

**Monthly Director's Report, December 2015**  
**Parks and Recreation, Joy Simmer**



Past Events

The **Clare Christmas Festival** was held on Saturday, December 5th. The event was complete with live reindeer, carriage rides, Santa, and other events that were held throughout town. Santa's arrival to downtown kicked off the Saturday festivities.

Clare Parks and Recreation hosted **Reindeer Games** during the Christmas Festival from 11-1 p.m. There were game stations for the children to play - reindeer landing, snow hockey, Penguin sled plinko, Santa cookie toss and candy cane toss. Around one hundred kids participated in the games, which were located along 4<sup>th</sup> St.

Current Events

One of the Christmas events that are still to come this season is **Santa's Mailbox**. His 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 12<sup>th</sup>, will be able to receive a letter back from Santa!

**North Pole Calling** will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. During this event 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.

Current Grants

The Chemical Bank Foundation delivered the \$10,000 grant check for the Clare Recreation Complex project on December 7<sup>th</sup>, a photo was taken and sent over to the Clare County Review.

A grant request was submitted to Strosacker Foundation in October 2015 and the grant representative contacted Clare Parks and Recreation on December 8<sup>th</sup> letting us know that we were awarded the full \$20,000 grant amount that was requested. Strosacker should have the funds over to us before the end of the year.

Future Events

The **ice rink** at Shamrock Park has been assembled and when the ground freezes and it stays cold enough to form ice inside the rink, the rink will be in use once again! Water will be put in the rink as the weather continues to get colder.

- \* Updates on the **DNR 5-year Master Plan** update is still being worked on.
- \* A meeting is scheduled with Clare Family Fitness to schedule the Diabetes Awareness Walk.
- \* We are still in the works with the Pere Marquette District Library and a former Central student, to get a **Community Fit Club** started in the spring.

The next few months are going to be consumed with planning for 2016 events and grants.