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Citizen's Brief

City of Urbandale

A Quarterly Urbandale Update

Spring, 2003

Meeting Schedule

City Council

Tues., April 29, 7:00 pm
Mon., May 12, 7:00 pm
Tues., May 27, 7:00 pm
Tues., June 10, 7:00 pm
Tues., June 24, 7:00 pm
Tues., July 8, 7:00 pm
Tues., July 22, 7:00 pm

Planning & Zoning Commission

Mon., May 5, 7:00 pm
Mon., May 19, 6:00 pm
Mon., June 2, 6:00 pm
Mon., June 16, 6:00 pm
Mon., June 30, 6:00 pm
Mon., July 14, 6:00 pm
Mon., July 28, 6:00 pm

Board of Adjustment

Wed., May 7, 7:00 pm
Wed., June 4, 7:00 pm
Wed., July 9, 7:00 pm

Meetings are held at City Hall,
3315 70th St.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Wed., May 21, 5:30 pm
Wed., June 18, 5:30 pm
Wed., July 16, 5:30 pm

Meetings are held at the Library,
3520 86th Street.

Library Board of Trustees

Mon., May 19, 7:00 pm
Mon., June 23, 7:30 pm
Mon., July 16, 7:00 pm

Meetings are held at the Library,
3520 86th Street.

Water Board of Trustees

Meetings begin at 4:30 p.m.
at the Water Department,
3720 86th Street. Please
call 278-3940 for dates
and times.

New City Web Site Goes Live

Site Will Serve as a Platform for New On-Line Services

The City recently introduced a totally new web site designed to provide more useful information and services to site visitors, and to serve as a platform for future on-line services.

The site initially will feature two new applications that allow citizens to interact with the City 24 hours per day. The first will enable residents to browse the City's recreation program catalog on-line and to enroll in a program using a credit card.

Many of our customers www.urbandale.org have asked to be able to pay with a credit card, according to Assistant Director for Recreation Jan Herke, and now we are excited to offer that option. City officials expect that as many as 40 percent of program registrations will come in via the web site.

The second new application will enable residents to request a variety of services over the internet. From reporting a barking dog to requesting a vacation house check, from submitting a water meter reading, to requesting a special trash collection, residents can now transact business with the City when it is convenient to them.

According to Technology Director John Andrasko, one of the unique

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Spring Cleanup Set for Week of April 28 - May 1

Please Place Your Items at the Curb by 6:30am

The City is pleased to announce that the 2003 Spring Cleanup will take place April 28 through May 1! Residents are encouraged to use this opportunity to dispose of items that cannot be discarded through their weekly garbage service. To ensure a safe and efficient Spring Cleanup, please follow these guidelines.

City crews will get an early start during Spring Cleanup week, so please make sure your items are at the curb by 6:30am on your regular garbage collection day. As always, please be sure to leave at least four feet of clearance around your blue garbage container!

All discarded appliances must have a special sticker attached. If you wish to discard an appliance, please purchase a \$10.00 sticker at

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P&Z Schedule Change

Beginning Monday, May 19th, meetings of the Planning & Zoning Commission will begin at 6:00pm. Please refer to the box at left for complete schedule information.

From the Mayor's Desk

Every once in a while it's important to step back and thank the people that make Urbandale the great community that it is. Most residents are unaware of the many volunteers who do much of the heavy lifting behind the scenes. Without them, Urbandale would be a less desirable place to live, work and raise a family.

First, I want to thank the members of the boards and commissions listed on the adjacent page. These individuals provide a huge amount of support and advisory assistance to the City Council and me. Through their commitment of time and talent, they make our jobs easier.

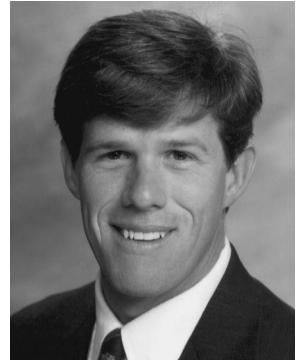
Second, let's acknowledge the members of groups like the Urbandale Action Council and the four project teams (see article on page 4). We are indebted to them for their selfless contributions. They have had a positive influence on the quality of life we enjoy, and through their work, they illustrate the true spirit of community.

Next, we can't forget the men and women who, quite literally, help us raise our kids. Teachers, coaches, scout leaders, mentors, religious leaders, and others all provide the solid example of citizenship and caring that our children need to become contributing members of our society.

And last, but certainly not least, we need to thank our neighbors, the friends we sometimes don't know we have until we are in need. The ones who will not hesitate to tell us if our kids step out of line or to bring over a pot of soup when we get the flu.

A community is more than just a place, more than just a collection of homes and businesses connected by streets. A community is a place where people feel safe, where people feel connected to each other. A place where people have common goals and a shared vision.

As always, the City Council and I welcome your comments and suggestions for making Urbandale a stronger, healthier, more vibrant community.



Brad Zaun, Mayor

Douglas Bridge Reconstruction Resumes

Southbound Off-Ramp Will Be Closed for Several Weeks

Over the winter, work on the Douglas Interchange Reconstruction Project slowed somewhat. With the return of warm weather, the pace of the construction activity has picked up again. This project involves the replacement of the former Douglas Avenue bridge over I-35/80 with a four-lane bridge and new ramps.

The former bridge was removed last fall and replaced with a new span. That span is currently accommodating traffic in both directions. An additional new span is now under construction. Together the two spans will create one four-lane bridge, with two lanes of traffic in each direction.

The main element of this project that is yet to be completed is the construction of a new southbound off-ramp from the interstate. This element likely will involve the closure of the existing ramp for several weeks so that the new ramp can be aligned and constructed properly. In the event of a ramp closure, southbound traffic will be routed to the Hickman Road exit, and then back onto the interstate so that it can exit on the northbound off-ramp at Douglas Avenue. Visit www.urbandale.org for periodic updates.

Motorists may also experience some delays due to the paving of Douglas Avenue from 109th Street to 121st Street. At times, there may be some lane closures or restrictions that result in significant delays. The entire project is expected to be completed by August, 2003.

Hickman Road Project

Reconstruction of the 100th Street and Hickman Road intersection, and the paving of Hickman from Merle Hay Road to the interstate likely will cause delays through the summer.

Motorists are cautioned that travel lanes may be closed for night time work through the duration of this project. Please drive with care!

City Officials

Mayor

Brad Zaun

Mayor Pro-Tem

Susann Siebke

City Council

Bob Andeweg

Don Brush

John Forst

Shannon Waddell

Planning & Zoning Commission

Dennis Connolly

Mark Dickey

Kevin Gass

Jeff Hatfield

Jeff Payne

Mary Polson

Jodee Rogers

Wayne Van Heuvelen

Scott Weiser

Board of Adjustment

Marc DeJong

Carey Evans

Jim Goodman

Tom Muselman

David Russell

Parks & Recreation Commission

Sara Broek

Chuck Goodman

Karla Jeffries

Noel McKibbin

Dan Mueller

Greg Nepstad

Martha Raecker

Library Board of Trustees

Jose Garcia

Betty Hamilton

Julie Kroll

Steve Lytle

Marlyn McKeen

Kay Readinger

Mark Zlab

Water Board of Trustees

John McCune

Gerald Nelson

Todd Walker

Tree Board

Bill Dane

Dennis Hill

Bob Kollmorgen

Rob Rice, Jr.

“Website” *Continued from Page 1*

features of this application is that a citizen can track a request as it moves through the system. For example, a citizen who reports a pothole will be able to log-in to the system and know exactly when the pothole is repaired, Andrasko said. The web site is able to do this because City staff are tracking the requests using the same system on their desktops.

Visitors to the new web site will notice immediately that the navigational structure is service-based, not department-based. Visitors to the site want to conduct their business without knowing the City’s organizational structure, according to Don Gloor, Assistant to the City Manager, who designed the site. We feel that we’ve made significant improvements to the site’s usability, and we will continue to make changes based on the feedback we get from customers.

Visitors will also notice that the content of the site is more complete and more timely. One of the goals of the new site was to make it easy to maintain using existing City staff, Gloor said. As a result, staff members will spend less time managing the site’s technology, and more time publishing the content that site visitors find most useful.

For example, the document warehouse is one feature that many visitors will find helpful. This single page provides links to just about any document that is available on the site, including ordinances, reports, financial documents, forms, agendas and minutes. Also useful will be the archives of meeting minutes for the City Council and the City’s boards and commissions.

Residents are encouraged to visit the new web site at www.urbandale.org and to send any comments or suggestions to webmaster@urbandale.org.

Parks & Recreation and Wells Fargo to Sponsor Medallion Hunt

Look high and low throughout Urbandale for this summer’s 1st Annual Medallion Hunt, sponsored by Wells Fargo and the Urbandale Parks and Recreation Department.

The community is invited to follow clues posted on the City’s Web Site (www.urbandale.org), in the Urbandale Press-Citizen and in the Des Moines Register beginning Wednesday, June 11th. One clue per week (until the Medallion is found) leading up to the 4th of July celebration! The lucky person who finds the medallion will win a \$200 savings bond from Wells Fargo!

Make sure to keep your eyes peeled for the clues to be posted starting June 11th!

Take Mom Out for Breakfast!

Do you want to be a hero to Mom on Mother's Day weekend and support a great cause?

Why not enjoy an all-u-can-eat pancake breakfast in support of the Caring Corps?

The breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 10th, from 7am to 11am, at the Urbandale High School. Tickets cost only \$5.00 and are available at the Caring Corps office (at the Lion's Park Shelter House) or at the door.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the programs of the Caring Corps. These include assisting elderly and disabled Urbandale residents with housekeeping and yard chores, and providing transportation.

Join your friends and neighbors in supporting this very worthwhile cause!

What is the Urbandale Action Council?

The Urbandale Action Council's mission is to motivate the citizens of Urbandale to share in their dreams of developing a vision for our community and to implement a plan of action that ensures quality of life and a sense of community.

The Urbandale Action Council is made up of nine Urbandale residents. Council members come from different areas of the city and have lived in Urbandale for varying lengths of time to assure the council represents all of Urbandale.

The Action Council currently oversees four project teams: Caring Corps, Beautification, Community Center, and Character Counts. The four project teams report quarterly to the Action Council regarding their progress and needs.

The Action Council also plays a key role in assisting the project teams with their fundraising efforts. The Action Council is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and all donations to the council are tax deductible. For more information about making a donation, please contact Mark Cohan at 278-8805.

The project teams are always in need of volunteers to assist them in achieving their goals. If you are interested and would be willing to help any of the project teams, please contact the Action Council chairperson, Mary Polson, at polsonurb@aol.com or 276-6443. The other Action Council members are: Todd Boggess, Karen Andeweg, Bruce Bernard, Mark Cohan, Cara Haidsiak, Paul Spong, and Mary Jo Vogl.

The Urbandale Action Council is recruiting new members.

Applicants must live in Urbandale and must have an interest in improving the quality of life for all Urbandale residents.

Applications are available at www.urbandale.org or at City Hall.

Applications are due May 15th.

Please contact Mary Polson (polsonurb@aol.com, 276-6443) for more information.

Spring into Action for Your Community!

Are you looking for an excuse to spend a Saturday morning outside helping others? Then join your friends and neighbors for the Urbandale Caring Corps annual Spring Clean-Up Day!

On April 26th, you can show your community pride and helpful nature by doing yard work for Urbandale residents who, because of age or physical handicap, need assistance. Volunteers will also carry items to the curb for the City of Urbandale's Spring Clean-Up, April 28 - May 1.

Volunteers will meet at the Walker Johnson Shelter at 8:30 a.m. to get their assignments, and then work from 9 a.m. until noon. Bring a rake, gloves and water; lunch will be served back at the shelter at noon.

If you are interested in helping out, call the Urbandale Caring Corps at 278-3999 or send email to caringcorps@aol.com.

Frequently Asked Questions

One of the features of the City's new web site is a link to an application that allows site visitors to request services or learn more about the City. Built into the application is a growing database of frequently asked questions.

Below are some of the more popular questions (and answers!) from the site.

Q. Do I need to license my pet?

A. Yes. Licenses are required for cats and dogs. The purpose of the license is to ensure that all pets have been vaccinated against rabies, and to enable the City to return lost or impounded pets to their owners. A license costs \$6.00, or \$3.00 if the pet is spayed or neutered. To purchase a license, bring your pet's current rabies vaccination certificate to City Hall, 3315 70th Street, weekdays from 7:00am to 5:00pm.

Q. How do I report a junk or abandoned vehicle?

A. The easiest way is to visit www.urbandale.org, and click on Request a Service. This will allow you to provide the information to the City in a on-line form. Of course, you can do this anonymously, if you choose. You can also call the Zoning Office at 278-3935 or stop by 3600 86th Street.

Q. Will the Police check my house while I'm on vacation?

A. Yes. If you request it, the Police will periodically check your property if you are out of town for five or more days. For more information, visit www.urbandale.org and click on Vacation Checks, or call the Crime Prevention Unit at 278-3938.

Q. What can I do about a barking dog in the neighborhood?

A. If your neighbor's dog is barking constantly and disturbing your peace and quiet, you should first consider discussing the problem with the dog owner. If you choose not to do that, you can call the Police non-emergency dispatch number at 222-3321. An officer will be

sent to your residence. The officer will then try to make contact with the dog owner and advise the owner of the complaint. If you wish to file charges, you will have to sign a complaint form and be willing to go to court and testify against the dog owner.

Q. How do I pay a parking ticket?

A. Parking tickets (only) may be paid by mail or in person at 3315 70th Street, weekdays from 7:00am to 5:00pm. Tickets must be paid within 30 days or the fine is doubled.

Q. How do I pay a traffic ticket?

A. Tickets for speeding or other moving violations may be paid by mail or in person at the Polk County Clerk of Court, 500 Mulberry Street, Room 102, Des Moines. Please present a copy of the ticket with the payment. For additional information, please call the Polk County Clerk of Court at 286-3917.

Q. Will the City collect large items that don't fit into my trash container?

A. The best time to discard large or bulky items is during Spring Cleanup week. However, during the rest of the year, the City will also collect bulk items for a fee by appointment, on the second or fourth Friday of the month. To set up an appointment, visit www.urbandale.org and click on Discard a Bulk Item, or call 278-3950.

Q. How do I rent a City facility, like the Senior Center Community Room?

A. Urbandale has three indoor facilities for rent: Walker Johnston Shelter House, Lion's Park Shelter House, and the Community Room. You must be an Urbandale resident to rent any facility.

If you are interested in a specific date, please call the Parks and Recreation office at 278-3963 to check availability.

For fee information, visit www.urbandale.org, and click on Leisure, and then Rental Facilities.

Is Your Landscaping Risky?

Property owners urged to create clear space

The City was recently reminded by its insurance provider of the need to keep the trail system clear of any obstacles. Included in this reminder was an advisory that **landscaping items installed by property owners, such as timbers, garden beds, decorative items, and benches present a substantial risk to trail users as well as a liability exposure for the property owners.**

It was recommended that the City work with property owners to provide a two-foot clear space on both sides of the trails. The clear space may be grass, gravel, or similar material, and should be level with the trail.

Residents whose properties abut the trails are strongly advised to remove any landscaping items from within the two-foot clear space. Benches should be at least six feet from the trail.

With the arrival of spring, many residents will be working in their yards in the next few weeks. This is a good time to take a look to see if any landscaping features should be moved back from the trails. Residents who need assistance moving large amounts of landscaping material, such as timbers or rocks, should consult with Jim Fazio, Assistant Director of Parks, at 278-3963 or jfazio@urbandale.org.

Spring Cleanup

Continued from page 1

City Hall (3315 70th Street) or at the Engineering office (3600 86th Street).

During Spring Cleanup week, safety is critical! Please do not discard any item in excess of 150 pounds or six feet in length (except furniture). Also, please note that large amounts of construction material (e.g. decks, fences or garages) cannot be collected during Spring Cleanup.

Yes, yard waste will be collected as usual during Spring Cleanup week! Please place your yard waste in a Compost It! bag or in a bundle with a Compost It! sticker attached.

Lastly, please do not discard concrete, bricks, railroad ties, hazardous materials, paints or thinners, oils, batteries, vehicle parts, tires, dirt, sod and compressed gas cylinders during Spring Cleanup. Please call Metro Waste Authority at 967-5512 for assistance with these items.

Spring Cleanup is offered as a free service to Urbandale residents. Please contact the Department of Engineering and Public Works at 278-3950 or engpw@urbandale.org for more information.

Quick Linx

For Information OnCall

Agendas and Minutes, City Council	278-3900
Animal Control Officer.....	278-3911
Beer and Wine Permits	278-3900
Building Permits and Inspections	278-3935
Cemetery	278-3963
City Budget.....	278-3900
City Code	278-3900
Demographics	278-3935
Email Addresses.....	278-3900
Employment (City Jobs)	278-3900
Garbage Collection.....	278-3950
Ice Skating	278-3963
Library Room Reservations	278-3945
Liquor Licenses	278-3900
Maps of Urbandale	278-3950
Newsletters.....	278-3900
Parks	278-3963
Peddler s Permits	278-3900
Pet Licenses	278-3900
Playgrounds	278-3963
Pool	278-3959
Potholes	278-3950
Property Maintenance	278-3930
Radio Station (1210 AM)	278-3900
Recreation Programs	278-3963
Recycling Collection	278-3950
Senior Center	278-3907
Sidewalks	278-3950
Sled Hill	278-3963
Spring Cleanup.....	278-3950
Street Maintenance	278-3950
Tickets, Parking	278-3900
Tickets, Speeding.....	286-3917
Traffic Signals.....	278-3950
Trails.....	278-3963
Voter Information	278-3900
Water Service.....	278-3940
Web Site (www.urbandale.org).....	278-3900
Weeds	278-3930
Yard Waste Collection	278-3950
Zoning.....	278-3935

All numbers are in the 515 area code.

Kids' Page!

Mother's Day Art Class (Grades K-5)

Sign up for this fun after school class and make a surprise for your mom for Mother's Day. (Shhh! We can't tell you what your gift for Mom is because we want you to surprise her!)

Class size is limited.
Instructor: Tammy James.
Monday, May 5. Jensen Art Room.
3:45 - 4:45 p.m. Fee: \$6

Register on-line at www.urbandale.org.

Junior Detective: Learn to Solve a Crime! (Grades 3-5)

Participants will work with Urbandale Police Detectives and learn criminal investigative techniques to help solve a mock crime. Recover a stolen vehicle and process fingerprints, footprints, and other evidence found at the crime scene. Have fun for three hours with the police officers, working in the police lab to compare prints, match footprints with a shoe taken from the suspect, pick a suspect out of a lineup, and more! Class also includes touring of the police station and using the lab to investigate and solve the crime.

Maximum of 12 participants per session.
Instructors: Sgt. Mark Nagel, Det. Terry Dippold and other Urbandale Police Officers.
Saturday, May 10. Urbandale Police Department.
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Fee: \$5

Register on-line at www.urbandale.org.

Red Cross Babysitting Course (11 years and older)

This is a great class to help youth become self-reliant and confident while caring for young children and to learn the skills necessary to be a good babysitter. This is a "hands on" class and the participants will be actively involved. Participants will receive Red Cross certification cards upon completion of the class.

Minimum age: 11 years.
Minimum 6 participants, maximum 15. Participants should bring a sack lunch to class.
Saturday, May 10. Urbandale Library. 9:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Fee: \$26, includes babysitter training handbook.

Register on-line at www.urbandale.org.



CITY OF URBANDALE

3315 - 70th Street
Urbandale, IA 50322

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POSTAL CUSTOMER**

Contact Us!

	Voice	Fax	E-Mail
Brad Zaun, Mayor	278-3900	278-3905	bzaun@urbandale.org
Bob Andeweg, Council Member	278-3900	278-3905	bandeweg@urbandale.org
Don Brush, Council Member	278-3900	278-3905	dbrush@urbandale.org
John Forst, Council Member	278-3900	278-3905	jforst@urbandale.org
Susann Siebke, Council Member	278-3900	278-3905	ssiebke@urbandale.org
Shannon Waddell, Council Member	278-3900	278-3905	swaddell@urbandale.org
Bob Layton, City Manager	278-3900	278-3905	rlayton@urbandale.org
Deb Mains, City Clerk	278-3900	278-3905	dmains@urbandale.org
City Hall	278-3900	278-3905	cityhall@urbandale.org
Building Department	278-3930	278-3927	building@urbandale.org
Community Development	278-3935	278-3927	pdekker@urbandale.org
Engineering & Public Works	278-3950	278-3927	engpw@urbandale.org
Fire & EMS	278-3970	278-3972	fire@urbandale.org
Library	278-3945	278-3918	library@urbandale.org
Parks & Recreation	278-3963	278-8356	parks-rec@urbandale.org
Police	278-3938	278-3939	police@urbandale.org
Pool	278-3959	278-8356	parks-rec@urbandale.org
Senior Center	278-3907	331-6854	parks-rec@urbandale.org
Water	278-3940	278-3944	waterdept@urbandale.org
Webmaster	278-3900	278-3905	dgloo@urbandale.org
City Web Site	http://www.urbandale.org		
Library Web Site	http://www.urbandalelibrary.org		
Urbandale Informational Radio	1210 on the AM dial		