



# The Villager

July/August 2013

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

## VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

The Fall Volunteer Appreciation Picnic will be held on Thursday, September 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Come and enjoy delicious food, talk with your fellow volunteers, and hear about the projects you have all been working on.

A huge thank you to the Positive Directions team for the help they have been providing helping with office tasks, recycling our paper, cleaning in the Charlton Center Church and caring for the Park's garden. Thanks also to Mary Brinks and Roberta Meeker for their continued work in the village gardens.

Please give a warm welcome to new volunteers Tim Rumsey and Eugene Kidder! These gentlemen are both frequent visitors to the Park, and we are glad to have them assisting with the special events. Thanks guys!

## DIRECTOR'S SPOT

WOW, what a fast and furious summer it has been! As I look back at our summer season it seems like only yesterday that we were preparing for our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Charlton Park Day, to kick-off what has been another great summer at Charlton Park.

As we race to the finish of this busy season I want to take a minute and look back at what has

been accomplished already and those items we are still focusing on for 2013. To date, we have hosted 10 special events and numerous weddings, company picnics, and outdoor outings of all types. All these functions combined have brought thousands of people from Barry County and West Michigan to the Park. It really is amazing to see all that can be done by volunteers and staff working tirelessly to change out museum exhibits, inventory collections within our buildings, patch-up our late 1800s village structures, and expand our learning opportunities for the young and old.

These summer activities also provided us an opportunity to conduct surveys for planning purposes and our future direction. As we move into fall I encourage you to be involved and seek out one of our public meetings, surveys, or contact us as we begin the final stages of completing our strategic plan and 5-year master plan. Yes, we are hopeful that winter will reveal a renewed sense of direction for Historic Charlton Park as we begin to try and implement our newly developed plans for the future.

Fortunately for us, the fun does not stop with the start of school, but rather energizes us to turn our focus and attention to thousands of school aged children participating in our education programs. Our staff and volunteers will spend the next several months ensuring our buildings, programs, and grounds are all ready for learning to begin. Children running throughout the Village helps ensure our history is not forgotten, but lives on without the computer, tablet, or smartphone, in the minds of our newest historians making a lifetime of memories.

Please contact our offices any time if you have suggestions, questions, or just wish to chat about Historic Charlton Park Village, Museum, & Recreation Area, and remember to check us out on Facebook or the website for daily and weekly updates.

If you haven't celebrated history or had a pleasant stroll lately, come on out to Charlton Park and enjoy all the fun right here in your Barry County backyard.

Visit Us Soon,

### In this issue:

Event News	p. 2
Education	p. 3
Collections & Exhibits	p. 3
Operations Update	p. 3

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 maintenance of natural and recreation areas.



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

## EVENT NEWS

Boy, what a difference comfortable temperatures can make! Our summer events have blossomed this year with the beautiful weather we have experienced. A welcome change from the high-90° days of last year.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July & Veterans BBQ was truly a beautiful day this year. Over 600 people enjoyed the barbecue buffet, watched the flag raising by the American Legion, and participated in games on the Village Green. Seven pies were donated for the pie auction, with proceeds going back to the Park to cover the costs of the event. Elaine Drury served lemonade in the Bristol Inn; Laura McBeth and Judith Kidder provided interpretation in the buildings; Andy Johnston served as event MC; Ann Replogle, Melia Timm, Pam Tobias, and Kim Long served as place keepers for the games; and Jean Gallup, Brian Reynolds, and Kim Long acted as pie judges. Thanks again to Jeff Van Nortwick for his wonderful portrayal of Uncle Sam and to everyone who came out to help us celebrate!



The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gas & Steam Show was held on July 12 and 13. More than 825 spectators came out to enjoy sawmill, threshing and shingling demonstrations; plus, sweet corn steamed by the Westinghouse, tractor games, and a parade on both days. New this year was a tractor pull on our new pulling track down near the River Lot – thanks to Daryl Cheeseman for all of his hard work putting that together. Thanks to Lois Bremer, John Foley, Tim Hamel, Beck Helgeson, Judith Kidder, Joe Medendorp, Ann and Alexis Replogle, Pam Tobias, and James Tyler for their help in the village, and thanks to all of the Gas & Steam Club members for making the event such a success!!

This is a special year for the sesquicentennial of the Civil War – it is sesquicentennial year of the Battle of Gettysburg! The Civil War Muster on July 20 and 21 was well attended by 540 visitors and 322 re-enactors. Visitors browsed Sutler's Row, talked to

coln speak in the Church, watched a fashion show on the front porch of the Upjohn House, viewed an artillery demonstration down by the river, saw battles both at High Meadows (Saturday morning) and in the village (both days), played old-fashioned games on the Village Green, joined in a barn dance Saturday evening, witnessed an evening artillery firing (photo) and walked through the re-enactor camps and village by candlelight.



Thanks to all of the re-enactors and village volunteers – Jamie Bowman, Jack Boarts, Dave Chase, Elaine Drury, Paul Leavitt, Laura McBeth, Herb McPeake and Maddie Nasabi, Joe Medendorp, Jeff Van Nortwick, Ann and Alexis Replogle, Tim Rumsey, the Seif/Miller Family, and James and Brogan Tyler for assisting as we continue to remember this important time of our nation's history.

The July 27 Yard Sale was attended by 23 vendors and lots of eager shoppers. Also that day, the Antique Outboard Motor show delighted boating enthusiasts at the Recreation area. August Fest was held on August 17. The event featured gorgeous weather, hundreds of guests, a yard sale with 38 vendors plus an antique car show with 43 vehicles exhibited. More than 35 trophies and plaques were awarded the car owners and numerous door prizes were given out. Special thanks to Barry County Commissioner, Howard "Hoot" Gibson for his assistance with all of the yard sales.

Over 1,000 participants and spectators came out to enjoy the 2013 Great Lakes Longbow Invitational on August 9-11. The weather was remarkably different than it was in the past for this event – it was gorgeous all three days! There were several 3D shooting courses through the woods around the village, the Sherwood Challenge, kids' shooting areas, and even a small wedding in the church on Saturday morning. Thanks to volunteers Jack Boarts, Dave Chase, Kendra Friend, Judith Kidder, Dan Harrow, and Paul Leavitt for their assistance in staffing the village buildings and keeping an eye on the grounds.

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

## EDUCATION

Three groups came out this summer for education programs, whether to make soup, butter, and candles, or to experience a guided tour throughout the whole village. Thanks to Kendra Friend, Elaine Drury, John Gallagher, and Steve Evans for assisting with these groups.

Our young friends from the ExploreMore program returned to Charlton Park on August 8 to complete the second session of the program. The students had a great time drawing the church basement to scale, putting together paper houses and making a neighborhood for them (photo), and constructing free-standing models of different styles of architecture using unconventional items.



The Old Fashioned Field Days continued on July 24 and August 14 (photo). Overall, we had 37 children and their 12 adults come out and play with us this summer! Thanks to Beck Helgeson for facilitating the first two Field Days, and to Melia Timm for volunteering her time for all three Field Days and assisting wherever necessary.



We said goodbye and good luck to our 2013 Education/Public Programming intern Beck Helgeson on July 24. During her time at Charlton Park, Beck was involved with the education programs, the set up of *Food, Water, Shelter: The Business of Yesterday*, special events, ExploreMore, Field Days, and components of *Time to Play! Victorian Era Merriment*.

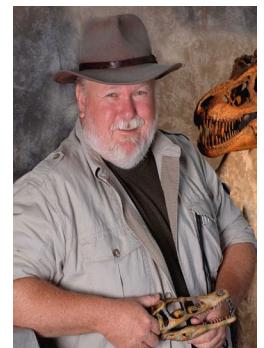
## COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

Kim Long, the 2013 Collections and Exhibits intern, finished her 12 weeks at the Park on July 30. She assisted with the installation of *Food, Water, Shelter: The Business of Yesterday* and created her own exhibit *Time to Play! Victorian Era Merriment* (on display until December) in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Museum building. We wish her luck in her job search and hope to see her soon!

Collection activities over the last two months have focused on the physical inventory of the Farmhouse Barn, with a planned completion by the end of August. It has taken 3 summers for a dedicated group of volunteers to inventory the nearly 2,000 artifacts stored in the barn. We are grateful to David Chase, Roberta Meeker, Jack Boarts, Sharon Zebrowski, and Mary Brinks for all of their efforts.

Judy Mudge has made headway in the archive, recently finishing a collection of Fortnight newspapers from Hastings High School and Rebecca Kyes is making progress in the ethnographic collection.

In 2014, the Park will host *Dinosaur Prep Lab and Bare Bones - Edmontosaurus Bones on Display*, with bone cleaning demonstrations and real bones. *Dinosaur Prep Lab* is a traveling exhibit that will be on display at the Park April 7 – June 27, 2014. We are excited to offer our visitors and the residents of Barry County the opportunity to explore the world of dinosaurs with an exhibit by PaleoJoe! (pictured) More information about upcoming exhibits will be available soon! We are looking for community partners - contact Claire Johnston if your organization would like to be involved!



## OPERATIONS UPDATE

With our busy season upon us, the Maintenance Department has done a spectacular job keeping up with the hustle and bustle. They set up and took down



various implements for all of the events, and also re-arranged the picnic tables and wastebaskets for company picnics that were recently held at the Park. They have also been working on keeping the village buildings looking great - the Barber Shop (pictured), Upjohn Office, and a railing in the Carlton Center Church all received a fresh coat of paint.

## Contact Information

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

**Tom Campbell** - Operations Supervisor  
Maintenance@charltonpark.org

**Stacey Graham** - Office Manager  
sgraham@barrycounty.org

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

**Shannon Ritzer** - Programming/Education Facilitator  
sritzer@barrycounty.org

**Roger Smith** - Grounds and Maintenance

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

Hours of Operation:  
Open 7 days a week, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

A portion of the historic village is open everyday  
from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through mid-October.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 14**

**Happy Tails 5k**  
**8 a.m. – Registration**  
**9 a.m. – Run begins**  
**\$25/runner**

**September 21 & 22**

**Walk in the Spirit Pow Wow**  
**10 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. Sat.**  
**10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sun.**  
**\$5/Adults, \$3/Children**  
**FREE 4 and under**

**October 5, 12, 19**

**Ghost Hunts with M.G.S**  
**8 p.m. – 11 p.m.**  
**\$15/person, *LIMIT 15 PEOPLE***  
**Kids under 18 must be joined by an adult**  
**Kids Night is 10/5 - 8-10 p.m.**

**October 26**

**All Hallows Eve**  
**3 p.m. – 6 p.m.**  
**Adults \$3**  
**Kids 12 & under are FREE**