

PRESTON COMMUNICATOR

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Preston Castle Haunt October 2019

The 2019 Preston Castle Haunt was a screaming good time.

Planning started in January and it took several months of prop construction as well as the entire month of September to build the walk through. The props had to be put in place along with setting the mood through lighting and sound. The walk through we created was the longest haunt to date. We were proud that this route even confused veteran volunteers in not knowing where they were in the castle. We took you up and down several flights of stairs as well as taking you outside where most victims thought it was the end of the end, however we brought you back in the Castle for the finale.

There were six full nights of the Haunt that victims could subject themselves too. The Haunt ended up raising (net) over two hundred thousand dollars for the foundation.

Each night of the Haunt took a total of 120 volunteers working together to make the experience the best ever.

Each volunteer was extremely important to the success of the Haunt. Our volunteer opportunities include acting, security, parking, gate/ticket sales, and clean up. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us. Training



starts the end of July.

We are already planning for a better Haunt in 2020!

Christmas at the Castle December 14

Our 2019 event and tour season ended in style with the Christmas at the Castle holiday faire on December 14. The Castle never looked prettier, decorated inside and out in holiday finery. Over 40 arts and craft vendors were on hand to meet holiday shopping needs. Even Santa was on hand, to bid everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Self-guided tour tickets were sold out well in advance of this event.

The 450 people who were fortunate enough to get tickets enjoyed the last self-guided tours of the year. Tours will start up again on April 4, 2020.



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If anyone wishes to add or change anything in the newsletter, or would like to get copies of past issues, please let us know at info@prestoncastle.org or at the next meeting. We always enjoy hearing from our readers!

Public Tours

Saturdays, April 4 thru August 29

Beauty and majesty come alive in Amador county with the opening of blooms on the hills and the doors to our beloved Castle. The winter months offer rest for the tour docents and volunteers, but winter ends and spring brings a new season for all to enjoy.

Our new tour season is scheduled to run most Saturdays, April 4 thru August 29. Public tour days will offer both self-guided tours, 10 am to 12 pm, and 3 guided tours starting at 1 pm, leaving at 30 minute intervals. Self-guided tours give our guests the opportunity to view the Castle at their own pace. Informed docents are placed on each floor to help guide our guests through the three available floors. Guided tours add a more personal touch and usually take an hour to complete. We also offer a virtual tour for those with mobility restrictions.

There are several staged rooms throughout the Castle. Each room has been furnished and decorated to emulate an era when the Castle was at its grandest. As you move through the Castle you will get a sense of what it was like to live and work at the Preston School of Industry. The Foundation has also added several historic pieces to our ever-growing museum for history buffs young and old.

The offering of several events along with Saturday tours makes for a fun and exciting summer. Please come visit, fall in love, and if compelled, become a part of our amazing team of volunteers.

Don't Miss Our 2020 Events

Join us for one or all of the Preston Castle Foundation's events in 2020. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.prestoncastle.org, or call 209-256-3623.

Spring Vendor Fair

Saturday, May 23, 9 am to 5 pm

If you like our Christmas at the Castle Vendor Fair in December you will love our Spring Vendor Fair. This will be an opportunity to get a head start on your shopping for unique and special gifts for your friends and family (maybe even yourself), while helping to support the efforts of the Preston Castle Foundation

Events continued

Vines and Steins

Saturday, May 30, 3 pm to 6 pm

Wine tasting at the Castle returns.

After a year away, our premiere event returns because the votes are in, "We Want it Back!"

We have heard you loud and clear. However we have made a couple of changes. Watch for our new event name, Vines and Steins, and take advantage of a reduced ticket price of \$35/person. Take a self-guided tour of Historic Preston Castle located in beautiful Amador County. Enjoy sample

pours of local wines and craft beers from commemorative glasses made just for the occasion. Wine and Beer vendors will be set up throughout the Castle for your touring enjoyment. Crackers, cheeses and fruit are included and additional food



can be purchased from local food vendors. Full pours of your favorite wine or beer will also be available to purchase. There will be live music on the patio and table seating for your dining and listening pleasure. Help preserve this majestic landmark, purchase your tickets today.

Must be 21 to attend.

Living History Self-guided Tours

Saturday, June 13, 10 am to 2 pm

Last season we celebrated the Castle's 125th Anniversary which included an historic reenactment of the arrival of the first 7 boys to The Preston School of Industry. In honor of this historic celebration we will be offering a Living History Tour day on June 13. Attendees will take a self-guided tour through the Castle and meet volunteers dressed in period costume who will offer stories from the past.

Events continued



First 7 wards arriving at Preston

Photo Day

**Sunday, June 14, 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
or 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm**

On Photo Day, you can roam the Castle and grounds and access all of the non-restricted areas to set up the perfect shots.

Purchase tickets online for the session(s) you want: \$40 for one session, \$65 for both.

Movie Night on the Patio

Saturday, July 11, 8:15 pm to 11:00 pm

Preston Castle Haunt

Saturday, Oct. 10,

Friday, Oct. 16, Saturday, Oct. 17,

Friday, Oct. 23, Saturday, Oct. 24,

Friday, Oct. 30

starting at 7 pm each night

Christmas at the Castle

Saturday, December 12, 10 am to 4 pm

President's Message

This message finds the Preston Castle Foundation embarking on a very busy and ambitious year. Within this Preston Communicator you will find a list of the major events and tours that are planned for this year. There are some familiar events and some new ones. In the past the Foundation has held the "Wine Tasting and Tour" event at the Castle with the help of many local wineries. Last year we gave the event a year off. For 2020 the event has been reimagined and is returning as "Vines and Steins". It will

Message continued

be a wine and local craft beer tasting event. Please look at all of the events and tours and determine where you would like to join us.

Many of you wonder and on occasion ask the Foundation where your donations and proceeds from events go. First none of it is spent paying staff. The Preston Castle Foundation is made up 100% of volunteers. This year the Foundation has approved a very ambitious budget that will improve and help to preserve the structure of the Preston Castle.

We have budgeted \$100,000 for repairs to the roof. The roof takes a tremendous beating in the extreme winds that blow over the top of the hill and the roof five stories above that. It has been almost a decade since the Foundation engaged in major maintenance of the roof.

Another \$38,500 has been budgeted to replace all of the main exit doors with accurate reproductions of the original doors. This is necessitated by the poor condition of the existing doors and the need to have them swing out instead of in for fire code compliance.

The beams in the fourth and fifth floor are starting to bend out of position and one major joint in those beams is failing. This will require \$150,000 in repairs and engineering work to repair. These beams are the major component of the building that holds up the roof. So as you can see it is not cheap keeping the "biggest fixer upper" in Amador County safe and standing.

Over the winter the Foundation updated the website. It is a vibrant and exiting new website. Our online address also changed slightly. We are now at PRESTONCASTLE.ORG instead of .COM. Our email address has similarly changed to info@prestoncastle.org instead of .com.

The Foundation is always looking for additional volunteers. So if you would like to join us as a volunteer tour docent, construction and rehabilitation technician or event volunteer please get in touch with us through our website.

Karl Knobelauch

President, Preston Castle Foundatio