



January/February 2015

The Villager

OPERATIONS UPDATE

The Maintenance department has once again proven their salt (pun intended) against a formidable Michigan winter. The guys have made sure that the roads in the park are clear of snow and ice so the staff and visitors can come in. They also were extremely helpful the day that Charlton Park Road was covered in ice - they assisted motorists who were stuck near the Park's entrance gates. On days the weather has been pleasant, you could find them outside splitting wood, or prepping for the Boy Scout's Klondike weekend. On the colder days, they completed equipment maintenance and sealed the benches and barrels that are dispersed around the village in the spring and summer.

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

 Find us on Facebook

Banner photo courtesy of Photographic Memory

PARK HAPPENINGS

Hundreds of Boy Scouts from the Gerald R. Ford West Michigan Council filled the Park for its annual Winter Klondike on February 6-8. The boys were treated to food, fun and educational activities and games. The Park's resident bald eagle



even made an appearance during the weekend. Thanks to Patti Farnum at J-ad Graphics for the photos.



Charlton Park Gas and Steam Club Members, please don't forget to attend the next meeting on Wednesday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Park's Upjohn House. Thanks for staying involved.

FOUNDATION UPDATE

Thank you to the generous supporters of the Charlton Park Village Foundation who donated \$22,178 to our 2014 annual giving campaign. Thanks to your gifts, security cameras have been purchased for the museum exhibit spaces and conversion of a first floor museum storage area to usable exhibit space has started.

DIRECTOR'S SPOT

As you can see we are well underway with construction on our new maintenance and storage facility. Winter has slowed our progress as of late, but we are hopeful to have the new building up and running for the upcoming events season. Thanks to the continued support of Barry County citizens, the Barry County Board of Commissioners, and the Charlton Park Board, our new maintenance and storage building will be a reality for Charlton Park in 2015.



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

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

Opening day fast approaches, so we are busy bees getting ready for our robust changing exhibit schedule! Besides preparing for *Fossils of the Michigan Basin*, *Test of a Nation: Honor of a County*, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, and the *Barry County Artists Exhibition*, we are renovating another room in the Irving D. Charlton Memorial Museum! The project is being funded thanks to the Charlton Park Village Foundation and will not house any exhibits until later in 2015.

The Thornapple Arts Council is currently accepting applications for the *Barry County Artists Exhibition* which will be held at Historic Charlton Park September-December, 2015. Artists working in 2D or 3D are welcome to apply. If you paint, photograph, construct, sculpt, etc. we want to hear from you! This is a great opportunity to



reach a broad audience and win one of three cash prizes! In the fall, the Park hosts elementary students and their adult chaperones, the Happy Tails Dog Run, Barry County Outdoor Youth Recreation Day, the Walk In The Spirit Pow Wow, Fall Harvest Festival, All Hallows Eve, and Of Christmas Past, with a total attendance of about 5,500 individuals. The Park will also be a central venue for *Arts and Eats*, October 17-18, just to sweeten the pot! For more information, please visit www.charltonpark.org. Deadline to apply is March 31st. We hope you will consider showing your work (or sharing this opportunity with your artistic friends and family)!

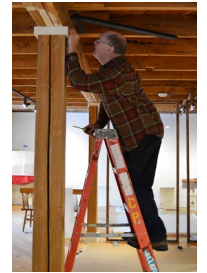
The map is back! The 1861 map of the United States that was in the old Civil War exhibit in the museum was taken to Grand Rapids in November for scanning. The reproduction (photo) and the original map were returned to the Park in mid-February. The reproduction map will hang in the updated Civil War exhibit opening this year, and the fragile original will go into storage. Thanks again to the Charlton Park Village Foundation for supporting the project.



VOLUNTEERS CORNER

The spring Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held on April 25 at 12 p.m. in the Upjohn house. We'll be sending out invitations as it gets closer, but please be sure to mark it in your calendar. Paleo Joe will be visiting that day as well!

Thank you so much to Judy Mudge, Dave Chase (photo), and Roberta Meeker for all of their hard work on various collection and construction projects over the last few months. Everything is looking great!



EDUCATION

Education volunteer training will take place on April 8 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. We will also discuss some changes that are being made in the education department this fall, and other things on the horizon.

Last year's Spring Break activities were a big success, so we're going to do it again! Join us on April 7 and 9 between 1 and 3 p.m. for activities in the church basement and Irving D. Charlton Memorial Museum. To go along with Paleo Joe's exhibit *Fossils of the Michigan Basin*, the activities will focus on fossils, rocks, the earth, and how glaciers move. Hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring into the Past is Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3 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.

The 9th Annual Charlton Park Day will be held on Saturday, May 23 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us Memorial Day weekend to formally kick off summer. If you would like to volunteer at this exciting event, please contact the Park Office.