



URBANDALE CITIZEN'S BRIEF

September 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

Home-Based Businesses in Urbandale

By A.J. Johnson, City Manager

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that over 18.3 million businesses in the United States are home-based businesses. Even more impressive is that it is estimated that 70% of home based businesses succeed for at least a three-year period, which is compared to 29% of outside the home businesses. Urbandale is supportive of home-based businesses and proud that many call our community home.

If you are thinking of starting a home-based business in Urbandale, the City would like to share some information to help you transition toward success. The City's Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 5.47, pages 124-126) outlines the rules and regulations associated with home-based businesses in residentially zoned areas of Urbandale. These regulations can be found on the City's website (www.urbandale.org, spotlighted under the "Go To" section) and are designed to protect and maintain the residential character of established neighborhoods, while recognizing that certain professional and limited business activities can take place in a residential structure.

Within the Zoning Ordinance you can find the performance standards associated with operating a home-based business (pages 124-125). The ordinance also outlines both permitted (pages 125-126) and prohibited (page 126) home-based businesses. For more information on the Zoning Ordinance or to work with a city representative, please contact the Community Development Department at (515) 278-3935.

"Making A Connection" – A Multi-cultural Program

Urbandale's rich history of social partnerships between the City, school districts and business leaders continues with its newest program, Making A Connection (MAC). MAC is a multi-cultural program for residents living in the Karen Acres Park neighborhood. The Karen Acres Park neighborhood was selected for this new program based on the rich diversity of its residents and the large number of school aged children qualifying for reduced school lunch. Many of the residents are immigrants and many are new residents to Urbandale.

The MAC program began by offering a summer camp for 40 youth this July and August. The camp provided both educational and recreational opportunities over the five week program. The cost of this camp was deferred by a Community Betterment Grant by Prairie Meadows and donations by Urbandale businesses. Nutritious meals were also provided to the kids through a partnership with the Urbandale HyVee.

The second community outreach activity under the MAC program were two "Party in the Park" events held in July and August at North Karen Acres Park. These events provided all residents in the area an opportunity to strengthen community ties with the City, Urbandale School District and local businesses.

The third community outreach branch under the MAC program is anticipated for the 2010-2011 School year. Depending on the amount of funding that can be raised, the Parks and Recreation Department and Urbandale School District hope to provide an after school program for students on the free and reduced lunch program at the Karen Acres Elementary School. This program would focus on educational development in a positive and fun atmosphere. Additional Business sponsorships are needed, and would significantly enhance what opportunities that could be provided to these students.

The MAC program would like to thank all those who made the summer camp and "Party in the Park" events a success and we want to thank those businesses who donated generously including Waste Management, Consumer Safety Technology, Medical Records Assistance Services, Inc., Mark Courter State Farm Insurance, Vision Park Family Eye Care, Triumph Investment, Madco Land Development and Urbandale Hy-Vee.

To learn more about the MAC program or to volunteer in a MAC activity, please contact Mollie Wilhite at (515) 278-3963 or at mwilhite@urbandale.org.

UPD- Bike Patrol Unit *By Urbandale Police Department*

The Urbandale Police Department Bike Patrol Unit began approximately 16 years ago with a small number of Reserve Police Officers. When this unit started out it had two used bicycles that had been condemned to the City from the found property inventory. Today the UPD Bike Patrol Unit is comprised of 15 specially trained officers who are assigned to all three patrol shifts. The Unit has also expanded the number of bicycles from the 2 used bicycles to 10 new specially outfitted bicycles that are marked as "Police" bikes.

The Bike Patrol Unit has several objectives and the Unit is specially trained for riding in all conditions, and all aspects of law enforcement. The Unit patrols the bike paths throughout the City when time and manpower permits and promotes bicycle safety at schools and special events. In addition, the Unit assists with the Fourth of July Parade, fun runs and organized bike rides within Urbandale.

One of the most important services provided by the UPD Bike Patrol Unit is the licensing of bicycles within the City. Licensing your bicycle allows the UPD to identify and recover lost or stolen bicycles fast. The Bike Patrol Officers always have bike licenses with them and will assist in licensing your bicycle(s) for free.

Please contact Sgt. Gary Lang at (515) 331-6895 or at glang@urbandale.org for more information about the UPD Bike Patrol Unit, or to have a bike patrol officer visit your event.



The History of Labor Day *From the United States Department of Labor*

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners founded the holiday. However, recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

Calendar

- September 7, 2010
City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., City Hall
 - September 9, 2010
Public Art Committee Meeting
11:45 a.m., City Hall
 - September 13, 2010
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m., City Hall
 - September 14, 2010
City Council Lunch & Learn Meeting
11:45 a.m., City Hall
 - September 15, 2010
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
5:30 p.m., City Hall
 - September 21, 2010
City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., City Hall
 - September 23, 2010
Tree Board Meeting
5:00 p.m., City Hall
 - September 27, 2010
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m., City Hall
 - October 5, 2010
City Council Meeting
7:00 p.m., City Hall
- Visit our website for complete calendar listings and more!
www.urbandale.org

Skateboard XTREME Challenge – Saturday October 2nd

City Offices Closed Monday, September 6th for Labor Day

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

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