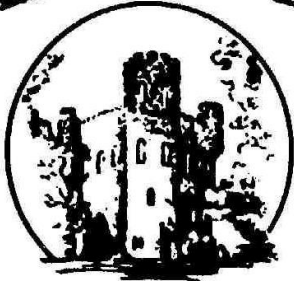


CASTLE PARK



The Banner

Fall 2023

Thoughts from Outgoing Board President, Beverly Burns

Some think fall is the time to wish summer hadn't sped by in a whirl and to grumble at the chores that need to be done as the seasons change.

As for me, fall is a favorite season. The clean, crisp, chilly air invites long walks with my dog Harriet (on a leash, of course!) and affords plenty of time to plan for what's next in the season and in my own life. There's time, as well, to think about what may lie ahead in our Castle Park Community.

My three years on the Board of Trustees, that included two as President, confirmed some things I already knew--that Castle Parkers are warm, neighborly, opinionated and share important values, for example. I saw those qualities play out in countless situations both large and small and I think our community is made stronger by members' open willingness to listen and collaborate.

Our community's deep commitment to finding sustainable solutions to address environmental challenges in our own community and in the larger world was evident during my term, with efforts to raise consciousness about good sustainability practices and protection of the gift of trees that we are so privileged to have.

We all have our thoughts about what may lie ahead for our community; one of the beauties of being in a warm and neighborly environment is that we can

freely discuss those thoughts with each other. Some of mine include:

Our most notable asset, the Castle, is going to need more and more of our attention and your Board is going to need the constructive input and support of members in order to assure a sound ongoing strategy.

Some of our most important "human assets" are our children and grandchildren, who prize Castle Park for the feelings of freedom it offers—to ride a bike on the campus roads, to walk to Play Class without a hand-holding adult alongside, to meet friends on the beach or near the tennis courts, to grab a snack at the Barnswallow. All of this calls for our community to be safe, and for it to provide places and spaces for kids. Those things don't just happen, so the facilities we provide for kids and the expectations we hold for them and for ourselves need our regular attention.

Finally, passing the gavel to Joy Fossel on Aug. 19 was a happy occasion for me because I knew that the Board, and Castle Park, would be in strong, capable hands. So as I look toward fall, I am excited for the opportunities ahead—all of them! And I wish all of you the best in the upcoming holiday season.

News from the Board

From Joy Fossel



In the wake of the serious golf cart accident last season, the CPA Board created a Golf Cart Task Force to review the current rules and regulations relating to golf cart uses in the park. Dick Shepard, Jeff Webb, Peter Keehn, Jim Carr, and Tim Griffin kindly volunteered to take on this task which also involves examining best practices used elsewhere in the country. The Task Force anticipates providing its recommendations to the Board in time for the November Board meeting. Stay tuned.

The American Flag

During the fourth of July weekend, you can't miss the beautiful American flag draping from the Castle turrets. As we walk by on a hot summer day, we are once again reminded of the freedom and glory of the red, white, and blue. Here is the story of how Castle Park came upon this flag.

Jean Burton's father, Don Stewart, was a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II. He served on a submarine chaser in the Pacific. After the war, he bought a surplus Navy battleship flag and displayed it at his residence for every Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. The flag was then handed down to Bob and Jean Burton, who, not having a house big enough to display, donated the flag to Castle Park in 2013. Thank you to the Burton family, for it truly is an honor to display the amazing flag during our Celebration of Independence. ~ Jeanne Kane



Follow the Yellow Brick Road...

As many of you know, Castle Park has quite the history and connection with L. Frank Baum who wrote *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

This summer, a unique opportunity presented itself when former library chair Ruth Allison was visiting with Jan Manglitz and discovered her collection of Wizard of Oz memorabilia and books. Soon it was revealed that others in the park also had extensive collections, including Leigh Conant who then, with the library committee, organized the summer event - Wizard of Oz Show and Share.

On August 8, Castle Parkers had the opportunity to view collections and memorabilia from the author and partake in other fun activities, like watching the 2000 CP themed dance, solving trivia games and puzzles, and best of all having a Emerald City Potluck to conclude the event.

Just remember... "There's no place like Castle Park!" ~ Jeanne Kane

Wedding Bells



Christina Nielsen married Eric Engelking in the Amphitheater on September 23, 2022. Happy anniversary!

Stephanie Shepard Griffin married Billy Mehney and celebrated several times throughout the year with family and many friends.

Naomi and Scott Fuller were married at a small gathering in Castle Park on June 24, 2023.

Mary Francis Huetteman married Jay McCarthy in a beautiful Vail, CO ceremony on August 25, 2023.

On September 9th Margaret Gregg married Paul Minoff at Grace Episcopal Church in Holland and celebrated in Castle Park afterward.

Ibo Gregg and Mike Lofrese celebrated their I-do's in Castle Park on June 17th.

Clare Swaney married George Fitch in Glacier National Park on August 26th. They celebrated their marriage in Castle Park on September 25th.



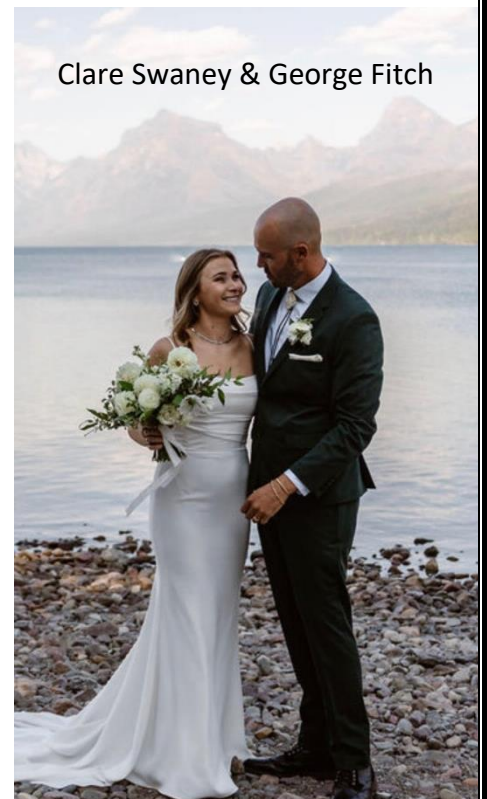
Margaret Gregg & Paul Minoff



Ibo Gregg and Mike Lofrese



Mary Francis Huetteman & Jay McCarthy

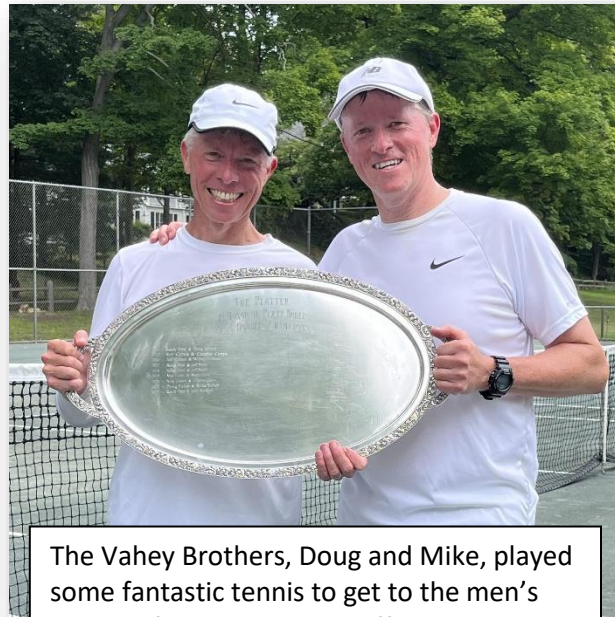


Clare Swaney & George Fitch

TENNIS



Robbie Wendin and Elizabeth Etterbeek came from behind to defeat Liz and Jeff Webb in a grueling mixed doubles final 9-7.



The Vahey Brothers, Doug and Mike, played some fantastic tennis to get to the men's doubles finals. They held off a hard charging team of John Marshall and Randy Ford to take the title 9-7.



Our dedicated tennis pro, Aaron Boersma, came with his family to cheer on the men's tennis doubles competitors.

Ted Parker and Earl Thompson outlasted a strong field of geezers (sorry Earl) in the Century Tournament where the sum of the ages of partners must be over 99. It was a great addition to the summer tennis schedule. They defeated a very strong team of Mary & Phil Bosch, 8-5, in the final match of the day.



On Tuesday, August 1, this mighty team of Castle Park tennis players took on Macatawa, resurrecting an age-old tradition between the two rivals. The good guys won the Beker cup by a score of 7 matches to 4 (with an additional unfinished match....ask Julie Wade or Martha Laughna about that one!). The evening was a resounding success, complete with beer, wine, and food for all competitors. The Castle Parkers look to defend their title next year!



These ladies had a fun time at the Mo' Fun golf outing at the Ravines. The competition was fierce but the team of Katie Palmer, Mary Blossom, Tinker Bellis, and Cindy Fuller won in a tiebreaker over Martha Laughna, Julie Wade, and Patti Bellis. The longest drive was shot by Julie Wade and closest to the pin was Mary Ford. A lunch was held afterward to raise money for the beautification fund.

GOLF



Tennis and golf are not the only games in town! A group of enterprising young Castle Parkers gathered each night for soccer and even held an official championship at the end of their stay.

The Chism/Stacy clan dominated a strong field in this year's mens' golf outing. Left to right: Jeremy Stacy, Finn Stacy, David Chism, Jack Chism.

Those bowls are beautiful, by the way.



Ann Redding and Paul Wentworth rest during the golf the park tournament.

...and a little more tennis...



Bob Burton and Tom Stevens (lefties) defeated Ernie Kelly and John Clarke (righties) in the annual Soreheads tennis match which was started years ago with some older Castle Parkers.

In other tennis news, Patti Bellis and Doug Vahey won the final Dust Bowl Cup on the 50th anniversary of the first cup.



Old Friends, Memories, and Traditions

Carter Brown ~ The Man

Who was Carter Brown, the patriarch of Castle Park? A longtime guest of The Castle answered so simply, "You are Castle Park and Castle Park is you." Read more by clicking on [Carter Brown The Man](#).



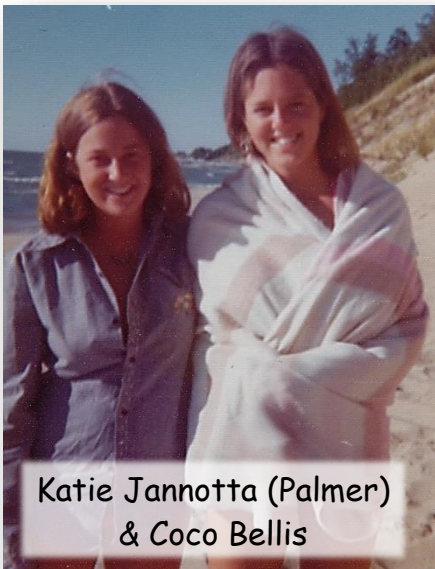
Blossom Family Thanksgiving



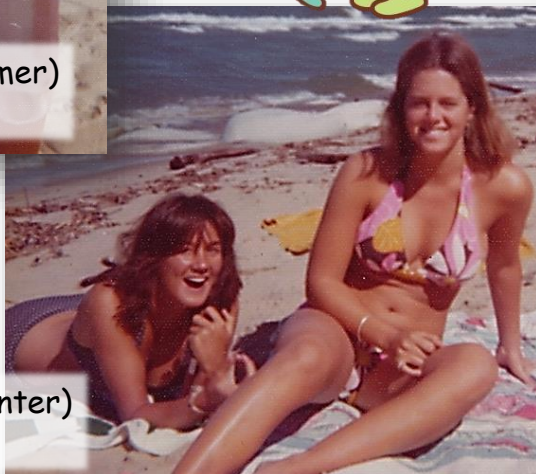
Katie (Shuster) McNamara & Martha (Redding) Laughna



Can you guess? Around 1976



Katie Jannotta (Palmer) & Coco Bellis



Joy Blossom (Carpenter) & Coco Bellis



Good friends on Scandal Row
Marcia Littlejohn & Margaret Parker



This group of lifelong friends celebrated the fact that they were no longer underage over 15 years ago!

BALDY IS AT RISK

This pristine and fragile dune is at risk of being transformed by a current proposal to build a house on what appears to be a land-locked, inaccessible and unbuildable lot. A number of Castle Parkers and others have formed the Baldy Citizens Group and are in the process of alerting the county, township and state environmental preservation agencies about the ways this project will violate local ordinances as well as dune and environmental protections.

The Baldy Citizens Group is opposing an application seeking to build a three-story, one-bedroom cantilevered home on top of Baldy and install a tram up the 60% slope for access, compromising what is now a pristine dune that has been a source of beauty and fun for our community for well over a century.

The parcel is a 0.8 acre, triangular, land-locked, steeply sloped lot which is located in a Critical Dune area and backs up on South Dune properties. Given the steepness of the slope, the lack of any parking or staging area, and the involvement of a critical dune, at first glance building would seem all but impossible.

Yet an arbitrated settlement has forced a 10 ft. wide easement to access the property across a neighboring yard. In August 2023, an exception allowing Allegan County Health Department Septic Permit was granted, and an application to build was made to the Department of the Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) on September 15, 2023

The many reasons against allowing the special permits needed to build from EGLE, Allegan County and Laketown Township are more fully discussed in [Preserving Our Critical Dune](#) (click on the link) or by visiting [Carter Brown Fund Projects](#) and clicking on Baldy Preservation Efforts.

Please feel free to contact any of us or email friendsofbaldy@gmail.com with your questions or if you would like to write a letter in support..

Thank you for your attention,

Bob Burton, Suzanne Dixon, Ben Watson, Dick Muzzy, Steve Nobel, Steve Steketee, Chip Allen, Isaac Thompson, Mary and Doug Ireland



Paddle Tennis Improvements

All hands on deck! This energetic group put some serious sweat equity into the hut at the paddle tennis court. The dogs do the digging and the people do the rest.

Primary improvements coming before Paddle season starts:

- New interior paneling, windows and a door, all salvaged from the Gardner cottage, thanks to Ben Watson
- New exterior corner posts & wall sections replacing rotted ones
- New walkway plank leading to court entrance

Artful Drinking Fountains

By Ted Parker based on interviews with Tinker Bellis Judson, Martha Bellis Gregg, Tom Stevens, and Bill Parkes

Sarah Meek Hamm started coming to Castle Park with her family in the 1890's around when the Park was first incorporated in 1896. After renting for many years, she bought the current Bellis/Gregg/Stevens cottage in 1937. The family expanded and was very active in Castle Park, and Sarah became a close friend of Carter Brown. Sarah's five children were: Harriet Stevens (mother of Tom Stevens), Martha (Patty) Butler (mother of Blair Bellis), Dorothy Robertson (who was a previous owner of the cottage now owned by Jimmy and Patti Bellis), Fred Hamm, and Peter Hamm.

In the early 1950s Sarah thought that drinking fountains at the north and south tennis courts would be a nice amenity. She financed the project, and Carter Brown built them using local field stones. The north court fountain was removed when the new tennis shed was built. The fountain's water still flows, but from a new aluminum fountain off the shed.

The south court's water fountain (pictured below) hasn't worked in years but that's about to change! Tinker (Bellis) Judson, Martha (Bellis) Gregg and Jimmy Bellis are keen to restore it to working order, in continuation of their great grandmother's wishes. Next summer if you take a drink from this fountain, you can recall its history and the generosity of the Hamm/Bellis/Stevens family line.



In Memoriam

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

*Dick Wendin
August 14, 2023*

*Gwen Hibbard
September 18, 2023*

New Arrivals

In these days of shortages and delivery delays, the babies in Castle Park are not paying attention!

Alice Moyer ~ May 15, 2023
Christopher Moyer & Sarah McCuish

Caroline Jean Thier ~ June 17, 2023
Jess & John Thier

Isla Rose Swaney ~ July 15, 2023
Abbie & Austin Swaney

Charlotte Kathryn Palmer ~ July 31, 2023
Ross & Nicole Palmer

Scott Dean Fuller ~ August 17, 2023
Margaret & Stew Fuller



Loving the CP swag
on Alice Moyer!

2023 Castle Park Book Swap and Recommendations List

Shrines of Gaiety by Kate Atkinson

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

Red Notice by Bill Browder

Freezing Order by Bill Browder

Burnham Wood by Eleanor Catton

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

Wicked Charms by Janet Evanovich

How I Write by Janet Evanovich

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

The Rabbit Hutch by Tess Gunty

The House of Lincoln by Nancy Horan

Zorrie by Laird Hunt

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

Demon Copperfield by Barbara Kingsolver

I Have Some Questions for You by Rebecca Maaki

Guided Mountain by Kate Manning

Mercury Pictures Presents by Anthony Marra

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

The Thursday Murder Club (series) by Richard Osmond

The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki

Daisy Jones and the Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid

The German Wife by Kelly Rimmer

The Invisible Life of Addie Larue by V.E. Schwab

What Happened to the Bennetts by Lisa Scottoline.

Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See

The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese

Hang the Moon by Jeannette Walls

Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson

Books are listed in alphabetical order by author name.
Bold = book swap book
Italics = other recommendation



This summer, using pieces of trash collected on the beaches of Castle Park, Kate Amburgey won first place at the Montgomery County Fair in the toilet seat decorating contest. This unusual contest is an annual event at the county fair, but Kate's first time entering. Last summer, she set a goal of doing 41 beach clean ups in honor of her 41st birthday. After each clean up, she would sift and sort the trash collected by color with the intention of creating a piece of "protest art" to highlight the importance of recycling and proper trash disposal. Not sure how the project would come together, Kate leaned into the process of creativity and decided to be unafraid of the unfamiliar. The result was a toilet seat decorated with a tree, sky, and root system made completely with trash from the beach and with whatever recycling she encountered during the 1 week it took to make the seat. The piece sparked lots of curiosity and conversation at the fair...hope it will for you too.



As you may already know, Karin Baird will be moving out of Castle Park and has some parting words for our community.

"To those who have offered assistance, helped with packing, treated me to dinners, emailed well wishes, stopped by to visit, and expressed so many uplifting words of support, thank you for all of the heartwarming gestures and messages. It is something I will never forget.

As I reflect on the past 27 years, and the incredible opportunity I have had to live among so many warm and giving and caring community members, friends, visitors, and employees in Castle Park, I am beyond grateful for each and every one of you.

With love and sincere thanks, Karin Baird"

Thank you Karin for all your contributions to Castle Park, especially your support of the tennis program!



THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

This North Beach mascot made his presence known throughout the summer. He even divebombed some swimmers one day to rescue them from a nearby fish.



Cocktails on the beach....October 3rd!

Why is Baldy at risk? See page 7 for important details!



John Parr's sister-in-law, Lucie, and daughter, Elizabeth, hiking on Baldy in 1897. Notice the Castle and beyond it, Castle Park's first cottage (Grandma Parr's on site of the present Carter cottage.)



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The Banner is a Semi-Annual newsletter sent in the Fall and Spring
The next Banner is due out May 2024

The Banner was published and edited by Martha Laughna
If you have something for the next edition of the Banner, email me at mllaughna@gmail.com