

To: City Council  
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator  
Date: March 11, 2016  
Weekly Council Update

**River Restoration Workshop:** Iowa Rivers Revival and the Cedar River Watershed Coalition are teaming up to present a workshop about natural river restoration benefits and practices on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at West Branch City Hall. All are invited. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

**Library Events during Spring Break:** The West Branch Public library has three events during the week of Spring Break at the schools, March 14<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>:

First, on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:30 p.m., the library will be again combining technology, creativity, and gaming with another Minecraft Monday. We'll have prizes, snacks, drinks, and a creative challenge that can only be solved with digital building blocks.

Next, we have a Thursday Theater scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. While we can't say what movie we'll show here, it'll be prominently displayed on the front page of [wbpl.org](http://wbpl.org).

Lastly, and in no way related to spring break, the library has scheduled another Library... After Hours movie featuring a recent Academy Awards nominee on Friday evening, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. As always, Library... After Hours programs are limited to those 21 and older. As with the event above, the movie title will be available prominently on [wbpl.org](http://wbpl.org).

**Sanitary Sewer Point Repairs on North 4<sup>th</sup> Street:** The City of West Branch will begin sanitary sewer repairs to portions of North 4<sup>th</sup> Street beginning on March 21, 2016. The first repair will take place in the intersection of North 4<sup>th</sup> Street and East Orange Street. During this repair there will be a partial street closure which will result in only one lane of travel being open for the entirety of the project and may result in short term temporary road closures for traffic on North 4<sup>th</sup> Street. No traffic will be permitted to enter North 4<sup>th</sup> Street from East Orange Street. Public Works is requesting that all heavy truck traffic enter North 4<sup>th</sup> Street from 280<sup>th</sup> Street.

This repair will also involve installation of a main water valve. Installation of this valve will require temporary disconnection, water loss and a boil order for all affected residents. Residents living in the 300 and 400 block of North 4<sup>th</sup> Street will be under a boil after the repairs. All affected residents will have a notice hand delivered to their door notifying them when the boil order begins and again when it is lifted. The repair itself should be fairly quick with water service being interrupted for 3 to 4 hours. This entire project is expected to be completed by Friday March 25 with the Street reopening on Monday March 28. Repairs at the intersection of East College Street and North 4<sup>th</sup> Street will follow completion of this project and will involve similar closures, detours and a boil order. A future update will provide details of that project.

**Residential Curbside Yard Waste Collection:** The City of West Branch will begin curbside yard waste collection on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. The City will then pickup yard waste on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Yard waste includes waste produced during gardening, grass clippings, leaves, flowers, branches and tree limbs. Yard waste must be placed in decomposable bags or reusable containers and cannot exceed fifty pounds per container. Tree limbs or branches must be placed in bundles no longer than four feet and must be bundled in a way that is manageable to pick up. The City will not accept any yard waste containing debris that would be picked up during normal trash collection (plastic, cans, bottles, etc.) or that is placed in plastic bags. Please contact Public Works Director Matt Goodale at (319) 325-8213 or the City Office at (319) 643-5888 with any questions or concerns.

**Cemetery Cleanup:** The City of West Branch will begin spring cleanup of the cemetery on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Please remove any flowers or decorations that you wish to keep. You may put them back after the cleanup is complete.

**Methodist Church Accessibility Project:** The West Branch United Methodist Church (WBUMC) is in the process of submitting a rezoning request and a site plan for an accessibility project that would add an elevator and make other improvements to their church located at 203 N. Downey. A pre-application conference on the project was held this morning. Rev. Alexis Johnson will introduce the project to the City Council at the March 21, 2016 City Council Meeting.

**Clerk's Lunch:** Deputy City Clerk Leslie Brick, City Administrator Matt Muckler, and Finance Director Gordon Edgar all attended a Cedar County Clerk's Lunch this week organized by the Cedar County Economic Development Commission (CCEDCO). Clerks from Stanwood, Tipton, and Bennett also participated. Topics discussed included online utility payment options, elections, budgeting, and economic development.

**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.**

# INTRODUCTION TO RIVER RESTORATION

**Monday, March 28, 5:30 PM**  
**Lime Creek Nature Center**  
**Mason City**

**Thursday, March 31, 3:00 PM**  
**West Branch City Hall**  
**West Branch**

**Thursday, April 7, 5:30 PM**  
**UNI BCS Building**  
**Cedar Falls**

Iowa Rivers Revival and the Cedar River Watershed Coalition are teaming up to present a series of introductory workshops about natural river restoration benefits and practices. Landowners, farmers, policymakers, city staffers, conservationists, educators, and the public are invited to attend the free, 1.5 hour-long workshops. Presentations will provide an overview of river restoration techniques and benefits, as well as highlight current river restoration efforts in the Cedar River Watershed.

Natural river restoration can be an affordable and practical solution for addressing streambank erosion issues across Iowa. Eroding streambanks can mean the loss of crop buffer areas, productive farmland, and local infrastructure. In addition, streambank erosion is a major contributor to sediment and nutrients in our water. Understanding river dynamics can lead to much more cost-effective, fish and wildlife friendly solutions to these problems. River restoration also enhances aquatic ecosystems and improves river recreation, fishing, and hunting – boosting local economies and providing public health and quality of life.

**Registration:** There is no fee to participate, but advanced registration is recommended due to limited space. **Please RSVP** by clicking [here](#) or by emailing [info@iowarivers.org](mailto:info@iowarivers.org).



*Stream restoration project on Dry Run Creek on the University of Northern Iowa campus, incorporating sloped banks, bank "hides" for fish habitat, and native prairie. The creek withstood the massive rains and floods of 2008, among other high flows. Photos courtesy of Josh Balk.*

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