



July/August 2017

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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

PARK FUNNY

The Park was a great place to be around 1:20 p.m. on August 21 – a wide open space to witness the eclipse! Guests came out to picnic and enjoy the village before and after the eclipse crossed this area, and staff took a few moments to experience this rare occurrence. Of course, everyone practiced eclipse safety! Pin-hole projectors, and cereal-box projectors were made by the staff, and a few guests were seen with pairs of the extremely cool eclipse glasses. We're excited for the next total eclipse that is supposed to take place in North America in 2024.



DIRECTOR'S SPOT

By the time you read this some of you will have already seen the colors of autumn beginning show through. We are seeing some color now on the walnut trees at Charlton Park. While we still have a little time to get out and enjoy the magic of the autumn foliage colors it is clearly time to start planning that family fun outing. Whether you plan to hike on one of our many trails, or just drive through the park for a quick snapshot, we hope you will take a few minutes or a few hours during your busy week to enjoy Charlton Park.

Realizing the summer event season is almost behind us is somewhat bittersweet. While tens of thousands of visitors have come and gone the really fun work is just beginning. Fall means the return of school children from our surrounding area. For some of you it may be your child, for others a grandchild or niece and nephew, but for us it is our future connecting with our past. We are excited once again by the sounds of young children exclaiming with joy as they play within the Historic Village or put on that ole' "dunce cap" in the Lee School House. For us, the change in season means wonderful opportunities abound for seeing young



minds learn and understand our history.

As we close out one season we look ever forward to the next in hopes of making it better than the last. There are always challenges here and there but with the continued support of the citizens of Barry County, the countless hours of volunteer time by so many; we believe that history is on our side.

Take a few moments and join us this fall and experience the true beauty of West Michigan and Barry County. Create your own historical moments with family, friends, co-workers, or that family pet, right here at Historic Charlton Park, Barry County's premier County Park.

Fall Harvest Festival – September 22nd – 24th
All Hallows Eve – October 28th
Of Christmas Past – December 9th & 10th

Sincerely,

Dan Patton, Director

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

EXHIBITS & COLLECTIONS

The Collections Department has been busy in the last two months. Several donations have been accepted, including a WWII naval aviator uniform, a woven blanket from 1866, and a flax break. Special thanks to Jack Boarts, Dave Chase, and Roberta Meeker for volunteering their time to sort and organize archival information about our historic structures.

We are also excited to welcome Kara Bronner to the Historic Charlton Park family, thanks to the Charlton Park Village Foundation. Kara is a collections intern assisting with data entry during the week and is a recent graduate of Grand Valley State University. She has been serving in this capacity since May and will be involved until November. We are excited to have her performing such important work.

Hello! I'm Kara! After graduating from City High/Middle School in 2013, I attended Grand Valley State University. As a freshman, I was struggling with what major to choose and finally discovered

two areas in which I could combine many of my passions, anthropology and archaeology. Throughout my time at GVSU, my main interests were in Greek and Roman mythology as well as North American and Near Eastern archaeology. I graduated April 2017 and plan to attend



graduate school for a degree in museum studies, while pursuing work in archaeology through Cultural Resource Management and preservation. In my free time, you can find me swimming in Lake Michigan or camping "up north".

The Exhibits Department is gearing up for the *Barry County Artists Exhibition*. In conjunction with the Thornapple Arts Council, the Park is hosting the juried competition for the third year. After changing some of the registration requirements, we are excited to see the number of applications coming in. There is still time to apply to be a part of the show! Visit the Thornapple Arts Council website and submit your application by September 15.

EDUCATION

The Adventure Campers from YMCA Camp Algonquin visited once a week between June 20 and August 8, bringing in 166 campers and their counselors. Campers got to play old-fashioned games, learn about history by making parachutes and deciphering Morse code, using nature to create art projects, and as always, explore the village guided by a scavenger hunt.

The fall calendar is pretty much filled up, but there are still a couple dates open. If you are a teacher (or know one) who would like to schedule a trip, please have them call Shannon at the Park office. There are also only a few days left for the spring 2018 season, so reserve your date soon!



We are in need of your help! We're always on the lookout for more historic presenters for the education programs. The education presenters are a fun group

**HELP
WANTED**

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 here!

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

The All Hallows Eve event is October 28, from 3 p.m.-6 p.m.. This family oriented event begins with trick - or - treating through the Historic Village. Take a tram ride, enjoy a glass of cider, and find your way through the maze. There will also be a costume contest and awards. Admission is \$4.00 per person, 12 and under are FREE!



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SPECIAL EVENTS

Several hundred people enjoyed the 35th annual Old Fashioned 4th of July and Veteran's BBQ on a perfect summer day. A record-setting 26 pies were auctioned off; including Grand Rapid's own Linda Blough's Frozen Butterfinger Pie, which took the first place ribbon and prizes. The pie garnering the



top bid of \$50 was Tina Williams' of Nashville's Strawberry Rhubarb Pie. Thank you to all the talented bakers and bidders who participated in the pie contest. Thanks also to Park

volunteers Mark Allison, Walt Eavey, Judith and Eugene Kidder, Butch and Fran Lindstrom, Max Lockwood (Uncle Sam), Laura McBeth, Herb McPeake, Terry Pardue, Zach Pinkster, Ann Replogle, Georgia Robinson, Amanda Rumsey, Darlene Rumsey, Tim and Lisa Rumsey, and Emma and Rosa Seif and Micah Miller for helping in the buildings and on the village green!

The Park's 46th annual Gas & Steam Show brought in more than 700 spectators and 300+ exhibitors to view the displays of antique steam and iron along with the tractor pull and working sawmill. Special thanks to the hard-working volunteers from the Charlton Park Gas & Steam Engine Club for helping the show run so smoothly. Thanks to volunteers Elaine Drury, Dan Harrow, Judith and Eugene Kidder, Ann Replogle, Amanda Rumsey, Emma and Rosa Seif and Micah Miller for interpreting in the buildings.

The annual Civil War Muster was held at the park July 15-16. Event profit after expenses was \$3,206. Thank you to the more than 281 reenactors who joined us to recreate a vital piece of American history.



Thanks go out to volunteers Mark Allison, Jack Boarts, Dave Chase, Elaine Drury, Walt Eavey, Dan Harrow, Andrea Hiler, James and Jenna Miller, Terry Pardue, Laura Payne, Ann Replogle, and

Amanda Rumsey for their assistance during the event.

The August Fest Yard Sale, Car Show and Thunder in the Park motorcycle show was held on August 5. Thank you to Hoot Gibson, Jim Halliwill, John Resseguie, and John Higgins for their coordination efforts and to Penske Truck Rental for sponsoring the motorcycle show. 65 cars, 6 motorcycles and 12 vendors attended the event, along with several hundred spectators. Profit after expenses was \$948.81.

The Great Lakes Longbow Invitational was held on



August 11-13 and in between the raindrops, attendees had a great time shooting longbows and enjoying camping and camaraderie. 523 paid admissions were sold, which doesn't count the many

vendors and children under age 16 who also attended the event. \$4,537.74 was raised to help the Park.

PARK HAPPENINGS

Historic Charlton Park was invited to be a part of the Historical Society of Michigan's Michigan History Alliance. Park staff member Shannon Pinkster attended the meeting on August 2, which was held at the beautiful Heritage Museum and Cultural Center in St. Joseph, MI.

Visitors were in for a treat on August 10, when the Park hosted 50 vehicles from the Lincoln Motor Club. 100 attendees captured pictures of their automobiles in the Historic Village and then enjoyed a catered lunch at the Pavilion. The group was stopping here for a photo-op before continuing their journey to the Gilmore Car Museum for the 2017 Lincoln Homecoming, celebrating 100 years of the Lincoln Car Company.



The Park participated in the 40th Annual Hastings Summerfest Parade "Through the Decades" on August 26. Thanks to everyone who supported the Park by riding in the people mover and waving to the crowds!



Contact Information

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 22-24 **Fall Harvest Fest
and Tractor Show**
8 a.m – 5 p.m. Fri./Sat.
8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sunday
\$/6 adult, \$4/children 5-12

October 21-22 **Arts & Eats**
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
FREE

October 28 **All Hallows Eve**
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Adults (13+ y.o) \$4
Children (under 13) FREE

December 9-10 **Of Christmas Past**
11 a.m – 4 p.m. both days
\$/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