

URBANDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

4010 70TH STREET

URBANDALE, IA 50322

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www.urbandalehistoricalsociety.org

Spring 2017

SPRING BUS TRIP MAY 9

This year's Spring Bus Trip has been planned by Bob Simon and Pat Finnerty.

TUESDAY, MAY 9 the bus will leave at 8 a.m. from the Olmsted-Urban House parking lot at 4010 70th Street. The first stop will be at the Indianola National Balloon Museum and Ballooning Hall of Fame for a tour and refreshments. Then on to Corydon in Wayne County to Shivers Manufacturing to learn about the manufacture of Country Clipper Lawnmowers.

Lunch will be at Betty's Cafe in Corydon with several specials to choose from and the traditional pie alamide.

The rest of the afternoon will be spent at the unique Prairie Trails Museum of Wayne County. There is so much to see. Exhibits range from Prairie to Present, History of the Mormon Trail, tours of the Main Street establishments, farm machinery, and other rooms housing collections for many interests. The Armed Forces Gallery has artifacts from ten conflicts.

The bus is scheduled to return to Urbandale by 5 p.m.

The \$80.00 registration fee covers all transportation, refreshments, lunch and museum fees. Please reserve your spot as soon as possible. Pay in person or send a check to the Urbandale Senior Recreation Center, 7305 Aurora Avenue, Urbandale or the Urbandale Historical Society, Urbandale, 4010 70th Street. Indicate "Bus Trip" and include your phone number. You will also be asked for an emergency contact number for trip records.

You do not have to be an Urbandale resident to participate. Encourage your friends to sign up. If you have questions call 278-3907, the Urbandale Senior Recreation Center.

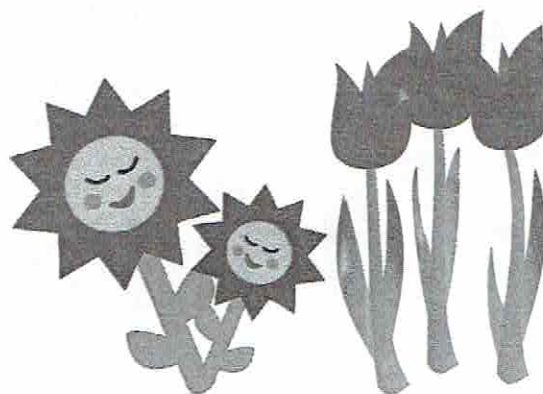
Garden Club Plant Sale May 13

A new joint project of the Historical Society and the Urbandale Garden Club is the establishment of a garden designed to attract the popular Monarch butterflies, bees and other pollinators. The garden space is in the northwest area of the grounds of the Olmsted-Urban House. Planning work began last season by Garden Club members led by Maxine Edwards.

Society organizers had decided not to hold the traditional Historical Society plant sale this spring. The Garden Club's spring sale had been held in the House of Hunan parking lot on Douglas. This year they will hold their sale on the Olmsted-Urban House lawn. The sale will be *SATURDAY, MAY 13* beginning at 9a.m.

As usual, plants sold are those donated by members. If you or your friends have shared plants in the past for the Historical Society sale, it is hoped you will consider donating to this sale. Bring items to the Olmsted-Urban House porch on Friday. Proceeds of the sale go to help support the new joint garden project.

Help is also needed the day of the sale and for garden maintenance throughout the season. For additional information or to volunteer contact Virginia Gee, Garden Club president, 276-0222.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL JUNE 25

Plans are already being made for this year's Ice Cream Social Sunday, June 25 from 2-4p.m. The ice cream is made from a home recipe and members are asked to donate pies and cakes. This is the major fund-raising event for the Historical Society and community support is appreciated.

Come and sit around the picnic tables and enjoy the music and fellowship. A portion of the Olmsted-Urban House will be open for tours. Take time to visit the Wayne Robbins Barn.

A special feature of this year's event will be the presence of period cars brought in by members of the Central Iowa Model A Club and the Heart of Iowa Model T Club. They will be on display on the lawn area north of the Olmsted-Urban House. Enjoy looking at the cars up close and visiting with the owners. Some members of the Cadillac-LaSalle Car Club will also be coming with their cars.

The Ice Cream Social is truly a community event. Also on hand will be representatives of the Urbandale Centennial, High School Alumni Association and the Urbandale Lioness with Fourth of July buttons. Tickets will also be on sale for the drawing of the two Radio Flyer special Centennial coaster wagons. Winners of the Radio Flyer wagons will be announced July 5. You do not have to be present to win.

Thanks to these businesses for donating to the Ice Cream Social: Fareway Stores, Hiland Dairy, Hy-Vee and QuikTrip



WIN A RADIO FLYER COASTER WAGON

The Radio Flyer coaster wagon was the subject of the April meeting led by Bob Simon. The company, established by Italian immigrant Antonio Pasin, is observing its Centennial. Bob has been in touch with the leaders of the Chicago company and they are interested in sharing in the Urbandale Centennial observance.

Bob gave the history of the company and had several models on display. Members shared their memories of fun and work projects that involved their own red wagons. Bob and Norm Huitt then surprised the group by bringing out two new special Radio Flyer wagons that have been donated by the company to help us celebrate.

Tickets for a chance to win one of these special wagons will be available \$3.00 for one ticket, or two tickets for \$5.00. Tickets will be available at all Historical Society events including the Ice Cream Social and at the parade July 4. There is no limit on the number of chances an individual can purchase. The winner will be notified on July 5.

What a special opportunity for your family, or as a gift for your grandchildren.



BRAVO GRANT RECEIVED

Good News! The Urbandale Historical Society is the recipient of a \$6,750 grant from Bravo Greater Des Moines.

Since 2005 the group has awarded more than \$18 million dollars to over 80 art, cultural and heritage organizations in the region. Bravo provides a collaborative focus to nurture and grow the arts by increasing funding through public and private sources. The communities of Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Carlisle, Clive, Des Moines, Indianola, Johnston, Norwalk, Polk City, Waukee, West Des Moines, Windsor Heights and Urbandale all share a portion of their hotel/motel tax proceeds to support Bravo. Thus, instead of receiving a grant directly from the Urbandale City Council as in earlier years, the Historical Society must make a grant application directly to Bravo.

Questions must be answered and supporting information must be provided each year for the grant application. That is why you are asked to give your name and zip code when you attend an event sponsored by the Historical Society. This provides a statistic related to the number of people who participate in each event from various areas. Because anyone is welcome to participate in our activities, it is helpful to share we are of importance to not only Urbandale but potentially to the whole Greater Des Moines community.

Through the years, Urbandale has been fortunate to receive a number of grants to support major improvements and maintenance projects. Grants helped renovate the master bedroom in the Olmsted-Urban House and more recently the sewing room which features an interesting clothing display. An addition was built on to the original Barn for added display space and a stairway to give access to the second floor haymow area. A new roof was installed and the aging boiler was replaced. New outdoor lighting improved the security system. A cedar wood fence was added to replace the original and enhance security for the property. Money received in 2015 is being used for a long-range landscape plan with the care, removal or replacement of trees on the property. Other grant funds were used to upgrade the computer and establish a web site.

The Olmsted-Urban House, with its collection of historic materials and artifacts is really Urbandale's

home. The Society greatly appreciates the support for its upkeep given by the Bravo grants.



TRIBUTE TO JANICE AND DEL WINEY

The Urbandale community suffered a great loss with the sudden passing of Janice Winey. She and husband Del had been dedicated workers for the Society from the time the Olmsted-Urban House was purchased in 1987.

Del spent many hours mowing the lawn, clearing extra growth cutting weeds, dismantling an old garage to make room for the future barn, and sharing in House maintenance.

Starting in the 1990's Del and Janice were instrumental in scouting the area to plan for the first of many Historical Society sponsored bus trips. After an extended illness at home, Del passed away in 1999. The pergola in the garden was built in his memory.

Janice continued her work for the Society with programs, publicity, Punch on the Porch, hostessing upstairs at Open House events, helping with the Plant Sale, providing refreshments for countless events, and helping take care of the House. She shared her experiences with farm life, rural schools, serving as a secretary to the guidance counselors at Urbandale High School, volunteer with DUNA, and years of family life in Urbandale. She helped make many wise decisions through the years about the restoration of the Olmsted-Urban House and the acquisition of materials, and was instrumental in the coordination of the many bus trips.

She will surely be missed.

TROLLEY PARK DEDICATED TO BILL LAWSON

Over 20 years ago, Bill Lawson, then president of the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DUNA), led fund-raising efforts for development of a commemorative Trolley Park at 70th Street and Roseland.

This year the City of Urbandale is honoring Bill's continued work in developing the area and preserving Urbandale history by officially naming the site Bill Lawson Trolley Park.

Funds for the park initially came from interested citizens and businesses in the area, with the City Council approving the rest of the costs. The project began when the Homeowners Association of Roseland Manor decided to donate the corner property to the City. The park was to have a skeletal replica (about 9 feet by 42 feet) of a trolley car. Of special interest are information plaques about the history of the trolley, the city's founding, coal mines, schools, Olmsted-Urban House and other aspects of Urbandale history.

Nearby as if waiting to board the street car are life-sized figures made of steel and painted white. They include a coal miner, a young boy wearing suspenders, a man reading a newspaper and two women dressed in period clothing. The sculptures are constructed on a concrete and brick walkway to simulate the tracks of the trolley.

It is truly appropriate that in our Centennial year that this site, which does so much to preserve Urbandale's history, is itself recognized. Stop someday with your family and take the streetcar walk to read the plaques and learn about our city. And thanks again Bill for making this project a reality.



NEW MEMBERS

The Urbandale Historical Society is happy to welcome new member:

Donna Scrimager
2000 61st Street
Des Moines, IA 50322
Phone 279-5292

Add this information to your copy of the Directory

