



# Citizen's Brief Newsletter

City of Urbandale • January 2012

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www.urbandale.org

## Contact Us

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Scan this QR code with your smart phone to go to the city contact page.



## Calendar

Scan this QR code with your smart phone to see a complete calendar.



### How to Use QR Codes

Download a QR scanner app on your smart phone or iPhone. Launch the new app and center the code in the viewfinder on the screen. The scanner will decode the QR code and provide you with the URL address for our site.

## SNOW, SNOW, SNOW

When it snows, do you know if the City has enacted the Snow Ordinance, which bans parking on City streets? To find out, visit the City's website (www.urbandale.org), follow us on Twitter (#cityofurbandale), call (515) 278-3950 (M-F, 8-5) or be proactive and remove all vehicles from City streets if snow is predicted. It could just save you a \$20 ticket or a towed vehicle.

## Christmas Tree Recycling – Who Knew



The City of Urbandale will provide residents the opportunity to recycle real Christmas trees the weeks of January 2nd and January 9th. Trees should be removed from the stand and free of all decorations. The City of Urbandale pays for this Metro Waste Authority (MWA) service and therefore no Compost It! sticker is required. To recycle your real tree please put it out on the curb the same day as your trash collection.

Your recycled trees are turned into compost and mulch, which uses the tree's valuable nutrients again. Recycling real Christmas trees is just one step in making our planet more sustainable. Each year 25-30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the U.S.A. For each tree cut, up to three trees are planted the following spring. In total there are about 350,000 acres of Christmas trees in the U.S.A., which produce enough oxygen for 18 people daily. The average tree takes 7-15 years to grow before being harvested for Christmas. So help continue your real Christmas tree's journey and recycle it the week of January 2nd or January 9th.

## 2012 Pet Licenses

The City of Urbandale is exploring a three city (Clive, Urbandale and West Des Moines) joint venture to license pets. Until this joint venture is completed, no new pet licenses will be issued by Urbandale. All 2011 licenses will be good until the new venture is up and running. If you get a new pet, a license will be issued after the new venture is finalized.

Not all the details about the new three city venture have been decided at this time. The mission of the venture is to provide a customer-friendly and efficient pet licensing process. The licensing of pets could be done in-house (by a city) or contracted to a third party vendor. In addition, licenses would be good in all three cities.

To unify the licensing process, each City Council would be asked to create unified license fees. This could mean an increase in pet licensing fees. The three city joint venture should be finalized by April 2012.



## From Mayor Andeweg:

In January most of us make a resolution to improve something in our lives. This could be a resolution to be healthy, learn a new skill or to take time to enjoy our family. Often we start out with enthusiastic energy, but find it harder and harder to maintain that energy over the year. There are thousands of "experts" who can offer you advice, but most advice usually includes starting small and setting realistic goals.

I've found living in Urbandale can be a benefit to accomplishing your New Year's resolution. Our Parks & Recreation office offers many recreation programs and continual learning programs. Additionally, the Urbandale Swimming Pool provides a place to swim year-round, and our community has 48 parks and over 38 miles of trails to use. Many residents also work in Urbandale and commuting around the Des Moines Metro is easy. This leaves more time for family. We are also a community that cares about each other. Urbandale has many organizations that provide help to those with needs, such as the Urbandale Community Action Network, Caring Corps, Food Pantry and many more. So, as we begin 2012 I wish you success in your New Year's resolution and know you have a great starting point, Urbandale.