

1. Main Street Notes

Main Street has been buzzing with activity throughout the month of August! Not only are our newest businesses doing well, many of our current businesses are in the process of improving their buildings, adding product lines, and maintaining the wonderful spirit of our downtown. Also, several of our dining establishments have expanded their seating to include outdoor seating. Having people take advantage of these options is truly a wonderful sight...good things are happening on Main Street!

Michigan Main Street will be at our Board meeting on October 2nd for our annual evaluation. We are looking forward to their feedback about our program and value the advice they provide to help make our program the best it can be.

2. Educational Opportunities

I will be attending the Michigan Downtown Conference September 15-16 to learn more about helping to make our Main Street better. Our Organization Committee was the recipient of a State-level award and the award ceremony will be held the morning of the 16th during this conference.

On September 29th I plan to attend the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Workshop with Jim and Ken. This will be a great opportunity to improve my knowledge of Brownfield redevelopment.

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

The Rail-Trails project to downtown Clare is nearing completion. We plan to have a great time kicking off the official opening of the trail. Please remember to attend the Grand Opening Ceremony scheduled for September 19th at 10:00 am.

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 Historic Old 27 Motor Tour overnight stop in Clare was big success. The event took place August 20th in the 5th Street Parking Lot. In all there were 192 cars at the event and the participants reported having a great time in Clare.

The committee is working with the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce on the Fall Fashion Show which will take place on September 28th at the Ideal Theatre.

In addition, the committee is planning the Main Street Spook-Tacular™™ *Something to Howl About*™. The event will take place on October 24th this year with fun activities taking place such as: pumpkin painting, trunk-or-treat, kids costume parade, pumpkin recipe contest, skeleton search, hayrides, and more! Plan to bring you little boos and ghouls to this super cool event.

The Organization committee is busy working on the final details of this summer's Art event – "Clare Steps Up!". The art will be placed in front of the Doherty Hotel on September 10th with the auction taking place at 7 pm on September 16th. Please plan to attend to bid on your favorite ladder.

The committee is also finalizing Street Talk, the Clare Main Street newsletter. Copies will be distributed when they are complete.

The Design committee has been busy with work on the National Register for Historic Places application. Our intern, Ken Lingaur, is making steady progress in being able to relate "the story of downtown Clare" for this purpose.

To City Commission

In addition, the committee has selected new bike racks for downtown in anticipation of the Rail Trail completion. These will be placed in strategic locations to allow convenient bicycle parking.

The Economic Restructuring committee continues to monitor the Rental Rehab program. A progress report will be presented when the activity begins with this project.

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