

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

To: Mayor and Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: November 18, 2011
Weekly Council Update

- **Municipal Leadership Academy:** The Iowa League of Cities, Institute of Public Affairs and Iowa State University will be hosting the Municipal Leadership Academy (MLA) in the coming weeks. The training is offered to elected officials every other year beginning after the municipal elections. MLA is a four-part workshop series. Workshops are held at six locations around the state, including Cedar Rapids on Saturday, November 19 at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center. The agenda for MLA Part One includes:
 - City Budgets
 - Effective City Council and Meetings
 - The Ethical City Official
 - Introduction to Municipal Law

Attendees also receive a copy of the newly revised Iowa Municipal Policy Leaders' Handbook as part of their MLA Part One registration fee. City officials can register just for MLA Part One or for the first three parts of the MLA series for a discounted price. Both of our incoming Councilmembers, along with Mayor Kessler, plan to attend on Saturday.

- **Fiscal Year 2013 Budget:** City Administrator Matt Muckler and Deputy Clerk Dawn Brandt attended the Iowa League of Cities Annual Budget Workshop on Wednesday. The rollback for residential property in fiscal year 2013 is 50.7518%, up from 48.5299% in the current year. The League is projecting that potential increases to the gas tax and/or registration fees will be a topic of discussion in the coming legislative session. More discussions on property tax reform are also expected to take place. The League also reported that there was a 3.9% increase in the U.S. Consumer Price Index from September 2010 to September 2011.

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.