



**ONCE A LION,
ALWAYS A LION**

FALL ALUMNI NEWS 2024



Stay Connected

Class Reunion Support

Alumni News and Events

Build Scholarships

Mentor Opportunities



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Homecoming Reunions... Time for Friendship and Reconciliation

I'm a big fan of Homecomings of all types. Homecoming throws a whole bunch of people together who have so much in common that they are coming home. Home is a place where one grows up, learns, argues, reconciles, plays and develops into the unique individual of today. Homecoming is the opportunity to once again meet up with the golden good times of the past along with the negative stuff that made life interesting and confusing at the time. Your present self is once again meeting your former self and that is what makes Homecomings so interesting to me. Specifically, I get a kick out of our LT high school reunions where hundreds of identically aged classmates get together and remember EVERYTHING about their schooldays. These Homecomings are worth attending as they actually do lead all to reconcile their past decisions and maybe even some conflicts that still reside in their heart "from way back then". One may also help others understand some good and negative things from the past. Why did some open the egg on the small end and others on the large end?

I don't mean to portray Homecomings as negative events..... just the opposite. They are fun, explorative, adventurous events that only convene after many years away from home. Our own LT Homecomings give you the opportunity to mingle with hundreds of your classmates as they are today. You get to go back to the Coral, the football game, the halls of North Campus (the tunnel) and South Campus. On a very positive note, you will finally defeat those common dreams/nightmares of lost high school schedules, lockers and classrooms by coming back home to LT.

Some good friends of mine from the Class of 1975 met each other "again for the first time" at our 25 th year Reunion/ Homecoming. After a lifetime of separation following graduation which included marriages and families for both, these high school sweethearts found themselves in similar situations to find each other again. They were engaged and married just months after the reunion. Sometimes reconciliation of the past with the present can lead to really good outcomes.

I encourage all to come back to LT for our next Homecoming in September. Attend your reunions if your class is organizing one! Have fun taking your time machine back to LT. The Homecoming schedule appears later in this newsletter including the tours, the Coral reception and reunion information.

No doubt you will talk to many of your classmates of the good times and the not so good times at LT. You may even re-live your own version of the Lilliputian disagreement on cracking the egg on the smaller or larger end. Hopefully, with the help of your LT education and life events since, you have realized the value of cracking the egg right in the middle. Go Gold and Blue!

Jay Cozza, President Lyons Township HS Alumni Association
847-525-1651 cell ● LyonsTownshipAlumniAssociation@gmail.com



Meet our Alumni Board



JAY COZZA
BOARD PRESIDENT



CHARLES MUDD
VICE PRESIDENT



LYNN BUSH
SECRETARY



AMANDA CELENTANO
TREASURER



REGINA MCDUGAL
AMBASSADOR



MARY YENA
AMBASSADOR



ERIN CALLAHAN



PHIL CARUSO



JOHN POLACEK



LINDA JOHNSON



ANNE STICKLAND



WILLIAM WILSON



**MARY PALACIOS-
PACEJKA**



**JEAN CALLAGHAN-
MCQUILLAN**



MATT YENA

2024 LT Alumni Scholarship Winners



Thomas Townsend received the Class of 2003 Scholarship



Jack Hull received the Class of 1983 Scholarship



LT Alumni chose Caitlyn Curtin, Keira Kessler and Greta Burtner



Mark DeMonte received the Dr. Kelly Scholarship



Anne Scodro received the Dr. Tim Kilrea Scholarship



Total amount donated to students: \$5820

What's Happening at LT



2024 Boys Water Polo Team
State Champions

“

State Champion Water Polo Team

As an LT alum and a proud member of this community, witnessing our boys water polo team clinch their third state championship in program history is incredibly rewarding. This victory means the world to our kids, who have worked tirelessly to achieve this goal. The tremendous leadership of our seniors and the unselfish play all year made this accomplishment a true team effort. It's a testament to their dedication and the support of the entire LT family. This triumph not only highlights their perseverance and excellence but also brings immense pride to our school and community.

Doug Eichstaedt, Head Coach

”



Senior Citizen Prom hosted by
Student Council



LT Alumni current college athletes came back
to share their experiences thus far with seniors



First Officer Billy Kreikemeier & First Officer
Chris Medema with Aviation Teacher Dave Root
during a visit to our pilots class



Northwestern QB Ben Bryant and Play-by-Play
Announcer Connor Onion with LT
Football Head Coach Jon Beutjer

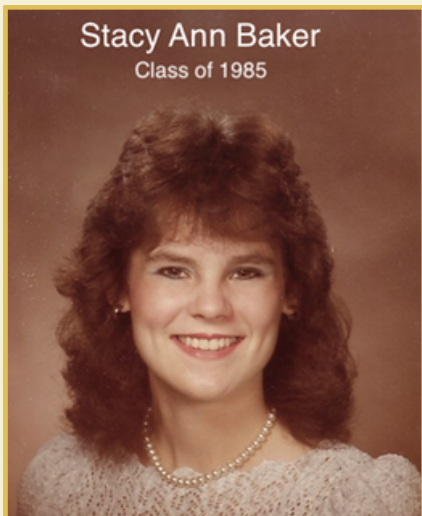


Alumni Board meeting with
Superintendent Waterman



Alumni visit for Senior Send Off to give tips on
navigating college and careers post graduation

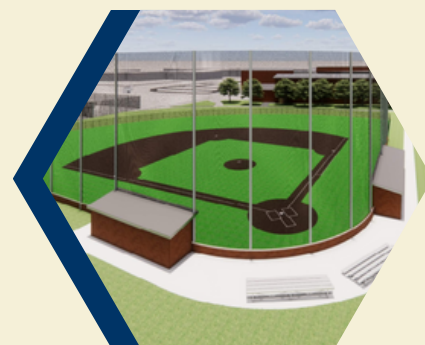
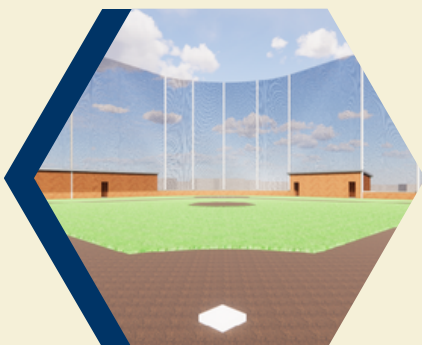
LT Varsity Softball Field to be Improved and Named “Baker Field” in Honor of Alumna



LTHS is excited to announce the STACY ANN BAKER CHARITABLE FUND has graciously donated \$2,000,000 to facilitate and enhance the educational and athletic opportunities for student athletes at LT. The funds will be used to pay the costs of modernizing the Girls’ Varsity Softball Field at South Campus, and the completed softball field will be named “Baker Field” in a formal ceremony to be held after completion of the improvements.

Stacy Ann Baker, 1985 alum, excelled on the softball field and was named Most Valuable Player at LT before earning a softball scholarship to Northern Illinois University. After college, Stacy became a member of the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, where she started her career in the trading pits. She eventually went on to serve financial futures clients at the Chicago Board of Trade. Stacy tragically passed away in a car accident in 1999 at the age of 32.

The District 204 Board of Education approved the donation at the February 20, 2024 Regular Action Meeting with Stacy’s brother, Michael in attendance. Superintendent Brian Waterman said, “District 204 is extremely thankful for the generous donation made to LT by the Baker family in honor of Stacy. We feel privileged to remember Stacy and her love of softball by modernizing the Varsity Softball Field. Stacy’s passion for our school and softball will positively impact student athletes in the future!”



LET'S PLAY BALL

Smashing softball player Hits the big league!

85

SENIORS

games in Indiana and Wisconsin. She also spent a week and a half with the 15 to 18 year olds playing games in Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee. She recollected, “During this past summer I played 60 to 80 games!” Stacy met many new people and increased her own fundamental softball skills. “I lost weight, got my body in condition, gained stability, and developed a stronger arm,” exclaimed the outfielder.

She planned to play softball in college and continue on ASA teams.

She said, “I think girls’ teams are coming around. Hopefully they’ll be more before I stop playing.”

As she smashes a ball into the outfield, Stacy Baker '85 finds new opportunities for her softball career.

1973 Alum Jimmy Dunne

Alum Jimmy Dunne visited LT and spent time with students and staff in our music program. In advance of his visit, Jimmy had written the lyrics and sheet music for a song called, "My Days of Gold and Blue".

Jimmy wrote this song as an "Alma Mater" for LT, and performed it for LT students during his visit.

Following his visit, Jimmy worked to refine the lyrics and sheet music, and ultimately arranged to have the song professionally recorded for use by LT.

We're proud that this 1973 alum is part of our Hall of Fame.



"MY DAYS OF GOLD & BLUE"
LTHS ALMA MATER

Music and Lyrics by
JIMMY DUNNE

♩ = 84

C G7 C

Oh, the bell tower pulls me back to mem-o-ries of you

5 C C/E F C/G C Am7 Gsus4 G7

Oh, the tower pulls me back to mem-o-ries of you

9 C C/E F C/G C/G G7sus4 G7 C Dm7b5/C

A pre-cious home so dear to me my days of Gold and Blue

13 G/F F G/F F6+9 Cadd9 C

I could i-ma-gine an-y-thing I dreamed I'd be a world of

17 G/F F9 G/F F6+9 Cadd9 C Abadd9 Ab

choi-ces all in front of me and my friends my life-long

21 C/G G C/G Gsus2 C/G F/G G F/G Dm7/G G7

friends all the steps a-long the way land me where I am to-day

"MY DAYS OF GOLD & BLUE"
LTHS ALMA MATER

2

D D/F# G D/A D/F# D/A A Asus2,4 A/C#

Oh, the bell tower pulls me back to mem-o-ries of you

26

30 D D/F# Gadd9 D/A D/A A7

A pre-cious home so dear to me My days of gold and

34 Bm G#m7b5 D/A A7

blue My dear L T My days of Gold and

38 Bbadd9 Gsus4/C D

Blue

"MY DAYS OF GOLD & BLUE"
LTHS ALMA MATER
WORDS & MUSIC BY
JIMMY DUNNE

A Look at

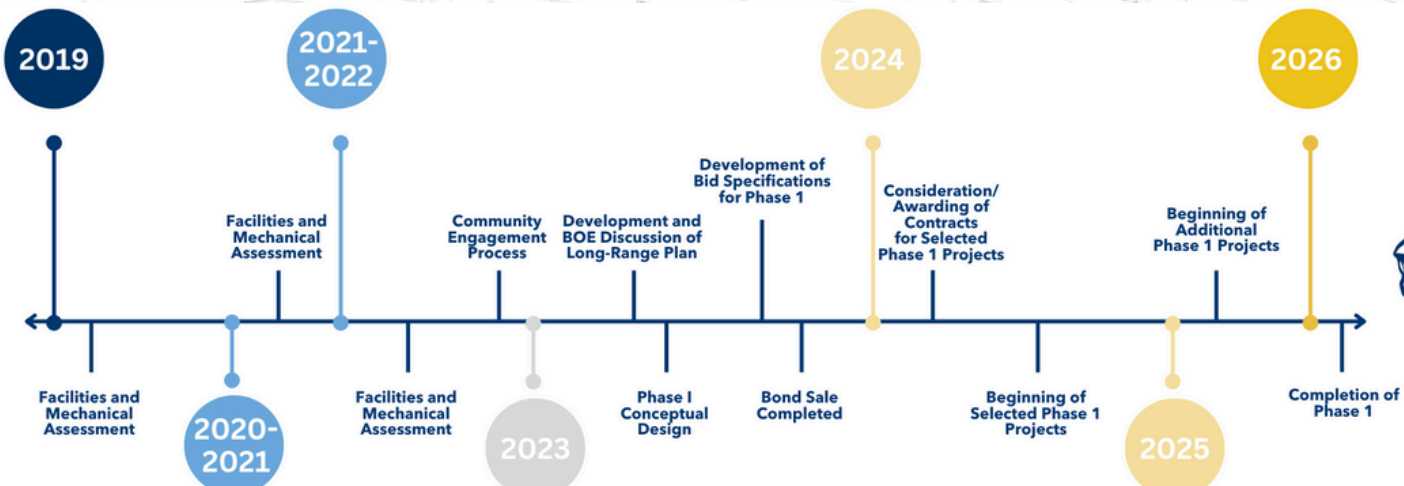
Groundwork for a Brighter Future LTHS Facility Assessment and Long-Term Plan

Lyons Township HS District 204 is excited to embark on *Groundwork for a Brighter Future*, a multi-year journey to modernize our two campuses and enhance the learning environment for all of our future Lions. We understand that the quality of educational space is critical and has a direct impact on ensuring that our students graduate prepared for life, career, and college success.

Groundwork for a Brighter Future reflects our District's commitment to ensuring that our facilities support high-quality in-class learning and extracurricular activities that foster the academic, physical, social, and emotional growth and well-being of our students. This journey also aligns with Goal 5 of our community's strategic plan to upgrade District facilities to support modernization of our classrooms and school to better meet the 21st Century learning needs of students and staff, including the development of additional collaborative spaces.

“Groundwork for a Brighter Future is such an important part of the work the District is doing to continue to enhance the learning environment for our students. With facilities assessments, community engagement, and support from our Board, the District has started an incredible journey I'm proud to be part of.”

Dr. Brian Waterman, Superintendent





South Campus Cafe



South Campus Music Wing



South Campus Cafe



South Campus Courtyard



North Campus Hub Space



North Campus Hub Space



South Campus Courtyard

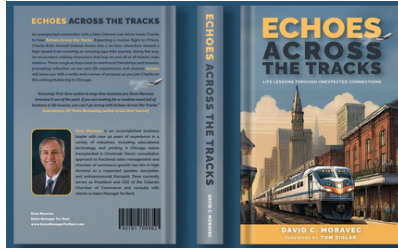
FUNDING SOURCES FOR PHASE 1

The primary source of funding for Phase 1 is via proceeds from the District selling bonds, which the District typically does every 10 years. The proceeds from an October and December 2023 bond sale provided the District with \$27.4 million to be utilized for Phase 1. In addition to the bond sale, the District typically allocates \$2.5–3 million annually toward the completion of facilities renovations and capital improvements. This will provide an additional \$7.5 million toward Phase 1 throughout the 3-year period. The District anticipates utilizing \$6–10 million from the District’s fund balance/reserve account to be used toward the completion of Phase 1. Through bond sale proceeds, annual capital improvements expenditures, and expenditures from the District’s fund balance/reserve account, the total funding source for Phase 1 is anticipated to be \$40.9–44.9 million.

Alumni Notes

1965 Mark Heeter Terry Brinkman ('65) and Mark Heeter ('65) teamed up again for a relay at the 2024 US Masters Swimming Spring Nationals meet in Indianapolis. Representing the Sarasota Sharks Masters club, their 200-yard freestyle relay placed 1st and was crowned National Champion.

1969 Cindi (Chevas) Long and Tim Long spent a week in Paris of which one day was at the French Open Tennis Tournament at Roland Garros. The picture is Cindi standing in front of a statue of Rafael Nadal. The statue is at the main entrance. We had a great time there and the rest of the week eating and shopping.



1980 David Moravec recently published a book called Echos across the Track.

1982 Liz (Klindera) Connolly has spent 20 years selling Real Estate in LaGrange Area and is thinking of going back to sales. Liz has 3 children, 2 grandchildren. They're the love Liz lives for every day.

1986 Sylvia (Zethmayr) Shults is the author of Gone On Vacation: Haunted Zoos, Museums, and Amusement Parks. Her book has won two prizes this year: First Place, BookFest Awards, Spring 2024, and International Book Awards Finalist, Summer 2024.

Her new book is Grave Deeds and Dead Plots Volume 2, the second in a series of true crime stories that have resulted in hauntings. She invites you to visit her at <http://www.sylviashults.com> for more news and information.

1989 Jennifer (Hall) Christiansen is a veteran of the US Army Reserve. (1990-1998)

1997 Audrey Nowak Lesner what began as a 2-year sabbatical has turned into 72 countries visited and 10 years of nomadic life. On September 24, Audrey and her husband Harry celebrate a decade of running The Budget Savvy Travelers.



2014 Anastasia (Jocke) Lipchik married her high school sweetheart Andrew Lipchik in Rockford, IL June 8th 2024!!

LTHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

\$ _____ Annual membership \$10 each

\$ _____ LIFETIME Membership \$150

_____ Yes, as a Lifetime Member I'd like a free 14" X 18" print of The Clock Tower by Charles Vickery, Class of 1931

\$ _____ Additional donation to LTHS Alumni Association

First Name (Maiden name) **Last Name** **Class year**

LTHS Spouse: First Name (Maiden name) **Last Name** **Class year**

Street Address **City** **State** **ZIP**

Home phone **E-mail address**

_____ Yes, release my email to LT's Find a Classmate webpage

Check enclosed (Make payable to the LTHS Alumni Association)

NOTE: You may also pay online at www.lths.net/alumni. Click on Online Registration and LT Web store, then

LTHS Alumni Association Membership, this will take you to the payment page, and follow the prompts from there.

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

LTHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 100 S. BRAINARD AVENUE LA GRANGE, IL 60525

In Memorium

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 1945 | Dorothy Dunn | 1968 | Mary (Usas) Casey |
| 1946 | Deborah (Prouty) Rogers | 1969 | Paul Warhanik |
| 1948 | Thomas Bainbridge | 1969 | Tom Maliszewski |
| 1948 | Donald Metzger | 1969 | Robert V. McMahon |
| 1949 | Mary Jane Fothergill | 1969 | Craig Strauss |
| 1949 | Suzanne H. (Schwab) Torok | 1969 | Rick Milner |
| 1956 | Paul Lawless | 1971 | Lynn (Thompson) Carter |
| 1951 | Lester Barritt | 1977 | John Weber |
| 1954 | Charles P. Sedgwick | 1979 | Richard Sheen |
| 1957 | Charles Gustafson | 1974 | Thomas Lanning |
| 1961 | Douglas Kline | 1990 | Meghan Mahoney |
| 1965 | Jerry S. Sukala | 1997 | Robert Fischer Jr. |
| 1966 | Danise (Stockbarger) Krueger | 2003 | Casey Dillon |
| | | 2006 | Madeline R. Andersen |

Lyons Township High School Faculty

Garen Lazier Teacher and gymnastics coach for 30 years

Richard Callahan Driver Ed teacher and football and baseball coach for over 30 years

Marilyn DePaola Senior bus driver

Charlotte Schwartz Spanish teacher for 27 years from 1957-1983

Mary Zicarelli

Only in the darkness can
you see the stars

-Martin Luther King Jr.





Stay Connected!



708.579.6300

alumni@lths.net

www.LTHS.net/alumni

100 S. Brainard Ave., La Grange, IL 60525

2024 REUNIONS

Class of 1964:
September 20-22

Class of 1974:
September 21

Class of 1979:
September 21

Class of 1984:
September 21

Class of 1999:
September 20-22

Class of 2004:
October 19