

City of West Branch News

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NEWSLETTER

July 2010



Services Offered by the City

- ❑ **Channel 99 – WBTV NOW ON www.westbranch.com** also! Keep an eye on the updated information! If you have an announcement, drop it off in writing and we'll get it posted.
- ❑ **Sprinkling Meters** are available for outdoor water usage. Meters are \$96. Once you purchase a meter, it is yours to keep. Meters **MUST** be brought inside when the temperatures get cold – to avoid freezing. All sprinkling meters are self-reporting.
- ❑ **West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce** has a new face. Stop in and look at the wonderful changes and updates that new Director, Christie Blackford has done!
- ❑ **Compost Pile** - The City has a compost pile located in the back of Brookside Cemetery. You are welcomed to deposit any soft vegetation (please do not leave your bag, box or container). You are also welcomed to help yourself to some of the rich dirt created by this compost.
- ❑ **Leaves** - The only time you may rake your leaves to the curb is during Spring Leaf Pick Up and Fall Leaf Pick Up. At those times you may rake leaves to the curb. Do not mix in any twigs or sticks.

Sewer Plant Update

The West Branch Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Authority is pleased with progress of the construction work on the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Sanitary Sewer Collection System. DeVere Construction, Alpena, Michigan, is ahead of schedule on construction work at the WWTP. Major facilities being built include the new equalization tank, two trickling filters, pretreatment facility, biosolids storage tank, additional clarifier and disinfection building. Associated piping connecting these facilities to the plant is being installed. Also, new lab equipment is included in the project. Substantial completion of the project, which began in November 2009, is estimated to be by the end of December 2010. This is much earlier than originally scheduled and anticipated, due mainly to the very mild winter and early spring.

The current Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in 1984. The plant has been faced with major and costly repairs over the years and was at the point of not being able to treat the waste stream effectively or economically. In addition, the permit limitations enforced by the DEQ were close to being exceeded, which if exceeded, would result in substantial fines.

Work on the sewer collection system, including sewer main relining and replacement and rehabilitation work on sewer manhole structures, will be substantially completed in mid-June. Final restoration work will be completed in July. Inland Waters Pollution Control, Detroit, Michigan, is the main contractor for this project. Early results at the WWTP indicate a substantial reduction in flow at the plant due to elimination of clean storm water into the sewer collection system.

The contract with DeVere Construction is in the amount of \$ 10,187,000. The contract with Inland Waters Pollution Control is in the amount of \$ 1,374,000. The contract for engineering services (design and construction) provided by C2ae is in the amount of approximately \$ 1,800,000. The project is being financed by a low interest (3.125%), 40 year loan not to exceed \$ 15,320,000 from USDA, Rural Development, along with a grant in the amount of \$ 1,500,000.

The West Branch Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Authority consists of the City of West Branch, West Branch Township and Ogemaw Township. Residents can follow progress on WWTP construction at the City's website at www.westbranch.com and clicking on WWTP project photos. The photos are updated weekly.

NEW Brush Pick-up Guidelines

Brush Pick-up is now on the **LAST MONDAY** of the month from March - November (weather permitting). **We cannot accept branches any larger than 4" in diameter. We cannot take full tree removal (stumps, trunks, or branches).** We are set up to take only small amounts of trimming. For additional information call City Hall at (989) 345-0500.

City Council Members

Todd Thompson – Mayor
Chad Lucas – Ward 1
Tim Schaiberger – Ward 2
Rusty Showalter – Ward 3
Kim Ervans – At-Large
Paul Frechette – At-Large
William Ehinger – At-Large

Council meetings are the
1st & 3rd Monday's at
7:00pm in the Council
Chamber at City Hall.

Please join us!

Planning Commission Members

Wil Engemann, Chair
Tim Schaiberger
June Longstreet
Jan Hasty
Mike Jackson
Nicole Zimmer
Dave Lucas
Darrin Hunter
Tom Youatt

Planning meetings are the
2nd Tuesday of each month
at 7:00pm.

Zoning Board of Appeals Members

Denise Lawrence
Edward Kelly
Anthony Wirth
Thom Jones
Michael Pugh
Clarice Sperry (alternate)
Glenda Colclasure (alternate)

City Beautification

Many of you have noticed the beautiful marigolds & petunias along Houghton Avenue. A group of 6th grade students from Surline Middle School volunteered to assist the City DDA with the annual flower planting project. The weather was sunny and warm as the students completed the planting in record time.

In addition to the students, many parents, teachers and City employees assisted with the flower planting. Many thanks to Kelly Gough for spearheading the effort. The City has again enlisted the assistance of Maurice McKim and his wife to water the flowers throughout the summer months and a work crew will weed the flower beds as needed.

Summer Activities

West Branch is the place to be this summer with many activities scheduled. The "Fabulous Friday" events continue for the third year this summer. Every Friday night starting June 18 thru September 3 in downtown West Branch from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. a variety of activities and events are planned with different themes each week. In addition, all of our stores downtown will be open for business during these events. For more detailed information check the Chamber's website, www.wbacc.com and click on the Community Calendar button.

Our 2010 Summer Music series promises to have another schedule of great music lined up. A total of seven bands are scheduled with a variety of music planned. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. and usually last until 9:00 p.m. and are held at the Irons Park Pavilion. There is no admission to these concerts. Concerts remaining this summer include: July 8th – CEYX (history of rock-n-roll); July 15th – Good Time Oldies (oldies); July 22nd – The Smokin'45s Rock and Blues Revue (rock & blues); July 29th – MacLaren Brennan (country, pop & rock); and August 5th – Dulcimer Days with the Wanda Degen Trio (contemporary & traditional acoustic). Hope to see you there! ***This activity is funded in part by the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the MICHIGAN HUMANITIES COUNCIL.***



The 14th annual West Branch Farmers Market starts on July 3rd this year. The market will again be held in Downtown Victorian West Branch at South Third Street from 8am to 1pm every Saturday through October 4th.

Our popular Victorian Art Fair will be held on the weekend of August 14th and 15th. The Art Fair, which is sponsored by the West Branch Creative Arts Association, is held at Irons Park and starts at 9:00 a.m. each day. Approximately 275 Arts and Crafts Exhibitors will be set up with games for kids, various food concessions and old fashioned entertainment scheduled throughout the day. Come join the fun!



Hydrant Flushing

City crews flush fire hydrants to keep the water distribution system fresh and well-exercised. Flushing sometimes loosens mineral deposits which gives our water a “rusty” tint. Residents experiencing “rusty” water should flush their own lines by letting the water run for a little while (several minutes should do it). ***DO NOT*** wash your whites when the water is “rusty.” The Department of Public Works is expecting to start flushing in September. Watch WBTV – channel 99 or call City Hall for detailed information on flushing schedules.



Important Info.....

Please make sure that your garbage is in closed bags before putting it into your cart. Waste Management has noticed that there has been loose trash in the carts that flies out when being dumped.

Thank you.



Helpful Information

Large Item Pickup – is limited to two items. Items will be picked up each Wednesday of the month. Items could include a couch, chair mattress, and piece of furniture. If you have something with coolant in it, you would need to get a yellow tag from City Hall before putting the item out for pickup. There is no charge for the yellow tag.

Green Trash Bags are available at City Hall to accommodate any garbage that will not fit in the garbage cart. The bags are a package of 10 for \$15.

The ***Recycling Center*** is located behind the Family Video building. Hours are Tuesdays from 2pm – 6pm and Saturdays from 9am – 1pm. You need a recycling card in order to use the Center. If you do not have a card, stop by City Hall and fill out an application.

The Center accepts: Newspapers, phone books, magazines, junk mail and cardboard – all clean and bundled. Aluminum and tin cans rinsed and flattened. Glass (clear, green & brown) rinsed and unbroken. Plastic #'s 1 & 2, detergent bottles and milk jugs – clean, labels removed and crushed.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE MATERIALS IF THE ATTENDENT IS NOT THERE!!

Ordinance Info...

No Overnight Parking – City Ordinance prohibits the parking of vehicles on City streets or in City parking lots between the hours of 2am and 6am. Such rules are necessary so that we can sweep and remove snow from the streets without obstruction. Some exceptions are permitted – call City Hall at 345-0500.

Noxious Weeds – Section 92.15 of the Ordinance Code prohibits excessive weed growth within the City Limits. If a property is found to be in violation of this section, the homeowner will be given notice to cut, remove or destroy noxious weeds and/or excessive weed growth by a certain date. Failure to remove will result with a **minumun** charge of \$50 being billed to the owner.



City of West Branch

121 N 4th St
West Branch, MI 48661
(989) 345-0500
cityhall@westbranch.com
www.westbranch.com

Check out the City's
website for the latest
and greatest
information!
www.westbranch.com

**Summer Music Series
2010
7pm – Irons Park**

July 8
July 15
July 22
July 29
August 5

Farmers Market

8am – 1pm every
Saturday July – first week
of October located on
S 3rd Street.

2010 Events

Stop by City Hall or the
Chamber of Commerce in
to pick up the 2010
Calendar of Events.

Election Dates

Primary Election – August 3,
2010

Registration deadline for the
primary election is July 6th.

General Election – November 2,
2010

Registration deadline for the
general election is October 4th

Polls are open from 7am to 8pm

Information/Concerns

Any citizen who has concerns, needs information or wants to discuss City related issues, please feel free to stop by City Hall or call City Manager Tom Youatt at 345-0500. Your input and concern regarding our City is much appreciated, as we all need to work together to make West Branch the best City we can!

ALSO NOTE!!

Water/sewer Accounts

ALL requests must be in writing and signed by the owner of record.

Water/sewer information can only be given to the customer whose name is on the account, unless written permission is on file to allow another person to access the account.

You must know the address of the property, whose name the billing is in, the mailing address, and the ARB/Sequence number.

All name changes must be in writing and must include supporting documents.

All address changes must be in writing and signed by the owner.

You now have 60 days to pay your water/sewer bill before the penalty is assessed.

PLEASE NOTE!!

You need to pay with separate checks for
your water/sewer bills and your taxes.

