CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager
DATE: May 14, 2026
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of May 18, 2026

Lake Shamrock Dredging. Mechanical dredging by the city will continue at the west end of the lake as time and weather permit but we are also under the fish spawning restriction from March 15-July 1. Savin's hydraulic dredging continues to be paused during the fish spawning restrictions. Savin will be back at the beginning of July to complete the dredging when the restriction is lifted. They estimate about 4 to 6 weeks of dredging remaining with completion by mid to late August hopefully. In the mean time Savin has been doing some clean up and repairs at the holding cell (repairing fencing) and cleaning up excess pipe at the city owned property where the water flows back to the river. Luke and I are scheduled to meet with Savin on June 10th at 11 a.m. to do another survey of the lake and confirm the plans for the completion of the project to start July 1. Savin is also working with the Clare County Road Commission in coordination with the road projects on Eberhart and Washington. Both of these roads have pipes crossing under the road for the project. The road commission plans to install 1-24" culvert across Eberhart and 2-24" culverts across Washington to accommodate the dredging project both now and in the future necessary at some point.

Lake Shamrock Dam Project. For the dam project, our engineering firms, GEI and Spicer, have completed the design work for the new dam, emergency/auxiliary spillway, and the new walkway. The bids came in higher than anticipated by well over 2 million dollars. Fisher Contracting was low bid at $8,891,895 and Anlaan Corporation was $9,970,000. Currently, we do not have enough funding in place with the grant dollars we have received to fully fund both phases of the project at those costs. The engineers have completed a detailed review to ensure the bid items are correct and looking to find ways to allow the city to reduce the costs by changing the scope or phases if possible. Fisher Contracting finalizing revised scope and pricing for the project for potential cost savings on any pieces. The engineers at GEI and Fisher have continued to meet to discuss additional strategies moving forward for the project and project cost savings and they think they may have a possible scenario that would allow us to fully complete the new dam and coffer dam the old dam which would bypass it and allow for future removal and the installation of the auxiliary spillway. It is possible that with this reduction we would have enough funding to complete this "Phase 1". Once final pricing is confirmed we will bring you a contract to authorize with Fisher to begin work. We may also need to call a special meeting to authorize the purchase of steel for the construction to hopefully be able to lock in current pricing before it increases. Once we know more on that potential, we will let the Commission know and look for a possible date/time for a special meeting. We are still waiting to hear from Moolenaar's office on possible Federal allocations. We are still waiting to receive the grant agreement with FEMA. We spoke with EGLE and FEMA to see if there are additional grants or other funding sources available. We are also looking into the possibility of another grant that just opened related to the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities funding. The EGLE permit is still progressing well. They have stated that they will be able to give us a permit for both phases of the project which we can then modify if needed, and we can only do phase one at this time (just the dam removal and replacement and site prep for the auxiliary spillway for the future).

2026 Art in Sculpture. Art in Sculpture is a collaboration between Clare Parks and Recreation, Middle Michigan Development Corporation, the Clare County Arts Council, local artist Jeff Best and is headed by Carol Santini. The new installation pieces will be at their current location from now until this time next year. The 2026 opening reception was held on May 12, 2026. You can find a link to view all the new pieces at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PGFB3Y9. Attached is also a map of the locations as well as the flyer/program from the reception.

Speed Radar Sign. The City of Clare recently purchased a new portable speed radar device designed to display a vehicle's speed beneath posted speed limit signs. The purpose of this device is to remind motorists of their speed and help reduce speeding concerns in high traffic and high-speed areas throughout our community.

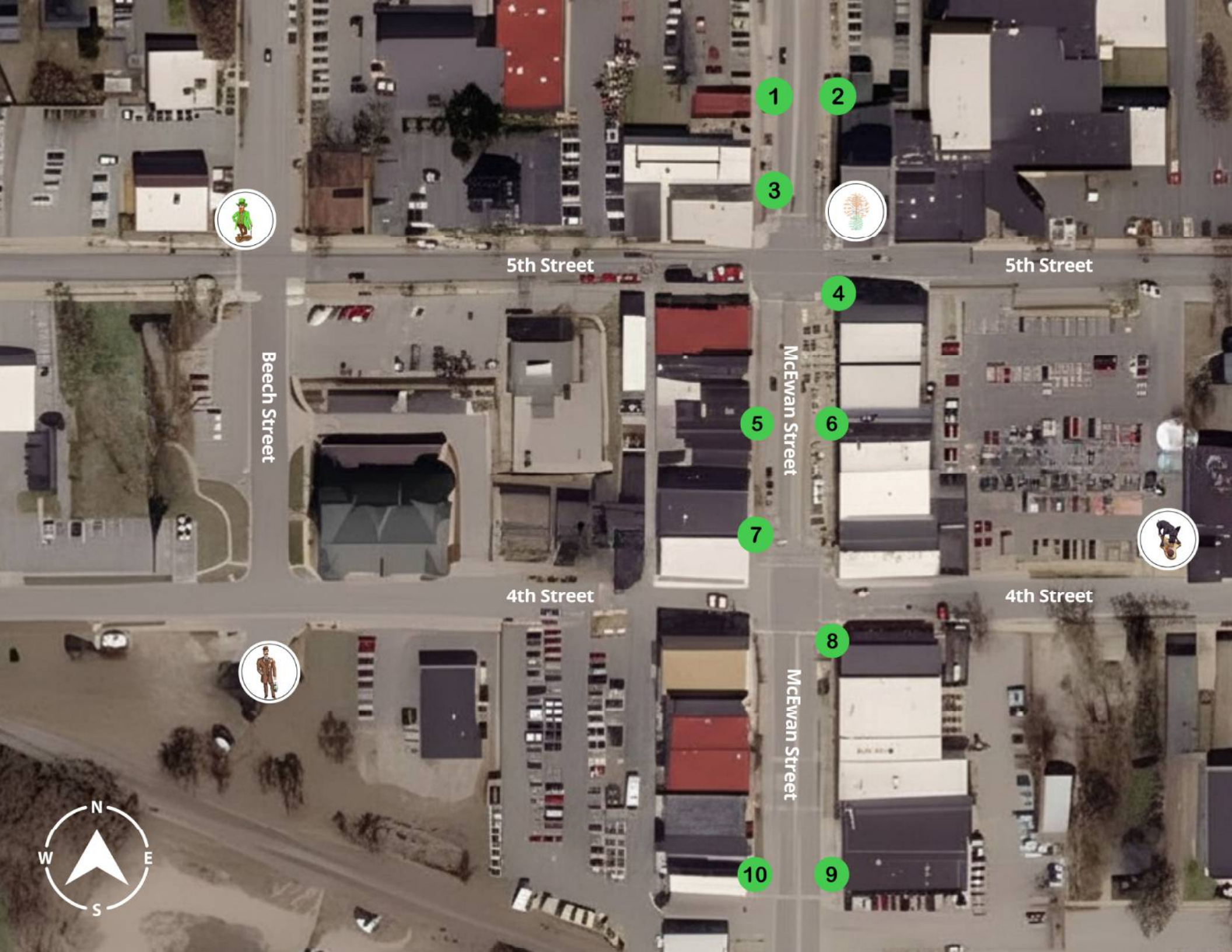
School safety is and will remain a priority for the City of Clare, the Clare Police Department, and Clare Public Schools. In support of that shared goal, Clare Public Schools partnered with the city to split the cost of the portable radar device. The device will be utilized by the Clare Police Department in and around school zones, and in other areas of concern to encourage safer driving habits and reduce vehicle speeds near students, staff, and pedestrians.

The city appreciates Clare Public Schools partnering on this project and recognizes the continued efforts of the Clare Police Department in addressing traffic safety concerns throughout the community. The city looks forward to continuing collaborative efforts focused on community and student safety.

MMDC Award. Recently Middle Michigan Development Corporation held their Annual Meeting. The city of Clare and the Industrial Development Corporation were awarded the Business Attraction Project of the Year for the work that was done with Amazon in the new industrial park. The City of Clare and the Industrial Development Corporation were recognized for their leadership in advancing business attraction efforts that strengthen the local economy. Through strategic site development, partnerships, and proactive outreach, the organization enhances Clare's competitiveness and positions the community to successfully attract new industry, investment, and job creation opportunities. This is particularly true through the most recent project at the IP3 Industrial Park, where in coordination with Middle Michigan Development Corporation, site preparation steps were taken that allowed for the site to be shovel ready and welcome an Amazon Last-Mile Distribution Center in 2025/26. I have attached a photo from the event and I will have the award as well as recognitions certificates from Michigan Legislators and the Governor's office as well as members of Congress at the meeting for your viewing.

Attachments:

1. Art in Sculpture Location Map.
2. Art in Sculpture Program/Flyer.
3. MMDC Business Attraction Award Photo.


1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
5th Street
5th Street
4th Street
4th Street
Beech Street
McEwan Street
McEwan Street
N
W
E
S

ART THIS WAY

Installation Name & Locations

"Sky" by Victoria Nieman
Location: The Whitehouse Restaurant

"Cassia of Clare" by Kelly O'Neill
Location: North Parking of Doherty Hotel

"Broken Strings" by Sunday Mahaja
Location: Ideal Theater

"Lumenfly" by Kirk Seese
Location: Isabella Bank

"Bee Hotel" by Justin LaDoux
Location: Hicks Jewelers

"Three Elements" by Kathy Kreager
Location: Antique Adoptions and Resale

"Sea Goddess" by Angela Larson
Location: 505 Cafe

"Chicago" by Maureen Gray
Location: Edward Jones Investments

"Agate Reflection" by Jarod Charzewski
Location: Four Leaf Brewing

"The Gatekeeper" by Roger King
Location: Ruckle's Pier

Reloan Program

Hosted by the Clare County Arts Council
Alma: Heart, Helicopter Seeds, Kaleidoscope, Protective Species & Prudence Peacock
Harrison DDA: Millie, Northern View & The Pollinator
Members First Credit Union: Phoenix Rising
Jay's & Webber Wildlife and Education Center: The Proposal

Given to the Clare County Arts Council & Clare Community
Shamrock Staircase

VOTE HERE

5TH ANNUAL

Destination CLARE

ART SCULPTURE WALK
MAY 12, 2026 - APRIL 30, 2027

Evening Program

MEET AND GREET WITH THE ARTISTS

Music Provided by Farwell High School Band

OPENING REMARKS

CLARE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
President - Carol J. Santini

RECOGNITION OF

STUDENT ARTISTS

Clare High School - *Hailey Clark, Cheyenne Gutirrez, Natalie Malson & William Warner*
Farwell High School - *Danielle Cool, Ines Ferrer, Marcos Quero & Grace Thrush*
Harrison High School - *Chelsea Bayn, Charlie Bechwith, Cadence Hardy & Sam Hopkins*

SPONSORS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jeff Best, Amy Biniecki, Linda Guiliani, Deb Hoyt, Connie McGregor, Carron Nevill, Pam O'Laughlin, Carol J. Santini, Jane Sartor, Cherlyn Seneshen & Joy Simmer

JURORS

Jeff Best, Amy Biniecki, Linda Guiliani, Jeremy Howard, Kim Kleinhardt, Connie McGregor, Carron Nevill, Pam O'Laughlin, Jane Sartor, Cherlyn Seneshen & Joy Simmer

JURIED AWARD JUDGES

Penelope Burley, Amanda Fletcher & Ian Humphres

INTRODUCTION OF ARTISTS - JEFF BEST

Jarod Charzewski, Maureen Gray, Roger King, Kathy Kreager, Justin LaDoux, Angela Larson, Kelly O'Neill, Sunday Mahaja, Victoria Neiman & Kirk Seese

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNERS

2025 People's Choice Award Winner
2026 Juried Award Winner
Door Prize Drawing

CLOSING REMARKS

Event Sponsors

GOLD

Clare Downtown Development Authority
Devil's Rope Studio
Four Leaf Brewing
Ideal Theater

SILVER

Dr. Tom & Marsha Claringbold
Ken Hibl & Sherry Gant
Tom & Kim Kleinhardt
MyMichigan Health
Jeff & Lisa Poet
Tony & Carol Santini
Randy & Marita Schiffman

BRONZE

Cops & Doughnuts
Doherty House & Gardens
Larry & Judy Kleinhardt
Representative Tom Kunse

ART ADVOCATE

Friends of Clare County Parks & Rec
Dennis & Betty Guerriero
Linda Guiliani
Harrison & Newman CPA, PLLC
Harrison Do It Best Lumber
Carolyn Knapp
Mike & Terry Petrongelli

I LOVE ART

Sue Atwood
Pat & Linda Bruski
Dick & Carol Crawford
Ed Hubel
Judy Hubel
Dave Kyle
Connie McGregor
Linda Morey
Mr. Rooter Plumbing
Betty Mussell
Carron Nevill
Karen Prince
Dick & Mary Roe
Jane Sartor
Cherlyn Seneshen
Karen Waszazak
Billie Willett

STATE OF MICHIGAN