

City of West Branch News

Inside this issue

Project Updates	1
Summer Activities	2
Events	4

NEWSLETTER

July 2012



Services Offered by the City

- ❑ **Channel 99 – WBTV** is 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.**
- ❑ **August Primary** will be on August 7, 2012. Don't forget to vote!
- ❑ **Ogemaw County EDC** has hired Mandi Chasey as their new Director, stop by and say Hi - 2389 S. M-76.
- ❑ **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.

City Projects - 2012

Following almost two and one-half years of construction, the West Branch Area Wastewater Treatment Plant facility has been completed. When construction began in November 2009, the WWTP Authority knew that this was a big project and would take time to complete. The main contractor, DeVere Construction, along with many subcontractors, engineering firm c2ae and WWTP staff, worked hard on this project and although it took some time to complete, the facilities are great and the plant is operating very efficiently. The \$15,320,000 project was funded with a low interest loan from Rural Development along with a \$1,500,000 grant. The West Branch Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Authority consists of the City of West Branch, Ogemaw Township and West Branch Township. A public open house will be scheduled this summer.

The City will soon begin construction on a new phase of the Rivertrail system. The new section will go from Houghton Avenue near Branham's Jewelry to North Fourth Street near Consumers Energy property along the river. The project is scheduled to begin late summer or early fall and take about 8 weeks to complete. The City received a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Land Trust Fund grant in the amount of \$171,600 and will be matched with City funds in the amount of \$114,400. The Rivertrail will include a paved 14 foot wide walkway, decking, lights, benches and trash receptacles. We look forward to extending this much used recreational path along the City's most valuable recreational resource, the West Branch of the Rifle River.

The City is working with Huron Pines to install up to three new rain gardens in the City with locations near the West Branch of the Rifle River and Irons Park. Rain gardens are effective in controlling storm water runoff from streets and buildings and keeping our watershed clean. This project is scheduled for mid-September.

I'm sure all of you have noticed our marigolds that have been planted along Houghton Avenue. Students from Surline Middle School assisted with this annual project which is sponsored by our Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Assistance was provided by the City DPW crew and Police Department. The flowers make our main street look great!

The MDOT construction project on the I-75 business loop from Exits 212 and 215 to the City limits got off to a great start. The excellent spring weather allowed the contractors to make great progress early in the project. The completion of this project is scheduled for this Fall. The City is working with MDOT to begin planning the reconstruction of Houghton Avenue downtown, which will include infrastructure replacement.

The City hopes everyone will have a safe and enjoyable summer season!

Brush Pick-up Guidelines

Brush Pick-up is 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
Denise Lawrence – At-Large
William Ehinger – At-Large

Council meetings are the 1st & 3rd Monday's at 6:00pm 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 6:00pm.

Zoning Board of Appeals Members

Edward Kelly
Anthony Wirth
Thom Jones
Michael Pugh
Glenda Colclasure

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 with the annual flower planting project.

In addition to the students, many parents, teachers and City employees assisted with the flower planting. The City has again enlisted the assistance of Maurice McKim and his wife to water the flowers and the Kiwanis Club to weed the flower beds throughout the summer months.

Summer Activities

West Branch is the place to be this summer with many activities scheduled. The "Fabulous Friday" events continue for the fourth year this summer. Every Friday night starting June 15 thru August 31 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 website, <http://www.westbranchevents.com/>.

Our 2012 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 5th – Gemini (traditional); July 12th – MacLaren Brennan (country, pop, rock); July 19th – Madcat & Kane (blues, folk, jazz); July 26th – J Rock (pop rock of the 60's, 70's & 80's); and August 2nd – Lost Identity (classic rock). Hope to see you there!



The 16th annual West Branch Farmers Market starts on July 7th this year. The market will again be held in Downtown Victorian West Branch at South Third Street from 8am to 2pm every Saturday through October 27th. This year the market includes any item that is handmade or home grown. Stop by and see what's fresh!

Our popular Victorian Art Fair will be held on the weekend of August 11th and 12th. 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 AUGUST.*** Watch WBTV – channel 99, visit our website 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, or 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 a cost of \$15 for a pack of 10 to accommodate any garbage that will not fit in the garbage cart.

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 between the hours of 2am and 6am from November 1st through March 31st. There is no parking in City parking lots between the hours of 2am and 6am without a permit. 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 153.08 of the Ordinance Code prohibits excessive weed growth (6” or higher) within the City Limits. If a property is found to be in violation of this section, the homeowner will be given one notice to cut, remove or destroy noxious weeds and/or excessive weed growth by a certain date. Failure to remove will result with the City hiring a contractor to do the work and the owner will be billed for the service.



July 2012

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
2012
7pm – Irons Park**

July 5
July 12
July 19
July 26
August 2

Farmers Market

8am – 2pm every Saturday
July – October located on
S 3rd Street.

2012 Events

Stop by City Hall or the Chamber of
Commerce to pick up the 2012
Calendar of Events or visit
<http://wbacc.com/html/events.html>

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!



PLEASE NOTE!!

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

ALSO NOTE!!

Water/sewer Accounts

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

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.