

FALL

2022



WEST BRANCH IOWA

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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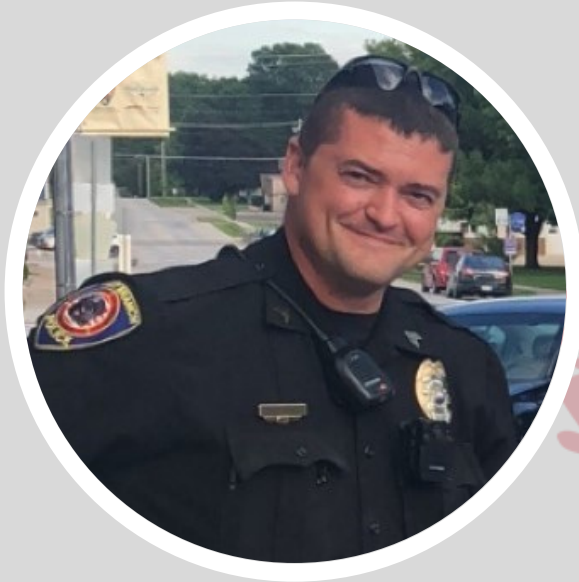
IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE EMAIL
DISTRIBUTION LIST, OR WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT
AN ENTRY FOR THE FALL NEWSLETTER, PLEASE
CONTACT STAFF@WBPL.ORG

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WWW.WESTBRANCHIOWA.ORG

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



JOHN "KORY" HANNA



WEST BRANCH
POLICE CHIEF

From: West Branch

Previous jobs: Virgil's Sinclair gas attendant/light mechanic, Ray Slach Farms Farmhand, Iowa Army National Guard Combat Medic, West Branch Fire Department Firefighter/EMT, Southeast Iowa Ambulance Service EMT, National Park Service Blacksmith (HEHO)

Family: Spouse, Kim Hanna, and one child, Kason Hanna

Hobbies: Hunt, fish, shoot.

What you like most about the job: I have always had a "Guardian" personality in some form, and this profession was a natural fit for me. I take pride in my abilities as an Officer, but cherish the times when you can make a child's day or truly help someone in need.

Why West Branch? I have seen enough of the world, my roots were here in West Branch, and that is where I am going to stay.

From: I'm from North Liberty and I went to high school in Solon.

Previous jobs: I worked in a back room at Iowa City Public Library putting stickers and stamps on books for 9 years! I loved working in a library so much that I went to library school to learn how to do everything ELSE in a library.

I also worked in a movie theater for one summer in high school.

Family: My mom and dad still live in North Liberty. I have a sister, a brother-in-law, and a 14-year-old niece (who happens to be an adorable pug-terrier mix) in Cedar Rapids.

Hobbies: Listening to pop-punk music, the Marvel Cinematic Universe, doing my own nails, and collecting high-end action figures. (Ask me for pictures of Baby Groot.)

What you like most about the job: Finding and organizing information for people; I love cataloging things. I'm also into pop culture, so selecting books and movies and TV shows for West Branch is a lot of fun, too!

Why West Branch? It's close to home and it has the best of both worlds: there's a lot of community love and support for the library, but it's also close-knit and the library is small enough that I get to be in charge of a variety of things and projects... like dabbling in graphic design and doing these newsletters with Becky!

JESSIE SCHAFER



ADULT & PUBLIC
SERVICES LIBRARIAN

FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR



ADAM KOFOED
ADAM@WESTBRANCHIOWA.ORG

Fall is a unique season for City staff. Dry, cool temperatures are the ideal time for crack sealing, repairing sidewalks and potholes, and keeping our stormwater infrastructure clear of debris with our street sweeper. Please be patient with our Public Works Department, as there is only a short window for in-house street maintenance- which normally occurs the same time everyone is cleaning their yard of leaves and sticks.

It's also the ideal time to implement large City projects, such as upgrading our sewer lagoon expansion project and finalizing project quotes for the upcoming Capital Improvement Plan. Staff expects in November or December, Council will be voting on a potential \$0.91 property tax increase for the Herbert Hoover Highway/Cedar Johnson roundabout, Wapsi Creek widening near Beranek Park, and Eastside watermain upgrades. Expected costs of the tax is roughly \$45 a year for a home assessed at \$100,000, subject to final quotes.

Our Library and Parks & Rec Departments have a short window to promote and register participants for their programs, as normally within the first two weeks of school, parent/student schedules are set. Fall brings the important community interaction between the public and our Police Department. Residents should expect to see our School Resource Officer, Cathy Steen, Police Officer Zach Murdock, or Chief John Hanna at school activities.

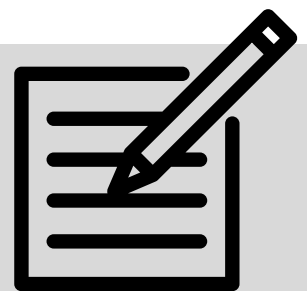
Forward thinking, Fall is the season for City Hall. Iowa League of Cities and the International City Manager Association, hold their annual conferences in the fall. City Hall is coordinating with the Animal Control Commission's Dog Park expansion fundraising efforts, seeking quotes for upcoming projects for the next City budget, and implementing new goals established by the City's seven boards and commissions.

Please be kind to City staff as Fall brings a set of unique challenges.

CITY NOTES TO KNOW

Please save the following dates in your calendars:

- Saturday, Oct. 1, 10-11 am; City Wide Cleanup- Water St. Parking Lot
- Saturday, Oct. 1-15; Cemetery Cleanup
- City Observed Holidays
 - Monday, Sep. 5 Labor Day
 - Friday, Nov. 11 Veterans Day
 - Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25 for Thanksgiving



WHITNEY'S WINGS, THE WEST BRANCH PUBLIC
LIBRARY, AND WEST BRANCH PARKS & REC PRESENT...

A FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE

26 FOOT
SCREEN!



MOVIE TO BE
ANNOUNCED
SOON!

SATURDAY | OCT 8
VILLAGE GREEN IN WEST BRANCH
MOVIES STARTS AT DUSK (715PM)

Clue for Surprise Activity:
When you hear the music, you get really excited!

More info coming soon on Facebook:
@WhitneysWingsIowa & @WestBranchPublicLibrary

WHITNEY'S WINGS

2nd Annual Holiday

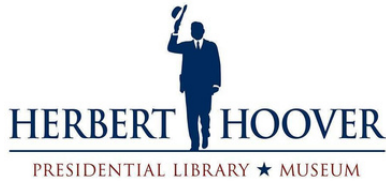
ADOPT-A-FAMILY

If you are interested in adopting a local family member,
please let us know by November 11!

Kids typically receive one outfit and \$40 in toys or
necessities as indicated by the family.

REACH OUT TO TIFFANY IF INTERESTED AT
WHITNEYSWINGSIOWA@GMAIL.COM





HERBERT HOOVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

National Public Lands Day September 24

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest single-day volunteer event for public lands. Established in 1994 and held annually on the fourth Saturday in September, this celebration brings out thousands of volunteers to help restore and improve public lands around the country.

The National Park Service is looking for volunteers on Saturday, September 24th, to help gather native plant seeds in the prairie at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. All ages are welcome. Please email HEHO_information@nps.gov or call (319) 643-2541 for more information.

If you would like to help, please meet at the Visitor Center at 8:45 a.m. to sign up and get oriented. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable work clothes. Long pants and closed toe shoes are required; ticks are abundant. Bring a water bottle, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, long sleeved shirt, and a snack. The park will provide work gloves and other required tools. Work will be ongoing from about 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Drop in and stay as long as you'd like.

This year, the theme for NPLD is Giving Back Together. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, America's public lands acted as a safe haven for recreation, conversation, and the simple enjoyment of being outside the confines of our homes. In a time of disconnectedness and uncertainty, the outdoors brought people together and deepened our appreciation for the important role these spaces play in our lives. Now it's time for us to return the favor.



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



Find registration and payment information for all programs at westbranchiowa.org/wbpr!
Many teams have a minimum and maximum class size, so sign up early. Schedules are still subject to change, so check Facebook and the website for the most up-to-date information.

PRESCHOOL TUMBLING

Tuesdays 11am-11:30am at Town Hall
Register by September 7

Iowa Gymnest is back with their mobile gymnastic program for participants 2-5 years old.



- Caregivers are not required to stay.
- There must be a minimum of 7 registered participants in order for class to occur. Class size is limited.
- \$100 (10 classes) September 13-November 15 (payable to Iowa Gymnest on the first day of class).

TOT TIME/BABY TIME

WITH THE WEST BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesdays 9-10:30am at Town Hall (113 N 1st Street), begins August 31

Free play and activities for toddlers, with a baby lapsit Storytime at 9am. No cost, no registration required. This program will be canceled if there is no school due to weather or no school days.

ZUMBA

Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:15pm at Town Hall, starting September 12
Register by September 7

Abby Noelck is back to instruct Zumba!

- There are a variety of registration options available! Class size is limited so sign up early.
- Check westbranchiowa.org/wbpr to view class options and to register!

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON...

- Early morning indoor walking group
- Learn to ski
 - 4 week session in Dubuque on Wednesdays this winter!

FALL AND WINTER BASKETBALL

Preschool-Kindergarten Basketball

Register by October 7

- Sundays October 23-November 20 at Hoover Elementary, 1:30-2:15pm (times subject to change)
- 1st week will be practice only. Weeks 2-4 will be a short practice followed by a game.
- \$25 fee for participants that already have a Parks and Recreation jersey or \$45 if you need to purchase a jersey.

1st-2nd Grade Basketball

Register by October 7

- Sundays October 23-November 20 at Hoover Elementary, 2:30pm-3:15pm or 3:15pm-4:00pm (times subject to change)
- 1st week will be practice only. Weeks 2-4 will be a short practice followed by a game.
- \$25 fee for participants that already have a Parks and Recreation jersey or \$45 if you need to purchase a jersey.

3rd Grade Boys Basketball - Fall/Winter Season

Register by September 9

- \$60 registration fee. Fee includes weekly practice, jersey, and entry into a weekly league.
- Games will be Mondays October 17-December 5.
- Practice will be Sundays (subject to change).

4th Grade Boys Basketball - Fall/Winter Season

Register by September 9

- \$60 registration fee. Fee includes weekly practice, jersey, and entry fee into a weekly league.
- Games will be Tuesdays October 18-December 6.

5th/6th Grade Boys Basketball - Fall/Winter Season

Register by September 9

- \$60 registration fee. Fee includes weekly practice, jersey, and entry fee into a weekly league.
- Practice will be determined by coaches.
- Tentative game schedule: October 30, 12pm; November 5, 9am; November 13, 9am; November 20, 12pm; December 3, 9am; December 10, 9am in Lone Tree.



3rd Grade Boys Basketball - Winter Season

Register by November 18

- \$60 registration fee. Fee includes weekly practice, jersey, and entry fee into a weekly league.
- Tentative game schedule: January 7, 9am; January 14, 9am; January 21, 9am; January 29, 12pm; February 4, 9am; February 11, 9am.
- Tentative practice on Sundays.

4th Grade Boys Basketball - Winter Season

Register by November 18

- \$60 registration fee. Fee includes weekly practice, jersey, and entry fee into a weekly league.
- Tentative game schedule: January 7, 9am; January 14, 9am; January 21, 9am; January 29, 12pm; February 4, 9am; February 11, 9am.
- Tentative practice on Sundays.

5th/6th Grade Boys Basketball - Winter Season

Register by November 18

- \$60 registration fee. Fee includes weekly practice, jersey, and entry fee into a weekly league.
- Game and tournament schedule TBD. Practice will be determined by coaches.

Children interested in playing basketball should register for their own grade level. If there are not enough participants per grade level, they may be allowed to play up if space allows.

Register at westbranchiowa.org/wbpr

TATER TOT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Tuesday, September 6
6:30pm at the library

Everyone's favorite turtle is turning 15! Mr. T has invited Miss Sarah and his turtle friends from Cedar County Conservation to celebrate with snacks, party games, and more!



21 AND OVER

AFTER HOURS MOVIE NIGHT

Library programs just for grownups!
Visit wbpl.org to see movie titles.



SEPTEMBER 16
OCTOBER 14
7 PM

WEST BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY

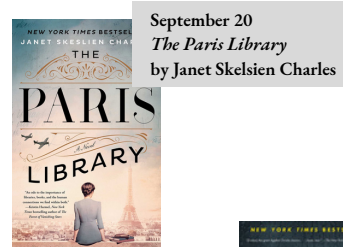


WBPL BOOK DISCUSSION

Third Tuesday of the month, 7pm at the
Public Library 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.



September 20
The Paris Library
by Janet Skelsien Charles



October 18
Choose your own book
by Agatha Christie!

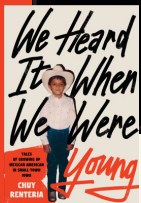


November 15
The Guest List
by Lucy Foley



Author Visit with Chuy Renteria

Wednesday
October 5
7:00 pm
Community Room



Author of
We Heard It When We Were Young
about growing up in West Liberty



NEW! Sign up for The Loop and receive periodic email updates that inform you of new library events and help remind you of the things you want to see and attend. The Loop will be published by the WBPL, but will contain info from around the community.

Sign up at wbpl.org/theloop

STORYTIMES

Join Ms. Becky for books and fun at the library!

Tuesday evenings at 6:45pm starting 9/13

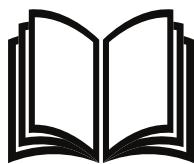
Tuesday night Family Storytime offers stories followed by a bedtime snack, geared for all ages.

Friday mornings at 10:15am

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).

Classroom visits

Once a month, Hoover Elem. Preschool-3rd Grade students get to visit the library for a special Storytime!



WBPL TEENS

2nd Tuesday of the month, after school

Activities for youth in 6th-12th grade.

EARLY-OUT PROGRAMS

Wednesdays at 2pm

Early out programs provide a variety of activities, games, movies, crafts, Legos, and more for students on early-out Wednesdays.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

NEW! BABY TIME- DURING WB PARKS & REC TOT TIME

Wednesdays at 9am at Town Hall

During Tot Time every week, Ms. Becky will be hosting activities to help babies develop early literacy skills with songs, rhymes, and books- geared for children who are pre-walkers or crawlers.

FALL FEST OUTDOOR MOVIE

WITH WHITNEY'S WINGS AND WB PARKS & REC

Saturday, October 8th at 7:15pm at the Village Green

See pages 5 and 10 for details.



TRICK OR TREAT ON MAIN STREET

WITH WB COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND WB PARKS & REC

Monday, October 31st, 4-5pm at Heritage Square

Free hot dogs & pizza slices while supplies last!

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP



A Main Street Iowa Community

COFFEE & COLLABORATION: Q3 BUSINESS MEETING

September 12 from 9:00-10:30am at the Rummells Center

All business owners/managers and commercial property owners in West Branch are invited to attend this quarterly business gathering hosted by West Branch Community Development Group. The next Coffee & Collab will take place on Monday, September 12th from 9:00-10:30am at the Rummells Center (Community Room in basement).

These events are designed to encourage networking, collaboration and growth, share information and resources, gather feedback and foster community to strengthen West Branch's economic vitality. Coffee & Pastries will be provided. Please RSVP by September 4th at facebook.com/mainstreetwb

MAIN STREET SCARECROW CONTEST

Register now! Vote in October!

Back by popular demand! All are welcome to participate in the Main Street Scarecrow Contest. Register now to create your own scarecrow to be displayed on Main Street this Fall. Stake will be provided by WBCDG. Public voting will take place the month of October. Winner will receive Downtown Dollars! Rules and entry form available here: mainstreetwestbranch.org/scarecrow

FALL FEST IN WEST BRANCH!

Friday & Saturday, October 7-8

Main Street

Sidewalk Sales on Main Street will take place Friday & Saturday 11am-5pm! Stroll around to eat, shop and explore with our small businesses. Find your new favorite fall decor, outfit or start your holiday shopping early! Pop-up shops, special offers and fall menu items will be featured.

You can also look forward to Scarecrow Contest Voting, an outdoor movie, and more!



LADIES NIGHT OUT HOLIDAY EDITION

Wednesday, November 9 from 5-8pm
Main Street



'Tis the season to SHOP and this year it's more important than ever to SHOP SMALL and support local businesses! Grab your girlfriends and enjoy the 6th annual Ladies' Night Out featuring extended hours and special offers from small shops throughout West Branch.

Follow @mainstreetwestbranch on Instagram or find the Facebook Event for more information.



A CHRISTMAS PAST

Friday & Saturday, December 2-3
Main Street

A Christmas Past is set to return on Friday, December 2 & Saturday, December 3, 2022 throughout our historic Main Street district and beyond. Join us for West Branch's traditional holiday festival featuring timeless activities like horse-drawn carriage and wagon rides, photos with Santa, train display, festival of trees, silent auction, treats around the fire and more! More details to come!

Follow "West Branch Christmas Past" on Facebook for information.

WBCDG is currently seeking donations of gift baskets, unique items or experiences to include in the annual "Auction for the Ages" during Christmas Past. If you are willing to contribute an auction item please email mainstreetwestbranch@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Looking for a way to get involved in the community, make a difference and connect with other local leaders? We'd love to welcome some new volunteers to the West Branch Community Development Group committees to help maintain this momentum and support our historic Main Street district.

Learn more and sign-up here for more information at mainstreetwestbranch.org/get-involved



COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



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 or wbpl.org (look under Events) for more information and to register!



THE CITY OF WEST BRANCH IS HIRING!

For full job descriptions and employment applications go to westbranchiowa.org/city-of-west-branch/jobs or click on We Are Hiring on the city home page!

Deadline: September 11, 2022

City jobs come with low deductible health insurance or stipend, IPERS retirement, performance-based merit pay, and the potential for additional wages and bonuses.

STREET MAINTENANCE/PUBLIC WORKS

Mowing, mechanical, concrete, and a willingness to learn are highly desirable skills. Hiring scale is \$20.67-24.96/hr. based on experience.

FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER

Strong background, commitment to public service, physically fit, and prior police/military experience are highly desirable skills. Hiring scale is \$25.22-30.45/hr. based on experience.

WEST BRANCH FOOD PANTRY

**1ST STREET BETWEEN TOWN HALL &
LIBERTY COMMUNICATIONS**

319-643-2010 OR 319-359-7834



**OPEN TUESDAYS FROM 4-5:30PM
EXCEPT
THE 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
WHEN
HACAP MOBILE FOOD PANTRY
IS AT THE WB FIRE STATION
FROM 3:30-4:30PM**

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 to sign up!