

To: City Council

From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Date: September 20, 2013

Weekly Council Update

- **Fire Department Receives \$75,000 Anonymous Donation:** The West Branch Fire Department has received an anonymous grant of \$75,000. The funds were deposited into City accounts earlier this week and the donation simply asked for a report on the status of the project and use of the funds by the end of April 2014. The West Branch Fire Department maintains a capital improvement plan for larger purchases. Chief Kevin Stoolman expects that the Department will utilize this donation to address some of their pressing capital needs.
- **Candidate Filing Closed on Sept. 19th:** Seven candidates filed for elected positions prior to the 5:00 p.m. September 18th filing deadline. Mark Worrell will run unopposed for Mayor and Brian Pierce will run unopposed for the two-year Council seat. Five have filed for the two four-year council seats: Cory Kessler, Jim Oaks, Tim Shields, Mary Beth Stevenson and Dick Stoolman.
- **Candidate Withdrawal Deadline is Sept. 24th:** The last day for candidates to withdraw by filing a written request with the city clerk is Tuesday September 24th. The city office will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on September 24th to accept withdrawal requests. This is also the deadline for the filing of written objections to nomination papers or eligibility of a candidate with the city clerk.
- **Cake Pans at the Library:** The West Branch Public Library is always looking for new opportunities for the members of our community. One idea that has been asked of the library for many years is circulating cake pans. They take up a lot of space in household cabinets and are used very infrequently making them a good circulating item. The library will have many options available but will take the responsibility of providing space for them. Within the collection, they will reside in currently unused space above and below the large print books, kept open from books for accessibility.
- **Zumba Classes:** Zumba registration forms are now on the City Website. Participants can register for the entire session (15 total classes) for \$60 or purchase a punch pass good for 5 classes.

- **Park Planning RFQ:** The Park & Rec Commission met on Wednesday September 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber to review the submissions and discuss recommendations for the City Council. New commission members Cory Nalan and Liz Seydel participated in their first meeting. Commission members have selected some firms for interviews. Council members are invited to participate in these interviews. Please contact Administrative Assistant Shanelle Peden in the City Office for an interview schedule.

- **Poplar Street Project:** Public Works will be installing new water main on Poplar St. starting Sept. 30th. The project is expected to last through Oct. 4th. During this time there will be intermittent shutdowns while pipes are connected affecting Poplar St., W. Main St., Wetherell St., Oliphant St. from Main St. north to the Elementary School and the Poplar Trace in the National Park. The Elementary School water service should not be disrupted. Following the water main replacement Public Works will be replacing road surfaces removed during the project. Public Works will also begin removal and replacement of the City Office parking lot. This project is expected to continue through the month of October. During this time there may be temporary lane closures and no parking in barricaded areas around the city office. All vehicles should be removed from the parking area between Main St. and the City Office by 7:00 a.m. on Mon. Sept. 30th.

- **COPS Grant:** COPS Office officials have announced U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) funding awards for Arizona and California this week. More than \$125 million will be awarded nationally through the COPS Hiring Program, with the entire list of 2013 grantees to be released before September 30th. The West Branch Police Department, in partnership with eCivis, submitted a COPS Grant application and is eagerly awaiting the announcement which will come within the next ten days.

- **Upcoming Events:**

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| ▪ September 23 rd – October 3 rd | Annual Audit |
| ▪ September 26 th – September 27 th | Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference |
| ▪ Monday September 30 th , 5:30 p.m. | Urban Renewal Plan Consultation |
| ▪ Monday September 30 th , 6:30 p.m. | Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting |
| ▪ Wednesday October 2 nd | West Branch Homecoming Parade |
| ▪ Monday October 7 th at 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |
| ▪ Tuesday October 8 th at 6:30 p.m. | Animal Control Commission Meeting |
| ▪ Thursday October 10 th , 6:30 p.m. | Library Board of Trustees Meeting |
| ▪ Monday October 21 st at 7:00 p.m. | City Council Meeting |

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.