

To: City Council  
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator  
Date: January 22, 2015  
Weekly Council Update

**U.S. Congressman David Loebsack to Visit West Branch Fire Department:** Congressman Loebsack will visit with volunteer firefighters at the West Branch Fire Department on Saturday morning, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Council members are invited and encouraged to attend. Rep. Loebsack is a co-sponsor of H.R. 343, a bill to amend the IRS Code of 1986 to provide a charitable deduction for the service of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical and rescue personnel. The bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means on January 14, 2015. The bill is sponsored by Rep. David McKinley (R-WV) and co-sponsored by a bi-partisan group of eight legislators.

**2015 Legislative Day & Economic Development Workshop:** The Iowa League of Cities is holding their annual Legislative Day on February 24<sup>th</sup> in Des Moines. The primary goal of the event is for city officials to meet with their legislators during the legislative session in Des Moines. This year, an economic development workshop has been added to the itinerary. Council members are welcome to attend. Please contact Leslie Brick in the City Office if you would like to register for this event.

**Pet Tags Now Available:** All cats and dogs over four months of age residing within the city limits must be registered annually with the City of West Branch. Registrations and tags for 2015 are now available at City Offices located at 110 North Poplar Street. Current rabies vaccination papers are required at the time of registration. The fee for registering pets is \$5.00 per animal. A \$5.00 late penalty fee will be applied if an animal is registered after Jan. 31, 2015. Letters were mailed out last week to residents to remind them of the requirement to register pets.

**Park & Rec Update:** Planning is in full swing for summer 2015. Director Melissa Russell tries each year to pick different themes for the camps. The “Gilligan’s Island” day camp will be July 27<sup>th</sup>-July 31<sup>st</sup> and “Muppets Mania” will be held in August (date will be finalized when the school calendar is set). Each day of camp will be focused around a different character. Some examples include “Professor Day” which will focus on science and “Kermit Day” which will involve water adventures and “being green.” Past camp participants have already requested some of their favorite past activities such as roller skating and spelunking, and these

activities will easily be incorporated into the camp themes. As always, there will be a variety of different activities and field trips throughout the week that are suitable for children K-6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Lunch Bunch numbers were down last year, due to the school providing free lunch Monday-Friday. This year, lunch bunch will be discontinued however in its place the Park and Recreation department has offered to provide recreation programs to the Summer School participants. Part-time Park & Rec employee Kassie Bailey has agreed to take the lead on planning those programs at the school. Summer school will potentially be held three days per week for eight weeks, depending on the 2015/2016 school schedule. There will be no summer school during swim lesson weeks (July 6<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>).

This summer, WBPR will offer another youth running group with the goal of completing the Fergalicious 5K in August during Hoover's Hometown Days. The group will potentially meet 2-3 times a week in the morning. WBPR will be seeking volunteers to assist with this program. It will be modeled after the successful fall running program. The group may be split into two groups depending on the number of participants.

Each year, Park and Recreation provides a "Summer Calendar" with the various activities from various West Branch organizations including West Branch Community School, Scattergood, West Branch Public Library, Park and Recreation programs, and National Park Service. The [West Branch Community Calendar](#) link is on the Park and Recreation web page and will be updated as more activity dates are confirmed. West Branch Park and Recreation activities can also be found on the City of West Branch calendar.

**Upcoming City Meetings & Events:** Please see the Calendar of Events on the City Website at <http://westbranchiowa.org/home> for a complete list of all upcoming events. There are several Council, Board and Commission Meetings currently scheduled:

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ Tuesday January 27 <sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.      | Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg. |
| ▪ Thursday January 29 <sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.     | Preservation Commission Meeting   |
| ▪ Monday February 2 <sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.       | City Council Meeting              |
| ▪ Tuesday February 10 <sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.     | Animal Control Commission         |
| ▪ Thursday February 12 <sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.    | Library Board of Trustees         |
| ▪ Monday Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup> – Presidents Day      | Holiday – City Offices Closed     |
| ▪ Tuesday February 17 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.     | City Council Meeting              |
| ▪ Tuesday Feb. 17 <sup>th</sup> (after Council Mtg.) | City Council Work Session         |
| ▪ Thursday February 19 <sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.    | Park & Recreation Commission      |

**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.**