

May 2019 News

Ground Breaking Celebration at Fillmore County Park

In 2006, Raymond Fillmore, bequeathed his 198 acre farm in Genoa Charter Township to Livingston County. According to his wishes, this park will be dedicated to active recreational pursuits. Livingston County Government moved one step closer to fulfilling Raymond Fillmore's wishes on April 30, 2019, when approximately 50 persons gathered to participate in a celebratory ground breaking at the park to kick-off construction of Phase I.

The first phase of construction will be located near the northeast corner of Kellogg and McClements Roads. This phase will consist of a drive, parking area, vaulted handicap-accessible toilet, and a large multi-purpose play field for a variety of sports such as baseball, softball, soccer and flag football. Lastly, a 5K trail will be constructed throughout the eastern 80 acre portion of the park, with connections to the parking area.

Much of the funding for Phase I development, came from a Federal Department of the Interior Land and Water Conservation Fund grant that Livingston County matched by over 50%. This match was achieved with generous contributions from the Livingston County Board of Commissioners, Livingston County Foundation and contributions from 3 local municipalities: Genoa Charter Township, Marion Township and the City of Howell.

It is anticipated that the construction of Phase I will be approximately 60 days in duration. Livingston County hopes to open Fillmore County Park in Summer 2019.

To view additional photos of this event, see the Livingston County Parks & Recreation website, Fillmore Park page at: <https://www.livgov.com/parks/Pages/Fillmore-Park.aspx>



Ground breaking dignitaries from left to right: Andrew Collier on behalf of Michigan State Senator Lana Theis; Ken Hinton, Livingston County Administrator and President of the Livingston County Foundation; Nick Proctor, Mayor of the City of Howell; Gary Childs, Livingston County Commissioner and Chair of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee; Tammy Beal, Marion Township Clerk; Rep. Ann Bollin, Michigan House of Representatives; and Bill Rogers, Genoa Charter Township Supervisor.

Remembering Jim Sparks



Lutz County Park opening in 2008. Parks and Open Space Committee Members from left to right: Jan Lobur, Ron VanHouten, Belinda Peters, Jim Sparks, Brian Jonckheere, Chris Folts, Kellie Prokuda and Kathleen Kline-Hudson.

Jim Sparks was a thoughtful and well-respected Livingston County Planning Commissioner on the Livingston County Planning Commission for over 30 years, and a member of the Livingston County Parks & Open Space Committee for over 12 years. Jim passed away at the age of 77 on April 19, 2019.

County Planning Staff and Planning Commissioners will remember Jim for many things including his quick wit, storytelling, riddles, and his ability to compare planning and zoning cases to farming "pearls of wisdom." We know that he would have been proud to see the recent ground breaking celebration at Fillmore County Park.

Jim was steadfast in his representation of Agriculture on the Livingston County Planning Commission and he would want this representation to continue. If you are interested in serving on the Livingston County Planning Commission and have agricultural expertise, please see the Livingston County posting at: <https://www.livgov.com/Documents/Planning-Commission-Vacancy-Notice-5-2-2019.pdf>