



The Villager

September/October 2013

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

PARK HAPPENINGS

Historic Charlton Park played host to a bevy of costumed actors on October 19 and November 2. Cartoon Studios is creating a series of comic books with photographs of live actors, and the Park makes the perfect backdrop. We are pleased to be a part of this exciting new project.

The Michigan Association of Counties held a roundtable meeting in the Upjohn House on September 6. On September 10, Hastings Charter Township hosted its board meeting along with an ice cream social in its original Township Hall, now located at Charlton Park. Community groups who have utilized the Park this fall include Boy Scout Troop #175 which held a campout near the sawmill on October 4-6. The Charlton Park and Barry County Gas & Steam Engine Clubs organized a Tractor Color Tour to Mooville Creamery on October 12. Also that day, the Michigan Muskie Alliance's annual fishing tournament was held in the Recreation Area. The Hastings Rotary Club held a memorial service and dedicated a red maple tree at the Park in honor of its deceased members on October 14.

Historic Charlton Park, in concert with the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) at Kellogg Community College, hosted two events in the month of

October. The wonderful Bonnie David, a schoolhouse volunteer and ILR participant, presented a program about one room schoolhouses on October 10. Park staff members Shannon Ritzer and Claire Johnston presented a program on the Carlton Center Church and Sixberry House on October 16.

The chickens have gone home for the season. Thank you to the Chase family for loaning us their flock for the spring and summer!

Please note, the members of the Barry County Parks and Recreation Board and the Charlton Park Village and Museum Board invite you to a public input meeting to discuss the future of Barry County's Parks. The meeting will take place on Thursday, November 7, at the Courts and Law Building Community Room (206 W. Court St. Hastings), at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!

EDUCATION

We had a busy summer of new programming, and here we are, starting the fall education season. Between September and December, the Park will play host to 23 education programs, including a tour of the village to help a group of Boy Scouts earn one of their patches. The month of November is once again free for schools in Barry County, so 2nd graders from almost every school system in the county will be coming out to enjoy a day at the Park. Word must be spreading, because we had quite a few groups that were brand new this fall! Thanks so much to our education volunteers Lois Bremer, Ruby Cairns, Bonnie David, Elaine Drury, Steve Evans, Kendra Friend, John Gallagher, Bess Gross, Dylan Tillbury, and Barb Turkal for all their help to make this a successful education season.

Spring 2014 is already filling up – we are **completely booked** for the month of May! The education volunteers are a wonderful group of individuals with a love of interpreting history for our elementary school friends, and they are a great bunch to work with. If you or someone you know are interested in volunteering with the education programs at Charlton Park, please contact Shannon Ritzer.

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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 maintenance of natural and recreation areas.



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EVENT NEWS

The 2nd annual Happy Tails 5K and one mile Fun Run to benefit the Hastings Dog Park was held at the Park on a sunny, but chilly, September 14. Over 65 runners (Park staff included) and walkers enjoyed a challenging trail course, energetic music, free food and tons of door prizes. Mark your calendar for next year's event on September 13, 2014.



The Walk-in-the-Spirit Pow Wow was held on September 21-22. 659 spectators enjoyed the event which highlights Native American history & culture. Thanks to Anne Bush and her crew of volunteers for their assistance with organizing the event. Thanks to Park volunteers Jack Boarts, Jamie Bowman, Dave Chase, Elaine Drury, Walt Eavey, Kendra Friend, Judith and Eugene Kidder, Veronica Klein, Paul Leavitt, Laura McBeth, Joe Medendorp, Ann and Alexis Replogle, Tim Rumsey, Jr., Dave Slack, Jr., Pam Tobias, and James, Brogan, and Rachel Tyler for their help interpreting at this event.



The Michigan Ghost Society held its annual ghost tours at the Park on October 5, 12 and 19. Using paranormal equipment, 67 participants enjoyed haunting their way through 5 historic buildings. The events continue to grow in popularity, receiving special recognition on WZZM 13's Take Five program and the GRNow

Facebook page.

The All Hallows Evening community celebration was held at the Park on October 26. Approximately 700 people from all over West Michigan donned their best costume and enjoyed trick or treating at 15+ festive stations within the Park. Thanks so much to Park volunteers Jeanne Ayres, Kay, Anna, and Zach Bursley, Elaine Drury, Walt Eavey, Dan Harrow, Barb Howard, Judith and Eugene Kidder, Veronica Klein, Dorothy Leavitt, Paul Leavitt, Butch and Fran Lindstrom, Herb McPeake, Jon Merrick,

Carolyn Murphy, Ann Replogle, Jenn, Emma, and Rosa Seif and Micah Miller, Dave Slack, Jr., Pam Tobias, and James and Brogan Tyler for all of their help passing out treats, helping with activities, and dressing up with us!



The Park is excited to announce two new events planned for next year. The CK&S Rail Fan Festival is scheduled for June 21, 2014 and a Fall Harvest Festival in conjunction with local Gas & Steam Engine clubs is slated for September 27-28, 2014.

VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

The Fall Volunteer Appreciation Picnic was held on Thursday, September 12 in the Recreation Area at the pavilion. 70 volunteers, donors, and Board members attended the feast of grilled chicken, tasty side dishes, and dessert. Updates of various areas of the Park were given by Dan Patton, Lloyd Kilmer, Shannon Ritzer, Claire Johnston, and Joanne Barnard. Thanks go out to Keith and Carolyn Murphy for their delicious cooking, and thanks to everyone who came out!

Special thanks to Mary Brinks and Roberta Meeker for all of their work on the gardens this summer and preparing for winter this fall. The Park would not look nearly as fabulous without their handiwork!

Doug Brinks has been busy on various projects around the Park including replacing broken siding on the Upjohn House, painting projects, and other tasks. Thank you so much Doug, everything looks great! Jack Boarts and Dave Chase spent much of September and October sorting and cleaning the Sixberry Carriage House in preparation for opening it to the public in 2014. We are so lucky to have so much wonderful help here at the Park.

WISH LIST

We need your paper towel tubes, please! We plan to make Christmas crackers for the Of Christmas Past event, so we would be happy to take any that you can spare. Please no toilet paper rolls.

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COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

The Hastings City Bank clock was removed from the historic village on October 4. The Charlton Park Village Foundation provided the initial funds to get the restoration project off and running. The restorer, Robert Butts, with assistance from A n' D Signs, removed the clock from the pedestal and transported it to his shop in northern Michigan. The clock will be returned in full splendor and working order in the spring of 2014.



The collections department has been busy over the last couple of months wrapping up projects and starting new ones! Rebecca Kyes and Judy Mudge are continuing in the ethnographic and archive collections respectively. Mary Brinks is plugging her way through the Farmhouse Barn inventory and Dylan Tilbury has started the Sixberry House inventory. Roberta Meeker and Sharon Zebrowski are choosing artifacts for a new Irving D. Charlton Display.

In 2014, the Park will host *Dinosaur Prep Lab*, with bone cleaning demonstrations and real Edmontosaurus bones. *Dinosaur Prep Lab* is a traveling exhibit that will be on display at the Park April 7 – June 27, 2014. The exhibit will be free to the public during normal business operation and for no additional cost during ticketed special events. PaleoJoe will be on site to clean actual dinosaur bones and talk with the public on April 19, May 3, and June 7, 2014. PaleoJoe is the author of several children's books and the Park has developed a reading program in conjunction with ALL of the Barry County libraries to complement the exhibit. PaleoJoe will also be presenting at Barry County libraries throughout the exhibit's run. We are excited to offer our visitors and the residents of Barry County the opportunity to explore the world of dinosaurs.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

The maintenance staff has been winterizing the recreation area and clearing the fields in High Meadows. Cutting down dead ash trees, planting new trees, and assisting with the set up and tear down for events has occupied their time as well. Painting of the interior and exterior of the Barber Shop was completed, and the building received new gutters! Thanks also for starting fires in the woodstoves every morning for the education programs.



Contact Information

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Hours of Operation:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Of Christmas Past

December 14th and 15th

Noon - 5 p.m. both days

Come celebrate a Victorian Christmas
at Charlton Park!

Live music in the Church
Enjoy wassail and plum pudding
Make crafts and dip candles
Tour the Village in a wagon

\$5 for adults

\$3 for children 4 - 12 years

Call the Park Office for more information or
find us on Facebook!