



URBANDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
4010 70TH STREET
URBANDALE, IA 50322
(515) 270-2917



www.urbandalehistoricalsociety.org

Fall 2018

Programs - Fall 2018

A variety of programs have been planned for Fall 2018 for the Urbandale Historical Society. Meetings are held at the Olmsted-Urban House and are open to the public.

Monday, **September 10** those interested can come early at 6 p.m. for the traditional potluck supper. Bring some food to share and your own table service.

If you choose not to come for the meal, please join us at 7 p.m. for an interesting program on the history of the Iowa School of Beauty. Andrew Oswald, current president, will give the background of the school which first opened in Des Moines in 1923. The School is currently located in Urbandale in what had once been the Blackhurst Elementary School at 3305 70th Street.

There have been dramatic changes in the study of hair styling through the years. Some early students chose to work out of their homes or join a neighborhood "beauty shop". Now you find in addition beauticians opening a salon or working in a styling studio. In addition to basic haircuts and permanent waves you may find advertised services of personalized styling, sets with backcombing or blow-dry, a variety of coloring and highlights. Some even offer manicures.

Historically men of all ages went only to barber shops. Now you will find males both as clients and operators of the business.

Ober Anderson, longtime Polk County Extension Director will present the program **Monday, October 1** at 7 p.m. as a representative of the BARN AGAIN program.

Across the Midwest with changing uses of farm land, many historic barns were considered too obsolete for modern farming needs and too expensive to maintain as family heirlooms. Old barns appeared to be destined to be preserved only in photographs and

memories. Through demonstrated projects and technical assistance, it has been shown that these classic historic barns can be preserved and adapted for new farming uses. Ober will discuss how grants have been made and tours organized to make the public aware of the efforts of the BARN AGAIN group.



A unique look back at early Urbandale history will be presented at the meeting **November 5** at 7 p.m.

An unexpected collection of copies of minutes for a group called the Greater Urbandale Booster Club was given to Ginny Campbell's family. At the first meeting, November 8, 1915, (before Urbandale was incorporated) the minutes show the 15 men who attended were concerned with getting a light on a pole at the streetcar turn-around.

Ginny Campbell, Bob Simon and Virginia Gee will present some other highlights from meetings in 1915-1917. Come and share in this interesting program.

Historical Society Fall Bus Trip

Many facets of history will be featured on the Fall Bus Trip planned for the Urbandale Historical Society, Tuesday, **October 9**. First stop will be the Waukee Public Library which has displays of items collected by the Waukee Historical Society. Of particular interest are items related to coal mining and the Shuler Coal Mine in Dallas County. It was operating at about the same time as those in the Urbandale area and will help us understand our heritage in Webster Township.

Next, we go to Griswold and the Cass County Historical Museum which is housed in a 1800's bank that is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Of major interest are 25 scale models of Iowa barns constructed by Wayne Kirkoff. Some use wood from original barns that have now been destroyed. Some unusual architecture is represented.

We will eat lunch next door at Dusty's. (Pie a la mode will most definitely be available).

We will spend the afternoon in Winterset at the highly acclaimed Madison County Historical complex. There's something for everyone at this 18-acre site which contains a museum, 1856 restored mansion, log schoolhouse, post office, general store, 1870 train depot, blacksmith shop and stone barn.

In the museum you can view exhibits on local history, vintage clothing, quilts, farm equipment and Indian artifacts. In the basement is a huge collection of fossils and minerals.

To participate in the adventure, please send a check for \$80 (which pays for the bus transportation, lunch and admission fees) to: Urbandale Historical Society, 4010 70th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322, mark for Bus Trip. Include your phone number and also the phone number for the emergency contact list.

The bus will leave from the Olmsted-Urban House parking lot promptly at 7:30 a.m. Bob Simon, trip coordinator estimates the bus will return about 5:30 p.m. More specific details will be given later.

Fall Open House

The Historical Society Fall Open House will be held Sunday, **October 7** at the Olmsted-Urban House from 2-4 p. m.

All the rooms will be available for viewing with Historical Society members on hand to answer questions. The Wayne Robbins Barn will also be open with farm items and Urbandale memorabilia on display.

Newcomers to Urbandale are particularly encouraged to visit and learn more about Urbandale history. Stop in anytime during the afternoon. Invite your friends. There will be refreshments.

Alumni Association

A result of preparation for the observance of Urbandale's Centennial was the growth of the Urbandale Alumni Association. Founded as part of the Urbandale Educational Foundation in 2013, the group through networking and social media has made an

effort to contact the graduates of Urbandale High School living in all 50 states and more than 20 foreign countries. More than 2,500 graduates are currently listed as members.



Urbandale Football Team 1939

The first class of four students graduated in 1937 from the brick building which had been built at 70th and Douglas in 1925. It is estimated there have been more than 13,000 Urbandale High School graduates over the years. The Alumni group has determined the oldest surviving UHS graduate now is Robert Timmins, Class of 1939.

The mission of the Alumni Association is to connect alumni, supporters and the community by promoting a sense of pride and energized participation through programs, education and student scholarships. A successful All-School Reunion was held July 1, 2017 at Walker Johnston Park. In addition, some of the individual classes have established specific class contacts, reunions, web sites and/or Facebook pages.

A special event to celebrate the fifth year of the Alumni Association is planned for Saturday, **September 15** at the Urbandale Senior Recreation Center. One of the chairmen of the event, Meribeth Haynes reports "...We will have a light appetizer and a cash bar plus lots of Urbandale Trivia. There will be prizes to give away during the evening from local businesses. Our fund-raising items of T-shirts, Koozies and the new window clings for your car will be available for purchase. We will be taking donations for our ongoing commitment to provide a scholarship for a graduating Urbandale Senior. Please let us know by September 8 if you can join us. There is no charge for this event but we need to know how many to expect to have plenty of food. We hope to see lots of alums and Urbandale school staff there so, plan on having a fun and relaxing evening with us."

For more information or to respond go to the Urbandale Alumni 5 Year Anniversary Facebook, website: www.urbandalealumni.com or E mail Urbandale High School Alumni @gmail.com.

Another activity planned is "Homecoming 2018 Find the J-Hawk", Linda Biermann Hoobin posted this account "Beginning Thursday, September 6 through Thursday, September 20, Alumni and community members are invited to pick up a game card at any of the participating businesses. Find the "J-Hawk" posted in the business and have your card stamped. Then visit the other businesses, find their "J-Hawk" and get your card stamped at as many businesses as you can.

Your card can then be taken to the UHS Homecoming Street Party at UHS on September 20 by 7:30 p.m. at the Urbandale Alumni table and receive an Urbandale "U" window decal. Completed cards will be entered into a drawing for prizes donated by the businesses. Winners will be notified by phone on Friday, September 21 and prizes can be picked up at the donor's business.

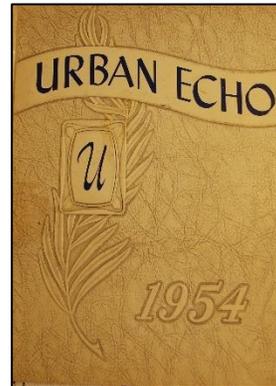
Chairmen Audrey DeCarlo and Debi Spiller announced that the participating businesses where a "J-Hawk" can be found are:

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>The Chilly Cow</i> | <i>Hy-Vee</i> |
| <i>Vision Park Family Eye Care</i> | <i>Urban Grill</i> |
| <i>BMW of DSM</i> | <i>Easy Living Store</i> |
| <i>The Range Grill and Golf</i> | <i>EKGolf</i> |
| <i>Strauss Security Solutions</i> | <i>A-Tech Inc.</i> |
| <i>Mudbum Supply Shack</i> | <i>Taco Hangover</i> |
| <i>R. Jones Collision</i> | <i>Urban Pet Hospital</i> |
| <i>Plaza Florist</i> | <i>DSM Buccaneers</i> |



Current local Board Members of the Alumni Association planning these events are Meribeth Haynes (1976) and Linda Biermann Hoobin (1973), co-chairs and Shari Zimmerman Stevenson (1978), secretary-treasurer. Other members are Margaret Ann Boals Boatright (1956), Amy Drake-Bogle (1984), Audrey Collins DeCarlo (1964), Dave Lollman (1979), Jodi Gilson Schrage (1982), Kirk McGowan (1985), Debi Spiller (1973) and Kim Wright Jones (1977).

Some members of the Urbandale Alumni group are also active members of the Urbandale Historical Society and have worked on several projects together.



A future goal is to collect information about alumni and community members who have been honored in the past, and plan for worthy individuals to be honored in the future. Alumni are encouraged to provide copies of photos and memories to be preserved for historical records.

The first UHS Urban Echo yearbook was published in 1954. The Alumni group is preparing a DVD based on school photos from the collection of yearbooks up to 2017 located at the Olmsted-Urban House.

Punch on the Porch

A traditional event at the Olmsted-Urban House is "Punch on the Porch". This year it will be held on Tuesday, **October 30**; 6-8 p.m. Carrying on the long-standing tradition of Matie Urban, orange drink will be served in glass cups as we welcome the children in the neighborhood and listen to their "jokes".

Holiday Open House

Did you have an opportunity to attend the Holiday Open House last year? The Olmsted-Urban House was beautifully decorated. There were interesting displays of toys and special cookies for refreshment. Add to this, interesting activities on the lawn coordinated by U-CAN and Light Up Urbandale. You won't want to miss the event on Sunday, **December 2** ~ starting at 2 p.m. Invite your friends and come participate in the festivities to start the Christmas season.

Ice Cream Social June 2018

The Urbandale Library sponsored an event this past June, 'Summer Rocks in Urbandale' to kick off the Library's summer reading program and showcase other summer events in Urbandale. The Urbandale Historical Society participated and promoted our Ice Cream social among other programs. We offered a drawing for tickets to the Ice Cream Social for one lucky family. The drawing was won by Brenda Gohr.



This past June the Urbandale Historical Society held its annual Ice Cream Social. This event has become the premier summertime activity to begin the Urbandale 4th of July festivities. This year was a very successful event.

We brought it over \$1400 with an estimated attendance of over 400. That was a lot of ice cream and pie and cake. We want to thank all of those who contributed to making this a very enjoyable time for our neighbors in Urbandale.

A special thanks goes to Carol Lee Riekenberg, a long-time member of the Historical Society who has prepared commemorative books for many of our Christmas and Ice Cream Social events over the year. These can be viewed at the Olmsted-Urban House. Her latest is from our successful Ice Cream Social last June.



Local Area Historical Societies

Recently the Urbandale Historical Society has been invited to join with other area Historical Societies to better promote our activities and interest in our local histories. We have hosted a couple of meetings of the

group at our Olmsted-Urban house.

Plans are to share events of the various historical societies so members of each will be better informed of the activities and events of the others. Look for more information on our website, Facebook page and in the newsletter.

New Acquisitions

We recently received a donation of a beautiful Cedar Chest from Bob and Marilyn Kollmorgen. Marilyn related that the chest was given to them by friends in Sheboygan, WI in 1969 who were 'downsizing'. They have used it over the years and now they are 'downsizing' and thought the Urbandale Historical Society could provide a good home for it in the Olmsted-Urban house.



Interestingly, it is a perfect match for the bed in the upstairs bedroom.



Thank you so much to Marilyn and Bob for this most thoughtful donation.



Flag at the Olmsted-Urban House

Patriotism and dedication are demonstrated by flying of the American flag at the Olmsted-Urban House. The flagpole was dedicated in 1990 in memory of Dave Hartsook, owner of Hartsook Hardware. He served as president of the Urbandale Historical Society in the 1980's. Special lighting was installed later.

Thanks go to representatives of the Urbandale American Legion who are responsible for lowering and raising the flag for special events and recognition.

In the spirit of patriotism and citizenship, the following is found in the *Stephenson's Iowa State Eighth Grade Examination Question Book* from about 1926. Beth Haigh called this book to our attention and the 'teacher' in her found it quite illuminating.

National Anthem

(Note – Whenever, in a public place, the national anthem, "Star Spangled Banner," is sung or the tune played, all persons in the audience should rise and remain standing during the singing, or while the tune is being played.)

Men and boys remove hats.

HISTORY May, 1919

1. Name the original thirteen colonies.
2. Give dates, causes and results, in brief, of the three wars in which the United States has been engaged.
3. Name two leading statesmen, two generals, two inventors, two great orators, and two prominent literary characters connected with our country's history.
4. What is the Stamp Act? The Monroe Doctrine? The Emancipation Proclamation? The Fugitive Slave Act? The Ku Klux Klan?
5. Write a paragraph on two of the following topics:
 - (a) The League of Nations.
 - (b) The Armistice of November 11, 1918.
 - (c) Liberty Loans.

- (d) The Lusitania.
 - (e) Submarines.
6. Who are these people: Lloyd George, James W. Gerard, John J. Pershing and William Howard Taft?

CIVICS May, 1924

1. Who is the Governor of Iowa? For how long is he elected? Who fills his office during the governor's absence?
2. Name the three branches of government.
3. Name and locate five Iowa state institutions.
4. State the qualifications for a voter. What is meant by a "citizen"? How may an alien become a citizen of the United States?
5. Name three county officers and one duty of each.
6. How many members are there in the President's cabinet? When and how did President Coolidge become president?

Remember to answer these in the context of the time (1919 for History and 1925 for Civics). I think the expectation was the student would be able to answer all correctly. How did you do?



Address Change and New Members

New address:

Sharrie McKinney
604 Hillcrest Ave. #101
Indianola, IA 50125
515-210-1644

New Members:

Patrick Benoit & Danette Keene
7017 Beechwood Dr.
Urbandale, IA 50322
515-205-3173

Patricia & Larry Anderson
7201 Benton Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322
515-201-7835

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