



**URBANDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**4010 70<sup>TH</sup> STREET**  
**URBANDALE, IA 50322**  
**(515) 270-2917**



[www.urbandalehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.urbandalehistoricalsociety.org)

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**Fall 2017**

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**Fall Programs Planned**

Program meetings are important to the Urbandale Historical Society. Topics vary and the public is invited. You do not have to be a Society member or an Urbandale resident to attend.

Monday, **September 11** at 7: 00 pm, Brian Bopp will provide a patriotic tribute to the signers of the U.S. Constitution will ~ be in costume as he gives his dramatic presentation. There is opportunity for discussion of the importance of the Constitution. Refreshments will follow. Invite a friend.

How have honey bees been important to Iowa? On Monday, **October 2**, Carly Vannoy, the 2017 Iowa Honey Queen, will present a program highlighting the history of beekeeping. Carly has not only done research on honey and bees, but currently helps her family maintain two hives. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will follow.

On **November 6**, Bob Simon will lead us in a look at the efforts on the Home Front during World War II. How did Urbandale families support the troops? Bob has some war-time memorabilia. Others attending are encouraged to bring items they have from the 40's and share memories they have. What do you know about ration books, shortages of tires and gasoline, paper drives and scrap metal collections and victory gardens? This should be an interesting program. Come at 7:00 pm and bring your friends.

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**Senior Center Offers Fall Trip to Winterset**

The Historical Society is not planning a Fall Bus Trip this year. A trip to the Bridges of Madison County is being offered by the Urbandale Senior Recreation Center, Thursday, October 5, leaving at 8:00a.m.

A step-on guide will share the history and stories of the covered bridges. The trip will include a stop at the Northside Cafe for lunch and then a visit to the John Wayne Birthplace and the new Museum. There will be time for a bit of shopping around the Winterset square. Quilters may want to check out Fons and Porter Love of Quilting Shop on East Court.

The \$75.00 fee includes transportation, tour guide, lunch and admission fees. Pre-registration began August 21 at the office of the Senior Center, 7305 Aurora. For more information call 278-3907. You do not have to be an Urbandale resident to participate.

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**Senior College Session on Urbandale History**

On September 18 a special session of Senior College of Greater Des Moines will be held at the Olmsted-Urban House. Virginia Gee will present "Urbandale Through the Years" describing how our century old community has expanded from a farming area of several hundred people at the end of the streetcar line to our current population of over 40,000. Class members who are interested can tour the House with its items reflecting life in the 20's and 30's and the Wayne Robbins Barn with the farm tools, dairy equipment and other items of importance to farm families.

Class size is limited to 25. There is a \$12.00 fee. For more information contact Jan Pitcher phone 278-1013.

The mission of Senior College is to offer older adults opportunities to learn about a wide array of interesting topics. More than 40 topics are offered this fall at locations throughout the metro area. For additional information and a complete listing go to [www.myseniorcollege.com](http://www.myseniorcollege.com)

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## Fall Open House, October 1

Have you visited the Olmsted-Urban House and Wayne Robbins Barn recently? The traditional Fall Open House will be held Sunday, October 1 from 2:00 - 4:00p.m. This will give you a leisurely chance to see some of our new acquisitions and check some of the historic photos and records that might be of interest to you.

Encourage a friend to come with you. There will be refreshments.

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## Punch on the Porch

A traditional event at the Olmsted-Urban House is "Punch on the Porch". For years Janice Winey planned this event carrying on the tradition of Matie Urban welcoming the neighborhood children with a treat.

This year on October 30 from 6-8 pm, Kay Readinger and her daughter will co-ordinate the event. Orange drink will be served in glass cups on the front porch as we welcome the children and listen to their "jokes".

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## Ice Cream Social is a Big Success



Thanks to a combination of great weather, careful planning, a tie-in with the Urbandale Centennial and the work of many members and volunteers, the annual Ice cream Social June 25 was a huge success. This is the Society's major fund-raising event and this year more than \$2,000 was raised. It is estimated more than 400 people were served. Over 60 cakes, pies and other dessert items were donated by members and friends.



Norm Huitt and Tom Foster headed the ice cream production. Special thanks to Fareway Food Stores, Hiland Dairy and Quik Trip for their generous donations.



Special guests were members of the Central Iowa Model A Club, the Heart of Iowa Model T Club and members of the Cadillac-LaSalle Car Club who displayed their autos on the north lawn. Many people stopped to visit the Olmsted-Urban House and the Wayne Robbins Barn. There was also an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win a special edition of a Radio Flyer coaster wagon.



### Butterfly Garden Established with the Urbandale Garden Club

The butterflies and bees have been discovering the pollinator garden established by the Urbandale Garden Club at the garden by the Olmsted-Urban House. The Historical Society provided some money to buy some starter plants and the Garden Club members have supplied others, and have planted, watered and weeded the plot throughout the summer.

Colorful annuals such as marigolds, lantanas, coreopsis, cosmos, butterfly weed and zinnias have flowered throughout the season. Some wildflower starts were provided by the naturalist at the Neal Smith Refuge Center. Existing peonies, phlox, daylilies and asters combined with volunteer milkweed plants help fill in the garden. Several butterfly bushes were planted at the west end. Additional planting will take place next spring.



The garden on the south side of the Olmsted-Urban House has received special care from Marilyn Finnerty. She and Pat also did a lot of work cleaning

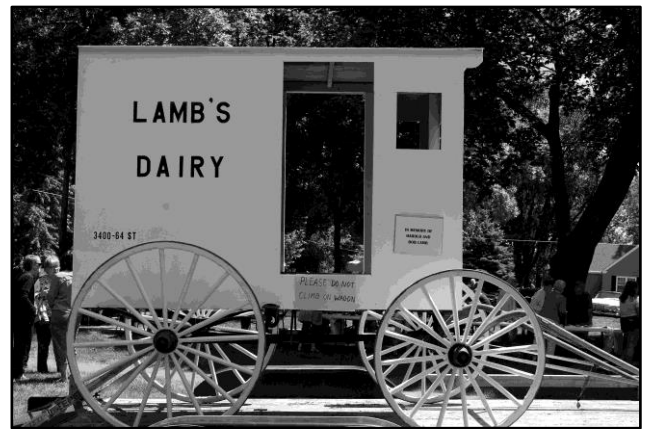
up the area on the north side of the House from overgrown ferns, hostas and shrubs.

Beth Haigh planned and filled the four concrete planters along the porch with geraniums and greenery. Other Board Members shared in the summer upkeep. Mrs. Olmsted was reported to take great pride in her garden. We think she would be pleased with the appearance of the property.

### Joe Lamb Builds Replica Dairy Wagon

One of the most appropriate entries in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade was the replica of Lamb's Dairy delivery wagon displayed by Joe Lamb, of Ankeny. His grandfather, Harold had an acreage near 64th and Roseland and a few milk cows in the early 1920's.

Milk was put in quart bottles and delivered sometimes twice a day to families in the area. Most people did not have any way to keep the milk cold. The Lamb's purchased ice from the ice house at 70<sup>th</sup> and Roseland to keep the milk fresh and cold.



Joe's father, Robert, grew up with the dairy business. He told in an interview of sometimes walking a half mile to take a quart of milk to a customer. They eventually had a horse drawn delivery wagon similar to the one Joe built. Bob delivered by horse and wagon until 1949, when he went to work for a larger dairy.

Bob and Louise Lamb were early members of the Urbandale Historical Society and Bob served a term as president. Joe first brought his wagon to the Historical Society's Ice Cream Social. He has earlier donated items from the dairy to the Wayne Robbins Barn. He also made a scale model of the Lamb family house and barn that is on display.

## Historical Society Members Help Plan Urbandale's Centennial Events

Urbandale's year-long Centennial observance officially came to a close with activities related to this year's July 4th celebration. Current and former members of the Historical Society took part in a variety of ways.

E.J. Giovannetti and Scott Raecker initiated the planning several years ago and provided leadership throughout. Mary Polson, then the UCAN Director, served as coordinator and secretary for the newly formed Urbandale Centennial Steering Committee. Don Brush volunteered to serve as head of the Finance Committee and treasurer. Steve Lytle was a fund raiser contacting local businesses for support.

Bob Simon presented the idea of ordering special collectable medallions. A design was prepared featuring the new official Centennial logo on the face and symbols of the school and community on reverse. The slogan, "Honoring Our Past and Forging Our Future", was also on the back. In addition to those sold, they were used as special awards. The high school senior valedictorians of the eight school districts serving Urbandale students were given a centennial medallion.

The official kick-off for the year-long celebration was a community picnic on July 2, 2016, at Walker Johnston Park. Community organizations were invited to present informative displays that would tell their history and explain their purposes and goals. Beth Haigh and Kay Readinger prepared the display and manned the booth for the Urbandale Historical Society.

Ginny Campbell and Audrey Decarlo worked with Meribeth Haynes on activities planned for the Urbandale High School Alumni Committee. Virginia Gee helped Meribeth with the project of scanning pictures in the collection of Urbandale High School yearbooks at the Olmsted-Urban House to prepare a DVD of the history of Urbandale schools. Robert Timmins of the Class of 1939 was considered the oldest surviving graduate of Urbandale High School and was invited back to be honored and participate in the alumni activities.

A special Centennial program was scheduled June 22, 2017, with the Urbandale Public Library. "When the Streetcars Came to Urbandale", featuring Earl Short's video presentation of the history of the trolleys as they came from Des Moines on the Urbandale line.

Virginia Gee presented some background information as well.

The Urbandale Historical Society's Ice Cream Social, June 25, received extra attention and publicity as it was listed as a Centennial event leading the Fourth of July festivities.

Ginny and Meribeth also assisted Mary Polson with a popular tour of the historic McDivitt Cemetery, June 29.

An informal Centennial event was Alumni Open House at the Olmsted-Urban House June 30. This was especially for people who attended Urbandale High School in the early years before there were yearbooks to commemorate their graduation. Copies of the old Blue Jay Chatter school newspapers and class pictures of the graduates were brought down from the history room upstairs as well as some of the early yearbooks that were published since 1954. Those who stopped by enjoyed looking at the materials and sharing memories. Ginny and Jerry Campbell assisted Virginia Gee with the open house.

Kathy Forst headed a committee which spent months planning for the Centennial Gala which was held June 30 at the Hilton Garden Inn. The highlight of the Centennial year was the July 4th parade. The Historical Society's participation was planned by Norm Huitt, Pat Finnerty, Jo Henry and Bob Simon. Norm arranged for a pick-up truck to pull a flatbed trailer on which the grain wagon from our barn was positioned. A special Centennial banner was displayed for Urbandale and the Radio Flyer Company, which was also celebrating 100 years. Through Bob's contact the company had donated two special wagons which were to be raffled and were displayed on the back of the pickup.



Several youth and adults wore special red t-shirts and pulled Radio Flyer wagons along the parade route. Candy was handed out and the blue Urbandale Historical Society fans were given to adults. Cards with information about the raffle drawing were also distributed. The Historical Society float was recognized as the second place winner in the parade which involved more than 100 units. It was a fitting end to our participation in Urbandale's Centennial celebration.

Urbandale Historical Society welcomes these new members:

MERIBETH HAYNES  
4716 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
Urbandale, IA 50322  
515-252-1796

DONNA SGRIMAGER  
2000 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50322  
515-279-5292

Change of Address reported:

BETTY AND BARRY LYNCH  
Fairmeadows Village  
2625 Vine Street, #B214  
West Des Moines, IA 50265  
515-276-0412

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## URBANDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Renewal

Membership is on a calendar year: Jan. 1 to Dec. 31

Contributions are tax deductible.

Supporting: \$25       Patron: \$100      Name on permanent plaque: \$1,000 and up  
 Sustaining: \$50       Benefactor: \$500 and up       Other

Special Gifts – Memorials are appreciated

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your interests below:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership<br><input type="checkbox"/> Programs<br><input type="checkbox"/> Trips<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restoration and Acquisitions<br><input type="checkbox"/> Finance<br><input type="checkbox"/> Gardening<br><input type="checkbox"/> Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Local History<br><input type="checkbox"/> Buildings and Grounds<br><input type="checkbox"/> Publicity<br><input type="checkbox"/> Special Projects<br><input type="checkbox"/> Housekeeping<br><input type="checkbox"/> Historian |
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\_\_\_\_\_ Have Urbandale information, photographs or memorabilia to donate or lend for copying.

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