

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

To: City Council

From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Date: April 12, 2013 Weekly Council Update

- **Prescription Drug Disposal Event- April 27th:** From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday April 27th, 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 City Hall at 110 N. Poplar St. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last September, Americans turned in over 488,000 pounds—over 244 tons—of prescription drugs at over 5,200 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 two million pounds—over 1,000 tons—of pills. In West Branch alone, more than 30 residents took advantage of the event last fall and turned in over 52 pounds of unwanted drugs.

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.

Until new regulations are in place to facilitate safe and easy disposal of these drugs, local law enforcement agencies like the West Branch Police Department and the DEA will continue to hold prescription drug take-back events approximately twice per year.

- **Earth Day Tree Planting Update:** The Earth Day Tree Planting Event is scheduled for April 22nd. The response from West Branch Community Schools and Scattergood schools has been outstanding. Currently there are approximately 230 volunteers signed up to help on April 22nd! The day has been divided into 1 hour shifts until 3pm. The first shift of volunteers will arrive around 9:00 a.m.

- **Upcoming Events:**

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| ▪ Monday April 15 th at 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| ▪ Thursday April 18 th at 6:30 p.m. | Preservation Commission Meeting |
| ▪ Friday April 19 th at 11:00 a.m. | Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Commencement |
| ▪ Monday April 22 nd - all day | Earth Day Tree Planting Event |
| ▪ Tuesday April 23 rd at 6:30 p.m. | Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting |
| ▪ Saturday April 27 th , 10:00-2:00 | Prescription Drug Disposal Event |

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.