



# 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 next newsletter, please contact [staff@wbpl.org](mailto:staff@wbpl.org)

110 N Poplar St  
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319-643-5888  
[www.westbranchiowa.org](http://www.westbranchiowa.org)



# FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR



Adam Kofoed  
adam@westbranchiowa.org



## Local Option Sales Tax Referendum Vote No and Your Property Taxes Increase

November 7, 2023, residents will decide whether the city continues its **local option sales tax** in 2025.

Past local option sales tax projects:

- Fire Department facility expansions and equipment
- Cubby Park (LOST is currently paying off the Cubby Park bond)
- Wapsi Park
- Upgrades to existing parks, such as restrooms at Lions Field

Look for these signs highlighting past LOST projects

If residents vote **yes** to continue this tax, everyone who visits West Branch and uses our parks pays a small sales tax and the City will not have to raise residents' property taxes to pay off the Cubby Park bond.



## City of West Branch to Highlight Heritage Hill at Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference

City staff, elected leaders, and trusted partners of the Heritage Hill housing development will present this project to over 400 city officials across Iowa.

Since 2016, the City of West Branch has cleaned 13,397,126 pounds of hazardous materials and recycled 6,670 tons of concrete from an old cement plant. Conference attendees will learn how the city took initiative, coordinated with outside partners, and provided incentives to make a \$1.2 million cleanup project into a four-phased 100-unit mixed use development.



# Herbert Hoover Highway Roundabout

The long-awaited roundabout project opened to the public on August 21, 2023! The project was split with roughly 55% paid by the City of West Branch and 45% paid by Johnson County. Without the City's approval, Johnson County would have stopped the last phase of Herbert Hoover Highway improvements well short of city limits. Johnson County could have said no and waited for West Branch to pay for the entire project as the City grows towards Johnson County. Although it was not project #1 for each government, they worked together on an optimal solution for each party.

Iowa DOT states that roundabout intersections have reduced all crashes by 39%. Serious crashes were reduced by 76%. At the time of the study, there had been no fatalities at the new roundabouts. So, the study estimates that fatal or incapacitating injuries will be reduced by 90 percent at those intersections.



## CITY NOTES TO KNOW

- **Saturday, October 7** - City Wide Cleanup
- **October 1-15** - Cemetery Cleanup
- **Trick or Treat-** October 31 from 5-8pm
- **City Observed Holidays**
  - **Monday, September 4** - Labor Day
  - **Friday, November 10** - Veteran's Day
  - **Thursday and Friday, November 23-24** - Thanksgiving



### New Service Alert!!

The City of West Branch now offers direct bill payment, allowing you to pay your water bill automatically each month. When you enroll in our EasyPay + e-Bill program, monthly bills will be emailed to you on the 1st of each month and the amount due for water/sewer/recycling/trash bills will be deducted from your checking or savings account on the due date. And the best part, it's FREE!



To sign-up, go to [westbranchiowa.org](http://westbranchiowa.org) or call the City Office at 319-643-5888.





## Matt Goodale



### Public Works Director

**From:** Born and raised in Atalissa; Graduated from West Liberty Highschool in 1997.

**Previous jobs:** My family consists of farmers and construction workers so I've done a little of both. In high school, I worked for Greenscape in Muscatine as a laborer, for turkey farms, and a hog farm. After high school I took full time work for Wolf Construction in Iowa City where I learned to install and repair underground infrastructure, poured streets, sidewalks, driveways and garages, and managed the grounds crews at the two mobile home parks.

**Family:** 25 years of marriage with wife, Jackie; 5 kids Madelyn (21), Harrison (18), Reagan (16), Moses (16) and Harlow (13). We currently live in Rochester.

**Hobbies:** Bow hunting, trapping, working on my yard, floating in my pool, playing with our dogs Leena and Ivey. My wife and I also enjoy remodeling and home repair. Co-leader in the Safety and Emergency Response Team and leader in the Men's Ministry at our church.

**Why West Branch?** In high school I always liked West Branch. The quaint downtown and the older houses were always attractive to me. It just always seemed like a quiet town with small town values.

**What you like most about the job:** I enjoy the challenge that the position presents and the varied tasks that my department handles.

**From:** Born and raised in Davenport, Iowa, I went to college Grand View University in Des Moines to play basketball. I completed an internship at West Des Moines Police Department on a fluke. I had no idea what I wanted to do, so my advisor signed me up.

**Previous Jobs:** I applied at Johnson County Sheriff's Office where I spent 15.5 years as a Deputy Sheriff. I taught Criminal Justice courses for 13 years at Kirkwood Community College.

**Family:** 5.5 years of marriage to wife, Chris; two kids, Kelsey, 19, and Chase, 17. Kelsey is a sophomore at Iowa majoring in elementary education and Chase is a junior at Iowa City Liberty High School.

**Hobbies:** Running, being active outside, mini vacations and stay-cations.

**Why West Branch?** I knew prior West Branch Police Chief, Mike Horihan, from when I was a deputy and he was an Iowa State Trooper. He hired me to be a part time officer and have been at West Branch PD for the past 8.5 years. 7.5 of those years have been as the West Branch Community School District School Resource Officer.

**What you like most about the job:** I have been in law enforcement for 24 years. It has been a good career for me in spite of all the negativity that policing can carry. Being a police officer can be demanding, challenging and rewarding. I love working for the community of West Branch and providing a safe community to live in. Being a positive influence on the kids keeps me motivated and passionate about making a difference.

## Kathy Steen



### School Resource Officer

# WHAT GOES BEST WITH A CUP OF COFFEE?



Grab a coffee at The Serving Cafe's new location! Most Thursday mornings at 7:30am, Police Chief John Hanna will be in attendance to answer public questions.



## *Coffee with a Cop*



**NO KID SLEEPS  
ON THE FLOOR  
IN OUR TOWN!**

The Jones County Chapter of **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** provides beds free of charge to children and youth (ages 3-17) in Cedar County who currently do not have their own bed.

To apply for a bed scan the QR code or visit: [shpbeds.org](http://shpbeds.org)

Find us also on Facebook by searching "Sleep in Heavenly Peace-IA, Jones Co"





# HERBERT HOOVER PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION



## Naturalization Ceremony

September 15 - 2pm

Herbert Hoover Presidential Library East Lawn

Come and watch America's newest citizens take the oath of citizenship in Hoover Park. This is a free event, open to the public and lasts about one hour.

## Herbert Hoover Gravesite Ceremony

October 20 - noon

Join us at Hoover's gravesite atop the hill on the loop road, west of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library as we honor the late President and his wife in a brief ceremony.

## Hoover Presidential Foundation Celebration Banquet

featuring Dr. Condoleezza Rice

October 27 - 5:30pm

DoubleTree by Hilton in Cedar Rapids

The Celebration Banquet promises to be an unforgettable evening filled with inspiration and reflection. Dr. Rice will be joined on stage by Margaret Hoover, host of the PBS series "Firing Line with Margaret Hoover," for an armchair discussion about her career. Also during the event, the Hoover Presidential Foundation will honor two Iowa state legislators for their exceptional service to the people of Iowa. Visit [HooverPresidentialFoundation.org](http://HooverPresidentialFoundation.org) for details.

## USA Howe Presentation Day

November 4 - 9am-5pm

Figge Auditorium, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library & Museum

Drop in and see how 15 high school students from all across Iowa have served their communities, state, and nation as Uncommon Students. Each will earn a \$1500 award and four will earn a \$10,000 scholarship to the school of their choice. Their projects will amaze you! This event is open to the public at no charge.

## 3rd Thursday at Hoover's

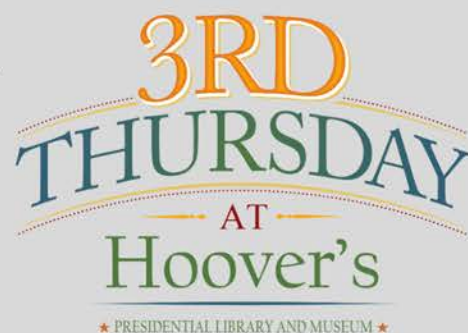
Register for these free online webinars at [HooverPresidentialFoundation.org](http://HooverPresidentialFoundation.org) under the events tab.

September 21 - 6-7 pm

Tammy Proctor, Ph. D. will present "From Belgian Babies to UNICEF: The First World War, Children, and the Right to Food."

October 19 - 6-7 pm

National Park Service Ranger Jenny Cripe Davis will present "9 US Capitols."







# HERBERT HOOVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



## Labor Day Weekend Activities

Saturday, September 2 thru Monday, September 4 - 10am-3pm

Holiday weekend activities include BARK Rangers, Jr. Rangers, park tours, and blacksmithing!

### BARK Rangers

Make your furry companion an official Herbert Hoover BARK Ranger! There will be a BARK Ranger tent set up at Beranek Park as part of the West Branch Dog Fair on 9/2, or stop by the visitor center. Pick up BARK Ranger certificates, dog tags, dog bandanas, and treats, and have your best friend sworn in as an official Herbert Hoover BARK Ranger!

## National Public Lands Day

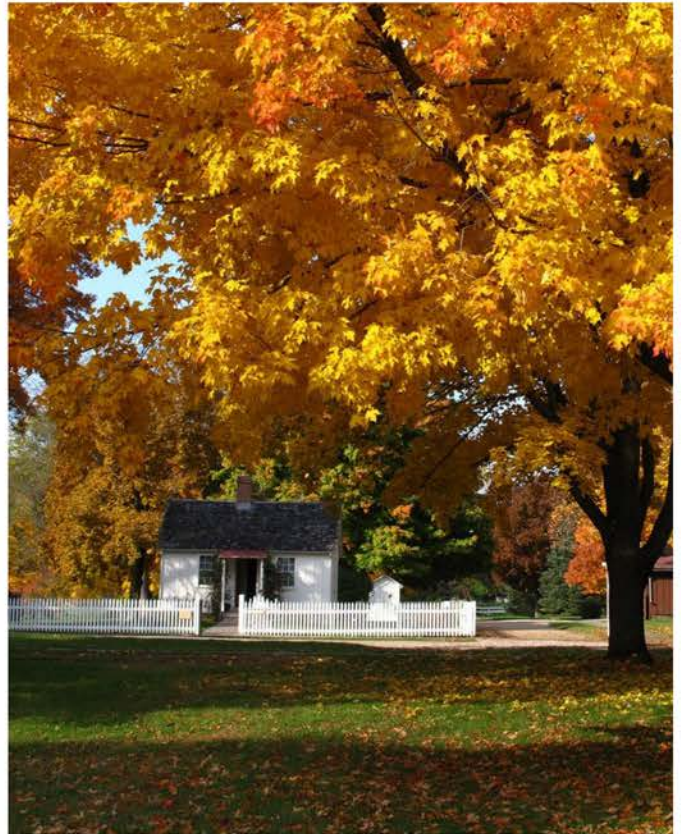
Saturday, September 23 - 9am-noon

This is a nationwide, volunteer-led workday to improve public lands. Contact the park for more details.

## Healthy Parks Healthy People

Saturday, October 7 - 10am-1pm

Give yourself the gift of better health with a visit to the park. 'Healthy Parks Healthy People' is founded on the idea that parks can be gateways to good health- providing fun, accessible places to get some physical activity and to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. Activities to get you moving outside will be available.



## Veterans Day Program

Saturday, November 11 - 1pm

When Herbert Hoover became President in 1929, the care of America's veterans was one of the nation's most pressing issues. Join a ranger for a presentation on Herbert Hoover and Veterans Affairs.



## Storytimes!

Join us for books and fun at the library!

**Tuesday evenings at 6:45pm, September-May**  
Tuesday night Family Storytime offers stories followed by a bedtime snack, geared for all ages.

**Friday mornings at 10:15am**  
Friday Storytimes are geared toward preschool age through early elementary (but all ages are welcome).

### Classroom visits

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

**Baby Time during Tot Time**  
**Wednesdays at 9am at Town Hall**  
Activities to help babies develop early literacy skills with songs, rhymes, and books- geared for children who are pre-walkers or crawlers.

**NEW DAY!**

## WBPL Teens

4th 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.

# Fall Fun With Our Community Partners!

**PUMPKIN PATCH PARTY**  
**OCTOBER 7TH AT 5PM**  
**AT THE VILLAGE GREEN**  
FREE PUMPKIN DECORATING  
AND HOT COCOA!



**HALLOWEEN STORYWALK®**  
**STARTING OCTOBER 6TH**  
**DOWNTOWN**  
UP ALL OCTOBER!

**HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST!**  
**OCTOBER 31ST AT 4PM**  
**AT HERITAGE SQUARE**  
BEST COSTUME BY AGE & BEST PET!





# BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

ALL AGES

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Bring a drink with a lid

SEPTEMBER 22ND  
6:30 PM  
AT THE LIBRARY

21 AND OVER

## AFTER HOURS MOVIE NIGHT

BYO drinks + costume contest

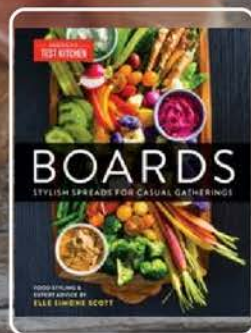
OCTOBER 27TH  
7:00 PM  
AT THE LIBRARY

Free Popcorn! Visit [wbpl.org](http://wbpl.org) for movie titles.

## COOK THE BOOK!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH @ 6:30 PM

The holidays are right around the corner-join us to learn everything you need to know to make a charcuterie board for your next get-together!



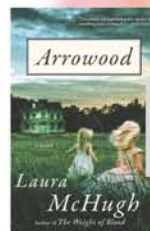
## WBPL Book Discussion

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!

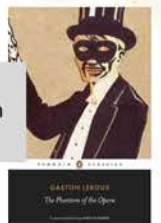
Contact the library to reserve a copy of this month's book.

September 19  
*Clap When You Land*  
by Elizabeth Acevedo



October 17  
*Arrowood*  
by Laura McHugh

November 21  
Choose your own classic!







**Baby Time/  
 Tot Time**  
**Weds 9-10:30am**

Free play and activities for toddlers,  
 with a baby lap-sit Storytime at gam!  
 No cost, no registration required.  
 Cancelled if no school.

**Registration and payment  
 information for all programs:**  
[https://wbparks.recdesk.com/  
 Community/Home](https://wbparks.recdesk.com/Community/Home)

## Fall and Winter Sports

Register at:  
<https://wbparks.recdesk.com/Community/Program>



### Preschool/Kindergarten Basketball

#### Register by October 6

- Sundays Oct 23-Nov 20 at Hoover Elementary 1:30-2:15pm (times subject to change)
- 1st week: practice only. Weeks 2-4: short practice followed by game.

### 1st/2nd Grade Basketball

#### Register by October 6

- Sundays Oct 23- Nov 20 at Hoover Elementary 2:30-3:15pm or 3:15-4:00pm (times subject to change).
- 1st week: practice only. Weeks 2-4: short practice followed by game.

### 3rd Grade Boys Basketball - Fall/Winter Season

#### Register by September 29

- Games will be Tuesdays, Oct 17-Dec 5

### Lone Tree 5th/6th Grade Girls Basketball - Fall/Winter Season

#### Register by October 15

- Practice will be determined by coaches
- Tentative game schedule: Oct 29, 12pm; Nov 6, 12pm; Nov 12, 12pm; Nov 19 12pm; Dec 3, 9am; Dec 10 9am in Lone Tree.

### 3rd/4th Grade Boys Basketball -

#### Winter Season

#### Register by November 18

- Tentative game schedule: Jan 7, 12pm; Jan 13, 9am; Jan 20, 9am; Jan 27, 12pm; Feb 4, 9am; Feb 10, 9am.
- Tentative practice on Sundays.

### 5th/6th Grade Boys Basketball -

#### Winter Season

#### Register by November 18

- 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.**





## Friday & Saturday, October 6-7

### Sidewalk Sales on Main Street - 11am-5pm

Stroll around to eat, shop and explore with our small businesses. Pop-up shops, special offers and fall menu items will be featured both days in our historic Main Street district.

### Halloween StoryWalk®

All October, starting Fall Fest weekend, stroll down Main Street and read a spooky picture book! The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

## Saturday, October 7

### Volunteer Fair - Noon-3:00pm

Looking to get involved and make a difference in our community? Stop by the Rummells Center (127 W Main St) to explore volunteer opportunities available in West Branch and connect with local service organizations.

### Healthy Parks Healthy People - 10am-1pm

Give yourself the gift of better health with a visit to the National Park! 'Healthy Parks Healthy People' is founded on the idea that parks can be gateways to good health-providing fun, accessible places to get some physical activity and to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. Activities to get you moving outside will be available throughout the Hoover Historic Site from 10am-1pm.

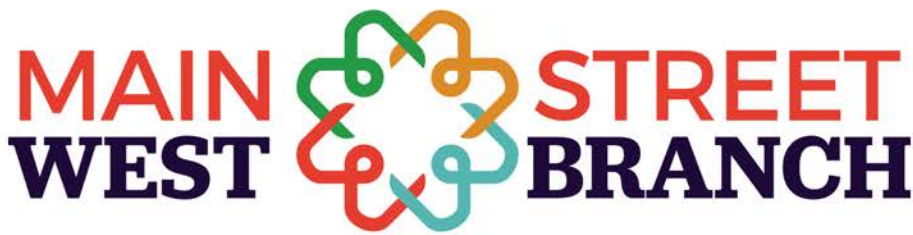
### Pumpkin Patch Party - 5:00pm

Join Whitney's Wings, WB Parks & Recreation and WB Public Library in Village Green Park for an evening of free family fun featuring bounce houses, pumpkin decorating, yard games, and hot chocolate! All FREE! Sponsored by West Branch Kiwanis Club, Hills Bank, and Liberty Communications.

### Outdoor Movie Screening - 7:00pm

Bring your blankets, snacks and coolers to enjoy "Elemental" movie on a 26' screen in Village Green Park! Sponsored by West Branch Kiwanis Club, Hills Bank, and Liberty Communications.





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)

## Shop Hop - Fall Edition

September 9

Stop downtown to eat, shop and explore extended hours and special offers from participating boutiques and small shops throughout Main Street.



## Coffee & Collaboration: Q3 Business Meeting

September 18 - 9-10:30am

Business owners/managers and commercial property owners in West Branch are invited to attend this quarterly business gathering 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 provided.

## Main Street Scarecrow Contest

October 6-31

Back by popular demand! Register now to create your own scarecrow to be displayed on Main Street. Public voting will take place the month of October. Top 3 winners will receive Downtown Dollars! Rules and entry form available at [mainstreetwestbranch.org/scarecrow](http://mainstreetwestbranch.org/scarecrow).



## Trick or Treat

October 31

Grab the kids and head down to our historic Main Street to kick off your Halloween evening! Our businesses will be lining the streets to welcome your families and hand out treats from 4:00-5:30pm, followed by City-wide Trick or Treating until 8:00.



## Ladies' Night Out - Holiday Edition

November 8 - 5-8pm

Tis the season to SHOP and it's more important than ever to SHOP SMALL and support local businesses! Grab your girlfriends and enjoy the 7th annual Ladies' Night Out from 5:00-8:00pm 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, December 1 & Saturday, December 2

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.



## New! Colorful Cords for HS Students

West Branch High School students can now earn a "Colorful Cord" to be worn at graduation by dedicating volunteer service to Main Street West Branch during their high school career.

This new program will be implemented using a sliding scale over next 3 years to earn cords:

- Class of '24 needs 20 hours
- Class of '25 needs 35 hours
- Class of '26 and beyond will need 50 hours

Hours can be earned by assisting at Main Street West Branch events like Hoover's Hometown Days, Summer Kickoff, Fall Fest, Sweets for Success and Christmas Past, and by assisting with office tasks, street sweeps, watering flowers, or by serving on a Main Street Committee.

Follow @mainstreetwestbranch on Facebook and/or Instagram for event updates and opportunities to volunteer. Email Jessi at [mainstreetwestbranch@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreetwestbranch@gmail.com) to inquire about timely volunteer opportunities and be added to the event assistance list.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### MAIN STREET COMMITTEES

**\*Promotion Committee \* Design Committee  
Economic Vitality Committee \* Organization  
Committee \*Main Street Event Committee**

Learn more and sign-up for more information at [mainstreetwestbranch.org/get-involved](http://mainstreetwestbranch.org/get-involved)

Main Street is seeking donations of gift baskets, unique items or experiences to include in the annual "Auction for the Ages" during Christmas Past. To contribute, please email [mainstreetwestbranch@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreetwestbranch@gmail.com)

## Save the Date! Sweets for Success

Friday, April 5, 2024



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. The 2024 event will take place at Little Lights on the Lane on the evening of Friday, April 5th. Watch for table reservations and dessert donation opportunities in the months to come!



COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



HOSTED BY  
TWO SISTERS  
KENNELS

# WEST BRANCH DOG FAIR

SATURDAY, SEPT 2ND

BERANEK PARK WEST BRANCH, IA

11:00AM - 3:00PM

AT-WILL DONATION ENTRY



## Events

Pet Industry Vendors, Games, Contests, Food Trucks, Kids Corner, Sniff Course, Dog Sporting Demos, Dog Bath & Nail Painting, Dog Caricature Artist, Bark Ranger, Dog Jog & More!

Follow us for more info!



ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE WEST BRANCH DOG PARK EXPANSION



Whitney's Wings Presents...

# SUPERHERO TRAINING CAMP

FREE FAMILY FUN!

SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 9TH AT 5PM  
OUTDOOR MOVIE AT DUSK  
TIPTON CITY PARK  
(SOUTH OF FOOTBALL FIELD)

15 SUPERHERO ACTIVITIES  
FACE PAINTING  
INFLATABLES  
FREE GIVEAWAYS  
PHOTOBOOTH WITH REAL LIFE  
SUPERHEROES!

OUTDOOR MOVIE ON  
26FT INFLATABLE  
SCREEN!  
FREE ICE CREAM TRUCK  
BEFORE MOVIE STARTS!

Powered by:



Sponsored by:



ACT<sup>®</sup>





# WEST BRANCH FIRE/RESCUE/EMS

**West Branch Fire Department is currently accepting new membership applications!**

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

The West Branch Fire Department is a **volunteer fire department**, servicing 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** non-transport service that responds to various call types including:

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

We **work closely with nearby services** such as West Liberty Fire and Ambulance, Tipton Fire and Ambulance, Atalissa Fire Department, Solon Fire Department, Johnson County Ambulance Service, Iowa City Fire Department, and many more!

We accept **various medical and fire certifications** such as Paramedic, Emergency Medical Technicians, Hazmat, and Fire I and II certifications.

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



[wbfire@westbranchiowa.org](mailto:wbfire@westbranchiowa.org) | (319) 643-2110 | 106 S 2nd Street, West Branch, IA 52358

## West Branch City Wide Garage Sales



Make plans to get your sale registered for the Fall City Wide Garage Sales!

Friday, September 15th & Saturday, September 16th, 2023

more info coming on [facebook.com/WestBranchCityWideGarageSales](https://facebook.com/WestBranchCityWideGarageSales)



## Tailgate with the Bears!

Come meet the fall sports teams and have dinner with us at Beranek Park! Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and water provided.

All ages welcome! Bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

**Sponsored by:**

Bethany Lutheran Church and the West Branch United Methodist Church



## 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**