

# City of West Branch News

NEWSLETTER

December 2011



## Services Offered by the City

- ❑ **Channel 99 – WBTV** is online and better than ever! Keep an eye on the updated information! If you have an announcement, drop it off in writing and we'll get it posted.
- ❑ **Brush pick up** is offered the last Monday of the month from March - November (barring any large snowfalls). 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.
- ❑ **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. Check the website or Channel 99 for schedule. At those times you may rake leaves to the curb. Do not mix in any twigs or sticks.
- ❑ **Zoning & Master Plans** – The City's Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan are available on our website.

[www.westbranch.com](http://www.westbranch.com)

## City Election News

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, an election was held in the City to elect the Mayor and three Councilmembers for the City. Mayor Todd Thompson was re-elected and will continue to lead our City into the future. Current Councilmembers Bill Ehinger and Kim Ervans were also re-elected and will continue their dedicated service to the City. Our Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Frechette did not run for re-election. Paul served our City well and was dedicated to making our City better. We thank Paul for his service. Denise Lawrence was elected to the vacant Council seat. We welcome Denise to our City Council. All of us look forward to working hard for our citizens to continue to improve West Branch.

## 2011 Infrastructure Improvement Project

This past fall, the City completed the 2011 Infrastructure Improvement Project. This project included replacement of water main, storm sewer, curb and gutter, sidewalks and street resurfacing on streets adjacent to Houghton Avenue, including North Second Street, North Third Street, South Fifth Street, South Eighth Street and North Eighth Street. The final portion of the project included grass seed and tree planting. The City received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the American Resource Recovery Act (ARRA) in the amount of \$744,050 for this project. The project was completed under budget by approximately \$70,000 total.

The City greatly appreciates all of your patience during construction. The project was successful and the new streets and sidewalks look great!

## DDA Tree Project

All of you have noticed the new trees and tree grates installed downtown this past spring and early summer. Our DDA Board realized the need to replace the old trees downtown and also to purchase new tree grates. Our Department of Public Works worked hard and did a great job in planting the trees and installing the tree grates. The trees that were planted are Cleveland Pear trees that have beautiful white flowers in the spring and a yellow/orange fall color. The new trees and tree grates are a nice addition to our downtown.

## Rivertrail Extension Project

Engineering work on the Rivertrail Extension project continues this winter. The City is receiving an MDNR Trust Fund grant in the amount of \$171,600 to expand the Rivertrail from Houghton Avenue west to North Fourth Street. This popular recreational facility will be used by both residents and tourists who will be able to enjoy the West Branch of the Rifle River. The project is slated for bidding this late winter with construction to start this coming summer.

## City Council Members

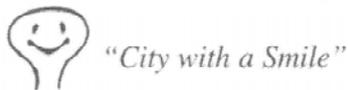
Todd Thompson – Mayor  
Chad Lucas – Ward 1  
Tim Schaiberger – Ward 2  
Rusty Showalter – Ward 3  
Kim Ervans – At-Large  
Denise Lawrence – At-Large  
William Ehinger – At-Large

Council meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday's at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

Please join us!

## 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!



## Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

The West Branch Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Authority, consisting of Ogemaw Township, West Branch Township and the City of West Branch, is nearing completion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. This project, which was started in November 2009, is expected to cost approximately \$10,700,000. Some of the new facilities constructed include two trickling filters, a new storage facility, a new clarifier, a new pretreatment facility, many new pumps, motors, control equipment and lab equipment. Substantial completion of the new plant is expected by the end of December. The new plant facility has proven to be much more efficient than the old plant and will serve the needs of the West Branch Community for the next few decades.



### 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.

## Sidewalk Snow Removal

Remains the responsibility of the PROPERTY OWNER. Failure to keep sidewalks clean may result in a minimum charge of \$50 for the property owner. The GOOD NEWS is that following most heavy snowfalls (5"+) the City will move the snow.



## Happy Holidays!!

City Council and City staff wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season! All of us are looking forward to Thanksgiving, Christmas, the New Year and spending time with our families and friends.

We hope everyone can attend many of the upcoming holiday events that are planned for our community, including our annual Christmas Parade in Downtown West Branch on December 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7pm!

### Ordinance Info...

**No Overnight Parking** – City Ordinance prohibits the parking of vehicles on City streets November 1<sup>st</sup> thru March 31<sup>st</sup> or in City parking lots year round 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.

## Holiday Hours

City Hall will be closed on December 23 and December 26 for Christmas and again on December 30 and January 2 for New Years.

Residents that are aware of a suspicious situation need to dial 911 immediately – not hours later or even the next day! The West Branch City Police Department is here to serve YOU!

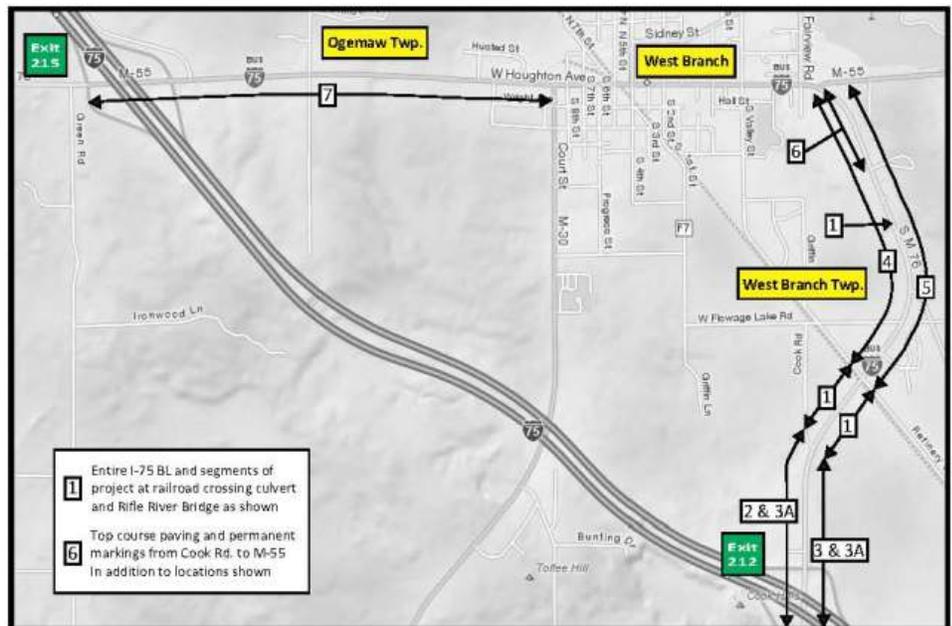
# West Branch Business Loop Improvement Project 2012

In 2012, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be improving portions of the I-75 Business Loop in West Branch at an anticipated cost of about \$7 million dollars. These construction improvements are scheduled to begin in April 2012 and run through October 2012. We are thankful for the significant investment that MDOT is making in our community. A committee of local officials has been working with MDOT to create a plan to minimize disruption to our residents, businesses, and the visitors to our community during the improvement project. Although not all inconveniences can be prevented, it is our hope that with everyone's patience, and providing the community with informational updates, we will get through this and in the end have a great new Business Loop. We wish to thank all of you for your patience while we work together to make West Branch a better place to live, work and visit. **Please continue to support and patronize our local businesses during the improvement project! Review the project map and estimated timeline.**

**Where can you go for project updates and detour information:** MDOT **Community Meeting** - This meeting will be held in the Spring of 2012. Time and date of this meeting will be posted via the following resources once determined. **Facebook** - Search and locate **2012 West Branch Business Loop Improvement Project**. By selecting "like" on this page, you will have easy access to current updates directly from your Facebook wall. **Local Media** - Look for updates via the local media - Ogemaw Herald, Ogemaw Voice, Classic Hit Country 105.5 - WBMI, and Charter station 99 (West Branch Public Information Channel). **Websites** - Find updated information on the following websites: Ogemaw Economic Development Corp. (EDC) - [www.everythingogemaw.com/edc-news](http://www.everythingogemaw.com/edc-news), West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce - [www.wbacc.com](http://www.wbacc.com), City of West Branch - [www.westbranch.com](http://www.westbranch.com), West Branch Township - [www.westbranchtownship.org](http://www.westbranchtownship.org), and Ogemaw Township - [www.ogemawtownship.org](http://www.ogemawtownship.org).

2012 West Branch Improvement Schedule

Project Improvement Stages	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
April 2, 2012 - Begin Work on I-75 Business Loop (BL)	[Timeline bar starting at April 2, 2012]						
<b>Stage 1</b> - Construct temporary widening on east side of I-75 BL. Construct leveling at culvert, railroad and Rifle River Bridge. Temporary signals will be used at Rifle River Bridge. 1 week detour and flagging at culvert and railroad. Complete by Memorial Day.	[Timeline bar from April 2 to May 15]						
<b>Stage 2</b> - Construct west side of I-75 BL to final grade from Exit 212 to Cook Rd.	[Timeline bar from May 15 to June 15]						
<b>Stage 3</b> - Construct east side of I-75 BL to final grade from Exit 212 to Cook Rd.	[Timeline bar from June 15 to July 15]						
<b>Stage 3A</b> - Place all top course and permanent pavement markings on I-75 BL from Exit 212 to Cook Rd.	[Timeline bar from July 15 to July 31]						
<b>Stages 1-3A</b> - All work completed by July 3, 2012.	[Timeline bar from April 2 to July 3]						
<b>Stage 4</b> - Construct west side of I-75 BL to leveling course from Refinery Rd. to Woodland Dr. Perform joint repairs on west side of I-75 BL from Woodland Dr. to M-55.	[Timeline bar from July 3 to August 15]						
<b>Stage 5</b> - Construct east side of I-75 BL to leveling course from Refinery Rd. to Woodland Dr. Perform joint repairs on east side of I-75 BL from Woodland Dr. to M-55.	[Timeline bar from August 15 to September 15]						
<b>Stage 6</b> - Mill and resurface I-75 BL from Woodland Dr. to M-55. Place top course and permanent pavement markings from Cook Rd. to M-55.	[Timeline bar from September 15 to October 15]						
<b>Stage 7</b> - All work complete by October 26, 2012.	[Timeline bar from April 2 to October 26]						
Lanes Open to Traffic	[Timeline bar from April 2 to October 26]						
	Construction on "Hill"			Construction on North Half			
	Flag Control			2 Lanes Open			



Printing made possible by the Ogemaw EDC Alliance Fund.



Full schedule & info brochure can be downloaded from [westbranch.com](http://westbranch.com) or 2012 West Branch Business Loop Improvement Project page on Facebook.

**City of West Branch**

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West Branch, MI 48661  
(989) 345-0500

cityhall@westbranch.com

www.westbranch.com

**Summer Music Series  
2012  
7pm – Irons Park**

Dates to be chosen soon!

**Farmers Market**

8am – 1pm every  
Saturday July – end of  
October located on  
S 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

**2012 Events**

Stop by City Hall or the  
Chamber of Commerce in  
January to pick up the  
2012 Calendar of Events.

Check out the City's  
website for the latest and  
greatest information!

**REMINDER!! You must  
pay water/sewer bills on  
separate checks than  
taxes.**



## 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 now 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.

