

City of West
Branch
Office of the
City Administrator

To: City Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: March 13, 2015 Weekly Council Update

Alliant Energy Project Update: In an effort to inform customers of work that they will be completing in the area, Alliant will be sending letters to residents who live near E. Orange Street and N. 6th and N. 4th Streets. Below is an excerpt from those letters:

“Interstate Power & Light, an Alliant Energy company, has a construction project in your area. This is a continuing effort to upgrade our facilities to ensure the safety and reliability of our electric system.

Our contractor, Michel's Construction, will be replacing and upgrading our facilities in West Branch along E. Orange, E. Lemon & N. 6th St. The work will begin approximately the week of 3/30/2015 and will be completed approximately on 5/01/2015. We do not anticipate any interruption to your electrical service at this time. If needed, we will notify you of any planned interruptions with a separate notification.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact our Customer Service Center at 1-800-ALLIANT (1-800-255-4268).”

FY14 Annual Audit Now Available: The FY14 Annual Audit is now completed. Elected officials received an electronic copy earlier this week. The audit is also available on our “Annual Audit” webpage at: <http://westbranchiowa.org/departments/annual-audits>.

E-911 Service Board: Mayor Worrell has contacted the E-911 Service Board Director and Members of the E-911 Service Board with a request for the following motion to be placed on the next meeting agenda of the Cedar County E-911 Service Board:

Motion to instruct the E911 Director to delay taking any action on the law enforcement radio frequency for Cedar County law operations that would adversely affect radio communications in West Branch or any other municipality in Cedar County until such time that the E911 Director has found a funding source to complete the P-25 communications system to include the purchase of simulcast and other communications equipment./Move to action.

Altorfer Open House: Altorfer Ag Products is hosting an open house on Thursday March 19th from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at their new facility located at 855 S. Downey Street in West Branch. Altorfer Ag Products, the Ag Products Division of Altorfer Inc. is an authorized dealer for AGCO's Challenger, RoGator, TerraGator, Sunflower, SpraCoupe, and Willmar product lines, CLAAS LEXION Combines, Horsch, MacDon, and Caterpillar ag equipment. Altorfer Ag Products is headquartered in Clinton, IL, with additional locations in Dix, IL, Dwight, IL, Rock Falls, IL and now their newest full-service facility right here in West Branch. Altorfer has eight full-service shops in their territory, so customers are never more than 50 miles away from an Altorfer professional service technician. Please join me in welcoming Altorfer Ag Products to West Branch.

Park & Rec News: Thanks to several commission members who volunteered to assist Park & Rec Director Melissa Russell with registrations, we had another successful youth sports registration night on Wednesday evening. Youth track sign-ups were notably strong this year with about 30 kids registered to participate. Parents can still sign up kids for ball programs through the end of the month.

More Meetings and Financial Info on City Website: Several recent updates have been made to the City website. In addition to offering videos of Council Meetings, video is now available for all six of the City's board and commissions. So, if you want to check in with the Park & Rec Commission on the status of park improvements or the Preservation Commission's plans for Heritage Square, simply click on the "Government" tab and *Boards and Commissions* from the city's homepage.

City staff is also proud to offer West Branch residents with even more financial information on our website. In 2012, years of financial data were added to the website, including city budgets, annual financial reports and street finance reports dating back to 2007, annual audits going back to 2004 and employee salaries as far back as 1996.

Just this week, city staff has added monthly financial reports, the FY14 annual audit, 2014 salary information, the FY16 annual budget, and more. Recent additions to the Finance page have increased the amount of financial information to the point that we now have ten pages of financial data available on the City website. But don't worry, it is still easy to access. Simply click on the *Finances Quick Link* from our homepage or go to the following link: <http://westbranchiowa.org/departments/finances>. This webpage truly is a one-stop shop for all financial information concerning the City of West Branch. Residents are encouraged to review all of the City's financial information.

Police Department News: Once again this year, the West Branch Police Department is an award winning agency. Reserve Officer Lynn Lovetinsky brought home the award for the coveted Celebrity Pinewood Derby Contest held by West Branch Boy Scout Pack 156 on March 7th. Congrats to Lynn for leading the Police Department to victory again in 2015.

In other police department news, Mayor Mark Worrell will be appointing Catherine Steen as a part-time police officer at the March 23, 2015 Council Meeting. As with all additions to the Police Department roster, this appointment is subject to the approval of the City Council.

Fire Department Appointment: The Fire Department also has an appointment scheduled for the March 23rd Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Colton Miller will be appointing Curtis Walker as a West Branch Volunteer Firefighter.

Upcoming City Meetings & Events: Please see the Calendar of Events on the City Website for a complete list of all upcoming events. A few highlights for March are listed below:

- Monday March 16th City Council Meeting - CANCELLED
- Monday March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting
- Tuesday March 24th at 6:30 p.m. Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg.
- Tuesday March 31st at 6:30 p.m. Preservation Commission Meeting

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.