



Tama County, Iowa  
Economic Development

# Vining, Iowa

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## The story of Vining...

Vining is Tama County's smallest incorporated town. Vining first appeared on the map in 1881 with the building of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, which crossed Tama County from east to west. Vining became known as "The biggest little town in Tama County" because of the large area within its incorporation. It is also known as "The Little Town in the Bohemian Alps".

Like many other areas in the rural Midwest, the Vining community was first settled almost exclusively by emigrants from Europe—in this case all or nearly all from Bohemia. They and their families quickly became loyal Americans, and many members of the older generation took out United States citizenship papers at the first opportunity. The York Township news correspondent of the Toledo Chronicle wrote this in one of the issues of April 1880: *"This neighborhood is gradually giving away to the foreign element. There have been several farms sold here in the past ten years and everyone of them with a single exception has been bought by a Bohemian. There are yet two or three farms to be absorbed in this same way, and then there will be a stretch of country covering seven miles or more occupied entirely by foreigners."*

Vining recently commemorated its 125th anniversary in 2006 and hosts an annual flea market and auction every April.

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**Location:** Vining is located in east central Iowa at the intersection of county road V18 and county road E44. Vining is 2 miles north of U.S. highway 30 and 12 miles east of U.S. highway 63.

**Population:** 62 (2005).

**Per Capita Income:** \$17,458 (2000); county average \$24,112 (2002); state average, \$28,089 (2002); median household income \$42,917 (2000).

**Geography/Climate:** Gently rolling mid-continent farmlands. Four sharply etched seasons. A few brittle cold winter days may not rise above zero; a few sultry summer days may reach high 90's. July average temperature is 72; January average temperature is 14. Precipitation averages: 35 inches of rain, 32 inches of snow.

**Employment:** Corn, soybeans, cattle, & hogs anchor the agricultural economy. Larger pay-rolls: Benda Ag & Repair; Benda Bulldozing:.

**Financial Institutions:** The nearest bank is 5 miles away in Chelsea.

**Newspaper:** Tama News-Herald, published Thursdays. One-year subscription: \$39.00; Subscribe to both Toledo Chronicle & Tama News Herald for \$52.40/year.

Other regional newspapers: Des Moines Register, Cedar Rapids Gazette, Waterloo Courier, El Heraldo Hispano.



**Communications:** Local Public Access, Cable and broadband available via Mediacom. Phone service and High Speed DSL internet via Iowa Telecom.

**Utilities:** Alliant Energy provides electric service for residents of Vining. Alliant offers a rebate for customers who build an energy-efficient home. Water & sewer are provided by the City of Vining.

**Health Care:** Nearest medical clinic is in Tama, 12 miles away. Volunteer EMS crew.

**Schools:** South Tama County Community School District: enrollment of 1751; 14.4 students per teacher, \$6,499 spending per student. State ACT average 22; SAT average 1204, graduation rate 89.4%.

**Educational Level:** 11% of Vining residents have an associate's degree; 0% have a bachelor's degree; 0% have a graduate or professional degree.

**Library:** The nearest library is in Elberon, 4 miles away.

**Recreation:** 1 city park. Swimming, fishing, boating at Otter Creek Lake & Park, northwest of Vining.

**Housing:** Median value of housing units in Tama County (2000) is \$64,200; median gross rent of units in Tama County (2000) is \$418.

**Taxes:** State sales tax rate is 5% plus Vining's local option sales tax is 1% and school infrastructure local option tax is 1% for a total sales tax rate of 7% in Vining. State income tax rates range from 0.36% to 8.98% plus a base rate.

**Churches:** Vining Alliance Church.

**Further Information:**

City Clerk's Office

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Tama County Economic Development

[www.tamacountyiowa.org](http://www.tamacountyiowa.org)

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**What the People Say...**

