



Citizen's Brief Newsletter

City of Urbandale • September 2011

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Calendar

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ACTIVE AGING WEEK

Expand your experience and get your passport to fun and camaraderie during Active Aging Week. The Urbandale Senior Center is hosting a variety of free activities during September 25 to October 1. To "Let The Fun Begin," contact the Urbandale Senior Center at (515) 278-3907 by September 16.

Electronics Recycling Event

On Saturday, September 24, the City of Urbandale is offering residents an opportunity to dispose of electronics free of charge. Electronics can be dropped off at the Public Works complex, 9401 Hickman Road, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. This program was made possible by a grant from the Metro Waste Authority.

This event will give you a chance to empty your closets, garages and storage spaces of all your old and obsolete electronic devices. By recycling electronics, you will help keep harmful materials from entering the landfill. Recycling also recovers valuable materials that can be used to make new products.

The following is a list of just some electronics that will be accepted: televisions, VCRs, gaming consoles, cameras, cables/cords, stereos and radios, DVD and CD players, calculators, fax machines, shredders, copiers, thermostats, home and cell phones (including all accessories) and computers and accessories (monitors, printers, keyboards, mice, routers, scanners, speakers).

Appliances and other white goods will not be accepted. For more information on this event, please contact the Department of Engineering and Public Works at (515) 278-3950 or by email at engpw@urbandale.org.

Urbandale Controlled Bow Hunt

The City of Urbandale first implemented a controlled bow hunt in 1998 and continues with the program in 2011-2012 to control the deer population. This program is based on recommendations from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Polk County Deer Task Force (PCDTF). Those recommendations are to harvest non-antlered deer, primarily adult females, to control the size of the herds found within the city. Although the population numbers have remained somewhat steady from the hunt, the major benefit is keeping the deer population from increasing.

During the 2010-2011 controlled bow hunt season there were 20 registered bow hunters who were out on private lands and two green belt areas in Urbandale. Those registered hunters harvested 91 deer this past season. The hunters who participated in this program are regulated by the Urbandale Police Department. The hunters must take an IDNR bow hunting safety course and then annually pass a proficiency test. These certificates are placed on file with the Police, along with land owner permission-to-hunt forms that have the exact property and locations. The bow hunters are also issued tags for their stands and vehicles so officers can identify them as legitimate hunters.

If you are interested in participating in the controlled bow hunt program it is expected that you are a role model hunter. Initial requirements are to take the IDNR Bow Hunter Safety Course, pass an annual bow proficiency test, and find a place to hunt that meets safety criteria set forth by the City of Urbandale. If you have any questions about the controlled bow hunt you may contact Officer Jeff Casey at (515) 278-3938 or by email at jcasey@urbandale.org.

2011 Citizen Survey

Urbandale conducts a biennial citizen survey as a tool to assess the City's service delivery and to aid in the City Council's strategic priorities. The National Citizen Survey (NCS) has been contracted to conduct the 2011 citizen survey and NCS conducted the 2009 survey. Residents in Urbandale will be randomly selected to receive a survey by mail. Those randomly selected residents will receive a postcard in September letting them know they have been selected to participate in the 2011 survey. Surveys would be mailed the week after the postcards are received and a second follow up survey would be sent as a reminder too. All surveys are confidential and mailed directly back to the NCS. The number of surveys mailed would be determined by the NCS to get a plus or minus 5% confidence rating. In 2009 37% of surveys mailed were returned and this was a high number of responses. The City anticipates another high return percentage, as it knows its residents are passionate about Urbandale.

The 2011 Citizen Survey results would be analyzed and presented in December. The City will post the results on its website (www.urbandale.org). Prior survey results can be found on the website under the City Manager's Office. The City would like to thank those who participate in the 2011 survey.