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HOME | NEWS | SPORTS | OBITUARIES | CLASSIFIEDS | VIRTUAL NEWSROOM | CONTACT US

Article Search

Advanced Search
News

- Home page
- News
- News Briefs
- National
- International
- Obituaries
- Opinion
- Photo Galleries - NEW
- Announcements
- Comm. Calendar
- RSS Feeds
- Site Index
- Submit

Sports

- Local Sports
- National
- Submit

Special Sections

- Coupons
- Youth Spotlight
- 40 under 40
- All About Fort Dodge
- Bridal Guide
- Buyers Guide
- Dallas Clark
- Hometown Pride 06
- How to Guide
- Progress Ag
- Progress Health
- Sunday Value

Classifieds

- Local Classifieds
- State Classifieds
- National Classifieds
- Auction Calendar
- Happy Ads - NEW
- Auto Dealerships
- Place an ad online

Business

- Local Business
- Business Briefs

Dare to 'awaken sleeping giant'

Positive attitudes bring positive changes By TERRY LUTZ

I just bought an old book on eBay titled "Success Through a Positive Mental Attitude." As I started to read it, I realized I read it almost 30 years ago!

The principles described in its 290 pages are as applicable today as they were when it was written in 1960.

The basic message in the book is that we all have a CHOICE about our attitude. Many times we cannot help what happens TO us, but we have a CHOICE about our ATTITUDE that determines how we react to it.

Our approach to life is a function of our CHOICE of attitude. We can CHOOSE to have a positive mental attitude or a negative one. Both are very powerful forces.

The book states, "A positive mental attitude has the power to attract the good and the beautiful. A negative mental attitude repels them. It is a negative mental attitude that robs you of all that makes life worth living."

It also states "Don't blame God for your lack of success; you can develop a burning desire to succeed."

A city is nothing more than a geographical boundary defined to set up a governing body to impact quality of life. The ATTITUDE of a city is determined by the people who are most involved.

I ask you: What is the attitude of Fort Dodge? How is our attitude perceived by the outside world? What are you doing to define our city's attitude?

To quote the book again, "a negative mental attitude is the catalyst which results in crime and evil — grief, disaster and tragedy are its reward. To achieve anything worthwhile in life, it is imperative you apply a positive mental attitude."

I believe most Fort Dodgers and residents of Webster County are striving for something different and better. We are not sure how to define it, but we certainly know we want to be better.

The planning process we are conducting called "Envision 2030" is the place to start. If you have not participated then please accept the outcome as defined by those who have — without complaint — or you can get involved. There is still time. We have an opportunity to chart a new course, and be better than we are today.

There are those that appear to think it is more productive to challenge those trying to make a positive difference than to get involved in finding positive solutions.

It is ironic that some, who proclaim they love this town the most, spend so little time making it better. If you do not think you have a responsibility to improve our

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community, then who do you think does? Do you think we deserve anything better?

The last chapter of the book is titled "Awaken The Sleeping Giant Within You." I suggest we write the next chapter for Fort Dodge to say, "Awaken The Sleeping Giant Within Our Community."

We can develop a burning desire for our region to succeed.

It seems simple ... if we want to make Fort Dodge better, we have no choice about the attitude needed from all of us.

Terry Lutz is mayor of Fort Dodge.