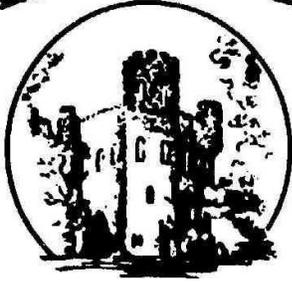


CASTLE PARK



The Banner

Spring 2020

Cottage Rental Focus Group Recommends Changes

During the 2019 evaluation of the Castle Park bylaws, it became evident that some focus on the cottage rental process was in order. While this issue had been identified previously as an area which needed some attention, the re-formation of the Long Range Planning Committee provided the stimulus and energy to move forward. During the fall, a group of interested parties formed the Cottage Rental Focus Group to determine what steps could be taken to ameliorate the process of renting cottages in Castle Park. The goal of the group was to update Best Practices and provide resources to guide owners in the process of renting out their cottages.

Over the years, while many renters have embraced life at Castle Park and have even become owners themselves, complaints have arisen when some renters have caused disruption. In addition, owners who rent only occasionally were left to figure things out for themselves. Castle Park would benefit greatly by promoting renters' participation in playclass and social events during times when owners do not occupy their cottages. It became evident that a coordinated effort in establishing/changing recommendations for cottage rentals would benefit the CPA as a whole. **To be clear, the role of the CP Association is simply one of guidance, not governance, as this addresses privately owned property only.**

The group focused their energies on improving and establishing the following:

- Communications ~ among neighbors of rental property, between owner and renter.
- Procuring Renters ~ how best to handle advertising, online rental companies, realtors
- Creating Resources ~ for owners of current and potential rentals
- Updating Cottage Rental Best Practices

One issue which has been discussed in the past is the desire to keep Castle Park under the radar in the internet age. However, in recent years owners have utilized VRBO, AirBNB, local realtors, and even their own websites to procure renters. While some Castle Parkers have felt that this kind of presence on the internet is too public, owners have had no other effective means by which they could attract renters. In addition, online rental services offer great support in vetting owners and renters. Some members of the focus group felt that these methods can result in some renters who are totally unfamiliar with Castle Park and may not embrace the lifestyle of the park. In an effort to procure renters who may be more familiar with Castle Park and provide owners with a means to provide information to people who land on the Castle Park website, we have established a form for owners to complete and submit to the CP website. This form will populate a publicly available page so that people searching for Castle Park, Michigan can easily find potentially available rentals and contact information. Click the links for:

[FORM TO LIST COTTAGE FOR RENT](#)

(log in first to access. Also listed under "News and Info")

[LISTING OF RENTAL COTTAGES](#)

(publicly available)

In addition to the above new features on the Castle Park website, the focus group has proposed updated Cottage Rental Best Practices for board consideration at their next meeting. The proposed best practices include sample rental contracts, welcome letters and a golf cart waiver as well as new information from Laketown Township governing rental property in the township. Finally, the focus group emphasizes that communication among neighbors, renters, owners, and other members of Castle Park is the primary key to success.

CAP LEIGHTON ~ A GOOD SPORT BEYOND HIS YEARS

2/3/20 ~ The Wall Street Journal published an article about sportsmanship which featured our own, revered Castle Park tennis pro, Cap Leighton. It turns out that Cap was the author's basketball coach at Senn High School in Chicago during the "Pleistocene Age", as the author, Joseph Epstein, refers to it.

In an opinion piece, Joseph begins the article invoking Cap's strong sense of sportsmanship:

"I recall, during my high-school days in the early Pleistocene, a basketball game on our home-court at Senn High School in Chicago. The kids from my school, for reasons I no longer recall, began booing the visiting team. After a minute or two, Senn's coach, a man named Cap Leighton—imagine John Wayne but with white hair and a much lower income—strode to the scorer's table, grasped the microphone, and instructed us that booing the other team was unsportsmanlike and therefore unacceptable, and it needed to stop now. Such was Coach Leighton's authority that it did stop, straightaway. For the remainder of the game we restricted ourselves to cheering on our own team."

Cap left an indelible mark on young tennis players who were just learning the game Castle Park during the '50s and '60s. I have heard Castle Parkers remark that certain players in Castle Park obviously learned from Cap because they have impeccable form. Young Castle Parkers benefited from Cap's knowledge of tennis and wonderful teaching style beginning in 1955. Cap passed away in December, 1966.

Did you know....?

Cap Leighton's book, published in 1950, "How to Improve Your Tennis" is available on Amazon? (as are several other books written by Cap.)

History of Ye Ole Barnswallow

Authored by Ted Parker and based on interviews with Cathy Clarke & Bill Parkes
Includes an excerpt from *Castle Park 1896-1976*

The current Barnswallow was initially a catch-all building for tennis maintenance equipment (e.g. those big rolling drums for the clay courts), sign-ups for tennis court lessons, and a place to get out of the sun, according to Cathy Clarke. Most of the building was actually a pavilion-like structure with just a roof and pillars, resulting in a large open space. "It was always there since I started coming to Castle Park in the 1930s with my parents, Dr. Everett Carr [an Episcopal minister] and Mrs. Evelyn Carr. Mary Nobel turned it into a Nature Study in the 1950s and 1960s by installing glass-framed wooden cases, and it was a welcome refuge for Play Class during rainy summer mornings," said Cathy.

In 1968 Cathy suggested the structure should become the new Barnswallow after a year without one. "We all came back to the Park in 1968 and Carter Brown had converted the Barnswallow on the Dance Dune into a cottage for Castle Park renters." Cathy recalls standing up in the August board meeting that summer and stating the need for a new Barnswallow, then regretting it almost instantly. "You know when you make a suggestion at a Castle Park board meeting you must be ready to volunteer! But I took the challenge and began working with Carter Brown on the new Barnswallow. Carter was very involved in the construction and development, as he didn't want it competing too much with the Castle Hotel's services. He also was concerned about noise and requested that the west-side picture window of the Barnswallow stay closed, so as not to disturb Castle guests dining on the Dance Dune." An excerpt from the *Castle Park Book 1896-1976* states:

But Carter Brown knew the Barnswallow was sorely missed. In the Fall of 1968, the Castle Park Association appropriated some money to be used to construct a new Barnswallow by enlarging the Nature Study room. Plans were made and Carter Brown sent Allen Kuykendall down to North Carolina to get some lumber, which he donated, for the exterior of the building.

"I had tremendous help from then-Castle Hotel guest, Chick Henne, who came from Howard Johnson's," said Cathy. "I found a carpenter through my housekeeper. It was her son-in-law from Holland and he proved to be an excellent builder." By the summer of 1969 Cathy had enlisted the help of the Hall's kids and their friends (one being Randy Helm) to run the Barnswallow. "It was a disaster at the beginning! But we all kept at it and right about then Carter Brown hired Bill Parkes to manage the Park full time. Bill took over finding managers the next few summers," according to Cathy.

"I think the first manager I hired was Andy Watling," said Bill Parkes. By the early 1970s the Barnswallow was a profitable, albeit small, enterprise. Over the successive summers various managers put their own touches on the Barnswallow, offering an assortment of products and services including North and Castle Beach deliveries! Varying forms of entertainment have included video and pinball games, ping-pong, foosball, a juke box, and of course the loafing-around! Today Ye Ole Barnswallow caters to the ice cream, candy and soda pop needs of a diverse group that encompasses multiple generations of Castle Parkers.

Carter P Brown Legacy Preservation Fund Established to Preserve and Protect

(Updated from original post by Steve Nobel on the Castle Park website, December 11, 2019)

Once again, Castle Parkers have risen to provide financial support to recover and preserve the last available part of the original Castle Park Reserve. We are grateful to dozens of families and individuals for their generosity. The one-acre parcel at the east end of the field at the entrance to Castle Park has been acquired, and now awaits landscaping to its natural state.

This important step paved the way toward establishing the Carter P Brown Legacy Preservation Fund, a lasting tribute to Carter and Marion Brown — to preserve and protect that which they loved so much and means so much to all Castle Parkers.

Recently incorporated as a nonprofit, the Fund's initial directors are Dick Muzzy, Bob Burton and Steve Nobel.

The purpose of The Fund is to support the restoration and preservation of historic buildings and landscape within the Castle Park Reserve and the conservation and protection of both wildlife habitat and the environmentally sensitive back dunes of northwest Laketown Township.

For example, the Fund may be used in the future for:

- preservation of the historic exterior of the Castle, Post Office, Meeting House, Ebenezer's Barn, and other historic buildings;
- protection of forest and shoreline habitat such as the Hope College Nature Preserve which includes 55 acres adjacent to the southeast corner of Castle Park;

For added clarity, let us describe the Fund further:

This is your fund – everyone young and old who shares the deep sense of belonging here. We are simply putting it together, acting as directors and helping to ensure that it gets up and running.

It is a vehicle by which all of us can preserve the historic and natural legacy through future contributions, and by naming the Fund as a beneficiary from estate plans, wills or annual giving to preserve for posterity Castle Park's heritage.



It is not a committee of the Association or substitute for dues, assessments or other capital needs that the Association determines. It may however reduce the need for extraordinary fund-raising for historic or preservation needs.

It will coordinate with the Association, but for legal, financial and tax reasons, it will be independent.

The Fund is a nonprofit corporation and has applied for exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code. Whether donations will be deductible for federal income tax purposes remains to be seen but we are actively engaged in an effort to earn that status. More information is available upon request.

Once again, thanks to everyone who wants to preserve and protect that which means so much to all Castle Parkers.

NEW TREES

Success so far! The Tree Team of Bellis, Blossom, Burton reports that all of the new trees survived the winter and are already leafing out for spring. The only damage appears to be from some deer nibbling on the Linden. We'll wrap them next fall.

In total, five new tree varieties will add to our tree-scape at CP. Three majestic American Beech now are growing beside the post office and along Audubon. In the north campus, Flowering Horse Chestnut, American Elm, Linden and Kousa Dogwood are now growing along Edwards and Cranville. Hopefully the Chestnut and Dogwood will flower this summer. Thanks to Mark, Frank and Bob for setting up the irrigation system.

Phase 3 continues in planning stages as we monitor last fall's planting. If you would like to contribute to more trees, more beauty and cleaner air you may do so via CPA – trees fund. And if you have suggestions for other CP areas and varieties, please contact the Tree Team. One potential area may be area of the field at the entrance to the park, near the bend of Audubon.

Leaf on! **To donate to tree planting in Castle Park, send a check made out to CPA Trees to Bonnie at 6690 Edwards.**



Frances Nobel



Ward and Grace Minneman



Dove and Max Malin



Nell Fuller

Last year's bumper crop of babies thoroughly enjoyed their first trip to visit Santa!



Remy Laughna
(she must have known that he was the real one).



Graham Weaver





Steve and Claudia Nobel visited Rob and Squeeze Wendin at the Wendin's beautiful country home in England.



Look who the Shepards ran into when they visited Kauai! Nash and Allie Cooper.



Julie Wade hosted Mary and Martha Laughna at their beautiful complex, Pelican Bay, just north of Naples, FL.



Castle Park forges life long friendships. Susie Allen with Bob & Peg Steketee



Thanksgiving Fun!

Corona Corner

While we have all been cooped up, many of you have noticed some good that has come out of a terrible situation. Also, many people have stories to tell about various situations they have been faced with.

Betsy Gardner and her husband Derrick Mancini founded Quincy Street Distillery a few years back. During the COVID19 pandemic, he refitted the distillery to produce CDC/WHO grade hand sanitizer. Not only have they been able to fill the high demand of the public but they also established a GoFundMe page to raise funds to produce and provide hand sanitizer to health care workers and first responders. Way to make a difference, Mancinis! Located in Riverside, IL, Quincy Street Distillery is the only craft distiller in the near-west suburbs of Chicago.

LABELING OUR FIRST BATCH OF HAND SANITIZER

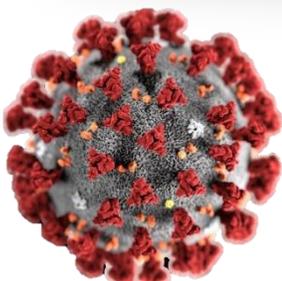


Steve, Judy, and Sam Kernahan sport face shields they made for local healthcare organizations.



Winter residents practiced "Social Distancing" at the end of March

Here's to less...



...and more...



Happy Anniversary!

Bob and Ruth Allison celebrated 50 years of marriage with a trip to Hawaii, visiting several of the islands. While at a hotel in Waikiki, they picked up a travel magazine and there was a beautiful Gray Malin photo on the cover! One is never too far from Castle Park!

New Additions

Nora Joyce Tonucci
November 29, 2019
Sarah (Conant) & Phil Tonucci

Stevie Pearl Pyle
December 13, 2019
Lizzy Farag & Mike Pyle

In Memoriam

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

Gretchen Roose ~ February 7, 2020

Jerry Steketee ~ February 20, 2020

Julie Bodeen Phelps ~ February 26, 2020

Lee Beadle ~ April 14, 2020

Weddings

*Reed Lerchen married Whitney Boyer
June 8, 2019*

Summer Happenings

Playclass



The Dynamic Duo of Jeannie and Eli Kane will be heading up Playclass this summer! Jeannie says she cannot wait to immerse herself into the lives of our young ones once again. Eli will not only be helping with Playclass but will also assist Mark on the grounds crew....hoping for a somewhat normal summer!

This summer the Barnswallow will be managed by Jeb Cazer, son of Ann Bradley and Mike Cazer. He is looking forward to serving the young people (and not so young people) of Castle Park.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SCHEDULED EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE, PENDING GUIDELINES TO CURB THE COVID19 EPIDEMIC.

Golf

Winner of last year's Annual Labor Day Golf Outing was the team led by Bill Ford, along with Randy Ford, Lew Ford and Paul Minoff with some additional help from Mike Vahey. The handicap committee will be checking on whether any damage occurred to the trophy as Lew was seen hugging the trophy well into the night.

This year's tournaments are scheduled for:

August 20th ~ Ladies "Mo Fun" golf outing. Proceeds benefit the Beautification Committee activities. Contact Katherine Ford, Katie Nelson, or Margaret Parker for details.

September 6th ~ CP Memorial Golf Outing. Contact recreation director, Will Kernahan for details. Proceed benefit the Beautification Committee activities.

Tennis

Aaron Boersma will return once again with assistant Matt Leatherman to head up our tennis programs for the summer.

New for 2020

Junior Summer Tennis Camp 2020 ~

Starting the week of July 6 there will be special 1-hour group sessions for junior players of all skill levels. The sessions will be taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays with more days added if needed. Cost will be \$8 per player per session. The camp will run for 4 weeks.

65+ Doubles Tennis Tournament July 18 ~

This new tournament will be open to all male and female players aged 65 years and older. One draw for all players. Teams can be made up of two women, or two men, or mixed. Only requirement is both players have to be age 65 or older to play.

Other tennis ~

Mixed Doubles, July 25th

Mens Doubles, August 1st

Ladies Day, every Tuesday and Thursday, until August 13, 9:30am

Cardio tennis will likely run most mornings also.

Can anyone unseat 2019 champions Katy Stebbins Yahr and Brian Yahr (mixed doubles) or Mac & Scott Fuller (mens doubles)?



2019 Dustbowl Winners

Carey Higham Burton and Bob Burton

Social, Etc.

Castle Park Association business:

May 23 ~ Annual Information Meeting, CANCELLED
August 8 ~ Annual CPA Meeting (business) ~ 4:30

Pool:

Opens June 19th
July 24 ~ Pool Games, 1:00
Swim Lessons ~ Deirdre is planning on conducting swim lessons but will not schedule until the "All Clear" is given regarding the Coronavirus pandemic. Those interested in swim lessons should contact her at advriesman@gmail.com to get on her list.

Playclass:

Begins June 29th, runs Monday – Saturday, 9:30am-noon. Last day, Saturday, August 15th

Highlights

July 4 ~ Flag Raising, 10:45am, Field Day, 11:00am
July 27 ~ Dune Rides, 9:30am
July 28 ~ Playclass Overnight
July 29 ~ Overnights' Breakfast, 7:00am
August 15 ~ Last day of Playclass

Burger Broils, et al. (watch for signups in advance):

July 3
July 10
July 25 ~ July Jubilee
July 31
August 7
September 6 ~ Pig Roast

Dances, 8:00pm:

July 4
July 25
August 8
September 6

For more of Jane Idema's musings from summer's past, click [HERE](#).

Note: August 1 ~ the group of old folks who are turning 70 sometime around this year is hosting a great dancing band, Hip Pocket, for all Castle Parkers to enjoy on the Dance Dune.

Old Timers Room, 9:00pm

May 23, CANCELLED
Every Saturday between July 4 and August 15
September 6th and 7th

Bridge, 1:00pm

Every Wednesday in the Castle starting whenever there is a critical mass! Contact Nancy Thier for details.

A Message from the President ~

Our Modern World

When I was elected President of the Board, all prior presidents who knew me generously offered support. They have been invaluable. One interesting theme with several of them has been that upon taking the job, they had the expectation that all the hard projects are complete and "My term will be easy." We recall big projects in the past; CPA buying our treasured facilities from private ownership, water and electric projects, pool, and revetment. Each president settled into the expected easy term only to be confronted with the next challenge. I suppose it is my turn as we figure out how CPA, a social club, should behave in this COVID-19 health crisis. As I write this, Michigan is "shut down," our Board has agreed that we should not sponsor social activities over Memorial Day weekend and we will have the spring meeting using remote conferencing. We'll provide information on the website when we have it and will see where we are on July 4. In general, I feel we need to recognize the situation and comply with Michigan guidance/law. I told the Board that I would prefer to *not* be the CPA President who allowed us to let down our guard and then face an attributable CP health crisis.

Progress

I am pleased that the Long-Range Planning Committee is making progress on several fronts. Gil Judson, chairman, and a determined group of committees are active on projects and Gil has updates in a separate Banner article. Ted Parker, Board member and Liaison to the Barnswallow Committee has worked with the committee to form a group focusing on improvements to the Barnswallow. Martha Jannotta, Ben Watson, Ruthie Stebbins, and Wil Kernahan are involved. The Board expects a proposal at our May meeting. There are other things in-work. Thanks to all Castle Parkers working behind the scenes.

Privacy

I have not been in CP since Thanksgiving (Paulette and I have been working on our house to sell and we plan to move to CP end-of-May). I am getting reports that CP is getting a lot of visitors who don't belong there. Many MI recreational locations are closed and people understandably want to get out of the house. This brings us to a recurring challenge in CP that is being exacerbated by COVID-19. We are a social club, not a government, and we have no enforcement mechanism other than ourselves and the sheriff/state patrol. I will again remind you that we ALL need to be responsible for maintaining privacy in CP, following rules and encouraging others to do both. As an old CPer who missed a lot of years, I am regularly reacquainting with others or meeting for the first time. We need to be able to speak to strangers. I recommend that you work out your comfortable phrases to introduce yourself and explore how they connect to CP, or not. The hard part is reminding them that CPA property is private. Know your facts: Many roads are public but there is no place to park and get out. Prior CPA Presidents may chuckle as they read this because it is a perennial problem. Please help. If you see something, say something.

We Live in Interesting Times

I remember where I was when President Kennedy was assassinated, Space Shuttle Challenger exploded and 9/11/2001. This COVID-19 will probably be on that list too, but I'll let some time pass to be sure.

Please be responsible, flexible and safe.

Jim Carr ~ President, Castle Park Association Board of Trustees

The Importance of Our Summer Gatherings

By Gray Malin

Last summer, Jeff and I moved to Castle Park for eight weeks. This was the first time I had spent this much time in the Park since I was seventeen and running the Barnswallow. Using Zoom video conferencing, we were able to work remotely while also enjoying the community experience of Castle Park. We had no idea video conferencing would allow us the freedom to spend so much time away from our home in Los Angeles and enjoy the summer together with our family and friends in Michigan. We know not everyone can afford that much time away, but given the recent circumstances, we wanted to share how special our extended time in Castle Park was, especially at a young(ish) age.



This summer, if you have the ability to work from home, consider our experience. Being in the park helped us grow closer to our families- spending more time cooking, playing with our children, and most importantly allowing us to feel the beauty of the community with our neighbors, friends, and family. From the shared morning walks on the beach, to the fun groups playing tennis, to watching our kids enjoy the swingset and playing in the field, and coming together nightly to watch sunset on the Dance Dune with others from around the park, it is truly special and it let us feel like we had a place to belong.

We know not everyone will be able to make it this summer, but for those who can, there is still plenty we can do to share those moments ahead of us- even six feet apart.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE TAKES ON HEAVY LOAD

At the Board's direction, the LRPC is working on five projects. The LRPC will provide updates to the projects throughout the year.

- Updating the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. Bob Burton is leading the effort with Carey Lenox, Martha Moyer and Gil Judson. Bob also has a group of 5 others advising the team. Our Bylaws need to be updated by the end of 2023. The current plan is to work with an outside attorney, extensive socializing within the CP community and then have recommendations for the Board by the end of the year. Given the unknown impact of the Coronavirus on meetings and the finances available for the outside attorney, this effort may go into 2021.
- Updating the Cottage Rental Guidelines. Martha Laughna has done a great job of including many of the community which is updating the recommended Guidelines. These have been submitted to the Board for their approval. (See pg. 1)
- Extending the right of first refusal for purchasing the adjacent Hope College property if Hope College decided to sell the property. Scott Hibbard is leading this effort. The plan is to complete this by the end of the year.
- Having a fund available to financially support significant long term improvements to CP Association assets. Bob Burton is leading this effort. Bob is coordinating with the Board and the group that established the fund that purchased the Bamborough cottage to see if this will work for the Association long term. We expected this to be completed this year.
- Long range recommendations for the utilization of CP Association assets. The LRPC is planning on starting this effort this summer.
- Please direct questions or input to the LRPC members – we appreciate everyone's input.

Gil Judson, Martha Laughna, Scott Hibbard, Bob Burton, Carey Lenox, Molly Rea



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

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The next Banner is due out October 2020

The Banner was published and edited by Martha Laughna

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