

Currently Clare



Clare, Michigan

A COOL CITY MICHIGAN MAIN STREET COMMUNITY

202 West Fifth Street
Clare, MI 48617
(989) 386-7541, Fax (989) 386-4508
www.cityofclare.org

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed holidays.

CITY PHONE NUMBERS

Airport.....	386-0445
Chamber of Commerce.....	386-2442
City Hall.....	386-7541
City Police (non-emergency).....	386-2121
Department of Public Works.....	386-2182
Fire Dept (non-emergency).....	386-2151
Main Street Manager.....	386-9190
Pere Marquette District Library...	386-7576
Water/Wastewater Treatment.....	386-2321

Clare Irish Festival



Don't forget that the Irish Festival is right around the corner. For additional information contact the Clare Chamber at 386-2442 or visit the website at <http://irish.claremichigan.com/>
Be Irish!

Remember to Turn your clock forward one hour on March 13th in observance of Daylight Saving Time

Consumer's Energy Efficiency Lighting Programs

Inefficient incandescent light bulbs, magnetic induction ballasts, and T-12 fluorescent fixtures and bulbs are being phased out of production and will not be available within the next few years. Consequently, we will all be forced to replace these inefficient lighting systems with energy efficient T-8 and T-5 bulbs, new fixtures and electronic ballasts. Consumer's Energy is presently offering its commercial and industrial customers an opportunity to convert existing inefficient fluorescent lighting to energy-efficient lighting systems and offering rebates to do so. The City recently applied to Consumer's Energy for the rebate program and hopes to convert all of its existing lighting systems to the energy efficient systems this year. While we had to make an investment now to make the upgrade to the energy efficient lighting systems, we estimate we will recoup all of our costs within the next three years due to rebates and future energy savings. We suggest that all commercial and industrial businesses in Clare visit the Consumer's Energy website (www.consumersenergy.com/eeprograms) to determine whether applying for the rebates will result in similar future energy savings.

Public Notice "Let Run"

The City of Clare Department of Public Works issued a "**Let Run**" order for **all** water customers effective **February 1, 2011**. This is due to excessively deep frost levels caused by the ongoing cold temperatures. **If you are not already doing so, please begin running water approximately 1/8" stream (slightly larger than the size of a pencil lead) in one faucet.** Failure to do so may result in frozen water lines. The City of Clare is not responsible for thawing frozen water lines. The DPW will notify all customers via postcard and cable channel 97 when you are to discontinue this order. Do not shut the water off prior to notification! Adjustments will be made to your utility bill to reflect average usage. Questions may be directed to the Utility Billing Clerk at 989/386-7541, ext. 201.

Are you interested in serving your community by becoming a member of one of the City's boards and commissions? If you answered yes, please submit an application to: The City of Clare, Attention: Mayor Humphrey, 202 West Fifth Street, Clare, for consideration. Applications and board and committee descriptions are available at City Hall or on our website at www.cityofclare.org

BRUSH CHIPPING

Brush Chipping is strictly a “Time & Weather” permitting activity, and is a service provided by the City of Clare. As time & weather allow, we normally begin chipping brush on the first Monday of the month. If you are unsure, you can check the listing on the Clare Public Access Channel (Cable TV – Channel 97) or call 386-2182 x202. The City of Clare chips brush for **properties where an existing structure is already in place.**

Brush to be chipped should:

-Be placed at the curb before 7:00 a.m. of the first scheduled day of chipping;

-Be placed within 2 feet of the curb with large ends facing same direction;

-Be no longer than 6’ in length nor larger than 8” in diameter; AND

-Not include Stumps, Roots, or Vines. The property owner is responsible for disposing of these as they will not go through the chipper.

For vacant lots or if you have a large amount of brush, please call 386-2182 (x202).

Upcoming tentative dates are:

March 1st, April 4th and May 2rd

No Parking on City Streets 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. November 15th thru April 1st

City Code, Chapter 126, Section 8.25, prohibits parking on City Streets from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. between the dates of November 15th through April 1st of each year. The price you will pay for untimely parking is \$30.00 per offense.

STREET LIGHTING

If you notice a street light out, please don’t hesitate to call City Hall’s Department of Public Works at 386-2182 ext. 201 to report the problem.

WEATHER WARNING SIRENS

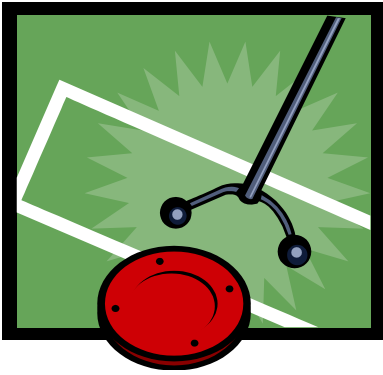
As a public service when threatening weather approaches, weather warnings in Clare are signified by a three-minute, continuous siren (may sound warbled, as our sirens rotate 360 degrees). The all-clear signal is one minute in duration with a sound akin to a scoreboard buzzer at a basketball game (again, the sound may be warbled, as our sirens rotate 360 degrees for maximum area coverage). We have three sirens in the City; all have voice capability that allows us to use them for public safety purposes other than threatening weather. Our sirens are tested each month on the first Thursday between the hours of 3-3:30 pm unless threatening weather is forecast or imminent. The test may consist of a warning siren, an all clear signal, a voice message, or a combination of all three signals.

Sewer Problems

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR SEWER INSIDE CLARE CITY LIMITS, PLEASE CALL 386-2182 EXTENSION 202, OR AFTER HOURS CALL 386-9122 FOR THE “ON-CALL” NUMBER FOR EMERGENCIES. IN EITHER CASE, A CITY OF CLARE EMPLOYEE WILL CHECK THE CITY MAIN TO MAKE SURE IT IS OPEN AND WORKING PROPERLY BEFORE YOU CALL A PLUMBER. THE SERVICE LEAD FROM THE BUILDING TO THE STREET IS THE OWNER’S RESPONSIBILITY.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The Department of Water and Wastewater Treatment is pleased to present this year’s Consumer Confidence Report. This report is an annual quality water report and is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. Copies of the report can be obtained online at www.cityofclare.org or copies are also available at City Hall, Wastewater Treatment Plant or the Pere Marquette District Library.



Shuffleboard

Coming to Clare

Shuffle Board will soon be coming to Clare as Parks and Recreation and the

Pere Marquette District Library team up to bring you this great activity. With the winter weather still in full swing, shuffleboard will be played in the lower level of the library once the new renovations are completed. We're still getting the details together, but if you're interested in playing/being involved let us know! Contact Amanda at agreen@cityofclare.org or 386-7541 x 213

ICY SIDEWALKS CONCERN RESIDENTS

Snowfall always presents some challenges for the City when trying to keep residential sidewalks safe for residents.

For years the City has undertaken the obligation to remove SNOW from all residential sidewalks within the City, however it is still up to the homeowners to remove any remaining ICE or debris left on the sidewalk.

Please contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding our sidewalk snow removal program. We welcome your feedback and will attempt to improve or correct any aspect of our snow removal efforts that you are unhappy with. Concurrently, we ask that you help us in keeping our children and neighbors safe by salting or sanding the sidewalks adjacent to or in front of your homes and businesses when necessary.

Junior Fire Fighter's Academy Will Be A "Hot" Program For Spring Break!

When: Date TBD

Where: Clare Public Safety Building

Clare Parks and Recreation and the Clare Fire Department are excited to announce the return of this great event for kids over the spring break holiday! The Junior Fire Fighter's Academy is sure to be the "hottest" thing in town! Participants will learn fire safety and prevention through hands-on activities and informative discussions! Volunteers from the Clare Fire Department will assist children as they wiggle through a "smoky" room, try out lots of cool fire equipment and maybe even examine real fire! This is a great opportunity to learn how Clare Fire Fighters conduct official business! The fee for the Junior Firefighter's Academy is \$10 and includes an award certificate, tee-shirt and lunch. Please wear old clothes that can be ruined-we could get messy! Forms will be available online at www.cityofclare.org and Clare City Hall. Registration begins Monday, March 7. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. Space is limited, so register quickly! Also, parent volunteers may be needed for this event. To volunteer, contact Amanda Green at agreen@cityofclare.org or 386-7541 x213.

"RUN THE TOWN"

**IN THIS YEAR'S ST. PATTY'S DAY
KID\$ FUN RUN/TOT TROT!**

Saturday, March 19, 2011

Register the day of, starting at 9:00 am, corner of Pine and Sixth Streets.

Race at 9:30 am.

Kids! Run the town (literally) in this years Fun Run and Tot Trot races. This event is free and all participants will receive a participation ribbon! Download a registration form from the Parks and Recreation page of the city website or pick up one at City Hall!

Get Ready to go Ice Skating!

The Clare ice skating rink is NOW open for your enjoyment, so grab your skates and head to the Shamrock Park ice rink! The rink is lighted and hours run from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.



FROM THE OFFICE OF
THE CLARE CITY TREASURER,
FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

On January 29, 2011 the Clare County Treasurer notified all local municipalities within Clare County that the Clare County Board of Commissioners had approved the use of a provision within the property tax laws of the State of Michigan allowing for winter tax deferrals in very specific and limited circumstances.

The County Treasurer indicated that the basic guidelines for the winter property tax deferral are:

- The winter property tax deferral is only available through the County Treasurer's Office.
- Winter deferrals can only be approved for the taxpayer's homestead.
- The taxpayer must be a senior citizen, paraplegic, quadriplegic, hemiplegic, eligible service person, eligible veteran, eligible widow or widower of a veteran or totally and permanently disabled or blind.
- The taxpayer must apply for a Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit on or before February 14th and present a copy of their completed MI-1040CR or MI-1040CR-2 form to the Clare County Treasurer's Office by February 15th along with their completed Clare County Application for Deferral of Winter Taxes form (available at the County Treasurer's Office as well as Clare City Hall).
- The taxpayer must not have received the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit from the Michigan Treasury before March 1st.
- The winter property taxes must be paid by April 30th to avoid penalty and interest being added back to the property taxes.
- Please note that the above described property tax deferral is only available for residential property located within Clare County. Additional information regarding property taxes is available within the City Treasurer's section of our Internet site at www.cityofclare.org.

If you have any questions concerning this month's Treasurer's article or any other City of Clare finance or property tax matter we encourage you to call (386-7541, extension 107), to stop by City Hall or if it is more convenient send me an e-mail message at skingsbury@cityofclare.org.

Budget Workshops Under Way

The City will be conducting budget workshops for the fiscal year 2011-12 beginning in the month of April and continuing through May 2011. Each department head presents their departmental and capital improvement needs to the City Commission for their consideration. The public is encouraged to attend or if you have input you would like considered please call City Manager Ken Hibl or City Treasurer Steven Kingsbury at (989) 386-7541.

2011 BOARD OF REVIEW

City Assessor Edie Hunter recently scheduled the March 2011 Board of Review:

Monday, March 14th	Tuesday, March 15th	Friday, March 25th
9:00 am to noon 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	2:00 pm to 5:00 pm 6:00 pm. to 9:00	9:00 am to noon at City Hall.

If you have questions about your 2011 Tax Assessment Change Notice you may contact Edie Hunter at 386-7541, extension 103. Most questions can be answered with a simple phone call to the Assessor, but you may also discuss your concerns with the Board of Review. No appointment is necessary.

The organizational meeting is Friday, March 11th, at 4:00 p.m., at Clare City Hall, 202 West Fifth Street.