

## Message from the Mayor

With a new bridge and warm weather on the way, we all look forward to another great summer in the city we love. We have some great activities and events planned, highlighted by the return of our annual Freedom Festival. Looking back at the founding of our city, visionary leaders knew what our city could be and went to work building the city we know today. Moving here in 1964, just one year after the founding of our city, I remember the challenges facing the city including the complete lack of adequate infrastructure and frequent flooding that devastated the area. Some residents saw beyond the bleak outlook and went to work making the city what they knew it could be. From a dike system, drains, city water and sanitary sewers, paved streets and street lights and more, their vision took shape in the form of the place we know and enjoy today. What was the real driving force behind this epic transformation? Residents with a vision who went to work to make it happen.



While many of the challenges we face today are different than they were in 1963, the core solution remains unchanged, people with a vision, willing to make a difference. As we move on from the financial setback of losing our coal fired cash cow that financed progress in the early days, we face a bright future and a new vision with a wealth of talented people who have the skills and insight to thrive. Together we can make this community all that we envision and more.

We need your help to make the difference. Talking with people in our city and hearing your stories always leaves me impressed, thankful and hopeful. I know our future will be bright. We need your input on our boards and commissions. Our problems are not insurmountable as long as we focus our energy on solutions that work. Most of our committees meet once a month with some equally important but requiring less of a time commitment. From Parks & Recreation, Planning, Flood Protection, Zoning and more, we have opportunities to fit your talents. Just getting involved in a supporting role helps immensely.

Let's talk some time. You can make a difference. Meet some of our amazing volunteers who work on our boards and commissions. The meeting times and dates are posted on our website and you probably know many the residents who already serve. Stop in any time at City Hall or catch me when I'm out and about in the city. We would love to hear from you. It has been a tough past decade but I truly believe we are on the cusp of a new era with unprecedented opportunity if we step up to the challenge.

It's a great time to live in Luna Pier!

Jim

Mayor Jim Gardner

