

To: City Council

From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator

Date: April 11, 2014

Weekly Council Update

- **North Maple and Green Street Overlays to Start Week of April 21st:** Work on the North Maple Street sidewalk project and the East Green Street overlay projects will begin the week of April 21st.

North Maple Street - Next week, LL Pelling will saw the curb the length of the street for removal. The street will remain open during this time. The following week, removal and installation of curb will begin. At that point, the street will be closed and school traffic routed to the middle school access road near the water tower. This road will remain a two-way road until completion of the road portion of the project. During the sidewalk and backfill portion temporary closures will be necessary from time to time. We expect this project to be completed by May 16, 2014.

East Green Street - LL Pelling will begin work on this street the week of April 21st. They will start by installing curb and gutter followed by a four-inch asphalt overlay. This project will affect the block of East Green Street between 4th and 5th Street. Residents will be asked to find alternate parking during this time as the street will be completely closed. This will also affect residents who use the alley that intersects East Green Street. We ask all residents to make use of the Main Street entrance to this alley during this time. We expect this project to also be completed by May 16, 2014.

Residents in affected areas will be notified in writing by Public Works Staff on Monday April 14th. School officials have been notified and appropriate measures will be taken for their facilities. Residents with questions are encouraged to contact Public Works Director Matt Goodale at (319) 325-8213.

- **IMFOA:** Administrative staff attended the 75th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Municipal Finance Officers Association April 9th-April 11th. Governor Branstad addressed the group of municipal clerks and finance officers gathered in Des Moines. Training was provided by Bob Josten and John Danos with Dorsey & Whitney, Larry and Maggie Burger with Speer Financial, the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division, the Iowa Economic Development Authority and executive speech coach Deb Sofield. A legislative update was also provided by the Iowa League of Cities.

- **Stormwater Utility Public Outreach:** City staff appreciates the comments received on the stormwater utility flyer and has added additional information on utility rates. A public hearing notice appeared in this week's edition of the West Branch Times. A letter, a copy of the public hearing notice and an expanded stormwater utility brochure will be mailed to all utility customers at the beginning of next week. The public hearing notice has also been posted in our usual posting locations.
- **Earth Day Events:** The Park & Recreation and Public Works Departments are partnering with the West Branch Community School District to complete several Earth Day projects to benefit our local community. Planned activities include planting grass seed at Wapsi Creek Park and along the creek near Lions Field, landscaping the City Office and West Branch Public Library, as well as planting trees in the West Branch Municipal Cemetery. We are looking forward to working with West Branch Middle School students for the second year in a row to celebrate Earth Day.
- **Iowa League Legislative Update:** The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) reform bill passed out of the House Ways & Means Committee Tuesday 15 to 10, with most of the Democrats on the committee voting no on the bill. There are four main components of [HF2467](#): It prohibits the use of TIF for public buildings, attempts to restrict all TIF and city debt to the constitutional debt limit of 5 percent of the assessed value in the city, contains an automatic step-up and phase out of TIF districts that do not have sunsets, and includes a limitation of all future TIF districts to 20 years. The bill is now eligible for the House floor.
- **Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday April 19th at 10:00 a.m.:** The West Branch Parks and Recreation Department will host the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m. SHARP at the Hoover Elementary School Playground. Kids will receive a special visit from the Easter Bunny and parents are encouraged to bring a camera. Children will be placed in groups by four age categories: 2 and under, 3-4 year olds, 5-6 year olds, and 7-9 year olds. For more information, please contact Park & Rec Director Melissa Russell at (319) 930-0393 or via e-mail at recdirector@westbranchiowa.org.
- **Lining and Grouting Continues on Sanitary Sewer System:** Visu-Sewer has completed cleaning and televising Phase I of the City's sewer system. Crews will continue lining and grouting sewer lines and are expected to be working in West Branch until the end of April. More information is available in the *NEWS and announcements* section on the city homepage.
- **Park & Rec Charrette:** On April 24th, there will be an all-day charrette where members of the public are encouraged to provide feedback on plans to add amenities to our City parks, including a potential joint facility in the new Pedersen Valley park that would house both a community center and a new public library. The public is encouraged to attend the charrette and provide feedback to consultants from HBK Engineering and FEH Architects for a few minutes, a few hours or all day if they are able.

- **IDOT to Complete Maintenance Work on I-80 Culvert:** A representative with IDOT contacted the City of West Branch today to schedule maintenance work on both sides of the culvert under I-80. It has been approximately eight years since this work was last completed. IDOT will be contacting property owners and plans to start clearing the culvert of all obstructions next week. Pictures below (provided by City Engineer Dave Schechinger) show the current state of the culverts.



- **Governor's Office Press Release - Gov. Terry E. Branstad orders flags at half-staff to honor World War II pilot 1st Lt. Louis Longman.** Gov. Terry Branstad has ordered flags to be flown at half-staff in Iowa from 5 p.m. Friday, April 11, 2014, until 8 a.m. Monday, April 14, 2014, in honor of U.S. Army Air Corps 1st Lt. Louis L. Longman, formerly of Clinton, Iowa.

Longman, a 26-year old Clinton, Iowa native serving with the 433rd Fighter Squadron, 475th Fighter Group, 5th Air Force, U.S. Army Air Corps, was last seen April 16, 1944 as his unit returned from a B-25 bomber escort mission over Hollandia, New Guinea. A Lockheed P-38 "Lightning" fighter pilot, Longman was on the return leg of the mission in a P-38J aircraft when his unit encountered severe weather in the Markham Valley. Longman's last reported location was in the vicinity of Bogadjim, New Guinea, as his formation broke up. The 5th Air Force lost 53 pilots and crewmen that day in what became known as "Black Sunday."

Longman was officially declared deceased on Feb. 27, 1946, but his remains were never recovered. In February 2005, the Joint Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command - Central Identification Laboratory (JPAC) received information of a possible aircraft crash site in Madang province, Papua New Guinea. In August 2007, human remains, as well as parts of a U.S. P-38J aircraft were recovered by a JPAC Investigation Team. Additional remains and physical evidence were also recovered in 2009 and 2010 by JPAC personnel.

In 2011, JPAC's Research and Analysis Group concluded a historical association drawn from Missing Air Crew Report #4501 and the excavation site. The location of the excavated aircraft crash site and the wreckage reported by JPAC personnel, consistent with a Lockheed P-38J Lightning, support this historical association.

Longman enlisted in the U.S. Army on Feb. 19, 1942, and transferred into the U.S. Army Air Corps in June. Longman completed his primary flight training at Cal-Aero Academy in Ontario, Calif., then completed Basic (Merced Army Airfield, Merced, Calif.) and Advanced (Williams Army Airfield, Mesa, Ariz.) Flight Training, receiving his pilot wings on April 12, 1943. He left the U.S. for duty in the Pacific theater in July 1943 and was assigned to the 433rd Fighter Squadron, 475th Fighter Group, 5th Air Force, U.S. Army Air Corps.

Among his military awards and honors is the Air Medal (with numeral "2"), American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (w/4 Bronze Service Stars), World War II Victory Medal and Pilot Wings.

A memorial service and interment will be held at the Rock Island Arsenal National Cemetery, 1 Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Ill. on April 12, 2014 at 1 p.m., with full military honors provided by the Iowa National Guard.

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.