

To: City Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: August 14, 2015 Weekly Council Update

Stuff the Bus: The Catholic Order of Foresters and St. Bernadette's parish will be collecting food and school supplies in their annual "Stuff the Bus" event 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 12, 2015, in front of the Town Hall. Please stop by and say hello or make a contribution to our local community. All donations stay here.

Harvey Peden Sand Volleyball Tournament: Saturday August 15th is the annual Harvey Peden Sand Volleyball Tournament. Pool play starts at 9:00 a.m. and the tournament final game is scheduled to start at 10:30 p.m. This year, the tournament has nineteen teams registered. This is the most teams that have ever registered for this event. Last year, there were fourteen teams registered. The two new courts have been completed. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this happen in time for the tournament. Field lights are being rented from Aero Rental so both of the new courts can be used after dark.

Park & Rec Day Camp: The second week of day camp is scheduled to start on Monday August 17th. Some of the activities for the week include: a trip to "All Fired Up" in Iowa City to design a mug, roller skating, movies, putt putt golf, a trip to AirFX, swimming at Noelridge Aquatic Center in Cedar Rapids, a trip to the Children's Museum, and the Iowa State Fair. There are thirty eight children attending day camp this session.

West Branch Preservation Commission: The Preservation Commission met at Heritage Square on Tuesday August 11th to discuss Heritage Square Beautification. Basic design concepts included a hard surface on the north side of the Square and grass on the southern portion of the area. City Engineer Dave Schechinger met on site with Commission Member Peggy Jeffries and City Administrator Matt Muckler on Thursday August 12th and is expected to bring back preliminary drawings and cost estimates to the next Preservation Commission Meeting scheduled for Tuesday September 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.

Building Incentive Advertising: An advertisement has been placed on the West Branch Times and City of West Branch websites. Staff is also talking to KCRG about the purchase of additional television spots to advertise the program. Two fifteen-second spots also play during each Cubs baseball game on KXIC - AM 800. The [West Branch Building Incentive Program](#) was approved officially on May 4, 2015. [Click here](#) for the program brochure. The program was developed through March and April of 2015 by a group of builders, realtors, bankers, and associated professionals who reside and work professionally in the West Branch Community. The program provides discounted building permits and free water and sewer hook-ups. After the homeowner receives an occupancy permit, that homeowner is eligible to receive a 100% rebate on the City of West Branch portion of the homeowner's tax bill. The rebate is available for up to \$5,000 or five years from the date of the occupancy permit, whichever comes first.

Fall Sports Registration: Registrations are now available at www.westbranchiowa.org for youth flag football and volleyball. The deadline for 3rd-6th grade volleyball and 3rd-4th grade flag football is August 26th and PreK-2nd grade flag football has a deadline of September 2nd.

Election Information: Candidate filing for the November 3, 2015 City Election begins on Monday August 24th for three four-year Council seats and the two-year Mayor seat. The deadline for filing is Thursday September 17th at 5:00 p.m. Candidates are encouraged to review the [Cedar County - City Election Webpage](#) and the [Iowa Secretary of State – City Elections Webpage](#).

Voters of the City will also decide the following proposition regarding the West Branch Park Improvements Project:

Shall the City of West Branch, in Cedar and Johnson Counties, Iowa, enter into a loan agreement and issue bonds in an amount not exceeding \$4,000,000 for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of undertaking the West Branch Park Improvements Project, including ball diamonds; volleyball courts; lighting improvements; playground equipment; concessions, restroom and shelter facilities; recreation trails; landscaping; parking lots; and the installation of related public infrastructure improvements?

A bill approved during the 2014 Iowa Legislative Session transferred all filing officer duties for a regular City Election to the county auditor. While City Clerks will continue to provide information to candidates, candidates filing for city office must file in the Cedar County Auditor's office by the filing deadline. Objections and withdrawals are also filed with the Auditor. For additional information, please see the [June 26, 2015 Weekly Council Update](#).

Thanks to our 2015 Hoover's Hometown Days Sponsors: Thanks to our generous [SPONSORS](#) for making the 2015 Hoover's Hometown Days Celebration a great success. The City of West Branch, National Park Service and Main Street West Branch would like to thank both our volunteers and sponsors who ensure that we have an opportunity to spotlight West Branch and all the wonderful things that are happening in our community. Our title sponsor for the 2015 event was Altorfer, who sponsored the Mayor's Parade and the Main Street Stage. The Hoover Stage was sponsored this year by Procter & Gamble. Thanks also goes to Hills Bank & Trust Company, Liberty Communications, the West Branch Lions Club, Barnhart Custom Services, Double C Kennels LLC, Veenstra & Kimm, Plastic Products, River Products, Rummells Farms Inc., US Bank, Cornerstone Real Estate, Hames Homes, Lodge Farms, Chris & Lisa Kofoed, John & Linda Black, the West Branch Times, West Branch Ford, Herb & Lou's, Community State Bank, and all of the other community members and businesses who have volunteered their time, provided services and contributed to the event.

Planning & Zoning Commission: The Planning & Zoning Commission met on Thursday evening August 13th to hold a public hearing and approved proposed changes to the Zoning Regulations (Chapter 165) in the City Code. The Commission elected a new chair and vice-chair at the meeting. John Fuller was elected as Chair and Gary Slach was elected as Vice-Chair. The Commission also welcomed their newest member, Liz Seiberling.

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.