

VAN METER *News*

APRIL 2021

CITY OF VAN METER

STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

Qualified and well-trained Drinking Water and Wastewater operators play a vital role in drinking water quality. The WSO Section is responsible for certifying public water supply treatment and distribution operators and Wastewater and lagoon operators as prescribed by Chapter 81 of the Iowa Administrative Code (IAC). The purpose of the OpCert program is to insure that water and wastewater operators have sufficient knowledge and experience to properly operate the system, and in turn protect human health and safety and the environment. Van Meter public works operator, Pat Alexander recently passed the Iowa Water Treatment Operator Grade 2 Exam.

Congratulations Pat on achieving this important accreditation ensuring that Van Meter meets all the necessary standards set forth by the State of Iowa.



PAT ALEXANDER

Pat has worked for the city since Dec 2018. Pictured above: Pat inspecting construction at Grand Estates.

UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Iowa Finance Authority is working hard to develop the Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance Program as there is an immediate need for many Iowans.

Anticipated Timing:

The full application is anticipated to be available on March 29 at 2:00 p.m. An eligibility precheck for the program is available by following the link below. Tenants that meet the initial eligibility criteria will receive a notification when the full online application is available.

Visit their website for more program information and to complete their application.

<https://www.iowafinance.com/iruap-application/>



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

Michael Brown-Police
Officer

Chris Power-Fire Chief
515-996-9253

Library—
515-996-2458

Emergency—911
Dispatch—
non emergency
515-993-4567

VAN METER PUBLIC SAFETY

The city website now has a tab for reporting non-criminal and property crime complaints to the police department. Visit vanmeteria.gov and select the "Online Reporting" tab. It will walk you through the process of completing a report and provide you with a case number to be used for insurance purposes. If you want to complain on animal issues, code compliance or parking issues you can do that as well.



MY CITY POCKET

The City of Van Meter has implemented a new way of communicating with the public.

The **MYCITYPOCKET** application.

Download it on your phone from your App Store.

Choose Van Meter as your city and you will receive up to the minute updates on water outages, snow ordinance implementation, city meetings and so much more.

MYCITYPOCKET

DOWNLOAD IT FROM YOUR APP STORE!



VAN METER PARKS AND RECREATION GOLDEN EGG HUNT

There will NOT be an Easter Egg Hunt at Johnson Park this year.

Park Board Members will hide 12 **GOLDEN** eggs throughout town.

- **April 1**—until final egg is found
- Prizes for each egg
- Limit one per person, per family

Follow the Parks & Rec Facebook page for updates.

Prizes collected at EBank, Van Meter Location.

Happy Hunting!



SATURDAY May 8

City Wide Garage and Plant Sales

The **GARAGE AND PLANT** sales is on—kind of!

It will look different than past years. The greenhouse that supplies the plants is able to provide hanging baskets only due to the derecho that hit Iowa in August 2020.

FACEBOOK: Van Meter Parks & Recreation

DATE: Saturday, May 8;

TIME: 8A—2P

LOCATION: City Maintenance Building
(behind Casey's)

The Park Board has designated Saturday, May 8 @ 8AM as the city wide garage sale day.

They ask that residents who want to participate advertise for themselves.

Please remove any signs by Sunday.

Maps will NOT be provided.

Farmers Market Save the Dates

2021 Food & Music Schedule
Fridays July 9—August 13
5-8PM

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Sabores De Mexico | July 9 | Jesse Jaspers |
| Street Eats DSM | July 16 | Dustin Baird |
| 515 Pi | July 23 | Patresa Hartman |
| Karam's Mediterranean Grill | July 30 | Ryne Doughty |
| Snappy's Silek Fire BBQ | Aug 6 | Todd Partridge |
| Rescue Burgers & Q | Aug 13 | Chad Elliott |



Stop by the Van Meter Veterans Reception Center to support your favorite vendors in addition to welcoming an exciting mix of new vendors. Each week will showcase a different local food truck and live music, so bring your family for a meal and entertainment! We invite everyone to take advantage of the fresh weekly offerings such as seasonal produce, baked goods, handmade items and more.

2021 Friday Night Market dates (5PM – 8PM):

We continue to grow the Van Meter Farmers Market, if you are interested in becoming a vendor or farmers market volunteer, please contact us.

There is no weekly commitment and the vendor fee is only \$10.00 paid on a weekly basis.

VM Farmer's Market Vendor Application: <https://tinyurl.com/vmfarmersmarketapp>

INTERNET SURVEY



PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES CENTRAL IOWA BROADBAND INTERNET SURVEY

GREATER DES MOINES, IA (March 24, 2021) – The Greater Des Moines Partnership has launched the Central Iowa Broadband Internet Survey for 11 counties in the region. The purpose of the Survey is to measure broadband internet availability and identify areas that do not currently meet consumer needs and expectations. The Survey will be open from Wednesday, March 24 – Tuesday, April 27.

Residents and businesses in the following counties are encouraged to take the survey: Adair, Dallas, Guthrie, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Polk, Poweshiek, Story and Warren. The Survey is designed to gather information about consumers' experience with broadband internet service across the region. The Survey is able to be taken in several languages. There are two separate survey links: one for residential households and one for businesses.

Increasing broadband internet connectivity is one of The Partnership's 2021 Strategic Priorities to improve access to distance learning, telecommuting and telehealth. The Partnership's Central Iowa Broadband Internet Survey is led by a Steering Committee that has been charged with delivering a report on broadband internet availability and proposing plans to increase broadband access.

"This is about bringing the region's broadband picture into focus," said Chris Costa, President & CEO of Knapp Properties, Inc. and Co-Chair of The Partnership's Central Iowa Broadband Internet Steering Committee. "Broadband internet service is crucially important to our ability to attract and retain businesses and residents, and help existing businesses grow and be successful."

The Broadband Internet Survey results will help identify and address current gaps in availability, speed/performance, reliability and affordability. This Survey will help policymakers and providers better understand where gaps exist, and therefore provide them with opportunities to consider additional funding mechanisms. The speed test included in the broadband survey will collect address-level performance data to bring the availability into better focus. The Survey will also seek feedback on consumers' experience with reliability, affordability and availability. The Survey results, along with other data collected and analyzed through this process, will provide internet providers, government officials and communities with next steps for short-term and long-term funding options and solutions.

"We encourage residents and organizations in the 11-county area to help bring clarity on the level of broadband service that exists," said Tej Dhawan, Chief Data Officer at Principal Financial Group® and Co-Chair of The Partnership's Central Iowa Broadband Internet Steering Committee. "This will help open up more access to funding programs that are critical to attract investment from private or public providers."

Funding from the following public and private partners has made the Broadband Internet Survey possible: Adair County, Dallas County, Guthrie County, Jasper County, the Madison County Development Group, Marion County, the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce, Polk County, Poweshiek Iowa Development, Story County, Warren County, Alliant Energy, the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Pella Rural Electric Cooperative and the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

Access the surveys on The Partnership's website. <https://www.dsmpartnership.com/growing-business-here-central-iowa-broadband-internet>.



WASTE CONNECTIONS
OF IOWA INC.
515-265-7374

APRIL 2021
Recycling Schedule

April 12

April 26

310 MILL STREET

PO BOX 160

VAN METER IA 50261

Phone: 515-996-2644

Email: info@vanmeteria.gov



“LIKE” City of
Van Meter
on Facebook!

Helpful Tips for safety and efficiency:

- Place your cart out the night before your service day or no later than 6AM on your service day.
- Bag all trash that is placed in the container.
- Place carts 3 feet apart.
- Carts must be at least 6 feet from other objects.
- Cart lids must be closed completely at all times.

Acceptable Residential Yard Waste – Bagged

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



Unacceptable Residential Yard Waste

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

**Yard Waste:
collection
begins
April 1 and
runs through
the end of
November**

Please see the link below for more information regarding this service. Yard waste will not be accepted unless properly bagged and sorted. Tags are NOT required, but it needs to be in compostable bags or bundled appropriately. Yard waste will be picked up on Thursdays.

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