212
Rick Tieden (952) 443-3191

The City of Victoria

City Hall (952) 443-2363
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday—Friday
E-mail: info@ci.victoria.mn.us
David Urbia, City Administrator (952) 443-2363
E-mail: durbia@ci.victoria.mn.us
Victoria Field House (952) 443-3140
5:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Monday—Friday
6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Meeting Schedules

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| City Council | 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month | 6:30 p.m. |
| Business Development Committee | Monday before the 4th Thursday of each month | 5:00 p.m. |
| Field House Operating Board | 1st Friday of each month | 7:00 a.m. |
| Finance Committee | 4th Tuesday of each month | 1:30 p.m. |
| Park & Recreation Committee | 1st Thursday of each month | 6:30 p.m. |
| Planning Commission | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month | 7:00 p.m. |
| Senior Commission | 1st Tuesday of each month | 9:00 a.m. |