

## CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission  
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager  
DATE: August 28, 2025  
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of September 2, 2025

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Lake Shamrock Dredging. Mechanical dredging by the city is continuing at the west end of the lake. The city's barge operates during normal DPW business hours as time and work load permit. Savin's hydraulic dredging is currently under a short pause in operations that required the removal of the barge to complete a project in Lake Isabella and then they will be starting back up in Lake Shamrock as soon as that small project is complete in order to finish the rest of this year to completion.

Lake Shamrock Dam Project. For the dam project, our engineering firms, GEI and Spicer, are continuing design work for the new dam and emergency/auxiliary spillway and new walkway. GEI anticipates that they will submit the preliminary permit application to EGLE likely this month as they work toward the 90% completion mark on the design. They city will meet with them again in October to finalize the design and then bidding should occur over the winter. We are still waiting on the grant agreement with FEMA and will bring that to you at a future meeting. We will be applying for additional funds from DRRGP dollars if they become available, but so far, another round has not been announced.

MDOT Summer Road Project. Just a reminder that this project as I have mentioned before is scheduled to start September 15<sup>th</sup>.

"Brian Atkinson, Operations Manager for MDOT, recently reached out to the city to let us know that again this year they had winter savings in maintenance for our Region. As a result, they are adding a 1.5" cold mill and 1.5" resurfacing (Mill & Fill) project along McEwan St (US-127 BR) in the city of Clare. The limits are from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street northerly to State Street (where last year's Mill & Fill project began). The project will be approximately 0.309 miles in length. MDOT did not have plans to do work in our community over the next several years on this stretch of roadway, but because of the savings in Region Maintenance funds, they are now able to invest an additional \$275,000 to keep this section of roadway in good condition. The project is currently scheduled to start September 15<sup>th</sup> and is planned to take about a week. As a reminder there will be some detours in place during some of the construction."

New Businesses Opening. I wanted to share a couple new businesses scheduled to open. 989 Furniture and Mattress is having their grand opening and ribbon cutting Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm located at 425 North McEwan Street right downtown. Also, the Jimmy Johns that is opening inside the Shell Gas Station is scheduled to have its grand opening tentatively September 9<sup>th</sup>. As a side not another downtown business, Four Leaf Brewing, also celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of opening downtown recently with a celebration on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Welcome and Congratulations to the new and long-time businesses in the city of Clare.

Housing Study. Recently the East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG) contracted to have a housing study done for our region. At the same time there was also an opportunity for them to do a study for specific municipalities. Below is a link to the full study as well as the list of individual municipalities (including the City of Clare). I have also attached the document related to the City of Clare and its specific findings to this report. This will be a great resource as we talk to developers and continue to look for ways to increase housing, including looking for grant funding, in the city for future needs. <https://www.emcog.org/docview.asp?did=177>

Labor Day Holiday. Just a reminder that City Offices will be closed for the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 1, 2025. This means that our regularly scheduled City Commission meeting that would be scheduled on Monday night will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, instead.

Attachments:

1. See Coms for EMCOG Housing Study – Clare.