

## **CITY OF TAYLOR CELEBRATES 175TH BIRTHDAY - TAYLOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TENT A BIG HIT**



A 90+-degree day with air "thick enough to wear" didn't stop Taylor from celebrating its 175th anniversary as a community. On August 6, Taylor's Heritage Park, Coan Lake historical village area was filled with visitors enjoying the entertainment, the history displays, the food, a classic car show and touring the historical buildings around the lake. Many Taylor organizations were represented such as the Police and Fire departments, churches, clubs. One very popular tent was the Taylor Schools Alumni Association tent. Visitors were able to view memorabilia from the three closed high schools, Taylor Center, Kennedy High and Truman High. There were trophies, photos, jackets, uniforms (sports and band) so many items representing all three high schools. Visitors had a chance to reminisce with others, purchase some items such as class composites, yearbooks, and a few other items. A special thanks to Caroline (Craddock) Patts (TC '73) and Sheri (Graham) Engelbrink (HST '77) for retrieving all the items for display and sale and to Nancy Miller (JFK '67), Judy (Barnhart) LaFleur (TC '65), Ken Renner (JFK '70), Jackie Gaits-Maynard (TC '90), and Chuck Bonner (JFK '67), for assembling all the items in the tent and spending the afternoon greeting all the visitors! We also had John and Kathy Bowyer (JFK '70 & '69) helping out at the Heritage Park Schoolhouse behind the tent. It was a great day!

## GOOD THINGS HAPPEN IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

The Junior League World Series for 13 & 14 year olds was played in Heritage Park for the 40th time. This tournament is similar to the Little League tourney, which is held in Williamsport, PA. You may recall that Taylor North brought home the championship of the Little League tournament in 2021. This year's junior league team representing Taylor had many players from the National Championship team.

Greg Bzura, the founder of the Junior League Baseball World Series in Taylor, has retired as the only director the 42-year-old international tournament has ever had. Bzura, 84, has dedicated much of his adult life to the volunteer director's position, guiding the World Series for the best teams of 13- and 14-year-old players from around the globe.

Bzura has tabbed son Dan as his successor. Dan and the entire Bzura family – and other families – have been lifelong JLWS volunteers. In recent years, Dan has taken a larger role in the series, often serving as his father's right hand man.

Little League International, which oversees the JLWS and several other baseball and softball world series around the country, has been alerted to Greg Bzura's retirement plans and Dan's succession to the director's position.

"On behalf of everyone at Little League International, and all those who have had the pleasure to experience the Junior League Baseball World Series over the past 40 years,

we would like to thank Greg for his unwavering commitment to this incredible event." said Stephen D. Keener, Little League President and CEO.

Greg was instrumental in bringing this World Series to the City of Taylor, and, thanks to his leadership and support, we continue to be able to provide hundreds of teenage baseball players this unique opportunity each summer. We wish him well in his next chapter and look forward to continuing to work with his son, Dan, on the future of this memorable event."

This year's tournament had 12 teams including six American teams – of which Taylor, the host team from Michigan District 5, was one – in the USA Pool. and six more teams in the International Pool. The pool champions play in the world championship game.

The international teams this year represented Australia, Chinese Taipei, Mexico, Canada, Curacao and Czech Republic.



## TAYLOR NORTH'S JR BASEBALL TEAM IS ELIMINATED FROM THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT



Taylor North fell to Virginia 11-4 and saw the hopes of a Junior League World Series championship come to an end. After collecting a 7-1 victory over the Central Region squad from Wisconsin one day earlier, Taylor North was pitted against the USA Southeast representatives from Virginia, who defeated West Region club Hawaii 7-6 the night prior. For Taylor North, the tough loss ends an otherwise strong summer and a respectable

performance as the host team.

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## GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Nine months after the residence of the Taylor School District passed a bond issue for a new high school and improvements to existing school buildings. Here is an update regarding all the work being done,

Once the bond passed, the first thing the team at Taylor did was start the search for a partner to work with them through the entire bond program, otherwise known as an owner's rep. "We knew we couldn't tackle this project on our own," said Supt. Mills. "We chose Plante Moran Cresa who has worked with many other districts in Metro Detroit, and a handful of ones in the Downriver area. By partnering with them, we knew our project would stay on track and we'd be in the best position to succeed."

After choosing an owner's rep, the pieces started to fall in place for the district. Soon, they had approved the first sale of bonds for about \$31M, signed architectural firm TMP Architecture, Inc. and completed a technology assessment of the entire district to identify what can be improved upon.

One of those challenges is the constantly changing environment of the construction industry, where like in all industries, inflation and the number of workers available remains an obstacle...*continued on page 3...*

...continued from page 2... “It’s impossible to predict the future,” said Supt. Mills. “We know that \$130M won’t go as far today as it would have in the Spring of 2021. And that trend doesn’t seem to be changing.

We are working to come up with the most efficient plan possible so that our community gets what it voted for.

That money is going to be the guiding factor for Taylor School District as they continue through the journey of creating a new school from the ground up while also making improvements throughout the district.

Most recently, the school board voted to add Clark Construction Company as construction manager to the bond program team. “We’re very excited to have found our construction manager,” said Supt. Mills. “Clark has worked in the K-12 setting for a while, working on projects such as Dearborn, Birmingham and Saline schools. We know the experience they bring to the table will help us tremendously as we go through the process.”

“We know the high school project is a big one that’s going to take some time, but we also know there are some things that we can do now to show the community that the money they voted on is being spent to make our district a better place for our current students,” said Supt. Mills.

Some of those things include new playgrounds at all of the elementary schools this year, new furniture throughout the district next year and improving technology for students and families.



“We’re excited to go through this process,” said Supt. Mills. “It’s something that’s long overdue in our district, and it’s going to make coming to school a much more enjoyable experience for both our students and staff.”



## GRADUATES OF TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE GREAT SUCCESS



### **Another Taylor Public School graduate who had an outstanding career - Phillip Hassen, TCH 1961**

After graduating from TCH, Phil went to Wayne State and Michigan to receive his master's in health administration.

Phil moved to Calgary IN Alberta, Canada in 1972. He applied for a position as Assistant Administrator at a 200 bed Rockyview Hospital and was accepted. This was very significant as it turned out to be the only position for which he applied. From then on, he was recruited for all the following positions:

- Holy Cross Hospital a 500-bed facility in the same group of hospitals - Assistant Director for patient services for 3 years
- Foothills Hospital a 900-bed facility affiliated with the University of Calgary - position Executive Vice President for 8 years
- University Health Network – Chief Operating Officer of a 1660 bed hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto for 2 years
- St Joseph's Health Center London Ontario served as CEO for 9 years which he considered the most gratifying of his career. Some of his experiences there are documented in a 1994 book he authored "RX FOR HOSPITALS: NEW HOPE FOR MEDICARE IN THE 90'S"
- Providence Health Care in Vancouver recruited him with the mandate to integrate all Catholic Hospitals and Health Care facilities in Vancouver. This included 6000 staff, 1000 physicians, and a \$400 million budget
- The Government of British Columbia recruited him to create the "Vancouver Coastal Health Authority", which became the largest health care system in Canada.
- Chairman of the International Society for Quality and Safety and has spoken around the world (he traveled over a million miles)

Phillip and his family now reside in London Ontario.

*The Taylor Alumni Association commends Phillip on his outstanding career and sincerely hopes he enjoys a long retirement.*

## JFK GATHERING

**Chuck Bonner, JFK '67** planned a gathering spot where alumni of JFK Classes of 66-67-68-69 in town for the 175th Taylor Birthday party could meet. He designated the Playoff Sports Grill for Saturday August 5 and a sizable number of Alumni attended, as well as staff members John Pantalone and Richard Kozik. Chuck and Larry Wright (JFK '66) conducted an auction of Charlie Dickelman (the Big D) yearbooks and 50/50 raffles with the proceeds going to the Alumni Scholarship fund.

## FISHING CHARTER CONTEST

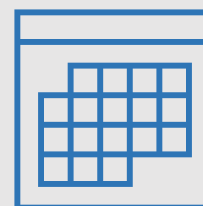


The Taylor Alumni Board thanks Greg Warsaw, JFK '67, for his very generous offer of "The Fishing Charter", and Ken Renner, JFK '70 and his committee for organizing the hugely successful contest.

## THE WINNER OF A DAY LONG FISHING CHARTER FOR 4 PEOPLE IS JACQUE SMITH MILLER, JFK 1974

### UPCOMING EVENTS SEPTEMBER 24

Taylor Center High School Class of 82-40th Reunion  
Join us at Mallie's Sports Bar, Southgate, MI  
September 24th 2022 @ 7:00 till ???



Cost per person: \$25, includes buffet of pizza, salad, pasta. Cash bar. Tickets must be prepaid through Venmo to @Kimberly-Ficaro by September 22nd.

Official Hotel: Comfort Suites Southgate We have a block of rooms reserved at the rate of \$119.99 per night. You must call the hotel directly at 734-287-9200 and let them know you are with the TCH Class Of 82 group. Space is limited, so reserve early! Find us on Facebook at TC Class of 82 Reunion. Questions? Email Kim Newman Figaro at kmnf520@yahoo.com



## **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, please let us know the name, school, graduating class and date of passing.*

### **JOHN F KENNEDY**

- George Kirila, Class of 1970 (passed August 3, 2022)

### **HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL**

- Mark Manders, Class of 1976 (passed July 4, 2022)
- James R Gerzich, Class of 1976 (passed January 6, 2020)

### **STAFF**

- Lena Mascaro, JFK Librarian and English Teacher (passed August 6, 2022)
- Ella Rudin, JFK Secretary (passed July 31, 2022)

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