

The logo for the City of Clare Parks and Recreation. It features the words "City of" in a small, light green font above the word "Clare" in a large, bold, green script font. Below "Clare" are the words "Parks and Recreation" in a black, serif font.

# City of Clare Parks and Recreation

## Monthly Director's Report, December 16, 2009

**Parks and Recreation Director, AmandaGrace H. Green**

### Past Events

This year's **Christmas Open House** was held Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Rain and cold temperatures flurried throughout the day, but overall, the turnout was tremendous, with an estimated 400 people coming out for the event. Attractions this year included Santa's arrival at the park via fire truck, visits with Santa throughout the day, a live display of reindeer, carriage rides, and the tree decorating contest. This year's contest winners were as follows: Clare Hardware in first place and Maxwell's Flowers and Gifts sweeping both the second and third place prizes. Santa will return to Clare City Park each Friday and Saturday through Christmas.

### Current Events

Christmas events still to come this season include the ever popular **North Pole Calling** when a celebrity from the North Pole (Santa, Mrs. Claus, or an elf) can call area little ones with chat with them for a few moments about life at the North Pole and getting ready for Christmas. Additionally, **Santa's Mailbox**, located in the front entrance of City Hall, provides a direct mailing service between residence of the Clare area and Santa Clause himself. Letters dropped in the box before December 21<sup>st</sup> are sure to receive a response back from jolly old Saint Nick.

The **ice rink** at Shamrock Park has been assembled and now we are just waiting for Mother Nature's assistance in getting the ground to freeze and stay cold enough to form ice inside the rink. Water was previously put in the rink this year, but unfortunately the temperatures were not cold enough and it all seeped out before turning to ice. A second attempt will be made as the weather continues to get colder.

Work has been underway for several months now on the **City of Clare Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2010-2014**. 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 was recently supported by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and a final document is expected to be filed with the DNR for January, 2010.

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Based on the present park and recreation master plan, and the one currently being finalized, extensive improvements to **Pettit Park Campground** are desired. Some of the desired improvements include water hookups at each electrical site, pavement of the roadway throughout the park, and extension of the current bathroom facility to include two unisex shower stall and a maintenance room. Engineering design proposals have been received from approved firms, and are expected to be put on the Monday, December 21, 2010 City Commission's agenda.

#### Future Events

Coming soon, future events include the **Teen's New Year's Eve Games Challenge**, which will feature numerous games for teen ages 13-18 years old to participate in on New Year's Eve. Following the event, with the start of school after the holidays will also be a **weekly teen group** at the Library. Additionally, Park and Recreation is looking to continue joint programming with the Pere Marquette District Library and utilize their facilities for the possibility of **Cards and Coffee for Seniors**, indoor **Shuffleboard leagues**, and potential **ballroom dancing lessons**.

In addition to programming events, several visitors have recently stopped into the Recreation Office and inquired about the possibility of various entities joining forces to establish a **Community Center** in the Clare Area. For the purpose of exploring this topic further with interested parties, an initial brain storming meeting is tentatively being planned for this winter following the conclusion of the holiday season.