

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



## JOHNSON PARK

located at the end of Division Avenue

Johnson Park encompasses over 6 acres of parkland offering walking trails, play ground equipment, a shelter house and a 9 hole disc golf course. It is also the home of the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Van Meter Parks & Recreation Board.

Thanks to the generous donations of time & materials of the City's former PW Director, Dave, and one of our residents, Brian, the shelter received a refresh last year and it looks great! In 2021, Liberty Ready Mix donated concrete to create a new path to the updated playground equipment that had recently been installed. There are so many great features at this local hidden gem! Johnson Park is also home to the annual Easter Egg Hunt and most years the Easter Bunny makes an appearance too! The shelter, complete with electricity and picnic tables makes a great place for a birthday party or family picnic

Keep an eye on the newsletter and the City's Facebook page for activities including the egg hunt, Art in the Park and more! Parks & Rec Director Chia has been working on some adult programming options to be held at Johnson Park during the Summer of 2025! You'll want to grab a friend or 2 and participate!

### MEETING SCHEDULE

#### January 13, 2025

**Regular Council Meeting 7pm**  
Van Meter United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall

- Public Hearing - Proposed Changes to the City's Building Code
- Public Hearing - Proposed addition to City Code regarding Shipping Containers
- Public Hearing - Proposed 40MPH Special Speed Zone - 340th Trail
- Public Hearing - Urban Renewal Plan Amendment

#### January 27, 2025

**Council Workshop 6:15pm**  
Van Meter United Methodist Church  
Meeting Space behind the Sanctuary

- FY26 Budget Workshop

### JANUARY GARBAGE & RECYCLING SCHEDULE



### 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

# Parks & Recreation Updates

## 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.

## Master Trails Update

The City and Parks & Rec are excited to be able to share some updates on the Master Trails Project! This is a phased project so the updates only pertain to Phase 1. Phase 1 will be a 10' wide concrete multipurpose trail from 360th Street (F90) in the western City Right of Way North to where the School walking trail currently exists. The City engaged Bolton & Menk in a preliminary trail study in 2021 and through the grant funding from CIRTPA and the Dallas County Foundation, preliminary work has turned into design, planning & specifications! Survey work has already started! We look forward to being to provide regular updates and will be partnering with Bolton & Menk to hold an informational community meeting in the Spring!



Real People. Real Solutions.



## CITY HALL BUSINESS HOURS

City Hall is open during the times listed below. Appointments with the City Administrator are preferred.



Appointments regarding cemetery matters or economic development are requested.

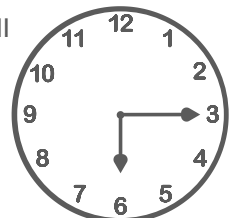
Please submit an appointment request to [info@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:info@vanmeteria.gov).

Monday - Thursday 8:00am - 5:00pm  
Friday 8:00am - 1:00pm

## CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP START TIME CHANGE

Please note that there has been a change to the start time of City Council Workshops. Workshops will now start at 6:15pm instead of 6:00pm.

Workshops are held at the Van Meter United Methodist Church, located at 100 Hazel Street, Van Meter, IA in the meeting area behind the sanctuary.



# JANUARY

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday



**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**



Winter Reading Bingo January 6th-February 3rd New Year's Scavenger Hunt--All Month Long		1 CLOSED	2	3 	4
5	6 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Hot Cocoa	7 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10AM	8	9 Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM	11 
12	13 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Snowglobes Pokemon Card Swap 4PM	14	15 	16 University Kids Outreach 9:30AM	18 Pinterest It! Snowman 11-1PM
19 	20 CLOSED	21 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Snowflakes Stories, Songs & Snacks 10AM Books & Banter 7PM	22	23 Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM Books & Banter 7PM	24 Kids Care Outreach 8:30AM Inspired Kids Outreach 9:15AM
26	27 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Stick Snowmen	28	29	30	31 

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.

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

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 January 21st and 23rd at 7PM. Registration is required and limited to 20 participants.

Pinterest It! Snowman--Make a snowman with us on January 18th! We have 24 slots available! Please register to attend on our website! Appropriate for grades 2 and up!

New Year's Scavenger Hunt--complete the new scavenger hunt for the month of January. A small prize will be given for completed scavenger hunt cards.

Winter Reading Bingo--Play Winter Reading Bingo with us! There will be separate cards for Adults/Teens and Children. A Bingo will equal one entry; a Blackout will equal two entries. Prizes will include gift cards and other fun items! Winter Reading Bingo will run from January 6th until February 3rd!

## New Year! New Logos!



# Snow Reminders



**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.

**FUTURE HOME OF THE**  
VAN METER Public Library  
601 MAIN STREET, VAN METER, IA 50261

**INVISION**  
PLANNING | ARCHITECTURE | INTERIORS

As planning activities begin on the City's Municipal Building Project to remodel and add to 601 Main Street for the new home of the Van Meter Public Library, Van Meter Police Department and Van Meter Fire Department, we are looking for 12-15 community members who would like to join the Community Member Task Force. Invision anticipates meeting with this group early on to hear what their vision is for the project and then again at the mid-point for a project update. If interested, please complete the Contact Us form located at [www.vanmeteria.gov/contact-us/](http://www.vanmeteria.gov/contact-us/). There will also be larger scale Community Engagement & Educational events throughout the Spring and Summer of 2025.



**VMCDC**  
VAN METER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Van Meter Community Development Corporation would like to remind the citizens of Van Meter of the annual flag fundraiser! All funds raised will go towards building trails, increasing connectivity around town, downtown revitalization, and to benefit local organizations such as

Van Meter Future Farmers of America, Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts and 4-H. Volunteers will install, remove, and store the flags. During times when a flag is not displayed, a durable yard insert will be placed in your yard that will be hidden from view to keep the spot marked.

VMCDC is a non-profit 501(c)3 and the annual fee of \$50 (includes 5 holidays) qualifies as a tax-exempt donation. Visit [www.vanmeterlife.com](http://www.vanmeterlife.com) or email [vanmeterflag@gmail.com](mailto:vanmeterflag@gmail.com) for more information.

Holidays include: Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Veteran's Day

## Van Meter American Legion Auxiliary - January Events

Community Meal BINGO

Thursday, January 16, 2025  
Serving Begins at 5:30  
Meatloaf & Cheesy Potatoes  
Suggested Donation  
\$10.00/plate

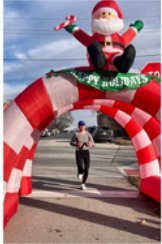


Saturday, January 18, 2025  
Dinner at 5:30 - Soups  
Suggested Donation \$8  
BINGO at 7:00  
JACKPOT: \$500

*You Paved the Way*

**2024 UGLY SWEATER  
5K FUN RUN**

*Thank you for participating in Van Meters 2024 Ugly Sweater Run!! We had amazing weather this year and raised \$933 with 33 registered runners!*



We have two goals with this run. 1. Create a fun activity that all members of our community can participate in and enjoy. 2. Raise funds to help build sidewalks and trails for our community. We are making great progress towards building a new trail system! The City of Van Meter has received grants from the Iowa DOT and the Dallas County Foundation. These grants will fund the design, engineering and construction of the first phase of our trail, stretching from F90 down to the school along the west side of R16. Thank you again to our Beverage Sponsors- Sara Heeley and Hayley Carlson local Re/Max Precision Realtors, route director Nick Harrison, and our amazing volunteers! Share your race experience and suggestions on our [Park2Park Facebook page](#) or email us at [vmcd1877@gmail.com](mailto:vmcd1877@gmail.com). Your feedback helps us make the next run even better! Until next year, keep those holiday sweaters tacky and those legs ready for the summer Park2Park Foam & Bubble 5k during Raccoon River Days! To learn more about this run and more about what is happening in Van Meter go to [www.vanmeterlife.com](http://www.vanmeterlife.com).

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! The Van Meter community once again exceeded our expectations for Kids Shopping Day. Your donations for the kids to purchase were incredible. They were in awe with all the choices when shopping. The volunteerism of the school kids to help "elf" with a child and wrap the gifts was the most we have ever had. Over 300 adults & kids attended our special event.

Because of your generosity, over \$5,700 was used to purchase gift cards for local families in need. This set a new record of funds raised in one day. These gifts assisted many: families with school kids, families with younger children, and Senior citizens who could use some extra support during this holiday season.

Your generosity goes beyond the Van Meter city limits. The items donated for purchase that did not get purchased during Kids Shopping Day were then distributed to Stuart, Linden, and other communities for their community shopping days for their youth.

Thank you all for your support to help those in need. May you have a blessed holiday season.

Van Meter Baptist and United Methodist Churches



**VM 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*

**VM 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](mailto: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](http://www.vmbulldogs.com).

520 1st Avenue  
Van Meter, IA

[kris.koster@vmbulldogs.com](mailto:kris.koster@vmbulldogs.com)

[www.vmbulldogs.com](http://www.vmbulldogs.com)

# Online Bill Pay Update

There is an issue with the “Pay Online” button on the City website sending & receiving information from the City’s billing software. That online portal was the City’s original online portal and was set to be disabled at the end of the year which would have provided ample opportunity to transition the handful of current users from that portal to Front Desk. However, it appears that timeline is being pushed up due to the error. City Staff apologizes for any inconvenience this caused. The information on this page details the steps needed to create a Public User account in the new portal. Please contact [info@vanmeteria.gov](mailto: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.**