



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## IN THIS ISSUE:

STAFF SPOTLIGHT - 2

CITY NOTES - 3-4

HERBERT HOOVER - 5-7

PARKS & RECREATION - 8

PUBLIC LIBRARY - 9

MAIN STREET - 10-11

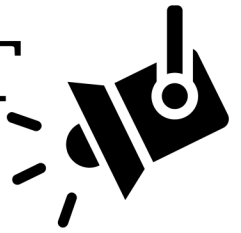
COMMUNITY NEWS  
AND EVENTS - 12



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)





## Zack Murdock



### Police Officer

**From:** Grew up in Vinton, Iowa. Played baseball, football, and ran track in high school. Attended Hawkeye Community College, majoring in Police Science and was a Student Senate member.

**Previous Job:** Previously owned and operated a lawn and landscape company prior to working in Law Enforcement.

**Family:** Wife and son.

**Hobbies:** Coaching youth sports, playing softball, and bowling.

**Why West Branch?** West Branch is known for its small town feel, where you get to know everyone by name. You won't have that in a big city.

**What you like most about the job:** Every day I come to work, it's likely I will encounter someone who is having one of their worst days. Having the opportunity to help them work through these unfortunate events makes this job so rewarding.

## Gabe Trimpe

**From:** Millersburg, Iowa.

**Previous Jobs:** Foremen/laborer at Nolan's Lawn Care.

**Family:** Mom Sara, sister Madison, fiancée Taylor, and dog Aspen.

**Hobbies:** Hunting, sports, anything outside.

**Why West Branch?** Growing community with positive opportunities.

**What do you like most about the job?** Fellow employees are great to work with.



### Public Works - Maintenance

# FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR



Adam Kofoed  
adam@westbranchiowa.org

Summer is just around the corner and there is so much happening in this vibrant historic town. Council's 2023-2028 capital improvement plan is underway. You will see a lot of construction south of town, on north 6th Street, and west of town.

Planning and Zoning Commission has been engaged in several discussions on what the future of West Branch should look like. In the near future, there will likely be design standards to maintain our small-town feel. We won't always be a small town, but we can preserve that small town feel with proper zoning and design techniques which also minimize the increased cost of housing.

Historic Preservation Commission led an effort to preserve James Townsend's Traveler's Rest. The home sits on East Main St. and was once home to escaped slaves traveling on the Underground Railroad. The Commission seeking to become a Certified Local Government (CLG) in which the city get access to exclusive grants to promote awareness or improve historic sites.

Property tax assessment and property tax reform have been recent discussions lately. Staff are still researching the effect of the property reform legislation. But state legislative mandated tax cuts will likely lead to a cut in service we can offer. Please be patient with your locally elected officials and staff. We understand your desire to preserve the many services we offer, such as a top-notch library, robust parks and recreation opportunities, leaf pickup, brush pickup, strong community policing, a responsive volunteer first responder group, and many others. We will do everything we can to listen to you, but staff projects state legislative mandated property tax reforms will equal a cut in local services.



HHH roundabout



I-80 utility relocation project



# WANTED: INFORMED AND ENGAGED COUNCIL MEMBERS



## ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT RUNNING?

We invite the public to ask questions about city operations before they run for city council. Your point of contact should be City Administrator, Adam Kofoed, (319) 643-5888 or [adam@westbranchiowa.org](mailto:adam@westbranchiowa.org). Please remember staff is here to help you, most of us are hometown kids too. And if you're not originally from here, we would be glad to show you city's rich history.

## HOW DO I RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL?

Check in with City Clerk Leslie Brick and pick up a nomination at the City Office. Nomination papers must be filed with the county auditor during the filing period. The filing period is:

**First day: Monday, August 28, 2023**

**Last day: Thursday, September 21, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.**

\*There are no filing fees in Iowa

## CITY NOTES TO KNOW



Please save the following dates in your calendars:

- June 5 - Local Option Sales Tax voter referendum discussion with council.
- July 1 - start of fiscal year 2024.
- July 1 - Sewer rate increases from \$16.05 to \$17.65 per 1,000 gallons to pay for the sewer lagoon expansion project.
- July 1 - Water rate increases from \$7.75 to \$9.74 per 1,000 gallons to pay for east side water main project.
- July 15 - Projected end of roundabout construction. (Subject to weather.)
- August 4-5 - Hoover's Hometown Days
- November 15 - Projected deadline for east side water main phase I project.



HISTORIC WEST BRANCH

# H<sup>OVER</sup>ER'S *Hometown Days*

AUGUST 4 & 5, 2023



**FRI.**

**FREE CONCERT: JAKE MCVEY**  
LIVE ON THE FIRE STATION STAGE

**SAT.**

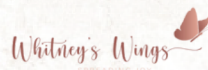
PARADE | BOUNCE HOUSES  
FOOD TRUCKS | HOOVERBALL  
LIVE PERFORMANCES | BINGO  
MUSIC | SHOPPING | MUSEUM  
BAGS TOURNEY | BEER GARDEN



**HOOVERDAYS.ORG**



MADE POSSIBLE BY:



SPONSORED BY:





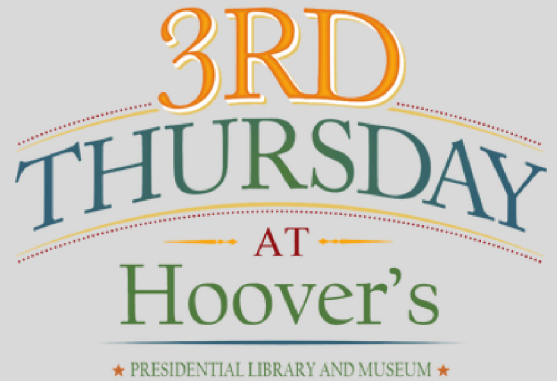
# HERBERT HOOVER PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION



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!



## SUMMERTIME 'BEST OF' 3-PART SERIES:

### Lou Henry Hoover's White House Years

**June 15, 2023 6pm**

When Lou Henry Hoover moved into the White House on March 4, 1929, she looked forward to using her influence to strengthen the areas that were near and dear to her heart: women's opportunities, the arts, and private philanthropy. The onset of what we now call the Great Depression challenged Lou's plans, but she saw new opportunities for serving the nation and remained undaunted. Lou continued to blaze a trail of achievements that have often been forgotten.

### The Lafayette Escadrille

**July 20, 2023 6pm**

A century ago 38 Americans from every walk of life volunteered to fly in the First World War. It was their own idea—to fight in the skies to aid our oldest ally, France, long before the United States entered the war, and helped move their reluctant nation to join the Allies and enter the fight. And they were willing to pay the ultimate price. They were the Lafayette Escadrille. We'll hear from the film's director, Darroch Greer along with Paul Glenshaw.

### Spotlight on the Famous Flour Sacks

**August 17, 2023 6pm**

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum's entire collection of decorated World War I Belgian Relief flour sacks, decorated by Belgian schoolgirls, women and artists, was subjected to a close examination in June 2022. Annelien van Kempen, visiting researcher from The Netherlands, and Marcus Eckhardt, Hoover Presidential Museum curator, studied every detail. They will present what they discovered in their fascinating two-week search in this episode.





# HERBERT HOOVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

## National Trails Day

Saturday, June 3 - 9-11am

Adventures are meant to be shared! National Trails Day is a great opportunity to meet new people in our area and share a fun experience on a local trail. Join a Ranger for a guided walk to explore the restored tallgrass prairie and see what's blooming.



## National Get Outdoors Day

Saturday, June 10 - 10am-1pm

National Get Outdoors Day is an annual event that encourages healthy, active outdoor fun by introducing kids and first-time participants to outdoor recreation opportunities close to home.



## Old-Fashioned 4th of July

Tuesday, July 4 - 10am-2pm

Take a step back in time with nostalgic, family-friendly games and activities for Junior Rangers of all ages. Stop by for living history demonstrations in the blacksmith shop.

## Hoover's Hometown Days

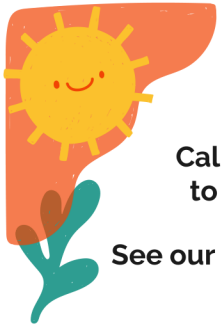
Saturday, August 5 - 9am-5pm

Save the date for Hoover's Hometown Days. Join us for the annual celebration of Herbert Hoover and the West Branch Community!

## NPS Founders Day Park Film Festival

Friday, August 25 - 2-3pm

Join us for a variety of National Park Service park films. These short films celebrate the diversity of the National Park Service with a focus on stories about U.S. culture and history.



## Tot Time

9-10:30

Calling all elementary kids and younger  
to come and join the fun this summer!

See our Facebook page for updates and locations.



Summer Camps and Swim Lessons  
are taking a break this year. Info  
regarding future programs can be  
found on the City website and our  
Facebook page linked above.

## Fall 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!

### Youth Volleyball

- \$60 fee
- Registration July 1st-August 7th
- 3rd/4th grade-Games will be Saturday mornings in mid September-end of October in various communities.
- 5th/6th grade-Games will be Sunday afternoons and evenings mid September-end of October in various locations.
- Practice schedule determined by coaches

### Flag Football

- Registration July 1st-August 7th
- More information available in July

### Preschool-Kindergarten; 1st-2nd grade Flag Football

- \$50 one time fee if you need to purchase a jersey; \$25 fee if you already have a jersey.
- Game/practice day Monday, Tuesday or Thursday at 5:45 or 6:30 (subject to change)
- 4 week schedule; mid September-mid October

### 3rd/4th Grade Flag Football Scrimmage League

- \$60 fee



### Youth Basketball

#### Preschool-2nd grade basketball

- Registration opens in September and closes 4 weeks before 1st session.
- \$50 one time fee if you need to purchase a jersey. \$25 fee if you already have a jersey.
- Game/practice day Sunday afternoons (subject to change)
- 4 week schedule; November and December

## Volunteer coaches are needed for all sports!

Contact Matt if you're interested.  
[mcondon@westbranchiowa.org](mailto:mcondon@westbranchiowa.org) or  
319.930.0393





# SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM FOR ALL AGES!

READING, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES,  
CONTESTS, AND MORE!

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

### THURSDAY THEATER

THURSDAYS AT 1:30PM  
Movies and popcorn!

### SUMMER STORYTIME

FRIDAYS AT 10:15AM  
Stories, activities, games, & crafts!



## SPECIAL FAMILY EVENTS

### ISU INSECT ZOO- SONG OF BUGS!

JUNE 13TH AT 6:30 PM  
'Unia the cricket is on a journey to find out why he has lost his song!

### CEDAR COUNTY CONSERVATION- STAND UP FOR NATURE!

JUNE 27TH AT 6:30 PM  
Find your voice and show your support for a world where people and nature can grow together!

### IA STATE CONSERVATION STATION- WATER ROCKS!

JULY 11TH AT 6:30 PM  
Hands-on interactive nature activities!

### COSPLAY CONVENTION

JULY 25TH AT 6:30 PM  
Dress up as your favorite character- book, movie, cartoon, video game, etc. Fandom activity stations & door prizes!



*Summer Kickoff*  
HISTORIC  
WEST BRANCH

## KICKOFF PARTY!

JUNE 9TH AT 6:30 PM AT HERITAGE SQUARE  
Find your voice... with Eulenspiegel Puppets!  
Free snow cones and cotton candy!

## TEEN PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAYS AT 1:30PM  
Activities just for teens 6th grade and up every week in June & July

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### LIBRARY... AFTER HOURS MOVIE

JUNE 16TH AT 7PM  
*The Greatest Showman* movie night for adults 21+!

### NAMI- IN OUR OWN VOICES

JUNE 28TH AT 7PM  
This presentation will help change attitudes, assumptions, and ideas about people with mental health conditions.

### PAINTING PARTY

JULY 14TH AT 7PM  
Try a variety of fun painting techniques and take home your own projects. Adults 18+!

## CONTESTS

### DETAILS AT THE LIBRARY

### JUNE

Tiny Art!

### JULY

30-second Video Challenge



REGISTRATION BEGINS AFTER  
MEMORIAL DAY!

VISIT [WBPL.ORG/SLP](http://WBPL.ORG/SLP) FOR DETAILS



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)

**SIDEWALK SALES**  
both days on  
MAIN STREET

**SELTZER STROLL**  
+  
**BEER GARDEN**  
+  
**FREE LIVE MUSIC**  
ON SATURDAY

**Summer Kickoff**

**HISTORIC WEST BRANCH**

**POWERED BY MAIN STREET**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
JUNE 9 - 10**

**GreenState CREDIT UNION**

**HERITAGE SQUARE**

**Marcy Willier**  
@TheBelleRoom

## Kickoff: Friday & Saturday, June 9 & 10

Kickoff summer with a weekend of fun in historic West Branch! Come out Main Street to Eat, Shop & Explore on Friday, June 9 & Saturday, June 10, 2023. The festivities will include sidewalk sales both days, and live music in the street, a "seltzer stroll", beer garden + more on Saturday! Learn more at [mainstreetwestbranch.org/summer](http://mainstreetwestbranch.org/summer) or on the Facebook event page.

### Friday, June 9th

**11am-6pm Sidewalk Sales on Main Street**

Explore the charming and historic Main Street district while shopping at locally owned boutique shops for gifts, home decor, vintage, antiques, clothing, handmade items + more!

**6:30pm WBPL Summer Library Program Kickoff Party**

Free treats and entertainment at Heritage Square!

### Saturday, June 10th

**11:00am-6:00pm Sidewalk Sales on Main Street**

**3:00-6:00pm Seltzer Stroll**

Stroll around downtown and enjoy tastings of 40 of the season's newest hard seltzer flavors while you eat, shop and explore Main Street West Branch. 21+ Only, \$5 entry.

**5:00-10:00pm Beer Garden**

Eat, Shop & Explore on Main Street before you kick back to relax in the Beer Garden on North Downey Street. Hosted by Herb N Lou's + The Downunder. Food & Beverage specials available at all our local eateries!

**7:00-10:00pm Live Music in the Street**

Featuring Jarrod Hogan & South 55. Featuring upbeat rocking country music from artists of yesterday and today with a splash of classic/southern rock... you're bound to be singing and dancing along to some of your forgotten favorites as well. Free admission, all ages welcome.





## FREE Business Workshop: Increase your Sales with Google Tools

Wednesday, June 21st 5:00-6:30pm  
Rummells Center, 127 W Main St.

Small business owners and managers are invited to attend this FREE training, Main Street West Branch will be hosting Google staff for this live workshop. Learn how to promote your products online using Google tools. We'll show how local brick-and-mortar businesses can list products on a Google Business Profile. We'll also cover Google Merchant Center, a no-cost tool that allows both e-commerce and brick-and-mortar businesses to create free Product Listings on Google.



**Free Workshop:**  
Wed. June 21st  
5:00pm-6:30pm  
Rummells Center

## Increase Your Sales with Google Tools

Grow with Google

**GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS NOW!**  
WINNER DRAWN DURING HOOVER'S HOMETOWN DAYS

## MAIN STREET JACKPOT



## Main Street Jackpot: Raffle Fundraiser

Main Street Jackpot is a raffle fundraiser to support Main Street West Branch!

Raffle tickets are only \$10 each or 12 for \$100. They are available now through Hoover's Hometown Days (August 5). CASH PRIZES will be awarded when the winner(s) are drawn during Hoover's Hometown Days (you do not need to present to win).

Cash prize amount will be based on the number of raffle tickets sold! The more tickets that are sold... the more \$100 prizes we will give away.

Get your Main Street Jackpot tickets now from a MSWB Board Member listed below or contact director, Jessi Simon at [mainstreetwestbranch@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreetwestbranch@gmail.com) or 319-643-7100.

Board Members: Nicki Brick, Steven Grace, Stacy Waters, Tiffany Frederick, Carolyn Anderson, Paula Rogers, Manda Brown, John Fuller, Jennifer Walker, Justin Stinson, Anthony Capella, Scott Thoma and Sam Drella.

## 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)



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

**WHITNEY'S WINGS PRESENTS...**  
**HOOVER-BALL NATIONAL**  
**CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**REGISTRATION OPEN!**

**SCAN TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER**



**REGISTRATION FEE:**  
**\$20 OR \$35 WITH A SHIRT**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 9AM**





**Sponsors:**

- P.H.A.**
- BARNHART'S CUSTOM SERVICES** WEST BRANCH, OH 310.463.1030
- Urban Acres** Marcy Willier @PhillyShore
- WBR** WEST BRANCH ROOFING
- Brown's WEST BRANCH**

*Whitney's Wings*  
SPREADING JOY

**WHITNEY'S WINGS PRESENTS...**  
**YOUTH HOOVER-BALL**  
**FRIDAY, AUG 4 AT 4PM**

**NEW DIVISION!**

- D1: Entering 4 & 5 Grade
- D2: Entering 6 & 7 Grade
- D3 Females: Entering 8 & 9 Grade
- D3 Males: Entering 8 & 9 Grade

**Registration Fee:**  
**Donation to Whitney's Wings**

**Medals for 1-3rd place in each Division**  
**Medals for Top Donation Team**  
**All players receive Athletic Drawstring Bag!**



**SPONSORED BY:**

- BARNHART'S CUSTOM SERVICES** WEST BRANCH, OH 310.463.1030
- Urban Acres** Marcy Willier @PhillyShore
- FIDELITY BANK & TRUST** www.fidelitybank.com
- West Branch Lions Club**
- Brown's WEST BRANCH**
- P.H.A.**

**SCAN TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER!**

