

Van Meter News



CITY OF VAN METER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY VAN METER!



CALLING ALL VAN METER RESIDENTS!

Help us celebrate our town's sesquicentennial this summer!

We are looking for families, groups and teams to participate in the Raccoon River Days parade. Suggested float themes:

- Want to celebrate your family's heritage?
- Show your team pride?
- Bring awareness to your group?

**First weekend
June 1, 2 & 3**

Build a float and join us in making this the biggest parade Van Meter has seen! Register on the city website.

Grand Marshall nominations—We are also looking for the longest-time resident of Van Meter to honor as Grand Marshall in the parade. If you would like to nominate someone, please email us at raccoonriverdays@gmail.com.

This year **Raccoon River Days will be held in Downtown Van Meter.**

MORE INFORMATION TO COME...

For those that ordered plants from the park board, they will be available for pick up on Saturday, May 12 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!!!

It isn't too late to order your plants! Forms with payment are being accepted through April 4. Submit to City Hall or to any Park Board member.

Forms can be found on the city website!

WWW.VANMETERIA.GOV

Elected Officials:

-Allan Adams, Mayor

Council Members—

-Kim Sacker,
Mayor Pro Tem

-Adam Coyle

-Joe Herman

-Lyn Lyon

-Steve Meyer

City Staff:

City Hall -
515-996-2644

Jake Anderson-
City Administrator

Liz Thompson-Clerk

David Herman-
Public Works

Michael Abbott-
Public Works

Bill Daggett-Police Chief

Craig Greer-Police Officer

Jon Bruen-Fire Chief
515-996-9253

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 12 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 5!!! 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.

If a garage sale isn't your "thing" or others don't buy your "treasures," 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.

Residents wishing to dispose of appliances need to pre-pay by calling Waste Connections at 515-265-7374 prior to having the appliance picked up.

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 reasonable 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.



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.

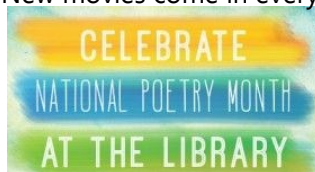
Yard waste collection will run **April 1—November 30.**

**Get
rid of
your
junk**

April 2018

CHECK THIS OUT!

Libraries are so much more than books on a shelf. Did you know the Van Meter Public Library has over 1,700 movies? We have titles that cover all interests and ages: from new releases, to television series, to movies for the whole family. Movies can be checked out for 1 week and renewed, unless someone is waiting for it. New movies come in every month!



Our special programming for April –

It Came from the Library! Movie on Thursday, April 12th, from 7P – 8:30P.

How bad can a movie get? We will search for the worst movies to mock. Snacks will be provided, but please BYOB. Age 21 and over only.

Special Saturday Story Time— April 14th, from 1P – 2P. Public Safety and the library are teaming up for a bike rodeo! Have your bike and helmet inspected and try out our obstacle course.

STEAM Saturday— April 28th, from 10:30A – 11:30A. This Saturday event is geared for elementary age children and focuses on STEAM – science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. Join us for an hour of hands-on fun!

In addition, we have our regular programs each week –

Tech Tuesdays, where you can drop in with your techie toys or have any question answered. If we cannot answer it that day, we will find it! If there is interest, we will schedule classes on e-books, Facebook, or Microsoft programs. Let us know what you need.

Story Time, at 6:30P every Tuesday, there will be stories, puppets, rhymes, songs, and we will end with a craft!

Tween/Teen Crafting on Wednesday afternoons after school you can join us for a fun craft, all supplies will be provided.

Movie Matinee every Friday, a child friendly movie will be shown after the early school dismissal at 1:45P.

Phone: 515-996-2435

Hours until
Memorial Day

Mon & Wed
10A–5P

Tues & Thurs
12–8P

Friday

12–5P

Saturday

10A–3P

Closed Sunday



The library will be closed on April 6th for professional development and be opening at Noon on Fridays from April 13th – May 25th.

AGREEMENT FOR PREAUTHORIZED PAYMENTS

To sign up for **AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL**, please complete the form below and mail or bring to City Hall along with a **VOIDED CHECK** from your financial institution.

I (we) hereby authorize the **CITY OF VAN METER** to initiate debit entries to my (our) checking account indicated below and the depository named below, hereinafter called **DEPOSITORY**, to debit the same to such account.

DEPOSITORY NAME _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

TRANSIT ABA NO. _____ **ACCOUNT NO.** _____

(Transit ABA Number is the first 9 numbers from left on the bottom of your check)

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until the City of Van Meter and Depository have received written notification from me (either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford the City of Van Meter and Depository a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

NAME(s) (print) _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

******You will receive your water bill on or near the first of the month as usual.
The amount due will be deducted from the above assigned account on the 15th of each month.****
OR
Visit our website at www.vanmeteria.gov to pay online with a credit card.**

310 MILL STREET
PO BOX 160
VAN METER IA 50261
Phone: 515-996-2644



**“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.

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.