

**Date:** December 19, 2007

**To:** Mayor and Council Members

**From:** John Archocosky

**RE:** Monthly Activity Report

During the past month several projects have been completed or have been shut down do the winter conditions. Probably the most significant achievement however, has been the demolition of the former Cloverland Hotel & Bar. Although there still remains some cleanup to do in the spring, the building is virtually gone. As you may recall, the most recent efforts to remove this blighted building began shortly after Consolidation. I would not venture a guess as to how many hundreds of man hours have been invested in this single project but needles to say, it has been worth it. This location now has potential as a new building site, a downtown park, or even a "green" parking lot. Once the project closeout has been completed plans for the lot can be considered.

The Holiday/Christmas In Lights Parade was once again a huge success. The individuals that planned and facilitated this event are to be commended for their efforts. It isn't easy to plan a parade under normal conditions, but to accomplish what they did in spite of a significant winter storm was quite amazing. The tree lighting program at the RV Park was a nice addition and the fireworks that followed were a great close out to the evening. Hopefully more people will join the "Community Concept" group so the workload can be shared by more than just the handful of merchants who worked so hard to organize this event.

This past week I traveled to Lansing to take part in the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Board's annual meeting. Although this event is usually well attended, a snow and ice storm in Lansing on meeting day kept many from showing up. It gave the few of us that attended a great chance to meet with President/CEO, James Epolito one on one. At the meeting, among other things, we reviewed the MEDC's 2007 accomplishments, outlined the 2008 tactical initiatives, and learned about the objectives for the Defense Contact and Coordination Center. Thus far, Michigan has not been among the leaders in supplying goods and services to this multi-billion dollar industry. A concerted effort is now being put forth to increase our relationship with the military. This will likely open up opportunities for new business start-ups and may have an impact on our own local economy. In response to my offer, Mr. Epolito has agreed to come to Iron River in February to see and better understand our needs.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to All.