

City of **Clare** Parks and Recreation

Monthly Director's Report, August 12, 2009

Parks and Recreation Director, AmandaGrace H. Green

Past Events

Summer Concert Series was a 9 week series running each Thursday in June and July. This year's music selections included country, gospel, rock and roll, folk, Celtic, and bluegrass music, with each concert having roughly 100-400 attendees. The weather provided a few questionable days, but for the majority of the concerts we were lucky to have Mother Nature working on our side. A crowd pleaser for the event was the annual Clare Super Star competition, which packed City Park with about 400 attendees. Overall, this year's concerts were attended by about 1,500 people from the community and surrounding areas.

The **Main Street Car and Bike Show** was held on Saturday, July 18, 2009 on Fourth Street. The weather provided a cool day with light showers, but the show still had about 75 cars registered and displayed in the event. New this year, as part of the fun and festivities was a **Kids Cardboard Car Show**. Kids of all ages joined to join in the fun of designing and creating their own car out of cardboard, paint, and duct tape. Views choice awards, sponsored by McDonalds of Clare, were awarded to cars receiving the most votes.

As a collaborative effort between the City of Clare Parks & Recreation and the Clare County Master Gardener Volunteer Program, a **Youth Gardening Day** was held on Saturday, July 25, 2009 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at Shamrock Park in Clare for children ages 5-9. Hands on activities and fun learning experiences were provided in four specific areas dealing with plants and how they grow. Each child who was present for the entire 9:00 -11:00 time frame was able to participate in the four different twenty minute learning sessions which were Plant Science, Seeds, Soil, and Insects. Unfortunately, heavy rains resulted in low attendance this year.

Current Events

Current work is underway for the initial stages of development and revision of the **City of Clare Parks and Recreation Master Plan**. 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

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with valuable real world experience. The draft of the Master Plan will be presented to the City of Clare for review, editing, and adoption in the coming months.

Moms on the Move walking program began on June 2, 2009, at Shamrock Park with an attendance of 5 participants from the community and surrounding areas. This program, designed to get ladies out and walking and talking features a one hour walk each week throughout the community of Clare. Since the start of the program this year, we have had a total of 9 ladies join us for the walks.

The **Summer Parks Program** kicked off Monday, June 8, 2009, at the new Clare Middle School gym. Staff for this year's program is made up of three dynamite teenagers from the community. Recreation Site Leader is Lindsay Gabriel, a 2009 graduate from Clare High School who is planning on attending MMCC in the fall. Recreation Leaders this year are Rachel Ohler, an incoming junior, and Adam Robinson, an incoming senior, both at Clare High School. Attendance for the program will vary week to week and day by day. On average, about 14 participants attend on any given day.

The City of Clare Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce that they are once again selling **Discounted Amusement Park** tickets at Clare City Hall for Cedar Point and Michigan's Adventure. Cedar Point tickets are \$36.25 for adults and \$18.00 for children under 48" while wearing shoes. Michigan's Adventure tickets are \$24.00 for adults and children 3 years of age and older. Tickets are on sale in the Clerk's Office at City Hall Monday through Friday, now through August 28th. Sales have been so good on Cedar Point tickets so far this year that a second bundle of tickets has already had to be requested.

After much encouragement by community members, we are pleased to report that the **Clare Farm & Arts Market** opened on July 18, 2009. Each weekend, the market provides a setting for vendors to sell product, home grown items, and crafts from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon in downtown Clare in the DDA lot at 122 East Fourth Street, across from the Pere Marquette District Library, until October 31, 2009. Interested vendors can contact City of Clare Parks and Recreation for application materials

Future Events

Clare Youth Fall Soccer Registration just finished at City Hall. Last year the league hosted play for over 300 participants from the community and surrounding areas. This year's league is breaking the previous record with 339 participants! Soccer teams have just been designated this week and provided to volunteer coaches. Practices will start as early as the end of this week or next week, with games running on Saturdays from September 12 to October 17, 2009.

Planning for the Clare Main Street **Spook-tacular** event will begin soon, with the date of the event being scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2009.