

Downtown master plan is set in motion with new initiatives

This is an exciting time for downtown Victoria.

In the few years since the city assumed management of the Main Street Program, downtown has been busy with new businesses, new event programming and new development.

We're entering a new phase of growth with the implementation of the downtown master plan. With help from our consultant and input from hundreds of community members, the master plan articulates our community's goals and outlines tools and programs that will help us to achieve those goals.

One of the short-term economic development opportunities identified in the master plan is the establishment of a cultural district. Obtaining a cultural district designation will help us to attract artistic enterprises, promote tourism, grow the downtown economy, preserve our history, and foster cultural development. The city will submit an application for this in June to the Texas Commission on the Arts. We expect to learn this

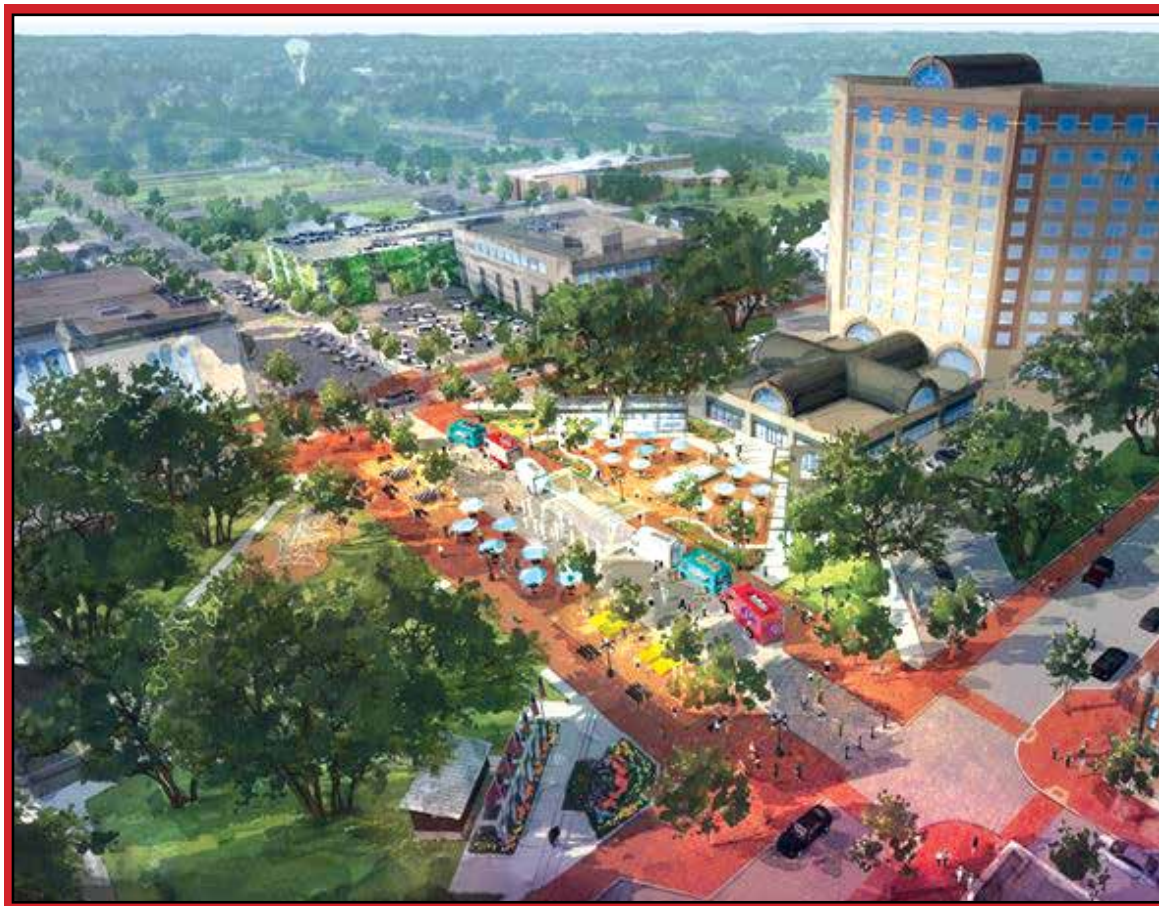
summer whether our application is accepted.

Many of our residents also said they'd like to see more nightlife downtown. To help accomplish this goal, we're exploring the creation of an entertainment district. Staff are still working out the details with the City Council, but the idea is to create regulations that would provide marketing opportunities for bars and restaurants as well as set guidelines that would let businesses make better use of their storefronts and sidewalk space.

The designation also includes measures to foster events, including specialized permitting that would make it easier for patrons to move between bars, restaurants, and shops. This would include letting patrons move around with alcoholic beverages (drink responsibly!), if they follow establishments' TABC licenses and applicable state laws.

Our survey respondents confirmed that DeLeon Plaza is the

See DOWNTOWN, pg. 9



Downtown Victoria master plan aerial of Forrest and Main Streets. *Contributed photo.*



Shelter needs reorganizing and expansion. *Contributed photo.*

Ongoing issues with animal control needs resolution by county and city

by Peter Moralez

Recently, there has been a great deal of attention given to Victoria County Animal Control (VCAC), a division of the Victoria County Health Department. The Victoria County Commissioner's Court created an advisory committee to investigate the current situation at

VCAC.

I had the opportunity to speak with Jose Flores, VCAC manager; Megan Driver, animal activist and founder of Saving Animal Lives 24/7, a non-profit agency that conducts animal rescue and rehabilitation and county commissioner Gary Burns, sub-committee member on the board looking into

animal control in Victoria County. In an effort to look deeper into this topic from a variety of individuals that are working on behalf of humane animal control in Victoria County.

Flores has been with VCAC since 2008. He took a break in 2016 but has returned and See ANIMAL, pg. 8

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revista@att.netManaging Editor
Emett AlvarezSales
Cynthia C Ramirez
Peter MoralezContributing Editors
Peter Moralez
Santos Raya
Pedro RayaGraphic Design
Trisha DeanRevista de Victoria is published monthly. www.RevistadeVictoriaTx.com

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Free summer meals available to all children

by Meridith Byrd, Food Bank director of community engagement

In Texas, where more than 1 in 5 children struggle with hunger, many students receive free breakfast and lunch at school. Many of those same students also receive food to take home for the weekend through the Backpack Meals Program sponsored by the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent.

What happens when the school year ends, and children lose access to those meals? How do families get enough food when they are already struggling to make ends meet?

Enter the Summer Meal Program. Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), the Summer Meal Program provides free breakfasts and lunches to children and teens 18 years old and younger. People who are over age 18 and participate in school programs for the mentally or physically disabled are also qualified to receive free summer meals.

No registration or application required

All children are automatically qualified to receive food through the Summer Meals Program. They do not have to be of school age, and they do not have to be enrolled in public school. Parents do not have to register or apply, and no form of identification is required; they simply bring their children to one of the feeding sites in Victoria.

Help spread the word

Unfortunately, not everyone knows about the free summer meals available to children. Only about 13% of children participate in summer nutrition programs, so we aim to increase the awareness with the goal of helping more children receive free, healthy food during the summer.

Locations and hours of operation

The Summer Meal Program is available Monday through Friday at Chandler Elementary,



Summer Meals available Monday-Friday.
Contributed art.

Dudley Elementary, O'Connor Elementary, Shields Elementary, Howell Middle School, and East High School. For students in summer school, breakfast is from 8:00 to 8:30 and lunch is from 11:00 to 12:00. These locations then open up to all children for breakfast from 8:30 to 9:00 and for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00.

There are additional locations open to all children around the community as well: Crain Elementary, the Children's Learning Institute at F.W. Gross Elementary, Faith Family Church, and the YMCA. At these locations, breakfast is served from 8:00 to 8:30 and lunch is from 11:00 to 12:00. The Boys & Girls Club at Hopkins Elementary will be open at those times for breakfast and lunch from June 6-24 and July 5-22.

Additional locations throughout Texas

The Summer Meal Program is available to all Texas children. To find a meal site anywhere in the state, parents can:

- Call 2-1-1 to speak to a live operator
- Visit www.SummerFood.org for an interactive site locator map
- Text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304

We are grateful to the many community partners who work tirelessly to make sure children receive the food they need.

Meridith Byrd is the Food Bank's Director of Community Engagement. Contact her at 578-0591 or mbyrd@foodbankgc.org.

Regional Disaster Response and Recovery Center fully operational



Center prepared for disaster. *Contributed photo.*

by Peter Morales

Rick Villa, executive director of the Victoria County Long Term Recovery Group (VCLTRG) states their mission is serve the community and provide for residents that are impacted by disaster. The region they serve includes Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria counties.

VCLTRG helps by applying for local and national grants that usually become available soon after a disaster affects the region that is served. Villa describes events most recently such as the “Winter Storm Uri of 2021 and Hurricane Harvey. Other such disasters that may be included in this category are floods and tornadoes.”

Typically grants that provide emergency relief funding become available within thirty to forty-five days after a traumatic event. Grants must first be applied for, and if approved, funding will be filtered down to respective agencies such as RDRRT. Funding is approved to specifically assist with an event and may not be utilized for anything else. Such funding is made available by both governmental and private philanthropic agencies.

A facility that is centrally located has been opened in the offices that formally housed the Victoria Advocate at 304 East Santa Rosa Street in downtown Victoria. The name of this space is the Regional Disaster Response and Recovery Center. This facility includes office space, warehouse facilities, dormitories for workers who come to our region to serve during natural disasters, along with facilities to shower and prepare food for those workers.

“We have been fortunate to create an alliance with the County of Victoria, as well as non-profits, which can spring into action as one of these events occur. Our offices

are housed at the Santa Rosa Street address, as well as other companies such as Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity that utilize warehouse space.”

Villa originally became part of disaster relief as the agency he became affiliated with was created to assist potential clients in the wake of Hurricane Harvey in August of

2017. “It really has been my goal to assist people that live in the area I live in,” Villa said. “By the grace of God, I have found a clear path
See DISASTER, pg. 7

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Conditional or contingent thoughts

by Dr. Quintin Shepherd, VISD Superintendent

tor and friend, this topic came up and for the next 45 minutes, we covered a lot of ground. And I left with more questions than answers, frankly. I love these types of conversations.

Conditional is from Old French 'condicional' and from Late Latin

'conditionalis' and essentially means depending on a circumstance. The key word here is depending. Conditional trust means I only trust you (and you only trust me) if certain conditions are met. If trust is conditional, then it is also transactional. I can think of many

examples of conditional trust. For instance, you expect the Board of Trustees to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Your trust in them is contingent on their fiduciary responsibility to the community. The past four years have brought an amazing transformation within the VISD finances. We are in excellent shape and receive unmodified audit reports and the highest ranking from the Texas Education Agency. As the board meets the conditions, they earn trust as responsible stewards. Switching gears, I would venture the average person would never say they have conditional love (especially with close family for instance), but we have all seen it play out in relationships when certain conditions aren't met and love wanes as a result. What makes this interesting is that often the conditions aren't really explained. These conditions become a secret to the other person, as they are completely unknown, but then they find themselves judged based on those hidden conditions and the relationship devolves. This is directly applicable not just to love, but also to respect, trust, admiration, etc. Hidden conditions lead to hurt feelings and confusion.

Contingent is from Latin 'contingere' which means 'together with'. In Middle English, this eventually became 'of uncertain occurrence' meaning it might happen, but it might not. This is where it gets interesting. Love, respect,



Dr. Quintin Shepherd, VISD Superintendent. *Contributed photo.*

honor, admiration, trust, etc. all have a contingent impact on each other. The more you trust another person, the easier it is to admire them, or love them, etc. With this understanding, is it fair to say that you have contingent love? Yes. This seems weird, right? I am not sure I have ever heard another person say I have contingent respect for you.

So why would this juxtaposition between contingent and conditional matter? Regardless of whether we're talking about love, respect, trust, etc. if a hidden condition enters the equation anywhere along the continuum, we should expect the contingent impact to also decrease. This is fascinating to me. If we have a hidden condition that allows us to think less of another,

See THOUGHTS, pg. 7

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Residents must conserve water as Guadalupe River falls



Guadalupe River is in Stage Two conservation. *Contributed photo.*

Nonessential water usage should be limited to early morning, late evening

The City of Victoria is requiring residents to take steps to conserve water as the city-initiated Stage II of its drought contingency plan this week.

The City's drought contingency plan is a series of water conservation measures that the city is authorized to take during periods of decreased water availability. The plan is divided into stages of increasing restrictions that are initiated based on specific triggering criteria.

The city had been in Stage One of the plan since May. Stage One is triggered whenever the Guadalupe River falls below its normal level for a given time of year.

The city is now entering Stage II because low rainfall to the north of Victoria has caused the Guadalupe River flow to drop below 250 cubic feet per second, which is the triggering threshold for Stage II for this month. When the Guadalupe River is below this level, the city is not permitted to pump water from the river under its 1998 surface water permit, so reducing water usage is essential to ensure an adequate water supply.

The city is seeking authorization to continue pumping during the current period of low flow. However, Stage II of the drought contingency plan will continue regardless of whether this authorization is obtained.

What should residents do to con-

serve water?

Under Stage II of the plan, residents are required to limit certain types of nonessential water usage to the hours of 6-10 a.m. and 8 p.m.-midnight to avoid water loss through evaporation. Activities that are limited to these times include using an automatic lawn sprinkler or hose-end sprinkler, filling pools, and washing vehicles, although this restriction does not apply to commercial car washes and service stations.

Residents can water their lawns with hoses at any time of day if the hose has a positive shut-off nozzle.

A full list of Stage II restrictions can be found at www.victoriatx.gov/droughtplan.

In addition, residents are asked to voluntarily reduce water use for nonessential purposes and to practice water conservation measures.

When will the restrictions be lifted?

The City will terminate Stage II restrictions and re-enter Stage One of the drought contingency plan after the flow of the Guadalupe River rises above the Stage II threshold for a period of fourteen consecutive days. Under Stage One, all mandatory restrictions

will be lifted, and residents will be asked to continue voluntary water conservation measures.

For more information about the drought contingency plan, visit www.victoriatx.gov/droughtplan or contact Public Works at 361-485-3381.

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A response to remarks made by VISD superintendent

by Peter Morales

Victoria Independent School District (VISD) superintendent, Dr. Quintin Shepherd pens a weekly essay detailing his musings about the “state of affairs” of VISD, as well as topics that run

through his mind, and how that plays out in the daily affairs from his lofty desk.

There are several sources one may utilize to read Shepherd’s offerings. Crossroads Today, the Victoria Advocate web page, as well as this paper, Revista de Vic-

toria. His tone is homespun, and his style is what I would describe as from “the guy next door.” The fact of the matter is that Shepherd is one of our top executives in Victoria in charge of thousands of students, and to some degree, their collective futures.

In addition, he, and his school board, as well as the voting taxpayers in Victoria enable VISD to function financially and spend taxpayers hard-earned dollars responsibly.

In his column, submitted on June 10, 2022, entitled “Conditional or contingent thoughts,” I was quite taken aback by his submission. In fact, I had to read it over a few times to get the point he was trying to make buried within his six paragraphs.

To me, quite frankly the entire essay was a long-winded effort that was desperately searching for a pat on the back. His own back! This solicitation was found in the middle of his second paragraph where he details the efforts of VISD, under his command, to spend taxpayer dollars responsibly, and that VISD is trustworthy. His proof of this “fact” is a good grade from the Texas Education Agency.

What is amusing is this, is not spending taxpayer dollars responsibly the task he was hired to do? This is like the child that wants credit from his or her parents for doing the right thing! You do not get a pat on the back for doing what is expected of you.

Of course, the public expects

exemplary behavior and action from its school administrators, whether that endears the public to the superintendent and the elected school board is up to everyone’s opinion.

Trust me on this fact, an essay written to evoke praise or flag waving is not going to do it for me, especially a thinly veiled, self-serving article like this proved to be, especially one with such promise based on the title and topic he chose. Shepherd could have economized this submission by getting to the point and editing out all the window dressing. My English teachers always encouraged me to mean what I say and say what I mean.

This offering reminds me of the student who receives a writing assignment that will be graded on a word count and not its substance. Of course, in his defense it is just his opinion. Personally, this narrative is sophomoric.

The reality, as it appears to me, is that VISD oversees millions upon millions of dollars to furnish our children with the best education possible and operate economically with our tax dollars.


Now is this conditional or contingent? That, I am afraid, I cannot answer.

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DISASTER

from pg. 3

to bring some relief to residents in the Golden Crescent region at times when their lives have been impacted by horrific disasters.”

He indicated that the assistance his team, which usually expands as an event strikes the area, plays on the emotions of himself and his caseworkers. “Friends, neighbors, and people living in our community come to us in dire straits. They have suffered loss or destruction of property, may not have any food, shelter, utilities, or anything. Hear-

ing many of their stories are gut wrenching, but we must put our emotions aside and do everything that is possible to return their lives to some semblance of reality.”

Villa stated that the reality of an organization such as VCLTRG is only possible because of great local leadership such as County Commissioner Danny Garcia and Mark Longoria president of VCLTRG, along with benefactors such as Lone Star Foundation, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation and the Mennonite Disaster Team Services.

“It’s really by the assistance and tireless work of both Commissioner Garcia and Mr. Longoria, along with the agencies that have stepped up to fund the assistance that we provide, that our team is constantly at the ready to hit the ground running whenever traumatic events strike our region, and for that I am eternally thankful,” Villa concluded.

Direct any questions for the VCLTRG to their office at 361.894.6264.

THOUGHTS

from pg. 4

we have essentially given ourselves permission to universally lower our overall feelings about that same person. It occurs to me that this could quickly destroy relationships.

Please don’t misunderstand, I am not opposed to conditions. In fact, I think they are great. Conditions help set guidelines and

guardrails. They are a path towards accountability. Conditions work best in the realm of complicated work, but rarely in the realm of complex work. I am opposed to hidden conditions. It seems a bit unrealistic to hit a goal or target which you didn’t know about.

This brings me to ‘unconditional’, which is without conditions. It seems unconditional anything is a rarity. Unconditional love makes

contingent respect possible. This holds true for anything we ascribe the word unconditional. Unconditional is a choice of course and I wonder why we so often choose to put conditions on love or respect. Is it related to life experience, age, or a lifetime of hurt? I don’t know... as I said in the intro, I left with more questions than answers.

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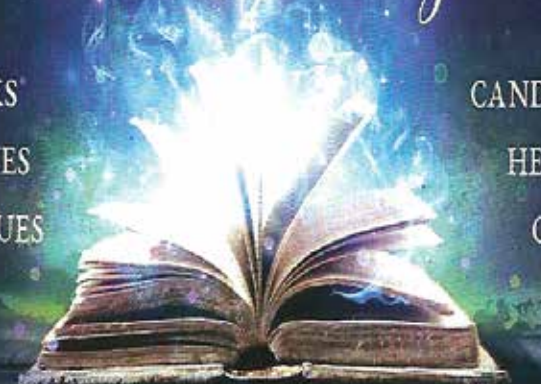
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ANIMAL, from pg. 1

currently serves as manager. VCAC oversees enforcement of laws regarding animal control, removing strays as well as dealing with unrestrained animals and general safety of all animals.

VCAC has an annual budget of, \$500,000 to \$600,000. Eighty percent goes towards salaries and the remaining twenty percent goes to the day-to-day operations including feeding and housing of captured or surrendered animals as well as euthanasia of unclaimed animals. There are four full-time

employees under Flores.

There are thirty pens, both inside and outside on the grounds of VCAC, and according to Flores, “We are dealing with dogs and cats, however nuisance animals such as raccoons, armadillos, and possums, just to name a few, also fall under our purview. Game animals fall under the control of Texas Parks and Wildlife.” Each pen can hold up to two compatible animals, if necessary.

Once an animal is captured by VCAC, or brought into the facility, there is a timeline that goes into ef-

fect that determines the future of each respective animal.

“Each animal is held for eight days, excluding weekends and holidays. If the animal in question is not claimed by the owner, adopted out to private animal care entities or to individuals that peruse our social media page, it is slated for destruction through humane and statewide accepted methods,” said Flores.

He went on to say, “It is very difficult for my workers to have to put animals down. However, we have a limited budget, and for

that matter, limited space, to deal with the influx of strays and surrendered or captured animals, so we are required to set legal timelines that deal with this extremely sensitive issue. If an animal tests positive for parvovirus or is suffering from some other life-threatening illness that eight day holding time for animal destruction may be waived, however, that is rare.”

Flores stated that VCAC dealt with, “4,230 calls in 2021.” These calls came in from pet owners looking for their missing pets, as well as calls from citizens about potential animal abuse including neglect. It should be noted, that VCAC microchips animals that have been adopted, as well as animals that are tagged or registered, and passes that expense onto either the pet owners or potential newly adopted pet owners.

Megan Driver, specializes in rescuing and caring for animals that have been injured and left to die on the side of the road, neglected animals and animals that have been abandoned or left to fend for themselves. She opened her agency in 2018 and has rapidly expanded to the point of building kennels on her property in Bloomington, Texas. Her mission statement is, saving ones that other’s will not.

“I am saving anywhere from 50 to 70 animals on a monthly basis,” Driver said. “Unlike VCAC I manage my kennels without the need to euthanize any animals by public funding and very active use of online resources for adoption. In addition, each animal I rescue is seen by a local veterinarian and is micro chipped.”

She is critical of VCAC, as well as pleas for enforcement of laws on the books in both city and county, and she cites systemic issues as the root cause of problems that she has detected, over the years at VCAC.

“I have been in animal rescue for the past several years and have crossed paths with VCAC, as well as county sheriffs and city police in response to my calls into both agencies regarding animal control violations that I have witnessed,” she said. “And please do not get me wrong my husband is a peace officer. It is just that I do not feel emphasis is put on enforcement of specific laws that are put in place to protect animals from abuse.”

Concerning VCAC, she says, “I have had numerous encounters with their employees, and I really

do not feel that their hearts are in the task at hand. I know the problem with animal control can be overwhelming, but in the service of animals it certainly is not the animal’s fault so let us do best by them.”

Driver said that in the past she has attempted to assist VCAC. “I receive donations from the Food Bank in the form of dog and cat food. At one time, I had received an extra pallet of food. A pallet of food can go a long way. I called VCAC to notify them of my windfall, but they showed absolutely no desire to accept this donation. In the end I did my best by putting my foot down and demanded that they accept this free food being offered to them.”

In addition, she said, “I have spoken with numerous individuals who have reached out to VCAC regarding some issues, and they have encountered negative attitudes from workers, and I can verify that in many of my personal encounters with the team that Jose has assembled. I simply want to do the best by the animals. I also want to assist in educating the public that responsible animal control is a very difficult and complex issue, and it will require people of different opinions to come together to improve the task at hand.”

County commissioner Gary Burns freely admitted that “Based on calls from citizens and comments on social media this animal control issue came front and center to commissioners’ court, and I’m going to be honest with you, I for one, certainly wasn’t aware of what a touchstone this issue has become for people in Victoria.”

Commissioner’s court created an advisory committee about forty-five days ago and Burns has become the liaison with VCAC. He feels that euthanasia has drawn a line in the sand and citizens are coming down on either side of this topic. He stated that it is imperative to look at the “Root of the issue, in my opinion, and that is the responsibility of many pet owners to become responsible pet owners.

“Listen, in a perfect world there would not be the need to euthanize any animal, unless it was sick or injured. And this is coming from an individual who has rescued cats, dogs, and horses. It pains me to see the way some animals are treated, and mistreated. Not

See ANIMAL, pg. 10



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Kate Garcia. Contributed photo.

DOWNTOWN, from pg. 1
 “heart” of downtown, the first thing people think of when they

talk about the area. One of the master plan’s long-term projects is an expansion of DeLeon Plaza that would include new amenities like restrooms, play areas and upgraded lighting. The expansion would ultimately include the part of Forrest Street adjacent to the plaza, converting it into a walkable area with seating, water features and space for food trucks as well as pop-up businesses across the street. We are currently in the design phase of this project, and we hope to have it completed in time for the bicentennial celebration in 2024.

As always, we will explore grants and other resources that will help us fund this development. For example, establishing a cultural district will open up new grant opportunities;

also, the City Council last year established a tax increment reinvestment zone downtown, which lets us set aside funds for development without creating a new tax. Remember that many of the master plan projects (like the cultural district and the entertainment district) require little to no investment, and all of them will help to grow our economy in the long run.

The Main Street Program and our stakeholders are tackling a diverse set of initiatives this year, but it’s important to remember that all these separate undertakings are really serving the same goal: building a thriving downtown where residents and out-of-towners can visit, have fun and support local businesses. As the new manager

of the Victoria Main Street Program, I’m excited to be a part of this growth that will benefit all of

Victoria.

Kate Garcia is the manager of the Victoria Main Street Program.

Victoria Police Department swears in 8 new officers



Shown in the foreground, from left, are Kayle Bowers, Christopher Doria, Martin Melgoza, Marcos Olivares, Joshua Homan (class valedictorian), Braden Kirbo and Roy Parker; background, from left, are Deputy Chief Mark Jameson, Capt. Eline Moya and Capt. Kevin Sanderson. Contributed photo.

Seven Victoria Police Department cadets graduated from the 100th Victoria College Police Academy on May 25.

The police academy is a five-month program that covers the physical and academic aspects of law enforcement, including the penal code; court proceedings; and proper procedures for various actions and situations.

The cadets were sworn in as new officers May 27 along with Wilfredo Cordova, a graduate of the South Texas College Police Academy.



From left, Roy Parker, Marcos Olivares, Martin Melgoza, Braden Kirbo, Joshua Homan, Christopher Doria, Wilfredo Cordova and Kayle Bowers were sworn in May 27 as new Victoria Police Department officers during a ceremony attended by local law enforcement, family and friends at the Victoria Community Center, 2905 E. North St. The new officers must now complete a 20-week field training program alongside senior officers. After successfully completing this program, they will patrol the city streets and respond to calls for service independently. Contributed photo.

BCFS Education Services

AHORA ACEPTANDO APLICACIONES PARA EL PROGRAMA EARLY HEAD START BASADO EN EL CENTRO EN BOERNE, COMFORT, NEW BRAUNFELS Y VICTORIA TX.

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- prueba de los registros de las vacunas del niño (a)
- comprobante de domicilio
- comprobante de edad del niño(a)
- comprobante de ingresos del año pasado o los últimos 12 meses

BCFS es un proveedor y empleador que ofrece oportunidad igual para todos.

Para más información, llame a Mary Beth Najvar (210) 216-1638 mbn4506@bcfs.net o visite DiscoverBCFS.net/HeadStart

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COMISIÓN DE CALIDAD AMBIENTAL DE TEXAS

Aviso de un Permiso Federal para Operación Preliminar

Permiso Preliminar Número: O2030

SOLICITUD Y PERMISO PRELIMINAR. Union Carbide Corporation, PO Box 186, Port Lavaca, TX 77979-0186, ha presentado una solicitud ante la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ, por sus siglas en inglés) para la renovación del Permiso Federal de Operación (en adelante denominado el Permiso) número O2030, Solicitud núm. 33336, para autorizar la operación Óxido de etileno/glicol, y todas las demás instalaciones de fabricación de productos químicos orgánicos básicos. El área a la cual se refiere la solicitud está ubicada en 7501 State Highway 185 N en la ciudad de Seadrift, Condado de Calhoun, Texas 77983. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio o de la instalación es proporcionado como una cortesía y no es parte de la solicitud o del aviso. Para la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud. Puede encontrar un mapa electrónico de la instalación en: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=28.510277&lng=-96.770833&zoom=13&type=r>. Esta solicitud fue recibida por el TCEQ el día 16 de diciembre del año 2021.

El propósito de un Permiso Federal de Operación es mejorar el acatamiento general con las normas que gobiernan el control de la contaminación atmosférica, claramente definiendo todos los requisitos aplicables como están definidos en el Título 30 del Código Administrativo de Texas § 122.10 (30 TAC § 122.10, por sus siglas en inglés). El permiso preliminar, si es aprobado, codificará las condiciones bajo las cuales el área debe operar. El permiso no autorizará construcción nueva. El director ejecutivo ha concluido la revisión técnica de la solicitud y ha hecho una decisión preliminar para preparar el permiso preliminar para la revisión y comentario público. El director ejecutivo de la TCEQ recomienda la expedición de este permiso preliminar. La solicitud de permiso, la declaración de base y el permiso preliminar estarán disponibles para ser revisados y copiados en la Oficina Central de la TCEQ, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building (Edificio) E, First Floor (primer Piso), Austin, Texas 78753, y en la TCEQ Oficina Regional de Corpus Christi, 500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Suite 500, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-0318; y la biblioteca del Condado de Calhoun, por el camino 200 W Mahan Street, en la ciudad de Port Lavaca, Texas 77979-3327, empezando el primer día de la publicación de este aviso. El permiso preliminar y la declaración de base están disponibles en el sitio de la TCEQ:

www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tvnotice

En las oficinas centrales y regionales de TCEQ, también puede revisar y copiar documentos pertinentes para el permiso preliminar, así como los permisos para la Evaluación de Nuevas Fuentes que han sido incorporados por referencia. Cualquier persona que tengan dificultades obteniendo estos materiales debido a restricciones para viajar pueden comunicarse con la sala de archivos de la Oficina Central al teléfono (512) 239-2900.

COMENTARIOS/NOTIFICACIÓN PÚBLICA Y AUDIENCIA. Cualquier persona puede entregar comentarios públicos sobre el permiso preliminar. Comentarios relacionados a la exactitud, lo completo, y lo apropiado de las condiciones del permiso pueden resultar en cambios al permiso preliminar.

Una persona que podría ser afectada por la emisión de contaminantes atmosféricos del área del sitio del permiso puede solicitar una audiencia de aviso y comentarios. El propósito de la audiencia de notificación y comentarios es para proporcionar la oportunidad para entregar comentarios sobre el permiso preliminar. El permiso puede ser cambiado en base a si los comentarios relacionados con el permiso permiten el cumplimiento con el Título 30 del Código Administrativo de Texas, Capítulo 122 (ejemplos pueden incluir que el permiso no tiene todos los requisitos aplicables que correspondan o que no se cumplieron los procedimientos de aviso público). La TCEQ puede otorgar una audiencia de aviso y comentarios con respecto a esta solicitud si una petición por escrito es presentada dentro de los treinta días después de la publicación del anuncio en el diario. La solicitud de audiencia debe incluir la base de la solicitud, incluyendo una descripción de como la persona puede ser afectada por la emisión de contaminantes atmosféricos del área de la solicitud. La solicitud también debería especificar las condiciones del permiso borrador que son inapropiados o especificar como la decisión preliminar para expedir o denegar el permiso es inapropiado. Todos los asuntos razonablemente verificables deben ser planteados y todos los argumentos razonablemente disponibles deben ser entregados a no más tardar al final del período de comentarios públicos. Si se concede una audiencia de aviso y comentario, todos los individuos que presentaron comentarios por escrito o una solicitud de audiencia recibirán confirmación por escrito de la audiencia. Esta confirmación indicará la fecha, hora y lugar de la audiencia.

Comentarios públicos por escrito y/o peticiones para una audiencia de aviso y comentarios deberían ser presentados a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental (TCEQ), Oficina del Secretario Oficial (Office of Chief Clerk), MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, o por internet al www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, dentro de treinta días después de la fecha de publicación en el periódico de este aviso. Si se comunica electrónicamente con la TCEQ, favor de notar que su correo electrónico, tal como su dirección de correo doméstico, formarán parte del archivo público de la agencia.

Un aviso de la acción final propuesta que incluye una respuesta a los comentarios y denotando cualquier cambio al permiso preliminar, será enviado a todas las personas que hayan presentado comentarios públicos, una solicitud de audiencia o que hayan solicitado ser incluidos en la lista de correo. Este envío de correo también proveerá instrucciones para hacer peticiones públicas a la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés), para solicitar que la EPA se oponga a la expedición del permiso preliminar. Después de recibir una solicitud, la EPA solamente podrá objetar a la expedición de un permiso que no cumple con los requisitos aplicables o los requisitos del 30 TAC Capítulo 122.

LISTA PARA ENVÍO DE CORREO. Aparte de entregar comentarios públicos, usted puede solicitar ser incluido en una lista para envío de correo con respecto a esta solicitud al enviar su petición a la Oficina del Secretario Oficial (Office of Chief Clerk) a la dirección antes mencionada. Los que se encuentran en la lista para envío de correo recibirán copias de avisos públicos futuros (si hay) para esta solicitud enviados por correo por el Secretario Oficial.

INFORMACIÓN. Para más información con respecto a esta solicitud de permiso o el proceso de permisos, favor de contactar a la Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas), Programa de Educación del Público (Public Education Program), MC-108, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 o llamar sin cargo al 1-800-687-4040.

Puede obtener más información sobre Union Carbide Corporation llamando a Mrs. Vanessa Peppers al teléfono (361) 553-2174.

Fecha de Expedición: el día 10 de junio del año 2022

ANIMAL, from pg. 8

having your pet spayed or neutered, conducting irresponsible breeding programs simply for the purpose of selling types of animals that are in demand, and creating appropriate shelter for pets in the grueling south Texas weather conditions is all part of responsible pet ownership,” he said.

Burns has been touring neighboring communities to investigate how they deal with animal control for the purpose of trying to create a program that will solve at least some of the issues that VCAC is dealing with right now.

“Bottom line is that it is going to cost money to improve the situation in Victoria County and know that we won’t ever be able to please all the people all the time,” he said. We need to do something, and we need to do it now. I can assure you this, we cannot simply out build the problem by creating additional kennel space and employ additional people because it is impossible to keep up with the influx of cats and dogs in Victoria County.”

In a big city like Austin, euthanasia has been removed from the animal control list of options. “Obviously, Austin has a larger budget, and that community has demanded more humane treatment by animal control, but they too have limitations. The site of their animal control has increased its size to two hundred kennels, but they usually operate at maximum capacity and then they simply stop picking up strays or accepting unwanted animals because they cannot logistically house them. But still pick up nuisance animals.”

Burns says that commissioner’s court is seeking out potential solutions to improving animal control in Victoria. “I am in the process of speaking to experts in animal control to devise a plan that we can put into action that is feasible, affordable, and humane. Commissioner’s court is going to remove VCAC from the Victoria County Health Department and have them report directly to commissioner’s court. I feel that this will help to oversee and streamline operations at animal control. I can assure the citizens of Victoria County that something needs to be done and it needs to be done quickly, and we are in the process of doing exactly that.”

La Cocina de Tia Yole



Creamy chicken enchilads. *Contributed photo.*

CREAMY CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

½ pound skinless, boneless chicken breasts
4 cups torn fresh spinach or ½ of one 10-ounce package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well-drained
1 (8-ounce) carton light dairy sour cream
¼ cup plain fat-free yogurt
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
¼ teaspoon ground cumin
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup fat-free milk
1 (4-ounce) can diced green chili peppers, drained
6 (7-inch) flour tortillas
1/3 cup shredded reduced-fat cheddar or Monterey Jack Cheese (1½ ounces)
Chopped tomato or salsa (optional)
Thinly sliced green onions (optional)
¼ cup thinly sliced green onions

1. In a 3-quart saucepan place chicken in enough water to cover. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Cover and simmer about 15 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink. Remove chicken from saucepan. When cool enough, use a fork to shred chicken into bite-size pieces. (You should have about 1½ cups) Set aside.

2. If using fresh spinach, place spinach in a steamer basket over boiling water. Reduce heat. Steam, covered, for 3 to 5 minutes or until tender. (Or, cook in a small amount of boiling water, covered, for 3 to 5 minutes) Drain well.

3. In a large bowl combine chicken, spinach, and green onions; set

aside. In a bowl combine sour cream, yogurt, flour, cumin, and salt. Stir in milk and chili peppers. Divide sauce in half. Set one portion aside.

4. For filling, combine one portion of the sauce and the chicken-spinach mixture. Divide the filling among the tortillas. Roll up tortillas. Place, seam side down, in an un-greased 2-quart rectangular baking dish.

5. Spoon reserved portion of sauce over tortillas. Bake, uncovered, in a 350°F oven about 25 minutes or until heated through. Sprinkle with cheese; let stand for 5 minutes. Transfer to a serving platter. To serve, if desired, garnish with chopped tomato or salsa and

additional green onion. Makes 6 enchiladas.

6. **Make-Ahead Tip:** After filling the tortillas and placing in the baking dish, cover baking dish and chill for up to 24 hours. Store the reserved sauce separately in a covered container and chill. To serve, bake uncovered as above except add 10 to 15 minutes to cooking time or until heated through.

CHUNKY GUACAMOLE

2 medium plum tomatoes, seeded and finely chopped
¼ of a small onion, finely chopped

1 or 2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons lime juice
1-tablespoon olive oil
¼ teaspoon salt

1/8-teaspoon black pepper
2 ripe avocados, seeded, peeled, and coarsely mashed
Tortilla Chips

1. In a bowl combine tomatoes, red onion, garlic, limejuice, olive oil and pepper. Gently stir in avocados. Cover the surface with plastic wrap. Chill up to 1 hour. Serve with tortilla chips. Make 2 cups (sixteen 2-tablespoon servings).

2. **Note:** For a kicked up version of this guacamole, stir in one or more of the following: 1 seeded, finely chopped jalapeno Chile pepper; ¼ cup sour cream; ¼ cup snipped fresh cilantro; ¼ teaspoon ground

cumin; and/or 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper.

MOJITO SPARKLER

6 fresh mint leaves
1½ to 2 jiggers (2 to 3 ounces) gold rum
1-teaspoon lime juice

2 teaspoons superfine sugar
Ice
Club soda

1. Crush leaves in the bottom of a tall glass. Pour in rum, limejuice, and sugar. Add ice, stir and top with club soda. Makes 1 serving.

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