NOVEMBER 2026

# Van Meter

tradition with a vision

City Hall - 310 Mill Street, PO BOX 160, Van Meter, IA 50261

## Elected Officials

**MAYOR**
Joe Herman

**MAYOR PRO TEM**
Travis Brott

**COUNCILMAN**
Joel Akers

**COUNCILMAN**
Jarin Young

**COUNCILMAN**
Joe Lake

**COUNCILMAN**
Jason Barney

## City Staff

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**
Annette Ekhoff

**CITY CLERK**
Travis Cooke

**DEPUTY CLERK**
Madeline Lavallee

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**
Drew McCombs

**PUBLIC WORKS**
Shane Luvaas

**PUBLIC WORKS**
Spencer Leonard

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR**
Jonatha Basye

**LIBRARY ASSISTANT**
Annie Atkins

**PARKS & REC DIRECTOR**
Grace Wilder

**POLICE CHIEF**
Mike Brown

**FIRE CHIEF**
Mark Schmitt

## Helpful Links

City Calendar

Our Community Connect

City Website

ACH Form

Local Businesses

Community Portal for Next Meters

## Contact Us

**Phone**
515-996-264

**Email**
info@vanmeteria.gov

## City Meeting Schedule

Council Meeting · Monday, November 9, 2026

Workshop · Monday, November 29, 2026

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# RECYCLING GUIDELINES
## for Businesses & Residents in Central Iowa

### RECYCLABLE



Screw-Top Plastics (with caps) & ONLY Yogurt & Margarine Tubs (no lids)



Paper Food Cartons (no caps) (not cylinder shaped)



Newspaper, Glossy Inserts & Magazines

Mixed Paper (Junk mail, phone books, envelopes)
Cardboard (Break down and cut to fit into cart)



Wire Hangers



Shredded Paper (Place in a paper sack or box)



Aluminum, Tin & Empty Aerosol Cans



Glass Jars & Bottles (All colors)

**Don't Bag Recyclables**



*Keep items loose in the bin. The sorting facility doesn't break the bags open.*

### NOT RECYCLABLE



Plastic Bags



Aluminum Foil & Baking Tins



Compostable Cups, Plates, Utensils & Bags



Plastic Cups & Tubs, Lids & Utensils



Paper Cups



Containers for Hazardous Materials



Food Contaminated Items (Pizza boxes, paper plates, napkins)



Plastic & Styrofoam Food Containers, Lids & Loose Caps



Garbage or Yard Debris

**The last yard waste pick up will be Saturday 11-28-2026**

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## Happy THANKSGIVING



**As Thanksgiving approaches, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the many things that make our community special. We are grateful for the residents, businesses, volunteers, and community organizations that help make the City of Van Meter a welcoming place to live, work, and grow. Thanksgiving is a reminder to appreciate our neighbors, lend a helping hand when we can, and celebrate the connections that bring us together. Whether you are gathering with family, sharing a meal with friends, or simply enjoying a quiet day of reflection, we hope you take time to cherish the blessings in your life.**

**Thanksgiving Day will be observed on Thursday, November 26, 2026.**

**From all of us at the City of Van Meter, we wish you and your loved ones a safe, happy, and memorable Thanksgiving filled with gratitude, joy, and community spirit. Happy Thanksgiving!**

### Keep Fire Hydrants Visible

Residents are encouraged to help keep fire hydrants near their property clear of snow and ice throughout the winter season. Maintaining visibility and access to hydrants can help emergency responders save valuable time during an emergency.

To allow for efficient snow removal operations, residents are reminded to avoid parking on streets during snow events when snow removal operations are underway. Vehicles that interfere with snow removal may be subject to a snow removal parking citation. The current fine for a snow removal parking violation is $30.00, with additional penalties if left unpaid.

### Help Our Snow Crews

Public Works crews work hard to keep Van Meter's streets safe during winter weather. Residents can help by:

- Removing vehicles from streets during snow removal operations.
- Refraining from pushing snow from driveways into public streets.
- Using caution around snowplows and allowing extra stopping distance.

## Winter Weather Preparation

### Winterize Your Home and Irrigation System

Now is the time to prepare your property for freezing temperatures:

- Disconnect and store garden hoses.
- Shut off and winterize irrigation systems.
- Insulate exposed pipes where needed.
- Check outdoor faucets and spigots for proper winter protection.

Taking these steps can help prevent costly repairs due to frozen or burst pipes.

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# Van Meter Government 101: How Your City Government Works

**Ever wonder how the City of Van Meter operates? While this may not come up at your next trivia night, understanding your local government can help you stay informed and involved in your community.**

**The City of Van Meter operates under a Mayor-Council form of government. Residents elect a mayor and city council every four years. Together, they are responsible for establishing policies, adopting budgets, and making decisions that guide the city. The mayor serves as the city's chief executive officer and, under our charter, has the authority to veto council actions when necessary.**

**In addition to the mayor and council, the City Administrator helps oversee daily city operations. Appointed by the mayor and council, the City Administrator ensures city ordinances, resolutions, and policies are carried out and works closely with Public Works, Parks and Recreation, law enforcement, and city staff to keep city services running smoothly.**

**The City also relies on citizen volunteers who serve on advisory boards and commissions:**

**Planning & Zoning (P&Z)**

Five-member board, primarily made up of Van Meter residents.
Reviews zoning requests, development plans, plats, and rezoning applications.
Makes recommendations to the City Council, which has the final decision after a public hearing.

**Board of Adjustment (BOA)**

Five-member board appointed by the City Council.
Reviews conditional use permits and variance requests.
Makes final decisions on these matters without requiring City Council approval.

**These boards play an important role in shaping future growth and development within our community.**

**Each month, I hope to provide additional information about how your city government functions and the services it provides. My goal is to help residents better understand not only what we do, but why we do it.**

**If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at aekhoff@cityofvanmeteria.gov or 515-985-8353.**

**Respectfully,**
**Annette Ekhoff, ICMA-CM**
**City Administrator**

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# NOVEMBER 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Closed | 2 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library (Popsicle Stick Tractor) | 3 | 4 | 5 The Good Stuff with Jason Walsmith 6 PM | 6 8:30 AM Kids Care Outreach 9:15 AM Inspired Kids Outreach 10 AM University Kids | 7 Storytime 10 AM |
| 8 Closed | 9 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library (Pom Pom Hedgehog) City Council 6PM | 10 | 11 Library Board 6PM | 12 Storytime 2:30 PM | 13 Ricochet 2PM | 14 |
| 15 Closed | 16 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library (Turkey Shapes) | 17 Junk Journaling with Emily Walker 6PM | 18 | 19 Silent Book Club 7 PM | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Closed | 23 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library (Pumpkin Pies) City Council Workshop 6 PM | 24 Storytime 9:30 AM Books & Banter 7 PM | 25 | 26 Thanksgiving Closed | 27 Closed | 28 |
| 29 Closed | 30 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library (Sweeping Leaves) LIHEAP Mobile 10-2 PM | Holiday Food Scavenger Hunt! STEM Eric Carle Binoculars Take and Make! | | | | |

**Library Hours**

**Monday** 10am - 5pm
**Tuesday** 10am - 7pm
**Wednesday** 10am - 5pm
**Thursday** 10am - 7pm
**Friday** 10am - 5pm
**Saturday** 8am - 1pm
**Sunday** Closed

VMPL Amazon Wishlist

VAN METER PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOVEMBER 2026

## Event Details

- **Holiday Food Scavenger Hunt -** Can you find all of the holiday foods in this month's scavenger hunt? Turn in your completed sheet at the circulation desk and choose a prize!
- **STEM Eric Carle Binoculars Take and Make! -** Grab a take-home kit and assemble your own binoculars! While supplies last!
- **Gettin' Crafty @ the Library -** Each week, the library will debut a brand-new craft for everyone to enjoy! Materials will be available all week, and no registration is required.
- **The Good Stuff with Jason Walsmith** - How one part of Iowa made it through the depression and prohibition by making bootleg whiskey known as the good stuff! Jason Walsmith will discuss the history and longevity of a farm whiskey known as Templeton Rye on Thursday, November 5th at 6:00 PM!
- **Storytime** - Stop by for Storytime with Ms. J! Join us for stories, songs, and snacks!
- **Junk Journaling with Emily Walker** - Junk journal with author Emily Walker as she shares about her book: Solace: A Collection of Poetry, Coloring, & Journaling. Reccomended for middle schoolers and up!
- **Silent Book Club at the Buffalo** - Join us at the Great White Buffalo Public House for Silent Book Club at 7 PM on November 19th !
- **Books and Banter** - Join us for Books and Banter to discuss Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler on November 24th at 7:00 PM!
- **Closed for Thanksgiving!** - The library will be closed on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th in observance of Thanksgiving!
- **LIHEAP Mobile (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance)** - Will be present in the library on November 30th from 10 AM - 2 PM.

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VAN METER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mark your calendars for our

annual

# Kids SHOPPING DAY

at Van Meter United Methodist Church

## Saturday, December 5th
## from 9:00am to 1:00pm



## Tis the season to let the kid's shop!

Parents relax while "elves" help the children pick out gifts from their lists and have them packaged for secrecy.

We'll have new and gently-used items available at garage sale prices.

You can pay with cash or venmo.

venmo

All proceeds go to local families in need this season.

VETERAN'S RECEPTION CENTER PRESENTS

# SATURDAY NIGHT BINGO!!!

## November 21, 2026– 7:00 p.m.




**Enjoy DINNER and BINGO at the Veteran's Reception Center in Van Meter, Iowa**

*10 Regular Games & Progressive Blackout*

**Turkeys and cash will be awarded as prizes for the first 10 games.**

**PROGRESSIVE BLACKOUT JACKPOT IS $400**

**COME EARLY FOR SOUP and CORNBREAD – SERVING STARTS AT 5:30**

**SUGGESTED DONATION $8**

**403 LOUNGE WILL BE OPEN**

VETERAN'S RECEPTION CENTER 910 MAIN STREET VAN METER, IOWA (515) 996-9166