

May 2025



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



## VAN METER CEMETERY



The Van Meter Cemetery is located at the end of Richland Circle off of the East side of Richland Road. One of the earliest recorded graves in the Van Meter Cemetery is that of 18 year old Harvey Crowl who passed away of during the Civil War of disease on January 24, 1863. The cemetery holds a rich history of generations of many families in Van Meter. There are still plots available for purchase in the cemetery at the cost of \$500 per plot. One plot will hold 2 cremation urns, 1 cremation urn and 1 casket or 1 casket. City Hall has a map of available plots. The City of Van Meter is in charge of selling plots, marking them for headstone placement, and the opening of the placement hole for cremains. The City of Van Meter does not provide headstones, but does work with monument companies on placement. The City tries their best to make the cemetery a perfect resting spot for your loved ones. Appointments regarding cemetery matters require a meeting with the City Administrator.

Our Public Works Department works hard to keep the cemetery clean and visually appealing year round. The cemetery road recently received a much needed upgrade from gravel to asphalt. The cemetery really is a very tranquil and peaceful source of natural beauty within the City.

## MEETING SCHEDULE

**May 12, 2025**

**Regular Council Meeting 7:00pm**

**Van Meter United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall**

- Second Reading of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 92 Water Rates of the Code of Ordinances
- Second Reading of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 99 Sewer Service Charges of the Code of Ordinances
- First Reading of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 106 Collection of Solid Waste of the Code of Ordinances
- Public Hearing for a Proposed Amendment to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Van Meter – Addition of Chapter 174 Mailboxes

**MEMORIAL DAY**

**MONDAY**

**May 26, 2025**

City Hall, Public Works, and the Library will be closed in observance of the holiday on Monday, May 26, 2025.

There is no Council Workshop in May.

## MAY GARBAGE & RECYCLING SCHEDULE



**Garbage &  
Recycling**



**Garbage  
Only**



**Garbage &  
Recycling**



**\*\*Garbage  
Only**

**\*\*GARBAGE PICK UP  
IS TUESDAY, MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>  
DUE TO MEMORIAL  
DAY.**

## 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

May 2025

## 56th Annual Municipal Clerks Week May 4th-10th, 2025

In honor of the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Municipal Clerks Week, we wanted to thank our City Clerk, Jessica Drake, for all the hard work and time she dedicates to the City. Jess is a Van Meter local, is part of the School Board for the VMCSd, and has been the City Clerk for over two years now. Thank you, Jess, for all you do for the community, the City, and for what you bring to our team. We appreciate all that you do.

## Employee Spotlight

This month our employee spotlight is Joan Von Ruden Kruger. Joan works at the Van Meter Public Library part time. She creates and prepares all of the weekly crafts for the kids (4-5 per month, it's a lot of work!). She handles all circulation duties and manages the library when the Library Director is not there. Joan is very dedicated to helping our local library. Joan's one year anniversary with the library was in April, as well as National Library week occurring, and this May, we wanted to highlight all the work she does and the appreciation we have for her being part of our team. She is amazing with patrons; greets everyone and makes them feel welcome. She completed her General Library Staff Endorsement through the State Library of Iowa. This required over 20 hours of continuing education classes plus live Zoom meetings with State Library staff members. Thank you Joan for the contributions you bring to our team! We appreciate your continued dedication and all the tasks you complete to keep our library running smoothly.



## Spring Park & Rec Sponsored Events

8:00am  
600 Debra Dr  
Public Works Shop  
SATURDAY  
MAY 10, 2025

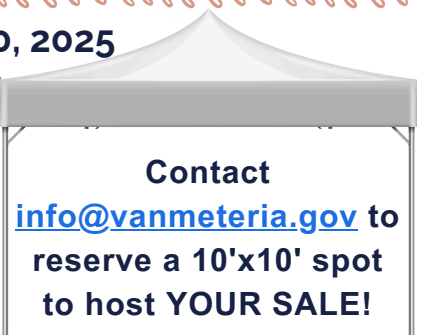


**ANNUAL  
PLANT  
SALE**

**SATURDAY MAY 10, 2025**

**COMMUNITY  
GARAGE  
SALE**

Reserve a spot in the  
parking lot/grass lot of  
**601 Main Street!**  
Open to all!



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

**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)

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
Van Meter Public Library received a grant from the Bock Family Foundation for \$1,500 for Wonderbooks & STEAM Launchpads.  
Van Meter Public Library received a grant from the Dallas County Foundation for \$3,000 for Wonderbooks & STEAM Launchpads.  
VM Parks & Rec received a grant of \$1000 from Trees Please sponsored by MidAmerican Energy!  
DALLAS COUNTY FOUNDATION  
Build a better tomorrow, today.  
VAN METER Parks & Recreation  
MidAmerican ENERGY

**Happy Mother's Day**  
May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Cemetery Rules and Regulations Reminders

Pets, food, and firearms, other than those carried by police officers or used in military honor funeral services, shall be prohibited in the cemetery.

No person shall drive any vehicle within the cemetery except upon the driveways designed for that purpose, and such vehicles shall not be operated in excess of the posted speed limit 10 mph.

It shall be unlawful for any person to desecrate or injure the cemetery, or any lot, grave, gravestone, monument, fence, tree or shrubbery therein.

Grave decorations of all kinds will be removed when in the judgment of maintenance personnel they do not conform to the decorum of the cemetery. Holiday decorations are permitted, but must be removed thirty days after the holiday. Decorations may be removed and disposed of by cemetery personnel.

The planting or placing of shrubbery, plants, flowers, or grass is prohibited as is the placement of trees.

No coping or fence of any kind shall be permitted.

It is prohibited for cremains to be scattered in the cemetery; or buried without the City's permission and notification.

City staff may handle the placement of cremains upon the request of the family at a fee of \$150 and said fee is established by resolution.

Only a contractor approved by the city shall perform the opening and closing at any gravesite.

## Stormwater Maintenance

With Spring in full bloom, we wanted to share some ways we can keep our stormwater cleaner. Using rainscaping such as rain barrels to collect water, rain gardens, improving your yard's soil quality, native landscaping, and more can help improve the water quality of local creeks, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Common problems addressed by rainscaping are patchy & brown grass, drainage issues, local water quality, community flooding and more.

Learn more about rainscaping here:  
<https://raincampaign.org/rainscaping-practices/>

## Irrigation Information

Residential and commercial users are asked to use water wisely, practice responsible outdoor water use and voluntarily set irrigation systems to follow a schedule. This recommended schedule applies to all spray irrigation systems for businesses and homes.

Watering is not recommended on Mondays or during the hottest part of the day between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please irrigate before 10 a.m. and after 5 p.m.

Even numbered addresses are asked to water on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Odd numbered addresses on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

May 2025

May						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ocean I Spy--all month long Shapes Scavenger Hunt--all month long				1	2	3 Saturday StoryTime 10:30AM
4	5 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Guinea Pig	6	7 Preschool Outreach AM & PM	8 University Kids Outreach 9:30AM Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM Chick-Fil-A Food Truck 11-2PM	9	10
11	12 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Door Hanger City Council Meeting 7PM	13 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10:00AM	14 Library Board of Trustees Meeting 6PM	15	16 Kids Care Outreach 8:30AM Inspired Kids Outreach 9:15AM End of Year Scoop & Social May 16th 1-4PM	17
18	19 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Ladybug	20	21	22 Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM	23	24
25	26 CLOSED	27 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Butterfly Stories, Songs & Snacks 10:00AM Books & Banter 7PM	28	29	30	31 Summer Reading Kickoff 10-3PM



**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**



**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.

**Saturday StoryTime**--our Saturday storytime will take place on May 3rd at 10:30AM. Stop by for stories, songs & snacks with Ms. J.

**Chick-Fil-A Food Truck**--Chick-Fil-A will be set up in the library parking lot for lunch on May 8th! Grab a meal between 11-2PM!

**Books & Banter**--Library Grown-Ups, this book club is for you! Join us for food, drinks, and book discussion! We will meet at The Law Shop in Van Meter on May 27th at 7PM. Registration is required and limited to 20 participants.

**End of Year Scoop & Social**--Stop by the library from 1-4PM to check out all of the summer activities that Van Meter has to offer! Oh yeah, and get some ice cream!

**Summer Reading Kick-Off**--Join us on the 31<sup>st</sup> to kick-off Color Our World, Summer Reading 2025! Sign up, grab some Chick-Fil-A, and adults, we didn't forget about you! The Bean coffee trailer will be here to give you a caffeine boost!

**Ocean I Spy**--See if you can find all of the items in this month's I Spy challenge!

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



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

May 2025

**Van Meter**  
tradition with a vision



VMPUBLIC LIBRARY  
505 GRANT ST

Totally Rolled Ice Cream Truck will be serving \$7 cups. Stop by to see what's happening in the community with groups from VMEPC, VM 5K Park2Park Foam Run/Walk, and the VM Public Library. All students in Grades K-5 can pick up ONE coupon from the group to receive a free cup. Come find out things your community has going on this summer.



## 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>



## RACCOON RIVER DAYS

Hello Van Meter! Now that spring break is done, we wanted to let everyone know that planning for Raccoon River Days is underway! Please mark your calendars for Friday June 6th & Saturday June 7th for this year's celebration!

We are always looking for community input and if you could help out for an hour or two during the day on Saturday that would be a huge help to us and make the event more enjoyable for everyone. For questions or comments please reach out to us at [vmcd1877@gmail.com](mailto:vmcd1877@gmail.com).

Join us for the parade, family fun events, meat smoking competition, live music, fireworks and more!

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# Van Meter VMEF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



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All donations are tax-deductible

<https://vmbulldogs.revtrak.net/vmef-donations/>

SUPPORTING STUDENTS, TEACHERS, & VAN METER SCHOOLS SINCE 1994



You will receive a piece of paper, but it means so much more than that. We hope you are proud of your accomplishments because we are proud of you for accomplishing them!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Travis Brott (515) 208-4321

[travis.brott@gmail.com](mailto:travis.brott@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



## Adel Masonic Lodge #80 First Annual Brothers and Bobbys 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)



American Legion Auxiliary Unit #403 invites you to a light brunch on Monday, May 26, 2025 at the Veterans Reception Center (910 Main St. Van Meter, Iowa) immediately following the service at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery at 8:00A.M.



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