



Monthly Director's Report, September 13, 2011

Parks and Recreation Director, Amanda Holey Green

Past Events

Summer Parks Program wrapped up its and final phase for the 2011 summer season on August 26. This six week program was offered 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 was a six week program ran July 11th through August 26th, with an intermittent week off for the county fair. This year's attendance was unfortunately down from last year, so additional marketing methods were done to increase participant rates and continue a successful program. Teens in the community were able to apply for the **Counselor in Training (CIT)** program in conjunction with the Summer Parks Program, as a way of gaining leadership skills.

Clare Walking Group was a walking group being held each Monday and Wednesday June 1st to August 17th. Participation has generally been low on this program during the last few years, with usually only 2-5 participants attending on any given week. Therefore, a rebranding campaign is being looked at for future years to hopefully rejuvenate participation in this free program.

This year's **Old 27 Motor Tour** was held on Thursday, August 25th in the Fourth Street Parking Lot. This year's event featured a staggering number of cars for display during their overnight stop in Clare on their way from Coldwater to Cheboygan. The evening also featured local food and displays from nearby businesses and live music by the Night Shift band, and the evening was accompanied by the first annual Brew Fest that Clare Main Street and the Rotary Club put on.

The indoor **Shuffleboard League**, held in the lower level of the Pere Marquette District Library, wrapped up on September 7th. The league was created as a way for seniors and others in the community interested in shuffleboard to have an opportunity to play and meet other sport enthusiasts in the area, all in the comfort of a climate controlled environment. The league ran on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 pm from July 20th to September 7th, and the cost was just \$5.00 per participant. We will be looking to potentially hold another league this winter while outdoor shuffleboard courts are closed due to the weather.

The **discount Amusement Park Ticket program** was a roaring success again this year, with high sales of both Michigan's Adventure and Cedar Point tickets. This program is run in conjunction with the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, and provides a way for our residents and visitors to purchase admission tickets to the parks for a much lower price than they would at the gate. Tickets were on sale from Monday, May 23rd through Friday, September 2st.

This year we ordered 80 Michigan Adventure tickets and 30 Cedar Point tickets, and we ran out of Michigan's Adventure tickets the final week and ended the sales with only two Cedar Point tickets left. Tickets were on sale in the Clerk's Office at City Hall Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Current Events

Fall Youth Soccer Season, unquestionably one of the largest programs run by Clare Parks and Recreation will be starting soon! Early **Soccer Registration** began in mid-May and just finished up. This year's participation rate is at 357 youth from Clare and the surrounding communities for the fall 2011 season, resulting in 32 teams from Pre-K to 8th grades. Games started on September 10th and run through October 15th.

Seniors **Cards and Coffee** is still going strong, with an average attendance of 11 people, with those 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

Future events coming up include the annual Main Street Spooktacular kid's event, which will be held on Saturday, October 22 (weather permitting) in conjunction with the second annual Clare Fall Donut Festival.

Other Events

The City is also still on the search for where and how an additional adult softball field could be constructed, as well as possible locations for a future soccer complex.