

Van Meter News

Happy Valentine's
Day!!



February 2013

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT

Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Improvement Project Update

Two years ago the City of Van Meter received notice that we had been awarded a \$131,000 grant for the installation of sidewalks in the West part of town.

The intent of the grant is to connect existing parts of town to one another with sidewalks to provide pedestrian traffic with safer routes. More specifically, we wanted to provide children an alternative to walking in the street when walking between home and school.

Over the past couple of years the City Engineers have worked closely with City Staff and have had several conversations with the City Council con-

cerning the different paths the sidewalk could follow.

The process required that preliminary plans be submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation in the fall of 2012.



We are currently working with property owners along Hazel street for the acquisition of easements as it is important to the City Council that the sidewalk be as away from the vehicle traffic on Hazel Street as possible.

We anticipate a May, 2013 letting for the project where bids will be submitted by contractors interested in performing the work. Upon acceptance by the City Council and approval by the Iowa DOT construction will then begin, weather permitting, in May/June, 2013.

Van Meter
tradition with a vision

Elected Officials:

Mayor-Allan Adams

Council

-Becca Wiederholt

Mayor Pro Tem

-Richard Booge

-Adam Coyle

-Bob Lacy

-Kim Sacker

City Staff:

*Jake Anderson-
City Administrator
954-6094*

*Liz Thompson-
Deputy Clerk
669-6396*

*Dave Herman-
Public Works
240-9280*

*Chad Gillespie-
Public Works
371-9933*

*Bill Daggett-
Police Chief
202-4154*

*Jolena Welker-
Library Director
(vanmeterpl@mchsi.com)*

-Library-996-2435



NEWS & UPDATES

If you would like to receive information from the City of Van Meter, sign up by sending an email to lthompson@vanmeteria.gov.

The City will send you important notices and updates including community news and events.

Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook!

Visit our website at www.cityofvanmeter.com

New web design coming soon!

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Fire Department is in need of individuals looking to make a difference in our community.

The number of volunteers on the department has dropped from previous years..

Please consider what you can do to help.

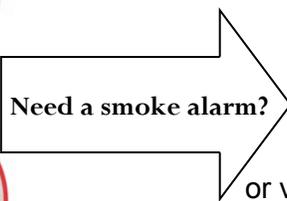
To become a member of the Fire & Rescue department please apply at Van Meter City Hall.

You may also send inquires to vanmeterfireandrescue@gmail.com or leave a message at 996-9253.

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

MAKE SURE YOUR SMOKE ALARMS PERFORM AS INTENDED
- WHEN YOU NEED THEM THE MOST

- **TEST** smoke alarms monthly
- Change the **BATTERIES** every year
- Beware of **CHIRPING** smoke alarms – it's time to replace the batteries
- Replace older smoke alarms – **REPLACE** alarms that are more than 10 years old
- Know the **SOUND** of the smoke alarm and what to do if the alarm goes off



Contact the Fire Department
or stop by City Hall.
Phone # 996-9253
or vanmeterfireandrescue@gmail.com



REMEMBER, ONLY WORKING SMOKE
ALARMS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!

How Healthy is Your Home?

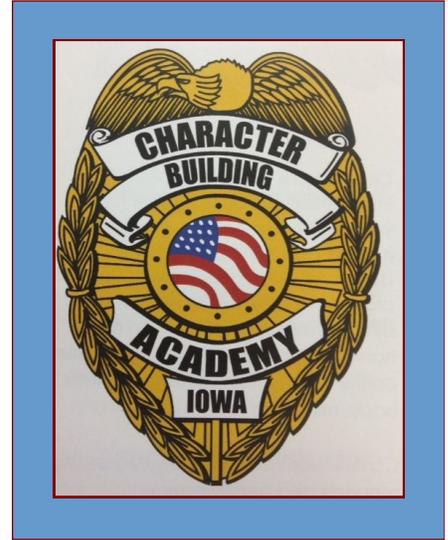
The only way to tell if your home has dangerous levels of radon is to test for it. Once detected, homes with high levels of radon can be easily fixed.

Test your home today.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS FROM CHIEF DAGGETT

The Van Meter Police Department, in conjunction with the Dallas County Sheriff's Office, and other Dallas County law enforcement agencies hosts the Character Building Academy at the Waukee Police Department in June of each year. This program is designed for young men and women between the ages of 12 and 16. The academy is two weeks in length in the morning. It is designed to teach leadership, character and build self-esteem. The Van Meter community is invited to sign up and participate. Sign up is done through the Waukee Police Department and will be open shortly for the 2013 academy. There is a small fee to cover the cost of graduation items and cadet uniforms. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call me at 515-202-4154 or you can pick up a pamphlet at Van Meter City Hall or the Van Meter Schools secondary office. When registration begins, I will let the community know through the newsletter and the city Facebook page.



As I work traffic in the community I am still seeing speeds of ten miles an hour and over in residential areas. I want everyone to take a moment and think about the children that play in and near our streets. Please slow down. I have issued warnings for the first several months to allow the community to get used to having an officer. As time passes speeds in excess of ten miles an hour plus over the speed limit will result in issuance of citations. Safety for everyone is my first priority and I am sure yours as none of us want to see an avoidable tragedy happen in our community.

On 1-24-2013 I responded to the report of a possible intruder in a home. Upon checking there was no one present but it highlighted for me, as your police officer, that we need to work together to protect each other. As such I want to work with you to put in place a formal neighborhood watch program for the city. I am looking for people that would be willing to serve as block captains and help promote neighbors helping neighbors in our community. I will be ordering signs to be placed through out the community. If your interested in wanting to be a block captain or want to know more please contact me at 515-202-4154.



**Country Kids' Club
Now Enrolling!
Openings for all ages
6 weeks-12 years!
Pre-school 5 days a week!**



Call 515-996-9141 for information!

SURVEY

The Greater Dallas County Development Alliance is conducting a proven labor pool survey of Dallas County and the surrounding area. The information collected from this survey will be used to attract potential companies looking in Dallas County, as we are seeing a rebound in the economy. One of the biggest criteria companies look for is a proven labor force, so this information could be vital to future success.

Follow this link to take the survey:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/76BWYT3>

If you live in Dallas County or surrounding counties (Greene, Boone, Polk, Madison, or Guthrie), please help us by taking the time to fill out this short survey. The survey should take no longer than 10-12 minutes of your time.

Thank you for your time and help with this study!

LITTLE LEAGUE/SOCCER SIGN UP

We receive many calls from area people inquiring about sign up for little league baseball, softball and soccer.

Although the city does not manage these activities we provide registration information on our website at www.cityofvanmeter.com.

The following are representatives to contact:

Baseball—Dan Koster 515-971-8195/ Koster5@q.com or Jason Pleggenkuhle at 515-249-6649/ Jason@mortgageproducersinc.com
Softball—email vanmetersoftball@gmail.com

*Little league baseball
is a very good thing
because it keeps the
parents off the streets.*

- Yogi Berra



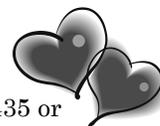
**Feb 16, 2013 Open House
New Veterans Reception Center
10:00AM - 3:00 PM**



2013 Post 403 Oratorical representative Nathan Walton successfully won the State Area 1 Competition for the 2012-2013 American Legion Contest.

**CHECK IT OUT—
VAN METER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Contact the library at 515-996-2435 or
vanmeterpl@mchsi.com



HAPPY FEBRUARY!

Book review by library patron Cristie Sullivan: The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom - I've thought about how to describe this one but I'm almost at a loss for words. Such a powerful, motivational, inspirational true story that will energize your faith. The author tells of her arrest during WWII because of her involvement of hiding Jews. She went through horrific experiences in the prison camps. I won't say more than that. Definitely a book to check out and read more than once. We have it quite easy in 2013 compared to that. Thank you, Jolena, for suggesting. And by the way.... there is a FB page dedicated to Corrie Ten Boom. If you have read a good book recently, feel free to submit a recommendation and review!



New books: The Rocketeer, by John Grisham; Atlas Shrugged, by Ayn Rand; Sacred Stone and Polar Shift, by Clive Cussler; Three Little Pigs, by Bill Beaman.

Audio books: Circle Trilogy, by Nora Roberts; Small Steps, by Louis Sachar; and In the Tall, by Stephen King.

New movies at the library: The Dark Knight Trilogy, Ghost Rider 2, Expendables 2, One for the Money, The Ugly Truth, Flash Gordon, and Walking Tall Trilogy.

Reminder the book club meets at 7 pm each month on the 3rd Thursday.

The adult reading contest is still going strong. It isn't too late to get involved. Lots of fun and prizes!
You must be 19 or older. Contact the library for more details.

As always—the after school program for the kids is great fun! Everyday there is an activity, game or movie going.
You will usually find them snacking on popcorn and giggling loudly—
the bigger the mess, the more fun we have had!



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**

"The more that you read,
the more things you will
know. The more that
you learn, the more
places you'll go."
- DR. SEUSS



CITY OF VAN METER

505 Grant Street
PO Box 160
Van Meter, IA 50261

Phone: 515-996-2644

Fax: 515-996-2207

Email:

ltompson@vanmeteria.gov



"It's snowing still,"

said Eeyore

gloomily. 

"And freezing."

"However," he said,

brightening up a

little, "we haven't

had an earthquake

lately."



Find us on
Facebook

SNOW

For anyone who still has questions regarding snow removal or parking during or after a snowfall. Perhaps our luck will hold out and there won't be anymore snow. However, we live in Iowa anything is possible!

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 traveled way of a street or alley so as to obstruct gutters, or impede 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.

City Code of Ordinances can be found our website or City Hall.

Recycling Schedule for February 2013

WASTE CONNECTIONS INC.

515-265-7374

Monday, February 11

Monday, February 25

