



Quarterly Newsletter

City of West Branch

January 2018

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

City Council Members

Denise Lawrence – Mayor
Aaron Tuttle – Ward 1
Tim Schaiberger – Ward 2
Rusty Showalter – Ward 3
Joanne Bennett – At Large
Dan Weiler – At Large
David Lucas – At Large

*Council meetings are the 1st & 3rd Mondays
@ 6:00pm in Council Chamber @ City Hall*

Up Coming Events:

January:
February: 3 Family Fun Day, 17 – Winter Ball WBACC
March: 27 Buisness Expo *For more information visit Chamber of Commerce page @*
www.wbacc.com *then click events*

City Manager Updates

Dear City Residents,

Winter is upon us, and hopefully you and your families have been enjoying the season. Our “work family” here at the City has grown lately, with Mike Killackey assuming the role of DPW Superintendent and Mathew Linsenman also joining the DPW. We have also had some new additions to our Boards & Commissions (full lists of Board/Commission members are available on our website)—but additional openings on City Boards & Commissions remain. So please feel free to contact City Hall if you are interested in becoming more involved in your community.

We are also excited to share that the City of West Branch has secured approximately \$350,000 of federal and state road monies that will be going towards two federal-aid-eligible road projects this Spring/Summer: Fairview Road & N. Valley Street. Additional information regarding these two road improvement projects will be made available once the engineering phase is complete, and those interested in staying apprised on the progress of the projects are welcome to follow our City Facebook page. Residents living on these two streets will also receive printed materials about the project as the construction dates come closer.

Another exciting undertaking in the City will be the Planning Commission and Council’s efforts to update the City’s Master Plan & Zoning Code. Since both the Master Plan & the City Zoning Code have enormous impacts on life within the City of West Branch, we hope that the public will share their views on both projects as they move forward. So please be sure to attend any upcoming Public Hearings, Council Meetings, and Planning Commission Meetings whenever possible. Remember, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, you can always share your views with the City in a letter delivered to City Hall, either in person, via mail, or via email. Your thoughts and comments are always greatly valued and enormously appreciated.

Thank you everyone, and enjoy the beauty of Winter! 😊

Sincerely,

Heather Grace, City Manager

Facebook Page

The City of West Branch has a Facebook page. Search for City of West Branch. A great deal of information is updated weekly for your use.

No Overnight Parking

City Ordinance prohibits the parking of vehicles on City Streets between 2:00 am – 6:00 am November 1st through March 31st. City Ordinance also prohibits the parking of vehicles in City Parking lots year round between the hours of 2:00 am – 6:00 am (unless you have a permit). Such rules are necessary so that we can sweep and remove snow from the streets without obstruction. Some exceptions may be permitted – call City Hall at 345-0500 for details.

City Snow Policy

To help people get around safely this winter, the City asks all property owners to observe the following rules: Keep sidewalks free of snow and ice. City crews will clean sidewalks occasionally when large quantities fall (5”and more), but property owners remain responsible. Keep snow away from fire hydrants so they remain visible from all sides at all times. Do not pile snow on corners – this blocks views and causes accidents (and is against the law)! Do not plow snow onto sidewalks, or across or into city streets. Do not use a motor vehicle or ORV to plow snow on any city sidewalks. Your help is appreciated. Snow can create problems for all of us, but if we cooperate we can at least deal with the problem in a safe manner. If city crews are used to correct problems, property owners will be billed for time and materials.

City Website

The City has a website at www.westbranch.com. Please refer to this website for an abundance of information. City employees keep it updated regularly.

Food Pantry

City Hall is a drop off point for the local food pantry, administered by the Trinity Episcopal Church. There are always those in our community in need of basic food items. Please bring canned and dry foods to City Hall when you visit us.

Council Minutes

Minutes from the City Council meetings can be found on-line at www.westbranch.com.

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 Heather Grace 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!

Important Info

Water/Sewer – Per City Council resolution, the water/sewer rates have increased 1% as of October 1, 2017. Also, the Shut off Rates have increased as follows: **\$30.00** – Request or scheduled Shut off (winterization, maintenance, etc), **\$50.00** – Hang 24 hour notice, **\$100.00** – Shut off for non-payment.

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

Garbage Pickup – is normally on Wednesdays each week, except holidays.

Large Item Pickup – is limited to two items per week. Items will be picked up between Wednesday and Friday of each week. Items could include a couch, chair, mattress, and/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.

Recycling Center - located on Lucas Lane between N 4th & N 5th Streets. Hours are Tuesdays from 2pm – 6pm and Saturdays from 9am – 1pm.

DROP BOX – City Hall has a drop box on the wall next to the front door. You may use it to drop off tax or water bill payments. We check it every day. Please do not deposit cash in the drop box.

Services Offered by the City:

- ❑ **Channel 191 - WBTV & www.westbranch.com** - both are currently updated and improved! If you have an announcement, drop it off in writing and we'll get it posted on Channel 191. Check our website regularly for any notices or important information regarding the city and community events.
- ❑ **Credit Card Payments** - The City can now accept credit card payments at City Hall and our website www.westbranch.com. Service fees are paid by the payee 3% or \$2.00 minimum per transaction.
- ❑ **Automatic Withdrawals** – You may set up an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account to pay water/sewer or tax bills. Stop by City Hall for more info.



We are so happy to have had such great success with the patronicity grant to help improve our park. What an unbelievably generous community we have! In addition, Kelli Collins as the GPSCR coordinator has done an amazing job in her role. She has helped with improving the look of our community with her role in zoning and blight as well as securing grant funds to help improve our park. We are so grateful to have her as part of our team and community! As part of the Patronicity Grant we were able to install an Ice Rink that is now open for use!

Happy winter to all!