



March/April 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

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

Liz Bonora rejoins us for a second summer as the Collections Assistant, fulfilling our curator's basic duties during her absence, as well as continuing with the Exhibition Hall Project. Originally from metro Detroit, where she worked as a consumer data analyst at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), she is presently pursuing a master of arts in anthropology with a concentration in museum studies at Wayne State University.



PARK HAPPENINGS

Historic Charlton Park was pleased to partner with numerous local public safety agencies to host the 2nd annual Hastings area Easter Egg Hunt on March 20. More than 1,000 kids hunted 10,000 eggs filled with candy and other goodies and enjoyed refreshments and bicycle giveaways.



The Plein Air Artists hosted an outdoor watercolor paint session at the Park on March 26. The Barry Conservation District held its annual tree sale at the Park April 15-16. Thanks to all community members who supported these valuable endeavors.

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Park staff were busy spreading good will and great cheer while participating in two parades recently; the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown Hastings on March 17 and the Vermontville Maple Syrup Parade on April 23.

In preparation for the upcoming Civil War Muster, units conducted drills at the Park on April 1-3. Attendees enjoyed camping and comradery as they practiced their craft.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Maintenance has been working on getting the park ready to go after a long winter. We have installed a ramp on the boardwalk to the Bristol Inn, allowing it to be handicap accessible. The grass has begun to grow so mowing and yard work has been a focus for us. The boat ramps have been put back into the water and are ready for use by the boaters and fisherman.

VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

The Spring Volunteer Luncheon and meeting was held on April 16 and approximately 40 volunteers and their guests attended, they enjoyed a delicious lunch of homemade soups, and sandwiches from Family Fare, and received updates from staff members. Thanks to everyone who attended! The Park would like to welcome new volunteer Glen Marshall! Glen is a long-time visitor to the Park, often spending time with his friend Herb McPeake in the Print Shop. Glen is one of our farthest reaching volunteers - hailing from the northeast part of Michigan. We are so excited to have him joining us! Welcome Glen!

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

EDUCATION

Once again, we had a great turnout for the programs we hosted during spring break! Over 60 people came out on April 4 and 5 to enjoy creating masterpieces out of things we had in the craft closet, all things you can find at home. Thanks to everyone who came out, we had lots of fun!

The village is once more full of the voices and laughter of elementary school students. The season started on April 12, and the kids are again bringing their excitement for learning about the past. Thanks so much to Jennifer Billings, Liz Bonora, Ruby Cairns, Bonnie David, Elaine Drury, Claire Herhold, Andrea Hiler and Barb Turkal for all their help in interpreting the buildings for the students.

The education department is excited to introduce Darice Cheney as our newest Historic Presenter!



Darice has experience working with children, having worked at Binder Park Zoo running education programs for a number of years, and has previously worked in Barry County at Pennock Hospital, the Barry-Eaton Health Department, and the Sheriff's office. Welcome, Darice!



MILLAGE INFORMATION

Historic Charlton Park became a Barry County Park in 1936 and has been millage funded since 1986. The yearly estimated cost for the owner of a home worth \$100,000 would be \$18.75 per year, equal to \$1.56 per month.

The funds collected from the millage 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, and hiking.

Please check future issues of the Villager for more information or contact the park office. The ballot language is listed to the right.

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 (____)

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New Exhibit at Historic Charlton Park

Uncle Irving's Attic is now open to the public! Irving Charlton's vision for the preservation of rural Michigan began with his donation of 210 acres of land to Barry County in 1936. His collection of artifacts records the history of Barry County's citizens and furnishes the historic buildings. The exhibit recalls the early days of the Park, when the stone museum building was full of Irving's collections.

Vistors will see portions of Irving's early collections:

- Weaponry
- Pocketwatches
- Glass Bottles
- Coffee Mills
- Cast Iron and Tin Toys
- Baseball Equipment
- Military Helmets
- American Stoneware Crockery
- Games
- Model Steam Engines
- Fishing Equipment
- Children's Shoes and more!



"All I have goes to Barry County for all to benefit from."
~ Irving D. Charlton



Open Monday - Friday and
Special Event Weekends
9 am - 4 pm
April 2016 to December 2017



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

May 28 **10th Annual Charlton Park Day**
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Village Open
County-wide Yard Sale 9-3 p.m.
FREE

June 19 **34th Annual Father's**
Day Car Show
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Village Open
\$6/ adults \$4/children 5-12

June 24-26 **Thorny Apple Craftsman &**
Art Fair
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fri/Sat
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sun
Village Open, FREE, \$3 parking

July 4 **Old-Fashioned 4th of July**
and Salute to Veterans
12 p.m. – approx. 4 p.m.
FREE

Keep up on our events and see photos by
checking out our page on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/charltonpark