

"The Archive" was the name selected by votes cast by the Junior Class (Class of '63) on May 3, 1962 for Valley Forge High School's yearbook. "The Heritage" was the runner-up and now appropriately names our alumni newsletter.

The Heritage



July 2017

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Valley Forge High School Alumni Association
www.vfalumni.org

Message from The President

Schools out. Summer has finally arrived. Sunshine and warm weather are here. And as we get older, the summer seems shorter every year. What ever happened to those endless summer days I remember from my childhood? I know, I know. They went the same place my childhood went. Well, we all have memories of those good old days!

Over the last month or so, things have been pretty busy for the Alumni Association. In late-April we announced our 2017 Scholarship winners Nathan Tong and Julianna Chervenak at the Valley Forge Winner's Circle assembly. Then on May 24th, at the Scholarship Awards Dinner, both Nathan and Julianna were presented their actual scholarship checks by Alan Rudolf, Chairman of our scholarship committee, along with all the other Parma City School scholarship winners. It was a great night to see all of the scholarship winners and to hear a little of what they plan for their future education.

Right after this, on May 26th at the Senior Recognition assembly, we installed a new Hall of Fame member. Mr. Daniel P. Walsh, class of 1987, was this year's recipient. Daniel has an extensive career history with KeyBank and Huntington National Bank to help secure financing for real estate developers and local companies. He currently is founder and CEO of a real estate private investment firm called Citymark Capital. If he isn't busy enough, Dan also sits on the boards of directors and trustees for many non-profit

organization like United Way, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland Clinic, and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

As our alumni who peruse our Facebook page already know, we intend to hold our annual picnic/meeting on July 23rd. We have moved the picnic to a Sunday afternoon in hopes that more of our alumni family are able to attend. If you don't look at our page on Facebook, we supply the hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments, and paper goods. You bring a side dish or dessert and your own NON-Alcoholic beverage. We hope to see you there! If you do plan to attend, please let us know either on Facebook or by sending a quick email to president@vfalumni.org. That pretty much sums up the summer. Enjoy it and please – be safe in your summer escapes!

Reunions are being planned! Classes of '67, '77 and '07 are in the works. Any others? Let us know! We Can Help!
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Next Meeting
All Alumni Summer Picnic
Sunday, July 23, 2017
Noon to 5 pm
James Day Park
Pleasant Valley Rd. (by Tri-C)
The association provides burgers, hot dogs, paper products and condiments. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and your own NON-alcoholic beverage.

Officers

President
[Richard Meeks '73](#)
Vice President
[Linda Reik-Brown '65](#)
Secretary
Needed
Treasurer
Needed

Committees

Newsletter Editor
Karyn Niedetzki Newton '89
Hall of Fame
Bob Baisch '65
Scholarship
Alan Rudolph '88
Membership
Terry Wandt '63
Database
Halle Magpoc-Dawson '89
Webmaster
[Jon McKinley '17](#)
Nominating
Needed
Audit
Needed
Reunions Coordinator
Needed
[Linda Reik-Brown '65](#)
Historian/Displays
Needed

Audit Committee
Review past year's bank transaction entries including class disbursements, withdrawals, and deposits.

Reunion Coordinator
Assists classes with planning their reunions, makes sure proper financial procedures are followed, schedules Alumni Ambassadors to attend reunions to help and represent the association.

Nominating Committee
Ongoing search for new officers for annual elections.

History of Parma High Schools

(continued)

by Kenneth J. Lavelle, Local Historian
VF Class of 1975

On November 22, 1853 there was a vote taken for the construction of local High School. Only 16 men voted for it and it was not built. Thus, for many years students who attended high school continue to their education, traveled into Cleveland with the Parma Township School Board paying for their education.

Eventually, over time the State Board of Education and Cuyahoga County School Board was created by the members of Ohio Legislature. As early as 1894, women could run for school board offices and vote in school elections. Men and women have worked as teachers in the Parma Schools.

There have been four different 'Parma High School' buildings over time in the Parma School District. The first Parma High school building was located at the corner of Bean and Ridge Roads. It consisted of two small one- room schoolhouses. Miss Foote taught the ninth and tenth grades. Miss Wolf taught the eleventh and twelfth grades. Miss Wolf was also the principal of the high school. This rural high school was established and operated by the Cuyahoga County Board of Education from 1910 until 1930 with the co-operation of the six elected Parma Township Rural School District board members.

The deaths of Miss Foote and Miss Wolf on February 16, 1921 was a shock to all residents of Parma Township and a local police force was created as a result of their unsolved murders along Bean Road. Their unknown assailant was never found . This local murder case remains a mystery. A memorial in their memory was placed near the entrance to the Cleveland Zoo on December 1, 1932 in Cleveland, Ohio.

With the completed construction of the newly consolidated three school buildings in 1921, Parma High school was moved into a portion of the brick elementary school building at 6726 Ridge Road. The first Parma High School class graduated from there in 1925. |

The school age population kept growing in Parma

Township and another more larger high school building had to be built. The third Parma High School building at 5983 West 54th Street was built in 1928. It was named for H. J. Schaaf, who had been a member of the Parma Board of Education from 1905 to 1927. An addition was built in 1951 due to the increasing student population there while a new Parma high school was built down the street.

Parma Schaaf High School was in existence from 1928 to 1953, when the fourth and present Parma Senior High School was opened. The third Parma High School became Parma Schaaf Junior High School. It was later closed in the 1982. For several years a portion of the closed school building served as a local church. In May, 1995, the former school was purchased by the City of Parma for use as a Community Center building. It became a recreational center and multi-purpose facility for sports, local meetings, events, and former classrooms were rented to various organizations.

The fourth and current Parma High school is called 'Parma Senior High'. The construction of the school began on March 8, 1951 . The R.S. Ursprung Company was the General Contractors. The cornerstone was laid in a special impressive ceremony on May 26, 1952. The new high school was a symbol of just how far the American Dream for its search for excellence in education had come in only 150 years in the State of Ohio. Mr. Carl C. Byers, the Superintendent, revealed this idea that day. He said, "We believe the new Parma Senior High will be a well integrated building, functional in every aspect. A community can justly proud at this aesthetically beautiful edifice lights the way toward a better educational opportunities and facilities for its fine young people". It was called the 'Queen of High Schools' when it was opened in September, 1953.

Work was completed in the fall of 1953. Parma Sr. High was designed by Fulton, Krinsky and Dela Motte, architects. It is located at 6285 West 54th Street at the corner of Longwood Avenue. The two-story building was built in a modified Georgian style with red face brick and gray lime-stone trim with aluminum window frames. The front of the Parma Sr. high school has a 100-foot clock tower that dominated the 'U' shaped classroom unit in 1953 .

Parma Senior High had several special features built in 1951-53. These special features included a dramatics room, a food laboratory, a teachers' dining room and a student cafeteria. The English room was designed for a cultural atmosphere. It had oak paneling, a fire place, and leaded glass windows. No desks were used by the students, who sat in Windsor chairs. Corridor wall displays have contained science exhibits and athletic sports trophies over the years.

The student auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,850 persons was located under the 100- foot clock tower. There was a biology room, a chemistry and a physics laboratory on the second floor classroom area. There were 49 normal classrooms, six special student service rooms, a library, eight shop classrooms, music rooms, and a little theater seating 325 persons.

Parma Senior High was built with growth And expansion in mind in 1951. The school site consisted of 38 acres of land. The school building itself covered 20 acres, with a 300-car parking lot and five acres set aside for a wildlife sanctuary in 1953.

School additions were built in 1972-74. One addition was in the front area for the new media center, guidance offices, and business curriculum. The two other additions included a larger vocational wing built in the rear of the school and a physical education swimming facility in 1980. The architects were Lesko Associates. The story of the Parma City Schools and the several Parma High Schools built since 1920 is one of constant growth. The long term planning done at the various times in the past for student enrollment has tried to meet projections and will continue in to the future. This is why two more high schools had to be built after 1953. Valley Forge High School was built in 1961. An additional vocational wing was built in 1972-74 and a swimming pool facility in 1975. Normandy High School was built in 1968.

The reader should understand that the Parma Schools were once in grave financial problems in the 1930's. The voters considered annexation to The Cleveland Public Schools in 1931. The vote

was defeated and the financial problems were not solved immediately. The board of education was behind in paying teachers' salaries and was forced to issue `scrip' in lieu of cash. Teachers had to find a local farmer or business owner who would accept their `scrip' and be issued cash by them. The new holders of the `scrip' then redeemed it when they paid their annual county property tax bill. The amount of `scrip' was deducted from the tax amount due. The situation was so critical in 1938 that the school board threatened to order all the schools to be closed. Teachers in 1938 voted 94 - 7 to accept deferred payment for six weeks' back salaries in 1939. The schools never closed.

It was only with the WWII war prosperity that the finances improved in the Parma schools. When this writer was researching the early history of the schools in 1989, at the Parma School's Administrative Offices, he noticed a frame piece of 'script' on a wall. The framed `script' was a reminder of the dark times it had endured to survive to reach the present era. This experience was briefly recalled on May 26, 1952.

The tax duplicate from the Parma General Motors Chevy Auto Plant has provided much needed financial support for the Parma City Schools since 1949. Without this financial support Parma Senior High would not have been built.



(to be continued in October)

Continued from page 1...

*** We are now looking for someone to take over the Board position of Treasurer. This position requires approximately 2 hours a month. It does not require a formal education in accounting or finance, but a familiarity with accounting principles and checking and savings accounts would certainly help.

***We are also looking for an Alumni Association board position of Secretary. This requires about 2-3 hours per month time commitment.

What We Do...

The Valley Forge Alumni Association, Inc. is a 501(c3) organization created to help graduates work together for the common good of both the graduates and the high school. Our priorities and goals are as follows:

~ To Alumni by maintaining database for reunions, assists with reunion planning and at the reunions themselves, if desired, and maintains class reunion funds. Also a newsletter and website. Preserves the history and traditions of Valley Forge High School.

~ To Current Students by providing scholarships to seniors and future programs of grants to teachers and funds for school functions, projects, clubs and building in general.

~ To The Community by being an active member of the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce and participating in as many community events as possible.

Valley Forge Alumni Association Freedom Scholarship is awarded annually through the Parma Council of PTAs Scholarship Program. We require each applicant to submit an essay describing why they are proud to be a Valley Forge graduate.



Calendar of Events

7/23/17	Valley Forge Alumni Association Picnic/Meeting 12 Noon - 5:00 PM
8/16/17	First Day of School
9/27/17	Taste of the Towns – sponsored by the Parma City Schools Foundation



Visit Our Website!
www.vfalumni.org



Valley Forge High School Alumni (OHIO)

Valley Forge High School Hall of Fame

Do you know someone who has made a significant contribution to our school, our community or our world? Nominate them for this honor and tell us about their post high school accomplishments in Academics, Athletics, Career, Cultural/Performing Arts or other endeavor. You will find the form online at www.vfalumni.org

How Can You Help ?

- **Donate Funds for Scholarships:** We awarded \$500 scholarships in the past. We want to increase the amount or number of scholarships.
- **Fundraising:** Suggest fundraising strategies and/or be ready to jump in and help or implement one.
- **Attend Meetings:** Help us make decisions that will shape the future of the Association as well as socialize with other alumni.