

**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Don Kolander, Program Coordinator  
Clare County Parks and Recreation  
225 W. Main St. P.O. Box 439  
Harrison, MI 48625  
Phone (989) 539-2761 Ext. 3219**

**“4th Annual Gateway Affair”  
A Huge Success**

**Friends of Clare County Parks and Recreation held its fourth annual fundraiser, “A Gateway Affair”, on Saturday, June 2, 2012, at Jay’s Sporting Goods, Clare. The banquet introduced the Friends Grant Program. The grant program will provide up to \$1,000 to help fund recreational practices serving residents, visitors, and guests of Clare County. Special consideration is given to highly visible projects that will serve the greatest number of participants and projects that require matching funds to leverage other grants.**

**Some 60 people in attendance received an excellent dinner provided by Ms. Sally Mason and her staff and heard presentations from keynote speakers Marty Johnson from the Clare County Historical Society and Mr. Gerry Schmiedicke from Friends. Mr. Johnson provided attendees with information and a Power Point presentation on the Clare Depot project and the “Name the Park” Contest.**

**The winner of the “Name the Park” essay contest was 6<sup>th</sup> grader Edwin Wilkes, whose park name, “Eagle Nest Park”, was voted to be the name of the new county park. Edwin has generously decided to give his prize of a \$100 Jay’s gift card back to Friends for a bench at the new park in memory of his brother.**

**Mr. Schmiedicke provided an update on Friends initiatives, including future development and maintenance of the Pere-Marquette Rail Trail. He also announced grant awards to the following park and recreation projects:**

- Hamilton Township—Phase 1 of the Courtney Park Restoration Project.**
- Mid-Michigan Community College—Funding of a pass program for public use of college’s fitness center.**
- Pere-Marquette Rail Trail—Purchase and installation of six benches along the bike path.**
- Clare County—Printing of map of the Pere-Marquette Rail Trail.**

**Friends of Clare County Parks and Recreation would like to thank the following business and individual contributions that made this event a success:**

**Corporate Sponsors:**

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TAMARACKS GOLF COURSE, HARRISON  
KYLE MANUFACTURING, CLARE  
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CLARE EAGLES FOE 3977, ISABELLA BANK & TRUST**

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CLARE—EVERGREEN PHYSICAL THERAPY, HARRISON—REINKE'S  
HEARTH OF THE HOME, HARRISON—J & G AUTO, HARRISON—  
MCGUIRES CHEVY, CLARE**

**INDIVIDUALS:**

**MR. JEFF POET AND THE STAFF FROM JAY'S SPORTING GOODS,  
MR. & MRS. GERALD SCHMIEDICKE**

**MR. FRED DEBOER**

**SALLY MASON AND HER STAFF**

**MS. TARA HOVEY**

**MR. JON RINGELBERG**

**MR. MARTY JOHNSON**