

Family behind Grandma's

Grandma's Crafted Corner owner Malinda Gooding cuts the ribbon at a grand opening Oct. 29 for the business she opened at 109 North Downey. Main Street West Branch representatives, City of West Branch staff, and family members joined her to mark the occasion. Pictured, from left, MSWB's Becky Knoche, Treasurer Carolyn Anderson, VP and Economic Vitality Chair Jay Cooper, and President Stacy Waters; City of West Branch Clerk and MSWB Board Member Alycia Friis; Gooding's mother, Alta; Mayor Roger Laughlin; Malinda Gooding; Gooding's husband, Randy and son, Adam; MSWB Executive Director Jessi Simon, Promotions Co-chair Macy Krall; City Administrator Adam Kofoed; and Nicki Brick. **Gregory R. Norfleet/West Branch Times**

Grandma

From Page 1

the teenagers are liking Grandma Chic.

"The 20-year-olds and 30-year-olds also like it. All ages come in and I have a lot of women who come from (Elements Salon) ... and I love the feedback. I get a lot of feedback when they walk through."

Gooding said she dabbled in Marketplace through Facebook, but her daughter-in-law, Amber Rice, obtained 109 North Downey.

"'Mom, you want to put your stuff in here?' And I said, 'yes.'" she said.

Gooding said many people ask about the atmosphere of the business.

A lady standing nearby said "It kind of takes you back home, when I was litte."

Gooding agreed.

"A lot of people do come through and say, 'This reminds me of grandma's thing,'" she said. "They buy stuff because it brings back a good memory."

Gooding describes her shop "as a big family effort," as her mother, sisters, and their children all pitch in.

"They're all awesome at helping me out," she said.

Gooding worked as a full-time nurse for years and dropped to part-time work to care for a family member who faced a cancer diagnosis. She got into woodworking to keep herself occupied when not providing direct care.

"I did a lot of woodworking to keep my hands busy," and stay nearby, she said.

Mostly self-taught, she started so long ago that she does not remember when she initially got into woodworking.

Some she learned while growing up.

"I just look at something and I see it as something else," Gooding said, often borrowing her husband Randy's tools to create. "He's got a lot because he's in the construction business."

Many of her finished projects "needed a place to go besides home."

Grandma's Crafted Corner is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

To contact her, reach out through Voices of West Branch until she gets a website going. She plans to create a Facebook page, "Grandma's Crafted Corner."

"(The sign) says 'Crafted,' but some people say it should say 'Handcrafted,' but then it would be a long name," Gooding said. "A lot of people say that is something everybody wants — 'handcrafted' or 'homemade' or 'refurbished' items, instead of something you can get on Amazon."

WEST BRANCH TIMES

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West Branch city council

The following is a synopsis of the minutes of the West Branch City Council meeting. A video recording is available for inspection at westbranchiowa.org. The minutes are not approved until the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.)

West Branch, Iowa City Council
November 2, 2026
Council Chambers Regular Meeting
5:00 p.m.

Mayor Laughlin called the West Branch City Council regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll call: Council members present; Jerry Sexton, Tom Dean Mike Horihan, Colton Miller and Chantry Noel.

City Staff present: City Clerk Alycia Friis, City Administrator Adam Kofoed, City Attorney Kevin Olsen.

Attending by Zoom: Finance Officer Heidi Van Auken, Engineer Dave Schechinger

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion to Approve the Agenda made by Miller and second by Noel. Motion carried on a voice vote.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Minutes from the October 19, 2026 City Council meeting.

Approve a Special Event Application for Christmas Past.

Approve July Financial Reporting.

Approve Claims for November 2, 2026.

EXPENDITURES 11/2/2026

BROWN, JESSICA-FALL 26 IMFOA CONF MILAGE/FOOD-208.22

CJ COOPER & ASSOCIATES-ANNUAL ADMIN/CLEARING FEES-425.00

FRIIS, ALYCIA-FALL 26 IMFOA CONF MILAGE-196.08

GOERDT INSPECTION BLDG-INSPECTIONS-1,302.00

ICMA-ICMA 2026 MEMBERSHIP-608.94

L. L. PELLING-POTHOLE PATCH – PW-1,120.00

MAINSTAY SYSTEMS-COMPUTER CHARGER - P&R-25.00

MISCELLANEOUS VENDOR-AMY BOAZ:PARK REFUND-20.00

PIP PRINTING & MARKETING-BUSINESS CARDS – FIRE-268.13

PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL-PEST CONTROL – LIBRARY-50.00

QUILL-LOCK FOR MED OFFICE – FIRE-132.99

SMITH SANITATION TRASH AND RECYCLING-OCT 2026--23,616.50

VAN AUKEN, HEIDI-TRAINING & MILEAGE - VAN AUKEN-41.94

TOTAL--28,014.80

PAYROLL-WAGES, TAXES, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS 10/23/2026--80,456.55

PAID BETWEEN MEETINGS

BEAN & BEAN-GRAVE OPENINGS-1,300.00

HATFIELD-CONCRETE SIDEWALK REPAIR 227 5TH ST-2,400.00

HD SUPPLY-BUILDING SUPPLIES - P&R-58.73

MEDIACOM-CABLE SERVICES-41.90

MENARDS-SUPPLIES – PW-410.59

MOORE'S WELDING-TRUCK REPAIR – PW-400.50

OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE-AUDIT FY26 FILING FEE-625.00

PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL-PEST CONTROL - CITY OFFICE, TOWN HALL-114.54

QUILL BLDG & OFFICE-SUPPLIES – CITY-118.76

SCOTT M THOMA-CUBBY RENTAL CANCELLED-143.20

STATE HYGIENIC LAB-LAB ANALYSIS-1,898.50

STATE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS-CHEMICALS-533.96

STERICYCLE-SHREDDING SERVICES-115.39

STRYKER SALES-LIFEPAK CR2 ELECTRODE KIT – PD-193.22

SURVEYING AND MAPPING-ANNUAL GIS WEBSITE MAINTENANCE-3,960.00

US BANK CARD-VARIOUS ITEMS-4,208.47

VERIZON WIRELESS-VERIZON WIRELESS-392.74

WEST BRANCH TIMES-LEGAL PUBLICATIONS-346.30

METLIFE-INSURANCE PREMIUM-3,043.82

SISCO-INSURANCE PREMIUM-21,845.16

SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 10-19-2026--238.69

SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 10-26-2026--374.66

IPERS K STOOLMAN-IPERS PAYMENT-22,420.13

TOTAL--65,184.26

GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES--173,655.61

REVENUE-FISCAL YEAR 2026 FUND JULY FUND TOTALS

001 GENERAL FUND--56,752.38 001 GENERAL FUND--69,038.18

022 CIVIC CENTER--895.00 022 CIVIC CENTER--88.88

031 LIBRARY--1,696.32 031 LIBRARY--5,056.65

036 TORT LIABILITY--588.86 110 ROAD USE TAX--8,397.54

110 ROAD USE TAX--29,575.52 112 TRUST AND AGENCY--60,588.51

112 TRUST & AGENGY--5,221.75 600 WATER FUND--16,209.48

121 LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX--28,768.49 610 SEWER FUND--13,462.76

125 TIF--1,705.94 740 STORM WATER--813.61

226 DEBT SERVICE--1,686.55 GRAND TOTAL--173,655.61

300 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RESERVE--669.00

500 CEMETERY PERPETUAL FUND--697.59

600 WATER FUND--92,884.72

610 SEWER FUND--114,694.69

740 STORM WATER UTILITY--5,933.24

TOTAL--341,770.05

Motion by Miller, second by Dean to approve the consent agenda. AYES: Miller, Dean, Noel, Horihan, Sexton. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS / COMMUNICATIONS / OPEN FORUM

West Branch Public Library Director, Jessica Shaffer, shared the annual report for Fiscal Year 2026 for the library. Program attendance and patron visits are up this year and the highest they have been since before Covid. About 3000

more. Sixty more programs were added this year for all ages. The Tween Book Club was added this year and had really good attendance. Check out for kid's books was up this year, while adult books were down. More adults are using e-books

rather than checking out paper books. The average library card holder saved $578.00 this year by utilizing the library. Computer usage and Wi-fi usage are up and the library was able to add more equipment to create more coverage for this.

The question was asked as to what the increase could be attributed to and Jessie shared that along with population growth,

the variety of programs and attendance there has also helped with overall attendance growth.

PUBLIC HEARING / NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Second Reading, Ordinance 843 Amending Chapter 69 – Traffic and Vehicles./ Move to Action.

Motion by Sexton, second by Miller to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 843. AYES: Sexton, Miller, Dean, Noel, Horihan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Resolution 2026-111 Approving a grant application submission to Iowa DOT for a Transportation Alternatives

(TAP Grant)./ Move to Action. Clerk Friis shared that the City was awarded the DNR Reap Grant and would be receiving $75,000.00 in funds for the High School Trail Connection project. These funds along with the other allotted funds would be used as a match for the submission of a TAP grant. Friis also shared that the first 2 requirements to apply

for TAP funds had been completed and she received the invitation to proceed

Motion by Dean, second by Noel to approve Resolution 2026-111. AYES: Dean, Noel, Horihan, Sexton, Miller. NAYS: None. Motion carried

Resolution 2026-113 Approval of Processing Fee for submission of FEMA LOMR./ Move to Action.

Motion by Sexton, second by Miller to approve Resolution 2026-113. AYES: Sexton, Miller, Horihan, Noel, Dean. NAYS: None. Motion carried

Resolution 2026-114 Establishing a New Capital Fund./ Move to Action.

Motion by Sexton, second by Noel to approve Resolution 2026-114. AYES: Sexton, Noel, Dean, Horihan, Miller. NAYS: None. Motion carried

DISCUSSION ITEMS - None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Kofoed shared a few of the items that he had learned or touched up on in

his recent trainings, such as ensuring we are we versed on rules and rights with city council and technology upgrades that

allow for things like phone call complaints that can register directly to a work list for Public Works for example.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT - None

CITY ENGINEER REPORT – The IUP (Intended Use Plan) for the Water Plant is due December 1st and V&K is working on the final items on this lest to move forward.

STAFF REPORTS – Clerk Friis shared information about last week's ribbon cutting ceremonies at Hotz Artisan Woodworking and Grandma's Crafty Corner. She also shared information on the Cities silent auction items that they would be submitting to the MSWB silent auction being held during Christmas Past.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Miller second by Sexton. Motion carried on a voice vote. City Council meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

_____
Roger Laughlin, Mayor
ATTEST:

_____
Alycia Friis, City Clerk
WBT 45

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 842 AMENDING, CHAPTER 165 ADDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARKS FOR THE CITY OF WEST BRANCH.

PLEASE BE ALSO ADVISED that a public hearing on a proposed amendment to Chapter 165 in the Code of Ordinances for the City of West Branch will be held at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24th, 2026 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 110 N. Poplar Street, West Branch, Iowa 52358. At that time, the Planning and Zoning Commission will receive comments for or against said changes. In addition, written comments can be forwarded to the City Clerk.

/s/_____
Alycia Friis, City Clerk
WBT 45

DARREN MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY

http://ddmiller.zenfolio.com/

Hertz Real Estate Services

LAND FOR SALE

CEDAR CO. – NEW LISTING! 66.00 acres located 8 miles NE of West Liberty. Mixed used farm with cropland and mature timber. **$7,750/acre.**

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CEDAR CO. – 59.49 acres located 4 miles west of Tipton. 39.80 Acres in CRP. An attractive recreational farm, potential as building site! SALE PENDING! **$8,500/acre.**

DES MOINES CO. – 3.34 acres located on the southwest side of Mediapolis. Includes 2.49 CRP acres. **$50,000.00**

JONES CO. – NEW LISTING! 196.19 acres located 4 miles west of Wyoming. 170.60 crop acres with an 81.20 CSR2. Additional 15.95 acres in CRP. **$14,250/acre.**

LINN CO. – NEW LISTING! 35.24 acres located SE of Cedar Rapids. Potential building site with 27.55 crop acre, mature timber and pasture. SALE PENDING! **$14,950/acre.**

LINN CO. – 76.50 acres NE of Marion along IA-13. 71.30 crop acres with a 91.20 CSR2. **$22,500/acre.**

LINN CO. – 160.00 acres NE of Marion. 158.11 crop acres with a 92.00 CSR2. **$20,500/acre.**

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West Branch Community School will have items for sale on GOVDEALS.COM in the months of November and December