

To: City Council  
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator  
Date: February 20, 2015 Weekly Council Update

**Board and Commission Training – February 24th:** Board and commission member training will take place on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Brick Arch Winery in downtown West Branch. A light dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and Jeff Schott, Director of the University of Iowa, Institute of Public Affairs, will provide our training from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The training will include the basic laws and concepts that apply to local government boards and commissions including legal requirements, open meetings law, public records law, gift law, purchasing and contracts, and conflict of interest. In addition to detailing board duties and responsibilities, Jeff will discuss policy development, analysis, and strategies for enhancing board and commission effectiveness. Participants are also invited to spend some time after the training visiting with fellow commission members and elected officials.

**Public Hearing on Budget – March 2nd:** A Public Hearing will be held on the fiscal year 2015-2016 annual budget on Monday evening March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the West Branch City Council Chamber. Residents are welcome to provide feedback to the City Council on this year's proposed final budget. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view the public hearing notice. The final proposed budget can be found in the February 17, 2015 Council Packet on the City Website at: <http://westbranchiowa.org/government/council-packets>.

**Meadows Subdivision – Part 2:** The West Branch Planning & Zoning Commission was scheduled to meet on Wednesday February 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber to further discuss and potentially vote on the preliminary plat submitted by KLM Investments for Part 2 of the Meadows Subdivision. The meeting was postponed as the engineer representing the developer is still in the process of preparing the preliminary plat and supporting documentation. A special Planning & Zoning Meeting is expected to be scheduled after the city engineer has reviewed these submissions.

**West Branch Preservation Commission:** A design for renovations on Heritage Square is currently being considered by the Commission. It is expected that the Commission will be providing feedback to the City Council on this matter in the near future. Commission Chair Lou Picek has provided an article that recently ran in the Iowa City Press Citizen on the topic of historic preservation. That article is attached to this Weekly Council Update.

**Park & Rec Spring Newsletter:** The Parks & Rec Department is gearing up for t-ball, softball and baseball for grades Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, soccer for preschool-aged children, and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Track and Field. A Youth Sports Registration Night is scheduled for Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> in the West Branch City Office. Parents can drop in anytime between 4:30 and 8:30 p.m. to register. Online registration is also available for all programs. The February 20, 2015 West Branch Parks & Recreation Newsletter is also attached to this Weekly Council Update.

**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.**

## Iowa City area celebrates preservation success stories

Guest Opinion by Ginalie Swaim, Chair, Iowa City Historic Preservation Commission

On Thursday, our community celebrates a year's worth of achievements.

One might call it the Academy Awards of Iowa City's historic preservation movement. But the winners aren't movie stars clasping gleaming gold statuettes. The winners are buildings — 17 this year — as well as the owners, architects and contractors who have taken such good care of them. Each building is a success story that benefits Iowa City.

The event is the 32nd annual Historic Preservation Recognition Program, sponsored by the Friends of Historic Preservation, the Iowa City Historic Preservation Commission and the Johnson County Historic Preservation Commission.

Awards are given in four categories: Paint and Exterior Finishes, Rehabilitation, Additions and New Construction, and Stewardship.

All of these preservation projects began with a property owner's exciting vision, the call for immediate repairs, or the responsibility of ongoing stewardship. Wisely, the owners called upon the skills and experience of those in the building professions who value and respect historic buildings and know that their preservation is essential.

That's why awards also will be given to carpenters, masons, house painters, contractors, architects and suppliers who were involved in the projects.

Owners whose properties lie in historic and conservation districts also benefited from consultation with the Iowa City Historic Preservation to ensure that the proposed work was historically appropriate and met local guidelines.

Several of this year's winners manifested their belief in the rapidly developing ethic of "green" preservation. They incorporated building materials and components from sources like our local Salvage Barn, where you can purchase recycled doors, trim, porch railings, and the like — all of them at least 50 years old and all of them saved from the landfill. Several owners restored old windows in ways that save more energy, last longer and cost less in the long run than vinyl windows. One couple adopted the mantra "save anything that can be reused."

Another winner is a house that has been renovated through the UniverCity Neighborhood Partnership. This project between the city and University of Iowa aims to preserve and build upon the unique character of residential neighborhoods adjacent to campus by ensuring that they remain vital, safe, affordable, and attractive places to live and work.

This year the properties date from the 1850s to the 1940s. One winner has been an anchor to downtown Iowa City for a century. Many are in our older neighborhoods. Because of well-preserved houses, these neighborhoods convey a unique character that attracts newcomers and a sense of place that still charms long-time residents.

If you're familiar with these neighborhoods, you already know of their appeal. If you haven't, we encourage you to explore them by bike, car or foot, because they're part of this city's visual legacy. They show us how the city has grown — from ethnic neighborhoods to streetcar suburbs — and how housing styles have evolved. And they demonstrate that new additions can be designed that respect the look of the original house while allowing for modern lifestyles.

By caring for historic buildings, owners are investing in their own property as well as Iowa City's future — economically and culturally. Some of Iowa City's greatest assets are its historical structures — houses, churches, schools and commercial and university buildings.

Please join us as we salute our citizen-preservationists for their work.

And this spring, pay attention as hammers and saws are pulled out of toolbags, ladders set up against houses and porches jacked up for careful restoration. You'll be seeing the start of a new batch of preservation projects worthy of awards next year.

Ginalie Swaim chairs the Iowa City Historic Preservation Commission.

From the January 27, 2015 Iowa City Press-Citizen

February 20th, 2015

For more information on programs please contact"

Park and Recreation

Director Melissa Russell

319.930.0393

melissa@westbranchiowa.org

# West Branch Parks and Recreation

## Tough Mother Fitness Early Spring Session

February 23rd-April 9th

Trainers Shawn Pierce, Jodi Yeggy, and Deb Fiderlein will focus is on muscular strength and endurance with some high intensity interval training. This is a boot camp style class.

### Mondays and Thursdays

5:30pm-6:00pm(Intermediate Class)

6:00pm-6:15pm(Abs workout)

6:15pm-7:00pm(Advanced Class)

### Wednesdays

7:00pm-7:45pm (HITT)

**Location:** West Branch Town Hall

**Register online at**

<http://www.westbranchiowa.org/departments/programs>

\*\*No classes March 16th– March 20th\*\*\*

## Youth Sports Foundation 5th/6th Grade Track and Field



The purpose of this program is to introduce youth to the beginning fundamentals of track & field. Emphasis will be placed on proper warm-ups and conditioning, followed by training techniques in running and field events (shot put and long jump). Teams will work on baton exchanges and understand the concepts of the track area and composition of relays.

YSF Co-ed Track & Field is a 6 week program beginning the week of April 6th. Teams will practice 2 times a week ( TBD). There are 4 Sunday afternoon meets (April 19th, April 26th, May 3rd, and May 17th)sites TBD..

Drop in registration will be Wednesday March 11th from 4:30pm-8:00pm at West Branch City Office. Registration deadline is March 13th. There is a \$35 registration fee payable to YSF.

**VOLUNTEER COACHES ARE NEEDED !!**



Nothing kills a program faster than last minute

## Preschool Soccer

April 6th-April 27th

This is a parent coached introductory program.

- Participants must be at least 3 years old to participate.
- The April 6th will be practice only. April 13th, April 20th, and April 27th will be scrimmages .
- Preschool soccer will meet and play games on Monday evenings at 6:00 on the following dates – April 6<sup>th</sup>, April 13<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, and April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Cost: \$35 per child or \$20 if you already have a Park and Recreation reversible jersey.
- Schedule and location is subject to change based on the number of participants and weather.
- Games will be played at Lions Field.

**We will need parent volunteers to coach!**



## DONATIONS NEEDED

West Branch Parks and Recreation is seeking donations of plastic unfilled Easter Eggs for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Please contact Melissa Russell or a Park and Recreation Commission member for more information. Eggs can be dropped off at West Branch City Office 110 North Poplar Street.

**Annual Easter Egg Hunt  
Saturday April 4th @ 10:00am  
Hoover Elementary Playground.**

# Summer 2015 Events

## WBPR Get Moving This Summer

### Program Description

Take summer to a new level of exploration and excitement with the Get Moving This Summer program, hosted by West Branch Parks and Recreation. This summer-long challenge is designed to help keep residents fit and moving with 80 daily activities to span the summer break. Many activities are family-friendly.

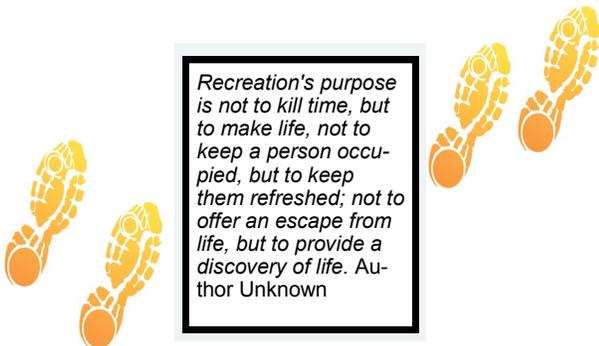
- **Ages:** All ages
- **Cost:** Many activities are free or low cost
- **Program Dates:** June 1st-August 30th
- **Times:** Varied

### Activities

Program participants can choose from a variety of games, sports, special events, hands-on activities, and community programs. The options offer opportunities to discover the area parks and trails, explore new foods, and try new sports.

### Prizes

Program participants who complete at least 30 of the 80 selections will earn a free t-shirt and will be eligible to win prizes.



## Day Camp

July 27th-July 31st

Join WBPR for a week of adventure in a Gillian's Island themed day camp! Register for a few days or for the whole week! Registration opens April 1st. Registration is limited to the first 30 participants.

- K(Completed)-6th grade
- \$135 a week or daily rates available
- Before and after care available for a minimal fee.

SWIM LESSONS JULY 6TH-JULY 17TH(MONDAY-FRIDAY)  
9:25 AM LESSON  
JAMES KENNEDY AQUATIC CENTER  
\*\*\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*

## Youth Sports Registration Night

- **When:** Wednesday March 11th
- **Time:** Drop in from 4:30pm-8:00pm
- **Where:** West Branch City Office -110 North Poplar Street
- Registration forms will be available for the former Summer League summer ball program (t-ball, softball and baseball for grades PreK-6th grade girls), preschool soccer, and 5th/6th grade YSF track and field.
- Online registration is also available for all programs. Stop in on registration night to pay registrations.
- Volunteer coaches are needed for all programs.



## Harvey Peden Adult Coed Sand Volleyball League

**When:** Sunday June 7th-August 9th

**Cost:** \$75 (league only) \$100(league and tournament)

All Day Tournament August 15th- Subject to change

**Registration Deadline: May 22nd**

Registration forms and  
Community Calendar are available at  
<http://www.westbranchiowa.org/>

## Day Camp

TBD (Camp is the week before the school starts)

Join us for a week of crazy activities with a Muppets Mania theme camp. Register for a few days or for the whole week! Registration opens April 1st. Registration is limited to the first 30 participants.

- K(Completed)-6th grade
- \$135 a week or daily rates available
- Before and after care available for a minimal fee.