

# 2015 State of the County

## 2014 Departmental Accomplishments

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### Airport

- In 2014 the Livingston County Spencer J. Hardy Airport won an Outstanding Community Investment Award from the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce.
- The Airport also won The Livingston Regional Investment Award from the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce for the new terminal building.
- 2014 also began the start of construction for a new state of the art fuel farm with a total storage capacity of 30,000 gallons and record fuel sales for the year, driven by a 25% increase in Jet Fuel sales.

### Building Department

- Through increased efficiencies, the building department continues to operate at a high level, equivalent to or greater than 2005 levels, but with less than half of the staff of 2005. The department has better response time and quicker permit reviews and issuance.
- The 3 permitting departments, Building, Drain and Environmental Health are currently working to streamline processes by implementing new permitting software which will help our customers and staff to be more efficient. In the near future customers will be able to apply for some permits on-line as well as check inspection results, pay for permits and schedule inspections on-line.

### County Clerk

- The Livingston County Clerk's office continues to be busy issuing Vital Records and other important documents to our constituents. The County Clerk's office sees a high volume of public at the Historic Courthouse and at the Judicial Center. Our main focus remains customer service.
- The Elections' Division conducted three elections this year. 753 precinct inspectors were trained. The Board of Canvassers canvassed over 90 precincts each for the Primary and General elections and affirmed the results. There were over 5000 write-in votes cast and canvassed for the Howell and Pinckney School Districts. Livingston County is very fortunate to have a dedicated staff and the cooperation of all the local municipal clerks.
- The Circuit Court Clerk's office expanded our clerking responsibilities in the courtroom to accommodate and serve the new Concurrent Trial Court that was put into place on January 1, 2014. We are now clerking in the courtroom for five out of the six judges. It is

with great anticipation that we look forward to implementing a new case management and imaging system in 2015.

## **Drain**

- In 2014, the Solid Waste Program collected over 50,000 pounds of Household Hazardous Waste from our residents in three collections, 26,855 pounds of household batteries from our 20 drop off locations around the County and over 163,000 pounds of TVs, computers and other electronic waste.
- The flows received at the Livingston County Septage Receiving Station continue to grow each year. In 2014, over 23 million gallons of septage was received at the facility in Hartland Township. This is nearly double what we ever predicted possible prior to building the facility, and an increase of over 4 million gallons from 2013. The collection of these wastes at a central facility has allowed us to eliminate the decades old practice of land applying raw septage to the land in Livingston County, thereby helping to protect vital ground and surface waters.
- For a second year, Drain Commissioner, Brian Jonckheere, and former Prosecutor David Morse, co-chaired the Livingston County United Way campaign. As part of the 2014 campaign, the United Way sponsored the annual Day of Caring which marshaled over 1400 volunteer shifts on 110 community service projects. This is the largest single-day volunteer event in Livingston County. This year's Annual Kickoff Event was held at the Livingston County EMS building and showcased unusual vehicles of Livingston County, as well as the incredible state-of-the-art ambulance facility. Like last year's event at the new Jack Hardy airport terminal, it was a great success with hundreds in attendance and unusual vehicles ranging from giant combines and mud boggers to MDOT's new mega plow, the U of M SurvivalFlight chopper and a Chevy Volt. The United Way County employees were also very active in their own United Way fund drive.

## **Equalization**

- As a service the equalization department has provided cost effective education to the various parts of the community. The Board of Review Workshop explains the changes in tax laws and how the changes impact value for the local Board of Review members while counting as continuing education for assessing personal.
- This year, we have provided an Effective Management course at a minimal cost to the local unit which helped with time management and effectively managing employees. With the new changes in personal property we provide education from the Michigan Treasury as to how the changes will affect their taxing authority and how they will be reimbursed.

## Friend of the Court/Juvenile Court/Specialty Courts

- **Livingston County Specialty Courts**

The Livingston County Specialty Court Programs anticipate another productive year with over one million dollars in grant funding supporting the success of 7 specialty court programs. These programs continue to provide participants with the support they need to access the services and resources in our community, sustain a healthy and happy lifestyle, and avoid circulating back into the criminal justice system. Last year, we had 222 individuals and families participate in our specialty court programs. We aspire to increase that number again this year as we are in the process of implementing a new domestic violence pilot program which aims to improve public safety, achieve safer homes in our community, and empower victims of domestic violence. This is an exciting new funding opportunity for Livingston County Courts as it is one of the only two awards of its kind given in the State of Michigan.

We also continue to work closely with local service providers in order to offer new services through our specialty court programs, such as additional substance abuse treatment program options, trauma treatment, transportation services, Medicated Assisted Treatment, and sober living. Without the support and dedication of the Board of Commissioners, the Judges, the Prosecutor's Office, Department of Corrections, CMH, DHS, LACASA, Livingston Family Center, District Court Probation, defense attorneys, and the many wonderful local treatment providers that we work with, our specialty court programs would not be possible. Our collaborative approach allows for ongoing process evaluation and performance measurement, ensuring the effectiveness of our programs and their ability to positively impact our community. We are looking forward to another successful year!

- **Livingston County Juvenile Court**

The Livingston County Juvenile Court continued to see a decline in out of home residential placements for juveniles in 2014 as a stronger emphasis was placed on developing more community based options for juveniles. This goal was accomplished through extensive collaboration with local agencies and other communities. Some of the creative programming in 2014 included:

**Youth Arts Alliance (YAA!)** - This 4 county collaboration (Livingston, Monroe, Washtenaw, and Jackson) completed its second successful year. During 2014, YAA! was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts which funded three intensive week long workshops for at risk juveniles which included designing and painting a community mural which is hanging the Livingston County Courthouse; writing music and recording a CD with professional musicians; and completing a mosaic piece.

These workshops served approximately 25 juveniles. Going forward in 2015, YAA! was awarded another grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts for \$22,200 which will be used to offer STEM programming in the spring.

**Intensive Probation Group** - This group was developed to meet weekly with 6 – 8 juveniles for 1 ½ hours each session. The juveniles involved in this group were offered opportunities to learn self-soothing techniques such as yoga and journaling. They were also given skills to assist in making healthy choices and lifestyle changes.

**Sports Leadership Opportunity (SLO)** – Through the assistance of local attorney, Alexander Garthoff, the Sports Leadership Opportunity Program offers juveniles a chance to become physically active in a healthy way as well as receiving mentoring from positive role models (local attorneys act as mentors and participate in the program alongside the juveniles). This group meets twice per week and also participates in local 5K runs. Two of the juveniles completed the Fantasy of Lights 5K run in November.

**Juvenile Drug Treatment Court and Wrap Around Services** – The Livingston County Juvenile Court and Livingston County Community Mental Health collaborated on a grant proposal to the Department of Community Health to include a full time Wrap Around Facilitator on the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court program team. This allows the juveniles and families participating in the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court program to receive Wrap Around services, if needed, immediately upon entry into the program. This service allows for additional supports within the community to assist the families in addressing barriers to success.

**Diversion/Youth Assistance** – We have expanded the Diversion services program to include Youth Assistance. This expansion has allowed the Juvenile Court an opportunity to collaborate more extensively with community organizations to offer the youth of Livingston County a plethora of services and programming such as the Victim’s Impact Panel, Community Service Program, and restorative justice.

## Human Resources

- First across the board pay increases since 2010. This is linked to the percentile increase in taxable value to ensure sustainability.
- Agreements were created with our Courts, Sheriff Deputies, Sergeants, and Lieutenants.
- The Wellness Program was expanded to all County employee groups.
- Health Insurance cost increases of 2.5%, well below the national average of 6.5%.
- Munis Employee Self Service (ESS) was implemented for most employee time and attendance.
- Munis ESS Benefits Program GO LIVE for employee open enrollment.

## Information Technology

- Awarded the 2014 Cybersecurity Leadership and Innovation Award from the Center of Digital Government for the CySafe Product.
- Application upgrades for the County Enterprise Resource Planning application.
- Launched an ArcGIS Local Government Module Application.
- Opened an IT Training Classroom at the Public Safety Complex and conducted multiple Microsoft Office Training classes.
- Launched the County's first Security Awareness Training Campaign.

## LETS

- The 19<sup>th</sup> annual "Stuff the Bus" event was a huge success. We packed a bus full of toys, clothing, and food, along with cash donations for local non-profit agencies and needy families. This year we received a surprise donation of 800 pairs of brand new leather shoes, enough to stuff a second bus!
- LETS is going green! In 2014 LETS ordered six propane-fueled buses which will cut greenhouse gas emissions by 24% and carbon monoxide emissions by 60% compared to gasoline or diesel. It is also 30-40% less expensive per gallon than gasoline with comparable fuel mileage.
- LETS once again demonstrated how essential our service is to the citizens of Livingston County by increasing ridership for the 10th consecutive year.
- LETS hired a new Deputy Director to assist the LETS/Carpool Director and to satisfy the Board's departmental succession planning initiative.
- With EMS moving into their new facility, LETS was able to spread into the Intermodal Building. This includes the installation of a workout room, made possible through donated equipment, to promote healthy living among our employees.

## Michigan Works

- In 2014 Livingston County Michigan Works! expanded its work with local employers to meet their hiring needs. More than 1,500 job seekers found employment with the help of Michigan Works! services.
- Job seekers made 16,842 visits to the Michigan Works Services Center in 2014.
- Last year the Michigan Workforce Development Agency awarded \$413,096 through the Skilled Trades Training Program to eight local companies to upgrade the skills of their existing workforce and to train more than 150 new hires.
- During 2014 more than 850 incumbent workers at 19 companies received training with help from grants administered by Michigan Works. This training helped the companies

address critical skill shortages, improve their processes and develop strategies to grow their business.

- Livingston County Michigan Works! provided scholarships and tuition support to more than 160 people to train them for high demand, high skill, high wage jobs in manufacturing, health care, information technology and other careers at area colleges and training facilities. 125 other individuals were trained on-the-job at 12 area companies.
- Livingston County Michigan Works!, Work Skills Corporation, Mott Community College and Thai Summit America received a 2014 Prosperity Award from the Michigan Works! Association for their collaborative efforts to recruit, train and fill more than 100 positions at Thai Summit.
- The Livingston County Economic Development Corporation recognized Livingston County Michigan Works with its “Partner Innovation Award” at its annual meeting in November. The agency’s efforts to help local companies find and develop talent were cited as one of the reasons for the award.

## Planning

- **Fillmore County Park Master Plan And Design Concept**  
The Livingston County Planning Department assisted the Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee with the completion of a comprehensive master plan and design concept for Fillmore County Park in Genoa Township. The master plan for the park identifies: community recreational needs; a ranking of the ecological integrity of the natural features on-site and a multi- phase approach to developing the park. The design concept of the park has been fully rendered by a landscape architecture consultant and was created with considerable input from committee members, county recreation authorities and property owners neighboring the park. Phase I development of the park will occur at the northeast corner of Kellogg and McClements roads. This phase will create a focal core for the property in the form of a “traditional county park” with a park entrance, parking lot, and restroom, and recreational amenities such as a multi-use athletic field, a half-mile paved accessible trail, and a 5K natural surface trail that will traverse open meadows, fields, woodlots and skirt wetlands.
- **Livingston County Brown Bag Lunch Series**  
Over the last 4 years this quarterly brown bag lunch and learn series organized by County Planning has been very popular with the leaders of our local units of government. The program has provided a much needed forum for networking with government colleagues and learning about hot topics such as: Fracking, Aging Population, Complete Streets, Medical Marihuana, Green Infrastructure and Parks and

Recreation. The events are usually hosted at a local Township Hall and participants bring their own brown bag lunch.

- **Livingston County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (Ceds) 2014-2018**

The Livingston County Department of Planning prepared and submitted a new (2014) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Required by the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA), the CEDS allows the County along with its 20 municipalities to qualify for EDA assistance. The CEDS is designed to:

- o Guide the economic growth of the County, it's member municipalities and the overall Southeast Michigan region
- o Help create jobs, job expansion and job retention
- o Foster more stable and diversified economies and improve living conditions
- o Provide a mechanism for coordinating the resources of individuals, organizations, local governments and private industry concerned with economic development.

- **Livingston County Community Economic Profiles**

As a companion piece to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Community Economic Development profiles are available on the County Planning website for each of Livingston County's 20 local communities. The profiles provide economic demographics such as: population, housing, education, transportation, land use, labor force, utilities and industrial sites. The information contained in these profiles can be used by our local units of government, local businesses, non-profit organizations, and others for developing grants, providing information to clients and business prospects and development business plans.

## **Prosecutor**

- Under the leadership of Livingston County Prosecutor William Vaillencourt, the Prosecutor's Office continues to successfully represent the citizens of Livingston County in the prosecution of criminal cases and to bring justice to those who have been victims of crime, and continues to do so in a cost-effective manner.
- During 2014, the Prosecutor's Office authorized felony charges in 762 cases and misdemeanor charges in 2,658 cases. This represents an increase over 2013 and involves crimes of increasing seriousness. Among the cases successfully tried before juries this past year include Child Abuse, Criminal Sexual Conduct, Breaking and Entering, Home Invasion, Armed Robbery, Larceny, Forgery, Drunk Driving, and Domestic Violence. In addition, the Prosecutor's Office obtained convictions in two murder cases, each resulting in lengthy prison terms. In one of those cases, Prosecutor William Vaillencourt successfully argued before the Michigan Supreme Court and won a

ruling that changed the law statewide regarding the admissibility of confessions in criminal cases.

- The Prosecutor's Office also worked closely with local law enforcement agencies to file murder charges in three cases this year. Those cases remain pending and awaiting trial. The Livingston County Prosecutor's Office continues to spearhead the fight against child sexual and physical abuse working with LACASA through the CARE Project, Livingston County's coordinated response to these crimes. In the last fiscal year, prosecutors participated in 148 forensic interviews of a child. Prosecutors continue to work together with local law enforcement agencies to ensure a high level of training to help reduce the trauma to victims and to ensure the integrity of these investigations.
- To help reduce crime, the Prosecutor's Office continues to work with the Adult Drug Court and Juvenile Drug Treatment Court to deal with drug and alcohol addicted offenders and the Intensive Treatment Court to address those offenders with mental health issues. This past year, the Prosecutor's Office worked together with the Livingston County Courts to help develop a Veteran's Court to help those offenders who have served our country.

## Public Health

- **Ted Westmeier's Retirement**  
Health Officer/Director Ted Westmeier formally retired January 31, 2014 after over 20 years of service. While his innovation, leadership, intuition, and knowledge will be missed, a smooth transition to new leadership by Dianne McCormick, former Environmental Health Director, has allowed the department to continue to provide the quality of service to which the residents of Livingston County are accustomed.
- **State Accreditation**  
The Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) received accreditation with commendation status from the Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Commission in June 2014. This designation is awarded to local health departments that fully meet the following requirements:
  - Meets 95%, cumulatively, of the Essential Indicators within the Minimum Program Requirements during the on-site review for the Powers and Duties and seven (7) mandated services sections (food service sanitation, communicable disease, hearing, immunization, sexually transmitted disease, on-site wastewater treatment management, and vision), and
  - Misses not more than two (2) indicators in each of the programs cited above, and
  - Has zero (0) repeat missed indicators from the previous cycle in each of the included programs, and

- Meets 80% of the Minimum Program Requirements in the Quality Improvement Supplement within the Powers and Duties Section.

Most impressively, LCDPH met 100% of the indicators for all programs, including the Quality Improvement Supplement. They are one of only two (2) health departments in the State to achieve 100% compliance. This was LCDPH's fifth time receiving accreditation status, which follows a three (3) year cycle. Livingston County residents can rest assured knowing that LCDPH maximizes their potential to protect and improve health in our community.

- **MAPP Process**

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) is a community-driven planning tool for improving community health. Traditionally facilitated by public health leaders, it helps communities apply strategic thinking to prioritize public health issues and identify resources to address them. MAPP is not an agency-focused assessment tool; rather, it is an interactive process that can improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and ultimately the performance of local public health systems.

The MAPP Team is an unprecedented new partnership begun and facilitated by the local health department. The goal is to facilitate a community health improvement process that leads to the development and implementation of a community health assessment and community health improvement plan, the two main products of the project and two of the three prerequisites required to apply for national public health accreditation via the Public Health Accreditation Board. This plan will give the county a shared vision and direction, and encourage each entity to move in a collaborative fashion towards improved health.

The MAPP Team held its first meeting in November 2014 with twelve additional meetings scheduled through November 2015. The Team currently has a roster of 64 members representing almost every sector of the county, including the aging population, police and fire, education, faith-based organizations, long- and short-term care facilities, mental health, human services, dental, local units of government, state government, substance abuse prevention and treatment, violence prevention, transportation, EMS/911/central dispatch, animal control, the courts, public health, planning, nonprofit groups, healthcare, pharmacy, employment, environmental issues, the media, and residents. **Many county employees are active members of the MAPP Team.** LCDPH plans to apply to PHAB in March 2016 after completion of all three prerequisites: community health assessment, community health improvement plan, and agency strategic plan.

## Register of Deeds

- The Register of Deeds Office implemented electronic recording of documents in February 2014, except for tax certified documents.
- Within 2 months of implementation about 26% of our recordings are received electronically.
- We are in process now of implementing an agreement where all documents can be submitted electronically, then forwarded electronically to the Treasurer's Office for tax certification, and then forwarded from there back to the Register of Deeds for recording.
- The implementation of this process was and is being added at no extra cost to the County. The companies submitting pay the fees up front to be able to file electronically, which gets their recording to the Register of Deeds office in a very timely manner.

## Sheriff

- Currently the emphasis is on our jail expansion / renovation. The project is on track for an August 2015 opening. In addition, all the projections show we are on or even under budget in some areas. This is due in large part to our staff working hand in hand with county administration, Lindhout and Associates, the Construction Committee, and Clark Construction. Over the past several years the courts have done a great job working with all facets of the judicial system to apply alternative sentencing options to defendants. We truly believe this is one of the primary reasons we have not had to entertain a jail expansion until now. That being said, we are seeing a different kind of criminal today. They are more violent, with longer criminal histories, and the female population has exploded. In addition, 95% plus of all people in jail have a nexus to drugs and or alcohol, and over half of our inmates reside outside our county. All of these are common to jails across the country; this is not unique to Livingston County. Therefore, as the court tries to keep people out of jail, there comes a point when jail is the appropriate punishment, and of course we need to house those sentenced.
- The newly renovated / expanded jail will allow us to realize many efficiencies that were not available 20 years ago when the last renovation / expansion was embarked on. Technology will allow a smoother workflow, eliminating redundancies. It will also help keep the deputies and the inmates safer. The new design also allows for significant improvements in the area of personal hygiene. This will help reduce the number of medical issues that we have to contend with. The design will also allow us a plethora of options when it comes to housing all inmates regardless of their sex, classification, or medical status.

- Our uniformed services (Road, Detective, Traffic Safety) work in concert with the Michigan State Police to provide services to the 120,000 people in the county who live in the unincorporated areas. For the past 3 years we have kept crime in check, and handled over 75% of the calls for service despite the fact that our personnel has decreased. Too often we think the case is over once an arrest is made, or the deputies leave the scene. Nothing could be further from the truth. Often times, this is when the real work begins. For example just these highlighted cases involved over 4,000 man hours being expended. The deputies of the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office responded to just shy of 24,000 calls for service in 2014. This does not include any self-initiated activity.
- We continue to evaluate our operation and look for opportunities to implement change that will make us more efficient and effective. We also partner with the private sector, the other police agencies in the county, and other disciplines within public safety in an attempt to make our county stand out. The following are two examples. Each year we partner with the schools in Livingston County to implement the STOPPED program. Which in short allows parents to be notified of their children’s driving habits should they be less than desirable. Each year we also partner with State Farm Insurance, Green Oak Police Department and Fowlerville Proving Grounds to put on a driving course for young drivers, focusing on distractions and how significantly they impair the ability to operate a vehicle. We became the first agency in the state to bring all disciplines (Police, Fire, EMS, and 911) together in a training exercise simulating an active shooter.
- We are extremely proud of the men and women of the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office and given our size and resources, we would gladly put ourselves up against any similarly sized department believing we would come out on top.

- **2014 Road Deputy Statistics**

Type	Department Total
Calls for Service	23,977
Reports	5,269
Traffic Stops	8,153
Tickets	4,997
Arrests	3,687
Warrants Authorized	891

## Veteran’s Services

- The Veterans Treatment Court was created.
- Kept a Korean War veteran in his home that was in foreclosure.
- Over 1500 appointments made

- Gave away 26 Thanksgiving Dinners
- Held the First Annual Pictures with Santa.
- Christmas dinner giveaway and supported the American Legion to provide Christmas dinner.
- Director, Carl Pardon, retired.
- Hired a new director and hired a new Veterans Benefits counselor.
- Provided \$267,403.00 in relief to the Veterans and dependents in the county.

## 53rd District Court

- We continue to focus on growing our jail diversion services – including our adult drug court, which has expanded to now include misdemeanor offenders. The program has included felony offenders for many years, but we were able to expand it to include misdemeanor offenders through grant opportunities. The adult drug court program has been in operation under the direction of Judge Hatty.
- We have also grown other specialty court programs with a new Veterans Treatment Court and a new Domestic Violence Court. The Veteran’s Treatment Court was a cooperative effort led by Judge Carol Sue Reader, in conjunction with the Veterans Affairs department. The Domestic Violence Court is a grant program through the State Court Administrator’s Office.
- We are continuing the concurrent jurisdiction plan for its 2nd full year. We continue to evaluate services within the Livingston County Courts to provide the most effective service to litigants and residents.
- Debra Kubitskey, 53rd District Court Administrator, was recognized by the Michigan Court Administrators Association in 2014 with the Wayne Berg Distinguished Service Award for her dedication and determination directed towards providing Michigan Court Administrator’s with quality guidance and service.
- Community Corrections continues to provide pre-trial programs to the community aimed at reducing recidivism and jail bed days.

## 911

- **Homeland Security Grant Program**  
Purchased 800mhz Radios for Livingston County Law Enforcement and Fire Service and backup generators for Pinckney Police Department and Unadilla Fire Department. Completed the Merrill Road Fiber Project, and purchased Air Monitoring Equipment for Livingston County Firefighters.

- **School Response Planning Team**

Collaboratively worked together to provide consistent Lock Down & Shelter in Place Protocols for all Livingston County Schools. Conducted Active Shooter Training. Provided Emergency Procedures posters for schools in Livingston County. Attended FEMA All-Hazards Planning Training in Maryland.

- **Full-Scale Exercise**

Conducted an Active Shooter-Mass Casualty-Rescue exercise involving 911, Fire Service, Law Enforcement, Schools, and EMS.

- **Other Activities**

Completed the Livingston County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP.) Participated in Exercises – Table Tops, Drills, Function and Full-Scale. Conducted Training – Damage Assessment, National Incident Management System (NIMS), FEMA, Skywarn Spotter. Evaluated School Drills – Fire, Weather, Lock Down.