



Monthly Director's Report, July 13, 2010

Parks and Recreation Director, AmandaGrace H. Green

Past Events

Water Camp was held on June 16th and 17th with a the maximum number of participants quickly reaching the designated amount of 30. Over the course of two afternoons, participants learned about the value of water as an essential resource, as a home for animals, and how to keep it clean. Participants also were able to have a bit of fun during the camp with a nature hunt and of course lots of water balloons. This program was funded in conjunction with a wellhead protection grant received from the DNRE by our Water and Waste Water department.

A new **Nature Center Program** was on July 6th in partnership with the local libraries, which taught about the Great Lakes, the ships used to sail the lakes, and the materials gathered on the huge boats. Despite the exceedingly hot afternoon, participants were excited to be able to hear and see such a great interactive display of Great Lakes information.

Summer Soccer Camp was held on June 21-24, with a participant base of about 30 kids. This camp was once again held in conjunction with the Clare Varsity Soccer program, and proved to be a great success.

Passport to Safety in conjunction with Summerfest, was held on Friday, July 2nd. Unfortunately, the decision to hold the bike safety event during Summerfest was not our first choice, but due to difficulties with the original scheduled date, it seemed a fair alternative. Due to the multitude of other activities going on, we did not receive the amount of bicycles physically attending the event, but we did educate a number of folk on the importance of wearing bike helmets, fire safety, and first aid. We anticipate holding this event back at its normal time in May in future years.

Current Events

Early **Soccer Registration** began in mid-May and is currently underway. Last year's soccer season brought in a total of 349 participants, the largest group ever for this youth program. Currently, a total of 214 participants are signed up to date, with registration going now through August 6 2010.

Summer Concert Series is underway is once again running every Thursday evenings in the months of June and July. This year's nine week season is filled with a continuous mix of music such as folk, bluegrass, country, rock, polka, celtic, and much more.

Summer Parks Program kicked off this past Monday, and is offering youth ages 5-12 a variety of activities from sport, arts and crafts, group activities, and a variety of other programs to fill the summer months. This program is a ten week program running now through August 27th, with two intermittent weeks off for soccer camp and the county fair. This year's attendance is unfortunately down from last year, so additional marketing methods are being looked into to increase participant rates and continue a successful program. Teens in the community can apply for the **Counselor in Training (CIT)** program in conjunction with the Summer Parks Program, as a way of gaining leadership skills.

Ballroom Dancing and Line Dancing Lessons is a new program being held Tuesday evenings at the Shamrock Park large pavilion for ages 10 years old to seniors. Dance instructors are able to work with variable age and skill levels to ensure an enjoyable and rewarding session. Participants are encouraged to attend the whole program to get the most out of their dancing experience, but participants are also welcome to drop in on class for specific dates if that meets their schedules better.

Moms on the Move is a ladies walking group being held each Tuesday June 1st to August 17th. Participation has generally been low on this program for the past few years, with usually only 2-5 ladies attending on any given week. Therefore, a rebranding campaign is being developed in order to hopefully rejuvenate participation in this free program.

Based on the past and present parks and recreation master plan, 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. Design plans for the shower facility were completed and the project has gone through the review and approval process. The project bid deadline also recently passed on June 11, 2010, and the Notice to Proceed on the approved bid is anticipated to be presented to City Commission in July.

Seniors **Cards and Coffee** kicked off on Wednesday, May 5, 2010, with an attendance of 11 people, with attending commenting that they are going to be telling their friends about the group! Cards and Coffee is being held each Wednesday at the Pere Marquette District Library from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. This event is a free and fun way for seniors and older adults to get together with peers in the community to socialize and enjoy playing games such as euchre, cribbage, and other favorites.

Future Events

Many programs are still on the line up for the summer season, with something to hopefully energize everyone in the community. The **Car and Bike Show** and the **Kids Cardboard Car Show** are being held on July 17th. Community **Kickball Day** in conjunction with MMI has been rescheduled to August 19th, and the **Old 27 Motor Tour** in August.

Other Projects

The City of Clare Parks and Recreation Department has enjoyed a tremendous working relationship with faculty, staff, and students in the recreation program at CMU. The facility

design class being held this spring has eagerly offered to assist the City of Clare with layout proposals for an additional **Softball Field at Brookwood**. While the project in its entirety would likely be done in various phases across multiple fiscal years, the project proposal would include the addition of a new field on the recently purchased property north of the existing Brookwood Field, necessary parking to accommodate both fields, and a permanent bathroom facility. CMU students presented three initial options to Director Amanda Green, of which will momentarily be shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and School Board for review and discussion. Additionally, Green has been in touch with the Saginaw Bay Region's DNRE office to obtain information on the properties of proposed softball diamond site and to get a determination whether or not the property is officially classified as "wetlands" and the resulting implications of that potential status. This review will be further looked into in late summer once the spring/early summer rains have a chance to dry up from the ground.

The desire for an **Indoor Shuffleboard League** at the Library is still being actively pursued. Unfortunately the paint previously tried was found unsuccessful, as it easily scrapped off the sealed floor. The local paint store suggested trying epoxy paint as our next step. Additionally, a grant opportunity is currently being pursued that could likely support the purchase of a movable shuffleboard court.

A committee has recently been formed to focus on the **Restoration of the Clare Depot**. Currently the committee is in the stage of initial discussions on what the goals for the restored depot would be. These preliminary goals include the depot serving as a permanent trail head for the Pere Marquette Rail Trail in Clare, offer public bathrooms, be a hub for the Chamber of Commerce to operate their office out of, have meeting rooms, be a potential location for the Clare Arts Council and Main Street, and have potential incorporation of future snowmobile staging areas, passenger trail loading and off loading, and farmers market facilities.

The final components of the **rail-trail** are being put into place this spring, including plantings and signage. A new "message center" with brochure rack has been ordered and will be placed at the current trail head outside the library with a City map to assist trail users and visitors in Clare. The map has also been produced in a smaller brochure size that highlights the trail, other Clare parks, and camping at Pettit Park.