



VICTORIA SPIRIT

23rd Annual
ICE FISHING CONTEST
Feb. 7, 2010
Stieger Lake
12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Bring your line and bait... everything is set up for you... ALSO, you will still be home in time for the Super Bowl!

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www.ci.victoria.mn.us

Levy, budget summary: Holding the line on taxes

This past December, Victoria's City Council approved a 2010 tax levy of \$4,312,280, which was \$50,200 less than the prior year's levy.

A key objective of the budget process was to not increase taxes and maintain a steady city-tax rate of 37.4 percent. Homeowners should see no increase in their city-portion of property taxes, unless there were significant changes to their home's 2009 assessed value, on which the 2010 tax is based.

Overall, the 2010 budget maintains current service levels despite the conflicting pressure of rising costs and decreasing non-tax revenues.

The City of Victoria receives 28 percent of a homeowner's property tax payment. A household with a home valued at \$400,000 pays approximately \$125 per month to the City for the following services:

- 24-hour police and fire protection
- Prompt snowplowing of all city streets
- Parks and recreation services that include scheduled activities and programs, the Victoria Recreation Center, 22 parks with

various amenities and 20 miles of public trails

- Park maintenance
- Street maintenance
- Building and zoning code enforcement
- Office staff to assist residents
- Municipal, State and National Elections
- City website

The city council and staff have worked hard to establish and maintain the good fiscal health of the city. As development and property values continue to decline, the council and staff will diligently look for ways to diversify revenue sources, and seek cost-cutting solutions that bolster productivity. By diversifying revenues, the city is in a better position to withstand economic shifts.



Please visit the city's website at www.ci.victoria.mn.us, to review other finance-related information.

City of Victoria receives credit rating upgrade

Recently, Standard & Poor's, a provider of independent credit ratings, upgraded the City of Victoria's credit rating from AA to AA+, the second-highest we can get. The credit rating upgrade reflects "the city's good financial management, contributing to a trend of positive general fund operations, and maintenance of very strong reserves".

The credit rating was reviewed in advance of the city's bond sale to fund the 2009 Street, Utility and Drainage Projects.

For more information, contact Jylan Johnson, Finance Director/Treasurer, City of Victoria, 952/443-4216, or e-mail at jjohnson@ci.victoria.mn.us.

Is your Fido licensed?



Did you know that the City requires all dogs residing in Victoria to be licensed?

A license is your dog's ticket home if he or she gets lost. Even though your homebody dog may not leave home by design, he or she can still get out accidentally — through an open door, for example.

A license also protects the public, since licensed dogs must have proof of vaccination.

For residents' convenience, the City has gone to a two-year license with a lifetime tag. Dog license applications can be obtained from the City's website at www.ci.victoria.mn.us or at City Hall, 952-443-4210.

Census Day is April 1, 2010: Please respond

Every decade since 1790, the U.S. Census Bureau has conducted a constitutionally mandated census to determine the number of people living within the United States and its territories. The data collected is used by our nation's leaders to help make vital decisions on behalf of all residents, including reapportionment and redistricting. Census data can also affect how more than \$300 billion in federal funds are distributed for everything from education to transportation.

Every Minnesotan needs to answer the 2010 Census that they receive at his or her Minnesota address. If you are a snowbird and respond to the census at your snowbird address you will be counted as a resident of that state, not Minnesota. Your answers to the census are strictly confidential. Below are just a few things the census helps determine and allocate funding for:

- Distributing over \$300 billion in federal funds and state funds.
- Number of Congressional seats.
- Public transportation, road rehabilitation, construction and forecasting of future transportation needs for all segments of the population.

- Education and education programs.
- Elderly programs.
- The data helps the private sector as well as state and federal governments determine where jobs and job programs are needed.
- Helps potential homeowners research property values, median income, and other demographic information about a particular community.
- Corporations use population data for market research to determine locations for commercial enterprises, such as food stores, pharmacies, and other essential services.
- Allocates funding for public transportation and road rehabilitation and construction.
- Planning for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and the location of other health services.
- Forecasting future housing needs and trends.
- Planning investments and evaluating financial risk.



- Distributing medical research.
- Spotting trends in the economic well-being of the nation.

Your participation in the 2010 Census program is voluntary. However, many government officials and community leaders stress that participation is vital to help ensure accurate and complete counts of the community for future planning and funding. For more information on the 2010 Census, visit Minnesota's census website at www.mn2010census.org, or contact the State of Minnesota Demographers Office at 651-201-2479.

It's winter!

Observe Victoria's snow- and ice-removal policies

The Public Works Department is responsible for the plowing of ice and snow on City streets and some trails to provide safe travel for emergency vehicles and residents.



The department prepares for the snow season by re-training employees and checking routes before the snow begins to fall. Maintenance operators do visual inspections of their plow routes to look for obstructions such as trees, raised manhole covers and any items that are located within the road right-of-way. The right-of-way is located directly behind the curb and is a minimum 5-foot set back. The right-of-way is used for snow storage and should not have any type of structure located within it.

Snow plowing will commence under the following conditions:

1. Accumulation of 2 inches or more of snow.
2. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel.
3. Icy conditions which affect travel.
4. Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets (commuter periods).

Snow-plowing procedures

Streets will be plowed to provide access as soon as possible. The center of the roadway will be plowed first and then passes will be made in each direction. The plowed snow will take the path of least resistance, so driveways will have snow deposited at the ends of them. It is best to wait for the streets to be completely plowed before you clean the ends of driveways.

Cul-de-sacs will be plowed with a single pass in order to open up all routes as soon as possible. Crews will return to clean the entire cul du sac and the additional snow will be moved into the right-of-way.

Snow-plowing will generally continue until all operations are passable. Widening and cleanup operations may continue the same day or will resume the next day

depending upon the conditions. Operators will begin work at approximately 3 a.m., if needed, to complete the snow removal operations.

About property damage

Snow-plowing operations can cause property damage under the best of conditions and care of the operators. The most common incidents are sod damage and mailbox damage:

Sod damage— In the spring, city crews will replace any sod that is damaged within the road right-of-way.

Mailboxes — In the spring, city crews will repair mailboxes that are hit by a plow. Damage resulting from snow that rolls off of a plow or wing is the responsibility of the resident. Mailboxes should be inspected each year by the homeowner to ensure that they are secured and maintained to withstand the plowing season. Drivers make every attempt to clear as close as possible to the mailboxes but residents are responsible for the final cleaning to ensure mail service.

Irrigation or other private improvements in the right-of-way — The City will assume no responsibility for damage that occurs to private improvements in the road right-of-way.

Driveways— One of the most frequent issues with snow removal operations is snow that is deposited in driveways. Snow that accumulates on the street and is pushed by the plows will seek the path of least resistance. Because driveways are open, snow will be deposited into these areas. Drivers do everything they can to minimize the amount of snow that is placed in driveways, but it still can be significant.

Sidewalks and trails

The City plows many trails throughout the community each winter. The trails that are cleared are based upon use and connectivity to public facilities. Trails are a second priority during a snow event but will generally be cleared within 48 hours after a snowfall. Residents that front or side a sidewalk are responsible for the removal of that sidewalk.

For more information about the City of Victoria's Snow and Ice Control Policy, go to the City website, www.ci.victoria.mn.us, or call 952-443-4210.

Is this your Victopia?

Victoria is a great place to live, work and SHOP. Supporting Victoria businesses keeps dollars local. Why are our Victoria businesses so important? Here is a short list of reasons:

- They provide jobs.
- They are major contributors to events and activities.

- They add to Victoria's quality of life.
- They help offset the tax burden to residents.

If you would like to receive information on future promotions from the local businesses, please contact discovervictoria@embarqmail.com.



Valentine Date Night set for Downtown Victoria

Get an early jump on Valentine's Day on Thursday, Feb. 11. Local businesses have planned



an opportunity for couples and friends to enjoy an evening in downtown Victoria—Date Night! Pick up your passport to fun at Fresh Seasons Market starting at 7 p.m. Visit downtown businesses for food, drinks and specials.

Cost is \$5 per couple at each establishment. Get your passport stamped at each of the businesses and drop it off at Floyd's at the end of the night to be registered for prizes. Look for more details on the City of Victoria's website, at www.ci.victoria.mn.us.

Looking ahead, in April, local businesses will host an Easter event downtown. The success of these events depends on community support!

Victoria City Council

Mary Hershberger Thun, Mayor
Tim Amundsen, Council Member
Jim Paulsen, Council Member
Kim Roden, Council Member
Tom O'Connor, Council Member

Contact Us

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Phone: (952) 443-4210
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Web site: www.ci.victoria.mn.us
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Victoria Recreation Center

8475 Kochia Lane
Victoria, MN 55386
Phone: (952) 443-4255

A year in review: Victoria's vision takes shape, building block by block

2009 was a busy year for the City Council and Staff. The City of Victoria's Vision Statement is to create a sense of connected community and it's easy to see that vision taking shape, building block by building block. Although development and new home construction have slowed, new businesses were added to Victoria's thriving business community. The 2030 Comprehensive Plan and other plans were completed, to help preserve Victoria's past while providing direction for the future. The City applied for and received various grants throughout the year adding to its already financial stability. Mayor Mary Hershberger Thun was sworn in for another two-year term. Kim Roden was re-elected to another four-year term as a Council Member. The City's newest elected official Tom O'Connor was sworn in for a four-year term as a Council Member. The newly elected representatives, Council Members Tim Amundsen and Jim Paulsen and city staff would like to share a few high-lights with you from 2009:

- Fresh Seasons Market opened in the spring, bringing a long-awaited grocery store to Victoria.
- Partnership with ISD 112 allowed for a second sheet of ice to be added to the Victoria Recreation Center, and an education room was built to expand recreation programs.
- Floyd's expanded its establishment.
- Fifty new home permits were issued.
- The Clocktower Building expansion added business and office space.
- City offices were renovated.
- The City's 2030 Comprehensive Plan was approved by the Metropolitan Council.
- Subway moved to the Hi-5 Convenience Store location.
- Rising Star Dance Company moved to the Stieger Lake Stores building.
- Cabin Fever expanded its space.
- Concerts in the park series were again a huge success.
- The Hanger opened its doors adding a clothing store to the ever-growing downtown business district.
- The 2009 Street Reconstruction and Downtown Phase II Street Improvements were completed.
- A marketing campaign was initiated for the downtown
- Alphabet Junction Daycare, to be located in the Noterman Building, was approved.
- New Park and Recreation programs were added. The new Hook A Kid on Golf was a huge success and will be offered again in 2010.
- The city's credit rating was upgraded from AA to AA+.
- The Victoria Fire Department added seven new members to its team. This brought the membership to its maximum capacity of 35 members for the first time ever.

Looking forward, the City welcomes another year of growth and change that add to the quality of life for our residents. On behalf of your elected officials and city staff, we thank you and look forward to serving you in 2010.



Fresh Seasons Market



Hook a Kid on Golf



Victoria Recreation Center Expansion (Formerly the "Field House")



Clocktower Building



Dedication of Poppitz Field



Ye Olde Spirit Fest 2009



Victoria Christmas



The Hanger

Get Involved!

Join a City Commission or Committee

Serving on a City of Victoria committee or commission is one way you can become involved in city government, and by doing so you'll be helping build a strong foundation for your community.

The committees and commissions serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council. Some committees and commissions hear appeals, provide expertise, advocate, receive public concerns, or establish, review and enforce policies and regulations. This is your opportunity to become involved to help shape Victoria's future; to become one of the building blocks that makes a great community.

Positions will be available on nearly every committee and commission. Applications will be accepted in January and February, interviews will be conducted in March and new members will start on April 1.

Business Development Committee

Current Members:

Lani Basa	Curt Bresson
Todd Brown	Jeff Byrne
Jim Crowley	Jim Lahl
Terry Hartman	Bob Henry
Scott Manion	Ben Merriman
Randy Miller	

Purpose:

To strengthen and be an advocate for existing and new businesses.

Meetings:

5 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Water Treatment Plant.



Finance Committee

Current Members:

Greg Evansky Michelle Siegert

Purpose:

To advise the City Council on the annual budget and other financial issues.

Meetings:

4 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at City Hall.



Lake Minnetonka

Communications Commission

Current Member:

Henry Pryor

Purpose:

Oversee the franchise agreement with the cable operator, currently Mediacom, and promote awareness and use of community television.

Meetings:

5 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the LMCC studio in Spring Park.

The Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission videotapes City Council meetings to be aired on the local cable Channel 8. Tired of watching the same old stuff on television? Got a great idea for a program but you need the resources to make it happen? If you answered yes to either of these questions, the LMCC can help, since Victoria is a member City. Call City offices at 952-443-4210 for details.

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District

Current Members:

Bill Olson

Purpose:

Reviews various license application requests, considers studies of lake issues, takes measures to control Eurasian watermilfoil and other exotic species, and considers other related lake-management issues.

Meetings:

7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of every month at Wayzata City Hall.

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District is the governing authority for Lake Minnetonka. Did you know that Lake Minnetonka's Smithtown Bay is located within the city limits of Victoria?



Park and Recreation Committee

Current

Members:

David Clayton
Heather Cole
David High
Brenda Juneau
Dee Koutoufaris
Earl Schaub
Scott Rollin

Purpose:

Enhance the quality of life by providing the best possible recreational programs, facilities, parks and preservation of open space.

Meetings:

6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at the Victoria Recreation Center.

The Park and Recreation Committee provides input on the 22 parks and more than 20 miles of trails within the City



Downtown Victoria Branding Logo

Planning Commission

Current

Members:

Michelle Siegert
Gordy Simanton
Tom Vogt
Jim Donadio
Grant Peterson

Purpose:

Enforces the zoning code and votes on planning projects within the city.

Meetings:

6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month at City Hall



Senior Commission

Current Members:

Ronald Allen
Tari Clary
David Lindgren
Dan McInerney
Linda McNulty
Jim Pehringer
Jerry Schmiege
Julie Murray
Jim Hoffman
Sue Weinzierl

Purpose:

Mobilizes seniors, elected officials, city staff, and community leaders to plan and prepare for the needs and contributions of the aging and senior residents.

Meetings:

8 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at the water treatment community room.



