

April 2025



**City Hall - 310 Mill Street, PO BOX 160, Van Meter, IA 50261**  
515-996-2644 info@vanmeteria.gov www.vanmeteria.gov



## MEMORIAL PARK located at the intersection of Grant St and West St

Memorial Park, also known as the Pocket Park, is the newest park addition to the City of Van Meter. Planning for Memorial Park began in 2021 and the park officially opened to the public in 2022. The park is maintained by the City's Public Works staff. Memorial Park was designed for family friendly activities as well as having open space for community activities. With the weather warming up, it is a perfect time to visit our local parks! Memorial Park is one of the four local parks that are great to visit.

Last year, the first Concert on the Corner was hosted at Memorial Park with plans for hosting another this summer. The Parks & Rec Board also sets up the annual Beggar's Night event at the Memorial Park. With the Memorial Park being located down town and having plenty of open space, it is a perfect place for outdoor community events.

## MEETING SCHEDULE

**April 14, 2025**

**Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm**

Van Meter United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall

- FY26 Budget Adoption Hearing
- Chapter 164 Vacant Buildings (expanding the code to include residential property & vacant lots in addition to commercial and industrial properties)
- Chapter 90 Water Service System (adding a temporary vacancy – "Snow Bird" – water shut off policy)
- First Reading of an Amendment to Chapter 92 Water Rates (increasing water connection fees and a one time 5% water rate increase)
- First Reading of an Amendment to Chapter 99 Sewer Service Charges (a one time 5% sewer rate increase)
- Chapter 96 Building Sewers and Connections (increasing sewer connection fees)

**April 28, 2025**

**Council Workshop 6:15pm**

Van Meter United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall

- Proposed Zoning Changes

### APRIL GARBAGE & RECYCLING SCHEDULE



**Garbage & Recycling**



**Garbage Only**



**Garbage & Recycling**



**Garbage Only**

## Elected Officials:

### MAYOR

Joe Herman

### MAYOR PRO TEM

Travis Brott

### COUNCILMAN

Joel Akers

### COUNCILMAN

Blake Grolmus

### COUNCILMAN

Quin Pelz

### COUNCILWOMAN

Penny Westfall

## City Staff:

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Liz Faust

### CITY CLERK

Jess Drake

### DEPUTY CLERK

Larain Climer

### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Drew McCombs

### PUBLIC WORKS

Shane Luvaas

### PUBLIC WORKS

Spencer Leonard

### LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Jonatha Basye

### LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Joan Von Ruden Kruger

### PARKS & REC DIRECTOR

Sam Chia

### POLICE CHIEF

Mike Brown

### FIRE CHIEF

Mark Schmitt

### DALLAS COUNTY DISPATCH

515-993-4567

### EMERGENCY

911



Earth Day always falls on April 22. On Earth Day, enjoy the tonic of fresh air, contact with the soil, and companionship with nature! Check out one of the City's walking trails in search of emerging wildflowers and green moss. Go outside, no matter what the weather brings! Keep in mind reduce, reuse, recycle and help care for our planet. Events are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first celebrated in 1970, and is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network, and is celebrated in more than 192 countries each year. Happy 55th annual Earth Day!

## Employee Spotlight

Spring seems the perfect time to spotlight our Parks and Rec Director, Sam Chia. Sam has been working on scheduling for the Spring soccer, softball, and baseball season, ordering snacks and drinks for the concessions, and organizing all the recreational sport teams. Sam organizes jersey orders, concession items, referees, teams, oversees the concession part time employees and seasonal help, and so much more. Sam coordinates youth sport registrations for youth basketball, Spring soccer, youth little league and youth softball. Recreation activities keep him busy year round!

He has also been busy looking into options for grant funding for park improvements, setting up the Master Parks Plan, continuing activities on the Master Trails Plan and starting planning activities for the City's, next park located in Grand Ridge Estates. Sam continues to look for opportunities to continue his education and recently attended the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association Annual Conference as well as a grant writing workshop. All of that hard work has paid off as Sam has successfully received over \$25,000 in grants for parks & trails on behalf of the City during his first year of employment. We appreciate all the work Sam puts into Parks and Recreation and his commitment to keeping it running smoothly.



### **BUILDING PERMIT REMINDERS** A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications and is required by City Code.

Permits are required for the following:

- New buildings or homes
- Additions (bedrooms, bathrooms, family rooms, etc.)
- Residential work (decks, garages, kitchens, fireplaces, pools, etc.)
- Renovations (garage conversions, kitchen expansions, etc.)
- Electrical systems or replacement
  - *This includes all work outside of an electrical panel & inside the panel*
- Demolition of a building/structure
- Plumbing systems or replacement
  - This includes new installation or replacement of existing plumbing equipment including water heaters & supply, drain, and vent lines. Fixtures such as toilets, faucets, and shower heads do not require a permit as long as the work being completed does not interfere with the existing valve; if a new valve is to be installed, a permit will need to be obtained and test shall be completed.
- HVAC (heating, ventilating and air-conditioning) systems or replacement

### **BUILDING PERMIT FAQs**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Can I start work without an approved building permit? <b>NO.</b> | Do I need a permit to replace a window? <b>MAYBE.</b>   |
| Do I need a building permit to install a pool? <b>MAYBE.</b>     | Do I need a permit to build a deck? <b>YES.</b>         |
| Do I need a permit to place a shed on my property? <b>YES.</b>   | Do I need a permit to replace a driveway? <b>MAYBE.</b> |

If you find yourself asking these questions or others, visit <https://www.vanmeteria.gov/city/city-documents/building-information/>, send an email to [permits@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:permits@vanmeteria.gov), call City Hall at (515) 996-2644 opt #1 or reach out to the Building Inspectors directly at (515) 850-2980. There are several rules and regulations regarding building and property code. It's always better to ask prior to starting a project.



April 2025

# Spring Park & Rec Sponsored Events



**WHAT:** Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 19, 2025 @ 10:30am

**WHERE:** Johnson Park

**WHO:** Children ages 10 and under



**Save  
the  
date**  
**SATURDAY  
MAY 10, 2025**



**ANNUAL  
PLANT  
SALE**

**SATURDAY MAY 10, 2025**

**COMMUNITY  
GARAGE  
SALE**

Reserve a spot in the  
parking lot/grass lot of  
**601 Main Street!**  
Open to all!



**Contact**  
[info@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:info@vanmeteria.gov) to  
reserve a 10'x10' spot  
to host **YOUR SALE!**

**Save  
the  
date**

**ART IN THE PARK @ JOHNSON PARK - A COLLABORATION WITH VAN METER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Saturday 🎨 June 14, 2025 🎨 June 28, 2025 🎨 July 12, 2025 🎨 July 26, 2025

**Save  
the  
date**

**Concert on the Corner @ Memorial Park**

Sunday 🎵 June 22, 2025 🎵 July 20, 2025 🎵 August 17, 2025

**Save  
the  
date**

**Yoga in the Park - Saturday Mornings**

June 7 🌸 June 14 🌸 June 28 🌸 July 12 🌸 July 19 🌸 July 26 🌸 August 9 🌸 August 23



Interested in being a baseball or softball ref? What about working in the concession stands? Refs are paid per game and help keep our little league teams running smoothly! Concession stand workers are paid hourly. Parks and Rec is looking for a few more individuals to help with the 2025 Little League season!

Contact Sam Chia at [schia@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:schia@vanmeteria.gov) or 515-480-9225 if you are interested or for more information.

## Please Pick up After Your Pets

Did you know it's a violation of City Code to not pick up after your dog if they leave their mess in your neighbor's yard? Please remember to be courteous of your neighbors and bring a bag on your next walk.



Warmer weather is here.  
Kids are playing outside.

Please keep an eye out  
as you approach stop  
signs and crosswalks.



## THURSDAY APRIL 10, 2025

Yard Waste Collection will  
begin on Thursday, April 10,  
2025 and will continue  
through November 28, 2025.  
Yard Waste must be placed  
on the curb no later than  
6:00am on Thursday  
mornings.



April 2025

April						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>SPRING</b>		1 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10:00AM	2	3 	4	5 Saturday StoryTime 10:30AM
6	7 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Chicken	8	9	10 University Kids Outreach 9:30AM Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM Chick-Fil-A Food Truck 11-2PM	11 Kids Care Outreach 8:30AM Inspired Kids Outreach 9:15AM	12
13	14 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Bunny City Council Meeting 7PM	15 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10:00AM Coding Club Outreach 3:00PM	16 Library Board of Trustees Meeting 6PM	17 Maggie Rivers: How to Write a Novel 6PM	18	19 
20 	21 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Easter Coloring Preschool Outreach AM & PM Understand Healthcare.org 5PM	22 Books & Banter 7PM	23	24 Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM	25	26
27	28 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Frog City Council Workshop 6:00PM	29 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10:00AM	30 	Spring Scavenger Hunt--all month long Easter I Spy--all month long		



**Library Hours**  
Monday 10:00am - 5:00pm  
Tuesday Noon - 7:00pm  
Wednesday 10:00am - 5:00pm  
Thursday Noon - 7:00pm  
Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am - 3:00pm

**VMPL Amazon Wish List**



**Gettin' Crafty at the Library**--every week, the library will debut a new craft for everyone to enjoy! Materials will be available all week and registration will not be required.

**Stories, Songs & Snacks**--story time for ages 0-7. We will have two sessions, Tuesdays at 10:00am and Thursdays at 12:30pm.

**Saturday StoryTime**--our Saturday storytime will take place on April 5th at 10:30AM. Stop by for stories, songs & snacks with Ms. J.

**Chick-Fil-A Food Truck**--Chick-Fil-A will be set up in the library parking lot for lunch on April 10th! Grab a meal between 11-2PM!

**Books & Banter**--Library Grown-Ups, this book club is for you! Join us for food, drinks, and book discussion! We will meet at The Law Shop in Van Meter on April 22nd at 7PM. Registration is required and limited to 20 participants.

**Spring Scavenger Hunt**--complete the new scavenger hunt for the month of April. A small prize will be given for completed scavenger hunt cards.

**Easter I Spy**--Test your skills and find all of the Easter items on the worksheet!

**Understanding Healthcare.gov**--Would you like some guidance on how to use HealthCare.gov to your best advantage? Ann Renken is an Iowa Navigator and Outreach Coordinator with First Choice Services, a non-profit that helps consumers ages 19-64 find health insurance in the Marketplace. No fee is required to attend this program. Registration is required for this event.

**How to Write a Novel with Maggie Rivers**--Come spend some time with "That Crazy Author - Maggie Rivers!" Hear how she began writing, how she got published, and how you can, too! Learn the writer's "secret" to getting your book published. She will share her vast writing know-how with you, and you get all your writing and publishing questions answered, too! Registration is required for this event.



**POST 403**  
**FISH FRY**  
*Friday*

**APRIL 4**  
**APRIL 11**



**Van Meter Post 403**

Veterans' Reception Center

910 Main Street, Van Meter, IA 50261

Dinner Includes: Fish, French Fries, Coleslaw & Hush Puppies

Also Available: Macaroni & Cheese and Hot Dogs

**DRIVE THRU and DINE IN Options**

Free Will Donation ~ 5:30pm - 7:30pm

**Questions? Call: 515-996-9166**

Email: [vrclowa@gmail.com](mailto:vrclowa@gmail.com)



*Kids Eat Free!*  
*Dine In Only*



**AMERICAN**  
**LEGION**  
**AUXILIARY**



**Saturday**

**April 26, 2025**

**BINGO starts at 7:00pm**

**JACKPOT: \$800**



April 2025



**VMCDC**  
VAN METER COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# Flag Program



## Flags of Van Meter

The Van Meter Community Development Corporation, the Van Meter FFA, and Van Meter Boy Scout Troop 120 would like to invite the citizens of Van Meter to participate in our flag fundraiser for 2025! All funds raised will go towards building trails, increasing connectivity around town, downtown revitalization, and to benefit the Van Meter FFA Chapter. We are actively seeking two more groups to partner/profit share with for this fundraiser. We need help with putting flags up and taking them down each holiday. It takes about two hours to set up and another hour for takedown. Depending on the number of flags we get this next year, and how many volunteers you have, I would estimate your group could probably earn around \$1200+. If you belong to a group that could use some extra funds, please email us at [vanmeterflag@gmail.com](mailto:vanmeterflag@gmail.com) for more information.

### Included Holidays:

Memorial Day  
Flag Day



Labor Day  
Veterans Day  
Independence Day

### Registration:

1. Scan the QR code or visit [www.vanmeterlife.com](http://www.vanmeterlife.com) to complete the registration & pay online.
2. Complete the registration form & mail payment to VMCDC, PO BOX 155, Van Meter, IA 50261.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Program details:

1. Full-year (5 flags) for \$50.00.
2. Volunteers will install, remove and store the flags. During times when a flag is not displayed, a durable yard insert will be placed in your yard that will be hidden from view to keep the spot marked.
3. Feel confident that your donation is tax-deductible through The Van Meter Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)3.

# of Flags at the listed address: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Community Flags: \_\_\_\_\_  
\$50.00 per flag \$50.00 per flag

### Community Flag Location Preference:

\_\_\_\_ on R-16 North of F-90 - FFA \_\_\_\_ By the School - Boy Scouts  
\_\_\_\_ on R-16 South of F-90 \_\_\_\_ Johnson Park



## RACCOON RIVER DAYS

Hello Van Meter! Now that spring break is done, we wanted to let everyone know that planning for Raccoon River Days is underway! Please mark your calendars for Friday June 6th & Saturday June 7th for this year's celebration!

We are always looking for community input and if you could help out for an hour or two during the day on Saturday that would be a huge help to us and make the event more enjoyable for everyone. For questions or comments please reach out to us at [vmcd1877@gmail.com](mailto:vmcd1877@gmail.com).

Join us for the parade, family fun events, meat smoking competition, live music, fireworks and more!



**THANK**  
*you*

Thank you all for attending the Fat Tuesday celebration at The United Methodist Church on March 4th. We had a wonderful time, enjoying plenty of pancakes and even more laughs during our annual large spatula flipping contest, playing Mardi Gras bingo, and making crafts.

The freewill donations raised at the event are going towards purchasing gift cards to support local families in need. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we raised over \$800 — we truly appreciate your kindness!

If you were unable to attend but still wish to contribute, Venmo donations will be accepted until April 7th. You can send donations to: **venmo**: VMChurch\_Offering



Be sure to check out the church's calendar for other fun activities during this Lenten season and beyond: <https://www.vmmmc.org/>

## Online Bill Pay

The City's original online portal was disabled in late 2024 and was replaced with a new utility account portal. The user access information did not carry over from portal to portal.

If you previously had online access or you would like to set up online access, the steps below detail how to create a user account in the new portal. Account holders are NOT required to set up online access. Please contact [info@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:info@vanmeteria.gov) with questions.

### How to Create a Public User Account in the new Utility Portal

**Step 1:** Go to <https://vanmeteria.frontdeskworks.com/> and click "Create New"

**Step 2:** Select **YES** to "Are you already receiving utility bills from us?"

**Step 3:** Enter your account number & utility service address

**Step 4:** Confirm your account number & utility service address

**Step 5:** Enter your name, email address, cell phone & set password

**You must check ☒ the acknowledgement box to proceed.**

**Step 6:** Select "Create Account"

**Step 7:** After clicking "Create Account", you will receive an email from FrontDesk to confirm your email. Upon confirmation, you can log in.

**The confirmation email does time out within 30 minutes.**

#### Log In: FrontDesk

Email Address

Password

☐ Remember Me [Forgot Password?](#)

**Login**

Don't have an account? [Create Now](#)

Account Status | Account Info | **Finish Sign-up**

Are you already receiving utility bills from us?  
☒ Yes ☐ No

Enter your Account Number from your most recent Utility Bill  
Account Number  Re-type Account Number

Current Physical Address where Service is located  
Address 1

ⓘ Have more than one utility account with us? That's ok. You can add the rest of them after signing up for your FrontDesk Account.

**Next**

Account Status | Account Info | **Finish Sign-up**

Account Type  
Citizen

Name  
First Name  Middle Name  Last Name

Email  
Email Address  Confirm Email Address

Phone  
Cell Phone Number

Password  
Password  Confirm Password

☐ By clicking here, you acknowledge you will be receiving electronic bills with your FrontDesk account. By default, you will no longer receive paper bills from the Vincent Clortho Public Utilities. You may opt in to receiving paper bills in addition to electronic bills by updating your Notification Preferences on the My Account tab.

ⓘ Click 'Create Account' to finish this step!

**Create Account**

#### FrontDesk Confirm Email

frontdesk-1630@frontdeskworks.com  
to me

Hi

You're almost there! To complete your g|Works FrontDesk account verification, please confirm your email by pressing the button below.

**Verify Email Address**

If you did not create an account using this address, please ignore this email.

Best Regards,  
g|Works Product Team

If you are experiencing problems with the button, please copy and paste this link into your browser

<https://vanmeteria.frontdeskworks.com/confirm-email.html?token=205000MocvissLEmGSc8BktmbdQdVucOABlvuGut>

(c) g|Works