

To: City Council  
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator  
Date: April 18, 2014  
Weekly Council Update

- **Park & Rec Charrette:** On April 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a charrette open house from 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. at West Branch Council Chambers. 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. There will be presentations given at Noon and 7:00 p.m. by HBK and FEH regarding the designs. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.
  
- **Police Department Update:** Our Police Department has been busy on several fronts in recent weeks:
  - On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Reserve Officer Lynn Lovetinsky was the Police Department representative in the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby. Last year, Chief Horihan won the celebrity category. Despite Lynn's best effort, his car lost to a local Girl Scout leader.
  - Chief Mike Horihan has been closely involved with the high school recently on several projects. He gave a class on bullying to a high school special needs class on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Mike assisted high school teacher Clare Keeney with mock interviews involving high school students. On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Chief Horihan assisted with the West Branch High School Prom at Pleasant Valley Golf Course and the after-prom party at Mercer Park in Iowa City.
    - Reserve Officer Todd Thurman has been planning for the prescription drug disposal event which will take place on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the City Office.
    - Chief Horihan is currently coordinating schedules to attempt to have either a reserve officer or a regular officer present at several upcoming community events: the Easter Egg Hunt to be held at the Hoover Elementary School on April 19<sup>th</sup>, the "Kites over Hoover Park" event that will be held on the Tidewater Direct property on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, the City wide Garage sale on April 26<sup>th</sup> and the City Wide Clean-Up to be held on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> on the Water Street Parking Lot.
  
- **City Wide Garage Sale and Clean-Up Reminders:** The dates have been set for the City Wide Garage Sale and the City Wide Spring Clean Up. The City Wide Garage Sale, sponsored by the West Branch Times, will take place on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>. The City Wide Spring Clean Up has been scheduled for Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

- **North Maple and Green Street Overlays to Start Week of April 21st:** As detailed in the April 11<sup>th</sup> Weekly Council Update, work will commence on the North Maple Street sidewalk project and the East Green Street overlay projects next week.

- **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 on Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

- **Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:recdirector@westbranchiowa.org).

- **Boil Order Extended:** One of the two water samples submitted to the State Hygienic Lab from the recent boil order area came back as positive for coliform bacteria. The coliform bacteria likely came from an outside spigot where the water sample was taken, rather than from the water supply itself. There was no E. coli bacteria present in the water. Unfortunately, this means that the boil order for the 500 and 600 blocks of East Main Street and all of Pheasant Run will need to be extended until at least Sunday morning, to allow for additional samples to be tested at the lab. If city staff receives clearance from the lab on Sunday morning, residents will be notified then that the boil order has been lifted. We apologize for this inconvenience. This information has been provided on the city website.

- **Potential No Parking Zone in Greenview:** The West Branch Police Department has requested that the City Council consider the designation of both sides of Greenview Drive from its intersection with Greenview Court and extending 640 feet to the west as a no parking zone. The Police Department has a concern with the limited visibility of drivers as they come around the curve in the road and feel that it would increase safety in this area. Letters to affected homeowners were sent today asking for their feedback on the no parking zone. Residents were informed that city staff has tentatively scheduled a date of May 19<sup>th</sup> to present this ordinance to the City Council for their consideration, but that we would wait for community feedback before actually setting the date.

**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.**