



Monthly Director's Report, March 2016

Current Events

The **ice skating rink** at Shamrock Park has been open for use since the beginning of January. Now that the weather is starting to warm up and the ice is melting, the rink will start to be disassembled.

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 Festival** alongside the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce. There are three elements of the festival that Clare Parks and Recreation are involved with: **Little Leprechaun Lot** at Clare City Park, the **Clare Lip Sync Battle** and the **Irish Pet Photo Contest**.

The **Lip Sync Battle** auditions are being held at the Pere Marquette District Library on 3/11/16 at 6 p.m. where the contestants will perform for the Chamber and Parks and Recreation, the contestants will then move on to the actual battle which will take place at the Doherty Hotel in the MacGillycuddy Room on 3/19/16.

The **Irish Pet Photo Contest** 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. Winners will be announced at the Doherty at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 19th.

The **Little Leprechaun Lot** is new this year, this will be the location where we host the children's activities and will have bounce houses, pony rides, petting zoo, and games. The children's activities were able to be free thanks to sponsorships from MMCAA and MMCC.

City of Clare, Clare County, and MDOT have been meeting monthly to discuss the **Rail Trail Extension**.

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 applied for a lower scale grant this month from the Michigan Baseball League for \$2,000 and have started preparing for a DNR Trust Fund Grant (pending Master Plan approval).

Future Events

The **Great EGGstravaganza** (collaboration with the Clare Municipal Airport), 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 event will be complete with crafts, games, three timed egg drops, and even Mr. Bunny will arrive by plane for the event! After the scheduled drop the children will be able to recycle their eggs in for a bag of candy. There will be deejaying by Sound Productions and balloon animals made by Lavender the Clown.

Planning is almost finished for the **2016 Summer Concert Series**, all bands have now been secured for the series as well as most of the concert sponsors. In addition to the concerts, we will have the "Summer Fun Addition" returning during the concerts during the months of June and July.

* The **DNR 5-year Master Plan** was submitted to the DNR prior to March 1, 2016, we are awaiting for the DNR's approval of the plan.

Additional upcoming program and events that are in the planning process include the **Junior Fire Fighters Academy, Soccer Camp** and possibly **Wonders of Water** and the **Clare Youth Soccer Program**.