

1. Main Street Notes

The Clarecastle Senior Housing and Senior Center project continues to move 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.

We are thrilled with the participation of area businesses and organizations in the Beat the Winter Blues Festival, our newest Main Street event! This is exactly the type of collaboration that will help our community prosper.

2. Educational Opportunities

Ken and I will be attending a Timebanking Webinar on February 19, 2010. This concept has been around for several years and we are happy to learn more about how this could help our community.

I plan to attend the MACVB Board /Travel Commission meetings February 24, 2010 to stay informed about tourism related issues.

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 continuing their marvelous work on 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! Stores are offering Blue Tag Specials, restaurants are promoting Blue Plate Specials, some businesses are planning Beat the Blues Music, and many stores and organizations are planning children's activities! A flyer is being produced to detail all of these activities.

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 has had their first 2010 meeting and truly has started "organizing" for the new year. Projects they are currently working on are Clare Main Street's newsletter, Street Talk. This is an action-packed publication which they hope to produce about 5 more times this year.

In addition, the committee has met with the Clare Pride Day Committee. Plans are underway for this super cool event that will take place on April 22, 2010 which is Earth Day again this year. This award-winning project is exciting to work on, and the committee can't wait to begin!

The committee has been receiving discrete inquiries as to what their "art" project will be for this year. After much discussion they have decided as a committee to discontinue that activity. They have had a lot of fun with over the past three years and so appreciate all the involvement that they have had from our businesses. As most of you know we have a wonderful Arts Council in our community that has become very active and the committee gladly recognize their expertise and wish to support their activities 100%! They will secede future artistic endeavors to them and channel their efforts into new activities.

With that said, they are looking at several new ideas for our committee and community so we would ask our volunteers and Main Street family to stay tuned. They have a few ideas up their sleeve but welcome any ideas or suggestions anyone has. They are always looking for new committee members and volunteers and will welcome both with open arms.

The Economic Restructuring Committee is continuing to 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