

Community input guides spending of American Rescue Plan funds

by Jesús A. Garza, city manager for the City of Victoria.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in unimaginable ways—but with the federal funding we’ve received through the American Rescue Plan, some of those changes can be for the better.

Victoria recently was allocated \$14.5 million through the federal American Rescue Plan to help our community recover from COVID-19 and to improve our resiliency against future pandemics. As we work to build a stronger Victoria, your city leaders want to be sure that our priorities align with residents’ goals, which is why we created an open submission process for residents to share their ideas for how the funds should be spent.

Compared to the CARES Act funds that we received last year,

the American Rescue Plan funding can be used for a wider variety of purposes. In addition, because we are no longer in the middle of an emergency, we can spend more time developing a strategic response.

Within the broad scope of possible funding uses, the City Council identified five categories that align with our community’s needs: broadband, utility infrastructure, tourism/travel industry, community grants and economic development. Additionally, we recognize the need to continue ensuring excellent service by investing in City employees and recouping financial losses we experienced due to the pandemic.

Within the five categories, our residents have submitted dozens of responses, which City staff used to create recommendations that were presented to the City Council on

July 20. Many respondents want to prioritize helping low-income or vulnerable populations through community grants. We look forward to vetting proposals from our local nonprofits to ensure dollars are spent on transformational efforts that will improve services in our community.

We also know that broadband improvements are important to our residents, a reality that’s reflected in the hundreds of responses to our broadband improvement survey. Some funding from the American Rescue Plan has already been set aside for the ongoing broadband feasibility study, and we’ll be actively looking for more ways to leverage this program and other resources as we seek to improve broadband access.

Utility infrastructure was another popular category. Residents will See FUNDS, pg. 13



Jesús Garza, Victoria city manager. *Contributed photo.*

Frost Bank earns City beautification award



Frost bank recognized for beautification. *Contributed photo.*

Keep Victoria Beautiful staff and Frost Bank executives and employees pose for a photo Aug. 3 at Frost Bank, 7602 N. Navarro St., with KVB’s Business Beautification Award traveling sign. Frost Bank received the Business Beautification Award for the month of August. The award is given monthly to recognize businesses

that help to beautify the Victoria community through property upkeep, landscaping, and other improvements. Frost Bank will display the traveling sign during August. To nominate a business to receive the award, visit www.victoriatx.gov/kvb and click on “Beautification Awards.”

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ShIPLEY Do-Nuts returns to Victoria

ShIPLEY Do-Nuts, makers of gourmet, made-fresh-daily donuts for 85 years, opened its newest location in Victoria, Texas, this month at 2601 N. Navarro Street, near the intersection at E. Airline Road.

Owned by longtime ShIPLEY franchisee OuTaing, the new 2,700-square foot shop offers more than 60 varieties of freshly

made do-nuts, including ShIPLEY's iconic plain glazed, as well as coffee, kolaches, cinnamon rolls, bear claws, fritters and more. The location features seating for 20 people inside with a convenient drive-thru for quick pick-up.

Since opening its doors on July 22, the Victoria ShIPLEY Do-Nuts has shattered company records for grand opening week sales, sur-

passing the record recently set by the new Midland, Texas, location opening.

"We know our loyal ShIPLEY fans have waited a decade for us to return to Victoria, and we are so glad to be back with our new location on Navarro," said Taing, who has four ShIPLEY Do-Nuts shops, including locations in Temple, Brenham and Katy. "It feels great to



ShIPLEY Do-Nuts new location at 2601 N Navarro Street next to Walgreens. *Contributed photo.*

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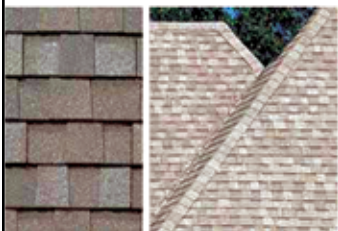
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be part of the Victoria community and we look forward to welcoming back local fans and winning new ones with what we believe is the world's greatest do-nut."

Fast-growing ShIPLEY Do-Nuts currently has agreements in place for more than 100 new locations throughout Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida and Colorado over the next five years. The company is actively recruiting additional franchisees in new and existing markets, including a focus on increasing its presence in Colorado and Florida. For more information,

visit <https://shiple McDonuts.com/franchise>.

About ShIPLEY Do-Nuts

Founded in 1936, Houston-based ShIPLEY Do-Nuts is a leading do-nut restaurant franchisor and manufacturer of specialty food products. ShIPLEY franchises over 300 restaurants to a diverse group of operators across nine states and has served its do-nuts, kolaches and beverages to generations of guests. For information on franchising, visit shiple McDonuts.com/franchise.



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Sparklight® brings fiber Internet to Victoria residents, businesses



Sparklight's Kareem Shaaban is Victoria's local contact. *Contributed photo.*

Sparklight,® a leading broadband communications provider and part of the Cable One family of brands, today announced plans to build a fiber-optic network that will provide high-speed internet service to Victoria, Texas residents and businesses.

Engineering and pre-construction activities are already underway on the company's state-of-the-art, all-fiber network that will deliver symmetrical speeds up to 1 Gig for residential customers and up to 5 Gigs for business customers.

"Our solid and reliable broadband infrastructure will help Victoria residents stay connected for all of their online needs, whether it be

for telemedicine, online education, working from home, shopping or entertainment," said Chris Boone, Sparklight Senior Vice President of Business Services and Emerging Markets. "Our multi-million-dollar investment in this network will support the bandwidth needs of the Victoria community, now and in the future."

"Reliable Internet service has become a part of our critical infrastructure, and our community has a strong desire to see improvement in this area," said Victoria Mayor-elect Jeff Bauknight. "We are glad to have the opportunity to work with Sparklight in meeting this need for our residents."

In October 2020, Sparklight

Business launched its Piranha Fiber® Ferociously Fast Internet® services in Victoria. Today, more than 2,000 businesses in Victoria have access to the company's fiber

Internet and voice services.

Construction on the Sparklight network will be completed in the summer 2023.

For more information about

Sparklight, contact: Kareem Shaaban, Business Account Executive Victoria, Sparklight Business 832-816-5338, or Kareem.shaaban@sparklight.biz

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Noticias del Mundo

Afganistán – Esta es la provincia que no cayó ante el talibán. Una semana después de que el talibán entró triunfante a Kabul, la capital de Afganistán, miles siguen desesperadamente tratando de salir del país y otros miles enfrentarán peligros para conseguir refugio. Mientras tanto, los talibanes tienen como objetivo lograr el control absoluto de la nación, pero hay un territorio que buscará hacerle frente.

Kabul cayó hace una semana. Esto es lo que pasó en Afganistán: El presidente de Estados Unidos, Joe Biden, anunció en abril su decisión de retirar las tropas estadounidenses de Afganistán antes del 11 de septiembre de 2021, bajo la idea de ponerle “fin a la guerra más larga de Estados Unidos”. En cuestión de meses, los talibanes

avanzaron y tomaron el control de la ciudad de Kandahar, la segunda más grande de Afganistán, y continuaron su rápida toma de la capital, Kabul.

El viernes, 13 de agosto los talibanes tomaron el control de la ciudad de Kandahar, la segunda ciudad más grande de Afganistán.

Los talibanes dijeron que habían tomado el control de la oficina del gobernador, el cuartel general de la policía y otros centros operativos clave en toda la ciudad. “Se incautaron cientos de armas, vehículos y municiones”, dice el comunicado de los talibanes.

Situación en Afganistán con los talibanes: esto es lo que debes saber

Kandahar, que se encuentra en el cruce de tres carreteras principales, es de particular importancia

estratégica y anteriormente fue un importante centro de operaciones militares de EE.UU. Su caída marcó el triunfo más significativo hasta ese momento para los talibanes, quienes ya habían tomado el control de 13 de las 34 capitales provinciales del Afganistán.

Las tensiones aumentaron en Kabul después de que ciudades clave, como Jalalabad y Mazar-i-Sharif, fueron tomadas por el grupo militante durante la noche del sábado.

El presidente de Afganistán, Ashraf Ghani, abandonó el país el 15 de agosto. El presidente afgano del Alto Consejo para la Reconciliación Nacional, Abdullah Abdullah, confirmó en una declaración en video que el presidente Ghani había abandonado el país, refiriéndose a él como “expresidente.”



Luna-Azul in Afganistan. *Contributed photo.*

“El hecho de que el expresidente afgano haya abandonado el país y haya puesto al pueblo y al país en una situación tan mala, Dios lo hará responsable y el pueblo de Afganistán también lo juzgará (por haciéndolo),” expresó en una declaración en video grabada en Kabul.

Abdullah también le dijo al pueblo afgano: “En las circunstancias actuales, lo único que quiero para ustedes es que Dios les dé la capacidad de mantener la paz. So-

licito a las fuerzas del movimiento talibán que den una oportunidad a las negociaciones, sin entrar a la ciudad, para que no continúe el sufrimiento de la gente o el deterioro de la situación de seguridad, lo que resultará en causar bajas y pérdidas a la población.”

“Una vez más les pido paciencia y que Dios los ayude y esté con ustedes, y que pasen estos días difíciles y se logre una solución para la vida pacífica del pueblo afgano,” dijo Abdullah.

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Crossroads Volunteers Stand United in Service to Honor the 20th Anniversary of 9/11



9/11 20th anniversary, New York, New York. Contributed photo.

Volunteers from the Crossroads will partner with the United Way of the Crossroads to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks by joining in patriotic acts of volunteer service as part of the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, commonly known as 9/11 Day.

9/11 Day is a chance to recapture the spirit of unity that swept the nation in the aftermath of 9/11, while paying tribute with acts of service to those lost on September 11, 2001, heroic first responders, and the countless others who serve to defend the nation's freedom at home and around the globe.

The United Way of the Crossroads is partnering with groups in communities across their service area to host this event. Volunteers will meet in locations in each community to remember those who lost their lives that day and to assemble disaster preparedness kits. Each local event will be connected via zoom, so they can all participate together. They hope to engage 150 volunteers from all walks of life, including the military and children, across their service area. The goal is to complete 600 kits. Disaster preparedness kits will be distributed to the community in which they were built.

“September 11th is a day of history, emotion, and reflection,”

said Jill Blucher, the Community Engagement Coordinator of the United Way of the Crossroads. “For many Americans it is also a day of service that provides an opportunity to join our neighbors and local leaders to make our country stronger and better for decades to come while we honor those who lost their lives in 2001 and those who rose in service to our country. This year, on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 we will honor, serve, and unite in this spirit.”

Volunteers can find locations and sign up by going to the Volunteer tab at UnitedWayCrossroads.org. Those interested in hosting a group can contact Jill Blucher at the United Way of the Crossroads at 361-578-3561 option 7 or jill@unitedwaycrossroads.org. Each location will house up to 20 volunteers to ensure safe social distancing.

September 11th was designated

a National Day of Service by Congress in 2009 and is led by AmeriCorps, the federal agency for volunteerism and national service. AmeriCorps partners with 911Day.org, the nonprofit that, along with 9/11 families, began the 9/11 Day observance more than a decade ago, and engages hundreds of nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations, schools, and businesses nationwide.

The United Way of the Crossroads serves DeWitt, Goliad, Lavaca, and Victoria Counties, as well as parts of Fayette and Gonzales counties, by partnering with local agencies mobilize and support a network of people, partners, and resources. Their goal is to ensure every person can live free from poverty, oppression, and have what they need to live a fulfilling life. Learn more at United-WayCrossroads.org.

Public Notice of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs
Each year the Victoria Independent School District offers Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs. These programs are designed to develop more fully the academic and technical skills of secondary students who enroll in CTE programs under the guidance of CTE teachers, faculty, administrators and counselors. The following is a list of the CTE programs of study offered:

- Accounting and Financial Services
- Advanced Manufacturing and Machinery Mechanics
- Agricultural Veterinary Medicine
- Animal Science
- Applied Agricultural Engineering
- Automotive
- Business Management
- Carpentry
- Cosmetology and Personal Care Services
- Electrical
- Engineering
- Design and Multimedia Arts
- Healthcare Therapeutic
- Law Enforcement
- Plant Science
- Plumbing
- Programming and Software Development
- Refining and Chemical Processes
- Teaching and Training
- Welding

All Career and Technical Education programs follow the district's policies of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, socioeconomic status or any other basis prohibited by law in all programs, services, activities and employment in accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Victoria Independent School District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Dawn Maroney at dawn.maroney@visd.net, 361-788-9250, Title II Coordinator, Michelle Yates, michelle.yates@visd.net, 361-788-9294, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator, Dawn Maroney, dawn.maroney@visd.net, 361-788-9250. For general information about the CTE programs, contact Dena Justice, CTE Specialist, dena.justice@visd.net, 361-788-9288.

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City, developer host groundbreaking for new affordable apartments

Realtex Development Corporation will begin construction Aug. 2 on Enchanted Gardens Apartments, a new affordable workforce housing development that will be built on land that was sold July 21 by the City of Victoria to expand housing options for working individuals and families.

The Victoria Housing Finance Corporation, the City of Victoria and Realtex Development Corporation will host a public ceremony at 11 a.m. Aug. 11 at the site of the future complex, 4601 N. Ben Jordan St., to celebrate the beginning of construction. The complex will begin leasing units in July 2022, and construction will be completed in October 2022.

During the development of Victoria's community-driven 2035 Comprehensive Plan, residents identified expansion of entry-level and moderate-income housing options as a key goal for the city.

"In order for the city to continue to grow and thrive, we must have new housing that our residents and workers can afford," said Mayor Jeff Bauknight. "By leveraging state and federal programs to encourage development of affordable workforce housing, we have

an opportunity to create a more livable city and improve the lives of all our residents."

Investing in Victoria's future

The VHFC is a public, nonprofit housing finance corporation led by a board of three City Council members. The VHFC's mission is to facilitate development of safe, decent, and sanitary housing for low- and moderate-income residents.

The VHFC is authorized to issue tax-exempt bonds on behalf of developers to help finance the construction of multifamily workforce housing projects. The developer is solely responsible for repaying the bonds.

"The Victoria Housing Finance Corporation is committed to finding solutions for our community's lack of affordable workforce housing," said Assistant City Manager Mike Etienne. "We are excited to be able to support Realtex Development Corporation on this new development, which will provide relief to Victoria residents who need it most."

The \$32 million Enchanted Gardens Apartments is primarily financed through bonds issued by



City of Victoria staff, City Council members and Realtex Development Corporation staff participate in a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 11 to celebrate the start of the construction of Enchanted Gardens Apartments, 4601 N. Ben Jordan St. The new affordable housing development will offer 168 units for residents who earn up to 60% of Victoria's median family income. The development is part of the City's ongoing effort to expand access to entry-level and moderate-income housing in Victoria. The project was primarily financed through bonds issued by the Victoria Housing Finance Corporation and through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs' noncompetitive 4% housing tax credit program. The apartment complex will begin leasing units in July 2022 and is scheduled for completion in October 2022. To learn more about Enchanted Gardens Apartments, visit www.victoriatx.gov/communications. *Contributed photo.*

the VHFC and through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs' noncompetitive 4% housing tax credit program.

Enchanted Gardens Apartments will be Victoria's first new housing development since 2007 to leverage federal low-cost housing tax incentives. The development will create 168 housing units and more than 200 temporary construction jobs.

About the apartments

Housing at Enchanted Gardens will be reserved for residents who earn up to 60% of Victoria's median family income, which varies depending on household size. According to the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development, 60% of the 2021 median family income for a family of four in Victoria is \$43,320. To find out if you qualify, visit www.victoriatx.gov/cdbg.

Units will be priced according to residents' income:

Unit size: 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom

Number of units: 48

Estimated monthly rent: \$339-726

Unit size: 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms

Number of units: 72

Estimated monthly rent: \$408-871

Unit size: 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms

Number of units: 48

Estimated monthly rent: \$470-1,007

The complex is designed to offer "the simplicity of neighbor-

hood conveniences wrapped in a gated community," according to a news release from Realtex Development Corporation. Amenities will include a swimming pool, picnic and barbecue areas, a dog park, and on-site social services.

Stay connected

For information about the construction and development of Enchanted Gardens, contact Rick Deyoe, Realtex Development Corporation president, at 512-306-9206 ext. 103 or rdeyoe@realtex-development.com.

For questions about the property or rental information, contact Alma Cobb, housing management director, at 512-306-9206 ext. 128 or acobb@realtexdevelopment.com.

To learn more about the Victoria Housing Finance Corporation, visit www.victoriatx.gov/city-manager.

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City to broadcast VISD school board meetings on cable channel



City to broadcast VISD school board meetings on cable channel starting in August 2021. *Contributed photo.*

The City’s local cable channels will soon begin broadcasting the Victoria Independent School District’s school board meetings so residents can view them from the comfort of their homes.

TV15, operated by Communications & Public Affairs, is one method of communication that’s part of the organization’s efforts to increase the accessibility of public meetings. This initiative includes the live broadcast of City Council meetings, which began in 2019, and the addition in July of closed captioning for City meetings.

TV15 is available to view on local cable channels 15 and 115.

“Partnering with community organizations like VISD is important for our residents,” said Ashley St-revel, director of the City of Victoria Communications & Public Affairs. “This is one of the ways we can help improve residents’ access to information that may not have been readily available to them otherwise.”

The broadcast partnership will support VISD’s goal of providing timely and accessible information to its stakeholders, said Ashley Scott, executive director of Com-

munications & Public Relations for VISD.

VISD board meetings are usually held the third Thursday of each month. Regularly scheduled meetings will be broadcast at 5 p.m. the next day on TV15 and online at www.victoriatx.gov/communications.

In addition to public meetings, TV15 features a variety of programming focused on local government, education, history, and the arts. To learn more, visit www.victoriatx.gov/communications. To provide suggestions about programming, visit www.victoriatx.gov/communications.

gov/survey.

Victoria ISD school board meetings are also available via livestream at www.visd.net/

boardmeetings/. To view scheduled board meeting times, dates, and agendas, visit www.visd.net/boardagenda/.



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Charlando de TV y Cine

por Santos Raza y contribuidores

¿El segundo episodio de 'What If...?' nos mostró más de un cambio. No solo T'Challa es Star Lord, sino que Nebula ya no se ve como en las películas. Pero ¿por qué?

Tal como se los comentamos

ayer, que T'Challa no fuera el Rey de Wakanda, sino capturado por Los Devastadores, fue una movida en las fichas que desató cambios más drásticos, como que, por ejemplo, Thanos ya no quería

eliminar a mitad de la población del mundo usando las Gemas del Infinito.

Por supuesto, este giro en los acontecimientos también genera otras acciones, y que, como Tha-



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What If: Nebula. Contributed photo.

nos ya no está tan nublado por su sed de "dominar al mundo," ya no hace falta que pague sus frustraciones que ninguna de sus "hijas," por lo que Nebula no fue el experimento de nadie.

Afortunadamente, algo sigue igual: la voz de Karen Gillian. La actriz de 'Jumanji' volvió para darle vida a su versión animada que, si bien no se ve tan robotizada con en las películas del MCU, sigue caracterizada por su piel azul.

Sin su cabeza calva, ni las partes mecánicas, esta Nebula tiene el cabello rubio y brillante, y desde un principio, se dispone a trabajar

con Star Lord y su ahora reformada banda de Desvastadores para recuperar las Ascuas del Génesis de las manos del Coleccionista. Y sí, tanto Yondu como este último contaron con las voces originales de Michael Rooker y Benicio del Toro.

Por otro lado, no podemos olvidar lo que nos enseñó 'Loki' acerca de las Variantes de la Sagrada Línea del Tiempo: no todas se ven igual. Sí, en el caso del personaje de Tom Hiddleston sus cambios corporales resultaron algo extremos, pero, tal como nos demostró

See CHARLANDO, pg. 9

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*No obligation to enroll.



Karen Gillan es Nebula. *Contributed photo.*

CHARLANDO

from pg. 8
He Who Remains, las distintas expresiones de una misma persona pueden tener mínimas alteraciones.

Esto es lo ocurrió con Nebula, aparte de que su papá adoptivo no la torturaba cada vez que no

lograba sacar A+ en su tarea asignada. Sin embargo, ¿y aunque no tenemos quejas de 'WhatIf...?' hasta el momento, creemos que un mejor escenario hubiera sido darle a la hermana de Gamora una oportunidad de "venganza," sobre todo luego de todo lo que vivió por culpa del Titán Loco.

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Metropolitan designation to help City keep federal funding

Federal government maintains population threshold for funding metric

The City of Victoria is in a better position to keep millions of dollars in federal funding after the federal Office of Management and Budget on July 13 elected not to change the Metropolitan Statistical Area population threshold.

The OMB defines a Metropolitan Statistical Area as a county-based urban center with at least 50,000 residents. During its 2020 update of the Standards for Delineating Core Based Statistical Areas, the OMB recommended changing the population threshold to 100,000.

This change would have jeopardized Victoria's federal funding because many federal agencies use this the MSA designation to calculate funding allocations. For example, the City of Victoria receives federal funding as part of the Community Development Block Grant program, which supports community development and services for low-income residents, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which oversees funding for local transportation projects.

On March 16, the Victoria City

Council passed a resolution opposing the change. The resolution was submitted to the Federal Register as an official comment opposing the change and provided to U.S. Rep. Michael Cloud, who also opposed the reclassification.

On July 13, the OMB published the 2020 Standards for Delineating Core Based Statistical Areas. The OMB stated in a press release that it would maintain the MSA threshold of 50,000 residents.

"We are pleased that the OMB has decided to listen to local officials and residents who made their voices heard during the public comment period," said Development Services Director Julie Fulgham. "Keeping our MSA designation will ensure that we can continue providing services to our growing population. The MSA designation is vital to economic development efforts within our community."

Federal funding for the Metropolitan Planning Organization is also influenced by the U.S. Census



Julie Fulgham, development services director. *Contributed photo.*

Bureau's urban-rural classification system. The Census Bureau is expected to announce later this year whether it will change its standards for designating urbanized Census blocks.

To learn more about the federally funded Community Development Block Grant program and Metropolitan Planning Organization, visit www.victoriatx.gov/development-services.

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First Day of School



Dr. Quintin Shepherd. *Contributed photo.*

by Dr. Quintin Shepherd, Superintendent of VISD

Many, many years ago when I was an elementary school principal, I wanted to be at the entrance doors when kindergarteners arrived for the first day of school and again at those same doors when the students met their parents to leave for the day. I will never forget the image of the mom who was at the exit to meet her son and asked, "How was school today?"

This little guy exploded with excitement like a geyser. He shared about the desks, carpets, games, the class frog, snacks, PE, recess, lunch, etc. She (and the crowd of parents) stared in amazement as he recounted his day in full. When he finally stopped, she said, "That's great. Are you excited to come back tomorrow?" At which point he slaps his forehead and says back to her, "wait, I get to do this again tomorrow?!" The crowd of parents erupted. I still laugh when I think

of that moment. Somehow, as they prepared for kindergarten it had never come up in conversation at home that kindergarten would be more than just a one-day affair.

I tell that story a lot because of the meaning it carries for me. The enthusiasm this boy had at the start of the day was obviously high. At the end of the day, he couldn't wait to talk about all the wonderful things that happened in kindergarten, and then was even more excited when he realized he could come back and do it all over again tomorrow. Over the years, I have come to realize this is not true for all students and certainly; some of

the enthusiasm dies down, as our students get older. But why?

I suppose there are lots of reasons we lose our enthusiasm... but I don't think it must be this way. Maybe we could all learn something from this six-year-old. It would be great to believe that school lunch is as good as a four-star restaurant, and that afternoon naps are just a regular part of life. I want to believe that M&Ms are better than money, because you get to eat them and earn them just for doing the right thing. I want to be a best friend to the people I spend all day with. We could all get some good out of remember-

ing when life was simple. Do you remember a time when all that you knew was happiness because you were completely and blissfully unaware of all the things that should make you upset or worried? Deep down, I want to think of the world as fair and that everyone is honest and good.

Like that boy, I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, kind words, truth, justice, peace, dreams, imagination, and hope that tomorrow we get to come back and do it all over again! If you'd like to talk about this more, you're going to have to catch me first because... tag. You're it!

VICTORIA COUNTY TAX SALE

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

**Sale of the Victoria County tax deed property online at
<https://victoria.texas.sheriffsaleauctions.com>**

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Victoria Police Department hires second deputy chief

The Victoria Police Department Chief has hired Charles “Chuck” Young II, who has nearly 40 years of law enforcement experience, as its second deputy chief. Young served as major of the Dallas Police Department since 2018. As a major, he was the division commander of the Criminal



Victoria Police Department Chief Roberto Arredondo, left, poses for a photo with new Deputy Chief Charles “Chuck” Young II after Young was sworn in during a private ceremony Aug. 2 at 700 Main Center. *Contributed photo.*

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Investigations Division and managed more than 425 personnel. In 2019, he also served as Dallas PD’s division commander of the Southwest Patrol Division, managing 300 patrol officers. Prior to that, he was promoted in 2014 to the rank of lieutenant and served on the Gang Unit, the Narcotics Division, and the Homicide Unit.

Young earned his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Midwestern State University and graduated summa cum laude.

Young’s hire was made as part of a command staff restructuring

in which a second deputy chief position was added to support the department’s goals. Deputy Chief Mark Jameson will remain in his existing position, overseeing the administration’s bureau, while Deputy Chief Young will oversee the operations bureau.

Today is Young’s first day in the new position. City staff hosted a private swearing-in ceremony to welcome him to the organization. City Manager Jesús A. Garza will formally introduce Young to the community during the August 3 City Council meeting.

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City partnership with The Retail Coach brings new dining options to Victoria



Mike Etienne, assistant city manager. *Contributed photo.*

Residents soon will be able to enjoy five new food options on North Navarro Street near Primrose Street.

The new development is a result of the City of Victoria’s partnership with the Victoria Sales Tax Development Corporation and The Retail Coach to bring new retailers and restaurants to Victoria. The following quick-service restaurants are scheduled for completion in early 2022:

- An upgraded Burger King
- Dunkin’ Donuts
- McAlister’s Deli

- Arby’s
- Taco Bueno

“We are pleased to announce the arrival of these new quick-service restaurant options for our residents,” said Assistant City Manager Mike Etienne. “The City of Victoria’s close collaboration with The Retail Coach is an important component of our efforts to boost Victoria’s economy and provide amenities.”

The City and VSTDC have partnered with The Retail Coach, the nation’s top retail recruitment and development firm, since 2013.

FUNDS from pg. 1

be glad to know that the City’s recommendations included a review of our water monitoring system as well as a study to identify areas that are vulnerable to stormwater infiltration. These investments will yield opportunities to build a more resilient water system that can better serve residents through floods and freezes.

Understandably, we also received multiple proposals related to transportation and street improvements. Unfortunately, those projects are ineligible: Funding can be used for broadband and utility improvements but not for other types of infrastructure. Nevertheless, the city is committed to increasing funding for streets and other capital improvement projects. On Aug. 3, I will formally

present the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022, which will include a \$31 million budget for capital improvement projects—the highest CIP budget in the history of Victoria.

We’ve already received half of our American Rescue Plan funding allocation, and some of the projects we’ve identified will be included in the upcoming budget so that we can start on them right away. Others need to be vetted further, and we plan to give a recommendation on the remaining projects before we receive the rest of our funding next year.

The COVID-19 pandemic isn’t over yet, but this funding will help us continue the path to recovery and prepare for the future. I’m excited for this opportunity to make our community more resilient.

Some of the new restaurants had been seeking a Victoria location for more than five years, said Aaron Farmer, president of The Retail Coach.

Funding for The Retail Coach is provided through the voter-

approved Type 4B half-cent sales tax, which is allocated by the Victoria Sales Tax Development Corporation. These funds must be used for economic development projects, including public infrastructure, new amenities, and retail

recruitment.

To learn more about the VSTDC and other City of Victoria initiatives, visit www.victoriatx.gov. To learn more about The Retail Coach, visit www.theretailcoach.net.

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Aviso Público de No Discriminación en Programas de Educación Profesional y Técnica

Cada año, el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Victoria ofrece Programas de Educación Profesional y Técnica (CTE, por sus siglas en inglés). Estos programas están diseñados para desarrollar plenamente las habilidades académicas y técnicas de los estudiantes secundarios que se inscriben en programas de CTE bajo la guía de maestros profesores, administradores y consejeros de CTE. La siguiente es una lista de los programas de estudio ofrecidos:

- Contabilidad y Servicios Financieros
- Fabricación Avanzada y Mecánica de Maquinaria
- Medicina Veterinaria Agrícola
- Ciencias Animales
- Ingeniería Agrícola Aplicada
- Automotriz
- Administración de Empresas
- Carpintería
- Cosmetología
- Eléctrica
- Ingeniería
- Diseño y Artes Multimedia
- Ciencias de la Salud
- Aplicación de la ley
- Ciencias Vegetales
- Plomería
- Programación y Desarrollo de Software
- Refinación y Procesos Químicos
- Enseñanza y formación
- Soldadura

Todos los programas de Educación Profesional y Técnica siguen las políticas del distrito de no discriminación por motivos de raza, color, religión, sexo, género, orientación sexual, origen nacional, discapacidad, edad, estado socioeconómico o cualquier otra motivo prohibido por la ley en todos los programas, servicios, actividades y empleo de acuerdo con los requisitos del Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, en su forma enmendada, Título IX de las Enmiendas de Educación de 1972; y el Artículo 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, en su forma enmendada.

Victoria Independent School District tomará medidas para asegurar que la falta de habilidades del idioma inglés no será un obstáculo para la admisión y la participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para obtener información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de queja, comuníquese con la Coordinadora del Título IX, Dawn Maroney a dawn.maroney@visd.net, 361-788-9228, Coordinadora del Título II, Michelle Yates, michelle.yates@visd.net, 361-788-9294, y/o la Coordinadora de la Sección 504 Kelli Cotton, kelli.cotton@visd.net 361-788-9242. Para obtener información general sobre los programas de CTE, comuníquese con Dena Justice, Especialista en CTE, dena.justice@visd.net, 361-788-9288.

Victoria Farmers' Market benefits local farms and communities

by Meridith Byrd, Food Bank of the Golden Crescent director and manager

We just wrapped up the 22nd annual National Farmers Market Week, celebrated the first full week in August to highlight the important role farmers markets play in our nation's food system.

While many markets are open

only seasonally due to a shorter growing season, Victoria is fortunate to have a weekly year-round market featuring locally grown and raised foods. The Victoria Farmers' Market is open every Saturday in the parking lot of the Pattie Dodson Public Health Center at the corner of Navarro and Airline.

Each week local farms and businesses bring a variety of delicious foods to the market: seasonal produce, pastured meats, farm eggs, local honey, homemade pickles and jellies, freshly baked breads, locally made wines, and so much more. All vendors must be from within 100 miles of Victoria and must grow, raise, or make any-

WWW.

*Revista de Victoria*tx.com



Victoria's Farmers' Market is open annually on Saturdays. *Contributed photo.*

thing they sell. Each week a list of Saturday's vendors and products is posted on the Victoria Farmers' Market Facebook page.

Being a food-focused market has been a great benefit to the community and to our vendors, particularly when you consider the two food shortages that occurred in under one year: March 2020 as businesses across the nation shut down due to COVID, and again in February 2021 when Winter Storm Uri closed roads throughout the state. Trucks could not reach our local food stores to replenish their shelves. As meats and produce became hard to find, huge waves of customers turned to us to provide what other stores could not.

While fresh produce and meats are the market's biggest draw, our customers also cite building relationships with farmers and supporting locally owned businesses as reasons they enjoy shopping the Victoria Farmers' Market. We love getting to know our customers, and they appreciate being able to ask farmers how the vegetables are grown or how the animals and land are managed.

Studies show that in addition to providing fresh foods, farmers markets also bring economic benefits to their community, as direct-marketing farmers are likely to patronize local feed stores and farm equipment dealers. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) states that TDA certified farmers' markets, like the Victoria Farmers'

Market, have a \$30 million impact on the Texas economy. The ongoing COVID pandemic has illustrated the importance of a healthy local economy, and we are proud to be doing our part.

What's on the horizon for the farmers' market? Right now, our farmers are preparing and/or planting their fall gardens, which means that in the coming months we will have another crop of tomatoes, green beans, squash, onions, and other favorites before moving into the winter crops of broccoli, cabbage, citrus fruits and more.

We are always looking for more farmers and gardeners to join the market. Fresh fruits and vegetables are the most sought-after items, so if you have ever thought about setting up a booth at a farmers' market, we would love to welcome you to our market family.

On behalf of the 51 small farms and local businesses who make up our market, I would like to extend an enormous thank-you to Victoria and the surrounding communities for the support we have received this year. If you have never visited the market, I encourage you to come out to the Pattie Dodson Center on a Saturday morning and enjoy some of the best local foods Victoria has to offer.

Meridith Byrd is the manager of the Victoria Farmers' Market and the Director of Community Engagement at the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent. Contact her at mbyrd@foodbankgc.org.



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La Cocina de Tia Yole



Cajun Chicken Wrap. Contributed photo.

CAJUN CHICKEN WRAP

- 1½-teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- 1-tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1-teaspoon paprika
- ½ small onion, red, thinly sliced
- ½ teaspoon Cajun seasoning mix
- 12 oz. boneless, skinless chicken breast(s), cut into strips
- 2 cups mixed baby greens, mesclun lettuce leaves
- 3 tablespoons seasoning, mix

- 4 medium fat-free flour tortillas
- 4-teaspoon fat-free mayonnaise
- 8 medium basil, leaves

1. Combine 3 tablespoons seasoning mix, flour, and paprika. Season chicken with salt and pepper and dredge in seasoning mixture.
2. Coat a large, nonstick pan with cooking spray. Over medium-high heat, add chicken to pan and sauté

until cooked through, about 1 to 2 minutes per side. Remove chicken from heat and set aside.

3. Combine mayonnaise, lemon juice and ½ teaspoon Cajun seasoning for dressing. On each tortilla, spread 1 teaspoon dressing; add onion slices, greens and two basil leaves. Top with chicken pieces (approximately two per tortilla) and wrap.

CANTALOUPE FRUIT SALAD

- Fresh cantaloupe, cut into bite-sized chunks, chilled
- Fresh strawberries, cut into quarters, chilled
- Zest of 1 lime
- Juice of 2 limes
- Fresh mint leaves, minced
- Simple Syrup
- 2 cups granulates sugar

1-cup water

1. *Syrup:* Bring the water to boil then stir in the sugar. Cook until the sugar dissolves completely, then remove from heat and allow cooling to room temperature. Store in the refrigerator in a plastic squeeze bottle for easy dispensing.

Pour ¼ cup of the simple syrup into a small bowl. Add the lime zest and juice, and stir. Set aside for about 30 minutes.

2. To serve, put the fruit into salad bowls, pour the lime-infused syrup over the fruit and garnish with the minced mint leaves. Enjoy immediately.

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Cynthia C Ramirez

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The VICTORIA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on August 30, 2021 at 8:00 AM at 93 Illinois Bloomington, TX 77951. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

For the proposal:	William McCaskill Jonathan Sarkis	William Harvell Robert Cardenas
Against the proposal:	None	
Present and not voting:	None	
Absent:	Robert Montolvo	

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$0.6399/\$100 <small>Adopted</small>	This Year \$0.6102/\$100 <small>Proposed</small>
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.0297
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-4.64%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$69,274	\$78,452
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$69,274	\$78,452
Tax on average residence homestead	\$443.28	\$478.71
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$35.43 7.99%

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the Water District #1 of VICTORIA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #1 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of .

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

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