

To: City Council

From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Date: November 23, 2013 Weekly Council Update

- **Park Planning Kick-Off:** A joint meeting of the Park & Rec Commission and the City Council will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Monday December 2, 2013, just prior to the regular Council Meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Brian Boelk with HBK Engineering will be present to help us kick off the planning process and provide the Council and Commission with more information concerning the park planning schedule and process.
- **Thanksgiving Holiday:** City Offices will be closed on Thursday November 28th and Friday November 29th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Due to the holiday, trash and recycling will be picked up in West Branch on Saturday November 30, 2013. All recycling and garbage should be placed at the curb no later than 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Residents with questions are encouraged to contact the City Office at (319) 643-5888.
- **Health Insurance Literacy Workshops:** The West Branch Public Library will be working in conjunction with Patton Family Health and the ISU Extension to provide two workshops on Health Insurance literacy on December 12th and 14th. With the federal health insurance marketplace opening and Affordable Care Act deadlines approaching, many people don't have an understanding of what's available to them and how to make the best insurance decisions going forward. These workshops will assist residents in learning what is available to them, how to use available resources, and how to navigate the changing insurance landscape. Due to space and materials concerns, each workshop will only be open to fifteen people. Registration is available on the Library's website.
- **Park & Rec Programs:** The West Branch Parks and Recreation schedule of activities starting in January has been finalized. Fitness classes will remain as the primary activities for adults. Pilates and gym walking have been added started in January. Several new youth programs will start including Tot Time on Wednesday mornings. This is a free activity. The Iowa Gymnast will be coming to Town Hall and offering several mobile class options. On Thursdays from 10:00-10:30 am will be the PreK class. The elementary tumbling class will be Thursdays from 3:30-4:00 p.m. The cost of the Gymnast classes are \$85 per participant and the classes will run for twelve weeks. Today was the last day for PreK-2nd grade basketball. Once again, this four-week program was successful and well attended. Youth programs such as basketball are only possible because of parent volunteers.
- **A Watershed Approach to Community Growth:** City Administrator Matt Muckler, Public Works Director Matt Goodale and Water/Wastewater Operator Paul Stagg attended a one-day workshop on Monday November 18th concerning watershed management and comprehensive land use planning. Topics discussed included the nine elements of a watershed plan, the "triple bottom line" approach to watershed management and the benefits of stormwater management plans.

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.