

Newsletter

Urbandale Historical Society
4010 70th Street
Urbandale, IA 50322
Spring 2011



Plant Sale This Saturday

Don't miss the Plant Sale on Saturday, May 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the lawn of the Olmsted-Urban House.

We need you to divide your perennials and bring your extras to the sale. Ask your friends and neighbors to attend. This is one of our most popular money-making events, and we depend on your support. We have been able to help many beginning gardeners get started with their landscape plans. You'll also find long time gardeners standing in line at the 9 a.m. opening, hoping to find plants they do not already have or need to replace.

Gardeners are always looking for hostas, peonies, daylilies, and other varieties such as coreopsis, daisies, columbine, iris, phlox, primrose and yarrow. Groundcovers such as sedums and ajuga are also popular. Miscellaneous items such as small shrubs, canna bulbs and small house plants are also welcome.

Bring your plants in plastic bags, milk jugs or whatever you want. Please label the plants as to color and approximate growth height if you know. We would like to have your plants on Friday if possible, or before 9:00 on Saturday. You can leave them on the porch at the Olmsted-Urban House any time.

We have a lot of empty plastic pots of various sizes available for your use. If you would like some pots, or need help in dividing some of your plants call Anne Ulm, plant sale chairperson, at 276-1568. We are fortunate to have Anne's expertise and many willing volunteers.

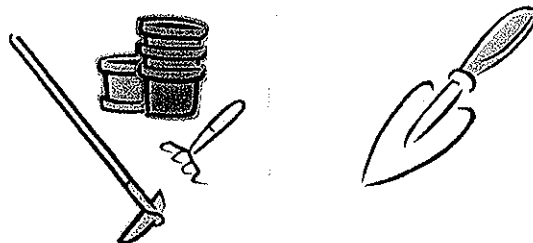
Save the Date

Annual Ice Cream Social

Sunday, June 26

2:00 - 4:00

Please mark your calendar so you don't miss this unique event. Homemade ice cream, pie or cake, and a beverage will be served to you. As usual, the social will be held on the front lawn of the Olmsted-Urban House. Vintage automobiles will be on display and the house and barn will be open for tours. Invite your friends and family, and come enjoy a summer afternoon.



It's Tea Party Time!

"A Celebration of Little Girls"

On May 8th a committee meeting will be held at the home of Beth Haigh to begin planning for the June tea parties. The dates for the tea parties will be June 6, 8 and 10. The party includes lunch, a craft, a tour of the house, and other surprises for the 60 girls attending.

Reservations are needed as seating is limited to 20 each day. Call soon to save a spot for a special little girl.

Please call Ginny Campbell at 276-4168 or Kay Readinger at 276-2017 for reservations.

Spring Tour

May 10th

7:00 am Departure

The spring trip sponsored by the Historical Society will be to Greenfield on Tuesday, May 10th. The first stop is the Adair County Heritage Center. There will be refreshments at the main museum building which features a library, quilt room, and numerous displays. A country schoolhouse, pony barn, Burlington Railroad depot and the boyhood home of former Iowa Governor, George Wilson, are also part of the trip. On the grounds is the Memorial Farm History Museum and displays of antique machinery.

Next we will visit the Schielberg Car Museum. Lunch will then be served at the restored hotel.

In the afternoon, we will drive by the famous Freedom Rock, a huge granite boulder, where each year the talented artist, Ray (Bubba) Sorensen II paints a Memorial Day tribute to servicemen and women. We will visit his studio and view some of his other artwork.

There will be an opportunity to stop at an antique shop before we travel to the Iowa Aviation Museum, home of the Iowa Aviation Hall of Fame. Fifteen early aircraft, some one-of-a-kind models, are on display with unique memorabilia of Iowa's aviation history.

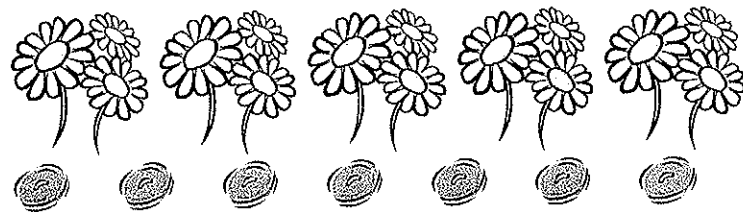
To reserve your spot on the trip send a check for \$60 which covers all expenses, made payable to Urbandale Historical Society to 4010 70th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322. Please mark bus tour on the envelope and enclose emergency contact name and telephone number with your check.

The bus loads at Welter Office Supply, 70th and Douglas. We leave promptly at 7:00 am. And return in the late afternoon. Please call 276-2752 or 276-1370 for more information.

The bus trips are among the most popular activities sponsored by the Historical Society. You do not have to be a member. Invite others to join you for an informative and social day.



Adair County Historical Museum



Questers Visit

Ten members of the Daisy and Button Questers from the Des Moines area met at the Olmsted Urban House on April 19th. Virginia Gee outlined the restoration work done in the House since the Historical Society acquired the property in 1987.

The group then toured the House to view some of the antiques and furnishings. They particularly enjoyed the recently refurbished room of vintage clothing and accessories. The group voted to make a donation to the Historical Society to help with future restoration projects and displays.

Dedicated Leaders

Urbandale Historical Society marked another milestone this spring. Ten years ago Madeline Kaloides retired as president after serving 13 years as leader. During that crucial time the property was purchased from John Urban and restoration work began on what was to be known as the Olmsted Urban House. Planning was needed for fund raisers and grants. Many volunteers spent hours on various projects to preserve Urbandale's history.

In May 2001 Wayne Robbins succeeded Madeline as President. Other current board members who were also serving at that time were Kay Readinger (secretary), Virginia Gee (local history), Janice Winey (publicity), Beth Haigh (restoration), Ginny Campbell (special projects), and Joanne Hanson (special projects). The years have gone by quickly with many changes for the Historical Society.

Wayne has not only been responsible for the many duties as president, but through the years has met many challenges in the upkeep and maintenance of the property. Major work was done inside and out at the Olmsted Urban House. It was also during this time that the barn was built. Wayne also planned exhibits and donated many farm-related items from his personal collection. Wayne and Bob Simon are also credited with planning and conducting many interesting trips taken by the Historical Society throughout Iowa. And who can forget the hundreds of gallons of homemade ice cream Wayne has been responsible for as we held our ice cream socials through the years?

Wayne has said he would like to "retire" as president, but it would be hard to find anyone to replace him. Take time to tell

him how much you appreciate what he is doing.

Virginia Gee



Credit to Gardeners

Spring has come. Soon we can enjoy the beauty of the flowering apple and pear trees on the grounds at the Olmsted Urban House and the result of the work of volunteers.

The little garden on the south side of the house shows the results of the planning and planting by Maxine Edwards. She has referred to garden books and catalogs from the 1930's to learn of common varieties of plants what would have been in gardens years ago.

Maxine and her husband, Carroll, have also done major work on the main garden in the back. This will be a project over several years and their work is much appreciated.

Donna Thompson was responsible last year for the beautiful geranium plantings in the four concrete planters at the porch entrances. Donna not only donated the plants, soil, and fertilizer, but came throughout the summer to keep the plants watered. She has indicated that she will continue this project this spring and summer. We certainly appreciate her work in adding to the appearance of the house.

Geraniums will also be planted around the Hartsook Memorial flag pole in memory of Ruby Hartsook and Dorothy Milligan, longtime members who planted flowers there for many years.

Wayne Anderson, another volunteer, is to be thanked for his seasonal work in trimming the flowering shrubs at the front entrance of the house.

Leadership Urbandale

Leadership Urbandale is a group of local residents who participate in an eight month class designed to increase community awareness and involvement. Each year the class members work together on a project to benefit the community. The class of 2011 has chosen to help the Urbandale Historical Society and the Olmsted Urban House.

Members of the Class of 2011 are Darlene Danielson, Graham Giles, Molly Jansen, Carl Johnson, Charity McCauley-Andeweg, Lorrie Nagel, Randy Peterson, Kristen Phillips, Paul Pietzsch, Michael Russell, Marilyn Sims, Donita Snook, and Shelly Stoppel.

A fundraising effort is underway to obtain a computer, scanner, and website access. The goal is to create an Internet presence for the Society while also saving historical items in a digital format. With information on the website, people can have a better appreciation for the activities, service, and education opportunities that we provide to the community.

Members of the class are organizing fundraising efforts, preparing grant applications, researching websites, and arranging for software application.

Donations to help with this project can be mailed to:

Leadership Urbandale
4028 75th Street
Urbandale, IA 50322

Another goal of the project is to obtain and preserve information about Urbandale. A series of video interviews with Urbandale residents will be conducted by Urbandale High School students on April 27th. Thanks to all

those who agreed to participate. It is also hoped volunteers can be recruited to help with the organization and scanning of existing materials.

The Society Board Members are very grateful to the class for selecting this as their project. We look forward to working with the leadership class to see the benefits for the Urbandale community for years to come.

Membership

Dues for membership are coming in steadily. We value each member received and ask that you encourage neighbors, family members, and friends who would enjoy our monthly programs and events to join. A \$25 membership would make a wonderful gift!

Those who have not paid dues for this year, will be receiving a reminder. If you have any questions, please call Norm Huitt at 276-1443.

House Tours

Girl Scouts and leaders from Troop 77 and Troop 975 came to the Olmsted Urban House on April 11th to hear about Urbandale history. They asked many good questions and enjoyed learning more about some of the interesting artifacts in the house and barn. Beth Haigh and Virginia Gee conducted the tour.

Group leaders are encouraged to plan a visit to the House to help your people learn more of their community heritage. Call Beth at 276-9654 to schedule a tour.