



## What is an editor or a publisher?

**An editor is “a person who is in charge of and determines the final content of a text, particularly a newspaper, newsletter or magazine.”** John Pantalone has been the alumni’s editor in chief for many years. He is now handing it over to someone else. We will try to do our best to “Be Like John” and continue the awesome work he did to keep you informed of what is happening with our alumni, in the schools and city, and to throw in a joke or two. We have asked John to have his own column to keep him busy (it’s not like he is sitting around doing nothing). We want him to keep in contact with the alumni.

**A publisher is “a person that prepares and issues journals, books, or other works.”**

Our publisher, Lynn Van Keuren, JFK 1979, has been our publisher for the past few years. She has also mentioned to us she wants to relinquish her position after the February edition. We appreciate everything she has done to make our newsletter look great every month.

We have an editor, [but we are looking for a publisher](#). You don’t have to live in the area to do this position. We send you our write ups, you put them in a newsletter form, send it back to us for proof reading and then send us the final. We do the rest. [If you are interested in this position, please email us, and let us know.](#)

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## Update on the Alumni Museum

We are waiting on removal of some equipment in our storage area then we will be organizing the memorabilia in our showcases. It’s a slow process, but one we are determined to continue. Anyone interested in helping email us: [tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com)



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## Thank you for donations –

Monetary Donation – *Gregory and Denise Pitoniak \$50...continued on page 2...*

...continued from page 1... We have had many donations for our alumni museum in the past. Here are a few we would like to thank:

*Van Kostegian – numerous DVDs of games, plaques, and memorabilia of his from his family.*

*Diane Lightle-Simon – her son’s varsity jacket and shirts*

*Taylor Historical Society – Framed pictures of the class of 1951 Fletcher Elementary, class of 1958 Taylor Center High.*

*Mike Hargreaves – Truman hockey jerseys*

*Kathy O’Connor – Kennedy and Truman Composite and periodicals*

*Career Center Chopping Block cookbook*

*Caroline Patts – Numerous Clarence Randall memorabilia*

If you have anything you would like to donate to the museum, please email us.

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## Welcome New Lifetime Alumni members

Candice Resmer (TC 78)  
Cathy Indorf Tuttle (JFK 70)  
Cheryl Plogar Czerwinski (JFK 69)  
Cynthia Schuck (TC 60)  
Daniel Tulik (JFK 70)  
Denise Bailey Raich (JFK 69)  
Denise Kadi Pitoniak (HST 75)  
Dennis Schlemmer (HST 95)  
Gerald Taylor (JFK 74)  
Glenda Michelle Wilson Campbell (JFK 72)  
Gregg Kortman (TC 73)

Gregory DiJoseph (JFK 73)  
Gregory Pitoniak (JFK 72)  
James Zychiewicz (TC 59)  
Linda Hendren Johnson (TC 59)  
Linda Klaasser Wells (TC 73)  
Lori DuChateau Irwin (TC 74)  
Mark Popiel (HST 75)  
Sharon Napier Sryniawski (JFK 67)  
Sharon Napier Sryniawski (JFK67)  
Tareq Ramadan (HST 00)  
Jeanette Penman Merrill (TC 57)

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## Foundation

The Taylor Public Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence is a non-profit organization that supports the Taylor Public Schools. They are having a fundraiser in March at Famous Dave's on Eureka in Taylor to help support the scholarships that are given out to the Taylor High School seniors and grants for teachers. Scan the QR code to RSVP. *Thank you for your support!*

**Taylor!**  
Eat to support  
Taylor Public School Education Foundation

20% Donated Back  
Thursday, February 22nd / 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
RSVP below

Famous Dave's  
23811 Eureka Road, Taylor

groupraise.com/events/268842

Powered by GroupRaise



## What's Happening in Our -

### Taylor Schools

The weather in Michigan can be unexpected. Monday, January 15, was Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the cold and snow came. Schools were closed on Monday for MLK Jr. Day, and then Tuesday and Wednesday because of inclement weather. It went back in session on Thursday only to be closed on Friday due to staffing challenges and concerns regarding the safety of transporting our students.

If you are on social media, you might have read many people comment that they remember walking to school in the snow and cold. (Remember the walking to school uphill both ways in the snow? Ha!) Or maybe riding a bus that got them to school late, but they got there. Share your memories of when you went to school in Michigan's inclement weather.

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### City of Taylor

*We have an exciting community event coming up at Taylor High School!*

On **March 15th @7pm**, Taylor High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team will face the Taylor Police Department in an exhibition basketball match! The match will take place at Taylor High School basketball court.

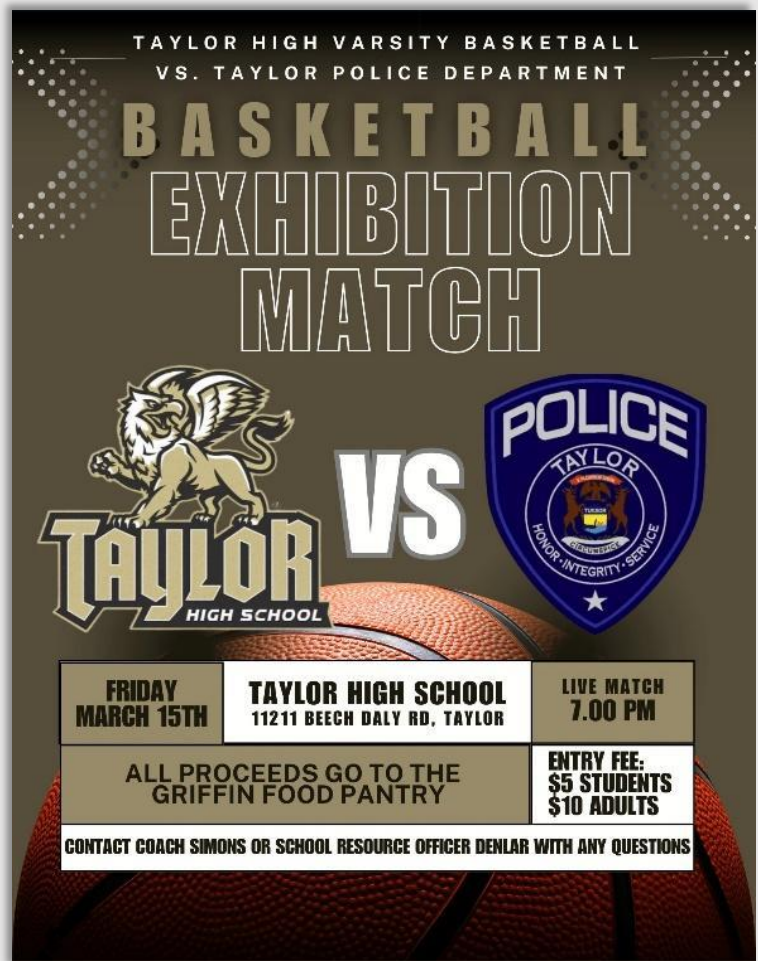
No pre-sale for tickets only available at the gate.

**\$5 for Taylor students**

**\$10 for adults**

Children under 13 years old are free (All children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian)

All entry fees and all sales from the concessions stand will go to the Griffins Food Pantry, which assists with Taylor students and their family's needs.



The poster features a basketball at the bottom. At the top, it reads "TAYLOR HIGH VARSITY BASKETBALL VS. TAYLOR POLICE DEPARTMENT". Below that, "BASKETBALL EXHIBITION MATCH" is written in large, bold letters. In the center, the Taylor High School Griffin logo (a lion) is on the left, "VS" is in the middle, and the Taylor Police Department badge is on the right. The badge includes the text "POLICE TAYLOR HONOR INTEGRITY SERVICE". At the bottom, there are three boxes: "FRIDAY MARCH 15TH", "TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL 11211 BEECH DALY RD, TAYLOR", and "LIVE MATCH 7.00 PM". Below these boxes, it says "ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE GRIFFIN FOOD PANTRY" and "ENTRY FEE: \$5 STUDENTS \$10 ADULTS". At the very bottom, it says "CONTACT COACH SIMONS OR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DENLAR WITH ANY QUESTIONS".

## Posts From Pantalone *by John Pantalone*

Alumni Newsletters often contain stories under the heading “GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS”. No mention of “Charter Schools”. Not sure why, but January 14, 1994, Governor John Engler created “Charter Schools” in the State of Michigan.

### *Why has there been no mention of “Charter Schools”?*

The biggest concern with charter schools is that they are often difficult to hold accountable. This is due in part to a lack of local control since the board is appointed rather than elected. There is also seemingly a lack of transparency on their part. This is actually in contrast to one of their supposed concepts. In theory charter schools can be closed for failing to meet the terms established in their charter, but in reality, this often proves difficult to enforce. However, many charter schools often face financial hardships causing schools to close across the nation.

The lottery system that many charter schools have used has also come under scrutiny. Opponents say that the lottery system is not fair for many students wishing to gain access. Even those charter schools who do not utilize a lottery system eliminate some potential students because of their rigid academic standards. For example, special needs students are not as likely to attend a charter school as a traditional public school. Because charter schools typically have a "target audience" there seems to be an overall lack of diversity among a single student body.

Teachers at charter schools often “burn out” due to the longer hours and higher levels of stress due to the higher standards they are held too. Hefty expectations come at a price. They often are not paid as much as public school teachers. One such problem is little continuity from year to year at a charter school as there is often high staff turnover across teachers and administrators.

So why have you decided to have your children attend “Charter Schools”? Your answers will create an interesting column without any mention of your name.



Update on John F Kennedy bricks - Kennedy bricks have been collected and we are now waiting for the plaques to go on them and the letters of authenticity to be printed. We will inform you when they are ready.

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, John Pantalone and a couple of JFK Class of 1970 alumni got together for a kind of a small reunion.

We are looking to expand our breakfast gatherings so, if you are a JFK Class of 1970 alumni and would like to join us let Ken Renner (kenren2468@ameritech.net ) know. An email group will be made up to let you know where and when we will meet again. *In picture left to right: Don Murdock, John Pantalone, Ken Renner, David Gooden, and Brian Moore. Submitted by Ken Renner*





## **OBITUARIES**

*The Alumni Association members would like to extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the former classmates mentioned below. You will forever be in our thoughts and prayers. Please Note: If you know of a deceased graduate that is not listed in the Memoriam section of our website, please let us know the name, school, graduating class and date of passing.*

### **HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL**

- Wendy Hunt Ellis, Class of 1978 (passed January 5, 2024)

### **TAYLOR CENTER HIGH SCHOOL**

- Janet Prebes Tonge Jones, Class of 1961 (passed January 3, 2024)
- Leonard “Lenny” Siedlik, Class of 1965 (passed January 3, 2024)
- Melinda Harper Durant, Class of 1972 (passed July 13, 2013)
- Joseph “Jake” Chisholm, Class of 1972 (passed December 27, 2023)
- Randy Harper, Class of 1974 (passed July 3, 2021)
- Tina Maddox Crosson, Class of 1979 (passed November 18, 2014)
- Todd Boike, Class of 1990 (passed January 20, 2024)

### **JOHN F KENNEDY**

- Walter “Walt” Trancygier, Class of 1967 (passed January 6, 2024)
- Edward “Eddie” Wasil, Class of 1969 (passed January 10, 2024)
- Cristina Cuccaro, Class of 1976 (passed December 29, 2023)

### **STAFF**

- Emily Healy, Truman Algebra Teacher (passed December 14, 2023)

***For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit [tayloralumni.org](http://tayloralumni.org) and click on "In Memoriam".***

### Alumni Association



### Taylor School District

Taylor School District Alumni Association  
11501 Beech Daly  
Taylor, MI 48180

Visit us online:  
[www.tayloralumni.org](http://www.tayloralumni.org)

Email us:  
[tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com)

Facebook:  
TaylorMichigan Alumni Association

#### Taylor Alumni Association Board

President:	Caroline (Craddock) Patts (TC 73)
Vice Pres TC	Judith (Barnhart) LaFleur (TC 65)
Vice Pres JFK	Kenneth Renner (JFK 70)
Vice Pres HST	Bill Sule (HST 93)
Vice Pres THS	OPEN POSITION
Secretary:	Sheri (Graham) Engelbrink (HST 77)
Treasurer:	Nancy Miller (JFK 67)
Past President:	Mary (Swartout) Rusnak (JFK 72)

#### *Alumni Association Purpose*

*To enhance the educational atmosphere of the Taylor School District by developing an active alumni association for the common good of both the graduates and the school district.*

## Taylor School District Alumni Association Application for Membership

Alumni lifetime membership: \$25 per person.  
Please print clearly:

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden \_\_\_\_\_

School Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation year \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:**  
Taylor School District Alumni Association

Mail this form along with your payment to:  
Taylor School District Alumni Association  
11501 Beech Daly, Taylor, MI 48180

**Benefits of your lifetime membership:**  
Monthly newsletter  
Website  
Facebook page for info  
email notices  
Class reunion information  
Alumni Museum  
Social get togethers  
Scholarship donations