



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

September 2017 Alumni Newsletter

In this issue

Good Things are Happening in Taylor

Latest City News.

Where Are They Now

Class of 67 President, Ron Leggett.

Alumni Assoc. News

We heard from you.

Up Coming Events

September - October 2017.

Obituary

Our Deepest Sympathy

Taylor Alumni Association
11501 Beech Daly Road,
Taylor MI 48180
tayloralumni.org

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN TAYLOR

► September 8th & 9th

“Rockin’ Country Music Festival”

September 8 & 9, 2017

The two-day celebration of country music debuts in the picturesque outdoor setting of Heritage Park. Heritage Park will be transformed into an intimate concert venue with a state of art production, allowing fans up-close access, and it will feature a comprehensive array of amenities for festivalgoers. The outstanding list of performers include Billy Rae Cyrus who counts his signature tune, “Achy Breaky Heart” among his 16 top 40 hits.

Also appearing will be “Old Dominion” named the 2016 New Group of the year, “The Railers”, recently named Top Ten single by Rolling Stone Magazine, Carly Pearce, named Artist to Watch, and more.

“This is a great opportunity for Taylor to showcase one of our proudest assets, beautiful Heritage Park” said Mayor Sollars.



designed by: TownMapsUSA.com

► **September 14th - Music on the Terrace.**

Continuing to provide the citizens of Taylor with the best of sites and entertainment, there will be Music on the Terrace of the beautiful Club House at the Lakes of Taylor Golf Course. The music will feature Celebrity Saxophonist Kareem Saxo 6-9 pm. No admission charge just an opportunity to hear great music in a beautiful setting.

► **Junior World Series** - The 37th event was held August 13-20 at World Series Field in Taylor's Heritage Park. Five American teams who won regional championships competed along with the Asian-Pacific Champions from Chinese Taipei, the Latin American champions from Venezuela, the Europe/Africa champs from Czech Republic and the National champs from Australis, Puerto Rico and Canada. For the fourth straight year, the team from Chinese Taipei won the Jr. World Team Championship defeating Hawaii. Hawaii won the American division with a last inning comeback to defeat the Southwest champs from Corpus Christy Texas. Taipei defeated Mexico to win the International division. ✓

IN THE NEWS

National Model Makers reports that in a recent event in Omaha Nebraska 2200 models were in competition. A model of a 1955 Bonneville Salt Flat Racer was entered by J. Tom Cox a 1966 Graduate of John F Kennedy High School. The model was awarded 3rd place out of 2200 entered. The Taylor Alumni Association congratulates J. Thomas Cox.



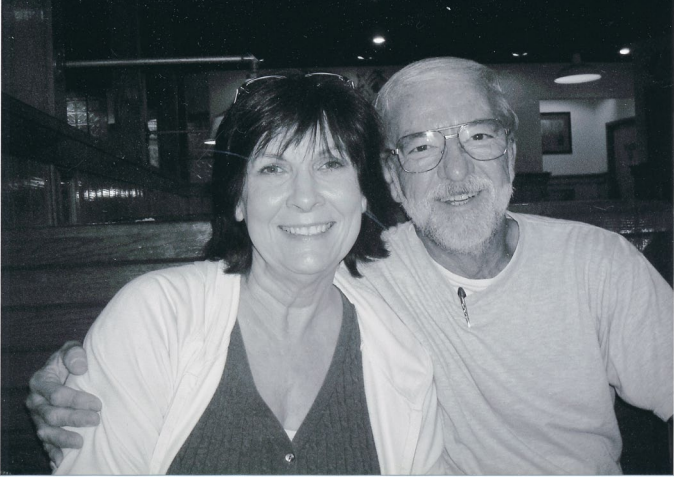
From the News Heard

George Rodopoulos, JFK Kennedy High School student, wrapped up his high school golf career with a big season for the Eagles. The senior was runner up at the Downriver League's meet with an 83. At Division 2 Regionals his 83 missed qualifying for the State tournament by one stroke.

THINK ON THIS...

I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed. –Michael Jordan

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Elisabeth (JFK 68) & Dave Ashe, (JFK 67)

We heard from Dave Ashe, President of the JFK Class of 1967. He presently lives in Montgomery, Alabama with his wife, Elisabeth "Libby" Welsh a 1968 graduate of JFK. Below he updates us on what's been happening with them.

I tried to retire on three separate occasions, but couldn't quite make it stick. I spent nearly 40 years working for the U.S. Air Force as a military member, a civil service employee, and as a military civilian contractor. Most of the years I worked for the Air Force I was a computer software engineer. The last ten years I was the Director of Information Systems for Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base located in Montgomery, Alabama. I really enjoyed working for the Air Force and was very proud to serve our country.

During the period that we attended schools in Taylor Township the Taylor School System was growing rapidly with the student population at one point reaching nearly 20,000 students. The current schools at that time were not large enough to handle so many additional students. New schools had to be built. The result was the construction of Robert J. West Junior High and shortly thereafter John F. Kennedy High School. On both occasions, I recall being on half day schedules while the new schools were being built. I was always on the afternoon session and it was pretty dark and cold going home after football practice. Brake and West Jr. High students shared the Brake facility while West was being finished; and Taylor Center and JFK High students shared the Taylor Center facility while JFK was being completed. I remember when we moved into JFK everything was so new and building dust still covered window sills and clung to moldings. The gymnasium wasn't complete and there wasn't a working cafeteria. In spite of these few unfinished portions, I remember how proud we were to be attending this brand new school. The teachers and administrators were top notch and enthusiastic about their students and the job of making JFK a premier place to work and learn. It felt good

continue on page 4

WHERE ARE THEY NOW cont'd

to be a John F. Kennedy High School student. While the physical building unfortunately may not stand much longer the memories will last a lifetime. I feel very fortunate to have been a JFK student and to always be a Kennedy Eagle. ✓

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Ron Leggitt, JFK Class of "68

Next is an update from Ron Leggitt JFK graduate. When I graduated from JFK in 1968, my first position was with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, a job I stayed with for 2 years.

Two years later I found out that the Ford facility near where I lived was hiring. I filled out an application and started working there the next day. That was the end of my railroad career. I stayed at Ford Motor for the next 28 years. The job I had there was fairly easy and allowed for me to either go to school or work a second job during those years.

While working at Ford Motor I completed training that allowed me to become a drug and alcohol rehab counselor, a prison chaplain, a director of an addictions program, and finally a church pastor. Those secondary positions frequently brought me into contact with members of the law enforcement community. In order to better interface with those in both law enforcement and the judicial system I went through the police academy.

Since retiring from Ford Motor in 1998 I have gone through extensive training to become a credentialed police chaplain and am currently assigned to the Taylor Police Department. I also work with The 227 Project. "227" was the badge number of Matthew Edwards, the Taylor Police Officer killed in the line of duty in 2010. The 227 Project provides training in topics related to the management of chronic and traumatic stress, and provides confidential support and self-help information to members of the public safety community and their families. The courses taught by The 227 Project are approved by the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards.

Every month 10 to 12 police officers across America take their own lives. More officers die each year at their own hand, than die in the line of duty. The goal of The 227 Project is to

continue on page 5

ALUMNI NEWS!



New Members

Welcome to our newest
Lifetime members:

Bill Mascaro, JFK Class of
1967

To join send your name,
school and year of graduation
along with \$25 payable to
the Taylor Alumni Association
and mail to the Taylor Alumni
Association, 11501 Beech Daly
Road, Taylor, MI 48180.



WE HEARD FROM

➤ Several graduates asked
what it will cost to advertise
in the Alumni Association
"Yellow Pages". There is
absolutely no cost to post

an ad. The Yellow Pages is
simply the Alumni Boards
latest thought of service to the
Alumni. It provides a link on
the web site, tayloralumni.org,
for Alumni to post an
ad about their business
and an opportunity for all
graduates to shop the "Yellow
Pages" when looking for a
hair stylist, dentist, lawyer,
vacation rental and hopefully
many more things. To get this
rolling we need you owners
or manages to send us the
ad you would like posted.
Any yellow page type of ad
will do. You could just send
us your business card if you
would like.

➤ It's a win-win for
everyone, but we need you
to send in the ads. Email to
[tayloralumniassociation@
yahoo.com](mailto:tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com) or mail to Taylor
Alumni Association, 11501
Beech Daly Road, Taylor Mi
48180

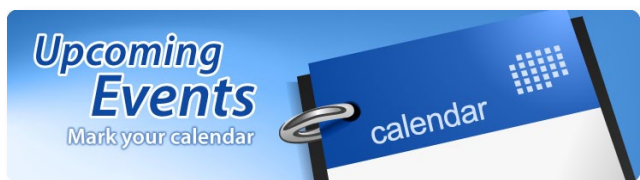
➤ Ron Rusnak JFK 70 and
Stu Kerr JFK 1969 want to
know the names of the great
speakers that had presented
at the Athletic Banquets.
Below are the names of
some we remember and will
confirm and add to the list.

- ★ Gordie Howe, Red Wing Star
- ★ Bo Schembechler, U of M Coach
- ★ Dick Vitale, National Basketball
Announcer

THE MOST PAINFUL GOODBYES
ARE THE ONES THAT ARE
NEVER SAID AND NEVER
EXPLAINED.

Where are they now cont'd. from page 4
help build stress resilience
and to assist individuals or
groups dealing with crisis,
thereby reducing the number
of first responder suicides.

My police chaplaincy work
is made possible by the help
and support I receive from
Linda Leggitt, my wife of 29
years. ✓



- September 16 Truman, Class of 1977 reunion, Saturday, September 16. Taylor Meadows Golf Club Banquet Hall 6 to 11 pm. Cost for banquet is \$35 per person. Please RSVP with payment (checks or money order payable to HST Class of '77 Reunion by August 25, 2017) and mail to: Sheri (Graham) Englebrink, 9646 Cass, Taylor, Mi 48180. I will send your "tickets" via email if I have your email address, otherwise I will mail to you.
- October 7th JFK Class of 1987 30 year reunion. For more information contact Renee Hartwig Ott at P.O. Box 270544 Littleton, Colorado 80127.
- October 7th TCH Classes of 1966, 1967, 1968 & 1969 Reunion. Holiday Inn Southgate. \$75 per person. Dinner, Dance, Open Bar & Souvenir. Make checks payable to TCH and mail to TCH Reunion at 25143 Lyncastle, Farmington Hills Mi 48226. Please direct questions to Joan Cleveland Graham (248) 476-3558 or email to jngraham2@aol.com.

Reunion Updates

JFK Class of 1967 Reunion

On July 29th, ninety two classmates celebrated their 50th Class Reunion. A "Silent Auction" table was set up with Mr. Dickelman's 1967 Yearbook for sale. Bidding was started at \$100 by Chuck Bonner, raised to \$125 by Claudia Michael Boyda, then \$400 by Chuck Beatty, raised again to \$500 by Chuck Bonner, only to be out bid by Lanny Mills \$600 and then it closed when Chuck Bonner came back with a bid of \$650. The Taylor Alumni Association thanks Chuck Bonner and the other bidders for raising \$650 for Scholarships.

JFK Class of 1977 Reunion

Class of 1977 held their 40th class reunion August 12th. Again we had a "Silent Auction" with Mr. Dickelman's 1977 Yearbook. Kalen Bennett kicked off the bidding at \$40, Mike Mclean, teacher in attendance, raised the bid to \$100, followed by Eric Erickson who bid \$150. The last bid was for \$250 by Becky Bone' Cassells. How great! We now have \$250 more for the much needed Scholarships. Our thanks to all of the bidders, Kalen Bennett for inviting us to attend and to teachers, Mike Mclean, Dick Kozk and Ron Sussman for attending. All those who have attended Reunions with teachers in attendance have really appreciated their being at the function.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

Harry S Truman Home Schedule (all games 7 PM)

September 8th Woodhaven

22nd Trenton

October 6th Gibraltar Carlson

3rd Kennedy

John F Kennedy Home Schedule (all games 7 PM)

September 22 Wyandotte

October 6 Melvindale



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

Jerry Myers, Class of 1961 (passed July 25, 2017)

John F Kennedy High

Jeffery Jones, Class of 1976 (passed July 24, 2017)

Harry S. Truman High School

Rodney Leich, Class of 1980 (passed July 15, 2017)

STAFF

Jack Maynard, Teacher TCH & others (passed August 13, 2017)

Gordon Lambie, Administrator Board Office Career Center West Jr High (passed August 15, 2017)

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