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Citizen's Brief

City of Urbandale

A Quarterly Urbandale Update

Spring, 2006

Meeting Schedule

City Council

- Tues., April 11, 7:00 pm
- Tues., April 18, 11:45 am
- Tues., April 25, 7:00 pm
- Tues., May 9, 7:00 pm
- Tues., May 16, 11:45 am
- Tues., May 23, 7:00 pm
- Tues., June 6, 7:00 pm
- Tues., June 13, 11:45 am
- Tues., June 20, 7:00 pm

Planning & Zoning Comm.

- Mon., April 3, 6:00 pm
- Mon., April 17, 6:00 pm
- Mon., May 1, 6:00 pm
- Mon., May 15, 6:00 pm
- Tues., May 30, 6:00 pm
- Mon., June 12, 6:00 pm
- Mon., June 26, 6:00 pm

Board of Adjustment

- Wed., April 5, 6:00 pm
- Wed., May 3, 6:00 pm
- Wed., June 7, 6:00 pm

Parks & Recreation Comm.

- Wed., April 19, 5:30 pm
- Wed., May 17, 5:30 pm
- Wed., June 21, 5:30 pm

The meetings above are held at the City Administrative Offices, 3600 86th Street.

Library Board of Trustees

- Mon., April 24, 7:00 pm
- Mon., May 22, 7:00 pm
- Mon., June 26, 7:30 pm

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

Water Board of Trustees

Meetings are held at the Water Department, 3720 86th Street. Please call 515.278.3940 for dates and times.

City Council Adopts \$31M Budget

Tax Rates Remain Steady for Fourth Straight Year

City property tax rates in Urbandale will remain unchanged for the fourth consecutive year under the FY2006-07 operating budget recently passed by the City Council. The City Council adopted the spending plan following a public hearing on February 28th.

The operating budget anticipates spending of nearly \$31 million in the year beginning on July 1, 2006. This amount represents an increase of 6.8% from the current year's budget.

According to information provided to the City Council by City Manager Robert Layton, the expenditure increase is driven primarily by the addition of five full-time employees, normal wage increases for existing employees, and rapidly-rising health insurance, property insurance, and energy costs.

The budget is also affected by the City's continued investment in infrastructure--such as roads, bridges, sidewalks, sewers, and facilities--and technology--such as fiber optic installations, cardiac monitors, LED traffic signals, and engineering equipment.

Under the adopted FY2006-07 budget, the general tax levy rate will remain at \$7.02 and the debt service levy rate will remain at \$2.05. The agricultural land levy rate will drop to \$1.84. The City's combined tax levy rate will be \$9.07/\$1,000 of valuation.

Based on this levy rate, the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 will pay approximately \$373 in property taxes to the City. This property tax bill represents a decrease of approximately \$18 (4.6%) from FY2005-06. A similarly valued home in FY2005-06 would have paid approximately \$391 in City property taxes.

By way of comparison, the City property tax bill for this home would be lower in FY2006-07 than it was in FY1996-97. During that ten-year period, this home's property tax bill would have dropped from \$464 to \$373, representing a decrease of \$91 (19.6%).

The City's budget is funded primarily with property tax revenues (71%), revenues from state and federal sources (10%), and charges for services such as permits, housing inspections, and recreation programs (7%). Other sources make up the remaining 12%.

The five new positions in the City will include two paramedic/firefighters, one police officer, one solid waste collector, and one engineer-in-training. The paramedics and police officer are needed to improve public safety response times. The solid waste collector is needed to address service requirements in the City's new neighborhoods. The engineering position will provide additional support for the City's

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From the Mayor's Desk...

With the recent adoption of the FY2006-07 operating budget, the City Council and I reaffirmed our commitment to providing high quality municipal services at a reasonable cost to taxpayers.

For the fourth consecutive year, we were able to expand and enhance the services that the City offers without an increase in the tax rate.

We were able to do this largely because the City remains an attractive location for new residential and commercial development. That growth, however, presents challenges as it presents opportunities.

With a larger population and more neighborhoods, services like police and fire protection and solid waste collection can be stretched thin. We've taken prudent steps to prevent any erosion of services with the addition of five new full-time positions, four of which provide direct service to residents and businesses. The fifth will assist the City in managing its growth by leveraging our investment in mapping and engineering design technology.

Over the next few months, the City Council, the City staff, and I will review a number of planning documents that guide the City. First, the City Council will update its bi-annual strategic plan. This will be an opportunity for our three newer Council Members--John Forbes, Doug Getter, and Ron Pogge--to have a significant impact on the future direction of our community. Second, the City Council will adopt a long-range financial plan and long-range staffing plan. Together with the 2006 citizen survey results, these documents will help us to focus our resources in ways that will best position Urbandale to remain attractive and competitive far into the future.

During this process, the input we receive from residents and businesses in the community will be invaluable. I encourage you to contact the City Council or me to share your thoughts about the long-term, future direction of the City. Please don't hesitate to contact us by telephone or email (contact information is available at the back of this newsletter), or send your ideas and comments to us at 3600 86th Street, Urbandale, 50322.



Mayor Bob Andeweg

Bridge Construction Will Close Douglas Parkway West of Walnut Creek

The reconstruction of Douglas Parkway, from Walnut Creek to 147th Street, will result in a closure of Douglas Parkway in this area from May through November.

This project will provide for a four-lane bridge with sidewalks over Walnut Creek, and the paving of two of the future five lanes of Douglas Parkway.

Please follow the posted detour signs to avoid construction activity in this area.

Additionally, improvements to the 86th Street

interchange with Interstate 35/80 will result in some lane closures during this project.

The project will provide for loop ramps that will improve access to the interstate and reduce delays on 86th Street. Right turn lanes will be constructed on 86th Street and on the interstate exit ramps at 86th Street.

The City apologizes for any inconvenience these projects may cause for motorists.

City Officials

Mayor

Bob Andeweg

City Council

John Forbes

John Forst

Doug Getter

Ron Pogge

Mary Polson

Planning & Zoning Comm.

Dennis Connolly

Kevin Gass

Jeff Hatfield

Liz Hodgson

Bill Kusy

Jeff Payne

Judy Ralston-Hansen

Wayne Van Heuvelen

Scott Weiser

Board of Adjustment

Carey Evans

Jim Goodman

Patrick Kirchner

Tom Muselman

David Russell

Parks & Recreation Comm.

Bruce Bernard

Mark Courter

Chuck Goodman

Larry Jablonski

Rachel Jackson

Phyllis Kline

Martha Raecker

Library Board of Trustees

Matt Carver

Neva Fowler

Jose Garcia

Betty Hamilton

Julie Kroll

Marlyn McKeen

Mark Zlab

Water Board of Trustees

John McCune

Gerald Nelson

Todd Walker

Tree Board

Bill Dane

Greg Hicklin

Bob Kollmorgen

Chad Millang

Bob Rice

New Community Welcome Signs To Be Installed

Collaborative Effort of Four Urbandale Organizations

The Urbandale Chamber of Commerce, the 2006 Leadership Urbandale Class, the City of Urbandale, and the Urbandale Community Action Council have joined together to plan and raise funds for the installation of community welcome signs. Working together, these groups have formed a "sign committee" with the Urbandale Chamber taking the lead and overseeing the design and proposal process.

The plan calls for replacing the welcome sign in the 4000 block of Merle Hay Road, and adding signs at five other locations: NW Urbandale Drive, south of I-35/80; 86th Street, north of Hickman Road; Douglas Parkway, east of I-35/80; Douglas Parkway, west of I-35/80; and 86th Street, south of I-35/80.

The metal signs will feature the Uniquely Urbandale logo and will be backlit so they will be visible at night.

According to Tom Gayman, 2006 Urbandale Chamber of Commerce President, local company and Chamber member Porter-Bowers Sign Co. was selected to construct the signs. "They have been instrumental in the planning process by guiding the committee as to the type of signs that would withstand the elements," Gayman said.

So far, the Committee has raised \$9,000 of the \$25,000 total cost for the production and installation of the six signs. Additional funds are being sought from community businesses and residents, with the the Leadership Urbandale class spearheading the fundraising effort. Contributions are tax-deductible and should be made payable to the "Urbandale Action Council/Welcome Sign," c/o Urbandale Action Council, P.O. Box 7615, Urbandale, 50322. For more information, contact Tiffany Menke, Executive Director, Urbandale Chamber of Commerce at 515.331.6855.

City Council Adopts FY2006-07 Budget

Continued from Page 1

growing Geographic Information System. The budget also includes funding for several new part-time positions in the Library, Senior Center, and Technology Department.

At the public hearing, the City's budget was endorsed by the Urbandale subcommittee of the Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers Association.

In recommending the budget to the City Council, City Manager Layton stressed that the quality of the services provided by the City is just as important as the revenue sources and expenditure levels. "In reality," Layton said, "the annual budget should ensure that adequate resources are available to protect Urbandale's residents and to enhance their quality of life." Layton noted that the City's recent ranking by CNN/Money Magazine as one of the most livable cities in America should demonstrate the City's success in achieving this objective.

Copies of the adopted budget are available at City Hall (3600 86th Street) or on the City's web site at www.urbandale.org. For more information, please contact Nicci Lamb, Finance Director, at 515.278.3900.

Briefly Noted...News from the City

SUMMER LIBRARY ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

This summer, children should plan to spend plenty of time at the Urbandale Library attending the many activities offered by the Youth Services staff!

This summer's theme will be "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales", and the activities will include Reading Clubs that will run from June 5 through July 29 for children of all ages.

The Library is also partnering with the Blank Park Zoo for a variety of events that will include animals. Other programs will include music, pets, crafts, stories, race cars, treasure hunts and science!

For more information, look in the Recreation Program Guide that was recently delivered to Urbandale homes. The Program Guide is also available on the City's web site at www.urbandale.org, or check out the Library's monthly calendar. If you have questions, please call the Youth Services desk at 515.278.3945, option 5.

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULES

EASTER: Library closed on April 16th.

MOTHER'S DAY: Library Closed on May 14th.

MEMORIAL DAY: City offices closed on May 29th. Library closed on May 28th and 29th. Solid waste collection delayed one day through the entire week.

FATHER'S DAY: Library closed on June 18th.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: City offices and Library closed on July 4th. Solid waste collection unchanged on July 3rd. Solid waste collection is delayed by one day during the rest of the week.

LABOR DAY: City offices closed on September 4th. Library closed September 3rd and 4th. Solid waste collection delayed one day through the entire week.

SENIOR HEALTH & SAFETY EXPO

Urbandale seniors are invited to a Health & Safety Expo at the Senior Center, 7305 Aurora Ave., on Wednesday, April 26, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Several area health and safety organizations, including HeartReach Mobile Lab, Des Moines University, the Urbandale Fire and Police Departments, Visiting Nurse Services, and others will be on hand to offer health, wellness, and safety screenings and information.

Hourly seminars will be presented and will cover several topics. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day.

No pre-registration is required, however, please call 515.278.3907 if you would like to schedule a stroke detection or blood profile screening.

CITIZEN SURVEY TO BE TAKEN THIS SPRING

The 2006 version of the City's bi-annual citizen survey will be delivered in May. Nearly 1,000 homeowners have been randomly selected to receive the survey in the mail. The recipients will have about two weeks to complete the 8-page questionnaire and return it in the postage-paid envelope.

The information collected by the survey will help the Mayor and City Council to evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs, allocate resources, and identify emerging trends in citizen satisfaction. All of the data will be kept strictly confidential and will be reported only in aggregated terms. The final survey report will be available in June.

If you receive a copy of the survey at your home, please take a few minutes to answer the questions and return the survey in the mail. Your input is invaluable to helping the City improve its operations.

If you have any questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to contact Don Gloo at dgloo@urbandale.org.

Briefly Noted...News from the City

ARBOR DAY EVENT SET FOR BRUSH PARK

The Tree Board recently announced plans to plant 24 new trees at Donald J. Brush Park, at 129th Street and Cardinal Lane. The planting will take place on Saturday, April 29th at 9:00 am.

The Tree Board annually sponsors a community tree event on National Arbor Day. Because of these events, and other efforts of the Tree Board, Urbandale was recently named a Tree City USA community.

Brush Park is named for Don Brush who served the community as a Council Member, and later as Mayor, from 1974 through 2005.

Mayor Brush was honored at a City Council meeting in December for his long service to the City. At that time, the park at 129th and Cardinal Lane was re-named in his honor.

The community is invited to attend the tree-planting ceremony.

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT TOOL KIT

The first edition of the Urbandale Neighborhood Event Tool Kit is available on the City's web site at www.urbandale.org!

Whether you're planning your first event or breathing new life into an annual one, this kit will provide you with the ideas to help you get started.

The Strengthening Neighborhoods Committee, an Urbandale Action Council initiative, created the kit and made it available to the community. The Committee was formed in 2004 to enhance the "small town" feel of Urbandale through its informal system of neighborhoods.

The kit is based on input from many Urbandale residents who have recently staged successful neighborhood events. They provided many of the ideas found in the kit.

YARD WASTE STICKER PRICES INCREASE

Effective February 1, 2006, the Metro Waste Authority (MWA) increased the price for Compost It! stickers from \$0.90 to \$1.00 each. This is the first increase since the program began in 2001.

Compost It! stickers are used on brush bundles or with store-brand (non-Compost It!) yard bags in Urbandale and other cities in the metro area.

Residents may use their supply of the 90-cent stickers until they are exhausted. Any new stickers will cost \$1.00. The price of yard waste bags did not change.

For more information, please contact the MWA at 515.323.6535, or visit the MWA's web site at www.mwatoday.com.

CRIMEVIEW OFFERS ONLINE CRIME INFO

The Urbandale, Clive and West Des Moines Police Departments are pleased to provide crime data to the public through the CrimeView web site. With CrimeView, residents can search for information on crimes in the community and produce maps and reports of this information.

A search can focus on a crime type, time period, geographic boundary or proximity to an address or known location, such as a school. Geographic boundaries include city boundaries and police territories. The crime data includes information on arsons, assaults, auto thefts, commercial and residential burglaries, criminal mischief, homicides, indecent exposures, larcenies, robberies, and thefts from automobiles, as well as traffic accidents occurring in the community within the past 90 days.

To access CrimeView, please visit the City's web site at www.urbandale.org, and click on the CrimeView logo in the left navigation column.

Spring Cleanup Set for Week of April 24th

It's is one of the most popular services that the City offers, and this year, Spring Cleanup is happening during the week of April 24th.

During Spring Cleanup, the City will pick up a whole host of items that are not normally collected, such as furniture, appliances, mattresses, and small amounts of construction debris. (Please see the exceptions, below.)

During Cleanup week, City crews will begin collecting at 6:30am, so make sure your items are at the curb the night before your regular garbage collection day.

All discarded appliances must have a special sticker attached. The \$10 stickers may be purchased at City Hall (3600 86th St.) between 7:30 am and 5:30 pm.

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) can not be collected.

Yard waste, recycling and "regular" garbage 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

Please do not discard these items during Spring Cleanup:

Concrete, bricks, railroad ties, hazardous materials, paints or thinners, oils, batteries, vehicle parts, tires, dirt, sod, compressed gas cylinders, or anything over 6 feet long or 150 pounds (except furniture).

Please call Metro Waste Authority at 515.967.5512 for assistance with these items.

Compost It! sticker attached. As always, please make sure there is at least four feet of clearance around your blue garbage container.

Spring Cleanup is offered as a special service to Urbandale residents. Please contact the Department of Engineering and Public Works at 515.278.3950 or engpw@urbandale.org for more information.

Quick Links	
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
Caring Corps	278-3999
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

Registration is now open for all Summer 2006 recreation programs.

Check out the Program Guide online at www.urbandale.org.

Register online (with an adult's help) or contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at 515.278.3963.

Here are a few of the great new programs that are being offered!

NEW!! Hershey Track Meet (Ages 9-14)

Are you between 9 and 14 years old? Do you like to run and jump and throw? Then you should sign up for the Hershey Track & Field Games!

Join your friends on Saturday, May 13th at the Hoover High School Track at 9:00 a.m. for this FREE event! The meet offers running events like the 50 Meter Dash and the 800 Meter Run, plus field events like the Softball Throw and the Long Jump. There are plenty of choices, and it doesn't matter how fast you can run or how far you can jump or throw - everyone's a winner! Some athletes will even get the chance to go on to compete in the State Hershey Meet in Marshalltown, Iowa, on June 17!! Registration deadline: May 8th.

NEW!! Rock'n The Park Teen Concert! (Everyone is Welcome!)

Kids of all ages are welcome to attend a Teen Concert at the Urbandale Skate Park (Walker Johnston Park, 9000 Douglas Ave.) on Saturday, May 27th, 1:30pm. This will be a great chance for everyone to check out some local teen bands from the metro area!! You will be able to purchase their music, band T-shirts and other great merchandise. And best of all: It's FREE!

NEW!! Cartooning Fun For Everyone! (Kids Entering Grades 1-6)

Cartooning is fun for everyone, regardless of skill level! In this class you'll play drawing games, learn how to draw faces, create your own characters, and draw settings, hands, feet, animals, bodies, and much more. Work will be in pencil on paper and also as interactive drawing games on a chalkboard. Students may bring their own color markers, if desired. Paper and pencils will be provided. Instructor: Gene Hamilton. Registration Deadline: May 30th.

Mondays, June 5 - June 26. Urbandale High School Room 605. 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Fee: \$40

Spring Cleanup is the Week of April 24th

Please place your Spring Cleanup items on the curb by 6:30 am on your normal trash collection day. Please make sure your items are at least four feet away from you blue bin.
See page 6 for more information!

If you have questions, please visit the City's web site at www.urbandale.org, or contact the Department of Engineering and Public Works at 515.278.3950 or engpw@urbandale.org.



CITY OF
URBANDALE
3600 86th Street
Urbandale, IA 50322

Postmaster: Please deliver April 19-21, 2006

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Contact Us!

	VOICE	FAX	E-MAIL
Bob Andeweg, Mayor	.278-3900	.278-3905	.bandeweg@urbandale.org
John Forbes, Council Member	.278-3900	.278-3905	.jforbes@urbandale.org
John Forst, Council Member	.278-3900	.278-3905	.jforst@urbandale.org
Doug Getter, Council Member	.278-3900	.278-3905	.dgetter@urbandale.org
Ron Pogge, Council Member	.278-3900	.278-3905	.rpogge@urbandale.org
Mary Polson, Council Member	.278-3900	.278-3905	.mpolson@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
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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
City Webmaster	.278-3900	.278-3905	.webmaster@urbandale.org
City Web Site	www.Urbandale.org		
Library Web Site	www.UrbandaleLibrary.org		
Urbandale Chamber	www.UniquelyUrbandale.com		
Urbandale Informational Radio	.1210 on the AM dial		