

1. Main Street Notes

Happy New Year!!! This year will be the year of change in many ways for our Main Street/DDA District. I look forward to assisting the community through these changes, knowing that we will look back on the upcoming year with a great feeling of accomplishment.

The Clarecastle Senior Housing and Senior Center project is moving along on schedule. Already the project is looking great, and everyone is anticipating the wonderful new residents and visitors this will bring to our downtown.

It looks like in 2010...good things will continue to happen on Main Street!

2. Educational Opportunities

Although I was unable to attend the Quarterly Training for Main Street due to the weather conditions, I managed to obtain the information presented at this training. The topic of this training was Evaluating Events. The material sent to me is useful and will provide us new ideas and sound business practices to have successful events.

As always, I continue to learn everything that I can about being a great Main Street Manager for our community. If you have a tidbit of knowledge or experience that you believe would help us, please feel free to share it with me, I will gladly utilize the information to our benefit!

3. Community

Please remember that the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding their annual Business-to-Business Expo on February 25, 2010. I am the co-chair for this event, and the committee is planning another spectacular expo. The theme this year is Safari with the slogan being "Hunt for Success at the Business Expo". If you have any questions about the event please let me know, I'll be happy to help you. Come support our Chamber, Main Street businesses, and all of the businesses that will be representing booths. Also, please be sure to stop by the City's booth where we will be representing Main Street and the City of Clare.

I continue to assist the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce through committee work and as a Board member. Also, I continue helping as the Program Director, and now Board member, for the Clare Rotary Club. As a reminder, I have developed a presentation to help people learn more about our DDA/Main Street Program. Please let me know whether there is a group or organization that would like to hear this presentation, I would be happy to present our information to them.

4. Committees

The Promotion Committee is working on the 2010 work plans. Our next event will be the brand new Beat the Winter Blues Festival scheduled for February 12-13, 2010. This event promises to be super fun with Clare turning from green to blue for these two days!

Also, the committee is working on the Irish Golf Scavenger Hunt which will be held in conjunction with the Irish Festival March 10-14, 2010.

The Design committee continues to work on the National Register for Historic Places application. Ken Lingaur, our intern on this project, is making steady progress in his efforts to complete the application to have our Main Street District listed on the National register for Historic Places, and is excited to be able to tell "the story of downtown Clare" for this purpose.

The Organization Committee meets this week to finalize the 2010 work plans as well as to work on the next edition of our Main Street newsletter, Street Talk. They are glad to be able to provide this piece and help other organizations share their information through this communication tool. We always have lots of positive feedback about this piece and it is an excellent way to stay in touch with our downtown property owners and members of the community.

In addition, the committee will soon begin plans for Clare Pride Day. This award-winning project is exciting to work on, and the committee can't wait to begin!

The Economic Restructuring Committee will begin developing their 2010 work plans. Included in these is a plan to continue monitoring the Rental Rehab Program. A progress report will be presented when more activity takes place with this project.

Thank you for your dedication to our community and your support of our Main Street program. If I can assist you in any way please let me know.

Lori Schuh
Main Street Manager