

VOTE ✓ **NEWS FROM CITY HALL** **VOTE** ✓
CITY ELECTIONS

The regular city/school election will be held on November 7, 2023. The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is October 23, 2023. The absentee in-person deadline is November 6, 2023. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

Meet the Candidates for the City of Van Meter!

JOE HERMAN POSITION: MAYOR



My wife Leslie and I grew up in Van Meter. We moved to Beaverville in 1991 and moved back to Van Meter when our oldest started kindergarten in 2005. We have three beautiful children; Julia, Maya and Jameson. I have been an active volunteer in the community and have served on city council for 6 years. I have worked as a Commercial general contractor field superintendent for 24 years. My work has given me a knowledge of infrastructure and the ability to identify a need, assess solutions and get projects completed.

My goals as Mayor will be developing a master trail system, improving parks, and revitalizing our old water mains and streets. I will focus on commercial growth to provide a strong tax base for our award winning school. I hope to bring my work knowledge and passion for the community to the position of Mayor.

JESSE ADAMS POSITION: CITY COUNCIL (4 YEAR TERM)

My name is Jesse Adams. Little bit about myself. I have lived in Van Meter for over 15 years and currently have 2 kids in the Van Meter school. I would like to get a couple of commercial business and clean up downtown. As a town we are growing and need to look at the future for our community. I would appreciate your vote. GO DAWGS!



JOEL AKERS POSITION: CITY COUNCIL (4 YEAR TERM)



Our family of four moved to Van Meter in the fall of 2014 and like everyone else we know, we love our life here. I have spent the majority of my life being active working in clubs and organizations, volunteering my time. Volunteering is something that I genuinely enjoy. I joined Van Meter Community Development in 2017 and since then, I've had numerous opportunities to interact with the city on some projects our group was working on.

When a council position opened mid-term last Fall, I applied and was appointed until this next election cycle. I am a big believer in transparency and want to hear the pro's and con's from all viewpoints prior to making any decisions. If elected to City Council for the next four years I will do my best to make myself available to everyone and will listen to your thoughts and take all input into consideration when making my votes on council.

I have a Facebook page that I created for the sole purpose of opening communication to the public and as a way to increase transparency. Please follow my page at @Joel Akers - Van Meter City Council. I have enjoyed serving the last 9 months, and would love the opportunity to serve our community for the next 4 years.

Elected Officials:

MAYOR

Allan Adams

MAYOR PRO TEM

Joe Herman

COUNCILMAN

Joel Akers

COUNCILMAN

Travis Brott

COUNCILMAN

Blake Grolmus

COUNCILMAN

Lyn Lyon

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 Cross

PARKS & REC COORDINATOR

Tyler Beving

POLICE CHIEF

Mike Brown

FIRE CHIEF

Mark Schmitt

DALLAS COUNTY DISPATCH

515-993-4567

EMERGENCY

911

TRAVIS BROTT POSITION: CITY COUNCIL (4 YEAR TERM)

Being born and raised in Van Meter, I take an immense amount of pride in not only being from Van Meter, but being an active member of the Community. I initially ran for Council as I wanted to give back to my hometown in a positive manner. Van Meter has turned into a destination location, due to our Award Winning School District and proximity to the Metro. Maintaining the city’s “old school” integrity, in a rapidly changing environment with the aforementioned proximity to the Metro, has been challenging, yet rewarding to see.



With your support, I would love to keep being an asset to the Community, in a City Council capacity. We have many great and exciting things in the works, and I hope that I can continue to see them through in the next 4 years.

QUIN PELZ POSITION: CITY COUNCIL (2 YEAR TERM TO FILL A VACANCY)



My name is Quin Pelz, and my fiancé Elise as well as our dog Alvin have lived in Van Meter together for a year and a half. While Elise and Alvin are new to Van Meter, I am not, I have worked at Van Meter Schools for 9 years and am currently in my 3rd year as the Dean of Students for the elementary. I am also proud to say that I grew up in Van Meter, and moved back to be closer to family. I would love the opportunity to serve on the city council because I truly believe in being a voice for the community, and want to help make a positive impact on the community in any way I can. It seems as if people have been saying "Van Meter is about to grow like crazy" for the last 10+ years, but I truly do believe we are on the cusp of that, and I want to see the community flourish with growth, both residential and commercial. Thank you for the support.



On August 2, 2023, the Van Meter City Council approved the language for 2 questions to be added to the City/School Election Ballot regarding the Van Meter Public Library. The Library Board of Trustees has asked that the public consider approving a proposal to change the term length for the trustees from 6 years to 4 years and to allow the composition of the Board change from 4 resident members and 1 non-resident member to a minimum of 3 residents and up to 2 non-resident members so long as they live within the Van Meter Community School District boundary.

The following 2 questions will be included on the ballot for the City/School Election on November 7, 2023.

SHALL THE CITY OF VAN METER ADOPT A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE TERMS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD’S MEMBERS TO BE A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM?

SHALL THE CITY OF VAN METER ADOPT A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE COMPOSITION OF THE LIBRARY BOARD WHEREIN THERE SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF THREE RESIDENT MEMBERS OF THE CITY AND UP TO TWO NON-RESIDENTS SO LONG AS THEY RESIDE WITHIN THE VAN METER COMMUNITY SCHOOL?

OCTOBER RECYCLING SCHEDULE



NEWS FROM PUBLIC WORKS **FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING**

WEEK OF OCTOBER 23-27

To provide better quality water to residents, the City of Van Meter Public Works will be conducting fire hydrant flushing to clean out the water mains & improve water quality. This process removes mineral and sediment build up from within the water mains. Flushing is performed in the middle of the night so that any discoloration of water should be clear by morning. If you do experience water discoloration, run your cold water faucets for a few minutes.



METER READING

Please be aware that Public Works has continued to run into a variety of issues during meter reading. Water meter reading occurs between the 21st & 25th of each month. Common issues include:

- Yard growth prohibiting access to exterior meters
- Dogs inhibiting the ability to access the meter
- Meters housed in locked areas, unable to gain entry
- Exterior irrigation meters not accessible



Please make an effort to ensure that all meters are accessible by Public Works.

If you have an exterior irrigation meter, please make sure to bring your meter indoors during the winter months.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Hello Friends! Happy Fall! We have so many exciting things happening at the Library this month! Stories, Songs & Snacks will be offered on the following dates: October 3, 17, & 31. Storytime will be extra special on 10/3 and 10/31, so be sure to stop by at 10am or 4pm. We encourage Storytime attendees to wear their Halloween costumes on 10/31!

We piloted a program called Relax & Read last month on early out Fridays. Reading for 6 minutes a day can reduce stress & we want to promote this in our young readers. Students can stop by the Library, grab a timer, read for 6 minutes and enjoy a snack! Read & Relax dates for October: 10/6, 10/13 & 10/27

We also have a special Stuffy Sleepover happening in October! Drop off your favorite stuffy on 10/27 so they can have a fun-filled evening at the Library! Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page that evening for updates on the sleepover! You know never know what kind of mischief those stuffies will get into! You can pick your stuffy up anytime after 10am on Saturday morning, October 28.

And, as always, Gettin' Crafty at the Library will debut five new crafts in October! Lots of Fall themed favorites, so make sure to stop by! A new craft will rotate in every Monday!

Thank you for your continued support of our Library! We are proud to serve the Van Meter community!



COMMUNITY NEWS

AMERICAN LEGION - POST 403

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

ENJOY **DINNER AND BINGO** AT THE VAN METER VETERAN'S RECEPTION CENTER!

DINNER

SERVING STARTS AT 5:30PM - FREE WILL DONATION

DINNER: NACHOS

BINGO

STARTS AT 7:00PM - COST \$1.00 PER CARD

10 REGULAR GAMES PLUS \$300 PROGRESSIVE BLACKOUT



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

SERVING STARTS AT 5:30PM

FREE WILL DONATION

CAVATELLI, GARLIC BREAD & SALAD



VAN METER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (VMDCC)

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS THAT HELPED WITH
THE COMMUNITY FLAG PROGRAM!



Keep your eye out for registration information for 2024!

HALLOWEEN IN VAN METER

**JOIN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR TRUNK OR TREAT
WHEN: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023 FROM 6:00PM - 8:00PM**

The Van Meter United Methodist Church (100 Hazel St.) is hosting our annual Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 29rd, from 6-8pm. This is **NOT** the same evening as Beggar's Night, giving kids another chance to dress up and makes some new friends. Wear your favorite costume. We'll have donuts, apple cider, popcorn, games, music, crafts, bounce houses(!), and trick-or-treating from trunks. It's fun, it's free, and it's family-friendly. All are welcome.



CITY OF VAN METER TRICK OR TREAT

WHEN: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023 FROM 6:00PM - 8:00PM



JOIN PARKS & REC FOR HALLOWEEN

WHEN: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023 FROM 6:00PM - 8:00PM

WHERE: MEMORIAL PARK (INTERSECTION OF GRANT & WEST STREETS)



**STOP BY THE VAN METER PUBLIC LIBRARY DURING STORYTIME IN
YOUR COSTUMES!!**

WHEN: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023 AT 10:00AM OR 4:00PM

WHERE: VAN METER PUBLIC LIBRARY, 505 GRANT STREET



**TRICK
OR
TREAT**



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



PLANNING FOR THE Future of Our School Facilities

On **Tuesday, November 7, 2023**, Van Meter Community School District residents will vote on a bond issue. If the measure receives at least 60% approval, the district will move ahead with two significant additions:

ADDITION #1

Addition #1 would focus on the elementary building and include:

- New classrooms
- Secure entrance suite
- New multipurpose performance space to serve district-wide needs
- New secondary science lab
- Increased restrooms & improved concessions at the stadium
- Increased parking
- Renovations to the existing building to increase secondary classrooms, seating in the cafeteria spaces, and fitness & weight room space



This first addition will be two stories between the elementary side of the building and the 1927 building. It will add both elementary and secondary classrooms, including for multipurpose performing arts, band, music, art, and science. There will also be enough elementary classrooms for up to five sections per grade level.

ADDITION #2

Addition #2 would focus on providing a new secure entrance for middle school and high school students.



Along with the additions, an approved bond would allow for renovations to the current building, including a dining space expansion and the conversion of classrooms to meet 21st century learning needs.

The district would also make site improvements to increase parking and improve vehicular and pedestrian flow.



PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

If voters approve the bond, property taxpayers will **not** see an increase in the district's tax rate. The district is committed to keeping the overall tax rate at the current rate of \$16.10 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation... or less when possible.

TARGET PROJECTS:

- New elementary classrooms
- New secure entrances
- Multipurpose performance space
- New secondary science lab
- Key renovations & expansions



BOND VOTE

Tuesday, November 7, 2023



Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting vanmeterbond.org

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.