

IN THE NEWS



Alumni Association
Taylor School District

Alumni Newsletter December 2022

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



John F. Kennedy High School (1966-2018)
Taylor Center High School (1953-1997)
Harry S. Truman High School (1974-2018)
Taylor High School (2018-Present)



THE MORE THAN 60,000 ALUMNI FROM ALL OF US - YOUR HARDWORKING BOARD

Caroline Patts, TCH 1973 President
Judy LaFleur, TCH 1965 Vice President TCH
Ken Renner, JFK 1970 Vice President JFK
Sheri Englebrink, HST 1977 Secretary HST

Jackie Gaits-Maynard, TCH 1990- Scanner
Mary Rusnak, JFK 1972 Past-President
Lynn Van Keuren, JFK 1979 Co-Editor
John Pantalone, Co-Editor & Alumni Founder

HISTORY OF: Our Library



Since the Roaring '20s, the community has had services of one type or another.

Since 1922, Taylor has been serving the community with library services. In the early days, access to books was provided by the Wayne County Bookmobile, which would visit on a regular basis to lend books to the residents. In 1929, the Taylor Center branch of the Wayne County Library opened. More than 20 years later, the Taylor Center branch had outgrown the small building in which it was housed and needed to expand. So, in 1953, the library moved to a larger building.

Once again, the community outgrew the library space, so the need for books and information was met with the opening of Library 1 on Goddard Road followed by Library 2 at Wick and Mortenvue in 1968. In later years, the libraries were renamed to Alexander Papp Library and Richard J. Trolley Library to honor the Taylor leaders who were instrumental in their construction.

By 1983, it was evident that the community would be better served by combining the two smaller libraries into one large library. Plans were drafted to meet that need and, in 1985, the new Taylor Community Library was completed. Since that time, the library staff has continually improved the services it provides to the community and the facility remains one of the leaders in delivering information access in the Downriver community.

You can visit the Taylor Library by clicking on <https://taylor.lib.mi.us>

TCH GRAD IS A NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE EMPLOYEE



My name is Mike Hargraves and a proud member of the Taylor Center class of 1971. Coming from 9 years of Catholic school I did not know what to expect from public schools. I was not disappointed. My good friend encouraged me to join the band and the rest was a great 3-year experience. Back in those days it really didn't matter what circle you were in, Grease, Jock, Brain, or Band it seemed looking back everyone got along. I think my proudest moment in my 3 years there was the opportunity to represent my city, my school, my classmates in performing with the band at Detroit Lions games carried on national television, countless band days at the major Michigan universities, marching in parades all across Michigan, but what stood out was Friday night football games. Especially home games when we got the

opportunity to meet and get into formation about 615 just outside the band room and March loudly and proudly around the horseshoe in front of the school, all 120 of us, and end up at the north end of the field awaiting our cue to March our pregame show concluding with the song of our nation, the national anthem. We did get to do some away games also which turned into a competition with the home team, but I think I remember we always prevailed.

After the home games we would once again form in ranks and proudly and loudly march back to the band room reversing our entry almost 3 hours prior. It never got old marching the horseshoe as it was unique to our school, and I felt so privileged to wear that interlocking TC on my gold satin cape. Just a note, I think I remember that if we won, that meaning the football team, tradition would have us turn our hats backwards and unlatch the clasp on the back of the cape so our gold would prevail as the embroidered TC showed proudly to all. I picked back up with many classmates building eternal friendships at our 40th and 50th reunions. Through the years' time does not separate the bond that high school classes or the memories, just makes them all better when we meet again.

After high school I went to school and did brief encounters of work for a few years each at a sporting goods store in Taylor and Pan American Airlines before settling into my profession of working almost 40 years for a legal service.

Additionally, I devoted countless hours serving youth and city organizations both in coaching and administrative positions in football, baseball, softball, and hockey along with a long term with a city commission.

I also had the distinct honor to serve Truman H.S. as the president of the football booster club for many years and became the administrator and manager of the high school hockey program that included saving Kennedy by merging the 2 schools together to represent Taylor as a unified hockey program. My interest in hockey is extensive and has led me to serving in the professional level as I entered my 45th season of working professional hockey games. 6 seasons with the Detroit Red Wings and the past 39 with the National Hockey League in a Supervisory position of off ice officials.

My other passion outside of sports is my love of Disney and what it stands for trying to bring families together and escape the craziness of the world we live in. I have been lucky to have visited over 50 times.

I was married for 20 years and received 2 beautiful children who are now very successful in their own right and was blessed with my first grandchild "Little Lucy" in August of this year.

I am a proud almost lifetime member of St. Alfred's church as well as the city of Taylor as I have been here since 1958 and although I have moved to different homes, Taylor has always been the city and now I have returned and currently reside in the home that I grew up in and got up each morning from 1968 - 1971 to attend and see my friends at Taylor Center High School.

Proud member of the class of 71....

Be Safe all and remember you can always come home and remember....

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



THE WORLD IS GETTING SMALLER

We now have alumni of the Taylor Public Schools living in the following countries: Australia, Bahrain, Bonaire, Brazil, Canada, China, Norway, Peru and Switzerland!

Also reported that there are students in our school district that have a foreign language spoken in their homes. Now the rest of the story- There are 22 different languages spoken. Do you think anyone, but Jeopardy Champs could name that many languages.

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

A mural commissioned to honor Taylor's 175th anniversary has arrived in the city. The "interactive art," called "Celebrating Taylor," was delivered by originator Daniel Cascardo to members of the Taylor Historical Commission and Historical Society at the Taylor Historical Museum in Heritage Park. The mural is scheduled to be placed inside Taylor City Hall on a wall near the Goddard Road entrance.



The art project was one of dozens of history-related things to do during the anniversary celebration, held on August 6, 2022, at Heritage Park. Taylor was founded as a township on March 16, 1847. Taylor Township incorporated as the City of Taylor in 1968. The year 2022 is the 175th anniversary of the founding of Taylor. Taylor Mayor Tim Woolley said, "I think it turned out great and it will be adorning City Hall in the next couple of weeks."

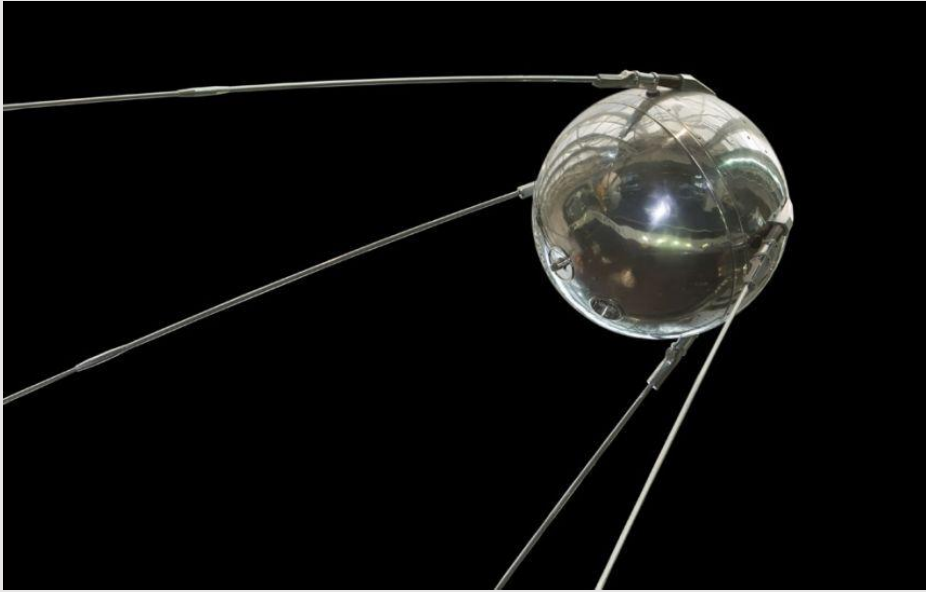
TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT HOSTS CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

Taylor School District students and staff celebrated cultural diversity over the last two weeks with events around the district. To kick off the celebration, Pakistani and Indian students at Taylor High School gathered in their Griffin Hour classroom with their teacher, Susie Evans, to share the food and music from their home cultures. Students and staff members from around the district attended to learn a bit more about these cultures and the holiday Diwali. THS students and staff enjoyed our Cultural Day celebrating different cultures of people in our building. This first month was the Pakistani Party, or Itehadi. Students dressed in traditional clothing and set up everything, invitations, food, drinks, and music. Everyone had so much fun! The following week language and literacy students hosted a "Culture Day". Students shared recipes with the class and presented what food they brought in before everyone enjoyed the treats. A great turnout of students celebrating and supporting each other's individual and unique cultures. Thank you to all the parents who supported this classroom project. Students tried food from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Pakistan, Albania, Uganda and Nigeria. All looking forward to more culture day celebrations in the future."



We're happy to welcome students from all over the world into the Taylor School District.

BACK IN TIME



1958 Russia startled the world by launching Sputnik into outer space. The United States immediately took steps to catch up to the Russian Space program. Universities immediately expanded their Russian studies programs. The Taylor School District was one of very few school districts in the USA that Begin to teach the Russian Language in their high schools.

1970 - The JFK Debate Team competed in the Mackinaw Island Debate Festival. There were teams from Farmington, Flint, Flushing, Ionia, Livonia, Marshall, Muskegon, and a team from Washington D C. Kennedy won that Championship and many others. 12 students are attending summer debate and forensic institutes at Eastern Michigan, Georgia, Georgetown, and Wake Forest.



DONATIONS RECEIVED

Generous donations have been presented to the Taylor Public Schools Foundation by Beth and Tom Iverson and TCH graduate class of 1960, Bill Riggs.



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

- Lisa Ann Heaberlin, Class of 1991 (passed October 23, 2022)
- Dana Cumberledge Collier, Class of 1993 (passed November 4, 2022)

TAYLOR CENTER HIGH SCHOOL

- Deborah “Deb” Lee, Class of 1971 (passed October 4, 2022)
- Timothy Jenkins, Class of 1979 (passed October 25, 2022)
- Edwin Hepler, Class of 1982 (passed October 22, 2022)
- Ted Schiebold, Class of 1972 (passed November 2, 2022)
- Jean Hoffman Sanlor, Class of 1962 (passed September 23, 2021)
- Sharlene McVay Trueman, Class of 1965 (passed November 13, 2022)

HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL

- Shannon Hinneburg, Class of 2003 (passed June 17, 2022)
- Jeffrey Raymond Abramczyk, Class of 1991 (passed November 22, 2022)

STAFF

- Robert Adamczyk, Retired Elementary Principal (passed November 18, 2022)

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