

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

To: Mayor and Council

From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Date: November 30, 2012

Weekly Council Update

- **Library Update:** The West Branch Public Library has spent much of the last week preparing for Christmas Past. Again this year the library will have warm drinks, snacks, and crafts. This year's crafts are a sugar cone Christmas Tree and a mason jar luminary. The library regularly illuminates the walkway up Poplar Street to help guide those who walk up during Christmas Past and some of the luminaries decorated at this year's event will be used to help light the way along Poplar Street in years to come.
- **Christmas Past Information:** Main Street West Branch, the Herbert Hoover Museum and the National Historic Site will join forces to kick off the holiday season with the annual Christmas Past Celebration on the weekend of November 30 - December 2. The activities are free, however visitors are encouraged to bring a canned good for the local food pantry.

The festivities officially begin with the lighting of the tree in the Village Green at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, November 30. The University of Iowa's Collegium Tubum will be playing holiday carols on their tubas during this ceremony.

Horse-drawn wagon rides on Friday and Saturday evenings start at 5:30 p.m. from the Visitor Center of the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. The rides take visitors through the historic site and historic downtown West Branch. The last wagon rides begin at 8:00 p.m. The Visitor Center and Herbert Hoover Birthplace Cottage will be open to visitors on Friday and Saturday nights until 9:00 p.m. For more information, call Herbert Hoover National Historic Site at (319) 643-2541.

Special Hoover Museum hours for the Christmas Past weekend are Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free admission begins Friday at 5 and continues throughout the weekend. This year's holiday exhibit is *A Cowboy Christmas* featuring twenty trees each decorated to represent a different aspect of cowboy life.

Performances inside the Hoover Museum include entertainment for all ages. The Young Footlitters will be performing *Christmas Crisis at the Mistletoe Mesa* Friday night at 7:00 p.m., Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

Performances are free and there is no reserved seating. The Uncalled Four quartet will be singing Christmas carols in the rotunda Friday and Saturday evenings and the West Branch Community Choir will perform on Sunday afternoon at 1:30. The annual Holiday Open House is Sunday from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. with Santa Claus and free holiday refreshments served.

Main Street West Branch will feature brick fireplaces for roasting marshmallows, fresh cooked dough-nuts, and photos with Santa. Downtown shops will be open for business Friday and Saturday evenings, and the local churches will have a Cookie Walk and Christmas Candy Sale.

For more information on any of these events please call Main Street West Branch at 319-643-7100, the Herbert Hoover Museum at 319-643-5301 or the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site at 319-643-2541.

Friday, November 30, 2012

- 5:30 – 8:00 pm, Horse-drawn rides
- 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Quartet in the rotunda, The Uncalled Four
- 7:00 pm, The Young Footliters, auditorium – *Christmas Crisis at the Mistletoe Mesa*
- Brick fireplaces for marshmallow roasting, homemade dough-nuts, photos with Santa and area businesses open late

Saturday, Dec. 1

- 6:00 – 8:00 pm, the Uncalled Four, rotunda
- 7:00 pm, The Young Footliters, auditorium - *Christmas Crisis at the Mistletoe Mesa*
- 5:30, horse-drawn rides
- Candy sale, cookie walk

Sunday, Dec. 2

- 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Holiday open house with refreshments
- 1:30 – 3:30, Santa and Aunt Holly in Olberg Room
- 1:30 – West Branch Community Choir in rotunda singing carols
- 2:00 – The Young Footliters in the auditorium - *Christmas Crisis at the Mistletoe Mesa*

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.