

CASTLE PARK



The Banner

Spring 2019

Castle Park.... A Resort in the Romantic Tradition

The Blossom girls recently unearthed an article about Castle Park beautifully written by Jane Hibbard Idema during the summer of 1979. While much has been documented about the history of Castle Park, this article shares the traditions adopted by Castle Parkers over the years. Jane highlights one of the main differences between Castle Park and many other resorts up and down the shore of Lake Michigan; Castle Park was built along ridges which run perpendicular to the shoreline rather than all cottages being build on the lake. This arrangement made for two “campuses” and allowed for extensive social gathering. Among the activities highlighted are:

- Pixies and Waiters ventured north from southern universities like University of Georgia, the Citadel, University of Tennessee, and University of the South (Sewanee) to serve castle guests. They also were very talented in the arts and presented several memorable shows in the amphitheater.
- Play Class was started in the spirit of activity and continues as it was almost 100 years ago.
- Horseback riding was a central activity during the early to mid 20th century. Carter Brown shipped some very high quality hunters up to Castle Park for all to enjoy. Originally the stables were behind the Curry and Ford cottages but then moved to an area in the woods near the Kelly cottage (they still have the tack house from the 60s and early 70s. Riders enjoyed trail riding on the trails south of Castle Park as well as an occasional dip in the lake with a horse (always an adventure!) The Castle Park horse show proved to be one of the premier shows in the region during its heyday.
- The children’s library was started by Gertrude Wilcox in her own home (currently the Wade cottage owned by Mrs. Wilcox’s granddaughter Julie). Mrs. Wilcox established the library to encourage children to read during the summer months. The children’s library is currently housed in the Meeting House. Donations of lightly used books are always welcome.
- Tennis became very popular midcentury. Harry “Cap” Leighton gave many a young Castle Parker a great start in the sport. In her article Jane quipped, “The wife (of an 80 year old) protested, ‘you are going to die on the tennis courts!’ To which he replied, ‘My dear, my only fear is that I won’t!’” Castle Parkers have always taken their activities seriously.
- Horseshoe pits were also very popular for the men of post retirement age. They even devised a pole with a hook to pick up the horseshoes when their backs got too stiff.
- Baseball was serious business from the late 20’s until WWII. Castle Park teams competed against the nearby resorts of Macatawa, Ottawa Beach, and Waukazoo.
- Weekly Saturday night dances took place in the castle until the dance dune was constructed in 1936. Sounds like we still do the same dances today but dances are no longer weekly.
- The Labor Day barbecue marked the end of the summer, a bitter sweet time for Castle Parkers. The night was highlighted by the pig roast and “on this magic night, the children are allowed to stay up until all hours.”

To view Jane’s article in full, click [HERE](#)



Dan Dickerson invited Martha Laughna's family up to the broadcast booth at Fenway Park during a recent Tigers-Red Sox game. The Red Sox won.

Summer 2019 Social Calendar Highlights

Playclass ~ June 24-August 17

Tennis:

Mixed Doubles ~ July 27

Mens Doubles ~ August 3

Ladies Day ~ Every Tuesday, 9:30 AM

Bridge ~ Wednesdays, 1:00 in the castle

Golf:

Men's outing ~ August 31

Contact Will Kernahan (wkernahan@gmail.com)

Women's outing ~ August 22

Contact Susan Muzzy (muzzy.susan9@gmail.com)

Dances ~ July 6, July 27, August 31

July Jubilee ~ July 27

Rock the Park ~ August 3 (tentative)



WHAT TO EXPECT FOR SUMMER 2019



Playclass

Jalynn Mitchell will return to Castle Park as the Play Class director. She has acted as Assistant Director for the past two summers while studying Education at Hope College. Jalynn will begin student teaching this upcoming fall. Our kids will be happy!

Barnswallow

Meet Kaden Shook, our newest entrepreneur in Castle Park. Kaden, a rising junior at Holland Christian, will be running the Barnswallow for the summer. He has five younger brothers so he is the perfect candidate to keep the younger patrons in line. Kaden has gotten to know Castle Park as his family has been living in the park for the winter while his family builds a new home nearby.



Tennis

Aaron Boersma will return to Castle Park to head up our tennis program. The past few years, under his leadership, have brought lively cardio tennis to the park as well as continued competitive programs. Key dates are included on the social highlights (top left of this page).

Nicholas Holt has been hired for the summer to help with the Park maintenance. He will graduate in May from Hope College and plans to become a teacher. He has been involved in baseball and football while at Hope and has studied Integrated Science and Biology.

Holland Farmers Market

The Holland Farmers Market will continue this summer with additional hours:

Wednesday and Saturday, 8:00am-3:00pm

NEW! Mondays, 5:00pm-8:00pm

News from the Board

The Castle Park Association Board of Trustees has had an extremely busy year with many decisions to be made to assure that the revetment design, construction, and financing meet the needs of our members. When you arrive back in the park, you will notice big changes at Castle Beach. The revetment construction is due to be completed before Memorial Day. In addition, you will soon find a greatly improved system of stairs and landings at Castle Beach so that everyone can enjoy the lake, regardless of whether there is sand down on the beach or not. As of April 1, the water is six inches higher than last year at the same time. We are getting this done just in time!

Believe it or not, the revetment and all its associated decisions was not the only thing the board tackled this winter! The board is currently evaluating recommended changes to the CPA Bylaws. Board member Jay Mittelstead, with the assistance of the Long Range Planning Committee, has recommended changes to accommodate various types of cottage ownership. The board is currently assessing the recommended revisions

and will be available during the summer to answer questions. As required by the bylaws, the changes will be put to vote by the entire membership at the annual meeting.

The Long Range Planning Committee, which consists of recent board presidents, has been charged with evaluating our fixed assets and whether we are making the best use of our facilities. This important study should aid the board in evaluating capital fund needs in the future. They are also tackling innovative sources of funds to supplement the budget and capital fund activities.

Fundraising activities ~ In an effort to avoid fundraising fatigue and competition for funds, the board would like to remind CPA members that any fundraising activity which benefits activities in Castle Park must be approved by the board.

Asset improvements ~ Eb's Barn interior and North Court shelter are both on the list of upgrades you will see this summer.



A Complicated Question:

What Is the Rule Regarding Beach Access for the General Public?

With beach space being swallowed up by the lake and a swell of boating on the great lakes, you may be wondering what the laws are regarding public access to beaches.

According to a Chicago Tribune article by contact reporter Tony Briscoe, "In Michigan, private shoreline property stretches to the water's edge, but private beaches are treated like thoroughfares, with foot traffic allowed up to the natural high water mark." The article defines the "high water mark" as where lake waves have noticeably left an impression on the shoreline."

The understanding of the Michigan law is that the public is entitled to walk by the water's edge but may not set up on the dry, sandy private beach.

What about out buoys? Each year, with the permission of the DNR and the US Coast Guard, the beach committee installs a total of nine buoys along the shoreline of Castle Park. The permit for Castle Park allows for five buoys. Because the beach committee felt our lengthy shoreline warrants more protection, they applied for, and received, a permit for four additional buoys for the South Dune Association. Power boats must stay at least 100 feet away from the buoys unless travelling at no wake speed.

To learn more on this topic, click [HERE](#).



Page Marshall enjoys her annual Vero Beach gathering with the Elders of Castle Park



Ernie and Sally Kelly met up with Carol and Randy Amburgey near Washington, DC.



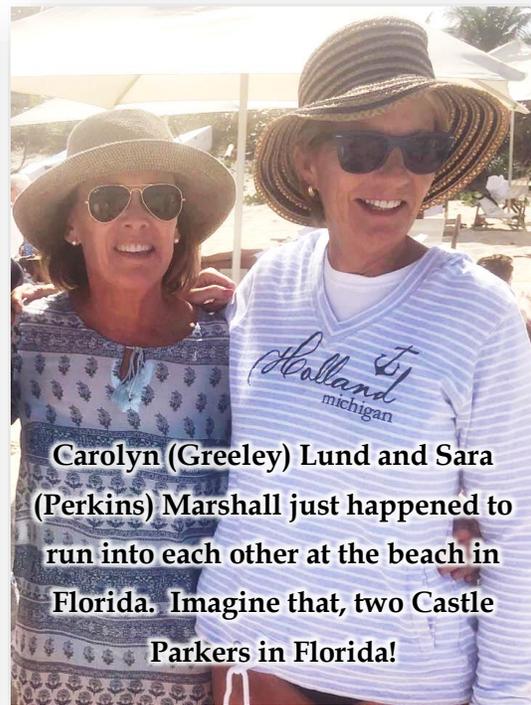
"Pam and George Holmes had a lovely get together in Phoenix with Anne Kunkel and Paul Wentworth. Libations first at their home and then dinner at a quaint restaurant that Anne introduced Pam and George to a while ago..... Vincent's Bistro. The food is almost as good as what Anne could fix at home!!"



Driving Ms. Blair in her "Rolls Royce".



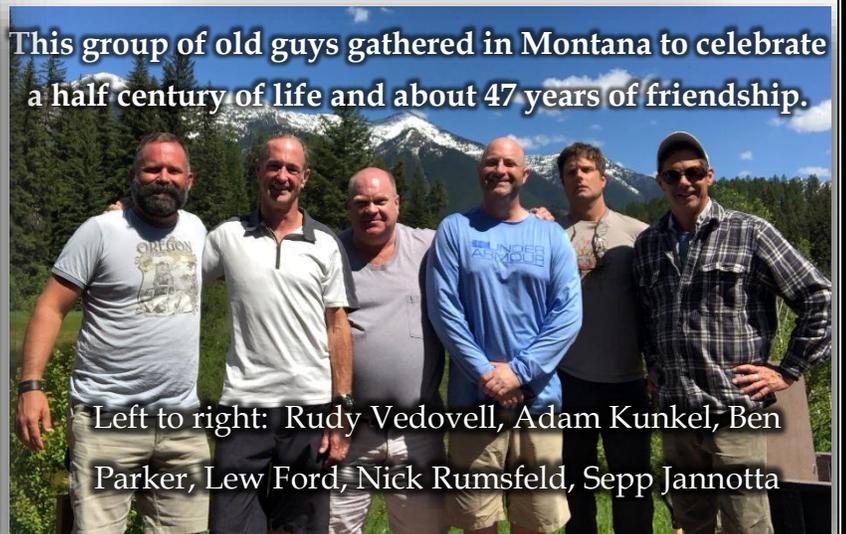
Molly Allen and Hadley Bay joined Katie Ford in Lake Forest for a flower arranging event. Beautiful work ladies!



Carolyn (Greeley) Lund and Sara (Perkins) Marshall just happened to run into each other at the beach in Florida. Imagine that, two Castle Parkers in Florida!



There is nothing like a Christmas gathering of old friends. Gina Jannotta with George, Margaret, and Ted Parker.



This group of old guys gathered in Montana to celebrate a half century of life and about 47 years of friendship.

Left to right: Rudy Vedovell, Adam Kunkel, Ben Parker, Lew Ford, Nick Rumsfeld, Sepp Jannotta



Grace Burton enjoys some Belgian hospitality from the VanZeebroeck clan while in Brussels for a conference on agriculture and food policy.



Betsy Clark, Gail Heneveld Buettner, and Amy Blossom Galusha gathered for a mini-reunion in Ashland, OR.

Betsy reports that it was wonderful to celebrate long-lasting friendships.

Cottage Turnover and Construction

As our classic cottages age and no longer fit our lifestyles, several cottages have been rebuilt with new owners.

The Bustles have divided their original lot and have built a new cottage closer to the road, between Allens' and Thiers'.

Ned and Erica Jannotta have recently purchased the old Bustle cottage on the lake. They plan to rebuild and are shooting for a summer 2022 occupancy.

Tom & Beth Maentz have bought the former Argyropoulos cottage. No plans for the property have been finalized but it certainly provides them room to spread their wings from next door!

Michael and Kimberly Summers have purchased Windover from Lee Hutchinson. See their CPA application below for more about the Summers.

SUMMERS FAMILY BUYS WINDOVER

Welcome to the Summers family who recently purchased Windover from Lee Hutchinson. Many Castle Parkers have met them already but if you haven't met them, Kimberly let us know a little bit about their family:

The Summers family (Michael, Kimberly, Jacob, and Chloe) is excited to join the Castle Park community. We currently live and work in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Michael, a native Hoosier, is a newspaper publisher, and I am French teacher and department chair at an independent school. I was born and raised in the Detroit area, so Michigan has always been my real home. Jacob is 14 and loves to play and watch soccer. Chloe is 10 and loves running around CP. We have known about Castle Park for a number of years from Michael's sister and brother-in-law, Suzanne and Aaron Weiss. Our first stay in CP was in 2011 when we rented the Hoye cottage with the Weiss family. We rented the Windover for five consecutive summers before finally purchasing the cottage in March. Summer evenings on the big porch is one of the things we love most about Castle Park. Our kids have enjoyed summers at Play Class, Thursday evening Bingo Night, late night ghost hunts, and Pool Olympics. Michael and I especially appreciate sunsets on the Dance Dune, sunny days on the beach, and getting to know other Castle Parkers. We have already started the long process of restoring the Windover to its former glory and we look forward to many happy years there.

In Memoriam

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have recently lost loved ones.

*Jeanne Burton
November 17, 2018*

*Hank Idema
November 1, 2018*

Babies Everywhere!

The following new babies will be dancing with the four that were listed in the fall Banner:

*Nell Louise Fuller
February 27, 2019
Margaret & Stewart Fuller*

*Max Talbot Malin & Dove Muzzy Malin
December 2, 2018*

Jeff Richardson & Gray Malin

*Elizabeth "Grace" Minneman
February 3, 2019*

Claire (Lerchen) & Jesse Minneman

*Sarah Demarest Drabkin
March 7, 2019*

Eliza (Bellis) & David Drabkin

*Caleb Perkins Tuttle
November 18, 2018
Sara (Perkins) & Sam Tuttle*

*Charlotte Manny
November 23, 2018
Kate (Lennox) & Grant Manny*

*Graham Timothy Weaver
April 19, 2019
Lisa (Steketee) & Tim Weaver*

*Louisa Noreen Boersma
October 23, 2018
Hannah Beth & Aaron Boersma (tennis pro)*

Engagements

Charlie Pyott got engaged in February to Michelle Lee. They are trying to set a date for their wedding but all their friends are having babies and they don't want to conflict!



Jack Chism and Grace Lo got engaged this winter. They have recently relocated from the west coast to Ann Arbor and plan a 2020 wedding.

Austin Swaney & Abbie Althoff have planned a September 2019 wedding in Castle Park!

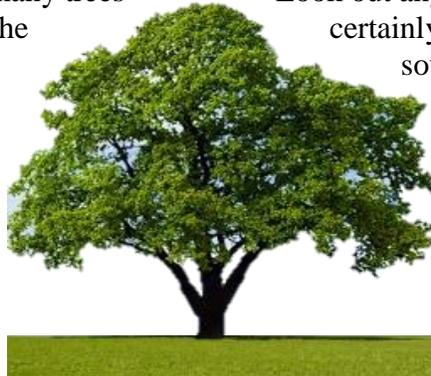
Tree Revetment By Frank Blossom

Now that the beach revetment project is almost complete, perhaps it's time to think about tree revetment; replacing some of the many trees that are aging or fallen to help bolster the Castle Park grounds.

Not only do trees add beauty, and provide shade and shelter, they also are a natural and effective CO2 vacuum. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the benefits of trees.

Maintaining a healthy population of trees can go a long way to help the environment. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about how this works.

Some of you may be of an age to picture Castle Park 20 years ago. We had many more trees and younger trees on the campus than we have now.



How many have we replaced? Very few and not nearly enough.

Look out any cottage window and you can certainly see empty areas around the north and south campuses where trees once stood.

Our hope is to replace some of the vanished trees through a planned, tree strategy that will support a beautiful tree lined campus for generations to come.

If you'd like to learn more, share your input, and become involved in tree revetment at CP, please touch base with Frank

Blossom (frank@frankblossom.com), Bob Burton (biggiefee@yahoo.com) or Jim Bellis (jbellis@tretechinc.com). Be part of the tree revetment investment in our campus for yourself, your children, your grand kids.



OH NO!

Speaking of trees, a spring snow storm dumped some heavy, wet snow on Castle Park. Hebe was the victim of a wayward hemlock and lost her head in the process.

Answers to Hebe Quiz

1. b) Hercules; Hebe had good taste in men
2. c) Zeus; she came from good stock. Would this make her a princess?
3. a) Youth; although (d) misbehavior could also be the equivalent.

How much do you know about our beloved Hebe?

1. She was the wife of:
 - a) Apollo
 - b) Hercules
 - c) Euripides
 - d) Ronald Regan
2. Her father was:
 - a) Mars
 - b) Poseidon
 - c) Zeus
 - d) Steve Jobs
3. She is the goddess of:
 - a) Youth
 - b) Theatre
 - c) Happiness
 - d) Misbehavior





A Recent Development

Suzanne Dixon reports that efforts to develop the Lamar property on 66th continue. Surrounding residents are opposed to development and their efforts are helping to at least scale back the development. To keep informed about the situation, go to www.laketowntwp.org.



A new and improved shelter is being installed at the North Courts. Hopefully the surrounding nature will not find this to be a welcoming home.



CASTLE PARK ASSOCIATION
6690 Edwards
Holland, MI 49423

Phone: 616-335-2630

E-mail:

castleparkmanager@gmail.com

Changes to contact information may be made by accessing the website:
www.castlepark.org

The Banner is a Semi-Annual newsletter produced in the Fall and Spring
The next Banner is due out October 2019

The Banner was published and edited by Martha Laughna

If you have something for the next edition of the Banner, email me at mclaughna@yahoo.com