

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016



Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed holidays.

Phone (989) 386-7541, Fax (989) 386-4508

www.cityofclare.org

City Offices will be closed on November 11th in honor of Veterans' Day, November 15th and also November 24th & 25th to celebrate the Thanksgiving Day holiday.



The General Election will be held
Tuesday, November 8th at the
Pere Marquette District Library, 185 E. Fourth St.
Polls will be open from 7 am until 8 pm.

The City Clerk's office will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 5th, 2016 for registered voters who need to complete an absent voter ballot application.

Calling All Worn or Tired Flags!!

With Veteran's Day fast approaching, please consider checking your American flag for wear and tear and replacing it if necessary. If you have a worn or tired flag, it may be dropped off at City Hall for proper disposal.



Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on November 6th.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour!

NO PARKING ON CITY STREETS

City Code, Chapter 126, Section 8.25, prohibits parking on City Streets from **3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.** between the dates of **November 15th through April 1st** of each year. The price you will pay for untimely parking is \$30.00 per offense.



Residential Trash/Recycling/Yard Waste Collection Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that all items for curbside collection are to be placed to the curb by 6:00 a.m. on Thursday. Trash and Recycling Bins should be placed on one side of the driveway and yard waste on the other. **Yard Waste collection will end on December 8th or the first substantial snowfall (4" or more) whichever comes first.**

Upcoming collection day changes due to holidays are

Thanksgiving – November 24, 2016 – Collection will be Friday, November 25.

Christmas week—no change

New Year's week—no change

Tentative

brush chipping dates are:

November 7th, December 5th,

January 3rd, February 6th & March 6th

REMINDER:

BURNING OF LEAVES AND
YARD WASTE IS STRICTLY
PROHIBITED WITHIN CLARE
CITY LIMITS WITHOUT A
PERMIT ISSUED BY THE
FIRE CHIEF

Brush Chipping is strictly a "Time & Weather" permitting activity, and is a service provided by the City of Clare (not the refuse contractor). As time & weather allow, we *normally* begin chipping brush on the Monday of the week where the first day of the month falls; and we go down each street **one time only**. If you are unsure, you can check the listing on the Clare Informational Access Channel (Cable TV – Channel 189) or call 989/386-2182, x202; or clip and save the schedule below. ***We do NOT chip vines, roots, or stumps***

LEAVES, LEAVES, AND MORE LEAVES!



Just a brief reminder that residents should never rake leaves, yard waste or brush into the street. And when mowing, do NOT blow grass into the street. We do not currently have the ability to vacuum leaves from the gutters. Raking leaves into City streets plugs storm sewers as well as the street sweeper. Paper lawn & leaf bags are available at City Hall and sold in increments of 5 for \$2.45. Waste Management collects lawn waste on Thursdays through December 8th or the first substantial snow fall—whichever comes first. Please remember that yard waste must be placed at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on Thursday morning, and Waste Management enforces their 35 lb limit on all lawn waste containers and bags. If you have questions regarding leaf collection, please call 386-2182 x 201.

CLARE PUMPKIN RUN



SATURDAY

OCTOBER 29, 2016

Registration—9:00 - 9:45 am

Starting Time—10:00 am

Location—Pere Marquette District Library

185 East Fourth Street

Costume Contest—Dress up to win Clare Cash

Course—Out and back starting at library and
along the Pere Marquette Rail Trail

Register online at

**[Runsignup.com/Race/MI/CLARE/
ClarePumpkinRun](http://Runsignup.com/Race/MI/CLARE/ClarePumpkinRun)**

Info: 989-386-7541 x213

Halloween

Spook-Tacular

Something to Howl About

Saturday, October 29, 2016

10 am – 4 pm

Downtown Clare

Kids Costume Parade

Magic Show

Halloween Movie

Games & Activities

For More Information Contact:
Parks and Recreation @ 386-7541 x213
jsimmer@cityofclare.org or
find us on facebook at Clare Parks and
Recreation

Trick-or-Treat hours

6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 31st.

The fire whistle will signal the beginning and end of trick-or-treating.

The Fire Department will be at the Public Safety building checking candy and giving away hot dogs to all youngsters during trick-or-treat hours.

Please make sure your children wear bright clothing, wear reflective gear, or carry a flashlight.

It is that time of year again when our little ghouls and goblins will be making their annual pilgrimage for tricks and treats. While the hallowed eve is generally a safe and fun time for kids of all ages, there are a few things that parents can do to make this a safe and happy event.

First, make sure the little ones can be seen! Even the most dark and evil costume can be made **more visible with the help of a small flashlight with a red or other colored lens. Other ideas are glow sticks the kids can carry or wear, or reflective tape.**

Secondly, make sure the costumes are not so long as to be caught up in little feet. We actually see this a lot while patrolling trick or treat areas. You would be surprised how many bed-sheet ghosts end up face down on the sidewalk at some point during the night.

The third tip is to **have the kids walk in groups and stay together.** This is always a good idea and the kids will have the added benefit of sharing the evening with friends. The Clare City Police Department would like to wish all citizens a safe and happy Halloween.

In Memoriam

October 9th was the 13 year 'End of Watch' Day for Clare County Deputy, Kevin Sherwood, who was killed in the line of duty.

Deputy Sheriff Kevin Sherwood was killed in an automobile accident on U.S. 127 while investigating reports of the driver of a vehicle traveling the wrong way at around 1:00 am on October 9th 2003.

The vehicle he was searching for was the vehicle that collided with his patrol car. The driver of that vehicle was also killed in the collision.

Deputy Sherwood was a U.S. Army veteran and had served with the Clare County Sheriff's Department for nine years. He is survived by his wife, three children, parents, brother, and sister.



October is Fire Prevention Month

Please take the time to replace your
smoke alarm batteries.

The Clare Fire Department will be visiting the area schools to talk fire safety to the students. We ask that you discuss your Fire Escape plan with your family. This is a great opportunity to review and practice your plan as well as talk about fire safety. This year's theme is **DON'T WAIT - CHECK THE DATE!** Smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years. This is a good time to change batteries which should be done at a minimum of once year. Think Fire Safety!



CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

All summer decorations should be removed by October 14th. Cemetery cleanup will take place October 15th thru November 1st. Grave Blankets may be placed in Cherry Grove Cemetery on or after November 15th, and shall be removed prior to April 1st. Any questions please call DPW@ 386-2182 ext. 201 or 202.



City of Clare Dedicated Street Millage

On November 8, 2016 Clare voters will be asked to support a dedicated property tax millage for the maintenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction of streets in Clare. The requested millage will be \$3.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value (3 mils) for five years and will generate approximately \$256,000 in the first year.

Background. The City has 21 miles of paved streets. The average life of a paved street is 15-20 years; most of Clare's streets were constructed more than 20 plus years ago. Today's costs to reconstruct a block of city street is about \$80,000 (includes gravel & sand base, curb & gutter, asphalt, & restoration).

What Will Three (3) Mills Provide? The City has a detailed inventory of our streets and a prioritized listing of needed repairs based on the current condition of each street. The City also has a plan to repair our streets; the plan is based on the prioritized listing. The cost of repairs of each street is dependent upon the category of repair work needed. The City's plan is based on three primary categories of repair: Thin Overlay; Mill & Overlay; and Full Overlay. At today's prices, the average per-block cost of repairs for a 300 foot block would be \$34,790 (Thin Overlay); \$49,140 (Mill & Overlay); and \$44,415 (Full Overlay). Based on the current street conditions, the category of repairs needed for each of our streets is depicted on the attached, color-coded map.

Why Three (3) Mills? This millage replaces the previous $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mill street millage that Clare voters have strongly supported for the past thirty years. With the escalating costs of asphalt, concrete, fuel, and other road repair materials and equipment, that millage is enough to reconstruct only about half of a City block per year today. But based on the number, age, and current condition of our streets, we need to place new asphalt on at least 18 blocks of our streets each year just to keep up with natural aging of our street system. So even when we had the $\frac{3}{4}$ street millage, we were losing ground at a rapid pace. The only dedicated street funds the City presently receives is from gas tax revenues distributed by the state on a formula-basis. Those funds barely cover the costs of routine street maintenance (snow removal, street sweeping, pot-hole patching, curb repairs, street lights, and equipment, personnel, and material costs needed to accomplish those tasks). All other funds for our streets come from our General Tax Fund and compete against all other City services and programs, including police and fire protection, recreation programs, parks, and building maintenance. Simply stated, we aren't generating enough revenue to fix our streets and concurrently provide all the other services expected by our residents, thus we need a dedicated street millage. We need to take immediate steps to right this situation because the longer we wait, the worse the condition of our streets will become. Three mills is considered the minimum amount needed to improve our current situation.

When Will My Street Be Repaired? Our Director of Public Works maintains an annually-updated, prioritized list of streets needing repairs. The repairs are accomplished based on that prioritized list and the amount of funds available for the needed repairs – more funds available/more repairs accomplished. The prioritized street list is available for review at City Hall. All revenue generated by the road millage is 100% dedicated and restricted to road maintenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the City of Clare's streets – any other use is prohibited.

