

SPRING

2022



# WEST BRANCH

## IOWA

### COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE EMAIL  
DISTRIBUTION LIST, OR WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT  
AN ENTRY FOR THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER,  
PLEASE CONTACT [STAFF@WBPL.ORG](mailto:STAFF@WBPL.ORG)

110 N POPLAR ST  
WEST BRANCH, IA 52358  
319-643-5888  
[WWW.WESTBRANCHIOWA.ORG](http://WWW.WESTBRANCHIOWA.ORG)

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT



## ADAM KOFOED



### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

From: West Branch, Iowa

Previous jobs: Lots! Anywhere from Jack and Jill, Active Duty Army, Parks and Rec, Community Organizing, City Planning, and City Administration

Family: Married to Ashley who has a teaching background, Anakin (10), Archer (6), and our first daughter expected in late April.

Hobbies: Walking, golf, Iowa Hawkeye sports, making memories with family, and my hate/love relationship with working out. Right now hating is winning.

What you like most about the job: Including people or making them feel a part of the process. Giving council, commissions, or staff concise most accurate information at the time to make the best well-informed decision they can.

Why West Branch? To come home for my kids and their grandparents. To give back to my community like previous generations did before me.

From: I grew up in Columbus Junction, but have lived in the Iowa City area since I was a college student.

Previous jobs: I worked for Iowa Legal Aid, Iowa Workforce Development, and the University of Iowa.

Family: My parents still live in Columbus Junction, and my two younger brothers live in the Iowa City area. I have a 15-year-old son that attends West High in Iowa City.

Hobbies: I enjoy watching my son play sports. I enjoy playing tennis and board games, and traveling with friends and family.

What you like most about the job: To have a happy and fulfilling work environment, I need variety, to work with the public, build strong working relationships, and be able to grow as a professional. This position checks all the boxes for me. Plus, I can use my skill set to optimize finances as West Branch grows.

Why West Branch? Prior to working here, I had visited the Hoover Library and Historic Site. People smiled and greeted me, and the shops on Main Street were full of wonderful things to see and buy. It was my initial impression of this wonderful community that tipped my decision to take this position.

## HEIDI VAN AUKEN



### FINANCE OFFICER

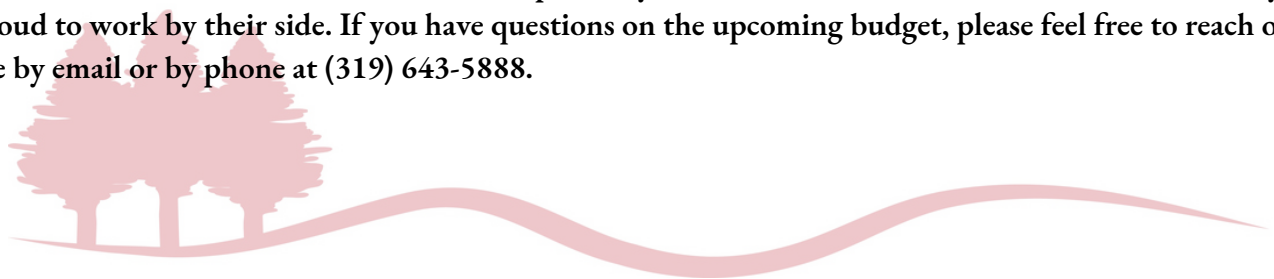


# FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

ADAM KOFOED  
ADAM@WESTBRANCHIOWA.ORG

July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 will be a difficult fiscal year. We are asking for your patience this upcoming year as our fiscal health is priority number one. We are optimistic the tough decisions made this year will make our budget resilient to unexpected negative changes we are experiencing this coming year. Due to budget constraints, council and city staff will be hesitant to start new programs or projects. We would like you to stay motivated in this time even if your concerns are met with initial skepticism. West Branch can become the place to live in Eastern Iowa if you stay motivated as there will be better fiscal years ahead of us.

Despite the difficult decisions facing a tight fiscal year, city council and staff have shown strong professionalism, worked well together, and represented what civil service is about. Looking out for what is best for the common good, while remaining cordial and thinking strategically. You should be proud to have model elected officials and staff that represent you so well. As a native of West Branch, I am very proud to work by their side. If you have questions on the upcoming budget, please feel free to reach out to me by email or by phone at (319) 643-5888.



## HOUSING GRANTS

Our partners at ECIA have received two new grants.

1. Older Adult Home Modification: Homeowners must be over 62 and improvements that will reduce preventable injuries, improve general safety, increase accessibility, and improve their functional abilities in their home. This will enable older adults to remain in their homes, that is, to “age in place,” rather than move to nursing homes or other assisted care facilities.
2. Healthy Homes: No age limits, just an emphasis on water infiltration/indoor air quality, but can address any issues falling within HUD’s Eight Principles of a Healthy Home.

To inquire ECIA can be contacted at 563-690-5776 or [seniorhelp@ecia.org](mailto:seniorhelp@ecia.org)



# CITY NOTES TO KNOW



## CEMETERY CLEANUP- APRIL 1-15

Any faded or holiday decorations will be removed and discarded.

## CURBSIDE YARD WASTE PICKUP- 1ST MONDAY IN APRIL THROUGH NOVEMBER

Yard waste must be in bio-degradable bags, sticks and tree branches must be bundled and/or tied and should be placed curbside by 7:00 a.m. Monday morning or on Sunday evening. The brush pile will be closed until further notice for public drop-off.

## SPRING CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP DRIVE THRU- SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022, 7-10 AM

Water Street parking lot (south Village Green). Johnson County Refuse will collect your unwanted household items. There is a \$10 charge for appliances. This service is for city residents only, if you get a water bill, you can participate. Start cleaning your closets now!

## SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



### WEST BRANCH PARKS & REC

Deadline: March 25, 2022

or until positions are filled

- Temporary Concession Stand Attendant
- Temporary Summer Umpires
- Temporary Sport Site Supervisor
- \*Background check required
- Temporary Summer Counselor
- Temporary Parks and Rec Summer Internship
- \*Resume, cover letter, and background check required

### WEST BRANCH PUBLIC WORKS

Posted until position is filled

- Part Time Seasonal Laborer

For job descriptions and employment applications go to [westbranchiowa.org/city-of-west-branch/jobs](https://westbranchiowa.org/city-of-west-branch/jobs)

## WEST BRANCH FIRE DEPARTMENT



The volunteer fire department is currently accepting new membership applications!

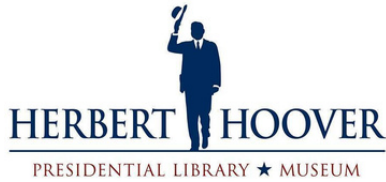
Various Fire and Medical certifications are accepted, such as Paramedic, Emergency Medical Technicians, Hazmat, and Fire I and II certifications..

WBFD serves West Branch and surrounding areas, including a stretch of I-80 and a portion of the Cedar River. WBFD serves as a fire service as well as a first responder to various call types including:

- Motor vehicle accidents
- Structure fires
- Vegetation fires
- Hazmat
- Medical emergencies
- and more

If you have experience in Fire or Emergency Medical Services, or are looking to get involved, apply today!

For more information or to apply, contact [wbfire@westbranchiowa.org](mailto:wbfire@westbranchiowa.org)



# HERBERT HOOVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

After a two-year hiatus, the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site will host school groups again this spring!

Our plans are evolving but may include open-air ranger talks at the Birthplace Cottage, Blacksmith Shop, and Friends Meetinghouse. Schools are also invited to enjoy self-guided tours of the one room schoolhouse, historic neighborhood, presidential gravesite and/or the trails in the tallgrass prairie. The picnic shelters and adjacent comfort station will also be available for use.

The 2022 school group schedule runs from April 25-May 26 with hourly slots for the ranger talks available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserve your date and time in advance!

For more information and/or to make a school group reservation, please contact Park Ranger Jenny Cripe Davis at [jennifer\\_davis@nps.gov](mailto:jennifer_davis@nps.gov).

In addition, the Park is looking ahead to the summer season and anticipating that other types of tour groups will be back again to visit us. We encourage any group that might be interested in scheduling a tour at the Herbert Hoover NHS to contact Jenny! We will continue to follow all federal guidance and look forward to welcoming everyone back safely.



## 3RD THURSDAY AT HOOVER'S Third Thursday of the month at 6pm online via Zoom



On the third Thursday of each month, the Hoover Presidential Foundation and the Hoover Presidential Library and Museum present a special evening program, currently free on Zoom. Topics include everything from the history of the National Park Service to the Christmas Eve fire at the White House, and all are family-friendly.

Registration required. Co-sponsored by the West Branch Public Library.

Visit [hooverpresidentialfoundation.org](https://hooverpresidentialfoundation.org) or [wbpl.org](https://wbpl.org) (look under Events) for more information and to register!

Director Melissa Russell  
113 N 1st Street, PO Box 218,  
West Branch, Iowa 52358  
melissa@westbranchiowa.org 319.643.5888  
westbranchiowa.org/wbpr  
www.facebook.com/West-Branch-Parks-and-Recreation



## EASTER EGG HUNT

### CO-SPONSORED BY WBPL

Saturday April 9, 2022  
9am-10am & 10am-11am

Children can pick up plastic eggs and prizes from the field, then turn in their eggs for a bag of candy! Easter Bunny will be available for pictures.

- Pre-registration is required. Sign up for your 10-minute time slot by March 30!
- Register online: [westbranchiowa.org/wbpr](http://westbranchiowa.org/wbpr)



## SUMMER CAMPS

June 13-17, July 11-15, July 18-22, July 25-29, August 8-12  
8:30am-4:30pm (before and after camp care available)

Join in the summer fun as we go to places including Jellystone campground, Camp Courageous, River Museum, Fun City, Defy, and Crystal Lake Caves. Weekly activities will include swimming, games, movies, craft activities, and other adventures!

- Camp is for children Kindergarten-5th grade.
- Each camp is limited to 6-10 participants.
- \$180 each week per participant (payment plans are available).
- Registration and more details available in March!

## RED CROSS SWIM LESSONS - TIPTON AQUATIC CENTER

9:00am Monday-Friday from June 20-July 1, 2022

Sign your child up for indoor swimming lessons at the Tipton Aquatic Center! There are various levels available. The city offers bus service to and from Tipton for an additional fee.

- Swim lessons: \$40 per person
- Bus service to and from Tipton: \$30 per person (or \$40 per family).
- Register for lessons May 2!
- Registration forms for lessons and bus are available at [westbranchiowa.org/wbpr](http://westbranchiowa.org/wbpr)



# SPRING AND SUMMER SPORTS

Registration forms can be found at

[westbranchiowa.org/wbpr](http://westbranchiowa.org/wbpr)

Schedules still subject to change, check the website or Facebook for the most up-to-date information!



## **YSF 5th/6th Grade Track and Field**

- Registration information available at [youthsportsfoundation.org](http://youthsportsfoundation.org)
- Meets will be Sunday afternoons in various communities.
- Registration deadline: March 21, 2022.

## **Preschool-Early Kindergarten Co-ed Soccer**

- Fee: \$25, additional \$20 for red/white reversible Parks and Recreation jersey.
- Practice and games will be Tuesdays or Thursdays April 26-May 23 at 5:45 or 6:30.
- Registration deadline: March 10, 2022 or when teams are filled.

## **Preschool Co-ed T-ball**

- Fee: \$25, additional \$20 for jersey.
- Practice and games will be Tuesdays or Thursdays May 31-June 30 at 5:45 or 6:30.
- All games will be played in West Branch.
- Team size is limited!
- Coaches meeting: 6pm May 4 at Town Hall.
- Registration deadline: April 27, 2022 or when teams are filled.

## **Kindergarten Coed T-ball**

- Fee: \$40 per player
- Practices will start early May, TBD by the coach.
- Games will be 1 hour long, Monday and/or Wednesday, May 16-June 29 at 5:45 or 6:45
- All games will be in West Branch.
- Registration deadline: March 10, 2022 or when teams are filled.



## **1st-2nd Grade Coed Machine Pitch**

- Fee: \$40 per player
- Practices will start early May, TBD by the coach.
- Games will be Tuesdays and/or Thursdays May 17-June 30 at 5:45 or 7:00pm.
- All games will be in West Branch.
- Registration deadline: March 10, 2022 or when teams are filled.

## **3rd/4th grade baseball and 3/4 grade softball**

- Fee: \$60 per person
- Outdoor practices will start mid-April.
- Games will be Mondays and Wednesdays May 16-June 29 around 6pm or 7:30pm.
- There will be one tournament in June on a weekend. (Date and location TBD.)
- Games will be played in West Branch, West Liberty, Tipton, Wilton, Clarence, Anamosa, Calamus, Anamosa, Mechanicsville.
- Registration deadline: March 10, 2022 or when teams are filled.

## **5th/6th grade softball**

- Fee: \$60 per person
- Outdoor practices will start mid-April.
- Games will be Tuesdays or Thursdays May 16-June 29 at 6pm or 7:30pm.
- There will be one tournament in June on a weekend. (Date and location TBD.)
- Team size is limited! First come first served.
- Games will be played in West Branch, West Liberty, Tipton, Wilton, Clarence, Anamosa, Calamus, Anamosa, Mechanicsville.
- Registration deadline March 10, 2022.

## **VOLUNTEER COACHES ARE NEEDED FOR ALL SPORTS!**

Contact Melissa if you're interested.

[melissa@westbranchiowa.org](mailto:melissa@westbranchiowa.org) or 319-643-5888

## SPARK JOY WEBINAR

Online Sat. March 5 through Sun. March 6

Registration required [wbpl.org](http://wbpl.org)

Have you ever wanted to try the KonMari® method but you never got around to reading *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*?

WBPL is hosting a 1-hour pre-recorded program to learn the principles needed to Spark Joy® and tidy up once and for all!

Registered participants will have 48-hour access (starting Saturday, March 5 at 7am) to a recording of the program to view at their own pace on their own time.



## CITY ADMINISTRATOR OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday March 23, 6pm at WBPL

Meet the new West Branch City Administrator, Adam Kofoed, at an open house at the library.



Come by, say hello, and welcome him back to the community.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided.



## HOOVER'S MOVERS RUNNING GROUP

Hoover's Movers Running Group will help boys learn teamwork, health, self-image, and emotional well-being through running.

- Available to students currently in Grades 3 or 4 only.
- Tuesdays weekly after school beginning March 29.
- Snacks and access to water will be provided.
- \$20 fee per participant.

Group instructors, Nick Shimmin (West Branch Public Library) and Blake Shultice (Hoover Elementary), will walk with the participants from the elementary to Cubby Park.

Registration will be available soon! Check the library's website and Facebook page for details, and keep an eye on information from the school.



# EASTER EGG HUNT

## CO-SPONSORED BY WB PARKS & REC

Saturday April 9, 2022

9am-10am & 10am-11am

Details on page 6!



## WALKING WEDNESDAYS!

Starts May 4th at 11am at WBPL

Join West Branch Public Library and Parks & Rec as we dust off the cold and improve our mental and physical health, and maybe meet some new friends along the way!

This is an adult only activity, however children in strollers are allowed. No pets, please. In the case of inclement weather, walking will be cancelled for the day.

Register at [westbranchiowa.org/wbpr](https://westbranchiowa.org/wbpr)

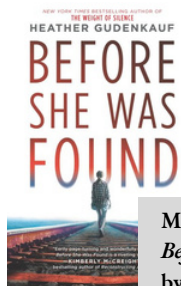
## WBPL BOOK DISCUSSION

Third Tuesday of the month, 7pm at WBPL and on Zoom

It's a book club anyone can join! We read a wide variety of entertaining and informative books, from mysteries to memoirs and everything in between.

Looking for a good book? All adults are welcome to read along, even if you can't make it to our meetings!

Contact the library to reserve a copy of this month's book.



March 15  
*Before She Was Found*  
by Heather Gudenkauf



April 19  
*The Book of Lost Names*  
by Kristin Harmel



May 17  
*The Midnight Library*  
by Matt Haig

## STORYTIMES

Tuesdays at 6:45pm and Fridays at 10:15am



Join Ms. Becky for themed storytimes at the library! Tuesday night Family Storytime offers stories followed by a bedtime snack, geared for all ages. Friday Storytimes are followed by a quick craft activity that the children can complete and take home, more geared toward preschool age through early elementary (but all ages are welcome).

# WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP



A Main Street Iowa Community

## COFFEE & COLLABORATION

Monday February 28, 9-10:30am

Hoover Presidential Foundation & WBCDG Office (127 W Main St)

Quarterly gathering for local business/commercial property owners to encourage networking, collaboration and growth, share information and resources, gather feedback and foster community to strengthen West Branch's economic vitality.

This session will also include a Meet & Greet with new City Administrator, Adam Kofoed.

RSVP at:

[mainstreetwestbranch.org/business-resources](http://mainstreetwestbranch.org/business-resources)



## COMMUNITY VISIONING FOCUS GROUPS

Saturday March 26, 9am-1pm

Hoover Presidential Foundation & WBCDG Office (127 W Main St)

West Branch has been chosen to participate in this year's Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning Program. The goal of the project is to develop a landscape plan that will graphically illustrate the vision of the community. Input from residents is an important part of this process and your ideas about community design and enhancement are valuable to West Branch's visioning committee!

On March 26th, 1-hour Focus Groups will be held for the following selection of residents:

- Active Recreation Users
- Mobility Challenged Individuals
- Parents
- Older Adults (65+)

To learn more or sign up for a focus group contact Melissa Russell:  
[melissa@westbranchiowa.org](mailto:melissa@westbranchiowa.org) or 319-643-5888

# LADIES NIGHT OUT ON MAIN STREET

Wednesday April 6 from 5-8pm  
Main Street



Grab your girlfriends and come EAT, SHOP & EXPLORE West Branch's historic Main Street district during the spring edition of Ladies Night Out! Enjoy special promotions and refreshments while you #ShopSmall with a variety of locally owned businesses!



**SWEETS FOR SUCCESS:  
DESSERT AUCTION**  
Friday April 22 from 6-10pm  
Little Lights on the Lane

The community's largest fundraiser of the year featuring a live auction of incredible homemade desserts and an evening of socialization, food and drinks to celebrate and support our historic Main Street district and the small businesses within.

Tickets Required in advance. All proceeds benefit West Branch Community Development Group, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Visit [mainstreetwestbranch.org/sweets](https://mainstreetwestbranch.org/sweets) for details, to sign up to donate a dessert or to reserve a table.

## RECURRING WBCDG COMMITTEE MEETINGS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

New volunteer committee members are always welcome and needed! Learn more about volunteer opportunities and each committee at [mainstreetwestbranch.org/get-involved](https://mainstreetwestbranch.org/get-involved)

- **Promotions Committee**  
2nd Tuesday from 8:30-9:30pm via Zoom
- **Organization Committee**  
3rd Thursday (even months) from 6:30-7:30pm via Zoom
- **Economic Vitality Committee**  
2nd Tuesday 2-3pm in person (CDG office) or on Zoom
- **Design Committee**  
2nd Wednesday Noon-1pm in person (WBPL) or on Zoom





# COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

WHITNEY'S WINGS

## 2ND ANNUAL EASTER BASKET GIVEAWAY

Baskets include 20 Easter Eggs filled with Quality Candy, a Whitney's Wings signature \$2 bill, and a bunny tag personalized with your child's name that can be decorated.

*Registration opens March 20 on our Facebook page.*

### Free Option

FREE for Low Income and  
Underserved Families

### Give Back Option

\$15/basket. Each basket  
purchased provides a basket to  
a local family.

Thank you to our Sponsors!



#SpreadJoy

## CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES WILL BE APRIL 29 & 30!



SPONSORED BY THE WB TIMES

# GARAGE SALE

**FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT ANNIE  
AT 563-886-2131 OR  
ASCHRODER79@GMAIL.COM**

## West Branch Community Calendar

**WEST  
BRANCH**

Iowa

**Join us!** Post your Group's events  
and activities!

The calendar is free to join for all  
West Branch groups, businesses,  
and entities, and is provided by the  
West Branch Public Library.

Your free accounts can also do  
ticketing, payment, and  
registration for your events and  
activities.

Click **About & Join** at  
**[westbranchiowa.events](http://westbranchiowa.events)** to sign up!

WOULD YOU RATHER GET  
YOUR NEXT NEWSLETTER BY  
EMAIL?

DO YOU HAVE AN EVENT TO  
SUBMIT TO THE SUMMER  
EDITION?

CONTACT [STAFF@WBPL.ORG](mailto:STAFF@WBPL.ORG)