



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

# December Alumni Newsletter 2015

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## **IN THE NEWS**



**Gary Procop M.D. M.S.,** John F Kennedy Graduate class of 1983, was elected President of the American Board of Pathology. Dr. Procop was also honored by the College of American Pathologists with the Distinguished Patient Care Award for his national work during the "Ebola"

crisis. He also received the Mastership designation by the American Society of Clinical Pathology for his ground-breaking work in test utilization management.

While at the world renowned Cleveland Clinic, Gary held the following positions:

- Medical Director, Enterprise Test Utilization and Consultative Services
- Director of Molecular Microbiology, Virology, Mycology and Parasitology
- Professor of Pathology at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine

The Taylor Alumni Association extends congratulations to Gary Procop for what has been an outstanding career. Gary is another of many Taylor Public School graduates who have gone on to fabulous careers. 📝

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**GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Taylor School District.** The Taylor school district is the largest governmental unit of its kind in the Downriver area of suburban Detroit and ranks fifth in student population in Wayne County. At the heart of the Taylor School District is its comprehensive pre-K-12 curriculum that provides a clear direction for teachers and administrators. This curriculum includes all subjects taught, from pre-kindergarten through senior high advanced placement. It also includes such areas as special education, technology and school-to-work. A list of just a few of the many programs offered are below.



- Johnson Early Learning Center serving families and 0-4 year olds
- All-day kindergarten
- Early intervention programs
- K-5 Balanced Literacy Program
- Young reader help from Taylor Reading Corps
- Taylor Virtual Learning Academy, providing classes online 24/7
- Advanced placement classes
- Junior ROTC at both high schools
- Opportunity to earn college credit by taking classes at local Colleges
- Accreditation for Taylor Public Schools
- Family Programs

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**JROTC** - Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps is flourishing at Kennedy High School. The mission of the organization is "Motivating Young People to Become Better Citizens". Currently there are 148 students actively involved in the program. Parts of the program include drill and color guard units. There are 50 cadets training in these units at 5:45 am Monday through Thursday. That dedication has resulted in the units winning several awards.



The JROTC units have preformed at home football games, school assemblies and other community events. October 25-27 members of the JROTC attended a weekend survival camp working toward a survival medal. Not an easy task as they must complete a 6 mile walk/run in two hours, cook food over a fire they build, orienteer from one point to another using only a compass, pace count and build an improvised shelter and sleep overnight in that shelter.

The Taylor Alumni Association congratulates Major Peppins and Sergeant First Class Burton for their time and devotion to helping the students of Taylor Public Schools. 📖

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## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Becki James Jaeger—TCH Class of 73 is living in Hillsdale, Michigan. Becki recently attended Hallway Institute and obtained a Realtor's license. She is now working for Century 21 Action Associates in Hillsdale.

At Taylor Center, I was the first to wear the ram mascot. Mrs. Beatle convinced me to do it. I Sang in the choir, GAA, was on the Taylor Center Gymnastics team, vault and trampoline, and



played powder puff football. I was a quiet person who pushed hard in studies to be in the top 10 of the class 1973. I had perfect attendance throughout high school.

I got engaged my junior year, graduated in June and the next month married my neighbor, the late Mark Jaeger, who lived 5 doors down. I love men in a uniform, he was in The Navy. We moved to the country, Hillsdale County, due to the family business to relocate from downtown Detroit away from the riots.

While we raised our 2 children, I went to Kellogg Community College for nursing and graduated LPN. I returned back to the same college two years later for an ADN RN. I worked 20 years then retired, which lasted **only** two years. I decided to get back into something...my choice was to becoming a Realtor. I went to Holloway Institute passed, took state boards and I'm a licensed Realtor in Michigan.

Also I'm a Advance Master Gardener since 1999 thru Michigan Extension/MSU. I was a Hillsdale Garden Club member for 15 years. During which time I was the tenure President for three terms, Chairman for 9 years green sale and **increased** profits to numbers never seen before.

Michigan Garden Club, Inc (MGC) District IIA director 2013-2015.

Landscape design Consultant thru MGC.

Love flower design and flower arranging.

Life memberships for: MGC, Central Region, National Garden Club.

To contact me I can be reached from 3 to 6 on my cell phone 517-250-7722 (I've gotta be at work answering the phone at the realty) or at home 517-437-7171 Wednesday evenings. 📞



## LET'S GET TO KNOW OUR VOLUNTEERS

### Let's get to know the Volunteers that do so much for the Taylor Alumni Association

Michele Milledge Stephens, Taylor Center High Class of 1975, edits and puts together our monthly newsletter—what a professional job she does with it.

After graduating from Taylor Center High, Michele attended Detroit College of Business. Her career then began at AAA's Headquarter in Dearborn, Michigan followed by the Environmental Protection Agency and Credit Suisse First Boston Investments in New York City.



Several years after moving to NY she met and married her husband of 28 years Bruce; together they have one son. As her son was growing up, Michele wanted to be as much a part of his early years as she could. So she decided to leave the work force and be a stay at home mom. This allowed her to be an active member of the PTA and work as a floater in her son's school system. While volunteering as a PTA member she discovered she had a gift for designing and a passion for arts & crafts.

Ten years ago, she, with her husband's help, started her own business, Cherished Memories Plus, a photography and design studio, ([cherishedmemoriesplus.com](http://cherishedmemoriesplus.com)). She started by designed scrapbooks and custom greeting cards. A few years later, when her husband a photographer, joined the business she designed all their wedding albums and coffee table books. She later took courses in graphic design which has allowed them to expand the business to include helping other business's and startups with their business branding.

Michele is an active member in her church where she and Bruce serve as Directors of the Photography Ministry. Michele now lives in a small town in Southern New Jersey.

The Taylor Alumni Association is so very fortunate that Michele has found the time to add her professional touch to our monthly newsletter every month. Thank you Michele! 📝





1. A Rubber Band Pistol was confiscated from Algebra Class because it was a weapon of Math Disruption.
  2. Nothing is opened by mistake more than the mouth.
  3. The Soldier who survived Mustard Gas and Pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
  4. When you stop believing in Santa Clause is when you starting getting clothes for Christmas.
  5. I Told Santa you were good this year...He hasn't stopped laughing since.
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December 9th ..... The Taylor Foundation for Educational Excellence will be holding a breakfast to honor those who have sponsored scholarships this year. The breakfast will be held in the student run restaurant the "The Chopping Block" located in the Taylor Career Center. For more information on how to sponsor a scholarship, contact the Scholarship Committee Chairperson Ken Nelson at 734-453-2776.

January 12, 2016 The Taylor Foundation for Educational Excellence will also be holding a spaghetti dinner at the William D. Ford Senior Activity Center, 6750 Troy, Taylor, Mi 48180 4pm - 7pm. The dinner will benefit Taylor Public School Non-funded Student Programs.

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## FOLLOW-UP

### BAND REUNION TO HONOR DIRECTOR ROGER CRAIG

Eighty Two JFK Band members from the 1960's were on hand October 24th to honor their esteemed band director, Mr. Roger Craig.

The proceedings were emceed by Cindy Gregory. She introduced five former drum majors, John Bowyer, Tom Fioritti, Paul Lytikainen, Russ Pobursky and Ron Reyna who all called the former band members to attention. Mr. Craig then gave a wonderful speech reminiscing about the good old days.

The group was then treated to a few numbers by the current award winning JFK Band, directed by Andrea Bonner the current band director.

This was clearly a once in a lifetime event that was enjoyed by all. 📖



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## 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.*

### Taylor Center High

Sharon Gregg Mandall, Class of 1963, (passed September 8, 2015)

### Other

Earlene "Rusty" Nugent, (passed October 28, 2015) Secretary in district mostly at Johnson Elementary.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE



**P**eople come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime. When you know which one it is, you will know what to do for that person.

When someone is in your life for a **Reason**, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, To aid you physically, emotionally or spiritually. They may seem like a Godsend and they are. They are there for the reason you need them to be. Then, without any wrongdoing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end.

Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand. What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered and now it is time to move on.

Some people come into your life for a **Season**, because your turn has come to share, grow

or learn. They bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done.

They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it, it is real. But only for a season.



**Lifetime** relationships teach you lifetime lessons, things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, Love the person and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life.

It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant, thank you for being a part of our life, whether you were a reason, a season or a lifetime. 📖

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*We think this is the perfect piece of writing to help us evaluate the relationships we have had in our lives. Maybe the people we have lost were just put in our lives for a reason, or a season. Once that reason had been filled, or the season had passed, they have to move on to continue fulfilling their purpose, whether in this world or beyond. The loss of their presence in our lives is painful, but once the mourning and longing for them has passed, we have to be thankful for all of the wonderful things they shared with us, and we with them.*  
—YOUR TAYLOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION