

**City of West
Branch
Office of the
City
Administrator**

To: Mayor and Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: May 27, 2011 Weekly Council Update

- **Tumblebooks and Tell Me More:** The West Branch Public Library has received a number of gift subscriptions to online resources from East Central Library Services as they will soon be absorbed into the State Library of Iowa. Two of these the Library will hope to keep as we move forward: Tumblebooks, a source of electronic picture books for children which has been mentioned in a prior update, and Tell Me More, online software for learning new languages. Tell Me More provides extensive learning paths for nine languages including Spanish, French, Italian, German, and Arabic. The software works with a user to not only understand vocabulary, but to also test accents and intonation through a microphone to improve how well you could be understood by native speakers.
- **Monthly Library Statistics:** The statistics at the West Branch Public Library were compiled for the month of April. The use numbers were fairly consistent with that of past years. Circulation came in at 3,408 to 3,426 last year and program attendance came in at 585 compared to 573 in 2010. Please note that due to the increase in use during FY2010, the numbers for the last two years have increased over prior years. Visits to the library were down to some extent during April of 2011 at 2,661 from 2,903 in 2010, though little effect was found in program attendance or circulation.
- **Park & Rec Update:** The Pee Wee division of Preschool Tball started last Saturday. Games are being played at Beranek Park. Adult Sand Volleyball is starting on June 5th. We will have either 12 or 13 teams participating this year.
- **Police Department Recruitment Update:** The recruitment for a new police chief continues to move forward. A job description has been developed and placed on the website. Council will have an opportunity to discuss it at the June 6th Meeting. Ads have been placed in several newspapers and online recruitment websites.
- **Summer Reading Program:** The West Branch Public Library will be officially kicking off the Summer Reading Program on Friday June 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at the West Branch Public Library. The event will feature the Iowa City Drum Circle.

The information provided is one-way communication and should not be discussed among you as this would be a violation of the open meeting law.