



March 23, 2009 Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



Alana Branch Paluszewski Class of 1970

Life-long Wyandotte resident, Alana (Branch) Paluszewski, Wyandotte Roosevelt Class of 1970, has dedicated herself to the community and to the Wyandotte Public School District. She has volunteered since she was a teenager. As a Senior at Roosevelt High School, Alana produced live fairy tale plays for the District's summer Head Start Programs. While her own two children were in elementary school, she was PTO President at Taft Elementary School. The Superintendent invited her to serve on the District's Public Relations Committee for several years. Mrs. Paluszewski was a vital part of the District's successful bond renewal drive in 2003 by co-producing a promotional video that was shown on public access television.

Virtually every department at Roosevelt High School has benefited from her expertise. Funds from her annual celebrity autograph auction and video yearbook sales allowed the Learning Resource Center to replace worn furniture. The RHS Marching Band traveled to Walt Disney World in 1993 with the help of her fundraising efforts. Horticulture students relied on her advanced certification status as a Master Gardener for consultations, and for judging future Farmers of America competitions. Alana has been a guest speaker for Marketing and Foreign Language Classes. As a co-sponsor of Geoaddicts Travel Club, she has chaperoned students on eight separate trips to various European countries, Australia, and New Zealand.

Serving as the unofficial historian for the School District, Mrs. Paluszewski founded the Historical Archive Project that is housed at the high school. By collecting and organizing media, and purchasing books and related items, she has enabled students to research local history and learn more about their community. The book, *The Pride of Wyandotte: The History of Roosevelt High School* is the result of Alana's efforts. It has sold over 1000 copies, and one hundred percent of the proceeds have been donated to the high school.

Alana's writing skills have also earned her national recognition. Her extensive research on local celebrity Ann Marston resulted in *Shooting Star: The Amazing Life of Ann Marston*. The book was selected as a Top Ten Biography by ForeWord Magazine, a well-respected review journal. The Independent Publishers of America awarded Shooting Star a bronze medal for Best Regional Non-Fiction Book. It has been included in the Catalog of Recordings for the Blind. Additionally, Mrs. Paluszewski has been published in Michigan History and a variety of other periodicals.

A sought-after speaker and community volunteer, she continues to use her diverse talents effectively to benefit both the School District and the City of Wyandotte.