

# Van Meter News



CITY OF VAN METER

## CITY HALL MOVING TO BOB FELLER MUSEUM



Early in April (fingers crossed) City Hall will relocate to the Bob Feller Museum. Our mailing address will remain the same as will our telephone number. Because of timing with the installation of phone lines and Mediacom and other equipment we do not have a specific date. We will communicate the move info on the website and social media. There will also be notices posted in various locations.

Once we are settled in, we will have a Grand Opening to celebrate the move with everyone! We look forward to seeing you in the new location in the very near future!

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR POSITION FILLED

**Welcome Dorothy Knight!** Dorothy is an Iowa native, originally from Milo, where she first began her career in libraries as a volunteer in 1998. Dorothy volunteered at the Milo Public Library for seven years, and received the Milo Citizen of the Year award in 2005 for her dedicated service to both the Milo Public Library and the Southeast Warren Schools. That same year Dorothy began attending college at the University of Iowa, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in English in 2008. Shortly after graduation, Dorothy began working for the Indianola Public Library and made the decision to apply for graduate college.

In 2011 she was accepted to the University of Kentucky's School of Library and Information Science and graduated with her Master of Science in Library Science in 2014. During her time as a graduate student, Dorothy received multiple scholarships, was elected chair of the Kentucky Library Association's Library Support Staff Round Table, interned for the Library of Congress, and gained valuable experience working for the University of Kentucky Archives, Lexington Public Libraries, and Jessamine County Public Library. Dorothy has presented at multiple conferences during graduate school, and worked closely this past year with the Kentucky Library Association in planning, presenting speakers, and organizing events for the 2015 conference.

When Dorothy isn't focusing on work or library association duties, she is spending time with her husband and family, practicing the guitar, honing her artistic creativity through multiple projects, tinkering with computers, and reading anything she can get her hands on. Dorothy also has a great love of learning, and enjoys sharing knowledge and information through teaching and mentoring. She has worked to continue her education beyond graduate school through online learning tools, and has already completed several courses, including "Spanish for Librarians." Dorothy hopes to continue to grow through continued educational courses, and looks forward to sharing her passion for reading and knowledge with the Van Meter community beginning May 1, 2015.

### Elected Officials:

-Allan Adams, Mayor

### Council Members—

-Bob Lacy,  
Mayor Pro Tem

-Michael Peterson

-Kim Sacker

-Owen Stump

-Elizabeth Tweed

### City Staff:

City Hall -  
515-996-2644

Jake Anderson-  
City Administrator  
515-954-6094

Liz Thompson-Clerk  
515-669-6396

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

Jon Bruen-Fire Chief  
515-371-8515

Emergency—911  
Dispatch—non emergency  
515-993-4567

**VAN METER PARKS AND RECREATION**

# Garage Sale Day

**SPRING IS COMING!!** Why not start your spring cleaning by having a Garage Sale? Move out some of those "treasures" in the garage, basement and closets!!! The Annual Community Garage Sale Day will be **Saturday, May 9 from 8am to 3pm**. 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...

*Items you'll have for sale:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

For those that ordered plants from the park board, they will be available for pick up on Saturday, May 10 between 8am and 2pm. If you did not order in advance, there will be extras available for purchase the day of the sale. Pickup at the City Maintenance Building (just west of Casey's) Just in time for **Mother's Day!!!**

# EASTER EGG HUNT

**...for kids age 10 and under...**



**DATE: Saturday, April 4**

**TIME: 1:00pm**

**PLACE: Johnson Park**

(Park is off Hazel St on the SW edge of the city)

**Lots of CANDY & GOODIES**

*Sponsored by the Van Meter Park & Rec Board*



## 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.

### **GOT JUNK?!**



**Yard Waste**—will be collected the same day as your trash. Kraft-style biodegradable wet strength paper bags less than 50lbs. NO PLASTIC BAGS. Twigs and small branches may be in securely tied bundles. Yard waste collection will run April 1—November 30.

If a garage sale isn't your “thing” or others don't buy your “treasure,” the City sells bulk waste stickers and stickers for extra bags.. Bulk stickers are \$5 and extra bag stickers are \$1. One extra 30 gallon bag per resident will be accepted each week. Bulky waste items are those items utilized in a normal household setting that is other than normal household trash. These items are generally too large either by weight or volume to fit in a normal trash container. Examples are sofas, chairs, tables, mattresses, boxed items not weighing more than 50lbs. Carpet and construction debris must be cut and tied in 4ft sections not to exceed 50lbs in weight.

*Bulk items with one sticker per item will be collected with a different type of truck and will be collected at a different time of day than your normal trash.*

Residents wishing to dispose of appliances need to call and pre-pay Waste Connections prior to having the appliance picked up. Appliance will be picked up on Wednesdays of each week. A trip fee of \$35 dollars and \$15 per appliance is charged.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT EMT CERTIFIED

In February Chief Daggett and Officer Petithory attended Mercy Colleges Emergency Medical Technician certification course. Effective April 1st the police vehicle will be equipped with an AED, oxygen and trauma medical jump kit. Chief Daggett has also completed his firefighter I & II certifications. Other departmental members are in the process of obtaining EMT and firefighter certifications. The goal is to provide the community with the best service possible.



### VMFD STREET DANCE

The Van Meter Fire Department will be hosting a street dance for the community as a fundraiser for needed equipment. There will be a DJ and laser light show.

More info to come...



### JOIN OUR TEAM

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



Warm weather is here and our kids are playing outside. Give them a brake and obey the speed limit and stop signs.

## LIBRARY NEWS—CHECK IT OUT!!

Phone: 515-996-2435

So many books, so little time! Can I get an amen?! I'll never be able to read all the books that I want, but I am going to try. My perfect day would be spent in a nice outdoor space with a good book and my good dog!

Some of my favorites that are in the library include several from the World War II area and I recommend them to anyone who also enjoys historical fiction. They include the following:

- The Soldiers Wife
- Those That Save Us
- Girl In The Green Sweater
- Winter Garden
- Between Shades of Grey
- The Book Thief
- The Nightingale

There are some really great Young Adult books that I have read also. They include:

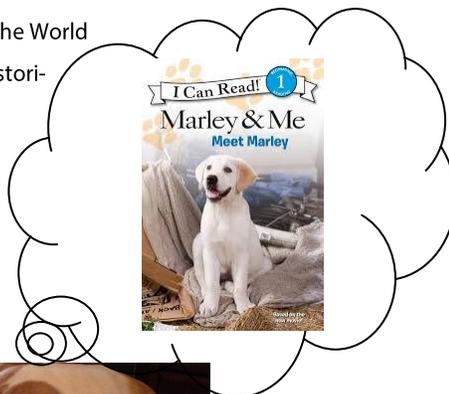
- The Fault in Our Stars
- Eleanor and Park
- The Divergent series
- The Hunger Game series
- The Twilight series

A couple others to consider:

- The Big Easy
- Orphan Train
- The Kitchen House

Some of the ones listed are particularly interesting because they begin in present day and flashback to other times as a character recounts the past. If you take my advice and read any of the books I mentioned, let me know if you liked them. I love it when someone enjoys a book I've recommended.

For those of you that travel often, like to walk, or just don't have time to sit and read; I suggest trying audio books. Last year during a long car trip, I purchased an audio book and it was the **BEST THING EVER!** I confess, it took a few minutes to adjust to the idea of being read to. It filled many hours of travel time. Upon my return home I continued the audio book on my nightly walks. I actually started to look forward to them just so I could listen to the book. There are options out there and in varying price ranges. I have a Kindle and opted for their app Audible. I have also used Wilbor which is free and requires only your library card number. Both of these are digital so must be downloaded on your smartphone, tablet or desktop. I highly recommend!



**READING IS  
FUN FOR  
EVERYBUDDY!**

[www.wilbor.libraryreserve.com](http://www.wilbor.libraryreserve.com)

[www.audible.com](http://www.audible.com)



Temporary  
Library Hours  
Mon, Wed, Fri  
2pm—4pm



What do you like to read? Magazine subscriptions are due—What magazine would love to have available in the library? Give us your suggestions on good books too. Fiction or non, young adult or large print. We want to hear from **YOU!!**

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



According to Wikipedia, Earth Day is an annual event, celebrated on April 22, on which events are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first celebrated in 1970, and is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network, and celebrated in more than 192 countries each year.

[WWW.VANMETERIA.GOV](http://WWW.VANMETERIA.GOV)

Drinking water at a certain time maximizes its effectiveness on the body:

- 2 glasses of water after waking up helps activate internal organs.
- 1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal helps digestion
- 1 glass of water before taking a bath helps lower blood pressure
- 1 glass of water before going to bed avoids stroke or heart attack

## DID YOU KNOW...?

- It takes 2 to 5 gallons of water to brush your teeth if you leave the water running.
- Dishwashers use 8 to 15 gallons of water
- Flushing the toilet uses 1.5 to 4 gallons of water
- Showers/baths use 17 to 24 gallons
- 35 to 50 gallons used per load of laundry

## IS WATER REALLY A BARGAIN?

It depends on if you think of water as a valuable resource. According to the United States of Geological Survey group, up to 60% of your body is made of water. We have all heard that drinking eight-8 ounce glasses of water is a daily recommendation. On that basis alone, water rates as the #1 valuable resource. Let's make some cost comparison: currently, the average price of water in the United States is about \$1.50 for 1,000 gallons. At that price, **a gallon of tap water costs less than one penny.**

◇ Milk.....	\$2.45 per gallon
◇ Cola (24 oz @ \$1.75).....	\$8.96 per gallon
◇ Flavored Beverage (16 oz @ \$1.29).....	\$10.32 per gallon
◇ Ice Tea (16 oz @ \$1.19).....	\$9.52 per gallon
◇ Juice (16 oz at \$1.25).....	\$10.00 per gallon
◇ Mouth Wash (1.5 oz @ \$.99).....	\$84.48 per gallon
◇ Bottled Water (9 oz @\$1.19).....	\$21.19 per gallon

**Fix that leaky faucet. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons of water per year.**

**Check your toilet tank for leaks. Add food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear within 30 minutes. A leaky toilet can waste as much as 100 gallons/day.**

## APRIL RECYCLING SCHEDULE

**Monday, April 6**

**Monday, April 20**