

City of West
Branch
Office of the
City Administrator

To: City Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: November 4, 2015
Weekly Council Update

Park Ballot Initiative: The unofficial results of the \$4 million bond referendum show 241 out of 402 voters supporting Public Measure K, the West Branch Park Improvements Project. That is a percentage of 59.95% voting yes, just shy of the 60% needed for passage. Had one more person voted yes, 242 out of 403 voters, the Public Measure would have been approved at 60.05%.

The Cedar County Auditor's Office has informed the City of West Branch that there was one provisional ballot cast and that the Auditor's Office has contacted the voter who cast the provisional ballot to verify their identity and address. If that takes place and the vote is a "yes" vote, it could change the outcome of the election. Ten voters could request a recount, so that could happen whether the measure passes or fails. At this point, we will wait to hear from the Cedar County Auditor as to the disposition of that lone provisional ballot. We are hopeful to hear something tomorrow.

National Park Service Hosts Geology Lecture Series: Dr. Richard Baker continues his series of lectures about geology in our national parks with presentations about Grand Teton (November 4th), Death Valley (January 13th), and Rocky Mountain (February 10th). The lectures are free and last about one hour. Meet at the Visitors Center at 7:00 p.m.

The lecture series is offered in recognition of President Herbert Hoover's interests in geology and conservation. Dr. Baker is a professor emeritus in the Geoscience Department at the University of Iowa. He completed his doctorate research at Yellowstone National Park. He has traveled to many of our national parks and has taught a course on them at the University of Iowa.

This year the National Park Service launched its "Find Your Park" campaign which begins a two year celebration commemorating its first 100 years of preservation and service to the public. "Find Your Park" is aimed at getting people out to experience all their national parks have to offer and to share their favorite stories about National Parks. Visit www.findyourpark.com to learn more.

Library Open House: The West Branch Public Library is holding an open house Tuesday, November 10th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The Library is completing a reorganization in several areas and has new furniture for those spaces. The furniture comes through a memorial the library received in 2013 and will provide new seating options for library users of all ages. Snacks and Refreshments will be provided. The event will run in addition to Pajama Storytime at 7:00 pm which will hopefully bring in families to see new the new additions to the children's space.

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.