



## Monthly Director's Report, February 9, 2010

**Parks and Recreation Director, AmandaGrace H. Green**

### 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 is currently open for public review and comment. A final document is expected to go to the City Commission in March and then be filed with the DNR.

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. A bid for engineering design plans has been accepted by the City Commission for the project, with design plans being completed around the middle of February.

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. Currently, the group averages 10-15 members a week, with attendance varying each week to include new teens.

### 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 a new **movie series** this summer. Plans will being momentarily for the upcoming **Summer Concert Series** this summer.

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.