

FEBRUARY 2022

VAN METER NEWS

The official publication of the City of Van Meter



VAN METER AND WAUKEE FIRE DID A COLLABORATIVE TRAINING LAST MONTH ON VENTILATION! PARTNERSHIPS LIKE THIS MAKE OUR DEPARTMENTS STRONGER AND BETTER PREPARED TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY. THANK YOU, WAUKEE AND VAN METER FIRE!

What's in this newsletter:

- **WAUKEE FIRE TRAINING**
- **HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS**
- **INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**
- **GET ACTIVE VAN METER**
- **MONTHLY AGENDA**
- **YOUTH SPRING SOCCER**
- **UTILITY BILL PAYMENT METHODS**
- **SNOW ORDINANCES**
- **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT**
- **FIRE DEPARTMENT JOB AD**
- **FRONTDESK INSTRUCTIONS**



New Housing Developments in 2022

GRAND RIDGE ESTATES
TRINDLE RIDGE
HUDSON HEIGHTS

We will welcome three new housing developments to the Van Meter Community in 2022. Grand Ridge Estates will offer 36 townhome units and 80 single-family residential lots. Trindle Ridge will have 30 single-family residential lots. And finally, Hudson Heights will offer 24 single-family residential lots.

Grand Ridge Estates is located just north of Crestview at the corner of F90 and R16. Trindle Ridge is located just south of Trindle Park on Richland Ct. Finally, Hudson Heights will be located just south of Johnson Park and will be accessible from Lakeview Dr.

New Infrastructure Projects in 2022

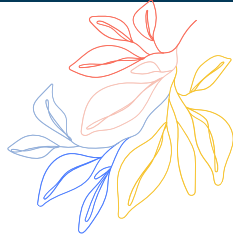
The City is currently pursuing a handful of infrastructure projects this coming year. These projects include paving the boat ramp parking area, evaluating and designing a pedestrian trail tunnel under County Highway F90, marks and trails master planning, and design updates for the pocket park.

The City received roughly \$100,000 in grant funding to assist with costs. The first project on the list to be completed is the paving of the boat ramp parking area which will occur before Summer 2022.

Get Active Van Meter

STARTING THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY

The American Legion Event Complex will be open from 7:30am - 8:30am for free exercise sessions every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. It is a great opportunity to get out of the house, burn some calories, and meet new friends! No registration is required, just show up! Be sure to bring a clean pair of exercise shoes!



WHAT IS HAPPENING THIS MONTH

- *2/1: Applications for City Administrator Position Due*
- *2/5: Youth Soccer Registration Closes*
- *2/8 DPS Department Meeting @ 1900 Van Meter Public Safety Building*
- *2/14: City Council Meeting*



Youth Spring Soccer

REGISTRATION CLOSING SOON

The spring program is available for ages 4 - 15 years old (PreK - 8th grade) as of 1/1/2022. Teams will be split in February, practices will begin in the middle of March, and then games will start in early April.

Registration closes on February 5th.

Please reach out to Jay Olson,
jolson@vanmeteria.gov, with any questions.

Registration Link:

[HTTPS://VANMETERIAYOUTHSC.DEMOSPHERE-SECURE.COM/_REGISTRATION](https://vanmeteriayouthsc.demosphere-secure.com/_registration)

Utility Bill Payment Methods

RESIDENTS CAN PAY UTILITY BILLS ONLINE, BY MAIL, BY PHONE OR IN-PERSON.

- **To pay online**, visit the City's **online bill pay service**. Enter the account number and customer ID number to pay. For easy navigation, click on the **pay online icon** on the city's website homepage.
- **To pay by phone**, call 515-996-2644. We also are able to answer **billing or general utility questions** at this number.
- **To pay in person**, stop by **City Hall**, 310 Mill St.
- **To pay by mail**, send your payment and utility invoice stub to **310 Mill Street, PO Box 160, Van Meter, IA 50261**.



SNOW ORDINANCE

Snow Removal

- No person shall park or allow a vehicle to remain parked on a public street in the city from curb to curb (or from the time all 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 persons 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 impede 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.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Van Meter Public Safety ended 2021, running fast into 2022. Police and fire together have taken 58 call numbers so far this year. In 2021 at this time, we had taken a combined 28 call numbers. The Van Meter Police Department ended 2021, taking 1,139 case numbers for the year compared to 945 case numbers for 2020. That is a 20% increase. The Van Meter Fire Department ended 2021, having taken 349 case numbers for the year compared to 237 cases for 2020. That is a 47% increase. The reality is that as our city grows, our community becomes busier for public safety. You can help us slow down the growth in calls by locking your vehicle and homes as well as putting items left outside, inside, when appropriate. Remember, if something seems suspicious, report it. We practice neighborhood watch every day as a small community without even thinking about it. You can also help by considering giving back to your community by joining the Van Meter Department of Public Safety. Be a paid-on-call firefighter, EMT, or reserve police officer. Please help us make our community safe. As we say, we are ordinary people providing extraordinary service to those we call friends and neighbors.

*-Bill Daggett,
Public Safety Director*



Join the Fire Department Team

THE VAN METER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IS ACTIVELY RECRUITING FOR MEMBERS TO JOIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. MEMBERS GET:

- Training paid by the department including firefighter 1, firefighter 2 and EMT.
- Paid \$7.25 an hour for calls for service.
- Departmental uniforms and equipment provided.

Go to www.vanmeteria.gov then public safety, then the join the fire department tab to download an application.



How to Use FrontDesk

- 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 here: <https://vanmeteria.frontdeskworks.com/login.html> 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.
 - Fill out and submit forms directly online and pay associated fees. Our staff will review and process the forms – no more paper required!
 - Easy access to Public Notices and answers to Frequently Asked Questions so you can see important city-related information in one place.
 - Review Meeting Agendas and Minutes.
 - Use Citizen Requests to submit requests directly to the necessary government officials with a few clicks of a mouse or taps on a smartphone.