

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

To: Mayor and Council

From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Date: June 24, 2011

Weekly Council Update

- **Bypass at Lift Station:** On Monday June 20th, West Branch received two inches of rain. Our lift station was keeping up until one pumped failed. The west pump had a direct short in the wiring. Staff found an outside pull/terminal box that was filled with water as the cause of the short. Public Works staff made the decision to bypass in order to avoid filling basements with sewage. One 500 gallon per minute (gpm) pump was set at the lift station. This pump ran for two hours for a total of 60,000 gallons. This sewage bypass was dispensed out onto a farm field that eventually flowed to the Wapsinonoc Creek.

As required, the Public Works Department notified the Iowa Department of Natural Resources of this bypass event within twenty-four hours. In its first real test since its installation, the bottleneck project seemed to provide relief to the Pedersen Valley area, by performing as designed to improve the flow of wastewater during heavy rain events in this area. With engineering underway on the lift station project and construction expected to take place next summer, we look forward to the time when the City will not have to bypass or worry about sewage back-ups with each heavy rain event.

- **T-Ball:** Park and Recreation summer programs are in full swing. The first session of Preschool T-ball, the Pee Wee Division will finish on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Games are played at Beranek Park on Saturday mornings. The second session of T-ball, the Rookie Division, will start July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Volleyball:** The Harvey Peden Sand Volleyball League started June 5<sup>th</sup>. There are twelve teams registered for the league. Last year there were eleven teams. Teams are scheduled to play two games every Sunday at Beranek Park. Game times are 4:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm and 9:00pm. Due to the large number of teams, Park & Recreation Director Melissa Russell will be reformatting the end-of-the-season tournament so that it will hopefully not last all night.

- **Swimming Lessons:** Swimming Lessons started on Monday June 20<sup>th</sup>. This year we have 34 children registered to ride the swim bus. We leave from the Bus Barn by the Public Library at 7:45 am and return around 10:00am. Park and Recreation Director Melissa Russell will be on vacation from June 24 until July 5<sup>th</sup>. While Melissa is out, Administrative Assistant Ashley Borland-Kaalberg will be supervising swimming lessons. We are also planning to have several High School volunteers who may also be riding along.
  
- **Lunch Bunch:** The Lunch Bunch program is in full swing. This is a new program that was started last year. On Tuesdays, children come to Town Hall for a lunch time meal. Park & Rec has received several donations to help offset the cost of food. After eating and cleaning up, the group does a project together. This week they started a two-part project, paper Mache piñatas. On Tuesday we paper mached the balloon and next week, they will be decorating and filling them.
  
- **Summer Camp:** Summer Camp registration is progressing well. Currently there are 26 children registered. Last year, the bulk of registrations were received in July. When 30 registrations are received, Park & Rec will start placing children on a waiting list. Both in-town and out-of-town trips are being planned as part of this year's camp.
  
- **Police Chief Recruitment Community Meeting:** Mayor Kessler hosted the first of two public input meetings on the police chief recruitment on Thursday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Residents have another opportunity to voice their suggestions on Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
  
- **RAGRAI Update:** A meeting was held on Thursday June 23<sup>rd</sup> to continue discussions on traffic control for RAGBRAI. In addition to the National Park Service, we will have volunteers from AmeriCorps, the Lions Club and the American Legion assisting with traffic control on Saturday morning July 30<sup>th</sup>.
  
- **Comprehensive Plan Update Kick-Off Meeting:** A joint meeting of the West Branch Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council will take place on Monday July 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the West Branch Council Chamber, located at 110 N. Poplar Street. The purpose of the meeting will be to kick-off the comprehensive plan update process. Nicole Turpin, Regional Planning Coordinator with the East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) will be on hand to provide an overview of the process.

**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.**