



July 2023 Newsletter

News from the Mayor's Desk

Greetings from the Mayor's Desk. I hope everyone is having a great summer so far.

I want to start off by saying that it has been an honor to serve our great community and its citizens for the last almost 18 years, 6 years on City Council and almost 12 as your Mayor. I think our community is well positioned for future growth as the metro communities continue to creep closer. We have a great staff and we are in a good fiscal position to hopefully start addressing some of our needs.

With that being said, I wanted to let everyone know that I have decided to not seek re-election this fall when my term is up. I think the City is in a good position, so it seems like the right time to step aside.

If you have often thought about wanting to help lead our community and would be interested in running for Mayor, but have some questions, please let me know. I would be happy to answer them for you. There are also a couple of City Council seats that will be up. If you have an interest in either, you can contact City Hall to get more information or you can also go to the Secretary of State website.

Again, it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the Citizens of Van Meter.

Respectfully,
Allan Adams, Mayor

News from City Hall

City Boards - Applicants Needed

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

<https://vanmeteria.gov/Applications.aspx>

Current Vacancies: *Residency Required for all open seats*

Board of Adjustment (5 Year Term)- 3 vacancies

Library Board (6 year term) - 2 vacancies

EFFECTIVE JUNE 13, 2023 - SUMMER HOURS

City Hall has adjusted their hours for the Summer. Please note that appointments are available by request on Friday afternoons by calling 515-996-2644 (option # 1) or emailing info@vanmeteria.gov.

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



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The City recently contracted with Iowa Code Enforcement to perform the duties of Code Enforcement Office for the City of Van Meter. Cities must manage nuisance properties in their community. Nuisance properties are unappealing, can be hazardous to others, cause surrounding property valuations to decline, and create a poor image of the community.

Iowa Code has several sections that describe a nuisance and the actions a city can take to remove the problem. The City of Van Meter Code of Ordinances provides more detail about what is considered a nuisance.

The code can be found on our website www.vanmeteria.gov or by scanning the QR code above.

The code enforcement officer will inspect and take pictures of properties in violation of the city code through pro-active inspections and follow-up with local complaints. Citizens can find a [Complaint Form](#) on the website if they wish to notify us of a potential violation.

Iowa Code Enforcement will notify property owners of violations and provide information on the abatement process. Property owners will have 30 days to comply after the first notice and 15 days on a second notice. The third and “Final Notice” will be sent out via the city attorney.

The notice from the attorney is a civil citation, which is also filed in court. The civil citation can request a civil penalty not to exceed \$750 for the first violation and up to \$1,000 for succeeding violations. If the owner fails to correct the nuisances as ordered by the court, the court can hold the owner in contempt of court, impose a civil penalty, authorize the city to abate the nuisance and order that the city’s costs for abatement be assessed against the property or imposed as a personal judgment against the owner.

Please be a good neighbor and community member by complying with city code.

News from Public Works

Utility Rate Changes

WATER

Effective July 1, the residential (inside the City of Van Meter) water rate will increase to \$25.80 for the first 2,000 gallons used per month and \$5.88 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons. The non-resident (outside the City of Van Meter) water rate will increase to \$82.20 for the first 2,000 gallons used per month and \$18.75 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 \$25.51 for the first 2,000 gallons used per month and \$7.49 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons. The non-resident (outside the City of Van Meter) sewer rate will increase to \$77.53 for the first 2,000 gallons used per month and \$22.78 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons.

The rate increases will not reflect on your bill until August 2023.



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2022 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR VAN METER MUNICIPAL WATER WORKS

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	11.00	09/30/2022	No	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Lead (ppb)	AL=15 (0)	90th	0.00 (ND - 7)	2020	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3 (1.3)	90th	0.35 (0.04 - 0.38)	2020	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	1.0 (0.1 - 1.77)	12/31/2022	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	4 (4)	RAA	0.61 (0.6080 - 0.8435)	12/20/2022	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						
Sodium (ppm)	N/A (N/A)	SGL	23	08/19/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	10 (10)	SGL	1.2880	2022	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

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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 WORK 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 by calling 515-996-2644 option 4.

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 WORK at 515-996-2644 option 4.

Decisions are made at the city council meetings held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Veterans Reception Center, 910 Main St, Van Meter, IA 50261 and are open to the public.

News from the Veteran's Reception Center

POST 403
VIC OLSON
MEMORIAL
GOLF
TOURNAMENT

2023

ENTRY FEE
\$80/
PERSON

SUNDAY
AUG
06



2 PERSON SCRAMBLE
18 HOLES OF GOLF PLUS CART
STEAK DINNER & AWARDS AT THE LEGION
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LEGION

CONTACT: TRAVIS BROTT (515) 208-4321 NIC OLSON (515) 371-9137	LOCATION: RIVER VALLEY GOLF COURSE TIME: 8:00 SHOTGUN	REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY JULY 28, 2023	DINNER & AWARDS LOCATION: AMERICAN LEGION POST 403
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Through this effort, we will be working to fill (virtually) one trailer load of sponsored veterans' wreaths to send to Arlington National Cemetery this December. On December 16, 2023 at 12:00 pm, Iowa Motor Truck Association will be helping Wreaths Across America to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying veterans' wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring a wreath(s), volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you. Thank you so much for supporting the Iowa Motor Truck Association and Wreaths Across America!

<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/175302>

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Enjoy **DINNER** and **BINGO** at the Van Meter Veteran's Reception Center!

WHEN:

July 15, 2023

Dinner

Serving Starts at 5:30pm - Free Will Donation
Chili Dogs or Maid Rites and Chips

BINGO

Starts at 7:00pm - Cost \$1.00 per card
10 Regular Games PLUS Progressive Blackout - Jackpot **\$900**



News from the Library

The Summer Reading Program is in full swing at VMPL! We have had over 150 kiddos sign up to participate with us; reading, logging minutes, and scoring some fantastic prizes! There is still time to sign up. Simply navigate over to the Van Meter Public Library home page and click on the button labeled "Beanstack". You will be able to log minutes through 29 July. Also, make sure you are stopping by for our weekly Summer Reading activities, and pick up your prizes while you create! We also have a Summer Reading Bingo card available for kiddos! Ask for one at the circulation desk! Prizes are available for a BINGO and then a BLACKOUT! We hope to see you at the library very soon!



A Big, Big *Thank You* to the Raccoon River Days Sponsors!



Thank you all so much for your support and attendance to the Raccoon River Days 2023!! It was a huge success, and that couldn't happen without all of you. Our sponsors listed below provided the support to allow for many of the functions to be free of charge - please visit and support them as you can. From the bounce houses to bingo, to the parade and bags tournament, there was so much going on to make everyone's weekend fun. Thanks to DJ Tim Cox on Friday night and Final Mix on Saturday night we were dancing the night away. And food - the great hot dog meal on Friday night with the yummy desserts provided by the local churches, the awesome pancake breakfast Saturday morning, the variety of food trucks Saturday night and the infamous pie auction, no one should have gone away hungry.

We once again want to thank our sponsors to help make this event a success, and for your participation throughout the weekend. To see the many, many photos taken during the weekend, please visit the Raccoon River Days section of the Van Meter Community Development Corporation website: <https://vanmeterlife.com/>

If you would like to volunteer or share suggestions for next year, please use the Facebook page to communicate. <https://www.facebook.com/VMRaccoonRiverDays/>

Congratulations to the 2023 Little Miss & Mister Van Meter!
Calynn Phelps & Jasper Denman





Agreement for Pre-Authorized Payments

To sign up for AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL, please complete the form below and mail or bring to City Hall along with a VOIDED CHECK from your financial institution.

I (we) hereby authorize the CITY OF VAN METER to initiate debit entries to my (our) checking account indicated below and the depository named below, hereinafter called DEPOSITORY, to debit the same to such

Depository Name _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Transit ABA Number _____ **Account Number** _____

(Transit ABA Number is the first 9 digits from the left of the bottom of your check.)

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until the City of Van Meter and Depository have received written notification from me (either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford the City of Van Meter and Depository a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

I (we) hereby authorize the CITY OF VAN METER to provide billing statements electronically via email.

Preferred Email _____

Name(s) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

****** You will receive your water bill on or near the first of the month. If you choose autopay, the amount due will be deducted from the above assigned account on the 15th of each month. ******