

# VAN METER News

May 2020

CITY OF VAN METER

## COVID-19 RELATED UPDATE

Many of you are aware of the current state of the pandemic and are following along with the Governor's daily updates, so I will not dwell on that information. At a local level, Mayor Allan Adams signed an additional Proclamation of Emergency on April 8th, 2020 to extend his proclamation made on March 16th with some new additions. The Mayor's Proclamation of Emergency will be extended through April 30th, 2020. We will continue to evaluate this proclamation at the local level, and based on guidance from the President or the Governor, the Mayor may choose to further extend this proclamation. We are also monitoring our neighboring metro communities to ensure we have policies in place consistent with our neighbors.

As noted in the March 16th proclamation, the Mayor suspended the capital rate charge on municipal sewer and water services. This suspension will be extended to include the April billing cycle with a May 15th due date. Should the Mayor extend the proclamation through any part of May, we would anticipate this suspension being further extended as well. One new utility related addition to the April 8th proclamation was an authorization to waive the typical disconnect and reconnect fees for Van Meter businesses that are closed by order of the Governor. We wanted to ensure we were not adversely impacting our local businesses and provide them with the option to suspend their services in the easiest way possible.

Another addition made during the April 8th proclamation related to park equipment. By order of the Governor, all playground equipment was closed pursuant to the Governor's April 6th proclamation. The City followed suit, closing our publicly owned playground equipment. The parks are still open at this time, but we encourage you to follow the appropriate social distancing guidelines.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

### Elected Officials:

-Allan Adams, Mayor

### Council Members—

-Lyn Lyon,  
Mayor Pro Tem

-Travis Brott

-Adam Coyle

-Joe Herman

-Steve Meyer

### City Staff:

City Hall -  
515-996-2644

Kyle Michel-  
City Administrator

Liz Thompson-Clerk

David Herman-  
Public Works

Pat Alexander-  
Public Works

Bill Daggett-Police Chief

Dispatch: 515-993-4567  
Emergency—911

Chris Power, Fire Chief  
515-996-9253

Kathleen Nubel, Librarian  
Library—515-996-2435

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

# May 2020

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**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Finally, we have collected a list of available resources as well as information from Dallas County regarding COVID-19 cases on the City's website under the "Live" tab. Please share these resources with those in need and direct additional resources to [info@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:info@vanmeteria.gov) so that they can be added to our website.

Respectfully,

Kyle Michel, MPA

City Administrator

## **LIBRARY NEWS**



Registration for the 2020 Summer Library Program begins June 1st. While this year's summer program will look different than in previous years, we are excited to still be able to offer summer reading and learning opportunities to Van Meter families. Look out for an announcement on the city Facebook page and website in late May, as well as in the June newsletter.

## WASTE CONNECTIONS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

1) Waste Connections will NOT dispose of any items that are outside of the cart. No extra bags. No bulk items. No garbage/recycling that falls from the cart.

2) Waste Connections will NOT be removing yard waste on Thursdays. As an alternative, you may dispose of it yourself. There is a dumpster for YARD WASTE ONLY near the public works maintenance building. It is clearly marked and has camera surveillance. Please do not misuse the dumpster by throwing away trash or recycling. Violators can be fined.



### Acceptable Residential Yard Waste – Bagged

- Compostable bags
- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Soft plant material
- Weeds



### Unacceptable Residential Yard Waste

- Any item not listed above
- Animal waste or litter
- Dead animals
- Dirt, gravel, rock
- Plant pots
- Plastic bags

**Garbage/recycle services will be Tuesday, May 26th due to the Memorial Day holiday.**

### Waste Connections

515-265-7374

Recycling Schedule

Monday, May 11

Tuesday, May 26

Residential Yard Waste: Collection service runs April 1 to November 27, 2020.

Tags are NOT required, but it needs to be in compostable bags or bundled appropriately. Until further notice, please use the designation dumpster located near the public works maintenance building. Please see the link below for more information regarding this service.

<https://www.wcdesmoines.com/residential#YardWaste>

**WEEDS AND BRUSH.** Dense growth of all weeds, vines, brush or other vegetation in the City can constitute a health, safety or fire hazard. Unless a variance is allowed by resolution of the Council pursuant to 53.05, weeds, brush, or other uncultivated plants, except trees, shall be cut, mowed and maintained so as to not exceed the heights set forth specifically in this Chapter.

Any property within the City, other than property used and taxed as Agricultural, whether vacated or non-vacated, is required to be mowed prior to the vegetation reaching a height of ten inches (10"). Once the vegetation has reached the height of ten inches (10") or twenty-four inches (24"), the City will arrange to mow the property at the property owner's expense.

**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.

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.**

Property used and taxed as Agricultural is exempt from this chapter's height and mowing requirements.

Any property which is not mowed may be mowed by the City or their agents, and a charge of \$75.00 per hour, (with a minimum of one (1) hour, and any additional time over the first hour will be billed in half-hour increments), for such mowing, plus an administrative surcharge of \$100.00, will be charged to the property owner. Any property owner who fails to mow their property, thus allowing the same to be mowed by the City or their agents, and who do not provide payment for the mowing as required, will be assessed by the City for such costs, which will be collected in the same manner as general property taxes.

**Full copies of codes can be found at City Hall or on our website at [www.vanmeteria.gov](http://www.vanmeteria.gov).**

## CEMETERY RULES AND REGS

### Pursuant to Municipal Code 115.05:

The following information is a partial list of rules and regulations. Please visit our website at [www.vanmeteria.gov](http://www.vanmeteria.gov) for a complete list of the rules and regulations found under the cemetery sections.

### Summary of Rules and Regulations:

**P**ets, food, and firearms, other than those carried by police officers or used in military honor funeral services, shall be prohibited in the cemetery.

No person shall drive any vehicle within the cemetery except upon the driveways prepared and designed for that purpose, and such vehicles shall not be operated in excess of the posted speed limit of 10 mph. Driving on the grass, walks, and alleys is prohibited with the exception of maintenance personnel.

It shall be unlawful for any person to desecrate or injure the cemetery, or any lot, grave, gravestone, monument, fence, tree or shrubbery therein.

General care is assumed by the City and includes the cutting and watering of grass, debris removal, fertilization, and periodic pruning of shrubs and trees.

Grave decorations of all kinds will be removed when in the judgment of maintenance personnel they do not conform to the decorum of the cemetery.

Holiday decorations are permitted, but must be removed thirty days after the holiday. Decorations may be removed and disposed of by cemetery personnel.

The planting or placing of shrubbery, plants, flowers, or grass is prohibited as is the placement of trees.

No coping or fence of any kind shall be permitted.

It is prohibited for cremains to be scattered in the cemetery; or buried without the City's permission and notification.

City staff may handle the placement of cremains upon the request of the family at a fee of \$150 and said fee is established by resolution.

Only a contractor approved by the city shall perform the opening and closing at any gravesite.

Lots shall be sold by the city clerk at the established price set by resolution adopted by the City Council. The city clerk shall issue a deed to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price.

An owner of a space in the cemetery may only transfer his or her space to a relative by blood or marriage. Documentation shall be submitted to the city clerk for recording.

The City may purchase a space from an owner at the purchase price, and said space shall be made available to the general public and previous deed voided.

## HONOR MEMORIAL DAY

**We recognize and honor the brave military servicemen and women who died while serving our country. To the soldiers who mourn your fallen brothers and sisters and selflessly serve(d) our country—your sacrifice is also greatly appreciated!**

## 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.

I (we) hereby authorize the CITY OF VAN METER to provide billing statements electronically via email.

**PREFERRED EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME(s) (print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*You will receive your water bill on or near the first of the month. If you choose autopay, the amount due will be deducted from the above assigned account on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.\*\*\***