

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

To: City Council

From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Date: May 17, 2013

Weekly Council Update

- **Sewer Main Point Repairs:** Lynch's Excavating has begun work on some of the remaining point repairs needing replacement before lining and grouting of those lines can be completed. The majority of the remaining work in this phase is located on Sixth Street with part of it encompassing the corner of Main Street and Sixth Street. The work began early this week and is expected to take four weeks to complete. Public Works staff will be replacing the concrete as quickly as possible after Lynch's are done with their portion of the work. Staff has also recently poured back most of the areas where either point repairs or water main breaks caused removal of a street. While we try to keep street closures to a minimum, they are necessary at times. Public Works would like to thank the residents of these streets for their continued patience and help with keeping our employees safe.

- **Iowa League of Cities Property Tax Reform Update:** "We have heard that the property tax conference committee report will soon be filed. [Here is a draft that has been circulated.](#) Once filed, the report cannot be amended. To become law, this report must be first approved by the conference committee members, then by both chambers and then be signed by the Governor. The property tax conference committee members are: Representatives Tom Sands(R), Steve Olson(R), Chris Hagenow(R), Jo Oldson(D) and Roger Thomas(D) and Senators Matt McCoy(D), Joe Bolkcom(D), Bill Dotzler(D), Bill Dix(R) and Randy Feenstra(R).

Background information: The League has incorporated the provisions of the conference committee report into our Property Tax Model. You can [find your city's impact here](#), but note, the model does not reflect the individual losses to each city from telecommunications property tax changes or from the creation of the new multi-residential property tax class which rolls back to residential levels. Please, see [the model and instructions](#) for more details. Please be sure to take note of the assumptions included in the model. They are indicated at the bottom of the bright yellow summary block."

- **Server Purchase Update:** City staff is moving forward to purchase a new server and three new work stations in the City Office. These upgrades to our system were planned for the current fiscal year and are tentatively planned to be updated on June 10th. F&B Communications, from Wheatland IA, was selected as the provider. F&B is currently providing various information technology services in several locations in Cedar County.

- **Summer Reading Program:** The West Branch Public Library is in the last preparation for the annual Summer Reading Program. Beginning Friday, May 17th, classes from Hoover Elementary School will begin visiting to hear about the program including reading incentives, events, and prizes. An estimated 414 children will visit the library during this process. Information will also be going out in the school's Friday Folders, through articles and ads in the Times, and is online at www.wbpl.org/srp. Details on the programs and events will be provided in the next weekly update.

- **COPS Grant:** Police Chief Mike Horihan and City Administrator Matt Muckler have been in daily contact with our grant writer, Don Davis with eCivis, as we move forward in preparing a COPS Grant application. The Department of Justice has had technical difficulties for most of the week with the application website. Despite the technical difficulties, work has continued on the application. The COPS Grant requires that applicants select one focus area for the grant. Youth Safety Programs is the focus area that we are currently pursuing.

- **Upcoming Events:**

- Monday May 20th at 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- Thursday May 23rd at 6:30 p.m. Preservation Commission Meeting
- Tuesday May 28th at 6:30 p.m. Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- Friday May 31st at 7:00 p.m. Summer Reading Kick-Off
- Monday June 3rd at 1:30 p.m. Snack and Stories at the Library
- Tuesday June 4th at 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch at Town Hall
- Tuesday June 4th at 7:00 p.m. Park & Recreation Commission Meeting
- Wednesday June 5th at 10:30 a.m. Teen Program at the Library
- Thursday June 6th at 1:30 p.m. Library Thursday Theater
- Thursday June 6th at 7:00 p.m. Music on the Green
- Sunday June 9th Harvey Peden Sand Volleyball League
- Monday June 10th at 1:30 p.m. Snack and Stories at the Library
- Monday June 10th at 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting (Tentative)
- Tuesday June 11th at 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch at Town Hall
- Tuesday June 11th at 6:30 p.m. Animal Control Commission Meeting
- Tuesday June 11th at 6:30 p.m. Grout Museum Program at the Library
- Wednesday June 12th at 10:30 a.m. Teen Program at the Library
- Thursday June 13th at 1:30 p.m. Library Thursday Theater
- Thursday June 13th, 6:30 p.m. Library Board of Trustees Meeting
- Thursday June 13th at 7:00 p.m. Music on the Green
- Sunday June 16th Harvey Peden Sand Volleyball League
- Monday June 17th at 1:30 p.m. Snack and Stories at the Library
- Monday June 17th-Friday June 28th Swim Lessons in Tipton
- Tuesday June 18th at 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch at Town Hall
- Tuesday June 18th at 6:30 p.m. Blank Park Zoo Program at the Library
- Wednesday June 19th at 10:30 a.m. Teen Program at the Library
- Wednesday June 19th at 6:30 p.m. Board of Adjustment Meeting (Tentative)
- Thursday June 20th at 1:30 p.m. Library Thursday Theater
- Thursday June 20th at 7:00 p.m. Music on the Green
- Sunday June 23rd Harvey Peden Sand Volleyball League
- Monday June 24th at 1:30 p.m. Snack and Stories at the Library
- Monday June 24th at 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting (Tentative)
- Tuesday June 25th at 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch at Town Hall
- Tuesday June 25th at 6:30 p.m. Diggers Program at the Library
- Wednesday June 26th at 10:30 a.m. Teen Program at the Library
- Thursday June 27th at 1:30 p.m. Library Thursday Theater
- Thursday June 27th at 7:00 p.m. Music on the Green
- Sunday June 30th Harvey Peden Sand Volleyball League

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.