



City of Luna Pier NEWSLETTER

Winter



From all of us
to all of you
and your families,

*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*

*From
The City of Luna Pier*

Luna Pier's newly formed Parks and Recreation Board is working to bring ice skating back this winter!

Our Parks and Recreation board that was established this fall is looking to bring ice skating to the Water Tower Park pond. They have begun looking at steps to create a safe entrance to the pond, how to best use the nearby shelter and the legal use of the fire pit. They have even begun receiving donations of skates to loan out to those that need them. The goal of the Commission is to implement the recently adopted Parks and Recreation five year plan, and to recommend to the city council, projects, events, and capital improvements for the city.

The next Parks and Recreation board meeting is January 11, 2011 at 5:00 P.M

Community Foundation of Monroe County



The City of Luna Pier is looking at the possibility of partnering with the Community Foundation of Monroe County. The mission of the Community Foundation of Monroe County is to encourage and facilitate philanthropy in Monroe County. Through the Foundation, individuals, families, organizations, businesses and foundations would be able to make gifts and bequests primarily for the benefit of Luna Pier. Giving through your community foundation qualifies you for the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit.

- Married donors, filing jointly, can receive a 50% tax credit of up to \$200 on a gift of \$400 to a permanent endowment fund.
- A single person can receive a \$100 tax credit on a gift of \$200.

Income from these gifts can be used to address a broad spectrum of needs in the community and to set up or add to funds from which grants are made.

For more information visit:
WWW.cfmonroe.org



A Change in Time!

Council meetings will start at 7:00 PM in 2011.

Council voted to continue with meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, to begin at 7:00 PM



A Word From The DPW :



Winter weather is well upon us. To make our job easier and more efficient we would appreciate residents cooperation in not parking on side streets when there is any measurable snow fall. In addition, there is no parking of vehicles or trailers of any kind at the end of streets with no outlets.

Allied Waste will be maintaining their normal schedule and will pick up on Christmas Eve (24th) and on New Year's Eve (31st)



FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE



2010 has come and nearly gone, and here are the highlights of what Council and the Administration have accomplished this year. I have to say we set some pretty big goals in 2008 when I became Mayor. During the past 3 years we have spent a lot of time capturing low hanging fruit and building a foundation for the big stuff. Now that things are falling in place, this summer you will see a tremendous amount of activity. We are now setting the cornerstones for the future of the City of Luna Pier. It is my belief that this will set in motion events that will build upon one another to reach our desired financial stability.

□ The City's design group is in the process of **revising our zoning ordinances**; this will define the construction goals from the Master Plan giving the City a "put-together look". Also, a number of the zoning ordinances are currently vague and are making enforcing blight difficult in many cases.

□ **Sunoco Cat Scale Lease revision** was made as we had asked for a \$50,000 bond. We accepted \$50,000 cash until the bond could be secured, but the bond was unattainable in this economic climate. We then changed the terms to a \$15,000 non-refundable deposit. This benefited both the business owner and the City.

□ **Approved Master Plan.** This document is pivotal in the City's financial stability and we must make it an action plan using it to get grants to turn our vision into reality.

□ **A Downtown Development Authority was formed** and board members were approved by Council. This organization includes both residents and business members who take a vested interest in the City's Master Plan and taking the necessary steps to see it progress.

□ **Formed a Parks and Recreation Commission** governed by residents who have a passion for events that will bring entertainment and value to our City residents. This group is a result of the Recreation Plan that was approved last year. They will subsequently take the steps needed to make the Recreation Plan a reality.

□ Passed a **Rescue Recovery Ordinance** which allows the Luna Pier Fire Department to bill insurance companies for travelers on I-75 who end up needing to use our services.

□ **Harold Drive paving work in process**, there are still some concerns that will be completed in the spring.

□ **Initiated of a 5K run on the 4th of July**, a charity event which brought hundreds of people into the City and raised thousands of dollars for high school scholarships. This will be continuing as an annual event also the Labor Day Walk has been attracting more and more participation each year.

□ At the end of March the Employee Relations Committee of Council began direct negotiations with the Police force, and then in June with the City Employees. In addition to the committee negotiations, eight closed sessions of Council were held for **work agreement negotiations**. We have reached an agreement with the City Workers; the DPW, WWTP and custodial services. The City will continue to work with the Police Department toward an equitable settlement to balance our needs while keeping ourselves financially sound.

□ Council Approved engineering fees for Lakewood Ave. After 2 years of trying to get MDOT to change Lakewood Ave from a local road to a major road we finally got approval. This means we will have more major road funds available. Also we will be **redesigning and reconstructing Lakewood Ave** from Luna Pier road to 12th St in 2011. Before any work begins a public meeting will be held to get input from residents on any changes.

□ **Approval of Blight enforcement** with LEHI, the same business that manages our rental inspections; they will be managing our blight inspection program. In response to numerous blight complaints and looking to the future of Luna Pier's progress this program will clean up properties and homes where zoning ordinances are not being followed. As we rewrite our zoning ordinances, the blight enforcement will have more teeth and be more direct in dealing with blight issues.

□ We have been **accepted by Michigan State University for the site of a graduate project** on the foundations of what marketing the City can attract and sustain. This will be the beginning of a more in-depth study that will assist the DDA in attracting entrepreneurs to Luna Pier. The project will begin in January and be completed in May. I serve you, and want what is best for all of us.

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□ Appointed **Crystal Manley as full-time Clerk** beginning December 27, 2010. Crystal has been an amazing asset to City Hall, so be sure to stop by and introduce yourself.

□ **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board awarded \$490,000 to the City of Luna Pier Michigan for improved beach access!** I have to congratulate City Administrator Greg Stewart and our design group Poggemeyer for all the work they did in obtaining this grant. Once the Governor signs the appropriations of these funds we will be able to begin major work on the beachfront this summer. The basic idea is to make the public beachfront more accessible for everyone. This will include removing the current beachhouse to allow for a stunning vista of the lake as people exit from I-75 and building a new beachhouse near the current pier parking lot. The new beachhouse will be a replica of the old Turtle Island Lighthouse and will have multiple uses. In addition, the pier parking will be redesigned and improved. Universal access kayaking will be installed off the harbor and Mobi mats will be placed on the beach for wheel chair access to the water & beach. We will also be applying for Federal block grants to help subsidize the City's match to the grant.

□ **Award of \$100,000 in CEDS grant for environmental improvements on Luna Pier Rd.** This grant will reconfigure our curbs and sidewalks on Luna Pier Rd. from Harold Drive to the Lake. It will include rain gardens to prevent run off into the lake. Expect to see this work begin next summer as well.

Mayor Mary A Liske



Community Involvement

The City of Luna Pier is a great community. This community has been shaped by thousands of decisions made by our residents and our elected officials. As we continue to grow and move towards our long term vision, we need residents to take more active roles. If you have a desire to participate in the development of Luna Pier, currently the City has many opportunities for residents to serve. Following is a quick synapse of Commissions/Boards who currently have vacancies. *If you are interested in serving on any one of these boards or commission, please submit a letter of interest / application to the City Clerk or call (734)848-6495 for more information.*

Openings for Commissions/Boards

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) –
2 openings

Term: 3 years

Requirements: Citizen of the City of Luna Pier

Meets: 1st and 3rd Monday of the Month

Description: The DDA board members consist of the Mayor and local residents who have an interest in the development of the downtown district. The Board function is to help create an attractive business district that meets the need of the community.

Housing Committee- 1 opening

Term: 5 Years

Requirements: Citizen of the City of Luna Pier

Description: The Housing Committee consists of a representative from Council along with members of the community. The Committees basic function is to develop policy and procedures for the housing.

Planning Commission/EDC - 3 openings

Term: 3 Years

Meets: 4th Tuesday of Every Month

Requirements: Citizen of the City of Luna Pier

Description: The Planning Commission board consists of a representative from Council along with local residents. The boards basic function is to make recommendations to City Council on land use policies and ordinances.

Salary Commission - 2 openings

Term: 2 years

Meets: On a as Need Basis

Requirements: Citizen of the City of Luna Pier

Description: The Salary Commission consists of members of the Community. They review increase/decrease in wages for elected officials.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Alternate - Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) –

2 openings

Term: 3 years

Meets: On a as Need Basis

Requirements: Citizen of the City of Luna Pier

Description: The Zoning Board of Appeals consists of a representative from City Council and members of the Community. The Board is the advisory body for the City for the hearing of special use and variation petitions.

Tax Board of Revue- 1 Opening

Term: 3 Years

Alternate - Tax Board of Revue - 1 opening

Meets: 1/2 day in July, 1/2 day in December, 3 ½ Days in March

Requirements: Citizen of the City of Luna Pier

Description: The Tax Board of Revue consists of the City Assessor and members of the community who have an interest in determining whether an assessment is fair and correct. This Board has the power to revise, correct, change, alter, modify or confirm any assessment in whole as per legislation.



Building Department News

The winter cold and heating season are well upon us so if you have not already done so please take time to check that your furnace or boiler have been cleaned and serviced to insure safe and reliable operation. If your home has a fireplace or wood-burning stove you should have your chimney, flue and damper cleaned and checked.

The City of Luna Pier, in conjunction with the State of Michigan enforces the state mandated Building Codes. The current version is the 2006 edition. The state, after several setbacks has finally adopted the 2009 version which is scheduled to go into effect in march of 2001. The building department should be contacted before planning any remodeling or new construction to confirm code requirements. and obtain required permits.

The most important pieces of safety equipment in your home are your smoke alarms. They should be checked regularly to insure they are operating properly and that fresh batteries have been installed. Smoke alarms are required for all residential premises by law. Smoke alarms should be located in the following areas:

- In each bedroom or sleeping room
- In the area adjacent to bedrooms
- Minimum of one on each level

For additional information contact the Building Department. Remember...

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!



Mason Schools proposes a new concept for their Luna Pier facility.

At the November 29th Council meeting Mason Schools proposed to the city the idea of trading the building for services to their treatment facility for some twenty years.

The public had mixed comments on the concept proposal and the council deferred any decision. Council is asking for your input.

Let us know what you think, on this issue, or on any of the initiatives, decisions, or how we can work to make this a better city for everyone.

We are asking for your comments on all the issues I have mentioned. Please feel free to call, come in or send me an email at:

gstewart@cityoflunapier.com



The Erie-Mason Hall of Fame Committee held their most recent meeting on October 20, 2010. The inductees for the Class of 2011 were announced. Inductees include: Mr. Larry Meeker, Mason High School Principal for 30 years, Mr. Donald Thurber, Mason Elementary teacher from 1953-1959 invented D'nealian handwriting which is used nationally and internationally, Mr. Charles Matlock, Mason High School teacher from 1972-1995, started the Science Olympiad program reopened the planetarium, Ms. Yvonne Laderach Lynch, Class of 1985- Junior Olympic National Shot Put Champion 1984, Mr. James Woodward, Class of 1983- Former Executive Director Ohio State Chiropractic Association, 1987 State Champion Football team, which recorded a 13-0 record. The induction ceremony will be February 18, 2011 at half-time of the basketball game. The banquet will be February 19, 2011. For ticket information please contact Frank Connolly (734)848-4299.



RASEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Winter Arts & Craft

Date: 1/8/2011 at 11:00 AM

Library: Rasey Memorial Branch Library

Description: Make an "Instant Snowman Kit" (1 per family, please). Wear old clothes as this will require some painting.



Computer Classes

Age Group(s): All Ages

Dates: 2/2/2011, 2/9/2011, 2/16/2011

Start Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Description: In these sessions you will open accounts, learn to use tools, navigate the sites and internet etiquette concepts will be discussed. You will need an email account set up prior to the course start date. Class size is limited.

Registration is required.

Registration Ends: 2/2/2011 at 12:00 AM

Presenter: Bobbie

Status: Openings (6)



Tax-Tips

We will also be having a Tax Tips program with Pat Pilcher in Jan or Feb. Contact the library for further info.

