

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

# October Alumni Newsletter 2015

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## **IN THE NEWS**

### **Good Things are Happening in the City Of Taylor**



The 35th Junior League World Series was again held in Taylor. Teams from Canada, Puerto Rico, Panama, Czech Republic, Chinese Taipei as well as 5 teams from the United States competed this year. The championship game between Chinese Taipei & USA Virginia was televised by ESPN and won by Taipei for the 2nd year in a row.

Over the years, teams have come from 30 different states in the U.S., 4 Canadian Provinces, Aruba, Blegium, Chinese Taipei, Curacao, Czech Republic, England, Germany, Guam, Guatemala, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Phillippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Russia, Saipan, Saudi Arabia, US Virgin Islands, Ukraine and Venezuela.

Several players who have participated in the Junior World Series have also played in the majors. Gary Sheffield, former Detroit Tiger, Shannon Withem born in Ann Arbor and Delino Desheids just to name a few.

When in town take time to drive to Heritage Park and down the avenue of champions to the great baseball stadium.



## Taylor School District Superintendent to Retire

With a grateful heart, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the residents of Taylor, for allowing me to be a part of your community.

I will be retiring after almost 44 years as an employee of the district. I have worked as a classroom teacher, principal of Randall Elementary, and as your superintendent. I wish the district, its staff and students much success.



Taylor Superintendent Diane Allen Source: thenewsherald.com.

The above are the words of Diane Allen. Her official retirement will take place some time this school year. The Taylor Public School Alumni Association wishes the best for Diane in her retirement years!

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## IS THIS FUN OR WHAT



Back in 2007 one of the retired teachers thought it would be a blast if he could get other retirees to join him at a golf course for a day out, on the first day of school. The first *"We Are Not Going to School Today"* was born.

Every year since the outing has grown. Here is a list of those who participate...how many do you remember?

Ken Avery, Roger Bechtol, Tom Bluhm, Paul Chatzka, Keith Collett, Bob Doumanian, Pete Drees, Dan Edmunds, Jim Ford, Gary Green, Bob Haarala, Wayne Hamilton, Bill

Harrison, Dick Irwin, Wendell Kennan, Dick Kozik, Lee Lewis, Bill Masserrang, Mike McMasters, Ed Merideth, Harold Michaelis, Jack Miller, John Pantalone, Tom Poole, Al Sebastian, Jim Shaw, Ron Vespremi, Bob Walters and Al Whited.

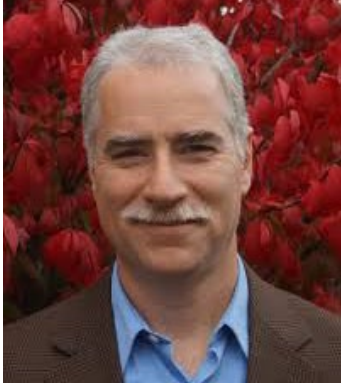
This year the **low medalists** were Paul Chatzka, Chuck Hokey, Larry McKeown and Al Sebastian, all tied with a 40.

**Winning scrambles team** were Bob Haarala, Larry McKeown, John Pantalone and Al Sebastian. Five under for 9 holes.

The golf is not always so great, but the School Day Stories get better every year. This years rehashing of school day stories took place at The Lakes of Taylor, Tuesday September 8th.

Congratulations to all.

## LET'S GET TO KNOW OUR LEADERS



Tom Zorn - one of our school board members is a 1985 graduate of Taylor Center High. A lifelong resident of Taylor, Tom also attended Taylor Parks Elementary and Hoover Jr. High. Mr. Zorn continued his education earning an Associate Degree in computer science from Henry Ford Community College, a Bachelor of Business Administration from Wayne State University and a Master of Science degree from University of Detroit Mercy (U of D Mercy).

His impressive work experiences included, an Adjunct Professor at U of D Mercy, Corporate Board Director for Acumen Capital Associates, Inc, BorgWarner Finance, General Motors (where he took classes at the American Society for Quality) and a published author of several Engineering articles.

Presently, in addition to serving on the School Board, Tom is serving as Truman High School's Band Booster President.

The Taylor Alumni Association is proud of Tom Zorn and his achievements and wish him well as a Board member.

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## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



TCH Class of 65 is having a 50th reunion so let us check in on Charles "Chuck" Maffesoli, Class of 65 TCH Graduate.

We found Chuck back living in Taylor pursuing his love of baseball. He is umpiring in the Taylor Little League and local high schools.

After graduation he held a job with National Bank of Detroit. He left that position for the U.S. Army assigned to telecommunications.

Completed a tour of duty in Viet Nam and was assigned to a base in Colorado Springs. The next and last assignment was with NORAD at the Cheyenne Mountain complex. There he married Margaret and now has 2 sons and 6 grandchildren.

The Taylor Alumni Association is proud of Chuck and his career and very happy to have him back in Taylor!

## RECENT REUNIONS



I had the opportunity to attend two reunions in September, the JFK Class of 1973 and TCH Class of 1960.

**JFK Class of 1973**—Held at Big League Brews in Taylor, the cost was only \$10 per person. It was very informal, a good crowd attended, with coney islands, cup cakes, non-alcoholic beverages and buy your own drinks. Cheryl Sturgeon organized a very successful reunion. Proof that it does not have to be expensive to have a good time.

### **Taylor Center High Class of 1960**

Gary Villett did a great job putting together a 3 day event.

- Friday night was informal at the Masonic Lodge.
- Saturday breakfast at Leons, afternoon at Heritage Park where two couples renewed their marriage vows.
- Saturday night dinner and party at the Sportsmans Den in Riverview and
- Sunday morning breakfast at the Holiday Inn

Good attendance at all events, capped by 82 at the Saturday night event. People came in from all over the country, Florida, Alabama, Texas, California, Illinois, etc. Everyone I talked with said they had a great time at every event they attended.



- October 10th TCH Class of 1965 50th Reunion.
- October 24th JFK Band Reunion for Roger Craig ERA 1966-1971. Taylor Meadows Golf Course. 1 - 5 PM \$35 per person, \$65 per couple. Any questions contact Cindy Gregory at Cgregory77@comcast.net.
- November 7th TCH Class of 73, 60th Birthday party at Rhapsody in Southgate from 5:30 - 10:30.
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## LET US HEAR YOUR STORIES

The other day I went to a local restaurant and had on my Taylor Alumni Association polo shirt. The logo drew the attention of an individual and he came up to me and asked if I had worked at Kennedy High School. That started a long conversation. Randy Terry, JFK Class of 76, now lives in the Cincinnati area and was back to see Michigan State play football. Randy graduated from State in 1980 with an engineering degree. Later he earned a MBA from the University of Memphis. Randy changed career plans and had a successful 26 year career as a special agent with the U.S. Drug Administration. Perhaps the career change was influenced by his father, Don Terry, who was a Taylor Police Officer. It really makes me feel good to talk with graduates of the Taylor Schools who have fond memories of their experiences in the school system.



The Taylor Alumni Association would like to hear from graduates of our public school system. Let us hear some of your memories and success stories.

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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.*

### **Taylor Center High School**

Scott Berndt TCH 1979, passed September 2, 2015

Deborah Eiden Bancroft, TCH class of 1973, passed September 2, 2015. Debbie was a Taylor School District employee for 32 years. Among her survivors are Paul Eiden, a Taylor School District Teacher.

### **John F. Kennedy High School**

Christopher Akers JFK 2006, passed September 12, 2015

### **Harry S. Truman High School**

Raquel Sobecki HST 2013, passed August 7, 2015

### **Other**

Donald Conn, passed August 28, 2015. Don was a long time Taylor teacher ending his career at Taylor Center High School. He was preceded in death by wife Gloria also a Taylor teacher.

Ronald Williams, passed September 2, 2015. Ron was a long time Taylor teacher and counsellor.

Lynn Jennings, passed September 1, 2015. Lynn was an elementary teacher and speech therapist in the Taylor School District prior to retirement in 2008.