

September 2025



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

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.

- ✓ 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 10th 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@ymbulldogs.com.

What is a Hotel/Motel Tax?

A city may impose a hotel/motel tax at a rate not to exceed 7 percent after a successful election of a simple majority vote within the city. The hotel/motel tax is imposed on the gross receipts from rented sleeping rooms, apartments or sleeping quarters in any hotel, motel, inn, public lodging house, rooming house, tourist court, bed-and-breakfast, short-term rental or in any place where sleeping accommodations are furnished to transient guests. The actual amount collected is distributed to the city monthly by the Iowa Department of Revenue & at least 50% of the revenue must be utilized for Parks & Recreation improvements, programming, etc. While Van Meter does not have any hotels or motels nor are there any future plans for either, there have been a handful of short-term rentals that exist within city limits. The proposed hotel/motel tax DOES NOT impact property tax rates and will NOT impact tax rates for the residents of Van Meter.

MEETING SCHEDULE

- September 8, 2025 - City Council Meeting 7pm**
 - Public Hearing - Addition of a PI District
- September 22, 2025 - Workshop 6:15pm**
 - Master Parks Plan Update

SEPT RECYCLING SCHEDULE



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

Travis Cooke

ADMINISTRATIVE 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
(non emergency) 515-993-4567

EMERGENCY

911



September



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Library Hours Monday 10:00am - 5:00pm Tuesday 10:00am - 7:00pm Wednesday 10:00am - 5:00pm Thursday 10:00am - 7:00pm Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm Saturday 8:00am - 1:00pm</p> <p>VMPL Amazon Wish List</p> 		1 CLOSED	2 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10AM Gettin' Crafty @ the Library School Bus	3	4 	5	6 Saturday Storytime 10:30AM
	7 	8 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Watermelon City Council Meeting 7PM	9 Squeegee Art 4PM	10 Library Board of Trustees Meeting 6PM	11 University Kids Outreach 9:30AM Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM	12 Kids Care Outreach 8:30AM Inspired Kids Outreach 9:45AM	13
	14	15 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Bird	16 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10AM	17	18 Lava Lamp in a Bottle 4PM	19	20 
	21	22 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Crab City Council Workshop 6:45PM	23 Open Book 6PM Books & Banter 7PM	24 	25 Stories, Songs & Snacks 12:30PM	26	27
	28 	29 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library Cat Card	30 Stories, Songs & Snacks 10AM	Library Card Sign Up Month Back to School Scavenger Hunt			

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.

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 – Saturday Storytime will take place on the 1st Saturday of the month. Stop by for stories, songs & snacks with Ms. J.

Squeegee Art – Use your artistic talents to create Squeegee Art! There are 24 slots available! Registration required!

Bottled Lava Lamp – Did you know you can make your own lava lamp with some water, food coloring, and a fizzing tablet? Ms. J will show you how to make your own lamp and then talk about liquid density and chemical reactions.

Open Book with Lee Tesdell & Kelsey Bigelow – 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 event can be found on our website.

Books & Banter – Library Grown-Ups, this book club is for you! Join us for food, drinks, and book discussion! We will meet at the library on September 23rd at 7PM. Registration can be found on our website!

Back to School Scavenger Hunt – There are Bulldog Paw Prints hidden all around the town! Can you find them all? Bring completed scavenger hunt sheets to the library and pick a prize!



City of Van Meter Trick or Treat
Thursday, October 30th, 2025
6:00PM - 8:00PM

Check back next month for details on more Halloween activities.

Trick
or
Treat





News from the Library

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month!

Please fill out the Van Meter Public Library Card Application below and return it to the Van Meter Public Library to get your very own library card if you do not already have one. We hope to receive your application and meet you at the library.

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

- **MONDAY** 10-5 PM
- **TUESDAY** 10-7 PM
- **WEDNESDAY** 10-5 PM
- **THURSDAY** 10-7 PM
- **FRIDAY** 10-5 PM
- **SATURDAY** 8-1 PM
- **SUNDAY** CLOSED

EFFECTIVE SEPT. 2ND



Van Meter Public Library Card Application

Please Print

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Preferred method of contact: Email ☐ Text Message ☐ Phone Call ☐

Would you like to receive emails with library news and events? Yes ☐ No ☐

I agree to be responsible for all materials checked out on this account, pay all fines and fees, follow all library policies, report loss or theft of card, and report any changes to my information promptly. I understand the library interprets possession of card as consent to use it unless it has been reported lost or stolen.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name of parent/Legal Guardian (if applicable) _____

LIBRARY USE ONLY

Barcode _____

Issued _____ Issuer _____ VM Resident _____ Rural Dallas _____ Other _____



***Please also bring a form of ID and something with your current mailing address on it**

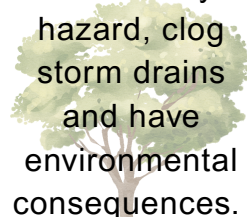


News from Public Works

The strip of land between the street and sidewalk is called the public right of way and is technically City property. This area may contain water, sewer, gas, and other utilities below the surface. It is important to maintain easy access to these utilities and to keep it clear of visual clutter that can distract drivers or hinder those using sidewalks. Property owners are still required to maintain this area of land, and it is important to keep it free of signs and other encumbrances. Dense growth of all weeds, vines, brush, or other vegetation in the City can constitute a health, safety, or fire hazard. Brush piles should not be placed in the City Right of Way. No burning of brush/leaves/weeds is allowed on any sidewalk, any area between the street and the sidewalk, any area between the street and where the sidewalk would be, culverts, or the street.

**GRASS
CLIPPINGS DO
NOT BELONG
ON THE
SIDEWALK OR
IN THE
STREET.**

Cut grass can be a safety hazard, clog storm drains and have environmental consequences.



News from the Police Department

The City of Van Meter and the Van Meter Community School District are excited to start off another year of partnership providing for a School Resource Officer (SRO).

SROs are local law enforcement officers who work closely with administrators in order to create safe learning environments for students and staff. Officer Cooper is stepping into the position of the SRO for the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year! He plans all of Van Meter's National Night Outs, has been with the City of Van Meter since 2023, and he is very excited to step into this role.





News from Parks & Rec

Thank you to everyone who participated in our summer programming! From art in the park, to yoga in the park, even concert on the corner, and so much more. We appreciate everyone who showed up and supported our programs. We look forward to providing more programming in the future.



🍁 Something Fun is Falling Into Place! 🍁

VM Parks & Rec is thrilled to announce a brand-new Fall Festival coming this year — and it's all for our amazing community families and kiddos!

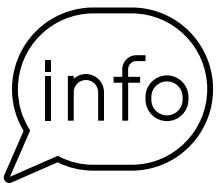
Stay tuned and follow the City's Facebook page for all the exciting details coming your way soon!



City of Van Meter



News from City Hall



Bill Pay

City Hall has been receiving a lot of questions regarding bill pay recently. Bill pay is when you set up an automatic payment to be withdrawn from your bank account for your bills. Often times, this automatic payment is sent as a check through the mail. Depending on when the bank sends the check, City Hall may not receive the check prior to the due date of the utility bills. This can result in late fees or disconnect notices being sent out. If you have been experiencing issues with your bill pay, you can request for your bank to send the payment earlier or you may sign up for an online account through our Front Desk portal. If interested in an online account, please see the last page of the newsletter for more details.

Labor Day, Monday, September 1, 2025



City Hall - CLOSED



Public Works - CLOSED



Library - CLOSED



Trash pick up delayed by one day to
Tuesday, September 2, 2025

**HAPPY
LABOR
DAY**



Saturday

September 20, 2025

Dinner at 5:30

Pulled pork sandwiches and salad

Suggested Donation: \$8

BINGO at 7:00



Thursday Night Meal

September 18, 2025

910 Main St



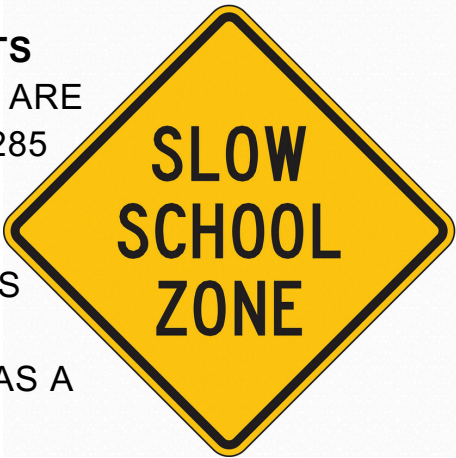
AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

Ham Balls, cheesy
potatoes, and green beans
Suggested donation: \$12



PLEASE REMEMBER:

63.02 STATE CODE SPEED LIMITS
THE FOLLOWING SPEED LIMITS ARE
ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 321.285
OF THE CODE OF IOWA AND
ANY SPEED IN EXCESS
THEREOF IS UNLAWFUL UNLESS
SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED
OTHERWISE IN THIS CHAPTER AS A
SPECIAL SPEED ZONE.
SCHOOL DISTRICT – 25 MILES PER HOUR



Yard Waste

As the leaves start to fall this
autumn, and your raking
journey begins, please
remember to place your
leaves in biodegradable
compost/ yard waste bags.
Plastic bags for yard waste
pick up is not allowed.
Yard waste pick up is every
Thursday morning until
November 28th.

WATER LEAKS

Don't let your money go down the drain!



A slow drip of water can add up quickly. A toilet that “keeps
running” after you flush it or a dripping faucet can waste
thousands of gallons of water a year – and that costs
money!

A drip	15 gallons per day	450 gallons per month
1/32 in. leak	264 gallons per day	7,920 gallons per month
1/16 in. leak	943 gallons per day	28,300 gallons per month
1/8 in. leak	3,809 gallons per day	114,200 gallons per month
1/4 in. leak	15,226 gallons per day	456,800 gallons per month

A huge thank you to everyone
that attended National Night
Out and made it another
successful and memorable
year! Your dedication and
willingness to show up is
much appreciated.



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 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

Enter Your Email

Password

Enter 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

Confirm Email

Phone

Email Address

Confirm Email Address

Cell Phone Number

Password

Confirm 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 g|Works 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,
g|Works 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=205000MocvissLEmGSc8BktmbdQdvUcOABLvuGut>

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