

# Village of Paw Paw

Larry Nielsen, Village Manager

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## “Notes From Larry”

**FROM: Larry Nielsen, Village Manager**

**Date: December 11, 2007**

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Thanks to the help of many volunteers, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting, Parade and Santa’s visit was a huge success. The cold didn’t dampen the spirit at the tree lighting as the High School Choir sang, the Rotary provided hot chocolate and warming barrels added to the fellowship. Two coloring contest winners got to throw the switch to light the community tree. The next day, scores of children took to the streets as part of the parade. 35 costumed characters handed out balloons along the route. Children in and out of the parade had a great time. Many families stayed to meet Santa after the parade. Santa says he really enjoys bringing Mrs. Claus to Paw Paw every year. Paw Paw is very lucky to have so many people willing to give of their time and talents to make Paw Paw family friendly. Thanks to all.

Waste Issue Lacks Support: Just over 20% of 1,128 surveys were returned with those responding split almost evenly on the idea of contracting for weekly trash and every-other-week recycling. The lack of comment from the other 80% seems to indicate there isn’t great interest in the idea or a compelling health or safety need for the idea. Therefore, the Village Council dropped the idea. Some Council Members expressed an interest in making sure the 1994 ordinance is enforced with regards to recycling. I thank those who took part in this discussion. Government works best when people participate - whether by attending meetings or responding to a survey.

Paw Paw’s Family of Family Owned Restaurants Grows. The Copper Grille Restaurant and Bakery will soon open. If you think about it, Paw Paw is very fortunate to have so many quality family restaurants. Nothing against fast food chain restaurants, but, few communities can lay claim to so many unique family owned eating establishments. Whether it is breakfast, lunch or dinner, you and your family and friends can find a unique and great meal in Paw Paw.

Village Considers Grant Opportunities. A special round of grant funds from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) caught the Village’s interest. The Village will look at a couple of projects that it would like to do if it had the funds. The deadline for this round is in early February 2008 so the Village will have to work fast if it is to complete a competitive application. Secondly, the Village continues to pursue ideas regarding a walkway or boardwalk from the Maple Island bridge all the way around to the dam on Power Point Drive. This project, or parts of it, would be wrapped into the MDOT’s planned work along M-40 and Maple Lake. Both opportunities are worth pursuing even if grant funds are limited and extremely competitive.

May this holiday season find you and yours in good company, good spirits and good health! Until next time, I’m Larry Nielsen, Village Manager.