

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

To: Mayor and Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: December 2, 2011
Weekly Council Update

- **Annual Audit:** The City's Annual Audit has been released. The City maintained the property tax level at \$12.04/thousand dollars of taxable value, which is lower than fiscal year 2009, when the property tax levy was \$12.14/thousand of taxable value. The City was also able to reduce our bonds and outstanding debt from \$2,856,768 to \$2,622,133. Due to funding for the Fire Station Expansion Project from the Local Option Sales Tax and Safe Routes to School Grant Funding, revenue has increased by 21%, but the actual amount of revenue excluding these two projects is down 4.7%. Budgeted expenditures, excluding these two projects is expected to decrease by 2.3%. If these estimates are realized, the City's budgeted cash balance is expected to increase slightly by the close of fiscal year 2012. An electronic copy of the Audit can be found on the City Website on the Administration Finances page at <http://westbranchiowa.org/departments/finances>
- **Library Update:** The West Branch Public Library has several items going on over the next few weeks. The library is participating in Christmas Past and will have several crafts available Friday night in addition to snacks and warm drinks. Also, the Friends of the West Branch Public Library have approved the purchase of a sign for the west side of the library facing Poplar St. As it currently stands, there is no distinct identification of the library on the west side of the building and, since it is the side at which most people approach the library, the lack of identification has caused many difficulties with those that are new members of our community or visiting. The sign will match the design of the one on the east side and is currently under construction.
- **Christmas Past:** Staff has been working hard to prepare for Christmas Past. The Parks & Recreation Department will host Kid's Crafts at the City Offices and we once again welcome Gibson's Trains back to the Council Chamber. At 11:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, the 5k Frosty Frenzy Run/Walk will take place at Hoover Elementary. The Parks and Recreation Commission has taken the lead in organizing the event and the West Branch Police Department will provide traffic control.

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.