

Van Meter News

July 2014

CITY OF VAN METER

Goal Setting and Utility Rate Planning

On Monday, May 12, 2014 the City Council held a work session immediately following their regular monthly business meeting. During their work session the City Council established goals and priorities for the next two years. The following five priorities emerged in the discussion, 1) Capital Improvement Planning, 2) Water Treatment, 3) Annexation, 4) City Facility Improvement, and 5) Water and Sewer main improvements. Having established goals that primarily focus on infrastructure planning and improvements and given the attention that the previous City Council gave to water treatment it became immediately clear that a plan needs to be implemented to better position the City's financial wherewithal. Based on that conclusion the City Council directed City staff to prepare a multi-year plan to increase utility rates.

The City Council will hold a public hearing July 14, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Veterans Reception Center located at 910 Main Street on the first reading of a proposed ordinance to increase in-town utility rates 5% a year for a ten year period and out-of-town rates 10% a year for a ten year period. The public is welcome to attend and present comments to the City Council orally. If you are unable to attend comments may be received in writing at City Hall and will be presented to the City Council during the public hearing.

Right-of-Way Maintenance

Due to the large amount of rain recently it seems appropriate to call attention to Chapter 135 of the Van Meter Code of Ordinances. This section of the Code addresses "Street Use and Maintenance" and it includes maintenance of the parking or terrace which is the area between a person's property line and the edge of the street. In short, Chapter 135 establishes that maintenance, except for the removal of diseased or dead trees, is the responsibility of the abutting property owner. Included are some excerpts from the Code that are worth noting. As recent weather may create drainage concerns it is also worth pointing out that property owners that want to maintain their parking by re-grading the ditch need to get an excavation permit. The entire Code of Ordinances, including Chapter 135, is available for review on the City's website under the "Documents" tab.

135.09 MAINTENANCE OF PARKING OR TERRACE. It shall be the responsibility of the abutting property owner to maintain all property outside the lot and property lines and inside the curb lines upon the public streets, except that the abutting property owner shall not be required to remove diseased trees or dead wood on the publicly owned property or right-of-way. Maintenance includes timely mowing, trimming trees and shrubs and picking up litter. (Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12 [2c])

135.10 FAILURE TO MAINTAIN PARKING OR TERRACE. If the abutting property owner does not perform an action required under the above section within a reasonable time, the City may perform the required action and assess the cost against the abutting property for collection in the same manner as a property tax. (Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[2e])

135.12 DRIVEWAY CULVERTS. The property owner shall, at the owner's expense, install any culvert deemed necessary under any driveway or any other access to the owner's property, and before installing a culvert, permission must first be obtained from the City. In the event repairs are needed at any time with respect to culverts, it shall be the responsibility of the property owner to make such repairs, and, in the event the owner fails to do so, the City shall have the right to make the repairs. If the property owner fails to reimburse the City for the cost of said repairs, the cost shall be certified to the County Treasurer and specially assessed against the property as by law provided.

Elected Officials:

-Allan Adams, Mayor

Council Members—

-Kim Sacker,
Mayor Pro Tem

-Bob Lacy

-Michael Peterson

-Owen Stump

-Elizabeth Tweed

City Staff:

City Hall -
515-996-2644

Jake Anderson-
City Administrator
515-954-6094

Liz Thompson-Clerk
515-669-6396

Lisa Tuma-
Recreation
515-996-2644

David Herman-
Public Works
515-240-9280

Chad Gillespie-
Public Works
515-371-9933

Bill Daggett-Police Chief
515-202-4154
Dispatch: 515-993-4567

Jolena Welker-
Library Director
515-996-2435

Michelle Boren-
Library Assistant
515-996-2435

VAN METER FARMERS MARKET

VAN METER
FARMERS
MARKET

THURSDAYS FROM 5PM TO 7PM

The Van Meter
Farmers Market is
open Now
through
October 4th.

LOCATION

The Farmers Market will take place at the Veterans Reception Center, Van Meter, on Main Street rain or shine!

In the event of severe rain or inclement weather, vendors will set up indoors.

VENDOR INFORMATION

The vendor fee is only \$5.00 per vendor and is paid on a weekly basis.

Everyone is looking forward to a jam-packed market each week, so bring the entire family and join in on the fun!

We continue to work on ways to grow the Van Meter Farmers Market, if you are interested in becoming a vendor (or) farmers market volunteer please don't hesitate to contact us at vmfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Don't miss out!
Thursdays at the Veterans Reception Center
from 5pm to 7pm!

NEW
day &
location!

vmfarmersmarket@gmail.com

VET RECEPTION CENTER

**Veterans
Reception Center**

901 Main Street

**Van Meter, IA
50261**

515-996-9166

LUNCH

Tuesday 11-1

Wednesday 11-1

DINNER

Thursday 5-8

Friday 5-8

BREAKFAST

**First Sunday of every month
starting in September**

**A change in steak
night is coming watch
for details!!**

**B-I-N-G-O
Next bingo night is
July 18
5p-7p**

The 1st Annual
Post 403 Open
(Formerly known as the Van Meter Open)

Hole prizes on every hole

*Hole sponsorship available
Call 515-996-9166 for details*

Sunday, July 27th
Two-Man Best-Ball

Check in: 12:30 pm / Shot gun start: 2:00 pm

Sponsored by The American Legion Post 403
River Valley Golf Course
22927 Valley View Trail, Adel, Iowa

Steak Fry following at Veterans Reception Center, Van Meter, Iowa

Entry fee: \$75 per Golfer - Please register by July 6th

Entry Fee per Golfer includes: Green Fee, Cart, and Dinner
Entry Forms can be located at the Veterans Reception Center
or at www.VeteransReceptionCenter.com

For more information, call 515-996-9166

**Registration
deadline July 6**

River Valley Golf Course
22927 Valley View Trail, Adel, Iowa
Steak Fry following at Veterans Reception Center
Entry Fee: \$75 per golfer
Entry Fee: Green Fee, Cart, and Dinner
Forms are available at the Veterans Reception Center or at
www.VeteransReceptionCenter.com
For more information call 515-996-9166

VM PUBLIC SAFETY

To Register

- Go to www.nixle.com
- Click “Sign Up Now!”
- Create an account by choosing a User Name and Password
- Enter an e-mail address and cell phone number where you would like to receive messages
- Enter your address (or a nearby intersection)
- Click “Sign Me Up”



The Van Meter Department of Public Safety uses Nixle to keep the community informed. Sign up and know when weather alerts have been broadcast, the snow ordinance is in place or we need your help in solving a crime. Stay instantly informed of trusted, neighborhood-level public safety and community information. You choose the information you want, for the addresses you want, all delivered at no cost by text message, email and web.



JOIN OUR TEAM

The Van Meter Fire Department is actively recruiting community members to help us protect the community.

SUMMER TRAFFIC SAFETY

Summer is here and the kids are playing in and near our streets. Please help us keep them safe. Obey all traffic laws and watch for children in the streets. Violators will be ticketed to keep our kids safe.



July 2014



Phone: 515-996-2435

Email: jwelker@vanmeteria.gov or
mboren@vanmeteria.gov

LIBRARY NEWS—CHECK IT OUT!!

Summer Reading is off and running. We have close to 80 kids and teens regularly taking part. I think we will hit 100 again like the last two years. Be sure to stop in and see the chain going up around the inside of the library. Each link represents one hour of reading by a child or teen! I bet they will circle the library a couple of times.

Each Wednesday we have Science Experiments by different volunteers at 10am.

Each Friday we have special treats brought in by volunteers.

The First place prize for teens this year will be \$200.00 and the First place for kids will be \$75.00. Second place for both will be a \$25.00 gift card to 1/2 Price Bookstore.

There will be a third place and Jolena is still deciding on those prizes.

This year it was decided that cash would be an awesome prize as we are learning and reading more about Math and Science. This way the winners will have money of their own to save or spend.

Jolenas

Library Hours

Mon, Fri—9am-5pm

Tues—3pm-8pm

Wed, Th—9am-8pm

Sat—9 am to noon

I want to say Thank you to Deb Traxler, Nancy Hayer and Liz Thompson for all the beautiful flowers and work in the city park and surrounding the building.

Thank you also to Dave Herman and Chad Gillespie who take care of the grounds. The only problem has been keeping the grass growing in front of the library and edge of the park. There are so many who come and play there. Thank you for your patience. I do want to remind everyone to help keep the trash picked up and to help make sure the kids don't play in the water fountain or with the hoses for the plants. This helps us have a beautiful city and park. Thank you!

JOIN THE SCIENCE CENTER OF IOWA ON AN EXHILARATING ADVENTURE THROUGH THE WORLD OF SCIENCE!

Together, we'll explore air pressure, sound waves and how things fizz, bubble and pop through a variety of exciting experiments. Plus, you'll learn some safe science that you can do in your own backyard. You don't want to miss this!

SCI SCIENCE CENTER OF IOWA & BLANK IMAX DOME THEATER

SCIENCE ... AT YOUR ... SITE

LOCATION: Van Meter Public Library

DATE: July 11th, 2014

TIME: 4:00 PM

505 GRANT STREET
PO BOX 160
VAN METER IA 50261
Phone: 515-996-2644
Fax: 515-996-2207
E-mail: info@vanmeteria.gov

Visit us at
www.vanmeteria.gov



**"LIKE" City of
Van Meter
on Facebook!**

Pursuant to Iowa Code, Section 727.2, "any person using or exploding any fireworks commits a simple misdemeanor." In addition to other penalties, punishment for violation of this Code section includes an assessment of a fine of at least \$250. The City has an interest in both protecting its citizens and enforcing Iowa law, and it intends to enforce any violations under this provisions. Please refrain from either using or exploding, or permitting the use or explosion of prohibited fireworks within the City. Call Police Chief Daggett at 515-202-4154; or Dallas County Dispatch at 515-993-4567 to report any violations.

July 2014

Recycling Schedule

Monday, July 14, 2014

Monday, July 28, 2014

"SUN" sational Raccoon River Days 2014

Thanks to everyone for all of the
support and
participation of the event!

Save the date for 2015 -

June 5, 6 and 7

a family community event