



URBANDALE



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Back to School Safety

The month of August not only begins the end of summer activities, but it also starts the new school year. The City would like to remind parents, returning kids and those heading off to school for the first time about some basic school safety tips.

1. Phone numbers – make sure your children know important contact numbers. If your child has a cell phone, these numbers should be stored within their phone. If your child does not have a phone, write the numbers on a sheet of paper or index card and put it into their bag they carry to school.
2. If your child is riding in a car to and from school make sure they always wear a seatbelt. Also remember, younger children should sit in the back seat and a booster seat may still be needed. If you drop off your children off at school, make sure to use your school's drop off location.
3. If you children bike to school, make sure they understand bike safety and know their school route. Parents are encouraged to take a test run with their children before school starts, this way your child will be familiar with their bike route. Most importantly, make sure your child wears their helmet.
4. If your child is going to walk to school make sure they know their safe school route. Like biking to school, do a test run before school starts. This way you can practice how to cross streets or roadways safely.
5. Designate a family meeting spot. In case of an emergency this is the place were all family members should go. This is even more important as your children reach middle and high school.
6. Don't talk to strangers. Children should be reminded that they should never accept rides or presents from strangers. You may want to use a family password, something only your children will know, which could be used when someone different is picking up your children after school.

Online Payment Now Available

Urbandale is now accepting electronic online and electronic in-office payments for parking ticket fines, premium yard waste containers, Compost It! yard waste stickers and special assessment fees. In-office payments will be accepted at City Hall, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Credit cards accepted include MasterCard, Visa, Discover or E-check.

Online payment services are facilitated via a 3rd party secure website, which is operated by iCASH. A non-refundable service delivery fee is applied to your total transaction. This fee is required by iCASH to cover the expense of processing the transaction. The City does not retain any of the service delivery fees. The City anticipates adding more services for electronic payment soon.



Fall 2010 Recreation and Community Education Program Guide comes out on Tuesday, August 17th.

For more information, including how to contact city offices, visit our web site: www.urbandale.org



Calendar

- August 4, 2010
Board of Adjustment Meeting
6:00 p.m., City Hall
- August 10, 2010
City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., City Hall
- August 12, 2010
Public Art Committee Meeting
11:45 a.m., City Hall
- August 16, 2010
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m., City Hall
- August 17, 2010
City Council Lunch & Learn Meeting
11:45 a.m., City Hall
- August 18, 2010
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
5:30 p.m., City Hall
- August 24, 2010
City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., City Hall
- August 30, 2010
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m., City Hall
- September 1, 2010
Board of Adjustment Meeting
6:00 p.m., City Hall
- September 7, 2010
City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., City Hall

Pedestrian Beacons

In 2009 the City of Urbandale received funding from the Iowa Department of Transportation to install six push-button activated pedestrian beacons. The funding was through the Safe Routes to School Program. This program encourages children, kindergarten through 8th grade, to walk and bike to school. The locations of the pedestrian beacons are at the intersections of Aurora Avenue at 75th Street, at the Middle School entrance, and at 82nd Street.

The City is pleased to report that these beacons are operational and ready to use this school year. To use the pedestrian beacons, push the pedestrian button on the beacon pole to register that you wish to cross Aurora Avenue. Once the button is pushed the yellow beacons on the top of both poles will begin to flash for both directions of approaching traffic. These lights warn approaching motorists of pedestrians within the crosswalk. You can cross the street while the beacons are flashing, but you should remember to be aware of the traffic and make sure vehicles have stopped before crossing the road.



For motorists approaching the pedestrian beacon, yield to all pedestrians within the crosswalks and obey all traffic regulations. The beacons are intended to be an additional measure to alert motorists to pedestrians in the area.

The City encourages students, parents and pedestrians to familiarize themselves with the beacons and how to use them. The new push-button activated pedestrian beacons now provide three locations for pedestrians, bikers, and school children to safely cross Aurora Avenue.

Solar Powered Trash Compactor Installed in Walker Johnston Park

The City of Urbandale and Waste Management have joined together to provide a solar powered trash compactor at Walker Johnston Park. The bin, which compacts garbage using power generated from built-in solar panels, can hold five times more garbage as traditional bins, reducing the costs and vehicle trips associated with frequent trash collection.

"We know our ordinary trash bins can overflow, particularly at busy intersections, public parks, streets and outdoor events," said Scott Hock, Assistant Director of Parks for the City of Urbandale. "The new Waste Management Solar Powered Trash Compactors can help Urbandale reduce litter while also lowering waste collection frequency and its associated expenses. We hope these demonstration units show residents how simply and effectively the Solar Trash Compactors can improve our public spaces."



Visit our website for complete calendar listings and more!
www.urbandale.org

Leadership Urbandale is now accepting applications for the Class of 2010-2011.

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