



Taylor Center High School (1953-1997)
John F. Kennedy High School (1966-2018)
Harry S. Truman High School (1974-2018)
Taylor High School (2018-Present)



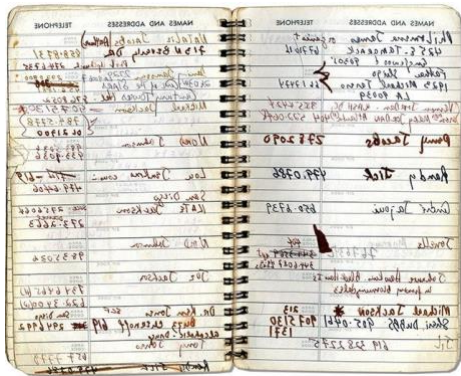
Taylor Alumni Association Newsletter

January 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Your Alumni Association wants to wish everyone a wonderful 2025!
 Take one day at a time and enjoy life.

New for 2025:



A New Directory

We are going to be working with the company that did our last directory to create a new one. Letting you all know you will be receiving either a phone call or card in the mail regarding updating your record. It is legitimate that they are doing that for us. They do not sell or use your information for anything other than our directory. You can let them know when you receive contact that you don't want certain information published in the directory but only want to give us your updated info.

New School Board members

Four new board members were sworn in on January 8, 2025; Linda Moore, Kathie Fields, Justin Modarski, and Stephanie Shufeldt who was on the board from a previous appointment. They will join the other members, Kyle Wright, Korey Morris, and Anne Block. The Alumni Association wishes them the best and we hope they do what is best for the students and the district.

LOOKING BACK

“Suit Perils High School Opening” read the headline in the **Detroit Free Press August 26, 1953!**

The \$1,300,000 Central High School in Taylor or “Taylor Center” as we know it was nearing completion and preparing for a September 15th opening with 1,200 students. However, 2 new trunk sewer lines in Taylor had not been completed and were necessary for Taylor Center to open. The Wayne County Drain Commissioner Christopher Mulle wanted the sewer contract awarded to the Rocco Ferrers Company for \$535,000. Another bidder for the sewer was the Greenfield Construction Company who had offered a bid of \$499,000 with conditions. Greenfield filed a suit in Wayne County Circuit Court to force the County to accept their bid. The lawsuit not only stopped the drain installation but also delayed the opening of Taylor Center. At this time Taylor high school students were attending Detroit, Dearborn and Wyandotte High Schools.



The sewer to be installed was called the Wilkie Drain. Wilkie is a name of early Taylor residents, Wilkie Street and the farmer Ed Wilkie at Ecorse Road and Mayfair Street. As Taylor was growing in the 40’s, 50’s and 60’s the drain was necessary. The Detroit Free Press of September 5, 1953, reported that the proposed Wilkie Drain would serve 11,000 parcels of land, 6,500 homes and businesses, two other Taylor Schools and two proposed additional school sites.

The Wayne County Drain Commissioner Mulle, The Wayne County Auditors and the Wayne County Circuit Court worked together and reviewed new bids for the sewer project. In early September the new bids were opened with a Greenfield Construction bid of \$490,000, Waterway Constructing bid of \$495,000 and Rocco Ferran bid of \$515,000. Greenfield was given the order to proceed.

Although good news for the sewer project, Taylor Center High School was still several months or maybe a year away from opening. The officials worked again and received special permission from the Wayne County Sanitary Engineer and the Michigan State Health Department to have sewage hauled away until the Wilkie Drain was completed. So, on September 14, 1953, 1,200 Taylor high school students were able to start classes in their own new high school.

Fifty years ago, **HARRY S TRUMAN's Outstanding Cheerleaders** captured many trophies, including **GRAND CHAMPIONS** at Cheerleading Camp. Members of that outstanding team were:

Co-Captains- Cheri Birbeck and Geri Monaco, Gina Fiorini, Joanne Gendron, Sue McDaniel, Vicki Nelson, Connie Riffey and Tina Simms





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.

Taylor Center

Delores Michniak Pennington – Class of 1964 (passed on 10-24-2024)

Jeanette Penman Merrill – Class of 1957 (passed on 11-24-2024)

Gregory Kortman – Class of 1963 (passed on 9-19-2024)

Phillip O’Jibway – Class of 1965 (passed on 1-6-2025)

Kennedy

Brian Maddox – Class of 1992 (passed on 12-25-2024)

Gary Nutt – Class of 1967 (passed on 12-15-2024)

Jerry Fioritti – Class of 1967 (passed 12-12-2024)

Janice Taylor Hoback – Class of 1970 (passed on 1-9-2025)

Mary Helwig Tulik – Class of 1967 (passed 1-12-2025)

Truman

Denise Maliszewski Dickow-Beesley – Class of 1979 (passed on 1-5-2025)

Jeffrey “Jeff” Lashuay – Class of 2002 (passed on 1-5-2025)

Jane Simons – Class of 1980 (passed on 1-5-2025)

Staff/Faculty

Barbara Brewer – Bus Driver (passed on 12-19-2024)

Jane Simons – Teacher (passed on 1-5-2025)

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

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 | 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