



# Newsletter

Urbandale Historical Society  
4010 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
Urbandale, IA 50322  
Winter 2010



## Holiday Open House

A highlight every year for the Historical Society is the Holiday Open House. Come this year on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> anytime from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and share the spirit of the season.

Each room of the Olmsted-Urban House will be beautifully decorated in traditional themes with some new additions. Be sure to go upstairs to see the old-time toys in the children's room, the lovely clothes and accessories in the restored sewing room, and items from the Olmsted family in the main bedroom. Look at the interesting collection of Christmas items displayed by Norm Huitt.

Share the cookies and punch, visit with friends, and enjoy music by Jean Swift. This is a great way to start your holiday season.

There will be no Monday night meeting in December.

## Advertising Memorabilia Topic for January Meeting

Wayne Robbins has been collecting items related to Des Moines, particularly advertising memorabilia, for many years. At the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting Wayne will display some of his collection. If you have some items of interest, bring them along and share your memories.

The program begins at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will follow, served by Dick and Ruth Carey.

## Urbandale's Food Pantry

A letter was received from Eileen Boggess, director of the Urbandale Food Pantry outlining the increasing need in the community. Over 230 families in Urbandale and Windsor Heights, representing approximately 650 individuals, are served each month.

There are many food drives, but personal care items are also needed to distribute to an increasing number of families. When you come to the Historical Society meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>, consider bringing some items to donate, such as shampoo, bars of soap, deodorant, tooth brushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, laundry soap, or diapers and wipes. Members who cannot attend can make a monetary contribution by sending a check made out to the Urbandale Food Pantry to Urbandale Historical Society, 4010 70<sup>th</sup> Street. Your support for the community will be appreciated and is a positive way to start off the New Year.

## February Meeting on Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

Farming was important to early residents in Webster Township (The Olmsteds, Stuarts, McDivitts, etc.) Dave Zaabel will present the program for the Historical Society meeting on Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The history of agricultural power from horses and steam, to modern farm machinery will be highlighted. What experiences have you had or changes you have observed?

Bob and Verda Simon will serve as host and hostess.

## Urbandale Parks & Recreation March 7<sup>th</sup>

Urbandale is well known for its many parks, trails, the swimming pool, and programs for adults and children. Jan Herke, Director of Urbandale Parks and Recreation, has been invited to present the program on the history of the Urbandale parks – past and future – at the meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

For those interested, a soup supper will precede the program. Come at 6:00 p.m. and bring a can of soup or vegetables, an appetizer or dessert to share, and your own bowl and table service. Joanne Hanson will prepare the basic soup stock for this traditional meal and serve as hostess.



## April Meeting

Most Urbandale residents have a history of traveling to downtown Des Moines for shopping or employment. Earl Short, Streetcar enthusiast, will present a visual program on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. He has collected photographs highlighting business and transportation from the early 1900's. Come and share your memories as you recognize some of these familiar business signs.

Jerry and Ginny Campbell will serve as host and hostess.

The April meeting also marks election of officers. Most board members have served several terms and new officers are needed. Please call Wayne Robbins at 276-1370 or Norm Huitt at 276-1443, if you would be willing to take a position on the board or serve as a co-chairperson.

## Visit the Olmsted-Urban House

Scheduled open houses are set for October, December, and June. However, visitors are welcome. Call Beth Haigh at 276-9654 to arrange for a tour or speaker. If you have family members or out-of-town visitors who are interested in touring the Olmsted-Urban house, arrangement can be made for someone to make the house accessible.

Groups visiting this fall were Boy Scout Troup 43, St. Pius, Leadership Urbandale class, Cub Scout Pack 3, 37 second graders from Olmsted School, and a group of residents from Deerfield Retirement Community.



## A Special Tribute

This summer marked the passing of a special Historical Society member who played an important role in Urbandale's history.

### Bob Dabrieo

Another faithful member of the Urbandale Society passed away in October. Bob Dabrieo had been very active in the community for many years, and was named the 1981 Urbandale Citizen of the Year. For a number of years Bob and his computer were responsible for preparing the mailing labels that enabled you to receive the Historical House newsletter. He also prepared the pages for the first directories.

Bob also helped behind the scenes at various Historical Society events and helped with the traditional decorating of the House for Christmas. His wife, Cynthia, has served on the board and helps with various projects of the Restoration Committee.

## Meeting Cancellation

Last winter's weather proved to be very unpredictable. If you have questions about whether a scheduled meeting is cancelled, please call Wayne Robbins at 276-1370. It is impossible to try and call all those who might consider attending.

## Punch on the Porch

Our annual "Punch on the Porch" was a successful Beggars Night event that was sponsored by the Historical Society. Janice Winey, Joanne Hanson, and Virginia Gee greeted visitors on the south porch of the Olmsted-Urban House. Orange punch was served in glass cups to over 40 visitors. Some were neighborhood children, but others were family groups making this a special destination. Some told stories of visiting the House in the past when Maytie Urban was hostess, and are now bringing their children and grandchildren to carry on the tradition.

## Clip and Save Important Dates

December 5	Holiday Open House
January 10	Meeting
February 7	Meeting
March 7	Soup Supper / Meeting
April 4	Meeting



## Membership Renewal

A Directory for 2010 - 2011 has been printed and includes the list of members who have paid dues by September 2010.

As the year ends, it is time to send in your dues for 2011. New members and those who missed renewing in 2010 will receive a copy of the directory and the newsletter when they pay dues for 2011.

We need your support and membership. Encourage your friends to join or renew their membership.

Major expenses for the Historical Society are related to the maintenance of the House, to include utilities, insurance, outside upkeep, snow removal, etc. Other expenses this year included the purchase or replacement of light fixtures for the porch and back entrance, gutter repair resulting from damage from a large fallen tree branch, tree service, furnace check and installation of a safety sensor to warn of extreme cold or heat in the house.

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Urbandale Historical Society  
Membership Application / Renewal  
4010 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
Urbandale, IA 50322

- Supporting Membership (\$25)
- Sustaining Membership (\$50)
- Patron Membership (\$100)
- Benefactor Membership (\$500 and up)
- Name on Permanent Plaque (\$1,000)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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