

1. Main Street Notes

The Grand Opening of Clare Castle took place July 15th – and what a wonderful addition to our downtown it is! The facility is top notch from the cornerstone brick outside the front door, to the special touches like attractive wall sconces and a stone fireplace. The staff is friendly and helpful, even going out of their way to help accommodate us when we closed the street for our Car & Bike Show. Already the impact of the residents there is being felt by our businesses. In addition, the Senior Center is now open and we enjoy having the daily visitors to this site. We look forward to having the complex completely full in the near future. Clare Castle and the Senior Center plan to hold a public Open House on August 4th to allow everyone the opportunity to tour the facility before it is completely full.

Good things are happening on Main Street, all four committee for Main Street have wonderful plans underway, and new events are being planned for fall. Stay tuned for more news.

2. Educational Opportunities

The Michigan Downtown Conference is in September. This conference is full of great sessions and networking opportunities to assist us in making our wonderful Main Street even better!

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

On August 12th the PMDL is hosting a Touch a Truck event at the City Park. The children's librarian, Rachael Brownlee, is putting together a wonderful program for all ages. Please plan to attend the event which is being held from 4-7pm that day.

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 Main Street Clare Car & Bike Show, S.O.S.-Sales on Sidewalks, and Street Faire Craft Show weekend produced by the Promotions committee was a big success. Many positive comments were received about these events and there are plans for a bigger and better event for next year!

The Promotion Committee is currently working on their next big event which will be the Old 27 Motor Tour Overnight Event that is scheduled for August 26th this year. We plan to have a band, local food, and plenty of fun at this awesome event! The event is from 6-8 pm and takes place in the Fifth Street Municipal Parking Lot and on the lawn near the Herrick House.

The committee is also beginning work on the Main Street Spook-Tacular –“*Something to Howl About*” event that is scheduled for October 23rd. The plan is to have this be our Annual Fall Festival event with plans in place to add more activity throughout the community.

The Design committee continues to work on the National Register for Historic Places application. Our intern, Ken Lingaur, provides weekly updates and he is making significant progress on this important project. In addition, the committee is in the process of distributing the new informational brochure for our Downtown Design Standards.

Also, the committee has received very positive feedback about the new bicycle racks downtown. A few of them will be relocated downtown to accommodate the bicyclists' needs. Kudos to our local company, JD Metal Works, for producing these wonderfully durable, very appealing bike racks for our enjoyment!

The Organization Committee is working on an August/September 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.

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 pleased to announce that the first of our Rental Rehab projects is making great progress! Work is going well on a three bedroom apartment project at 202 N. McEwan St.

Also, the committee has 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