



## **From Mayor Mary Liske, January 14, 2010**

It has been my honor to serve this City for the past two years and I am pleased that the citizens of Luna Pier have chosen to trust me to continue to look out for their interests. Just two years ago I had said, "Change is both exciting and unsettling. To create change takes a lot of courage and considerable effort. We now find ourselves with an opportunity to recreate ourselves and move in a positive direction for the improvement of the community." That statement continues to hold true with more urgency than before. As we face the likelihood of Consumer's termination we must be of one mind more than ever in order to move forward together as a community. I am grateful for having Greg Stewart and this new Council as partners in this adventure. Each of these individuals brings a unique set of skills in developing a prosperous future for our city. I envision members serving on committees that they can put their heart and soul into. It will be imperative for all of us to make monthly progress evidenced in our Council reports, as even small steps lead to progress.

I am as hopeful today as ever, and have a clear view of what will be necessary to secure our future. Many of the steps essential to accomplishing this task have already been initiated over the past two years. In December, after spending over a year connecting with citizens to assure wide spread consensus, the Council approved a new Master Plan. This document is indispensable in attaining the respect and attention mandatory for gaining the necessary assistance in developing the goals laid out within this document. No longer will the Master Plan be words on a page, but a map for our future. To support the goals expressed in the Master Plan, Council has approved the formation of a Downtown Development Association. As community and business members are appointed to serve in this union, it will take shape as a key piece of the puzzle in supporting the goals of the Master Plan. These steps, along with strengthening our business Association, forming community groups who take interest in shaping policy for certain City projects, increasing volunteerism, and improving communication, we are clearly on the path to assuring our future as a unique community.

Over the next two years I expect to pursue certain areas of focus. We must continue to define our intentions in our zoning laws, so we are able to direct the change in an orderly fashion. We need to establish a formal system of policing blight in a fair and deliberate manner. We must attract new businesses that will remove our dependency on Consumer's as well as provides employment relief for our citizens. We have to educate our State and federal leaders to our unique concerns and elicit their support. And most certainly, we must make wise use of all of our resources and available opportunities.

Again I want to thank the citizens and leaders of this community for having the courage to take the steps towards change as circumstances demand.