



Monthly Director's Report, March 8, 2010

Parks and Recreation Director, AmandaGrace H. Green

Current Events

The **ice rink** at Shamrock Park has had a wonderful season, with extensive use from the public over the winter months. Unfortunately, winter is coming to an end, and our ice rink is slowly starting to melt at the south end.

Work has been underway for several months now on the **City of Clare Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2010-2014**. 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. The plan went to the City Commission and received approval during the first week of March. The plan will now be filed with the MDNRE in order to enable the City to be eligible for grants.

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 March and subsequently being put out for bid.

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.

The annual **Business Expo** was held at the Doherty Hotel on February 25, 2010. The City once again displayed a booth at the expo which provided information and initial guidance to residents and area guests. Initial brainstorming plans are underway for the 2011 Business Expo, which will provide a "Movie" theme.

Planning for the **Clare Irish Festival** has been completed, and the 2010 fun and festivities will begin this week. Parks and Recreation is once again putting on a **Kids Fun Run** for the 2010 festival in correlation with the existing 5K/10K for teens and adult participants. The first 75 kids

March 8, 2010

to sign in for this free kids fun run will receive a free t-shirt, and all participants will receive a ribbon.

Future Events

Junior Fire Fighters Academy is coming back once again this year to allow the area youth a “HOT” event to participate in during spring break. Participants will learn fire safety and prevention through hands-on activities and informative discussions. Volunteers from the Clare Fire Department will assist children as they try out lots of fire equipment. The fee for the academy is \$10.00 a person, and includes an award certificate, t-shirt, and lunch.

While the warm weather might be putting a damper on the Shamrock Park Ice Rink, it is clearing the way for Easter! Unfortunately this year our pilot for the Great EGGstravaganza is not available to fly for us, so we are looking to plan a traditional **Egg Hunt on McIreland Trails** kids. Teens will also be able to have a great time this Easter with their own **Glow-In-the-Dark Easter Egg Hunt** during the evening hours of March 30th.

Clare Pride Day is once again around the corner as a collaboration between school and community to show appreciation for the local businesses and residents who show so much support to the community throughout the year. Clare Pride Day is scheduled for April 22, 2010, and 420+ high school students are anticipated for participation in being a volunteer work force for the event to spruce up the Clare community. Local businesses are being asked to fill out Service Order sheets to let the committee know what tasks are available to have volunteers participate in completing.

With last year's extension of Rail Trail into downtown Clare to the PMDL, comes the need for additional signage and information along the trail for visitors. As a result of this need, a double sided **message center** will be located at the trail head with an area map on one side and plenty of space for advertising area events and activities on the back. The lower portion of the sign will be a brochure rack for pamphlet handouts.

Additional programs on the horizon include **National Night Out (Passport to Safety)**, **Summer Concert Series**, and **Senior Events**.