



currently clare

August 2011

202 W Fifth Street, Clare, Michigan 48617-1490
PH: 989/386-7541 | FAX: 989/386-4508
www.cityofclare.org

City Offices will be closed on
Monday, September 5, 2011 in
observance of Labor Day.

Garbage, recycle, lawn waste pick up will be delayed until **Friday, September 9, 2011**.
The City Commission will meet on **Tuesday, September 6, 2011** at 6:00 p.m.

BRUSH CHIPPING

The City of Clare normally chips brush one time each month, **time and weather permitting**. 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. The chipping crew will go down each street **one time only**.
Tentative chipping dates are: August 29th, October 3rd, October 31st

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

In an effort to provide more efficient collection of materials to our residents, Waste Management has respectfully requested that residents place their trash and recycling materials on one side of the driveway and their yard waste on the opposite side. We would also like to remind our residents that all materials must be placed at the curb before 6:00 a.m. on the day of collection. Additionally, **yard waste must be in either a rigid container with the words 'YARD WASTE' clearly marked in a contrasting color or in the biodegradable paper bags (never plastic or boxes).**



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Hazardous Waste Collection Day:

Northern Oaks is diligently working to schedule a Hazardous Waste Collection Day for Clare County residents. Tentatively, this day will be sometime during the third week of September but a definite date has not yet been determined. Please continue to watch the Clare Government Access Channel 97 and/or local newspapers for more information.

POOL SAFETY

Above ground pools between 2 feet and 3 feet 11 inches in height must be enclosed by a 4 foot fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate—the latch must be located on the upper **inside** of the gate. In order to limit access to young children, pools that are 4 foot in height need to have ladders removed when adult supervision is not present.

Please call Dave Williams @386-7541 ext. 212 with questions concerning pool requirements.

SUMMER SEWER CREDITS

- Summer sewer credits have been in effect for single family residential dwellings for the usage months of May, June, July, & August, 2011. If you need to add water to your pool in September, you must call 386-7541 x 201 **in advance** to ensure your sewer credit.



How are cars and wastewater plants alike?

On the surface there is no resemblance between cars and wastewater plants, but there are similarities. Wastewater plants are mechanical in nature just as cars are and as such require consistent maintenance. Wastewater plants run 24 hours a day / 365 days a year stopping systems only briefly to perform routine maintenance. This routine maintenance, just as in cars, involves changing oil, replacing worn belts, adding chemicals, and replacing broken parts.



Imagine if you ran your car for 20 years this way, only stopping briefly to add gas, change the oil, replace filters and tires what shape it would be in. This is why upgrades regularly happen to wastewater plants around the 20 year time frame. The City of Clare's wastewater plant is 22 years old and requires an upgrade. When these upgrades occur, just like a car, the cost is very high so loans must be taken out to pay for the new equipment. Then just like your car, you end up with that monthly payment plan.

Why are my water rates so different than other cities?

You may have read about or talked with people in other communities about water rates and wondered why they are so different from place to place. The answer is complicated. First one must remember that the water bill is made up of two funds: water and sewer.

Sewage inflow into a wastewater plant varies from community to community. The number of people in the community has an obvious influence on both the amount and makeup of the sewage. Industry also plays a huge role. Communities that have large industries which have a lot of flow or concentrated contaminant create a need for bigger or more complicated plants. In a lot of communities industry pays the lion's share of the cost. So treatment cost depends on your inflow and contaminant concentration.

The drinking water is much the same. The concentration of minerals in the water varies from location to location and even well to well in the same community. For example, some areas have high iron that requires treatment, while the next community might not have hardly any and they don't need treatment. Most of the state is also supplied with water that has been drawn off one of the Great Lakes. So depending on your water source and need for what kind of treatment prior to use will greatly vary.

Another issue facing many communities is the fact that many communities have not raised or evaluated their rate structure in a number of years. As a result these communities have not created a fund or adequately addressed replacement or proper maintenance of necessary water / sewer infrastructure. When these systems fail the community must then scramble to replace worn out equipment.

As you can see each community is unique and presents its own individual set of circumstances that affect the cost of their running their water and sewer infrastructure.

WHERE DOES YOUR DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

Water is a necessary component of human survival and is a vital part of Michigan's economy. In fact, Michigan is home to approximately 20% of the Earth's readily usable fresh water. There are two types of water, groundwater and surface water.

♦♦ **GROUNDWATER** is water that is underground in cracks and spaces in the soil, sand and rocks.

♦♦ **SURFACE WATER** is water that is above the surface of the land (i.e. lakes, rivers, streams).

Groundwater fills the small spaces between rock particles (sand, gravel, etc.) or cracks in solid rock. Rain, melting snow, or surface water becomes groundwater by seeping into the ground and filling these spaces. An aquifer is any type of geologic material, such as sand or sandstone, which can supply water to wells or springs.

Groundwater, which supplies wells, often comes from within a short distance (a few miles) of the well. How fast the groundwater moves depends on how much the well is pumped and what type of rock particles or bedrock it is moving through.

Here at the City of Clare, we are supplied by 4 wells that are located in the southwest area of the city. These wells produce all the water that the City needs. They are pumped to the Water Treatment Plant on Maple Street.

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.





Old Historic US 27 Motor Tour
Stopping in Clare

Now in conjunction with Clare's 1st Brewfest, the 5th Annual Old Historic US 27 Motor Tour is once again stopping overnight in Clare! Join us on Thursday, August 25, 2011 in welcoming the tour with an evening of food, fun, music , and of course - Classic Cars! The free event will be held in the 5th Street Parking Lot downtown Clare from 6 - 9 p.m. If you are unable to participate in the tour, but would like to show off your cool ride at the event, please bring it at no cost for the evening. Join the tour from Clare and bring back the good old days of Michigan as you travel beautiful Historic Old US 27. This is one of the premier classic car auto events in the state! The five day tour travels through beautiful scenery, delightful towns, and enjoys stops along the way. For more information on this event, contact Clare Main Street at 989-386-9190. For Motor Tour information visit their website at www.old27tour.com.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Summer Recreation continues thru August 26th. Enjoy the last weeks of summer. For more info call Parks and Recreation
386-7541, ext 213, or email
agreen@cityofclare.org

Daily Rate:
Residents - \$8.00
Non-Residents - \$10.00
Weekly Rate:

Main Street Digs up History
on
Downtown Buildings

The Clare Main Street Design Committee began the process for designation of downtown Clare as a Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2007. In order to complete the National Register Nomination process, the Design Committee has obtained the services of Ken Lingaur, a Clare resident working on his Master's Degree in Historic Preservation, to assist with research, gather information and pictures from all the historically contributing buildings in the Main Street district; and develop the application. We are asking your assistance in tracking down pictures and stories of buildings within the Main Street District. The pictures and stories can be brought to the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce for photocopying. To learn more about the process and assist with this task please contact Lori Schuh, Main Street Manager, at 989-386-9190. To learn more about the process and assist with this task please contact Lori Schuh, Main Street Manager, at 989-386-9190.

Seniors Cards and Coffee

When: Wednesdays,
10am-12pm

Where: Pere Marquette District Library

Cost: Free!

For more info call Parks and Recreation 386-7541, ext 213



Clare Brewfest 2011

"A Sampling of Michigan's Finest Craft Beers"

Held in conjunction with the Old 27 Motor Tour.

August 25th 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Held at the 4th Street DDA Lot

For more information contact:

Lori Schuh at 989 386 9190 or

Bret Cook at 989 429 9329

Sponsored by Clare Rotary Club and Clare Main Street

Clare Railroad Depot

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS ON FOURTH STREET ACROSS FROM CITY PARK. THIS LOCATION HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE NEW HOME FOR THE CLARE DEPOT. THIS SITE 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 RAIL-TRAIL, AND AS AN ACTIVE RAILROAD PASSENGER DEPOT. IN ADDITION TO THE DEMOLITION ACTIVITY, THE RE-ROOFING PROJECT HAS BEGUN ON THE DEPOT IN ORDER TO PREVENT FURTHER DAMAGE FROM THE ELEMENTS.

THE CLARE RAILROAD DEPOT STEERING COMMITTEE, COMPRISED OF MEMBERS FROM MID MICHIGAN 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 PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE CITY OF CLARE, HAVE BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY TO TRANSFORM THIS IDEA INTO A REALITY. THERE ARE NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERESTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO GET INVOLVED IN MAKING THIS PROJECT HAPPEN.

TO HELP OUT, YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF THE DEPOT STEERING COMMITTEE, OFFER IDEAS FOR FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES, DONATE TIME, MONEY, OR MATERIALS, SPONSOR A 4X8 OR 8X8 PAVER BRICK, DONATE HISTORIC ITEMS AND PHOTOS RELATED TO THE DEPOT. MONETARY DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND CAN BE MADE TO "MMCAA", CLARE DEPOT PROJECT, P.O. BOX 768, FARWELL, MI 48622. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN HELP, CONTACT DIANE SCHMIDT @ 989-386-7541 X106 OR MARK POLEGA @ 989-386-3805.

2011 Youth Soccer League Games Begin Soon!!!

Youth soccer league games will begin September 10 and will end on October 15, 2011.

We are still looking for volunteers to coach. If you are interested in becoming a coach, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at Clare City Hall 386-7541 ext.213 or by email to

Main Street Spook-Tacular

Something to Howl About

Saturday, October 22, 2011 • 10am – 1 pm

Downtown Clare • 4th Street

Kids Costume Parade

Skeleton Search

Face Painting, Pumpkin Painting & More!

For More Information Contact:

Lori Schuh at 989-386-9190 or

Amanda Holey Green at 989 386 7541 x213