

Inside

Mayor's Message2
 Library Web Site.....3
 Family Ski Trip6
 Winter Park7

Citizen's Brief

City of Urbandale

A Quarterly Urbandale Update

Winter, 2004

Meeting Schedule

City Council

Tues., February 3, 7:00 pm
 Tues., February 17, 7:00 pm
 Tues., March 2, 7:00 pm
 Tues., March 16, 7:00 pm
 Tues., March 30, 7:00 pm
 Wed., April 14, 7:00 pm
 Tues., April 27, 7:00 pm

Planning & Zoning Comm.

Mon., February 9, 6:00 pm
 Mon., February 23, 6:00 pm
 Mon., March 8, 6:00 pm
 Mon., March 22, 6:00 pm
 Mon., April 5, 5:30 pm
 Mon., April 19, 6:00 pm

Board of Adjustment

Wed., February 4, 6:00 pm
 Wed., March 3, 6:00 pm
 Wed., April 14, 6:00 pm

The above meetings are held at City Hall, 3315 70th St.

Parks & Recreation Comm.

Wed., February 18, 5:30 pm
 Wed., March 17, 5:30 pm
 Wed., April 21, 5:30 pm

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

Library Board of Trustees

Mon., February 23, 7:00 pm
 Mon., March 29, 7:30 pm
 Mon., April 26, 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.

"Imagine Urbandale 2" Seeks Community Input

How would you finish the sentence "If only Urbandale had . . .?"

Or wouldn't it be great if you could ask the question, "Is anyone listening?"

Now, you can have a chance to do both at a series of community forums sponsored by the Urbandale Community Action Council. The forums are part of a process called Imagine Urbandale 2, which has five clear objectives:

- Help community members take a proactive approach to planning for and shaping Urbandale.
- Identify strategies for addressing compelling community needs.
- Recruit volunteers.
- Provide direction for the Urbandale Community Action Council.
- Share "Imagine Urbandale" successes.

Imagine Urbandale 2 is the second phase of the Imagine Urbandale community planning process that began in 1998. From that process, the Urbandale Community Action Council was formed, along with four key goals for community improvement.

Four teams were assembled to plan and implement a variety of activities to meet these goals. Today, each team has made a significant contribution to the community. For example, the Community Center Project Team is currently reviewing a number of options for a community center for Urbandale; Leadership Urbandale has helped five classes of participants to develop their community leadership skills; the Caring Corps volunteer group has donated hundreds of hours of time assisting other citizens in need and raised thousands of dollars; and the

Beautification/Cleanliness team has implemented an "Adopt-A-Trail" program to help maintain our beautiful trail system. A fifth team, dedicated to weaving the Character Counts program into all aspects of the community, was recently added.

Business leaders and city officials, through a series of Imagine Urbandale 2 focus

Polson Joins City Council

Mary Polson was sworn in as the newest City Council Member on January 6, 2004.

Polson was elected in November, along with returning Council Members Bob Andeweg and John Forst.

Susann Siebke, who chose not to run for reelection, was honored at her final City Council meeting on December 23, 2003.

From the Mayor's Desk...

Late last spring, the State of Iowa balanced its budget, in part, by permanently choosing not to share \$60 million in annual revenue that had been promised to the cities and counties.

As the 2004 legislative session gets underway, we again are hearing rumblings of how the State may reduce the amount of aid to local governments. Under one scenario, the State may require the cities to fund the tax credits that are paid to eligible homeowners. **This change alone would result in a permanent loss of up to \$300,000 per year for Urbandale.**

Just to be clear, the money that the State is withholding from the cities and counties is not just "extra" money that the state has shared with local governments in the past. In the case of last year's cuts, those payments were formally earmarked for cities and counties in exchange for the municipalities agreeing to perform services that previously had been the State's responsibility (such as providing traffic enforcement on I-35/80).

The City Council and I are following the proceedings in the General Assembly with great interest. Our greatest concern, of course, is the effect that these cuts will have on our ability to provide the high quality services that our residents expect. We will work closely with the Iowa League of Cities and others who represent the interests of local government at the state level. When appropriate, we will educate our representatives on the impact that their actions have on the community.

I urge you to stay informed as well. Read the newspaper. Visit the legislature's web site (<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>) and learn about the issues. When you feel strongly about an issue, contact your legislators. And, as always, please do not hesitate to contact the City Council or me to share your thoughts. By working together, state and local officials and citizens can ensure the best possible outcome for all Iowans.



Brad Zaun, Mayor

The Snow Ordinance: Frequently Asked Questions

The City's snow ordinance is activated when there is an accumulation of two inches of snow on City streets, or when significant snowfall is expected. Below are frequently asked questions--and answers--related to the snow ordinance.

Q. When is the snow ordinance used?

A. Typically, the City will put the snow ordinance in effect when there is an accumulation of two inches of snow. In some circumstances, the ordinance will be put into effect when the forecast calls for significant snow, but before the snow fall begins. To learn if the ordinance is in effect, visit the City's web site at www.urbandale.org, tune to 1210 AM, or tune into a local TV station.

Q. Why is the snow ordinance used?

A. The snow ordinance has two purposes. First, it allows the City to quickly, efficiently, and safely remove the snow from City streets. Second, it minimizes the damage to parked vehicles that may result from snow removal operations.

Q. What do I need to do if the ordinance is in effect?

A. When the ordinance is in effect, all parked vehicles must be removed from City streets until the snow has been cleared from curb to curb and the ordinance has been lifted. Vehicles that are not removed are subject to ticketing and/or towing.

Q. I travel frequently, so sometimes I'm not in town when it snows. What should I do?

A. During the winter months, if you are going to be out of town, you should park your car off the street. If that's not possible, you should arrange for a friend or neighbor to move your car if the snow ordinance is activated.

Q. What happens if the snow ordinance is activated in the middle of the night?

A. If the ordinance is activated at night, vehicles typically would not be ticketed or towed until residents have had a reasonable amount of time to move their cars in the morning. If snow is in the forecast, you might want to move your car off the street, just to be on the safe side.

Q. Is the snow ordinance the same as a "snow emergency", like in Des Moines?

A. No. Urbandale does not have snow emergency routes. If the snow ordinance is activated, then it applies to all of the City's streets. Of course, the main arteries in the City are the highest priorities for snow removal operations.

City Officials

Mayor

Brad Zaun

Mayor Pro-Tem

Shannon Waddell

City Council

Bob Andeweg
Don Brush
John Forst
Mary Polson

Planning & Zoning Comm.

Dennis Connolly
Mark Dickey
Kevin Gass
Jeff Hatfield
Jeff Payne
Jodee Rogers
Wayne Van Heuvelen
Scott Weiser
Vacant (1)

Board of Adjustment

Marc DeJong
Carey Evans
Jim Goodman
Tom Muselman
David Russell

Parks & Recreation Comm.

Courtney Gilson
Chuck Goodman
Larry Jablonski
Karla Jeffries
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
Chad Millang
Rob Rice, Jr.

Library To Unveil New, Improved Web Site

The Urbandale Public Library will unveil its new and improved web site in February at www.urbandalelibrary.org. The re-designed site has been organized to provide easier access to the information that library visitors (both real and virtual!) seek on a regular basis.

The new site will have a focus on frequently asked questions, such as:

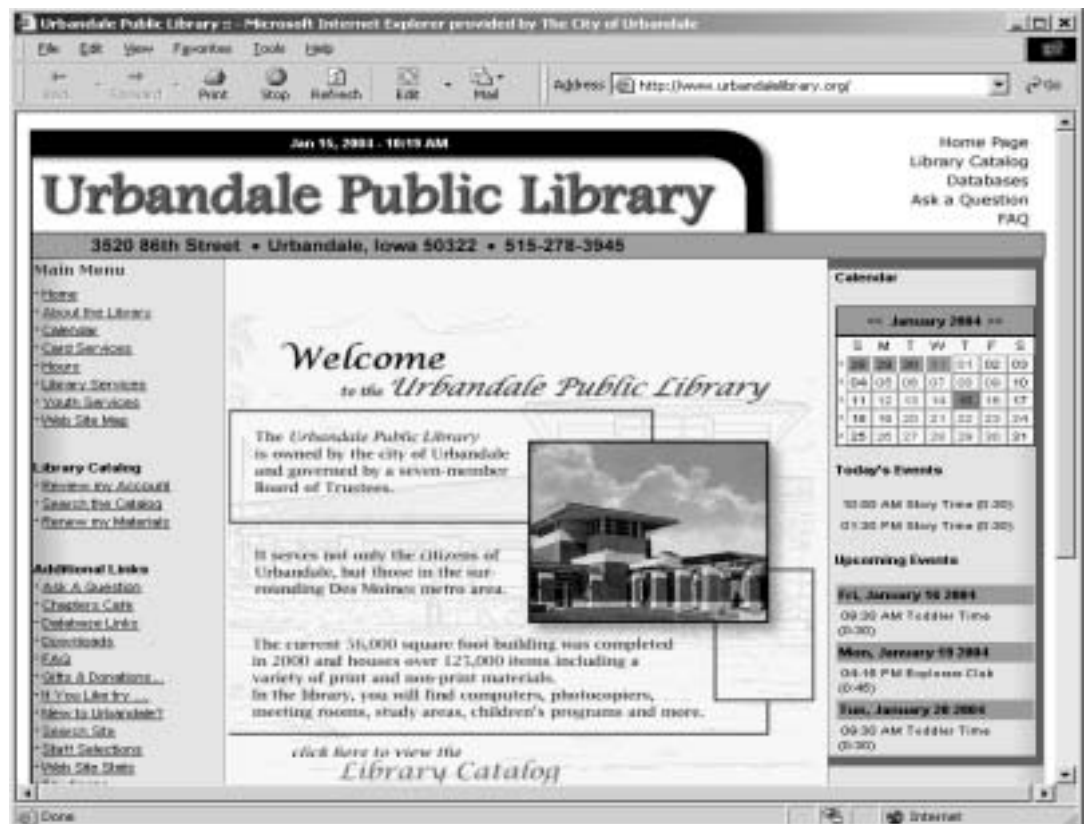
- What programs does the library offer?
- Does the library have computers for the public to use?
- Can my organization meet in the library's meeting rooms?

Citizens will find the answers to these and many other questions on the new site.

The web site will also offer access to the library's online catalog and a list of popular web sites that the library's reference staff uses. Also available will be links to reference databases that can be used at home, such as EBSCOhost, which indexes magazines and newspapers. More database reference sources will also be listed and available in the library.

Thanks to the ESL Department of the Urbandale Community School District, the new site will include some information, such as library policies, in both Bosnian and Spanish, as well as English.

Comments and questions about the new web site can be directed to "Ask a Question" on the web site, or call 278-3945, option 2.



New Content At Urbandale.org

The following items were recently added to the City's web site at www.urbandale.org.

- Schedule of 2004 City Council, board and commission meetings.
- Profile of new Council Member Mary Polson.
- Archive of City Council meeting minutes going back to January, 2001.
- Resident's responsibilities in the event that the snow ordinance is implemented.

Additionally, information on the City's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2004-05 will be posted to the web site when it is available in early February.

If you have a suggestion for improving the web site, please don't hesitate to send an email to webmaster@urbandale.org.

2004 Pet Licenses

Don't forget to purchase a 2004 license for your pet. All 2003 licenses have expired.

Licenses are required for all dogs and cats over 6 months old. Just stop by City Hall at 3315 70th Street with your pet's rabies vaccination certificate. Licenses cost only \$6.00, and there is a 50 percent discount if the pet is spayed or neutered. Licenses purchased after January 31st are subject to a late fee.

Another Record Year

New home construction surged again in 2003, resulting in another record year of construction activity.

In the 12 months ending in December, building permits were issued for 639 new single family detached homes, with an estimated valuation of \$188 million. Even at that torrid pace, the number of building lots ready for construction was greater at the end of the year than at the beginning of the year as developers continued to prepare new subdivisions. In addition to the residential development, permits were issued for 315,000 square feet of commercial space.

Spring Cleanup Date Set

Spring Cleanup will take place during the week of April 26, 2004. During that week, Urbandale residents may discard trash and other items that would not normally be collected. This includes furniture and bedding, appliances, and carpeting.

Items such as construction debris, car tires, hazardous waste, and yard waste are not collected during spring cleanup.

Please visit the City's web site at www.urbandale.org for more information in the weeks preceding Spring Cleanup.

Fourth of July Celebration

The Fourth of July Committee has been busy preparing for the 2004 celebration. Because July 4th is a Sunday this year, some residents have been wondering when the various events will be held. Here is a short list so you can begin making your plans.

Street Dance--Friday, July 2

Parade--Saturday, July 3

5K Run--Saturday, July 3

Fireworks--Sunday, July 4



More information will be posted to the web site at www.urbandale.org as it becomes available.

Emergency Responders Need Your Help to Find You!

Can you imagine trying to locate a specific address in the middle of the night? When it's snowing? And the resident has reported a medical emergency?

Now you know why police, fire, and EMS responders count on your address being prominently displayed in the event of an emergency!

To ensure a speedy response to your 911 call, please be sure that your house address is clearly visible from the street. Ideally, your address should be posted both on your house and on your mailbox.

Addresses painted on the curb are very helpful during the daytime, but they can be very hard to see at night or when there is snow on the street.

Avoid using dark numbers or posting your address in an unlighted area on your home. Instead, post the address in an area that can be easily seen from the street and is illuminated at night.

Taking a few minutes to make your address visible from the street could be a lifesaver in an emergency!

All Iowa Reads Book Selection

"Niagara Falls All Over Again," by Elizabeth McCracken, was recently selected by the All Iowa Reads Committee for 2004.



All Iowa Reads is a project of the Iowa Center for the Book and is intended to encourage Iowans statewide to read and talk about a single title in the same year. The Urbandale Library has copies of the title in print and audio formats.

Red Cross Swimming Lessons at the Urbandale Pool

Spring swimming lessons will be offered at the Urbandale Swimming Pool, April 6-29, 2004.

Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for a total of 8 classes. Each class will be 30 minutes long.

Levels 1, 2, and 3, infant and preschool classes will be offered. The cost is \$21.

For more information, contact the Pool at 278-3959 or parks-rec@urbandale.org.

System Logs 5,000th Request

After only one year of operation, the City's online citizen request system already has logged over 5,000 requests.

The system enables users to request a variety of services--from animal control to zoning enforcement--simply by visiting www.urbandale.org.

Scheduling a bulk trash collection is one of the most requested services. Other popular requests are for traffic signal maintenance, setting up trash and recycling service for new residents, reporting street maintenance problems, and reporting a missed trash collection.

In addition to requesting service, residents may also view a database of frequently asked questions within the system.

Credit Cards Are A Hit

Registering for recreation programs online with a credit card has quickly become popular. On the busiest registration day in December, over \$13,000 in registration fees were paid with a credit card. That's nearly 84% of the total for that day!

Online recreation program registration is fast, easy, and convenient. Just visit www.urbandale.org to learn more!

Continued from page 1

groups held earlier this year, have already defined some key goals for the future. The upcoming community forums will allow participants the opportunity to provide reaction to these goals and to identify ways of meeting them. Elizabeth Weinstein, a community resource specialist and Urbandale resident, will be facilitating the discussions.

The forums are scheduled for March 9, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Des Moines Christian School, Timberline Campus, 13007 Douglas Parkway; March 13, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Urbandale High School Commons, 7111 Aurora Avenue; and March 14, 2:00p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Urbandale High School Commons. Registration is not necessary to attend.

For more information, please contact Cara Hollingworth at 278-3999 or visit the Imagine Urbandale 2 web page at www.urbandale.org.

Family Ski Trip to Seven Oaks in Boone!

Join your friends and neighbors for a Family Ski Trip to Seven Oaks in Boone on Friday, February 27th!

For just \$26.00, you get bus transportation, a lift ticket, downhill ski equipment, a ski lesson and lunch. Qualified students may upgrade to snowboards for just an additional \$8.00!

Buses will pick up the group at the Urbandale Middle School at 9:30am and return at 4:30pm. Each participant will receive a ski lesson and must demonstrate their ability to ski safely before they will be allowed on the slopes for independent skiing. Students wishing to bring their own snowboard must call the Parks and Recreation office at 278-3963 to request this since space on the bus is limited.

Families are welcome, and children 5th grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

To register using a credit card, visit the City's web site at www.urbandale.org, click on "Recreation Programs", and then sign-up for program number 2850. The registration deadline is February 20.

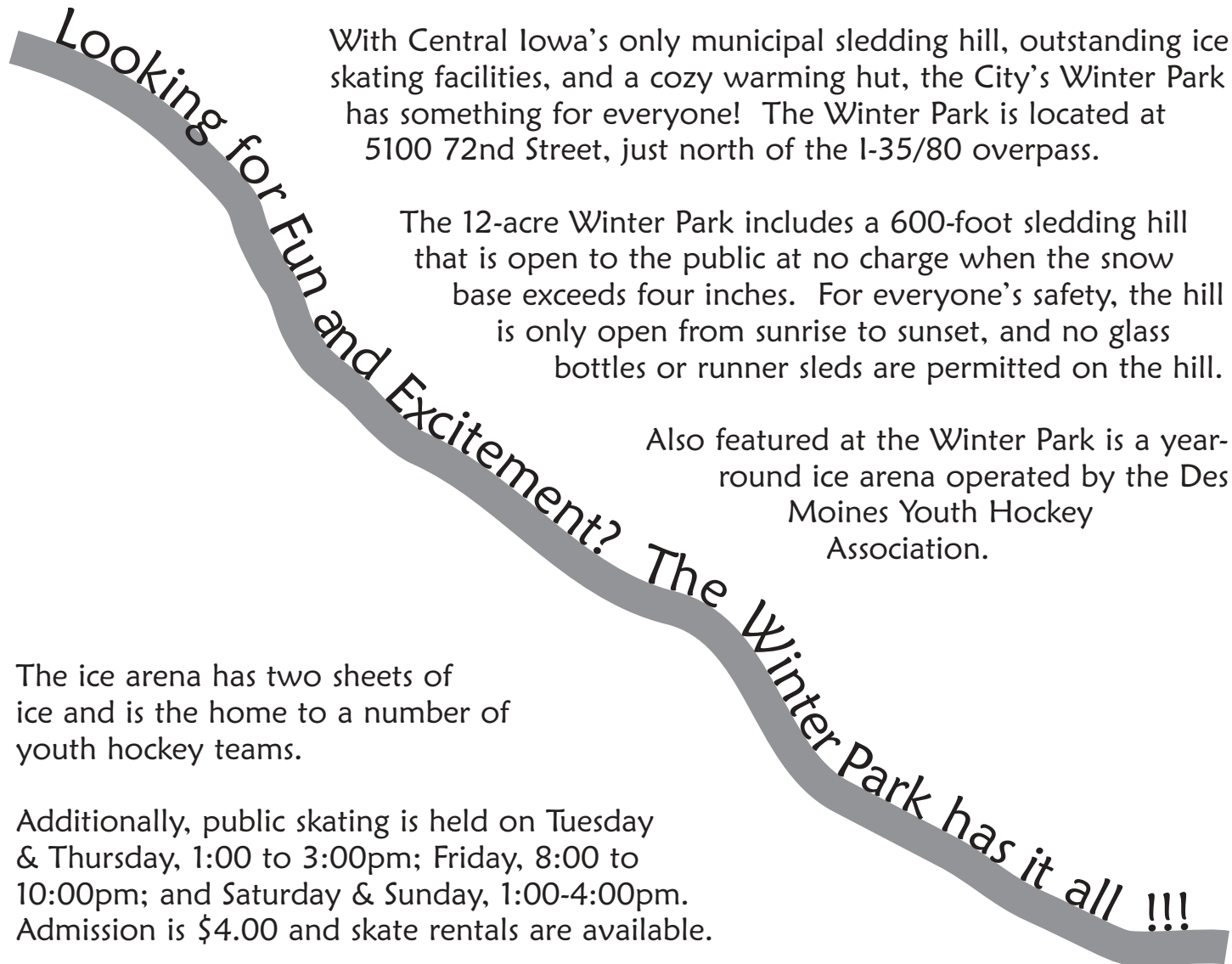
For more information, or to register by phone, please call 278-3963.

Quick Linx

For Information On	Call
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



With Central Iowa's only municipal sledding hill, outstanding ice skating facilities, and a cozy warming hut, the City's Winter Park has something for everyone! The Winter Park is located at 5100 72nd Street, just north of the I-35/80 overpass.

The 12-acre Winter Park includes a 600-foot sledding hill that is open to the public at no charge when the snow base exceeds four inches. For everyone's safety, the hill is only open from sunrise to sunset, and no glass bottles or runner sleds are permitted on the hill.

Also featured at the Winter Park is a year-round ice arena operated by the Des Moines Youth Hockey Association.

The ice arena has two sheets of ice and is the home to a number of youth hockey teams.

Additionally, public skating is held on Tuesday & Thursday, 1:00 to 3:00pm; Friday, 8:00 to 10:00pm; and Saturday & Sunday, 1:00-4:00pm. Admission is \$4.00 and skate rentals are available.

For more information on public skating, contact the Greater Des Moines Ice Sports Association at 515.276.7200



Hey Kids! "Leap into Reading" with the Urbandale Public Library!

Kids who can read alone are invited to celebrate the leap year with a good book or two!

The Urbandale Public Library, 3520 86th Street, is sponsoring "Leap into Reading", a winter reading club for kids, beginning February 1st. Register at the Youth Services Desk and then earn small prizes just for reading!

For more information, e-mail youthservices@urbandale.org, or call 278-3945, option 5.



**CITY OF
URBANDALE**
3315 - 70th Street
Urbandale, IA 50322

Postmaster: Please deliver January 29-31, 2004

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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
Mary Polson, Council Member	.278-3900	.278-3905	.mpolson@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		