

IN THE NEWS



Alumni Newsletter July 2024

PLEASE - WE NEED A PUBLISHER!

Do you enjoy reading the monthly newsletter? Out of our many thousands of graduates there has got to be someone with publishing experience willing to take on this important job. We make it as easy as possible; you don't have to live in Taylor or even Michigan! We will supply you with all the info. You can put it in a newsletter form (it doesn't have to be fancy!), send to us for proofing and send us the final and we do the rest. PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE THE NEWSLETTER; email us if you are interested in the publishing "experience": tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

Taylor Schools Alumni Association Updates

Alumni Get Together was a Success!

Our Alumni Get Together held at the Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens (we ended up in the Sheridan Open Air Pavilion as the temps soared that day!) was a success. They said it was the largest crowd they had ever had. TC had close to 60 attendees, JFK had close to 50 attendees and HST had close to 40+ attendees. Our Alumni are the best! Lots of good food, good music and great company! Just a reminder, the Taylor Conservatory "Music and Art in the Gardens" continues every Wednesday, rain or shine through July 24!

Taylor Alumni Association Museum

We are still in a bit of a "holding" pattern on the Alumni Museum (for those not aware of the museum, we finally, after 20+ years have a place to call home for all of the items we have collected from not only the three high schools but junior highs and elementary schools which have closed. We have been given an area and some storage at the former Brake Junior

High/Middle School/6th Grade Academy which is now the School Board Annex). There is some equipment which needs removal right in the middle of our storage/work area and we are waiting to hear on funding for removal.

Yearbooks and Class Composites

Missing your old yearbooks? Class composite? We can help! We have scanned copies of old yearbooks and some hard copies; we are working on junior high and elementary. We sell hard copy and scanned printed copies for \$25 plus mailing fee if it needs to be mailed. We also have class composites (student size) for most schools and classes. Just email the Alumni Association: tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com.

JFK Souvenir Bricks

We are in the process of getting the small plaques to attach to the Kennedy school bricks along with the certificate of authenticity and will announce soon when, where and how much they will be available for purchase. (P.S. we do still have Taylor Center bricks available for purchase!)

Taylor School District -

At its December 20, 2023, meeting, the Taylor School Board proposed a plan to bring financial sustainability to the district. Consolidation of some schools would help with that decision. On January 10, 2024, the board voted 6–1 to go forward with the consolidation. At the end of the 2023-2024 school year, Eureka Heights closed their doors for the final time as the first step in the consolidation. Eureka Heights building will become Johnson Early Start which is now located on Wohlfeil in the former Johnson Elementary school. After the 2024-2025 school year, Johnson will move into the newly renovated building on Eureka Road.

Some other moves that are planned to be made at the end of the 2024-2025 school year are: Hoover Middle school will combine with West Middle school at the West building and possibly be renamed Taylor Middle School; Sixth graders will take over Kinyon Elementary school which is right next door to West, where a walkthrough will

be created so the sixth graders can use the facilities at the middle school making it a Middle School complex; Kinyon will move to Johnson's former building; Clarence Randall and some of Taylor Parks students will go to Hoover's building and will be renamed a new elementary, then Randall's building will be demolished; the Taylor Parks students that live in the Pinecrest area will go to Moody and Taylor Parks building will be demolished; Utility Department (formerly Pine Elementary) will be demolished and that department will move to the PRC building near Taylor High School.

Lots of happenings and movements will be going on and hopefully, the new Taylor High School will begin its construction on the former Kennedy site.

If you have any questions, you can go to Taylorschools.net and under the revitalization plan you can ask question

Reunions -

Class of 74 Reunion Time!!

We are reaching out for contact information for our classmates from all 3 Taylor High Schools. Send us your email address as well as any other personal contact information you are willing to share with the reunion committee so we may reach out to you. This information will not be made public. Please also pass this information on to any classmates you may still be in touch with.

Include your maiden name and high school attended. We are also looking for 1974 Veterans. Please send your branch and years to the email listed. Thank you!

Also, trying to get an idea how many alumni are interested in this event in October. Please indicate whether or not you are considering attending. Respond to:
Classof74taylormi@gmail.com

event in October. Please indicate whether or not you are considering attending.

JFK Class of 1979 45 Year Reunion

September 7, 2024, 6:30pm - 12 am, Greenback's Pub, 3807 Fort St, Wyandotte, MI, \$25; ticket includes: pizza, salad, pop, desserts, live entertainment (Current Situation Band Featuring JFK's own Dean Sokoll (class of 78) and Chris Rokas (class of 80), cash bar. To purchase tickets make check payable to: Dave King, PO Box 351, Grosse Ile, MI. 48138 or venmo to Kimberly-McCombe; contact Dave King @ (734) 318-3673 or Steve Meharry @ (313) 575-4596. For anyone wishing to book a hotel room, a block of rooms is being held at: Fairfield Inn Marriot 20779 Eureka Rd, Taylor (734) 977-0145



Free Press Photo by BUD JOHNSON

TAYLOR MADE—Coach Bob Sclater (left) chats with his three Taylor Center High School stars. The three boys learned their basketball under Sclater on the township's lone gym floor. The three—Wayne Thweatt, Fred Thomann and Spencer Hammons—have played together for three years.

Taylor Center High Has Jumpingest Gym in Area

BY JOE DOWDALL

Every day is "like downtown at Christmas time" on a 94-by-50-foot hardwood floor out near Wick and Telegraph. You have to move—quickly, that is—from being trampled on.

The hardwood floor covers Taylor Center High School's spacious new \$100,000 gym. The gym serves as the recreation center for the West Side community's explosive population which has multiplied seven times since World War II.

More than 50,000 residents in the 24-square-mile area now use the paved streets that cover what were once cow paths.

"THE WIDE OPEN spaces of Taylor always gave us more than our share of excellent baseball players," said Bob Sclater, TC coach. "But this new gym is paying off in fine basketball material in just three years."

Sclater has a team with great potential in the newly formed Mid-Wayne Conference. Three of its starters have played three of the four years Taylor Center has been a high school.

Fred Thomann, Wayne Thweatt and Spencer Hammons can remember when they attended a junior high school on the site of the new gym. Now they are among the first stars in the school's history.

Thomann is the tallest boy in suburban cage circles. The 6-foot-8 senior center averaged 19 points a game last season and has averaged 25.5 in his first two games this year.

THWEATT AND Hammons are a pair of ball-hawking

guards who work closely with "Big Daddy" Thomann. "Big Daddy" is the oldest on the club at the ripe old age of "just-turned-17."

Thweatt is 6 feet and Hammons 6-foot-3. The boys specialize in ball control.

Up front, Thomann has plenty of board help from Russ Stroud, a 6-foot-3 junior. Bob Lambka (6-1) is the other forward.

"We went as far as the regional finals in last year's state tournament with a young team," Sclater said. "We have more size and experience and are looking to go a lot farther now."

Sclater couldn't talk long. His first- and second-stringers were scrimmaging under one basket, the junior varsity was working out under the other and two squads of cheerleaders were going through their drills at mid-court.

SLATER HAS the gym from 3 to 4:30 for his squad. The reserve teams come in at 4:30, followed by the teams from the township's two new junior high schools.

The adults' recreation teams move in at 7 p.m. and

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keep the lights going on into the night.

"We hope to have new gyms ready at the junior highs soon," Sclater said. "Then we should really have some basketball teams for you boys to write about."

He's got one now.

IS

From the Detroit Free Press on December 9, 1959

During his teaching career in the Taylor School System Charles Dickelman taught at Taylor Center, Kennedy and Truman High Schools as well as Brake Junior High. In 1963 while at Brake he was interviewed by the Detroit Free Press Sunday April 28th edition. During 1963 the Free Press offered a kit with copies of historic documents for \$1.00. The kit included a reproduction of the Declaration of Independence, "Portraits of the Presidents" and other American History items. Mr. Dickelman stated the kits were worth "...far more than a \$1.00 for Social Studies teachers.

Posts From Pantalone-

by John Pantalone

This was sent to me from Robert Sanfilippo, TC 1978 (*has been edited to fit newsletter*) A great career. Proof again that Taylor Public Schools have had a great number of successful graduates. (IF YOU HAVE A GREAT STORY TO TELL, EMAIL IT TO: tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com)

During High School I tried to gain admission to the US Air Force Academy. I didn't get accepted that year but I did get into Michigan State. I spent my freshman year there and applied to USAFA again. I was accepted and joined the Class of '83! After graduation, I went to pilot training in Oklahoma flying the Air Force T-37 & T-38. Upon graduation, I was assigned to the 1402 Military Airlift Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland flying C-21's for 4 years.



I was then transferred to northern Michigan at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base. There I flew B-52's for 4 years. Me, far left and crew.



I left active duty and went into the Air Force Reserve flying KC-135's at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mount Clemens Michigan where I met and married my wife of 28 years! Because of all the civilian flying for Tower Air that began in 1998, I left flying for the Air Force and in 2002 became an Academy Admissions Liaison Officer until I retired in 2006. My job was to meet with the brightest High School students interested in going to the Academy services and guide them through the process.

Being in the reserve is a part time job. As such, I began commercial flying with Kalitta flying various Learjets, the twin turbine Beech aircraft and Mu-2

I left Kalitta and began working for Tower Air, a 747 carrier for 3 years flying all the way around the world carrying people and cargo.

In 2000, I was hired by Jetblue Airways when Tower Air went bankrupt. I've been flying the A320, and A321 ever since and am due to retire next May.



I've enjoyed two careers spanning 20 years each. I've been blessed.

Robert Sanfilippo

Major USAFR (Retired)



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 (www.tayloralumni.org), please let us know the name, school, graduating class and date of passing. Thank you.*

Taylor Center

Dennis Dauphinais – Class of 1976 (April 12, 2024)
David H. Breen – Class of 1972 (March 21, 2024)
Larry Heard – Class of 1960 (March 13, 2017)
Ronald Boike – Class of 1957 (May 22, 2024)
Frank Koveleski – Class of 1969 (April 29, 2024)
Virginia Smith – Class of 1979 (June 10, 2024)
Mary Husak – Class of 1977 (January 20, 2021)
Jerry Cromer – Class of 1965 (2015)
Brenda Cromer Koths – Class of 1970 (2000)
Theresa Griffith Reed – Class of 1965 (2016)
Kathleen Rapley Boyle – Class of 1969 (May 5, 1972)

Kennedy

John “Jack” Myers – Class of 1966 (June 18, 2024)
William “Bill” Levergood – Class of 1967 (May 29, 2024)

Truman

Susan Nastwold Blais – Class of 1983 (April 23, 2024)

Staff

Lonnie Cleburn Rice – Teacher, Counselor (May 16, 2023)
Stephen Creutz – Retired Principal of Eureka Heights (June 14, 2024)

For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit 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

Email us:

tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

Facebook:

[TaylorMichiganAlumniAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/TaylorMichiganAlumniAssociation)

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	Shawna (Stein) Maynard (HST 90)
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