

Alumni Association

Keeping Ties with Our Alumni



TAYLOR
School District



October 2019 Newsletter

KEEPING UP WITH GRADS!

Ray Lauerman
1972 JFK High School Graduate

Ray Lauerman, JFK Graduate of 1972, provided us with the following information:

I graduated from JFK in 1972. After graduation, I attended Wayne County Community College where I received an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. I've been involved in music for most of my life and have played in several bands including; The Peach Band, Hot Lucy, The Vintage Band, Cold Blue Steel and am currently playing with Full Tilt Boogie/ Detroit. I was fortunate to play with Ricky Nelson the August before he died, and with The

Contours and Freddy Boom Boom Cannon.



I married my lovely wife, Lynda Soloman, (also a JFK grad) in 1979. We have three wonderful sons. James, the oldest, graduated from Eastern Michigan University. He taught guitar and drums at the Arbor School of Music. He is now living in Chicago and working at Venmo. Our son Nicholas also received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Eastern. He taught at JFK for

11 years and is now teaching in Woodhaven. Our third son, Michael, attended Washtenaw Community College and the Colorado Institute of Arts where he studied film. He lives in Denver and is currently in a band called The Patient Zeros. They are recording and touring the country. All three of our sons are wonderful musicians.

We purchased our first house in 1979 in Southgate Michigan. We then moved to Saline in 1986 and built our beautiful home on 10 acres, where we raised our family. In 2002 we

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Taylor MI 48180
tayloralumni.org

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purchased a cottage at Houghton Lake and spend most of our summers there.

I retired from General Motors in 2009 after 34 years of service. Lynda worked in Human Resources at the University of Michigan Hospital for 27 years prior to retiring in 2015.

After our children finished college and moved away, my wife and I decided to downsize and moved to Allen Park in 2014, which is where we currently live, to be closer to family and friends.

Words from John Pantalone at Ray

I had the opportunity to listen to Ray and his band and to talk with him during a band break. He struck me as being extremely pleased with what he has accomplished and surely should be. I asked about the house he built in Saline. It is a 4,000 sq foot house he personally built from the basement up. I asked where he learned those skills and he informed me that he learned as he built. He did the same during his employment at General Motors working his way up to a machinist. He expressed a strong belief that everyone should attend college, as he feels that opens the door to many opportunities, regardless of the degree earned. He also had high praise for the education he received in the Taylor Schools.

If you would like to see Ray perform, here are a few dates and locations. On October 11th at Page's Food & Spirits in Farmington. On October 19 at the Dearborn Country Club and on November 1st at the Trolley stop in Taylor.

FOUNDATION NEWS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP FUND THESE REQUESTS?

The Taylor Foundation received this request for funds:

► Myers Elementary Principal, Ms Hodgkinsen, requested funds to purchase uniforms for the newly formed Cheerleaders. Any amount you choose to give will be greatly appreciated.

► Taylor High School students, Elizabeth Garcia and Elizabeth Pryer have both been accepted into the Michigan Opera Theater Youth Chorus. Your donations will help defray the cost of tuition which is \$800 per student for one year.

Several of you alumni have asked about donating to specific student causes. Here is an opportunity to donate any amount you are comfortable with. Every dollar will be of great help to a worthy cause. Make check payable to Taylor Public School Foundation and mail it to

Taylor Pubic School Foundation 23033
Northline Road Taylor, Mi 48180

THERE IS A LOT HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

Two new major residential projects have been approved.

➤ The Terraces at Autumn Woods includes 52 single-family condos, located near the northeast corner of Pennsylvania and Inkster Road. Built on 16 acres, the project will feature a walking path with a view of a large conservation area.

Aberdee at Racho is a 52 unit development of 26 duplex buildings located on 11.5 acres on Northline across from Wayne County Community College's Downriver Campus.

➤ Neighborhood parks are being improved. Northwest Park, the home of the only outdoor pool in the community is undergoing a major facelift. A long new walking and biking path is being added, as is a concert/entertainment/soccer-type area. A new playscape, pavilion, game tables, and a fitness area are also being added. The existing basketball courts, which are heavily used, are being cleaned, restriped and new backboards and rims are being installed. The northwest corner is the sixth area of Taylor that has been targeted for improvements as part of the Good to Great Neighborhood Program.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT TAYLOR

There were 11 graduating classes before Taylor became a city.

The first class graduating from Taylor Center High School was the class of 1957. At that time the community was still Taylor Township and remained so until 1968.

Did you know the Taylor Center High School building on Wick Road was the only Secondary School building? When Taylor Center High first opened the Senior High Students attended classes in the morning and grades 7 & 8 in the afternoon as there were no Jr High buildings until Taylor Jr. High was built.

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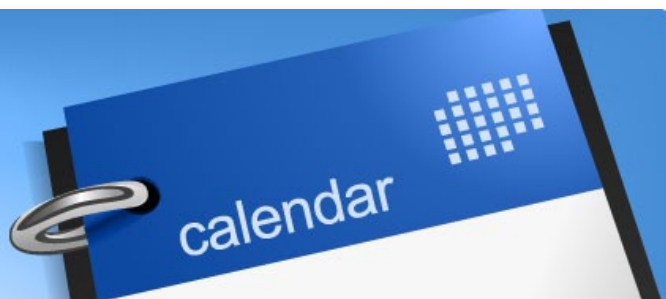
ALUMNI NEWS!



We welcome Mark Coplen, JFK 1966, to the fastest growing Alumni Association in the state. Mark now lives in Woodstock GA. We are please to have him as a Lifetime Member.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar



- October 5th JFK Class of 1969 50th Reunion. Taylor Meadows Golf Club – noon till 7 pm. More information contact Mike Connelly 773-952-9711 email mconnelly51@gmail.com or Greg Warsow 734-782-1742 email gwarsow@comcast.net
- October 8th Alumni Association monthly meeting (2nd Tuesday of the month) Board Office 6pm
- October 10th Taylor Public Schools Foundation monthly meeting (2nd Thursday of the month) School Board Office 8:00 am.
- October 12th JFK Class of 1979 40th reunion. Mallie's Sports Grill & Bar 7:30 pm - until closing. Casual attire – \$20 per person DJ and more. For more information call Steve Meharry 313-551-5159

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

Kevin Eshelman, Class of 1968 (passed August 9, 2019)

Carol Barker, Class of 1962 (passed September 2, 2019)

Truman High School

Robert "Bob" Jackson, Class of 1977 (passed September 6, 2019)

Eric Moore, Class of 1991, (passed October 26, 2018)

John F Kennedy High

Daniel Burgo, Class of 2006 (passed August 18, 2019)

Thomas Witz, Class of 1968 (passed September 6, 2019)

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