

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

EVENT NEWS

Of Christmas Past was held the weekend of December 8th and 9th from 12–5 p.m. both days. There was a dusting of snow on the ground Saturday morning, and then we were treated the rest of the day with peeks of sunshine. Sunday was another story - it snowed, rained, poured, and the village became a mucky mess. We still had a great turnout - 845 guests!



Visitors were treated to was-sail or hot chocolate, plum pudding,

roast chestnuts, cookies from the Charlton Park Foundation, popcorn and cinnamon apples. Adults and children alike made corn husk dolls and drag-onflies, sachets, candles, and cornucopia ornaments before taking a wagon ride (Saturday only, photo below), or visiting St. Nicholas. Live music could be heard in the church both days from the the Thornapple Wind Band (Saturday), the Thornapple Brass (Saturday, photo above), and the Thornapple Valley Dulcimer Society (Sunday).

Thanks to our amazing volunteers for helping us make this event a success! Doug Anderson, Joanne, Thomas, and Lucy Barnard, Lois Bremer, Selina Brieden, Christyl and Jonah Burnett-Evans, Elaine Drury, John and Carol Foley, Melissa Gast, Megan and Pat Graham, Bess Gross, Dan Harrow, Rose Heaton,



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 maintenance of natural and recreation areas.

www.charltonpark.org (269) 945-3775



Barb Howard, Sheila, Kristen, Nick, and Emily Iszler, Motu and Richard Johnston, Tim Kelly, Judith and Eugene Kidder, Laura McBeth, Herb McPeake (both days), Joe Medendorp, Jon and Maiya Merrick, Jeff Van Nortwick, Ann and Alexis Replogle, Brian Reynolds (both days), Jen, Emma, and Rosa Seif and Micah Miller, Wes and Georgia Robinson, Carl Schoessel, Kerri Steward, John Texter, Dylan Tillbury, Pam Tobias, Barb Turkal, James Tyler - we could not have done it without you. What a wonderful end to the 2012 season.

EDUCATION

What a great year for education programs! We held 85 programs throughout the year, welcoming approximately 4,500 students and adults – a 1.12% increase from last year. The 2013 season looks to be just as busy with 38 groups already booked for the spring and 6 for the fall. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the programs, if you are interested, please contact the office.

Thanks so much to all of our fall volunteers – Lois Bremer, Nancy Bitterling, Ruby Cairns, Bonnie David, Elaine Drury, Steve Evans, Melissa Gast, Bess Gross, Wes and Georgia Robinson, Kerri Steward, Barb Turkal, and Lorena Wright for all their help in making this a successful education season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nothing says lovin' like somethin' from the oven! The Charlton Park Gas & Steam Club Members potluck will be held at 6 p.m. on January 19. Please bring a dish to pass and join us for fun & fellowship in the Carlton Center Church basement.

Calling all anglers! Do you have what it takes to be named king or queen of the ice? Weather permitting, Charlton Park will host the "Hard Water Classic" ice fishing tournament on Thornapple Lake in partnership with the Walldorff Brewpub & Bistro and Al & Pete's Sport Shop on Saturday, January 26. Registration begins at noon, fishing will take place from 1-5 p.m., and prizes will be awarded. Entry fee is \$20 per adult (one child under 12 is free per paid adult). Valid Michigan Fishing license is required to compete. Watch our website for further details.

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OPERATIONS UPDATE

The Maintenance Department has been busy this fall! Wood has been split and cut around the Park, 10 new trees were planted around the Park (photo), and Consumers Energy came out to trim trees around power lines. The boat docks and trash barrels were put away for the year, and the guys assisted in the set-up, tear-down, and facilitated the wagon rides for the "Of Christmas Past" event. Strides have also been made towards the completion of the remodeling of the first floor of the museum. Thanks guys!



COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

Special thanks to all of the volunteers that are working on inventory: Rebecca Kyes for the ethnographic collection, Mary Brinks for the war medals and Civil War artifacts, Judy Mudge for the postcard collection, Sharon Zebrowski and Roberta Meeker on the Civil War exhibit artifacts being returned to storage.

The *Hats!* display and the Civil War exhibit will both be taken down this winter in preparation for new displays throughout the building. After at least 12 years, the Civil War artifacts are being returned to storage to make way for a exhibit on home life at the turn of the 20th century. The exhibit will be in part based on the questions most frequently asked by visitors! Be sure to visit Charlton Park Day May 25th, to see the new addition!

Thanks to the Charlton Park maintenance department and volunteers Jerry Plank, Dave Chase, and Jack Boarts the first floor museum renovation is almost complete! The drywall is up, the walls are painted, the trim and new doors are complete; the new gallery lighting is all that remains. The Park will welcome its first travelling display in many years on April 8th, 2013! *Resourceful Women: 30 Who Worked to Preserve Michigan's Water, Woods,*

and Wildlife from the Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame in Lansing will be on display through the Father's Day Car Show on June 16th, 2013. Watch the newspaper, Facebook and our newsletter for information on speakers and programs!

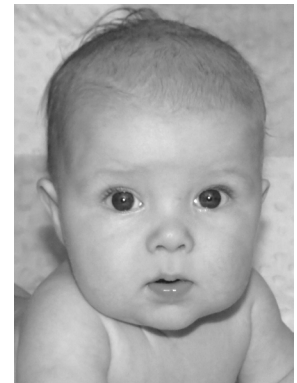
In conjunction with *Resourceful Women*, we will be adding a Barry County section to the display. To that end, we are looking for more information on the Barry County Sportswomen's Club and any local women that would fit the context of the exhibit. If you have any information you would like to share, please feel free to contact Claire Johnston by telephone 269-945-3775 or e-mail CJohnston@barrycounty.org. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

PARK HAPPENINGS

Claire Johnston presented at the Hastings Rotary Club lunch meeting on November 26. She told attendees about recent acquisitions, renovation projects completed during the summer and fall and upcoming exhibits. She will be presenting for the Middleville Rotary Club on January 22, 2013.

The blog (<http://charltonpark.wordpress.com/>) is continuing to post the exploits of Matthew Baird, a Barry County soldier during the Civil War. His letters are currently the subject of most posts, but his diaries will again take prominence later this year. We chronicled his time from April 1861-March 1862 while he was a member of the 3rd Michigan Infantry. He reenlisted in the 6th Michigan Cavalry in late 1862 and we have continued his story by publishing his letters and diary entries on the day he wrote them 150 years later. Keep up by liking us on Facebook, following the blog, or reading his letters in *The Reminder!*

Claire Johnston, the Park's curator, and her husband Andy welcomed Peter Alan (photo) to the world on August 23, 2012. He is now almost 5 months old and the Johnstons are thankful to the Charlton Park family for all the gifts and well wishes!



We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and wish you all the best in 2013!