

Village of Paw Paw

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“Notes From Larry”

FROM: Larry Nielsen, Village Manager

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Wet Basements Continue to Plague Many! If the heavy snowfall wasn't enough, the heavy and continuing rains certainly are. Residents who have never had wet basements before keep calling with water in their basements. We continue to test to see if the water has any chlorine, which would indicate a water line break. To date, no test has found chlorine. That means the water in basements is all ground water. Please remember, as you look for a solution to the water that may be in your basement, that it is not Okay to pump that water into your sanitary sewer lateral.

Busy Time in Village Beginning. It promises to be a busy spring, summer and fall in the Village with lots of annual events and some new events. Things will kick-off with the annual Spring Fling sponsored by the Retail Committee of the Greater Paw Paw Area Chamber of Commerce on May 15. This is followed by the Memorial Day parade and services on May 25. This annual event is sponsored by the local American Legion

Then we move into the annual Paw Paw Days June 17/18. The annual dance is on the 17th and the car show and crafters is on the 18th. A lot of effort goes into making this a must see event.

The DDA will sponsor nine (9) concerts on the lake on Sunday afternoons. The DDA will also sponsor eleven (11) Wednesday brown-bag 'Picnic in the Park' programs. These are held lunchtime in County Park. This is a new series of events this year. They feature a variety of music and other entertainment for the lunch crowd as well as for parents and their children. Bring your own brown-bag lunch, a blanket or a chair, and enjoy lunch time in Paw Paw. Local restaurants will be happy to make you something to go. So, if you don't want to pack your own lunch, call one of our great restaurants and have them prepare a brown bag for you.

There will be plenty of red this summer. The Paw Paw Fire Department is hosting the 134th annual conference of the Michigan State Firemen's Association. Hundreds of firefighters and their families are expected to be staying all over the area. On June 27th fire trucks and other fire apparatus, from all over the state, will parade through the Village. Firefighters will also walk the parade route. This promises to be a great day for pictures! Come out and show your support firefighters as they serve to protect every community across the state.

After that, July 31 there will be a large Drum Corps International marching performance at Falen Field. At least eight (8) Drum Corps will perform and march. The next day, Saturday August 1, four drum corps units will present their 'stand up' routines at the lake front amphitheatre. The stand-up showcase has been done the past few years and will remain the same. The groups performing stand-up showcases have developed a love for Paw Paw. Because of that, they wanted to do a full marching performance in town. This year they made the commitment to do so. Let's turn out for both drum corps presentations.

If that isn't enough, more follows.

The Village's Sesquicentennial Celebration (150th Birthday) has offerings throughout the month but features events the weekend of August 7, 8 and 9. Schedule and events are posted on the Village's website at www.pawpaw.net. Check it out. Spread the word and bring the whole family for a great weekend of fun. The Sesquicentennial Celebration will have a fireworks show over Maple Lake on Friday evening August 7th.

The summer's signature event, the annual Wine and Harvest Festival, is scheduled for September 11-13, 2009. Tens of thousands of people visit Paw Paw for the outstanding festival. There is something for the young and the old at the festival. Another great weekend for the whole family or you and your group of friends! Bring a camera. Send pictures and messages, text or twitter, to your friends and family. For the second time this year, the lake and night will explode in colors and sounds as fireworks are set for Friday September 11th. You and your family and friends have just got to be a part of this annual Festival!

Things quiet down for a few weeks and then the Greater Paw Paw Area Chamber of Commerce's Retail Committee returns with the annual Harvest Moon Extravaganza on October 9th.

You may think this event is the last for the year, but that is not the case. The annual Christmas in the Village program and events completes the annual list of events. Santa arrives for the parade and then returns at the Carnegie Center to meet your children or grandchildren.

While these events stretch Village resources, especially our Department of Public Services and Police Department, they offer an excellent opportunity for all Village residents and employees to show their pride in Paw Paw. They are a great opportunity to showcase the Village as a great place to live, work and play.

Information on all of these events are on the Village or Chamber website. Check out the Village's website at www.pawpaw.net. Check out the Chamber website at www.pawpawchamber.com.

Until Next time, I'm Larry Nielsen.