

“Wilderness” Bike Ride brings in \$1,000 for Parks and Rec.

By Anna McNeill

The Pere Marquette Rail-trail was packed with over 50 bikers helping raise money for the Friends of Clare County Parks and Recreation on Saturday June 15. This event was sponsored by the Michigan Trails Greenway Alliance and, of course, the Friends of Clare County Parks and Recreation.

The bikers rode 60 miles from Harrison to Ewart and back, helping the Friends raise about \$1,000 to put towards Clare County’s parks and recreation.

The 50 registered bikers got a goodie bag filled to the brim with items from local stores such as discount cards, brochures, travel magazines and a t-shirt.

The turnout was great and the weather was beautiful for the ride. There were stops at the Clare Moose Lodge, Farwell Farmers Market, Lake Station Depot, the M66 crossing and lastly the Ewart depot. There was goodies to eat for the bikers as well, provided by Pam and Chairman Gerry Schmiedicke.

Director Don Kolander was amazed by the turnout and said that this is going to become an annual event because there was such a good turnout.

“We had people asking us when the next one was,” Kolander explained, “They asked if we would have one in the fall, because of the perfect weather, but I am not sure if that I could do that without golf outing in August. Although, we will defiantly be making this an annual event.”