



Clare CITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2024

EDITION

www.cityofclare.gov

This edition of your city newsletter contains updates and reminders for city ordinances and more. City Hall hours for the week of March 25th will be 8:00am to 4:30pm. All City Offices will be closed March 29th for Good Friday.

City Ordinance Reminders from the Clare Police Department

Inoperable and Unregistered Vehicles

Dear City of Clare Residents: It is our responsibility to ensure a clean and safe environment for everyone to work and live. To maintain the beauty and functionality of our city, we have a city ordinance restricting the presence of inoperable and unregistered vehicles within our city limits. We would like to remind all residents that instances of inoperable and unregistered vehicles within the city are a violation of the city ordinance. These regulations are in place to preserve the aesthetic appeal of our community as well as to address safety concerns associated with abandoned vehicles.

Here are key points to remember:

1. **Inoperable Vehicles:** It is prohibited to keep inoperable vehicles on your property. If a vehicle is not in working condition, it must be stored in a garage or another suitable enclosed structure.
2. **Unregistered Vehicles:** Vehicles must be registered with the appropriate authorities. Unregistered vehicles should not be parked on public streets or private property within the city.
3. **Parking on Non-Hard Surfaces:** Parking on grass or any non-hard surface is also a violation of city ordinance. All vehicles should be parked in designated parking areas such as driveways or paved parking lots.

Consequences of Non-Compliance: Failure to comply with these ordinances may result in penalties, fines, or other enforcement actions. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in ensuring our city remains safe, clean, and an attractive place to live.

Winter Parking Regulation: No Parking on City Streets (3 AM to 6 AM)

We would also like to remind you of an important seasonal parking regulation that plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and efficiency of our city services. Starting from November 15th and continuing until April 1st, there will be no parking allowed on city streets between the hours of 3 AM to 6 AM. To facilitate snow removal and ensure smooth operation for our Department of Public Works (DPW), it is essential that our streets remain clear during the early morning hours. This temporary restriction is designed to allow DPW crews to remove snow efficiently and safely, making our roadways safer for all residents.

Here are key points to remember:

1. **Time Frame:** No parking on city streets from 3 AM to 6 AM effective from November 1st to April 1st.
2. **Snow Removal Operations:** This regulation is in place to facilitate snow removal activities carried out by the DPW. Your cooperation is vital in ensuring the success of these efforts.
3. **Alternative Parking:** We encourage residents to utilize off-street parking options during the specified hours. Garages, driveways, and designated parking lots are excellent alternatives.

Consequences of Non-Compliance: Vehicles parked on city streets during restricted hours result in a \$30 fine and may be subject to towing at the owner's expense. This measure is essential to allow our DPW crews to complete their snow removal tasks properly and effectively. We understand that compliance with parking regulations can sometimes be inconvenient, but your cooperation is essential for the safety and well-being of our community. We kindly ask for your cooperation in adhering to these regulations. Compliance with city ordinances helps maintain the quality of life we all enjoy in our community.

Cemetery Clean Up

Cherry Grove Cemetery Spring Clean Up is scheduled for April 1st through April 15th. This includes the removal of all artificial flowers. In accordance with the Cherry Grove Cemetery Rules & Regulations, all "winter" decorations must be removed by April 1st. Winter/Seasonal decorations that you wish to keep should always be removed prior to April 1st. Spring decorations may be replaced after clean-up has been completed. Thank you for your cooperation.

State and Federal Elections Update from Clare County Clerk, Lori Mott

You may have questions surrounding the changes that were passed by Michigan voters in November of 2022 under Proposal 22-2. When Proposal 22-2 passed, several items were added to our Michigan Constitution regarding elections that were not previously there that every voter should know about. One big change is that Michigan now has early in-person voting for federal and state elections. Clare County will have 9-days of early in-person voting, which will be held at the County Building located at 225 W. Main St., Harrison, Michigan. Any registered Clare County elector can come to the County Building to cast their vote during the days and hours noted below.

Election Dates and Early Voting Hours for 2024 State and Federal Elections

<u>Election Date</u>	<u>Election</u>	<u>Early Voting Dates</u>	<u>Early Voting Hours</u>
February 27 th	Presidential Primary	February 17 th – 25 th	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
August 6 th	General Primary	July 27 th – August 4 th	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
November 5 th	General Presidential	October 26 th – November 3 rd	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

All registered Clare County voters still have the option to vote by absentee ballot or to vote at their township/city polling place ON ELECTION DAY. There are many opportunities to vote and hopefully, you will find an option that works for you.

Another election change is that if you are currently on an “absentee ballot application list” and vote by absentee ballot your clerk will be changing to an “absentee ballot list,” in 2024. The difference is that in the past you were mailed an application before every election to complete and submit if you wanted to vote absentee in that election. In 2024 if you mark the box that you want to be on the “absentee ballot list”, you will automatically be sent a ballot for all future elections, to the address at which you are registered to vote and you will never have to submit another absentee ballot application. If you are going to be out of town for an election, your ballot will NOT forward. You must notify your local clerk (elections@cityofclare.gov) in advance of the address at which you want the ballot mailed.

As always, Clare County Transit offers free rides to and from voting – this will be for early voting along with Election Day voting. Please call 989-539-1473 to schedule pickup.

2024 March Board of Review

Board of Review will meet at: Clare City Hall, 202 W. Fifth St, Clare, MI 48617 on the following dates: Monday, March 5, 2024 Organizational Meeting @ 2:00 pm; Appeal hearings are March 11, 2024 (9am-3pm), and Tuesday March 12, 2024 (2pm-5pm and 6pm-9pm). If you have questions about your Tax Assessment Change Notice or wish to schedule an appointment, contact the City Assessor’s Office at (989) 424-4066 or (517) 940-2823, or email assessor@cityofclare.gov. If you do not make an appointment, you may have to wait for an available time.

Residents and non-residents may protest by letter, the written appeal must be received prior to 5:00pm, March 12th, 2024. Appeals delivered via email will not be accepted, please drop it off or mail it to City of Clare, 202 W. Fifth St., Clare, MI 48617. Meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Notice: The City will provide necessary, reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 5 days’ notice. Contact the City Clerk at dlyon@cityofclare.gov or (989) 424-4068 if accommodation will be needed.

Residential Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste Collection Reminder

All items for curbside collection should be placed to the curb before 6:00 AM on scheduled pick-up day.

- **Bulk Items:** Allowed 1 item per week, please notify the City Utilities Clerk at 989-424-4071 prior to placing the item at the curb.
- **Recycling:** Boxes that do not fit in your recycling bin must be broken down, tied together and not to exceed 35 pounds.
- **Yard Waste:** Yard waste collection ended December 1st and will resume in April 2024.

Brush Chipping is a service provided by the City of Clare (not the refuse contractor), time and weather permitting. Brush chipping is normally done on the first Monday of the month. The chipping crew drives down each street one time only. The brush should be placed at the curb before 7 AM on the scheduled day; be within 2 feet of the curb with the large ends facing the same direction; be no longer than 6’ in length nor larger than 8” in diameter; AND not include stumps, roots, or vines. For vacant lots, or if you have a large amount of brush, please call 989-386-2182, extension 202. **Tentative Chipping Dates: March 4th, April 1st, and May 6th, 2024.**