



URBANDALE CITIZEN'S BRIEF

October 2010



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Mayor's Note

By Robert Andeweg, Mayor

October is upon us, and we can see and feel the changing of the seasons. Our children are back in school, daylight is getting shorter and shorter, the leaves are falling, and the temperatures are getting cooler. Fall is my favorite season of the year!

Especially during this time of year, all of us need to be mindful of pedestrians and bikers using our sidewalks and streets; especially young children walking to and from school. The fall season brings shortened daylight hours, and the sun can tend to be blinding to drivers during the commute hours. Please pay extra attention when driving close to schools.

October also brings Beggar's Night. This year, as in past years, Beggar's Night will be on October 30 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. For drivers on the road during this time, please take special care for our young citizens. For those participating in Beggar's Night, please remember these safety tips: (1) Don't go out alone ; (2) Let parents inspect all treats before you eat them ; (3) Wear white or reflective clothing (4) Watch for cars, and only cross at crosswalks; (5) Stay away from unfamiliar neighborhoods; and (6) Be respectful of other trick-or-treaters, residents, and other people's property. For parents of trick-or-treaters, you can help by remembering these helpful tips: (1) Ideally, please go with your children, or make sure they are with a responsible chaperone. (2) If you aren't going with your children, know the route your children will be taking; (2) Make sure you set a time to be home, and emphasize how important it is for them to be home on time; and (3) Explain to children to be respectful of others.

Let's make sure everyone has a safe and enjoyable fall season!

No Open Burning in Urbandale

By the Urbandale Fire Department

As fall arrives in Iowa we often remember the smell of burning leaves in the crisp fall air. The Urbandale Fire Department would like to remind Urbandale residents that under an ordinance by the Polk County Board of Health and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, there is no open burning allowed within the City of Urbandale. This includes the Dallas County portion of Urbandale. Under this ordinance, the use of patio fireplaces, chimineas, fire pits, bon fires, leaf burning and any other open burning are deemed illegal.

Fires for the preparation of food are allowed and this ordinance does not apply to charcoal or gas BBQ grills. Legal units for the preparation of food must have a grate for food preparation and provisions for holding the fire off of the ground. Natural gas powered fire pits that are NOT used to burn any other combustible materials are allowed.

For the Polk County area of Urbandale, any request for a variance of this ordinance should be directed to the Polk County Air Quality Control Division at (515) 286-3372. For the Dallas County area of Urbandale, any request for a variance of this ordinance should be directed to the Iowa DNR Regional Office at (515) 725-0268.

To report an open burning violation, please contact the Polk County Air Quality Control Division at (515) 286-3372.

Trash, Recycling and Yard Waste Container Storage

By the Urbandale Engineering and Public Works Department

Did you know the City has an ordinance on the placement of trash, recycling and yard waste containers?

The answer is yes, City Ordinance 105.16 defines the location of containers being stored on days other than collection day. In summary, at times other than when individual residential waste containers are to be placed at the curb line for collection, those containers shall be stored:

- In a building on the premises;
- Behind the front building line against the principal structure or accessory structure, but not closer to the property line than five (5) feet;
- In the front yard if screened from visibility from the street;
- Or if a side yard is facing the street and containers are stored outside, the containers shall be screened from street visibility to the greatest extent.

The enforcement of City Ordinance 105.16 is done on a complaint driven basis only. To report a container violation, please contact the Urbandale Engineering and Public Works Department at (515) 278-3950 or by email at engpw@urbandale.org. All complaints are investigated, and if found in violation the City will issue a letter to the resident explaining the Ordinance and asking for quick compliance.

Urbandale Senior Center Continues to Grow

By the Urbandale Senior Center

The Urbandale Senior Center, located at 7305 Aurora Avenue next to the Urbandale Public Swimming Pool and adjacent to the Urbandale High School, offers outstanding service to our community's seniors. During the past few years the Senior Center has continued to expand their programs, activities and educational opportunities. The Center strives to offer something for everyone. The Center hosts not only educational classes, but also provides daily fitness opportunities. There are numerous groups that meet to learn or share a hobby, discuss a book in the reading library or play a game of cards. There is also a computer lab available for independent use during regular center hours. The Center also offers balanced meals, which are served on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The meals are served at 12:00 Noon and the fee for the meal is \$2.50. Reservations are required the day prior to attending a meal service.

The Urbandale Senior Center is open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Friday as programmed. To find out more information on a specific activity, or to just learn some more information on the Center you can contact the Urbandale Senior Center at (515) 278-3907 or online at www.urbandale.org/senior-citizens.cfm. At the Center we believe, as put by Betty Friedan, "Aging is not 'lost youth' but a new stage of opportunity and strength."

Calendar

October 5, 2010
City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., City Hall

October 6, 2010
Board of Adjustment Meeting
6:00 p.m., City Hall

October 7, 2010
Tree Board Meeting
5:00 p.m., City Hall

October 11, 2010
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m., City Hall

October 12, 2010
City Council Lunch & Learn Meeting
11:45 a.m., City Hall

October 14, 2010
Public Art Committee Meeting
11:45 a.m., City Hall

October 19, 2010
City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., City Hall

October 20, 2010
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
5:30 p.m., City Hall

October 25, 2010
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m., City Hall

October 30, 2010
Beggar's Night
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

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

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

Beggar's Night is Sunday, October 30th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Urbandale Fire Department Open House will be Saturday, October 9th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Fire Station #42 (3927 121st Street).

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

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