



The Banner

Fall 2021

A Year of Celebrations!

Castle Parkers embraced the CP social life in 2021 like never before. After cancelling all CPA sponsored events as well as other previously planned social gatherings during 2020, Castle Parkers returned to the park ready to par-tay! In addition to a CPA event social schedule to challenge any Greek organization, several groups of energetic Castle Parkers organized dancing and music on the dune for everyone to enjoy.



This group of crazy youngsters celebrated the big 6-0 with a beautiful dinner in Eb's Barn and dancing for everyone on the dance dune.

These former hippies celebrated a COVID delayed 70th birthday with an Eb's dinner. They then treated the park to the great dance band Hip Pocket. Rain almost put to delay the previously postponed event but thankfully held off until the dancing was almost done.



JULY 24, 2021 | 8:30PM | CASTLE LAWN



STROBURG | WEBB | KELLY | WEBB | HANSEN | SOUTHWELL

With no shortage in summer entertainment, Castle Parkers enjoyed the resurgence of the ever popular “Rock the Park” performance. Everyone appreciates the many hours that our own musicians and support people dedicate to putting on this show.



To continue the celebration, “Strictly Blazin” (Gregory Fox) lent his DJ skills for another dance opportunity during a sunset extravaganza on the dance dune for Labor Day weekend.

The Annual Ladies Book Swap Produces Popular Titles

- Travel Light, Move Fast*** by Alexandra Fuller
- Fresh Water for Flowers*** by Valerie Perrin
- The Dutch House*** by Ann Patchett
- Breasts and Eggs*** by Kawakami Mieko
- The Underground Railroad*** by Colson Whitehead
- The Girl with the Louding Voice*** by Abi Dare
- Bring me Back*** by B.A. Paris
- Malibu Rising*** by Taylor Jenkins Reid
- The Great Alone*** by Kristin Hannah
- The Woman in the Window*** by A.J. Finn
- The Paris Library*** by Janet Skeslien Charles
- The Book Club*** by Mary Alice Monroe
- The Vanishing Half*** by Brit Bennett
- What are You Looking At?*** by Will Compertz
- Persuasion*** by Jane Austen
- The Four Winds*** by Kristin Hannah
- Talking to Strangers*** by Malcolm Gladwell
- Becoming*** by Michelle Obama
- Educated*** by Tara Westover
- Monogamy*** by Sue Miller
- Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austen
- A Lone Birch*** by Kate Moynihan
- Second Place*** by Rachel Cusk



COMMITTEES HARD AT WORK

Committee members are the doers and shakers at Castle Park. Many put in long hours to assure that your time in Castle Park is full of fantastic memories. Check out what some of our committees have been up to:

Beautification ~ This committee, funded through donations to the Memorial Fund and the Ladies Moe Fun golf outing and luncheon, works tirelessly to plant, trim, remove, and otherwise decorate the Castle Park grounds. One recent effort has brought back memories of the horse show on the grounds of the Association. See page 4 for more on this story.

Facilities Use ~ They recommend pricing for shoulder season use and approve private use of the facilities at any time. This fall two beautiful weddings were held on the grounds. Families planning weddings have done a great job of sharing information about vendors for weddings, challenges, etc. It is important to remember that Castle Park is not a “wedding venue” but rather just a great place to get married.

Library ~ Our library committee kept fairly busy this summer focusing in on “Hamnet”, William Shakespeare’s son. We cleared out some oldy, moldy books from the meeting house, sold some under Leigh Conant’s leadership, and had a successful summer reading challenge led by Ruth Allison. Mary Ford loans us her skills in culling out the castle library shelves. Ron Joostbern and Danielle Ross are jumping in to help with the reading challenge for next summer and the children’s library. Stephanie Whitbeck has provided us with many wonderful cookbooks. Next August we are hoping to get Bill Whitbeck to share about his mystery writings. Jan Manglitz has been helping to make posters and to keep the library looking presentable!
Please try to read “This Tender Land” by William Kent Krueger as next summer we will be discussing it.

Committees, cont.

Beach ~ What an incredible summer for Castle Park beaches. In the course of one year we have witnessed a significant drop in Lake Michigan water levels, incredible sand bars and a return of our beloved beach. Thank you to all those who have given their time to the maintenance, improvements and protection of our swimmers. Special thanks to Dick Shepard for his vigilance and continued guidance, Doug Ireland for clearing out the underwater stones at Castle beach, Ben Watson and Martha Mittelstead for her vision for an improved south beach.

The committee would also like to extend a special thank you to the Muzzys, Palmers, and South Dune Association for the use of their beaches.

Tennis ~ The tennis committee is responsible for making the tennis experience as enjoyable and accessible as possible for all Castle Parkers. The committee is focused on making sure tennis players of all skill levels can participate in tennis activities. A challenge for the committee is to make sure that children that want to start playing the game have the appropriate instruction and equipment available.

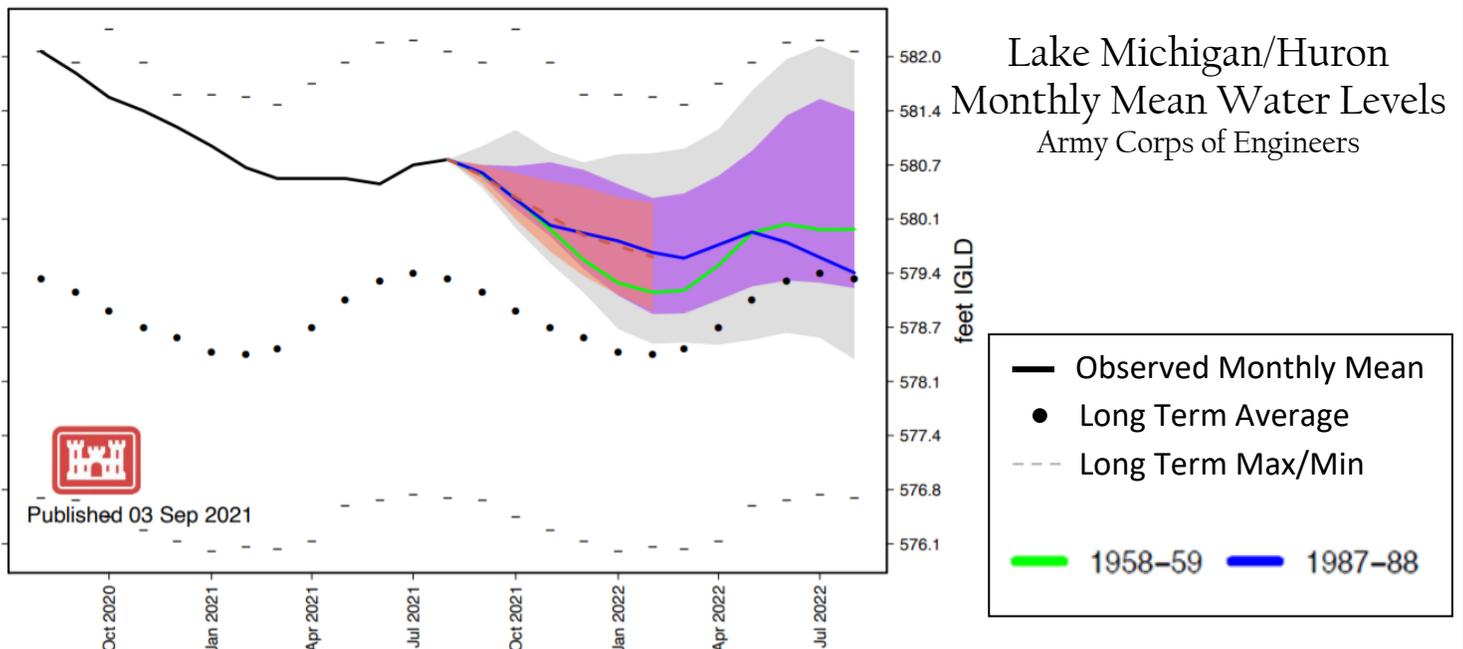
Social ~ Kelly Stroborg provided an extensive, informative piece for the Banner but space is limited in our newsletter so please click [HERE](#) for a full report from the committee. The committee begins to work on the summer calendar in early spring and relies heavily on the work of our social director, Cassandra Quintanilla. This year's barbecues proved to be difficult to arrange due to labor shortages but the summer was full of social opportunities! Please check out the full report available on the website. (Link above)

Playclass ~ This was a big year for Play Class. We (Ruthie Stebbins and Katy Yahr) were new Committee chairs in 2020. Post COVID, we hired and trained the staff for this year. So it was all new to all of us! Even so, we had a successful season and are looking forward to next year. Elise has accepted a full time job and so won't be coming back. Let us know if you know of anyone who would make a good Director! We are also looking to recruit a more active committee membership. If you are on the committee, we will be reaching out. And if you would like to be a part of the future team that makes Play Class tick, please let Ruthie (ruthie@rhsid.com) or Katy (katy.yahr@gmail.com) know.

Long Range Planning ~ The committee has been focused on projects communicated by the board.

- This fall the work of Bob Visscher and Scott Hibbard secured a 25 year extension of the right of first refusal to purchase Hope College property adjacent to Castle Park, should Hope ever decide to sell the property.
- An evaluation of our fixed assets is underway; how we use our buildings, expected cost of maintaining them, benefit to the community, and potential alternative uses are the focus of this project.
- A focus group is considering governance structure of the CP Association and how it best serves our organization.
- Committee members established and recommended amended bylaws which were passed by the members of CPA at the 2021 annual meeting. See website for updated bylaws.

The LRPC consists of one chair, the three most recent past presidents, and two at-large members.



A Nod to the Equestrian, Mr. Carter Brown

Mr Brown first brought the equestrian life to Castle Park back in the 30s. Each summer he brought horses up from Tryon, NC to Castle Park where they made their summer homes at the stables behind the Plantation, now the Ford and Currie cottages. Every year until the early 70s, around Labor Day, the Senior Horse Show took place in our fields. At the time it was one of the largest horse shows in the Midwest. Jumps for the hunter/jumpers stood throughout the fields.

The five cedar trees that stood in this field were originally a lower brush jump. The Beautification Committee decided to bring back this jump by using the original cedars as the base with the rest of the tree cut into 2' logs. While constructing the jump last fall, Carol Currie passed away here in CP. Finding that one of the logs was heart shaped, we burned her initials into the log. ~ The Beautification Committee



Thank you to Jim Carr for serving as our esteemed board president for the past two years. Check out Jim's remarks made at the August Annual Meeting. Click [HERE](#).

"Necessity is the mother of invention." Most people who endured COVID19 know that especially holds true during a pandemic! Jim Carr presides over a CPA meeting on a beautiful May afternoon.



OUR SPECIAL STONES, LUCKY AND OTHERWISE

By Nancy Shepard

Do you know what a Lucky stone is? After contacting Dr. Brian Bodenbender, Professor of Geology at Hope College, I have a better idea of what we find on our beach.

A lucky stone is really called a crinoid, which is a fossilized plant stem. The stack of individual lucky stones is called columnar. Some have star centers or have a round hole depending on what type of plant stem it came from.

The first picture has a cluster of lucky stones from two types of plants, stacks, and some coral. The stone on the right has a large stem from a calyx flower or sea lily stem. All of these stones you see here are from the Carboniferous Period, 345-320 MILLION years ago.

The second picture is of Ironstone Concretions, from the same period. We started seeing all of these last year because of all the erosion. The explanation is way too long but I can send it to you on request.

The third photo is of a Charlevoix stone, similar to a Petosky stone (not shown/ found) but with smaller plants. These are corals that attach themselves onto rocks. Lots of times you will find them all smooth from rolling around in the surf. These stone are from the Devonian Period, 380-360 MILLION years ago!

All of these stones were brought down to this area from the Traverse City region by glaciers, 20,000 years ago. Happy Hunting!



These friends gathered in Boston to warm up for their summer at Castle Park. Katherine Wade, Kathryn Hibbard, Sara Laughna, Mary Laughna

Duckweed from Saugatuck devoured our beach in early July. Yuck!



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2

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In Memoriam

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

Carey MacFarland Lennox

May 4, 2021

Bill Littlejohn

May 8, 2021

Marilyn Hoyer

August 7, 2021

Introducing the Memorial Page ~ CPA Website

The communication committee has added a section on the website for remembrances and tributes to loved ones whom we have lost. The Castle Park Association will continue to send emails announcing the death of a member. The addition to the website allows for memories of our loved ones to be shared.

To view memories, log in to www.castlepark.org. Click on "News & Info" along the top, then click on "In Memoriam".

To add an entry to the "In Memoriam" page, contact Mary Ireland, mcjireland@comcast.net

Tying the Knot

Christina Wright & Ben Conant celebrated their marriage by hosting the Old Timers Room. Those who joined the party were asked to present the couple with a toast on toast!

Julie Bronsink married Ron Joostberns on July 31 and celebrated by hosting ice cream for everyone to enjoy at the Barnswallow.

Liz Carpenter married DJ Virtue on a beautiful September 18th Castle Park day.

Jack Ireland married Emily Pintel at Castle Park on September 11th.

Charlie Palmer married Kelsey Beaty during a small ceremony on August 7 at the Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz, NY

New Additions

Charles Raymond Pruyn ~ 8/31/21

Mike & Meredith Pruyn

Mary Margaret Thier ~ 9/11/21

John & Jess Thier

Maverick Katz Thompson ~ 7/5/21

Jack & Cheryl Katz Thompson



The John Thier Family



Cathy Clarke turns 100 on October 23rd! If you would like to send a fantastic birthday card to Cathy please send it to her at:

**1611 Chicago Ave. # 611
Evanston, IL 60201**



Maverick Thompson piles on big brothers Tucker & Wyatt.

Sports & Leisure

The past few years have brought out players young and old to enjoy the great game of tennis on our beautiful Har-Tru courts. Aaron and Matt continue to run fast-paced clinics, "Cardio", for the more able-bodied. This favorite activity topped out at over 45 athletes during a couple days this summer!

Ladies Day has also made a comeback since Aaron came on board. Ladies gathered every Tuesday and Thursday for an hour of drills and practice play at a pace more commensurate for those who are not track stars.

The highlight of the summer for tennis players is the Mixed Doubles tournament. The Men's Doubles tournament always promises spectators some unbelievably fantastic tennis and the opportunity to graze the food table. 2021 was no exception.



TENNIS



Changing of the Guard?

Christina Bosch and Charlie Curtis outlasted the experienced pair of Sarah Gallup and Nate Palmer to win the mixed doubles tournament. While Charlie returns to the finals after a stinging defeat last year, the average age of the finals' players was decidedly younger than the other three old people he played with/against last year.

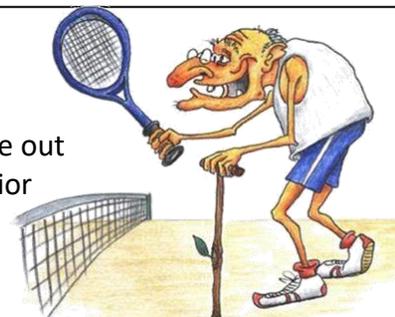


Mike and Doug Vahey dug deep into their vast experience to pull out a victory in the men's doubles tournament. It was clear to them that their aging bodies may not be in this position again so they put the pedal to the metal and pulled out an astounding come from behind win against their young opponents, Mac Fuller and Brian Yahr. Their names are memorialized on the "Platter".



In attendance at the 2021 Mixed Doubles Championship was the winning pair from the 1973 Women's Championship, Mary Ford & Elizabeth Kernahan.

Jim Carr and Bob Allison came out victorious the 2nd annual Senior (65+) tennis tournament.





Patrick, David, and Jessica Stekete, along with David Chism (not pictured), joined Martha Laughna for a rainy afternoon beer tasting extravaganza. The Steketees proved to be experienced beer tasters and enjoyed a ceremonial reading of the descriptions of each beer. All six varieties hailed from True North Ales, Ipswich, MA. Martha's husband has been enjoying his post retirement career as the head of finance, among many other things, at this popular craft brewery.



Bob Burton, Evan Burton, Mark Fuller and Austin Swaney won the annual men's golf tournament during the action-packed Labor Day weekend.



The ladies golf outing continues to be a popular August event with 22 golfers enjoying a beautiful day at the Ravines. This year Katie Palmer, Gwen Hibbard, Tinker Judson, and Sarah Hibbard came out on top in this fun scramble style outing. Thank you in advance for planning next year's tournament!



CASTLE PARK TIME CAPSULES

The summer of 2021 was a summer filled with memories. An energetic group assembled the 3rd Castle Park History Book celebrating 125 years of Castle Park, several parties honored various generations, and the time capsule buried 25 years ago was revealed!

It was so much fun viewing the old pictures and important items that were buried 25 years ago that Nancy Shepard collected current items for a time capsule to be opened in 2046! The many items inserted in the 2046 time capsule include: iPhone, calculator, COVID masks, Great Lakes water level chart, a windmill cookie, Golf the Park scorecard, and a Castle Park Cheer cocktail napkin (Ricket Racket, Zicket Zacket....). Jeannie Kane is preserving many of the relics unearthed this year. They will be displayed in a scrap book for viewing in the castle library next year.

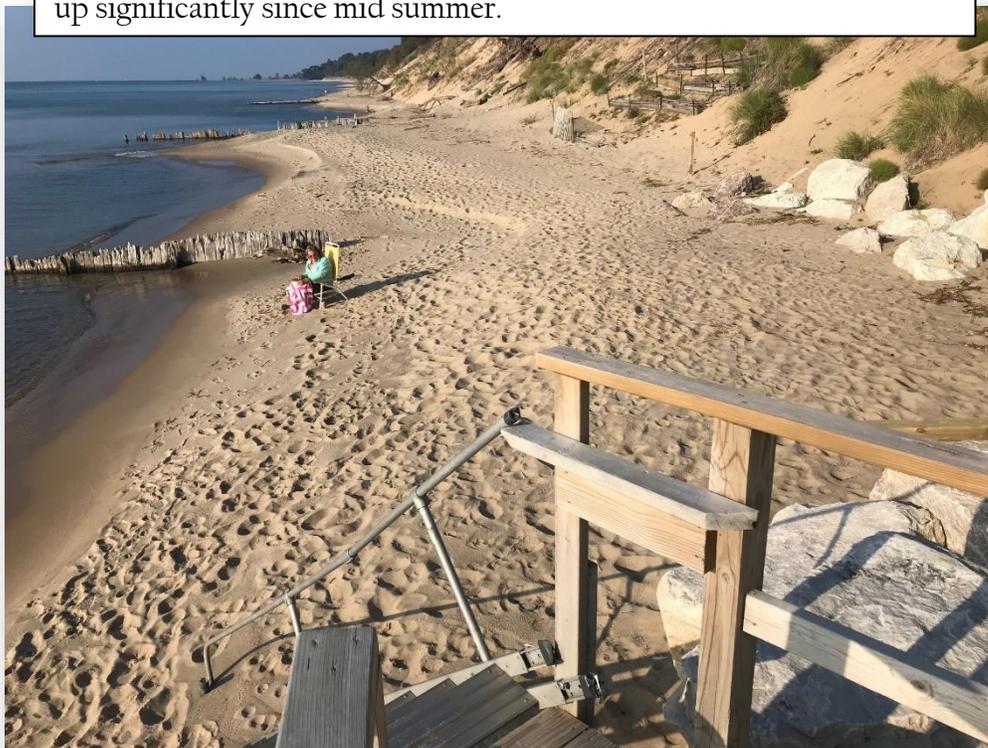
Imagine what Castle Park will be like in 2046! Hillary Griffin, Social Chair; Remy Laughna, director of technology; Sarah Gallup, CPA President. Can't wait to see what hasn't changed!



The tennis courts have resurged in popularity
with the advent of **CARDIO TENNIS!**

Good News on the Beachfront!

As noted in the Beach Committee report, the lake level continues to recede. The Beachking (Dick Shepard) reports that lake is down 16 inches from last year at this time. This helps the sand build up which is also very important. Note that the sand around the stairs has build up significantly since mid summer.



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

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The Banner was published and edited by Martha Laughna

If you have something for the next edition of the Banner, email me at m1aughna@yahoo.com