

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**“6th Annual Gateway Affair”
A Huge Success**

Friends of Clare County Parks and Recreation held its sixth annual fundraiser, “A Gateway Affair”, on Saturday May 17, 2014 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. After dinner, Michele’s Dog Training provided entertainment by Zeeva. She put on a show full of tricks that amazed the crowd. Don Kolander 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:

Mid-Michigan Community College—Funding of pass program for public use of college’s fitness center.

Harrison Little League Renovation—New fencing

**RESD Backpacking Program—“Together We Can”
Weekend Nutrition for low- income children
For 3 Clare County School Districts**

After entertainment and speakers, the silent auction was closed and the live auction and raffles took place.

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:

**PRO-TECH CABLE SERVICE, CLARE
TAMARACKS GOLF COURSE, HARRISON
KYLE MANUFACTURING, CLARE**

Businesses:

**FABIANO BROTHERS INC., BAY CITY—ACE HARWARE, CLARE
THE DAIRY PHIL, CLARE—TRUE VALUE HARDWARE, CLARE
STEVE'S COUNTRY MARKET, HARRISON—IDEAL THEATER, CLARE
BUCCILLI'S PIZZA, CLARE—HER PLACE, CLARE—HICK'S JEWELERS
CLARE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—WITBECK'S FAMILY FOODS,
CLARE—MACLEAN PHARMACY, HARRISON
RUCKLES PIER, CLARE—EAGLE GLEN GOLF COURSE, FARWELL
COPS & DOUGHNUTS, CLARE—CURVES OF CLARE—STYLE ON TOP
DOHERTY HOTEL, CLARE—EAST DOVER SUGAR, CLARE
CLARE FAMILY FITNESS, CLARE—TAMARACK GOLF COUSE, HARRISON
GUYS AND DOLLS PHOTOGRAPHY, CLARE—GLEN'S MARKET, CLARE
MID-MICHIGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE—HARRISON
BENCHLEY BROTHERS, CLARE—
MIKES LANDSCAPING, CLARE—GLENS MARKET, HARRISON
SAV-A-LOT FOODSTORE, HARRISON
SUBWAY, HARRISON & CLARE—PONDEROSA RESTAURANT, CLARE
SNOWSNAKE SKI & GOLF, HARRISON—HERRICK HOUSE, CLARE
MCANDREW PHOTOGRAPHY, HARRISON—DETROIT TIGERS
GREAT LAKES LOONS BASEBALL CLUB, MIDLAND
BEER DISTRIBUTING CO., GRAND RAPIDS—JAYS SPORTING GOODS
MAMA CILLI'S, HARRISON—CLARE COUNTY CLEAVER
CLARE COUNTY REVIEW—COUNTRY FLOWERS, HARRISON
HARRISON DO-IT-CENTER, HARRISON—APPLE TREE LANE, CLARE
WALLRAVEN FAMILY MARKET, HARRISON
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DAYS INN, CLARE—PONDEROSA RESTAURANT, CLARE
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BIG BOY RESTAURANT, CLARE—BOB'S LOUNGE, 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. GERRALD SCHMIEDICKE
MR. FRED DEBOER
SALLY MASON AND HER STAFF
MS. TARA HOVEY
MR. JON RINGLEBERG
MR. MARTY JOHNSON
MARK FITZPATRICK FAMILY**