



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

# February 2017 Alumni Newsletter

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Taylor Alumni Association  
11501 Beech Daly Road,  
Taylor MI 48180  
[tayloralumni.org](http://tayloralumni.org)

## IN THE NEWS



image source: [taylorsportsplex.com](http://taylorsportsplex.com)

**J**OHN MYERS 1966 Graduate of John F Kennedy High School was appointed to the Taylor City Council to fill a vacancy created when Linda Roberts resigned. John is a retired military veteran, a former police officer in Romulus and has been chaplain and commander of American Legion Post 200.

The Taylor Alumni Association wishes John the best in his new position. 📝

## ALUMNI NEWS!



### The Alumni Membership is still on the Rise!

To join send your name, school and year of graduation along with \$25 payable to the Taylor Alumni Association and mail to the Taylor Alumni Association, 11501 Beech Daly Road, Taylor, MI 48180. It's that easy. 📝

## GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### ► The Taylor Public School Foundation

is providing funds for a field trip to the Opera House to see the production of The Lion King. One hundred and thirty students from the Music and Drama programs at Kennedy and Truman are scheduled to see the play February 14 and 16. What an experience as many of the students have never seen a professional production. The Foundation is confident that this will be a great educational event. 📌



► **TEAM TNT 280** has a newly decorated showcase located in the vestibule of the Career Center. The showcase has been redesigned and lined with bright aluminum diamond plate. The work was done using our revamped CNC plasma cutting machine. The machine was given a complete overhaul due to a \$36,000 grant written by Jaqueline Lancina the Principal of the Taylor Career and Technical Center. The CNC Plasma machine now has endless possibilities and will be utilized by the TNT Robotics team and in the Welding and Machine Tools classes.

► **Scholarships:** Another graduate of Taylor Schools, Diane Maceachern JFK 1970, is sponsoring a Scholarship. Diane stated she was given an outstanding education in the Taylor Schools and due to that has had a successful career. Diane joins a growing list of graduates who would like to give back to the schools that helped them so much. The Taylor Public School Foundation thanks Diane Maceachern for her generous contribution.



► **The Chopping Block Restaurant.** Have you been to the The Chopping Block? If not you are missing a very nice restaurant run by students. Open to the public for breakfast and lunch every Thursday and Friday from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. Try it...you will really like it. The Chopping Block is located in the Taylor Career Center located south of Wick Road at 9601 Westlake, Taylor MI. 📌

MY HEAD  
SAYS GYM  
BUT MY  
HEART SAYS  
tacos

# DOWN MEMORY LANE: 50 YEARS AGO

## TCH Class of 1967

The Russian Club under the leadership of Courtland Geib had a field trip to see the movie Dr. Zhivago.

There were 180 students taking music classes from Mr. Greer. He was assisted by the "Music Council" whose leadership consisted of – John Elliott- President, Paula Ingram- Vice President, Dale Williams-Vice President, Marilyn Carroll-Treasurer and Secretaries Sandra Koenig and Janine Crossman.

## JFK Class of 1967

Some 23 after school activities were available and large number of students participated. Just a few for examples. Approximately 45 students were involved with student government with David White President, Cindy Jouney, Vice President, Cheryl Cartin, Secretary and Sherry Retzloff, Treasurer.

Russian Club with Miss Osadchuk as advisor had 25 active participants with Tom Pearson, President.

Radio Club with Mr. Gregory as advisor had 20 members under the leadership of Jim Rowe

Over 150 students participated in an active

Booster Clubs – several buses would transport them to away games- All of this under Advisors Bob Haarala and Ken Nelson and the student leadership of Russ Pobursky & Bill Levergood.

## GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

**City of Taylor.** The attendance at the very popular Daddy/Daughter Dance has been so large that it has moved to The Lakes of Taylor. The tickets are on a first come first served basis and will not be available at the door. There will be two different sessions Saturday February 11th, the first from 4 - 6 pm and the second from 7 – 9 pm.

### Think on this...

► The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be good friends.

► Did you ever notice that the Roman numerals for forty (40) are XL.

► The Garlic Diet: You don't lose weight; you just look thinner from a distance.

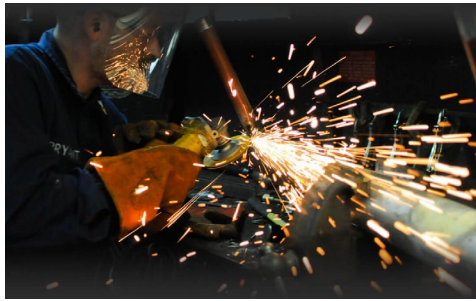


## WHERE ARE THEY NOW... FEATURING THE JFK AND TCH CLASSES OF 1967 (50 YEAR AGO).

### Tom Fraser, JFK 1967

After graduation, Tom learned the 'hard way' about the meaning of 'really hard work' as he scaled the ladder from landscaping, to installations of underground piping systems, to Hydra-Matic to beginning his Pipefitting Apprenticeship. Along the way he acquiring an Associate Degree from Washtenaw Community College. In 1982 Tom was selected to be part of GM's pipefitting team and was sent to Ramos Arizpe in Northern Mexico. Tom than became Senior Lead on the pipefitting team and was sent back to Ramos then on to Silao Mexico and onto San Luis Potosi. From 1999 to 2008 he was on three international tours and two off-shore assignments. In 2008 Tom and his wife Pam had to make a decision. GM offered him a 3 year tour to Brazil. They both decided it was time

for retirement. Pam said, "Thank goodness we chose jointly to come home because almost two years to the day that Tom was "officially retired" both of our lives changed in an instant.



On November 22, 2010 Tom went to the Holly National Military Cemetery to pay respects to friend Tim Straub at his funeral service. After the service Tom spoke with Tim's family and friends including Mr. Pantalone. Tom started for home but within a few minutes an AVM hemmorage (at the center of the brain) started to main. He pulled off the road and was found slumped over his steering wheel and rushed to a hospital in Holly. Pam was

told the odds of survival were 1 of a 100. Those who do survive are generally confined to bed, breathing tubes and wheelchairs. Pam says "The healing process was grueling, painful and without mercy at some times. How he was able to endure all that he went through those 2½ months in ICU, goes beyond the pale of understanding".

Today, Tom Fraser is a new man. He has learned to communicate in non-traditional, but very clever ways. He is back on his tractor mower and manicures the lawn. He shovels snow and goes to the gym 3 times per week.

Pam (Durfée TCH 67) Fraser said to me "Mr. Pantalone, life is good. I don't think either of us would change one thing in exchange for all the love. Peace and Joy our life together has brought us through all these 46 years".

cont'd from pg. 4 "Where are they now"

**Lucy Buford, TCH 1967.**

My Senior year at TCH is very memorable as I met my "True Love", Jim Barringer. Jim and I had a Co-op position in the Board Office which was in the same building as our high school. I worked in the payroll department. That position was a great experience as the entire office force was helpful and friendly. Jim and I were married in 1968, the same year I was hired to be a secretary in the Taylor Schools. I worked as a Secretary for 37½ years. Jim started working at Fords in 1968. After only 10 months Jim received his draft notice to report to South Carolina for Basic Training. Due to having the summer off as a school secretary, I was able to go to South Carolina to be near Jim. He soon left for Vietnam. I was a total mess worrying about his safety. During his

duty in Vietnam he was given a Rest and Relaxation leave and he chose to go to Hawaii where I met him and spent a great two weeks. Jim was discharged in 1970 and went back to Fords and worked for 30 years until his retirement.



Back to 1970 after Jim's Service time...we purchased a home in Taylor and raised two daughters. We felt fortunate that they had an opportunity to attend TCH before it was closed. Both daughters, Carrie (1990 TCH) and Laurie (1993 TCH), feel they had a great education in the Taylor Schools. Both went on to college and have Master's degrees, Carrie in Social Work and Laurie in Nursing. Jim and I have not missed a class reunion and are looking

forward to our 50th Reunion in 2017. We have had a great life and contribute much of that to the education we and are children received in the Taylor Schools.

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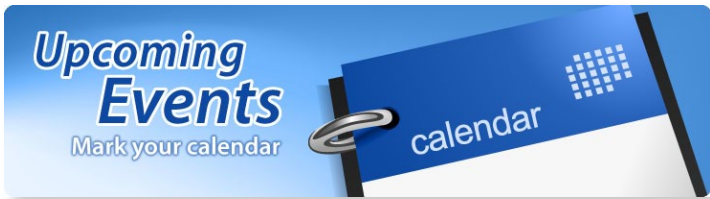
**Louis Brian Theil, TCH**

**1967.** Brian Attended school in the Taylor District from Kindergarten through his Senior year.

He has many fond memories of his education in the district. As he looked back on his years in Taylor Center High, he recalls the building filled with spirit and enthusiasm.

He found many choices of classes and all of the extra-curricular opportunities that were offered. Reflecting on the extra-curricular he feels that every student participated in several clubs. Large crowds attended Basketball & Football games, Drama productions,

see Louis Brian Theil page 6



- February 9th      Foundation Meeting at the School Board office on Northline Road at 8 a.m. All interested in providing our Taylor students the best possible education are encouraged to attend.
- February 13th    Taylor School Board meeting at the school board office on Northline Rd, 6 p.m.
- February 14th    Alumni board meeting 6:30 p.m. at the School Board office on Northline Road. All alumni are welcomed.
- February 17th    JFK Band Bowling Fundraiser—Roosevelt Lanes 5 - 8 pm. For more information contact Band Director Andrea Bonner at 374-1229 ext. 10328.
- February 27th    Taylor School Board meeting at the school board office on Northline Rd, 6 p.m. All are welcomed
- March 25th       Taylor Foundation Fundraiser Dueling Pianos. Mark your calendar...more information to follow.
- July 29, 2017    JFK class of 1967 – 50 reunion 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 pm Taylor Meadows, \$45 per person. Questions contact Linda Pilous 248-478-4145, Gloria Villet 734-775-6167 or Nancy Mascaro 313-291-3556.

cont'd from pg. 5 "Where are they now"  
 Music concerts, dances, etc.  
 Great times for sure he states.

Brian had such a great experience at Taylor Center High he decided to become a teacher. He Graduated from Eastern Michigan

University with a degree to teach elementary. He began his teaching career in 1971 back in Taylor where it all began. He continued his education at Eastern and earned Master's degrees in Educational Administration

and Educational Technology. For 40 years he was an educator in the Taylor School System in the following positions; Elementary Teacher, Special reading and math program, School Improvement Coordinator,

Assistant Director of State & Federal programs, Principal of Kinyon Elementary School and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum. His fondest memories are of the 14 years at Kinyon where he feels he

had the best teaching in the world.

Brian Theil is very thankful he had such great experiences in the Taylor School District from his education K thru 12 & his 40 years of employment.

The Taylor Alumni Association wishes Tom continuing recovery and are very proud of both Tom and Pam. We also thank Tom for his Lifetime membership. 📌

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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.*

### **John F Kennedy High**

Paul Corrigan, Class of 1966 (passed January 6, 2017).

### **Faculty**

Jim Ford, Teacher (passed December, 2016)

For more information about the deceased and there families, please visit the alumni website [tayloralumni.org](http://tayloralumni.org) and click on "In Memoriam".