

Highlights

Ingham County Activities – 2003

December, 2003

Ingham County Controller's Office

Jerry Ambrose, Controller

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Services of Ingham County

Ingham County government provides and supports many services to its 279,000 residents. Services are provided in the areas of health and other human services; law enforcement and judicial administration; recreation; economic development; the recording of personal and property records, and others.

On any day, many residents access services provided or supported by Ingham County government by:

*Utilizing the many public health, sanitation, or disease control services provided by the Health Department, the support services of Veteran Affairs, or the residential services of the Medical Care Facility and the Housing Commission;

*Utilizing the many other County supported human service programs in mental health, substance abuse, aging, special transportation, or youth violence prevention;

*Utilizing the services of the Prosecutor, Sheriff, or the courts, or anticipating the arrival of law enforcement, fire or emergency medical service personnel dispatched by county supported 911 Centers;

*Obtaining birth, death, tax or property information from the offices of the County Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, or Equalization Department; participating in elections; receiving assistance in drainage-related problems from the Drain Commissioner; or traveling on county-built or maintained roads in non-urban areas of the county; or

*Attending educational events sponsored by MSU Cooperative Extension, visiting one of the many county parks, or visiting the county fairgrounds.

County services are provided by dedicated employees under the leadership of elected officials, department heads and agency boards. Ingham County has a history of excellent labor relations which is typified by peaceful contract negotiations, by the stability of the county workforce, and by the cooperative approach taken by labor and management to address rapidly rising health care costs. The County also has a history of dedication to strong financial management, which was again recognized with a recent upgrade in the county's credit rating, and by the development of annual budgets which maintain vital county services in areas of importance to our citizens even in times of economic uncertainty. County buildings and facilities continue to be maintained in good repair, while investments in technology are continued, enabling our work to be more productive and our services more accessible.

For more information on services provided or supported by Ingham County, please visit the Ingham County Web Site at www.ingham.org

2003 Activities

In 2003, Ingham County government continued its tradition of providing a high quality of services to its residents. Progress was made in several areas, including several long standing initiatives related to providing uninsured residents with access to health care; expanding recreational opportunities; and improving the adult and juvenile justice systems.

By the end of 2003 half of the county's uninsured residents will have access to primary health care providers, thanks to the efforts of the county-sponsored *Ingham Health Plan*. Even more residents will have access when the *Ingham County Advantage* is opened for employees of small businesses in early 2004. County officials are hopeful that over the next several years, all of the county's uninsured will have access to primary health care.

Recreational opportunities for county residents significantly increased in 2003 with the opening of Hawk Island Park. Located in South Lansing, the new park provides convenient access to picnicking, hiking, swimming, and fishing for many county residents. Reports by visitors have been very positive, and volunteer efforts are now underway to design and finance a community playground on the grounds. In addition to the opportunities associated with the new park, the Parks Department is beginning to work on connecting recreational areas within the county by a series of trails. The first easements necessary for constructing a trail connecting the County's Lake Lansing parks to Hawk Island have been obtained. County officials are hopeful that this trail can be completed within the next few years.

Improving the facilities and programs necessary to effectively handle adult and juvenile criminal offenders continued to be a major focus of attention for Ingham County in 2003. Actions related to adult offenders included the renovation of the County Jail to provide suitable space for work release inmates and an increase in medical staff required to meet jail accreditation standards. Project Sentry, which provides drug testing for adults and juveniles, was relocated to a building more suited for a greater number of clients. In addition, grant funds were applied for and received to create a Drug Court at 55th District Court in Mason. Finally, discussions began on the possibility of consolidating the Ingham County and East Lansing District Courts.

Much work was also done to properly deploy funds generated from the special Juvenile Justice millage recently approved by county voters. Shortly after voter approval, additional bed capacity was secured at Camp Highfields and Catholic Social Services, and an After-Care unit was created to work with delinquent youth returning from residential placements out of state. At the same time, an evaluation of the Juvenile Justice system was started, using the Center for Criminal Justice Research at the University of Cincinnati. This study was recently completed and provided direction for future programming. One of the key recommendations – the

development of a standardized risk assessment tool – is now in the process of being implemented and the Court is developing additional programming recommendations consistent with the study recommendations.

Several issues related to improved public safety were also addressed. Under the guidance of the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, Mutual Emergency Management Aid Agreements between various local governments in the County were approved, while under the guidance of the 911 Advisory Committee, the Board of Commissioners gave its approval to the final system design for an Enhanced 911 Emergency Telephone and Dispatch System. The Board also revised the county policy regarding the sale of animals for research, and approved optional three-year dog licenses.

Strengthening the County role in promoting Smart Growth and environmental protection was also a topic of interest. In addition to the County's continued participation in the regional Growth Study project, the County Board strengthened its Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Program, and began discussions on a potential Wetlands policy as well as on a Purchase of Development Rights program for the protection of farmland and open space.

In 2003 the County Board approved incorporation of a Living Wage requirement into county purchasing policies and strengthened requirements regarding non-discrimination and the payment of prevailing wages. At the end of 2003, the County Services Committee of the Board was in the midst of revising the County's Equal Opportunity Policy. Final consideration of a revised policy is anticipated in early 2004.

Other issues which continued to attract the attention of the County included continuing discussions regarding an expanded regional airport authority, and conversion of the Friend of the Court computer system was converted to the newest version of the state system.

Considerable attention was also devoted to development of the 2004 budget where, faced with the same financial challenges as all units of government, the focus was on maintaining current services with less state funds. While the result was a slight decrease in the number of county positions, no layoffs were necessary and the overall impact on services is anticipated to be minimal.

Thanks to the excellent work of the Board of Commissioners, County Officials, and employees in 2003, significant progress was made in improving services to County residents. Many of the issues being addressed in 2003 will continue to be addressed in 2004. This includes continued expansion of access to primary care for uninsured county residents; development of the trail system connecting county parks; completion of the enhanced 911 system; and improvement of the adult and juvenile justice systems.

Officials and Employees of Ingham County Government and Courts

2003 Ingham County
Board of Commissioners
676-7200

Chairperson Calvin Lynch, District 6
Vice Chair Curtis Hertel Jr., District 9
Vice Chair Pro Tem Thomas L. Minter, District 12
Commissioner Victor Celentino, District 1
Commissioner Debbie De Leon, District 2
Commissioner Tina WeatherWax-Grant, District 3
Commissioner Chris Swope, District 4
Commissioner Andy Schor, District 5
Commissioner Lisa Dedden, District 7
Commissioner Marc Thomas, District 8
Commissioner Mark Grebner, District 10
Commissioner Dianne Holman, District 11
Commissioner Randy Schafer, District 13
Commissioner John A. Nevin, District 14
Commissioner Michael Severino, District 15
Commissioner Mary R. Stid, District 16
Board Coordinator Becky Bennett
County Attorney Peter A. Cohl

Countywide Elected Officials

County Clerk Michael Bryanton
676-7201
Drain Commissioner Patrick Lindemann
676-8395
Prosecuting Attorney Stuart J. Dunnings, III
483-6108
Register of Deeds Paula Johnson
676-7224
Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth
676-2431
Treasurer Eric Schertzing
676-7220

County Boards and Departments

Animal Control Department, Roger Fleming, Director - 676-8370
Budget Office, Teri Younger, Budget Director - 676-7218
Community Corrections Advisory Board, Judge Collette, Chair; Mary Sabaj, Manager - 676-7232
Controller's Office, Gerald W. Ambrose, Controller - 676-7206
Economic Development Board, Joe Guenther, Chair; John Haneiski, Director - 676-7210
Equalization Tax/Mapping, Doug Stover, Director - 676-7212
Fair Board, Stan Jordan, Chair; Terry Brail, Director - 676-2428
Financial Services Department, Jack Restuccia, Director - 676-7329
Board of Health, Pat Hepp, Chair; Bruce Bragg, M.P.H., Health Officer - 887-4300
Housing Commission, Dick Baker, President; Bruce Johnston, Director - 349-1643

Human Resources Department, Harold Hailey, Director - 887-4327
Facilities Department, John Andresen, Director - 676-7312
Medical Care Facility, Pat Munshaw, Chair, Susan O'Shea, Director - 349-6150
Medical Examiner, Dr. Dean Sienko, M.D., M.S, Chief Medical Examiner - 887-4318
MSU Cooperative Extension, Joe Lessard, Ph.D., Director - 676-7207
Management Information Systems, Rodney Taylor, Director - 676-7373
Parks Board, Ron Eggleston, Chair; Bob Moore, Director - 676-8296
Purchasing Department, Jim Hudgins, Director - 676-7222
Road Commission, Larry Smith, Chair; John Midgley, Managing Director - 676-9722
Veteran's Affairs Committee, Barry Damon, Chair; Randy Marwede, Director - 887-4331

Employees

There are approximately 1,200 employees in Ingham County government and courts. Other than appointed officials and confidential employees, county and court employees are represented by the United Automobile Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW); the Ingham County Employees Association (ICEA); the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP); the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) or the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Judges

30th Circuit Court
483-6500
Hon. William E. Collette, Presiding Judge
Hon. Laura Baird
Hon. Thomas L. Brown
Hon. James R. Giddings
Hon. Janelle A. Lawless
Hon. Paula J. M. Manderfield
Hon. Beverley Nettles-Nickerson
Circuit Court Administrator David Easterday

55th District Court
676-8400
Hon. Thomas E. Brennan, Jr., Presiding Judge
Hon. Pamela McCabe
District Court Administrator Larry Theisen

Probate Court
483-6300
Hon. R. George Economy, Presiding Judge
Hon. Richard J. Garcia
Probate Court Administrator George Strander