

Monthly Director's Report, November 2016 Parks and Recreation, Joy Simmer



Past Events

Spook-Tacular and the **Pumpkin Run** took place on October 29, 2016 this year. Spook-Tacular kicked off with the run registration at 9 a.m. and the run starting at 10 a.m. The Pumpkin Run was collaboration between Clare Parks and Recreation and Clare Family Fitness. There were 54 runners who participated in the run. Afterwards there was a magic show with "Gordon Russ the Magician" at the Pere Marquette District Library and followed with a kids parade lead by "Skittles the Clown" and ended up at the Clare City Park. Games ran from 12-2 p.m. and then followed with a Halloween movie showing at the Pere Marquette District Library at 2 p.m. There were over 200 children who attended the park games.

Tea with You and Me was a new event held in collaboration with the Pere Marquette District Library on November 6, 2016. This was a fun event for women of all ages and was created to allow people to participate who fall between the lines for events like the Daddy Daughter Dance and mother/son events. The event was held in the lower level of the library. Herrick House provided the food (at a low cost) and also served tea, juice, and had crafts and games. Tickets were \$6 for early registration and \$8 for late registration. There were 30 people who attended the event and there were four boys from Clare High School who served drinks and escorted attendees to their tables.

Upcoming Programs/Events

The **Clare Christmas Festival** will be held on Saturday, December 3rd. The event has been turned over to the Clare Area Jaycees from the Clare Area Chamber board. Clare Parks and Recreation and Clare Area Chamber have been working with the chair of the Jaycees to help them through their first year. Clare Parks and Recreation wasn't asked to hold **Reindeer Games** this year, but offered to have a couple of games alongside Cops & Doughnuts or at the Pere Marquette District Library while children wait to visit with Santa.

One of the upcoming Christmas programs this season is **Santa's Mailbox**. The mailbox is located in the front entrance of City Hall. Santa Mail provides a direct mailing service between residents of the Clare area and Santa Claus himself. Children, who drop their letters in the box before December 12th will be able to receive a letter back from Santa!

North Pole Calling will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016. During this program someone from the "North Pole" (Santa, Mrs. Claus, or an elf) will call the registered children and will take a few moments to chat with them about life at the North Pole and getting ready for Christmas.

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.

Future Events

In December planning will start for the **Clare Summer Concert Series** line-up for the summer of 2017. We have already had dozens of bands contact us to try for a spot in the line-up.

Upcoming Grants/Fundraisers

There will be a cookie sale held at the 515 Gallery during the Clare Christmas Festival. The fundraiser is being headed by Judy Brankel of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Brankel had advertising sent out that asked people to bake and donate two dozen cookies and then the Friday prior to the festival, they will be plated with eighteen different cookies per plate and then will be available for \$5/plate. Proceeds will go to the **Clare Recreation Complex** project.