

The Villager

RON COATS

Long-time Park volunteer Ron Coats passed away on March 15, 2017 at age 76. He was born March 15, 1941 in Hastings, Michigan. He graduated from Woodland High School in 1959. In August of 1960 he married Joanne Lydy. He worked at General Motors, Bliss Press USA, and then the family farm. For many years, he was the Chief of the Woodland Fire Department. He was also a member of the Charlton Park Gas and Steam Club. Recently, he helped reorganize the Exhibition Hall and assisted with reassembling the windmill near the Upjohn House. He will be very missed! Please click the link for a full obituary (<http://bit.ly/2n7jCFj>).



During the winter months, *The Villager* will be abbreviated to two pages.

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

Park hours Winter 2017 -
Park Gate open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily
Business Office open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday
Historic Village closed.

Banner photo courtesy of Photographic Memory

PARK HAPPENINGS

Charlton Park was the proud nominee of the Barry County Chamber of Commerce's Distinctive Destination Award during its annual dinner on January 21 at the Barry Community Enrichment Center. This is the 4th Chamber award nomination for the Park and Dan Patton accepted the recognition on behalf of the Park Board, volunteers and staff. Also that evening, the Charlton Park Gas and Steam Club kicked off their season of event planning with the annual potluck supper for 33 attendees in the Park's Carlton Center Church basement.

Charlton Park hosted 150 Boy Scouts from the Gerald R. Ford Council during the annual Winter Klondike on February 3-5. Attendees enjoyed learning about outdoor survival skills, watching ice rescue demonstrations, sledding, and preparing meals onsite.

The Park also hosted 60 people for the Sportsman's Outreach Team Kids Free Fishing Weekend at the beach on February 18. 27 kids under the age of 15 were the recipients of free ice fishing gear and the Michigan DNR waived the fishing license requirement for all anglers that day. Thank you to Dave Neeson and his crew for organizing the event and to Al &

Pete's Sport Shop and K&E Tackle for sponsoring the day.

On February 19 the Park welcomed local naturalist Harry Wallin (photo), who presented on how to identify local trees when there are no leaves present. Unseasonably warm temperatures and the sun shining bright made it a wonderful experience for the 35 participants. The program began with a brief overview, and then much of the time was spent on one of the Park's trails. Thanks so much for sharing your knowledge with us, Harry!



SPONSORS NEEDED

Mark your calendars and save the date for the 11th annual Charlton Park Day on May 27 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Park is currently in fundraising mode, reaching out to community members and businesses to raise the \$4,000 needed to complete the event. Please contact Stacey Graham in the Park office if you feel led to give to this important and fun day of community outreach.



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

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

The collections and exhibits department is busy preparing an exhibit on World War I to open in April 2017. The exhibit will focus on America's involvement in WWI, which will include information about Barry County's soldiers with artifacts held in Historic Charlton Park's collection. The exhibit, *Tangled Alliances: The United States in WWI* and will host a series of speakers, which will be announced once the slate is confirmed.

Although artifact acquisitions are relatively limited, the collections committee recently accepted a

small decorative plate with Hastings High School painted on it (photo). Stamped on the back are the words, "Painted and Imported for Meyer's 5 & 10 Store Hastings, Mich." The High School was built 1917-1918 and Meyer's was in

business in Hastings in 1923, but not by 1950. If you have any information about Meyer's 5 & 10 Store, we would love to hear from you!



FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Charlton Park Village Foundation launched its 2016-17 Annual Giving Campaign on November 18, 2016 with a year-end fundraising mailing. 34 generous donors gave \$25,270.16 to the 2016-17

CHARLTON PARK VILLAGE
Foundation

2545 S. Charlton Park Rd., Hastings, MI 49058

Annual Giving Campaign, including a number of first-time donors. The Foundation Board of

Directors thanks the community for its continued support. It is not too late to make a tax-deductible donation to the Charlton Park Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization. Please contact the Park Office for a pledge card or donate online at www.charltonpark.org. Watch your mailbox, inbox and social media accounts for the latest Foundation updates and ways to get involved in supporting the Park this spring!

OPERATIONS UPDATE

The weather for most of February was very spring-like, so the maintenance department had an opportunity to start some of their spring clean up projects early. Work was done to restore trash cans around the park and rust proof them for longevity. Also they cleaned, sealed, and painted the picnic tables that belong in the pavilion to give a brighter look to the space. The windows on the Gas and Steam Barn are getting re-glazed and re-painted by staff and volunteers. 48 feet of new boardwalk has been added in front of the Bristol Inn in an ongoing project to allow easier access to the village buildings.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The spring Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held on April 29 at 12 p.m. in the Upjohn House. Invitations will be in the mail soon, but please be sure to mark it on your calendar. We will discuss 2016 and talk about some of the exciting things coming up in 2017.



Thank you so much to Jack Boarts, Dave Chase, and Roberta Meeker for their hard work on various collection and construction projects over the last few months. Everything is looking great!

EDUCATION

Education volunteer training will take place on April 6 from 1-4 p.m. in the Upjohn House. Volunteers will receive a refresher course on how the Grade Level Content Expectation's work and what we need to be sure to cover during programs. It is a good opportunity for the education volunteers to catch up with one another and share the tips and tricks of their presentations that the kids love most.

If you love kids and enjoy seeing their eyes light up when they learn something new, consider joining us as an Education Volunteer! Contact Shannon Pinkster in the office at (269) 945-3775, or email spinkster@barrycounty.org. We would love to have you!