

IN THE NEWS



Alumni Newsletter January 2023

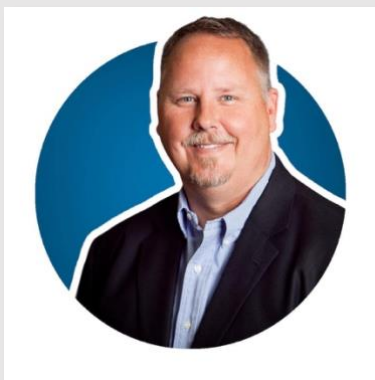
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Plans are moving along for a new high tech senior high school. Tentatively scheduled is the demolition of John F Kennedy in March of 2023.

Would you, JFK Alumni, want to be part of this event?

If so, what do you suggest being planned? And are you willing to be part of planning this event? It is sad to see the school we loved so much be demolished, but very exciting to see the start of the new high school.



Another Taylor Public School graduate who has put together an outstanding career - Mayor Tim Woolley, TCH 1988

Tim grew up on Glenis Street in the northwest corner and attended Treadwell Elementary and then Hoover Junior High School. He played basketball and helped win multiple championships at Hoover. He graduated from Taylor Center High School in 1988...continued on page 2

*continued from page 1...*After a hiatus from the sport, Tim played football as a senior. He has nothing but fond memories of friends, teachers and staff while attending Taylor Schools and still stays in touch with many of my neighborhood friends, old classmates, and some teachers that he now considers friends. Tim and his wife Amy started dating their senior year.

After high school, he attended Henry Ford Community College – and realized that college wasn't for him. Shortly after leaving HFCC, he joined the United States Army and did his basic Training and schooling at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He returned home on holiday leave and proposed to Amy on Christmas Eve, 1989. Tim ended up trained as a Forward Observer for artillery. Forward Observers pinpoint and relay the artillery targets to the guns, an extremely important job that saves lives on the battle's frontlines. Upon completion of training, he was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, his permanent duty station. There, Tim served in the 2nd Armored Division. He was with 2/1 Cav., an Armored Cavalry Division Scout Unit. In August 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait and Tim's outfit was told that their group, Tiger Brigade, was going to be a part of the 1st Cavalry Division. All of this was in preparation for "Desert Shield." Tim and his brigade arrived in Saudi Arabia in September and started moving north to Iraq. In January 1991 Desert Shield became "Desert Storm." The mission was to take out the Republican Guard and Tim's team was successful in its goals.

He arrived back in the states in April 1991. Tim and Amy started planning a wedding for September. They have now been married for 31 years and have a son Dylan and a daughter Sarah, both graduates from Truman High School. Tim's family also has two crazy dogs: Bailey a chocolate lab and Luna a black lab. They decided to stay and raise their family in Taylor. Tim got involved with Little Leagues and other organizations. He also started to pay more attention to what was going on around the city. As time went on, he started to watch City Council meetings, which convinced him to run for political office to serve his community.

Tim campaigned for City Council seat in 2013 and was successful. He successfully ran for re-election in 2017 and eventually was elevated to the Chairman of the City Council the following year. By 2021, Tim decided to campaign for Mayor. He thought he was a good choice for the job after eight years on council. He also received great feedback from residents while going door-to-door during his campaign. In November 2021 voters elected Tim Woolley as Taylor's newest Mayor, only the eighth man in history to serve in that capacity. Tim says that he's still honored and humbled to be given this opportunity. Looking back, he admits that he would have never imagined while going through Treadwell, Hoover, and Taylor Center that he would someday be the Mayor of Taylor.

A LITTLE HUMOR TO START THE NEW YEAR

Bread is a lot like the Sun

It rises in the yeast and sets in the waist

Nurse comes in and said, "Doc, there's a man in the waiting room who thinks he is invisible. What should I tell him?" The Doc said, "tell him I can't see him today".

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HONORING DONORS

The Taylor Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence held its annual appreciation breakfast at The Chopping Block Restaurant on Wednesday, December 7. The foundation awards scholarships and makes other educational donations to the Taylor Schools each year. Founded in 1986, it has now supported the district and its students for 36 years. Last year, it awarded \$34,000 worth of scholarships in addition to funding large group trips to the Fisher Theater and Heritage Park Petting Farm. Former Taylor educator Ken Nelson served as the master of ceremonies during Wednesday's event, which featured a speech by Logan Dukes, who graduated No. 2 in the Class of 2022. Dukes spoke of his unique continuing educational dream, which he's currently living out while attending the MIAT College of Technology, a trade school, with a focus on aviation maintenance. As Dukes pointed out, a

university education isn't for everyone, and the scholarship he earned from the foundation is supporting his efforts to follow his dreams and create a tremendous professional career path. Many of the scholarship donors were on hand for the breakfast, including Mayor Tim Woolley. The audience was entertained by members of the Taylor High School choir and band, who played several holiday songs. Look for the foundation to award this year's scholarships to students during Taylor High School's Senior Honors Assembly in the spring.



SPEAKING MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE



The Taylor School District is diverse in many ways. Currently, we have over 360 Taylor School District students who live in a home where another language is spoken. These students are known as English Learners. Some of our English Learners identify as a newcomer, or a student who is new to the country and at a beginning or entering level of English proficiency. Some newcomers have limited or interrupted formal education. This means not only are students adjusting to a whole new language, but they are also adjusting to attending school. However, most of our English Learners are Long Term English Learners. This describes students born in the U.S. or who have been attending U.S. schools for at least five years. These students tend to have excellent spoken and conversational English but struggle with literacy and academic language...continued on page 4

Continued from page 3... The Taylor School District has been increasing support for English Learners over the past few years. We secured grant funding for teachers to earn a free master's degree and become endorsed in teaching English as a Second Language. Beginning this school year, Taylor has started an English Learners department. We have 6 teachers who specialize in supporting the specific needs of English Learners. In addition, many Taylor teachers are trained in specific techniques as well. Our Director, Ms. Spencer Riley, oversees this department.

Over 20 languages are spoken by Taylor students, including Arabic, Spanish, Urdu, Albanian, Romanian, Vietnamese, and several West African dialects. Our students also represent nearly 30 home countries. One challenge our English Learners face is accessing academics at a high-level especially for our older students who want to do well on the SAT and get into college. A challenge that our English Learner families experience is having full access supporting their children's education. To help address this issue, we work with translation services to support English Learner families who want to attend conferences and other events. We celebrate our diversity through learning about other cultures. Recently, the Pakistani students at Taylor High School hosted a "Pakistani Party" where they dressed in traditional clothes and shared homemade foods, music, and traditions.

TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT TO HOST INAUGURAL CELEBRATE TAYLOR EVENT, BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER THIS SPRING

Taylor School District will host Celebrate Taylor an event that brings together local businesses, organizations, and community members to celebrate all the great things happening in Taylor, at Taylor High School on Thursday, April 27, from 5-8 p.m.

"This community is extremely special," says Griff Mills, Taylor School District superintendent. "Everyone cares about representing the city of Taylor in the best way possible. And that's what we're celebrating." The event is expected to have over 200 vendors showing off the best they have to offer, including food items, performances from our students and other local businesses displays. The best part of it all? It's completely free for everyone.

"Celebrate Taylor will be free to both the businesses who want to attend and the community members who want to walk through all the displays," says Supt. Mills. "Businesses will not be allowed to sell anything at this event, so everything they bring for patrons will be completely free." According to Supt. Mills, there are three main goals for Celebrate Taylor. To showcase the work our students, do, to increase the community's awareness of the programs the district has to offer and to allow businesses to showcase their services and products.

"We get so caught up in the day-to-day in all of our lives," he says...*continued on page 5*

Continued from page 4... “Everyone is extremely busy, and we don’t always realize all of the great things around us. That’s why we’re hoping this event will give everyone an opportunity to just take in everything Taylor has to offer.”

The event will take place in the gymnasium, hallways and on some of the outdoor grounds of Taylor High School. Each vendor will get a table set up to display their businesses or organizations and showcase their products or services. There will also be raffle baskets and other prizes.

“We’re excited for a good turnout at this event,” says Supt. Mills. “We are hoping everyone will see this and get as excited as we are about this city.”

If you’d like to learn more, ask a question or if you’re a business or organization that would like to staff a table at the event, please visit www.taylorschools.net/celebrateTaylor. As more information becomes available, you’ll be able to find it on that page.





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.

JOHN F KENNEDY

- ✦ Terry V. Crump, Sr., Class of 1979 (passed on November 12, 2022)
- ✦ Andy Howick, Class of 1992 (passed November 30, 2022)
- ✦ Diana Whitwell-Neely, Class of 1972 (passed on December 13, 2022)
- ✦ Rick Mouro, Class of 1976 (passed December 15, 2022)
- ✦ Rosemary (Carmack) Jacobs, Class of 1972 (passed December 17, 2022)
- ✦ Carol Wisusik, Class of 1976 (passed on December 24, 2022)

TAYLOR CENTER HIGH SCHOOL

- ✦ Judy Woolford Korody, Class of 1960 (passed December 3, 2022)
- ✦ Michael D. Murphy, Class of 1990 (passed December 8, 2022)

HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL

- ✦ David Welch, Class of 1986 (passed December 27, 2020)
- ✦ Alan Sobecki, Class of 1978 (passed December 21, 2021)
- ✦ Lori Blair Masters, Class of 1977 (passed December 3, 2022)
- ✦ Shawn Potter, class of 1991 (passed December 12, 2022)

STAFF

- ✦ Robert Adamczyk, Retired Elementary Principal (passed November 18, 2022)

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