

# The Villager

March/April 2015

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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](http://www.charltonpark.org) (269) 945-3775



Banner photo courtesy of Photographic Memory

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Charlton Park Day will be held on Saturday, May 23 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mark your calendars and join us Memorial Day weekend to formally kick off summer!

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Father's Day Car Show will be held on June 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact the Park Office or visit our website ([www.charltonpark.org](http://www.charltonpark.org)) if you have questions about registering your car. If you would like to volunteer in one of the buildings for the either Charlton Park Day or the Father's Day Car Show, contact Shannon Pinkster at 269-945-3775 or e-mail at [spinkster@barrycounty.org](mailto:spinkster@barrycounty.org).

## NEW FACES

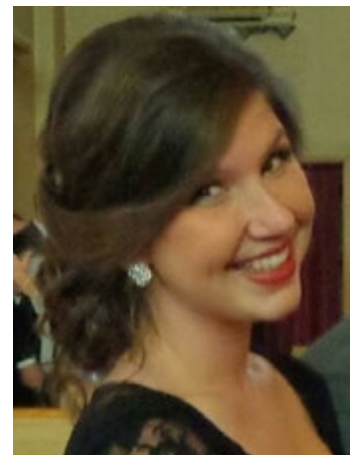
The Park is pleased to announce the addition of Ben Strimback to the Charlton Park staff! He joins the maintenance department, serving as the new Maintenance Supervisor. Ben has spent his whole life in Barry County, having grown up in Hastings, and currently residing there with his wife Heather and son Anthony. In his time outside of the Park, he likes to do work on his hobby farm at home, spend time with his family and their pets, and do woodworking. Since he's started, Ben has been very active in landscaping projects around the Park. He is very excited to join the Charlton Park family!



Liz Bonora, originally from metro Detroit, serves as the exhibits/collections intern at Historic Charlton Park. Her project for this summer is to create a plan for open storage and exhibit display in the Exhibition Hall.

She has worked as a supervisor at The Henry Ford's Greenfield Village, and as a consumer data analyst at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). Liz holds a bachelor of science in sociology and anthropology from Central Michigan University. She is

presently pursuing a master of arts in anthropology with a concentration in museum studies at Wayne State University. When she's not busy with work or school, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, a good book and a cup of coffee, catching a Tiger's game or going to a bonfire.



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 40 people came out on April 7 and 9 to be paleontologists and scientists and just have fun! Participants found dinosaurs and shells in a “dig station,” polished rocks, and made imprints of fossils in “fossil dough” on April 7. On April 9,



participants got to see how wind, water, and ice change the land by testing their theories in the “erosion lab,” saw how glaciers move by manipulating “glacier goo” (photo), and explored the layers of the earth. 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 13, and the kids are again bringing their energy and excitement about learning about their past. Thanks so much to Jennifer Billings, Liz Bonora, Christyl and Jonah Burnett-Evans, Ruby Cairns, Bonnie David, Elaine Drury, Claire Herhold, Wes and Georgia Robinson, and Barb Turkal for all their help in interpreting the buildings for the students.

## PARK HAPPENINGS

The Park was pleased to partner with the West Michigan Tourist Association at the Home Show on March 5 at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids. Stacey Graham spoke with booth visitors during the event, distributing Park swag & information.

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 25.

In preparation for the upcoming Civil War Muster, units conducted drills at the Park on March 27-29. Attendees enjoyed camping and comradery as they practiced their craft.

## VOLUNTEERS’ CORNER

The Spring Volunteer Luncheon and meeting was held on April 25 and approximately 40 volunteers and their guests attended, they enjoyed a delicious lunch and received updates from staff members. To show that all of our volunteers are “an important piece of the puzzle,” we spread puzzles on the tables to complete (photo), and gave them away at the end of the picnic. Thanks to everyone who came out, it was a full house!



Special thanks to Mary and Doug Brinks for all of their work on the gardens! The flower gardens look great, and we can’t wait to see what the vegetable garden does this year. Being able to tell kids who visited the Park in fall of 2014 that some of the vegetables they were using came from the garden really added something special to the program.

## COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

Special thanks to Judy Mudge, Roberta Meeker and David Chase for all of their hard work in exhibits and collections this spring!

The exhibits department is busy with the final touches on the local Civil War exhibit, *Test of a Nation: Honor of a County*, which will open on Charlton Park Day! The exhibit focuses on local soldiers represented in the Park’s collection.

## OPERATIONS UPDATE

With the departure of the snow and cold, the Maintenance department has had a chance to move full speed ahead with spring projects. The recreation area was cleaned up and opened for the season, and painting jobs have been completed in various areas of the park. Brush was taken away from the village hillside and along River Road, and the weather has been nice enough to start mowing the lawns. As part of our forestry management plan, new trees have been planted along the north drive near the marsh. The grounds are looking great going into the summer events!



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## LINCOLN THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CIVIL WAR

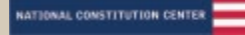
July 9 - August 21, 2015

at



Historic Charlton Park presents  
FREE public programs and exhibits  
in recognition of the  
150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War.

Brought to you in part by:



### July 17, 2015 - Special Exhibit Opening

Attendees will hear a presentation by President Lincoln, *Douglas, Duels and Dancing*, mingle with reenactors in period dress, learn about local Barry County soldiers, experience an artillery firing, and view the exhibits. *Lincoln: the Constitution and the Civil War* is a project of the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association and made possible with generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.  
- 6 pm, Village Green, FREE.

### July 18, 2015 - The Road to the Civil War

President Lincoln will present on the events leading up to the Civil War and his feelings on the subject. This event is being offered as part of the regularly scheduled Civil War Muster. If you arrive prior to 4 pm, a fee will be assessed at the gate. If you arrive after 4 pm, there is no cost to attend.  
- 6 pm, Village Green, FREE.

### August 1, 2015 - Abraham Lincoln in Song

The life of Abraham Lincoln spanned a period of change, growth and struggle in our young nation, and the music of the era movingly characterizes these remarkable times. Singer/songwriter Chris Vallillo helps shed light on one of history's most beloved figures. This program is funded in part by the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This interactive show is recommended for ages 3rd grade and up. Outdoors (weather permitting), please bring your own seating, picnics are welcome - 6 pm, Village Green, FREE.



### August 4, 2015 - Local Boys at Andersonville

Historian John Urschel will discuss the Barry County soldiers imprisoned at Andersonville during the Civil War. Presented in conjunction with the Barry County Historical Society - 7 pm, Township Hall, FREE.

# Test of a Nation: Honor of a County

Barry County Soldiers in the Civil War  
May 23-December 13, 2015

Exhibits Open 7 days  
9 am - 4 pm  
www.charltonpark.org  
269-945-3775



## Contact Information

**Dan Patton** - Director  
dpatton@barrycounty.org

**Roger Smith** - Operations Manager  
rsmith@barrycounty.org

**Stacey Graham** - Office Manager & Event Coordinator  
sgraham@barrycounty.org

**Claire Johnston** - Curator/Exhibits Coordinator  
cjohnston@barrycounty.org

**Shannon Pinkster** - Programming/Education Facilitator  
spinkster@barrycounty.org

**Ben Strimback** - Maintenance Supervisor  
bstrimback@barrycounty.org

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 23**                      **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Charlton  
Park Day**  
**11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Village Open**  
**FREE**

**June 21**                      **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Father's  
Day Car Show**  
**8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Village Open**  
**\$5/ adults \$3/children 5-12**

**June 27**                      **County-wide Yard Sale**  
**9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Village Open**  
**FREE**

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

***[www.facebook.com/charltonpark](http://www.facebook.com/charltonpark)***