

1. Main Street Notes

After much planning by the owners, the Spice Shoppe is now open! They are located next to the Ideal Theatre and offer spices and other wonderful items. Please take a minute to stop in and welcome them to our downtown.

Also, Bella Home Care is open next to Subway downtown. They offer a variety of in-home Senior services. Please stop in and say hi to this wonderful service business.

Good things are happening on Main Street!

2. Educational Opportunities

I was invited to be a panelist at a session during the Michigan Conference on Affordable Housing, April 26-28, 2010 at the Lansing Center. This is a great opportunity to showcase our wonderful city to hundreds of conference attendees.

The National Main Street Conference is scheduled for May 2-5, 2010 in Oklahoma City, OK. I plan to attend this important conference to learn more about helping Clare be a great Main Street community

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

Clare Safety & Crime Prevention Day and National Night will be held on August 12, 2010 from 6-9 pm. The Neighborhood Watch coordinator, Bob Andreotti, Clare Parks & Recreation, Clare Main Street, and the Clare Police Department are spear-heading this event. This is an opportunity to meet in a block-party atmosphere, with kid's carnival games, music, and lots of fun activities. Also, area law enforcement, rescue units, fire-departments, and other agencies will have informational displays at the event.

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 has gained some new members and they are excitedly planning more events and promotions to enhance our Main Street and the Clare community. The next event will be our Main Street Car & Bike Show, along with the Street Faire & Side Walks Sales. Both events will be held July 17, 2010. Also in the works is the Sales on Sidewalks and Car & Bike Show event. In addition the committee is working on the Old 27 Motor Tour Overnight stop, and they are developing ideas for a new event in the fall.

The committee is also working with Parks & Rec. on the Summer Concert Series. The concerts will run Thursday evenings from 6-8 pm in June and July. We are currently looking for sponsors and talent to fill the itinerary. It won't be long until we once again have our Thursday night concerts back!

The Design committee continues to work on the National Register for Historic Places application. Our intern, Ken Lingaur, is making good progress on the "story of downtown Clare". Also the committee is pleased to announce that the new bicycle racks have been placed downtown. These were produced by JD Metal Works (a local business) for downtown.

The Organization Committee is working on the May/June edition of our Main Street newsletter, Street Talk. This publication is distributed throughout the Main Street District, to our public officials, and will be available at City Hall and the Chamber office.

In addition, the committee is pleased to announce that our Clare Pride Day, "Community & School Working Together" was a complete success again this year!!! We had a great day working with the students from the Clare High School, and believe they had an equally great day judging by the smiles on their faces. There were approximately 425 students performing all sorts of tasks throughout the community and we were treated to a musical performance by the Clare High School Jazz Band.

The committee is also working on some fund-raising ideas for 2010. Several really fun projects have been suggested and they welcome any new ideas. 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. They also have several ideas for 2010 and will report on these plans when they are finalized.

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