

## Online Bill Pay



The City of Van Meter is excited to announce that we are switching our utility billing software from gWorks to Caselle.

Caselle is a more user-friendly option for City staff and the citizens of Van Meter. The new software will make the utility billing process faster, make online payments easier, and give the option for building permits, recreation fees, and more to be made online.

Through the new portal, payments can be made as a guest user or users may create an account. You are also able to set up ACH payments through City Hall.

For ACH payments to be made through City Hall, the account holder will need to fill out the ACH Authorization Agreement form and provide a voided check.

**For online payments, please go to <https://vanmeteria.ourcommunityconnect.com>**

Any utility bills that were processed before October 1st can be paid through gWorks/ FrontDesk, but no future utility bill balances will be uploaded to gWorks/ FrontDesk.

The user access information did not carry over from portal to portal.

These changes are only applicable to those who had online autopay set up through FrontDesk. Payments can also be made in person at City Hall as well or mailed to PO Box 160 in Van Meter, IA, 50261.

Thank you for your understanding and feel free to reach out to City Hall with any questions at 515-996-2644 or [info@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:info@vanmeteria.gov).

**Account holders are NOT required to set up online access, but it is an option for online payments.**

**City of Van Meter**

City Hall Hours  
Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Friday: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

City Hall Phone Number: 515-996-2644 opt. 1  
City Hall Email: [info@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:info@vanmeteria.gov)

**Van Meter**  
tradition with a vision

Sign in

Email address

Email is required

Password

Password is required

Success!

Forgot Password?

Sign in

Or login in using your account

New User? [Create your account](#)

Pay as Guest

Pay Now

community connect

December 2025



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



The votes are in! Congratulations to Jarin Young, Joe Lake, and Jason Barney on their recent election to the Van Meter City Council! We welcome you to this leadership role within the community and look forward to working together to shape a vibrant and thriving future for our community. Your fresh perspectives, willingness, and commitment to service will undoubtedly bring meaningful progress and positive change to Van Meter.

We also want to express our deepest gratitude to Penny Westfall, Blake Grolmus, and Quin Pelz for their years of dedicated service and invaluable contributions to the City Council. Your leadership and hard work have helped lay the foundation for the success we enjoy today.

Additionally, a special thank you goes to Nathan Hansen and Penny Westfall for their willingness to run for City Council and for their continued commitment to our city. Your efforts, passion, and dedication are truly appreciated by all who call Van Meter home.

We recognize the passion for community involvement that drives our collective success. Here's to building on past achievements and embracing new opportunities for growth and collaboration!

## 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**

Travis Cooke

### **ADMINISTRATIVE 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**  
(non emergency) 515-993-4567

### **EMERGENCY**

911

## MEETING SCHEDULE

**December 8, 2025 - City Council Meeting 7pm**

**December 22, 2025 - Workshop 6:15pm**

## DEC. RECYCLING SCHEDULE





## Post 403 Sets New Record for Military Honors

American Legion Post 403 has reached an incredible milestone in honoring our nation's veterans. During the week of **November 17–21**, Post 403 volunteers fulfilled **13 Military Honors requests in just five days**—a record-setting achievement that reflects Post 403 volunteers unwavering dedication to veterans and their families.

Each honor represents a veteran receiving **The Final Salute**, a solemn tribute that includes a three-round volley. These ceremonies require volunteers to commit at least **two hours of personal time per request**, along with travel and vehicle expenses, all to ensure that every veteran is honored with dignity and respect.

The numbers speak volumes:

- **January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025:** 103 volleys performed
- **July 1, 2025 – November 21, 2025:** 112 volleys performed

And the year isn't over yet! November's final week and all of December remain ahead.

"This level of commitment by Post 403 volunteers is truly out of this world," said Terry Vande Kamp.

Post 403's achievement is a testament to the power of community and volunteerism. Their efforts bring comfort to grieving families and uphold a tradition of honor that defines the American Legion.

Thank you to all Post 403 volunteers for your extraordinary service.



## Eagle Scout Project - Retaining Wall

This past summer, the City was fortunate to have Adam Glade construct a new retaining wall at Van Meter Cemetery for his Eagle Scout Project. His craftsmanship and dedication were outstanding, and his efforts greatly enhanced the site. We sincerely thank Adam for his hard work and valuable service to our community!



**THANK YOU!**

## Community Food Pantry

We are pleased to share that a food pantry has been temporarily located at City Hall. It is open to anyone in need. This initiative is made possible thanks to the generosity of some remarkable donors. The goal is to maintain the pantry through the holidays and into the beginning of 2026 until a permanent locations is identified.

### **Location**

Van Meter City Hall

310 Mill St, Van Meter, IA 50261

 **Hours:** the vestibule to City Hall will remain unlocked for 24/7 accessibility.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this resource, please stop by. We welcome contributions of perishable and non-perishable food items.

Thank you for helping us support our community!

## Let It Snow



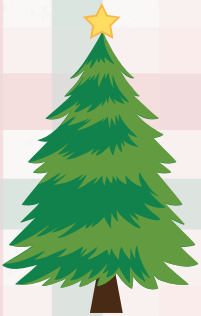
**SNOW REMOVAL:** No person shall park or allow a vehicle to remain parked on a public street in the City from the time it begins to snow until such time as the streets have been cleared of accumulated snow from curb to curb (or from all of the traveled portion of the roadway for those streets which do not have curbs) or 48 hours, whichever time is shorter. Vehicles shall be removed immediately once it begins to snow. The Director of Public Works and Utilities is also empowered to end the prohibition on parking prior to the expiration of the 48-hour period if the Director determines that the streets have been cleared. The Director of Public Works and Utilities shall notify the Police Chief when the parking prohibition has ended.

**DUMPING OF SNOW:** It is unlawful for any person to throw, push, place, or cause to be thrown, pushed or placed, any ice or snow from private property, sidewalks, or driveways onto the traveled way of a street or alley so as to obstruct gutters, or impeded the passage of vehicles upon the street or alley or to create a hazardous condition therein; except where, in the cleaning of large commercial drives in the business district it is absolutely necessary to move the snow onto the street or alley temporarily, such accumulation shall be removed promptly by the property owner or agent. Arrangements for the prompt removal of such accumulations shall be made prior to moving the snow.



**REMOVAL OF SNOW, ICE AND ACCUMULATIONS:** It is the responsibility of the abutting property owners to remove snow, ice and accumulations promptly from sidewalks. If a property owner does not remove snow, ice or accumulations within 48-hours after such accumulations, the City may do so and assess the costs against the property owner for collection in the same manner as a property tax.

## CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP



Ornaments, Lights and other Decorations need to be removed from the tree prior to setting your tree on the curb for pick up. Pick up is for **LIVE** trees only.

No special sticker or tag is needed.

**January 8, 2026**



## CITY BOARDS - Current Vacancies




From time to time, the City finds itself with vacancies on the various volunteer boards and commissions that assist with the carrying out of business of the City and direction of the City Council. Please use the form found on our city 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 vacancy exist, applicants will be contacted for consideration. Please visit the website below or contact City Hall with questions.

Board of Adjustment has 2 current vacancies. These will be to fill open vacancies until June 30, 2029, and residency is required for all opens seats.

<https://www.vanmeteria.gov/city-of-van-meter-board-or-commission-application/>



# DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 DAY 1 OF 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS	2 DAY 2 OF 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS STORIES, SONGS & SNACKS 10AM	3 DAY 3 OF 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS	4 DAY 4 OF 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS	5 DAY 5 OF 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS	6 WINTER FUN @ THE LIBRARY 8-1PM
7	8 DAY 6 OF 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING 7PM	9 DAY 7 OF 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS STEM HOUR (ICE MELTING EXPERIMENT) 4PM	10 DAY 8 OF 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 6PM	11 DAY 9 OF 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS STORIES, SONGS & SNACKS 12:30PM	12 DAY 10 OF 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS RICOCHET ACADEMY 2PM	13
14 	15 DAY 11 OF 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS	16 DAY 12 OF 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS	17	18 	19	20 
21	22	23 	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED	26 CLOSED	27 CLOSED
28 	29	30	31 CLOSED	12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS HOLIDAY SCAVENGER HUNT		



**LIBRARY HOURS**  
 MONDAY 10-5PM  
 TUESDAY 10-7PM  
 WEDNESDAY 10-5PM  
 THURSDAY 10-7PM  
 FRIDAY 10-5PM  
 SATURDAY 8-1PM  
 SUNDAY CLOSED

VMPL AMAZON  
Wish List



STORIES, SONGS & SNACKS--STORY TIME FOR AGES 0-7. WE WILL HAVE TWO SESSIONS, TUESDAYS AT 10:00AM AND THURSDAYS AT 12:30PM

WINTER FUN @ THE LIBRARY---JOIN US FOR WINTER FUN @ THE LIBRARY ON DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>! MS. J WILL BE READING STORIES AT 10:30AM! MAKE A FEW CRAFTS AND WRITE YOUR LETTER TO SANTA! SANTA PROMISES TO RESPOND TO EACH CHILD!

12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS---JOIN US FOR 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY CRAFTS ON WEEKDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>! THERE ARE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF CRAFTS AND THEY ARE FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE! DAILY CRAFT ITEMS WILL BE SHOWCASED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS!

STEM HOUR--FOR THIS STEM HOUR, MS. J WILL BE TALKING ABOUT ICE! LEARN WHAT THINGS MAKE ICE MELT FASTER! THERE ARE 15 SLOTS FOR THIS PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

HOLIDAY SCAVENGER HUNT--THE HOLIDAY GNOMES ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT VAN METER! CAN YOU FIND THEM ALL? BRING COMPLETED SCAVENGER HUNT CARDS TO THE LIBRARY CIRCULATION DESK AND PICK A PRIZE!



## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City Hall and Public Works will be closed Wednesday, December 24 through Thursday, December 25 in observance of Christmas. City Hall and Public Works will be closed Wednesday, December 31 and Thursday, January 1, 2026 in observance of the New Year.

The Van Meter Public Library will be closed Wednesday, December 24 through Saturday, December 27 in observance of Christmas. The Van Meter Public Library will be closed Wednesday, December 31 and Thursday, January 1, 2026 in observance of the New Year.

# 2026



December 2025

# Van Meter Community Market

Veteran's Reception Center  
910 Main St, Van Meter  
Friday, Dec. 5th 5pm-8pm  
Saturday, Dec. 6th 9am-12pm



**FEATURING** vendors providing  
handmade metal artwork,  
crocheted, sewed, painted items,  
soaps, honey, printed shirts/cups,  
pottery, jewelry, wood items and  
other miscellaneous items.

**FRIDAY** – Mingle and jingle through the market, food,  
beverages and entertainment available  
**SATURDAY** – Santa will be present for the kids (10-12).

Star Light, Star Bright for the **FIRST** time we are  
hosting  
"The Holidays Are Sweeter" in One day under the  
downtown lights!!

## Holidays are Sweeter in Van Meter

Star Light, Star Bright the **FIRST** Sips and  
Snacks under our Downtown Lights

**Community Market-  
Auxiliary Cookie Walk**  
Hosted at the Legion

**Kids Shopping Day**  
Methodist Church

**Letters to Santa**  
Van Meter Public Library

**Ugly Sweater 5k & Kids Fun Run**  
Downtown Memorial Park

**Merry and Bright Night**  
Memorial Park

**Annual Sips and Snacks**  
Downtown Tent under  
Van Meter Stars

**Dec. 5th 5pm-8pm With Food and Entertainment**  
**Dec. 6th 9am-noon With AM Brew and Santa sighting**

**December 6th 9am-1pm.**

**Dec 6th 8am-1pm Winter Craft, A Christmas Reading,  
to Santa and Santa Sighting.**

**Dec 6th In person Registration begins at 12.30  
Run Begins at 1pm.**

**Dec. 6th from 2pm- 6pm visit Santa and the Grinch.  
Family fun to include - AM Brew- warm beverages,  
Thirsty Pig - cold brews, photo opportunities, Food  
Trucks - El Delicioso Street Tacos and Loving Burgers  
Tree Lighting, and more!**

**Dec 6th 4.30pm-7pm with raffle to follow.  
We Invite you to meet with Local Businesses and Owners.  
Come and enjoy good music, Excellent Snacks , Raffle  
Drawings, Silent Auction and Christmas ambiance and to  
make this Season unforgettable!**

**www.VanMeterLife.com**

**SHOUT IT LOUD FOR ALL TO HEAR!**  
We're excited to share that this year's Sips 'n' Snacks has been reimagined and moved  
to Saturday evening, December 6th, to join all the beloved holiday activities in the  
Pocket Park! A large heated tent will be set up on Grant Street near The Law Shop,  
creating one central spot to enjoy local vendors, raffle drawings, and our annual Silent  
Auction.

Come hungry—LOVINGGOOD'S BURGER, DOGS & SNACKS and El Delicioso Street Tacos  
will be serving up fresh, delicious food all night long. For drinks, The Thirsty Pig will  
offer festive beverages, and AM Brew will be on site brewing your favorite coffees and  
warm drinks.

The evening will also feature Storytime with Santa, letters to Santa, Christmas caroling  
by local singers, and the lighting of the Christmas tree, making it a perfect family night  
out. Though the format has changed, the heart of Sips 'n' Snacks remains the same:  
celebrating the season together while supporting Van Meter's local businesses. Join us  
for an amazing, festive night in our community!

**Saturday,  
November 6th  
on Grant Street**

**Thank You to Our  
Participating  
Business/ Groups  
for the 11<sup>th</sup>  
Sips And Snacks**

SALON TEC VM BY RO  
EBANK  
TABITHA HAIR  
REVIVIFY BY JEN  
5TH QUARTER  
VAN METER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

THE HUB  
THE GOOSE  
THE LAW SHOP  
PLANT LIFE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR ANNUAL  
**KIDS SHOPPING DAY**  
AT VAN METER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
100 Hazel St.  
**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
9 AM to 1 PM

To the season to let the kids shop!  
Parents relax while "elves" help the children pick out gifts from their lists  
and have them packaged for secrecy.  
We'll have new and gently-used items available at garage sale prices.  
You can pay with cash or Venmo.

All proceeds go to local families in need this season.  
Contact Kim for more information: kgriff@live.com

**Van Meter Legion Auxiliary  
is celebrating its  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Cookie Walk**

Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm – 8 pm  
Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 12 pm

Veterans Reception Center – 910 Main Street, Van Meter  
Find us inside the front entrance and look for the Cookie Walk sign.

Let us help ease one of your holiday stresses by allowing the auxiliary to do your baking  
this year. Stop by to grab some delicious cookies.

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**



**AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AUXILIARY**

There will be no  
Community Meal or  
BINGO in December  
2025.

The next Community  
Meal and BINGO will  
be in January 2026.

More information to  
come in January.



**WHO'S  
THE  
UGLIEST  
OF THEM  
ALL?**



Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> 2025  
Memorial Park  
In person registration 12.30pm  
5k run or 1 mile walk/run

**WWW.VANMETERLIFE.COM**

