

**VAN METER IS EXCITED TO WELCOME OUR NEW CITY ADMINISTRATOR, ANNETTE. HERE IS A SHORT MESSAGE FROM HER.**

Hello Van Meter. My name is Annette Ekhoﬀ, and I am truly excited to be your new City Administrator. From the first Zoom and the in-person interview, I could feel the pride and friendliness that make this community so special. I am grateful for the chance to be here, and my husband Mark is just as excited about this new chapter as I am.

I have spent the past twenty years working in municipal government, with ten years focused on economic development and ten years serving as a city administrator. Before that, I worked as a paralegal for KONE Elevators and Escalators and later as a loan analyst for MidWest Bank. All of these experiences have shaped how I approach problem solving, communication, and community service, and I am grateful for the path that brought me here.

I have always believed that local government is where real connection happens. It is where people look out for one another, where ideas turn into action, and where the work we do makes a difference you can actually see and feel. Van Meter has such a strong sense of who it is, and it is clear that people here genuinely care about their town. That is exactly the kind of place I want to be part of.

As I get started, my first priority is simply to listen. I want to hear what matters most to you, what you love about Van Meter, and what you hope to see in the years ahead. My goal is to support thoughtful growth, keep communication open, and make sure our city services continue to meet the needs of everyone who calls this place home. I believe in working together, being transparent, and keeping things steady and respectful. Whether it is long term planning or the day to day work that keeps a city running, I am here to partner with our staff, our elected officials, and all of you.

Outside of work, I enjoy getting to know people, spending time outdoors, and being part of community events. I have also recently started working on my genealogy, which has been a fun and meaningful way to learn more about my family history. Mark and I have three adult children who are spread across the United States, which gives us a wonderful excuse to travel and visit them whenever we can. I am looking forward to meeting more of you, whether it is at a city gathering, around town, or just in everyday conversation. If you would like to shape this section further, I can add personal details or hobbies.

I am excited for what is ahead for Van Meter. This is a community with heart, momentum, and a bright future. Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve, and I am ready to get to work.

**Elected Officials:**

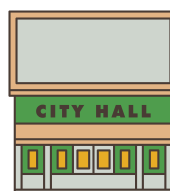
- MAYOR**  
Joe Herman
- MAYOR PRO TEM**  
Travis Brott
- COUNCILMAN**  
Joel Akers
- COUNCILMAN**  
Jarin Young
- COUNCILMAN**  
Joe Lake
- COUNCILMAN**  
Jason Barney

**City Staff:**

- INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR-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

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

• **MONDAY JULY 13TH @ 7PM**



# JULY TRASH & RECYCLE SCHEDULE

<b>6th</b> <b>TRASH</b>	<b>13<sup>TH</sup></b> <b>TRASH &amp; RECYCLE</b>	<b>20th</b> <b>TRASH</b>	<b>27<sup>TH</sup></b> <b>TRASH &amp; RECYCLE</b>
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Please keep in mind that it is fireworks season. The City of Van Meter follows the Iowa State law regarding the times, dates and locations fireworks can be discharged. We require that anyone under 18 years of age be supervised by an adult. The general rules are as follows: General dates and hours: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. from June 1 to July 8 and from Dec. 10 through Jan. 3 Special July 4th hours: 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on July 4th and the preceding and post Saturday and Sunday. Private Property: You're only authorized to shoot fireworks on your property or on the property of someone who says it's okay to shoot on their land. Please contact Dallas County Dispatch if you have an issue at 515-993-4567. Please keep in mind that if the fireworks are being properly used between the dates and times listed, the Van Meter Police Department can not take action on them being used.

## WATER LEAKS

Water leaks can quietly damage your home, raise your utility bills, and lead to costly repairs. The good news? You can catch many leaks early with a few simple checks.

Even a small drip can waste hundreds of gallons per month Hidden leaks can cause mold, structural damage, and higher bills Early detection = lower repair costs and safer living conditions Easy Ways to Check for Leaks

1. Watch Your Water Bill, Sudden increase without extra usage? Could indicate a hidden leak.
2. Inspect Toilets Add a few drops of food coloring to the tank. Wait 10–15 minutes. Color in the bowl without flushing = leak.
3. Look Under Sinks Check for: Damp cabinets Musty odors Drips or corrosion
4. Examine Faucets & Showerheads Listen for drips. A slow drip can waste thousands of gallons yearly.
5. Check Appliances Look behind and under: Washing machines Dishwashers Water heaters Watch for puddles or rust.
6. Inspect Outdoor Areas Check hoses, irrigation systems, and spigots. Look for soggy patches or unusually green grass.

# GOING ON THIS JULY



**ART  
IN THE  
PARK**

JULY 11 & JULY 25  
10 AM  
JOHNSON PARK



**YOGA IN  
THE PARK**

JULY 11TH & JULY 25TH  
8:30AM

📍 LOCATED AT THE GREEN SPACE  
BETWEEN THE LEGION  
AND THE LEGION SHELTER



**CONCERT  
ON THE  
CORNER**

JULY  
12

CORNER OF  
GRANT ST.  
AND WEST ST.  
VAN METER, IA

STARTS AT  
**6 PM**

**SIGN UP FOR VBS**

Vacation Bible School  
July 27<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup>  
6:15pm- 8:15pm  
Van Meter United  
Methodist Church  
For children TK-5<sup>th</sup> grade



**RAINFOREST  
FALLS**  
Exploring the Nature of God

**FALL YOUTH  
SPORTS  
REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN!**



Registration for fall soccer and  
flag football is officially open!

**SIGN UP HERE:**

[www.vanmeteria.gov/parks-and-recreation/youth-athletics/](http://www.vanmeteria.gov/parks-and-recreation/youth-athletics/)

Spots fill quickly, so be sure to  
register early!



**JOIN THE LEGION FOR A FUN  
NIGHT OF BINGO!!  
BINGO WILL BE JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> @ 7PM  
JACKPOT- \$400.00**

**MEAL WILL BE SUB SANDWICHES WITH A SIDE OF CHIPS!**

## **Agenda and Minutes are now available online**

**Subscribe to Van Meter's New Agenda and Minutes  
Portal**

The city has launched a new agenda and minutes portal allowing for easy navigation of agendas and minutes. The portal is accessible from the agendas and minutes page of our website or directly at:

**<https://vanmeteria.portal.civicclerk.com/>**

**To find a meeting please use the calendar widget or the list of events. Scroll up to populate past meetings and scroll down to show future meetings.**

**Please use the search bar to look up specific items/meetings. Click the subscriptions button to be notified when agendas and minutes are posted to the site.**

# JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>May 30th to July 25th Summer Reading 2026! Plant a Seed, Read! Scavenger Hunt</b></p>			1 <b>What do we stand for? 6 PM - 7 PM</b>	2 <b>Veggie Stamping 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM</b>	3	4 <b>Independence Day! - Library Closed</b>
5	6	7 <b>Chalk Garden - All Day Long!</b>	8 <b>Garden Scavenger Hunt @ Plant Life Designs 1 PM - 2 PM</b>	9 <b>Junk Journaling 6 PM - 7 PM</b>	10	11 <b>Art in the Park 10 AM - 11 AM</b>
12	13	14 <b>All About Trees 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM</b>	15 <b>Diamond Painting 1 PM - 2 PM</b>	16 <b>Flower Stamping 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM</b>	17	18
19	20	21 <b>Flower Book Centerpieces 6 PM- 7 PM</b>	22 <b>3D Paper Flowers 1 PM - 2 PM</b>	23 <b>Silent Book Club @ Johnson Park 10 AM - 12 PM</b>	24 <b>Pollinator Palooza 1 PM - 1:30 PM</b>	25 <b>Art in the Park 10 AM - 11 AM</b>
26	27	28	29	30	31	



# JULY 2026

## Event Details

- **Summer Reading** - Plant a Seed, Read! Summer Reading is from May 30<sup>th</sup> to July 25<sup>th</sup> !
- **Plant a Seed, Read! Scavenger Hunt** - Can you find all of the "Plant a Seed, Read!" themed items in this month's scavenger hunt? Turn in your completed sheet at the circulation desk and choose a prize!
- **What do we stand for?** - Join philosopher Scott Samuelson at the library for a discussion about the founding of the United States. Registration required.
- **Veggie Stamping** - Come to the library and create stamp art using fresh veggies! Registration required.
- **Independence Day** - The library will be closed in observance of Independence Day.
- **Chalk Garden** - Chalk the walk in front of VMPL all day long!
- **Garden Scavenger Hunt @ Plant Life Designs** - Join us at Plant Life Designs in Van Meter for a scavenger hunt around their gardens! Registration required.
- **Junk Journaling** - Join Ms. J at the library and junk your own journal! Supplies provided. Registration required.
- **Art in the Park** - Located at Johnson Park. Registration required.
- **All About Trees** - Join Ms. Chloe at the library for a tree-themed storytime. Registration required.
- **Diamond Painting** - Come to the library and bedazzle an item of your choice! Registration required.
- **Flower Stamping** - Come to the library and create stamp art using fresh flowers! Registration required.
- **Flower Book Centerpieces** - Create your own recycled book garden centerpiece at the library. Registration required.
- **3D Paper Flowers** - Join Ms. J at the library and learn how to make your own 3D paper flowers!
- **Silent Book Club @ Johnson Park** - Enjoy a relaxed morning of silent reading at Johnson Park on July 23rd from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. No assigned reading, perfect for the whole family!
- **Pollinator Palooza** - Join Ms. J at the Brenton Arboretum in Dallas Center for storytime.

**Library Hours**

**Monday**  
10am - 5pm

**Tuesday**  
10am - 7pm

**Wednesday**  
10am - 5pm

**Thursday**  
10am - 7pm

**Friday**  
10am - 5pm

**Saturday**  
8am - 1pm

**Sunday**  
Closed





## 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.