



URBANDALE CITIZEN'S BRIEF

November 2010



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Mayor's Note

By Robert Andeweg, Mayor

We are truly "Uniquely Urbandale." As I listen to our residents, I hear them extol value in the quality of life we have in our city. We are also a community that helps others who are less fortunate.

For this Thanksgiving season, I am truly thankful for everything we have in our community. I am also truly thankful for our residents who give of their time, talents and resources to help those residents who may not be as fortunate.

The Urbandale Food Pantry is marking its second anniversary. It is located at 7611 Douglas Avenue, Suite 35. Please consider helping with donations to the Food Pantry.

The Urbandale Caring Corps assists Urbandale residents with transportation, grocery shopping, yard work, snow removal, other simple tasks and companionship. The Fall Cleanup will be held November 13. You can find out more information by going to www.urbandalecaringcorps.org.

The Urbandale Community Action Network is a citizen committee providing leadership and ongoing support for comprehensive community-based action to improve the quality of life in Urbandale. Please help them by visiting www.ucan2017.com.

Please consider helping those less fortunate in our community by contributing your time, talents and resources to these fine organizations.

Cuisine at Home Magazine Presents a Roast Turkey Demo

By the Urbandale Public Library

The Urbandale Public Library will host a cooking demonstration by John Kirkpatrick, the *Test Kitchen* Manager, Chief Food Stylist and Associate Editor at *Cuisine at home* magazine. John Kirkpatrick will demonstrate how to make the ultimate turkey breast. Roasting a turkey breast is a great alternative to serving an entire turkey for Thanksgiving. John will also demonstrate how to make the perfect stuffing to accompany your roast turkey breast. If you would like to attend this demonstration, please contact the Urbandale Public Library at (515) 331-4488.



Snow & Ice Control

By the Urbandale Engineering and Public Works Department

Each winter we can expect about 32 inches of snowfall in Urbandale. The City takes a serious approach and utilizes maximum resources to efficiently and safely remove snow and ice from approximately 400 lane miles of streets in Urbandale.

The City of Urbandale utilizes varying levels of equipment and personnel to respond to a winter storm depending on the amount of precipitation fallen and/or forecasted. Liquid salt brine is applied to arterial streets prior to a snow or ice event. This process is called anti-icing. Applying chemical de-icers to a pavement before a storm can prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement. This allows crews to remove snow from the pavement more effectively at a minimal cost.

In the event a minor winter storm takes place (less than 1" of snowfall), material spreading only may take place on all arterial streets and only on hills and intersections on residential streets. Salt and calcium chloride are applied to the streets with a varied amount of operators depending on the storm event.

During a typical winter storm, all resources are utilized. Dump trucks continually plow arterial streets in an effort to achieve bare pavement and remove snow from residential streets. During a normal storm each residential street is plowed four times and if the duration of the storm warrants, the number may increase. There are approximately 250 cul-de-sacs in Urbandale and pickups are used to clear snow from these areas.

The City does not have designated emergency snow routes. All city streets have restricted parking during a snow emergency parking ban. During snow events when plowing of residential streets is necessary, the City will implement a stringent **Emergency No Parking Ban**. All vehicles must be removed from City streets when the parking ban is in effect. Vehicles parked in the street may be ticketed or towed. After a storm, residents may park on the street as soon as it has been plowed from curb to curb or its entire width. To help our operators perform their plowing duties in a safe and efficient manner, we ask that residents park elsewhere in advance of the event. If you wait until the snow starts falling, it may be too late and you may receive a ticket or your vehicle may be towed. As a precaution, it is always best to remove your vehicle from the street whenever snow is forecasted.

The City will post the parking ban on its website (www.urbandale.org), Twitter page (www.twitter.com/CityofUrbandale) and MediaCom Channel 86 (U-TV). We do notify all media outlets that the Snow Ordinance is in effect, but cannot guarantee that they will alert the public. Again, when in doubt, remove your vehicle from the street.

Residents are required by ordinance to clear sidewalks (including crosswalks) within 24 hours after the end of a snowfall. Please pile or blow the snow in your yard, not in the street. If your sidewalk is icy, please apply salt to melt the ice or sand for traction. It is best to remove the snow as early as possible to prevent the buildup of ice or packing of the snow. Property owners that do not remove the snow accumulations from their sidewalk will be notified with a door hanger stating that if the snow is not removed within 24 hours of delivery of the notice, the owner may be subject to a citation and the City may choose to perform the work and assess the costs against the property. Residents are also asked not to shovel or blow snow from driveways or sidewalks into the street. This can create hazardous conditions and the City has an ordinance prohibiting it.

The City will plow the snow within the confines of curb line to curb line of a street. During heavy snowfalls there may be times when there is simply not enough room on the parking to store all of the snow from the street. During these times we ask your assistance in clearing the snow from around the mailbox to assure delivery of the mail. It is also the resident's responsibility for assuring that their mailbox is properly installed six (6") inches behind the front of the curb, 48" above the surface of the street, and is adequately constructed to withstand snow clearing efforts by the City. On some occasions, the City will damage a mailbox in the course of plowing. Most commonly, snow from the plow will hit the mailbox and not the vehicle. If this does occur, do not hesitate to contact the City at 278-3950.

The City has created some **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION AND ANSWERS** to help you during the winter snow removal:

How do I know if the emergency no parking ban has been put into effect?
The City of Urbandale notifies a number of local television and radio stations regarding the no parking ban. If you are in doubt, it is best to log onto www.urbandale.org, Watch MediaCom Channel 86, follow the City on Twitter (www.twitter.com/CityofUrbandale), or during business hours (M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), call 278-3950 to find out whether the ban has been put into effect.

What can I do to get my neighbor to shovel their sidewalk?
City ordinance requires property owners to shovel their sidewalk. During snow removal operations it is difficult for the City to inspect sidewalks and we appreciate your assistance. If you observe a sidewalk that has not been shoveled, please call 278-3950 or email us at engpw@urbandale.org and the sidewalk will be inspected and a noticed delivered as soon as possible.

After our streets have been plowed, my neighbor blows snow into the street; can I do anything about this?
Again, give us a call or email the Department of Engineering and Public Works and we will notify the resident or take any action necessary to prevent the practice from reoccurring.

Can't the City remove the snow the put in my driveway?
One of the negative side effects of plowing is some of the snow plowed from the street ends up in your driveway approach. This cannot be prevented. When you consider the large number of driveways in the City, it's just too costly and time consuming to use additional people and equipment to perform this service. Our primary duty is to open and maintain the roadway system.

Why do the plows go so fast and throw snow on my sidewalk?
We instruct our operators to avoid excessive speed to prevent this from happening. On the other hand, plows need to go a minimum speed in order to throw snow off of the roadway and onto the parking. In some cases the sidewalks are too close to the street to avoid getting snow on them.

Calendar

- November 2, 2010
City Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- November 3, 2010
Board of Adjustment Meeting – 6:00 p.m., City Hall
- November 8, 2010
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m., City Hall
- November 9, 2010
City Council Lunch & Learn Meeting
11:45 a.m., City Hall
- November 11, 2010
Public Art Committee Meeting – 11:45 a.m., City Hall
- November 16, 2010
City Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- November 17, 2010
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
5:30 p.m., City Hall
- November 18, 2010
Tree Board Meeting – 5:00 p.m., City Hall
- November 18, 2010
Civil Rights Commission Meeting – 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- November 22, 2010
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m., City Hall
- November 22, 2010
Library Board of Trustees Meeting
6:00 p.m., Urbandale Public Library
- November 25 & 26, 2010
City Offices & Library Closed for Thanksgiving
- November 30, 2010
City Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- December 1, 2010
Board of Adjustment Meeting – 6:00 p.m., City Hall
- December 6, 2010
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m., City Hall

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

Lend a hand at the Urbandale Caring Corps "FALL YARD CLEAN UP EVENT" on Saturday, Nov. 13

BLACK FRIDAY POOL SWIM – Friday, Nov. 26 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon

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

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