

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

To: City Council

From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Date: June 14, 2013 Weekly Council Update

- **Lift Station:** Ricklefs Excavating, Ltd. has requested an extension on the lift station project, citing the heavy rains that we have experienced this spring. Ricklefs is scheduling to remobilize next week to perform grading operations. They will make every attempt to complete the project within the specified project time but estimate that they have lost between 4-6 weeks of construction time due to weather conditions. Work is continuing on the control building, generator and the structures that are already in place. The critical piece of the project is the grading and other work is dependent on its completion.
- **Safe Routes to School:** Safe Routes to School Program Director Kathy Ridnour notified City Administrator Matt Muckler that our grant application was not successful. There were 40 applicants, but only the top five projects were funded. In future years, funding for these projects will be available through local Councils of Government (COG). Ms. Ridnour encouraged the City to seek funding in future years from ECI COG, which is our COG for transportation. (For all other services provided by a COG, the City of West Branch is assigned to the East Central Intergovernmental Association.) The City Council budgeted \$47,611 for Safe Routes contingency funds. In the case that the grant was not received, that money was designated for use on the Maple Street Sidewalk Project (from Orange Street to West Branch Middle School) and/or the development of a capital improvement plan.
- **Dog Park Meeting:** A planning meeting to discuss further development of the dog park will take place on Thursday evening June 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the City Office. Everyone interested in assisting with the dog park is encouraged to attend.
- **Summer Reading Program:** The West Branch Public Library's summer reading program is off to a great start after three weeks. The kickoff event on May 31st drew 189 visitors of all ages to watch the magic of Rick Eugene Brammer. Attendance at the other library summer events has remained strong with 91 visiting the first Snack & Stories, 71 watching the first Thursday Theater, and 66 listening to Preschool Storytime. Registration for reading incentives is also very strong, already surpassing prior registrations in some age levels. The library will provide more information on the progress of the summer events in the coming weeks.

- **Park & Rec Summer Program:** Summer Park and Recreation activities continue to be well attended. Swimming lessons start June 17th and will continue Monday-Friday until June 28th. This year there are 55 children riding the bus to swim lessons in Tipton. This is comparable to the number of participants last year. Lessons start at 8:30am in Tipton. The bus leaves West Branch at 8:00 a.m.

Harvey Peden Sand Volleyball started June 9th. This season there are fifteen teams registered. The teams have enjoyed the improvements made to the park such the cement pad under water pump and the new walking path. This year, Parks and Recreation replaced one of the nets that had become ripped last summer.

Lunch Bunch numbers have remained steady for the first two programs. On Tuesday June 18th the theme will be Crafty Kids. After lunch, Town Hall will be set up into various stations. This will allow participants to move from station to station and try a variety of activities. McDonalds is donating apple pies for the day.

The deadline is quickly approaching to purchase tickets for the West Branch Night at the Ballpark on June 29th. Tickets are just \$7 a person. Interested participants can purchase tickets online or via the registration form. If you have any questions please contact Melissa Russell.

- **Upcoming Events:**

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| ▪ Sunday June 16 th | Harvey Peden Sand Volleyball League |
| ▪ Monday June 17 th at 1:30 p.m. | Snack and Stories at the Library |
| ▪ Monday June 17 th -Friday June 28 th | Swim Lessons in Tipton |
| ▪ Tuesday June 18 th at 11:30 a.m. | Lunch Bunch at Town Hall |
| ▪ Tuesday June 18 th at 6:30 p.m. | Blank Park Zoo Program at the Library |
| ▪ Wednesday June 19 th at 10:30 a.m. | Teen Program at the Library |
| ▪ Wednesday June 19 th at 6:30 p.m. | Board of Adjustment Meeting (Tentative) |
| ▪ Thursday June 20 th at 1:30 p.m. | Library Thursday Theater |
| ▪ Thursday June 20 th at 6:30 p.m. | Dog Park Meeting |
| ▪ Thursday June 20 th at 7:00 p.m. | Music on the Green |
| ▪ Sunday June 23 rd | Harvey Peden Sand Volleyball League |
| ▪ Monday June 24 th at 1:30 p.m. | Snack and Stories at the Library |
| ▪ Monday June 24 th at 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| ▪ Tuesday June 25 th at 11:30 a.m. | Lunch Bunch at Town Hall |
| ▪ Tuesday June 25 th at 6:30 p.m. | Diggers Program at the Library |
| ▪ Wednesday June 26 th at 10:30 a.m. | Teen Program at the Library |
| ▪ Thursday June 27 th at 1:30 p.m. | Library Thursday Theater |
| ▪ Thursday June 27 th at 7:00 p.m. | Music on the Green |
| ▪ Sunday June 30 th | 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.