

## Local Business Features

**We are excited to feature our three day care centers in Van Meter. We are lucky to have such great child care opportunities in Van Meter!**

### How long have you been in Van Meter?

**Inspired Kids:** We proudly opened on March 20, 2023.

**Kids Care:** We have been open for over 20 years.

**University Kids:** University Kids was established in 2017. We have proudly served Van Meter for 7 years.

### What services do you provide?

**Inspired Kids:** We proudly provide specialized childcare and preschool services for infants through 5-years-old. In addition to providing before and after school care for school-aged children, we offer a comprehensive full-time summer camp program designed specifically for this age group.

**Kids Care:** Kids Care is a not-for-profit DHS licensed childcare center for elementary age students. It is an outreach ministry of the Van Meter United Methodist Church to Van Meter and surrounding communities.

**University Kids:** We provide a safe, high quality, educational childcare center for the children in Van Meter and surrounding communities. University Kids will provide a cognitively based program that encourages creative and independent thinkers. We are dedicated to seeing all children thrive academically and socially. Our philosophy for the children here at University Kids is to learn life skills through their play. We work through the child's play to help scaffold their learning.

### What is the best way for people to reach you?

**Inspired Kids:** For more details, kindly visit our website at [www.inspiredkidsacademy.com](http://www.inspiredkidsacademy.com) or reach out to us at (515) 336-5152.

**Kids Care:** Email: [KidsCare@vmumc.com](mailto:KidsCare@vmumc.com)

**University Kids:** by phone (515-996-9141), email ([directoruniversitykids@gmail.com](mailto:directoruniversitykids@gmail.com)), or via Facebook

### What you are looking forward to the most as the weather warms up?

**Inspired Kids:** We eagerly await the warmer weather, where we can play outside every day!

**Kids Care:** Getting dirty outside and field trips!!

**University Kids:** We really look forward to getting the littles outside once it warms up. We are also happy to be starting summer camps here for the first time this summer. We can't wait for all the fun in the sun.



## 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 CITY CLERK

vacant

### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Drew McCombs

### PUBLIC WORKS

Shane Luvaas

### PUBLIC WORKS

Bob Riederer

### LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Jonatha Basye

### LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Spencer Gardner

### PARKS & REC COORDINATOR

Tyler Beving

### POLICE CHIEF

Mike Brown

### FIRE CHIEF

Mark Schmitt

### DALLAS COUNTY DISPATCH

515-993-4567

### EMERGENCY

911

## NEWS FROM CITY HALL

At the February 12, 2024 regular City Council Meeting, City Staff discussed increased administrative costs regarding the processing of utility bills. The City pays over \$1000 a month in fixed administrative costs relating to utility billing, postage, electronic payment processing fees and bank fees. The City Council approved the addition of a \$1.00 administrative fee to be added to each active utility account. Currently the City has just over 600 active utility accounts. Please note that this fee is in place to offset the administrative costs out of the City's general fund. This fee is not related to any funds regarding Capital Improvements or water & sewer infrastructure improvements.

### COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION

The City Council is no longer meeting at the Veterans Reception Center.



The City Council now meets at the United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall located at 100 S. Hazel Street, Van Meter, IA 50261.

Meeting agendas and minutes can be found at <https://vanmeteria.gov/AgendasandMinutes.aspx>

### MEETING SCHEDULE

#### March 11, 2024 - Regular Council Meeting 7pm

- Public Hearing on amending the Van Meter Urban Revitalization Plan

#### March 25, 2024 - Council Workshop 6pm

- Capital Improvement Plan Overview
- Budget Discussions

#### April 1, 2024 - Proposed FY25 Property Tax Levy Hearing 6pm

## NEWS FROM PUBLIC WORKS

### MARCH RECYCLING SCHEDULE



Bulk Water is back and new & improved! A BIG Thank You to Public Works for installing the new Bulk Water System. The project was completed on February 14, 2024.

Bulk water is available at the cost of \$0.50 per 100 gallons. Please be sure to use the stop button if needed to prevent standing water at the fill up.

**CASH ONLY**



New & IMPROVED!!



## NEWS FROM PARKS & REC

**SATURDAY  
MAY 11, 2024**

**GARAGE  
Sale**

The Parks and Rec Board is excited to announce that the City Wide Garage Sales are BACK! If you would like to have your garage sale location listed on the City map, the fee is \$5 to be paid at City Hall prior to April 17, 2024. Please send an email to [jdrake@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:jdrake@vanmeteria.gov) with your name, address, description of items & time of sale if you would like to be included on the map.

The map will be available prior to the garage sales at City Hall, Casey's, the Library & included in the May City Newsletter as well as available on the City's website and Facebook pages.

**SUNDAY MARCH 10, 2024**





# MORE FROM PARKS & REC

**Saturday, March 30, 2024**

The Easter Bunny will be dropping off eggs at Johnson Park for an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30, 2024. The hunt will begin at 11:00am.

Bring the family out, there will be lots of eggs and treats. All kids age 10 and under can join in on the hunt.



# NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt--All Month					1 Game On @ VMPL 1:30-3:30PM	2
3	4 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Tissue Flower Open Book with JJ Kapur & Mayra de Catalan 4:00-5:00PM	5	6	7	8 Touch & Feel Texture 2PM	9 Craft & Chat 10AM
10	11 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Shamrock Man	12 Dallas County Conservation StoryTime 10:00AM	13 	14 Stories, Songs & Snacks 2:00pm	15	16
17 	18 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Shamrock Mosaic	19 Books & Banter 7:00-8:00PM	20	21 Books & Banter 7:00-8:00PM	22 Game On @ VMPL 1:30-3:30PM	23 Craft & Chat 10AM
24/31	25 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Easter Egg Wreath	26 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10:00AM	27	28 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10:30AM Chick-Fil-A Food Truck 11-2PM	29 CLOSED	30 



**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**



**Stories, Songs & Snacks**--story time for ages 0-7. We will have two sessions, every other Tuesday at 10:00am and every other Thursday at 10:30am.

**Gettin' Crafty @ 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.

**Craft & Chat**--Adults, do you have a craft you are currently working on? Bring your quilting, crocheting, stitching, etc. to the library, grab a snack/drink, and chat with your friends! We will also have crafts available if you aren't currently working on a project.

**Touch & Feel Texture**--We are partnering with the Dallas County ISU Extension Office to bring you STEAM programming! The program is limited to 12 participants, so please register early to secure your spot! This program is suitable for grades K-5.

**Game On @ VMPL**--Join us on early-out Fridays for Game On @ the library! We will have games, Legos, snacks, etc.! Suitable for grades 2-8! Registration is required!

**Dallas County Conservation StoryTime**--Join Ms. Erica for stories and activities to learn more about animals in Iowa!

**Books & Banter**--Library Grown-Ups, this book club is for you! Join us for food, drinks, and book discussion! We will meet, in person, at Pots and Shots in Waukee on March 19th & 21st at 7PM. Registration is required and limited to 20 participants.

**Open Book with CultureAll & Humanities Iowa**--Join the Van Meter Public Library for storytelling, dialogue, and authentic personal connection. JJ Kapur and Mayra de Catalan, our "books", will be sharing their stories with us. Please register to attend on our website.

**Chick-Fil-A Food Truck**--Chick-Fil-A will be set up in the library parking lot for lunch on March 28th! Grab a meal between 11-2PM!



## COMMUNITY NEWS



For most people, aging brings a new set of challenges. New health problems may affect your ability to live independently, financial challenges make it tougher to maintain your lifestyle and adult children moving to faraway places may make you feel less connected to your home.

For senior citizen moving resources, please visit the senior moving guide located at <https://www.caring.com/caregivers/senior-moving/> provided by Caring.Com.

Caring.com is a leading senior care resource for family caregivers seeking information and support as they care for aging parents, spouses, and other loved ones. They have been featured by AARP, The Administration for Community Living, The National Legal Resource Center, and Forbes, as well as referenced by many governmental agencies and organizations across the Internet.

### AMERICAN LEGION POST 403

**Van Meter Veterans Reception Center**  
**2024 Fish Fry**  
Free Will Donation



**Friday Nights Through Lent**

- Friday, February 16
- Friday, February 23
- Friday, March 1
- Friday, March 8
- Friday, March 15
- Friday, March 22
- Friday, March 29

**5:30pm - 7:30pm**  
Van Meter Legion Post 403  
910 Main Street  
Van Meter, IA 50261  
*Dinner includes:*  
Fish, French Fries, Hush Puppies and Coleslaw  
Drive Thru and Dine In Options




**B N G**



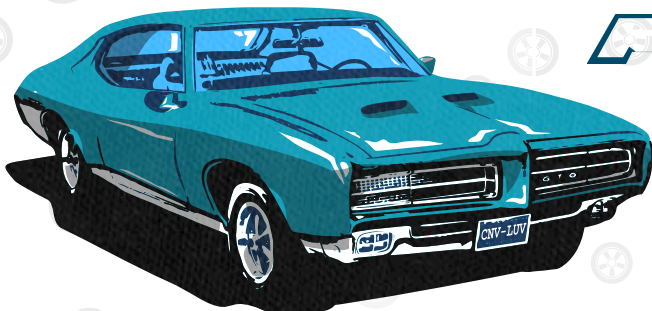
**Saturday, March 16, 2024**

**DINNER**  
SERVING STARTS AT 5:30PM  
FREE WILL DONATION  
DINNER: CORN BEEF HASH OR SHREDDED PORK SANDWICHES

**BINGO**  
STARTS AT 7:00PM  
COST \$1.00 PER CARD  
10 REGULAR GAMES PLUS  
**\$700** PROGRESSIVE BLACKOUT



### VAN METER BAPTIST CHURCH



**Saturday, March 16, 2024**  
**Car Show**  
**Van Meter Baptist Church**  
**309 Main Street**  
**11:00am - 2:00pm**



## NEWS FROM VMCDC



**VMCDC**

VAN METER COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

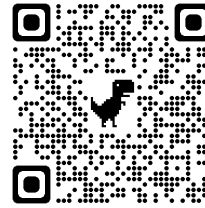
# Van Meter Flag Program

### Flags of Van Meter

After a very successful inaugural year with our new Flag Fundraiser, The Van Meter Community Development Corporation and the Van Meter FFA would like to invite the citizens of Van Meter to participate in our flag fundraiser for 2024! All funds raised will go towards building trails, increasing connectivity around town, downtown revitalization, and to benefit the Van Meter FFA Chapter.

### Program Details:

1. Full Year (5 Flags) for \$50.00
2. 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.
3. Feel confident that your donation is tax-deductible through the Van Meter Community Development Corporation - a non-profit 501(c) 3



### Holidays Included:

1. Memorial Day
2. Flag Day
3. Independence Day
4. Labor Day
5. Veterans Day

Contact [vanmeterflag@gmail.com](mailto:vanmeterflag@gmail.com) for registration details or scan the attached QR Code.

*Pork Smoking Contest is back!  
RRD is back in Downtown VM!!  
New Kids Activities!!!*

**RACCOON RIVER DAYS**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024**

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



### KINDERGARTEN.....HERE I COME!!

Planning for the 2024-25 Kindergarten & Transitional Kindergarten school year has started!!



Please contact Kris Koster at [kris.koster@vmbulldogs.com](mailto:kris.koster@vmbulldogs.com) or (515) 996-2221 for the link to sign your child up for the fall of 2024. You can also find the link at [www.vmbulldogs.com](http://www.vmbulldogs.com) or the Van Meter School Facebook page or the attached QR code.





## AGREEMENT FOR PREAUTHORIZED PAYMENTS

To sign up for AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL, please complete the form below and attach a copy of a **VOIDED CHECK** from your financial institution. Please mail or bring the completed form to City Hall, 310 Mill Street, PO BOX 160, Van Meter, IA 50261.

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

**DEPOSITORY NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP CODE** \_\_\_\_\_

**TRANSIT ABA #** \_\_\_\_\_ **ACCOUNT #** \_\_\_\_\_

*Transit ABA (Routing) Number is the first set of nine (9) numbers from the left 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 (us) of its termination in such time and in such a 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** \_\_\_\_\_

**SERVICE ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME(S) (PRINT)** \_\_\_\_\_

**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.