

BARBARA VROOMAN

Barbara Thornton Vrooman, Class of 1954, has been contributing to White Plains High School, and to the well-being of the people of White Plains, for nearly 50 years.

Mrs. Vrooman's associations with the High School are rich and deep. Her father, brother and three sons graduated from WPHS and her mother, Mildred, taught physical education at the High School.

When Mrs. Vrooman entered the High School at Highlands in September, 1950 as a ninth grader, she was already an accomplished violin player. She participated in a variety of activities: playing in the orchestra, singing with the A Cappella Choir and the close harmony girls group, the Harmonettes, and performing with the newly formed Tigerettes.



After earning a music degree from DePauw University in 1958, she applied her skill and talent to teaching music in Valhalla. That is where she met, and subsequently married, a gym teacher and baseball coach named Bill Vrooman.

Bill Vrooman made a career change to real estate and Mrs. Vrooman turned her attention to civic affairs. She was instrumental in the formation of a hospice program at the White Plains Hospital Center and is Chairman of the Friends of Hospice. She joined the White Plains Beautification Foundation in 1970, edited the group's newsletter for 11 years, served as President from 1990 to 1996, and now Chairs the Adopt-a-Park Program.

Mrs. Vrooman has also served on the boards of Family Services of Westchester, the Salvation Army, White Plains Hospital Center Auxiliary, and the White Plains Arts Council. She has contributed to the Downtown Revitalization Task Force and the Comprehensive Plan Committee. A member of the Friends of White Plains Public Schools, she is also a founder and Secretary of the WPHS Alumni Association.

For decades Mrs. Vrooman has been true to her clear and simple goal -- "whatever it takes to make White Plains the best little city in the country is what I want to be doing."