

Livingston County Planning Department

## County Planning Connection January 2023 News

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### Goodbye For Now - Kathleen Kline-Hudson is Retiring!

For those of you who don't know, I am retiring on January 13, 2023. I was fresh out of University of Michigan graduate school with a Masters in Urban Planning, when I got a job as 'Principal Planner' with Livingston County Planning Department almost 32 years ago. Since that time I have also served as Assistant Director and most recently as Planning Department Director since 2009. As I clean out my office files, I am filled with nostalgia. The papers files I'm recycling remind me first of all, that we collected a lot of paper in the good old days and secondly, I'm reminded of the many great Livingston County projects that I've had the good fortune of being involved in, including:

- The establishment of Livingston County Habitat for Humanity - I had the pleasure of helping obtain non-profit status for this brand-new county organization and served on the founding Board of Directors as Secretary in the early 1990's. A highpoint was hearing Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity, speak at one of the home dedications!
- Open Space Communities or PEARL (a acronym coined by County Planning, Protecting the Environment, Agriculture, and Rural Landscape) - We felt like clustered housing/open-space communities were ground-breaking in the 1990's and we were on the forefront with a national ally in Randall Arendt who wrote about our Livingston County progress in "Rural By Design."
- The U.S. Census of 2000, 2010 and 2020 - It was very interesting to revise the census tracts based on population & housing unit figures (kind of like putting together a puzzle) and to serve on the Complete Count Committees.
- The Data Book & Community Profiles - Ah, the Data Book was my baby from 1994 to 2003, and I loved putting data in tables and graphs and analyzing what the changes meant for Livingston County. Did you know that Livingston County was the #1 or #2 fastest growing Michigan County for two decades (1990 - 2010) What an exciting place to be a land use planner!
- Housing Growth & Opportunities (Hg&o) - Facilitating this grass-roots committee that planned for affordable housing in Livingston County, was one of my passions! Changing public perception of affordable housing was, and continues to be, a challenge in Livingston County.
- Livingston County Master Plan(s) - Our department drafted the first master plan for Livingston County in 2002, and the second county-wide master plan in 2018. It was remarkable to have the support of the Livingston County Planning Commission to create an 'out-of-box' style of master plan that won four state and national planning awards in 2019 and 2020.
- Livingston County Parks - It has been a great honor to organize the openings of two Livingston County Parks; Lutz and Fillmore County Parks. Working with the Livingston County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee is truly a joy and we have accomplished a lot of park improvements over the years!

And there are other projects that we patiently wait to see the completion of, including:

- The M-59 expansion and boulevard from Howell to Hartland - in the 1990's I facilitated the M-59 Corridor Committee that reviewed each proposed development along the corridor to make sure it was setback the proper distance for the new corridor and right-of-way.
- The U.S. 23 Flex Route and extension of the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail under U.S. 23.

As a resident of the City of Howell, I will be watching and cheering-on the progress of these yet uncompleted projects! I'll also hope to see many of you, because I will continue to be involved in the activities of our beautiful county community. Thank you for your friendship and collaboration over the years. I am truly blessed to have encountered so many wonderful people across the state, region and county that strive to create more diverse, equitable and inclusionary Michigan communities for all people! (See Party info below)



*You're Invited*

To: Kathleen's Retirement Party  
When: Thursday, January 12, 2023  
Where: The Livingston County Historic  
Courthouse, 200 E. Grand River,  
2nd Floor (elevators available)  
Time: 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. (drop-in hours)