



CITY PARK

located on the East side of the Library on Grant St

The City Park is the perfect place for your children to burn off some energy before, or after, visiting the Van Meter Public Library. Feel free to stop by the Library, check out some books, and visit the City Park all in the same place!

This park offers optimal playground equipment for young children. With being one of the four parks located within Van Meter, it is a great place to spend some quality time when the weather permits. There are also picnic tables outside which makes this the perfect stop to take your kids out for a prepacked lunch, or for a quick bite from the various food trucks that sometimes are parked right by the City Park and the Van Meter Library.

With slides, swings, and a merry go round, the City Park is sure to keep your child entertained and active. It is the perfect park for your toddler or school age child. Be sure to stop by and check out the park and support your local library as well!

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

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

515-993-4567

EMERGENCY

911

MEETING SCHEDULE

February 10, 2025

Regular Council Meeting 7pm

Van Meter United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall

- Public Hearing - Proposed Development Agreement with Microsoft
- Public Hearing - Proposed FY25 Budget Amendment

February 24, 2025

Council Workshop 6:15pm

Van Meter United Methodist Church

Meeting Space behind the Sanctuary

- Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment
- Proposed Future Land Use Map Amendment

FEBRUARY GARBAGE & RECYCLING SCHEDULE



Garbage Only



Garbage & Recycling



Garbage Only



Garbage & Recycling

Parks & Recreation Update

Parks & Recreation Board Vacancy



As of November 25, 2024, there is a vacancy on the Van Meter Parks & Recreation Board. The term for the vacated seat will be from the date of appointment through June 30, 2029. The Van Meter Park Board is a group of volunteers committed to the beautification and enhancement of the community. The Park Board also sponsor a variety of community events. The Park Board typically meets at 6:00pm on the 1st Thursday of each month at City Hall.



Applicants for this board are not required to live within the city limits of the City of Van Meter, but must reside with the Van Meter Community School District. Please visit <https://www.vanmeteria.gov/city-of-van-meter-board-or-commission-application/> to apply or scan the provided QR code.

Employee Spotlight

In 2025, we are going to spotlight the City employees! We start out by featuring Shane Luvaas and Spencer Leonard! Shane and Spencer are currently working towards their Water Treatment Grade 1 certifications. Shane and Spencer are always looking for opportunities to expand their knowledge and are always excited for new training opportunities. They have also started clearing out the 601 Main Street building and started demo work as part of the initial phase the City's Municipal Building Project!

Shane and Spencer have also been on top of their snow duties. They are quick to respond to plowing, salting, and more when the weather takes a turn. We appreciate the hard work and the dedication they show. Thank you Shane and Spencer for everything you do for our team and our community!



With the new year just beginning, city staff and officials wanted to take a moment and thank all of the volunteers that serve on all of the various boards. Their commitment to serving our community is greatly appreciated. The time they take out of their days to attend meetings and/ or events is entirely volunteer based. Community events and community betterment would not be possible without their dedication to serving the community and the donation of their time.

Thank you

Board of Adjustment: Dennis Carter, Brian Anderson, David Lyons, Jarin Young, Tony Doremus

Planning and Zoning: Garret Hulse, Patrick Miller, Jerney Feldman, Michael Wahlert, Scot Cook, Jeff DeVore, Adam Coyle

Parks and Recreation: Janice Miller, Lisa Benton, Rhonda Baldwin, Rona Jacobs, Amber Bowen, Brooks Newton

Library Board: Tabitha Slaughter, Shannon McClintock Miller, Lisa Oelke, Andrew Kendall, Natasha Watson

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Blind Date with a Book--February 10th-24th						1
Valentine Scavenger Hunt--all month long						
2	3 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Gnomes	4	5 	6 Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM Chick-Fil-A Food Truck 11-2PM	7	8 Pinterest It! Thumbprint Heart Magnet 10:30AM
9	10 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Valentine Cards Pokemon Card Swap 4PM	11 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10:00AM	12	13 University Kids Outreach 9:30AM	14	15
16 	17 CLOSED	18 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Mittens	19	20 Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM	21 Kids Care Outreach 8:30AM Inspired Kids Outreach 9:15AM	22 Stories, Song & Snacks 10:30AM
23	24 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Penguins	25 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10:00AM Books & Banter 7:00PM	26 	27 Books & Banter 7:00PM	28 	



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. This month we will have a special Saturday storytime on February 22nd at 10:30am.

Pokemon Card Swap--Stop by the library to swap Pokemon cards with your friends on February 10th! Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during this event. No registration required!

Chick-Fil-A Food Truck--Chick-Fil-A will be set up in the library parking lot for lunch on February 6th! Grab a meal between 11-2PM!

Blind Date With A Book--During the month of February, take a chance on your next read! You won't be able to judge these books by their covers! Ask Ms. J or Ms. Joan for more details!

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

Pinterest It! Thumbprint Heart Magnet--Create a Valentine's keepsake using your own thumbprint on February 8th! There are 24 slots available for this program! Please register to attend on our website! Suitable for all ages with parental supervision!

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 February 25th and 27th at 7PM. Registration is required and limited to 20 participants.



Utility Bill Payment Methods

Residents may pay utility bills online, by mail, or in person. We are unable to take payments over the phone. We accept cash, checks, cards, and money orders.

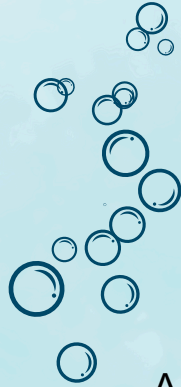
- **To pay online**, visit the City's online bill pay service. See page 6 for more details.
- **To pay in person**, visit City Hall Monday-Thursday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or Fridays between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. or leave a cash or check payment in the lock box located on the front door.
- **To pay by mail**, send your payment to **City of Van Meter, PO Box 160, Van Meter, IA 50261.**



Did you know...

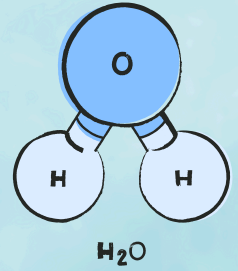
Throughout the entire year of 2024, the City as a whole used **50 million** gallons of water?

August, September, and October are the high use months.



Water Leaks

Don't let your money go down the drain! A slow drip of water can add up quickly. A toilet that "keeps running" after you flush it or a dripping faucet can waste thousands of gallons of water a year—and that costs money!



- A drip = 15 gallons per day = 450 gallons per month
- 1/32 in. leak = 264 gallons per day = 7,920 gallons per month
- 1/16 in. leak = 943 gallons per day = 28,300 gallons per month
- 1/8 in. leak = 3,809 gallons per day = 114,200 gallons per month
- 1/4 in. leak = 15,226 gallons per day = 456,800 gallons per month

On average, 1 in 10 homes have leaks that waste 90+ gallons of water a day.



If you haven't seen it yet, the City's website now has a new online Calendar! You can keep up to date with meeting dates & times, the garbage & recycling schedule, Parks & Rec Events, and more!

It is also a good place to look for Library or City Hall closures, special events coming up, and important dates to remember. Remember to check it regularly to see all the important and fun events that will be going on in the city!

You can check out the new city calendar here:

<https://www.vanmeteria.gov/city/city-documents/city-of-van-meter-calendar/>



There is a new speed limit on 340th Trail. At the January 9th, 2025 City Council Meeting, Ordinance #2025-01 was proposed and passed with a 5-0 vote by the City Council. The new speed limit is 40 mph for the section of 340th Trail inside of city limits.

Upon publication of the Ordinance in the Des Moines Register on January 27, 2025, the speed limit change will become effective. Public Works and Police Department will work together on the installation of the speed limit signs.

VMCDC VAN METER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION QUARTERLY MEETING

- Tuesday, February 11, 2025
- The Law Shop
413 Grant Street, Van Meter, IA
- 7:00pm
- To join virtually, send a request to: vmcd1877@gmail.com

Are you passionate about Van Meter? Do you want to make a meaningful impact, stay connected and strengthen our community?

Let's work together to make Van Meter an even better place to Live, Work, and Play. If you are ready to get involved or just want to learn more, attend the quarterly meeting. If you would like to join virtually, request the link via email. Together we can accomplish incredible things for our town. Don't just watch our community grow - be part of the team that makes it happen!

We invite you to join the Van Meter Community Development Committee (VMCDC). Come find out how, together, we can shape the future of our town while forging lasting connections and creating cherished memories. If you would like to join virtually, send a request to vmcd1877@gmail.com. Visit www.vanmeterlife.com for more information.

events

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

Come
Join
Us

BINGO

Saturday, February 15, 2025

Dinner at 5:30
Chili Dogs & Maid Rites
Suggested Donation \$8
BINGO at 7:00
JACKPOT: \$600

Are you eligible or do you know of someone who may be eligible to join our local auxiliary unit? Membership eligibility is primarily limited to descendants of Legion members grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female of members or honorably discharged deceased military.

Membership helps our unit, and more importantly keeps membership numbers up which drives national funding for veteran needs. Personally, your continued membership provides retail discounts, eligibility for Emergency Funds through national auxiliary should you have the need, and comfort in knowing you are honoring your veteran.

We know that coming to meetings (our current meetings are at 6:00 PM on the 2nd Thursday of each month) doesn't fit everyone's schedule. There are many ways that you can contribute to the Auxiliary. Our mission is to support local veterans and their families. We support Veterans financially by continued events such as: Monthly Bingo, Community Dinners, Cookie Walk. Some other ways we have supported Veterans and our community are as follows: Monetary contributions to Wreaths Across America, Veterans Home in Marshalltown, Veterans Hospital (DSM), Puppy Jake, Brushy Creek Honor Flights, sending participants to Girls State, providing monetary support for families in need through the school, support in fundraisers for community members with medical needs, Veteran's Day and Memorial Day breakfasts, and Raccoon River Days sponsorship.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Serving Begins at 5:30
Pancakes & Sausage
Suggested Donation
\$10.00/plate

Any questions regarding membership can be directed to vraciowa@gmail.com or call/stop by the Legion at 515.996.9166.

"Whether you actively participate in some of these events or simply pay your membership dues, YOU MATTER and WE NEED YOU! You don't have to be passionate about every single project, just passionate about our mission and reason for existing . . . love of country and a desire to honor the sacrifice of those who served to protect and preserve our freedoms."



Van Meter Elementary School Preschool Program

Non-resident students enrolled in preschool are not guaranteed a spot in Van Meter's TK or Kindergarten the following year. Please see the District's Open Enrollment Policy.

Bussing available for arrival to AM class and from PM class. No mid-day bussing.

No before or after school care is available.

- Available to children 4 years old by 9/15/2025
- Tuition-Free Program
- Maximum of 20 students per section
- Openings filled by resident students first
- AM or PM Sessions available on a first come, first serve basis
- Breakfast & Hallway supervision begins at 7:50am
- Registration Information can be found on the School's website or email Kris Koster

Class Schedule

Monday - Thursday
AM Class: 8:15 - 11:15
PM Class: 12:15 - 3:30
No School
on Fridays



Van Meter Elementary School Kindergarten

Planning for the 2025-26 Kindergarten & Transitional Kindergarten school year has started!



Contact Kris Koster at kris.koster@vmbulldogs.com or 515-996-2221 for the link to sign up your child for this fall. You can also find the link on the School's Facebook page or at www.vmbulldogs.com.

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. The steps below detail how to create a user account in the new portal. Please contact 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.