

Victoria Spirit

SPRING 2020



CITY OF LAKES & PARKS



Wassermann Lake Park

Bids for park construction are due on February 13, 2020; estimated cost of construction is \$2.6 million. Victoria City Council and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board will approve a contractor. Construction is expected to start this spring and be substantially complete by the end of this year.

2020 Budget Summary

The City of Victoria's budget is a multi-year fiscal planning document that shows anticipated revenues and expenditures for a specific timeframe (in this case 2020) that is needed to deliver programs and services to the community.

The budget document includes:

- An explanation of the programs, services, activities and projects to be provided by the city during the upcoming year and projections for future years.
- The resultant expenditure requirements.
- The resources available for meeting the expenditure requirements.

Protect Our Water

Unused Wells

Do you know that you may have an unused well on your property? Wells were the main water source for property owners prior to development of the city's water supply in the late 1980's.

Every unused well that is not properly sealed is a safety, health and environmental threat to our community and a legal risk for the homeowner. Children and small animals can fall into a well. Unused wells act like a drain, allowing contaminated water or waste to enter drinking water.

Property owners must seal unused wells or obtain a water well maintenance permit from the state. The most important thing to know about sealing a well is that it must be done by a Minnesota Department of Health licensed well contractor.

The cost of sealing wells varies considerably, depending on access, geological conditions, debris in the well and its depth and diameter. Funding assistance may be available through local or state government agencies.

Source Water Protection

Minnesotans enjoy one of the best drinking water protection systems in the nation, and the City of Victoria works hard to provide you with safe, reliable drinking water, which meets all water quality requirements. The city's water supply is groundwater sourced.

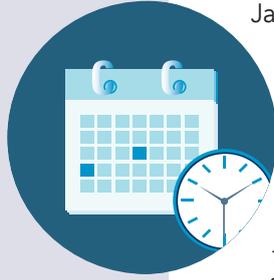
Protection begins with treatment and disinfection at our water treatment plant, along with frequent monitoring and testing for contaminants. The water is stored in Victoria's water tower then distributed to homes and businesses. Common threats to water quality at this stage are lead, copper and bacterial contaminants as well as aging infrastructure. Frequent monitoring and testing is the first line of protection here.

Common sources of contaminants are unused wells, agricultural and lawn nutrients, chemicals and hazardous waste. The city's wellhead protection plan identifies and manages potential threats to the city's drinking water quality.

See www.ci.victoria.mn.us/112/water-services for detailed information.

City Government

All city government meetings are open to all, unless a closed meeting topic, such as a personnel or legal issue, is specifically allowed by state statute. All meetings are held in the council chambers at Victoria City Hall unless otherwise published, and special meetings and workshops may be scheduled with public notice. Meetings may be cancelled with public notice. Following are the standing bodies; ad-hoc committees may be formed as needed. Additional information is at www.ci.victoria.mn.us/31/Government.



City Council

2nd and 4th Monday at 6:30 pm

Available on live stream and video at www.victoria.civicweb.net/portal/

Lakes & Water Quality Committee

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm

Parks and Recreation Committee

3rd Monday at 6:30 pm

Available on video at <https://victoria.civicweb.net/portal/>

Planning Commission

1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6:00 pm

Available on video at www.victoria.civicweb.net/portal/



From the Mayor

2019 was a year of change in Victoria. In January, we welcomed two new council members—Judy Black and Deb McMillan. In March, City Manager Dana Hardie joined the team by unanimous vote of the city council. Through transition, we welcomed new members to our leadership team. Trisha Pollock was promoted to finance director after seven years in the department, and Dave Shoger was promoted to public works director after 11 years with the city in various capacities. Firefighter Chris Lovering was promoted to assistant fire chief.

In 2019, Victoria was one of the first cities in the Twin Cities metro area to adopt its 2040 comprehensive plan. In June, the city council adopted a two-year strategic plan to guide the council and staff through this year.

Council and staff did a deep dive into city operations to ensure efficient and cost-effective services. We reviewed and revised city policies. We overhauled the annual budgeting process. We adopted a new council meeting format. We launched a customer-centric website with easy access to information, on-demand services and transparency. We redesigned the Victoria Spirit to help residents connect with the city and community.

These changes are foundation blocks and a catalyst for visible change in our community. In 2019, we welcomed new and expanding businesses—Winchester & Rye in the old creamery building downtown, Victoria Burrow with a new arcade, and Carver

County Chiropractic Company. Bethesda Lutheran Communities has provided senior living units in Victoria since the 1970s, and Victoria will be the first community hosting their new integrated living community; at Cornerstone Village adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities will live side-by-side with seniors.

A visioning process for the city's only large commercial/industrial area near the intersection of County Roads 10 and 11 is underway. As utilities get close to that area, development is expected to follow. Council's adopted vision is closer to becoming a reality on the 13.5-acre property known as Downtown West, with development agreements that would bring 26 single-level villa townhomes and 300 units of luxury apartments and affordable senior living to Victoria.

In 2020, change continues. Construction of Wassermann Lake Park in partnership with the Minnehaha Watershed District begins this year. This regional amenity will include a boardwalk, fishing pier, picnic pavilion, trails and nature play area. Marsh Lake Road, an important east-west connection, will be reconstructed from a gravel road to a city street.

This month we kick off our inaugural Citizens Academy, an opportunity for residents to learn more about how the city operates, engage with each other and city staff, and a behind-the-scenes tour of city facilities. In 2020, Victoria is open for business, open for recreation and open for growth!

Citizen Committees Vacancies

Great communities grow through careful planning and visioning. Want to make an impact in our community now and for future generations? Vacancies on these committees: planning, parks and recreation, and lakes and water quality. Apply at www.ci.victoria.mn.us by February 21.

Community Aging Resources and Educational Services is the newest citizen committee. This advisory body will



work to connect, engage, educate and provide resources to Victoria's community of residents who are 55+. Apply at www.ci.victoria.mn.us by April 2.

Strategic Plan Progress

The city's 2019-2020 Strategic Plan is built around three themes.

Life Style

- Attract local jobs
- Explore opportunities for lifecycle housing

Quality of Life

- Market the city as a year-round recreation destination
- Expand the city's unique and vibrant downtown

Safe and Connected

- Ensure a well-planned, financially sound community with high quality services
- Ensure a safe, connected, and pedestrian-friendly community

Four strategic objectives flow from these themes.

1. Expand and enhance our local economy
2. Adopt guiding principles
3. Build infrastructure
4. Diversify housing

We are proud to update the community about key results to-date. The entire strategic plan, including milestones, is available @ www.ci.victoria.mn.us.

1. Expand and Enhance Our Local Economy

- Work continues on development of townhomes and affordable, active senior housing at Downtown West. An updated feasibility study based on the current concept for the site is approved.
- Based on discussions with owners of undeveloped downtown properties, the 2020 budget includes funding for reconstructing the old public works facility off Stieger Lake Lane for public parking.
- A public input session in October revealed lack of support for a special services taxing district as a funding mechanism for downtown projects, including a parking structure. The city council also declined to pursue a local option sales tax for this.



- City staff participated in the Carver County Community Development Agency's regional marketing and economic development strategic planning. Staff has applied to serve on the new county-wide tourism board.
- Victoria Worx, the small area planning study guiding the future development of the city's 300-acre commercial and office area in the southeast corner of Laketown Township (future annexation area), will be presented to the planning commission and city council this month.

2. Adopt Guiding Principles

- 2020-2024 capital improvement plan is adopted.
- 2020-2029 long-term financial plan is developed.
- 2020 budget reflects city council direction to maintain 2019 tax rate.
- 2020 budget includes funds for water, sewer and storm water rate studies.
- A deep dive analysis of the city's information technology systems resulted in a long-term capital plan, including a two-year critical priority replacement plan.
- Public open houses were held on several projects: Wassermann Lake Park, Highway 5 and County Road 10 corridor studies.
- Work began to develop a three-year strategy to leverage current systems for public outreach, including online forms and feedback.

New Community And Economic Development Director

Marty Doll joined the city as our new community and economic development director. He brings 15 years of municipal experience to Victoria, most recently from the City of Burnsville, where he spent the last eight years in senior level roles. Marty's focus includes community engagement, strategic visioning, communications, and economic development.

Marty was a key participant in developing the revisioning plan for Burnsville's main commercial corridor and mall redevelopment. He also worked with Burnsville's community development and code enforcement staff to help review and rewrite ordinances and city code, simplifying language to be easily understood by residents and applicants. This experience will help us develop strategies to manage ordinance and code enforcement issues more effectively and efficiently.

The economic development focus of this position is elevated, leveraging Marty's community engagement skills. He will be active in community and professional groups and state and regional advocacy groups. He will engage with the planning commission, city council, school districts, developers and other stakeholders, working proactively to promote investment in Victoria.

Staff Recognition

Parks and Recreation Supervisor Holly Kaufhold is now a Certified Park and Recreation Professional. This certification is the national standard for parks and recreation professionals who want to be at the forefront of their profession. It demonstrates a commitment to the profession and knowledge of key concepts within parks and recreation. Holly has been with the city since 2008, and Victoria benefits from her deep commitment both to her profession and our community.

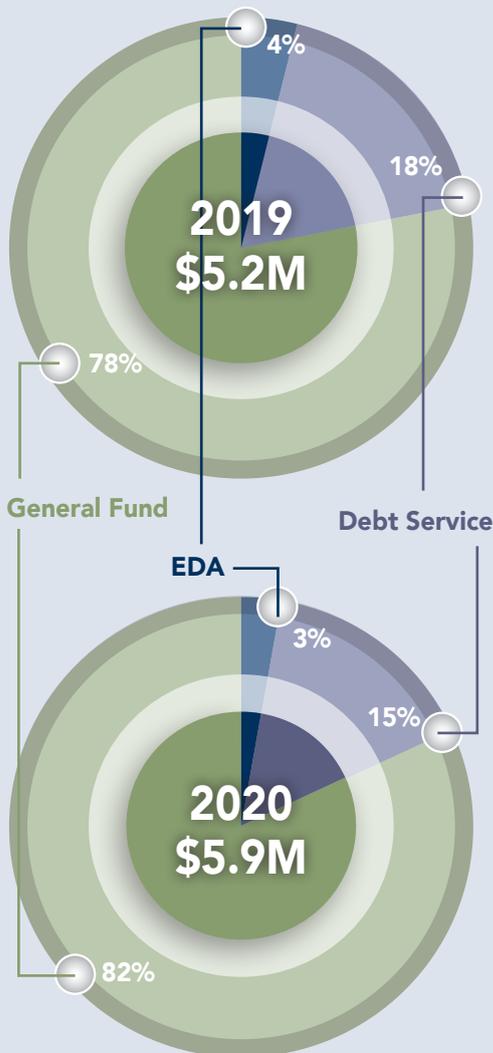
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2020 TAX LEVY

State statutes authorize cities to levy taxes to fund operations and debt payments. Property taxes are the main source of revenue for Victoria and are the primary funds in the city's general fund. The city's property tax levy reflects the amount needed to fund the city's operations and to deliver programs and services to its residents.

In 2020, Victoria's property tax levy increased 13.1%. This amount is not the amount that a homeowner's property taxes increased. The average homeowner's property valued at \$434,300 in 2020 (an 8% increase in value from 2019) will see an increase in the city portion of total property taxes paid of \$104 (from \$1,307 in 2019 to \$1,411 in 2020).

ADOPTED TAX LEVY



VICTORIA RECREATION CENTER FUND

The revenues and expenditures for the Victoria Recreation Center (VRC) are accounted for in a special revenue fund. The VRC provides recreation opportunities for the city's residents and is operated in partnership with Eastern Carver County Schools District 112 (ISD 112). ISD 112 uses the two ice arenas for school functions and pays an annual operations and lease payment to the city for this use and reimburses the city for operating expenditures.

VRC REVENUE BY SOURCE

Year	Charges for Service	ISD Grounds Lease and Operations	Other Revenues	Total Revenues
2018 Actual	\$194,820	\$733,027	\$12,768	\$940,617
2019 Budget	\$213,600	\$762,567	\$16,000	\$992,197
2020 Budget	\$227,600	\$747,349	\$19,007	\$993,956
2020 % of Total	22.9%	75.2%	1.9%	100.0%

ENTERPRISE (UTILITY) FUNDS

The city provides water, sewer, and storm water management services to residents and businesses. These utilities are run like businesses – service charges are set to cover current operating expenses and debt service, but also provide for future projects.

2020 BUDGET FOR UTILITY FUNDS

	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Storm Water Fund
Charges for Services	\$1,799,055	\$1,551,958	\$370,164
Operating Expenses	\$715,552	\$1,044,790	\$265,298
Debt Service	\$822,375	\$0	\$0
Capital Outlay less bonds issued	\$2,120,000	\$1,580,000	N/A
Net Income (Loss)	-\$1,858,872	-\$1,072,832	\$104,866



The City of Victoria's water fund helps maintain safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements.

2020 REVENUES

While property taxes account for nearly all the city's revenue (82%), the city also charges fees for certain services that benefit an individual/applicant. For example, a permit for a new deck, is considered a charge for services. Charges for services account for 16% of the city's total revenue. Revenue received from new home permits accounts for about half of the total charges for services the city collects annually at 8%.

As a growing city, new home permits have been steady over the past several years. It's always a challenge to predict how many housing permits will be issued in any given year as housing starts are market driven. In 2019, Victoria issued 173 new home permits. This was 62 more than what was budgeted. In 2018, the city issued 172 new home permits and in 2017, the city issued 198.

Revenues from new home permits that exceed budgeted projections are transferred to the city's revenue stabilization fund. This fund is available to cover future revenue shortfalls, significant unexpected expenditures or other uses as approved by the city council.

A reflection of the strong financial management practices, the City of Victoria does create a savings plan. These savings represent the "cash on hand" at the city and

is referred to as the city's "fund balance." The city has four different types of fund balances.

- Unassigned
- Assigned
- Non-spendable
- Committed

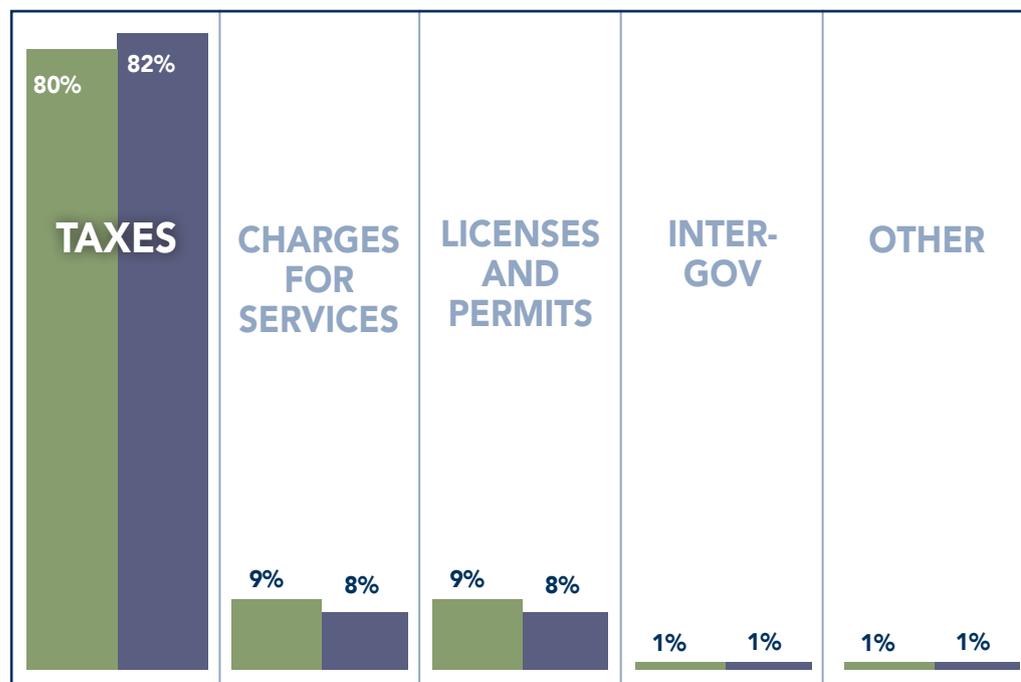
Each fund has a different purpose and the city council has adopted policies guiding the use and level of savings for each fund balance. For example, the unassigned fund balance must maintain a balance of 30% of the city's following year's projected operating expenditures. This means as the city budget increases, its savings must also increase.

The primary purpose of this fund balance is to ensure the city has enough cash to fund operations. The city receives most of its revenue (82%) from property taxes that are paid to the city by the county twice a year. The first payment is received in June.

The city's non-spendable fund balance includes items such as prepaid insurance. Its committed fund balance includes the revenue stabilization fund which reflects a portion of building permit revenue that exceeds the projected budget amount. Assigned fund balance are reserved for a future specific use.

REVENUE SOURCES

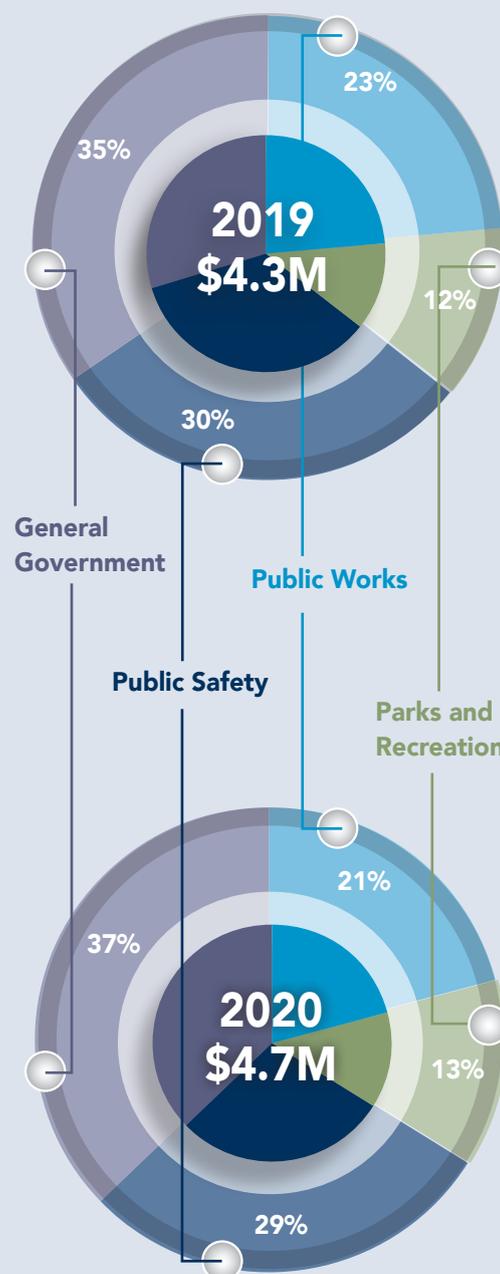
■ 2019 ■ 2020



EXPENDITURES

The city's total expenditures in 2020 are approximately \$4.7 million, which is 8% higher than 2019's expenditures of \$4.3 million. Primary reasons for this increase include:

- City council's desire to deliver the same service levels to a growing number of new residents and businesses.
- Increasing costs of doing business (e.g. wages, health insurance, contracted services).
- Implementation of prior commitment and financial plans.
- Implementation of the city council's adopted strategic plan priorities.





Scouts Learn Citizenship

Boy Scout Troop 337 and Cub Scout Pack 303 members enjoyed a participative lesson in local government with Mayor Funk and City Council Members Black, Gregory and Vogt on January 13.

The Boy Scouts interviewed them about city leadership, citizenship and community issues. Council members illustrated the policy-making process using the example of installing a stop sign at an intersection. This example also highlighted the importance of citizen involvement in local government. Troop 337 conducted a flag ceremony and led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the council meeting.



Census 2020

The 2020 census of people living in the United States is underway. Expect to receive detailed information in your mailbox March 12-20 about how to respond.

This census will determine congressional representation, inform hundreds of billions in federal funding and provide data impacting our community for the next decade. The Census Bureau goal is to make sure that everyone is counted; census takers will visit homes that have not responded during May-July.

Hands-Only CPR

Do you know a few simple skills can help save a life? Sudden cardiac arrest claims the lives of approximately 475,000 Americans annually. Sudden cardiac arrest does not discriminate; it affects all age groups. Only 46% of those who suffer sudden cardiac arrest receive the potential lifesaving treatment needed.

The Victoria Fire Department has a goal to help increase the number of people who receive the potential lifesaving treatment they desperately need. Hands-only CPR and rapid defibrillation are lifesaving skills, which can change the outcome of a sudden cardiac arrest event.

The Victoria Fire Department is hosting classes this year to teach hands-only CPR and defibrillation. These FREE classes are taught by our fire department staff. Class details and registration is at www.ci.victoria.mn.us on the fire department's programs and services page.



Elections 2020

This year sees some changes to the election process.

Presidential Primary

Minnesota holds a presidential nomination primary on March 3 to vote for each major party's presidential nominee. Early voting has begun. Find your polling place and learn how to vote early in person or by mail @ mnvotes.org.

Voters are required to request only one party's ballot, whether voting is absentee or in-person at the polling place. The ballot will list only nominees representing that political party.

Precinct Caucuses

Precinct caucuses are held on Tuesday, February 25 at locations set by the political parties. Caucus locations will be posted on mnvotes.org shortly before that date. They are the first in a series of meetings where parties may endorse candidates, select delegates, and set party platforms.



Primary Elections

August 11 is the state's Primary Election Day for offices other than President of the United States. Early voting begins June 26.

General Election

General Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. Early voting begins September 18.

Complete information about Minnesota's voting process is available @ mnvotes.org.

Snow Falls In Minnesota

It's inevitable. Our public works crew springs into action, clearing city-owned streets, sidewalks and trails in this order.

1. Residential streets, downtown streets and city sidewalks
2. Cul-de-sacs
3. Trails

The city does not plow privately-owned streets in Victoria. Check with your homeowners' association about plowing services.

Residents are responsible for clearing sidewalks in front of or alongside their property. Business owners are responsible for plowing privately-owned sidewalks downtown. Clearing is required within 24 hours of snowfall.

On residential streets, plowed snow often lands at driveway's end. Best to wait until the entire street is plowed before you clean your driveway. On downtown streets, plowed snow is piled in parking stalls, as few as possible. Snow piles are hauled away the following day. Cul-de-sacs are plowed with a single pass and then cleared after all street plowing is done.

Parked cars and garbage cans on streets hamper plowing and create safety hazards. Parking on the street is prohibited from 11 pm-6 am after two inches of snow falls or until the street is plowed curb to curb. Staff may place a courtesy warning notice on parked cars, but parking citations will be issued as needed regardless of notice.



Thank You Volunteers

Victoria City Council recognized the volunteer efforts of nine groups and many individuals who gave back to our community in 2019 at its January 13 meeting. Volunteer activities included beautifying community spaces, working with children in our summer playground program, improving our baseball fields, and making the fall compost event happen.

The following community groups and individuals were recognized.

- Boy Scout Troop 337
- Chanhasen Dugout Club
- Chris Thulin
- Clark Poppitz
- Cub Scout Pack 303
- Darc Hilgenberg
- Demeko Code
- Dennis Brown
- Diane Hetzger
- Eric Neumann
- Eva Haines
- Jim Moss
- John Hetzger
- Kate Hilgenberg
- Laura Podergois
- Lisa Hayes
- Pam Wells
- Poppitz and Thulin families
- Shelly Battcher
- T-ball and coach pitch coaches
- Troy Poppitz
- Victoria Garden Club



Strategic Plan...from page 3

- New online city council and citizen committees agenda management system introduced.
- Thirteen city council workshops facilitated in-depth discussion among staff and council members. Workshop topics included: affordable housing, utility franchise fees, city budget, city policies and policing services.
- **3. Build Infrastructure**
 - Secured grant funding to reimburse city residents for water conservation using irrigation controls.
 - Design plans approved for Wassermann Lake Park.
 - 2020-2024 capital improvement plan includes funding for trail connections.
 - Preliminary design for Marsh Lake Road construction is approved.
- Volunteers partnered with the city to host two weekend events for yard waste disposal; 700 households participated, and funding is allocated for four weekend events in 2020.
- Funds are allocated for a facilities space needs assessment.
- Classification and compensation study of city jobs was completed.
- **4. Diversify Housing**
 - Bethesda Cornerstone Village began construction serving seniors and adults with disabilities; 11 of the 52 units are affordable.
 - Staff met with five potential developers for active senior and senior "with services" projects.



City of Victoria
P.O. Box 36
1670 Stieger Lake Lane
Victoria, MN 55386

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Activities Sampler

VICTORIA RECREATION CENTER

Superhero Party

Calling all superheroes! Registration encouraged, drop-ins welcome.

Feb. 28 ● 6-7:30 pm ● \$5/person, children under 1 are free

Pickleball for Beginners

Try out new skills on the court. Equipment provided. Adults. Register by Feb. 27.

Mar. 2 ● 5:30-7 pm ● free

Cookies with a Cop

Meet and greet Victoria's local law enforcement. Ages 6+. Drop-in.

Feb. 25 & Mar. 31 ● 6:30-7:30 pm ● free

Register online at www.ci.victoria.mn.us or call 952-443-4255 for information.

VICTORIA LIBRARY

ECFE on Wheels

Circle time, songs, art activity and literacy take home project. Ages birth-5. Registration required.

Feb. 26 ● 11:30 am-12:15 pm ● free

Sing, Play, Learn with MacPhail

Explore the magic of music and play. Ages birth-preschool.

Mar. 11 ● 10:30-11 am ● free

Countdown Shape Safari

Discover hidden animals in a preschool STEM storytime.

Apr. 13 ● 10:30-11 am ● free

View www.carverlib.org or call 952-442-3059 for information.

LOWRY NATURE CENTER

Passport to Lowry

Try naturalist Christina's favorite activities. Ages 11 and younger must have adult.

Feb. 23 ● 12:30-2:30 pm ● free

Puppet Escapade

Watch a silly puppet show and explore activity stations. Ages 2-6 + adult.

Feb. 24 ● 10-11 am ● \$4

Laura's Adventures: Sugar on Snow

Tap a maple tree to see if sap is flowing. Ages 5+.

Feb. 29 ● 2:30-4:30 pm ● \$5-7

View www.threeriversparks.org/location/lowry-nature-center or call 763-694-7650 for information.