

# Please Support the Clare Railroad Depot Restoration Project



## How Can I Help?

There are numerous opportunities for interested community members to get involved in making this project happen.

You can donate time, money, or materials, sponsor a brick or bench, donate historic items and photos related to the depot, become a member of the Depot Steering Committee or offer ideas for fundraising opportunities.

Monetary donations are tax deductible and can be made to "MMCAA", Clare Depot Project, P.O. Box 768, Farwell, MI 48622.

## Contact Information

If you'd like to get involved, please contact:

Diane Schmidt, City Clerk  
City of Clare  
202 West Fifth Street  
Clare MI 48617  
dschmidt@cityofclare.org  
(989) 386-7541 Ext. 106

OR

Mark Polega, Communications Coordinator  
MidMichigan Community Action Agency  
1574 East Washington Road  
P.O. Box 768  
Farwell, Michigan 48622  
mapolega@mmcaa.org  
(989) 386-3805

Produced by the Clare Railroad Depot Committee February 2011



**Mail Donations to:**  
MMCAA  
Depot Project  
P.O. Box 768  
Farwell, MI 48622.

**Please Print**

**All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to "MMCAA"**  
**Clare Railroad Depot Restoration Project**

- I/we give permission for my/our name to be on a donors list.
- I/we want my contribution to the Clare Railroad Depot Restoration Project to remain anonymous.
- \$25 Pledge
- \$50 Pledge
- \$100 Pledge
- \$250 Pledge
- \$500 Pledge
- Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  One time gift -or-  Per Year for \_\_\_ 1 year \_\_\_ 2 years \_\_\_ 3 years

Thank you  
for your  
contribution!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

My signature authorizes this pledge: X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## History of the Clare Railroad Depot

*THE FLINT & PERE MARQUETTE RAILROAD REACHED THE CITY OF CLARE IN 1870 AND THE FIRST RAILROAD DEPOT WAS BUILT ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF MCEWAN STREET AND THE RAILROAD.*

*IN 1887, THE TOLEDO, ANN ARBOR & NORTHERN MICHIGAN RAILWAY REACHED CLARE AND A JOINT DEPOT, THE CLARE UNION DEPOT, WAS CONSTRUCTED AT THE JUNCTION POINT OF THE TWO LINES. IN 1894, THAT DEPOT WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE AND WAS REBUILT IN 1895 AT ITS PRESENT LOCATION.*

*THE CITY OF CLARE PURCHASED THE DEPOT FROM THE TUSCOLA & SAGINAW BAY RAILWAY COMPANY IN 2005 WITH THE SOLE INTENT TO PRESERVE & RESTORE THIS HISTORIC BUILDING. HOWEVER, ONE CONDITION OF THE SALE WAS THAT THE DEPOT MUST BE MOVED FROM ITS ORIGINAL SITE DUE TO ACCESS, LIABILITY, & SAFETY ISSUES.*

*PROPOSED SITE PLANS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO) IN 2009. SHPO APPROVED THE TRI-R (THOMPSON HOTEL) SITE AS A HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT RELOCATION SITE BUT ATTEMPTS TO ACQUIRE THE SITE BY CITY OF CLARE FAILED, SENDING THE COMMITTEE BACK TO THE "DRAWING BOARD."*

*IN 2010, A NEW PARTNERSHIP FORMED BETWEEN THE CITY OF CLARE, MIDMICHIGAN*

*COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, CLARE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL, CLARE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CLARE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, CLARE MAIN STREET BOARD, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, GREAT LAKES CENTRAL RAILROAD, & CLARE DEPOT PRESERVATION, INC. THE CLARE DEPOT COMMITTEE FORMED AND QUICKLY GREW TO MORE THAN 30 ACTIVE MEMBERS.*

*A NEW SITE HAS BEEN SELECTED AND OFFERS THE ADVANTAGES OF A NEW DOWNTOWN FOCAL POINT AND AS A TRAIL HEAD FOR PERE MARQUETTE RAIL TRAIL THAT IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO CITY PUBLIC SERVICES AND CAN PROVIDE CONTINUED USE AS A RAILROAD DEPOT. THE PROPOSED OCCUPANTS AND USES FOR THE RESTORED DEPOT INCLUDE A CENTERPIECE FOR DISPLAY OF RAILROAD HISTORY IN CLARE & SURROUNDING AREAS, HOME OF THE CLARE AREA VISITORS BUREAU, CLARE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CLARE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL & ART GALLERY, CLARE MAIN STREET OFFICE, TRAIL HEAD FOR THE PERE MARQUETTE RAILTRAIL, AND AS AN ACTIVE RAILROAD PASSENGER DEPOT.*

*THE CLARE CITY COMMISSION FORMALLY APPROVED PARTNERSHIPS AND THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR A PORTION OF THE NEW SITE AND MIDMICHIGAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY HAS OFFERED TO DONATE TWO PROPERTY PARCELS FOR THE NEW SITE.*

*CLARE LOOKS FORWARD TO THE RESTORED DEPOT, WHICH PROMISES TO BRING WITH IT THE RICH HISTORY OF CLARE'S PAST WHILE ADDING A NEW AND INTERESTING FLAVOR TO THE DOWNTOWN SCENE AND SERVING THE AREA IN A MULTI-USE CAPACITY REFLECTIVE OF CLARE'S COMMUNITY SPIRIT.*

