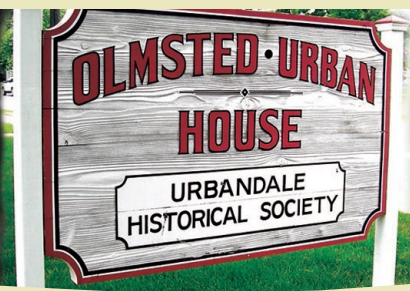




# URBANDALE CITIZEN'S BRIEF

May 2010



## Contact Us

**MAYOR**  
 • **Bob Andeweg**  
 283-3106 • bandeweg@urbandale.org  
 • **Michael Carver -Mayor Pro Temp**  
 238-8766 • mrcmb@aol.com

**CITY COUNCIL**  
 • **John Forbes**  
 278-3900 • jforbes@urbandale.org  
 • **Ron Pogge**  
 697-4268 • rpogge@urbandale.org  
 • **Tom Gayman**  
 278-3900 • tgayman@urbandale.org  
 • **Mary Polson**  
 276-6443 • mpolson@urbandale.org  
**CITY MANAGER**  
 • **A.J. Johnson**  
 278-3900 • ajohnson@urbandale.org

**DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS**  
**Community Development**  
 • **Paul Dekker**  
 278-3935 • pd Dekker@urbandale.org  
**Engineer and Public Works**  
 • **Dave McKay**  
 278-3950 • dmckay@urbandale.org  
**Finance & Records**  
 • **Nicci Lamb**  
 278-3900 • nlamb@urbandale.org  
**Fire and EMS**  
 • **Jerry Holt**  
 278-3970 • jholt@urbandale.org  
**Library**  
 • **Katherine Manion**  
 278-3945 • kmanion@urbandale.org  
**Parks & Recreation/Pool**  
 • **Jan Herke**  
 278-3963 • jherke@urbandale.org  
**Police**  
 • **Ross McCarty**  
 278-3910 • rmccarty@urbandale.org  
**Senior Center**  
 • **Lorrie Nagel**  
 278-3907 • lnagle@urbandale.org  
**Technology**  
 • **John Andrasko**  
 278-3900 • jandrasko@urbandale.org  
**Water Utilities**  
 • **Rich Foust**  
 278-3940 • rfoust@urbandale.org



## MAYOR'S NOTE

by Robert Andeweg, Mayor

This month, I would like to use my column to share an inspirational story about a young man in Urbandale, and an opportunity for all of us to show exactly why we are "Uniquely Urbandale."

Zac Duncalf was just a normal 9 year-old in Urbandale. In the last year, there were some concerns with Zac's health that made his mother take him to the ER. They were told it was just a viral infection, but his family continued to notice problems. This made his parents very nervous, so his mother made an appointment for the following day. The doctor thought it might be pneumonia, but wanted a chest x-ray. It didn't look quite right so Zac was sent to have a CT scan. After being told to go "right back" to the doctor's office so he could give Zac and his family the results, his mother knew deep down that something was very wrong. It turns out that Zac had an extremely large mass in his chest, approximately the size of a large dinner plate, in front of his heart. There have been many times Zac has been admitted to the hospital and his family has spent several holidays there. Zac is not able to participate in "contact" sports, which he longs to do.

Zac attends school as much as possible, but when he is not able to, he uses Skype, a live feed program on the computer that allows him to fully participate in the classroom's instruction. He can ask questions, and the teacher can call on him, just as if he were sitting in the classroom, which helps to make him feel more "normal!"

The great thing about Zac is, he does not let having cancer get him down! He just wants to be a kid. He strives every day to be your typical sports loving, active 10 year old boy! Zac's daily motto: "KEEP FIGHTING!" and he does just that!

Please join me in a family and community event in honor of Zac Duncalf on Sunday, May 16, 2010, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at Incredible Pizza. We can all show Zac and his family how much the community supports him and his fight against cancer.

## Spring Reminders

by the Urbandale Police Department

The nicer weather has arrived and the Police Department would like to remind everyone of some basic safety tips. When you go out and enjoy the weather, either by walking or biking, we encourage you to take advantage of all the paths that wind through the various parks in Urbandale. Walking or biking on these paths will keep you off the roadways used by motor vehicles. Bike paths will make your walk or bike ride quieter and safer.

Spring also brings dog owners out for walks with their canine companions and if you take your dog with you make sure you have a proper leash. You may not be afraid of dogs, but a lot of people are

afraid of animals and will be frightened when they approach you and your unleashed dog. This time of year residents start opening windows to enjoy the night air, so make sure your dog is not barking and disturbing residents in your area. Urbandale has ordinances that prohibit both unleashed dogs and barking dogs.

If you have a problem with either a dog off leash or a barking dog in your neighborhood, please call our dispatch center at 222-3321. An officer will respond and meet with you to discuss the issue and offer solutions. So get outside and enjoy the weather, your home, your garden, and your neighborhood.

## Summer Activities at the Senior Center

by the Urbandale Parks & Recreation

The Urbandale Senior Center, located at 7305 Aurora Ave, has a number of fun and entertaining activities planned for the upcoming summer months. The Senior Center provides dancing lessons, a wide variety of fitness classes, field trips, picnics, concerts and much more. Among these activities is a workshop for potting lovers, called Crafty Garden Pots. This workshop is a great opportunity for you to take up a new hobby or refine an old one. This class will teach you how to make custom containers for your indoor and/or outdoor plants and teach you how you can turn almost any household container into a custom mold. Just don't forget to wear clothes that you can get dirty! For more information about our potting workshop or any of our activities at the Senior Center please call (515) 278-3907.

## Outdoor Warning Siren FAQs

by the Urbandale Fire Department

**Q: When are the sirens sounded in Urbandale?**

**A:** Under the Polk County/Des Moines Metro Area outdoor warning system guidelines, sirens will be sounded for: Tornadoes; and Severe Thunderstorms with winds occurring/forecasted to be 70 mph or greater. Sirens may be sounded multiple times during the threat and there are no "all clear" signals for the sirens.

**Q: What should I do when I hear the sirens?**

**A:** Go inside to the lowest level, most-interior room of the structure and tune to NOAA All-Hazards Radio or the local media for more detailed information on the storm's location, timing, and intensity.

**Q: When are the sirens tested?**

Sirens are tested on the first Saturday of each month at noon. If actual severe weather threatens that day, the test is delayed until the next monthly scheduled test.

**Q: Why can't I hear the sirens in my house?**

**A:** Sirens are an outdoor warning system only. The system is designed to alert those who are outside that something dangerous is approaching, so that they can seek shelter inside.

**Q: How can I get alerts when I'm at work or in my house?**

**A:** For alerts indoors, every home and business should have a NOAA All-Hazards Radio. A NOAA Radio is like a smoke detector for severe weather and it activates when a warning is issued for your area so you can take appropriate action.

**Q: Who do I contact if the siren in my neighborhood is not working?**

**A:** If your siren is not functioning properly you should contact the Urbandale Fire Department at (515) 278-3970. The UFD will need to know the siren location and description of the problem.

**Q: How come I can hear sirens in other cities but they are not sounding in Urbandale?**

**A:** The sirens in the cities of Clive, Urbandale and West Des Moines are activated by a shared dispatch center. Our sirens are activated only when a warning directly impacts our community. Sirens in other surrounding communities are activated by other dispatch centers that may have different alerting requirements.

**Q: How can I get more information on emergency preparedness?**

**A:** Contact the Urbandale Fire Department at (515) 278-3970 or visit us on the internet at: www.urbandale.org/fire-department.cfm and click on "Emergency Safety," or Polk County Emergency Management: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/emergencymanagement/, or NOAA All-Hazards Radio: www.weather.gov/nwr.



## Calendar

May 4, 2010  
City Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall

May 5, 2010  
Board of Adjustment Meeting  
6:00 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall

May 10, 2010  
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting  
6:00 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall

May 11, 2010  
City Council Meeting – Lunch & Learn  
11:45 a.m., Conference Room A at City Hall

May 13, 2010  
Public Art Committee Meeting  
11:45 a.m., Conference Room A at City Hall

May 19, 2010  
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting  
5:30 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall

May 19, 2010  
City Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall

May 20, 2010  
Civil Rights Commission Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall

May 24, 2010  
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting  
6:00 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall

May 27, 2010  
Tree Board Meeting  
5:00 p.m., Conference Room A at City Hall

June 1, 2010  
City Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall

June 2, 2010  
Board of Adjustment Meeting  
6:00 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall

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

Free Residential Tire Drop Off from May 3rd to May 8th at Public Works (9401 Hickman Road)  
Drop Off Times M-F, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

2010 Parks & Recreation Summer Program Guide is now available – Find a Class, Sport, Activity or Hobby Today!

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