Comcast and Fiber Optic Cable Come to Castle Park
By Dick Shepard

During the last week of September Comcast started directionally drilling new fiber optic communication lines in Castle Park. The lines will be placed in northern Allegan County throughout the fourth quarter and they expect to be operational some time in first quarter. There are two big advantages to this project which is being completed at no cost to residents. First is new direct competition with Charter, currently our only provider. Second is that the upload/download speeds will be massively faster than current cable connections. Charter obviously knew this was coming because our current cable jumped late summer from 30mbs to 110mbs.

Our concern was obviously the mess that they could make if not done properly. On October 2 Bob Burton and I golf-carted the entire project with the head of Comcast installation and the head of the company doing the installation. Issues reviewed were: path taken, location of existing lines, minimizing additional green boxes, acceptable staging areas, total cleanup when done and not blocking roads. There were about a dozen high visibility areas where we were able to convince them to use flush ground level vaults. However, in many locations the green 18 inch high pedestals will have to be used.

Unfortunately, this will allow for more efficient “working from home” while on vacation.

Construction Zone

Not only do we have construction on the beach and installation of fiber optics going on, but we also currently have four active cottage construction zones! New cottages are being built by Phil & Mary Bosch (Indian Pipe Circle), Gray Malin & Jeff Richardson, Howard & Laurie Bustle, John & Katie Palmer. Considering our aging cottages and an increased desire for use during the off season, the construction boom is likely to continue. To this end, the Architectural Guidelines Committee has now shifted its focus to where they can be even more beneficial. The committee, still headed by Steve Nobel, is now known as the Architectural Guidelines and Construction Standards (AG/CS) committee. Please see page 9 for more information on the function of this new committee. The board and committee hope that new guidelines and tools will aid those undergoing large construction projects in smoothing the waters with neighbors and the rest of the park. (Turn to pg. 9)
Summer Happenings

Epic Wine Tasting Evening in the Old Timers Room!

Bruce Shultz and his wife Caroline from Butch’s in Holland MI presented a fine array of wines for sampling from all over the world. It was such fun to sample the various wines and learn about their origins and particular flavors. It was a great turn out and corks were popping late into the evening!! Thanks to Chip Perkins and his minions for hosting the event.

Library Speaker Series Well Received

The library committee arranged for a couple speakers to come during August to address interested Castle Parkers regarding two important health issues affecting many people: Foot & Ankle health and Alzheimers research. The committee hosted Dr. Rebecca Sundling to discuss the importance of foot health, and our own Dr. Michael Fossel who led a slide presentation on “Curing Alzheimers”. Dr. Fossel’s book “The Telomerase Revolution” sold out quickly but Amazon now has copies for sale. These evenings were well attended and informative for all involved. If you have ideas for speakers for next summer, please contact Roberta Rubin, the new library committee chair, (rrubin811@aol.com).

Golf with a Purpose

“A good walk spoiled” becomes much more fun if you do it with friends and can raise a little money while you’re at it. The ladies’ golf outing, Mo Fun Golf, was won by the team of Susan Muzzy, Nancy Shepard, and Marcia Littlejohn. Winners of the men’s Moe Perkins golf outing were Ric Brown, Jay Garside, Adam Kunkel, and Paul Wentworth. Most important, the golf outings helped to raise about $1500 for the CP Memorial Fund.
More Summer Fun

Playclass, under the direction of Christine McCort, had another successful summer with large groups of youngsters taking over the park every morning of the summer. The fun included: a campout, dune schooner rides, a pool party, color run, flour chases, CP’s Got Talent, story time, and many other fun activities.

Last year the board approved the formation of the Eb’s Barn Interior committee to finish off the work started by the refurbishing of the exterior of Eb’s Barn. Then they were promptly told, “there are no funds left in the capital fund for your project.” Some energetic, well-organized Castle Parkers rallied to generate the funds necessary to move forward with the project. During the summer the committee organized “Art in the Park”. Everyone had the opportunity to generate artwork that at least somewhat resembled the castle. These pieces of art as well as other art provided by Castle Parkers was up for auction and on display at an enthusiastically supported evening event at the castle. In the end, the group provided some really fun events and raised close to $14K to finish the interior of Eb’s Barn. Well done everyone! THANK YOU!
Access to Castle Park news and connecting with other Castle Parkers are two of the main goals achieved with the new Castle Park website. It is important that all Castle Parkers know how to access the members only section of the website so that we can have educated members and so that all personal contact information is up to date and accurate. The printed directory data is taken directly from the information on the website. If you or a family member's information was missing or incorrect in the 2018 version of the CP Directory, please make sure to pass this information on to them so that the 2019 directory is accurate and complete.

1) Logging in at www.castlepark.org

- You need a personal username and password to login.
- **Your username is your email address.** The first time you login, enter your email address as your username. If you have not set up a password or you don't remember your password, click "Lost your password?" You will be provided a new password which you can change once you login.
- If for some reason you do not receive the email with a new password, **please check your spam** or junk box in your email. Sometimes those emails end up there.
- If you're still locked out, please fill out the **“trouble logging in” form** and Mary Ireland will help you troubleshoot or reset your password.
- If you do not have an account yet, please contact Mary Ireland (**mcjireland@comcast.net**) or fill out the “trouble logging in" form from the login page.

2) Updating your profile ~ You MUST update your profile for your personal information to be correct in the hardcopy directory published in the spring.

To do so, please:

- Log in, per instructions above, and either:
  - Navigate to the “member profile” at the far right top and click on “edit your profile”
  - OR — navigate to the “Member Directory” (under the “Directory” tab), see what's already posted for you and then click the “Edit Your Profile” button to make any changes.

3) Posting News and Events

The website is also for sharing your news (relevant to CP). Anyone with an account can post their own news! If you have something important to add to the calendar or share with the Park, please upload your news or event on the site.

- For events (to be added to the calendar), please go to this page: [https://castlepark.org/submit-an-event/](https://castlepark.org/submit-an-event/) (or look for the green button on the member homepage at the bottom of the events column)
- For news and announcements, please visit this page: [https://castlepark.org/post-news/](https://castlepark.org/post-news/) (or look for the green button on the member homepage at the bottom of the news column)

*Please note: All posts are reviewed and must be approved before going live; please allow several days for posts to appear (especially in the off-season).*

4) Staying logged in

There is no need to log out when you exit the site (unless you’re visiting someplace — e.g. China, Bulgaria, Russia, etc. — where hacking is more of a problem). If you check “keep me logged in” when you first log in, you won’t need to log in again on that device except every three weeks or thereabouts (password-protected sites automatically prompt a fresh login every so often for security purposes).

Questions or concerns, please let me know! Thank you.

Mary Ireland
CPA Communications Chair & Webmaster
**mcjireland@comcast.net**
510-407-2157
Stephanie Whitbeck reads the Declaration of Independence while children find the words from the Declaration on coins during the Independence Day celebration.

The softball field was the place to be during the Independence Day field day. The usual games were hard fought with no apparent injuries.

The Wilcox women, descendants of Gertrude (founder of the CP library) continue to gather at Castle Park. Pictured here: Rachel Dickerson, Lori Anne Dickerson, Katie Fansler, Susan F. Donoghue, Rosey Dickerson, Pat Fansler, Julie F. Wade, Callie Wade, Katherine Wade

Walt Nelson and Steve Steketee organized a very impressive array of antique, rare and really old cars on a Saturday in August. Cars owned by Walt, Steve, Brian Steketee, Sugie Young, the Axe family, the Kunkels, Pat Fox, Bob Manglitz as well as friends of Castle Parkers were on display out in right field.

Kim & Joe Boswell defeated perennial finalists, Jeff & Anne Hibbard in the very competitive mixed doubles finals.

Tennis Roundup
Castle Parkers enjoyed another great season of fun and competitive tennis. Cardio tennis continues to be a very popular way for players of all ages and skill levels to develop their tennis skills and get a good workout at the same time. The annual tennis tournaments were also well attended and featured some excellent play. The high level of play coupled with the hot and humid weather conditions proved to be a grueling test for the champs in both events. It was looking a little dicey during the Men’s Doubles finals but thanks to a home remedy of pickle juice the match was salvaged.

- Mixed Doubles Champs: Kim and Joe Boswell (house guests of Liz and Jeff Webb). It should be noted that, once again, Scott Hibbard and Martha Laughna prevailed in the consolation championship.
- Men’s Doubles Champs: Jeff Webb and Randy Ford

See you on the courts in 2019!

Pickleball Anyone?
A group of Castle Parkers is researching the possibility of installing a pickleball court so that Castle Parkers can partake in this very popular, growing sport. Click HERE to view a video of the fun! For more information, please contact Bill Steketee (bstek@aol.com) or Julie Wade (jfw222@gmail.com)
The ladies book exchange produced some fine titles. Thank you to Julie Wade for adding a description for each book so we can make educated decisions about our reading material. Enjoy.

**Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman
“Beautifully written and incredibly funny, *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* is about the importance of friendship and human connection. I fell in love with Eleanor, an eccentric and regimented loner whose life beautifully unfolds after a chance encounter with a stranger; I think you will fall in love, too!” —Reese Witherspoon

**News of the World** by Paulette Jiles
In the aftermath of the Civil War, an aging itinerant news reader agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people in this exquisitely rendered, morally complex, multilayered novel of historical fiction from the author of *Enemy Women* that explores the boundaries of family,

**Killers of the Flower Moon** by David Grann
From *New Yorker* staff writer David Grann, #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Lost City of Z*, a twisting, haunting true-life murder mystery about one of the most monstrous crimes in American history

**Educated** by Tara Westover
An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University

**Magpie Murders** by Anthony Horowitz
From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Moriarty* and *Trigger Mortis*, this fiendishly brilliant, riveting thriller weaves a classic whodunit worthy of Agatha Christie into a chilling, ingeniously original modern-day mystery.

**Women in the Castle** by Jessica Shattuck
Set at the end of World War II, in a crumbling Bavarian castle that once played host to all of German high society, a powerful and propulsive story of three widows whose lives and fates become intertwined—an affecting, shocking, and ultimately redemptive novel from the author of the *New York Times* Notable Book *The Hazards of Good Breeding.*

**Manhattan Beach** by Jennifer Egan
*Manhattan Beach* takes us into a world populated by gangsters, sailors, divers, bankers, and union men in a dazzling, propulsive exploration of a transformative moment in the lives and identities of women and men, of America and the world.

**Less** by Andrew Sean Greer
A struggling novelist travels the world to avoid an awkward wedding in this hilarious Pulitzer Prize-winning novel full of “arresting lyricism and beauty”

**At Least in the City Someone Would Hear Me Scream** by Wade Rouse
Finally fed up with the frenzy of city life and a job he hates, Wade Rouse decided to make either the bravest decision of his life or the worst mistake since his botched Ogilvie home perm: to uproot his life and try, as Thoreau did some 160 years earlier, to “live a plain, simple life in radically reduced conditions.

**Why I Wake Early (Poetry)** by Mary Oliver
Each poem is imbued with the extraordinary perceptions of a poet who considers the everyday in our lives and the natural world around us and finds a multitude of reasons to wake early.

**Hillbilly Elegy** by J.D. Vance
*Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

**Five Good Minutes** by Dr. Jeffrey Brantley
The 100 simple practices found in *Five Good Minutes®* are designed to help even the busiest person start the day right. Using just five minutes of mindfulness, relaxation, or imagery techniques during their morning routines, readers can set their intentions and greet the day feeling calm, centered, and energized.

**Glass Houses** by Louise Penny
You won't want Louise Penny's latest to end…. ‘Glass Houses,’ along with many of the other (detective) Gamache books, is so compelling that, for the space of reading it, you may well feel that much of what's going on in the world outside the novel is ‘just noise.’
Joseph Sharp’s Memorial
By Ted Parker

On Aug 30th the ashes of Joseph Cotton Sharp were scattered on the sand dunes of Lake Michigan, south of Castle Park. Joseph, the son of Carrie (Rea) & John Sharp died October 20, 2017 (age 26)
From a car accident. In attendance were: his parents Carrie (Rea) & John Sharp, sister Maggie (Rea) & Lance Justus, aunt Lollie Rea, uncle Billy Rea, and cousin MJ (Rea) & Steve Twigg, as well as friends of the Sharp & Rea families. Prayers & poems were read on the beach. Each memorial participant offered one word that reminded him or her of Joseph: romantic, direct, special, creative, empathetic, magical, beautiful, deep, tender, radiant, watercolors, kindred-soul, searching, ingenious, inventive, eternal, gentle, exceptional, artistic & serene.

Below is a poem by Joseph that was read by Maggie Justus.

The summer I saw Jack, the business fellow, I took Pippy’s cocker spaniel, and I walked sandfloored woods towards her beach but paused a moment, because far off, I saw a silent, brown lake. Anyway, it is the dune’s back side.

I picked a flower from beside her worn sand path and placed it in my ear.

At Green Mountain’s top, Lake Michigan becomes visible. I studied a while a lady bug on a fallen over tree before running down that dune with Cappy at my heels and Lollie’s maroon colored coat flying at my backside.

Me, oh my. It is early Spring, and this beach grass reminds me of a Monet painting my parents had a print in my childhood home.

- Joseph Cotton Sharp

For Sale ~ Kristin and Darren McIntire have offered their cottage for sale. They purchased “Top o’ Pine” a couple years ago and had planned to use the cottage as their primary residence. The major renovation did not include the hoped-for addition so the cottage does not accommodate all their boys. They are sad to be offering it at $549K. Contact Kristin @ 616-481-7157 or mcintirekristin@yahoo.com.

Other cottages for sale include Hoye, Rubin, Gielow. Muzzy spec on Indian Pipe Circle.

Welcome to the Smiths!
Please welcome Kat and Mike Smith from Carmel, Indiana as new owners of the Bustle cottage. They have two adult daughters and hope to live at Castle Park half of the year.

Allison Cottage for Rent ~
Three bedrooms...a king, a queen, and a twin bedroom. There are two pullout sofa beds in the living room with bunk beds in the lower level. Winterized. Call Bob Allison to check availability at 630-772-7414.
Rules Reminders

Castle Park has not only grown in the number of cottages recently but the cottages themselves have also gotten bigger. With increasing numbers of people, it is even more important that everyone be good citizens and that owners who rent their cottages clearly communicate our rules and expectations to their renters. Our rules are intended to assure the comfort and enjoyment of Castle Park by all its residents.

Some recent rules which have been reviewed by the board include:

- Limiting use of fireworks to July 3rd, 4th, and 5th. This is in accordance with state law.

- Specifying that loud cottage construction take place between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Note that the construction moratorium still is in effect from mid-June until Labor Day.)

- Requiring submission of the Construction Notification form.

- Requesting that owners who have renters who desire to rent a golf cart please rent the cart for them. Please remember to register the golf cart with the managers and convey the rules regarding golf cart use to renters.

- Castle Park Association has trademark protection on our logo. Please request permission from the board before using the logo.

- No use of loud music on the beach or at the pool. Please use headphones. (for consideration at November board meeting)

Blast from the Past

Anyone recognize this beauty? This cauldron made its home in the lobby of the old Castle Hotel, not far from where it sits in this photo. Lollie Rea acquired it during the auction which took place when the Castle Hotel closed its doors and auctioned off its contents. Ted Parker then inherited it when the Reas sold Top ‘o Pine. Ted thought the beautification committee could do something fantastic with it so he brought it back to its roots. The beautification committee has requested that Mark put his magic reconditioning touch on the cauldron before they decide where its next permanent home should be. Ted’s donation is sure to be a conversation piece during events at the castle.

Click “WHAT HAPPENS WHEN LAKE SUPERIOR HAS TOO MUCH WATER?” for more information on what is causing the current erosion crisis along the lake shore.

A Pleasant Surprise!

Look who ran into each other at the Biltmore in Ashville, NC. Carrie Rea Sharp and Martha Dahlman had this chance encounter. What a small world!
Thank you all for supporting the project to preserve our shoreline at the annual meeting. As discussed during the annual meeting, our dues are structured so that we cover all of our annual operating expenses without much left over. There is not much room for contributing to the capital fund from our regular dues contribution. While our budgeting process does not allow for a large buildup of funds set aside for capital expenditures, it does assure that large projects like the beach revetment, pool, utility work, etc. are properly vetted throughout the community. In other words, it requires and allows the members to have a larger impact on the decision making for the more substantial projects. The board appreciates your trust in our decision making while supporting this substantial capital outlay.

The Castle Beach project has been designed and has passed through all permitting with exception of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Unfortunately, there is no predicting when this approval will come or if we will be forced to tweak the design to meet their standards. Dick Shepard and Abonmarche, the engineering firm that the CPA Association hired to design the revetment at Castle Beach, are confident that their design will serve the needs of Castle Beach and have requested permits for a more substantial revetment than they feel is necessary at this time but we can always scale back the project once approved. We cannot add on. It is very likely that the Castle Beach construction will commence in early spring 2019 because, at this point, the approval will not come soon enough to begin construction this fall. This has an impact on the timing of the approved assessment to pay for the project. As promised, the board will not issue the assessment until it is necessary to do so. If the project does indeed commence during the spring, it is likely that the assessment would also be issued during the spring. Finally, the Architectural Guidelines committee has been working with the Beach Committee to design a new stair system leading down to Castle Beach to enable safe descent and full sunset viewing.

The private revetment to protect the northern 900’ of bank is progressing under the watchful eye of Abonmarche (the engineering firm) and Dick Shepard. While progress has been slower than expected, Abonmarche and Dick are ensuring that it is done right. As you recall, the CPA has agreed to fund the revetment construction in the area of the North Beach steps in order to assure that we have continued access to the beach to the north. In addition, the Redding/Laughnas will be installing stairs on the bottom portion of their property to assure that, if high water prevents access to north beach, members still have a chance to access the beach via the Redding/Laughna stairs. This is so important because the North Beach is a popular place! One day this summer we straightened out 80 beach chairs which were piled up and counted over 120 people on the beach! Thank you so much to John and Katie Palmer and the Muzzy clan for allowing Castle Parkers to spread their wings to the north. Without this access, our summer vacations would have been quite different!

With this sense of community, we can all continue to enjoy all that Castle Park has to offer.

Architectural Guidelines/Construction Standards

As most of you already know, construction sites have become common around Castle Park. This construction boom has caused the CPA Board and the AG/CS Committee to carefully review practices and rules related to cottage construction. With good communication playing a key role in the successful completion of a cottage construction project, the AG/CS committee has enacted a questionnaire for owners considering undergoing a construction project. The goal is to facilitate communication regarding several aspects of a project; size, scope, landscaping, scheduling, and contact information are among the important points communicated to the board and managers through this questionnaire. If you are considering a cottage construction project, please click Architectural Guidelines/Construction Standards to review the rules regarding construction. Click Construction Notification to access the questionnaire to be completed at the beginning of the design process.
The Banner was published and edited by Martha Laughna.

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The Banner is a Semi-Annual

www.castlepark.org

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