



3/18/2020

PRESS RELEASE

DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS

Dear Citizens,

Many of you are aware that Governor Kim Reynolds has declared a State of Emergency in response to the confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state. I want to be clear that this new step is not a sign to panic. However, declaring an emergency has prompted the City of West Branch to institute the following measures:

- City Hall will be **Open to Essential Business Only**. The doors will be locked. Citizens will have to knock on the door and be prepared to state the nature of their business, or **call to make an appointment**. Citizens will be encouraged to use the City drop box (in front of the City Hall) when possible, and pay utilities on line or by telephone.
- **Town Hall and Public Restrooms will be closed** until further notice. Parks are open, but it is recommended that patrons disinfect playground equipment, benches, tables or other park equipment before and after use.
- Citizens wishing to use the city's free brush disposal services are still encouraged to do so (located on Fawcett Drive). Gates have been unlocked and will **not require a key from City Hall**. Curbside yard waste is still scheduled for collection begins April 6th.
- Citizens interested in purchasing trash stickers are encourage to purchase them from Aj's Jack & Jill Grocery and Casey's. **The City will sell trash stickers on Wednesdays only- checks preferred.**
- The **Park and Recreation Programs in the months of March and April have been postponed or cancelled**. For further information citizens are encouraged to call Melissa Russell at 643-4212.
- **The City Library has been closed** until further notice, however limited curb side assistance is being offered. Citizens are encourage to call-in, e-mail, or use the library catalog system.
- For limited situations the city will assist **Citizens with special request and needs** as a result of these social distancing measures. Citizens are encouraged to call the West Branch Police Department, and/or City Hall for request to be considered or referrals made.

The facts surrounding the Coronavirus is rapidly changing, but as of right now, the strategies of social distancing is the main weapon against this outbreak and protecting our most vulnerable citizens. As a reminder, it is critical that if you are not feeling well, you should stay at home and avoid public places. I also would like to extend a special acknowledgement to our local restaurants and businesses for their leadership and compliance in these difficult times. Citizens are reminded that carry-out, drive-through, and delivery services are still available with many of our local businesses and citizens are encouraged to use these services if offered.

Further information will be communicated on the city's website: westbranchiowa.org or the City of West Branch Facebook Page.