



May/June 2016

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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

INTERN INSIGHTS

Throughout the summer, employees at Charlton Park, alongside volunteers from the community have been working hard on the interior of the Exhibition Hall. New artifacts have been added to the exhibition, as well as an update on the original layout. We especially thank the members from the Gas and Steam Club that assisted in moving artifacts within the Exhibition Hall on June 11th. As progress continues, the excitement builds to see the final product. The first phase will be complete by the end of the summer.



PARK HAPPENINGS

This spring, the exterior of the Bristol Inn received a much needed facelift. Early in 2016, the shutters were removed, repaired, and repainted. As the temperatures warmed into spring, work was done to repair or replace broken siding, window ledges, and window panes. The building received a new coat of paint and now looks amazing! Thanks so much to the Willams Paint Contracting and the maintenance department for all of the hard work.

Last month Historic Charlton Park was thrilled to be part of the dedication of a new stone bench located in front of the Museum (photo). The Keast family graciously donated a memorial bench to the Park in honor of their late parents, James and Mary Ann Keast, who were long time supporters and visitors. They lived only



a few miles from Charlton Park and became regular visitors spanning many years. We greatly appreciate the connection to our institution and are glad the Keast children have chosen to honor their parents in this way.

Thank you again Keast family and we look forward to your visiting the bench in future years.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

We are pleased to have Claire Johnston back from maternity leave just in time for a busy July! She and her family welcomed her son William in late April (photo).



In collaboration with the Thornapple Arts Council we will be hosting the 2nd Annual Barry County Artists Exhibition from October 3 – December 11. If you paint, photograph, construct, sculpt, etc., this is a great opportunity to reach a broad audience and win one of three cash prizes! All artists 18 years or older residing in Barry County are eligible. Only original artwork of the artist's own design, completed in the last two years, should be entered in



this juried show (fee applies). The application period runs from August 1 to August 31. Application and eligibility information can be found on the

Thornapple Arts Council's website, www.thornapplearts.org.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

The popular Charlton Park Day celebrated its 10th anniversary on May 28. We are so grateful for the 45 community partners who donated \$3,845 to-



ward the event, ensuring the Park could once again offer a free day of family fun to all 1,600 guests in attendance. Thanks goes out to event partners Barry County Central Dispatch, Barry County

Commission on Aging, Barry County Commissioners, Barry County Drain Commission Barry County Libraries, Barry County Road Commission, Barry County Sheriff's Posse, Barry County Transit, Charlton Park Board of Directors, Charlton Park Civil War Muster Committee, Charlton Park Gas & Steam Engine Club, Charlton Park Village volunteers and Cowboy Tommy. A hearty thank you also goes out to Keith Murphy and Rob Garrett for grilling 2,100 hot dogs. A Yard Sale was also held during Charlton Park Day this year, and 29 vendors participated, raising \$315 for the Park.

Warm weather, sunshine and blue skies greeted the 35th annual Father's Day Car Show on June 19. 855 classic vehicles and over 5,000 spectators were present, pulling in close to 10,000 patrons 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. The event was featured on the 6 o'clock broadcast on News Channel 3, WWMT. Thank you to Park volunteers John Foley, Julie Guenther, Judith and Eugene Kidder, Paul Leavitt, Jon Merrick, Keith Murphy, Terry Pardue, Laura Payne, and Tim Rumsey, Jr. for their assistance on this very busy event day.



The inaugural Thorny Apple Craftsman & Art Fair was held on June 24-26. Over 2,225 guests enjoyed visiting with the vendors and sampling some delicious fare from the food trucks which were on site. Children and their families came from all over West Michigan to visit Marshall from Paw Patrol,

the lovable character from the Nickelodeon TV program. Thank you to Park volunteers Mark Allison, Walt Eavey, Micala Klipfer, Jenna Miller, Terry Pardue, Ann Replogle, and Tim Rumsey Jr. for providing event support.

EDUCATION

We had a unique opportunity this spring to visit another historic site in Michigan. Shannon Pinkster, intern Andrea Hiler, volunteer Bonnie David, and board member Sharon Zebrowski took a field trip to Michigan's Heritage Park (MHP) on May 6. There, the four had an opportunity to be a part of the field trip, visiting all of the sites, interacting with the presenters, and sitting down and talk with the programs coordinator after the presentations. We hope to return the favor and have members of the MHP staff visit Historic Charlton Park soon!



2,585 students, teachers, and adult chaperones enjoyed a day at the Park this spring, and we still have a couple programs sprinkled throughout the summer season. Thanks so much to all of our volunteers for helping students have a wonderful experience at the Park!

Once again we took part in the "No Family Left Indoors" series of evening programs with "It's Recess Time!" on June 21. Participants had a chance to explore the village and play old fashioned games on the green. Thanks to everyone who came out!

VOLUNTEERS CORNER

Thanks go out to Jack Boarts and Dave Chase for donating time and materials to update the chicken coop this spring. A new tin roof was put on, the exterior was painted, new chicken wire was added, and a new door was installed. The chickens have chirped their approval all season!

We'd like to extend a warm Charlton Park welcome to Terry Pardue, Mark Allison, Jenna Miller, and James Miller, our newest volunteers. Terry, Mark, and Jenna have been honing their skills in the carpenter shop, and James has been assisting with activities in the village during special events.

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MILLAGE INFORMATION

How long has Charlton Park been owned by Barry County?

Charlton Park was given to Barry County by Mr. Irving Charlton in 1936. This year the Park is marking 80 years, 1936–2016.

What are some ways that the funds from the Charlton Park Millage will be spent?

Millage funds are used for every part of operating Charlton Park. The funds are used to provide educational programs, provide historical exhibits, preserve and protect historic artifacts and buildings, improve and maintain natural and recreational areas, hiring of staff, and provide opportunities like fishing, picnicking, walking, biking, hiking.

How does the public know how the Millage funds are spent each year?

A Board of Directors made up of Citizens-at-Large from Barry County (your neighbors) are appointed to oversee the operation of Charlton Park. A yearly budget is approved and available for review at the Park office or on our website and a County audit is conducted yearly.

What will the Charlton Park Millage cost an average homeowner in Barry County?

The Historic Charlton Park Village, Museum & Recreation Area Millage will cost the homeowner of a \$100,000 dollar home in Barry County about \$1.56 per month, a total of \$18.75 per year.

How can I figure out how much I will pay per year if the Charlton Park Millage is approved?

Divide the taxable value of your home by 1000, then multiply that number by 0.375. The taxable value of your home may be different than its selling price. You can find the taxable value of your home by looking at your current tax bill.

Market Value \$100,000 = Taxable Value \$50,000
\$50,000 (taxable value) ÷ 1,000 x 0.375 = \$18.75

Vote Tuesday, August 2, 2016

BALLOT PROPOSAL

BARRY COUNTY

MILLAGE PROPOSITION

NEW ADDITIONAL MILLAGE FOR OPERATION
AND MAINTENANCE OF
HISTORIC CHARLTON PARK VILLAGE, MUSEUM
AND RECREATION AREA

Shall the limitation on general ad valorem taxes that may be assessed against all taxable real and personal property in Barry County, Michigan be increased as provided by Section 6, Article IX of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, by 0.3750 mill (\$0.3750 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of ten (10) years, 2017 through 2026, both inclusive, to provide funding for operation and maintenance of Historic Charlton Park Village, Museum and Recreation Area, subject to reduction as provided by law?

The purpose of this levy is to provide funding for operation and maintenance of Historic Charlton Park Village, Museum and Recreation Area, and related recreation facilities and programs including, but not limited to, educational programs, preservation of historic artifacts, conserving of historic structures, and maintaining recreational resources, trails, and park safety.

If approved, it is estimated that the levy of 0.3750 mill will provide revenue of \$767,476 in the first calendar year of the levy of which \$755,298 will be disbursed to Barry County for the operation and maintenance of Historic Charlton Park Village, Museum and Recreation Area. It is estimated that \$12,178 will be disbursed among the City of Hastings DDA and LDFA, and Village of Middleville DDA. The estimated \$12,178 is levied within a predefined area in the City of Hastings and Village of Middleville only.

Yes ()

No ()

Contact Information

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www.charltonpark.org
(269) 945-3775 - Fax (269) 945-0390

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 23

**July Fest Car Show
County-wide Yard Sale
Antique Outboard Motor Show
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. FREE**

August 12-14

**Longbow Invitational
\$6/adult, 16 & under
FREE**

August 21

**Thunder in the Park
Motorcycle Show
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
FREE**

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

www.facebook.com/charltonpark