

Alumni Association

Keeping Ties with Our Alumni



TAYLOR
School District



September 2020 Newsletter



WE HEARD FROM YOU!

➤ Robert Hampstead, JFK Class of 68'

The Following is a recent correspondence between Alumnus Robert Hampstead and myself (John Pantalone)

Mr. Pantalone, I don't know if you remember me, Robert Hampstead class of 1968. I guess that I was one of the tough nuts and I didn't care about grades or anything else. I joined the Navy after HS because I knew that I was too young to be on my own and that I wasn't going to listen to my parents or anyone else. I was in the nuke program in the navy, but I didn't try my best and was dropped after 3 schools. One good thing, the navy gave me a lot of time to think. And I decided that I wanted to be able to look back at my life when I was 60

and say that I was a good friend, a good husband and a good father. There were a few bumps in the road but I was determined to not get married until I was 25 years old. I was married 13 days before my 25 birthday and have been married for 45 years to a wonderful lady. My wife, my son, my daughter and I all graduated from the University of Tennessee (UT) but, again, I really didn't care about grades. My son earned his PhD. from the University of Michigan. I had a few saving graces, one being that I didn't blame anyone

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11501 Beech Daly Road,
Taylor MI 48180
tayloralumni.org

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but myself for my shortcomings and I also felt that I could recover from anything. I do feel bad about how I acted in HS, the people that I hurt, and not reaching my potential in football. It was funny that later in life I would think, "What if I had the same knowledge in the 10th grade that I have now?" When I started at UT in 1973, I did find a group that I held myself accountable to. The UT Rugby Club, as strange as it sounds.

I formed an adult men's club that is celebrating its 40th year.

I coached youth, high school, adult men, and adult women teams thru the years. I also served as a Youth Director at church, a Pack Master and troop leader in scouts, a soccer coach, band supporter, quiz bowl coach and helped with other community groups. I feel that I grew up all right.

A younger lady at church that grew up a few blocks from where I lived in Taylor told me about the FB page "I went to school in Taylor Michigan". And I have reconnected with a few people. In closing, Mr. Pantalone, I want to apologize for my behavior at JFK and hope this finds you well.

Sincerely, Bob Hampstead

My response to Bob

Congratulations! You have every right to be



proud of what you have accomplished. I honestly do not recall you as a problem at JFK. Do you recall any specific incidents, when you look back, that were significant enough to be considered a "problem"? If you remember any, please share them with me. I would also like to have your permission to share your letter with the Alumni. It is a message that should be told.

Reply from Bob

I was skipping school, playing cards and drinking during the last half of senior year. Mr Troesch paid for me to take the "Michigan Competitive Scholarship Exam". Apparently, I won a scholarship and we had a meeting with Mr Troesch, my mother, stepfather and I think you.

Mr. Troesch said that if I came to school every day for



the remainder of the semester, I would pass all my classes and he would get me in any college that I wanted. So, in my experience working with teenagers, sometimes you feel terrible when you can't get thru to them about wasting opportunities. Our Senior Play, I was cast to play you in the 1st act, so someone knew you were involved in trying to help me. I joined the Alumni group in June and have read all the newsletters. I would be proud if

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you use my email in the newsletter as I have shared my experiences with my children and all the youth that I have worked with. I appreciate my teachers at JFK, Mr Troesch and you for never giving up on me because it taught me to never give up on myself. Sincerely, Bob Hampstead

➤ **Darlene Pobur Baker and Wayne Baker, TCH Class of 60'**

Darlene Pobur Baker and Wayne Baker first met in the Taylor School System in the Third Grade at Edgewood Elementary School. They still have their Third Grade Class Picture as they "happened" to be standing next to one another (Wayne just barely reached Darlene's shoulder at the time). They graduated together from Taylor Center High School in 1960. They married in 1962—five children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild later, they now live in Montgomery, Alabama.

Wayne's career has been focused on Ministry and Higher Education. Darlene has been a vital part of not only Wayne's personal life but his professional one as well. He has been a senior administrator at Rochester University, Michigan; Pepperdine University, California; Faulkner University, Alabama and served as President of York College in Nebraska.

Wayne is still working full-time at Faulkner University as Vice Chancellor and Chancellor Emeritus of York College. Together, he and

Darlene also served churches in each of those states.

The faculty at TCH were both inspiring and challenging—they set the tone for Wayne's lifelong career in education.

Honored memories of "Mr. Pantalone, Mr. Baut, Mr. Nelson and Ms. Wilbur" remain with the Baker family to this good day! We remember with joy the Drama Productions, Spring Concerts, Athletic events and the daily routine class schedules. It hardly seems possible that all of these precious memories are 60 years old!

Wayne Baker, Ed.D., Vice Chancellor
University Advancement, Faulkner University



Wayne Baker

THANKS



NEW CONTRIBUTORS

Many thanks go out to the following grads who contributed to this edition:

Ken Wisth, TCH 1972

Chris Warnke, HST 1990

Bernie Gismondi, TCH 1967

THERE IS A LOT HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR



✓ Island Lakes of Midtown

Island Lakes (Goddard Road, east of Mortenvue) has two builders currently working in the subdivision. The original project, which encompasses 120 acres and nearly 200 approved home sites, hit rock bottom when the original developer went bankrupt, leaving the Downtown Development Authority attempting to pick up the pieces for over a decade.

Developer S.R. Jacobson presently has builders Allen Edwin Homes (Portage) and Apex Property Investments LLC (Trenton) building homes in the subdivision.



The subdivision has always had the potential to be one of Taylor's finest housing tracts. It offers a beautiful entrance off Goddard and offers ponds and fountains on each side and opens to a circle that cuts east or west around the entire property, which also has an even larger pond down the east side.

According to Jacobson, the property has 84 single family lots. Allen Edwin Homes is building three and four bedroom colonials ranging between 1,658 square feet and a little over 3,000 square feet, starting in the high \$250,000-range. Apex, likewise, is building colonial floor plans – its Aiden Colonial – which offer three bedrooms, 2.5 baths and are approximately 1,800 square feet.

CORRECTION

The August edition of the Alumni Newsletter posted the hours of the Taylor Farmers Market as M-F 6am-9pm, Saturday 7am-5pm and Sunday noon-5pm. **The Correct Hours are Fridays only Noon-7pm.**



September 10th — “Wine Social In the Garden”, sponsored by The Taylor Conservatory Foundation. Admission is \$30 and includes stops at five different stations set with wine and pairings of chocolate, cheese, or charcuterie. Can you believe not only all of that but also live music by T Bone Paxton & The RJ Spangler Quintet playing Swing Jazz with a New Orleans flair? All to support Downriver’s premiere public garden.



November 3rd — Election Day. Get out and vote. There will be local issues in addition to the National & State- in Taylor there are 7 candidates for 4 positions on the Taylor School Board. Your choices will be: Rhonda Danaj, Pamela Lakatos, Amber McNew, Debbie Stellini, Daryl Thomas, Jodi Thomas, and Kyle Wright.



Opening of Taylor School District's Public Schools
September 8th - 25th — students will be learning from home

September 28 — Option was presented to choose from leaning at home or face-to-face learning.

Six Little Stories with Lots of Meanings

1. Once, all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all of the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still, we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
6. On an old man’s shirt was written a sentence ‘I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.’ That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember, good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!

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: There are several alumni listed with no date of passing. The contributor did research and has confirmed the passing but was unable to find a specific date. If anyone has further information, please send the information to us at tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

Also, some of the deceased listed below are from years past. If we receive deaths from the past that are not listed in our newsletter, they will be posted on the "In Memoriam" section on our website. 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 High

Ralph Woody, Class of 1972 (passed July 24, 1993)
Bill Centers, Class of 1971 (passed November 27, 2019)
Richard Mitchell, Class of 1972 (passed June 21, 2020)
Patricia Ellis, Class of 1967 (date of passing unknown)
Michael Nibert, Class of 1967 (date of passing unknown)
Julie Ligeski, Class of 1967 (date of passing unknown)
Larry McKeough, Class of 1967 (passed 2018)
Kathleen Carter, Class of 1968 (date of passing unknown)
Anthony Mangiapane, Class of 1960 (passed August 15, 2020)
Barbara Brittain Hayfall, Class of 1967 (passed August 13, 2020)
Larry Alan Denham, Class of 1976 (passed August 5, 2020)
George Marasco, Class of 1971 (date of passing unknown)
Edward Sierota, Class of 1961 (passed October 14, 2011)

John F Kennedy High

Theresa Mozug, Class of 1969 (passed July 30, 2020)
Richard Mann, Class of 1969 (passed July 2, 2020)
Lindy Swartz, Class of 1971 (passed May 2020)

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Truman High School

Gary Bargo, Class of 1990 (date of passing unknown)

Robert Black, Class of 1990 (date of passing unknown)

Danielle Durrah, Class of 1990 (date of passing unknown)

Tammy Ruggero, Class of 1991 (date of passing unknown)

James Merritt, Class of 1992 (date of passing unknown)

Scott Persia, Class of 1992 (date of passing unknown)

Staff

Charles Green, retired teacher-TCH math (passed August 14, 2020)

For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit the alumni website tayloralumni.org and click on "In Memoriam".