

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

To: Mayor and Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: July 8, 2011 Weekly Council Update

- **Groom Station Project:** Terracon Consultants, Inc. has been contracted by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to complete various clean-up activities related to leaky underground storage tanks near the Groom Station, formerly the LL Rummells Oil Company, starting on Monday July 11, 2011. While there may be some limited lane closures for a brief time on Main Street, the project should be completed by the end of the week. The project is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which included \$200 million for the cleanup of leaky underground storage tanks.
- **U.S. Bank Retaining Wall Project:** U.S. Bank will be replacing the retaining wall adjacent to the public parking area just south of the City Office next week. Parking is not expected to be available in this lot until Saturday July 16, 2011.
- **Library Update:** The statistics for West Branch Public Library use have been compiled for June. The library circulated 5,013 items up from 4,572 in 2010, but not reaching the highest recorded at 5,173 in 2009. Program attendance has continued to be good with 1,036 attendees at the summer programs. This is less than 2010 which was exceptionally high at 1,165, but strongly above prior years (701 in 2009, and 659 in 2008). As the library has moved some programs to the elementary school gym, total library visits were fewer than in the past at 2,732 down from 2,995 in 2010 and 3,105 in 2009. Also of note, the library created 32 new accounts in June where typical additions are typically 10-12 monthly.
- **Police Chief Recruitment Community Meeting:** Mayor Kessler hosted the second of two citizen input meetings on the police chief recruitment. Several residents were on hand and provided some excellent feedback on qualities they would like to see in a new police chief.
- **Comprehensive Plan Update Kick-Off Meeting:** As a reminder, the joint meeting of the West Branch Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council to discuss the Comp Plan Update 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.

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.