

To City Commission

1. Main Street Notes

The positive changes happening on Clare Main Street have made a big difference for our downtown. We have new businesses that have opened, and more that will open in the near future. Also, several of our area groups are choosing to plan some of their activities downtown, keeping the atmosphere vibrant...good things are happening on Main Street!

Michigan Main Street was 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.

I will be out of my office on vacation beginning at noon on October 2 and returning on October 12th.

2. Educational Opportunities

The Michigan Downtown Conference held September 15-16 was a great opportunity to learn more about helping to make our Main Street better, as well as networking with other people in downtown development. We are so proud that our Organization Committee and coffee Talk were recipients of State-level awards at this conference!!

On September 29th I attended the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Workshop with Jim and Ken. This was a great opportunity to improve my knowledge of Brownfield redevelopment and assistance available to us through this tool.

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 Grand Opening Ceremony held September 19th was great fun. Many people turned out to enjoy the beautiful day and celebrate the official opening of the extension into downtown.

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 Promotion committee has been working with the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce on the Fall Fashion Show which will take place on September 28th at the Ideal Theatre. The show was well-attended and everyone had a fun time. The committee is already working on details for next year's event.

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 ghoulies to this super cool event.

The committee is also working with the Christmas Open House committee again this year. The event is being planned for November 29th and promises to be a fun time.

The Organization committee is pleased with the results of this summer's Art event – "Clare Steps Up!". The art was a big hit, with many very creative pieces exhibited. The auction was successful, and plans are underway for next year's art project.

The committee distributed Street Talk, the Clare Main Street newsletter during the first week in September. We have lots of positive feedback about this piece and it is an excellent way to stay in touch with our downtown property owners and members of the community.

The Design committee continues to work on the National Register for Historic Places application. Our intern, Ken Lingaur, is making steady progress and is excited to be able to tell "the story of downtown Clare" for this purpose.

In addition, the committee has selected new bike racks for downtown in anticipation of the Rail Trail completion. A local business, JD MetalWorks will be producing the racks and 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