

CONSTANTINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Newsletter



March 2015 Edition

“Proud to be alumni”

From the editor’s desk ... I want to take this opportunity to thank superintendent Chuck Frisbie and the great staff at CHS for two things. First, they print our newsletter. (I would like to thank those of you who requested we go back to the old style/larger print.) Second, the school has graciously offered to allow us to be a part of their financial system. We recently closed our alumni account at Southern Michigan Bank and Trust. The reason being, the school offered to set up an entirely separate account. This money can only be spent by the Alumni Association. Our money is still kept in Southern Michigan Bank, but we turn in any bills, such as postage for the newsletter, to the school. The benefit to this plan is now our account is audited through the school plus you can now claim a tax deduction if you wish to donate to the Sweetland Stadium fund, etc. I think it’s a great idea! Our treasurer Teresa did a great job and had a lot of things to keep track of; now Stephanie Lucas, the school secretary does this job. ****Speaking of Sweetland Stadium, contributions to the stadium project are still more than welcome! Send contributions to CHS, Attn: Sweetland Stadium Project, 1 Falcon Drive, Constantine, MI 49042. Questions? Contact Dave Horn at (269) 435-6463. (Checks should be made out to CHS; please indicate “Sweetland Stadium Project” on check.)**** The dates have been set! Homecoming is Friday, Oct. 9th. Athletic Director Mike Messner has set the Hall of Fame for Saturday, October 10th. Our Alumni Banquet will be held on Sunday, October 11th. Times are the same. Fellowship hour is from 11:00 – 1:00 at which time we will eat. We always welcome input for entertainment. This event is for us! Contact an officer if you have any comments or feel free to email the newsletter editor.****Speaking of officers, we’re down to three—Cindy Larrance-President, Monica Tilbury-Vice President, CHS/Stephanie Lucas-Treasurer and Angie Birdsall – Secretary. We’d love to have board members. It would be fun to meet again at Meek’s Mill café, or elsewhere.****One more item. I want to thank Dave Horn for input. In addition to compiling a list for “For Whom the Bell Tolls”, Dave just handed me a great folder of ideas for a terrific newsletter.

Questions? Comments? Want to submit new? Call Angie at (269) 435-8546 or email to angiebirdsallmsu@hotmail.com Thank you!

For Whom the Bell Tolls ... The following members will be missed: Edward E. Kelly – Class of 1964 (died Feb. 3, 2015); Jack E. Oberle – Class of 1947 (died Feb. 2, 2015); Carlton (Cotton) Deats – Class of 1944 (died Jan. 23, 2015); Barbara (Kolb) Phenicie – Class of 1960 (died Nov. 14, 2013); Floyd E. Clarkson – attended mid-1960's (died Sept. 3, 2014); Robert L. Mallo – Class of 1954 (died Sept. 7, 2014); Alice Marie (Mann) Jacobs – Class of 1950 (died Sept. 8, 2014); Sophie Ann (Wojcik) Hahn – Class of 1955 (died Sept. 14, 2014); Maxine L. (Milhahn) Kinney Class of 1943 (died Sept. 15, 2014); Arthur L. Barnhart – class of 1968 (died Sept. 24, 2014); Ronald L. Stears – Class of 1957 (died Sept. 30, 2014); Lawrence “Larry” Bell – attended in the 1940's (died Oct. 5, 2014); Lawrence “Bud” Parsons – attended in the 1940's (died Oct. 5, 2014); Leslie (Schmidtendorff) Ware – Class of 1969 (died Aug. 14, 2014); Lorenzo “Barry” Swartwout – Class of 1958 (died Dec. 8, 2014); George R. Featherstone – attended in 1930/1940's? (died Dec. 5, 2014); Karl Stevens – Class of 1963 (died Dec. 26, 2014); Robert T. Dodd – Class of 1943 (died Jan. 6, 2015); Amber N. Alexander – Class of 1995 (died Jan. 14, 2014)—
Thanks to Dave Horn for compiling this! He does a good job. Feel free to call him with news at (269) 435-6463.

CONSTANTINE PUBLIC SCHOOL – Items of Interest***from Superintendent, Chuck Frisbie in the December 2014 newsletter. “The Board of Education will finalize refinancing of a high school bond at the beginning of the year. This refinancing will save the District taxpayers \$1,294,516. This amount is similar to the amount of refinance savings from other bonds, which were used to renovate the middle school. Also, next year the District will change leagues – Kalamazoo Valley Association to Southwestern Athletic Conference. The new league will have 20 teams.” The school board held discussion on demolition of the old Canaris Street School, noting there is a lot of public sentiment for the structure. The Board held off action at this time, allowing for public comment at future meetings. Frisbie said the Canaris Street school is used by the maintenance department for storage. A new storage shed would have to be built before it could come down. The school originally housed grades K-12 when it was built in the 1920's. It was closed in 2002 to coincide with the opening of the new high school. School board members commented at an earlier meeting the Canaris Street school's solid, admirable appearance of the exterior is deceiving because the inside has been gutted, with plumbing and the electricity disconnected. Metal items such as the boiler have been scrapped and sold as salvage. Asbestos has been removed. Also, items of interest to nostalgic alumni were sold at a public sale in May, 2012. School board member Connie Dalrymple suggested bricks from the school could be saved and have names of graduates, etc. engraved on them. Bricks and possibly benches could remain in the area.

CONSTANTINE NEWS – Michigan Milk Producers Association petitioned the village to vacate the 400 block of Second Street between Depot and Station Streets for their use. MMPA purchased houses in the 400 block of East Second Street to demolish in order to make more room for employee parking. MMPA is involved with a joint venture with Foremost Farms USA, a dairy cooperative in Wisconsin. Nearly \$10 million is being invested. ***A fire department board is looking into the purchase of two pumper trucks at a cost of \$300,000 and \$450,000 and a new fire station at a cost of one million dollars.***The village council is exploring other options to high rates currently charged to pump sewage to the Three Rivers Waste Water Treatment Plant. The council hired an attorney and has an active Sewer Ad Hoc committee to study the problem. ***The village received a bid of \$332,439 to fix up the east parking lot downtown. The village received a D.I.G. grant earlier which, along with a match from the DDA, will cover the cost. ***A truck route for MMPA may be instituted. Village manager Mark Honeysett suggested taking the Locust Street exit to South Washington, to East Water Street to arrive at MMPA. ***An agreement was reached with Rexam (formerly Owens-Illinois) for an 87.5% refund of an Industrial Facilities Tax (IFT). IFT abatements were granted to Rexam earlier. When the facility ceased operations they had to repay several active abatements with interest. Rexam attorneys negotiated a deal with the village, as they argued the village was taxing an unoccupied structure.

Class of 1937 song—sung to “Dream Boat”

When our school days are gone, we will sing a happy song. We’ll be glad, yet sad, that we’ll come here no more. We’ve had fun and joys with our many books and toys. We’ve had lots of friendship ties, in these four years gone by!

“FAREWELL” from the 1926 Retrospect Yearbook (written by Madelyn Newcomer)

Our days of childhood are over. We have left them behind with the years. Our infant successes and failure are gone, with their smiles and their tears. We’ve left them and met the broad pathway where life itself is the aim. We’ve made ‘Only a Commencement’ in playing the greatest of games. But wait! Don’t think we are leaving without a sense of regret, for we’ve learned in the best of all ages, and that we may never forget. We know that in all life’s journey our high school years are the best, but the visions in the minds of youth are of the end of the quest. It matters not what we find in the future, since our school days are now done—we will owe our Alma Mater the best of all we’ve won.

CONSTANTINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Help to sign up a new member. Pass this information on to a friend or family member that might be interested in joining. Anyone who attended Constantine Public Schools (they need not have graduated from Constantine) and faculty members are invited to become members.

Constantine Alumni Association

New Member Registration

www.constps.org – click on Community

A one-time registration fee of \$5.00 is accepted (for postage, printing, etc.)

Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Name of Spouse: _____ Year of Graduation or Years Attended: _____

Address: _____

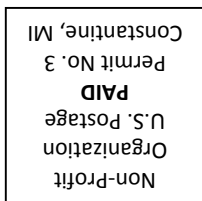
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Please Note: We will NOT put your phone number and email address on the school website without your permission.
Circle your choice: Phone #: YES NO / Email: YES NO

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to: CONSTANTINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and return to:
1 FALCON DRIVE, CONSTANTINE, MI 49042



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