



City of
Urbandale
Iowa

Economic Development Newsletter

Des Moines Buccaneers Plan New Arena at Merle Hay Mall

Late last month, the ownership of Merle Hay Mall and the Des Moines Buccaneers announced a partnership with the Cities of Urbandale and Des Moines to build a new 3,500 seat multi-purpose arena in the former Younkers Department Store on the west side of the shopping center. The development will be the new home of the Des Moines Buccaneers hockey team and will also include three additional sheets of ice with bleacher seating to host additional games, practices, and tournaments. In addition, a 150-room hotel is planned for the complex which will be able to host regional and national tournaments as well as esports, trade shows and concerts. Merle Hay Mall is situated in both Urbandale (approximately the west third of the mall) and Des Moines.

Mayor's State of the City Address Video Available

Urbandale Mayor Bob Andeweg's annual recap of the City's major projects, successes and challenges was delivered by video late last month. The 13-minute [video](#) shows footage and images from around the community, including major economic development projects.

DART proposing changes to service in northwest Urbandale

As part of its Transit Optimization Study, the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) is proposing replacing Local Route 74 which loops to several businesses and destinations in northwest Urbandale and north West Des Moines, with a Mobility on Demand service zone. With Mobility on Demand, riders could request a trip within the transportation zone to connect with businesses, popular destinations and transfer points for other DART routes any time during scheduled hours.

DART is collecting feedback on these proposed changes at two virtual meetings on Dec. 16 and 17, 2021 and online. Details can be found at ridedart.com/Urbandale.

Updated Workforce Information Available

Iowa Workforce Development has released new workforce data for the Des Moines Metro area. The [Greater Des Moines Regional Laborshed Analysis](#) indicates that there are over 1 million working-age people in a geography that spans almost 200 miles east-to-west and north-to-south. Laborshed studies provide information on a wide range of data including labor availability, education, wages and benefits, employing industries and more. Explore the data in an interactive format on [IWD's GIS application](#).

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