



# URBANDALE CITIZEN'S BRIEF

April 2011



## Contact Us

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## Get Growing with Jerry Kluver

By the Urbandale Public Library

Jerry Kluver, Hy-Vee's garden guru, will do a special presentation about chemicals, lawn care and perennials on Thursday, April 21. This event will be held at the Urbandale Public Library, Meeting Room A, at 6:00 p.m. Jerry will also be available for some Q&A after his presentation. So come on out and make sure to bring those lawn and garden questions that have you stumped.



## The Great Egg Hunt

By Parks & Recreation

The annual Great Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 23, starting at 10:00 a.m. Your kids can hunt for eggs and candy at the Walker Johnston Park. Children age ten and under can fill up their baskets for free. You should meet at the Walker Johnston Shelter House for the send off. Please remember to come early, as the send off will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact P&R at (515) 278-3963.

## Summer Recreation Programs

By Parks & Recreation

The spring/summer recreation guide will come out on April 19. You can find your copy in the Des Moines Register newspaper or online at the city's website: [www.urbandale.org](http://www.urbandale.org).

The always popular *Youth in Parks* program, for kids ages 10–13, is back and even better this year. The *Youth in Parks* program participants do volunteer activities in the morning, (i.e. picking up trash, visiting senior citizens) and in the afternoon have fun in a recreation activity. This program costs only \$99 per week.

In addition, the Kids Camp program for youth ages 6–10 is back with a new format. Each week will have a "theme of the week," and activities and field trips that tie into that theme. The cost of this program is \$90 a week for 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and \$100 for 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Each child receives a t-shirt, all supplies, fees and transportation for the week.

Remember spring/summer registration begins April 19 and space is limited for most classes and programs.

## Urbandale Partners with West Des Moines for Animal Control Services

By the Urbandale Police Department

Urbandale animal control services are administered by the Urbandale Police Department. After several years of review the Police Department has implemented changes to its service delivery and animal care. Starting April 1, the City's animal control services are now a joint partnership with the City of West Des Moines. West Des Moines also handles the City of Clive's animal control services.

Animal control services were last surveyed during the City's 2009 biennial Citizen Survey and received only 75% of respondents expressing that animal control services were "excellent or good". That percentage was an increase over the 67% in 2004, but below the City's expectations. Prior animal control services were contracted to a third party and were limited in scope and care available. "Urbandale's prior contract, last signed in 1999, was no longer adequate to meet the needs of the community and provide the level of service our residents expected", said Lt. Terry Nielsen of the Urbandale Police Department. "This agreement is a first step to meeting resident expectations and at the same time positioning the City as a voice in regional efforts", noted Lt. Nielsen.

The new agreement will provide animal control services by West Des Moines' professionally trained animal control officers. The scope of services will expand upon the prior services offered and includes the pick up of stray animals, the care of injured animals, the housing of stray animals and the adoption of unclaimed animals. Wild animal complaints will be handled on a case-by-case basis and may require the resident hiring a professional service.

"Being part of these shared services provides Urbandale with a variety of options going forward," said Lt. Nielsen. The current agreement with West Des Moines ends on June 30, 2012. During the next year the cities of Clive, West Des Moines and Urbandale will

review uniform licensing requirements and fees, the need for expanding facility space and the option of a private-public partnership.

Stray dog or cat complaints should be called into WestCom dispatch at (515) 222-3321 and identify your call as an "Animal Control" call. WestCom dispatch will send an Urbandale Police Officer to review the call and assess if an Animal Control (AC) Officer is warranted. If called out an AC Officer would pick up the animal and transport it to West Des Moines Animal Control facility. Once transported the animal would be evaluated for illness/disease and put into the appropriate holding space. The AC Officers would attempt to notify the animal's owner and return it to its owner. Unsuccessful owner identification would result in the animal being put up for adoption, after the 7-day holding period has ended.

If you have lost a pet, you should contact WestCom Dispatch at (515) 222-3321. Lost pets will be held at the West Des Moines Animal Control facility. An AC Officer will call you back, if not immediately available to take your call, and will notify you if your pet is in holding. To claim your pet you will need to pay all fines and licensing fees (if your pet is not already licensed) at the Urbandale Police Department (Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.). Once you have paid all fines and fees, you will receive a receipt which clears you to pick up your pet at the West Des Moines facility.

In addition, the Urbandale Police Department has started to issue pet licenses. As a reminder, all dogs and cats living within Urbandale are required to be licensed. License information can be found online ([www.urbandale.org](http://www.urbandale.org)) or by calling City Hall at (515) 278-3900 or the Police Department at (515) 278-3938.

## Calendar

The following meetings are held at City Hall (3600 - 86th Street) unless noted.

*Board of Adjustment Meetings*  
April 6 – 6:00 p.m.

*City Council Meetings*  
April 5 – 7:00 p.m.  
April 12 – 11:40 a.m. - Lunch & Learn  
April 21 – 7:00 p.m.

*Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings*  
April 20 – 5:30 p.m.

*Public Art Committee*  
April 12 – 4:00 p.m.

*Planning & Zoning Commission Meetings*  
April 11 – 6:00 p.m.  
April 25 – 6:00 p.m.

*Library Board of Trustees Meeting*  
April 25 – 6:00 p.m. (@ Library)

**Visit our website for complete calendar listings and more!**  
[www.urbandale.org](http://www.urbandale.org)

*Compost It!* program (Yard Waste Recycling) began March 28 and runs until December 2, 2011

Annual *Spring Clean Up* event is scheduled for the week of April 25