

## Mayor's Column

In 1772 Abednego Inman, a native of Tennessee, served alongside Daniel Boone in his exploration of the South. It was during their exploration into Mississippi that Inman was wounded on multiple occasions in skirmishes with the established Cherokees and Chickasaws, yet it was his determination and faith that moved him to prosper. Abednego Inman would later become one of the early settlers of the area we now know as Baldwyn. It is that same determination and faith that drives the prosperity of our beloved Baldwyn today.

I extend a hearty thanks to the citizens of Baldwyn for giving me the honor and privilege to serve you as Mayor of our great city. Serving as mayor has been the experience of a lifetime and I value the wonderful friendships that have been built along the way. I have also become much more aware of the citizen leaders in our community, men and women who come to work each day and volunteer their time, talent and resources to make Baldwyn a great place and to prepare for our bright future ahead.

Our city has a rich history that we are proud to embrace. It is estimated that some 5,000 people visited Baldwyn last year, exploring the rich history to be found at Brice's Crossroads, experiencing the community heritage at the annual Okeelala Festival, and sharing in the various community events throughout the year.

Our city has been blessed with consistent economic success. Downtown Baldwyn has grown into a wonderful and vibrant place with a business climate stronger than ever. Our local job growth has been exponential, showing signs of a strong local economy, while Baldwyn citizens are hard at work making a good living and contributing to the success of our state and country.

Our city has also set a new standard of winning and excellence through the Baldwyn Public School District. Under new leadership of Superintendent Jason McKay and his team, our beloved Bearcats made our community proud, producing exemplary leadership academically and athletically in many ways.

The City of Baldwyn has a bright future ahead, and the Board of Aldermen and I stand ready to lead our fine city into the days ahead. I am thankful for the leadership of our Board and the regular decisions they are making to invest in a better future ahead. Just like our early ancestors, it is our faith and determination that drive us to prosper. An unknown leader once penned the famous quote, "Some people succeed because they are destined, but most because they are determined.

Your leadership is determined to make decisions today that will make a difference tomorrow. The City of Baldwyn, "Where tradition touches tomorrow."