

Van Meter News

2014 Rewind

The City accomplished a number of noteworthy objectives in 2014 which continue to better position Van Meter for success.

In February, the City finalized the annexation of nearly 100 acres of farm ground to the southeast. In March, we rezoned the land consistent with the planned business park; and in April, Governor Branstad announced that 288 acres within the City are developable and are certified shovel ready for data center projects.

In May, the City Council established five goals that it hopes to achieve over the next couple of years. They are in no particular order of importance: 1) Capital Improvement Planning, 2) Water Treatment, 3) Annexation, 4) City Facility Improvement 5) Water and Sewer main improvements.

In partnership with the Cleveland Indians, Iowa Microloan, and the Bob Feller Museum the City has entered into lease agreements, with the option to purchase for \$1.00, for the Bob Feller Museum property at 310 Mill Street. The City closed on the transaction in December and plans to re-open the facility merged with City Hall within the first quarter of 2015.

The City of Van Meter has tentatively, pending a public hearing and Council approval, reached an agreement with the City of Waukee for an annexation moratorium agreement that is relatively consistent with the agreement Van Meter and West Des Moines currently have in place. Together the agreements establish

a specific boarder that protects the Van Meter community from annexation by either West Des Moines or Waukee for a period of 8 years.

This summer the City Council consented to allow two rural subdivisions to proceed without annexing into the City. The first was for the expansion of Hickory Lodge to the east of Van Meter along F90. The second was the Kenyon Ridge development to the north of Van Meter along R16.

In addition to the development projects, the City has given a one-time \$2,500 seed donation to help jumpstart the newly formed Van Meter Community Development Corporation (VMCDC). It is a non-profit organization comprised of volunteers whose goal it is to establish partnerships in an effort to grow Van Meter.

Liz Thompson was accepted into the State of Iowa's Certified Public Manager program. Bill Daggett attained the designation of Certified Public Manager. Jake Anderson was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Greater Dallas County Development Alliance, the Iowa Foundation for Microenterprise and Community Vitality, and was elected president of the Van Meter Senior Citizen Housing Trust's Board of Directors.

As we look forward to 2015 we plan to move the Water Treatment project forward, continue to address the City's facility needs, focus on annexation issues, and will plan for capital improvements that address aging infrastructure.

City Information:

PH: 515-996-2644

E-mail: info@vanmeteria.gov

www.cityofvanmeteria.gov

Elected Officials:

-Allan Adams, Mayor

Council Members—

-Kim Sacker
Mayor Pro Tem

-Bob Lacy

-Mike Peterson

-Owen Stump

-Beth Tweed

City Staff:

Jake Anderson-City Administrator

Liz Thompson-Clerk

David Herman-Public Works Director
515-240-9280

Chad Gillespie-Public Works
515-371-9933

Bill Daggett-Police Chief
515-202-4154

Jolena Welker-Library Director
515-996-2435



-City Hall—515-996-2644

Non-Emergency—515-993-4567

Emergency—911

Post Office—515-996-2458

Veterans Reception Center—515-996-9166

Iowa Veterans Cemetery—515-996-9048



Happy New Year!



JANUARY—NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.

Neil Gaiman



Radon is a colorless, tasteless, and odorless gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Please contact Dallas County Environmental Health (515) 993-5803 for a \$5 radon test kit and information on how to protect your home.

School Newsletter Team—By Kelsey

There is a team of students who have helped to fill envelopes each month and seal them. I really liked helping with the newsletters because it's really fun and I liked getting out of doing homework. I also liked doing it because I got to know some other kids a little bit better and it's fun working together. Working together gets things done faster.



My name is Kelsey and I am a student at Van Meter school. For the past two years, I have been helping the city of Van Meter to get these wonderful newsletters to you.

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT



**Public Safety Director 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 is a VM Fire and Rescue Department sponsored event. Children bring their wish list to Santa and they receive a bag of goodies and treats!

Thank You VMFD!

And Thank You to the community that came to the Van Meter Fire Department Santa Day—as well as the fire department chili feed. Your support is an important part of their success!





Thank you



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!

DONATIONS NEEDED—AHEINZ 57

Troop #443 has chosen to collect donations to support a local animal shelter.

The troop will be visiting Aheinz57 in DeSoto in January to deliver items the shelter needs to operate and also learn about what services they provide for our community and surrounding areas.

The troop is asking for donations to help their cause! Items such as cleaning supplies (bleach, floor cleaner, paper towels, garbage bags—44&13 gallon), office supplies, dog food and more!

***A full list of needs can be found at:
<https://www.aheinz57.com/wish-list/>***

***Donation are accepted through
Wednesday, January 21st
and can be dropped off at Van Meter City Hall.***



Van Meter Brownie Troop #443 is working on a community service project to support Aheinz 57.

Thank you in advance for your support! Please contact Stacey Wigant at swigant@gmail.com with questions.



CHECK IT OUT—

Van Meter Public Library

Email: jwelker@vanmeteria.gov

Phone: (515) 996-2435



JANUARY—A fresh start, new opportunities, this year I get the Senior discount at Perkins, and many more wonderful New Year's happenings!

Such as joining the Adult Winter Reading Contest: We will have the handouts to keep track of your reading on the first week in January. Please pick these up at the library. There will be one grand mystery prize and smaller prizes each week. The more you read and the more genres you try the better. We will have the genres on the handout. You can read books from home, our library or any library. You must be 18 or older to participate.

We have many new reads and **DVDs** for you to check out:

- "The Constant Gardner"
- "Transformers: Age of Extinction"
- "Changling"
- "Prevention work out"
- "PBS work out while sitting"

BOOKS:

- New LEGO books for kids
- New LEGO magazines
- New Boy's Life magazines
- "Tales Around the World"
- "A Pride of African Tales"
- "With A Whoop and A Holler" – A Bushel of Lore From Way Down South
- "The Nine Days of Wonder"
- "The Pied Piper of Hamelin"
- "The Fortune Tellers"
- "Tree of Dreams" – Ten Tales From the Garden
- "The Fabrics of Fairytale" – Stories Spun From Far and Wide

Happy New Year!

We have new adult reads in by Johansen, Woods, Patterson, Evanovich, Picoult and many more.

Please stop in and see what your library has to offer.

I wish you all a Happy New Year!

Jolena

Library Director



CITY OF VAN METER
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PO Box 160
Van Meter, IA 50261

Phone: 515-996-2264

Fax: 515-996-2207

Email: info@vanmeteria.gov



Winter has arrived! The Van Meter Postmaster reminds 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!



CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

January 2 &
January 8,
2015

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.

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 driveways onto the trav-



eled 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.

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