



LIVINGSTON COUNTY'S 2019 YEAR END REPORT



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Donald S. Parker
Livingston County Board Chairman

As 2019 comes to a close, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, I say thank you to our dedicated employees for all that you've done on behalf of the people of Livingston County. Despite the many challenges that arose this year, you have contributed greatly to the continued success of our county government. Together, we have achieved much, and we look forward to 2020 with confidence and optimism.

Many of us still have a heavy heart from the passing of our County Administrator, Ken Hinton. Ken had been a valued leader at Livingston County since 2015 and is greatly missed. On behalf of my fellow Commissioners, I thank and commend Cindy Catanach for stepping into the Acting County Administrator position during this difficult time. In 2020, Livingston County will welcome a new County Administrator. The search is underway to fill this position. Acting Deputy County Administrator and Chief Information Officer Richard Malewicz is leaving the County at the end of this year. The Board thanks Rich for his 6 years of service to the County and wishes him the best in his future endeavors. Health Officer Dianne McCormick will step into the Acting Deputy County Administrator position and Diane Gregor will step into the Acting CIO position until a new CIO is appointed.

Low unemployment, steady growth, and a very solid financial condition continue in our great county. Sustained conservative financial management resulted in Livingston County receiving an AAA bond rating yet again and creating a balanced 2020 Budget that totals \$94,617,305. In 2019 the County made an additional payment of \$524,663 to MERS for the reduction of unfunded liabilities. Furthermore, acting on what we believe to be in the best interest of the people we serve, the County joined nationwide opioid litigation. It continues to be an honor to report that our government delivers high-quality services using fiscally responsible approaches that demonstrate great respect for the taxpayers who fund these efforts.

Since my last year end report, Livingston County has welcomed a new Commissioner and three new Judges. Wes Nakagiri joined the Board of Commissioners after his election in 2018 and represents District 3, which includes all of Tyrone and Hartland Townships. Honorable Judge Shauna N. Murphy was appointed to the 53rd District Court bench by Governor Rick Snyder on December 26, 2018. Judge Murphy also presides over the Livingston County Veteran's Treatment Court. Honorable Judge Matthew McGivney was appointed to the 44th Circuit Court bench by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on June 21, 2019.

Continued

Honorable Judge Daniel B. Bain was appointed to the 53rd District Court bench by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on September 18, 2019. The County also welcomes David Feldpausch as the new Director of EMS. The Board thanks Jeff Boyd for his 33 years of service. As EMS is undergoing changes, I assure you that the Board has been proactive at assessing and taking steps to continue oversight and looks forward to working with David to ensure that there is no interruption in the critical service this department provides.

On the important topic of Indigent Defense, I am happy to report that Livingston County has created a Public Defender's Office. Karen Groenhout was appointed Chief Public Defender and has worked incredibly hard to get this new Office up and running. The Public Defender's Office will employ 9 individuals and will be located at 1221 Byron Road in Howell starting January 1, 2020.

While we will continue to face many of the same challenges of other county governments, as we look back at the progress of the last year, we see a County that listens to the citizens we serve and ensures that our community continues to be a place like nowhere else. Throughout 2019, our employees have contributed to the life of this county through efforts as diverse as establishing a new LETS healthcare transportation service, creating 6 forever families through the Livingston County Courts on Adoption Day, completing the construction of a new state of the art 911 facility, implementing election changes through the County Clerk's Office, and in many other ways that may be unrecognized, but no less important to this community.

As we enter 2020, new challenges and opportunities will arise. I strongly believe that this County will surmount and capitalize on those challenges and opportunities because of the commitment and professionalism of our 700+ public servants. As 2019 comes to a close, let us reflect on all that we've achieved. I sincerely thank each and every one of you for your continued support and collaboration for improving the lives of all who call Livingston County home. On behalf of the Livingston County Board of Commissioners, we wish you and your families a blessed holiday season and a happy New Year.



Donald S. Parker

Livingston County Board Chairman



(Top Left to Right) Douglas Helzerman - District 4, Wes Nakagiri - District 3, Robert Bezotte - District 6, William Green - District 2, Vice Chairman Dennis Dolan - District 8

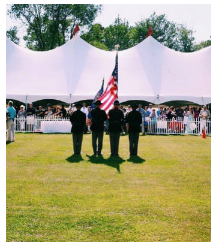
(Bottom Left to Right) Gary Childs - District 9, Carol Griffith - District 7, Chairman Donald Parker - District 5, Kate Lawrence - District 1

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- **Donald Parker** was re-elected Board Chairman while **Dennis Dolan** was re-elected Vice Chairman during the first Board of Commissioner meeting of 2019.
- We will welcomed **Wes Nakagiri** to the Board of Commissioners this year. Wes represents District 3, which includes all of Tryone and Hartland Townships.
- County Administrator, **Ken Hinton**, passed away in October. Ken's passing deeply affected us all, but we've come together as a team to ensure County Administration functions continued. **Cindy Catanach** assumed the role of Acting County Administrator. The search is underway to fill the County Administrator position.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Reducing long term liabilities** by making additional payments is a priority of the Board as it affects both the financial health and stability of Livingston County. This year an additional payment was made to MERS totaling \$524,663.
- Livingston County was awarded the **GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for the second time with the submission of the 2019 Operating Budget. The GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award recognizes governments that meet the highest standards in budget document presentation and promotes overall transparency and accountability. The budget serves as a policy document, the County's financial plan, our operations guide, and a communication device.
- Livingston County continues to operate with the lowest County millage rate in the state. The approved 2020 operating budget allows for a consistent level of service as provided in 2019 and does not require an increase in taxes. The **2020 Operating Budget** is a balanced budget that was prepared using conservative yet reasonable estimates and assumptions. The \$51.5 million General Fund budget includes an estimated 3.6% increase in tax revenue and a 1% increase in State Share Revenue. The 2020 budget includes increases in employee wage and benefit costs including a 1.5% increase in wage scales for non-union employees and a 1% - 1.5% increase for union groups pending collective bargaining. This increase is sustainable and consistent with current levels of inflation. There is \$500,000 budgeted specifically for an additional payment to pension in 2020.



- **Karen Groenhout** was appointed Chief Public Defender in September. The newly created **Public Defender's Office** will employ 9 individuals and will be located at 121 Byron Road in Howell starting January 1, 2020.

PLANNING & GROWTH

- The Planning Department received two prestigious **Michigan American Planning Association Awards** for the 2018 Livingston County Master Plan:
 - 2019 Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan
 - 2019 Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice



development or wayfinding, and connect residents and visitors to communities that aren't immediately on regional or state trails.

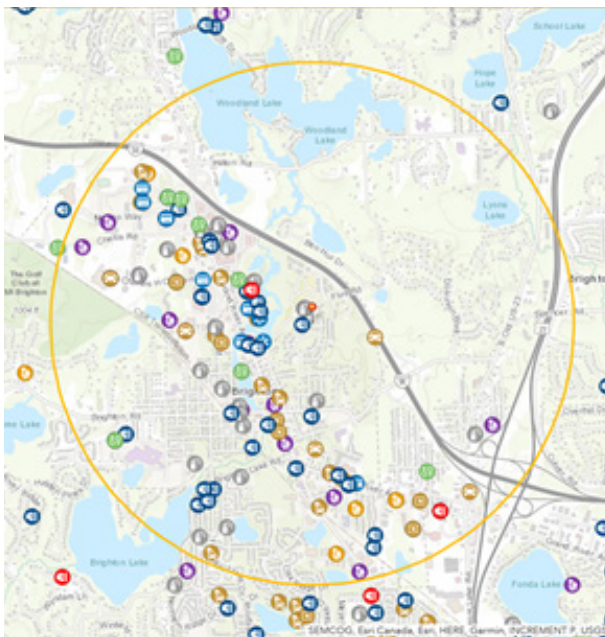
- A crowd of 50 people gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of **Fillmore County Park** on April 30, 2019. The groundbreaking kicked-off construction of Phase I of the development. The County plans to open Fillmore County Park in the spring of 2020.



- The Planning Department has received a total of \$30,000 in grant funding from SEMCOG's Planning Assistance Program to conduct a **Livingston County Trail Network Plan**. The plan will aide collaborative efforts to improve the region's recreation system, leverage grant money for local trail



UPGRADING TECHNOLOGY



- Livingston County replaced the old multimode **public safety fiber** with single mode fiber, an upgrade that will allow Livingston County to keep up with emerging technologies, as bandwidth and speed increase.
- The Information Technology Department successfully passed an IRS 1075 **Security Control Audit** this year.
- Livingston County GIS worked with the Sheriff's Office to create a "**Crime Mapping**" application. Citizens can take a look at the types of crimes that are occurring in Livingston County, or they may key in a specific address and see the crimes that are occurring around that address.



PUBLIC SAFETY

EMS

- Operations Manager, **Tom Green**, retired after 36 years of dedicated public service.
- In February, Livingston County EMS, through the leadership team and the clinical staff, was successfully received **CAAS re-accreditation** for another 3 years. EMS was evaluated on 107 points of documentation and received a perfect score. The department has already begun the re-accreditation process for 2022 and is focused on receiving another perfect score. CAAS accreditation is designed to help EMS agencies increase organizational performance and efficiency, increase clinical quality, and decrease risk and liability

Emergency Management

- Emergency Management held an Open House for the **Emergency Operations Center** on January 24th to give residents and responders a look at how the EOC would be set up in the case of an emergency. The Open House served as a milestone in the EOC's creation after being in development for the past 3 years.

- 132 responders and partners trained in Incident Command and EOC Operations.
- Supported Livingston County Schools in obtaining a total of \$1.6 million dollars in **Safe School Grant funds** for school safety projects.
- Opened a **Twitter** Account to further outreach for Emergency Management on social media.
- **Therese Cremonte** was named Professional Emergency Manager of the Year, Region One Homeland Security Planning Board Chairperson, and voted Michigan Emergency Manager Association, President Elect (term to start January 2020.)

911/Central Dispatch

- Central Dispatch received their **Emergency Fire Dispatch Accreditation** and **Triple Accredited Center of Excellence** award through the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch.
- Livingston County's 911 was named the **2019 Michigan APCO Team of the Year**.
- Central Dispatch's **state of the art facility** was completed mid-year. 911 thanks everyone who helped them transition into their new space and commends all Central Dispatch staff for keeping services at the highest standards possible during the changeover.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Building Inspection

- New software allows contractors and permit holders to receive real-time notifications on all their inspections results and projects. The Building Department continues to streamline processes by automating tasks that were previously done manually, saving contractors and the County time and resources.



Drain Commissioner

- The solid waste program was very active this year, hosting **10 collection events**. Throughout 2019, the Drain Office collected 68,162 lbs. of Household Hazardous Waste, 25,000 lbs. of batteries, 123,341 lbs. of TV's, Computers & Electronics, and 1,677 tires for recycling and safe disposal. Drain also hosted 4 collections of unused and unwanted medications for the Big Red Barrel Program.
- The **septage receiving station** is on track to accept a record 31,000,000 gallons of waste pumped from septic tanks in Livingston, Washtenaw, Oakland, Genesee, and Shiawassee counties.
- Acting through the Department of Public Works, the Drain Office recently began construction on an \$8 million **press facility** at the current site of the septage receiving station in Hartland. The project, anticipated to be completed by August 2020, will significantly decrease waste strength loadings to the Genesee County District 3 wastewater plant, which treats waste from the station, as well as Hartland and Tyrone Twps.

Health Department

- LCHD's **Emergency Preparedness Program** successfully conducted two full-scale exercises in June and September to test mass dispensing and distribution capabilities.
- LCHD activated its **Public Health Emergency Coordination Center (PHECC)** twice in response to outbreaks affecting the county (EEE and Swine Flu).
- LCHD's collaboration with Ascension, Michigan Medicine and St. Joseph Mercy hospital systems and LETS established the **Livingston County Health Care Transportation Service**.
- The Health Promotion and Personal and Preventive Health Services Programs teamed up to implement a new program, called **Wear One**. The aim of the program is to create awareness and promote safer sex behaviors, leading to a decrease in STD rates.
- LCHD coordinated with the MDHHS and EGLE to **address issues** concerning Vapor Intrusion and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This includes an ongoing response to trichloroethylene (TCE) emissions found in outdoor air in part of Howell.
- The **WIC program** received a Management Evaluation by the state WIC office in September 2019 and the team was awarded several special recognitions. This evaluation indicates the highest quality service to clients and work being done over a two-year period.





Sheriff's Office

- Purchased and implemented new **investigative tools** to help solve technology based crimes. Programs include tools such as Callyo for cellular phones, Carfax for Law Enforcement to assist with accident investigations and ERAD Group for frauds and financial crimes.
- Improved the security levels of the facility by updating and adding **closed circuit security cameras** for the Field Services Division. The new security system allows the Sheriff's Office the ability to monitor and record activity for safety and investigative purposes.
- Launched the LCSO **Public Crime Mapping** Application in 2019. The program allows residents to identify criminal activity throughout the county. Public Crime Mapping works with the Sheriff's Office Record Management System and County GIS to map reported, verified criminal activity near an address, select crime types, date ranges and generate reports.
- Conducted county-wide **law enforcement training** in the area of Basic Tactical Medical as well as Patrol Tactics.
- Outfitted all Field Services personnel with **active violence armor kits** (vest and helmet), and IFAK kits (Individual First Aid Kit).



SHERIFF'S OFFICE & JAIL

- Added two **Uniform Services Evidence Technicians**, who are now participating in the regional Incident Response Unit.
- Expanded the **drone program** with the procurement of additional equipment as well as training and certification of additional pilots.

Jail

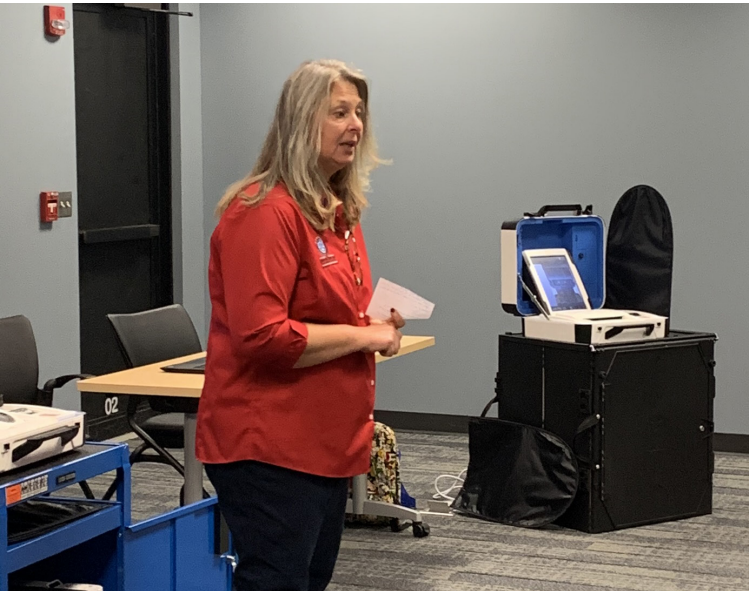
- In June, 2018, in partnership with Community Mental Health and Key Development, the Sheriff's Office implemented a **Vivatrol medically assisted treatment plan** to assist inmates with their addiction prior to their release. To date, 80 candidates have participated in the program.
- 12 inmates successfully enrolled in and completed curriculum and testing necessary to obtain their **GED**.
- **Multiple upgrades** were completed. The Max Control Pod and Intake ICO Post were renovated. An electronic key control system was implemented. "Go Bags" have been created for critical situations and trauma kits have been added to transport vans. Crisis Intervention training was provided to Jail Services personnel.

Special Services

- Partnered with LESA (Livingston Educational Service Agency) to **address truancy and early literacy** in school age youth.
- Partnered with Lexipol Police Service to generate **updated Policy & Procedures** to enhance personnel accountability and reduce liability.



LIVINGSTON COUNTY COURTS & LEGAL SERVICES



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 in a cost-effective manner and to bring justice to those who have been victims of crime.
- The Livingston County Prosecutor's Office continues to spearhead the fight against child sexual and physical abuse by partnering with LACASA and local law enforcement agencies through the CARE Project, Livingston County's coordinated response to these crimes.
- To help reduce recidivism, 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, the Intensive Treatment Court to address those offenders with mental health issues, and the Veteran's Treatment Court to help offenders who have served our country.
- Prosecutors are regularly involved in our community through police training, school activities, and community efforts to combat drug abuse, ensure school safety, and help keep Livingston County a safe place to work, live, and raise a family.

County Clerk

- In February, County Clerk Elizabeth Hundley was appointed to the **Election Modernization Advisory Committee** by Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. The advisory committee is advising the Secretary of State in regards to implementing election changes with the passage of Proposal 3 by voters in November of 2018.
- The Clerk's Office launched **GovQA** on January 2, 2019. GovQA is a FOIA request tracking system that allows the public to request information online. All communication regarding a FOIA request is now done through GovQA.
- The Clerk's Office is now able to provide honorably discharged veterans a Livingston County **Veteran ID Card** at no charge. The County's Veterans' Services Department began covering the cost of this ID card in May.
- The Elections Division provided **education and training** on voting at the Accessible Voting for All event held by LESA and The Arc Livingston.



LIVINGSTON COUNTY COURTS & LEGAL SERVICES






Livingston County Courts

- The Livingston County Courts' leadership team participated in the Michigan Judicial Institute's **Court Leadership Training Academy (CLTA)**. The CLTA is a six month Certificate Program for Court Leadership teams designed to enhance individual and leadership skills to improve the effectiveness of Courts across Michigan. A total of 8 teams from across the State participated in the program, which concluded with a graduation ceremony with Justice Elizabeth Clement of the Michigan Supreme Court presiding.
- 6 children found forever homes on November 26th as Livingston County celebrated the 17th annual **Adoption Day**. Chief Judge Cavanaugh, along with Michigan Court of Appeals Chief Judge Christopher Murray, presided over the hearings. Judge Cavanaugh described the day perfectly as she addressed the largest Adoption Day audience, "Today is the best day of the year in Court. It's like Christmas."



New Livingston County Judges

- **Judge Shauna N. Murphy** was appointed to the 53rd District Court bench by Governor Rick Snyder on December 26, 2018. Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Murphy was a career trial attorney. Judge Murphy earned her Juris Doctor from the Michigan State University College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy from Michigan State University's James Madison College.
 
- Livingston County welcomed **Judge Matthew J. McGivney** to the 44th Circuit Court when he was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on June 21, 2019. Judge McGivney received his Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science from Michigan State University and his Juris Doctor degree from the Michigan State University College of Law. Prior to taking the bench, Judge McGivney was in private practice for 17 years.
 
- **Judge Daniel B. Bain** was appointed to the 53rd District Court bench by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on September 18, 2019. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Bain was in private practice with the firm of Bain and Bain PC for 25 years. Judge Bain earned his Bachelor of Arts from Michigan State University and Juris Doctor degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Judge Bain frequently lectures high school and middle school students regarding issues pertaining to the criminal law and the decisions that affect people's lives.
 

HUMAN RESOURCES



- Over 150 employees and 30 Vendors participated in the **2019 Employee Health Fair**. 8 county departments participated in the fair, including the Health Department, EMS, Sheriff, MSU, Veterans, Human Resources, Animal Shelter, and Central Dispatch.
- The **2019 Employee Engagement Survey** had a 64% response rate and 1,100 comments. Thank you for sharing your thoughts!
- **MiCareerQuest Southeast**, the region's largest interactive career exploration event for high school students, it was held in November. Over 11,000 high school students met with working professionals who have built successful careers in a variety of fields. Four of our departments participated in this event; Central Dispatch, Sheriff, HR, and EMS.
- The County thanks the following individuals for their significant years of service and wishes them all the best in their **retirements**:

Judy Harmon	Marilyn Bradford
Vicki Calkins	Tom Green
John Jelken	Bob Demyanovich
Elizabeth Kamar	Karen Kehoe
James Murphy	John Ostwald
David Reader	Barbara Ritchie
Sheri Pummill	Margaret Toms
Diane Livingston	Jeff Boyd

- 2019 was the first year for the **Employee Recognition Program**. As of the 3rd quarter, there had been 153 nominations. The program was created to recognize the dedication and exemplary customer service that our employees display in their everyday work.

Mary Kuzner from the County Clerk was our 1st Quarter Winner



Ken Recker from the Drain Office was our 2nd Quarter Winner



Dawn Ducett from the Courts was our 3rd Quarter Winner



REGISTER OF DEEDS

- 2019 was a year of growth and excitement for the Register of Deeds. Much of the summer has been assessing & planning to move to the **3rd floor** of the Historic Courthouse in Late December/Early January.
- Great care was taken to order shelving to afford both easy access to and to protect these many of our **older books**. Over 250 older books are still in use.
- Approximately **300,000 images** are in the process of being digitized, filling the gap of years of 1973 to 1982. Images will now be available from 1973 right up until today!
- The Office is preparing to start using **PinTegrity**, which will enhance our office to assist customers better, by blending address, parcel information & descriptions.



- The Register of Deeds Office supported several **charities** throughout 2019. The list includes; Genesis House, Torch 180, Family Readiness, and 2nd Chance Support Network.
- Register of Deeds, **Brandon Denby**, was elected Vice Chair of the Michigan Electronic Recording Commission, 2nd Vice President of the Michigan Association of Register of Deeds, and appointed Legislative Co-Chair for the Michigan Association of Register of Deeds.

VETERAN SERVICES

- Local Veterans and the Livingston County public had a special opportunity to visit a series of war memorials that were displayed at the Livingston County Airport from July 11-14th. The "**Freedom Is Never Free**" traveling **memorials** included a replica of the World War II memorial, a Korean War memorial, the Michigan Vietnam Memorial Wall, and the Eyes of Freedom Traveling Memorial.
- This Thanksgiving, Veterans Services donated **turkey baskets** to local Veterans and their families. While Veterans picked up their turkey baskets, they were also able to learn more about services the Veterans Services Office provides.



- **VetFest 2019** was and was a full day of music, food, and activities for Veterans and their families. The Veterans Services Office had a table at the event to let Veterans know more about the services they provide.





PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- The Livingston County Transit Master Plan was completed in March 2019 following an extensive study of the County’s existing public transportation infrastructure and future needs based on input from stakeholders across the community. The Plan provides medium and long-range options for addressing the County’s evolving transportation needs in the midst of increasing population and shifting demographics.
- During the summer of 2019 LETS introduced regular Sunday service and expanded Saturday service hours. This was a top priority recommended by the Transit Master Plan and the additional service has been heavily utilized.
- In July, LETS entered into a partnership with the Hamburg Township Senior Center to transport seniors to and from the Center and on group outings for various activities. The partnership has been a huge success, freeing homebound seniors to venture into their community and expanding the range of activities offered by the Senior Center. We hope this will be a model for similar services going forward.
- On October 1st LETS launched a healthcare transportation service in collaboration with Ascension Providence Hospital, Michigan Medicine, Saint Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital, and the Livingston County Health Department. Since the October launch the service has provided hundreds of trips to medical appointments, pharmacy visits, and other wellness-related activities thanks to a \$106,000 per year funding commitment from the three hospitals which will leverage an additional \$130,000 per year in federal and state transportation grants.
- Also in October, LETS began a partnership with Michigan Flyer to provide shuttle service from Livingston County to Detroit Metro Airport. LETS is contracting with Michigan Flyer to provide 14 round trips per day between the Brighton Meijer and Metro Airport. Tickets are \$22 one-way with group and round-trip discounts available. Long-term parking is available on site at Meijer at a cost of \$2.50 per day. The service is funded through state grants provided by LETS along with ticket sale revenue and a contribution from Michigan Flyer.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Animal Shelter

- 2019 was our first year trying out low cost vaccine and microchip clinics in the Spring. We were able to get 33 dogs rabies vaccines and a dog license, 18 cats were vaccinated and 27 pets were microchipped! We have worked out a few kinks and hope to get more pets up to date and chipped next year.



2019 United Way Campaign

- 2019 was a banner year for the annual Livingston County Employee **United Way Campaign**. County employees raised over \$24,000, \$2,000 over our 2019 goal!



- There were a multitude of successful adoption events; Bissell Empty the Shelter, Home for the Holidays, Hot Dogs-Cool Cats, Christmas in July, Heritage Days, Howell-o-ween, Be My Valentine, Wags and Stripes, Novi Pet Expo, Meet Your Best friend at the Zoo, Pet Fest, and many Pet Supplies Plus, and PetSmart events.
- What a great year of giving! The community came out BIG to show their support for the shelter pets and we could not be more appreciative. LCAS depends on the generosity of the community for the “extras”; toys, blankets, kitten formula, enrichment items and more. THANK YOU for your continued support!!
- Our Friends of the Livingston County Shelter covered medical expenses in excess of \$8,000! Many pets that cross through our door have special medical needs or concerns, we can only help these pets with the assistance of the group. Some of the covered medical procedures included heartworm treatment, x-rays, bloodwork, dentals, neonatal care, and amputations.

