

City of **Clare** Parks and Recreation

Monthly Director's Report, September 15, 2009

Parks and Recreation Director, AmandaGrace H. Green

Past Events

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 12 individuals join us for the walks on Tuesday nights throughout the summer.

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, with a total of 33 coming on various days of the program.

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 were so good on Cedar Point tickets this summer that we had to order a second batch of tickets. Our total revenue for the program is just over double what it was for the 2008 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 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.

September 15, 2009

Clare Youth Fall Soccer League is underway and proving to be a huge success this year. 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 349 participants! Team practices started as early as the middle of August, with games running on Saturdays from September 12 to October 17, 2009.

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. Vendor attendance thus far has been slow, with one to two interested vendors per week. Interested vendors can contact City of Clare Parks and Recreation for application materials.

Future Events

Planning for the Clare Main Street **Spook-tacular** event are underway and the full details on time and event activities will be coming soon, with the date of the event being scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2009.

The long awaited extension of the **Pere Marquette Rail Trail is finishing up and a formal ribbon cutting ceremony** is being held on Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 10:00 am outside the Library on Fourth Street. Over 200 individuals who have helped make the project a reality have been invited, as well as an open event invitation to the community as a whole.

A birthday celebration and clean-up event is being planned on Sunday, October 4, 2009 in support of the **Imagination Gateway Playground** at Brookwood Park. The event will be a potluck lunch and a chance for members of the community who helped build the playground to come back and assist in the upkeep of spreading new mulch, removing graffiti, and applying fresh paint where needed.