

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**

City offices will be closed Friday, April 2, 2010,
in observance of Good Friday.

The Clare Fire Department is proud to announce that it has recently been designated a Public Protection Class rating of 4/9 from its previous rating of 6. The Public Protection Class rating is determined by the Insurance Services Office which collects and evaluates information from communities in the US on their structure fire suppression capabilities. Some of the factors include improvements in the Clare city water system, advanced fire department equipment and training, response times as well as other factors. The improvements in the Fire Department Public Protection Class rating is great news, not only for our department, but for the City of Clare and surrounding townships. Check with your insurance agent to find out how the new rating may affect your insurance rates.

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!

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.

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

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 1st, April 5th and May 3rd

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.

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.

Hey Teens, have you checked out the Clare Teen Group?

The Clare Teen Group, sponsored by Clare Parks and Recreation and the Pere Marquette District Library, is a group of local students' ages 13-18 who gather at the library each week for fun and games, and assist the Parks and Recreation Department in planning local events for youth and teens, such as the famous Egg Drop. This year, we want to get a great line up of programs going for teens including: *Dances, *Parties, *Special Events, *Teen Nights, *Volunteering, *and Much More! Group meetings for 2010 are currently underway, so plan on stopping in for some fun and excitement each Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30 pm at the Pere Marquette District Library. Meetings are at the same time and place each week! To join the group, participants must be 13-18 years old, must live or go to school in the Clare School District, and must love to have a good time.

For more information on Teen Group, please contact Amanda Green, Parks and Recreation Director, at 386-7541 ext. 213, by email at agreen@cityofclare.org, or as a friend of "Clare Recreation" on Facebook!

TEEN GLOW-IN THE DARK EASTER EGG HUNT

Let's face it, guys, secretly you still want to search for Easter eggs, and you totally miss out on those excuses to be a kid again. Well, Clare Parks and Recreation is going to give you that excuse because we're going to "light up the night" for Easter with a glow-in-the-dark Easter Egg Hunt!

Who: All students in middle and high school

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 30, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Stamina Stadium, Meet at the Pavilion

Fee: \$4 per student

DON'T FORGET TO DRESS WARM

AND TO BRING A FLASHLIGHT!

Registration Info

We only have space for 50 students so you need to register before the event. Please register at Clare City Hall beginning **Monday, March 15th**. If space is available, you can register the night of the event.

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 8. 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'S FUN RUN/TOT TROT!

Saturday, March 13, 2010

**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 year's Fun Run and Tot Trot races. This event is free and the first 75 kids to show up get a free tee shirt! 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.

2010 CENSUS BEGINS

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way. With the U.S. Census process beginning, BBB advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

The Census data will be used to allocate more than \$300 billion in federal funds every year, as well as determine a State's number of Congressional representatives. Households are actually required by law to respond to the Census Bureau's request for information.

During the U.S. Census, households will be contacted by mail, telephone or visited by a U.S. Census worker who will inquire about the number of people living in the house. Unfortunately, people may also be contacted by scammers who are impersonating Census workers in order to gain access to sensitive financial information such as Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers. Law enforcement in several states have issued warnings that scammers are already posing as Census Bureau employees and knocking on doors asking for donations and Social Security numbers. The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? The Better Business Bureau offers the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.
- Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, they will not contact you by e-mail, so be on the look out for e-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit www.bbb.org

Budget Workshops Under Way

The City will be conducting budget workshops for the fiscal year 2010-11 beginning in the month of April and continuing through May 2010. 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.

2010 BOARD OF REVIEW

City Assessor Dan Kirwin recently scheduled the March 2010 Board of Review:

Monday, March 8th

9:00 am to noon

and

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Wednesday, March 10th

2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

and

6:00 pm. to 9:00 pm

Tuesday, March 16th

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 5th, at 9:00 a.m., at Clare City Hall, 202 West Fifth Street.