

# Van Meter News

## State of the City—Mayor Reviews 2012

If 2012 had a theme for the City of Van Meter that theme was partnership. The City undertook several large projects many of which included elements of collaboration. Our ability to work well with others will define our success in the future and will allow us to accomplish more than we otherwise could on our own.

We completed a hazard mitigation plan in cooperation with Dallas County. This was a multi-jurisdictional effort that included the cities, schools, and county government in Dallas County. The effort was spearheaded by the Dallas County Emergency Management Agency and it took a comprehensive look at the potential hazards that could impact our community. We identified potential actions that we can take to prevent or lessen the likelihood that those hazards will cause disasters and interruption in services.

In the spring of 2012 the State of Iowa's Economic Development Authority launched a new site certification program to verify and help market shovel-ready sites for large economic development projects. In partnership with the Greater Dallas County Development Alliance we started working to make the southeast corner of town shovel-ready. There are only 7 sites in the State of Iowa and Van Meter has made the cut to proceed with the design work that will occupy much of the City's time and energy in 2013.

In late summer of 2012 the Cities of Van Meter and DeSoto, jointly commissioned a water quality study to examine the feasibility of jointly constructing and operating a water treatment facility that would improve the quality of the drinking water delivered to your tap. This project has gathered extensive data and has made some simple as-

sumptions so that a facility can be appropriately sized. This project is an important piece of the site certification project, however it has also been identified as a community need independent of any economic development prospect. Simply improving water quality for the sake of delivering our existing customers a better product is something for which the City Council has expressed support. The cost of the project will be shocking, and our hope is that in the long run, a cooperative effort with our neighbors will lessen the burden on Van Meter Citizens.

In August we worked with the State Auditor to conduct an audit of the City's finances for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. The auditors spent nearly three weeks pouring over the City's books and concluded that the records were presented fairly. According to Pam Bormann who managed the audit and presented the findings to the City Council in December, that conclusion is, "As good as it gets."

In January the City of Van Meter joined seven other local governments to form the Southwest Economic Development Cooperative. The cooperative consists of Cumming, Norwalk, Van Meter, Waukee, West Des Moines, Dallas County, Madison County, and Warren County. The purpose is to provide for the partnering governments to address the strategic, economic, land use, job creation, and transportation planning issues related to the location, design, and construction of the Southwest Bypass and related roadways in the southwest quadrant of the Des Moines Metro area.

In the fall of 2012 the Cities of Van Meter and West Des Moines worked together to carefully plan the future annexation of the

### City Information:

E-mail: [lthompson@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:lthompson@vanmeteria.gov)  
[www.cityofvanmeter.com](http://www.cityofvanmeter.com)

### Elected Officials:

-Allan Adams, Mayor

### Council Members—

-Becca Weiderholt,  
Mayor Pro Tem

-Richard Booge

-Adam Coyle

-Bob Lacy

-Kim Sacker

### City Staff:

Jake Anderson-  
City Administrator

Liz Thompson-Deputy Clerk

David Herman-Public Works

Bill Daggett-Police Chief

Jolena Welker-

Library Director

([vanmeterpl@mchsi.com](mailto:vanmeterpl@mchsi.com))

Vickie Benson-Assist Library Director

-City Hall—996-2644

-Library—996-2435

-David Herman—240-9280

-Chad Gillespie—371-9933

-Bill Daggett—202-4150

-Liz Thompson—669-6396

-Jake Anderson—954-6094

Non-Emergency—993-4567

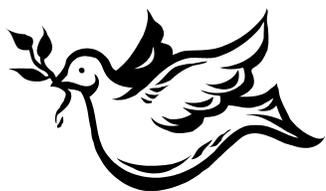
Emergency—911

Post Office—996-2458



*Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.*

Hal Borland



Thank you never seems to be enough when it comes time to recognize our many board members and volunteers. We are fortunate to have so many intelligent and talented people living within our community to help serve.

**A HUGE Thank You to all of the amazing people that make Van Meter such a wonderful place to live!**

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others—  
Gahndi*

land between our two communities. Both city's Planning and Zoning Commissions, and City Councils reviewed and approved an agreement that clearly indicates who will annex what property and who will exercise jurisdiction over the subdivision of property. The agreement is structured around a line of demarcation that falls along Tabor Road and runs north to I80. On the east side of the line West Des Moines can annex and review subdivisions and on the west side of the line Van Meter can annex and review subdivisions.

In 2012 the City engaged Johnny Boyd an architect with ORIC PLC to help us analyze our public buildings, including the old Chevy Garage at 416 West Street. We have issued deconstruction requests for proposals and will be aggressively pursuing the State of Iowa's derelict building grant to aid in the cleanup of the property.

Some things changed at the City. Adam Coyle joined the City Council in February first by appointment, and then won his seat in a special election held in March. Adam is a realtor and lives in Crestview. We added William (Bill) Daggett as Chief of Police. Bill comes to Van Meter with a Master of Public Administration degree from Drake University and 26 years of experience in law enforcement, 14 of which were most recently served with the City of Waukee. Bill and his wife Jodi will be building a home in Crestview. We also welcomed Vickie Benson to the Library staff. Vickie is a long time Van Meter resident who gained experience working with the public at Casey's.

December marked Jolena Welker's one year anniversary as Library Director and without question some of the most positive growth occurred in the library. Jolena's vision to create a third space in peoples' lives (following home and work or school) has made for a welcoming environment that offers free coffee daily, freshly popped popcorn, an after-school program, book club, knitting club, and access to a large database of electronic books for e-readers. The Library's growth prompted the Library Board to approach the City Council in October and ask for a budget amendment. Impressed, the City Council granted the Library an unprecedented \$12,000 which includes money to digitize the card catalog.

In November we received proposals from several firms offering website services. We interviewed selected agencies and accepted a proposal. The new site is currently under construction and can be viewed at [www.blueprairiestudios.com/vanmeter](http://www.blueprairiestudios.com/vanmeter) we would welcome any feedback you might have. We expect to go live with the new site sometime early in 2013.

We anticipate 2013 to be another year of partnerships as we anticipate making a final decision about partnering with DeSoto on a water treatment plant. We will continue working with the Greater Dallas County Development alliance, and other stakeholders in pursuit of the site certification. We will examine our waste water facilities and will be designing the necessary infrastructure to serve the south east corner of town. We will continue to work with the architect to develop a plan for our public buildings.

Perhaps most importantly we will continue to work together to improve on the services that we deliver to you. Your participation is crucial to the facilitation of democracy in local government. We want to hear from you so please do not hesitate to reach out to your elected officials, stop by City Hall, volunteer for one of our boards or commissions. Finally, 2013 will mark another election year for City officials. There will be three City Council seats on the ballot in November and we look forward to working collaboratively with whoever is elected.

I would like to thank all of the City Staff, the Van Meter Fire Department and all of the folks that serve on the multitude of board and commissions we have for all of your hard work and efforts over this last year. All of you are what makes our community such a great place to live. Let's work together to make 2013 even better. If you have some spare time and would like to get involved, please contact City Hall and let us know you are interested.

I would like to thank all of the City Staff, the Van Meter Fire Department and all of the folks that serve on the multitude of the board and commissions we have for all of your hard work and efforts over the last year. All of you are what makes our community such a great place to live. Let's all work together to make 2013 even better. If you have some spare time and would like to get involved, please contact City Hall and let us know you are interested.

# Police Department—From Chief Daggett

1. **School Safety** - I wanted to take a moment with recent events and assure the parents that the Van Meter Police Department, Van Meter School administration and Van Meter city administration along with the elected officials are working collaboratively to ensure the safety of our children. I have been at the schools since being appointed to begin building positive relationships with the kids and ensure a safer campus. You will see me on campus during the day as my schedule allows and at school events. If you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to talk with me. I want to say thank you to Mr. Durflinger and the whole school team for being willing to be such a great community partner.

2. **Nixle** is coming soon as a way for the police department to mass communicate through email and text with the community. What is Nixle? Nixle is a Community Information Service dedicated to helping you stay connected to the information that matters most to you, depending on your physical location. You stay connected to your local police department, your children's schools, your local community agencies and organizations, and the important information from other locations throughout the country that are relevant to you. Our service is built on the most secure, reliable, and high-speed distribution platform, ensuring that you receive trusted and immediate, geographically relevant information. Information is immediately available over your cell phone by text message, by email, and over the web. the information is immediately available to you over your mobile phone, email and computer. Watch the Van Meter Facebook page for information on how to sign up. I will use it to communicate about safety concerns, broadcast any crime alerts and communicate police related community opportunities like national night out, citizens academy etc...

3. As I have patrolled over the last several months I have noted speeds on Elm Street and by the school are commonly ten miles an hour over the speed limit. **Please slow down for our children and help me keep the community safe.**

## Fire Department

Members of the Van Meter Fire and Rescue Department wish to thank the community for a record turnout for the 2012 Chili Feed. There were over 80 people from the community who attended. The attendance was so great that they ran out of chili. They also sold sweat shirts and hoodies imprinted with Van Meter Fire Department "Supporter" on them. There are still a few available. If you are interested in purchasing FD apparel, please contact the fire department at [vanmeterfireandrescue@gmail.com](mailto:vanmeterfireandrescue@gmail.com).

If you do not have a smoke detector in your home or have one that is not functioning properly and cannot afford one, it would be the honor, duty and pleasure of the Van Meter Fire Department to provide you one free of charge. They will make them available while supplies last.



*Chief Daggett can be reached at the following numbers:  
cell 515-202-4154  
or Dallas County Dispatch at 515-993-4567*



***The annual Santa Day at Van Meter City Hall is a VM Fire and Rescue Dept. sponsored activity. The children bring their wish list to Santa and they receive a bag of goodies and treats!***

***Thank You VMFD!***



# American Legion

*Next Post Breakfast—  
January 6, 2013  
7:30 from 12:30  
School lunchroom*

Nathan Walton, winner of our Oratorical Competition on the Constitution of the USA, was also the winner of the District Competition and will advance to the Regional Competition on January 6th. Congratulations!

## Van Meter Eagle Scouts

The City of Van Meter has benefited from the hard work of four resident Scouts who completed projects to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. The most recent young men to attain this prestigious rank are Parker Suckow, Justin Sacker, Logan Bardwell and Jordan Clark. Suckow built bat houses for Johnson Park. Sacker constructed picnic tables for use at the new American Legion building. Bardwell completed maintenance work in Johnson Park to the playground structure and the walking bridges. Clark provided maintenance and repair work at the United Methodist Church that included painting the fence. Congratulations to these Eagle Scouts! Thank you for the community projects that enhance our city!!



Openings for children age 3-5 years (including those with special needs)

School Year 13/14.

For more info contact: 996-2030

Email [vanmeterprek@gmail.com](mailto:vanmeterprek@gmail.com)

Forms can be found at

[www.vanmeterprek.org](http://www.vanmeterprek.org)



*Do your New Year's Eve plans include drinking beverages from recyclable containers???*  
*The Van Meter Travel Students will be collecting empty cans and bottles on January 6 to help fund their trip to Germany. They thank you in advance for your donations!*



Now that winter is here the Van Meter Postmaster wants to remind customers that in order to receive mail delivery it is necessary to keep the full approach and exits to your mailbox, fifteen feet on either side, free of snow, trash cans and vehicles. Customers in Crestview Estates that receive their mail in NDCBU's are asked to be good neighbors and help keep the unit where you receive your mail free of snow and ice as many of the units stand on vacant lots at this time. Your cooperation in the matter is sincerely appreciated. Please contact the Post Office with any questions or concerns, 996-2458. Thank you from your Postmaster and Mail Carriers!

# Welcome to the Van Meter Public Library

## 515-996-2435

### Library Hours

Monday—9a to 5p  
Tuesday—4p to 8p  
Wednesday—9a to 5p  
Thursday—9a to 5p  
Friday—9a to 5p  
Saturday—9a to Noon

At our Library we offer many different things: Books, LARGE PRINT books, Movies, Audio, Computer access Wi-Fi ,WILBOR and we have a lap top for the public use. If you have a Library Card with us then you have opened the world to 6500 E-Books and 4500 Audio. Visit their web site at [wilbor.lib.overdrive.com](http://wilbor.lib.overdrive.com)

- Summer reading program for the kids.
- Winter reading program for the adults.
- Reading materials delivered to your home—for the homebound.
- Book Club—The 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.
- After School Club— We work with the kids on reading, getting along with each other, play games inside and out, snacks, movie time and crafts.
- Knitting/Crocheting and Weaving Club— We get together to discuss, teach and learn from each other. Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.
- Teen Council— Get together with teens from the community receive their input on services and items they would like in their Library.
- Cooking Club— Cooking Club is being considered as another program to be offered.  
If interested contact Vickie at the library.
- Story Time— Every Wednesday at 10 am.

The library is a great place to make new friends, talk with old ones, or just visit with the Library staff in our Coffee Corner. Fresh ground coffee daily.

*All info subject to change*

# Garbage/Recycle Collection

CITY OF VAN METER

505 Grant Street  
PO Box 160  
Van Meter, IA 50261

Phone: 515-996-2264

Fax: 515-996-2207

Email:

[lhompson@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:lhompson@vanmeteria.gov)



Monday morning is garbage and recycle day. When snow and ice accumulate, some private drives and tricky turns become difficult for the garbage truck drivers to navigate. If the hauler is unable to collect your trash on Monday, another effort will be made on Thursday of the same week when they return for commercial collection. There are garbage cans located behind City Hall that you can use if you are missed. You can also put your bags in the dumpster by the City maintenance shed behind Casey's if there is room. Waste Connections will make every effort to get your garbage in a timely manner. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

## Christmas Tree Disposal 1/3 & 1/11 2012

Christmas Trees will be picked up by Waste Connections on January 3rd and 10th.



Place the tree in your regular pickup location by 7 a.m. to ensure that it is removed.

## SNOW REMINDERS

Please review the following ordinances:

**SNOW REMOVAL.** No person shall park or allow a vehicle to remain parked on a public street in the City from the time it begins to snow until such time as the streets have been cleared of accumulated snow from curb to curb (or from all of the traveled portion of the roadway for those streets which do not have curbs) or 48 hours, whichever time is shorter. Vehicles shall be removed immediately once it begins to snow. The Director of Public Works and Utilities is also empowered to end the prohibition on parking prior to the expiration of the 48-hour period if the Director determines that the streets have been cleared. The Director of Public Works and Utilities shall notify the Police Chief when the parking prohibition has ended.

**DUMPING OF SNOW.** It is unlawful for any person to throw, push, place, or cause to be thrown, pushed or placed, any ice or snow from private property, sidewalks, or drive-



ways onto the traveled way of a street or alley so as to obstruct gutters, or impeded the

passage of vehicles upon the street or alley or to create a hazardous condition therein; except where, in the cleaning of large commercial drives in the business district it is absolutely necessary to move the snow onto the street or alley temporarily, such accumulation shall be removed promptly by the property owner or agent. Arrangements for the prompt removal of such accumulations shall be made prior to moving the snow.

**REMOVAL OF SNOW, ICE, AND ACCUMULATIONS.** It is the responsibility of the abutting property owners to remove snow, ice and accumulations promptly from sidewalks. If a property owner does not remove snow, ice or accumulations within 48-hours after such accumulations, the City may do so and assess the costs against the property owner for collection in the same manner as a property tax.

## January Calendar

- 1/1—Happy New Year!!
- 1/3—Christmas Tree pickup
- 1/6—Am. Legion Breakfast 7:30am to 12:30pm.
- 1/6—Van Meter Travel Students Can Drive
- 1/10—Christmas Tree pickup
- 1/14—City Council Meeting at City Hall; 7:00



*“LIKE” us on Facebook!*