

VAN METER NEWS

April 2013

Elected Officials:

Mayor-Allan Adams

Council

-Becca Wiederholt,
Mayor Pro Tem

-Richard Booge

-Adam Coyle

-Bob Lacy

-Kim Sacker

City Staff:

Jake Anderson-
City Administrator
515-954-6094

Liz Thompson-
Deputy Clerk
515-669-6396

Dave Herman-
Public Works
515-240-9280

Chad Gillespie-
Assist. Public Works
515-371-9933

Bill Daggett-Police Chief
515-202-4154

Jolena Welker-
Library Director
(vanmeterpl@mchsi.com)

Vickie Benson-
Assistant Director

Gary Herrick-
Fire Chief



-Library-996-2435

-Post Office-996-2458

Non-Emergency-
993-4567
Emergency-911

Earth Day 2013

The City, in conjunction with Environmental Services of Iowa (Adel, IA), has planned Spring “clean up” days from April 19 thru April 26. A dumpster will be available behind City Hall for resident’s to dispose of their recyclable items. If you need assistance getting them here, please call City Hall at 996-2644. We will arrange for help. Please do not throw your TVs or monitors in the dumpster. ESI does not want broken glass. Any other questions can be directed to us or ESI staff at 993-1870.

**Community Clean Up
Environmental Services
of Iowa, LLC**



Appliances: FREE

Washers
Dryers
Stoves (gas & electric)
Refrigerators (gas & electric)
Freezers
Microwaves
Dishwashers
Hot Water Heaters (gas & electric)
Furnaces
Window Air Conditioners
Central Air Conditioners
Humidifiers
Dehumidifiers
Water Softeners
Water Coolers
Trash Compactors
Water Fountains
Commercial Vending Machines

Electronics:

(Includes anything with a circuit board):

- TVs and Monitors 19” or smaller: **\$10 each**
- TVs and Monitors 20” or larger: **\$20 each**
All other electronics will be collected at **no charge!**

Other Acceptable Electronics

Blue Ray player
Cables & Cords
Calculator
Camcorder
Camera
Cassette player
CD player
Cell phone
Charger
Computer
Computer Speaker
Copier
CRT Monitor
Digital frame
DVD Player
DVR recorder
Fax Machine
Flat panel monitor
Game controller
Gaming console
GPS device
Home theater system
Keyboard
LED clock
Modem
Mouse
MP3 Player
Phone
Printer
Radio
Recorder
Router
Scanner
Shredder
Stereo system
Thermostat
TIVO
TV
VCR





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VAN METER POLICE DEPT CREATES RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM

As Chief of Police I am proud to introduce two new members of the Van Meter Police Department to the community. In March the Van Meter City Council passed departmental policies establishing a reserve officer program. Each officer who is selected to participate will complete a Reserve Officer Academy approved by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and a nationally recognized field training program. The officers are vested with full arrest powers and will operate and act as regular members of the department. Please join me in welcoming -

Officer Richard Farrell who was sworn in by Mayor Adams on March 8th. He is a corrections officer with the Dallas County Sheriff's Office and is currently obtaining his associates degree in criminal justice.



Officer Nicholas Campbell who was sworn in by Mayor Adams on March 8th. He is a graduate of Van Meter High School and currently works as a security dispatcher at Prairie Meadows Race Track & Casino. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Simpson College in criminal justice.



It is my goal to use the program to enhance police services to the community and provide for as much patrol coverage as possible with well trained and certified Iowa law enforcement officers. As additional members are appointed to the department I will introduce them to the community through the newsletter.

CHARACTER BUILDING ACADEMY SIGN UP

The Van Meter Police Department in conjunction with the Dallas County Sheriff's Office and other Dallas County law enforcement agencies hosts the Character Building Academy at the Waukee Police Department in June of each year. This program is designed for young men and women between the ages of 12 and 16. The academy is two weeks in length in the morning. It is designed to teach leadership, character and build self-esteem. The Van Meter community is invited to sign up and participate. Sign up is done through the Waukee Police Department and can be done by visiting www.waukee.org. I encourage you to consider the challenge.

SLOW DOWN CHILDREN AT PLAY IN OUR HOMETOWN

Please remember with spring comes the increase of children playing in and near our streets.

Please slow down and give them a brake...



VAN METER POLICE PARTICIPATE IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 1033 PROGRAM

The Van Meter Police Department recently received permission from the federal government to participate in the property reutilization program. This program allows local, county and state law enforcement agencies to obtain used government equipment at no cost. This includes such things as vehicles, firefighting equipment, office furniture etc. This will allow our community to add equipment to the organization at no or very limited cost.

Check It Out— Van Meter Public Library

Library Phone: 996-2435
Library Email: vanmeterpl@mchsi.com

This past few months have been exciting as the Adult reading contest was in session. The grand prize winner was Rachel Backstrom! **Congratulations Rachel!** Rachel won the \$50.00 card to Casey's and then she turned around and donated it to the library for snacks and food for the kids. I tell you the citizens of Van Meter amaze me! The others who won drawings and prizes were Rachel Backstrom, Ann Coffie, Becky Trimble, Daniel Duarte, Stefani Martelli, Kathy Solverson, Jamie Champion and Kristen Dorr. **Thank you to everyone who participated.** We had a lot of fun!

On May 4, at 7pm at the school's little gym Chad Lewis and crew will be here for the presentation of information and their new book on the "**Van Meter Visitor**" of 1903. What started out as a chapter in his next book became the whole book. Chad is excited to share with us all the new information they have. It will be an awesome night to buy the book, talk with the authors and have them sign it. It is an awesome event to invite family and friends to learn more about Van Meter. I am so excited and hope to see you all there.

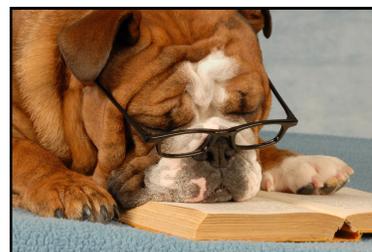


WATCH right here as next month we will have information on this year's Summer Reading Programs – for the kids "**Dig Into Reading**" and for the teens – "**Beneath the Surface!**"

Here is a list of new movies and books at your library:

DVDs: "Red Dawn", "Life of Pi", "Twilight Saga #2", "Paranorman", "Frankenweenie", "Young Guns", "Young Guns II", "Rise of the Guardians", "The Three Musketeers", and many new "Barbie" movies.

Books for Adults: "Twelve Tribes of Hattie", "Wild", "The Year Before We left Home", "Notorious Nineteen", "I Never Thought I'd See the Day", "Killing Lincoln", "Killing Kennedy", "Cowards", "Lawless", "Taste of Home Cookbook 2013", "Southern Living Cookbook 2013", "Betty Goes Vegan" and many more.



Young Adult and SciFi lovers: We have several new books by Brandon Sanderson.

We also have Classic graphic novels for the Juniors. We have new titles for Berenstain Bears, Barbie, Thomas The Tank Engine, Care Bears, Clifford and Franklin. **So be sure to stop in and check out a great read!**

I want to thank the Van Meter community for supporting the Van Meter Public Library.
Jolena and Vickie



Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Pursuant to Municipal Code 115.05:

The City of Van Meter wishes to safeguard the individual lot owners as well as the cemetery as a whole. All lot owners and visitors within the cemetery and all property sold shall be subject to said rules and regulations, as well as such other rules, amendments, or alterations that may from time to time be adopted by the City Council.

General Rules:

1. The cemetery is set apart for the exclusive burial of human remains and shall forever be used as such only.
2. The City Clerk, acting as Cemetery Commissioner, at the direction of the Van Meter City Council is responsible for the administration of the cemetery and for the enforcement of all rules, regulations, policies, and procedures approved by the City Council.
3. The City shall not be held liable for errors or damages, which may occur as a result of improper, or misinterpretation of, telephone instructions from lot owners, their legal representatives, or funeral directors acting on behalf of the owner or his heirs.
4. The City has the right, without prior approval of the lot owners or his legal representative, to correct errors made in good faith in any phase of cemetery administration, operation, or maintenance without incurring liability of any kind whatsoever.
5. The City has the right to change, modify, or replat any part of the cemetery not sold for burial purposes.
6. Every cemetery deed shall be recorded by the City Clerk/Cemetery Commissioner and said records shall be available for inspection by the general public at the office of the City Clerk. The City Clerk shall maintain a plat of each cemetery sections showing the location of the lots and their ownership.
7. Lots shall be sold by the City Clerk at the established price set by resolution adopted by the City Council. The City Clerk shall issue a deed to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price.
8. An owner of a space in the cemetery may only transfer his or her space to a relative by blood or marriage. Documentation shall be submitted to the City Clerk for recording.
The City may purchase a space from an owner at the purchase price, and said space shall be made available to the general public and previous deed voided.

Conduct within the Cemetery:

1. Visitors are reminded that a strict observance of accepted decorum shall be required at all times.
2. Pets, food, and firearms, other than those carried by police officers or used in military honor funeral services, shall be prohibited in the cemetery.
3. No person shall drive any vehicle within the cemetery except upon the driveways prepared and designed for the purpose, and such vehicles shall not be operated in excess of the posted speed limit of 10 mph. Driving on the grass, walks, and alleys is prohibited with the exception of maintenance personnel.
4. It shall be unlawful for any person to desecrate or injure the cemetery, or any lot, grave, gravestone, monument, fence, tree or shrubbery therein.
All persons are prohibited from entering the cemetery after dusk.

Cemetery Care:

1. General care is assumed by the City and includes the cutting and watering of grass, debris removal, fertilization, and periodic pruning of shrubs and trees.
2. Grave decorations of all kinds will be removed when in the judgment of the maintenance personnel they do not conform to the decorum of the cemetery.
3. Holiday decorations are permitted, but must be removed thirty days after the holiday. Decorations may be removed and disposed of by cemetery personnel.
4. The planting or placing of shrubbery, plants, flowers, or grass is prohibited as is the placing of trees.
No coping or fence of any kind shall be permitted.

Adopted by Resolutions #2007-31; Date 10-8-07 (partial list of Cemetery Rules can be found at www.cityofvanmeter.com).

NUISANCES—Junk and Dogs

The sun is shining. The snow has melted. Spring has sprung... Life is good! Things to consider this spring.

The City has codes in place that regulates “nuisances.” **Definition of Nuisance:** Whatever is injurious to health, indecent, or unreasonably offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property so as essentially to interfere unreasonably with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property is a nuisance.

Nuisance Abatement: Whenever the Mayor or other authorized municipal officer finds that a nuisance exists, such officer shall cause to be served upon the property owner a written notice to abate the nuisance within a reasonable time after notice.

City officials will be more diligent in enforcing these ordinances.

A nuisance can be “junk” and/or the accumulation of “junk.”

“Junk” means all old or scrap copper, brass, lead, or any other non-ferrous metal; old or discarded rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber, debris, waste or used lumber, or salvaged wood; dismantled vehicles, machinery and appliances or parts of such vehicles, machinery or appliances; iron, steel or other old or scrap ferrous materials; old or discarded glass, tinware, plastic or old or discarded household goods or hardware. Neatly stacked firewood located on a side yard or a rear yard is not considered junk.



It is unlawful for any person to store, accumulate, or allow to remain on any private property within the corporate limits of the City

any junk or junk vehicles.

Also addressed in the nuisance section of the code are junk vehicles, noise control, animal protection and control, and dangerous and illegal animals.

In part, the dog ordinance prohibits an owner to allow a dog to run at large within the corporate limits of the City. It is unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow or permit such animal to pass upon the premises of another thereby causing damage to, or interference with, the premises.



It is unlawful for the owner or custodian of a dog to permit barking or any other noise excessively, continuously, or intermittently, for any unreasonable period of time so as to create an annoyance or disturbance of any person at any time of day or night.

Copies of the code can be obtained at City Hall. If you have questions or concerns call 996-2644.

ROLLIN' ON THE RIVER!



Raccoon River Days 2013

Friday, May 31, Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2

Check for updates on the city Facebook page and/or website at www.cityofvanmeter.com.

For additional questions contact

Becca Wiederholt at 515-210-2848 or

Leslie Herman 515-669-4038.

Send emails to

raccoonriverdays@gmail.com

save
the
Date

A theme has been chosen! We are still looking for a Grand Marshal(s). Please send suggestions to the raccoonriverdays@gmail.com or post your suggestions on Facebook!

Watch future newsletters for more information on the different activities and games. Hope to see you....

“Rollin’ on The River!

Garage Sale Day

Spring is coming!! So why not start your spring cleaning by having a Garage Sale and move out some of those “treasures” in the garage, basement and closets!!! The Annual Community Garage Sale Day will be **Saturday, May 11 from 8 am to 3 pm**. To register and have your items listed on the map, fill out the form below and return it along with your \$5.00 to City Hall or to a Park Board member by May 1!!! We ask that all sites register and pay \$5.00 which helps defray the cost of advertising and printing maps. All registered will be entered into a drawing for a free floral hanging basket.



Van Meter Garage Sale Registration

Name _____

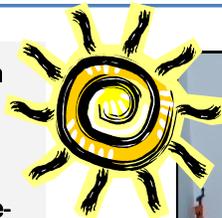
Address _____

Phone _____

Items you'll have for sale

_____ \$5.00 Cash or Check Attached. Make checks payable to the VM Park and Rec Board.

REMINDER—Van Meter Park and Recreation Annual Plant Sale Order forms are due April 5. All plants are greenhouse quality. Plants will be available Saturday, May 11 between 8 am and 2 pm—just in time for Mother's Day!



VAN METER FARMERS MARKET

The Van Meter Farmers Market Committee is in need of volunteers to help with management and weekly set up duties for the VM Farmers Market. Please contact Holly Adams if you are interested. Thank you, Holly Adams 996-2702.



Girl Scout Brownie Troop 710 was lucky enough to work on their painting badge with local artist Michele Beschen. Michele was extremely gracious in having the girls to her studio to help them achieve their badge. The girls all had a great time, all making unique and beautiful paintings.