

Van Meter NEWS

CITY OF VAN METER

June 2020

COVID—19 UPDATES

The Mayor extended his Emergency Proclamation through the end of May. We will continue to monitor the pandemic, guidance from the White House, and guidance from the Governor's office to make changes to our policies and practices. Through the Mayor's proclamation, the Capital Improvement Fee on utility bills will continue to be suspended through the bill due on July 15th.

City Hall:

Starting on May 18th, City Hall will be open to the public by appointment only and in-person appointments will be scheduled at my direction and discretion. We will evaluate every appointment request to ensure needs cannot be met via phone or email prior to scheduling an in-person appointment. The reasoning behind this cautious approach is the same reason we took the initiative to close our facilities prior to the majority of neighboring communities, out of safety for the public and for City staff members. Resources such as sanitizing equipment, face masks and gloves are still scarce and are being reserved internally for public safety staff and operations.

Parks:

Our City owned park equipment is still closed for public until June 1. You are encouraged to use park spaces, rec fields, and trails as desired, but please ensure you are practicing safe social distancing measures. We have received requests to use City owned baseball and softball fields. You are welcome to use these facilities, but we again encourage safe social distancing practices. No more than ten people should be using fields at a time.

Library Services:

The Van Meter Public Library will remain closed. We are working to establish curbside pickup of materials. Please monitor the City's Facebook page for additional information as it becomes available. See more information on page 3 of this newsletter.

The City has made COVID-19 information available on our website under the "Live" tab. Continue to monitor these resources as needed or visit coronavirus.iowa.gov for the most up to date information available.

I would also ask that everyone take the time to complete the 2020 Census. Van Meter is currently at an impressive 74.6% response rate. It would be great if we could get to 80% or higher. There is still time to complete the survey and it takes a matter of minutes to do so. The questionnaire can be accessed at my2020census.gov or can be completed by phone by calling 844-330-2020.

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-
Administrator

Liz Thompson-
City Clerk

David Herman-
Public Works

Pat Alexander-
Public Works

Bill Daggett-
Police Chief

Mike Brown-Officer
Dispatch: 515-993-4567

Chris Power-Fire Chief
515-996-9253

WEEDS AND BRUSH, MISC. ORDINANCES

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.

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.



TREES. If you have property that abuts a street or alleyway, ensure your vegetation is not growing in a way that impedes line-of-sight or the flow of traffic. All trees must be trimmed to 15 feet above the street and 8 feet above the sidewalk. Please reference Chapter 150 of the City Code of Ordinances for more information regarding this requirement

SIDEWALK REGULATIONS. If you have a sidewalk running across your property, you are responsible for maintaining the it and keeping it in a hazard-free condition. This goes beyond shoveling and salting in the winter. If you have vegetation that is growing over the sidewalk and impeding the flow of foot traffic, please do some trimming to ensure the walkway is clear. Please reference Chapter 136 of the City Code of Ordinances for more information regarding sidewalk maintenance requirements.

Full copies of codes can be found at City Hall or on our website at www.vanmeteria.gov.

LIBRARY NEWS

Imagine Your Story! begins June 1st! The program this year will take place entirely online, though paper reading logs are available on request. Each person who registers will get a free book, and the first 50 youth participants (grade 12 or younger in the fall) to turn in three

or more reading logs will get coupons for free frozen treats at Casey's! Register here to participate: <https://forms.gle/ymQAJQWScJzX7MQs7>. You can also find more information on the city website or Facebook page.



The library will begin **CONTACTLESS PICKUP** for reserves starting on June 1st! Pickup times are Mondays 3PM -6PM and Wednesdays 11 AM-2 PM. You can place reserves at vanmeter.biblionix.com, by emailing library@vanmeteria.gov, or by calling 515-996-2435 during pickup hours. We will fill all holds placed by the day before

pickup, but cannot guarantee filling holds placed the day of pickup. Patrons will be notified if items are unavailable.

Each patron may place holds for up to 10 items per pickup day. If holds are placed for more than 10 items, the library will only pull 10 items for that patron from their requests.

We will do our best to have all requests ready prior to the beginning of the pickup window, but may have some delays based on demand. We will try to make sure that no one waits for more than 10 minutes, but please be patient as we iron out the details of this brand new service.

Call the library upon arrival on the day of pickup. Weather permitting, we will place bagged items on a table outside. In the event of inclement weather, a table will be set up directly inside. Due to the size of the facility and the need to social distance, safety procedures must be followed. Please be aware of markings on the sidewalk (and floor if indoors).

If you have any questions, please call or email library@vanmeteria.gov for assistance.

RETURNS:

We will start accepting returns (in the outdoor book return only) beginning June 1. We will only check the books once per week. Returned items will be cleaned and quarantined for a minimum of 3 days before becoming available for checkout.

505 Grant St / PH (515) 996-2435 / www.vanmeteria.gov/library

THE GIVING GARDEN

Van Meter United Methodist Giving Garden

The Van Meter United Methodist church has been hard at work creating a Giving Garden. One hundred percent of the produce will be donated to those in need, including seniors, families and Hunger Free Dallas County. Our goal is to improve community health by providing food to those in need and planting spiritual seeds throughout our community. If you know of anyone who could benefit from this service, please contact Kari Strong at the email below.

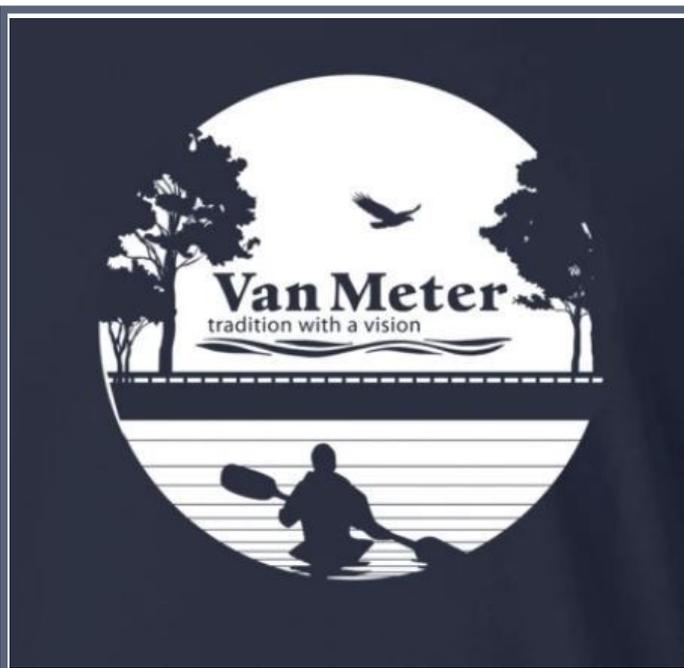


We are always looking for more individuals to help water and weed. Later on this summer we will need individuals to help pick the produce and transport it. The link to sign-up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4CACAB2AABFC1-giving>

Please contact Kari Strong at klstrong123@gmail.com if you are interested in helping. She will let you know what needs done when you sign

up. A big thanks to everyone who has volunteered so far and to those who have donated!



Congratulations!
Darby Brincks—
winner of the Van Meter
Raccoon River Days
T-shirt design Contest.

Thank you to all of those who submitted designs this year and to the judges Travis Brott, Rebecca Comber, and Barb Taylor Phillips.

2019 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR VAN METER MUNICIPAL WATER WORK

This report contains important information regarding the water quality in our water system. The source of our water is groundwater. Our water quality testing shows the following results:

CONTAMINANT	MCL - (MCLG)	Compliance		Date	Violation Yes/No	Source
		Type	Value & (Range)			
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) [TTHM]	80 (N/A)	LRAA	16.00 (0 - 16)	09/30/2019	No	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3 (1.3)	90th	0.29 (0.05 - 0.41)	2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	AL=15 (0)	90th	ND	2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
950 - DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM						
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4.0 (MRDLG=4.0)	RAA	1.58 (0.84-1.85)	2019	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	4 (4)	RAA	1.6 (0.40-1.6)	10/2019	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
02 - WELLS #2 ('68) AND #3('04) AFTER TRTMNT						
Sodium (ppm)	N/A (N/A)	SGL	25	09/20/2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	10 (10)	SGL	2.057	2019	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Note: Contaminants with dates indicate results from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

DEFINITIONS

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) -- The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- ppb -- parts per billion.
- ppm -- parts per million.
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter
- N/A – Not applicable
- ND -- Not detected
- RAA – Running Annual Average
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- SGL – Single Sample Result

- RTCR – Revised Total Coliform Rule
- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units

GENERAL INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water posed a health risk. More information about contaminants or potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. VAN METER MUNICIPAL WATER WORK is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

This water supply obtains its water from the sand and gravel of the Alluvial aquifer. The Alluvial aquifer was determined to be highly susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials provide little protection from contamination at the land surface. The Alluvial wells will be highly susceptible to surface contaminants such as leaking underground storage tanks, contaminant spills, and excess fertilizer application. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is available from the Water Operator at 515-996-2644.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding this information or how you can get involved in decisions regarding the water system, please contact VAN METER MUNICIPAL WATER WORK at 515-996-2644.

Decisions are made at the Van Meter City Council meetings held on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Veterans Reception Center.