

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

To: Mayor and Council

From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Date: July 29, 2011

Weekly Council Update

- **Police Chief Appointment:** Mayor Kessler will be appointing Michael D. Horihan of Manning, Iowa as the West Branch Police Chief at the Monday August 1, 2011 Council Meeting. This appointment is subject to approval of the City Council. Mr. Horihan has thirty-four years law enforcement experience as trooper, firearms instructor, crisis negotiator, and safety education officer with the Iowa State Patrol. He also served in U.S. Army as military police officer for three years and is a graduate of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

- **Library News:** The Summer Reading Program wraps up this week at the West Branch Public Library. Regular programming will continue in August, though summer activities like Thursday Theater and Snacks & Stories had their last events this week. In total, 339 youth signed up for reading incentives this year and almost 1,700 people attended summer programming. Next year's program is already set (night and dreaming themes). Planning sessions for next year's program will begin later this fall.

- **Another Water Main Break:** At 3:20 p.m. on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Public Works staff was notified of a possible water leak at the intersection of Parkside and Cedar. When staff arrived, they determined a water main break had in fact occurred and made a repair with assistance from Lynch's Plumbing. After exposing the pipe, an 18-inch long crack was found on the four-inch main. Approximately thirty-seven inches of pipe was removed and replaced. Water service was restored to affected customers by 8:00 p.m.

While we normally see a higher number of water main breaks in the winter, we have seen a disproportionate number of water main breaks this summer. Part of the reason is that the soil is unusually dry, which causes it to contract. This can cause the pipe to break when it moves. This leak was located west of Parkside Drive just a few feet off of the road making for a quicker turn around on the project.

**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.**