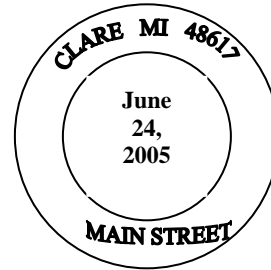


POSTMARKED: MAIN STREET



By Abigail Kulick, Main Street Manager

Greetings from Main Street! I just returned from a vacation out East where I spent half a week in Boston and half a week in New York City. While I was traveling I experienced a scene completely different from what I see every day on Clare Main Street. Of course I had a blast on my vacation and got a chance to encounter a part of our country quite different from mid Michigan where we have comparably quiet streets, modest homes and an Amish population living on the countryside. While visiting these cities I frequented museums, restaurants, pubs, shopping districts, historic districts, Broadway, baseball stadiums, and toured university campuses. I squeezed as many events as humanly possible into one short week and by the end of the trip I was exhausted, to say the least.

Living the big city life while on vacation for a week was fun and exciting, I bought souvenirs, took a ton of pictures and made incredible memories but by the end of my trip I was more than ready to return to Clare Main Street; a darling little downtown where you don't need a map or a subway card, where you don't have to feed meters an endless supply of quarters just to get a parking spot, a place where you feel safe at all times, where you can get from one end of town to the other in less than five minutes and you recognize the majority of the people you see along the way and finally, a place where the only people asking you for money are the local sports teams, service clubs or your area Main Street program!

As I write this I am sitting on one of our downtown benches, enjoying the sunshine and admiring Main Street and as I look around I see familiar faces, people that smile and wave for no reason. I see clean streets and sidewalks and stores with their front doors propped opening, welcoming guests inside. I see a pack of bicyclists who chose to stop in Clare because of its simple location and hospitality of its citizens. I not insisting that Clare Main Street is superior to Boston or Manhattan, the cities are completely different and do not deserve to be compared, and although I had a wonderful vacation and do plan to visit Bean Town and The Big Apple many more times in my lifetime, in my opinion, I would rather avoid the hustle and bustle of big city life and feel blessed to spend my day to day in our sweet little downtown. I encourage everyone take a few moments to be thankful for the charming environment that we have here on Clare Main Street!

Check out our website! www.mainstreetclare.com