

IN THE NEWS



Alumni Newsletter March 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. Here is, with permission, one story from Sara Smith, Nursing Assistant Teacher, on the CTE Facebook page we would love to share.



On day two of Black History Month, it is my privilege to celebrate one of the [Taylor Career and Technical Center](#) 's finest...

Please join us, as we honor United States Marine Corporal Charles Sseguya. Corporal Sseguya is a member of the first graduating Griffins, Taylor High School Class of 2019. 🖤💛



At the Taylor Career Center, he demonstrated excellence as a student in Mrs. Cathy Coppiellie Kevra 's Nursing Assistant class. After graduation, Charles entered the military, where he is pursuing a degree in biochemistry. He received his promotion to Corporal during a recent deployment to Australia where he participated in SEAL training.

Mrs. Kevra gets all the credit for being Charles' teacher. I'm grateful to call him my friend. A remarkable young man, who sets an example of dignity, hard work, and integrity.

Taylor High School and the Taylor Career Center are proud to recognize our own Corporal Charles Sseguya.

*Hometown hero, and Black History Month inspiration.
Be safe, be well, and thank you for your service.*

Taylor Schools were in the News! *FLASHBACK*

submitted by John Bowyer JFK '70

"Taylor Township Plans Night School" read the headline on March 6 of 1956! The Detroit Free Press told you that you could take a class in Income Tax preparation or upholstering old furniture. Other classes covered arts and crafts, business, and recreational studies. Wonder if our parents took any of these classes?

On Wednesday March 30, 1960, the Detroit Free Press reported that temperatures of 64 degrees and melting snow caused trouble in Taylor. The 1500 hundred students who attended the Charles Brake Junior High School had to walk about three-fourths of mile to attend classes that day. Why? The roads were too muddy for the buses! So, what road would have been muddy in 1960? Northline, Superior? Anyone remember this "muddy day"?

What's Happening in Our Taylor Schools-



2024 TAYLOR UNIFIED SPECIAL OLYMPICS DAY

Taylor School District is partnering with the Special Olympics to hold its third annual Unified Special Olympics Day on May 23, 2024 at Taylor Sportsplex.

The event joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. In Unified Sports, teams are made up of people of similar age and ability.

If you'd like to contribute to our Unified Special Olympics Day, you can via:

Venmo: [@TSDdonations](#)

PayPal: [@TaylorSchoolDistrict](#)

If you'd like more information on donations or volunteers please email Bridget Jarvis at bridget.jarvis@taylorschools.net.

Thank you for donations –

Ron Leggitt - Brake 1961 School Memories Yearbook

Angela Denton - Truman Trubador newspapers from Fall 74 to Spring 77; Brake Colt Chronicles from Fall 72-June 74. Truman Trubador Senior edition 2004; "Phoenix" publication, a literary arts magazine compiled by creative writing students 1975

Welcome New Lifetime Alumni members –

Shawna Stein Maynard (HST 90)

Jeanette Penman Merrill (TC 57)

City of Taylor-

The 2024 Taylor Sports & Recreation Hall of Fame Inductees Eighteen outstanding athletic contributors mark first induction class since 2008 (below is from the City of Taylor. The mention of "Class of" is the year of induction)

The Taylor and Recreation Sports Hall of Fame, which has not inducted a class since 2008, is back in business. This year, 18 tremendous athletic contributors were nominated by members of the public and then selected by a small committee that included former sports editors, youth and prep sports representatives and members of the Parks & Recreation Department.

The 2024 induction class includes:

David Beatty (JFK 71)	Bill Kostich (TC 89)
Todd Boike (TC 90)	Lisa Maki (Jamula) (TC 87)
Luke Bonner	Joe Marvin
Charles Evans (JFK 69)	Wendy Morin (Jamula) (TC 90)
Gregory Farner (JFK 70)	Ann Gapa Robb
Robert Gorski (TC 64)	Alphonse Ruffner
Wayne Hamilton (TC & JFK Faculty)	James Sicotte
Michael Hargraves (TC 71)	Chuck Suttles (TC 68)
Earl Jones (TC 82)	Al Whited (TC & HST Faculty)

These 18 names join those already in the HOF: Corey Montry, Timothy Witz, Lanny Hall Sr. and Ted Daisher (Class of 2008); Melissa (McGue) Hool, Cynthia (Black) Patterson, Sam Terry and Ron Vespremi (Class of 2006); Bryan Cragg, Daniel Edmunds and Ken Tippery (Class of 2005); Steve Avery, Jeffrey Dobek, Shelby Johnson and William Stephens (Class of 2004); Robert Dobek, Sam Pizzo, Cameron Priebe and Fred Thomann (Class of 2003); Ronald Adams Jr., James Gendron, Joy Squire and Gene Stus (Class of 2002); Mike Baum, Van Kostegian and Hank Sower (Class of 2001); Sean Lafontaine, Ernest Molnar and Michael O'Malley (Class of 2000); Roger Bechtol, Greg Bzura, Arnett Chisholm and Wayne Presley (Class of 1999); and Kenneth Avery, Joe Rembisz, Robert Sclater, Debby (LaPlante) Sweezy, Mickey Turcheck and Peggy Wisusik (original Class of 1998).

Candidates for HOF distinction had to be an athlete, coach or "community contributor" who has made an outstanding contribution to sports or recreation, or has worked with athletes, resulting in a positive contribution that has brought acclaim to the City of Taylor. Candidates have to be 30 or over and a resident prior to or during the period he or she is nominated.

How the Class of 2024 was selected, gifts and the induction ceremony:

The Class of 2024 was nominated by members of the public over the course of approximately one year's time. All nominations were researched and discussed by the Hall of Fame Committee, which included one member of the current HOF and another member of the Parks & Recreation Department. Other members have expertise in prep and youth sports, media, and other halls of fame in the region and state. The size of the class was expanded due to the fact that it has been over 15 years since the last inductions took place.

Plaques are being made for all of the new inductees and will join the current Taylor Sports and Recreation Hall of Fame members in the lobby of the Taylor Sportsplex. In addition to the plaques, a special keepsake commemorating their induction will be awarded to each new inductee.

Induction ceremonies for the Class of 2024 are scheduled for April 18 at the Lakes of Taylor Clubhouse Banquet facility. Because this induction class is so large and seating is limited, ticket sales will not open up to the public until the event draws near. Please monitor cityoftaylor.com for more information.

(See the February Taylor Today Magazine for more on every inductee.)



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 Moore - Class of 1962 (passed January 18, 2024)
Donnie Bain - Class of 1972 (passed January 26, 2024)
Samuel Zelickman - Class of 1971 (passed January 29, 2024)
Leonard "Mike" Kapanowski - Class of 1973 (passed July 16, 2023)
Marlee Kanack - Class of 1969

Kennedy

Michael Pigion - Class of 1970 (passed November 30, 2023)
Michael McQuiston - Class of 2002 (passed February 23, 2017)
Rayma Sanders - Class of 1969 (passed February 1, 2024)
Leslie Watson - Class of 1984 (passed January 15, 2024)
James "Mike" Brown - Class of 1969 (passed February 3, 2014)
James Diederichs - Class of 1980 (February 19, 2024)

Truman

Gerard Drazba - Class of 1974 (passed February 2, 2024)

Staff

Loren Ristovski - Taylor Schools Athletic Director (passed February 5, 2024)
Mary Ann Jablonski - Taylor Elementary Teacher (passed February 10, 2024)
Erna Farrington - English, Social Studies, Home Economics Teacher (passed February 16, 2024)
Donna Basley - School Secretary (passed February 21, 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