



County Staff Report May 2016

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Strategic Goals

1. Maintain financial strength and stability
2. Strengthen and expand the County's use of technology
3. Address infrastructure needs
4. Continue community engagement and access to information
5. Ensure that County is viewed as a fair and equitable employer
6. Expand the capabilities of the Board of Commissioners
7. Advance the health and quality of life of the region
8. Protect and preserve County's water resources, forests, natural areas and scenic beauty

Administration/Board of Commissioners/Resource Recovery (1, 2, 4, 7)

- The first Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection of the season was held April 21. The collection served 239 residents and 11 businesses. The next collection is Thursday, May 12. Appointments for the 2016 collections can be made online at www.recyclesmart.info or by calling the RecycleSmart hotline at (231) 941-5555.
- The Earth for Earth Day Compost Giveaway was popular, as usual. All compost was gone by 10:00 a.m.

Central Dispatch/911 (7)

- No report provided.

Circuit Court

- No report provided.

Circuit Court - Family Division

- No report provided.

Commission on Aging (7)

- Nationally, May is Older Americans Month. The Commission on Aging (COA) and Senior Center Network (SCN) are joining together to ask the Board of Commissioners to issue a Proclamation for May to be recognized as Older Americans Month..
- AARP Volunteers assisted clients prepare and submit 292 Tax Returns from February through April 18th. As in previous years, the AARP team was located in our Front Street offices for the convenience of our clients.
- As of March 31, the COA has provided service to 1,309 clients age 60 or older who live in Grand Traverse County.
- Client demand for our Home Chore services exceeds what our staff can physically provide this summer based on geography, manpower and equipment. The Commission

on Aging Board of Directors has addressed this through a Vendor Voucher program for Lawn Maintenance and Leaf Removal Services.



- The COA Clients who require Homemaker Aide assistance (light housekeeping) immediately will be offered the services of Comfort Keepers (our In Home contractor) as we continue to hire more staff. We will be contacting all clients waiting for services this month.
- The following townships serving the largest number of COA Clients in descending order is Garfield followed by Traverse City, East Bay, Blair, Peninsula and Green Lake.
- Older Michiganians Day is May 11, 2016. Area Agencies on Aging and COAs convene from all over the State to meet with their Legislators and lobby in Lansing on behalf of pending legislation impacting our aging in place population.
- A new pilot program sponsored by the State called “Senior Reach” is designed to help older adults, families and caregivers receive support and assistance in the early stages of dementia or alzheimer's BEFORE a crisis occurs. Early intervention can have a huge quality of life impact for all affected. Call 844-933-4930 for more information.

County Clerk (4)

- Stats for month of APRIL
 - New Circuit and Family Court Cases filed: 45 civil, 56 domestic, 27 felony, and 21 juvenile.
 - Five (5) jury pools sent out for Circuit Court trials.
 - Clerked one 4 day trial.
 - 5,300 jury questionnaires mailed out for new jury pool.
 - Clerked 4 County Commission meetings, 1 Building Authority meeting, and 1 Jury Board meeting.
 - Vital Records filed: 159 births, 91 deaths, and 30 marriage licenses.
 - DBAs filed: 106
 - Concealed Pistol applications filed: 121
 - Concealed Pistol fingerprints done: 89
 - Concealed Pistol Licenses issued: 130
 - Passport Photos taken: 82
 - Certified Copies: 523 customers (this could be 1 or many copies per customer)
 - Conducted Election Audits of 3 election precincts

County Drain Commissioner (3,7,8)

- Drain Inspections - Completed the spring inspections and delineated the on-going maintenance requirements for all 13 existing county drainage systems.
- SAW Grant – Drain Commissioner convened a kick-off meeting with his SAW Grant partners; the Watershed Center, and Inhabitect to discuss implementation of the water quality improvement components relative to incentivizing the use of green infrastructure through municipal ordinances, for the County Drains Asset Management Plan pursuant to the SAW Grant received.

- Improvements to Existing Drains: On the **Cass Road Drain** the Drain Commissioner has made good progress on attaining the needed easement acquisitions, environmental assessments, preliminary design modelling and is on schedule for fall implementation of improvements to the District to alleviate flooding. On the **Deepwater Point Drain** the Drain Commissioner has posted a Request for Bids on the MITN bidding site, for dredging work to restore the Drain to its' original 1987 ditch elevations for improved drainage to the District residents.
- Status on Petitioned Proposed Drains: On the proposed **Cedar Hills** Drainage District in Long Lake Township, the Drain Commissioner has “stepped back” and is awaiting direction from the Town Board as to how they wish to proceed. On the proposed **Braemar Estates** Drainage District in Peninsula Township, the Road Commission has withdrawn their petition; therefore, the Drain Commissioner has determined it impractical for him to proceed. On the **Logan Hills** Drainage District in Peninsula Township, the Drain Commissioner has “stepped back” as requested and is awaiting the decision of the Road Commission and the Town Board to set up a special assessment district to fund improvements for proper drainage.
- Lake Level Drainage Systems: Regarding creating a special assessment district to continue to maintain the mandated lake level of **Duck Lake**; a notice of preliminary hearing was published twice in the newspaper and sent to all property owners in the Lake Level District, inviting them to a May 2 meeting to get all their questions answered before we again ask the Judge to set a Court hearing date on the matter. On the **Silver Lake** Drainage system, extensive beaver activity and the buildup of muck have demanded intensive manual labor by the Drain Commissioner to invent, assemble, and install additional beaver fencing barriers, and continually clear muck clogging debris from the drainage systems to facilitate the spring thaw. 
- Flooding & Requests for New County Drains: Over the last month, on at least twelve separate occasions and locations, the Drain Commissioner has investigated and consulted with residents complaining about flooding to their property. Discussions ranged from options to creating a new County Drain and its' resulting assessment district, or ways owners can make individual improvements to their property to negate flooding or ways to minimize the negative results of beaver activities in their neighborhoods. Complaints about spring and fall-time high groundwater tables and flooding patterns have been on the rise over the past few years. 

District Court

- No report provided.

Equalization / GIS (1, 4)

- County Equalization has taken place, and State Equalization will take place in May.
- Equalization appraisers are in the field gathering data for Equalization Studies.
- East Bay appraisers are in the field gathering data for database maintenance.

- GIS has completed the 2016 parcel layer.

Facilities Management (3)

- No report provided.

Finance (1)

- Audit fieldwork was taking place during the month.
- Started preparation for the 2017 budget process.

Friend of the Court

- No report provided.

Health Department (7)

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION

- Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance - Wendy Trute was elected as the vice-chair of the alliance. Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance has been selected as the Northern Michigan CHIR Backbone organization for the State Innovation Model (SIM) Community Health Innovation Region (CHIR), which will serve much of northern Michigan.
- Northwest Michigan Water Safety Network - Attended Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium Conference on behalf of group. Ordered new signs for 12 additional water safety signs/stations. Planned upcoming network meeting.
- Outreach Activities - Grawn Rural Health Fair on 4/16/16. Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance Marketing Workgroup Meeting (4/25 - finalized website plan). Zika communications webinar. Continuing with Baby tent planning. Working on Annual Report and updating brochures, etc. with new logo.
- Grant Quarterly Reports - Completed 2016 second quarter grant reporting to the State of Michigan.
- Northern Michigan Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program - Worked together with Health Department Northwest and Benzie/Leelanau Health Departments to prepare a regional budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year and allocate a portion of each of our budgets to a training and exercise fund to be used towards regional trainings.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Noncommunity Water Program - Congratulations to staff sanitarian Eric Burt for meeting all Mandatory Program Requirements (MPR's) for the Fiscal Year 2015 Noncommunity Water Supply Program, which is overseen by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).
- Epi-Ready Training - We hosted a two (2) day regional training for the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development for local health department personnel regarding the investigation of foodborne diseases and outbreaks. The training also involved response in multijurisdictional outbreaks.

- Bat Submissions to State Lab - A bat submission policy/procedure has been developed for the Environmental Health staff for receiving and submitting bat specimens to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Lab in Lansing for rabies testing.

COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION

DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS:

- Communicable Disease Program- Continue to take calls from the public and providers about Zika. Followed up on 40 reportable communicable diseases in April. Provided 1 presentation about communicable disease reporting requirements.
- Reproductive Health – Provided services to 81 men and women in April. In month two of our Reproductive Health Clinic Electronic Health Record implementation.
- Adolescent Clinics- Very busy month for both of the Adolescent clinics.
 - At Youth Health & Wellness Center (YHWC), we participated in their annual career/resource fair and interacted with approx 400-500 students.
 - YHWC supervisor spent the month of April completing end of quarter reports and tabulating all data surrounding this.
 - K-Town staff participated in a new initiative at the Kingsley Middle school regarding their Wellness Team.
 - K-Town staff attended parent teacher conferences at the Kingsley Middle school and also attended Freshmen Orientation where we interacted with over 100 students and their families.
 - Data for FY15 was released for all Child and Adolescent Health Centers (CAHC's) in Michigan showing the positive impact the CAHC's provide to these students and their families.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS:

- Maternal Infant Health Program-The 1st quarter 2016 produced an 86% conversion rate for qualified pregnant women accepting this Medicaid home visiting program, exceeding achievements in 2015. We continue to work collaboratively with MC3 to expand our knowledge and enhance our mental health interventions with this population. In April we conducted an evaluation with U of M program representatives, regional local public health partners, and included Northern Lakes CMH manager in hopes of bridging the gaps for MIHP clients receiving infant mental health services.
- Healthy Futures-Outreach Public Health Nurse, Laura Barrett, participated in the Grawn Rural Health Fair, specifically focusing on education regarding immunizations.
- Children's Special Health Care Services-The CSHCS team eagerly awaits the transition of Martha Thorell to Public Health Nurse II position in the program, which should occur within the next month.

- Pediatric Cardiac Clinic- status quo
- Immunizations-Immunization nurses received an annual education update in preparation for waiver education season. Immunization Lead Public Health Nurse Sheila Corner presented a well-received and notable story to the State IAP Coordinator's meeting, highlighting events and health department response over the past 2 years with outbreaks, immunization clinic demands, and waiver education demands. She is to be commended for her representation of Grand Traverse County Health Department and the staff who rose to the occasion and focused on the positive outcomes of very challenging Immunization and Communicable Disease events.
- Head Start- In preparation for a contract renewal to provide nursing and hearing & vision technicians for the Fall enrollments, we are evaluating our rates. These rates have not been adjusted since 2009. We meet annually with NWMCAA for planning, which is scheduled for May 23rd.
- WIC- Project Fresh 2015 redemption rates were reported, demonstrating an increase of 7% from 2014.
- Hearing & Vision-The 1st quarter vision screenings in the schools exceeded 50% of total 2015 screenings, with already processing nearly 400 referrals for follow-up.
- Blood Lead Testing- status quo

Human Resources (5)

- Currently recruiting for 17 positions in the County and all phases of that cycle are in progress. This year we have issued 51 requisitions. This time last year we had issued 41 requisitions.
- In April, we have had 0 employees who retired, 1 new hire, 2 promotions, 3 separations from employment, and 1 transfer.
- The Employee Recognition Team named Janet Kronk Volunteer of the Year for 2016 and Cindy Green as the quarterly winner of Making a Difference for the long hours and double workload she has been doing.
- Esther Cooper was nominated for Administrative Professional of the Year along with 4 others from the region. We are proud of Esther and all that she has done for the 13th Circuit Court and previous County offices she has worked.
- Kathy Mahoney, ICMA held one on one appointments with County employees this month.
- Ryan Heintz of MERS held one on one appointments with County employees this month.

Information Technology (2)

- LaVerne Forrest, IT Programmer/Analyst added an option for the Circuit Court Civil and Criminal notice generation process to print notices only when needed (all motion hearings, trial notices, referee hearings etc.). The court used to mail out all notices, but now they are captured by the document imaging system and most are sent out through the paperless efile process.
- Proposals were received and reviewed for new Construction Code software. IT and Planning and Development will have software demonstrations for the top three vendors on May 10, 11. The new system will provide online permitting, credit card payments, and online inspection status updates. A recommendation will be made to the Board in June.
- IT has been assisting Administration and Finance with the budgeting process. A training session will be held on May 17th for departments that have new staff or need a refresher on completing request forms and entry of budgets.
- The IT department recently took advantage of an offer by local firm SafetyNet to collect old computer equipment and deliver it to Goodwill. IT disposed of old equipment for the City and County from the Governmental Center Campus, City DPS, Law Enforcement, Public Services, and the Health Department.

MSU Extension (7, 8)

- Community Service through 4-H: Recently our 4-H office shared a request with 4-H members and families regarding a need for food and personal items at the Traverse City Alternative High School where they house a food pantry for low income and often homeless teens. The pantry helps these youth with food during the week and over the weekend so they can continue their education. 4-H members, leaders and families rose to the occasion and provided an abundance of donations for the school's food pantry. MSU Extension's 4-H Program Coordinator, Karin Stevens, and Nutrition Program Instructor, Michelle Smith, dropped off the donations to the school. They enjoyed talking with the youth and staff and helped load their shelves. Teacher, Mary Preston, sent a thank you note to the office saying, "Thank you for your generous donations. Our students truly appreciate having the pantry as a resource for food and supplies whenever they are in need, so thank you for helping to stock our shelves and also for 'spreading the word' about us!"

Other community service projects organized by 4-H clubs this month included a community meal through Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools, and fundraiser for Reining Liberty Ranch at Moomers, and an educational event for youth ages 5-8 to learn about animals and participate in crafts and games, which was attended by 40+ youth and their parents. Thank you to our hardworking 4-H'ers!

- Spring 4-H Archery: Youth in Grand Traverse County ages 7-19 are invited to a new 4-H Archery club that will meet Tuesdays May 10 - June 14 at Shooters Indoor Archery Range (5333 Curtiss in Traverse City). We have two shooting times depending on level of experience: Beginners/1st Year: 5:30-6:30 p.m. and Intermediate/ Advanced: 6:45-7:45 p.m. All 7 & 8 year olds must be accompanied by parent, guardian, or

grandparent (one-on-one at all times). If interested in participating, please contact Karin Stevens at 922-4825 or steve552@msu.edu.

- MSU Extension recently partnered with the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan (AAANM) and Munson Family Practice Clinic to co-facilitate two 6-week workshop series to help participants with chronic conditions increase their confidence and ability to manage their conditions. The two Stanford University self-management programs, called PATH (Personal Action Toward Health), covered diabetes and chronic pain. Over the course of 6 weeks, Diabetes PATH participants learned strategies to help them deal with difficult emotions, how to develop a healthy eating and exercise plan, goal setting and problem solving, and a variety of other tools to manage diabetes. Chronic Pain PATH participants learned the importance of using a variety of tools to manage chronic pain, including pacing & planning, better breathing, using your mind, managing medications, working with your doctor, and communicating with friends/family. MSU Extension continues to partner with Munson and the AAANM to bring the latest in evidence-based programming to help people learn to increase their ability to manage chronic conditions.
- To help promote Michigan fish producers, [Michigan Sea Grant](#) and MSU Extension hosted the 2nd Annual Michigan Seafood Summit at the Hagerty Center on Friday, April 8 with just over 100 in attendance. This year's Seafood Summit had two primary sessions. The morning session, was directed at those involved or wanting to become involved with producing fish in Michigan. Topics included seafood sales at farmers markets, the status of permitting for aquaculture, and Michigan seafood and the Pure Michigan campaign. The afternoon session was geared toward the general public and covered such topics as net-pen aquaculture, trout culture, the future of Michigan seafood, and Lake Michigan fishery trends. Dr. Ted Batterson, professor emeritus at Michigan State University and former director of the [North Central Regional Aquaculture Center](#), gave the keynote address. The event culminated with a dinner featuring Michigan seafood (whitefish, rainbow trout, perch, lake trout appetizer) prepared by chefs and students from the [Great Lakes Culinary Institute](#).

Parks and Recreation (7)

- Rotary Charities has awarded County Parks and Recreation a \$5,000 planning grant for the future of Easling Pool at Grand Traverse County Civic Center Park. The purpose of the grant is to help Parks and Recreation and the Friends of Easling Pool create a fundraising plan to raise money for needed capital improvements to the pool; to survey public pool operations that are on positive trajectories and provide County officials with data to make budgetary decisions about Easling pool; and to survey the community about the need for the pool.
- Opening day for American Legion Junior Baseball at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center Park is Monday, May 16.
- During its regular meeting in April, the Parks and Recreation Commission passed a motion to enter into an official partnership with Traverse City Roller Derby (TCRD), which calls Howe Arena at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center Park its home. The partnership includes the potential for profit-sharing programs, expanded concession

offerings during bouts, and cross-promotions between County parks and the TCRD. Bouts are scheduled to be held at the arena on Saturday, May 14 and Saturday, August 20. For information about upcoming TCRD events, visit www.trollerdderby.com on line.

Parks and Recreation/Senior Center Network (7)

- The Senior Center registered 68 new members in March.
- 1,185 seniors participated in 3,436 units of service in March.
- 393 low income seniors participated in the AARP Income Tax Program.
- Special Events of Note: Artists' Reception/Open House held March 29 had a great response. The artists were thrilled with the accolades and we were able to connect one of the artists with the Downtown Art Walk this Spring. Tiger Baseball celebrated in Traverse City, Fife Lake and Kingsley with baseball trivia, storytelling, hot dogs and cracker jacks! We had a member who played a pick up softball game with Al Kaline, Mickey Lolitch and Bill Freehan while in grade school in Detroit. The Herb Garden and Bike Repair classes were well received. Hiking and Cycling groups have started and are off to a great start. Health programs this month have included Citizen CPR, Insomnia and Vertigo. A tour of local senior housing businesses took place in cooperation with The Alliance for Senior Housing. Shredding services were provided for over 100 people compliments of CDM Mobile Shredding.
- Applications are being accepted for the 2016 Lifetime Leadership Award to be presented at the Annual Senior Breakfast on Monday, July 4, in cooperation with the National Cherry Festival.
- The Annual Senior Expo is set for Wednesday, May 18, at Howe Arena. Over 100 local businesses will share their services/products with over 1,000 local senior residents and their families.
- Staff was recertified with ElderLaw of Michigan to assist low income seniors with food assistance applications through the MiCAFE program.
- May is National Older American's Month - a proclamation was introduced at the May 4, 2016 BOC meeting recognizing older adults in our community.
- Administrative staff were recognized and appreciated on Administrative Professionals Day by our Director/Manager for the hard work they put forth daily to provide services to our local seniors.

Planning and Development (1, 3, 4, 7, 8)

- The County approved an application made by TentCraft for a \$578,000 property acquisition loan from the Community Development Block Grant revolving loan fund to purchase land for their new operations in the Traverse City Airport Industrial Park. TentCraft will hire seventeen (17) full-time positions as part of the project.
- Staff has been conducting economic development outreach activities in the community. Staff is interested in networking with business representatives in technology, healthcare,

unmanned systems, and water-based industries to identify projects that create jobs and build tax base in the County.

- Through the County's community development agreement with the City, staff has been working to develop the Eighth Street Charrette. The Charrette will take place on May 16 to May 20 at the Park Place Hotel Dome. Public meetings are scheduled for the evening of May 16, 18, and 20. For more information, visit: <http://www.envision8th.org/>.
- CONSTRUCTION CODE DIVISION
 - Staff is currently evaluating computer software program proposals. The selected program will update and streamline Construction Code operations and improve customer service, including online applications, inspection scheduling, and permit status updates.
- SOIL EROSION PROGRAM
 - The Soil Erosion Program is now on the third floor of the Governmental Center. The Department is currently evaluating applications and will be hiring a new office clerk for the program.

Probate Court

- No report provided.

Prosecuting Attorney (7)

- Prosecution As the County's Chief Law Enforcement Officer, the Prosecuting Attorney is responsible for the prosecution of crimes including juvenile, misdemeanor and felony offenses, protection of abused and neglected children, and establishment of child support for needy children. For the month of April, we engaged in the following:
 - Authorized 161 misdemeanor warrants
 - Authorized 38 felony warrants
 - Authorized 20 juvenile petitions
 - Initiated 7 neglect/abuse case
 - Handled the following matters in Family Court:
 - 3 allegedly mentally ill cases
 - 31 referrals from the Office of Child Support
 - Obtained 11 child support judgments
- Civil Counsel
- Contract Drafting and Review - As the County's civil counsel, we assist various County departments in reviewing and drafting contracts and other agreements. Our involvement ranges from reviewing a contract and approving it "as to form," to negotiating the terms and conditions of the contract with the other party. For the month of April, we reviewed five contracts for the following departments:
 - Sheriff: two
 - Administration: one
 - Planning: one
 - Facilities: one

- FOIA Coordination - In 1997, the County Board of Commissioners designated the Prosecuting Attorney as the FOIA coordinator for Grand Traverse County. As the coordinator, we ensure that the various county departments are complying with Michigan's FOIA law including determining whether the requested information should be exempt from disclosure. For the month of April, we reviewed five requests, and provided advice and consultation to the following departments:
 - o Construction Codes: two
 - o Prosecuting Attorney: two
 - o Administration: one

- Board of Commissioners/Staff Questions - Part of our duties as Civil Counsel involves answering questions and/or preparing opinion memoranda for the Board of Commissioners and County staff related to a wide variety of issues, ranging from compliance with state and federal statutes to advising on exposure to liability. For the month of April, we answered questions/prepared memos for the Board of Commissioners and various departments including:
 - o Administration
 - o Parks and Recreation
 - o Veterans Affairs

- Ordinance Drafting - As you know, under MCL 46.11, a county board of commissioners has the authority to adopt ordinances related to county affairs. One of our responsibilities is to prepare, amend or repeal ordinances when requested by the Board of Commissioners. For April we did not prepare any ordinances.

- Litigation - We represent the County in civil actions filed in the Grand Traverse County District and Circuit Courts as well as the Federal District Courts. For the month of April, we represented the County in the following cases:
 - o *Grand Traverse County v. Travis Agar et al.* In April, we filed 4 separate inmate reimbursement lawsuits seeking \$13,137.38 in total. As with the other lawsuits, we will seek to obtain multiple default judgments against those Defendants who fail to answer the complaints, and consent judgments for those Defendants who are willing to pay the outstanding debt.

 - o *North Bay Produce, Inc. v. Cherry Central Cooperative, Inc. et al.* This is a re-plat action where Plaintiff is seeking a court order allowing an amendment to the plat for Wood Cliff Hills Subdivision vacating Wood Cliff Hills Drive. The County Drain Commissioner has been named as a Defendant in this lawsuit. Mr. McElyea is not objecting to the street vacation because it would not impact a County drain. Because the Drain Commissioner is not objecting, we have filed an answer stating that the vacation is not being opposed. A consent judgment should be prepared next resolving the case as to the Drain Commissioner. A proposed judgment has been drafted and reviewed. We are now awaiting entry of the judgment with Circuit Court.

- Board of Commissioners' Meetings - We attend every Board meeting, committee meeting and any special meetings. For the month of April, Chris Forsyth attended the first regular

board meeting, and the special board meeting. Bob Cooney attended the second regular board meeting.

Public Works (7, 8)

- No report provided.

Register of Deeds (2, 4)

- No report provided.

Sheriff (7)

- No report provided.

Treasurer (1)

- We foreclosed on 16 parcels in 7 of the townships, prepared individual parcel summary sheets including pictures from our fall posting for Land Bank. Settled during mediation on parcel foreclosed on in 2015 to collect delinquent rent owed from operating business allowed to remain open while property was owned by Grand Traverse County.
- Processed and paid out our delinquent tax purchase of \$5,098,327.54 to all taxing jurisdictions.
- Sent our 2015 delinquent tax notices out early to allow more notice to taxpayers to pay before May interest is added to their bill; this is our second year sending them out early and has been well received by public.
- Processed 89 regular service, and 16 expedited and 1 hand carry passports in April.

Veterans Affairs (7)

- Contracts for services provided to Benzie and Leelanau Counties were renewed for a three year period.
- VA held an opening ceremony for their new medical clinic annex site in Traverse City. The location on Munson Ave. separates several services from the main clinic at Logans Landing and is a temporary space solution while the new clinic is built. VA reports that 4 out of 11 developers who submitted letters of interest have been chosen for final site selection that is expected to be completed this Spring. Plans and designs for the building are nearing completion and it is reported to us that opening is slated for early 2017. VA will expand their footprint at the new clinic from 10,000 to 24,000 sq ft and add additional specialty care and services that will further decrease the need for travel downstate for care.