

# IN THE NEWS



*Alumni Newsletter January 2024*



As 2023 comes to an end, the Taylor Alumni Association reflects on the past year and the things we have accomplished. We published 12 newsletters, honored, and continue to honor, many of our alumni who left us this year, we participated in the first ever school district "Celebrate Taylor" event and continued our goal to raise funds so that we can continue to present two of our Taylor High School graduates with a small scholarship from the Alumni Association. A group of Alumni Association members spent countless hours sorting through the multitude of items we have collected over the years for an alumni museum. Many additional hours of work was spent sorting through Kennedy items to have things available for our sponsored "Kennedy Final Farewell". We also had to make a quick turnaround and pack up and move items as the school district moved our "museum" location from what we thought was the final spot to what we are now told is our final spot (fingers crossed).

For 2024 you will see a change with the newsletter; Mr. John Pantalone has decided to pass the torch on collecting and compiling the monthly newsletter to President, Caroline Patts. Our editor, Lynn Van Keuren will continue to put it all into a great format. But we will need help; we need your ideas for articles, information, etc. Also, for 2024 we hope to get the Alumni Museum up and running; this also requires lots of hands which make quick work of things! Think about this: we have collected items for over 20+ years and as each high school closed many items were added....lots of cataloging needed, and an inventory list created. We also would like to ask for donations for the yearly scholarships we give out to two Taylor High School seniors. As of right now we have given two scholarships, at \$500 each. We would like to give out a more sufficient amount but need your help with that. Anyone wishing to donate to our scholarship, please contact us and we will let you know how to go about doing that.

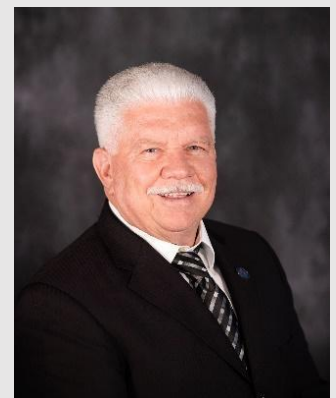
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## The City of Taylor

### **Butch Ramik resigns from City Council**

*From the City of Taylor's website*

One of the City Council's most noticeable faces, Herman "Butch" Ramik, has resigned. Ramik submitted his resignation to City Council Chairman Doug Geiss on December 13 and made the public announcement during the regular meeting on December 19. "I won't forget where I came from," he said during the council meeting. "It's an honor to serve the public – there's nothing like it." Ramik went on to say that he has been nominated ...*continued on page 2...*



...continued from page 1...by Raymond Basham to take over Basham's Wayne County commissioner's post, pending approval by the commission as a whole in early January Basham recently retired and county commissioners often nominate residents from their home districts to fill out their terms. This Taylor City Council term was the fourth time Ramik was elected to the seven-member body.

Ramik served in the military during the Vietnam War. He was with the 23rd Infantry Division out of Chu Lai. He returned home a highly decorated soldier after being awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and other military citations. He went on to become an Army drill sergeant at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri serving the military, he served on the Taylor Police Department for 20 years, where he also earned a Purple Heart, Medal of Valor, and Mayor's Medal. Overall, he served in law enforcement for 35 years.

*Ramik was a security officer at West Middle School until his resignation.*

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## POLICE PURCHASE STARCHASE SYSTEM

**Stopping high speed chases before they begin**

**New system enables police to 'tag' vehicles and track them down, using GPS**



High-speed police pursuits are a constant public safety challenge for law enforcement officials. Taylor Police may have an alternative by using modern technology. Instead of chasing a car, they will literally harpoon it with a "tag" and track the vehicle until they can make an arrest.

This is yet another part of the department's constant efforts to step outside of the typical law enforcement toolbox to improve

practices and keep the community safe. "This is new technology that can eliminate some high-speed chases," Police Chief John Blair said. "It's like firing a dart at a vehicle. You 'tag it,' track it via GPS and eventually apprehend the suspect. "It goes without saying that high-speed chases are dangerous for the police officer, the suspect, and the public. If we can cut down or eliminate the need for these chases, it is a good thing for everyone involved."

The technology is proving to be a valuable tool towards increased community safety. StarChase is just the newest tool in the Taylor Police toolbox of modern crime fighting technologies. Within the past several years, the department has entered into an agreement with Axon Network, which provides everything from Tasers to body and vehicle cameras, along with supporting technology. Meanwhile, Flock Safety has offered license plate recognition camera technology, as well as cameras in the City's parks. In addition, the city has invested in new vehicles and recently renovated the police station on the City Hall campus. ...continued on page 3...

...continued from page 2... “All of this helps our police do their jobs better and makes our community safer,” Mayor Tim Woolley said. “But it also helps us recruit new police officers to Taylor, which is extremely important in this era. We’ve had many young police officers join our force, along with many transfers. One of the first things they mention is all the new technology.”

## News from the Taylor Schools

### Update:

Kennedy High School is almost completely down. No updates on bricks yet. The Alumni Association will let you know when they are ready for sale and distribution.

The board of education building that is on Northline Road has been vacated and abated. All the departments have moved to the former Brake/6th Grade Academy on Pine Street and Superior. This is also the building that houses our Taylor Alumni Museum. (More information on the museum soon) The old board office building will be demolished to make way for the new high school.

### District's New Utilization Plan

In December 2023, the district unveiled its plan to reimagine how it utilizes its elementary schools and how it operates at the middle school level. Here is what was presented at the December 20, 2023, board meeting. This plan will be voted on by the Taylor School Board on January 8, 2023. With capacity in most buildings under 75%, the state funding would be compromised. Capacity according to the state should be at 80%+, therefore, buildings will be combined. It was mentioned before that the two middle schools would be combined and go to the former Truman, now Taylor High school. Combined together both middle schools wouldn't have 80%+ in that building.

### School Year 2024-25

1. Eureka Heights elementary will go to Holland elementary and McDowell elementary
2. Kinyon elementary will go to the Johnson building.
3. Johnson preschool will go to Eureka Heights building

4. Kinyon building will be vacant to work on for the following year as a 6th grade academy.
5. The utility department will move from the Pine Street building to the north side of Career Center on Westlake (old TC Jr.)
6. The Pine Street building will be demolished.

### School Year 2025-26

1. West Middle school will become 7th & 8th grade middle school and be renamed Taylor Middle School
2. Kinyon building will become the 6th grade academy.
3. Randall elementary will move to the Hoover building. The building will be renamed Randall elementary, Randall building on Pardee will be demolished.
4. Taylor Parks elementary will split between Moody elementary and the new Randall elementary. Taylor Parks building will be demolished.

If you have any questions, you can go online at <https://www.taylorschools.net>. There is a form you can fill out and it will be forwarded to the administration.

### Taylor Historical Society

The Taylor Historical Society has finished up a great year. Look for lots of "Taylor-related" historical presentations and events in 2024. The Historical Society and Commission are great partners with the Taylor Alumni Association, each group sharing information with each other to always keep alive our Township/City/School District History!



## 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.*

### **HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL**

- Oscar Reiners, class of 1983 (passed October 18, 2023)

### **TAYLOR CENTER HIGH SCHOOL**

- Martha Lewis, class of 1963 (passed December 6, 2023)
- Nancy Baldwin Waldo, class of 1965 (passed February 1, 2017)
- Chris Fox Dreher, class of 1965 (passed December 13, 2023)
- Larry Althouse, class of 1965 (passed January 2009)
- Gail McCloud Berro, class of 1968 (passed November 1, 2005)
- Cheryl Avery Adams, class of 1969 (passed December 7, 2023)
- Barbara Jones Madarasz, class of 1970 (passed April 20, 2022)
- Mark McCaskill, class of 1973 (passed February 2023)

### **JOHN F KENNEDY**

- Art Turner, class of 1966 (passed October 22, 2023)
- Arthur Joseph, class of 1968 (passed November 6, 2023)
- Mike Longfellow, class of 1971 (passed September 9, 2023)
- Russell Reynolds, class of 1977 (passed September 9, 2023)
- Barry Raupp, class of 1980 (passed October 25, 2023)
- Daniel Murphy, class of 2000 (passed December 11, 2023)

### **STAFF**

- Doc Helton, Retired Maintenance (passed December 25, 2023)
- Richard "Rick" Giraud, Retired Utility Director (passed December 27, 2023)

***For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit [tayloralumni.org](http://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](http://www.tayloralumni.org)

Email us:

[tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com)

Facebook:

TaylorMichigan Alumni Association

### Taylor Alumni Association Board

President:	Caroline (Craddock) Patts (TC 73)
Vice Pres TC	Judith (Barnhart) LaFleur (TC 65)
Vice Pres JFK	Kenneth Renner (JFK 79)
Vice Pres HST	Bill Sule (HST 93)
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