

July 2025



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

Master Parks & Trails Update

The City of Van Meter is developing a Parks System Plan to guide future planning and improvements to the parks and trails system. The City of Van Meter has partnered with Bolton & Menk to assist in the process. Over the course of the next few months, we'll be developing a parks master plan document for the community.

A parks master plan is a policy document that helps guide future decision-making for a community's network of parks, trails, and open spaces. It includes recommendations based on public engagement findings and a needs assessment process and aims to identify and align resources to effectively plan and make improvements over the next 10 years.

Online Survey

We need your input! Click the [link](#) or QR code below to complete a survey on the Van Meter park system. Your input will be utilized to guide the future of the Van Meter parks, trails, open spaces, and amenities.

The City has received a substantial amount of grant funding for the first phase of the Master Trails Plan. A variety of activities have taken place over the last year including an environmental impact study, endangered species study and archeological study. The current schedule calls for a bid opening in October. Check out the project update page on the City's website for more information!



MEETING SCHEDULE

July 14, 2025 - Regular Council Meeting 7pm

- Public Hearing regarding a potential General Obligation Bond to fund the Municipal Building Project
- Public Hearing regarding Collection of Solid Waste Rates
- Consideration of a Proposal for updates to the City's Welcome Sign
- Consideration of a Proposal for updates to City Hall

July 28, 2025 - Workshop 6:15pm

- Succession Planning - Staff & Elected Officials

JULY 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

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Summer Reading May 31st--July 26th		1	2	3 	4 CLOSED	5 Saturday StoryTime 10:30AM
6 	7	8 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10:00AM Puzzle Competition 6PM	9 Library Board Meeting 6PM	10 Clay Creations 10AM	11 Blank Park Zoo 10AM	12 Art in the Park 10AM <small>An Afternoon with Linda McCann 1PM</small>
13	14 Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM City Council 7PM	15 Dallas County Conservation 1PM	16 	17	18 Mural Painting with Doug 10AM	19
20	21 Minecraft Slime 1PM	22 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10:00AM	23	24 Candle Making 6PM	25 Brenton Arboretum 2PM	26 Art in the Park 10AM
27	28	29 Books & Banter 7PM	30 	31	Summer Scavenger Hunt Month of July	

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

Saturday StoryTime--Join us for Saturday StoryTime with Ms. J!

Stories, Songs & Snacks--Get ready for storytime with Ms. J! Suitable for children ages 0-7.

Puzzle Competition (Adults Only)--Calling all adult puzzlers for the VMPL Color Our World puzzle competition! Five teams of four will see how quickly they can complete this 500 piece puzzle! Prizes will be awarded for fastest team, most creative, best teamwork, best comeback, and most entertaining. This event is for adults only!

Clay Creations--Use your imagination and art skills to create something magical out of clay! We have 25 slots available for this program and registration is required! Program is suitable for all ages!

Zoo to You--Blank Park Zoo--Blank Park Zoo is bringing the Zoo to You Program to VMPL! Get ready to learn all about your favorite animals!

An Afternoon with Linda McCann--Join us on July 12th for an afternoon with Linda McCann, a local Iowa historian. She will be discussing her book Prohibition in Eastern Iowa. Registration for this event is required.

Art in the Park--Join the Van Meter Public Library & the Parks and Rec Board for Art in the Park this summer! On July 12th we will be making kites; on July 26th we will make water pets. Registration is required and is limited to 20 participants. Art in the Park will take place at Johnson Park.

Dallas County Conservation--Join Ms. Bearica for stories and fun while learning about Iowa animals!

Books & Banter--Library Grown-Ups! Join us at The Law Shop in Van Meter for food, drinks, and book discussion! Registration is required and will open one month prior to the date. If you have questions, please reach out to us at the library.

Mural Painting with Doug--Doug Applegate is a talented artist who creates murals; artwork that is painted on walls. Join us as he talks about his creative process, then help him paint a mural for the library! Registration is required for this event and is limited to 20 participants. Suitable for ages 6+.

Minecraft Slime--Join Ms. J on July 21st and make Minecraft Slime! There are 24 slots available and registration is required! Suitable for ages 6+!

Candle Making (Adults Only)--Make candles with us on July 24th! This ADULTS ONLY program is limited to 16 participants and registration is required!

Brenton Arboretum--Join us on July 25th and listen to Ms. Penny from the Brenton Arboretum talk and read stories about nature! Please register to attend!

Summer Scavenger Hunt--Complete the new scavenger hunt for the month of July! A small prize will be given for completed scavenger hunt cards.

Summer Park & Rec Sponsored Events

ART IN THE PARK @ JOHNSON PARK - A COLLABORATION WITH VAN METER PUBLIC LIBRARY @ 10:00AM

Saturday 🎨 July 12, 2025 🎨 July 26, 2025 🎨

Concert on the Corner @ Memorial Park - 5:00pm

Sunday 🎵 July 20, 2025 🎵 August 17, 2025 🎵

Yoga in the Park - Saturday Mornings @ 8:30am - Legion Shelter

🌸 July 12 🌸 July 19 🌸 July 26 🌸 August 9 🌸 August 23 🌸

Save
the
date

Save
the
date

Save
the
date

Please keep in mind that it is fireworks season. The City of Van Meter follows the Iowa State law regarding the times, dates and locations fireworks can be discharged. We require that anyone under 18 years of age be supervised by an adult. The general rules are as follows:

General dates and hours: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. from June 1 to July 8 and from Dec. 10 through Jan. 3

Special July 4th hours: 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on July 4th and the preceding and post Saturday and Sunday

Private Property: You're only authorized to shoot fireworks on your property or on the property of someone who says it's okay to shoot on their land.

Please contact Dallas County Dispatch if you have an issue at 515-993-4567. Please keep in mind that if the fireworks are being properly used between the dates and times listed, the Van Meter Police Department can not take action on them being used.

2025 City/School Election - Tuesday, November 4, 2025

There will be 3 City Council seats on the upcoming City/School Election ballot. Each vacancy will be for a 4 year term. If you are interested in running for City Council, please see the information listed below or contact City Hall at 515-996-2644 or info@vanmeteria.gov.

✓ The candidate filing period begins Monday, August 25, 2025, and ends Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 5 pm.

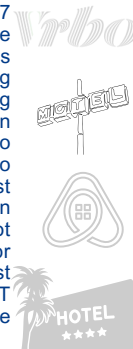
✓ The signature minimum requirements for this election: 10 for City Council ---- 29 for School Board

✓ The Dallas County Auditor's office will serve as the filing officer for receiving nomination papers for elective city offices in the upcoming City Election. Please advise candidate's to submit paperwork to the Dallas County Auditor's office located at 210 N 10th St, Adel IA 50003

There will be 3 School Board seats on the upcoming City/School Election ballot. Each vacancy will be for a 4 year term. If you are interested in running for School Board, please see the information listed above or contact the School at 515-996-2221 or shonna.trudo@ymbulldogs.com.

What is a Hotel/Motel Tax?

A city may impose a hotel/motel tax at a rate not to exceed 7 percent after a successful election of a simple majority vote within the city. The hotel/motel tax is imposed on the gross receipts from rented sleeping rooms, apartments or sleeping quarters in any hotel, motel, inn, public lodging house, rooming house, tourist court, bed-and-breakfast, short-term rental or in any place where sleeping accommodations are furnished to transient guests. The actual amount collected is distributed to the city monthly by the Iowa Department of Revenue & at least 50% of the revenue must be utilized for Parks & Recreation improvements, programming, etc. While Van Meter does not have any hotels or motels nor are there any future plans for either, there have been a handful of short-term rentals that exist within city limits. The proposed hotel/motel tax DOES NOT impact property tax rates and will NOT impact tax rates for the residents of Van Meter.



UTILITY RATE CHANGES

WATER

Effective July 1, the residential (inside the City of Van Meter) water rate will increase to \$28.44 for the first 2,000 gallons used per month and \$6.48 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons. The non-resident (outside the City of Van Meter) water rate will increase to \$94.94 for the first 2,000 gallons used per month and \$21.66 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons.

SEWER

Effective July 1, the residential (inside the City of Van Meter) sewer rate will increase to \$28.12 for the first 2,000 gallons used per month and \$8.26 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons. The non-resident (outside the City of Van Meter) sewer rate will increase to \$89.55 for the first 2,000 gallons used per month and \$26.31 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons.

THE RATE INCREASES WILL NOT REFLECT ON YOUR BILL UNTIL AUGUST 2025.

2024 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR VAN METER MUNICIPAL WATER WORK

This report contains important information regarding the water quality in our water system. The source of our water is groundwater. Our water quality testing shows the following results:

CONTAMINANT	MCL - (MCLG)	Compliance		Date	Violation	Source
		Type	Value & (Range)			
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) [TTHM]	80 (N/A)	LRAA	7.00	09/30/2024	No	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Lead (ppb)	AL=15 (0)	90th	ND	2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3 (1.3)	90th	0.31 (0.05 - 0.47)	2023	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
950 - DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM						
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4.0 (MRDLG=4.0)	RAA	2.1 (1.11 - 2.10)	09/30/2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	4 (4)	RAA	0.66 (0.0-2.0)	2/2024	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

02 - WELLS #2 ('68) AND #3('04) AFTER TRTMNT						
Barium (ppm)	2 (2)	SGL	0.15	07/18/2023	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	N/A (N/A)	SGL	20	07/18/2023	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	10 (10)	SGL	1.7735	2024	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Note: Contaminants with dates indicate results from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

DEFINITIONS

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) -- The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- ppb -- parts per billion.
- ppm -- parts per million.
- pCi/L -- picocuries per liter
- N/A -- Not applicable
- ND -- Not detected
- RAA -- Running Annual Average
- Treatment Technique (TT) -- A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) -- The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- SGL -- Single Sample Result
- RTCR -- Revised Total Coliform Rule
- NTU -- Nephelometric Turbidity Units

GENERAL INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water posed a health risk. More information about contaminants or potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. VAN METER MUNICIPAL WATER WORKS is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

This water supply obtains its water from the sand and gravel of the Alluvial aquifer. The Alluvial aquifer was determined to be highly susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials provide little protection from contamination at the land surface. The Alluvial wells will be highly susceptible to surface contaminants such as leaking underground storage tanks, contaminant spills, and excess fertilizer application. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is available from the Water Operator at 515-996-2644.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding this information or how you can get involved in decisions regarding the water system, please contact VAN METER MUNICIPAL WATER WORKS at 515-996-2644 opt 4.

Decisions are made at the city council meetings held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Van Meter United Methodist Church located at 100 Hazel Street, Van Meter, IA 50261 and are open to the public.

SAVE THE DATE

FAN FEST 2025 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025

ALL proceeds raised through this event will support Van Meter Student Athletes! We also love new members in the Van Meter Athletic Booster Club! Become a member by visiting this link:
<https://vmbulldogs.revtrak.net/athletic-boosters/#/list>

VAN METER SCHOOL

- 4:30pm - High School Football Scrimmage
- 5:00pm - Introduction of Cross Country Team
- 5:00pm - High School Volleyball Scrimmage
- 6:15pm - Parade of Athletes (grades 7-12)

VAN METER BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS

- 6:00-10:00pm - Fan Fest
- 6:00-9:00pm - Silent Auction
- 6:30pm-9:30pm - Food Trucks
- 6:00pm-10:00pm - DJ Select Entertainment



July 2025

Van Meter
tradition with a vision

2025 VIC OLSON MEMORIAL
GOLF
Tournament

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 3, 2025**
8:00am Shotgun Start

\$100 Hole Sponsorship
\$80 Entry Fee Per Golfer

2 PERSON SCRAMBLE
18 HOLES
GOLF CART INCLUDED

AWARDS, PRIZES & STEAK
DINNER TO FOLLOW AT
THE VAN METER LEGION

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:
Van Meter American Legion Post 403

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Travis Brott (515) 208-4321
travis.brott@gmail.com
Nick Olson (515) 371-9137
nolson84@gmail.com

GOLF: RIVER VALLEY GOLF COURSE
22927 Valley View Trail, Adel, IA 50003

AWARDS, PRIZES & STEAK DINNER:
AMERICAN LEGION POST 403
910 Main Street, Van Meter, IA 50261



**SUMMER
CONCERT
FEST**
POST 403 - VRC

Where: Van Meter American Legion
Post 403 Lounge & Patio
910 Main St, Van Meter, IA 50261

What: Live Music, Food (Burgers, Hot
Dogs, Sides) & Drinks (Bar will be open)

When: Food & Bar - 5:30pm
Live Music - 7:00pm

Who: Friday, July 11 - Corey Jamison
Friday, July 18 - Exit 113
Friday, July 25 - Liv McNair

BINGO
Saturday

July 19, 2025

Dinner at 5:30

Sub Sandwiches

& Chips

BINGO at 7:00

JACKPOT

\$300

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**



A huge *thankyou* to all who sponsored, volunteered, attended and were a part of Raccoon River Days 2025. A record number of attendees participated in the event, held in a new location at the Van Meter Rec Complex! Our Grand Marshal, Rick Roberts, lead the incredible parade. The 1st Annual Kickball Tournament was a success! The ever popular Bags Tournament had the most teams ever to participate! Chicken Poop Bingo was a hit! The live music was great! The Kids Activities including inflatables & A BUCKING BULL were a huge hit! The Community Meal was a success! Of course, the fireworks were incredible!



This day happens only with the volunteers who put in the time and talent to make it a success. We are always looking for more help - many hands make light work. Please complete the survey by scanning the QR code or clicking [HERE!](#)

Sheila M. Nauman CPA, LLC
Certified Public Accountant



Microsoft

Van Meter
tradition with a vision

WE WHITFIELD
& EDDY LAW

EBANK
EARLHAM SAVINGS BANK



DORRIAN
HEATING & COOLING

BERNHARDT & SMITH
ORTHODONTICS



**BOLTON
& MENK**

Real People. Real Solutions.

THE LAW SHOP
BY SKOGGSON MCGINN LLC

FAREWAY
MEAT & GROCERY

Fleet Farm

Casey's



Waldron
FAMILY

Van Meter
Veterinary Clinic



By Ro
BALINTECVM

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**



VMCDC
VAN METER COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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.

If you previously had online access or you would like to set up online access, the steps below detail how to create a user account in the new portal. Account holders are NOT required to set up online access. 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.

Log In: FrontDesk

Email Address
Enter Your Email

Password
Enter Password

☐ Remember Me [Forgot Password?](#)

Login

Don't have an account? Create Now

Account Status Account Info Fresh Sign-up

Are you already receiving utility bills from us?
☒ Yes ☐ No

Enter your Account Number from your most recent Utility Bill
Account Number Re-type Account Number

Current Physical Address where Service is located
Address 1

ⓘ Have more than one utility account with us? That's ok. You can add the rest of them after signing up for your FrontDesk Account.

Next

Account Status Account Info Fresh Sign-up

Account Type
Citizen

Name
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Email
Email Address Confirm Email Address Cell Phone Number

Password
Password Confirm Password

☐ By clicking here, you acknowledge you will be receiving electronic bills with your FrontDesk account. By default, you will no longer receive paper bills from the Vincent Clortho Public Utilities. You may opt in to receiving paper bills in addition to electronic bills by updating your Notification Preferences on the My Account tab.

ⓘ Click "Create Account" to finish this step.

Create Account

FrontDesk Confirm Email [View](#)

frontdesk-1630@frontdeskworks.com
to: me

Hi

You're almost there! To complete your gtiworks FrontDesk account verification, please confirm your email by pressing the button below.

[Verify Email Address](#)

If you did not create an account using this address, please ignore this email.

Best Regards,
gtiworks Product Team

If you are experiencing problems with the button, please copy and paste this link into your browser
https://vanmeteria.frontdeskworks.com/confirm_email.html?token=259003bacc1a1e7c5d8b1c7b464dc0c0461v04ut

HO gtiworks