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The mission of Charlton Park is to provide educational and recreational opportunities, through the collection, preservation and demonstration of early rural Michigan life, artifacts and buildings, and the management of natural and recreation areas.

www.charltonpark.org (269) 945-3775



Banner photo courtesy of Photographic Memory

VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

Thank you to Doug and Mary Brinks for donating all of the plants to the Park's beautiful vegetable garden and for all of your hard work and effort. Thank you to Carolyn Murphy for volunteering to be the caretaker of seasonal flowers at Irving Charlton's grave in Hastings Township Cemetery. Thank you to Roberta Meeker for working so hard on the gardens around the Upjohn House.

We would like to welcome Dan McDiarmid to the volunteer corp! He has done a great job in giving the blacksmith shop a much-needed deep clean. He took time to vacuum up the soot, organize the tools and some of the historic items in the building, and get rid of cobwebs. It looks great!

INTERN INSIGHTS

The Exhibition Hall is looking better every day! All extra items not related to the exhibit have been removed, and all of the objects on display are now truly showcased and organized into the categories 'Domestic', 'Transportation' and 'Agriculture'. With shiny new stanchion barriers designating walkways and direction, guests can roam the hall safely to tour the farm-life implements! Thank you to volunteers Dave Chase and Jack Boarts for assisting with that project.



At the end of their tour, visitors will find themselves in a recently completed 'Livestock' exhibit featuring horse-shoeing and cow-milking paraphernalia. With our organizational and safety goals completed for now,

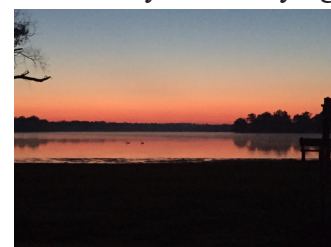


the next step is implementing a new signage system. The signage system orients the visitors so that they feel welcome in the space and have the chance to involve themselves according to their personal interests. Whether you want to compare your plow to those of yesterday's farms, or have always marveled at the magic of cream separation, the Exhibition Hall has something for you!

DIRECTOR'S SPOT

July is National Parks and Recreation Month! Lucky for you, it is not too late to celebrate the month of July, your County Park, and most importantly – summer in Michigan! Historic Charlton Park Village, Museum and Recreation Area has everything you need to learn a little, play a little, and enjoy time with friends and family. Whether you are trying

to escape for a quiet shoreline lunch, you're out on a family excursion on our trails, want a fishing opportunity, or of course, touring the Historic Village; it is here and waiting



Sunrise on Thornapple Lake

for you to explore. Our staff hopes you will take a few moments this month or any time and enjoy the splendor of Barry County and the rich history showcased right here at Charlton Park. Thank you for continuing to support us every day and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Dan Patton, Director

WE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN, TO RELAX, TO HAVE FUN: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

EXHIBITS & COLLECTIONS

We were excited to welcome Kevin Kenz on June 27th for his presentation, "United States Air Service in World War I: Problems, People, Planes." Attendees listened and asked questions during an hour-long educational presentation with many images. On July 11, Dr. Jason Crouthamel presented on shell shock and the psychological impact of the war.



The 3rd Annual *Barry County Artists Exhibition* will open for Arts and Eats on October 14th, but prior to that opening we will begin accepting applications for the show. In conjunction with the Thornapple Arts Council, we have made some changes to this year's show and application process. Please watch the local paper, Facebook, and your e-mail for more information later this summer.

The Park recently accepted a donation of diaries written by Adelbert Heath. He was a resident of Hastings, Heath Road is named for the family. These diaries, 50 in total, cover the years from 1867-1927. The family has spent years transcribing the diaries and creating a two volume set



of books containing the transcriptions and family history. The family donated the diaries, as well as a set of the books, to the Park's permanent collection. Two sets will also be available for purchase in the Park's gift shop. Thank you to the Heath Family for leaving this legacy for future generations.



Rainbow near the Museum

EDUCATION

Spring education programs have started! Our first program was on April 17, and will continue until June 14. This is one of our biggest spring seasons yet – over 100 students more than previous years! Thank you so much to Jennifer Billings, Bonnie David, Elaine Drury, Carol Foley, Claire Herhold, Andrea Hiler, Georgia Robinson, and Barb Turkal for all of their help with ensuring the programs run smoothly.



For the 6th year, we participated in No Family Left Indoors on June 27. We had activities relating to the *Tangled Alliances: The United States in WWI* exhibit, including making navy flags, commemorative postage stamps, tissue paper poppies, and parachutes. Thanks to the 59 people who participated!

We're always on the lookout for more historic presenters for the education programs. The education presenters are a fun group of people, and they're a joy to work with! If you'd like to find out more about becoming a presenter and shadow a program, please contact Shannon Pinkster. We'd love to see you out here!

OPERATIONS UPDATE

The maintenance department has been working in preparation of the summer events. Most recently has been Charlton Park Day and the Father's Day Car Show. In May the beach was cleaned up and prepared for use. With the help of volunteers, the BBQ grills have been restored and painted throughout the park, and they look great! We have assisted with the ongoing project in the Exhibition Hall, helping to arrange the larger objects for better display. The barriers have been completed, and new lighting has also been installed.



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SPECIAL EVENTS

Spring Into the Past was May 6 and 7 this year. It was a beautiful weekend to visit the Park, and we had many visitors come to enjoy the signs of spring and all of the historic buildings. Spring Into the Past is a major event for the Tri-Rivers Museum Network. This group is made up of museums located along the Flat River, Grand River, and Thornapple River. All of the museums who participated in the event reported great attendance this year.

The perennially popular Charlton Park Day was held on May 27. A huge amount of gratitude goes to the 39 community partners who donated \$3,765 toward the event, ensuring the Park could once again offer a free day of family fun to 1,200+ guests in attendance. Thanks goes out to event partners Barry County Central Dispatch, Barry County Commission on Aging, Barry County Commissioners, Barry County Road Commission, Barry County Sheriff's Posse, Barry County Transit, Charlton Park Board of Directors, Charlton Park Civil War Muster Committee, YMCA of Barry County, Michigan Longbow Association, Charlton Park Gas & Steam Engine Club, Charlton Park Village Volunteers and Cowboy Tommy and His Fancy Roping Tricks. A hearty thank you also goes out to Keith Murphy and Rob Garrett for grilling 2,000 hot dogs.



A Yard Sale was also held during Charlton Park Day this year. 22 vendors participated, which raised \$240 for the Park.

Warm weather greeted the 36th annual Father's Day Car Show on June 18. 572+ classic vehicles and over 4,000 spectators were present to admire vintage classics, browse the swap meet and enjoy festival food. Pony rides, poker run and a nondenominational church service capped off the festivities. This year's Directors Choice was a 1955 Chevy Truck (picture). The event was featured on the 6 o'clock broadcast



on News Channel 3, WWMT. Thank you to Park volunteers Mark Allison, John Foley, Dan Harrow, Judith and Eugene Kidder, Veronica Klein, Glen Marshall, Jenna and James Miller, Keith Murphy, and Terry Par-due for their assistance on this very busy event day.

PARK HAPPENINGS

On May 2, the Park hosted the Barry County Historical Society for their monthly meeting. There were twelve members and their guests in attendance at the meeting. They received a guided tour by the Park's curator of the new exhibit, *Tangled Alliances: The United States in WWI*.

Charlton Park was a tee sponsor on June 2 during the 31st annual Barry County Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing held on a beautiful spring day at the Hastings Country Club. Dan Patton and Stacey Graham also attended the event on behalf of the Park.

Programming and Education Facilitator Shannon Pinkster traveled to Battle Creek to visit the Alternative Choices Community Inclusion Program on June 13. She presented to a group of guests and workers about the Park's collection of "Mystery Artifacts." The group was very engaged and enjoyed the program.

On June 29 we welcomed a group of visitors from Ashley Baptist Church from Belding (photo). The group received a general tour of the village, and had an opportunity to relax on the grounds before they returned home. We received many wonderful comments about the facility and the tour.



EVENT SPOTLIGHT

The Great Lakes Longbow Invitational is a full weekend of longbow shooting & browsing traditional archery vendors. There will be shooting events for all ages and skill levels including the Silver Arrow Competition, aerial targets and specialty shoots, turkey shoot and children's shooting areas. See you there!

Contact Information

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Office Hours:
Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 5

August Fest Car Show
County-Wide Yard Sale
Thunder in the Park Motorcycle Show
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. FREE

August 11-13

Longbow Invitational
\$6/adult, 16 and under
FREE

September 9

4th Annual Outdoor Youth Day
10 a.m – 4 p.m.
FREE

September 22-24

Fall Harvest Fest
and Tractor Show
8 a.m – 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday
8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sunday
\$/6 adult, \$4/children 5-12

Keep up on our events and see photos by
checking out our page on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/charltonpark