

County Planning Connection

Fall 2011

Inside this issue:

Livingston County Hosts October 27 SEMCOG General Assembly (continued)	2
Brown Bag Lunch Series	2
Update On Grand River Corridor Study	3
Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee	3
Planning Particulars	4
Staff and Planning Commission	4

Livingston County Hosts October 27 SEMCOG General Assembly

Thursday, October 27, 2011, will mark the **first** time that Livingston County has hosted a General Assembly of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). The meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. at Crystal Gardens, 5768 East Grand River Avenue.

Livingston County Commissioner Steve Williams rallied to get a General Assembly held in Livingston County. He sees this event as an occasion to showcase all the positive things Livingston County has to offer. At the September SEMCOG Executive Committee meeting, Commissioner Williams expressed to delegates that they may not be as familiar with Livingston County as some of the other counties in the region, primarily because of the county's location at the periphery of the Southeast Michigan region. He challenged them to attend the October General Assembly to learn more about the offerings of Livingston County; opportunities which will be publicized and gifted in goodie bags distributed to each participant. The Howell, Brighton, Hartland and Pinckney-Lakeland-Hamburg-Hell Chambers of Commerce have stuffed the goodie bags with flyers, coupons, pins, and other incentives to shop, dine and be entertained in Livingston County.

Highlights of the afternoon will also include historian-led tours of the Livingston County Courthouse from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. with shuttle bus transportation provided by Livingston Essential Transportation Service (LETS) between Crystal Gardens and the Courthouse, and a drawing for a free balloon ride for two that includes dinner and lodging gift certificates provided by Cobb-Hall Insurance.

"The willingness of so many private and governmental entities to contribute to the success of this event, is a great example of regional cooperation."

Livingston County Commissioner Steve Williams

What Is SEMCOG? What is General Assembly?

SEMCOG is the only organization in Southeast Michigan that brings together all of the region's governments to solve regional challenges. All SEMCOG policy decisions are made by local elected leaders, ensuring that regional policies reflect the interests of member communities. Current member communities in Livingston County include: Livingston County, Brighton, Green Oak, Genoa and Hamburg Townships and the Cities of Howell and Brighton. Each of these member communities are represented by elected officials and/or their alternates, that serve on one of both of the policy-making bodies - the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is a subset of the General Assembly that meets seven months of the year when the General Assembly is not in session. This body conducts the main policy-making work of the organization, and monitors the operation of SEMCOG. Livingston County Government is represented by County Commissioners Steve Williams and Jack LaBelle or their alternates Reid Krinock and Kathleen Kline-Hudson. The General Assembly meets three times annually in March, June and October. This meeting is for all delegates and alternates, as well as all elected officials and community stakeholders from each member community. The General Assembly provides an opportunity for SEMCOG members to network and share best practices, and provide input and take action on SEMCOG's major regional plans.

Non-Member Communities Are Invited To Attend

SEMCOG would like to invite elected officials from all Livingston County member and non-member communities, to attend the October 27 General Assembly in Livingston County.

(continued next page)

HOT TOPICS:

Tuesday, October 18,
8:00 a.m. - Noon
Infrastructure
Collaboration Summit
(Washtenaw,
Livingston, and Monroe
Counties). For info use
this link:
[www.semco.org/
infrastructureSummit.aspx](http://www.semco.org/infrastructureSummit.aspx)

November 1,
World Town Planning
Day on-line conference.
For info use this link:
www.planningtheworld.net/

Livingston County Hosts October 27 SEMCOG General Assembly (*continued from Page 1*)

Non-Member Communities Are Invited To Attend

This is your opportunity as a local unit of government to learn more about the benefits of becoming a SEMCOG member community by actively participating in a SEMCOG policy-making General Assembly meeting. For example, did you know that recent technical assistance from SEMCOG within our county has included:

- **The Grand River Corridor Study**
SEMCOG will develop an access management plan for the Grand River corridor in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Livingston County Road Commission, Livingston County Planning, and the communities of Howell, Howell Township, Oceola Township, Genoa Township, Brighton, Brighton Township, and Green Oak Township. The plan will provide strategies for managing access along the corridor and will include model ordinances for each community along the corridor. The plan will also explore, where appropriate, how the access recommendations can be coordinated with principles of walkability and bikeability, transit accessibility, and low-impact development (*see related story on page 3*).
- **Low Impact Development**
SEMCOG is actively involved in assisting member communities with stormwater management activities. As part of these activities, SEMCOG developed the Low Impact Development Manual (LID) for the State of Michigan and an on-line LID database. The LID database provides specific information to assist communities interested in implementing various LID techniques (e.g., green roofs, bioswales, rain gardens) by providing specific case studies on these various techniques. Green Oak Charter Township was a part of the dedicated group of agencies and professionals throughout Michigan that contributes their assistance and input in the creation of the LID manual (*see related story below*).

To register for the October 27 SEMCOG General Assembly please see the following SEMCOG link:

https://loggedin.semcoq.org/SEMCOG_Prod_Public/Core/Events/eventdetails.aspx?iKey=GA1011

Brown Bag Lunch Series



Local examples of LID include these brick pavers at Green Oak Village Place lifestyle mall that allow storm water to percolate through the pavers to be absorbed in the ground.

On September 28 Green Oak Charter Township Supervisor Mark St. Charles delivered an enthusiastic presentation on Low Impact Development (LID). This marked the third Brown Bag Lunch in this planning education series.

In his presentation St. Charles explained Stormwater Management, and led participants through the contents of the Low Impact Development Manual for Michigan, and all of the wonderful resource materials that are included within, such as: best management practices; recommended plant lists; and model ordinances. The presentation also included examples of Michigan developments that have implemented various LID techniques, and an explanation of the desired economic, recreation, and regulatory outcomes of LID practices. At the conclusion of his presentation, Supervisor St. Charles provided participants with a valuable resource tool, a CD containing the LID Manual and sample ordinance language.

Whether or not you've been able to attend a County Planning Brown Bag Lunch, you may wish to view the educational materials from the three events that we have held thus far. This information can be found on the Livingston County Planning Department website at: <http://co.livingston.mi.us/planning/LunchLearnSeries.htm>. Additional materials will be added to this page after each Brown Bag Lunch event.

Update On Grand River Corridor Study

A public meeting took place on September 15, 2011, at Genoa Charter Township Hall to inform Livingston County residents and local government officials of the current development of a Grand River Corridor Study. The public meeting was hosted by the partner organizations of this study: the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG); the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT); the Livingston County Road Commission and Planning Department; and the local communities along the corridor including the townships of Howell, Oceola, Genoa and Brighton, and the Cities of Howell and Brighton.

In two afternoon sessions, participants heard a presentation by SEMCOG facilitators of the study and participated in a mapping exercise. The presentation covered preliminary recommendations for improving the flow of traffic on Grand River, such as: limiting driveway cuts onto Grand River by combining/closing certain driveways to limit potential accident sites; improving high crash areas by restricting turning movements, and many more. Next, participants studied a series of maps that depict the Grand River study area from M-59 in Howell Township, east to Kensington Road in Brighton Charter Township. They marked areas of the maps that they perceive as traffic conflict areas, noting the type of conflict such as a school crossing or an area of high pedestrian activity.



The next steps in this study include analysis of existing and future conditions of specified intersections in order to evaluate potential intersection improvements.

**Public meeting participants
note traffic conflict areas on
Grand River Avenue corridor maps.**

Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee

New Members Wanted

The Livingston County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee would like to recruit two (2) new members. This twelve person committee is chaired by County Commissioner Ron VanHouten and is staffed by the Livingston County Planning and Building Services departments. The committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month and they address parks improvements, finances, future planning, grants, historical items and several other issues of concern related to the Lutz County Park (Deerfield) and Fillmore County Park (Genoa). If you are interested in volunteering for this committee, please submit a resume and cover letter to the County Board of Commissioners Office. Questions regarding this process can be addressed to Kathleen Kline-Hudson or Scott Barb in the Livingston County Planning Department.

Livingston County Parks and Open Space Plan

Currently the County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee is working on updating the 2006 - 2011 Livingston County Parks and Open Space Plan. The purpose of this plan is to set policies and goals for all Livingston County Parks, present and future. The Department of Natural Resources requires that a community develop or update a parks plan every five (5) years in order to remain eligible for State of Michigan

grant funding opportunities. A public meeting to review and discuss the final draft of the plan will be announced later this fall.

What's New At Lutz County Park?

Geocaching!! What is geocaching? Geocaching is a real-world outdoor treasure hunting game. Players try to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, using GPS-enabled devices and then share their experiences online.

Do you have to have County approval to play? You can participate in the activity at any time, however, the placement of a new geocache in the park requires a Livingston County Geocaching Placement Site Permit Application. This permit is required to protect the sensitive areas of the park, to maintain a safe and fun activity and to allow Livingston County Administration to monitor this use. A permit application can be obtained from our county park website at:
<http://www.co.livingston.mi.us/planning/parks/geocacheForm.pdf>
A permit is good for one year from the date of the approved permit application.

Following is a comment from one of the geocachers who has visited the park: ***"First time ever in this park and it has quickly moved up the list of our favorites. Had a very enjoyable time walking the trails and grabbing the caches. Bring a lunch and enjoy a picnic here."***

Livingston County
Department of
Planning

304 East Grand River Avenue
Suite 206
Howell, Michigan

Phone: 517-546-7555
Fax: 517-552-2347
Email:
planning@co.livingston.mi.us

Planning Particulars

CALL FOR PROJECTS: Livingston County Capital Improvement Plan

Livingston County Commissioners Maggie Jones and Steve Williams recently contacted a point person within each Livingston County local unit of government to request the most recent copy of their community's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This request was made on behalf of our department, because the Livingston County Board of Commissioners designated the Livingston County Department of Planning as the lead department in compiling this data. It is currently the ninth year County Planning has produced this annual plan.

The Livingston County CIP is a six-year planning instrument which inventories all capital improvements throughout the county. This year's Plan/Inventory covers the years 2011-2016. Capital improvements are projects involving the expenditure of public funds, over and above annual operating expenses for the purchase, construction or replacement of physical facilities. The general characteristics of most capital items for County budgeting/programming purposes are: large in size; proportionally large in cost (in excess of \$50,000); fixed expenses; and lengthy in duration (useful life greater than three years). **Local community projects must be included in the County CIP in order to be considered for Livingston County financing.**

Ideally, to be included in the 2011 - 2016 County CIP Plan, we would like to receive all CIP documents from communities no later than Friday, October 28, 2011. We prefer CIP information in digital format, however hardcopies are also appreciated and can be sent to County Planning c/o Rob Stanford, Principal Planner. If your community has no projects planned within the County's current CIP period, simply send Rob a quick email response (robs@co.livingston.mi.us) indicating such, and your community will be marked off our checklist.

Thanks for your assistance in creating this important product!



Livingston County Department of Planning

COUNTY PLANNING STAFF:

Kathleen Kline-Hudson, Director
kathleenk@co.livingston.mi.us

Robert Stanford, Principal Planner
robs@co.livingston.mi.us

Scott Barb, Principal Planner
sbarb@co.livingston.mi.us

LIVINGSTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION:

Reid Krinock, Chair

Jeanne Clum, Vice-Chair

James Sparks

Sylvia Kennedy-Carrasco

Brian Prokuda

Bill Anderson

Mike Hubert

Questions or comments? Or to refer someone for our e-newsletter mailing list—

Contact our Staff at (517) 546-7555