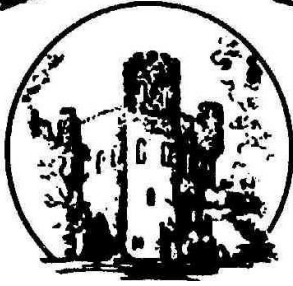


CASTLE PARK



The Banner

Spring 2022

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to Castle Park and to Summer, 2022! I'm eager—and I am sure you all are, as well—to reconnect with our community, to greet old friends and to make new ones. As your Board chair, I want to thank the Board members you've chosen to lead the Association, and confirm that you made excellent choices!

Board members and committees have been active all winter, regardless whether they were at Castle Park or elsewhere, working to see that Summer, 2022, is one of the best ever.

Throughout this edition of The Banner, you will see reports on the results of their work, so I won't commit the sin of redundancy. But look for this and more in The Banner and on the Castle Park website: since last fall, our Rules and Regulations have been revised and updated; COVID protocols have been developed and approved by the Board; Play Class leadership has been identified and is ready to create awesome experiences for

our Castle Park kids; the Barnswallow project became reality with substantial financial support from the Carter P. Brown Legacy Preservation Fund, which agreed to underwrite the cost of historically-appropriate roof replacements to the Barnswallow, Post Office and Band Shelter on the Dance Dune. (The Legacy Fund, a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, is wholly separate from the Castle Park Association.)

In the wake of collapse of part of the Audubon Wall, the Security and Roads Committee has worked with the Allegan County Road Commission to establish a repair/replacement plan. Future needs and strategies are being assessed by the Long Range Planning Committee; a Cottage Tour will be a summer highlight, and through it all, Rae, Mark and their team have kept us on the path to another wonderful season. So . . . enjoy!

~ Beverly Burns, CP Association Board President

DELIVERY TRUCK TRAFFIC

The convenience of online shopping and overnight delivery has increased delivery truck traffic in Castle Park. There have been expressions of concern and suggestions that we consider a common delivery pickup point, but CPA, a social club, should not and cannot interfere with private agreements among buyers, sellers, and delivery vendors, and it would be impractical to try to provide a secure and convenient pickup point.

There are some things we can do ourselves to reduce the delivery truck traffic.

1. Directly reduce the number of deliveries to our cottages. No, we are not asking you to do less online shopping, but we can reduce the traffic in a few ways:
 - a. Plan ahead; consolidate the things you buy into fewer orders which means fewer deliveries.
 - b. Use the one-day-per week delivery option on Amazon, where possible. If the family and guests are in the cottage and ordering things, they could use the same day-per-week, so, ideally, the truck comes to your place once per week to deliver parcels for everyone.
 - c. Encourage the family and guests to help, as in a) and b) above. They may not all read this appeal on the CPA website so Members need to encourage them.
 - d. Of course, if you *need* it tomorrow, have it delivered tomorrow, but please consider whether every order is urgent.
2. Delivery vendors have secure offsite alternatives to doorstep delivery (e.g., Amazon uses Rite Aid on S. Washington; FedEx uses Walgreen's on S Washington.)
3. Covid brought more people to CP for longer in the last two years, and we know that on-line shopping spiked. As Covid abates, we may see some improvement.

~ Jim Carr, Roads and Security Committee

BARNSWALLOW RENOVATION

The Barnswallow will have a new look when you all arrive this summer. Buildings and Grounds and its Ad Hoc committee of Ruthie Stebbins, Tinker and Martha Bellis, and Will Kernahan worked very hard this winter and spring to make upgrades that include:

- New roof, cedar shake shingle to match Eb's Barn
- New cement floor, and don't worry, the floor will be finished this fall
- New counter, stainless steel
- New appliances including a new ice cream freezer, microwave and refrigerator
- Removal of the soffit above the serving area with new lighting

Some changes will go unnoticed like new plumbing, exterior siding repair and water heater.

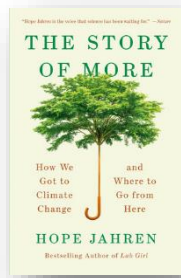
Most renovations come with some surprises and the Barnswallow is no exception. During renovation we found the ping pong ball graveyard; pictured right are the balls we saved that will be resurrected for a new life.

Special thanks to Beverly Burns and the Board of Trustees for their support and Rae and Mark for their support, planning and coordination of all the different entities involved.

Bill Steketee, Chair ~ Buildings and Grounds

To learn more about Sustainability, Betsy Clarke, member of the new Sustainability Committee, recommends the book, *"The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where We Go From Here"*, by Hope Jahren.

Click the book for a review. This book is also being considered for an August book discussion.



Barnswallow 2022

The Barnswallow entrepreneur for summer of '22 is Castle Park's own Mosby Cazer (left), whom some may know from his Thursday night Bingo-calling at the Castle, or his job as a Playclass counselor last summer.

Mosby is a freshman at Forest Hills Eastern Highschool in Ada, Michigan. He enjoys his pets and video games but above all, Mosby loves being active in Castle Park during the summers. When not working, you'll probably find him hanging around the Park with his friends.

He looks forward to this summer. We're hoping he continues brother Jeb's COVID era walk-up window!



Castle Parkers Launch Sustainability Initiatives

As the world is finally waking up to our climate emergency, we are seeing people on the national level preparing for our warming world. It is also important to prepare on a local level for a sustainable world. For most people, sustainability comes down to the kind of future we are leaving for the next generation. Nothing is more important to Castle Parkers than their children and what lies ahead. As you know, Sustainability means **meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations** to meet their own needs. Sustainability is important for many reasons to have a healthy and thriving Castle Park community.

At its November meeting the CPA Board approved the Long Range Planning Committee's request to create an advisory subcommittee on sustainability issues relevant to Castle Park. The Sustainability Sub-Committee will not duplicate other committee's work, but it will interface with them on recommendations and implementation plans. The Sub-Committee's role is to propose recommendations (including the research and analysis) to the Board and/or other Committees to enhance the sustainability of our community. For 2022 the focus is recycling waste, using environmentally friendly materials, education for the community and looking for opportunities to move from fossil fuel energy to renewable energy. If this is of interest to you, please contact any of the Committee and we include you in our effort. Also, we welcome your input and ideas. We look forward to your support.

Sustainability Sub-Committee: Carol Blossom Amburgey, Betsy Clarke (Amphitheater Rd.), Scott Fuller, Meggie Kernahan, Matt Pruyn, Haley Ireland, Gil Judson ~ Chair



A New Look

A large section of the wall on the Audubon curve coming into Castle Park collapsed on December 10th. Given the extent of the scrapes on the wall, it is surprising it lasted as long as it did. The CP road commission (Jim Carr) has been working with the county road commission to come up with a plan to replace the entire wall that is structurally sound, aesthetically pleasing, and minimizes the impact on summer traffic/residents. Fortunately, the bulk of the expense to replace the wall is the responsibility of the county.

Social Team Update

Summer is almost here and the social team has been creating some new experiences, as well as keeping the traditions alive. Expect the traditional tennis tournaments, DJ's and dances, Fourth of July fun, as well as Bridge, Bingo, BBQ, and Burger Broils. To add to the social scene, Rock the Park returns with a taco food truck to provide authentic cuisine (vegetarian options will be available!) Bringing back a time old tradition will be a Costume Dance on August 6. Dust off those old costumes, get creative, and be prepared to rock the night away! Old Timer's Room will once again be open to provide a gathering place for stories and reunions - sponsors are needed, so get a group of friends together and sign up. If you are excited to be a sponsor, please email to reserve your night!

Please note: Castle Park social email address and phone number for reservations and communication have changed.

Email: castleparkfun@gmail.com

Phone: 616-403-0897 - Jeannie Kane (event coordinator)

Roberta Rubin and Leigh Conant set up a book sale in the castle to pare down the collection in the castle library.



Cottage Tour

SAVE THE DATE! Wednesday, August 3rd!

'Everything old is new again' certainly applies to the 5 cottages which will be featured on this year's cottage tour! The date is Wednesday, August 3rd in the evening, ending with a sunset gathering for snacks and drinks at Eb's Barn. Funds raised from the tour will be dedicated to helping finish the Barnswallow interior renovation. Carrie Lennox's jewelry will be for sale again.

Since by now you are dying to know which cottages are featured on the tour, well, here you go! The neighborhood focus is 'North Campus': Nix cottage, Bustle, Webb, Muzzy, Jr., and Keehn.

With so many new and newly renovated cottages around the Park, there surely will be more cottage tours to follow!



Toni Poulos will be our new **Playclass** director. She comes to Castle Park well rounded to direct our young residents. A Michigan State graduate, she majored in Psychology and Neuroscience and has been working with young children for several years.



Linda Brown and Julie Wade make a difference in Florida! They were both instrumental in coordinating efforts to combat hunger near their Florida community of Pelican Bay. Linda spearheaded the food drive at her high rise while Julie gained community-wide support for the drive; all told, 59 HOA's within Pelican Bay participated for the biggest response ever. "We were all very happy so many joined the cause to help alleviate hunger in our region."

The Executive Board of Nonsensical Socializing gathered in New York for its first in-person meeting since COVID. John Palmer, Eads Johnson, Ned Jannotta, Mark Fuller, Jim Bellis, David Chism (trying to look like he isn't really retired).

Ted Lerchen reports that he lived in Costa Rica for a couple months revisiting places where he served in the Peace Corps many years ago.

"It seems that the contagion of covid has really died down here. However, when you enter any store, restaurant or pharmacy you have to have a mask on. I suppose many people are now vaccinated; however, I spent some time with a couple in their nineties, and neither of them are vaccinated and also time with a fellow in his forties who was not vaccinated. He mentioned that a number of people had died taking the vaccine and that many vaccines administered were beyond their expiration dates. That was his opinion."



Vero Beach apparently has a revolving door for Castle Parkers each winter. It wouldn't be a winter in Vero without a Castle Park gathering! Below, seated: Whit Fosburgh, Walt Nelson, Abbie Fosburgh, Roberta Rubin, Marcia Littlejohn, George Parker. Standing: Tinker Judson, Martha Chamberlain, Gil Judson, Katie Nelson, Margaret Parker.

Also from Vero: the following Castle Parkers were found having a fun lunch at Rafters in Vero Beach: Erica & Ned Jannotta, Katie & John Palmer, Sara & John Marshall!!! Then, fresh off the beach... Sasha Wendin & Jack Marshall joined the fun!



While Betsy Clarke and her mother, Cathy, were out for a walk in Evanston, who do they run into? Roberta Rubin!

COMMUNICATIONS

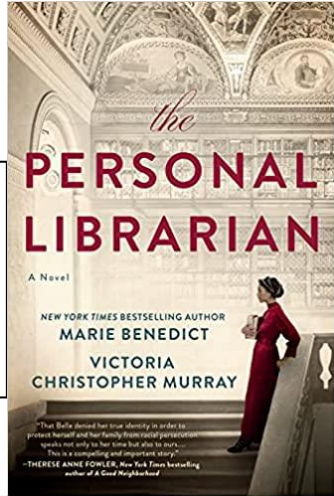
The Communication Committee essentially is responsible for production of the annual directory, semi-annual production of the Banner, and the website. These are all great ways for Castle Parkers to keep up with the happenings of Castle Park.

This year the directory includes a section of "Friends of Castle Park" to provide contact information for long-time renters/visitors as well as some previous members of CPA. Thank you to Teddy Parker for orchestrating this information! The committee relies heavily on the accuracy of personal information provided on the website. When constructing the directory, many hours are dedicated to assuring accuracy because many people don't answer the call to update their information. *Please help the committee by always maintaining accurate information on your website account.* Thank you!



Chris Mason's family met up with Bryan Nicholson's family in Seaside, FL during spring break!

Mary Ford and Roberta Rubin have offered to conduct a book discussion on "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Please read the book before the July discussion (Date/Time TBA)



Mike, Ernie & Sally Kelly joined Holly Mason for her final directorial performance at Gaston Day School.



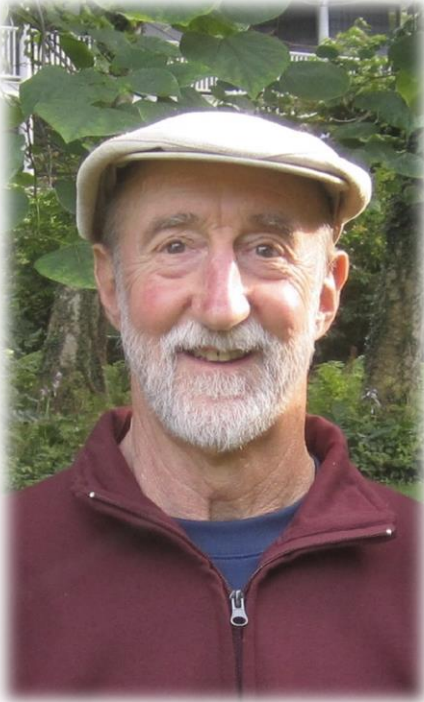
Holly Mason is retiring as the performing arts director at the Gaston Day School in North Carolina after more than 20 years of coordinating and directing entertainment for the entire community. Holly reports, "Mike Kelly came to play in the pit of my last official show, Disney's "Newsies", prior to my retirement. Ernie and Sally (Kelly) came from DC to watch it, plus all my children and their families, as a surprise. It was quite the time. Then there was the surprise retirement party after the Saturday night show at a friend's barn, so it was a big weekend for this old director."

Knowing that Holly is humble about her accomplishments, Mike Kelly adds, "The Show was spectacular involving over 50 cast and crew members (incredible for a school of 183 High School Students). The performances, sets, costumes and direction were so well done, they are under consideration for the annual North Carolina's High School Musical Theatre Awards (The Bloomey's). Holly was feted by the Head of School, extolling her role and accomplishments over 20 some odd years as Head of the Drama and Theatre Department at Gaston Day and the lasting impact she has had on the lives of students and families. Several of Holly's former students have gone on to productive careers in Theatre."



Holly's entire family surprised her for her final production.

Life Events



A friendly face of our Castle Park community, Frank Blossom, passed away on April 2.

For 75 years, Frank spent every summer in Castle Park. It was a place where he enjoyed time with his family and made lifelong friends.

Frank was, at his core, a story teller. That gift paved the way for an accomplished career in advertising. After retiring from the corporate world, Frank pursued his greatest passion which was teaching and mentoring advertising students at Grand Valley State University. Modest about his accolades, Frank was more likely to engage you in a funny story or commiserate with you about his beloved Cubs, Bears, and the Bulls. A loyal Chicago sports fan - Frank was taught lifelong lessons about disappointment, and more importantly, hope for better days.

With a deep respect for the long history of Castle Park, and looking forward to its future, Frank contributed to several projects throughout his life. This was realized with two favorites: the oral history video - "Castle Park Traditions, the Tales and Traditions that Make Castle Park Special", up to more recently, the planting of "Heritage" trees along the Castle lanes.

Over the decades, he was most happy at Castle Park, playing tennis, having bocce ball/cocktail gatherings, landscaping, reading and visiting on the Blossom porch. Frank's spirit lives on in the hearts of his wife, Sam, his daughters Jessin and Kellyn, and sisters Carol, Amy, Mary, and Joy, their families and his many friends. Click [HERE](#) for a full obituary.

The Blossoms welcome you all to a celebration of Frank on Saturday, May 28 from 2:00-3:30 at The Castle.

In Memoriam

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

*Frank Blossom
April 2, 2022*

*Doug Veech
April 18, 2022*



Future of Playclass

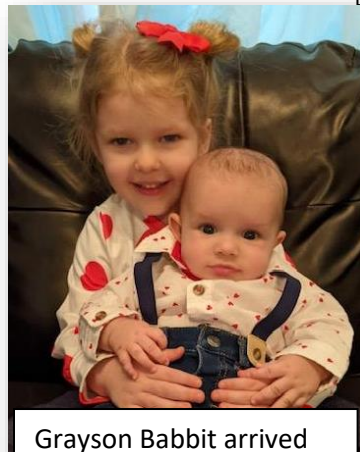
Grayson Michael Babbit ~ 10/21/21
Alison (Pelletier) & Andy Babbit

Clark Adin Fuller ~ 3/8/22
Stewart & Margaret Fuller

Warren James Walter ~ 12/25/21
Leslie (Muzzy) & Jim Walter

Agata Faye Hanczewski ~ 4/7/22
Whitney & Marc Hanczewski

Margaret and Stewart Fuller welcomed baby Clark in March. He can't wait to start playclass!



Grayson Babbit arrived two days before his Great Grandma Clarke's 100th birthday! What a great birthday gift!





End of October, 2021: Tom Stevens, Lawrence Hedblom, Sugie Young, John Clarke and Jim Carr played the last sets of tennis of the 2021 season before shut-down. Jim was dressed in black and white so was chosen for camera duty.

Laketown Township Provides Pickleball Venue

Some of you may not know that Laketown Township recently installed two new Pickleball courts just 4 miles away, behind the Township Offices on Beeline Road (62nd street). Play is on a first come first served basis and there is a nice all-weather picnic/gathering area right next to the courts. The office says that so far there has not been heavy use and that there is space for two more courts if needed. ~ Dick Shepard



Tennis 2022

Another great season of tennis in Castle Park awaits! Aaron Boersma will be returning as Head Tennis Pro and he will once again be assisted by Matt Leatherman. As usual, we are planning on having a tennis pro(s) in the Park starting the week of July 4th.

Key tennis dates:

- Mixed Doubles Tournament - Saturday, July 30;
- Men's Doubles Tournament, Saturday, August 6.

The tennis shop has been completely re-painted - including the floor - and looks great. A special "thank you" to Katie Nelson and her crew for the great work on the floor!

For any questions about the tennis program, please contact Randy Ford, the new Tennis Committee Chair.



McLain (Nobel) Kourtz competed in the Boston marathon on a beautiful New England spring day. In spite of strong headwinds, she came within five minutes of her goal! From McLain, "Thank you to all of the Castle Parkers who donated to my Boston Children's Hospital team. So proud to be a part of it!" "Never felt anything like that Boston crowd!"

Last fall the Beautification Committee oversaw several projects, the intentions being to restore some old stone walls that have been buried over the years, unearth an old patio to the south of Ebs Barn and replace overgrown and dying shrubbery near the Meeting House. We wonder if anyone has memories of using the patio? Was it for all Castle guests, or only for the private use of renters of Eb's Barn? The views are spectacular of Lake Michigan and the south tennis courts/campus.



Last summer Tinker Judson discovered something buried under on the south side of Eb's Barn. Tinker reports, "when we were doing the major mow-down on the hill I kept running into pieces of rubble. I had a hunch it was not just random loose pieces of stone. Cindy Fuller and I finally went up there with an iron rod and started prodding around. Sure enough we could tell something was going on in the larger area. VOILA!" Thanks to the CP archaeology team for that discovery!



From Facebook: "Lew and I took brother Chip to a Tigers game today and had a fun "catch up" with Danny Dickerson. CP love at Tigertown!" For this and more, join the private Castle Park group on Facebook!



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

The Banner is a Semi-Annual newsletter sent in the Fall and Spring
The next Banner is due out October 2022

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

Beach Sightings!



Fall



Winter



Spring





Members of the Hibbard clan gathered to celebrate their heritage at a game in Ann Arbor last November. We came from Boston, Detroit, Dallas, and Ann Arbor!

Back: Katherine Hibbard, Mary Laughna, Grace Chism, Sara Laughna, William Hibbard, Ryan Laughna, Andrew Laughna

Front: Jeff and Ann Hibbard, Martha & Rory Laughna

Photo courtesy of Jack Chism.