

Paw Paw Illinois



Welcome...

To Paw Paw Illinois.

We're a small town located in Lee County. A town with a rich history and background. A town that has been named after the Paw Paw tree and the gateway to the Western Illinois. We are able to offer our citizens country life in a 21st century setting. We have our own elementary and high schools, police, fire protection, ambulance service and churches. We have a very active downtown where you can shop and dine in our stores and restaurants.

*Come and See Us, and You'll Agree...
Why Live Anywhere Else?*

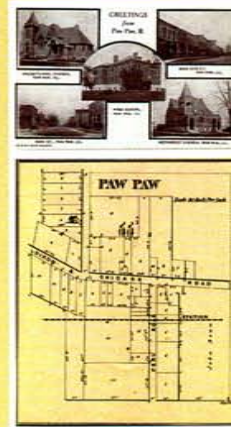
Paw Paw History

Before the new settlers moved into the area, the Potawatomi Indians with their leaders, Shabbona and Waubonsie, made their homes in and around the abundant Paw Paw Grove. Shabbona said, "It is a good place to live and raise children." And it's still true!

After the Indians had ceded their lands in Northwestern Illinois to the United States government in 1833, the first permanent settler arrived to build a cabin for his family. Soon cabins filled with young and old encircling the thick grove that included the famous Paw Paw tree, a fruit bearing shrub with long shiny leaves, which gave it a tropical appearance.

Traveling westward the pioneers followed the Chicago Road Trail, a main stagecoach route between Chicago, Dixon, and Galena. Many chose to stay by the Paw Paw grove to farm and establish their businesses, set up schools and churches. The early settlers found food supplies around the grove where they hunted wild game and gathered the nuts and berries to feed their growing families.

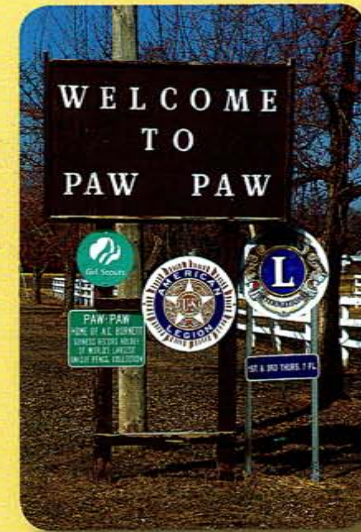
Growing into a thriving community, Paw Paw was officially incorporated in 1882 and was on the way to bigger and better things. Now, over 125 years later, although keeping current with the global community, the little village still reflects the basic values bestowed by those founding families.



Paw Paw Area Chamber of Commerce

The mission statement of the chamber is:
"To promote the potential opportunities for new businesses and strengthen existing businesses. Developing a strong unified group will provide the energy and plans to continue making the Paw Paw area a strong community."

- Projects
- Business information
- Retail promotions
- Referral information on what's happening in the community, church organizations, etc.
- Advertising and marketing
- Visitor information through brochures
- Promoting tourism



Paw Paw Area Chamber of Commerce

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