

Plans underway to celebrate BHS's 50th anniversary

By Jackie Giroux
Reporter

If you are a 1966 Bedford High School graduate, you most likely remember that you were a member of the first class to graduate from the "new" Bedford High School.

"The so-called "new" high school at Dean and Jackman roads in Temperance opened its door in September of 1965," stated 1966 BHS graduate Evelyn Powers. "Sadly, the 'old' Bedford High School, once located on Douglas Rd in Temperance, was torn down. That was the Bedford High School until its last graduating class of 1965."

Powers, who lives in Bloomington, Indiana, came up with the idea last year to do something in honor of the school's 50th anniversary. She has been instrumental in putting together a two-day event that will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Bedford High School on Friday and Saturday, September 25 and 26. She serves as chair of the 50th Anniversary Celebration, 20-member Planning Committee.

"If we can pull this off the way I envisioned it from the very beginning, it will cause the biggest traffic jam in Bedford Township history with everyone attempting to get to the Bedford Football Stadium at once on Friday, September 25 by 6:30 p.m.," she stated.

Powers said that Bedford will be playing Shoreline of Ann Arbor that Friday and that it is also Homecoming Weekend. "Anyone from the Classes of 1966 to 2015 is invited to march in the 'Alumni Band' at

half-time. Any former majorette, cheerleader, drum major, pom pom girl or boy is encouraged to take the field with the 'Alumni Band.'"

Also planned during half-time is the introduction of members by class by decade as a group – 60's, 70's 80's 90's etc. Everyone in attendance who attended the "old" Bedford High School from 1947 to 1965 will additionally be honored. Powers added that two women who have made major contributions to Bedford Public Schools would also be honored. "I cannot divulge their names just yet," she said. "All of this will be preceded by a mass tailgating experience."

Powers said that volunteers would be needed to help with traffic control, parking and security both before and after the game.

Saturday morning at about 9 a.m. C. David Parker will be having a rehearsal of the "Alumni Choir." Parker served as choir director for 14 years and during that time created the first Glee Club, the Soiree Singers and then a choir that was the best in the area.

At noon there will be an Open House and tours of the high school with memorabilia being provided by alumni from 1966 to 2015. "It should end up being walls and walls and tables and tables of photos, scrapbooks, newspaper articles, programs, etc.," Powers stated. At 3 p.m. the "Alumni Choir" will be performing three songs.

To wrap up the event, Powers said she hopes they can work out the details for a

buffet dinner for any alumni that wish to attend.

"At this point nothing is planned for Sunday because many alumni will be driving or flying home," she stated.

If you have memorabilia from 1966 to 2015 that you would like displayed during the Open House, items should be dropped off by Thursday, September 10 to Sandy Kraine at the high school. If you are coming from out of town for the event, memorabilia can still be accepted if Kraine knows about it in advance of your arrival. Contact Kraine at sandy.kraine@mybedford.us or (734) 850-6030. All memorabilia will be returned upon request or it can be donated to the Bedford Historical Society.

The next scheduled meeting for the Planning Committee will be on Wednesday, July 8 at 7 p.m. at the Media Center at the high school. Event details will be finalized at this meeting and any Bedford graduate of any year is invited to attend this meeting.

"The best place for out-of-towners to keep up with what's happening is by joining the 'If You Grew Up In Bedford Township, MI, You Might Remember' Facebook group page," Powers stated.

Evelyn Powers can be contacted by email at ep@bloomington.in.us.

Be sure to mark the dates on your calendar. You won't want to miss out on all the fun and the chance to reconnect with classmates and share in Bedford High School's 50th Anniversary celebration!