



Monthly Director's Report, January 12, 2010

Parks and Recreation Director, AmandaGrace H. Green

Past Events

Christmas events during the holiday season included the ever popular **North Pole Calling**, when a celebrity from the North Pole (Santa, Mrs. Claus, or an elf) called area little ones to chat with them for a few moments about life at the North Pole and getting ready for Christmas.

Additionally, **Santa's Mailbox**, located in the front entrance of City Hall, provided a direct mailing service between residence of the Clare area and Santa Clause himself. Letters dropped in the box before December 21st were sure to receive a response back from jolly old Saint Nick.

The Recreation Department rounded out the 2009 calendar year with the **Teen's New Year's Eve Games Challenge**, which featured numerous games for teen ages 13-18 years old to participate in on New Year's Eve. Every half-hour we hosted new tournaments for euchre, checkers, scrabble, cribbage, pictureka, and other games the participants had not played in a while. We played a ton of games, and participants were able to keep track of their top scores and compete for trophies!

Current Events

The **ice rink** at Shamrock Park has been assembled and, with Mother Nature's assistance, the ground has frozen and the temperatures have stay cold enough to form ice inside the rink. The ice rink has been open since the holidays, and, as evidenced by the many skate marks, has been frequently used by the community. The ice rink will now remain open for as long as weather allows.

Work has been underway for several months now on the **City of Clare Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2010-2014**. Collaboration on this project is being done with students from the Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services department of Central Michigan University. Dr. Al Ellard joined the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the June 2009 meeting in order to assist in identifying goals for the updated plan. The updated plan will provide a guide for parks and recreation in the City of Clare for the 2010 to 2014 time period, fill an eligibility requirement for the City of apply for grants from the DNR, and provide current CMU students with valuable real world experience. The draft of the Master Plan was recently supported by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and a final document is expected to go to the City Commission in February and then be filed with the DNR.

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Based on the present park and recreation master plan, and the one currently being finalized, extensive improvements to **Pettit Park Campground** are desired. Some of the desired improvements include water hookups at each electrical site, pavement of the roadway throughout the park, and extension of the current bathroom facility to include two unisex shower stall and a maintenance room. Engineering design proposals have been received from approved firms, and were put on the Monday, December 21, 2010 City Commission's agenda. Lapham Associates was awarded the project for a sum not to exceed \$2,200.

With the start of the New Year has come the rebirth of the **Weekly Teen Group** at the Library, in which teens ages 13-18 years old are invited each Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30 pm to the Library to spend time playing games, socializing, and helping to plan other events for teens in the community.

Future Events

Additionally, Park and Recreation is looking to continue joint programming with the Pere Marquette District Library and utilize their facilities for the possibility of **Cards and Coffee for Seniors**, indoor **Shuffleboard leagues**, and potential **ballroom dancing lessons**.

In addition to programming events, several visitors have recently stopped into the Recreation Office and inquired about the possibility of various entities joining forces to establish a **Community Center** in the Clare Area. For the purpose of exploring this topic further with interested parties, an initial brain storming meeting is tentatively being planned for this winter following the conclusion of the holiday season.