

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

To: Mayor and Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: July 1, 2011 Weekly Council Update

- **Local Option Sales Tax:** The local option sales tax goes into effect today to assist in the recovery of the costs for the Fire Station Expansion Project. Residents will notice a tax increase on their utility bills and other applicable purchases made within the City. In general, restaurants, utilities, car repairs, clothing, retail and groceries (that are covered by retail sales taxes) are subject to the tax, while fuel, vehicle sales and hotels are not subject to the tax.
- **Property Tax Update:** On Wednesday afternoon June 29th, the Iowa League of Cities passed on the following report on property tax discussions at the State Legislature: “During a meeting of the conference committee on the standings bill, no agreement could be reached on property tax reform. It was removed from the conference committee report. This means the property tax issue is likely dead for the session.” The General Assembly did adjourn without taking action on the property tax issue this year.
- **Precinct Boundaries:** On June 20, 2011, the Cedar County Board of Supervisors discussed redistricting election precincts due to the 2010 Census. The population of the Gower-Springdale Election Precinct is now 3,547. Per Iowa Code Section 49.3(1), reprecincting is therefore required. After discussion, the Board decided that making the City of West Branch its own precinct would be less confusing and the most convenient for the citizens. A copy of the “2011 Reprecincting Instructions for Cities” is available by request at the City Office.
- **Library News:** Today marks the halfway point in the West Branch Public Library Summer Reading Program. To date, the library has had 337 youth registrations and 51 registrations for the adult program. In the past weeks since the last update, the library has had visits from the Grout Museum who gave tours inside their STARLAB, a portable planetarium, and a special sign language storytime given by ASL Translator, Maria Darnell. Weekly programs continue to include Snacks & Stories every Monday, a teen program every Wednesday, Thursday Theater every Thursday afternoon, and Preschool Storytime every Friday.
- **Police Chief Recruitment Community Meeting:** Residents will have their second opportunity to voice their suggestions to Mayor Kessler concerning the police chief recruitment on Thursday July 7th at 6:00 p.m. in the City Offices.
- **Comprehensive Plan Update Kick-Off Meeting:** A joint meeting of the West Branch Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council will take place on Monday July 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the West Branch Council Chamber, located at 110 N. Poplar Street. Please encourage interested residents to attend this meeting to learn more about how they will be able to participate in the comprehensive planning process.

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.