



**Monthly Director's Report, January 2022**  
**City of Clare Parks and Recreation**  
**Prepared by Joy Simmer**

Current and Upcoming Programs/Events

The **Senior Cards and Coffee** has resumed at the Pere Marquette District Library. The group is supplied with coffee and card decks. The program takes place on Wednesdays from 10-12 p.m.

Emerald Isle Recreation Complex

The **butterfly and pollen garden** interpretive signage is being researched still to decide on signage for the garden area. The local Girl Scout Troop #50831 insect hotel will be placed within the butterfly and pollen garden. The insect hotel will be installed until the spring.

The Clare-Gladwin RESD Parent Coalition rep is still waiting for award notification to move forward with sensory play signs to be placed within the playground area at the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex. The grant was submitted at the end of 2021 to purchase these signs and Simmer has agreed that it will be a great addition. The signage would be relevant to what playground equipment already exists and would be a nature-based theme. Simmer, the youth services librarian at the Pere Marquette District Library and the Clare-Gladwin RESD parents services coordinator will meet once the grant notification has come through sometime after January of 2022.

Additional Information

Simmer ordered donation recognition plates for the DPW/cemetery and for the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex projects. Simmer has approved the plates and is waiting for a call to pick-up.

Past Programs/Events

**Santa Mailbox** was placed in the front entrance of City Hall from November 2<sup>nd</sup>. until December 6, 2021. This program helps to provide a direct mailing service between residents of the Clare area and Santa Claus himself. Mail was able to be delivered to Clare City Hall or dropped off at the Pere Marquette District Library. Children, who dropped their letters in the box before the deadline were able to receive a letter from the North Pole before Christmas. The control letter came back on December 22, 2021, verifying that the children did receive their letters prior to Christmas.

Upcoming Programs/Events

**Art in Sculpture** – Parks and Recreation has been working with Middle Michigan Development Corporation, the Clare County Arts Council, and local artist Jeff Best for this 2022 art event.

The city has been continuing to meet and correspond with MDOT to keep the project moving for the **Pere Marquette Rail-Trail** extension. Simmer submitted a timeline update for the project to

MDOT. The project timeline had to be adjusted because the project needed to include the need for a ROW phase to be included due to consents to grade being required, as well as additional survey work at Pioneer Parkway to evaluate trail routing options. Proposed Schedule: • Plan Review (GI Meeting) – January 13, 2022 • Plan Completion/ROW Certification – February 2022 • Letting – 7/1/2022 • Anticipated construction start date – sometime in late summer 2022

The **Irish Pet Photo Contest** will start at the end of January and will run until March 16, 2022 at 3 p.m. Proceeds from the contest will go to the Spay-Neuter Animal Project. This is a collaboration between Clare Parks and Recreation and the Pere Marquette District Library. Members from the S-NAP will be picking the top three entries. Submissions are able to be dropped off or submitted online. The winners of the Irish themed contest can win one of three top prizes; 1st Place: \$75 in Clare Cash, 2nd Place: \$50 in Clare Cash, 3rd Place: a \$25 in Clare Cash. Winners will be announced on The Irish Pet Photo Contest Facebook Page on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

Simmer finalized the draft of the **5-Year Michigan DNR Recreation Master Plan** . There is a public meeting on 1/17/2022 and the plan is available for public view on the City of Clare website, on Facebook, the Pere Marquette District Library, and at Clare City Hall. This has to be submitted to the MDNR by February 1, 2022 for approval.

#### In the Works

2022 Easter themed events and the Clare Summer Concert Series. Also, will be meeting with the library to discuss 2022 events, meeting scheduled for 1/20/22.