



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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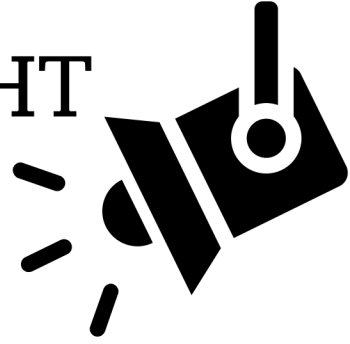
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If you'd like to be added to the email distribution list, or would like to submit an entry for the next newsletter, please contact [staff@wbpl.org](mailto:staff@wbpl.org)

110 N Poplar St  
West Branch, IA 52358  
319-643-5888  
[www.westbranchiowa.org](http://www.westbranchiowa.org)



## Matt Condon



### Parks & Recreation Director

**From:** Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**Previous Job:** Football Operations Graduate Assistant at Iowa Football

**Family:** Anne (Mom), Mike (Dad), Ryan (Brother), Andrea (fiancée)

**Hobbies:** Watching sports, golfing, grilling, spending time with friends.

**Why West Branch?** I had heard great things about the community and it was something I wanted to be a part of. So far everything I had heard is true, the people are amazing and very friendly.

**What you like most about the job:** I love that I get to interact with so many different people from the community. Also, being able to move around and do something new everyday always keeps me on my feet.

**From:** I grew up in Southwest Iowa and moved to the Iowa City area to attend the University of Iowa. I moved to North Liberty after graduation. and have lived there for 25 years.

**Previous Jobs:** I have worked on a county bridge construction crew, at an automotive shop, maintenance at the V.A. Hospital in Iowa City, worked security at a downtown bar, and as a laborer at my grandparents' soybean and seed corn business.

**Family:** Married to Sheila, an Associate Director of Admissions at the U of I. We have a son, Lucas and a daughter, Natalie.

**Hobbies:** Spending time outdoors and traveling with family and friends. We spend most weekends cheering on our children as they participate in various sports.

**Why Engineering?** Growing up in a rural area, I spent quite a bit of time disassembling things to figure out how they worked, building things with limited materials available, and I liked to operate equipment. This pointed me in the direction of engineering. Civil Engineering was particularly interesting to me, since it focused on protecting and improving the quality of life for people with a heavy emphasis on construction.

**What do you like most about the job?** Working through the process with the various stakeholders to develop projects, and navigating the challenges that are unique to each project. I like the satisfaction that comes with completing a project that I have been involved with from onset, and knowing that it makes the community better.

## Dave Schechinger

Veenstra & Kim, Inc.



### West Branch City Engineer

# FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

## Spring

Nuisance abatements are our least favorite part of the job, but a necessary one. The City actively enforces nuisances for a number of reasons:

- Protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of your neighborhood
- Properties in disrepair discourage investments and can create a habitat for unwanted animals
- We want to protect our historic small-town atmosphere

Last year we focused on junk vehicles and mowing. This year we will be focusing on uncontrolled vegetation and property maintenance such as broken or missing windows, failing foundations, and roofs or siding in disrepair. Generally, we start proactively enforcing nuisances on April 1st.

Please remember we do not enjoy this work. And as long as you work with us and have a plan, we are willing to accommodate to your circumstances.

## CITY NOTES TO KNOW



Please save the following dates in your calendars:

- March 20 - Budget Public Hearing
- April 1-15 - Cemetery Clean Up: All items left on graves will be removed and discarded.
- Tentative April - Roundabout construction by the high school.
- Weather permitting - Curbside Yard Waste Collection
- April - Hydrant Flushing. Please monitor the city's Facebook page for your neighborhood.
- May 6, 7-10am - City Wide Clean Up
- July 1 - sewer rate increases from \$16.05 to \$17.65 per 1,000 gallons to pay for the sewer lagoon expansion project.
- Tentative July-November - East Side Watermain Reconstruction. Please monitor the city's Facebook page for more information.

# HERBERT HOOVER PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION



On the third Thursday of each month, the Hoover Presidential Foundation and the Hoover Presidential Library and Museum present a special family-friendly evening program, free on Zoom.

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!

## The Hoovers and Mining

**March 16, 2023 6pm**

"The Hoovers and Mining" explores the role Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover played in the mining industry, including their translation of a book in Latin cataloguing the state of the art of mining, refining, and smelting metals, published in 1556.

**About the Speaker:** Elizabeth Dinchel is the director of the National Mining Hall of Fame in Colorado. She was previously the education archivist at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum and has vast knowledge on both subjects.

## An Audio-Visual Potpourri

**April 20, 2023 6pm**

"An Audio-Visual Potpourri" will showcase a variety of favorite still images in our collection and share some Hoover home movies, newsreel films, and point out a few unusual items in the Hoover archives.

**About the speaker:** Lynn Smith is the audio-visual archivist at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum.



## Hoover and Criminal Justice Reform

**May 18, 2023 6pm**

Professor James Calder, University of Texas at Austin, presents "Hoover and Criminal Justice Reform"

**About the Speaker:** Dr. Calder has been a faculty member at UTSA since 1979, teaching and publishing first as a member of the Department of Criminal Justice until 2006, then to present in the Department of Political Science and Geography. In recent years, his teaching in Political Science has included topics in global affairs, homeland security, the intelligence community and world affairs, federal justice policymaking, and politics in film. His articles and books have focused mainly on security matters, political leaders, and crime control policies, including studies of American presidents and their roles in directing federal actions against organized crime.



# HERBERT HOOVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

## Women in Herbert Hoover's Life

Saturday, March 18 & Sunday, March 19 at 1pm

Herbert Hoover was shaped by his relationships with two pioneering women. Join a park ranger for a 30-minute program about their roles in the life of the 31st president. Hulda Hoover (3/18) and Lou Henry Hoover (3/19).



## National Junior Ranger Day/Earth Day

Saturday, April 22

10am-3pm

Kick off National Park Week with Junior Ranger Day and Earth Day. You can learn about nature sounds, night skies, fishing, wildland fire fighting, and Herbert Hoover NHS! You'll also learn why national parks matter and how you can be a part of the team that helps keep parks healthy. Celebrate Earth Day with special activities.

## Arbor Day Tree Identification Walk

Friday April 28 at 2pm

Celebrate Arbor Day with a tree identification walk around the park with a ranger naturalist.

## Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday, May 27

through Monday, May 29

10am-3pm

Come kick off the summer with a variety of special offerings at the park!

Activities include BARK Rangers, Jr. Rangers, expanded blacksmith shop hours, ranger led talks and walks, and more! Details TBA.



Find registration and payment information for all programs at  
[westbranchiowa.org/wbpr](http://westbranchiowa.org/wbpr)!

Many programs have a minimum and maximum number of participants, so sign up early. Schedules are subject to change. Check online for the most up-to-date information.



# Easter Egg Hunt

Registration  
 required:



When: Saturday April 1st, 9-11 AM

Where: Cubby Park, 301 Scott Drive, West Branch

The Easter Bunny will be there for photos!

For more information and to register, check Facebook or scan the QR code:

If you have questions please contact either:

Assistant Director/Youth Services Librarian Becky Knoche: [bknoche@wbpl.org](mailto:bknoche@wbpl.org)  
 Parks and Recreation Director Matt Condon: [mcondon@westbranchiowa.org](mailto:mcondon@westbranchiowa.org)



## RED CROSS SWIM LESSONS

Tipton Aquatic Center

9:45am Monday-Friday

from June 5-16

Sign your child up for indoor swimming lessons at the Tipton Aquatic Center! 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 TBD
- Register for lessons by May 1!
- 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 22, 2023.

## 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 17-May 8 at 5:45 or 6:30.
- Registration deadline: March 1, 2023 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 30-June 29 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 1, 2023 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 18-June 28 at 5:45 or 6:45
- All games will be in West Branch.
- Registration deadline: March 1, 2023 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 16-June 29 at 5:45 or 7:00pm.
- All games will be in West Branch.
- Registration deadline: March 1, 2023 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 15-June 28 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 1, 2023 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 1, 2023.

## Volunteer coaches are needed for all sports!

Contact Matt if you're interested.  
[recdirector@westbranchiowa.org](mailto:recdirector@westbranchiowa.org) or  
319-643-5888





21 AND OVER

# AFTER HOURS MOVIE NIGHT

Visit [wbpl.org](http://wbpl.org) to see the schedule and movie titles.

3/17, 4/14, 5/12  
 7:00 PM  
 AT THE LIBRARY

A graphic of a sunset with yellow and orange clouds and a red and yellow striped horizon.

Library programs are available to all abilities. Contact us if you have accessibility needs.

# JOANNE SALEMINK

*Author Visit!*

APRIL 26, 7:00 PM  
 AT THE LIBRARY

Come to the library to chat with a WEST BRANCH AUTHOR!! and support our friend, Jo Salemink!

Copies of her latest book, *Scout's Redemption*, are available at the library!

Two book covers are shown: 'Scout's Honor' and 'Scout's Redemption' by Joanne Salemink.

# 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.

March 21  
*She Come By It Natural*  
 by Sarah Smarsh

April 18  
*The Hate U Give*  
 by Angie Thomas

May 16  
*All That She Carried*  
 by Tiya Miles



# In the West Branch LOOP

Want more news in between newsletters? Sign up for The Loop and receive periodic email updates about library events and other things to see and do in West Branch. The Loop is published by the WBPL, but shares info from around the community.

Sign up at [wbpl.org/theloop](http://wbpl.org/theloop)

## Storytimes

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

### Tuesday evenings at 6:45pm

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).



## 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

### 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.

## Hoover's Movers Running Group

For boys in grades 3 and 4! Learn teamwork, health, self-image, and emotional well-being through running. Registration will be available soon on the library's website!



The Easter Bunny will be there for photos!

Check out the FB Event for more information:

## Easter Egg Hunt

When: Saturday April 1st, 9-11 AM

Where: Cubby Park, 301 Scott Drive





Main Street West Branch is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works to improve the social and economic well being of our community & the historic downtown. [www.mainstreetwestbranch.org](http://www.mainstreetwestbranch.org)  
[facebook.com/mainstreetwb](https://facebook.com/mainstreetwb)  
[mainstreetwestbranch@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreetwestbranch@gmail.com)

## This Spring you may notice a new look downtown and beyond!

In 2022 West Branch Community Development Group secured a technical service grant to assist with a complete rebranding project. The 6 months the process included a site visit from a national branding expert, a task force of local leaders, 4 focus groups and work with a graphic designer to ultimately establish a toolkit of logos, designs and themes that create a clear, strong and positive perception of the organization and our community as a destination.



When West Branch first earned accreditation from the Main Street Iowa and Main Street America in 2006 the organization adopted the name of "Main Street West Branch" and even during our 7 years doing business as WBCDG our mission, vision and daily work have focused on supporting West Branch as a whole by strengthening our downtown through economic vitality work, promotion, special events and historic preservation efforts. Focus groups confirmed that our organization's previous name, West Branch Community Development Group, was confusing, ambiguous and just plain too long. We listened!

It's time to keep it simple. Embrace change. Celebrate our roots. The organization will officially be called **Main Street West Branch** moving forward, and our logo has been updated to reflect this and to leverage a new tool in our belt.

## Ladies Night Out: Spring Edition

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

5:00 - 8:00pm

Get out of the house and kick off spring by shopping local! Grab your girlfriends and head to Main Street to eat, shop and explore during the 7th annual Ladies' Night Out! Enjoy extended hours and special offers from all the boutiques, small shops and pop-ups throughout Historic West Branch. Find more information, promotions and vendor information on Facebook at [fb.com/mainstreetwb](https://fb.com/mainstreetwb).



## Volunteer Opportunities

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 Main Street West Branch committees to help maintain momentum and support historic West Branch.

Committees assist with downtown decor, fundraising efforts, community events and festivals, economic vitality and more! Learn more and sign-up here for more information at [mainstreetwestbranch.org/get-involved](http://mainstreetwestbranch.org/get-involved)



# Sweets for Success

HISTORIC WEST BRANCH

DESSERT AUCTION + SOCIAL  
FRI. APRIL 14, 2023

LITTLE LIGHTS ON THE LANE  
WEST BRANCH, IOWA

Table Reservations Required  
[mainstreetwestbranch.org](http://mainstreetwestbranch.org)



## Sweets for Success

Friday, April 14 - 6pm - 10pm

### Little Lights on the Lane

Sweets for Success is the West Branch community's largest fundraiser of the year featuring the live auction of incredible homemade desserts and an evening of socialization, food, drinks and live entertainment to celebrate and support our historic Main Street district and businesses that make it thrive. All proceeds benefit Main Street West Branch, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Tickets are required in advance -- reserve a table of 2, 4, 8 or 10 at [mainstreetwestbranch.org](http://mainstreetwestbranch.org).

To donate a dessert or volunteer, email [mainstreetwestbranch@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreetwestbranch@gmail.com).



HISTORIC

# WEST BRANCH

Where Friends Meet

# Summer Kickoff

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 9-10, 2023

SIDEWALK SALES  
SELTZER STROLL  
BEER GARDEN  
FREE LIVE MUSIC



Whitney's Wings Presents...



free family fun

## Bowling Party

Enjoy 90 minutes of free games, shoe rental, drinks, photobooth, treats, and so much fun!

Registration opens March 6



Cedar Lanes  
Session 1: 11am-12:30  
Session 2: 12:45-2:15pm  
Session 3: 2:30-4:00pm  
Session 4: 4:15-5:45pm

Sat. March 25  
Tipton



Whitney's Wings Presents...



Whitney's Wings  
SPREADING JOY

free family fun

## 3rd Annual Easter Basket Giveaway

Registration opens March 13



Baskets include:

- Easter bunny activity
- 20 eggs filled with silly toys & quality candy
- A Whitney's Wings signature \$2 bill for an extra Spark of Joy!

Easter Baskets are FREE for low-income and underserved families!



# COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

## St. Bernadette's Lent Schedule

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 22 at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent (2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31) at 7 p.m.

Palm Sunday

SATURDAY, April 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Holy Thursday

April 6 at 6 p.m.

Good Friday

April 7

3 p.m. Stations of the Cross

6 p.m. Liturgy

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m. Mass

## 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**

IZZYS TREASURES

## Craft Classes

To register please DM or email  
[izzystreasureswb@gmail.com](mailto:izzystreasureswb@gmail.com)

Mon. January 30  
21+ Night Out

Succulent Garden  
Class



Mon. February 13  
21+ Night Out

Bath Bomb  
Class



Mon. March 6  
21+ Night Out

Knitting 101  
Class



March 14-16  
Ages 7-11

Kids' Spring Break  
Craft Camp



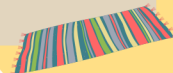
Mon. April 17  
21+ Night Out

Card Making  
Class



Mon. May 1  
21+ Night Out

Rag Rug  
Crochet



21+ Classes are at 6:30pm. \$25/person. Includes wine, chocolate + all craft supplies.  
Kids' Camp is 1-3pm each day. \$45/person. Includes 2-3 crafts each day.

HISTORIC  
WEST BRANCH  
*Where Friends Meet*