

Mayor's Report

March 12, 2026

Last week at the annual Firefighters Banquet, several of our firefighters were recognized for their distinguished service with the Luna Pier Fire Department. Raymond Sorensen was awarded for the most drills, Steven Drotar and David Gardner for the most calls and drills, Terry Mueller for the most drills, for responding to the most fire calls and for 30 years of distinguished service. The Chief's award went to Chris Burchett. The Greatest Of All Time, aka GOAT award went to Rick Liechty for 47 years of distinguished service. Rick is now the longest serving firefighter in the history of the Luna Pier Fire Department. I would like to thank Rick and every one of our firefighters for their dedication to the people of our community. They are the true heroes who are committed to not only responding to emergencies but spending countless hours preparing for effective emergency response that saves lives. We can't thank them enough.

I was informed this week that we have been selected to receive a Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating or PASER rating of our local roads at no cost to the city. This is awarded through SEMCOG per our application late last year. SEMCOG will assign a vendor who will collect the data starting around mid-May. The ratings are vital to maximizing our investment in our roads as funding becomes available to address the dire situation with our road conditions. Road improvement is still a huge challenge for us but this is a big step towards future improvements. Increased state funding of local roads has been announced and our \$430,532.00 Luna Pier Road streetscape project will be paid off in 2030. Payments for that vital project are made through our Act 51 Major Road funds. Again, road improvement is going to take time but it is indeed a priority and we will do what it takes to make whatever progress we can.

Respectfully submitted,
Mayor Gardner