

Village of Paw Paw

111 East Michigan Avenue, PO Box 179; Paw Paw, MI 49079
Phone: 269-657-3148 // Fax: 269-657-7544
Website: <http://www.pawpaw.net> // Email: l.nielsen@pawpaw.net

“Notes From Larry”

FROM: Larry Nielsen, Village Manager

Date: November 2, 2009

Greetings! It is a pleasure and an honor to continue to work for the Village of Paw Paw. It has now been two years since I started. There have been some challenges along the way but I continue to look forward to coming to work each day. I thank each of you for helping make Paw Paw the best Village in Michigan! It was a very busy summer and the coming months are going to be no different.

Leaf Collection Under Way!

Wow, last year we were not able to get all the leaves up before an early snowfall covered them. This year, it seems they all fell at once. Our crews are working every day to get them vacuumed up. We have two trucks making rounds through the Village. Your help is required to make this go smoothly and efficiently. Please rake your leaves in long rows along the side of the road. Please do not mix branches and other items in with the leaves. These things damage the vacuum and the chopping blades and could cause equipment failure or downtime. Remember, if they are too far from the road, the vacuum attachment may not reach them. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Christmas in the Village: Great Events Scheduled for the Whole Family

You, your family and your friends won't want to miss the terrific events being planned for this year. These include - - -

Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 4 at 6:00 pm.

The lighting of the Community Christmas Tree at the Carnegie Center (129 S. Kalamazoo St.) marks the start of the holiday season in Paw Paw. That evening, retail businesses will be open for your shopping convenience. The Paw Paw High School Choir will be leading the singing of Christmas carols. Cookies and Hot Chocolate will be provided at no charge.

Children's Christmas Parade Saturday Dec. 5 at 10:00 a.m. through downtown Paw Paw and concluding at the Paw Paw public works building (114 Harry L. Bush Blvd.). Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in Paw Paw for the parade. The parade features floats, balloons, music and costumed characters. Enjoy a free family movie that day at the Strand movie theatre at either 11 am or 1 pm. After the parade, children can make holiday crafts at a site TBD downtown. Following the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet children at the public works building. While waiting for Santa, a magician will entertain all. A picture, cookies and hot chocolate are provided at no charge.

Santa at the Carnegie. Enjoy bringing your children to see Santa at the Carnegie. Your child can tell Santa their Christmas wishes. A picture, cookies and hot chocolate are provided at no charge. Dates and Times:

Saturday, Dec. 19 ~ from 10 am - 12 pm & 1 pm - 3 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 22 ~ from Noon - 3pm

Wednesday, Dec. 23 ~ from Noon - 3 pm

Thursday, Dec. 24 ~ from Noon - 3 pm

As of today, known sponsors for these events include: Children's Christmas Parade Committee, Downtown Development Authority, Bloomingdale Communications, Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Women's Service League, the Kiwanis Club, Coca Cola NA, Keystone Bank, Allegis Credit Union, Studio One, Dondi Squires State Farm, Lions Club, Hill's Pharmacy, The Strand Movie Theatre, Captured Memories, The Sugar Bear, Dance Zone, LeDuc Blueberries, Tonya L. Schuitmaker, Warner Supply and Hot Shotz Photography.

Village Budget Process for 2010-2011 Begins

The Village Council is beginning review of the next fiscal year budget for the period March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011. With reductions in State shared revenue and a dwindling fund balance (savings) in the General Fund, it will be necessary to trim about \$300,000 from the current budget. Just about everything is on the table for consideration.

Energy Optimization: Light Bulbs Going, Going...

It is possible our allotment of CFL bulbs to hand out will be gone by weeks end. Public Act 295 required electric providers to reduce electric kilowatt demand. One way, among many, we are trying to meet the target reduction is by encouraging people to use the CFL light bulbs because they use less energy and last longer. We had 500 bulbs to distribute. The first day they could be given to our customers was on Monday (Nov. 2) and it was busy with about 120 were given out. They are given out on a first come first served basis. All customers received the same notice in their October bill.

Master Plan Wrapping Up

The new Master Plan is wrapping up as the Planning Commission voted to send the final draft to the Village Council for their consideration. The Council's review is expected to take 30-90 days.

New Items on the Village Website

If you haven't been to the Village website – www.pawpaw.net – please visit soon. Several new reports, notices and information sheets have been added. Look through the list of pages on the left hand side and check out each page. Electric energy information can be found on the Public Services page. Information regarding tap and bottled water can also be found on the Public Services page. The recently completed sediment feasibility study is now on line under the Lake & River Info page. The latest draft of the Master Plan is on line under the Commissions page. The revised application for the DDA's grant and loan program is on line under the DDA – Keep it Local page. Check out the new community guide, a welcome booklet, available by looking at the General Info page. As always, the minutes of the Council meetings, the Planning Commission, the DDA and even these Notes From Larry are posted on the website under the Minutes and Newsletters page. Great information and a way for you to stay informed about the Village of Paw Paw.

Buying Local – the \$100 Example

It may not seem like a big deal, but it really is. Each time you buy local – whether you are buying goods or services – you are helping to support your own hometown. For every \$100 you spend to buy locally the local businesses give back as much as \$68 to their local economy. Each time you go out of town or on-line to buy goods or services returns nothing to your local economy! *(These numbers are from the Andersonville Study and others by the Civic Economics Group, www.civiceconomics.com.)*

With that \$100 you spent at local businesses, here's what you just did:

1. You nurtured your community
2. You created local jobs
3. You embraced what makes us unique
4. You kept dollars in our economy
5. You helped the environment

First, you helped those business owners and operators who help make your community a place worth living, working and playing. How so? These business owners and managers help every local school, church, youth and community group by their donations of cash, goods or in-kind services. Think of the Kids Paradise project in Paw Paw and all the business owners who helped make that a success. Think of the youth programs that depend on support from the local community. If you and your neighbors only shopped on-line or out-of-town, they could not afford to nurture the community.

Second, you help create jobs because local businesses employ local people. Many times this is where your kids get their first jobs.

Third, you helped your community retain its unique flavor. The mix of businesses helps define your hometown. Paw Paw is known for its wine tasting, restaurants, and a variety of service businesses that all contribute to make what Paw Paw is! Think this is not the case? What would Paw Paw be without businesses and their owners like the Strand, The Sugar Bear, Taylor's Florist, Sea Land and Air Travel... I could name many more.

Fourth, you kept dollars in your hometown. Studies indicate that the average dollars spent in a town, turns over (gets spent again) seven times before leaving the town. Why is this important? Because, what you spend on your policy from a local insurance agent or at the local hardware store, turns over as their payroll, which the employee turns over at a local auto body shop, which turns it over again at the local paper...and so on until it finally goes for something that takes it out of the town. Money you spend on-line goes directly out of the community. Same for every dollar you spend out of town.

Lastly, every time you buy goods or services locally you save fuel, gasoline or diesel. That helps the environment...and saves you money. It also allows you a little more time to enjoy your community.

Wow, all that for \$100. Yes, and from each local business you will also get a great big Thank YOU!

Until Next time, I'm Larry Nielsen.