

To: City Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: March 5, 2016 Weekly Council Update

Residential Curbside Yard Waste Collection: The City of West Branch will begin curbside yard waste collection on Thursday, March 17th. The City will then pickup yard waste on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Yard waste includes waste produced during gardening, grass clippings, leaves, flowers, branches and tree limbs. Yard waste must be placed in decomposable bags or reusable containers and cannot exceed fifty pounds per container. Tree limbs or branches must be placed in bundles no longer than four feet and must be bundled in a way that is manageable to pick up. The City will not accept any yard waste containing debris that would be picked up during normal trash collection (plastic, cans, bottles, etc.) or that is placed in plastic bags. Please contact Public Works Director Matt Goodale at (319) 325-8213 or the City Office at (319) 643-5888 with any questions or concerns.

Cemetery Cleanup: The City of West Branch will begin spring cleanup of the cemetery on Monday, April 4th. Please remove any flowers or decorations that you wish to keep. You may put them back after the cleanup is complete.

Governing Article on Flint, Michigan: Please find attached an article about the Flint, MI water tragedy with a focus on government decision making and organizational culture from *Governing Magazine*.

Meadows Rezoning Exhibit: KLM has submitted a rezoning exhibit for the Meadows Subdivision. A public hearing will be held before the Planning and Zoning Commission on Tuesday March 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the West Branch City Council Chambers located at 110 N. Poplar Street. The rezoning exhibit is also attached to this week's *Update*.

Volunteer Opportunity - Junior Achievement: Junior Achievement is a community partner dedicated to giving Hoover Elementary School students the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future and make smart academic and fiscal choices. Junior achievement is now seeking volunteers to present educational programs to 2nd and 3rd grades this spring. (Hopefully more grade levels will be added in the future.) Junior Achievement's mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. They do this by providing workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy programs to students in grades K-12.

Junior Achievement provides the training, lesson plans and all the materials necessary to volunteer to lead hands-on learning activities with the students while a teacher is present. From the training you will learn what to expect in the classroom, receive program materials and gather helpful tips for a successful experience. If you would you be willing to volunteer or know anyone else that might be interested, please contact Leslie Brick for more information at the City Office at (319) 643-5888 or leslie@westbranchiowa.org.

The information provided is one-way communication and should not be discussed among you as this would be a violation of the open meeting law.

Government and the Lessons of Flint

We learned from the failures that followed Hurricane Katrina. Will Flint's calamity teach us as well?

BY: [Elizabeth K. Kellar](#) | March 2, 2016

Flint. What is it about this unfolding tragedy that is so painfully compelling? How is it that so many people at so many levels of government did not do nearly enough to protect the public, especially the children? One answer is clear: Rather than making sure that a change in the Michigan city's water supply would do no harm, government leaders focused only on cutting costs.

What's going on now in Flint reminds me in some ways of what happened in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina devastated that city nearly a decade ago. Vulnerable people in the poorest areas and those in nursing homes and hospitals were the most at risk, and governments at all levels were woefully unprepared to help them when disaster struck.

At least government leaders learned from Katrina and its aftermath. Our nation has since improved its emergency preparedness, and most communities have updated their response plans to prioritize the evacuation of vulnerable populations. Can we bring that sense of urgency to every aspect of public service? Can we learn lessons from Flint as we learned from Katrina?

Certainly one lesson might be this: Too often, ongoing fiscal pressures can drive public officials to focus on short-term savings rather than long-term priorities. The cost of fixing Flint's troubled water system will be far greater than the savings that were imagined from switching the city's water source from Detroit's system to the Flint River. And the human cost to the children affected by high levels of lead in their drinking water will not be known for decades.

The repercussions from the Flint water crisis go well beyond individual reputations. One of the greatest costs is the loss of public trust in government. As Warren Buffet has said, "It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that you'll do things differently."

There *were* individuals in the city government, the state government and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who had concerns. When high levels of lead were reported to the EPA by one resident, an EPA expert expressed concern that lead levels throughout the city might have been underreported because of the state's testing methods. Yet, five months later, an EPA administrator wrote to Flint's mayor that it would be "premature to draw any conclusions."

Clearly there was no sense of urgency about this emerging public health emergency, probably because the culture in these organizations was dominated by financial or political considerations. The city of Flint, in state receivership, was in a hunkered-down mode. And the state government was focused like a laser on getting the city's finances under control.

What can governmental leaders do to develop an organizational culture that makes better decisions -- and prevents future calamities like Flint's? They can encourage employees to speak up when they see something wrong, and they can recognize and reward performance that is accountable and ethical. They can make sure that staff development is a priority and that employees are constantly reminded of core values. The secret of good government is to make every employee and every resident feel they are part of it.

Our government workforce is going through massive changes as baby boomers retire and our nation becomes much more diverse. Governments offer idealistic young people the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. Yes, governments need to hire people with the education and skills required for the job. But perhaps the most important qualification of all is a passion to serve the public interest. That may be the overarching lesson for government from what has happened to the people of Flint.

This article was printed from: <http://www.governing.com/columns/smart-mgmt/col-government-lessons-flint.html>

REZONING EXHIBIT

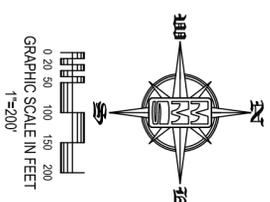
THE MEADOWS SUBDIVISION

WEST BRANCH, CEDAR COUNTY, IOWA

PLAT PREPARED BY:
MMS CONSULTANTS, INC.
 1917 S. GILBERT STREET
 IOWA CITY, IA 52240

OWNER/SUBDIVIDER:
KLM INVESTMENTS, INC
 25 EASTVIEW PLACE NE
 IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240

OWNERS ATTORNEY:
MICHAEL W. KENNEDY
 920 S. DUBUQUE STREET
 IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240



DESCRIPTION - REZONING TRACT #1 (R-1 TO RB-1)

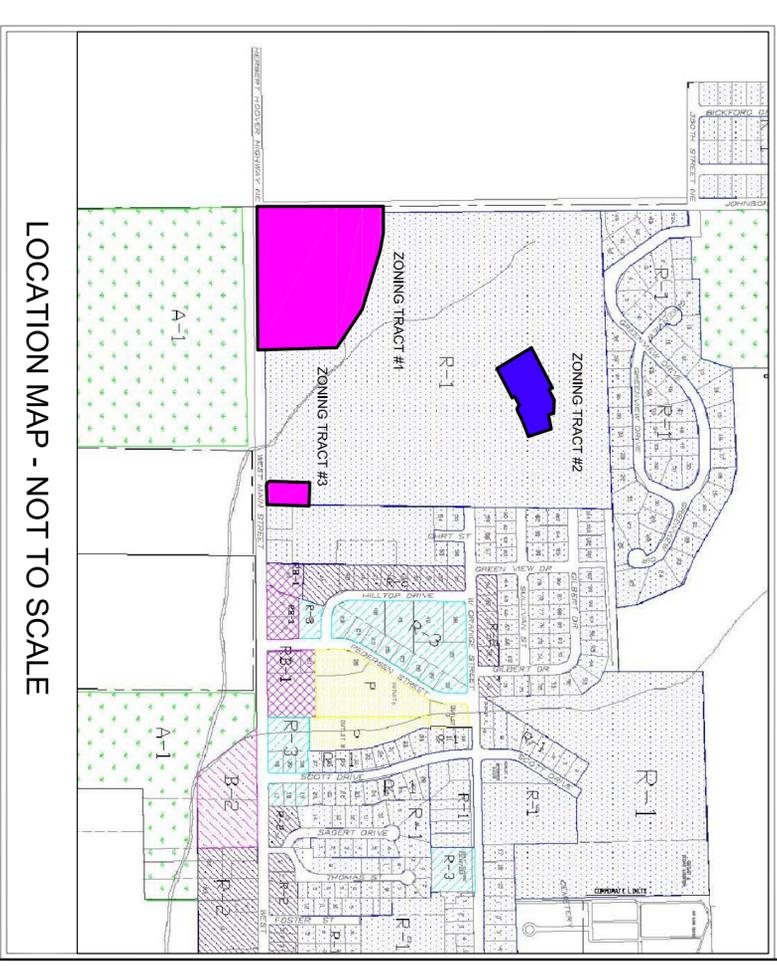
Beginning at the Southwest Corner of Auditor Parcel "G", in accordance with the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book I, at Page 103 of the Records of the Cedar County Recorder's Office; Thence N01°19'13"W, along the West Line of said Auditor Parcel "G", 755.33 feet; Thence N88°40'47"E, 157.95 feet; Thence S81°06'34"E, 108.86 feet; Thence S74°08'16"E, 365.98 feet; Thence S57°30'03"E, 273.91 feet; Thence S02°51'42"E, 452.25 feet, to a Point on the South Line of said Auditor Parcel G; Thence S87°06'47"W, along said South Line, 854.78 feet, to the Point of Beginning. Said Rezoning Tract contains 12.77 Acres (556,235 square feet), and is subject to easements and restrictions of record.

DESCRIPTION - REZONING TRACT #2 (R-1 TO R-2)

Commencing at the Northeast Corner of Auditor Parcel "G", in accordance with the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book I, at Page 103 of the Records of the Cedar County Recorder's Office; Thence S86°46'30"W, along the North Line of said Auditor Parcel "G", 491.76 feet; Thence S03°13'30"E, 346.74 feet, to the POINT OF BEGINNING; Thence S19°24'18"E, 144.18 feet; Thence S03°13'30"E, 163.12 feet, along a 980.00 foot radius curve, concave Southeasterly, whose 162.93 foot chord bears S65°49'36"W; Thence S61°03'30"W, 1.70 feet; Thence Northwesterly, 39.27 feet, along a 25.00 foot radius curve, concave Northerly, whose 35.36 foot chord bears N73°56'30"W; Thence S61°03'30"W, 60.00 feet; Thence S28°56'30"E, 17.22 feet; Thence S61°03'30"W, 197.17 feet; Thence N32°15'55"W, 241.50 feet; Thence N61°03'30"E, 271.17 feet; Thence S28°56'30"E, 23.66 feet; Thence N61°03'30"E, 68.43 feet; Thence S88°48'26"E, 80.24 feet; Thence S15°39'23"E, 32.45 feet; Thence N77°42'45"E, 86.21 feet, to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Said Rezoning Tract #2 contains 2.34 Acres (101,904 square feet), and is subject to easements and restrictions of record.

DESCRIPTION - REZONING TRACT #3 (R-1 TO RB-1)

Commencing at the Southeast Corner of Auditor Parcel "G", in accordance with the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book I, at Page 103 of the Records of the Cedar County Recorder's Office; Thence N00°40'57"E, along the East Line of said Auditor Parcel "G", 46.71 feet; Thence S87°07'22"W, along said East Line, 350.51 feet, to the POINT OF BEGINNING; Thence continuing S87°07'22"W, 113.67 feet; Thence Northwesterly, 40.82 feet along a 25.00 foot radius curve, concave Northerly, whose 36.44 foot chord bears N46°05'56"W; Thence N00°40'47"E, 233.75 feet; Thence S89°19'13"E, 140.00 feet, to a Point on the East Line of said Auditor Parcel "G"; Thence S00°40'47"W, along said East Line, 251.65 feet, to the Point of Beginning. Said Rezoning Tract #3 contains 0.82 Acre (35,685 square feet), and is subject to easements and restrictions of record.



REZONING EXHIBIT

THE MEADOWS SUBDIVISION

PORTIONS OF AUDITOR PARCEL G IN THE FRAC SW 1/4 OF SECTION 6-179N-R4W-5TH P.M.

WEST BRANCH CEDAR COUNTY IOWA

MMS CONSULTANTS, INC.

Date: 03-02-2016

Designed by: GDM Field Book No:

Drawn by: RLW Scale: 1"=200'

Checked by: GDM Sheet No: 1

Project No: IOWA CITY 8815003

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

LAND PLANNERS

LAND SURVEYORS

CIVIL ENGINEERS

1917 S. GILBERT ST.
 IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
 (319) 351-8282
www.mmsconsultants.net

Date: 03-02-2016 per gdm review - rlw