

# Alumni Association

*Keeping Ties with Our Alumni*



**TAYLOR**  
School District



November 2019 Newsletter

## IN THE NEWS



Jim Vella, Taylor Center High Graduate of 1974, is retiring after 31 years as president of the philanthropic Ford Fund and Community Services. The Ford Fund is the philanthropic arm of the Ford Motor Company. In 2006, Jim assumed leadership of the Ford Fund, and since has

grown it to be active in more than 60 countries. On a recent newscast, Jim was shown in the old train station in Cork Town, hosting the Detroit Youth Chorus (DYC). Each young singer in the 52-member choir was given a \$1,000 scholarship from Fund. And, to help DYC with its transportation needs, Ford also gave the group a 15-passenger van.



image source: <http://fordauthority.com>

## REUNION IN FLORIDA FOR JFK GRADUATES

Chuck Bonner, JFK grad, has heard from several people that they would be interested in having a reunion of all graduates of JFK in Florida. He indicated there were grads living in Georgia that have also shown an interest. Chuck will head a committee to make this happen if there is enough interest shown.

Please send the following message to Chuck Bonner by email at [vbcbapt@aol.com](mailto:vbcbapt@aol.com) or call 509-949-5493 if interested  
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Taylor Alumni Association  
11501 Beech Daly Road,  
Taylor MI 48180  
[tayloralumni.org](http://tayloralumni.org)

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

KEVIN TYSKIEWICZ - JFK Class of 1985

In response to John Pantalone asking Kevin about staff that impressed him when he attended Taylor Schools, he submitted the following: In Jr. High, Mr. Sebastian made an impression on me. At JFK I had several very good teachers, including a class act teacher for whom I had the utmost respect, Mr. Dickelman. He would teach you, uplift you, praise your work... but never belittle you. Another great teacher was Mr. Delo. His style of teaching was like none other. These two teachers stood out. Though opposite in personality, they had the respect and affection of students in common.

Upon graduating, I went to U of M Dearborn for 1 year; then to Henry Ford College for 2 years. Within that 2 years, I was accepted to co-op thru Ford Motor Co. within the Drafting Program. Landed a job at Ford Motor Co. as an Engineering Designer in Dearborn. I've been here ever since...31 years of service. Designing exterior sheet metal on up-and-coming products. I just completed the Bronco program that will be released in 2021. I have been married to Stephanie for 18 years. We reside in Brownstown. We have a 16 year old son, Zach, that attends Woodhaven High as a Junior. He played many sports growing up, and I was thrilled to be able to coach him in basketball and soccer. He continued his involvement in sports in high school, participating in cross country, golf, tennis and

skiing. Our family follows Jesus and attends Metro City Church.



WE HEARD FROM YOU!

➤ **Judy White Warner, TCH Class of 1958**, let us know how she has been impressed with the monthly newsletter and how professional it is. Judy will soon be celebrating her 52nd wedding anniversary. The Taylor Alumni Association extends congratulations and hope you celebrate many more.

➤ **David James, TCH Class of 1968, is looking for information...**

Going through the Memoriam area, a thought struck me about some of the "Missing" students that I knew quite well, particularly about one student that was truly a gifted individual throughout his time at TCH and graduated in 1968. His name was Walter Kacinski and he was a member of the TCH Band. I, and most everyone associated with the band and its many and various presentations throughout our 3 years at school, frequently observed Walt's many musical skills as he performed during concerts and

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# THERE IS A LOT HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

The City of Taylor will kick off the holiday season during its annual Winterfest on Saturday, November 30. The celebration will include the Winterfest 5K, holiday parade, opening of Santa's Magic Forest and official tree lighting celebration and fireworks display.

▶ WINTERFEST 5K - The day begins with the Winterfest 5K. The race will start at the Heritage Park Petting Farm. The runners will make their way down Pardee Road to Goddard, through the neighborhoods around City Hall and then back toward Heritage Park where it will end at the Petting Farm.

The event features custom Winterfest 5K medals for all finishers; age group awards; reindeer costume contest with awards; overall top male and female finish awards; and big tag timing by RF Events.

▶ THE PARADE - The entire day is one of family fun. The Winterfest Parade, featuring marching bands, floats and many organizations, will travel from City Hall to the Heritage Park's Sheridan Center Open Air Pavilion. Once there, crowds will be entertained by music and various activities.

▶ SANTA'S MAGIC FOREST - The official opening of Santa's Magic Forest will take place. Downriver's premier Christmas display is housed in the Heritage Park Activities Building and uses many of the former J.L. Hudson displays that bring the season to life. Tickets are \$3 per person and photos with Santa are \$8.

▶ TREE LIGHTING AND FIREWORKS - The official Christmas Tree (housed in the Sheridan Center all winter) will be lit by Mayor Rick Sollars and his special guest for the day, Santa Claus. Fireworks will cap off the evening.

## PLEASE NOTE:

⌘ Admission to the Winterfest is free.

⌘ Food and refreshments will be available.

⌘ Parking is free. Those attending the festivities in Heritage Park should use the Northline Road (south) entrance, and park in any of the lots inside the park. The Pardee Road entranceway, and the adjacent parking lot, along with the Taylor Community Library lot, will be inaccessible.



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also in the Solo and Ensemble competitions held every year. He garnered numerous blue ribbons during those competitions, and we were always delighted to see them on display whenever he wore his band uniform. Walt never flaunted them; he was just rightfully proud. In addition to the competitions, Walt was usually chosen to perform special selections during our band and choir concerts.

Unfortunately, Walt passed on about 3 or 4 years after graduating. I worked with Walt at Ford Motor for about 3 years before his passing. We were both students at MSU but we had many other “irons in the fire” in life and we drifted apart. Does anyone else remember Walt and his family? It would be great if additional information about him could be shared.

➤ **Reverend George Erdel, TCH Class of 1968, Remembers Classmates**

Curtis Runny Humphries, JFK Class of 1969, served in the USA Marines and after his tour of duty became involved in deaf ministry for more than 30 years. He ministered to deaf children, youth, and adults through camps, Runny's Recreation, Bible studies, and various other mentoring opportunities. He also taught sign language at Lee University and was one of the founders of Lee's Deaf Ministry Association. He ran 17 full marathons, completed a triathlon, and competed in a Transplant Olympics representing Team in

Training, Leukemia Society, after having had a bone marrow transplant in 1997. He then was involved in establishing a deaf community center, Bible school, and education program in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Curtis passed in 2008.

Daniel Bruce, TCH Class of 1969, served in the United States Army, where he was awarded many decorations for his service—they are as follows: the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal Bronze Star, Vietnam Campaign Medal, 2 overseas bars, Bronze Star Medal and the Army Commendation Medal. Daniel passed in 2018. 📖

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indicate yes, I am interested in a reunion in Florida for graduates of John F Kennedy High School. Include year of graduation, methods of contacting you: phone, cell phone, mailing address, email address, social media, and indicate which month you would be able to attend. January & February are the months being considered. List both if you can attend either month. 📖

## 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.*

**W**e have received many reports about people who passed away several months ago, and in some cases, even years ago. Many are being reported as a result of post cards or calls being made by the company working on the directory as they've tried to contact these individuals.

That prompts me to ask the following: If you know 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 High**

Danielle Lovaine Gardner, Class of 1958 (passed September 25, 2019)  
Tina McGeorge Perzanowski, Class of 1984 (passed October 8, 2019)  
Sandi Crowley Backus, Class of 1962 (passed September 20, 2019)  
Kenneth Dauphinais, Class of 1985 (passed January 30, 2019)  
John Elek, Class of 1965 (passed November 2018)

### **John F Kennedy High**

Richard "Rick" Stubbs, Class of 1984 (passed September 29, 2019)  
John "Jack" Urban, Class of 1970 (passed July 18, 2019)  
Janine Porath Crossley, Class of 1967 (passed October 20, 2019)

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