

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

To: Mayor and Council

From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Date: September 14, 2012

Weekly Council Update

- **Prescription Drug Disposal Event:** On September 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the West Branch Police Department in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to West Branch United Methodist Church at 203 N. Downey Street. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last October, Americans turned in 377,080 pounds—188.5 tons—of prescription drugs at over 5,300 sites operated by the DEA and nearly 4,000 state and local law enforcement partners. In its three previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners took in almost a million pounds—nearly 500 tons—of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Four days after the first event, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an “ultimate user” of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the Attorney General to accept them. The Act also allows the Attorney General to authorize long term care facilities to dispose of their residents’ controlled substances in certain instances. DEA is drafting regulations to implement the Act, a process that can take as long as 24 months. Until new regulations are in place, local law enforcement agencies like the West Branch Police Department and the DEA will continue to hold prescription drug take-back events every few months.

- **Library News:** The West Branch Public Library Board of Trustees approved a contract with FEH Associates to provide site selection and pre-funding design architectural services. The cost of both services is \$29,500 and will be funded through current library savings CDs. Work on the site selection process will begin shortly with pre-funding design to begin after the selection process is completed. The library has also received a donation in memory of Carol Secrest. Per the wishes of the family and requests made at the library's April community forums, the library is looking at putting in an outdoor reading area. Selection of the items in the area will be based on stability and sturdiness, but also the ability to be moved at a point in the future per the site selection process.

- **Volleyball, Flag Football and Running Club Updates:** Fall Park and Recreation Programs are in full swing. Registration participation numbers look comparable to previous years: PreK-2nd grade flag football 82 children, 3rd-6th grade volleyball 63 registered children, and 3rd-4th grade flag football 32 youth participants. Flag football for PreK-2nd grade started on Tuesday night. There are two different divisions: PreK-K and 1st-2nd. Each division has four teams. Park and Recreation Commission members Tim Shields and Shane Staker took the lead in organizing practices for the flag football coaches. Youth volleyball also started this week. Each division has three teams. 3rd/4th grade volleyball games will be on Saturday mornings and early afternoons, and 5th/6th grade will play Sunday afternoons. 3rd/4th grade flag football games will start on Sunday September 23rd. Parks and Recreation will once again have four teams in the league. High School senior Cole Cook has organized the referees for the 3rd/4th grade flag football league. Referees can choose to either collect Silver cord hours or get paid to ref the games. 3rd/4th grade flag football games will be played for 4 weeks. The second session of the Running Club has twenty-six registered participants. There are three more speakers lined up for Wednesday nights: two nutritionists and a representative from Running Wild. The runners are gearing up for the Race for the Schools in Iowa City on October 14th.

- **Public Works Projects:** Asphalt work was completed on the Middle School Access Road Improvement Project this week. Public Works staff will be finishing the final grading, seeding the grass and installing the overflow pipe from the water tower next week. Then we will install signage, paint lines for the parking spots and connect the sidewalk from behind the daycare to the new sidewalk along the new road. We are tentatively planning for an opening date of September 24th. Public Works staff has also been working on Heritage Square. This project will provide additional landscaping and a walkway into the City from the National Historic Site. Some concrete work was completed today. In the coming two weeks, Public Works staff will continue to work on the project, including more concrete work and landscaping.

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.