



# Village of Farwell

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[www.villageoffarwell.org](http://www.villageoffarwell.org)

November 13, 2013

Northern Transformation  
2389 S. M-76  
West Branch, MI 48662

Dear Promise Zone Committee:

On November 5, 2013, the Village of Farwell Council unanimously approved the addition of the Village of Farwell as a participating partner in the Promise Zone Initiative to give full support for the efforts of Northern Transformation. The Village of Farwell is ready to partner in a Promise Zone Initiative to lead us to opportunities that assist communities to address creating jobs, increasing economic activity, improving educational opportunities and reducing crime and poverty.

With a population of just less than 900 residents, the Village Council is committed to addressing the needs of our residents and promoting the strengths of the surrounding Farwell area and Clare County. Farwell Area Schools, Farwell Senior Center, Surrey Township Library, the Michigan State Police mini-post, Surrey Township Hall and Surrey Fire Department are all located in the village limits, which gives us a unique opportunity to collaborate on different projects to improve our community. With Farwell Area Schools, we have upgraded school streets and sidewalks collaboratively; the Safe Walks to School project in 2011 was a success due to the cooperative efforts of Farwell Schools, Surrey Township, Clare County, Clare County Road Commission, Clare County Sheriff Department, and the Village of Farwell. There are many other projects that have been collaboratively proposed but some have been met with financial difficulty, including the challenge of dealing with the poor state of two bridges in Farwell.

The efforts to address the needs of our community are ongoing. In 2000, in an effort to improve employment opportunities, the Village of Farwell constructed a 66 acres Certified Enterprise Park, which currently includes three businesses; these new businesses are in addition to three other manufacturing companies located in the village limits. We also work with Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC) and the cities of Harrison and Clare to attract businesses to our region. In the past couple of years, the Council has supported efforts to encourage parks and recreation and downtown development activities to help seek funding for projects to improve our community. With the newly formed Village of Farwell Parks and Recreation Committee, we are adopting a new Parks and Recreation Plan to update our parks. The Farwell Arts and Crafts Farm Market is another new project the Village of Farwell started in 2012 with the goal of expanding and becoming a destination to help provide locally grown food to area residents. We have also begun the process of creating a Downtown Development Authority, with the support of our local businesses, to generate activity and additional employment opportunities for our area.

The Village of Farwell recognizes the value that the Promise Zone Initiative designation can bring to help the people we serve with better health, education, employment, transportation and other opportunities.

Sincerely,

Steve Grim  
President, Village of Farwell  
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