

Message from the Mayor

It seems the worst of this cold, hard winter is behind us as temperatures start to rise and the days start to get longer. There is much to celebrate this year with the 250th birthday of our nation and the 100th anniversary of the opening of our original pier. The grand opening was celebrated over the July 4th holiday in 1926 as the Toledo, Ottawa Beach and Northern Railway carried passengers to Luna Pier to dance the night away under the stars and moon as live music played into the night. Lower lake levels and strong southwest winds have recently provided the opportunity to see remnants of the original pier still in place to this day. Luna Pier is one of the few remaining places where bridge beams from the original Inter-Urban rail system are still in place. Though relatively short lived, the original pier put us on the map and gave us our name while the trolley car line made it all accessible to people from Toledo, Monroe and beyond.

Now I-75 has long since replaced the trolley cars and our new pier is nearly twice as old as the original pier was when it met its demise, crushed by ice driven by a Lake Erie storm in the 1940s. An additional benefit of our new pier as confirmed by experts from the Michigan DNR is our beautiful public beach formed as sand is carried by waves and deposited on our shoreline. All these years later, one thing remains the same. People love this jewel we have here. While fishing, swimming and sunbathing have replaced the big bands, the live music has moved inland to our great restaurants and residents like you and me live here year around instead of moving to the city in the winter. When you have a great thing like this, why not come home to it every day?

When I read our history and remember back to the first few years of a brand new city in the early 1960s, I am at awe at the vision and hard work of our city founders. Nobody thought this band of trouble makers would amount to anything in our flooded cottages and swamp land but they knew better. Ordinary citizens made city water, sanitary and storm sewers, a dike system, paved and lighted streets, parks and general city services a reality. They built the city we know today.

When I meet people and they learn I am from Luna Pier, overwhelmingly I see a smile as they tell me what a jewel we have here. Trust me, that was not the case in the early days. We still have our challenges. Our cash cow that funded our rapid progress is gone but I believe the vision for what we can be is alive and well. Our greatest wealth is in ordinary citizens getting involved and making the vision a reality. The future is bright as local businesses who care about our city are constantly improving. Our boards and commissions have great plans for an exciting year ahead of us and in years to come.

One final thought is we can't do it without you. I know we have tremendously talented people in our city. You have the skills to make things happen. All of our meetings are public meetings and you are welcome to attend without pressure to join. Share your thoughts, help where you can and become part of this great legacy we call Luna Pier.