



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLARE CITY TREASURER

Recently the City of Clare received a report from the Michigan Department of Treasury that rated our city on several different fiscal indicators that were developed by the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University. These fiscal indicators include population growth, real taxable value growth and several areas of fiscal management including budget and debt management. We are very pleased to inform the community that the City of Clare received the highest score possible in each indicator as well as overall. This positive affirmation comes at a time when we are enduring together a challenged economy and not only meeting the challenges but in many ways exceeding them.

Achieving the highest possible rating has not been easy. This achievement is the direct result of the dedication and deliberate efforts of many people throughout our community, both inside and outside of government. You can read more about the Fiscal Indicator scoring system and view the City of Clare's rating, along with all other municipalities' ratings throughout the State of Michigan, by clicking on the "**Fiscal Indicator Score**" link on the Treasurer's page on the City of Clare's Internet site www.cityofclare.org.

This positive news comes at a time when we are hearing numerous rather bleak news reports concerning the Michigan economy and the budget balancing challenges facing our state government. We have also learned in the past few weeks of rather significant financial woes facing our country and the entire world. Many of us have faced these issues personally through tightened family budgets and in far too many instances in disruptions to our employment. These news reports can be very unsettling and can create in each of us uncertainties about our future.

Local government cannot solve the issues facing our state or our nation but we can and do work together with the community, with local businesses, our school system and all other interested parties on the issues and challenges facing our local community. There will certainly be those that disagree with this statement, and they are certainly entitled to their opinion, but one only needs to compare the City of Clare to other communities throughout the state to gain an appreciation of how well our community has worked together in weathering the current economic storm.

Take for instance the efforts of government and community leaders who some time ago recognized a need for and took action to develop an industrial park and expand the number of businesses and manufacturing companies operating in the City of Clare. Due to the vision of these leaders today the City of Clare's Industrial Park is virtually at capacity and a number of well run businesses are operating in the City of Clare providing employment opportunities for our community. In addition to providing employment opportunities these same businesses also pay property taxes that support our school system, our district library, local and county government, the Clare-Gladwin Regional Educational Services District and Mid Michigan Community College.

Though our downtown has certainly been challenged by the condition of our state and national economy it is in many ways fairing much better than many cities throughout Michigan. We still have a number of strong businesses that provide the services and goods that we need/desire while at the same time providing employment opportunities for our community. In recent years under the leadership of elected officials and involved business and community leaders significant investments have been made in our downtown to strengthen and foster business and attract consumers to shop in Clare and support our local economy. Our efforts have also been recognized by the State of Michigan having been designated as a Michigan Main Street by the Governor and having received the Community Block Grant project of the year for our Fourth Street Parking Lot project.

If you have questions about this information or any other finance or property tax matter within the City of Clare I encourage you to give me a call (386-7541, extension 107), stop by City Hall or if it is more convenient you can send me an e-mail message at skingsbury@cityofclare.org.