



Get "Plugged In" to the Happenings Of Your City!

City of Luna Pier Spring 2012 NEWSLETTER



State Of The City Address Mayor Mary Liske January 12, 2012

"All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem."

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

2011 was a year of incredible progress and challenges. The Master Plan created by residents of Luna Pier was recognized by the American Planning Association in Boston, and was given the "Vernon Deines Memorial Award for Outstanding Small Town or Rural Plan". This award was given not just because of the Plan's exceptional content, but rather because the city has put the plan into action. Even Michigan Governor Snyder recognized Luna Pier for its progress in his 2011 "State of the State" address. Having used the Master Plan to guarantee three grants, you will see the initiation of our downtown redevelopment by July of 2012. These changes are essential to re-branding Luna Pier as the "First Taste of Michigan", and creating an overall tourist attraction for visitors. Having visited Blissfield in 2011 during the Mayoral Exchange sponsored by the Michigan Association of Mayors, Luna Pier's city leaders saw how Blissfield has created a place for tourists. We were encouraged because we have so many natural resources to take advantage of for our community's financial benefit.

Continue on Page 2

And the Christmas Light Contest Winner is.....



During December resident were given the opportunity to show case their Christmas Display

in the Luna Pier Christmas Light Contest. Four entries were received. Judging was done online between December 9th and December 16th by our very own residents of Luna Pier. The Christmas decorations help to light up the city and bring about the holiday spirit. Although everyone deserves to win and be congratulated, only one winner could be chosen. With over 65% of the votes, the winner of the 2011 Luna Pier Christmas Light Contest was Mark Marosi of 10962 Harold Drive. Mark Received a basket full of numerous contributions from our local business. Congratulations Mark Marosi!

YARD OF THE MONTH / BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE



This program runs from June through October. The program is in the planning stages for the 2012 year and they need a few volunteers! If you would like to get started with this committee please contact Cindy Zohn-Conyers at 848-8174. Cindy is also looking for volunteers to help plant the city flower boxes this spring.

Continued: State of the City

The Luna Pier Downtown Development Authority has also contributed to the goals of the Master Plan by using a group of students from Michigan State University, along with a local intern from Central Michigan University, to assist in preparing our *Tax Increment Financing* or TIF plan. Once the TIF plan is established, it has the potential to reroute millions of dollars over the next 20 years into improvement to our downtown district. In addition, the DDA promoted Luna Pier through the first annual Bootleggers and Blues Festival, which is the beginning of many events that will bring business to town. Also, look for a complete redesign of Lakewood Ave from Luna Pier Rd to 12th St. This improvement along with the new beach house and bio-retention streetscape will have a big impact on how the city appears in 2012.

In support of the Master Plan, the City has hired Poggemyer Design to rewrite our zoning laws, which can be expected to be approved early this year. Related to zoning, attempts have been made to reduce neighborhood blight by hiring a blight inspector. Unfortunately, improved yards do still have a habit of become unattractive nuisances again within just a few months, which has to be dealt with. So another approach to the blight situation will be tried in 2012 by tightening laws, along with increasing financial consequences for those who cannot respect their neighbors.

On March 25th of 2011, Luna Pier's city leaders made bold proactive steps by hosting the *Western Lake Erie Waterway Conference* to further discuss the possibility of Luna Pier having a ferry service to other parts of the lake. Participants included representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, interested ferry boat Captains, elected officials from the state level, Port Authority representatives from the cities of Monroe, Toledo, and Detroit, and many others. The mission of the event was to connect the region by the Lake Erie waters that affects them all, which will allow municipalities to

benefit from the lake's own natural resources.

We were faced with some disappointing news when Consumers Energy announced they will cease operations of the J.R. Whiting Power Generating Plant here in Luna Pier by January 1, 2015. The company is not decommissioning the plant, which is good news concerning our tax base. However, we have heard rumors that the plant may be refitted for a cleaner energy source and reopened later, which may be even better news.

Another challenge we are wrestling with are the financial consequences of reworking Lakeside Drain. The project was originally estimated to cost under a million dollars when first discussed in 2006. The final price tag is 2.1 million dollars and could not have come at a worse economic time. Once the Drain Commission's Board of Determination decides the drain rehabilitation is necessary, it is like signing a blank check, and they can do whatever they want to correct the drain, regardless of the financial impact on the community. The City Administration is working earnestly to buffer the situation for the City and the affected residents.

Also, the Waste Water Treatment Plant has been overwhelmed this year from both the melting snow of spring 2011 and the high rain levels throughout the year. Although many of the current upgrades have been mandated at the state level due to our trace output of phosphates, many of the improvements will also assist with the handling of the higher volumes of discharge. We have hired an additional part-time employee who will become full-time once the upgrades are complete. What does all this mean for Customers? Unfortunately, it means a necessary upcoming increase in sewer charges to cover the improvements.

Just like its residents, the city of Luna Pier has had to tighten the budget in order to remain in the black. We have had to cut over \$30,000 from our annual budget. The major changes have been in cutting one full-time

police position, reducing dumpster pick up to

Continued: State of the City

once each week, and renegotiating our residential garbage pickup contract for a \$10,000 savings. Future changes are being planned to reduce employee benefit costs, and to bring the city into compliance with Public Acts 54 and 152. Contracts were settled in September with all employees. The city recognizes how difficult it has been for employees to make concessions, and certainly appreciates the sacrifices that will allow the City to manage our finances in a more responsible manner.

Much progress is finally being made in the area of flood protection. A new committee was formed in February. This committee's mission is to thoughtfully research and make recommendations to City Council concerning flood and erosion protection. Over a year ago, the city applied for another USDA loan specific to flood protection. After dealing with two protected species, we are extremely close to getting full approval. Once money has been appropriated, flood pumps can be replaced, cracks on dike cylinders and tops can be repaired, trees on earthen dikes can be removed, and the lower sills can be filled with concrete. These maintenance issues have been a long time coming and it will feel really good to make progress in this area. We look forward to identifying the next set of priorities that need attention on our shoreline.

We must stay vigilant, and it is a time for every citizen to contribute their abilities and leadership to help move the city of Luna Pier strongly into the future. I hope that everyone will realize that this ... is their invitation and personal request to become involved.

"A single twig breaks, but the bundle of twigs is strong."

-- Native American, Chief Tecumseh

On February 20th I will be hosting "Coffee with the Mayor" at Gander's starting at 8:00 am, please make time to come sit with me. I can answer your questions or we can find a place for you to get involved.

A Great Big Thanks!

Without the Christmas Spirit and the generosity of the following business, Luna Pier's Christmas Light Contest would never have gotten off of the ground. The winner's basket was overflowing with wonderful gifts.



Lucky Lady Charters
Luna Pier Market
Ganders Family Restaurant
Roma's Pizza
The Lighthouse Factory
Super 8 Motel
Luna Pier Baptist Church
Luna Pier Self Storage
Luna Pier Harbour Club
Sunoco Gas Station
Pyramid Transport
Light House Dance Company
Luna Pier Beach Café
Rasey Memorial Library
Holli Pendleton @ Erie Office / Monroe Bank & Trust
Consumers Energy
ACR Copier Sales & Service
Luna Pier Auto Wash
Eco-Marine, Inc.
Luna Pier Post Office
Luna Pier Downtown Development Authority (DDA)



Tornado Siren



With Spring quickly approaching, this is a reminder of the Tornado Siren. The tornado Siren is one solid blast for 3 minutes. When this siren is sounded, there has been a tornado spotted in the area. For safety, please take cover.



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 or Business Owner of the City of Luna Pier

Meets: 1st 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.



Planning Commission/EDC - 1 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.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) – 1 opening, 1 Alternate opening

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 Alternate

Term: 3 Years

Meets: 1/2 day in July, 1/2 day in December, 3 1/2 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.

Copies, Faxes, Notary

Due to the increase cost associated with many of the service offer at City Hall, there has been a price adjustment to these services. The new rates are listed below.

Copies	25¢
Fax	\$1.00 for 1 st 3 pages \$1.00 for each additional page
Notary	\$5.00 for residents \$10.00 for non-residents
Assessment Cards	\$5.00

**Visit our web site at:
www.cityoflunapier.com**

DPW NEWS

Superintendent Randy Whipple

In years past we have had problems with residents mowing their grass into the streets. According to Ordinance #15, Section 5.13, this is illegal. Please refrain from doing this. Not only will it make the streets look better, but it will also keep the storm drains open. Also, if you have a storm drain near your residence, please keep it free from debris so the water drains quickly.

Burn Pile – The pile is for tree and yard trimmings (no grass) and is located by the boat ramp parking lot. It is for city residents only. Please do not place wood with nails or other trash on this pile.



Dumpster available - Year around the city has a dumpster located behind the wastewater treatment plant. State law prohibits the disposal of tree trimmings, leaves, grass or any other vegetation to be buried in landfills. Therefore, disposal of these materials are not allowed in dumpsters. PLEASE DO NOT LITTER! PLACE ALL MATERIALS INSIDE DUMPSTERS! The gates are open 7 am until 3:15 pm during the week. Holiday and weekend hours vary between 6 am and 1 pm. Call 848-4581 to make sure the gates are open. The dumpster is emptied once a week. If the dumpster is full before empty day, the rear gate will be locked until it is emptied. These dumpsters are NOT intended for non-resident, commercial or contractor use. DO NOT LEAVE PAINT CANS, CHEMICALS, TIRES OR LP TANKS IN THIS AREA. THE CITY HAS NO WAY OF DISPOSING OF THESE ITEMS.

Compost Pile – There is a compost pile located on the northwest corner of the parking lot at the boat ramp. This pile is for grass and leaves ONLY. Please remove the grass and leaves from the plastic bags or containers. Thank you!



Used Motor Oil – Used motor oil may be disposed of at the city's maintenance garage. Please call Randy or Bryan at 848-8481 for further information.



Residents of Luna Pier have unlimited curbside trash pick-up!

2012 CITY BOAT LAUNCHING PERMITS

City boat launching ramp permits may be purchased at City Hall during normal business hours or at the DPW building anytime:



Residents of Luna Pier	\$10.00
Non-Residents	\$20.00
Daily	\$5.00

RESIDENTS' PARKING PERMIT

Just a reminder to Luna Pier residents that you are allowed to park in the beach and pier areas at no charge provided you secure and display a resident parking permit on the front of the inside rear view mirror of your vehicle. Resident parking permit stickers are available at Luna Pier City Hall at no charge. However, your vehicle's registration is required to receive your permit.

Hello! From the Clerk's office:

Elections for the Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012. I have a sample ballots available at City Hall if you would like to get more information for this election.



If you need an Absent Voter Ballot Application, please stop at City Hall during regular business hours or call me at 734-848-6495 ext. 205. I can mail an Absent Voter Ballot Application to you. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. at the Luna Pier Fire Hall.

Registered for the February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary deadline was January 30, 2012. Although it is too late to register for the February 28, 2012 election, you are able to register for the next election. This can be done at City Hall during regular business hours or at any Michigan Secretary of State Branch office.

Crystal Manley, City Clerk



When Do You Need A Permit?

The best way to find out is to call the building department before starting your project. Permits are usually required for all projects including building, electrical, plumbing, and heating/AC work. Most of these types of work require specific items for code compliance and therefore a permit and inspections are required for code compliance. Some projects such as sheds and fences do not require a building permit, but it still may be necessary to obtain a permit for zoning compliance. Please contact the Building Department before beginning your project.

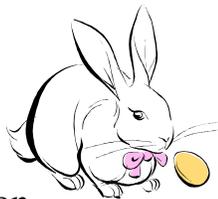
Swimming pools, spas and hot tubs



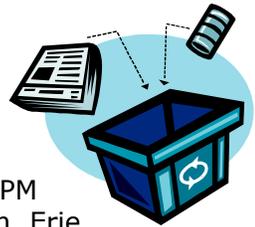
All Private swimming pools, spas and hot tubs are regulated by codes requiring specific installation standards, permits and inspections. A pool is any structure for swimming that may contain water over 24 inches deep. This includes hot tubs, spas, in-ground or above-ground pools, and temporary or inflatable pools. As warm weather approaches we will be enforcing code requirements for all pools, spas and hot tubs, new and existing installations. Pools require setbacks, barriers/enclosures, limited access, and proper electrical and bonding to provide safety to the users and area residents. Please plan ahead and visit the Building Department page of our web site or contact the Building Official before installation of a pool, or to make your current installation code compliant and safe.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Luna Pier Fire Association will be having the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31, 2012, 12:00 noon at the Fire Hall.



Recycle Information



RECYCLE NOW

2nd Tuesday of the month – 8AM–4PM
St. Joseph Church, 2238 Manhattan, Erie

* Glass * Aluminum * Plastic * Tin

All materials can be mixed. Accept ONLY containers that held beverages, food, detergents or bleach. Rinse and flatten if possible!-Labels may stay.

Glass Clear or Colored-bottles or jars.

Remove lids/caps. No Ceramics, Pyrex, mirrors, windows glass etc...

Tin/Aluminum – cans ONLY

Plastic Jugs or Bottles ONLY, discard caps

Other Recycling Opportunities

Household Batteries

Kroger's

- 850 S. Monroe St., Monroe, Mi.
- 3833 N. Dixie, Monroe, Mi.

Hachman Farm Supply

- 627 W. Temperance Rd., Temperance, Mi.

Monroe Co. Health Dept.

- 2353 S. Custer Rd., Monroe, Mi.

Plastic Bags

Kroger's

- 850 S. Monroe St., Monroe, Mi.

Meijer

- 1700 N. Telegraph Rd., Monroe, Mi.

Food Town

- 7375 Secor Rd., Lambertville, Mi.

Wal-Mart

- 2150 N. Telegraph Rd., Monroe, Mi.

Compact Fluorescent Bulbs

Baker's ACE Hardware

- 905 N. Dixie Hwy., Monroe, Mi.

St. Pierre ACE Hardware

- 1490 Stewart Rd., Monroe, Mi.

Lambertville Do It Best Hardware

- 8100 Secor Rd., Lambertville, Mi.

Televisions & Computer Equipment

Habitat for Humanity

- 840 Laplance Rd., Monroe, Mi.

Newspapers and Magazines

Visit www.paperretriever.com for a list of locations

If you would like to receive an email notification of Solid Waste Events:

Email Jamie_dean@monroemi.org with the words "mail list" in the subject line

Parks and Recreation Committee

2012 Members:

Linda Emptage Patti Grimes
Betty Roper Ric Murray
Mary Ansel Jim Gardner- Council Rep
Corey Sipert- Alternate

The Parks and Recreation Committee has accomplished several goals in 2011. One of these goals included weeding and placing mulch in and around evergreen trees at Memorial Park Gazebo. The Beautification Committee headed up by Cindy Zohn-Conyers planted summer flowers and was also responsible for our seasonal decorations.

The beautiful moonlight scene painted on the face of the Luna Pier Market has been a welcoming scene to all that enter our community. This was choreographed by our very own Betty Roper and completed by a local artist.

One of the highlights of the year has been the planning and work accomplished to create an ice skating rink at Water Tower Park headed by Betty Roper. Friends of Betty's and anonymous citizens have responded by donating 50 plus pairs of skates. Each pair has been cleaned given new laces and sharpened! Betty found a shed sold by Lowes at a discount to house the skates and necessary supplies for the skating rink. She also worked out details to build a ramp for the skaters. This ramp was built by Chris Heid, Corey Sipert, Rick Liechty and Ric Murray. It took two weekends to complete. Once the weather cooperates giving us some freezing temperatures and all of the signage and policies are complete this pond will be ready for skaters. The skating rental will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-3 when the ice is safe and passes the required tests. There will be signs posted when the pond is safe for skating. Thanks to everyone who has helped and supported all of this work!

Another project that has been in the works is our Trail Committee. The Parks and Recreation had the Michigan Greenways Alliance come talk about the implementing of trails in communities. A special meeting took place with Anita Twadersky from the Riverside Kayaking Connection, Mary Bowling MSU Sea Grant, Dick Micka from the Monroe Heritage Trails, and Howard Pinkly from Flags Sales and Repairs in Point Place. These people offered a wealth of knowledge about creating trails in our community. We need more

citizens to join us! Whether you are a walker, biker, or bird watcher there is a place for you on our Trails Group. Come and see what we are doing or contact Greg Stewart at the City Hall or Mary Ansel at mndansel@charter.net to get involved.

Sponsored by the Crim Foundation, the 2011 Luna Pier Kids Running Club had approximately 14 members this past summer! Thanks to the Crim Foundation all of the participants were able to join for FREE! Our goal was to learn proper running techniques and good nutrition. Those not able to run could walk and the kids really improved throughout the summer season! The Crim provided the kids with snacks, lesson plans and a club water jug. They also came to visit and hosted a pizza party with games, running drills and even water balloons!! The running season wrapped up with a one mile race on Luna Piers Kids day in August. A special thanks goes out to Marti Austin and Erin Boillet from the Crim. Thank you ladies and way to go kids! Another special thanks to Julie Ravary who hosted our kids at the Erie Mason track and allowed the kids to try out the track and field events. Interested in helping or joining? Contact Mary Ansel mndansel@charter.net.

We are looking for people interested in outdoor local recreation! We are looking at events for this summer! Have Ideas? Whether you would like to start a shuffle board tournament, walking, bird watching or a basketball group for youth or adults, come and share them with us. All ideas are welcomed!

The Parks and Recreation Committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 pm. The meetings are open to the public. You don't have to join to come and hear what's going on in the parks! We would be grateful for any input or volunteers to help with upcoming projects. Look for news and events in the next community newsletters.

Reminder that burning in the City of Luna Pier is not permitted due to the close proximity of the homes in the area and health hazards to residents due to the smoke.



Mandates Increase Rates

As everyone may know we are working with the State, the Department of Environmental Quality to meet the new standards that they have imposed on the City. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency's new stricter restrictions are the main driver of the new permit that is the strictest in the State of Michigan. We have tried to get relief from these restrictions, and we have sought funding to minimize the impact on our customers.

The City of Luna Pier did receive over \$800,000 dollars in a grant to assist our efforts, however the total work that needs to be done to the Waste Water Treatment Plant is approximately 3.5 million dollars. In your next bill you will be seeing approximately a 25% increase for sewage due to these mandates. Personally I feel that the EPA and the DEQ imposed mandates are unfair and add one more burden to our citizens. I wish I was around at the time to fight this bureaucratic decision. This administration and our Waste Water Superintendent did go to Jackson to plead our case, but in the end, finding the best funding opportunity and secure a partial grant was the best that we could do. We will continue to explore options to minimize the impact on our customers. As always suggestions and comments are welcome.

News from the Flood and Erosion Protection Committee (FEP)

New officers were elected for 2012 at our last meeting. They are: Ric Murray, Chairman; Stacy Grimes, Vice Chairman; Sue Lopes, Secretary and Chris Heid, Treasurer/ Alt. Council Rep. and Jim Gardner, Council Rep. Other members of our committee include Robin Walton, Charles Gardner and Cheryl Krakow as alternate.

We would like to thank our past officers for their hard work, determination and organization over the past year. Sue Lopes, Chairman and Secretary; Chris Heid, Vice Chairman/Council Rep. and Ric Murray, Alt. Council Rep.

Our history here in Luna Pier is one of not maintaining our resources (roads, water treatment, and our flood protection system). However, action is starting to happen and the Flood and Erosion Protection (FEP) Committee has been entrusted to keep the momentum going. The citizens deserve safety from floods, and the FEP is working with the city to make the best use of our limited funding of our flood fund and levy. The city has secured \$915 thousand dollars from the USDA to work on specific projects on our dike system. Lets' take care of our future; let's not repeat the history we have experienced. We will need to continue to put tax dollars aside so we can continue to keep our city safe from flooding and maintain our \$3 million dollar dike system as we all know we can't afford to rebuild a new system if this one fails from lack of maintenance.

The Flood fund will be used to repay our loan and to pay for maintenance of our pier, earthen and concrete dike systems, the Venice Canal gate and the new pumps that will be installed this spring. Part of the responsibility is to create a verifiable schedule of maintenance and criteria to prevent our dike system from falling back into disarray.

We need to continue to have money in reserve for continued maintenance of the Luna Pier City flood system (concrete dikes, earthen dikes, City pier, pumps, and Venice Canal gate)

The FEP committee encourages you to get involved so you can participate in the progress we are starting to make. Now that our USDA loan has been signed by our Mayor and approved by the USDA you will see long awaited improvements and action over the next year or two. We need members of our community to give us input and ideas to help resolve the many challenges we face. Please come to the FEP meetings held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7PM at City chambers.

-The Flood and Erosion Protection Committee