

Meet the New City Administrator: Sarah Ames



Sarah Ames grew up in Southwest Missouri in the small town of Long Lane. After college, she worked in a mentoring nonprofit, and she enjoyed her time in the public sector, so she explored nonprofit management. Shortly into her MPA program, she took an internship for credit in Springfield, Missouri. This opportunity solidified her love for local government and the learning experiences that working in local government provides. She is currently working for the City of Troy, Michigan, where she has been the Assistant to the City Manager for the last year and a half.

Outside of work, she enjoys travel. She has been to Korea, Mexico, and Ireland and hopes to continue to travel in the future. Her first child is due in July and is excited to raise her family in Van Meter.

East Street Underpass

The City is currently working on designing, bidding, and construction phase engineering services for the pedestrian underpass that connects the Van Meter school with the athletic fields on the east side of East Street. The precast concrete box culvert underpass was constructed in 2014, and since then, the City has patched the roadway near and over the culvert multiple times to mitigate the "dip" in the road resulting from settlement. The plan is to remove the asphalt pavement over the culvert and excavate the backfill adjacent to the bottom of the floor slab. The road will be closed during construction, and traffic will be detoured. The existing guardrail will be removed and reinstalled. We will continue to provide an updated timeline as we become aware of them.



Front Desk

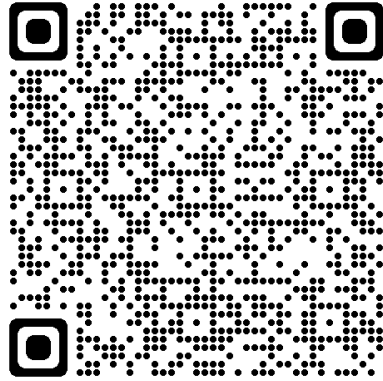
- The City of Van Meter is now offering FrontDesk, a modern and convenient solution that provides online access to a variety of tools to interact with us including your utility account. Sign up for FrontDesk by scanning the QR code below to get these exciting advantages:
 - Modern, online interactions with the City of Van Meter – anywhere, any time, from any device!
 - Conveniently pay your monthly utility bills from the comfort and safety of your home. No more writing out a check each month to pay your utility bill! No worries about social distancing and possible exposure.
 - Receive bills electronically. Go green and reduce your stack of paper bills. No bills to sanitize.
 - Enroll in autopay so you won't have to remember to pay your bills each month.
 - Update your notification settings so you can receive important messages and notifications via email or text.
 - 24/7 access to your utility account and usage information including utility usage, tracking multiple accounts, and submitting service requests.



Van Meter Trees

The City of Van Meter received 200 free seedlings from the Iowa DNR Forest Nursery.

- All households in City limits (meaning you are a City utility customer) are eligible to receive up to 2 seedlings as long as supplies last.
- The trees are set to be delivered the week of April 11th.
- Please select your top 5 choices scanning the QR code below



Get Active Van Meter



The American Legion is open from 7:30 am – 8:15 pm every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday in March

- There is no cost for the fitness classes
- Everyone is welcome!



Stop Sign Enforcement

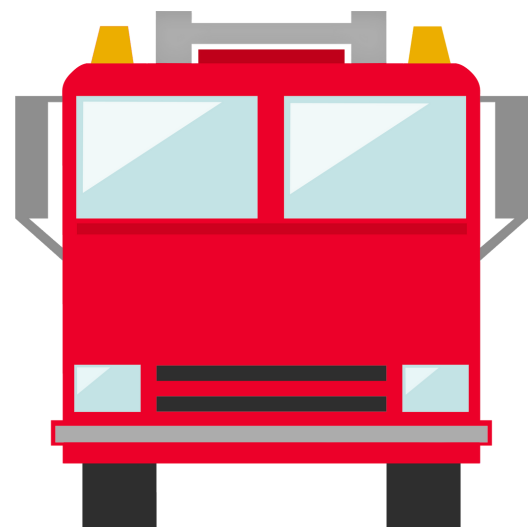


Council has received complaints about individuals running stop signs in the city.

- We constantly work traffic enforcement, but officers will be working traffic task forces aimed at stop sign safety starting this month.
- The departmental officers will be working simultaneously in targeted areas to issue warnings and citations.
- Please help us keep the community safe and obey all traffic laws.

Fire Department Citizen Academy

Captain Justin Fyfe and Firefighter Kari Davis will be putting on a citizen academy for those interested in learning about firefighting and Van Meter Fire Department operations. They are looking at a summer time frame for the academy. If you are interested, please email Captain Fyfe at jfyfe@vanmeteria.gov or Firefighter Davis at kdavis@vanmeteria.gov so they can gauge community interest.





What is TIF?

- TIF stands for tax increment finance.
- Iowa cities and counties may establish TIF districts.
- A "base" valuation of the property value is established when a TIF district is created.
- Van Meter benefits from TIF projects. TIF brings jobs and development, growing income, and sales tax revenues for the city.
- TIF enables public-private partnerships, closing the financing gap on bringing developments to Van Meter.

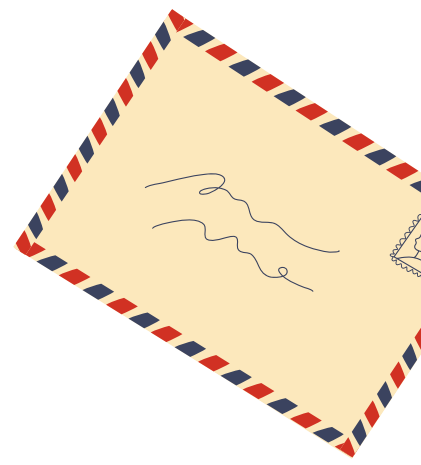


The Van Meter Farmer's Market is looking for volunteers to organize this summer's markets and December Winter Market. We can help new volunteers get started with the planning.

Please reach out to Kristi Bahr -
viehlk@hotmail.com or 515-205-0171 or Trisha
Norstrud - miller2630@hotmail.com or
319-231-7075.

VM 6th Graders

Sent Letters to Sailors Aboard the USS Iowa



Sailors from the USS Iowa had watched the videos the 6th graders had sent teaching them about different people, places and events in Iowa.

On Tuesday, each student received a personalized thank you letter from a specific sailor who had watched his or her video. The students were very excited to get a response from the sailors and to learn that many had done additional research on the topic because the video piqued their interest!

It really made them feel like their projects were important!

