

To: Mayor and City Council  
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator  
Date: July 8, 2016  
Weekly Council Update

**4<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction Project Update:** Alliant Energy continues to work on the relocation of the gas main along 4<sup>th</sup> Street. They are currently working between College Street and Northridge. As part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction project, storm sewer improvements are being constructed near Northridge and Cargill. Storm sewer improvements are expected to be complete next week. Water main construction (please see next item) will begin on Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Residents are encouraged to follow instructions on the traffic control signs and to not attempt to drive around the barricades. Please also be aware of construction and utility workers. [Click here](#) to see the full project.

**Water Main Repair for West Branch Village Residents:** The City of West Branch was informed today by Corner Stone Excavating, the contractor completing the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction Project that water main repairs will start on Monday morning July 11<sup>th</sup>. The repair will result in a disruption in water service and a boil order. Water will not be available starting at 9:00 a.m. on Monday July 11<sup>th</sup> and will be off for most of the day. Corner Stone Excavating is hoping to restore water service by 4:00 p.m. (or sooner) on Monday July 11<sup>th</sup>. After water service is restored, residents will be under a boil order for most of the week. For boil orders and what they mean, [click here](#).

**Music on the Green – Three More Concerts:** Residents still have three more opportunities for musical entertainment on the Village Green during the Music on the Green Concert Series. *Las Guitarras de Mexico* (Mariachi) returns to West Branch on Thursday evening July 14<sup>th</sup> and *Highway Home* (Bluegrass) makes their return on July 21<sup>st</sup>. A new act to West Branch, *Flash in a Pan* (Folk, Indie rock and Bluegrass blend), performs on Thursday evening July 28<sup>th</sup> to wrap up this year's Series. The outdoor concerts take place on the Village Green at the intersection of Parkside Drive and Main Street in historic downtown West Branch. The Village Green provides a classic small town setting in which to enjoy an evening of free entertainment. Ample parking is nearby, and people are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or ground blankets. The concerts start at 7:00 p.m.

**June Park Update from Fehr-Graham:** The June Update on progress at the park space in Pedersen Valley is attached to this week's *Update*. The topographical survey was completed and the pipeline was contacted in June. Multiple design options were also reviewed. Overall, the project is tracking on schedule and progress is satisfactory. Public Works Director Matt Goodale will present a staff report at the July 18<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting about plans to ensure adequate erosion control on the site.

**IDOT Public Information Meeting – July 21st:** You are invited to attend a Public Information Meeting on July 21, 2016, between 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. in the Schwab Auditorium at the Coralville Public Library, 1401 Fifth St., in Coralville. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss an Interstate 80 corridor study area that extends from east of Iowa City, approximately 1.5 miles west of Herbert Hoover Highway, to east of West Branch at Charles Avenue, in Johnson and Cedar counties.

No formal presentation will be made; however, general information regarding the proposed improvements will be discussed at the meeting. Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) staff will be available at the meeting to address questions, concerns, and general comments regarding the proposed improvements.

More information concerning this project will be posted as it becomes available at the Iowa DOT's website: [www.iowadot.gov/pim](http://www.iowadot.gov/pim). Should you have any comments or questions prior to the Public Information Meeting, or are not able to attend, please feel free to leave comments at: <http://bit.ly/Iowadot842821>.

**Summer Festivities Culminate in West Branch for Hoover's Hometown Days on August 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>:**

*The City of West Branch Hosts Celebratory Annual Summer Festival In The Heart of Downtown This August*

WEST BRANCH – On August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the City of West Branch will host Hoover's Hometown Days, the City's premier event of the summer. For two days, downtown West Branch will come to life with music, food, and rides, culminating in a captivating fireworks display. Musical headliners will include the 34<sup>th</sup> Army Band and the Dean-O-Holics. Three of West Branch's leading organizations—The City of West Branch, Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, and Main Street West Branch—are all working together in a spirited collaboration to make the weekend a success.

This year's theme will be Find Your Park, celebrating Iowa's national parks along with the National Park Service. In addition to rangers, junior rangers, and volunteers, leaders from the Midwest Regional and Washington offices will be a part of the celebration. The festival will also applaud the resources and work West Branch is putting into its local parks, emphasizing the city's livability.

Hoover's Hometown Days honor Herbert Hoover, 31<sup>st</sup> president of the United States who was born in West Branch. Festival goers are invited to the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site to enjoy food and drink in a commemorative setting. The national championship of Hooverball will help bring the late president's legacy to life. Additionally, the festival supports the City's mission of preserving and enhancing West Branch as a historically significant community with a small town, family atmosphere. Hoover's Hometown Days provide both West Branch residents and visitors with an active and lively weekend to contribute to West Branch's festive summer environment.

The festival will feature a wide selection of performers and acts over the course of the two-day program, ensuring something for all ages and tastes. Musical acts include the 34<sup>th</sup> Army Band, the Dean-O-Holics, native Iowa rock group Local on the 8's and oldies band Sid V & The Human Resources, just to name a few. Other shows not to miss are comedian "Circus Boy" Bobby Hunt as well as Flying Houndz, a group of talented dogs that perform high-flying stunts, dance and jump rope.

In between enjoying the performances, festival attendees can enjoy new vendors and participate in family-friendly activities like the Lion's Pedal Tractor Pull, "Fire In The Hole" Bag Tournament, Big Wheel Races, airbrush tattoos and pony rides. New inflatable company, Midwest Inflatables, will be amplifying the kids' activity section of past years, bringing in bigger slides and a gaming trailer. The weekend's star attraction will be the Mayor's Parade running through downtown.

"We are thrilled to be hosting Hoover's Hometown Days once again this summer, and are so grateful to those who helped make it happen," said Roger Laughlin, mayor of West Branch and lifelong resident. "The festivities—from music to children's activities—celebrate the essence of West Branch and offer a bit of our vibrant character to locals and travelers alike."

Hoover's Hometown Days would not be possible without its generous sponsors, including Altorfer, Procter & Gamble, Hill Bank & Trust Company, West Branch Lions Club, Heartland Express, and several others.

The event is open to the public and free for those who attend. Individuals interested in serving as volunteers, becoming vendors, entering the parade or registering for the Hooverball tournament can do so on the festival's website. To sign up or learn more information, visit <http://www.hooverdays.org>.

### **About West Branch, IA**

West Branch is a growing community in southeast Iowa with many places to shop, live, dine and visit. An inviting town for all ages, the community takes pride in its architectural and cultural heritage and historic downtown, where 14 buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. West Branch is the birthplace of Herbert Hoover, the 31<sup>st</sup> President of the United States, and the town is home to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and Prairie. West Branch takes pride in its progressive, dynamic identity and active, spirited residents. Prioritizing both its significant past and rich present, West Branch is a diverse city, as is evident with its annual Christmas Past event and Hoover's Hometown Days festival. For more information, please visit the City Website at: [www.westbranchiowa.org](http://www.westbranchiowa.org).

**Cedar County Assessor:** City Administrator Matt Muckler met earlier today with Cedar County Assessor Cynthia Severs Marx to discuss the valuation of properties in West Branch. The Assessor's Office also provides GIS capabilities to the City of West Branch and has recently upgraded the aerial photography available on that system.

**National Park Service Pavement Preservation Project:** Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and Federal Highway Administration in conjunction with Cerebral Group LLC, the Construction Prime Contractor, would like to inform the general public of the following construction project that will be taking place in the vicinity of West Branch, Iowa, **starting on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016.** This project entail pavement preservation of Parkside, Cedar Street, First Street, Second Street, Wetherell Street, Library Drive, the Loop Road, and parking areas inside the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and at the Presidential Library.

The area that will be effecting traffic, starting on Wednesday July 13<sup>th</sup>, is along Parkside Drive from north of the Interstate Interchange to Main Street, along with the intersection of Cedar Street and Parkside Drive. There will be single lane closures with flag persons stationed and directing traffic around the lane closure. Expect a maximum of a 15 minute wait time to get through this work area.

The intersection of Parkside Drive and Cedar Street will be closed from Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> through Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup> to allow for work to be completed in this intersection. As the project progresses further information will be provided. City Administrator Matt Muckler, Public Works Director Matt Goodale and City Engineer Dave Schechinger all attended the pre-construction meeting for the project on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**School Resource Officer 28E Agreement:** The West Branch Police Department continues to work with Superintendent Hatfield and the West Branch School Board on a 28E Agreement regarding a school resource officer (SRO). Part-Time Police Officer Cathy Steen has completed the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) certification training and would serve as the SRO. The West Branch Community School District School Board will be considering adoption of the 28E agreement at their meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Planning & Zoning Commission – July 26th:** The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet for their regular meeting on Tuesday July 26<sup>th</sup> in the City Council Chamber. Their agenda will include consideration of a zoning exhibit for Cedars Edge Golf Course. Cedars Edge will be submitting a rezoning exhibit that will request rezoning of a portion of the course from Agricultural A-1 District to Residence R-1 Single Family District, R-2 Two Family District, and R-3 Multiple Family District. The rezoning exhibit will also include a request for rezoning the portion of the property where the new clubhouse and banquet facility will be constructed. Cedars Edge owner Jerry Sexton will present the rezoning exhibit and some information on his plans to move the project forward at the July 18<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting.

**July 12<sup>th</sup> Animal Control Commission Meeting - Cancelled:** The regular Animal Control Commission Meetings for July 12<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> have been cancelled. The next meeting of the Commission will take place on Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

**The information provided is one-way communication and should not be discussed among you as this could be a violation of the open meeting law.**

**MONTHLY PROJECT STATUS REPORT**  
**Work Completed in June 2016**  
**Pedersen Valley Park**  
**Project No. 16-072**

SCOPE		SCHEDULE UPDATE	
Task/Item	% Complete	Target	Actual
1.0 Topographic Survey	100%	6/6/16	6/3/16
2.0 Construction Plans	5%	2/1/17	
2.1 Preliminary Plans	15%	11/15/16	
2.2 Check Plans	0%	12/15/16	
2.3 Final Plans	0%	2/1/17	
3.0 Site Assessments & Permits	50%	2/1/17	
4.0 Project Coordination	15%	2/1/17	
5.0 Construction Services	0%	11/1/17	
5.1 Bid Letting	0%	3/28/17	
5.2 Construction	0%	11/1/17	

**SUMMARY OF WORK DONE LAST MONTH**

- Coordination with subconsultants
- Contact pipeline, discuss constraints and options
- Continued review of multiple design options

**FORECAST OF WORK TO BE COMPLETED NEXT MONTH**

- Completed soil boring report
- Completed field work, including wetland boundary
- Continue preliminary design
- Schedule second work session with client to discuss project concepts, general design, and challenges identified to date

**PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED/RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS**

- None at this time.

**ACTION NEEDED BY CITY**

- Direction on possible land acquisition as it relates to design.

**OVERALL PROJECT STATUS**

The project is tracking on schedule and progress is satisfactory.