

SEPTEMBER 2026



City Hall - 310 Mill Street, PO BOX 160, Van Meter, IA 50261
515-996-2644 info@vanmeteria.gov www.vanmeteria.gov

City Halls New Hours

To better meet the needs of our residents, City Hall is updating its office hours effective immediately.

New Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Please note: City Hall will be closed on Fridays following a City Council meeting.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we make this adjustment to better serve our community!

New Meeting Hours

Starting in September, all Council and Workshop Meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.
Same meetings. New start time.

Please update your calendars accordingly.

OUR NEWSLETTER IS GOING DIGITAL

Because the copier deserves a break, and apparently printer ink is worth its weight in gold! You can continue to find each issue on our website, on Facebook or our customer portal, where it will be just as informative and considerably less expensive to produce. Effective Immediately

CITY MEETING SCHEDULE

September 14th @ 6:00pm Council Meeting
September 28th @ 6:00pm Workshop

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 Ekhoft

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

Sam Chia

POLICE CHIEF

Mike Brown

FIRE CHIEF

Mark Schmitt

DALLAS COUNTY DISPATCH

(non emergency) 515-993-4567

EMERGENCY

911

Employee Spotlight

The City of Van Meter is pleased to announce the hiring of Grace Wilder as the new Director of Parks & Recreation, with her first day scheduled for September 8, 2026.

Grace brings a strong background in recreation programming, athletic event management, facility operations, and community engagement. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Sports Marketing and Management with a minor in Business from the University of Dubuque in 2022 and completed her Master of Sports Management in 2024.

Most recently, Grace served as the Recreation Coordinator for the City of Monticello, where she was responsible for planning and coordinating recreational programs, special events, facility scheduling, staff supervision, volunteer management, and community outreach initiatives. Her experience includes developing and promoting programs designed to increase community participation and provide diverse recreational opportunities for residents.

In addition to her municipal recreation experience, Grace has held several leadership roles at the University of Dubuque, including Intramural Supervisor Team Lead, Athletic Department Graduate Assistant, and Adjunct Professor. These positions provided valuable experience in program administration, event planning, staff supervision, facility management, and leadership development. She also completed a Leisure Services Internship with the City of Dubuque, where she assisted with the development of inclusive recreation programs serving individuals of varying abilities.

Grace is First Aid, CPR, and AED certified and has been an active member of the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA). Her combination of education, professional experience, and passion for community engagement will be a tremendous asset to the City of Van Meter.

Please join us in welcoming Grace to the Van Meter team. We look forward to her leadership and contributions to our parks, recreation programs, and community events in the years ahead.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Van Meter Schools on the opening of the new school addition! This exciting expansion reflects the community's commitment to education and prepares the district for continued growth. The new addition brings:

New classroom spaces to accommodate growing enrollment

Expanded parking and site improvements for students, staff, and visitors

Additional educational and support spaces that enhance learning opportunities across the campus

This investment will benefit current and future generations of students while strengthening the exceptional educational environment that makes Van Meter such a special community. Congratulations to the students, staff, families, school board, and community members who helped make this vision a reality

As our summer programming comes to a close, we want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who participated, attended, volunteered, supported, and helped make these events possible. From Art in the Park and Yoga in the Park to Concert on the Corner, The Plant Sale and everything in between, each program was successful because of the enthusiasm, involvement, and hard work of so many people.

We are incredibly grateful for the time, effort, and dedication that went into making these opportunities available for our community. Whether you organized an event, shared your talents, volunteered your time, or simply showed up and participated, your support truly made a difference.

Thank you for helping create meaningful experiences and connections throughout the summer. We appreciate each and every one of you and look forward to bringing more programs and events to our community in the future.



Public Hearing Notice

A public hearing will be held on **September 14th** to discuss permit requirements for peddlers/transient merchants, solicitors, and mobile food vendors. Community members are invited to attend and share their feedback.

Date: September 14

Time: 6:00pm

**Location: 100 Hazel Street
Van Meter, IA 50261**

Irrigation Schedule

**Odd- numbered addresses:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday**

**Even- numbered addresses:
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday**

No Irrigation: Sunday

**All irrigation must be completed
before 10:00 AM**

We encourage all residents to water deeply and less frequently. This promotes deeper root growth, reduces reliance on surface moisture, and helps create healthier, more drought resistant lands and landscaping. Watering during the early morning hours also reduces evaporation and lowers the risk of fungal growth.



OPEN FORUM

YOUR VOICE. YOUR CITY, OUR FUTURE

City of Van Meter invites you to our very first anonymous open forum where residents have FREE SPEECH to ask questions and share their thoughts.

MEET & TALK WITH STAFF

City Administrator, City Clerk, Deputy City Clerk, Police Chief, Public Works Director and our Library Director

September 21st 5pm to 7pm

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
@vanmeterpubliclibrary @vanmeterpubliclibrary	1 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library (Popsicle Stick Apples)	2	3	4	5 Storytime 10 AM	Library Hours Monday 10am - 5pm Tuesday 10am - 7pm Wednesday 10am - 5pm Thursday 10am - 7pm Friday 10am - 5pm Saturday 8am - 1pm Sunday Closed 	
6	7 Labor Day <u>Closed</u>	8 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library (Leaf Buddies) <u>Storytime 9:30 AM</u>	9	10	11 8:30 AM Kids Care Outreach <u>9:15 AM Inspired Kids Outreach</u> 10 AM University Kids Outreach		12
13	14 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library (Owls) <u>City Council 6PM</u>	15 Library Board 6PM	16	17	18		19
20	21 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library (Pterodactyls) <u>Community Open Forum 5PM</u>	22 Open Book Program 6PM <u>Books & Banter 7PM</u>	23	24 Storytime 2:30 PM <u>Surprise FOL Fundraiser! 24th - 3rd!</u>	25 Library Open Late! 10AM - 7PM <u>Ricochet Year 2 @ 2PM</u>		26 Van Meter Visitor Festival 11:30 AM - 6:00 PM
27	28 Gettin' Crafty @ the Library (Windy Leaves) <u>City Council Workshop 6 PM</u>	29	30	Back to School Scavenger Hunt! STEM Fan Toy Take and Make! Library Card Sign Up Month! Sign up to enter a drawing for themed merchandise! Watch our social media this month 🥳			

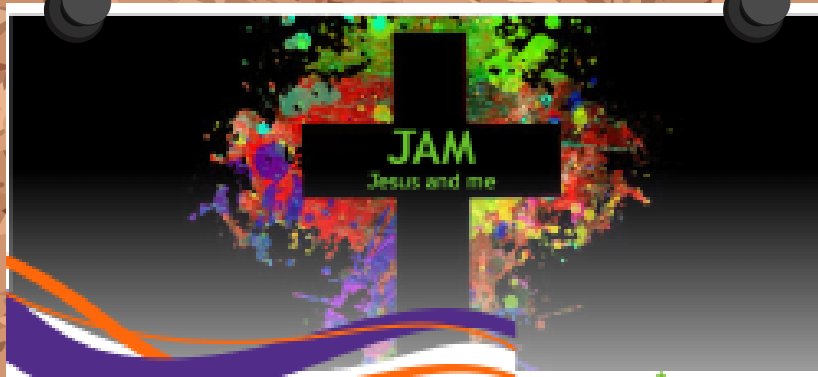
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Event Details

- **Back to School Scavenger Hunt** - Can you find all of the Back to School items in this month's scavenger hunt? Turn in your completed sheet at the circulation desk and choose a prize!
- **STEM Fan Toy Take and Make!** - Grab a take-home kit and assemble your own electric fan! While supplies last!
- **Keep an eye on our socials this month!** - Follow the library on Instagram and Facebook! We just might share something special this month! 🥳 @vanmeterpubliclibrary on Instagram and Facebook.
- **Closed for Labor Day!** - The library will be closed on Monday, September 7th, for Labor Day!
- **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.
- **Storytime** - Stop by for Storytime with Ms. J! Join us for stories, songs, and snacks!
- **City Council** - City Council will be held on Monday, September 14th.
- **Library Board** - Library Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15th.
- **Community Open Forum** - Head to City Hall at 5 PM on Monday, September 21st, for a Community Open Forum!
- **Open Book Program** - Vince Lewis and Vinh Nguyen will be discussing the Vietnam War on Tuesday, September 22nd at 6 PM!
- **Books and Banter** - Join us for Books and Banter to discuss Beautiful Ugly by Alice Feeney on September 22nd at 7:00 PM!
- **Library Open Late!** - The library will be open late on Friday September 25th to allow more time for people to stop by during our surprise FOL fundraiser! Join us from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM that day! If you are a part of the Van Meter Visitor Festival VIP Walking Tour, this is a great time to stop by!
- **Van Meter Visitor Festival** - The Van Meter Visitor Festival is an annual event in celebrating the local 1903 legend of an 8-foot, bat-like cryptid with a glowing horn. Held each September, the event features speakers, guided walking tours, and themed merchandise vendors! The event is held at the American Legion Post from 11:30 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday, September 26th.
- **Surprise FOL Fundraiser! 24th - 3rd!** - The library is having a *surprise fundraiser* this month! All proceeds go to the Friends of the Van Meter Public Library. Stay aware of our social media posts to get in on the action!
- **City Council Workshop** - City Council Workshop will be held on Monday, September 28th.
- **Library Card Sign Up Month!** - September is Library Card Sign-up Month! This year's theme is "a library card hits all the right notes!" Library cards are issued free of charge to all residents of Van Meter and Dallas County. In addition, residents of cities that participate in Iowa's Open Access program are eligible for a free library card. Children ages 5 and up are eligible for a library card with parental consent. To get a library card, you'll need to bring a photo ID and proof of residency. If your driver's license or state ID show your current address, you're good to go! View our social media to get updates on a drawing we'll be hosting to celebrate! We will be drawing winners on Thursday, October 1st!

Library Hours

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



JAM PROGRAM

Sign your student up TODAY!

A Wednesday night religious education program for kids in TK-5th grade at the Van Meter United Methodist Church! With the mission of teaching kids the LOVE of Jesus while having FUN!

Sign-up by email: courtcasey@gmail.com

- ✓ Bible Stories
- ✓ Crafts
- ✓ Fun Games
- ✓ Science Experiments

95-611-3988 | [vamc.com](http://www.vamc.com) | 100 Hood Street, VM



SMART 911 UPDATE

A new Public Safety alert list is coming for Dallas and Polk County residents.

- You'll still receive alerts for your community.
- Alerts will be targeted to your home, work, and/or school address.
- One list creates a faster, more consistent alerting process.

CITY OF VAN METER | VAN METER PARKS & RECREATION | VAN METER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

TRAIL Update

Let's build a more connected and safer community.

RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY AND UNVEILING OF THE TRAIL NAME! OCTOBER!

Join us as we celebrate this exciting milestone with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the unveiling of the official trail name!

- DATE**
Stay tuned! Details coming soon.
- LOCATION**
Trail Van Meter, IA
- JOIN THE CELEBRATION!**
Music, community, and more. Everyone is welcome!

STAY INFORMED GET INVOLVED!
Trail names and history will be shared on our socials and at www.vanmeterlife.com.

WHILE YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IT...

- BIKE SAFETY**
 - Wear a helmet
 - Obey traffic laws
 - Ride with care
 - Be visible
- PEDESTRIAN AWARENESS**
 - Use crosswalks
 - Stay alert
 - Look both ways
 - Share the path

Get Involved. STAY CONNECTED.
Follow us on social media and visit www.vanmeterlife.com for updates, events, and ways to get involved!

Thank you for supporting a stronger, more connected Van Meter! ❤️

BINGO



Join us for Pulled Pork sandwiches and Salad

\$600 Jackpot

September 19th



AGREEMENT FOR PREAUTHORIZED PAYMENTS

To sign up for AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL, please complete the form below and attach a copy of a **VOIDED CHECK** from your financial institution. Please mail or bring the completed form to City Hall, 310 Mill Street, PO BOX 160, Van Meter, IA 50261.

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

BANK NAME _____

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

ROUTING # _____ **ACCOUNT #** _____

TransitABA(Routing) Number is the first set of nine (9) numbers from the left 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 (us) of its termination in such time and in such a 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 _____

SERVICE ADDRESS _____

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 15th of each month.