



**CITY OF
VAN METER**

Van Meter News

November 2012

Van Meter/DeSoto Joint Quality Study

Over the last month we worked to gather data for the water quality study and some important information has been identified. A preliminary analysis of the past five years of financial data suggests that Van Meter's Water Utility is operating at a break-even point. This means that we have been efficient and have done a good job of keeping our water prices steady even though inflation has pushed our costs higher. Unfortunately, this also means that the entire cost of any capital project will need to be funded by rate increases.

We know that the cost of a water treatment plant will be painful that is why we have done everything we can to lessen the burden that our customers will feel in their monthly utility bills. That is the spirit of undertaking a cooperative effort with the City of DeSoto – if we spread the cost out over a larger population individuals will be impacted less. Further, we are working hard to identify alternative revenue sources. Recently the City has leased space on the water tower to AT&T for the placement of cell phone antennas – money that will be reinvested into our water distribution system.

If you are interested in how our water rates compare to other communities in the Des Moines area we have compiled the information here for you to review. Additionally so you can see how rates in Van Meter have historically increased we tabulated that information as well.

Rest assured that we are committed to undertaking an extensive public awareness campaign at the conclusion of the study (April/May) where we will seek your input as to how we ought to proceed.

Historic Water Rate Increases

Month-Year	First 2000 Gals	Per ea. 1000 Gals Over	% Change
	8.99	3.00	
Jun-04	9.27	3.09	3%
Jun-04	9.64	3.21	4%
May-05	10.12	3.37	5%
Dec-07	10.47	3.49	3%
Jul-10	10.84	3.61	4%

City	First 6000 Gallons
1 DeSoto	\$ 62.82
2 Woodward	\$ 48.00
3 Earlham	\$ 47.40
4 Waukee	\$ 45.72
5 Grimes	\$ 43.38
6 Clive	\$ 42.60
7 Altoona	\$ 41.06
8 Bondurant	\$ 39.69
9 Adel	\$ 37.91
10 Dallas Center	\$ 36.30
11 Johnston	\$ 35.78
12 Granger	\$ 35.10
13 Carlisle	\$ 33.00
14 West Des Moines	\$ 30.30
15 Des Moines	\$ 29.10
16 Urbandale	\$ 28.40
17 Norwalk	\$ 28.32
18 Pleasant Hill	\$ 27.70
19 Van Meter	\$ 25.28
20 Polk City	\$ 24.32
21 Ankeny	\$ 15.63



**General Election
November 6.
Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Vote at the VM United
Methodist Church.**



To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under the sun. A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill and a time to heal... a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance... a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to lose and a time to seek; a time to rend and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; a time to love and a time to hate; a time for and a time for peace.



Thank You!
Veterans!

December Farmers Market

**Holiday Farmers Market and Bazaar
December 8th**

9am-1pm

Van Meter School Cafeteria

Vendors must register by Dec. 1

Please call Holly to register 996-2702

Or VMFarmersmarket@gmail.com

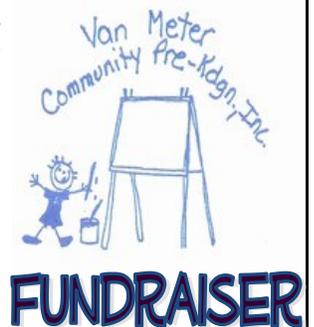
The cost to participate is \$5.00 per table.

Police Chief Search

As this issue of the *Van Meter News* goes to press the Mayor's hiring committee is in the middle of conducting interviews and formulating a recommendation to the City Council for ratification at the November 12 City Council meeting. Stay tuned for a special report in the next edition of the *Van Meter News*.

RECYCLE your used oils and antifreeze at Maffin Outdoor Power & Auto. They are now accepting ANY types of oil—motor, transmission, cooking, tanning :) etc... for recycle. They will also take antifreeze. Make Maffin's your new recycling site! Jesse Maffin, Owner—515-974-7610 419 Grant Street, Van Meter IA

Instead of throwing away your empty cartridges, cell phones, small electronics, and laptops—donate them to us—Van Meter Community Pre-K. We recycle them through FundingFactory to raise money for our organization. Sign up to be a Business Supporter. Or, we'll gladly pick up your empty cartridges. Our success depends on [FundingFactory](http://FundingFactory.com), a 100% FREE fundraising solution for us and for you! There are no obligations, no deadlines, and no surprises! Learn more at FundingFactory.com and register as our Business Supporter.



NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS

Cover your eyes—I am about to use a nasty 4-letter word... SNOW! Here is what you need to know about S#w:

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 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 re-

moved 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.



MUNICIPAL INFRACTIONS. A violation of this Code of Ordinances or any ordinance or code herein adopted by reference or the omission or failure to perform any act or duty required by the same, with the exception of those provisions specifically provided under State law as a felony, an aggravated misdemeanor, or a serious misdemeanor, or a simple misdemeanor under Chapters 687 through 747 of the Code of Iowa, is a municipal infraction punishable by civil penalty as provided herein.

Please visit our website for the complete Code of Ordinances for the city of Van Meter. They can be found at www.cityofvanmeter.com under the section titled Ordinances.



Safety Tip:
“Remember to change the batteries in your smoke alarms when you set your clocks back on November 4th.”



VM Fire and Rescue

October was Fire Safety Month. Members of your Fire Department took time off to make Fire Prevention Week an educational experience for the Van Meter School children. We coordinated a fire drill with the school staff and brought trucks to the school as if it were real. Personnel also went to the daycare center to display a truck and some equipment.

What about your smoke detectors? Have you changed the batteries? Your Fire Department is giving away free smoke detectors for your protection and safety. Contact City Hall 996-2644 or VMFD at 996-9253 and leave your name and number.

Chief Gary Herrick



For students at Van Meter Pre-K there are very few things more exciting than a fire truck and a fireman in uniform right outside their classroom door!

Pictured to the left is Mrs. Eslick and Mrs. Schuelter

UPCOMING EVENT!

Winter/heating season is here. Have you had your furnace serviced? Don't wait to find you have no heat when you need it or worse yet, your furnace doesn't work right and you have a potential for carbon monoxide poisoning.

ANNUAL VAN METER FIRE & RESCUE



Firehouse Chili Feed

Saturday, December 15th - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

At the Van Meter Fire House

Warm up from the cold with

Chili * corn bread * dessert *

coffee * hot chocolate

\$5.00 per person



Check It Out!

Phone: 996-2435
Email: vanmeterpl@mchsi.com

THE VAN METER PUBLIC LIBRARY

November another of my favorite months: I always feel like Thanksgiving does not get the attention it deserves. It is in between Halloween and Christmas so it goes too fast! Sooo I make sure to read as many Books, stories and poems as I can about Thanksgiving. If you need any ideas just let me know and I'll help you find the book to read!

Reminders for November!

November 1st - Trustee Board meeting at the city hall at 6:30 pm

November 15th - the next knitting and crocheting group meets at the library at 6:30 pm.

November 29th - the next book club and we will meet at the library at 7 pm. We will be discussing "The Shunning" by Beverly Lewis Be sure to watch right here as we will have the Adult Reading contest this winter: I will explain more in the next newsletter but you must be 19 and older. We will do this for the months of January & February! Brrr! It will be a great way to challenge ourselves to read more and to read books we may not normally pick up. So watch for details!

Here are new books that are in: "NYPD Red" by James Patterson, "The Casual Vacancy" by J.K. Rowling, "Severe Clear" by Stuart Woods, "Last Victim" by Karen Robards, "Haven" by Kay Hooper, and "All Things New" by Lynn Austin. We have many new books coming in so please stop in and check them out!

New DVDs to the library: "The Incredibles," "Madagascar 3," "Wall E", "Meet the Robinsons", "Thief in the Night", "Lilo & Stitch", "Lilo and Stitch 2", all 4 movies in the "Twilight Series" and many others. Nothing like a great movie with popcorn and hot cocoa for these upcoming cold nights.



Also new books coming in the Young Adult section and Junior Fiction section. Stay tuned....

The magazines that have been donated subscriptions that are new: **Large Print Guideposts, People, Parents and Herbs.**

Vickie and I always look forward to seeing you! Don't forget we have after-school programs everyday and story time on Wednesday at 10 am.

I just want to end with a big **THANK YOU!** to Vickie, Jake, Liz, Chad, and Dave for being so great to work with everyday! They really make coming to the library even more enjoyable. I cannot begin to tell you what each one of them has done to help me and the library this past year. I am so **THANKFUL** to live in Van Meter.

Thank you also goes to our Mayor, City Council and Library Board of Trustees. It is a team effort! They make us shine!

I don't have any remarkable sayings this month. But I thought back to when both of my daughters Julie and Joyce, had Mrs. Steele for Kindergarten. She had them put what they were Thankful for on a turkey and then she posted them. Julie was thankful for God and Joyce was thankful for family! That pretty well sums it up for me! Thank you everyone! Have a blessed "Thanksgiving!"

Jolena Welker - Director



CITY OF
VAN METER

PO Box 160
505 Grant Street
Van Meter, IA 50261

Phone: 515-996-2644
Fax: 515-996-2207
Email: vanmeter@city.net

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

Liz Thompson-

Deputy Clerk

Dave Herman-

Public Works

Chad Gillespie-

Asst. Public Works

Jolena Welker-

Library Director

(vanmeterpl@mchsi.com)

-Library—996-2435

-Post Office—

996-2458

-Non-Emergency—

Dallas Co. Dispatch-

993-4567

-Emergency—911

-Dave Herman—

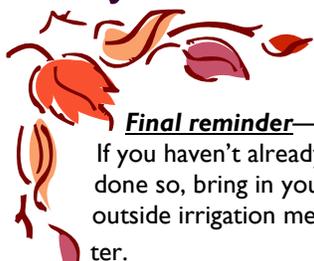
515-240-9280

-Chad Gillespie—

515-371-9933

Happy Thanksgiving!

City Hall Reminders



Final reminder—

If you haven't already done so, bring in your outside irrigation meter.

Leaves and Yard

Waste—This time of year, the leaves are so beautiful, unless you are endlessly raking them.

You can bag your leaves and yard waste and Waste Connections will dispose of them with regular trash pickups. They require residents to use the paper sacks/yard waste bags—**DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS.** They will not take them if they are not in the paper bags.

Garbage Service—Waste Connections does not pick up on the following holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. If any of these holidays fall on a Monday, the pickup service will be one day late.

Sidewalks/walkways—For the safety of walkers, joggers, and bikers, please keep your sidewalks free of debris and other potential hazards such as snow/ice, branches, leaves, weeds, toys, and vehicles. It is greatly appreciated!

Street Repairs—In early November, (depending upon the weather) street repairs will be done on Lakeview Drive. Traffic will be

limited to one lane in some areas. Work should be completed within a couple of days. Your patience is appreciated. Please drive SAFELY!

Veteran's Day—An annual American holiday honoring military veterans. Words cannot adequately express our gratitude to the men and women who protect our country and ensure our freedoms. God Bless America!

ACH—Automated Clearing House. Sign up today to have your monthly utility payment automatically deducted from your savings or checking account. Forms are online or stop by city hall.

Serving our Citizens—

The Dallas County Public Health Nurses were in Van Meter on October 2. They vaccinated 33 community members. We are glad to provide a local venue for our friends and neighbors in an attempt to "beat the bug!"

Building Permits—Permit applications can be obtained from our office or they can be found online at www.cityofvanmeter.com. Decks and fences do not require permits. All other projects, please check with us for a determination. Remember always to call Iowa One Call for locates—the # is 1-800-292-8989 OR dial 811. It's a good idea to do this as well if you're doing some major landscaping.



On November 4th—
Remember to "Fall Back."
Set your clocks back one hour.

November Calendar

- 11/4—Daylight Savings Time Ends; set your clocks back one hour
- 11/4—American Legion Breakfast
- 11/6—Election Day Polls open @ 7 a.m. at the VM United Methodist Church
- 11/11—Veterans Day
- 11/12—City Council Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 11/15—P&Z Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 11/22 & 23—Happy Thanksgiving; City Offices Closed

Enjoy your Thanksgiving Holiday—Remember all the things you have to be thankful for... like the newsletter!

City offices will be closed on Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Please visit our website for general information www.cityofvanmeter.com. You can leave payments and other correspondence in the mail slot next to the door.

"LIKE" us on Facebook—City of Van Meter