

Contact: Cyndy Fuller or Tim Ervin
231-723-4325

For Immediate Release

**FUTURE MANISTEE FORUM SET FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2010
City Seeks Input for Strategic Plan Update**

Manistee, Michigan - If you have ideas and aspirations for the future of the City of Manistee, you won't want to miss a special forum exclusively for you!

The **FUTURE MANISTEE FORUM** will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Ballroom of the Ramsdell Theater, located at 101 Maple in the City of Manistee.

"We're hoping that residents, businesses, nonprofits, students, seniors and others will join us to help define priorities as City Council prepares to update its Strategic Plan for the City," said Mayor Ilona Haydon. "We simply cannot provide enough opportunities or ways for people to express their opinions and ideas. The **FUTURE MANISTEE FORUM** will be the first step in revisiting the City's strategy to make Manistee the community of choice on the Lake Michigan shoreline for residents, businesses, visitors and families."

The **FUTURE MANISTEE FORUM** will be facilitated by Cyndy Fuller and Tim Ervin from the Alliance for Economic Success, the economic development organization for Manistee County that has helped City Council update their strategy for the past three years.

"The primary purpose of this Forum is for Council to listen to what people want the City of Manistee to become," said Councilmember Richard Mack. "We will be asking everyone to respond to some key questions involving our future that will be considered as we update the City's blueprint for the future."

Questions that will be presented to community participants include:

- In the year 2014, what will be the top three priorities for the City of Manistee?
- By the year 2020, what are three things about the City that should look different than they do today?
- What are the most important things that the City might achieve by working with other communities?
- What should the City of Manistee be known for? What makes the City truly different and appealing to families, businesses and visitors?

A copy of the City's current Strategic Plan is available on line by going to www.ci.manistee.mi.us or by calling the City Manager's office at 231-723-2558.

RSVP's are requested by calling 723-4325 or emailing cathy@allianceforeconomicsuccess.com