

IN THE NEWS



Alumni Association



Taylor School District

Alumni Newsletter September 2021

KEN AVERY

A TCH Grad in the class of 1957, he had an outstanding record as a high school pitcher. At Michigan State University he compiled a 9-win 2-loss record and was signed by the Detroit Tigers to a major league contract. Ken was assigned to Thomasville in the Georgia-Florida league where he posted a 6-2 record, earning him a promotion to Jamestown in the NYP league where he won 9 more games. The following year with the Duluth-Superior Dukes of the Northern League, Ken had a 13-4 record on a pitching staff that included future big leaguers Denny McClain and Joe Sparma. He had married Connie the previous fall and, rather than return to pro ball the next season, Ken decided to focus on family and a career outside of baseball. He began teaching and coaching in the Taylor School District and eventually retired as the district athletic director.

(Much of this was taken from a recent article that appeared in the "Society for American Baseball Research").

The Taylor Alumni Association extends congratulations to Ken Avery on an outstanding career.

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

The Veteran's Museum has been moved from the small location in City Hall to the newly renovated old courthouse. The new museum has a large glass wall that overlooks the spacious Cameron Priebe Plaza. Included in that area are memorial areas to fallen soldiers and police. The new museum is 5 or 6 times as big as the old location. The new location offers room for growth and is much more suitable for school and organizational tours by larger groups.



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

MEMORIES OF PIA'S



In my early teens, Saturdays were wonderful days for me. That day my mom took a break from cooking and ordered a pizza from Pia's. I would pick it up and, being too young to drive, I walked the five blocks to their shop. This allowed me a "double dip." I got to smell that wonderful aroma on the return five blocks and then, when I got it home, I got to eat it with my family. Life was good back then - and still is. Back in Pia's early days they didn't have a dining area; they had a kitchen, a front counter and a small space between the counter and door (without chairs) paid for and picked up the pizza.

Ellis Ankony TCH '60

I can remember when Pia's was the only pizza for miles. I remember my sister Janet having a party and ordering a huge pie in the old white box with a few of the toppings and cheese stuck to the box lid. Remember scraping the top of the box and either dropping it back on the pizza or just popping it in your mouth? Maybe 1959? *Jim Crawford TC' 74*

Chris Russell here, JFK class of 1976. Just a few things to say about Pia's pizzeria, I grew up one block away on Harding Street and when I was a kid Pia's was in very small building that housed two businesses. The east side of the building was Pia's, and the west side of the building was a lawnmower repair shop. At some point Pia's turned that west side of the original building into their first dine-in area. I also remember that all the gals in the kitchen spoke Italian. You don't realize what great pizza you have until you move away and can't find anything that even comes close to Pia's pizzeria.

THE FOLLOWING ARE PIA'S MEMORIES FROM CHUCK BONNERS' MEDIA SITES

Chuck, a 1967 graduate of JFK, has been the greatest contributor to the newsletter since its inception. He is also a great historian regarding the City of Taylor. We can't thank him enough.

Pat Pigion Wamsley - First pizza I ever had was at Pia's. It was pick-up only then. Class of 1958

Susan Miller Bonds - On a first date, when I was still a thin young woman, a guy bought a medium pizza, and I ate more than half of it. He was surprised and impressed that I could eat like that and still be thin. We didn't have another date. Maybe he was afraid he couldn't afford me.

Chelsea Weeks - Oh, man! That's still my favorite pizza place. I live in another state now but always eat there when I visit.

Liz Kurylo - My sister, Eleanor Meissner, and Jay Martin used to play in a band on the weekends

Cindy Brown Groff - Not school related, but a fond memory nonetheless... my dad would order late on Friday night as a special treat in time for the scary movie

Last but not least for this issue - We will use more next month.

Piper Ann Coleman - On a blind date arranged by a friend and her boyfriend on Friday August 13, 1971, we went bowling and then to Pia's. I was going into my senior year at Kennedy. I married that blind date in 1975 and we were married for almost 45 years when he passed last year.

****** What a great memory!! ******

CITY OF TAYLOR EVENTS

TAYLOR MADE MARKET Every Wednesday
Sheridan Pavilion 2-6 pm

September 18: PAR FOR THE COURSE GOLF
OUTING

Benefits Fish & Loaves Food Pantry Taylor
Meadows Golf Course

September 18-19: WILD WEEKEND Petting Farm
11am-4pm

September 25: DOWNRIVER RELAY FOR LIFE
Heritage Park 9am

September 25-26: PONY RIDES Petting Farm 11am-4pm

October 2-3: Train Rides Petting Farm 11am-4pm



OUT AND ABOUT

Taylor Alumni who are excellent entertainers:

Mary Boss Boonenberg, HST Class of 1980 – Guitar and Vocalist – performs at Salute Restaurant in Taylor every Friday 6:30-9:30

Michael Shelton, JFK Class of 1971 – Piano & Vocalist – performs in the lounge at La Bistecca Restaurant in Plymouth every Friday & Saturday

LOST AND FOUND

We are in possession of a TCH 1982 class ring that we believe belonged to a player on the 1982 TCH football team. If you lost that ring or know anything about it, please contact us by email at tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

CORRECTION: In the August newsletter there was a success story regarding *Jack Giraud Jr.* His last name was misspelled as *Girauld*.



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

- ◇ Garry Flucks, Class of 1961 (passed February 18, 2021)

JOHN F KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

- ◇ Gregory Headley, Class of 1966 (passed July 11, 2021)
- ◇ William (Billy) Anderson, Class of 1985 (passed January 26, 2010)
- ◇ Lorne Waite, Class of 1985 (passed December 31, 1996)
- ◇ Timothy Wilburn, Class of 1985 (passed October 9, 2016)

HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL

- ◇ Arthur Hall, Class of 1984 (passed July 31, 2021)

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