

# Currently Clare



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

City offices will be closed Friday, April 10, 2009, in observance of Good Friday.

## City of Clare Receives Recognition

The City of Clare is proud to announce we have been awarded the 2008 Partnership Appreciation Award by Mid Michigan Community Action in recognition of continued support and dedication to the community. It was noted that the partnership that exists between the City of Clare and Mid Michigan Community Action is a model of true public and private collaboration. In addition, the City of Clare received a Certificate of Special congressional Recognition from Dave Camp, United States House of Representatives, upon receiving the award. Mayor Pay Humphrey and City Manager Ken Hibl were present at the award celebration program on January 22, 2009, to accept the award and recognition of behalf of the City of Clare.

## Clare Irish Festival



Don't forget that the Irish Festival is right around the corner. See the list of scheduled events on page four of this newsletter. For additional information contact the Clare Chamber at 386-2442.

Be Irish!

## **PUBLIC NOTICE!**

The City of Clare Department of Public Works has issued a "Let Run" order for **all** water customers. This is due to excessively deep frost levels caused by the ongoing cold temperatures. **Effective Immediately, please begin running water approximately 1/8" stream (slightly large than the size of a pencil lead) in one faucet.** Failure to do so may result in frozen water lines. The DPW will notify all customers via postcard and cable channel 26 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) 386-2182, ext. 201.

## 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.

## Searching for History

We are searching for pictures or articles about the Thompson Hotel (now referred to as the Tri-R Hotel). If you have any printed materials, please contact Kay Haven, City Clerk, at 386-7541 ext. 106, or drop the materials off at City Hall. Original materials will be returned.

### 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.

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.

## CITY BRUSH CHIPPING

The City of Clare normally chips brush once a month. Brush is to be placed at the curb (large end facing the street) before 7:00 a.m. on the first day scheduled for chipping. City crews will go down each street **one time only**. Tentative chipping schedules (*time and weather permitting*) are:

March 2nd, April 6th, and May 4th 2009

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

**“RUN THE TOWN”  
IN THIS YEAR’S ST. PATTY’S DAY  
KID\$ FUN RUN/TOT TROT!**

**Saturday, March 14, 2009  
Time and Location TBA**

Kids! Run the town (literally) in this years Fun Run and Tot Trot races. This event is free and the first 50 kids get a free tee shirt! Final details will be announced, but if you are interested, contact Parks and Recreation at 989-386-7541 ext 213 or email us at [agreen@cityofclare.org](mailto:agreen@cityofclare.org)!

**HERE COME THE EGGS! LOOK OUT BELOW!**

Join us as we celebrate the coming of spring with our annual egg drop event. Pilots from the Clare Municipal Airport will be on hand to drop over **1,000 plastic eggs from an airplane!** Youth ages 12 and under are welcome (with parent participation) to retrieve the eggs and to redeem them for candy. Before and after the event, local supporting organizations will offer children’s activities. In addition, vendors may be on hand to sell food and beverages. Parents please dress your children warm and bring an Easter basket! Also, don’t forget the camera! The Easter Bunny may hop on in for a photo-op. If the planes are not able to fly due to inclement weather, we will still have an egg “hunt” on the ground.

**WHEN:** April 11, 2009 (Rain or shine OR SNOW!)

**WHERE:** Clare Municipal Airport (Eberhart Road)

**REGISTRATION:** Registration is from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please allow yourself enough time to park and prepare for the drop.

**TIME:** In an effort to accommodate the hundreds of people expected for this event, THREE drops will be planned, each according to age. The drop times are below. If you have children in multiple age groups, you are free to choose one drop to participate in.

Ages 0-4-----11:00 a.m.\*

\*(Parents must accompany the child on the field)

Ages 5-8-----11:30 a.m.

Ages 9-12----- 12:00 p.m.

**Bring Your Game To the Summer Fest  
BOWL-A-THON!**

**When: Saturday, March 21, 2009**

**Where: Gateway Lane, 1410 N. McEwan**

Hey students, want a great way to earn cool prizes, have fun with your friends, and help raise money for your community? Then join the Summer Fest’s 1st annual Bowl-A-Thon! This great event is open to students in grades K-12 who will be responsible for soliciting pledges from sponsors to make a donation based on their individual bowling score. All participants will be able to bowl and win prizes for their efforts. Bowlers raising \$100.00 or more in pledges will be able to participate in the free pizza and pop party, and top prizes will be awarded to the bowlers with the highest pledge amounts. Registration begins at 1:45 pm; Event starts at 2:00 pm. Funds raised from the event will support the Clare Summer Fest.

**Junior Fire Fighter’s Academy Will Be  
A “Hot” Program For Spring Break!**

**When: Thursday, April 2, 2009**

**Where: Clare Public Safety Building**

Clare Parks and Recreation and the Clare Fire Department is 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 are available on line at [www.cityofclare.org](http://www.cityofclare.org) and Clare City Hall. Registration begins Monday, March 2. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. Space is limited, so register quickly! Also, parent volunteers may be needed for this event.

## CLARE IRISH FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

5:00-7:00 pm **Business After Hours** Sponsored by Firstbank at the Doherty Hotel.

7:00 pm **Big Brothers/Big Sisters Art Auction** at the Doherty Hotel

### Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

5:30 pm **Irish Recipe Contest** (Judging at 6:00pm) In the Clare High School Cafeteria

7:30 pm **Gateway Community Band** at the Clare High School

### Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am-5:00 pm **Kathy Rynearson Memorial Food & Clothing Drive** at Witbeck's Family Foods

### Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

3:00 pm **Dano** at the Doherty Hotel Leprechaun Lounge

5:00-7:00 pm **Children's Carnival** at the Clare Primary School

8:00 pm **Night Shift playing** at the Doherty Hotel Ballroom

**Kevin Chamberlain playing** at the Doherty Hotel Leprechaun Lounge

### Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

7:30-10:30 am **Cub Scout pancake Breakfast** at the Clare Methodist Church

8:45 am **Leprechaun Contest** at Witbeck's Family Foods

9:00 am-4:00 pm **Irish Craft Show** Sponsored by Clare Chamber of Commerce at the Clare Primary School

9:00 am **5k & 10k Road Race and Walk** (Forms online at [irish.claremichigan.com](http://irish.claremichigan.com))

10:00 am-2:00 pm **Golf Scavenger Hunt Downtown Clare** (Contact Chamber at 386-2442 for details)

10:30 am **Bed Race** State Street to 6<sup>th</sup> Street on McEwan

11:00 am **Kids Fun Run** immediately following bed race

12:00 pm **St. Patrick's Day Parade** Starts at Wilcox Parkway & Ends at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Line Up at 11:00 am

**Irish Rover Dog Contest** My Pet Supply (Forms online at [irish.claremichigan.com](http://irish.claremichigan.com))

1:00 pm **Dano** at the Doherty Hotel Leprechaun Lounge

1:30 pm & 4:00 pm **Joel Tacey- Juggling, Magic, & More** at the Ideal Theatre

2:00 pm **Clown Band Concert** at the Clare Moose Lodge (1890 E. Ludington Dr.)

2:00 pm **Music Doctors** at the Doherty Hotel Ballroom

**Closing Time (Band)** at Coffee Talk

4:00 pm-Close **Karaoke** at the Eagles Club (11227 S. Grant Ave.)

**Closing Time (Band)** at Coffee Talk

8:00 pm **Night Shift** at the Doherty Hotel Ballroom

**Kevin Chamberlain** at the Doherty Hotel Leprechaun Lounge

9:00 pm **IRISH RAFFLE!** at the Doherty Hotel

**Grand Prize: \$1500 CASH**

**First Prize: RE/MAX Hot Air Balloon Ride (\$1,000 Value)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$200**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$150**

Short Bus Entertainment will provide a Shuttle Service on Saturday, March 14, from 2:00pm- ? Throughout the City limits and, to and from the Moose Lodge.

## **THE CITY OF CLARE** **ACHIEVES NATIONAL MAIN STREET** **ACCREDITATION**

Keith Molin, executive director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) announced in a December 17, 2008, MSHDA news release, that the city of Clare was awarded National Accreditation through the Michigan Main Street Center @ MSHDA.

The Michigan Main Street Center @ MSHDA is part of the Authority's efforts to create vibrant communities across the state. This effort is based on numerous recent studies showing that investing in our downtowns creates vibrant centers where people want to live, work and invest, making our state economically stronger. The underlying premise of the Michigan Main Street Center @ MSHDA is to encourage community economic development through: Organization: getting everyone working toward the same goal and assembling the appropriate human and financial resources to implement a Main Street revitalization program.

Promotion: selling a positive image of the commercial district and encouraging consumers and investors to live, work, shop, play and invest in the Main Street district.

Design: getting Main Street into top physical shape. Capitalizing on its best assets, such as historic buildings and pedestrian-oriented streets, is just part of the story.

Economic restructuring: strengthening a community's existing economic assets while expanding and diversifying its economic base.

Communities with traditional downtowns can be selected annually as a Michigan Main Street Community as the result of a multi-step application process based on the key points mentioned above.

"The Michigan Main Street Center @ MSHDA provides communities with the tools needed to develop into thriving downtowns," said Molin. "These tools can be used to create jobs, provide enjoyment and build a sense of community for Michigan residents."

Clare will be evaluated annually using a year end evaluation process and accreditation criteria intended to assist each community in performing up to national accreditation standards as prescribed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center. Though it is a critical moment for a Michigan Main Street community to become accredited, it is equally critical for the community to maintain the accreditation status once it has been earned.

MSHDA's vision in the 21<sup>st</sup> century centers around ideas to improve the quality of life for all Michigan residents by focusing on providing safe, affordable housing through home ownership and rental programs; ending homelessness; and revitalizing neighborhoods and downtowns through urban development initiatives – creating vibrant communities throughout Michigan. MSHDA's loans and operating expenses are financed through the sale of tax-exempt and taxable bonds and notes to private investors, not from state tax revenues. For information on this and other MSHDA programs, visit the Web site at [www.michigan.gov/mshda](http://www.michigan.gov/mshda).

### **Budget Workshops Under Way**

The City will be conducting budget workshops for the fiscal year 2009-10 beginning in the month of March and continuing through May 2009. 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.

### **2009 BOARD OF REVIEW**

City Assessor Dan Kirwin recently scheduled the March 2009 Board of Review:

#### **Monday, March 9th**

9:00 am to noon  
and  
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

#### **Tuesday, March 10th**

2:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
and  
6:00 pm. to 9:00 pm

#### **Friday, March 20th**

9:00 am to noon at city Hall.

If you have questions about your 2009 Tax Assessment Change Notice you may contact Dan Kirwin 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 6th, at 9:00 a.m., at Clare City Hall, 202 W Fifth St.



## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLARE CITY TREASURER

**Property Tax Due Dates** – Within the City of Clare (as with all other cities) there are two property tax billings annually assessed, summer taxes and winter taxes. The two tax billings include millages levied by each taxing authority that is authorized by law to do so (the city, public schools, the county, the college, etc). For the City of Clare, summer property taxes are billed each July 1<sup>st</sup> and are due without penalty or interest by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Winter property taxes within the City of Clare are billed on December 1<sup>st</sup> each year and are due without interest or penalty by February 14<sup>th</sup>. Both summer and winter property taxes may be paid at the local unit level after their respective due dates with interest and penalties until the last day in February. After that date local unit treasurers are required to turn over all unpaid real property taxes as delinquent to the County Treasurer who then takes over collection and enforcement actions. As of the first business day in March, all delinquent real property tax payments must be made to the County Treasurer and additional interest and penalties are assessed by the county in addition to those previously assessed by the local unit.

It is important to note that in the City of Clare, summer and winter property tax payments must be received and processed by a City Hall employee by the close of business on or before the due date of the property tax billing. If your tax payment is mailed to City Hall, it must be post marked by the due date and received and processed by a City Hall employee within five business days. If you place your check for tax payment in the convenience drop box located outside of City Hall, it will be processed the next business day. If the tax payment due date falls on a weekend, a tax payment placed in the drop box over the weekend is processed as though it was received on the due date.

**Due Date Change** – On December 23, 2008, Governor Granholm signed into law a bill that changes the final due date that property taxes can be paid at the local unit level. The amendment states that "... if the last day in a year that taxes are due and payable before being returned as delinquent is on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the last day taxes are due and payable before being returned as delinquent [to the county] is on the next business day..." More simply stated, for 2008 summer and winter property taxes the final date that these taxes can be paid at the local unit level is Monday, March 2, 2009 because the last day of February is on a Saturday. This is a good change for property owners that removes some confusion over when property taxes are to be paid at the local level and when they have to be paid at the county level.

**Community Survey Results** – Last fall the City of Clare partnered with Cobalt Community Research to conduct a survey of city residents and property owners. The primary focus of the survey was to measure the current satisfaction levels of city residents and property owners on a variety of topics including fire and police protection, medical services, public schools, public transportation, public utilities, city parks and recreation programs.

The survey was mailed to 1,126 individual addresses which included residential property owners, apartment and home renters, businesses, public schools, churches and other non-profit entities. At the conclusion of the survey a total of 306 surveys (27.2%) were completed and returned. Overall the results are very positive with virtually all of the data points demonstrating quite high levels of community satisfaction as compared to the composite scores for the State of Michigan.

The survey also revealed some areas of opportunity for the city and the community to work on to improve satisfaction levels and the quality of life in Clare. For instance, the survey results indicated that the community desires a wider range of cultural offerings and events as well as the development of a strong/vibrant art community.

If you are interested in reviewing the community survey results they are now available within the Treasurer and Finance Director's page on the City of Clare's Internet site at [www.cityofclare.org](http://www.cityofclare.org).

**Fiscal Year 2007/08 Audit** – On December 15, 2008 the audit report for the City of Clare's fiscal year 2007/08 was presented to the City Commission by Mr. Mark Freed, CPA and Managing Partner of the public accounting firm of Burnside & Lang. The audit findings were very positive and concluded that the City of Clare's financial condition is very sound. The audit also reported that the total debt level of the City (excluding component units) had decreased a very significant 10.49% during the fiscal year.

If you are interested in reviewing the external audit report it is available within the Treasurer and Finance Director's page on the City of Clare's Internet site at [www.cityofclare.org](http://www.cityofclare.org).

If you have questions concerning the information on this page please call Treasurer/Finance Director, Steven Kingsbury at 386-7541, ext. 107, stop by City Hall or send an e-mail message to [skingsbury@cityofclare.org](mailto:skingsbury@cityofclare.org).