



City of
Urbandale
Iowa

Economic Development Newsletter

Urban Loop Update: Momentum Continues to Grow!

One year ago this week, Urbandale Mayor Bob Andeweg announced the Urban Loop, a brand that defines assets and access for the development land and buildings anchored by the interstate corridor through Urbandale. Since then, on average more than one commercial investment per month has been announced in the Urban Loop. [Follow this link](#) for more information on each project. Are you interested in having your team learn more about the Urban Loop and what it can provide for your clients? [Request](#) that City staff visit your office and provide a brief presentation and update.

Access Ahead: Interchange Project Update

The 100th Street Interchange is underway and nearly complete, with an opening event and barricade removal planned for Monday, October 8. The Iowa Department of Transportation has begun work on the Meredith Drive interchange and the Iowa Highway 141 Interchange flyover ramp. This year and in 2019, the IDOT will be doing grading for both interchange projects and working on the Iowa Highway 141 flyover bridge. In 2020, paving of the interchanges and interstate widening work will begin. Both interchanges are expected to be open to traffic by late November 2020.

See you at the Iowa Commercial Real Estate Expo!

Urbandale economic development staff will be exhibiting at the Iowa Commercial Real Estate Expo on Tuesday, October 2. Visit our booth for an interchange update, information on recent commercial and residential investment and to catch up for a few minutes. We value connecting with you!

Urbandale's New Fire Station Improves Fire Protection Coverage; ISO Rating Improves

On September 20, City Officials from Clive and Urbandale broke ground on a new fire station. The new Fire Station #43 is being constructed at 152nd Street and Meredith Drive in Urbandale's Walnut Creek Regional Park and will provide fire and emergency medical services to both cities. An agreement drafted by both cities lays out plans to share the cost of personnel. The agreement provides both cities fire protection, fire suppression and rescue, emergency medical and other related services.

Construction bids for the new Fire Station (and associated fueling facility to be constructed at 170th Street and Waterford Road) have come in under budget. Also, due to the approval of the Dallas County Local Option Sales and Service Tax, the projects will be financed without the need for a property tax increase.

The Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) recently reviewed the capabilities of the Urbandale Fire Department to respond to fires in buildings or other structures. Following the analysis, ISO ranging from 1 to 10 in which 1 represents superior property protection and 10 indicates that the fire protection does not meet the ISO standards.

Effective December 1, 2018, the new Class for the Urbandale Fire Department will be 2/2x. The new classification could result in lower fire insurance premiums. Property owners are encouraged to contact their insurance companies to check on discounts that may be applicable when the new classification becomes official on December 1, 2018. The City of Urbandale's classification of 2 is one of only approximately 1500 for fire departments nationwide.

City Staff to Visit Columbus, Ohio Metro for Development Strategy Exchange

Over the last two years, City staff and Drake University Business students worked on a major project to identify Urbandale's comparable cities in the Midwest United States. The initiative was the result of an Urbandale strategy to encourage more innovation in economic development by studying and exchanging information and strategies with local economic development peers. With ten comparable cities defined using location, demographics, industry information and growth statistics, staff have begun the peer learning exchanges. In June, staff visited Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, a high-growth suburb outside of Madison. In October, staff will visit Dublin, Westerville and Gahanna, Ohio. The visits are expected to highlight economic development best practices and strategies that City staff will recommend for implementation in Urbandale.

Curtis Brown, CEcD

Director of Economic Development

cbrown@urbandale.org

Katie Gieszler

Economic Development Specialist

kgieszler@urbandale.org

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