

IN THE NEWS



Alumni Newsletter August 2021

Another Success Story of a Graduate from Taylor Public Schools

Jack Girauld Jr. shares his success story

I have a long history with the Taylor School District, which started with my own schooling. I attended G. Mennen William Elementary, Hoover Middle School, and then graduated from Taylor Center High in 1984. After graduation, I worked for International Service System in the Maintenance department. In 1987, I was promoted to building supervisor of Maintenance. In 1991, I began a new job in a commercial print shop where I worked until 1997. Following this position, I moved into the construction field. In 2008, I changed fields and became employed by the Taylor School District to be a bus driver/custodian while also attending the skilled trades program at Henry Ford Community College. Upon completion of the program, I received my Electrical Journeyman license in 2012 and became a licensed electrician for the Taylor School District. In January of 2019, I was awarded my current position, Director of Facilities and Operations.

My family has also received their education within the Taylor School District. In September of 1990, I married my best friend, Pamela Norris, a 1981 Taylor Center graduate. We have three wonderful children graduated from Truman HS -Jack, III in 2009, Charlie in 2011, and Ryan in 2012.

As both a student and an employee in the Taylor School District, I have been able to meet so many great people and I have had many amazing educators and peers, just like numerous others who have attended and been employed by the Taylor School District. Without a doubt, the most influential teacher I had was my 5th and 6th grade teacher, Mr. Frank Gladowski. When I'm not working, I enjoy being with my family, whether we're bowling, camping, or just spending time together at home.

While there are many things that I hope to accomplish in this role, my central focus as Director of Facilities and Operations is to assure that all current and future students and staff have a safe and healthy learning environment. Along with helping others have as great of an experience as my family and I have enjoyed within the Taylor School District.

Enhance the educational atmosphere of the Taylor School District for both the graduates and the school district.

Down Memory Lane

Alumnus Fred Thomann, TCH 1960, was mentioned in an article in the Detroit News June 25, 2021. It was in reference to the Girls' Basketball program at Salem High School in Plymouth, MI. The article states:

“Salem was a state power under Thomann, the former Michigan State basketball player, who led the program from 1982-2013. Thomann earned Final Four appearances in 1980, 1986, 1987 and 1990. He coached one of the state’s all-time greats in Dena Head, who was named Miss Basketball in 1987 while also earning the title of National High School All-American.”

Now “the rest of the story” ... Fred, a 1960 graduate of Taylor Center High School, was a star high school basketball player. After graduation, the 6’10” Thomann became the first basketball player in Taylor history to become a major college player at Michigan State University. Fred graduated from State with a teaching degree and briefly taught in the Taylor School District. He transferred to Plymouth and became the Boys’ Basketball coach where he compiled an excellent record and then took over the Girls’ Basketball program and led them to the great record mentioned in the article.

Fred Thomann passed away on December 27, 2013.

Do You Remember?



The Clark Oil tank explosion December 15, 1979, at Beech Daly and south of Ecorse. A pre-dawn explosion of a 1.2-million-gallon tank turned into a huge fire that destroyed 3 homes and caused about 5,000 residents within a two-square mile radius to evacuate to emergency shelters. The fire burned for 23 hours until it was finally extinguished.

Upcoming Events

August 3, 2021:

Primary Election - Get out and vote.

August 4, 2021:

At the Taylor Conservatory “Slim & His Rock-a-Billy Devils”

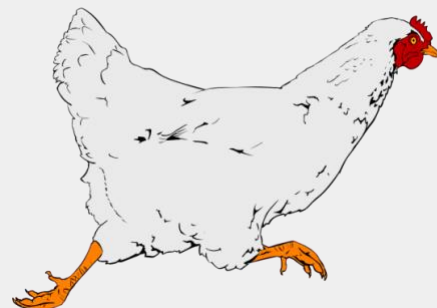
GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

Dave Gorgon is nicknamed “Mr. Taylor” for his decades of promotion of the city to anyone that will listen. He has taken hundreds of thousands of photos during his time as City of Taylor public information director and photographer, as communications director for the Junior League Baseball World Series, as a reporter and editor for The Mellus and News-Herald Newspapers and as a Taylor resident. For the last 10 years, he has posted many of those photos on the Facebook page Heritage Park Photo of the Day, which has more than 7,000 followers all over the region. Dave serves on the board of the Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry, The Information Center, and the Taylor Historical Commission, all based in Taylor. He has been a supporter of the Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens since its creation.

A LITTLE HUMOR

Two men were discussing the merits of a book. One of them, himself an author, said to the other, “You can’t appreciate it because you never wrote a book yourself.”

“No,” the other man retorted, “and I never laid an egg, but I am still a better judge of an omelet than any hen.”



History of Girls' Sports in Taylor

It may surprise you that there were no Girls' sports teams in Taylor Schools until 1970 when the Girls' gymnastic team was created. In 1972, the girls' tennis team was started, followed by swimming in 1973 and volleyball in 1974. Could not find a starting date for girls' basketball. We are certain that there are grads out there that know, and we would appreciate hearing from you.

We Could Use Your Help

The following records need to be updated. Please notify me at johnpantalone@sbcglobal.net if you can provide an email address for any of the following:

TCH CLASS OF 1970	JFK CLASS OF 1970
ACKER, JIM	ABERCROMBIE, SANDRA
ADAMS, DAVID	ACKER, KATHLEEN
ADAMS, STEVEN	ADKINS, DEBRA
ADKINS, JAMES	ADKINS, MICHAEL
AITKEN, GEORGE	ALEXANDER, MICHAEL
ALBERTSON, KNUD	ALLIE, SHARON
ALLEN, MARGARET	ALTMAN, LARRY
ALLMAN, MARY	ANDERSON, JANE
ANDERSON, TERRIE	ANTAL, LINDA
ANSELM, PAUL	ARMES, LARRY
ARCHAMBEAU, LARRY	ATKINSON, SHARON
ATANOSIAN, DEBORAH	

Memories From Years Ago by John Pantalone

I was recently in Pia's with 5 or 6 grads from Taylor Schools who were discussing their memories of Pia's. The conversation was so much fun, I thought I would contact you with the question "What are your memories of Pia's during your High School Days?"

Please send me your favorite memories, such as 1st dates, birthdays, special events, etc., to me at johnpantalone@sbcglobal.net and I will share some of the responses in our September newsletter.



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 we receive deaths from the past that are not listed in our newsletter, they will be posted on the "In Memoriam" section on our website. 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.

TAYLOR CENTER HIGH SCHOOL

- ✦ Mary Ann Calabrese Sclater, Class of 1957 (passed July 16, 2021)
- ✦ Susan Hoover James, Class of 1963 (passed July 24, 2021)
- ✦ David James, Class of 1968 (passed June 9, 2021)
- ✦ Paul Dawson, Jr, Class of 1963 (passed September 5, 2020)
- ✦ Steven Sandifer, Class of 1972 (passed June 24, 2021)
- ✦ Gregory Hunt, Class of 1981 (passed July 7, 2021)
- ✦ Allen Kennedy, Class of 1988 (passed July 2020)

JOHN F KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

- ✦ Tamara (Tammy) Mull, Class of 1986 (passed June 16, 2008)
- ✦ Paula Schroeder, Class of 1986 (passed) June 29, 2017)

HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL

- ✦ Julian Maddox, Class of 2007 (passed August 22, 2010)
- ✦ Deanna Craig, Class of 2007 (passed July 26, 2015)
- ✦ Justin Fraley, Class of 2008 (passed July 13, 2013)

STAFF

- ✦ Maria Kasten, 6th grade teacher at Kinyon (passed July 16, 2021)

For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit the alumni website tayloralumni.org and click on "In Memoriam".