



Quarterly Newsletter

City of West Branch

July 2018

Vol. 1, Issue 23

121 N. 4th St. West Branch MI 48661, 989-345-0500

www.westbranch.com, Email: cityhall@westbranch.com

Up Coming Events:

JULY: 4- Independence Day Parade, 7- Annual Duck Race and Raffle, 21-22 Relay for Life.

AUGUST- 11-12 Victorian Art Fair, 14-18 Ogemaw County Fair

For more information visit Chamber of Commerce page @ www.wbacc.com then click events

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

Mike Jackson – At Large

Council meetings are the 1st & 3rd Mondays

@ 6:00pm in Council Chamber @ City Hall

City Manager Updates

Dear City Residents,

The City Planning Commission is continuing to make great strides in their quest to update and improve the City's Master Plan, as well as the City's Zoning Code. With the help of generous financial assistance provided by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (or "MEDC"), the City was able to partner with the Northeast Michigan Council on Governments ("NEMCOG") to have NEMCOG planning expert Denise Cline help lead the way with this exciting project. However, as with most things, government projects are always much more effective and productive when they are assisted and guided by the citizens who are meant to be served. Therefore, we are kindly requesting that residents, business owners, and anyone else who cares about the future of the City of West Branch please become involved in this endeavor to whatever extent they are able.

In addition, the City is excited to announce that the beginning stages of Project Rising Tide has begun and that we are working in collaboration with local stakeholders on a list of issues that they would like to see the program focus on. We are hoping the State's EDC Department will be meeting in the near future to come up with a plan and to begin implementation of some programs to help in these areas.

We know that most people are very busy and will have little time to devote with assistance in these projects. However, anyone who is able and willing to get more involved is strongly encouraged to attend as many upcoming Planning Commission and City Council meetings as possible, with Council meeting every first and third Monday at 6pm, and Planning typically meeting every second and fourth Tuesday at 6pm. Those who are unable to attend meetings in person can always share comments anytime by either dropping written comments off at City Hall, or by emailing them to: cityhall@westbranch.com.

Sincerely,

Heather Grace, City Manager

Brush Pick-Up

Brush Pick-up is on the *LAST MONDAY* of the month from March - November (weather permitting). Please put brush out on the area between the sidewalk and the street [or in that approximate location where no sidewalk is present] (do NOT put brush on sidewalk or street itself), and only put brush out up to 3 days in advance. *We will NOT accept branches any larger than 4" in diameter and we will also NOT remove excessively large amounts, such as entire trees (stumps, trunks, or branches) UNLESS you FIRST arrange for such "special pickups" at City Hall and also pay for the privilege.* We are set up to take only small amounts of trimming without advance notice and advance payment. For additional information call City Hall at (989) 345-0500.

Noxious Weeds Section 153.08 of the Ordinance Code prohibits excessive growth of grass or weeds, with "excessive" generally defined as 6" or higher. If a property within the City limits 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 in the City hiring a contractor to do the work and the owner will be billed for the service, and unpaid bills for week removal/grass mowings can be placed on property owner's tax bills. So please remember to respect your neighbors and keep your yard maintained—after all, when our whole community looks nice, we all benefit! 😊

Meter & Water/Sewer Bill Updates

COMING SOON! Very shortly the City will start updating water-meter-reader endpoints and begin a switch to monthly water/sewer bills. More updates to follow as additional details become available. Call City Hall with questions 😊

City Website & Facebook page

The City has a website at www.westbranch.com, as well as a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityofwestbranch. Please refer to this website for an abundance of information, including meeting minutes and much more. City employees keep our online content 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.

Information/Concerns

Any citizen who has concerns, needs information or wants to discuss City related issues, please feel free to stop by City Hall and complete a "Resident Communication" form (to help us forward comments/concerns on to the appropriate department), call us at 345-0500, or email us at cityhall@westbranch.com. 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!

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 191, visit our website, follow our Facebook page, or call City Hall for detailed information on flushing schedules, etc.

Large Item Pickup – is limited to two items per week. Items will be picked up between Wednesday and Friday of each week (do NOT put items out before Wednesday). Items could include a couch, chair, mattress, and/or piece of furniture. If Republic fails to pick up your large item, please call them right away at **1-800-438-0966**. 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. Repeated violations of the large-item pickup policy may result in property owners being penalized with blight ordinance tickets—so make sure that Republic is contacted ASAP and reminded repeatedly if they do not remove items are they have been contracted to do. Do not call City Hall with large-item pickup related issues until after you have already tried resolving your issue with Republic first.

Recycling Center- located on Lucas Lane between N 4th & N 5th Streets. Hours are Tuesdays from 2pm – 6pm and Saturdays from 9am – 1pm. Visit City Hall for a **FREE** recycle card.

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.

Garbage Pickup – is normally on Wednesdays each week, except holidays. The week with a holiday garbage will be delayed by one day. You are allowed two large items every week. Large items will be picked up between Wednesday and Friday. Republic is asking that if you put large items out you call them to schedule a pick up. *If you experience any issues with your garbage service, please call Republic Services at 1-800-438-0966.*

Please do NOT call City Hall with garbage service related issues until you have first tried to resolve your issue by contacting Republic, as Republic has been contracted to handle all customer service issues. If Republic's customer service hotline fails to handle your concern, please contact Republic customer service supervisor Gary Hicks directly at GHicks@republicservices.com. Thank you.

Services Offered by the City:

Channel 191 - WBTV

We are currently working with Charter to make improvements and upgrade our equipment for channel 191.

- You can always check out our website as well at: www.westbranch.com or our Facebook page to stay up to date with the latest community information. <https://www.facebook.com/cityofwestbranch/>

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.

