

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

To: Mayor and Council

From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Date: October 5, 2012 Weekly Council Update

- **Council Goal Setting Session:** On Tuesday October 9th at 6:30 p.m., Council Goal Setting will take place in the Council Chamber. Council members will have the opportunity to set goals for staff for the coming year.
- **Park & Rec Registrations:** West Branch Park & Rec is now accepting registrations for Pre-K-Kindergarten and 1st-2nd Grade Basketball. Pre K-K youth basketball will meet once a week on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on November 3rd, November 10th, November 17th and December 1st. Pre K children must be at least 4 years old by November 3rd. 1st-2nd Grade youth basketball will meet once a week on Saturday mornings at 11:00 a.m. on November 3rd, November 10th, November 17th and December 1st. This is a volunteer coached program. We will need at least two coaches per team. The registration deadline is October 17th. Late registrations will only be accepted if there are enough coaches and space on a team. For more information, please contact Park & Rec Director Melissa Russell at (319) 930-0393 or via e-mail at recdirector@westbranchiowa.org.
- **New Police Vehicle:** The new Police Department Ford Explorer is now in service. Many residents were able to see it for the first time leading the Homecoming Parade on Wednesday evening. Administration and Police Department staff have received several compliments from residents on the appearance of the new vehicle. Bids will be accepted for the old Ford Crown Victoria in the coming weeks. Advertisements will be placed in the West Branch Times and on the City Website.
- **Library Update:** The West Branch Public Library Board of Trustees has set the meeting for the site selection goal setting process for the evening of October 22nd to be held in the city council chambers. The meeting will be hosted by FEH Associates, the library's selected architecture firm and George Lawson, library planner. The purpose of the meeting will be to set the goals that will be used to evaluate individual sites and weigh them to determine the best site or sites. The goals would be something on the order of proximity to downtown, residing on a main through-way of town, or being centralized within the city limits.

- **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) collected over fifty-two pounds of unwanted and expired drugs. We thank Lead Reserve Officer Todd Thurman for organizing this successful event.

- **Iowa League of Cities 2013 Legislative Priorities:** During the Annual Business Meeting at the League's Annual Conference & Exhibit held in Sioux City from September 26-28, League members approved the following language for their 2013 Legislative Priorities:

Responsible Property Tax Reform: Enact reform that addresses commercial property tax relief without negatively impacting local governments' ability to provide necessary infrastructure and services or creating a tax shift.

Increase Road and Bridge Funding : Raise infrastructure revenues through user fees such as a gas tax increase and other mechanisms to maintain critical funding for Iowa's roads and bridges.

Fair and Sustainable Public Pension Systems: Address the exponentially increasing costs and inequities under the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (MFPRSI). Ensure fairness and hold down costs to local governments participating in the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS).

Local Decision Making: Allow for more efficient use of city resources and enhance transparency by shifting requirements for newspaper publication to online publication. Remove unnecessary requirements for certain boards and commissions. Alleviate public safety costs by reducing costs for training officers and increasing fairness in funding sources.

Home Town Economic Development: Strengthen and maintain the ability of cities to promote economic development through programs like Vision Iowa, including the CAT and RECAT programs, Main Street Iowa, the Enterprise Zone and Historic Tax Credits programs, Brownfield and Grayfield tax credits, Targeted Jobs tax credits and Tax Increment Finance.

Assist Communities with Water Infrastructure: Help communities struggling to implement expensive water and wastewater regulations through additional grant funding and technical assistance.

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.