

PARK HAPPENINGS

The Park is hiring for several seasonal positions! We're looking for a part-time paid historical interpreter to assist with the education programs in the mornings. We're also looking for *two* interns for the summer – a full-time paid collections and exhibits intern, and a part-time paid education and public programming intern. We request that applicants for both internships be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program. Application materials for all positions are due by **March 8**.

Students from Barry County Elementary schools will be submitting artwork to the Park for a chance for their design to be featured on t-shirts to be sold in the gift shop. As friends and supporters of the Park, you will have a chance to vote for the winning design between March 25 and April 5 by either visiting our Facebook page and "like-ing" your favorites, or by paper ballot in the Park office. The winning design will be sold in the gift shop starting on May 25 – Charlton Park Day.



"Exciting" and "busy" are two words that very well describe our plans for this year. Between the education programs, exhibit openings, guest speakers, the summer events, and other programs, we're going to have a great year! Keep an eye on our website (www.charltonpark.org), our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/charltonpark), and upcoming news-

letters for more information.

Claire presented at the Middletown Rotary Club meeting on January 22. She told attendees about recent acquisitions, renovation projects completed during the summer and fall and upcoming exhibits.

FOUNDATION UPDATE

The generosity of the Barry County community was evident once again as the Charlton Park Village Foundation conducted a successful annual giving campaign in late 2012, raising over \$16,500. A portion of these contributions is being allocated to fund Park improvement projects to renovate the Museum, Hall House, Barber Shop and restore the 1909 Buick Model F. Thanks to all who contributed.

EVENT NEWS

The Hard Water Classic Ice Fishing Tournament scheduled at Charlton Park for January 26 was cancelled due to lack of ice on Thornapple Lake. Nonetheless, the Park has hosted many groups this winter, including the K9 One Search and Rescue team who used the property on January 6 to perform drills with rescue canines and their handlers. On January 12, the Plein Air Artists painted outdoor scenery at Charlton Park. The Park also hosted over 160 Boy scouts and leaders from the Gerald R. Ford Council for its annual Winter Klondike February 8-10 (photo). Participants



camped in tents, dogsledded, watched a water rescue demonstration and even built an igloo. Charlton Park was also represented at the Walldorff Brewpub & Bistro's 6th Annual Bridal Show on January 26.

Keep in mind, Historic Charlton Park offers affordable and picturesque settings for a party, BBQ, family reunion, company picnic or wedding. Reservations are now being accepted for the 2013 rental season. Contact Stacey Graham at the Park office to book yours today!

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.

2545 S. Charlton Park Rd., Hastings, MI 49058
www.charltonpark.org (269) 945-3775



EDUCATION

We are going to be busy this spring! The education season is getting an early start this year – our first group will be visiting at the end of March. 44 groups will visit the Park between March 26 - June 10. If you are interested in becoming involved in the education programs, we would love to have you! Between volunteers, interpreters, interns, and staff, 4-5 individuals are needed to run every program. If you have time even once a month in the mornings, we have a place for you. If you know someone who currently volunteers with the education programs, talk to them! They will tell you just how much fun we have interpreting history for elementary school students. If you are interested, please contact Shannon Ritzer in the Park office.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

The seasonal snowy weather has not deterred the maintenance staff from completing many projects around the Park. New garbage cans have been built, and the benches and barrels have been water sealed. They have made sure that staff and guests can get into the Park by plowing the roads. Brush piles have been cleaned up, furnace filters have been changed, and progress has been made in the ongoing project of cleaning the gravel pit.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The spring Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held on April 20 at 12 p.m. in the Upjohn house. We'll be sending out invitations, but please be sure to mark your calendar.

Education Volunteer training will be taking place on April 3 in the Upjohn house. Volunteers will receive a refresher course on how the Grade Level Content Expectations work and what we need to be sure to cover during educational programming. We will also be looking at a few of the village buildings to learn a little bit more of their history. This training is a great opportunity for education volunteers to interact with one another and have a chance to meet the new volunteers!

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 oversized collection, Dylan Tilbury for inputting the red barn inventory, and Sharon Zebrowski and Roberta Meeker on the Civil War exhibit artifacts being returned to storage.

Thanks to the Charlton Park maintenance department and volunteers Jerry Plank, Dave Chase and Jack Boarts the 2nd floor museum renovation has begun! The old signs are down, two windows have been opened (photo) and the display cases are put away. A new exhibition entitled ***Food, Water, Shelter: The Business of Yesterday*** will open on Charlton Park Day, May 25.



The Park will welcome ***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 April 8 through the Father's Day Car Show on June 16, 2013. An opening reception is scheduled for April 11 at 5:30 p.m. and other special programming will be available throughout the exhibit's run. In conjunction with ***Resourceful Women***, Park staff will be adding a Barry County section. To that end, we are looking for information and memorabilia of the Barry County Sportswomen's Club. The Park will take items on loan or as donations, but please no unexpected drop-offs. If you have any information or items you would like to share, please contact Claire Johnston.

We would like to borrow some chickens! If you would be willing to let us host your chickens for part of this year, please call the Park office! A rooster is desired.