

January/February 2016

The Villager

UPCOMING EVENTS

During the winter months, *The Villager* will be abbreviated to two pages.

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

Spring into the Past is Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The 25 museums on the tour are located along the Flat River, Grand River and Thornapple River; and provide support to each other in the Tri-River area. This is Charlton Park's 6th year being a part of this event.

The 10th Annual Charlton Park Day will be held on Saturday, May 28 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us Memorial Day weekend to formally kick off summer with free food and lots of fun! If you would like to volunteer at this exciting event, or would like more information about the day's activities or sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Park Office.

PARK HAPPENINGS

The Charlton Park Gas & Steam Club potluck was held on January 16 in the Church Basement, with 30 people in attendance. This event kicks off the official start to the tractor club's 2016 festivities.

The Barry County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner was January 23, held at Ever After Banquet Facility. Park Director Dan Patton & his wife, Melissa, attended to accept the Park's nomination for "Distinctive Destination" within Barry County. Congratulations to this year's winner, Dewey's Auto Body Holiday Light Display.

The Park hosted the annual Gerald R. Ford Boy Scout Council's Winter Klondike February 5-7. 158 participants from across West Michigan enjoyed fun and camaraderie while learning about the outdoors. Saturday's festivities were capped off with a dinner at the Pavilion prepared by Mike Barnaart, chef at Hastings' own Walldorff Brewpub and Bistro.

The Park was pleased to sponsor its Office Manager and Events Coordinator, Stacey Graham, in the 2016 Leadership Barry County course which began January 29 with an overnight retreat at



Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. Weekly sessions covered various topics including communication, problem solving, diversity, and a trip to Lansing to meet with legislative officials. Stacey is in the second row, 2nd from the right in the photo.

Charlton Park is pleased to host the Thorny Apple Craftsman and Art fair on June 24-26, 2016. Professionals from across the country will gather for one weekend to display and sell their one of a kind work. The event has something for friends and families of all ages. If you are interested in being a vendor for this event, contact the office, or visit Thorny Apple's website (www.thornyapple.com)

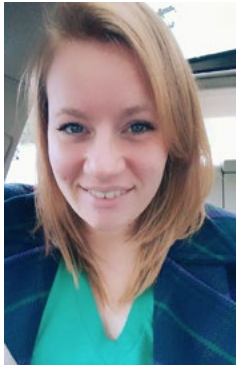
In 2014, Charlton Park had the opportunity to work with Cartoon Studios, a group that had a vision of making a comic book with actual photos. Many of the buildings in the village were utilized as the backdrop for *Ghost Canyon*, including the Bristol Inn, General Store (photo), Mutual Building, and Carriage House. *Ghost Canyon* is a ten part series, and we're very excited that the third part of the series is coming out this spring! Check out their website (www.ghostcanyon.com) for more info.



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

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

The main focus in collections and exhibits the past couple months has been installation of the new exhibit



Uncle Irving's Attic. We are excited to debut the new exhibit to school groups in April and officially open on Charlton Park Day! We were happy to have so many guest curators take over various groups of items in the collections. It was a great chance to see some wonderful creativity and add a sense of community to the exhibit.

Please welcome our first ever winter intern, Andrea Hiler! Andrea is a student at Western Michigan University studying Public History. She is assisting with exhibits and collections until April, when she will transition to being our spring intern, working with the education programs and special events.

EDUCATION

Education volunteer training will take place on April 6 from 1-4 p.m. in the Upjohn House. Volunteers will receive a refresher course on how the Grade Level Content Expectation's work and what we need to be sure to cover during programs. It is a good opportunity for the education volunteers to catch up with one another and share the tips and tricks of their presentations that the kids love most.

VOLUNTEERS CORNER

The spring Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held on April 16 at 12 p.m. in the Upjohn house. Invitations are in the mail, please be sure to mark it in your calendar. We will discuss 2015 and talk about some of the exciting things coming up in 2016.

Thank you so much to Jack Boarts, Dave Chase, Roberta Meeker, Michelle Lenartz, and Doug and Mary Brinks for all of their hard work on various collection and construction projects over the last few months. Everything is looking great!

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Maintenance has been working on preparing equipment for use this year, repairing plow damage on the roads and getting the yard ready for spring. We have been painting and restoring the signs throughout the Park. We have started work on the exterior of the Bristol Inn by repairing siding boards and doorway trim. We have also been assisting with the setup of *Uncle Irving's Attic*, doing small construction projects and helping get items out of storage.

DIRECTOR'S SPOT

Goodbye winter! It may not have been a record-breaking winter, but we're glad that things are finally warming. While we're still waiting for the flowers to bloom and the leaves to return to the trees, we find ourselves already busy putting together *Uncle Irving's Attic*, getting ready for school groups, and prepping for our many summer events. The sounds of school age children running through the Village are a true sign of spring!

Last year proved to be very successful in many ways. We held 16 special events with over 25,000 visitors, hosted 4,500 educational program participants, and over 3,100 volunteer hours, leaving one to wonder where we go from here.

Many of the opportunities we have here at Historic Charlton Park would not be possible without the continued support of the citizens of Barry County, partnership with the Charlton Park Foundation, and of course our many volunteers. As we forge ahead into summer, I hope everyone takes the opportunity to visit us and create new lifetime memories with their family and friends.

We look forward to serving you in 2016 and please contact any of our wonderful and courteous staff if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

