

City of West
Branch
Office of the
City
Administrator

To: City Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: March 30, 2014 Weekly Council Update

- **Part-Time Seasonal Laborer:** The Public Works Department will be advertising for a part-time seasonal laborer in the coming weeks. This position is budgeted and would be a replacement for former part-time seasonal employee John Grimm. The following advertisement will be posted in our regular posting locations and in the next two editions of the West Branch Times:

The City of West Branch is accepting applications for a Public Works part-time/seasonal laborer. Responsibilities include assisting in repairs and maintenance on infrastructure such as roads, storm water, water and wastewater. Must have a valid driver's license. This person must be available from May 1 through November 1, for 30 hours per week. Starting wage is \$12/hour. Complete job description available at City Offices, 110 N. Poplar Street, West Branch and at www.westbranchiowa.org. Application must be submitted to City of West Branch, PO Box 218, West Branch, IA 52358 or email to dawn@westbranchiowa.org by April 18, 2014. EOE.

- **Salvaged on Main Grand Opening:** Salvaged on Main Workshop & Showroom, located at 109 E. Main Street in West Branch, will hold their grand opening on Thursday April 3rd from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., Friday April 4th from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Saturday April 5th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Proprietors Peggy Jeffries and Laura Rierson invite you to stop in and see where discarded treasures are transformed into unique items for your home and garden. Salvaged on Main works with anything old or vintage, including furniture, architectural salvage, dishes, buttons and more. They are available for consultation regarding refinishing furniture, upholstery and creating designs for your home.
- **Upcoming Park & Rec Meetings:** The Park & Rec Steering Committee will meet on Thursday April 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the West Branch Council Chambers. Just prior to the Steering Committee Meeting, there will be a Park and Recreation Commission Meeting that will include discussion with members of the Library Board of Trustees. On April 24th, there will be an all-day charrette where members of the public are encouraged to provide feedback on plans to add amenities to our City parks. The public is encouraged to attend the charrette and provide feedback to consultants from HBK Engineering and FEH Architects for a few minutes, a few hours or all day if they are able.

- **Other Park & Rec News:** Spring Break was a busy week for West Branch Parks and Recreation as we hosted three days of “Boredom Buster” activities. There were a variety of spring crafts completed such as decoupage eggs, clay sculptures, painting and a little indoor gardening. The week was well attended with around 30-35 children participating each of the three days.

Summer League (now West Branch League) registration will conclude tomorrow on March 31st. Currently there are 120 K-6th grade children registered for T-ball, baseball, and softball. It is anticipated there will be about 130 registrations. After all the registrations are received, a coaches meeting will take place and equipment will be distributed. The coaches meeting will take place in early April. The first games for 3rd-6th grade will probably take place the week of May 12th.

Soccer registrations for PreK-K will conclude in March also. Games and practices will be Mondays in April. It is the hope that soccer will take place at Lions Field however the High School Practice Gym has been reserved in the event the weather is not hospitable for outdoor practice.

5th and 6th grade Youth Sports Foundation Track and Field registrations have been completed. There were twenty-four children registered. Practices will start in early April. There will be three outdoor Sunday meets.

- **Pipeline Safety:** Several members of the City Staff from the Police and Public Works Departments took part in training sponsored by the Iowa Pipeline Association on March 6th in Tipton. Chief Horihan will be working in the coming months to update emergency plans for the City of West Branch and will be including pipeline safety information in that plan.

The Pedersen Valley development crossed the pipeline twice with roads and the developers paid the pipeline companies a total of \$8,000. The Park & Rec Steering Committee is currently working on a plan for the new park in Pedersen Valley that would minimize the development in the pipeline easement area. Their plan will in all likelihood cross the pipeline once with a driveway that would connect Scott Drive with a parking lot. The cost that the City will be responsible to reimburse to the pipeline companies for safety provisions will be nowhere near \$1 million as reported by the West Branch Times. The actual cost is likely to represent less than 1% of the overall development costs for that park, but will not be able to be determined until a final plan is submitted to the pipeline companies for their review. The Steering Committee is still on schedule to bring forward site plans for each park and a proposed phasing plan to the community by the end of June.

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.