



Monthly Director's Report, April 2019 Parks and Recreation

Current Events

Senior Cards and Coffee continues each Wednesday, at the Pere Marquette District Library 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.

Upcoming Programs/Events

The **Great EGGstravaganza** (collaboration with the Clare Municipal Airport) will take place on April 13, 2019. The date was moved up a week due to a conflict with Little League picture day on April 20th. The event will be complete with crafts, games, a deejay, three timed egg drops. Over 1,800 plastic eggs will be dropped from an airplane! There will be eggs that can be recycled in for candy and there will be some specially marked prize eggs that have been donated by local businesses and organizations. Youth ages 12 and under are welcomed to retrieve the eggs and to redeem them for candy or prizes. Before and after the event there will be children's activities and in addition, The Easter Bunny will be flying in for a visit!

The Clare County **Annual Tree Sale** through the Clare Conservation District will be taking place on April 26 and April 27 this year. Clare Parks and Recreation will be assisting with the tree sorting (earlier within the week) and the sales order pick-ups.

The **Clare Conservation District Annual Meeting** will be taking place on May 4, 2019. Simmer is assisting the CCD with the breakfast and meeting set-up.

Clare Parks and Recreation is assisting with the **Annual Gateway Affair** at Jay's Sporting Goods on May 11, 2019. This event will help to raise funds to go towards the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail Extension project. The cost is \$50/ticket and that ticket includes the entry into the reverse raffle (with \$1,500/\$1,000/\$500 prizes), a steak dinner, live auction, and a presentation on the history of Michigan Railroads.

Simmer has been working with J. Winter on the 2nd Annual **Jack Winter Memorial Recreation Fund Golf Outing**. This event will help to raise funds for the **Emerald Isle Recreation Complex** (proceeds will be split between the skate and bike park and the playground). The event is scheduled to take place on July 17, 2019. The cost will be \$75 per person.

In the Works

Planning for the **2019 Clare Summer Concert Series** will take place from June 6, 2019 To August 15, 2019 and then will skip a week for the Old 27 Car Tour and then hold the last concert of the year on August 28, 2019.

The **5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan** is set to expire after 2019. Simmer has started working on the updates that will be required for the 2020-2024 plan. A new **parks and recreation survey** has

also been developed and is now available at City Hall and online for public input and the research for the update has begun.

The Local Girl Scout Troop 50831 has been refilling the **lending library** at the Imagination Gateway Park and is currently working on potentially putting another box at the Depot location.

Emerald Isle Recreation Complex - Playground

Penchura has been working with Simmer on a proposed layout for the **playground** that will be located at the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex. The estimated cost will be ~\$77,000 for the inclusive playground. Simmer has been looking into various fundraising campaigns and grant programs to help us get the playground. Currently we have some funds set aside to go towards the equipment. A grant through the MDNR Recreation Passport Program was submitted on April 1, 2019 to help secure funds for the playground facility. Notification for the accepted projects will be in December 2019.

Grants

Clare Parks and Recreation, in partnership with MDOT, and Clare County Parks and Recreation applied for the **MDNR Trust Fund Grant** and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) to help with the development of the **Pere Marquette Rail-Trail "Gap"** that exists between the City of Clare and the Moose Lodge. The application for the MDNRTF Grant was submitted before the deadline on April 1, 2019 and J. Reithel from MDOT submitted the TAP Grant on March 26, 2019. The MDNRTF chosen applicants will be announced in December 2019. The TAP Grant determination should be announced sometime during the summer 2019.

Additional Information

On March 25, 26, and 29th Simmer attended Drone Training at the Clare Fire Safety Building alongside four other City of Clare employees.

On March 26, 2019 Simmer had a meeting with M. LeValley from the Isabella Conservation District and M. Kelly from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative (WIN). The meeting was to discuss the natural areas and the butterfly and pollen garden at the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex. Simmer was then invited to attend and propose the upcoming project at the WIN board meeting that was held at the Bay City Planetarium on March 28th. The WIN board was in favor of the project and Simmer will be working with M. Kelly to try and secure some funding for the upcoming projects from WIN.