

■ Introduction ■

All of this will not be finished in the first 100 days. Nor will it be finished in the first 1,000 days, nor in the life of this administration, nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin.

-President John F. Kennedy

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In the summer of 2004 the Village of Lake Isabella began a large project of the highest importance, updating the Master Plan. The Village's original Master Plan was adopted in May of 1999, just one year after the Village's incorporation into a Home Rule Village. The original Master Plan established a rough frame work that the Village operated under during the first few years after incorporation. In the few short years that passed since the original Master Plan was adopted the Village has seen growth and changes in many different areas.

The change and growth that has occurred prompted the Planning Commission and staff of the Village to begin updating the Master Plan. The Master Plan is the key document in establishing the policies and plans for a unit of government. The Council, staff and Commission members all desire to provide the highest level of service possible at the most affordable price to



the citizens of the community. In order to properly gauge the desires and perceived challenges that the Village currently faces, and could face in the years ahead, a comprehensive survey of the residents was taken in late 2004 with the final tabulation completed in the spring of 2005. The input from that survey, along with the discussion following it, was vital in drafting the Master Plan update.

This update is to serve the community for the next several years and should be reviewed annually and updated every five years at the latest. Knowledge of the Master Plan by all Village officials is critical to the long term success of the Village as the choices made on a wide range of topics from roads to zoning are all covered by this updated Master Plan. The Master Plan cannot possibly cover every scenario that will arise and be handled by the Village, however, the overall theme and direction of the Village that is established in this document can be used to review and assist in the deliberations of the unforeseen.

The goal of the Master Plan is to provide the leaders of the Village and the community members at large a clear and a relevant document that outlines the direction that the Village is working towards. This document establishes goals, identifies projects and other measures that the Village will work on in order to implement this Master Plan, along with identifying the rational and supporting evidence used to generate the goals and actions. It is the belief and hope of the officials of the Village that this Master Plan, when fully implemented, will help transform an already great and unique Village into a place that is even more special and stands alone as one of the most desired places to live in mid-Michigan.