

Van Meter

tradition with a vision

August 2023 Newsletter

Mayor - **Elected Officials:**

Allan Adams

Mayor Pro Tem -

Joe Herman

Councilman -

Joel Akers

Councilman -

Travis Brott

Councilman -

Blake Grolmus

Councilman -

Lyn Lyon

City Staff:

City Administrator -

Liz Faust

City Clerk -

Jess Drake

Deputy City Clerk -

vacant

Public Works Director -

Drew McCombs

Public Works -

Shane Luvaas

Public Works -

Bob Riederer

Library Director -

Jonatha Basye

Library Assistant -

Spencer Cross

Parks & Rec Coordinator -

Tyler Beving

Police Chief -

Mike Brown

Police Officer -

Andrew Cooper

Fire Chief -

Mark Schmitt

Dallas County Dispatch -

515-993-4567

Emergency -

911

310 Mill Street

PO BOX 160

Van Meter, IA 50261

(515) 996-2644

info@vanmeteria.gov



News from City Hall

City/School Elections

The regular city/school election will be held on November 7, 2023. The filing period for the city/school election candidates will begin on Monday, August 28, 2023 and will close on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 5:00pm. Nomination papers must be filed with the Dallas County Auditor during the filing period. They cannot be filed before or after the filling period.

The City of Van Meter has 4 positions to fill this election cycle: three (3) council seats and the Mayor's position. All candidates must be residents of the City of Van Meter. All candidates for City vacancies must complete and submit an Affidavit of Candidacy and nomination petition with at least 10 signatures to the Dallas County Auditor by the deadline.

The Van Meter School Board has 2 seats up for election this year. Please contact the school for more information.

Additional information available by scanning the QR Code, by visiting [Dallas Co Auditor - Election Information](https://dallascoauditor.com/election-information) website or stopping at City Hall.



City Boards - Applicants Needed

From time to time, the City finds itself with vacancies on the various volunteer boards and commissions that assist with carrying out the business of the City and direction of the City Council. Please use the form found on our website under the 'Boards' section to apply to any board or commission that you would be interested in serving on. The City will maintain responses for up to a year and should a vacancy exist, applicants will be contacted for consideration. Please visit the website listed below or contact City Hall with questions.

<https://vanmeteria.gov/Applications.aspx>

Current Vacancies:

Residency Required for all open seats

Board of Adjustment (5 Year Term) - 2 vacancies

Library Board (6 year term) - 1 upcoming vacancy

August 2023 Newsletter

Reduce Reuse RECYCLE for Health

From the air we breathe to the water we drink, the environments we live in contribute to our health and well-being. When we take care of our environment, we are benefiting both the earth and the health of our communities.

The environmental health team at Dallas County Health Department manages the rural recycling program. This program was created to make recycling accessible for Dallas County residents that reside outside of a city's limits.

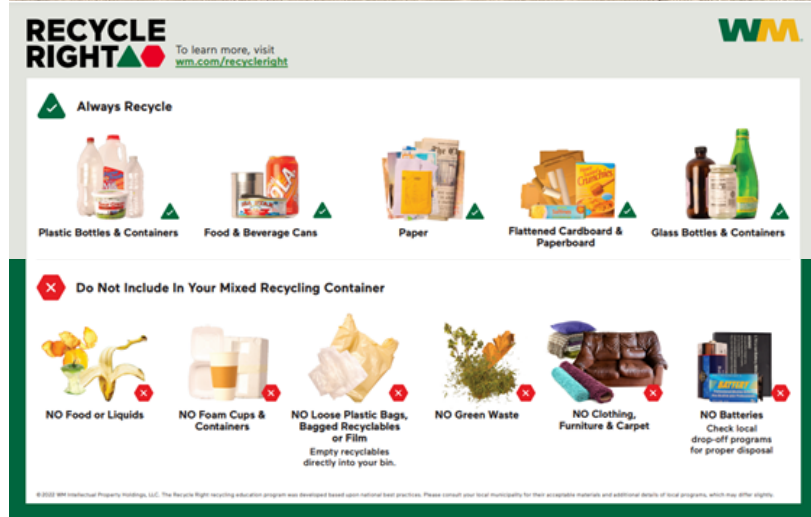
Rural recycling is single stream. That means that items appropriate for recycling do not need to be separated in the green recycling bins. When items that are not appropriate for recycling are included, like food waste or hazardous materials, it contaminates the bin and costs the county taxpayers extra fees to remove the contamination.

We ask that residents that utilize the rural recycling program are careful to avoid recycling non-recyclable items.

Gray bins are also located at each of the rural recycling locations. These "cardboard only" bins are available for use by any Dallas County resident.

Recycling reduces the amount of waste that goes into the landfill, conserves natural resources and prevents greenhouse gas emissions created by manufacturing new materials. By working together as a community, we can reduce, reuse, and recycle to maintain a healthy environment in which all of us can live.

For more information on environmental health initiatives in Dallas County, visit DallasCountyIowa.gov/PublicHealth.



- Dallas County Rural Recycling sites include:**
- Linden (SE corner of North Street & Main Street)
 - Perry (14368 J Ave or the Metro Park West Landfill)
 - Redfield (1206 Omaha Street)
 - Washington Township (NW corner of P58 & F31)

CITY HALL - SUMMER HOURS EFFECTIVE JUNE 13, 2023

City Hall has adjusted their hours for the Summer. Please note that appointments are available by request on Friday afternoons by calling 515-996-2644 (option # 1) or emailing info@vanmeteria.gov.

Monday - Thursday 8am - 5pm
Friday 8am - 1pm

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Looking for a local, High Speed Internet solution?



DALLAS COUNTY DATA

The City of Van Meter is excited to announce a new opportunity for internet services for the residents of Van Meter!

Dallas County Data is locally owned and operated! Dallas County Data believes that everyone should have unlimited access to the internet with unlimited data usage.

They offer competitive pricing with no contracts.

"We take pride in our work and make sure our wireless network is always up, always fast, and always there when you need it!"

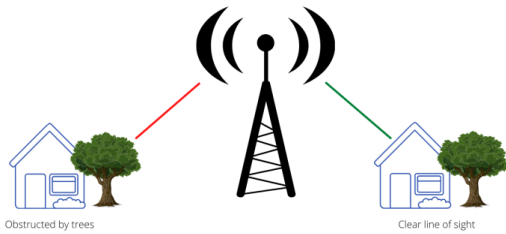
Contact Dallas County Data for more information!

www.dallascountydata.com

sales@dallascountydata.com

Ph: 515-993-1900

INTERNET - AUDIO/VIDEO - SECURITY CAMERAS



East Street Underpass Repairs

The Van Meter City Council will meet on August 2, 2023 to review and approve a bid from I-80 Concrete authorizing repairs to the East Street underpass - or better known as the school pedestrian walkway. Weather permitting, the repairs will be completed before school resumes on August 23, 2023.

BACK TO SCHOOL 2023



With students and staff heading back to school on August 23, we are encouraging parents, students, staff and residents to allow extra time for travel, to be patient and pay close attention to their surroundings.

Please pay attention to the parking regulations during school drop off and pick up. Please watch for children at cross walks.

Watch for additional information from the school.

Code Enforcement

As a reminder, the City of Van Meter recently contracted with Iowa Code Enforcement to perform the duties of the Code Enforcement Office for the City. Cities must manage nuisance properties in their community. Nuisance properties can be hazardous to others, cause property values to decline and/or create a poor image of the community. The City of Van Meter Code of Ordinances provides more detail about what is considered a nuisance.

Code Enforcement applies to all properties: residential, non-residential & commercial properties. The Code Enforcement Officer will inspect and take pictures of properties in violation of the City Code through pro-active inspections and follow-up with local complaints.



News from Public Works

WATER

Effective July 1, the residential (inside the City of Van Meter) water rate will increase to \$25.80 for the first 2,000 gallons used per month and \$5.88 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons. The non-resident (outside the City of Van Meter) water rate will increase to \$82.20 for the first 2,000 gallons used per month and \$18.75 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons.

SEWER

Effective July 1, the residential (inside the City of Van Meter) sewer rate will increase to \$25.51 for the first 2,000 gallons used per month and \$7.49 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons. The non-resident (outside the City of Van Meter) sewer rate will increase to \$77.53 for the first 2,000 gallons used per month and \$22.78 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons.

The new rates are reflected on the bill included with this newsletter.

SUGGESTED LAWN WATERING

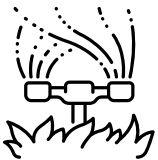
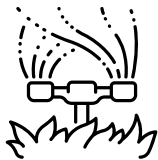
Van Meter Public Works wants to remind residents to use water wisely. By improving the efficiency of irrigation practices, businesses and homeowners can reduce consumption, save money and reduce the peak load on water facilities.

Watering is not recommended on Mondays.

Even-numbered addresses are encouraged to water on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, before 10:00am or after 5:00pm.

Odd-numbered addresses are encouraged to water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, before 10:00am or after 5:00pm.

Watering is not recommended during the hottest part of the day, between 10:00am and 5:00pm.



News from the Police Department

In 2022, 55% of traffic fatalities in Iowa were unbelted or unknown. So far, in 2023 that number is about 60%. It is perceived everyone wears a seat belt, yet over half of our fatalities are unrestrained. This translates to 100's of lives lost over the last few years.

If you know a friend or a family member who does not buckle up, please talk to them about changing their habits. Help GTSB and our law enforcement partners spread this lifesaving message before one more friend or family member is killed. Seat belts save lives, and everyone – front seat and back, child and adult – needs to buckle up.



News from the Veteran's Reception Center

Enjoy **DINNER** and **BINGO** at the Van Meter Veteran's Reception Center!



WHEN:

August 19, 2023

Dinner

Serving Starts at 5:30pm - Free Will Donation
Sub Sandwiches

BINGO

Starts at 7:00pm - Cost \$1.00 per card
10 Regular Games PLUS Progressive Blackout - Jackpot **\$900**

News from the Library

Summer Reading is winding down! Make sure that you finish logging your reading minutes and put your electronic tickets towards the prizes that you would potentially like to win! Winners will be announced towards the end of August.



There will be lots of exciting programs coming up in the following months. Storytime will return, along with other programs for tweens, teens, AND adults! We have also started an Amazon Wish List of items that we would love to add to our collection! You might also see program supplies pop up from time to time. The link can be found on our Facebook page or by using the included QR Code! Our community is important to us and we thank you for your continued support.

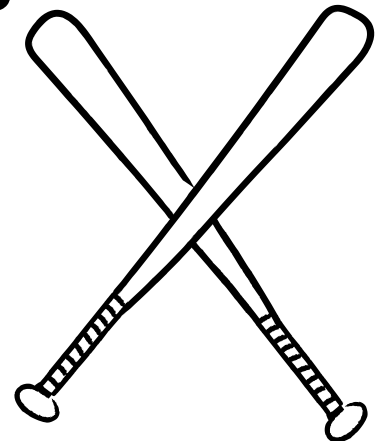
KINDNESS ROCKS - Van Meter Parks & Rec, the Van Meter Public Library, and Van Meter Community Development partnered together in a "KINDNESS ROCKS" activity during the month of July! To date, over 160 rocks have been added to "Roscoe" the Snake! Feel free to stop by the Library if you would like to paint a rock! You can even take a rock home, paint it and bring it back to the Library to add to "ROSCOE"!



News from Parks & Rec

Van Meter Memorial Park (Pocket Park) - A portable restroom has been added at the new park, located in the Southeast corner of the Park. The Parks & Rec department has also been busy working to add electricity to the Park which will eventually allow for additional lighting at the Park. You'll also notice that Parks & Rec and Public Works are working together to add additional sod throughout the park.

Youth Softball and Baseball - Congratulations to all of Van Meter's youth softball and baseball players! We look forward to a fun fall sport season including Fall Soccer, Youth Tackle Football and Flag Football!





Agreement for Pre-Authorized Payments

To sign up for AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL, please complete the form below and mail or bring to City Hall along with a VOIDED CHECK from your financial institution.

I (we) hereby authorize the CITY OF VAN METER to initiate debit entries to my (our) checking account indicated below and the depository named below, hereinafter called DEPOSITORY, to debit the same to such

Depository Name _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Transit ABA Number _____ **Account Number** _____

(Transit ABA Number is the first 9 digits from the left of the bottom of your check.)

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until the City of Van Meter and Depository have received written notification from me (either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford the City of Van Meter and Depository a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

I (we) hereby authorize the CITY OF VAN METER to provide billing statements electronically via email.

Preferred Email _____

Name(s) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

****** You will receive your water bill on or near the first of the month. If you choose autopay, the amount due will be deducted from the above assigned account on the 15th of each month. ******