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WELCOME

FUNNEL cakes, chaos and community

There is nothing quite like a community festival to remind us that humanity is chaotic, charming and deeply committed to eating fried food outdoors.

On paper, festivals sound wholesome — live music, local vendors, smiling families. In reality, they are a delightful mash-up of sunburns, long lines and someone's uncle absolutely destroying a karaoke rendition of a 1980s power ballad. And yet, we keep coming back.

Maybe it is because community festivals turn ordinary places into something slightly magical. Suddenly they are packed with food trucks, handmade jewelry and a suspiciously competitive pie-eating contest.

The real entertainment, though, is the people. Festivals are one of the few places where strangers will strike up a conversation with others for no reason at all.

And then there is the food — arguably the main event. Community festivals operate under a simple rule that, if it can be fried, it will be fried. Oreos? Fried. Pickles? Fried. Possibly things that were never meant to be fried? Absolutely fried.

Music adds another layer. Local bands take the stage and give it everything they have got. And there is something refreshing about a performance where the lead singer might also be your dentist.

Of course, no festival is complete without at least one mildly chaotic moment. Maybe it is a sudden rain shower that sends everyone scrambling under tents. Maybe it is a child covered head to toe in cotton candy. Maybe it is you, realizing you have been walking around for an hour with powdered sugar on your face.

In the end, community festivals are messy, loud and a little ridiculous, but that's exactly why they matter. They pull people out of their routines and into shared space, where the goal isn't productivity or efficiency, but simply being there.

You may leave feeling slightly tired, possibly sticky and definitely overfed. But you also leave with a feeling that, for a few hours, you were part of something fun, spontaneous and genuinely human. ■



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A milestone

Fourth of July

CELEBRATION

Urbandale celebrates nation's
250th anniversary

By Rachel Harrington

Each year around July 4, the Urbandale community gathers to celebrate the nation's birthday in grand style. This year marks the 71st anniversary of the citywide celebration, which is extra special since it is also the nation's 250th anniversary.

Tim Mueller, president of Urbandale's Fourth of July Celebration Committee, says many fan favorites will return, along with a few new additions.



The carnival returns for Urbandale’s Fourth of July celebration at Lions Park.

Ice cream, parade and buttons

Leading up to the big event, the Urbandale Historical Society will host an ice cream social June 28 from 1-4 p.m. on the lawn of the Olmsted-Urban House. The event is a fundraiser to support the Historical Society, and the house and barn will be open for tours. The entry fee is \$10 and includes pie, ice cream and a root beer float.

A major highlight of the annual Fourth of July Celebration is the parade.

“It is a 2-mile-long parade that draws a ton of people who line up shoulder to shoulder and three or four people deep each year,” Mueller says.

It will begin at 10 a.m. July 4, rain or shine, except in the event of severe weather or lightning, and turnout is expected to match previous years. Onlookers can expect candy galore distributed by parade walkers along the route. Parade floats will compete for the titles of Best Overall, Top Urbandale Business and Most Creative, with winners receiving a trophy or ribbon and social media recognition. Those interested in joining the parade lineup can sign

up online or via mail-in application for a \$25 entry fee that helps fund fireworks and event costs. Each entry covers up to three car lengths; each additional three car lengths requires another entry fee. Entries are due by noon Wednesday, June 24. For more information, visit <https://urbandale4thofjuly.org>.

After strong interest, requests and a successful debut last year, Channel 13 on the WHO13+ app will again broadcast this year’s parade.

“We are televising the parade for the second time this year after lots of positive feedback last year,” Mueller says. “It was, and is, a great alternative for individuals who cannot physically attend, such as the homebound, retirement center residents, and those with autistic family members who need quieter spaces to be able to participate and see the parade.”

The July 4 celebration theme this year is “Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of America.” The themed button tradition began in 1981 to help raise funds for a fireworks show. In 1982, numbers were added to the back of the buttons for a raffle — a tradition that

remains today. Photos of this year’s button can be viewed at <https://urbandale4thofjuly.org/button-sales-and-prizes>. Winners of the raffle are drawn July 5, and the website listed on the back of the button allows community members to check if they are winners.

Community members interested in purchasing the collectible button can do so at the Urbandale Hy-Vee courtesy counter, Medicap Pharmacy and Hungry Boyz. Additionally, every Saturday and Sunday in June, a table will be set up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with buttons for sale. Fareway in Urbandale will also host button sales from 4-8 p.m. on June 19 and 26 and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 20 and 27 Other opportunities to purchase a button include from 1-4 p.m. on June 28 at the Urbandale Historical Society ice cream social, July 2-4 at the Lions Club bingo tent, and July 4 at the corner of 72nd Street and Aurora Avenue before and during the parade. Buttons may also be purchased online and shipped for a small fee. Button raffle prizes can be found at <https://urbandale4thofjuly.org/button-sales-and-prizes>.



FEATURE

5K, carnival and vendors

Mueller says this marks the 60th anniversary of the Fourth of July 5K fun run in Urbandale. The timed race begins at 7:30 a.m. July 4 on 86th Street in front of the Urbandale Public Library and follows a circular route through Urbandale, ending along the path behind the library. Following the 5K is a Tot Trot for young runners. Participants can register in advance and find more information at <https://urbandale4thofjuly.org/information>. The preregistration fee for the 5K is \$20, with limited race-day registration available for \$25. Each additional family member is \$15. There is no fee for Tot Trot participants.

Another fan favorite is the Fourth of July carnival, which takes place from 4-11 p.m. on July 2 and from noon to 11 p.m. on July 3-4 on the south side of Lions Park. Advance ride tickets will be available through noon on July 2 at Urbandale Hy-Vee and Urbandale Medicap Pharmacy. A bundle of 25 tickets costs \$20. Beginning July 2, ride tickets will be sold onsite for \$1 each. Unlimited ride wristbands will be available for \$30 from 4-10 p.m. July 2 and noon to 6 p.m.



The 2-mile long parade draws a variety of entries.

July 3. Information on carnival rules and height restrictions can be found at <https://urbandale4thofjuly.org/events>.

Near the carnival, 16 vendors will offer a wide variety of food, most returning favorites that provide “pre-State Fair” vibes, including rolled ice cream, edible cookie dough, tenderloins, cheese curds, cheesesteaks, chicken strips, corndogs, root beer floats, chicken

sandwiches, grinders, pizza burgers, shaved ice, lemonade, coffee, Laotian food and Mexican cuisine. New this year is a food truck serving Greek and Italian fare.

“There should be something for almost everyone,” Mueller states.

Vendors will be located along Prairie Avenue between 71st and 72nd streets on the south side of Lions Park.

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Music, family activities and fireworks

Entertainment will continue beyond the parade and carnival. A stage on the north side of Lions Park will feature live music.

“On July 2, Back to Vinyl will take the stage, and Jordan Beem will entertain the crowd on July 3,” Mueller says.

Family activities will also be available near the stage, including spin art, temporary tattoos, coloring, bracelet making, an Iowa Wild inflatable hockey rink and a Ghostbusters replica of the Echo 1 ambulance and a modified Jeep. The Urbandale Public Art Committee will also provide family-friendly activities. Kids activities will be available from 4-8 p.m. on July 2-3.

The Lions Club will host a bingo tent all three days of the celebration at the basketball courts, which is a new location due to recent park renovations. Hours are 4-9 p.m. on July 2 and noon to 9 p.m. on July 3-4. A bags tournament will take place at 5 p.m. July 3 on the tennis courts. A cribbage tournament will be held at the Urbandale Senior Recreation Center at 1 p.m., with registration beginning

at noon.

The celebration will conclude with a fireworks display launched from Walker Johnston Park at 10 p.m. July 4. A rain date is set for July 5 at the same time if needed. Community members are encouraged to find a place to watch and enjoy the show.

“I am from Urbandale,” Mueller says. “I grew up and graduated here. I like the whole tradition of the Fourth of July Celebration. It is fun to see the community come together, and it draws lots of people from other communities, too.”

“It is an awesome celebration and a premiere event in Urbandale that brings people together,” adds Sean Dengler, vice president of the Fourth of July Celebration Committee. “It is cool to walk through the park in the evening or the carnival during the day and see families having a good time.”

He also says the event would not be possible without volunteers. The celebration is planned and organized by about 20 volunteers each year, with support from the city of Urbandale and local businesses. New volunteers are welcome and can contact Dengler at



The fireworks display rounds out the events for Urbandale’s Fourth of July celebration.

urbandale4thofjuly@gmail.com for more information.

The Fourth of July Celebration Committee invites everyone to come out and celebrate America’s 250th birthday together. ■

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HEALTH By Annette Smith

WHAT YOUR knees need to stay strong as you age

Our knees do a lot for us every day. They help us walk, climb stairs, get off the floor, garden, play with grandkids, exercise and stay independent. So, when knee pain starts, it can affect almost every part of daily life.



One of the biggest misunderstandings about knee pain is that painful knees are simply “worn out.” While age-related changes can occur, knee pain is often influenced by much more than the knee joint itself. The strength of your thighs, hips, calves, and even your balance can significantly affect how much stress is placed on the knees.

That is one reason exercise is so important. Strong leg muscles help support and unload the knee joint during everyday activities. Walking, sit-to-stands, step-ups and strengthening exercises for the hips and thighs can improve function and reduce discomfort. Maintaining flexibility, particularly in the calves and front of the thighs, can also help.

Avoiding movement completely often backfires. Less activity can lead to increased stiffness, weakness and pain. Most knees respond better to regular, appropriate movement than prolonged rest.

If your knee is frequently swelling, giving way, locking or limiting your activities, it may be time to seek professional guidance. ■

Information provided by Annette Smith, Mountain Laurel Physical Therapy, 974 73rd St., Suite 33, West Des Moines, IA 50265, 515-520-8037, www.mountainlaurelpt.com.

WELLNESS By Dr. Jody England

WHAT happened to your memory?

Have you ever gone into a room and forgotten why you went? Have you been mid-sentence and forgotten what you were saying? Do you feel, since the pandemic, your memory has been far from robust? Our brains are under constant attack and stimulation with work; stress; immune system challenges; and toxins, like Iowa’s radon, wireless radiation, etc. We are inundated with information overload from computers, phones, TVs, etc., all of which require energy that the brain receives from nutrients like B vitamins, ribonucleic acid, glucose, etc. for proper function. Many organs are interconnected such as the hormonal gut-brain connection through a nerve that comes off of the brain (the vagus nerve). If you can identify which food nutrients the nervous system and body need, it is easier to help the body function like a “well-oiled machine.” Nutritional response testing is a tool that takes the guesswork out of what nutrients the body needs so your memory is able to store and recall information optimally.



One patient had memory lapses and was concerned about Alzheimer’s. She called her memory problem “sometimers.” Now, she has much better information retention and no longer fears for her future. Numerous other patients have recovered from brain fog that happened during the past six years. ■

Information provided by Dr. Jody England, DC, Urbandale Chiropractic, 10437 Hickman Road, 515-278-4594, www.urbandalechiro.com.

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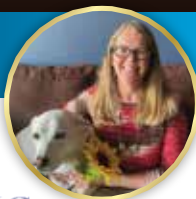
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THE IRS might owe you money

Thanks to a recent U.S. Court of Federal Claims decision in *Kwong v. United States*, tens of millions of taxpayers may be entitled to refunds or rebates. The court found that late filing and payment penalties, as well as the associated interest, that accumulated over the federal disaster period declared for COVID-19 were in violation of taxpayers' rights. This means that any tax due dates that occurred during this time (Jan. 20, 2020, until May 11, 2023) were not actually due until July 10, 2023. Therefore, late penalties and the subsequent interest were incorrectly levied, and you can request to have them refunded or rebated.



Does this apply to me? One way to see if you benefit from this is by checking your IRS account transcripts for tax years 2019-2023. You can either request physical transcripts by mail and receive them in five to 10 days, or you can utilize the IRS Individual Online Account at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) to view them instantly. Check the transactions section of each transcript and look for any penalty or interest charges that have a listed date between Jan. 20, 2020, and July 10, 2023.

What to do next? If this applies to you, you'll need to act fast to make sure you can get your money back. Unfortunately, with the timing of this decision, you only have until July 10 before the three-year window from the deadline expires and you no longer have any claim to your refund. Prior to that date, you need to paper file either a Form 843 with supporting documents proving your case, or submit a Protective Claim with relevant details.

Form 843 versus Protective Claim. The form 843 is appropriate when you already know the dollar amount that was improperly assessed. This applies both to when you already paid the amount and are requesting a refund, as well as any penalties or interest that have accrued but you have not paid. In that case, you would file the 843 to request an abatement of the penalties and interest, which is when the IRS removes or reduces unpaid tax liability.

Protective claims are for when you believe you are owed money but are either unsure of the exact amount or the law is still being settled in the courts. It informs the IRS that you are aware of the issue and reserve your right to request a refund or abatement in the future.

This deadline is quickly approaching, so you will need to act fast to make sure you get back what you are owed. So, do your research now and act soon or call a local tax professional to guide you through the process. ■

Information provided by Anthony Ginger, Marketing Director, Ann M Hartz, CPA & Associates, 7109 Hickman Road, Urbandale, IA 50322. 515-259-7779, www.cpadesmoines.com



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INVESTMENT

By Daniel Rundahl

PREPARING to meet a financial advisor



Many people hesitate to seek certain professionals for guidance: lawyers, doctors, dentists and, often, a financial advisor. If you think about it, a wide range of emotions can surface when we seek assistance in areas where we do not consider ourselves experts. Questions about money can feel personal, emotional and sometimes intimidating. Let's look at what a first meeting with a financial advisor should entail and how preparation can make the experience more productive and comfortable.

Your first meeting with a financial advisor is less about numbers and more about clarity. It is an opportunity to establish goals, identify concerns and begin building a financial strategy that reflects your life today — and where you want to go tomorrow. The more prepared you are, the more meaningful the conversation will be.

As a financial advisor, I often tell clients they do not need to arrive with perfectly organized spreadsheets or an advanced understanding of investing. What matters most is bringing the right information and being open about your priorities, concerns and long-term objectives.

Start with a snapshot of your income and expenses. Recent pay stubs, tax returns and a rough monthly budget can help your advisor understand your cash flow and spending habits. Knowing what comes in — and what goes out — creates the foundation for financial recommendations like saving strategies, debt management and retirement planning.

Next, gather information about your assets. This includes bank accounts, retirement plans, investment accounts, pensions and insurance policies. If you have a 401(k), IRA, brokerage account or savings account, bring the most recent statements. These documents allow your advisor to assess how your money is currently allocated and whether your investments align with your long-term goals and risk tolerance.

It is equally important to bring details about your liabilities. Mortgage balances, student loans, credit card debt, auto loans, and other financial obligations all play a role in shaping your financial plan. Many hesitate to discuss debt, but transparency is essential. A good advisor is not there to judge your financial past. They are there to help assist in your financial future.

Think carefully about your goals before the meeting. Are you hoping to retire early? Save for a child's education? Purchase a home? Reduce taxes? Build a legacy? Financial planning is not just about growing money; it is about aligning money with purpose.

Bring a list of questions. Ask how the advisor is compensated, what services are included, how often meetings occur, and what type of clients they typically serve. Trust, communication and transparency matter just as much as credentials.

Preparation does not need to be perfect. Even incomplete information can help begin the conversation. The goal of the first meeting is simple: to gain a clearer understanding of where you are financially today and begin building a roadmap for where you want to go tomorrow. ■

Information provided by Daniel Rundahl, Financial Advisor, Rundahl Financial Consultants, 8230 Hickman Road, Suite 300, Clive, 515-727-1701, drundahl@rundahlfinancial.com, www.rundahlfinancialconsultants.com.

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MEET Melissa Gyure

Teaching Spanish and cultural awareness through generations

Melissa Gyure has taught and inspired students in the Urbandale School District for 33 years. She spent 18 years at Urbandale Middle School and the past 15 years at Urbandale High School.

“Teaching was the only thing I ever wanted to do,” she shares. “My dad was a middle school geography teacher for 34 years. I grew up around education, and I have always wanted to help students learn.”

Her journey began with earning a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and political science from Western Illinois University. Her husband landed a job in Des Moines, and they moved a couple of weeks after graduation. In mid-August that year, a job opened at Urbandale Middle School.

“I was hired to both teach and create a brand-new program : World Cultures and Languages,” she shares.

The rest is history.

Gyure now teaches Spanish I and Spanish II and occasionally teaches a cultural issues class. Because she teaches introductory Spanish courses, many students enter her classroom with no prior knowledge of the language. Gyure finds joy in watching their growth and accomplishments throughout the school year.

“I love seeing them accomplish reading a book in Spanish, writing about it, and talking about it in Spanish,” she states. “It is pretty incredible to see that growth.”

Gyure weaves lessons about Spanish-speaking cultures into everything she plans.

“There are 21 different Spanish-speaking countries,” she shares. “I strive to broaden the students’ horizons that Spanish speakers don’t all look or sound the same. I work to teach them an appreciation for other cultures and discover that they aren’t weird, but simply different from our own hometown. Learning a new language even helps build empathy for classmates with English as a second, or even third, language who may not understand everything that is said around them all the time.”

One tradition Gyure says her students enjoy is sampling traditional pan de muerto — Day of the Dead bread — after learning about customs and traditions in Spanish-speaking cultures surrounding Día de Muertos or Todos los Santos.

Gyure says teaching is a rewarding profession but must be entered with a love for teaching and helping others learn. She also says teachers must love learning themselves, as ongoing education is essential.

“The most challenging aspect is the time required outside of contract hours to plan, prepare lessons and grade,” she shares. “It isn’t a 9-to-5 job, but I can’t imagine doing anything differently.”

Gyure is now teaching a second generation of students. Occasionally, she meets parents of current students.

“It’s cool that I have made a positive connection with them and that they come back and say something that I taught them in a cultural issues or Spanish class has been useful in their occupations, that there are things they are able to apply in daily life even today,” Gyure says. ■



Melissa Gyure teaches Spanish I and Spanish II and occasionally teaches a cultural issues class at Urbandale High School.

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IN-HOME services

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A few years ago, Jeanne Klock fell.

She had always had trouble with her knees, and she worried that a serious fall could force her to leave the home she loved. Like many older adults, Jeanne wanted to stay where she felt most comfortable, surrounded by her own belongings, routines and memories.

So, when she stumbled, her first thought was frightening: "Now I'll have to leave my home."

Jeanne's family knew how much staying home mattered to her, so they began looking for support that could help her remain independent without requiring a move. That search led them to in-home services, also known as non-medical assistance.

Today, Jeanne is living independently at 89 in her home near Des Moines. In-home services aides help keep her safe, assist with daily activities and provide companionship. "I like that they don't tell me what to do," Jeanne said. "They make suggestions, but they are very kind. They would do anything for me."

That balance matters. In-home support is not about taking over. It is about helping people continue living on their own terms, with the right level of assistance.

An in-home services aide may help someone get ready in the morning, prepare meals, provide light housekeeping or go along to appointments. Some days may include errands, shopping or social outings. Other days may be quieter, with conversation, a good meal and help around the home.

"I help her get ready in the mornings, and some days we are pretty active, going here and there," said Wendy, one of Jeanne's aides. "I go with her to doctors' appointments, we go shopping — really anyplace she needs or wants to go. Some days, we take it slower."

In-home services are different from medical home health care. In most cases, they are not covered by insurance and are paid for by the client or family. Services vary by provider, but they often include help with cooking, light housekeeping, laundry, errands, appointments, personal care, pet care, medication reminders and companionship.

When choosing an in-home services provider, families should ask how support is delivered, not just what tasks are offered. A good provider will take time to understand a person's routines, preferences, safety needs and goals before recommending a plan. Ask how aides are trained, supervised and matched with clients; whether schedules can change as needs change; and how the provider communicates with family members.

For Jeanne, the arrangement has helped her keep what matters most: Her home, her choices and her sense of independence.

"My things are here, and I'm comfortable here," she said. "I just need a little help. I think it should be up to a person where they choose to live." ■



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WHERE are they now: Gary Maffett

Retired from a career in teaching and coaching

Long before “Friday Night Lights” was a movie, a group of young “gentlemen,” as Coach Denny Frierichs called them, created their legacy as the first football team from Urbandale High School to become state football champions in the fall of 1975.

Leading the team was quarterback Gary Maffett, Class of 1976. In his junior year, Gary led the team to its second undefeated season in school history. During his senior year, Gary was named to the first-team all-state football team and led Urbandale to an 11-1 record and the Class 3A state football championship. He participated in football, wrestling, track and FCA throughout his high school career.

After graduation, Gary attended South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota. During that time, he lettered in football for three years and helped lead the team to its first Division II playoffs in 1979. Gary was excited to play alongside former Urbandale teammate Todd Richards at SDSU. He also lettered in track for two seasons, competing in the javelin and decathlon. Gary graduated with a degree in teaching and coaching.

In the fall of 1981, Gary was hired as a teacher and coach at Brookings High School, where he taught wellness and health activities while coaching football, wrestling and track, in addition to officiating high school wrestling. Gary served as head football coach for 25 years and taught for 39 years before retiring in 2020.

Gary and his wife, Sheila, recently celebrated 40 years of marriage with their three children and two grandchildren. The couple has lived in Brookings since Gary attended college there.

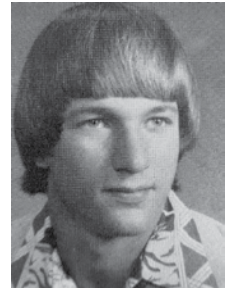
Gary shared that his high school coaches made a significant impact on his life and influenced his teaching and coaching career.

“I have fond memories of Urbandale High School and the friends I made, and I still keep in contact with them. We were blessed with great teachers who would go the extra mile for us.”

Gary and his siblings were known as “the sandbox kids,” meaning they attended Urbandale schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. His parents, Don and Betty — with Betty teaching at Karen Acres Elementary for 20 years — and their children, Susan (1969); Mark (1974), who also taught for 33 years; and Gary (1976); were a well-known and respected family in the community.

Gary will return to Urbandale for his 50th high school class reunion. The 1975 football championship team will be recognized before the home football game at Urbandale High School on Friday night, Sept. 18. Come out that evening to see the team and catch up with them. ■

Is there an Urbandale alumnus you would like us to feature in a future article? If so, please send their name to the Urbandale Alumni Foundation at urbandalealumnifoundation@gmail.com.



After graduating from Urbandale High School, Gary Maffett was a longtime teacher and coach.

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LOVE GOD'S WILL

THE TRUE STORY OF FR. RYAN STAWAISZ

After graduating from Texas A&M as a petroleum engineer with a promising career ahead of him, Fr. Ryan felt God was calling him to the priesthood. Weeks before his ordination, Ryan was re-diagnosed with cancer, and his desire became not only to do God's will, but to love God's will.

Enjoy drinks and snacks provided (or bring your own) while we watch the movie together. Stay to discuss your reaction and thoughts on its relevance to our lives.

A freewill donation will be suggested for the benefit of those involved with Palomita Films.

July 11, 6:00PM | Free Family Fun Bingo Night
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Fireplace Room - Drinks & Snacks provided or BYOB



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FAITH

By Steve Smith

EXPENSIVE worship

“Bill” stood in the airport sweating profusely in anticipation of his flight overseas. He joined our team going to share our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior with those attending the ministry a local pastor and wife had planned for their community.



“Bill’s” decision to go cost him cash for the trip, comfort and convenience. He was neither a teacher nor an evangelist, he had never been out of the country, and he was leaving family and work behind. “Bill” offered expensive worship as sisters Martha and Mary did in their response to Jesus’ raising their brother Lazarus from the dead (John 11:28-44).

A few days before His crucifixion at a supper in Jesus’ honor, Martha was serving in the way Jesus exemplified and expects from His followers (Mark 10:45; John 13:14-15). Mary joined Martha in modeling expensive worship.

“Mary then took a pound (A “pound” in ancient Rome was 12 ounces) of very costly perfume . . . and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair” (John 12:3). Mark’s gospel tells us that Mary “broke the vial.” She used all of this perfume (worth a year’s wages) to anoint Jesus. Mary’s was a complete, costly, and choice offering to the Lord with which He was very pleased.

That Mary “wiped His feet with her hair” was a gesture considered indecent at best and immoral at worst. By humbly performing a slave’s task, risking personal shame and financial loss, her expensive worship revealed her deep devotion to and honor for the Lord.

There are numerous accounts of someone witnessing Mother Teresa of Calcutta caring for the poor and declaring, “I wouldn’t do that for a million dollars.” Mother Teresa supposedly replied with a wry smile, “Neither would I.” She wasn’t there for love of money but love for Jesus.

The highest motivation for expensive worship for Martha, Mary, “Bill,” Mother Teresa, or for any follower of Jesus is a genuine realization of Christ’s identity as Savior and a personal reception of His forgiving mercy.

Christ served by sacrificing His life so that all who believe in Him will be forgiven, given His righteousness, resourced by the Spirit to live rightly, and rewarded with eternal glory in Heaven. Every Christ follower’s gratitude for His gracious gift of salvation necessarily spills over into expensive worship for who He is and what He has done.

“The Love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all . . . that we should no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose again on our behalf” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

Recipients of the Lord’s favor (forgiveness) respond by giving Him honor (expensive worship). ■

Information provided by Steve Smith, Creekside Church, 2743 82nd Place, Urbandale, 515-279-3919.

WHY ADVERTISING is essential for small business growth and success

Small businesses often operate with limited resources, tight margins and strong local competition. In that environment, advertising is not a luxury — it's a necessity for survival and growth. Without it, even the best products or services can remain invisible to potential customers.



One of the primary reasons small businesses should advertise is to build awareness. Unlike large, established brands, small businesses usually lack name recognition. Advertising helps introduce the business to new audiences and reminds existing customers that it exists. Consistent visibility keeps a business top of mind when customers are ready to buy.

Advertising also plays a critical role in establishing credibility. Consumers tend to trust businesses they see regularly. A well-crafted advertisement signals professionalism and stability, even for a newer company. When potential customers encounter a business multiple times, they are more likely to view it as legitimate and reliable.

Advertising also drives sales by creating urgency and highlighting value. Promotions, limited-time offers and clear messaging can motivate customers to take action. Without advertising, potential buyers may

never learn about special deals or unique selling points that differentiate a business from competitors. In crowded markets, staying silent often means losing customers to more visible competitors.

In addition, advertising supports long-term growth. It's not just about immediate sales; it's about building a brand. Over time, consistent messaging shapes how customers perceive a business — its personality, values and quality. This brand identity can become a powerful asset, helping small businesses compete with larger companies that may have more resources but less personal connection with customers.

Finally, advertising allows small businesses to adapt and learn. By tracking which campaigns perform best, business owners gain insights into customer preferences and behavior. This data can inform not only future marketing efforts but also product development, pricing strategies and customer service improvements.

In short, advertising gives small businesses a voice in a competitive marketplace. It increases visibility, builds trust, drives sales and supports long-term success. Without it, even the most promising small business risks being overlooked. ■

Information provided by Jolene Goodman, Advertising Director, Big Green Umbrella Media, 8101 Birchwood Court, Suite D, Johnston, Iowa 50131, 515-953-4822 ext. 319, jolene@iowalivingmagazines.com.

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JOLENE GOODMAN

Advertising Director
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GRIEF and judgement

Do any of these sound familiar? “I shouldn’t feel...” “I can’t be angry...” “This is going to sound strange...” “I feel so weak...”

Do you know what I hear when I hear these statements made by people who are grieving?

Self-judgement. Perhaps reading the title, you thought I was referring to the judgement of others on those grieving. Certainly, that is something most grievers face at some point, but I want to talk about self-judgement. We don’t have control of others’ judgements, but, with awareness and intention, we do have power over our own.

Self-judgement makes our grief more difficult because we are self-imposing restrictions on the naturally occurring responses for the loss we have endured. Some of these responses may not feel natural and normal, but they are. It is important to remember that feelings aren’t necessarily facts but can give us information about what our hearts need tending to. It can take time for our heads and our hearts to come to a place of agreement. And, sometimes, they never do, and that is OK.

Validating our own losses is a powerful tool in our coping-with-grief toolbox. When you have a judgmental thought, take a deep breath and tune into the feeling. Allow the feeling to exist as it is instead of dismissing it with a “I shouldn’t feel this way.” See what it has to tell you instead. You can learn a lot when you listen to what feelings are trying to teach you. ■

Information provided by Buffy Peters, Director of Hamilton’s Academy of Grief & Loss, 3601 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines, IA 50266, 515-697-3666, www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com/academy-of-grief-and-loss.



URBANDALE Public Library news

Dates and times are subject to change. Registration is encouraged for all library programs.

Urbandale Public Library

3520 86th St., Urbandale

515-278-3945

www.urbandalelibrary.org

Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Friday – Saturday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday: noon to 6 p.m.

Walk and Roll Audiobook Club

Join us Monday mornings at 8 a.m. during June and

July for a walk on the neighborhood trail behind the library. You can complete a 1- or 2-mile loop or choose your own distance. Please bring water, wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Check out Playaways or download the Libby app to listen to a book while you walk.

Free Eye Exams for K-12

The Urbandale Public Library has partnered with Vision To Learn this summer to offer free eye exams and prescription glasses, if needed. Eye exams are available to all students in grades K-12, and no insurance is required. Visit our website to make an appointment: www.urbandalelibrary.org/community-resources.

“From Here & Queer”

What are some of the stories of queer and trans people throughout Iowa’s history, and how can we ensure access to them for young people today? Join Katy Swalwell, author of the children’s book “From Here & Queer: A Love Letter to LGBTQIA+ Youth,” to explore these questions and learn about efforts to document and preserve these important histories despite ongoing attempts to silence them. Make plans to attend Tuesday, June 30, at 6 p.m.

Summer Reading Challenge: “Plant a Seed, Read!”

The Urbandale Library challenges you to make reading part of your daily routine this summer, whether you read for five minutes or five hours. Track the days you read with the Beanstack app or a paper reading log — audiobooks, comic books and magazines count, too. Ages 17 and younger can choose a free book after completing 15 days of reading and an additional book after 30 days. Adults can earn a book sale voucher upon completing 15 and 30 days of reading. All ages will be entered into a grand prize drawing of their choice for completing 15 and 30 days of reading.

“Common Ground” Film Screening and Discussion

Join us Monday, July 6, at 6 p.m. for a screening of “Common Ground,” followed by a panel discussion with Cultivate: Local Food Connections, Iowa Family Gardens, Iowa Organic Association and Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT). The film profiles a hopeful and uplifting movement of white, Black and Indigenous farmers who are using alternative “regenerative” models of agriculture that could balance the climate, improve health and stabilize America’s economy — before it’s too late. ■

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WHAT IS a trust?

Creating an estate plan is the way to ensure that your assets pass to your loved ones following your death. There are several different estate planning options, but a common one is to create a trust.

A trust is comprised of three separate parties: a grantor, a trustee, and the beneficiaries. The grantor (or settlor) creates the trust. The trustee manages the assets held within the trust. The beneficiaries are the individuals or groups who receive the benefits provided by the trust.

There are two main types of trusts that a person can create as part of an estate plan: a living trust and a testamentary trust.

A living trust — also called a revocable trust — is created during the grantor's lifetime, and the grantor funds the trust while still alive. The trust contains provisions as to how you choose for your assets to be distributed after you die. You can name a trustee to manage the assets in the trust, or you can act as the initial trustee.

The grantor has the authority to decide when and to whom trust distributions are made. The grantor can also change the trust,



appoint a new trustee, or revoke the trust entirely.

Living trusts are good options for planning for potential incapacity. They are a good way to manage assets during your lifetime as well as have an orderly plan for disposition after you die. Further, living trusts allow those settling the estate to avoid probate and get the assets distributed to the beneficiaries more quickly and efficiently.

The second type of trust is a testamentary trust. Testamentary trusts are trusts which are created within a person's will. Because they are not created until the death of the grantor, testamentary trusts do not hold any assets or have any power until the grantor has died. After the grantor's death, assets are transferred into a trust for the benefit of the beneficiaries. Testamentary trusts are most commonly created in a will for the benefit of minor children, a spouse, or a disabled adult child.

When created properly, trusts are a very efficient and effective way to ensure that loved ones receive your assets. Be sure to consult with an experienced attorney when choosing a trust for your estate planning. ■

Information provided by Ross Barnett, Abendroth Russell Barnett Law Firm, 2560 73rd St., Urbandale, 515-278-0623, www.ARPCLaw.com.

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FROM spectator to organizer

Dengler helps lead Urbandale Fourth of July parade.

Often, the influence and examples of others drive people to serve those around them. Sean Dengler grew up observing both his grandparents and parents as volunteers in their communities. Dengler says acts of service are important no matter where one lives. Around 2021, he reached out to Matt Blake, who was then on the Urbandale City Council, to ask what volunteer opportunities were available. After considering the options Blake presented — and realizing his home was just a block from where the annual Urbandale Fourth of July parade begins — Dengler chose to join the Urbandale Fourth of July Committee.

“I didn’t know that we would be so close to the parade starting point when my family moved here,” Dengler says. “It just made sense to be a part of the parade and the July 4 activities. Matt was serving on the committee then, and I have kind of taken over for him. I wanted to get involved and make the community better for people.”

Dengler now serves as vice president of the committee.

Each committee member handles a different aspect of the patriotic celebration. Dengler’s role centers on the Fourth of July parade. He helps organize most of it, including the logistics of the lineup and the parade route map. Others who assist in parade preparation include the Urbandale Community Police Academy, which helps keep the streets and spectators safe, and additional volunteers who oversee insurance.

Parade planning begins around December for Dengler.



Ryan Mehalovich, Edward Jones, presents the Neighbor Spotlight certificate to Sean Dengler.

“That’s when I start looking at the schedule and planning each component of what needs to happen before parade time,” he says. “As a committee, we meet for about 90 minutes once a month from February through August. When I first joined, I was surprised when we finished our discussion and felt that we hadn’t covered much. I learned that everyone does such a great job in their roles and, having been in them for a while, already have things efficiently worked out.”

On parade day, Dengler gets up early and heads to Ye Olde Guitar Shop on 70th Avenue with other volunteers. They retrieve golf carts for the safety patrol from the fire station and place yard signs to mark where parade entries line up. Dengler holds one last meeting with the safety patrol then drives around the starting area to ensure each float gets into position. He makes sure everyone has what they need — even grabbing painter’s tape to secure car magnets that won’t stay in place.

“Around 15-20 minutes before the parade starts, you can feel the energy and civic pride, and it just feels great and warms the heart,” he states.

At 10 a.m., he gives the go-ahead to start the parade and works to keep floats moving at an appropriate pace. Afterward, he helps with cleanup and collecting equipment.

“The last couple of years, I drive the parade route after the last float has passed to see the happiness and excitement on people’s faces and to see how the community responds to the parade.”

Once the parade ends and his duties are complete, Dengler heads home to celebrate the day with his favorite beverage.

Dengler says volunteering is an important way to give back to the community.

“I have been fortunate to have people give their time to me and make sacrifices for me to help me get to where I am,” he says. “Not everything needs to be profit-motivated. If you can give back in some way, you should. More volunteering by everyone will help society be in a better place.”

For those interested in volunteering with Urbandale’s Fourth of July celebrations, Dengler is the point of contact. He can be reached at urbandale4thofjuly@gmail.com. He has no plans to step away from his role anytime soon.

“I enjoy it enough to override any tiny bits of stress that occasionally come with overseeing the parade,” he shares.

Along with fellow volunteers, Dengler welcomes newcomers to help make Urbandale stronger by serving others and creating a memorable Fourth of July celebration. ■

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Make your voice be heard and cast your votes in the 2026 Northwest Metro Residents' Choice Poll. This contest is being hosted by Iowa Living magazines, and the results will publish in our Johnston, Grimes/Dallas Center, Clive and Urbandale October editions. You can vote in one or every category, or anywhere in between.

HURRY! POLL CLOSES AUG. 28, 2026.

See rules and vote at www.iowalivingmagazines.com/residentspoll.
One vote per resident, please.

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FOOD AND DRINK

- Restaurant
- Restaurant for Breakfast
- Restaurant for Lunch
- Restaurant for Dinner
- Restaurant for Dessert
- Place for Ice Cream
- Pizza Establishment
- Bar
- Coffee Shop
- Catering Company
- Server/Bartender

AUTOMOTIVE

- Auto Service
- Auto Body Shop
- Car Dealership
- Auto Parts Store

COMMUNITY

- Preschool/Daycare
- Nonprofit
- School (name of building)
- Park
- Community Festival or Event
- Church
- Pastor
- Chamber of Commerce

SHOPPING

- Grocery Store
- Boutique
- Retail Store
- Thrift Store
- Home Improvement Retail Store
- Liquor Store
- Nursery or Garden Center
- Place to Purchase a Gift for a Man
- Place to Purchase a Gift for a Woman

ENTERTAINMENT

- Dad/Child Date Spot
- Mom/Child Date Spot
- Place to Take Your Mom and Dad
- Place to Take Your Kids or Grandkids
- Place for Children's Birthday Parties
- Golf Course

HEALTH/BEAUTY

- Hair Salon
- Health Clinic
- Dental Office
- Orthodontist Office
- Mental Health Services
- Chiropractic Office
- Vision Care
- Health Club or Gym
- Pharmacy

HEALTH/BEAUTY

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- Physical Therapy
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- Gymnastics Studio
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- Bank/Credit Union
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- Place for Guests to Stay
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- Exterior Contractor (siding, roofing, windows, doors)
- Pest Control
- Tree Service

Be sure to check for cancellations

Upcoming in Urbandale Living magazine:

Play sets, play houses and tree houses:
Share the stories of your memorable play sets, play houses and tree houses. Perhaps your family has play structures that entertain your kids for hours. Or maybe you have memories of the play house you enjoyed as a child. Big or small, if it creates happy times, let us know. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com.

Free Pop-In Pickleball

June 23, 30 and July 7, 14, 21
Recreation Station, 4020 121st St., Urbandale

Come check out Urbandale's new recreation facility and enjoy free indoor pickleball all summer long. No registration fee. Grab some friends or come solo and meet new people. Doors open right at 5 p.m. each week.

National Balloon Classic

July 31-Aug. 8
Memorial Balloon Field, 1136 150th Ave., Indianola

More than 100 hot air balloons suspended over the horizon, skilled pilots from around the world, roaring burners creating a whoosh that is both heard and felt. All of this and so much more. View the schedule of events, buy tickets or get more information at www.nationalballoonclassic.com.



CITYVIEW's Summer Stirs

Friday, June 26, Downtown Des Moines
Friday, July 31, Des Moines East Village

CITYVIEW's traveling cocktail parties return in 2026. For \$25 advance ticket, sample 10 summer cocktails at downtown bars and restaurants. Cost is \$35 at the door. For information and tickets, visit <https://summerstirs.dmcityview.com>.



Free Yoga Friday at Farrell's Martial Arts

Fridays, 6-6:45 a.m.
Farrell's Martial Arts, 3843 121st St., Urbandale

Beginner and intermediate yoga for adults. Come stretch, flow and take a deep breath in a calming stress-releasing class.

'Alice's Wonderland' - A Theater Camp (ages 5-8)

Monday - Friday, July 27-31, from 9 a.m. to noon

Help Alice find her way home while learning about gratitude, making good choices and being brave. In this week-long theatre camp, young artists will dig into storytelling, creating characters and developing good listening skills, all while having tons of fun and making new friends. Family and friends are invited to watch a mini show at noon on the last day. Brought to you by All Good Things Theater. Register by Monday, July 20, at www.urbandale.org/1346/Youth-Programs. Cost is \$150.

'The Magical World of Oz' - A Theater Camp (ages 5-8)

Monday - Friday, Aug. 3-7, from 9 a.m. to noon

Help Dorothy find her way home while learning about courage, accepting others and being kind. In this week-long theatre camp, young artists will dig into storytelling, creating characters and developing good listening skills, all while having tons of fun and making new friends. Family and friends are invited to watch a mini show at noon on the last day. Brought to you by All Good Things Theater. Register by Monday, July 27, at www.urbandale.org/1346/Youth-Programs. Cost is \$150.

'Christine Rebet: Sound of Time'

Through Aug. 23
Des Moines Art Center, 4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines

This survey exhibition presents five films made between 2015 and 2025 by Paris-based artist Christine Rebet, which play consecutively in the Pamela Bass-Bookey and Harry Bookey Gallery. Rebet has devoted her practice to the act of drawing, creating lush and labor-intensive hand-drawn animations marked by vivid color and lively images that change and morph alongside lyrical voice-over narrations.

Urbandale Summer Concert Series

Charles Gabus Memorial Tree Park & Gardens, 3400 86th St., Urbandale

Summer sounds better in Urbandale. Make the most of your summer evenings with free, live music in a beautiful outdoor setting. The 2026 Summer Concert Series brings a variety of artists and genres to Charles Gabus Memorial Tree Park, creating the perfect opportunity to relax, connect and enjoy the season with friends and family.

Each concert begins at 6:30 p.m. and offers a unique style of music, so there is always something new to experience:

- Tuesday, June 23 – June Bugs
- Tuesday, July 21 – Kinda Petty
- Sunday, July 26 – Pullin' Strings
- Tuesday, Aug. 11 – Richie Lee

Bring a lawn chair or blanket, pack a cooler, and settle in for a fun, easygoing evening outdoors. Whether you stay for a few songs or the whole show, it is a great way to enjoy summer in Urbandale. All ages are welcome. Learn more at urbandale.org/concerts.

Seni-Om-Sed

Fridays through the summer
Des Moines Biergarten, Water Works Park, 2251 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines

This summer, the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce invites the community to flip the script on their typical Friday and celebrate Des Moines and the end of the week with SENI-OM-SED — Des Moines, spelled backwards. This weekly event series brings together professionals, families and friends for an energized and easygoing kickoff to the weekend. Guests are encouraged to follow the Des Moines Biergarten on social media for the latest updates, including any schedule changes or closures due to weather. For more information, visit dtchamber.com.

Be sure to check for cancellations

Des Moines Art Center Museum Highlights Tour

Saturdays, 1-2 p.m.

4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines

Discover the vast variety of the Des Moines Art Center's permanent collections during the Museum Highlights Tour. This tour offers a unique journey through the galleries, featuring a selection of timeless paintings, sculptures and more. Join knowledgeable guides to uncover the stories, techniques and inspirations behind the art on view, and experience the highlights of the Art Center in a fresh and engaging way. This guided tour is perfect for art enthusiasts of all ages. Free to all, no registration required.

Des Moines Downtown Farmers Market

Through Oct. 31, 7 a.m. to noon, 8 a.m. to noon in October

Historic Court District, Downtown Des Moines

The 2026 season will feature 305 vendors, including 43 new participants, with 75 produce and agriculture vendors highlighting the region's strong farming community. Vendors represent 74 cities across 42 Iowa counties, spanning 12 city blocks from Water Street to Fifth Street. For more information, visit www.dsmpartnership.com/desmoinesfarmersmarket.

Music In The Garden

Thursdays, June 4 to Aug. 20, doors open at 6 p.m., concerts 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, 909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines

Music in the Garden is one of Des Moines' premier outdoor concert series, offering a truly unique atmosphere. Set within the naturally beautiful surroundings of the garden, each evening blends live music, nature and community into an unforgettable experience. Whether you prefer to sit back and relax, get up and dance, or simply soak in the scenery, you'll enjoy great music surrounded by the beauty of the garden. See the lineup and get tickets by scanning the QR code.



Juneteenth Neighbor's Day Celebration

Saturday, June 20, noon to 6 p.m.

Western Gateway Park, 1000 Grand Ave., Des Moines

Everyone is invited to the free Neighbor's Day Celebration. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, the entire family and friends for a day of live music, great food, small business shopping, health connections and community resources. A children's play area full of fun activities will be featured. For more information, visit www.iowajuneteenth.org/neighbors-day.html. ■



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LOOKING BACK

The June 2011 **Urbandale Living** magazine featured the story, “Swing with the red, white and blue: Urbandale celebrates July 4th in grand fashion.” The story began: “Celebrating our country’s independence on the Fourth of July is as American as baseball, hot dogs and apple pie. Cities and towns across the country demonstrate their patriotic pride by hosting parades, fireworks and other family activities, but few in the Des Moines metro, if not the state, boast of the kind of freedom festival that Urbandale does year in and year out.” ■



TAKE OUR POLL

WHEN IS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT FISHING?

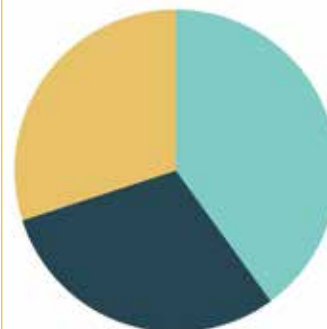
1. Within the last week
2. Within the last month
3. Last year
4. It's been quite awhile
5. I've never fished

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RESULTS FROM MAY POLL: What have you done most since the price of gas has gone up?



Driven less 40%
Cut back on “extras” 30%
Fallen behind on essentials..... 30%
Nothing, the prices haven’t
affected me 0%

IOWA
Living
MAGAZINES

RHUBARB season just got crispy

As a kid, you could find me following my mother around the yard while she planted, weeded and tended to her flowers and plants. Our backyard wasn't overflowing with produce — just a small strawberry patch lined with rhubarb. Back then, I wasn't a fan. Rhubarb was a little too bold for my taste. But, over time, especially when paired with apples and a bit of sugar, it won me over. Now, I look forward to it every year.



Rhubarb is also one of the easiest and most rewarding plants to grow. Give it a sunny spot — ideally on the south side of your house or garage — and it will thrive with very little fuss.

This crisp is inspired by my mother's classic apple crisp. Sort of. Like my mother, I don't really measure ingredients for these kinds of treats, which has made sharing the recipe a bit tricky over the years. Sometimes I add nuts or oatmeal. Sometimes I mix in apples. But one thing never changes: a generous, crispy crumble topping. If it's not crisp, we're not doing it right.

So, for the sake of sharing (and finally having something more useful to say than "just eyeball it"), I actually paid attention while making it this time. What you will find here is my best attempt at a real recipe. That said... I probably added a little extra of something along the way. I encourage you to do the same. That's where the magic happens. ■

Information provided by Jolene Goodman, vice president of Big Green Umbrella Media.

Jolene's Rhubarb Crisp

INGREDIENTS:

- 5 cups of rhubarb
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup oatmeal
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup butter, room temperature (if it gets too dry, add a little more butter)



DIRECTIONS:

- Chop rhubarb in half inch pieces and place into an 8x8-inch dish. In a separate bowl, mix dry ingredients, then add butter. Cut butter into the dry ingredients until crumbly. Spread crumble mixture over rhubarb. Bake uncovered at 350 F for 45 minutes. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream. ■

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RIBBON Cutting

Urbandale Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Simple Clean Out on May 15.



Pat Pithan and Aaron Colyer



Pat Munro, Jenny Farrell and Brain P. Morris



Fletcher Barry and Aaron Colyer



Jaime Pithan, Chris Rainey, Jennifer Rainey, Riley and Renee Shanaberger



Jennifer Rainey and Carolyn Rainey



Gordon Reeder and Katie Goff



Pat Pithan and Mike Herting



Rich and Casey Shanaberger



Terry and Ruth Ebke

OUT & ABOUT



Jen Hennessy and Liza Fitch at Urbandale Chamber AM Exchange May 26 at MADE (Movement & Artistic Dance Expressions).



Jayden Moore, Kevin McGuire and Luke Sesker at Urbandale Chamber AM Exchange May 26 at MADE (Movement & Artistic Dance Expressions).



Allison Peet and Von Steck at Urbandale Chamber AM Exchange May 26 at MADE (Movement & Artistic Dance Expressions).



Severin Young and Rob Taylor at Urbandale Chamber AM Exchange May 26 at MADE (Movement & Artistic Dance Expressions).



Jill Ellsworth and Erin Hefner at Urbandale Chamber AM Exchange May 26 at MADE (Movement & Artistic Dance Expressions).



Carrie Eckermann and Meg Knapper at Urbandale Chamber AM Exchange May 26 at MADE (Movement & Artistic Dance Expressions).



Alyssa Elgersma and Randi Gustason at Urbandale Chamber B.A.S.H. May 12 at the Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center.



Tony Doremus and Joshua Carman at Urbandale Chamber B.A.S.H. May 12 at the Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center.



Bryan Moon and Mike Herting at Urbandale Chamber B.A.S.H. May 12 at the Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center.



Kelly Troxel and Colin Carezza at Urbandale Chamber B.A.S.H. May 12 at the Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center.



Lisa Gardner, Melanie Jacobs and Amy Wise at Urbandale Chamber B.A.S.H. May 12 at the Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center.



Brooke Cheshire and Anne Triplett at Urbandale Chamber B.A.S.H. May 12 at the Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center.

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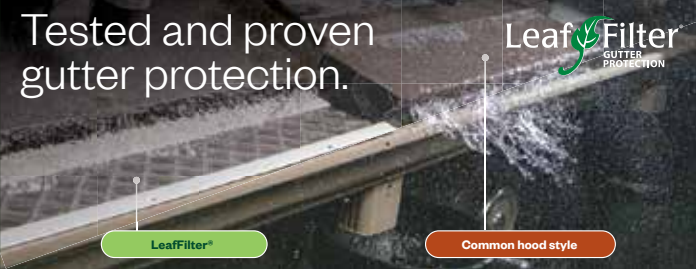
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URBANDALE COUNCIL RECAP

June 1, 2026 - Council Meeting

The City Council met on Monday, June 1, and recognized June as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, with Max Mowitz from One Iowa accepting the proclamation and thanking the City for supporting LGBTQIA+ residents. Council also welcomed the Urbandale Fourth of July Committee, which presented this year's first celebration button to the Mayor and highlighted the volunteer work and community support that make the annual festivities possible. Metro Waste Authority also shared an update on regional waste, recycling, composting, and landfill operations, including strong use of Urbandale's curbside recycling and cardboard drop-off programs.

Council approved Urbandale's participation in a regional emergency rental assistance study through a 28E agreement with the Mid-Iowa Health Foundation. The City's \$50,000 contribution will help support research on how rental assistance can best help families regain housing stability during a crisis.



Mayor Bob Andeweg pictured with Max Mowitz of One Iowa

Council also approved a five-year agreement with DART to create a new Park and Ride location at the City Hall and Library campus on 86th Street. The location will reserve six parking spaces near the existing bus shelter and trail connection, supporting regional transportation access as DART updates its routes.

The next regular City Council meeting is Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. Meetings can be watched online through the Urbandale City Council YouTube page.

May 19, 2026 - City Council Meeting

The City Council met on Tuesday, May 19, and began with several recognitions including a proclamation for National Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, recognizing the culture, history, and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Urbandale and across the country; and Public Works Week, honoring the employees who maintain the City's streets, sewer systems, stormwater infrastructure, public buildings, and other services residents rely on every day.

Council also reviewed and approved the low bid for concrete work for the Walnut Creek Regional Park Splash Pad project. The low bid came in at \$416,000, with total project costs for equipment and installation estimated at about \$668,000. The project will add a splash pad and related accessories at Walnut Creek Regional Park, supporting continued investment in parks and recreation amenities for the community. Installation is planned for fall 2026, with the splash pad expected to open in spring 2027.

This is a custom publication from the City of Urbandale. The Council Recap is not the official minutes of the Council meeting, it's an easy-to-read and easy-to-understand digest of the Council Meetings specifically designed for residents.

You can watch all the City Council meetings on YouTube and download Council agendas on the City's website.

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