



City of
URBAN DALE
Department of Economic Development

JULY 9, 2015

3 Spots Left! Intern Development Series: Employability Skills Training for Today's Interns

The City of Urbandale, Urbandale Chamber of Commerce and DMACC Business Resources have partnered to help companies with interns incorporate skill development into their internship experience this summer. We are offering a 3-part series focused on employability skills in today's changing workforce. Interns in any industry may participate. The training sessions will be held at the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce (2830 100th Street) from 1:00 – 5:00 PM on July 13, 20 and 27. Training topics include resilience and adaptability, self-awareness and empathy, and an analysis/solution mindset. The three-part series is \$150 per intern. There is capacity for three more interns and we need to hear from interested companies by Friday, July 10. Please contact [Katie Gieszler for more information](#) or to register.

Homemakers Furniture Adding New 120,000 Square Foot Facility

[Homemakers Furniture](#) recently broke ground on a new 120,000 square foot warehouse and distribution facility on a five-acre parcel located directly northeast of their existing location at 10215 Douglas Avenue. This marks the sixth major renovation for Homemakers since the company opened the doors of its Urbandale facility in 1985. This project is the company's third physical expansion in Urbandale in the past six years.

Approved, Issued, Opened in Urbandale

Urbandale provides many opportunities for commercial and residential investment. Below are some recent projects:

- **Expansion:** [BirdDogHR](#), an Urbandale talent management software company, is planning to add 71 jobs and invest over \$1 million in capital investment in the next three years. The company has outgrown its current location and will occupy over 13,000 square feet in a newly-constructed building at 4453 NW Urbandale Drive early this fall.
- **New Business:** [Ventech Solutions](#), a Columbus, Ohio software systems and consulting company, is expanding into Iowa with 200 new jobs to be created in Urbandale. The employees here will work in help desk support and application development. Ventech will occupy 24,000 square feet of office space at 12000 Ridgemont Drive.
- **Site Plan Approved:** Living History Farms is constructing two maintenance

buildings that total nearly 10,000 square feet.

- **Final Plat Approved:** *Myles Ridge* for 35 residential lots on 14.7 acres
- **Final Plat Approved:** *Northwoods Place Plat 1* for one residential lot with 14 single-family attached 2-story residential units on 1.4 acres.
- **Final Plat Approved:** *Timberline Village Condominiums* for one residential lot with three 8-plex condominium 2-story buildings on 2.2 acres.

Access New Resources for Development: Visit the City's New Website

Visit the City's revamped website at www.urbandale.org. The main page hosts a new icon – "[Grow Your Business](#)", which links to important development-related resources from the Economic Development, Community Development and Public Works/Engineering departments. The Economic Development department now offers a [Map Room](#), which houses maps important to the business and development community. The new website is more accessible, user-friendly, and contains updated information vital to important business decisions. Please check it out and [send us any feedback](#) you have; we want to make this resources as valuable as possible.

Temporary Employment Opportunity for the Urbandale 2015 Special Census

Urbandale is growing quickly and the City wants an accurate count of our population. The City of Urbandale is recruiting employees to conduct our Special Census this summer. Temporary jobs are available for Census takers, office staff and supervisors. Please visit our website at to fill out [the U.S. Census Bureau application](#) (which you must print and drop off at City Hall, 3600 86th Street, Urbandale, Iowa). Census workers receive pay in a range between \$10.55 to \$16.35 per hour, plus mileage. All applicants must be 18 years of age, live within 15 miles of Urbandale, and be willing to work a minimum of 20-25 hours per week, usually during evenings and weekends. Expected start date is August 1st; employment duration is between six and ten weeks. Please contact Human Resources Director Karla Lower, klower@urbandale.org with any questions.

Innovation in Urbandale: Our First Soofa

No, we didn't just misspell "sofa." Soofas are smart benches created by Changing Environments. Each Soofa has two USB ports to charge a mobile device. The creators behind Soofa are three women who share one vision: getting people out of their homes and into a smarter and more sustainable city. Urbandale joins a select list of cities making solar power available to charge mobile devices. Urbandale's Soofa is conveniently located between the softball fields, concession stand and the playground at Walker Johnston Park at 9000 Douglas Avenue. Give it a try and [let us know what you think!](#)

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City of Urbandale Economic Development Department Website
www.urbandale.org/econdev

Online Available Site and Building Database
www.urbandale.org/224/Available-Properties

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