



Livingston County

2025 Annual Report



**A CONSTITUTIONAL
COUNTY**
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**2A
COUNTY**



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It's an honor to serve as Board Chairman and so I diligently and sincerely apply my experience and skills to the job. On behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners, I present our 2025 Annual Report of our efficient delivery of statutory services while maintaining a balanced budget to benefit and protect taxpayers.

Livingston County is the very best place in our state to live. We have:

- The lowest millage tax rate of all 83 Michigan counties at 3.1819 for 2026.
- The lowest unemployment rate of all 83 Michigan counties.
- An elite AAA bond rating saving taxpayers huge dollars.
(Only 48 other counties in the entire United States hold the AAA rating.)
- A long history of balanced budgets without resorting to gimmicks.
- We're both a Constitutional County and a 2A County.
- A distinguished standing as one of the 4 top healthiest counties in Michigan.
- The title of being one of the top 5 safest counties in Michigan.
- Confirmed 99% completion of \$12 million state of the art, speed of light fiber broadband which will connect and protect our schools, EMS, fire departments, and Sheriff's Office.
- Contracted out repairs to the dams on Thompson Lake and Portage Baseline.
- Contracted services to combat the opioid scourge with grants over \$400,000.
- Earmarked \$495,000 in savings by a grant application for CAD 911 hardware.
- Confirmed completion of 95% of Cohoctah and Putnam ambulance substations for faster and closer arrivals to rural emergencies.
- Contracted the building of four new towers for public safety communications and upgraded a tower for \$12.85 million, saving approximately \$3 million compared to estimates.
- Contracted to spend \$235,000 for encrypted radios for police and EMS ambulance services per unfunded mandate from Lansing with no new taxes.
- Saved \$115,000 by utilizing a new CPA firm.
- Saved \$24,000 by renegotiating a communication contract.
- Continued cooperation with Howell City's fire, police, and DPW regarding service contracts, equipment loans, troubleshooting, and vendor access, saving approximately \$50,000 a year.
- Maintained, since the 1970's, our LETS bus cost to ride at \$2
- LETS re-fueling contract saves taxpayers 80¢ a gallon (and boy do we use gallons and gallons of gas for our carpool of 150+ vehicles!)
- LETS sends buses during emergencies to help warm firefighters (despite having no Livingston County fire employees, assets, trucks, etc.) We help our public safety.

The Board of Commissioners is proud of the expertise that contributed to 2025 successes and promise our conservative values will continue to benefit our taxpayers, especially the above savings. Thank you for your continued trust and engagement.


Livingston County
2025 Board Chairman



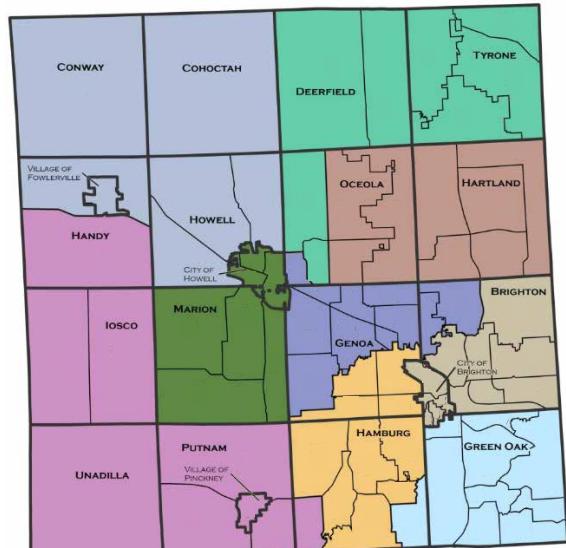


Front Row (Left to Right): Douglas Helzerman - District 1, Vice Chairman Nick Fiani - District 8, Chairman Jay Drick - District 5, Jay Gross - District 9

Back Row (Left to Right): Dave Domas - District 2, Mevlin Paunovich - District 7, Roger Deaton - District 6, Wes Nakagiri - District 4, Frank Sample - District 3

YOUR 2025 LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Jay R. Drick was elected **Chairman of the Board** and Commissioner Nick Fiani was elected **Vice Chairman**.
- **Board of Commissioner meetings** are open to the public. We offer a Zoom option for electronic participation. See our meeting and event calendar for meeting dates and Zoom links: <https://milivcounty.gov/calendar/>
- We post our Full **Board meetings recordings** on our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLhIYSsr9oYZ_gG25eNveiA/featured.
- Learn more about our Commissioners and send them an **email** at <https://milivcounty.gov/boc/about-us/>.
- Want to find out what Commissioner represents you? Use our **interactive map** at <https://livgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/InformationLookup/index>.



COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS

Livingston County, Michigan

 District 1	 District 4	 District 7
 District 2	 District 5	 District 8
 District 3	 District 6	 District 9

The numbers within each City/Township reflect Voting Precincts within each District

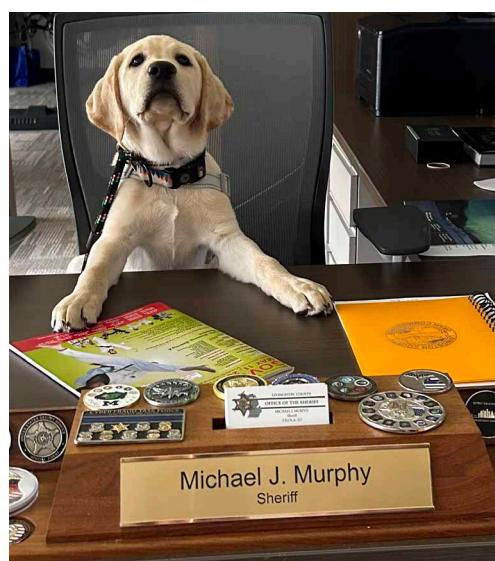
SHERIFF'S OFFICE & JAIL



- In 2025, the Sheriff's Office earned **re-accreditation** from the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission for three years. Back in 2022, we became the first Sheriff's Office in Michigan to achieve this accomplishment. We've proven our continued commitment to evaluate and elevate our performance by meeting all rigorous standards once again. The re-accreditation reflects our unwavering dedication to professional standards, community safety, operational excellence, and continuous improvement. Thanks to our dedicated deputies, staff, and community members who made this achievement possible. We remain committed to serving with honor, integrity, and respect.
- We welcomed **K-9 Officer Teddy** into our ranks in November thanks to the donation from the Brighton non-profit 4 Pawz Strong. Handled by Deputy Bolling, Teddy serves as a therapy dog for Sheriff's Office employees, inmates, and the community when out and about at various functions.



- Thanks to the generous support of CSM Mechanical and Copperhead Defense Technologies, our Office launched a **digital literacy program** using donated computers that gives inmates essential tech skills for today's world. Inmates who complete the NorthStar digital literacy course don't just gain valuable computer and internet skills; they receive a free computer when they're released. This joins our other successful programs including: 120+ GED completions, AA/NA meetings, financial literacy classes, and parenting programs. While our average stay is just two weeks, we're committed to making every moment count. Here's to graduating our first class and hopefully celebrating hundreds more success stories in the years ahead!
- Providing excellent law enforcement services to townships that do not have a dedicated police department has always been a goal of this office. In 2025, we expanded **dedicated patrol services** with partnering townships.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergency Management

- The County's **Emergency Operations Center** was partially activated for the No Kings Protest on June 14th and again for the Stars Hallow - Gillmore Girls celebration in Brighton from September 19th-21st.
- In an effort to maintain awareness and plan for emergencies, the Emergency Management team lead three large **exercises** (Active Shooter Hostile Event Rescue at the Fowlerville Fairgrounds, a hazardous materials and fire tabletop exercise with Pinckney Schools, and an Emergency Operations Center functional exercise) and Incident Command System and Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program **trainings** for first responders.
- Three **grant projects** were overseen by the Emergency Management team: handheld thermal monoculars for the Livingston County Sheriff's Office, mobile data computers for local law enforcement, and tactical training equipment.

Director Therese Cremonte and Kristi Wahoski, Assistant Emergency Manager



- When Luke Bryan's Farm Tour made a stop in Fowlerville in September, the Emergency Management team lead the **Planning Team** to ensure a safe concert experience for all attendees.
- Everbridge, a new **public alerting system**, went live in October. This service allows for critical communication with the public and provides individuals with the information needed to stay safe or take precautions during hazardous or emergency situations. Alerts inform residents and travelers about potentially hazardous situations involving weather, traffic, and other emergencies.

911/Central Dispatch

- The Board of Commissioners approved the building of three **new 800MHz towers**, the **refurbishment** of a tower and the **upgrade** of our 800MHz tower site at a cost of nearly \$13 million dollars. This will create a simulcast system, providing a reliable countywide digital radio system for police, fire, emergency management, and EMS. This new system will minimize "dead spots" increasing the capability for clear communications across the county during large-scale incidents involving multiple agencies.
- Our **Critical Incident Stress Management** (CISM) and Peer Support Team continues to make an impact for the mental well-being and resilience of our 911 dispatch personnel and partner 911 centers in Michigan. After the shooting at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Grand Blanc, we deployed our team to the Genesee County 911 center to help provide emotional and psychological support to the dispatchers who were on duty when this event occurred. Our CISM team deployed three times for critical incidences that affected all public safety disciplines within Livingston County.

• Employee **Eryn Brite** joined the Army Reserves, successfully completing basic training and the Military Occupational Specialty training to become a Military Police Officer. We are proud of her decision to join, as it displays her dedication to serving her country and community, developing leadership skills, gaining valuable career experience, and contributing to national defense.

• We installed **Automatic Call Distribution**, which allows incoming calls to be dispersed evenly amongst the dispatchers. This technology decreases call wait times, thus allowing for more efficient handling of emergencies. We also received \$495,000 in grant funds from Representative Barrett's office to assist in purchasing a new

Computer Aided Computer System
for law enforcement and fire service.





EMS

- This year, EMS purchased the latest in technology: the new **Stryker LP-35 Cardiac Monitors**. This \$1.8 million dollar investment ensures we have the best equipment available to respond to the needs of our residents. The implementation of the monitors included several days of required training to ensure our staff was well trained before placing them in service.
- With the support of the Board of Commissioners and dedication of \$3.1 million dollars from the vision tour fund, EMS is in the process of constructing **two new EMS bases** in Putnam Twp. and Cohoctah Twp. These bases are scheduled for completion in mid-January 2026 and will dramatically enhance response time in some of our more rural previously underserved areas. Staff and equipment is in place to begin operations from these sites as soon as construction is completed.
- The **Community Paramedic Program** has grown dramatically in the past year, and we have it in operation 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. The program accepts referrals for a specially trained Paramedic to perform home visits for a variety of conditions allowing patients to receive in-house evaluation and treatment with a goal of preventing the need for emergency room or in-patient services.
- EMS Education successfully completed the initial phase of the **COAEMSP accreditation process**. This accreditation certifies that LCEMS meets the highest standards in EMS education and allows us to sponsor and conduct in-house training programs for all phases of EMS. These education programs are the key to our continued success.

• We successfully completed our renewal of the **CAAS accreditation**. CAAS examines every aspect of our EMS operation from call intake, response times, vehicle and equipment maintenance records, employee certification, quality improvement process, policies and procedures, billing and reimbursement practices. This was the third renewal of this process and LCEMS has been CAAS accredited since 2015.

• 2025 presented us with a significant increase in the demand for EMS services. We consistently maintained an **8% increase in call volume** throughout the year. 2025 is another record year for EMS responses reaching nearly 30,000 requests for service. To keep pace with the demand, EMS added additional staff and constantly evaluate and change the deployment of resources to minimize response time and maximize operational efficiency.

• With the support of the Board of Commissioners and dedicated funds from Vision Tour, EMS and Livingston County Central Dispatch purchased a new **Computer Aided Dispatch system**. The new system incorporates AI in the dispatch process to improve efficiency and monitor system performance. Over time the system will offer predictive data on future calls based off of previous call history. All these elements will ensure that LCEMS is performing at its peak and providing the highest level of service possible to the community. The new CAD will be deployed in the first quarter of 2026.

• EMS purchased and implemented a **new billing software system**, a critical component of our operations responsible for invoicing and collecting payment for all EMS calls. Each year, this system processes more than 25,000 invoices totaling over \$20,000,000 and records approximately 10,000 payments exceeding \$12,000,000, representing 75% of all EMS revenue.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Health Department

- This year, Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) completed **major renovations** modernizing clinic spaces, improving accessibility, and upgrading technology. The redesigned layout improves patient flow and creates dedicated areas for immunizations, screenings, and travel consultations. Added energy-efficient lighting and other sustainable features will reduce costs and environmental impacts. Staff and client feedback has been positive, and we are excited to welcome even more community members into our improved space.



- LCHD also hosted a **family health and safety fair** for ages 0–12 in August 2025. The event offered immunizations, vision and dental screenings, car-seat checks, and other safety demos with local partners. Over 270 attendees received services or referrals, and many families completed back-to-school screenings on-site.



- LCHD **staff presented successes** in a variety of program areas at multiple state conferences. Topics included **emergency preparedness** training for staff, water treatment oversight, vector monitoring and control, and hybrid immunization waivers. The presentations helped strengthen regional partnerships and shared practical recommendations for other public health professionals.



- LCHD received a **NACCHO Model Practice Award** for our hybrid immunization waiver process that combines online education with brief in-person follow-up. The new workflow meets Michigan's requirement for pre-waiver education while reducing staff time and costs and improving client satisfaction.

Cross Comparison	In-Person Waivers	Hybrid with Nurse	Hybrid with Clerk
Appointment Length	30 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes
Staff Time	500 hours	83 hours	83 hours
Estimated Cost	\$53,500	\$8,881	\$4,307



Drain Commissioner

- The **Solid Waste Program** conducted three Household Hazardous Waste Collections, an Electronics Collection event, one Latex Paint Recycling Event, a Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Preorder Sale and a Scrap Tire collection event. Household batteries are also collected in various locations year-round. The following were collected in 2025: 93,198 pounds of household hazardous waste (22% more than 2024), approximately 18,000 pounds of household batteries, 58,087 pounds of electronic waste, 3,300 cans of latex paint, and 1,689 tires. The County is working on establishing a new Materials Management Plan per the requirement of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.
- Our Office regulates the **Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control** under Part 91 of Act 451, the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act. Regular inspections by our staff help reduce the movement of sediment into waters of the state, wetlands, and adjacent properties. The County has 1,488 permitted sites where 3,795 site inspections were completed in 2025.
- Multiple **clearing, excavation, and cleaning operations** took place this year on County Drains. Our staff installed new tile drains in Handy and Conway Townships. Petitioned drain construction projects were completed on the Marion No. 3 Drain, Orchard Park Intercounty Drain in Tyrone Township, Handy 15 Drain, and

the Sharp Drain in Conway Township.

• **Design and engineering**

work continued for Long Lake Dam



in Hartland Township. A \$350,000.00 repair project to Thompson Lake Dam was completed. Portage & Baseline Dam repairs started with expected completion in 2026. Drainage design and engineering work continues for the Winans Lake Drain in Hamburg Township and Brewer Road Drain in Howell Township. Construction of the Brighton No. 4 Drain is anticipated to be completed in 2026.

- The **Sanitary Team** continues to seek ways of improving the systems we maintain and sharpening their skills. The team responded to 200+ service calls and continued to execute preventative maintenance and inspections; reducing risk, saving cost, and assuring the system performs optimally. This small field team of seven have overseen multiple development projects connecting into the Livingston Regional sewer system. This team understands the importance of what they do and strive daily to ensure they are providing the best service to the residents.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

- Livingston County was awarded the **GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for the eighth time with the submission of the 2025 Operating Budget, which received Special Recognition for its strategic goals and strategies.
- The **2026 Budget** is a balanced and responsible budget that will allow the County to continue to provide a high level of service for our citizens. The General Fund budget comprises \$68 million of a \$126 million total budget. There are \$665,000 in planned capital improvement projects for 2026.

- Our **Aaa Moody bond rating** was reaffirmed.

- Livingston County continues to operate with the **lowest county millage rate** in the State of Michigan:

General Operations:	3.189
EMS:	.2811
Veterans:	.0918
Total:	3.5548

2026 Annual Budget
Livingston County, MI



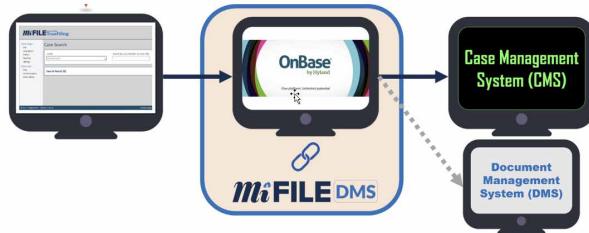
LIVINGSTON COUNTY COURTS

Friend of the Court

- Lead Administrative Specialist Amy Tarket was elected to the Michigan Family Support Council as the **FOC representative** for central Michigan. This organization was established in 1982 and consists of child support professionals who promote professional development training to its members to support Michigan families through the efficient collection of child support.
- Due to the hard work of the staff, over \$27 million in **child and spousal support** was collected and distributed to families.
- The Friend of the Court partnered with the Livingston Family Center and LACASA to secure a **federal grant** to facilitate supervised parenting time to ensure a safe place for parents and children to visit. The office also partnered with **Michigan Works** to assist individuals in securing employment to pay their support.

Livingston County Courts

- **MiFILE** is a statewide e-filing system designed to transform the court experience by improving access, providing greater flexibility for litigants, and enhancing overall efficiency in case management. Following four months of intense training and partnership with the State Court Administrative Office Judicial Information Services, Livingston County IT and the Livingston County Bar Association, District Court Judges and staff implemented MiFILE for civil cases on June 5th and the Probate Court Judge and staff implemented MiFILE for all case types on November 13th. E-filing, short for "electronic filing", is the process of submitting court documents online 24/7 instead of delivering them in person to the court clerk. Our e-filing system, MiFILE, allows both the court and parties to send and receive documents electronically. MiFILE allows people to file documents from any computer with internet access and sign-up is free. We thank our dedicated staff and partners for embracing this change!



- On November 24, 2025, during the season of Thanksgiving, Chief Probate Judge Miriam A. Cavanaugh presided over the **adoption** of two children into loving homes. Families shared their stories with a packed courtroom of supporters. By the end of the morning, two children had new names and more importantly, forever families!



- **Veterans Treatment Court**, one of four specialty court programs in the Livingston County Courts, includes a unique and important Veteran Mentor Program. One of the largest in the State of Michigan, our program currently has 18 active veteran mentors who provide support and guidance to the Veteran Treatment Court participants. On September 24, 2025, joined by members of the court, community, and various county departments, Judge Shauna Murphy held a very special celebration to thank our mentors who volunteer their time to help change the lives of Veterans Treatment Court participants.
- The Courts worked collaboratively with the Board of Commissioners to renovate pre-existing space at the Judicial Center. The **renovation** provided additional office space for both the Prosecutor's Office and the Public Defender's Office. Providing these additional spaces on-site, at the Judicial Center, allows community members more accessibility to legal resources. This project has also allowed the Judicial Center to update on-site security space for the protection of the courthouse and our community.

Prosecutor's Office

- 2025 was a year of continued focus on **protecting our community** and holding criminal defendants accountable. The Livingston County Prosecutor's Office successfully prosecuted violent offenders and high-risk offenders, resulting in significant jail and prison sentences that removed dangerous individuals from our community. We maintained a high ethical standard, ensuring fair treatment to all, while prioritizing community protection.
- We continued to work as members in the **specialty courts**, such as the Adult Drug Treatment Courts, Veterans Treatment Court, and Intensive Treatment Court, to address substance abuse and mental health issues within our community with a focus on providing tools for participants to live a sober life. Studies have confirmed this work reduces recidivism in our community.
- We continue to work with community partners to **strengthen support for vulnerable victims**, including children and the elderly. We expanded communication efforts to keep victims informed, respected, and involved in the prosecution of cases. We are dedicated to ensuring victims' voices are heard throughout the process.



- 2025 provided an opportunity to strengthen **partnerships** with local, state, and federal law enforcement. Our law enforcement partners and their work have been an overwhelming reason we are successful at prosecuting cases and solving crimes. The Livingston County Prosecutors have provided 24/7 legal guidance to law enforcement to ensure strong cases.
- Our staff is regularly involved in **community events**, including but not limited to Shop with a Cop, First Responders Trunk-n-treat, and ringing the bell for Salvation Army. Our Office supported the Livingston County United Way 2025 fundraising campaign. We hosted the 4th annual Chili Cookoff with the Livingston County Public Defender's Office raising over \$700. Unfortunately, we had to relinquish the trophy to Public Defenders this year but stay tuned for 2026!

Public Defender

- The Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) approved our 2026 **State Budget** of \$2,394,5701 in June 2025. Nicole Walters, our MIDC regional manager, completed our annual audit and found our office to be in 100% compliance with all 8 standards.
- **Mary Ellen Hayes** was hired in April of 2025 to fill the position of Public Defender III. She comes to us from the Jackson County Public

Defender's Office where she primarily handled Felony Matters. She holds a Masters in Forensic Psychology, Human Services Counseling, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Theory.

- We successfully **moved locations** from Howell to Brighton at the end of 2024 and have settled into the Remax Building.
- **Alexa Hancock** was elected as Vice President of Livingston County Bar Association for 2026.
- Our attorneys participated in the **LESA Job Shadow** in November of 2025 where we hosted students from Howell High School who were eager to learn about becoming a Public Defender.
- The Public Defender's office took the trophy for the **Chili Cookoff** with the Prosecutor's Office this year and look forward to the competition next year. Thanks to Holli Gentile and James Puzzoli for all the planning they put into making this fundraiser a success.



FACILITY SERVICES

- The Facilities Services department completed a number of **important projects** this year, including: renovations at the Downtown Complex, Health Department, Human Resources, and Judicial Center. Facilities has been very involved in the new construction builds of the Cohoctah and Putnam EMS substations. To help support County services and departments this past year, Facilities implemented safety and security measures, replaced old and worn equipment, provided on-site trainings for staff, and continued to implement a new work order system.
- Some **events that the department held** and helped coordinate: Food Truck Tuesdays, the County's Health Fair, Veteran Services' 9/11 5K, and the Concerts at the Courthouse.



- Looking to the future**, Facility Services has the following list of projects on their to-do list: replacement of various fire suppression components and systems, installation of new HVAC equipment, coordinating and assisting with the Sheriff's capital fencing project, and several small renovation projects.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- In 2025, Human Resources continued its **mission** of strategic partnership with Livingston County departments to help attract, retain, and inspire top talent and provide outstanding customer service to both internal and external customers. We aim to make necessary information and all members of our team easy to access, our services efficient and effective, and all interactions with our staff friendly and professional.
- On behalf of the County, we thank the following individuals for their years of service and wish them all the best in their **2025 retirements**:
Aaron Aumock (Health), Jaqueline Marks (Health), Dawn Bailey (Facilities), Cynthia Mudloff (LETS), Leslie Gratsch (IT), Carol Campbell (Animal Shelter), Sue Bostwick (EQ), Caroline Shaw (Building), Michael Nast (LCSO), Glenda Cook (Facilities), William Schuster (LCSO), Kevin Crane (LCSO), Gabriella Garlock (ROD), Jeffery Tanderys (LCSO), Diane Valente (FOC), Marc King (LCSO), Susan Williams (ROD), Lynne Schickling (Circuit Court Clerk)
- Of equal importance are the following employees who achieved significant **career milestones** with us in 2025:

Bonnie Knight (Treasurer) - 40 years
 Michael Murphy (LCSO) - 35 years
 Deanne Hilborn (EMS) - 30 years
 Jennifer Nash (Treasurer) - 30 years
 Beau Forgette (Health) - 30 years
 Evelyn Quigley (District Court) - 25 years
 Robert Stanford (Planning) - 25 years
 James Kish (EMS) - 25 years
 Lorie Ball (Facilities) - 25 years
 Belinda Timoff (EMS) - 25 years
 Mary Reed (911) - 25 years
 Erin Ostwald (Juvenile Court) - 25 years
 Lisa Bailey-Roush (Probate Court) - 25 years

- This year saw **renovations** to our workspace, providing enhanced safety features and better functionality for our employees and visitors.





1st Quarter: Deputy Brad Kourt of the Sheriff's Office (left), Joseph Bridgman of the County Clerk's Office - Elections (right)



2nd Quarter: Leah Morcom of the Sheriff's Office (left), Kelly Johnson of Veteran Services (right)



3rd Quarter: Victoria Dufour of the Circuit Court Clerk (top left), Helen Vontom of the Sheriff's Office (top right), and Kate Kerbrat and Teddy Eisenhut of the Prosecutor's Office (bottom)



- We were proud to once again have been named a **Detroit Free Press Top Workplace in 2025**, making it our fourth year in a row receiving this honor. The seventh annual workplace engagement survey showed that 73% of our employees were highly engaged in their work. Survey responses indicated that employees felt that their job was part of something meaningful, that they felt included and genuinely appreciated, and were enabled to work at their full potential. Supervisor support, workplace flexibility, and the encouragement of new ideas were items noted of value by our employees as well. We are proud to be awarded this honor yet again as we continue our efforts to cultivate a workplace where our employees feel supported, enriched, and part of something meaningful when they come to work at Livingston County.

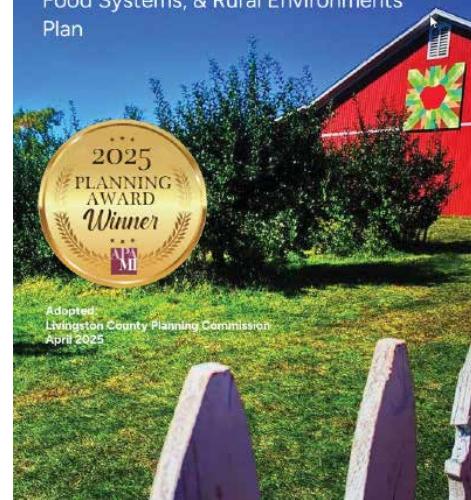


- Our **Employee Recognition Committee** is honored to continue the program of awarding employees for excellence in work performance. With many worthy nominations, it is always a challenge to narrow it down, but these outstanding individuals have been chosen in 2025:

PLANNING & GROWTH

- The County's **2026-2031 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)** was updated by the department. The basic goals of the CIP are to provide a systematic approach to replacing and repairing public facilities, add new facilities that will enhance the quality of life for residents, and develop a comprehensive strategy for the replacement of major capital items.
- Over 45 people attended the **2025 MSU Extension Citizen Planner Program**. The course consisted of six sessions focused on understanding planning and zoning methods and solutions.
- The **Livingston County, Michigan: 2025 Sustainable Agriculture, Food Systems, and Rural Environments Plan** was completed and won the "Outstanding Undergraduate Student Project Award for the 2025 Planning Excellence Award" by the Michigan Association of Planning. The Plan was written by Abby Carrigan, a talented Intern, with guidance from the Planning Department staff. The Plan's Visionary Statement is a perfect summary of what compelled the Planning Department to tackle this dynamic issue:

"Livingston County envisions a future where agriculture remains a thriving, dynamic cornerstone of our economy and character. Rooted in our rich history and supported by sustainable practices, our community will continue to cultivate a resilient agricultural sector that adapts to modern challenges while preserving the vitality of our farmland for generations to come."



- A draft of the **2026 Livingston County Master Plan** has been completed and was released for public review and comment in November 2025. The new plan represents a comprehensive two-year initiative that is heavily shaped by public engagement and data-driven analysis.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY AIRPORT

- The Airport's new **Snow Removal Equipment Building** was completed this year.
- As part of routine maintenance, the team worked on 11 miles of pavement **crack sealing** in the fall.
- A **new hangar**, which will house two aircraft, was constructed by DCM Investments.
- The **old Airport terminal building** will be used for office space for a new hangar that will be constructed adjacent to it. The tenant has started renovating the old terminal building.



Snow Removal Equipment Building



New DMC Investment hangar

REGISTER OF DEEDS

- The Livingston County Register of Deeds (ROD) department, led by Register Brandon Denby and Chief Deputy Register Brandon Barefield, has become **recognized across the state** for its knowledge, professionalism, and willingness to help other counties. Staff is regularly contacted for input about Michigan Recording Guidelines, policy, statutes, and best practices.
- We continue with our on-going project of **back-indexing** previously recorded and imaged documents. We hold scanned and imaged documents from 1836. Each record is being indexed by grantor, grantee, legal description, address, tax number, and township. Incorporating these details improves the Livingston County database searchability. These records are important for establishing a property's chain of ownership. We started an imaging project of 361 libers that are being scanned and imaged for our records. These libers will be uploaded and we will begin indexing them for future searchers. Approximately 30,000 documents have been processed for 2025.

- The Michigan Association of Register of Deeds, MARD, presented Brandon Barefield with the **2025 Chief Deputy of the Year Award** for exceptional leadership, innovative ideas and integrity. This award is voted on by the Registers from each county for the entire state of Michigan.
- ROD continues to work with Pintegrity to make a more **thorough and uniform database**. This program has taken significant work to get integrated and will improve searchability for our users. The department has expanded the information indexed to increase the ability to locate properties within our county. **Property Fraud Alert (PFA)** continues to be promoted by the department and benefits the residence of Livingston County. PFA provides owners a notification any time a document is indexed using their name.



COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

- The **Circuit Court Clerk Division** saw a 5% increase in new case filings through November 13, 2025. Significant legislative changes to court funding are being considered. Chief Deputy County Clerk, Kristi Cox, served on the Trial Court Funding Commission workgroup representing both Livingston County and the Michigan Association of County Clerks. In addition, she presented at the National Association for Court Management's annual conference on Circuit Court collections.
- The **Elections Division** conducted three elections including the May 6, 2025 Special Election, the August 5, 2025 Special Election, and the November 4, 2025 City General – Special Election. In

- addition, 312 passport applications have been processed through November 13, 2025.
- The **Vital Records Divisions** remains committed to creating and preserving important life events taking place within Livingston County for current and future generations. We implemented technology improvements and upgrades that enhance our ability to serve the public more efficiently, including updates to CPL fingerprinting and online ordering for certified copies of vital records.
- The County Clerk's office continues to be recognized for the **outstanding service** our staff provide. Victoria Dufour, Deputy Court Clerk, received the County's Employee Recognition award for the 3rd Quarter 2025 and Joe Bridgman, Elections Manager, received the County's Employee Recognition award for the 1st Quarter 2025.



VETERAN SERVICES

- In 2025, our team completed more than 2,000 **appointments** and now offers limited after-hours appointments on a regular basis. As a result, many veterans began receiving compensation for claims, pensions, and stipends. Our transportation team completed more than 2,300 rides to medical appointments.
- **Veteran Assistance Programs (VAP)** provided financial assistance and resource referral counseling to more than 215 veterans and their families. Emergent assistance covers a variety of client needs such as rent or mortgage, home or auto repairs, food, clothing and fuel vouchers, emergency shelter, dental, and burial benefits. Across all VAP programs, Veteran Services has provided more than \$80,000 in burial benefits and more than \$110,000 in relief funds.
- On June 30th, we held an **Open House** from 6 am to 8 pm to reach County veterans. We celebrated with a fun drawing that gave attendees the chance to win great prizes, with help from a local radio station, Howell Parks and Recreation, and local food vendors who brought radio coverage, on-site activities, and plenty of goodies and treats for everyone to enjoy. Our partners at the Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Healthcare System provided on-site enrollment for eligible veterans.
- On September 13th, we partnered with Howell Parks and Recreation to host our third annual **9/11 Never Forget 5K** at Fillmore County Park. This event was well attended with more than 150 runners. Livingston County Veterans were the beneficiaries of the proceeds from this year's event.



- For Thanksgiving, we provided food-only Meijer gift cards to veterans and their families on November 24th, ensuring they could enjoy a festive meal of their choosing. For Christmas, we partnered with Gleaners on December 19th to distribute ham dinners along with pantry essentials to veterans and their families, helping make the **holiday season** brighter and more nourishing.
- We remain proud **members** of the Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body, the Homeless Continuum of Care, and Veterans Response Team. We also belong to the Brighton, Hartland, and Howell Area Chambers of Commerce.
- We continued **community outreach and partnership** development throughout 2025. Our team proudly participated in over 100 community outreach events this year, a record-breaking milestone. To stay connected with our community, we continued to offer a monthly digital newsletter, keeping our readers informed and engaged throughout the year. Our office continues to host monthly coffee hours, providing veterans with a welcoming space to connect, share experiences, and support one another.





ANIMAL SHELTER

- We were graciously awarded **Shelter of the Year** by MAACO (Michigan Association of Animal Control Officers.) This is an honor and a recognition we are proud to bring to our community. Thank you to all of our volunteers, fosters, donors, and incredible staff who made this award possible.
- Being invited by the community to **showcase our adoptable animals** at their events is always a pleasure. This past year we attended SELCRA's Barktober, Petfest, Sam's Walk, Metrobark, and Destress with Dogs at the Howell High School. These events include the multiple onsite adoption specials we hold throughout the year.
- "Cost of Care" for our shelter animals, it's not just a number on a spreadsheet, it's the price of a second chance. This past year, your **donations** didn't just pay bills, they saved lives. We spent \$19,917.68 on medical care beyond the basic needs.
- In March we welcomed **Dr. Caitlyn Neal DVM** to the team. Dr. Neal has been providing services for our low cost spay/neuter clinics, as well as all large-scale TNR clinics. Her dedication to reducing pet overpopulation through spay and neuter services makes a lasting impact on our community. Beyond her incredible skills as a

veterinarian, Dr. Neal is known for her kindness, compassion, and unwavering positivity.

- Our 4th annual **Hot Dogs and Cool Cats Golf Outing** was once again held at the beautiful Huron Meadows Metropark golf course. This was our biggest golfer turnout to date with many new sponsors and donors also joining the event. The funds raised help to cover medical cost that expand beyond our annual budget.



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