



## Monthly Director's Report, February, 2016 Parks and Recreation

### Current Events

Senior **Cards and Coffee** continues Wednesday's, at the Pere Marquette District Library main level from 10 am-12pm. This is a free and fun way for seniors and older adults to get together with peers in the community to socialize. Weekly attendance varies from 8-11 individuals.

Clare Parks and Recreation has been working on **Clare Irish Fest** alongside the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce. The **Irish Pet Photo Contest** started last month and will run until March 17, 2016 at 3 p.m. Proceeds from the contest will be going to the Spay-Neuter Animal Project and members from S-NAP will be judging the contest. Submissions can be mailed in, dropped off, or submitted online. The winners of the Irish themed contest could potentially win one of three top prizes; 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$100 Family Farm and Home gift card, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Mini-photo session by Guys & Dolls Photography, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place is a \$50 Jay's Sporting Good gift card. Winners will be announced at the Doherty at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Simmer will be attending the **Michigan Recreation and Park Association** conference which will be held in Traverse City this year, starting on February 16-February 19, 2016. During the conference there will be workshops and discussions on various recreation topics, including; trails and DNR grant writing.

The **ice rink** at Shamrock Park has been assembled and when the ground freezes and has been in use once again! The rink has had issues due to thawing and ice destruction where the rink has been closed down a couple of times. On February 26, 2016 CMU will have a group of students learning sled hockey for future use in the field.

City of Clare, Clare County, and MDOT have started meeting to discuss the **Rail Trail Extension**. The next scheduled meeting is set for February 26, 2016.

### Current Grants and Donations

We are still awaiting a timeline when the Operators Union will be able to break ground at the complex property. In the meantime we are still looking into more funding and grant opportunities. We will be applying for a lower scale grant this month from the Michigan Baseball League and hopefully starting to work on the DNR Trust Fund Grant (pending Master Plan approval).

### Future Events

Planning has started for the **2016 Summer Concert Series**, all bands have now been secured for the series and most of the concert sponsors. Another project on the horizon includes the **Great EGGstravagana** which is collaboration with the Clare Municipal Airport. The event is set to take place on April 2, 2016 (as Easter falls the weekend after Irish Festival this year and the conflict with spring break).

\* The **DNR 5-year Master Plan** will go to the PRAB board again on 2/11/16 and then on 2/15/16 we will hold a public comment period for the Master Plan and then it will be presented to the commission for approval.

\* The Pere Marquette District Library, Clare Parks and Recreation, and a former Central student are having a trial run for the **Community Fit Club** on February 26, 2016.