



Monthly Director's Report, November 2021
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.

Christmas Fest will be taking place on December 11, 2021. The Chamber is heading the event and Simmer is providing insight on previous years, as needed.

The **Santa Mailbox** was placed in the front entrance of City Hall for easy access and for afterhours drop offs from the children. Santa Mail provides a direct mailing service between residents of the Clare area and Santa Claus himself. Children, who dropped their letters in the box before December 6th, will receive a letter from the North Pole before Christmas!

North Pole Calling will take place on Monday, December 6, 2021 between 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. During this program Santa Claus will take a small break from his duties at the "North Pole" to contact the registered children. Santa will take a few moments to chat with them about life at the North Pole and getting ready for Christmas.

Past Programs/Events

The **Clare Youth Soccer** season ran September 11 to October 16, 2021. We had great weather throughout the 2021 soccer season. Due to COVID and our registration cut-off we were down players, but still had 234 players for the fall season and 20 teams. The 7th/8th grade night game under the lights at Brookwood took place on October 1, 2021 and we had a great weather and a great turnout.

The **Recreation Complex Raffle** went great with 7,160/10,000 tickets being sold. The tickets were \$1/each or 6/\$5 and the proceeds from the raffle will go towards Emerald Isle Recreation Complex projects. The players who sold all of their tickets were able to request additional packs and for every pack they sold, they were entered into a player drawing for various prizes. Jay's Sporting Goods donated some prizes and we also had a discounted shopping trip at Jay's for prizes. The raffle took place at noon on the last day of soccer (October 16, 2021) and the player prizes were also available that last day of games. The total raffle intake after prize payout and license fee was \$5,644.00.

Halloween events took place on Saturday, October 30, 2021. The **Pumpkin Run** was held once again at the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex with an amazing turn out of participants and volunteers. We had 26 volunteers and 110 participants for the event. CTE criminal justice students came out and assisted with the race route and set-up and tear-down. Our partnership that we created with the CTE criminal justice department has been amazing and we are so grateful for all of them.

Tract-or-Treat was held from 12-2 p.m. in the complex parking lot. Tract-or-Treat is a collaboration between Clare Parks and Recreation, Clare Family Fitness, Clare County Farm Bureau, and the Michael Leary Agency – Farm Bureau Insurance. The farmers had their tractors and they handed out information, candy, pumpkins, apples, cheese sticks, etc.... We also had an obstacle course that Clare Parks and Recreation runs in conjunction with Clare Family Fitness and Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency also came out and participated in Tract-or-Treat. There were ~300 children who attended the event this year. Next year we will see if we can get some of the emergency responders out and maybe a City DPW truck.

Simmer completed a flyer for the Clare Fire Department to advertise the hotdog giveaway and candy check at the fire station during **trick or treating**. The leftover candy from the Tract-or-Treat event was delivered to the Clare Fire Department for them to hand out on Halloween night.

Large Pumpkin/Gourd Scavenger Hunt happened again this year, thanks to the Swartz brothers. On social media we challenged people to look for the nine gourds and post on the Clare Parks and Recreation Facebook page pictures with them and at least 5 of the 9 gourds. We had a total of 76 pictures submitted.

Emerald Isle Recreation Complex

The **butterfly garden** is still being developed. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has emailed the plant list for Simmer to start designing and ordering the interpretive signage.

Simmer has been working on getting new **tree** protectors on and getting the trees staked properly.

A gaga ball pit was built and placed in the open picnic area on the north west side of the complex. It was built by a local Eagle Scout for his final Eagle Project.

Additional Information

Simmer has been working with the Clare County Arts Council on the potential **Leprechaun Door** construction and placement around the City of Clare. These doors will be mapped out and allow people who live in and travel to Clare to participate in a fun scavenger hunt to look for the doors and where the leprechauns live. This will take place in 2022.

The **Pere Marquette Rail-Trail** Proposed Schedule is still as follows: • Plan Review (GI Meeting) – Late September 2021 • Plan Completion/ROW Certification – 12/17/2021 • Advertisement – 1/20/2022 • Letting – 3/04/2022 • Anticipated construction start date – 5/02/2022.

Simmer is still working on the update for the **5-Year Michigan DNR Recreation Master Plan**. Now that the census information has come through that will be plugged into the updated plan and Simmer will soon be scheduling the open meeting.