

Alumni Association



Taylor School District

NEWSLETTER, 1st QUARTER, 2026

“Where are they now?”

Don't forget to send us your story for our “Where are they now?” We would love to share your story! Email a few paragraphs to the Alumni Association: tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com.

Dennis Malec, JFK Class of 1969

You cannot mention Dennis without the word “Music”. From his days at Superior Elementary School, then Brake Junior High School, and finally Kennedy High School, you could usually find Dennis with a clarinet or trumpet. Dennis, his mother, and father operated the A&W Restaurant at Northline and Telegraph Roads. In fact, they lived just behind the restaurant. During his time with Taylor music instructor Roger Craig, Dennis developed teaching abilities and techniques that have stayed with him to this day. After high school graduation, Dennis attended Wayne State University and earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering, then went on to the University of Michigan to complete a master's degree in industrial engineering. Dennis began a career at Ford Motor Company at the Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn. While at Ford, he moved from engineering to the finance department. Dennis was drawn to Wall Street and moved to New York in 1983. Dennis was very successful in the 80s and 90s at the Smith Barney and Dean Witter/ Morgan Stanley firms. By 1998, he had decided to retire and return to Michigan.

Dennis resumed his music interest and soon was performing with the Downriver Community Band, which he became President of in 2001. He also became active with the Dearborn Youth Symphony

by encouraging many students to audition and perform in the Symphony. Dennis also began performing with various groups. In 2003, he performed at the Nautical Fest in Rogers City, Michigan. One evening at the festival, he met Colleen. Dennis and Colleen were married in 2014.

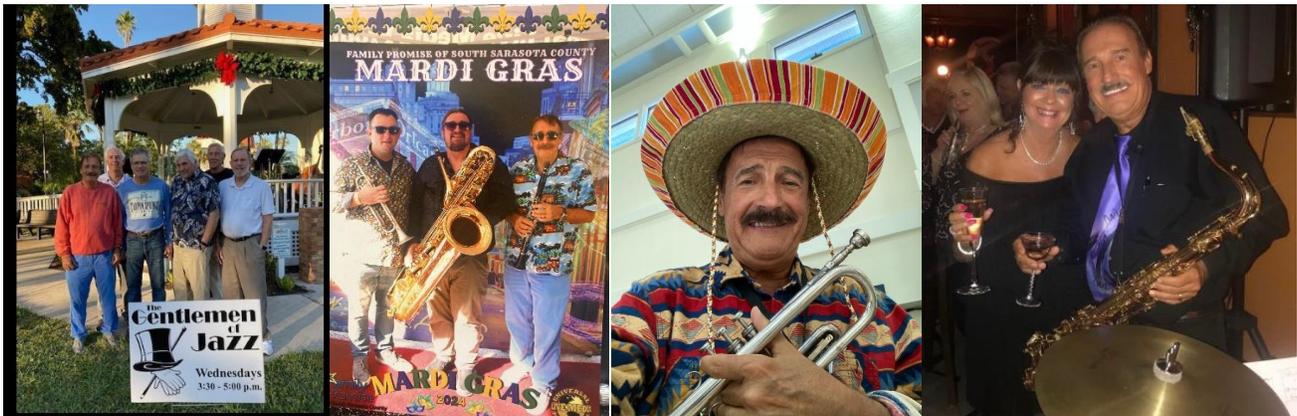
With the groups that Dennis performed with, he would often instruct other members. Dennis kept in touch with many other former Kennedy High School band members. One such acquaintance was Tom Smith, who returned as the Kennedy Band Director. Tom secured a grant to assist with developing interest in instrumental music with high school students. Dennis and Tom discussed the goals of the grant and decided that Dennis would be the perfect person to develop the program. Dennis spent time with Kennedy students and assisted in developing their interest in instrumental music.

Along with his work at Kennedy High School, Dennis began offering private lessons in instrumental music at the Southland Music Store in the Southland Mall. After several years, Dennis actually purchased the business and operated it for 8 years. He and Colleen decided to move to Florida and try retirement again, so they sold the business in 2018.

The Malecs now make their home in Venice, Florida. But Dennis has not retired from music.

He still instructs many students, some online as well as in person. He also performs with many groups,

from jazz ensembles to ragtime to 60's and even polka music. In fact, if you happen to visit any of the restaurants in the Venice area, you might happen to catch one of his performances.



A Blast from the Past - Taylor Schools Were In The News

“Remember Y2K”

From the Detroit Free Press, December 12, 1999, page 86

ment.
In Wayne County's Taylor School District, Superintendent Bethany Iverson expects to see her 11,467 students and 2,000 teachers return from break Jan. 3. Computers have been checked. A mobile generator was purchased to prevent boiler and water pipes from freezing. And the district's Y2K liability insurance was increased to \$1 million.
“We're absolutely sure we are ready and that there will be no problems,” Iverson said. “We started preparing in February, and there is nothing that has gone unchecked.”

Funny article

This is kind of a cute one from the Detroit Free Press, September 24, 1960

of Education.
Mark Czaczkowski, five-year-old son of the Walter Czaczkowskis of Taylor Township, is thrilled to the heels to be a member of the kindergarten class at Edgewood School. . . . Come Friday evening after his first week in school, Mark asked his mother what clothes he was to wear to school the next day. “You won't need your school clothes,” he was told. . . . How about next day? Same answer. . . . Mark looked at his mother suspiciously. “What's the matter?” he asked. “Have I been laid off?”

Little did he realize it was Friday, no school on the weekends.

Donations to our 2026 Scholarships

We are in need of donations for our two Taylor High School scholarships. We award (2) \$1,000 scholarships every June, and if we don't receive donations each year, the money comes out of our general budget. Won't you help a graduating Taylor High School Senior receive one of our scholarships? Thank you to those who have donated in the past.

Thank you to Darold Schonscheck for sending in another scholarship donation of \$200. Very much appreciated!

ALUMNI LIFETIME MEMBERS

Forest Bone – Taylor Center 1961

David Alexander – Taylor Center 1966

Keith Kulesza – Truman 1978

Want to become a lifetime member? It is only \$25. See the form at the end of this newsletter.

Reunions

Kennedy 1966-1999

Ask me about the good ol' days. I graduated in the 1900s. Chuck Bonner and I (Laura Scaturro) are in the final weeks of preparation before the reunion (March 24) of approximately 70 Taylor Kennedy grads from 1966-1999 who reside full time, part time or just sometimes in Florida.

It's a unique type of reunion that brings together people with the City of Taylor foundation, with memories from their high school years attending Kennedy.

Beef O'Bradys in South Lakeland will host our group. Unfortunately, due to his schedule, John Pantalone will not be able to attend.

If you have any questions about the reunion, please contact Laura Scaturro via email at lscaturro.edwi@gmail.com

Truman Class of 1976 — 50th Reunion FAQ
Harry S. Truman High School • September 18, 2026 • Trenton, Michigan



Is there a website?

Yes. A dedicated 50th Reunion website for the Truman Class of 1976 is available at [Truman 76 Reunion Website](#)

When is the reunion?

Date: Friday, September 18, 2026

Time: 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Where is it being held?

Venue: Chateau on the River

4250 Elizabeth Dr, Trenton, MI 48183 (Elizabeth Park)

Free parking • Wheelchair accessible

Who's invited?

Harry S. Truman High School Class of 1976, plus spouses, partners, and friends (21+), guests from other Taylor High School classes. (And maybe a surprise teacher or two!)

What's the plan for the evening?

5:00 Doors open, check-in, name tags, socialize

6:00 Welcome & introductions

6:30 Dinner (fun slideshow)

6:45 Class photo

7:00 Games (Last Table Standing, Trivia)

8:00 Music, dancing, surprises

10:00 Acknowledgements & closing

Schedule may adjust slightly — we'll keep you posted.

What's the cost and what does it include?

Ticket price per person: \$80 early bird (through July 1); \$100 at the door. Includes dinner and appetizers, music and dancing, photographer, prizes and keepsakes, and a reunion program guide.

Can I donate or sponsor something for the reunion?

Yes. Sponsorships and program advertisements are available for purchase. These help make the reunion a one-of-a-kind, first-class event while keeping ticket prices attractive. Donation link: [Donate Link](#)

Is there a cash bar?

Yes. Tito's Vodka, Crown Royal Whiskey, Jack Daniels Bourbon, Bacardi Rum, Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum, Jose

Cuervo Tequila, Dewars Scotch, Bombay Sapphire Gin, Bailey's Irish Cream, Kahlua, Peach Schnapps; Labatt Blue

Light and Stella Artois; premium house wines; Coke products. Pricing: \$6 mixed drinks, \$4 beer/wine, \$2 Coke products, \$1 juice/soda water/tonic. Tip bartenders as you wish.

How do I register and pay?

Register online at [Register & Pay](#). Payment options include credit and debit cards.

What's the registration deadline?

July 1 for the early bird discounted price. After that date, food counts, seating, or pricing may not be guaranteed.



Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 6pm

John F. Kennedy - Class of 1976 - 50 Year Reunion

Lakes of Taylor Golf Club

25505 Northline Rd, Taylor, MI 48180-4597

Join classmates from high school to reminisce and reconnect!
Enjoy dinner, DJ, photo opportunities and more.

\$65.00 per person

Payable by Venmo at [Kandi-Wood-2](#) or send an email to
kandiawood@gmail.com if another form of payment is desired.

Payment deadline August 3, 2026

*Please email your name and current contact information along
with the names of any deceased classmates to

taylorjfk1976@gmail.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 who is not listed in the Memoriam section on our website, please let us know the name, school, graduating class, and date of passing.

With our newsletters now being sent quarterly, there seem to be more names on these lists. Those who are from years past are here because they were not listed before.

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.

Kennedy

Kathleen Trent – Class of 1981 (11-24-2025)
Patricia Williams Woliver – Class of 1980 (3-27-2025)
Gary Battistone – Class of 1985 (1-7-2026)
Eileen Gersky Koppenger – Class of 1970 (9-21-2016)
Phillip J Stapleton – Class of 1966 (11-26-2024)
Dave Kidd – Class of 1977 (12-20-2025)
Edward “Eddie” Renko – Class of 1973 (11-29-2025)
Denny Dial – Class of 1977
David Fellows – Class of 1977 (12-3-2025)
Sharon Golembiewski Berry Hill – Class of 1981 (3-23-2025)
Gary Matthies – Class of 1971 (2-2-2025)
Alda Melnikas Gonzales – Class of 1969 (2-13-2026)
Rickey “Rick” Jernigan – Class of 1971 (9-6-2015)
Dawn Patten Warwick – Class of 1981 (2-22-2026)

Taylor High School

Ella Geiss – Class of 2026 (2-26-2026)

Taylor Center

Geraldine Burgess – Class of 1972 (9-27-2025)
Carol Jeannie Shingler Beck – Class of 1965 (2019)
Charles Osment – Class of 1965 (2019)
Bill Halfmann – Class of 1965 (5-10-2014)
Charles “Ron” Seeber – Class of 1965 (11-3-2024)
Tom Limp Ford – Class of 1965 (2019)
Michael Stanek – Class of 1975 (1-4-2026)
Donald “Terry” Northam – Class of 1979 (1-10-2026)
Ken Jasina – Class of 1976 (1-10-2023)

OBITUARIES *continued*

Jim Adkins – Class of 1965 (12-2-2025)
Kathryn “Carrie” Gilbert Jubenville – Class of 1967 (8-25-2024)
Randy Bradford – Class of 1978 (5-28-1985)
Kriste Sinks Warren – Class of 1992 (2-10-2026)
Michael Blair – Class of 1973 (4-2-2019)
Patrick Patteson – Class of 1957 (3-8-2025)
Douglas “Doug” Amenson – class of 1962 (1-21-2026)
David Zelek – Class of 1964 (2-11-2026)
Lannie Dwain Jernigan – Class of 1966 (10-1-2012)

Truman

Russell Watt – Class of 1979 (12-19-2025)
David Rudolph – Class of 1986 (12-19-2025)
Patrick W. Miller – Class of 1987 (9-6-2025)
Robert Briscoe – Class of 1985 (7-30-2017)
Judith Mangrum – Class of 1986 (November 2018)
Karen Demirjian Davenport – Class of 1977 (1-21-2026)
Mark Kincannon – Class of 1976 (1-18-2026)
Amanda Beverley – Class of 2009 (7-6-2025)
Russell Watt – Class of 1979 (December 2025)
Michael “Mike” Milican – Class of 1975 (2-14-2026)
Nick McKeown – Class of 2000 (2-21-2026)

Faculty/Staff

Pat Raymo – Elementary Teacher: Kinyon, Taylor Parks, Randall, and Edgewood (2-7-2026)
Larry East – Bus Driver (2-5-2026)
Terry Dangerfield – Mechanic (2-10-2026)
Marlene Balduci – Kennedy Teacher, Hoover Principal (2-14-2026)

For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit tayloralumni.org In Memoriam

Alumni Association



Taylor School District

Taylor School District Alumni
Association
11501 Beech Daly
Taylor, MI 48180

Visit us online:
www.tayloralumni.org

Email us:
tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

Facebook:
TaylorMichiganAlumniAssociation

Taylor Alumni Association Board

President:	Caroline (Craddock) Patts (TC 73)
Vice Pres TC	Sandra Kyte (TC 62)
Vice Pres JFK	Deborah (Howard) O'Conner (JFK 76)
Vice Pres HST	Lora Coats (HST 83)
Vice Pres THS	OPEN POSITION
Secretary:	Sheri (Graham) Engelbrink (HST 77)
Treasurer:	Nancy Miller (JFK 67)
Past President:	Mary (Swartout) Rusnak (JFK 72)

Alumni Association Purpose

To enhance the educational atmosphere of the Taylor School District by developing an active alumni association for the common good of both the graduates and the school district.

Taylor School District Alumni Association Application for Membership

Alumni lifetime membership: \$25 per person.
Please print clearly:

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Maiden _____

School Attended _____

Graduation year _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

email _____

Make checks payable to:

Taylor School District Alumni Association

Mail this form along with your payment to:
Taylor School District Alumni Association
11501 Beech Daly, Taylor, MI 48180

Benefits of your lifetime membership:

Monthly newsletter
Website
Facebook page for info
email notices
Class reunion information
Alumni Museum
Social get togethers
Scholarship donations