

June 2025

# Van Meter

tradition with a vision

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



## Letter from the Mayor's Desk



I want to take this opportunity to share some exciting updates on important projects underway in Van Meter. These efforts reflect our continued commitment to improving infrastructure and the quality of life in our community.

### Cemetery Road Improvements:

Work is completed on the Cemetery Road improvement project. These enhancements will provide safer, smoother access and reflect the respect we have for this vital part of our community.

### Water Main Replacement – Phase One:

We've launched Phase One of our water main replacement project. This is a critical step in strengthening our city's infrastructure, ensuring long-term reliability and water quality for our residents.

### Arlington Avenue Street and Storm Sewer Project:

The full street replacement on Arlington Avenue is now underway, including the addition of a much-needed storm sewer system. This project will significantly improve drainage and road conditions in the area.

### New Municipal Building Design:

Design is actively progressing on our new municipal building, which will house the Van Meter Public Library, Police Department, and Fire Station. This central facility will not only improve services but also serve as a cornerstone for our growing community. I invite you to learn more about this exciting project by visiting with us at the Invision Architect tent at Raccoon River Days. We value your input and look forward to hearing your feedback and suggestions.

### Water Treatment Plant Design:

Design work also continues on our future water treatment plant. This project is vital to securing high-quality water for generations to come.

Serving as your Mayor has been an incredible experience. I am proud of the progress we are making and remain focused on enhancing the quality of life for all who call Van Meter home.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Joe Herman*

## 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

### DEPUTY 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

June 9, 2025

Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm

Van Meter United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall

- Third Reading of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 92 Water Rates of the Code of Ordinances
- Third Reading of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99 Sewer Service Charges of the Code of Ordinances
- Second Reading of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 106 Collection of Solid Waste of the Code of Ordinances
- Public Hearing - FY25 Budget Amendment #2

June 23, 2025

Workshop Council Meeting 5:30PM

Van Meter Community School

Tentatively Scheduled in the East Dining Hall

- Planning & Zoning Workshop presented by Iowa State Extension

## JUNE GARBAGE & RECYCLING SCHEDULE



Garbage & Recycling



Garbage Only



Garbage & Recycling



Garbage Only



Garbage & Recycling

## Arlington Ave Construction

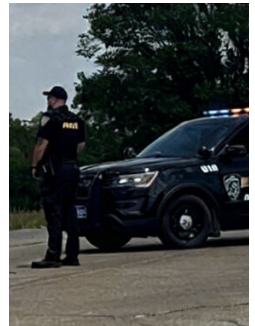
Construction started in May 2025. It is estimated to be completed in late Summer of 2025. The end goal is the improvement of Arlington Ave through resurfacing of the street, replacement of curbs and gutters, installation of stormwater, and replacement of intakes. This project was funded through revenue generated by the State of Iowa's Road Use Tax fund as allocated to the City of Van Meter and the Series 2021 bond proceeds. Arlington Ave is currently closed with limited availability to sidewalks as well.

## Water Main Replacement Phase 1

Phase one of the water main project began in April of 2025. The estimated completion date is in Fall of 2025. This project includes installation of over three thousand (3,000) linear feet of 8-inch water main along Van Buren Drive, Hazel Street, De Soto Road, Feller Curve and a small portion of Arlington Avenue. This project is funded by Series 2021 bond proceeds. The installation includes directional boring and open cut, hydrants, valves, water service line transfers, surface restoration, seeding, removal of existing hydrants, abandonment of existing water main, surface, restoration, seeding and miscellaneous associated work, including cleanup. There are no planned complete road closures at this time. The plans include temporary closures of one lane of traffic at a time.

## Employee Spotlight

Police Officer Andrew Cooper has been proudly serving our community since March of 2023. He is dedicated to protecting and serving our small town. You may have also noticed Officer Cooper driving around in a new police vehicle. It was time for an upgrade, with the old Ford Explorer being retired to the Van Meter Fire Department for use as an EMS Response Vehicle, and the Police Department was very excited about the opportunity to acquire a 2024 F-150 for the Department! Officer Cooper spends a lot of his time on duty patrolling, but he also is responsible for much more including paperwork & report writing, following up with court hearings, and more. He dedicates a lot of his time to serving the City, including sacrificing many weekends, holidays, and his nights to patrol our town and keep us safe. In addition to his work for the Police Department, he is also a member of the Van Meter Volunteer Fire Department. He was also the mastermind behind bringing National Night Out to Van Meter. Be sure to keep an eye out for this year's event on Tuesday, August 5, 2025. Thank you Officer Cooper for all that you do for our City and all that you contribute to the police department! We truly appreciate you and all that you do.



## Summer Park & Rec Sponsored Events

Save  
the  
date

**ART IN THE PARK @ JOHNSON PARK - A COLLABORATION WITH VAN METER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Saturday 🎨 June 14, 2025 🎨 June 28, 2025 🎨 July 12, 2025 🎨 July 26, 2025

Save  
the  
date

**Concert on the Corner @ Memorial Park**

Sunday 🎵 June 22, 2025 🎵 July 20, 2025 🎵 August 17, 2025

Save  
the  
date

**Yoga in the Park - Saturday Mornings**

June 7 🌸 June 14 🌸 June 28 🌸 July 12 🌸 July 19 🌸 July 26 🌸 August 9 🌸 August 23





Mark your calendars! Summer officially begins on June 21st.

## THANK YOU!

To the Parks and Rec Board for all of their hard work preparing for the annual plant sale! It was another successful year. They volunteered a lot of their time to ensure the annual plant sale ran smoothly.

## Questions, comments, concerns?



The City of Van Meter's website allows citizens to submit inquiries through the 'Contact Us' tab and complaints through the 'Complaints' tab. For any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out!

[Complaints](#)

## Street Use and Maintenance Reminders

[Chapter 135 - Street Use & Maintenance](#) of the Van Meter Code of Ordinances determines street use and maintenance.

The following are reminders from this code:

- It is unlawful to throw or deposit any glass, nails, tacks, trash, leaves, grass or anything else that may be washed into the storm sewer or injure another person, animal, or vehicle.
- It is unlawful to drive on any street or alley that is temporarily closed or barricaded.
- Burning on a street, in the city right-of-way, or in the alley is prohibited.
- Property owners are responsible for maintaining the city right-of-way abutting their property.



Visit [vanmeterlife.com](http://vanmeterlife.com) for more details and to register for events.

### Friday, June 6th

**6:00 PM - Little Mr. & Miss Contest:** Memorial Park. Free for ages 4-6 (Van Meter School/area). Western theme! Registration starts at 5:30 PM.

### Saturday, June 7th

**8:00 AM: Park2Park 5k & 1M Foam Fun Run:** Registration starts at 7:00 AM, Rec Complex. Medals for all, prizes for top finishers!

**10:30 AM: Water Parade:** Starts at Methodist Church to the Fire Dept.

**11:30 AM: Community Lunch (Van Meter FD):** Rec Complex. Hot Dogs, chips, cookies, water. Free will donation.

**11:30 AM: Kickball Tournament:** Little League Fields. Teams of 10, all ages. \$20/team (due June 4th).

**2:00 PM: Bags Tournament:** Soccer Complex. 2-person teams, double elimination. \$20/team, bring bags/boards. Payout for top 3.

**4:00 PM: Carnival:** Soccer Complex. Free games, dunk tank, spin art & more!

**Smoked Pork, Beans & Mac Contest:** Drop-off between 3:30 - 4:30 PM, Soccer Complex tent. Winners announced during Dessert Auction.

**5:30 PM: Community Dinner:** Soccer Complex. Pulled pork, beans, mac & cheese

**7:00 PM: Live Music (Anthony Koester Band):** Soccer Complex. Country, rock, pop & more

**8:00 PM: Dessert Auction:** Soccer Complex. Bring desserts to the Fire Station (2-3 PM). Judging 6 PM.

**10:00 PM: Fireworks:** Soccer Complex.

### Sunday, June 8th

**10:30 AM: Community Worship Service:** Legion Shelter (Coffee/Donuts 10:00 AM)

Questions: Email us at [vmcd1877@gmail.com](mailto:vmcd1877@gmail.com)

## Solicitor and Peddler's Permits

Reminder - any solicitors or peddlers are required to have an approved permit issued by the City of Van Meter before going door-to-door within city limits. You are allowed to ask them to show their permit or call City Hall to check if there is an issued permit.

## Weeds and Brush

Dense growth of all weeds, vines, brush or other vegetation in the City can constitute a health, safety, or fire hazard. Unless a variance is allowed by resolution of the Council pursuant to Section 53.06, weeds, brush, or other uncultivated plants, except trees, shall be cut, mowed, and maintained so as to not exceed the heights set forth specifically in this chapter. Once the vegetation has reached the height of 10 inches to 24 inches, the City will arrange to mow the property at the property owner's expense. Property used and taxed as agricultural is exempt from this chapter's height and mowing requirements.

[City of Van Meter Code of Ordinances - Chapter 53 - Weeds and Brush](#)



June		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>Library Hours</b> 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  <b>VMPL Amazon Wish List</b> 		1	2 Mini-Comics with Collier 1PM	3	4	5	6	7 Saturday Storytime 12:30PM Book Sale 10-3PM
		8	9 City Council 7PM	10 Color Mixing: Choosing a Book by It's Color 6PM	11 Library Board 6PM	12 Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM	13	14 Art in the Park 10AM
		15	16 StoryTime @ Brenton Arboretum 10AM	17 Darrin Crow Storyteller 10AM	18	19 Mixology Class @ 5th Quarter 6PM	20 Do Art Comic Workshop 10AM	21
		22	23	24 Diamond Painting 1PM Maggie Rivers 6PM	Kate's Kookies 12-6PM Books & Banter 7PM	25	26 Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM	27
		29	30	Summer Reading May 31st--July 26th Tiny Art Show June 23rd--July 7th Summer Scavenger Hunt--Month of June				

**Mini-Comics with Collier**--Do you love comics? Do you love to draw? Join us on June 2nd to make mini-comics with Collier! Collier is an artist and special effects wizard who is currently working on a story about the Van Meter Visitor! Registration is required for this event and we have 20 slots available! Program is suitable for grades 1st and up. Sign up ASAP to reserve your spot!

**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.

**Book Sale**--Join us for our annual Raccoon River Days Book Sale! Stop by between 10-3PM and find something great to take home with you! All money received will go back into the library!

**Coloring Mixing: Choosing a Book by It's Color (Adults Only)**--Have you ever judged a book by its cover? What about by its COLOR? This program will help you discover your next great read through color mixing! Registration is required for this event! We have 20 slots available and is suitable for adult readers.

**Art in the Park**--Join the Van Meter Public Library & the Parks and Rec Board for Art in the Park this summer! On June 14<sup>th</sup> we will focus on sand art; on June 28<sup>th</sup> we will be working on pinwheels. Registration is required and is limited to 24 participants. Art in the Park will take place at Johnson Park.

**StoryTime @ Brenton Arboretum**--Join us for a special storytime with Ms. J at the Brenton Arboretum!

**Darrin Crow Storyteller**--Darrin Crow is a storyteller from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Storytelling has been a part of his life for as long as he can remember. Join Darrin as he spins his tales for you on June 17th! Suitable for all ages!

**Mixology Class @ 5th Quarter (Adults Only)**--Reading a great book calls for a really great cocktail! Thankfully, the mixologists at 5th Quarter can assist with that! Join us for a mixology demonstration and learn how to make your own libations at home. This event is for adults 21 and over, and registration is required!

**Do Art Comic Workshop**--Learn all about comic art from Jerry and Chet from Do Art Productions! Help them create a new comic from information learned throughout the program! Registration is required for this event! 25 slots are available and is suitable for kids in 1st grade and up!

**Kate's Kookies**--Stop by and grab some fresh baked cookies between 12 and 6PM! It's the perfect snack to go with reading a book!

**An Evening with Maggie Rivers: How to Write a Romance Novel (Adults Only)**--Come spend some time with "That Crazy Author - Maggie Rivers!" Hear how she began writing, how she got published, and how you can, too! Learn the writer's "secret" to getting your book published. She will share her vast writing know-how with you, and you get all your writing and publishing questions answered, too! Registration is required for this event and is limited to adults only.

**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.

**Tiny Art Show**--Our Annual Tiny Art Show is back! Grab your canvas from Ms. J or Ms. Joan and show off your art skills! Completed art projects must be turned in by June 21st to be a part of the show!

**Diamond Painting**--Join Aileen from Unwind Designs to create art with diamonds! Aileen will walk all participants through the process, and everyone will go home with unique works of art! Registration is required for this event! 25 slots are available; suitable for grades 1st and up!

**Color Our World Scavenger Hunt**--Can you find all of the paint splatter numbers scattered around town? Write down the correct number next to each business. Return completed scavenger hunt cards to the library and receive a small prize! The scavenger hunt will run through the month of June!



## June Events

June 2: Mini-Comics - 1pm

June 7: RRD & Book Sale  
10am-3pm

June 10: Adult Program

Color Mixing- Choosing a book by its color - 6pm

June 14: Art in the Park - 10am

June 16: Storytime @ Brenton Arboretum - 10am

June 17: Darrin Crow Storyteller - 10am

June 19: Adult Program - Mixology Class - 6pm

June 20: Do Art Comic Workshop - 10am

June 23-28: Tiny Art Show

June 24: Diamond Painting - 1pm

June 28: Art in the Park - 10am

## July Events

July 8: Adult Program - Puzzle

Competition - 6pm

July 10: Clay Creations - 10am

July 11: Zoo to You Program - 10am

July 12: Art in the Park - 10am

July 15: Dallas County Conservation - 1pm

July 18: Mural Painting - 10am

July 21: Minecraft Slime - 1pm

July 24: Adult Program- Candle Making - 6pm

July 25: Brenton Arboretum - 2pm

July 26: Art in the Park - 10am

## Summer Reading



Registration for Summer Reading began on May 16<sup>th</sup>! Program is 8 weeks, from May 31st-July 26th. Multiple prizes are available to win, determined by how many minutes are spent reading.



June 2025

**SUMMER BIBLE SERIES:**

**"Half Truths"**

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS Grades 6-9  
**Wednesdays, June 4 - July 23**

Van Meter United Methodist Church  
100 Hazel Street



- Bible Study
- Prayer
- Games
- Hands-On Science

**SIGN YOUR STUDENT UP!**  
Email: [childrensministries@vmumc.com](mailto:childrensministries@vmumc.com)

**SIGN UP FOR VBS**

Vacation Bible School

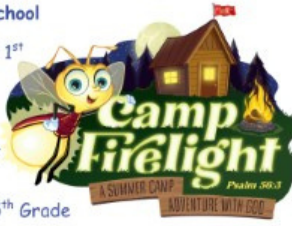
July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 1<sup>st</sup>

6:15pm - 8:30pm

Van Meter  
United Methodist  
Church

For children TK-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Sign up at [vmumc.com](http://vmumc.com)



**Van Meter Wrestling Camp**

Location: Van Meter High School - North Gym  
520 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Van Meter, IA 50261

Open to boys & girls from all communities

Dates: June 24-25, 2025

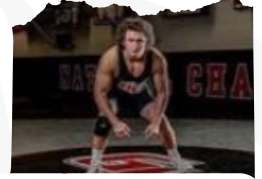
Cost: \$60 (covers both days)

Beginners (Less than 3 years of experience): 10:00am-12:00pm

Advanced Wrestlers: 1:00pm-3:00pm

**Special Guest Clinician: Isaiah Luellen**

- 2024 NAIA All-American
- 5x NAIA All-American
- Career Record: 109 Wins
- Wrestled for Grand View



University, a 12-time NAIA  
National Champion Program

Register here:

[Youth Wrestling Camp - REGISTER HERE](#)

Don't miss the opportunity to  
train with one of the nation's  
top collegiate wrestlers!



**Adel Masonic  
Lodge #80**

**First Annual Brothers and  
Bobbies Fishing Event**

**When:** June 7th, 2025

**Where:** Van Meter School Pond

**Time:** 9:00am-11:00am

Open to all children ages 9 to 13

Limited spots available

To register, email Brandon Carter at

[BrandonLCarter81@gmail.com](mailto:BrandonLCarter81@gmail.com)

**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](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> 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@vmbulldogs.com](mailto:shonna.trudo@vmbulldogs.com).

**BALLOT**

☐ Your Name HERE

☒ Your Name HERE

☐ Your Name HERE

☐ Your Name HERE

**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  
[travisbrott@gmail.com](mailto:travisbrott@gmail.com)  
Nick Olson (515) 371-9137  
[nolson84@gmail.com](mailto: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



**VM 5K FOAM  
FUN  
WALK/RUN**



07:00-07:35am	Participant Registration and Bib collection
07:35-07:45am	Opening Remarks
07:45-07:55am	Warm up Stretch With Dillion Burns
08:00-08:05am	5k Runners to Start
08:10-08:15am	1 Mile Runners Start
09:15-10:00 am	Cool down stretch
10:00-10:15am	Group Photo Session

June 7th, 2025

800 Debra Drive, VM Recplex

For More Information:  
<https://5kevents.raceentry.com/park2park-5k-fun-run/race-information>



**AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AUXILIARY**

**BINGO**

Saturday, June 21, 2025

Dinner at 5:30  
Nachos  
Suggested Donation \$8  
BINGO at 7:00  
JACKPOT: \$900

**HAPPY** *June 15th,*  
**Father's  
DAY**

**#1 DAD**

## 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](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.**

#### Log In: FrontDesk

Email Address

Password

☐ Remember Me [Forgot Password?](#)

**Login**

Don't have an account? [Create Now](#)

Account Status | Account Info | **Finish 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 | **Finish Sign-up**

Account Type  
Citizen

Name  
First Name  Middle Name  Last Name

Email  
Email Address  Confirm Email Address

Phone  
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

frontdesk-1630@frontdeskworks.com  
to me

Hi

You're almost there! To complete your gWorks 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,  
gWorks 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=205000MocvissLEmGSc8BktmbdIQdvUcOABLvuGut>

(c) gWorks