



CITY OF URBANDALE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

May 2021

Merle Hay Mall and Des Moines Buccaneers Project Presented to IEDA Board

Representatives from the City of Urbandale, Merle Hay Mall, Des Moines Buccaneers, and the City of Des Moines presented plans for a major reinvestment into the Merle Hay Campus in the eastern part of town. The project is seeking state assistance to construct a new 3,500 seat arena for the Buccaneers plus three additional sheets of ice for training and national competitions. The project also includes new housing, hotel, retail, and infrastructure improvements on the 75-acre campus to transform the area into a sports, entertainment, and retail destination.

A video promoting the project was prepared to outline the project and highlight the benefits to the region and the state of Iowa. You may view the 7 minute video on the [City's YouTube channel](#).



Douglas Avenue Road Improvements Underway

Starting on May 3, the section of Douglas Avenue from 100th Street east to Walnut Creek will be improved to add curb and gutter, multi-use bike trail, sidewalks and turn lanes. This is a planned improvement to Douglas Avenue to reinforce the roadway as Urbandale's 'Main Street' and reinforce the corridor as the main multi-modal east/west path through town.

Please drive safely through this area as lane closures and restricted access modifications will be made throughout the construction period. A more detailed description and regular updates on the construction projects may be found on our [City Projects](#) page of our website.

Urbandale Maintains Strong Bond Rating from Moody's

Last month, Moody's completed their financial analysis for the City of Urbandale and assigned a Aa1 bond rating for upcoming bond issuances. The rating service takes a comprehensive view of the operations, revenues and expenses of the City to determine the risk profile of future sales of public debt. Urbandale's rating remained the same for 2021 as in previous years. Should you have interest in reading the full rating action, you may find it [here](#).

Staying in Touch with Urbandale's Economic Development Team

We have built this newsletter and distribution list to stay in close contact with the valued business leaders, partners and stakeholders that help the City advance its economic development goals. If you think someone would value receiving this, please forward it. Archived editions and an opportunity to sign up to receive the newsletter directly are [here](#).

A great way to receive updates faster is to connect with the City of Urbandale on our various social media channels.



Curtis Brown, CEcD

Asst. City Manager/Director of Economic Development
cbrown@urbandale.org



Aaron DeJong

Assistant Director of Economic Development
adejong@urbandale.org



Steele Harter

Summer 2021 Economic Development Intern
harter@urbandale.org



View our online [Available Site and Building Database](#)

LOIS

City of Urbandale, Iowa, 3600 86th Street, Urbandale, Iowa 50322, 515-278-3900

[Unsubscribe](#)