



## REC COMPLEX located on the north edge of town along the Raccoon River

With spring soccer, baseball, and softball getting ready to start up, this month we are highlighting the Park and Rec's recreation complex. The recreation complex began construction in Fall of 2003 and had a ribbon cutting ceremony in the Summer of 2005. After the ribbon cutting, it was officially open and has been hosting Fall and Spring soccer as well as little league baseball and softball ever since. The Van Meter Soccer program is a part of the ISL Level 3 Central League. The soccer program is for boys and girls ranging from age 4 (U-6) to 16 (U-16) years old. The Little League is part of the South Dallas Little League consisting of teams from: Van Meter, Adel, Panorama, West Central Valley, and Earlham. Little league participation is available to all children who attend school or reside within these boundaries.

### 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

- March 10, 2025**  
Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm  
Van Meter United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
- March 24, 2025**  
Council Workshop 6:15pm  
Van Meter United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall  
• Zoning Review
- March 31, 2025**  
SPECIAL Council Meeting 6:00pm  
Van Meter City Hall  
310 Mill Street, Van Meter, IA 50261  
FY26 Property Tax Levy Public Hearing

### MARCH GARBAGE & RECYCLING SCHEDULE

- MAR 3** Garbage Only
- MAR 10** Garbage & Recycling
- MAR 17** Garbage Only
- MAR 24** Garbage & Recycling
- MAR 31** Garbage Only



FENIX

MARCH 15

# WATER METER UPGRADE

Public Works has been working to replace all water meter end points and water meters if needed with the newest meter technology to increase effectiveness, efficiency and transparency with meter readings. As the City works to implement new city management software, it's even more important that the meter conversion is completed prior to the software conversion. If you receive a notice from Public Works with a request to schedule a meter replacement, PLEASE contact Public Works to schedule the replacement as soon as is convenient. It typically takes less than 15 minutes and is not cost to the homeowner. **PUBLIC WORKS HAS A DEADLINE OF CONVERTING ALL METERS BY MARCH 15, 2025.**

## Employee Spotlight

This month we are featuring our library director, Jonatha Basye, in our employee spotlight! Jonatha had a huge hit with her blind date with a book event for the library's Valentine's day celebration. Jonatha has also been getting more involved with the school to try and interest students in joining one of the Library's book clubs. Jonatha also hosts a monthly book club two nights a week for adults. She puts a lot of thought into the books she chooses and they are usually a huge hit! Jonatha is focused on continuing education regarding her role as a Library Director and just completed Trauma-Informed Library Practices for Administrator's Endorsement. This course was provided by the State Library of Iowa. Jonatha has been working on writing grants for our local library and is working on attending a grant writing workshop to further her grant writing abilities. She is always on the lookout for obtaining library funds in order to keep the current library in the best shape she can. She received two grants late last year for new library furniture. If you haven't seen it yet, make sure to stop by and check out the new furniture! She has been hands on in the planning of the new library at 601 Main St and is very excited for it to open and continue her librarian role there! Way to go Jonatha! Thank you for everything you do for the local library, the community, and the added strengths you bring to our team. We appreciate you!



Junior High Power Rifle Clinic  
March 29 & 30, 2025

Des Moines Rifle & Revolver Club,  
Van Meter, IA

In partnership with the Civilian Marksmanship Program

Safety - Confidence - Self Improvement

Details and Registration at:

<https://forms.gle/he7Mzh6ciQrTh3N37>

### Beginner or Advanced Youth (12+)

- Military Veteran/National Champion Instructors
- Rifles & Ammunition Included
- Safety, Fundamentals, Positions, Wind Reading & More
- Live-fire coaching, practice & fun match with prizes



# March

Sunday    Monday    Tuesday    Wednesday    Thursday    Friday    Saturday

 <p><b>VAN METER Public Library</b></p> <p><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</p> <p><b>VMPL Amazon Wish List</b></p> 	<p><b>St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt--all month long</b></p> <p><b>St. Patrick's Day I Spy--all month long</b></p>						
	2	3 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Lion	4	5 	6 Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM Chick-Fil-A Food Truck 11-2PM	7 Linda McCann 6pm	8 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10:30AM
	9	10 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library St. Patrick's Day Coloring	11 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10am	12 Library Board of Trustees 6pm	13 University Kids Outreach 9:30AM Seeds & Plants 3:30PM	14	15
	16	17 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Clover Man	18	19	20 Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM	21 Inspired Kids Outreach 9:15AM	22
	23/30 	24/31 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Bee Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Lamb	25 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10am	26 	27 Open Book with Kelsey Bigelow & Lee Tesdell 7pm	28 Kids Care Outreach 8:30AM	29 Pots & Plants 10:30AM

**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. Check the calendar for specific dates.

**Linda McCann**--Join us on March 7th for an evening with Linda McCann, author of *Prisoners of War in Iowa* and *Prohibition in Iowa*. She will be discussing her latest book, *Rosie the Riveters of Iowa*. Registration for this event can be found on our website.

**Seeds & Plants**--Join Ms. Tara from Plant Life Designs and Ms. Christie to discuss seeds and plants. Make your own seed bomb to take home with you! Registration for this event can be found on our website.

**Open Book**--Join the Van Meter Public Library for storytelling, dialogue, and authentic personal connection. Kelsey Bigelow and Lee Tesdell, our "books", will be sharing their stories with us. Registration for this even can be found on our website.

**Pots & Plants**--Design and decorate your own planting pot! Use seeds from our seed garden to start your own seedling! Registration for this event can be found on our website!

**St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt**--complete the new scavenger hunt for the month of March. A small prize will be given for completed scavenger hunt cards.

**St. Patrick's Day I Spy**--Test your skills and find all of the St. Patty's Day items on the worksheet!



**Trees in the public right-of-way-** The Van Meter Municipal Code does prohibit planting of trees or any other plant in the public right-of-way because of maintenance issues.



The City Code also has Chapter 150.03 that requires trees be trimmed to at least 15 feet above the surface of the street and 8 feet above the sidewalk. Please check your trees this coming spring to see if any trimming is needed.

**Clocks will "spring" forward an hour on Sunday, March 9th, 2025. Remember to set your clocks accordingly!**



**Day Light Savings Time** is also a good time to check your fire alarm batteries.

Keeping up with this ritual can help save your life, your families' life, beloved pets, and your home.



# Spring CLEANING



Spring is right around the corner! You may be preparing to start on your spring cleaning. You may be focused on inside work or you might be noticing that your yard needs some tending to... broken branches, leftover leaves from the fall, trash, junk that was hidden by snow. Extra garbage tag stickers and bulk waste stickers are available for purchase from City Hall for items that do not fit in your weekly garbage pick up. One extra garbage bag is allowed to be placed on the curb on Mondays and each additional bag may be placed for \$1 per bag. Bulk tag stickers are \$5 and a scheduled pick up time with Waste Connections is required. You must call Waste Connections directly at 844-708-7274 to schedule pick up of old appliances or you may drop off waste items at the South Central Iowa Landfill in Winterset. Metro Waste Authority takes hazardous waste at their drop off site in Bondurant by appointment only.

As a reminder, Chapter 51 of the City's Code of Ordinances defines junk and Chapter 53 provides further details on Weeds and Brush. As Spring Cleaning activities begin, please keep these in mind! All codes are located at [www.vanmeteria.gov](http://www.vanmeteria.gov).



Yard waste pickup occurs each Thursday, starting the first full week in April through the last full week of November. Remember to bundle up your sticks. Yard waste must be placed in compostable brown bags. Sticks must be bundled, up to 4 feet long and no more than 40 lbs. Your bags should be placed on the curb by 6 a.m. on Thursdays to ensure they are picked up.

**Burning**—The City does permit the burning of yard waste within city limits. Please restrict your burning to the backyard. City Code Chapter 135.07 prohibits any person from burning any trash, leaves, rubbish, or other combustible material in any curb and gutter or on any paved or surfaced street or alley.



## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Remember to notify "one call" at 1-800-292-8989 for locates. The Iowa One Call system is a tool designed to help the excavator locate underground facilities (such as power lines, water lines, and gas lines). Stay alert, dig safely, and please—don't forget to make that first call for locates!

If you are digging in the city right of way or culverts, you will also need an approved Right of Way Permit from the City prior to starting work. All permits can be found at [www.vanmeteria.gov](http://www.vanmeteria.gov).



## FAT TUESDAY CELEBRATION!

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 4, 2025 from 5:30pm - 7:00pm

**WHERE:** Van Meter United Methodist Church, 100 Hazel Street, Van Meter

**WHAT:** Come enjoy an incredible meal of pancakes, sausage, bacon & King Cake!! There will be indulgent toppings because Wednesday, March 5th is the 1st Day of Lent! Come join the pancake decorating, eating and the annual pancake flipping contest with the BIG SPATULA!



The Free Will Donation during this event will be used to purchase gift cards for local families in need. If you would like to donate, but are unable to attend, you may use the QR code to **venmo @VMChurch\_Offering**.

We hope you join our Fat Tuesday Celebration and the rest of our Lenten celebrations this Season! More events can be found at: <https://www.vmumc.org/>

March 2025



VMCDC VAN METER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Flag Program

Flags of Van Meter

The Van Meter Community Development Corporation, the Van Meter FFA, and Van Meter Boy Scout Troop 120 would like to invite the citizens of Van Meter to participate in our flag fundraiser for 2025! All funds raised will go towards building trails, increasing connectivity around town, downtown revitalization, and to benefit the Van Meter FFA Chapter. We are actively seeking two more groups to partner/profit share with for this fundraiser. We need help with putting flags up and taking them down each holiday. It takes about two hours to set up and another hour for takedown. Depending on the number of flags we get this next year, and how many volunteers you have, I would estimate your group could probably earn around \$1200+. If you belong to a group that could use some extra funds, please email us at vanmeterflag@gmail.com for more information.

Included Holidays:

- Memorial Day, Labor Day, Flag Day, Veterans Day, Independence Day

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 501(c)3.

Registration:

- 1. Scan the QR code or visit www.vanmeterlife.com to complete the registration & pay online. 2. Complete the registration form & mail payment to VMCDC, PO BOX 155, Van Meter, IA 50261.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Flags at the listed address: \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 per flag # of Community Flags: \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 per flag Community Flag Location Preference: \_\_\_\_\_ on R-16 North of F-90 - FFA \_\_\_\_\_ By the School - Boy Scouts \_\_\_\_\_ on R-16 South of F-90 \_\_\_\_\_ Johnson Park

Tax Season Deadlines for 2025 IRS logo

- January 31- Due date for filing 1099-NEC and Form W-2. March 15 - Due date for filing Form 1120-S (S-Corp) and Form 1065 (Partnership). April 15 - Due date for filing form 1040 (Individual Income Tax). Due date for first-quarter estimated tax payment for 2025. June 16 - Due date for second-quarter estimated tax payment for 2025. September 15 - Due date for third-quarter estimated tax payment for 2025. Extended due date for filing form 1120S and Form 1065. October 15 - Extended due date for filing Form 1040.

MARCH 7, 14, 21, 28 POST 403 FISH FRY Friday Kids Eat Free! Van Meter Post 403 Veterans' Reception Center, 910 Main Street, Van Meter, IA 50261 Dinner Includes: Fish, French Fries, Coleslaw & Hush Puppies Also Available: Macaroni & Cheese and Hot Dogs DRIVE THRU and DINE IN Options ~ Free Will Donation ~ 5:30pm - 7:30pm Questions? Call: 515-996-9166 or Email: vrciowa@gmail.com

## 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.**