

IN THE NEWS



Alumni Newsletter April 2024

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

Alumni recognition-

The Taylor Alumni Association is proud of the alumni we have. So many accomplishments have come out of the Taylor Public Schools!

Nicholas Balmus, Taylor High School Class of 2019, was given a Scholarship of a 4-year apprenticeship to become a Journeyman Electrician. Nic has now reached his goal.

The Taylor Alumni Association congratulates him on his achievement and wishes him the best in the future.

Taylor Schools were in the News! *FLASHBACK*

submitted by John Bowyer JFK '70

In the August 29, 1959, edition of the Battle Creek Enquirer and News it was reported that the Michigan Woman's Relief Corp, an Auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), presented Taylor Township Schools with a portrait of Abraham Lincoln and an American Flag. The GAR was a fraternal organization of veterans of the civil war. A national convention of the Auxiliary had just been held in the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Detroit. Were any of our ancestors' members of the GAR? Wonder why Taylor was singled out to receive such an honor? Anyone remember the portrait of Abraham Lincoln or the special American Flag in any of our school buildings?

Thank you for donations-

1966 Choir Sweater, Kennedy High School - belonged to Gary Rosso (deceased); donated by his niece Karen Bankovic

Welcome New Lifetime Alumni members –

Tim Gerber – Taylor Center 1971
Linda Allgeyer Hautala – Kenedy 1974
Charlie Cates – Kennedy 1975
Beverly Buchko Morris – Kennedy 1979

Posts From Pantalone-

by John Pantalone

REASONS WHY THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS SO HARD TO LEARN

Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.

The farm was used to produce produce.

The bandage was wound around the wound.



Long time Center in the City of Taylor

Penrickton the Beginning as I remember by Jeanette Penman Merrill (TC '57)

Hi, I am Jeanette (Penman) Merrill, class of '57 TCHS and proud to tell you my maiden name is a part of the Penrickton name.

Almost anyone who has ever lived in Taylor at one time or another has heard of Penrickton Nursery or as it is now called Penrickton Center for the Blind. It has been in existence for 67+ years and is still going strong! I am also proud to say I was there in the beginning.

My sisters, Sandra, and Patricia were born 2 ½ months premature. Sandy weighed 2lbs 10oz and Patty weighed in at 2lbs 4oz. They were placed in incubators to keep them alive. Unfortunately, this caused the retinas in their eyes to detach which caused partial blindness in Sandy and total blindness in Patty. They were 3 months old when they weighed enough to come home (that was about 5lbs each). Other than that, they were like normal babies! Crying when hungry and crying when wet!!!! (I was 11 years old at the time and learned how to change and hang out diapers!)

As they grew, the twins progressed slowly. Sandy was walking by about 2 years but not Patty. Drs told us Patty would never do much of anything. We should put her in an institution.

Lillian Ricker, our next-door neighbor and sometimes babysitter, heard of a school in California where children like this were being taught to do all the things, we take for granted. (Ester Williams,

Penrickton (cont'd)

the movie star and swimmer, taught swimming there.) So, Lillian took a trip to California to observe the school. She came back to Taylor excited and ready to get started. She even put little bells on Patty's shoes so she could hear her feet moving and we got an old sturdy doll carriage and put a cement block in it so Patty could learn how to walk!)

We had already heard of many children in the downriver area with the same problems as our twins. One of the first families was Tom and Peggy Wigginton and their daughter Marcia. Reverend Weigel of a local church(St Paul on Goddard) offered the use of their basement Monday thru Friday. We were even able to give the students a hot lunch! So now we needed a name. Pen (Penman) rick (Ricker) ton (Wigginton) came from a few of the letters of each name of the founding members.

The first building was about the size of a two-car garage but today it is huge! It has a wonderful director and staff and visitors are welcome.

Many service organizations helped with the raising of funds to build Penrickton. The Lions Club and many Jewish organizations, Girls Club of Ford's Glass Plant and on and on. Someone even donated a station wagon so that we could transport some of the students around.

It is because of all these organizations and the continuing support of the community that Penrickton is what it is today! They do not receive any state or federal aid of any kind and never have!

The Alumni Association is sharing Jeanette's story written in 2019. If you would like to learn more about Penrickton Center, go to <https://penrickton.org/>



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

Lori Westfall Focht - Class of 1972 (passed February 1, 2021)
Glenda Pridemore Tews - Class of 1972 (passed June 17, 2023)
James Johns - Class of 1960 (passed March 4, 2024)
James T. Natzke - Class of 1977 (passed March 11, 2024)
Renee Dehring Mills - Class of 1982 (passed 11-27-2020)
Ken Bolton - Class 1960 (September 8, 2008)
Debra Chrisman Gentry - Class of 1976 (December 12, 2016)
Donald Thompson - Class of 1982 (March 15, 2024)
Bonnie Bolash Hollandsworth - Class of 1967 (March 17, 2024)
David L. Hall - Class of 1973 (October 31, 2018)
Tim Menard - Class of 1984 (March 25, 2024)
Michael Shafkalis – Class of 1977 (March 3, 2024)
Joette Brookshier – Class of 1972 (August 24, 2023)
Shannon Meyers – Class of 1988 (March 11, 2024)
Katherine Malek Brewer-Cikalo – Class 1972 (September 23, 2017)

Kennedy

James “Mike” Brown - Class of 1989 (Correction on class year) (passed February 3, 2014)

Truman

Michael Crossman – Class of 1976 (passed March 1, 2024)
Renee Meshinski Mulka – Class of 1982 (passed November 27, 2023)

Staff

Donna Baisley – Retired Secretary (passed February 21, 2024)
Robert Atkari – Randall Elementary Lay Personnel (March 22, 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