



# The Brick & Mortar Board

*the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.*  
[www.hobartalumni.org](http://www.hobartalumni.org)

Volume 14, Number 5

August, 2025

## BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic September 27 Will Feature Class Competitions and Awards



The 2025 BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 27, at the VFW in Hobart, from 12 noon until 3 pm. All Hobart High School alumni are invited, and that includes former students, teachers, staff, and their families. Hot dogs, brats, chips, and bottled water will be provided by the HHS Alumni Association.

Awards will be presented at the picnic for: Class With the Most People Attending, Class Cornhole Champion, and Classmate Traveling the Farthest to Attend BrickieFest. Get the word out to your classmates!

The Homecoming football game will be the night before the picnic, against Lowell (again), at 7:00 pm.

We suggest that your class make a weekend of it by coming to the football game on Friday night, attending the picnic on Saturday, and getting together on your own after the picnic or in the evening.

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### Alumni Spotlight

## Phil Stafford, Serving the Aged and Disabled Community



*Phil and Linda Stafford in the hayloft of the circa 1900 barn they restored and now run as a weekend rental at their home in Bloomington.*

Our spotlight this issue is on Phil Stafford, HHS Class of 1967, who has spent his career working with older adults and disabled persons, and developing community.

*Where are you living now, and what do you do most days?*

Linda (Norris) Stafford and I live in Bloomington in a very early (1840) farmhouse just outside of the city. We've been in this house for 47 years, the first new owners since 1855. As one could imagine, such a place is a project, and that in itself defines what we do many if not most days. The love and respect we have for the place we live (broadly defined) defines our work outside of the house too – our careers in service to others old and young, our interests in all stuff old, our gardening, our volunteering for historical societies and organizations, and our parenting and grandparenting.



*Phil and Linda's Bloomington house.*

*Could you trace the path from Hobart High School to where you are now?*

My wife Linda and I moved to Bloomington in 1971, upon finishing our undergrad degrees at Ball State and U. of Chicago, respectively. We had sustained our high school sweetheartness through four years and distance. Linda immediately took up first grade teaching (beginning a 36-year career). I began my doctoral education. So...the path to now was a pretty direct line insofar as we explicitly decided that staying put in a place you love can produce a great life. When people do that, the place benefits too! You've got to go out into the wider world to avoid becoming xenophobic, but you can still enjoy the experience of coming home with a broader love of humanity. This philosophy should infuse our politics and educational system. Practically speaking, Linda had a career as a truly outstanding and beloved teacher. I found a career on the opposite side of the age spectrum, helping and studying (learning from) people in later life in areas of mental health, health care, housing and, for the last 25 years at IU – "age-friendly communities."

*What kind of work did you do at the Center on Aging & Community at Indiana University, and the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community?*

For the first 20 years of my career, I worked with older adults in clinical settings (mental health and health care) but always maintained a primary orientation to community and the lifeworld of older people, which led to a short and unsuccessful stint in affordable housing

development. No one has yet truly bridged the huge gulf between health and home in both the health and the housing industries. On April Fools Day, 2000, I started a 17-year run at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, directing a small Center on Aging and Community (of Indiana University). With a creative and stable group of 6 co-workers, we tried to take this community orientation beyond the subject of aging to the population of people aging with disabilities, including lifelong intellectual disabilities. We promoted self-development, healthy aging, self-advocacy and self-expression with a view to transform such traits into community contributions, change and development. As a place to engage in service, research, teaching and writing, the Institute fulfilled my wide range and somewhat unusual range of interests. My speaking and publishing career produced many opportunities for national and international travel, lots of articles and essays and three books on the subject of aging, community, and place.

In retirement (so to speak) I intensified my work in citizen participation through the creation of the CoDesign Commons, a social innovation studio located in our mall-based 55+ community center. There, designers and developers of products, services, technologies and environments design WITH, not FOR, older adults. The latter approach has produced a world that doesn't align well with the lifeworld of older adults, having seen them as consumers rather than producers. Building the tremendous social and cultural capacity of older adults to benefit people of all ages is my passion. I really believe this stems back to a seven-year-old boy and his porch swing visits with my very old neighbor Mrs. Culbertson on South Linda Street in Hobart. She was a descendant of Daniel Boone, awesome enough to blow away a little boy wearing a coon skin cap.

*Tell us about your family. Where do they live? Do you get to see them often?*

My Mom and Dad moved to South Linda from Hyde Park, Chicago in 1948. Dad worked at Inland Steel (42 years) in the engineering department. Mom, known in Hobart as Bee, took her writing

*Alumni Spotlight (cont.)*



*A "Christmas Story" childhood.*

skills to the Hobart Herald and published the Hobart Gazette for many years later in life. Both were political, Adlai Stevenson Democrats. Dad was a renaissance man and only enjoyed two years of retirement, dying at age 64. After vacillating a few years, Mom came down to Bloomington where, amazingly, all three of us kids had ended up. Anabel (HHS 1959) is a fine Brown County artist, widow of another Hobart native, Harry Hopkins (recently passed), joined by daughter Rebecca. Jon (HHS 1964) stayed in Indiana, attended Wabash and then IU Medical School, and enjoyed a long and successful career in radiology in Bloomington. Following the death of his wife Linda (HHS 1965) he remarried to Maryann Wolcott and resettled to Pensacola, FLA. Jon's son Chris, engineer/musician, lives in Chicagoland, and daughter Catherine is now a highly respected judge in the Monroe County Court system. One can imagine the wide range of interesting conversations we enjoy when we have the occasional opportunities (a few times a year) to reunite. I can't fail to end with a reference to



*The Stafford house on South Linda Street in Hobart*

our two perfect daughters who followed our "staying put" philosophy with jobs and homes right here in Bloomington. How lucky Linda and I are to have them close, along with three beautiful grandkids (21, 17 and 10), that we get to enjoy all the time! It is a happy not-co-incidental happenstance that both my daughters have loved their work in eldercare.

*Were there any teachers or coaches at Hobart High School who had an influence on your career path or your character?*

There are many teachers I could name who made my school career fulfilling. I should first credit my father-in-law, the late Ken Norris, Supt. of Schools, for the quality of my education. As any kid, I had my share of quirky ones I won't name. However,

*Long-timers might remember the stagecoach that Phil's father built in their yard at South Linda, and which appeared in the 4th of July parade. It is now stored near Bloomington.*



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### *Alumni Spotlight (cont.)*

the names Scarborough, Blink, Deal, and Frederick stand out. Mr. Rogers (band director) was admirable and demanding with a well-hidden humor and compassion. I usually think of another English teacher, Mr. Darlington, as the teacher who most inspired me to love language, be daring and, when needed, non-conforming. I think my abiding interest in all things aging may very well have sprung from his introduction to T.S. Eliot's "Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock". In retrospect, there was no one who balanced the conforming/non-conforming challenge than Miss Thompson, Asst. Principal, who inspired both intellectual excellence and community service. If not for Miss Thompson and my dear friend Martha Stewart, I would not have had the privilege and fun of campaigning and serving as Hobart High School Mayor.

*Do you have any advice for high school students who may be interested in working with the aging and disabled community?*

Extending the last comment, I have to say that my work in the field of aging and disability has been both professionally and personally rewarding. Both the work and the decision to stay put has given me the privilege to observe, document, and be fascinated by changes in both places and persons over time. It nurtures a love of history and of people. What could be better? I've seen negative changes: places destroyed and people who became bitter in late life. This simply opens up the possibility and the choices for me to help preserve good places and pick the kind of old person I want to be. I have loved the opportunities to pass these things along to students in my classes and would be thrilled if some young reader of this valuable and well-crafted newsletter would contact me for career advice.

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## **There's a Place For You on the HHSAA Board**

At the HHSAA dinner meeting on May 19, Paul Addison and Debra Opolski, the president and treasurer of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, announced their intention to retire from the board after 16 years of service, when their eighth two-year terms expire in July of 2026.

As a result, the board is looking for new members to take over some ongoing tasks. Remember that the website and the newsletter don't have to be done the same way as in the past. You can bring your own style to the job. Some of the current tasks include:

- Website management: We have a host, classcreator.com, so you don't have to do any coding.
- Newsletter editing: We currently use Microsoft Word and convert the file to PDF.
- Database maintenance: Keep track of current lifetime and annual members, currently in Access.
- Financial activities: Track income and expenses, bank accounts, and file required tax reports.

Do you have a talent for any of these? There are currently four open spots on the board, so you can start right away and get some hands-on training. Please contact any board members or email [info@hobartalumni.org](mailto:info@hobartalumni.org) with questions or comments. Thank you!

***The Brick & Mortar Board** is a publication of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. It is an electronic publication, delivered by email to members of the Association. Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership, and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to: **HHS Alumni Association**, and mail it to: HHSAA, PO Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342. Our website is: [www.hobartalumni.org](http://www.hobartalumni.org). The editor of *The Brick & Mortar Board* is Paul Addison.*

# Class Reunion Roundup

Please send reunion information to us at [info@hobartalumni.org](mailto:info@hobartalumni.org). Updates are posted on our website, at: <https://www.hobartalumni.org/ClassReunions.htm>. These events are listed in order of their occurrence.



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## UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS:

### CLASS OF 1965 MEET-AND-GREET:

Classmates from 1965, mark your calendars for **Friday and Saturday, September 26 and 27, 2025**, marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Class of 1965's graduation.

- Friday night will be a pizza meet and greet
- Saturday will be a family style meal to meet and greet our classmates
- For more info contact Barb Phillips Rowley [mnbrowley@comcast.net](mailto:mnbrowley@comcast.net) or Sherry Oswald Peterson [rns.peterson@gmail.com](mailto:rns.peterson@gmail.com)

Notice that this is Homecoming weekend, and there will be an all-class picnic at the VFW on Saturday at from 12 noon to 3 pm.

### CLASS OF 1968 75th BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Date: **Saturday, September 27, 2025**

Time (UPDATED): 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm

Place (UPDATED): Gino's Banquet Hall, 1967 E. 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hobart, IN 46342

Cost: \$ 35.00 per person for dinner (a cash bar is also available)

To pay for your reservation contact Paula Wolfe Siminski, Dawn Britney Krull, Shari Melton or Kathy Bortolini Brewer through our website (click Classmate Profiles, find their name, and send them a private message).

**CLASS OF 1975 50th YEAR REUNION:** The Hobart Class of 1975 will celebrate their 50th reunion on **Saturday October 4, 2025** at Gino's Banquets. Please look for information to come in the Facebook group Class of 1975 HHS or contact Cyndy Roper Plesac, [cplesac@gmail.com](mailto:cplesac@gmail.com), 219-741-1053.

## REGULAR CLASS GET-TOGETHERS:

**CLASS OF 1960:** The Class of 1960 is having their luncheon the second Saturday of each month at the Paragon Restaurant at 1:00 PM. Any questions, contact Linda (Quinlan) Koziol at [larry58koziol@gmail.com](mailto:larry58koziol@gmail.com).

**CLASS OF 1958:** The Class of 1958 is having their monthly luncheon the third Saturday of each month at the Paragon Restaurant at 1:00 PM. Any questions, contact Larry Koziol at [larry58koziol@gmail.com](mailto:larry58koziol@gmail.com).

**CLASSES OF 1952 AND 1953:** The classes of 1952 and 1953 are having breakfast the second Thursday of each month at the Paragon at 8:30. Any questions, call Marlene (Baier) Krawcyk (Class of 1952) 219-942-6301, or Martha (Jordan) Nichols (Class of 1953) 219-942-3062.

**CLASS OF 1970:** The Class of 1970 usually meets for brunch on the third Saturday of the month. To check the latest information, go the Facebook page for the HHS Class of 1970, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/110625168719>.

## Recent Obituaries (since our June 2025 newsletter; in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

### AUGUST 2025:

[Michael \(Mike\) Zormier, Class of 1979](#)  
[Judith \(Judy\) Ammer Fields, Class of 1966](#)  
[David \(Dave\) Mergl, Class of 1957](#)  
[Elaine Stewart "Crickett" Williams, Class of 1974](#)  
[Margaret \(Marge\) Somers Press, Class of 1972](#)  
[Judith \(Judy\) Karn Beck, Class of 1962](#)  
[Charles "Jerry" Scott, Class of 1955](#)  
[Leroy Gerl, Teacher](#)  
[Anthony Bowman, Class of 2007](#)  
[Mark \(Robert\) Spoon, Class of 1971](#)  
[Lola Prosser Schwuchow-Wells, Class of 1953](#)

### JULY 2025:

[Anna Bachmann, Class of 2019](#)  
[Darryl Blink, Teacher](#)  
[Cheryl Ames Roper, Class of 1967](#)  
[Arnim "Shad" Whisler, Class of 1959](#)  
[Edward "Jack" Klug, Class of 1949](#)  
[William Brown, Class of 1953](#)  
[Isabel Schammert Brown, Class of 1975](#)  
[Richard \(Rich, Rick\) Koebcke, Class of 1969](#)  
[John Batusic, Class of 1968](#)  
[Norman Poe, Teacher](#)  
[Terry Hansen, Class of 1967](#)

### JUNE 2025:

[Raymond Rodriguez, Class of 1961](#)  
[John Blanchard, Jr., Class of 1958](#)

### MAY 2025:

[Susan \(Sue\) Davis Wrabl, Class of 1971](#)

### OLDER OBITUARIES RECENTLY RECEIVED

#### APRIL 2025:

[Debbie Carpenter, Class of 1975](#)  
[Anna Santacroce Mattingly, Class of 1949](#)

#### MARCH 2025:

[Wanda Jaroscak Hatfield, Class of 1974](#)

#### FEBRUARY 2025:

[Doris Walters Strimbu, Class of 1955](#)

#### DECEMBER 2024:

[Francine Schasberger Shreffler, Class of 1954](#)

#### OCTOBER 2024:

[Janet Smith Manis, Class of 1969](#)

[Mary Beth Stonebraker, Class of 1957](#)

[Douglas Broderick, Class of 1975](#)

#### SEPTEMBER 2024:

[Marty Paul, Class of 1983](#)

#### APRIL 2024:

[Ricky Perrine, Class of 1975](#)

#### OCTOBER 2023:

[Jane Webber Klump, Class of 1954](#)

[Paula Carrol Karwick, Class of 1975](#)

#### JUNE 2023:

[Anita Santacroce, Class of 1953](#)

#### JANUARY 2023:

[Raymond Ludwig, Class of 1963](#)

#### NOVEMBER 2022:

[Irene Riggins Hopper, Class of 1951](#)

#### OCTOBER 2022:

[Alice Louise Riggins Otto, Class of 1948](#)

[Randall \(Randy\) Watts, Class of 1975](#)

[Cynthia \(Cyndi\) Davis Beedle, Class of 1975](#)

#### JUNE 2022:

[Linda Layhew Padlo, Class of 1975](#)

#### MAY 2022:

[James Dant, Class of 1954](#)

#### FEBRUARY 2022:

[Kevin Ewing, Class of 1975](#)

#### JANUARY 2022:

[Richard Burkman, Class of 1950](#)

#### DECEMBER 2021:

[Wanda Stewart Hetzel, Class of 1959](#)

#### AUGUST 2021:

[Deborah \(Debbie\) Koen Raley, Class of 1975](#)

[Norman Christiansen, Class of 1943](#)

#### MARCH 2021:

[Gene Anderson, Class of 1975](#)

#### JANUARY 2021:

[Shirley King Vedope, Class of 1946](#)

#### NOVEMBER 2020:

[Richard Parkhurst, Class of 1954](#)

#### AUGUST 2020:

[Kirk "Corkey" O'Connor, Class of 1975](#)

#### APRIL 2019:

[Bonita \(Bonnie\) Polson Horbovetz, Class of 1975](#)

**MARCH 2019:**

[Chris Scalchas, Class of 1975](#)

**OCTOBER 2018:**

[James \(Jim\) Skomac, Class of 1954](#)

**JUNE 2018:**

[JoAnn Fay Evans, Class of 1975](#)

**APRIL 2018:**

[Glenn Harkins, Class of 1980](#)

**NOVEMBER 2017:**

[Monty Haynes, Class of 1975](#)

**MARCH 2017:**

[Donna Gospodarek Glavan, Class of 1955](#)

[Don McAfee, Class of 1949](#)

**DECEMBER 2016:**

[Lucille Sitzenstock Deterline, Class of 1943](#)

**JULY 2016:**

[Marjorie Peksenak Cavalier, Class of 1949](#)

**APRIL 2016:**

[Paul Neyhart, Class of 1951](#)

[Don Rosene, Class of 1952](#)

**MARCH 2016:**

[Doris Gullede Samuelson, Class of 1975](#)

[Jean Turner Graham, Class of 1946](#)

**JANUARY 2016:**

[Elizabeth \(Betty\) Grinstead Melton, Class of 1953](#)

**OCTOBER 2015:**

[Geraldine \(Geri\) Kasrich Black, Class of 1946](#)

**JANUARY 2015:**

[Richard \(Dick\) Manwaring, Class of 1949](#)

**OCTOBER 2013:**

[Donald Clasen, Class of 1947](#)

[Peter Leon Mehalic, Class of 1949](#)

**JULY 2013:**

[Hubert "Jerry" Fitzgerald, Class of 1953](#)

**JANUARY 2013:**

[Timothy \(Tim\) Szwajkowski, Class of 1975](#)

**DECEMBER 2012:**

[John \(Jack\) Welch, Class of 1955](#)

[Pam Goin Greico, Class of 1949](#)

**MAY 2012:**

[James \(Jim\) Florios, Class of 1955](#)

**APRIL 2012:**

[Ronald Olsen, Class of 1949](#)

**FEBRUARY 2012:**

[Gerald Chrstian, Class of 1951](#)

**JANUARY 2012:**

[Larry Gerlich, Class of 1955](#)

**OCTOBER 2011:**

[Alice Hellstrom Mitchell, Class of 1946](#)

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## HHS Alumni Association Board

The Hobart High School Alumni Association was officially incorporated on July 17, 2010. The current members of the Board of Directors (as of July 1, 2024) are:

### OFFICERS

Paul Addison, Class of 1970 ..... *President*  
Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966 ..... *Vice-President*  
Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970 ..... *Treasurer*  
Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978 ..... *Secretary*

### AT LARGE MEMBERS

Shaun Zoladz, *Dean of Students*, Class of 2006  
Beth Scott Barney, Class of 1970

Debbie Scharbach Vega, Class of 1971  
Amanda Loy Stillwell, Class of 2000

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## Our Newest Supporters (since June 2025)

### NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS:

John Kuckuck (1955)  
Tracy Pavese-Robinson (1980)  
Steve Simms (1966)

### NEW AND RENEWED ANNUAL MEMBERS:

Robert (Bob) Sowinski (1963)

# Your Brickie Stories: What Do You Remember?

## Reply to: The HHS Band Program: What Memories Do You Have?

**From Lyle Hatten, Class of 1958:** One story I'll never forget took place in the 40's and 50's while I attended Roosevelt Grade School. My parents, brother, and I lived behind Roosevelt gym on South Linda Street. Our next-door neighbors were the Stevens family, whose daughter, Nancy, became the wife of Richard Worthington. Richard became our Hobart High School band director and served 10 years or so in that position. During these years, Richard and Nancy would often visit her parents next door to us. Many times, Richard and Nancy would talk to my parents, brother and I, just like neighbors visit.

In my case, getting to know Richard very well, he would always ask how I was doing in school, in sports, etc. Over the following years in junior high school, I would often pass him in the hallways, where he would call me by name and ask how I was doing. These friendly chats turned me into a braggart with the other students as I knew him so well. I also learned many things from Richard in that he was a WWII Air Force veteran, had a college education with a background in music, and later became our band director.

He took our band to state competition, and we earned several first-place awards. Richard also worked with our band at football half-time shows and attached small battery lights on the band members' hats. These lights would be used at half time with no field lights on, and the lights would spell out different words, pictures, the American flag, etc. Thus, Richard helped Hobart become a first-class name in our state. To this day, I remember all the times visiting with Richard and becoming a young friend of his.

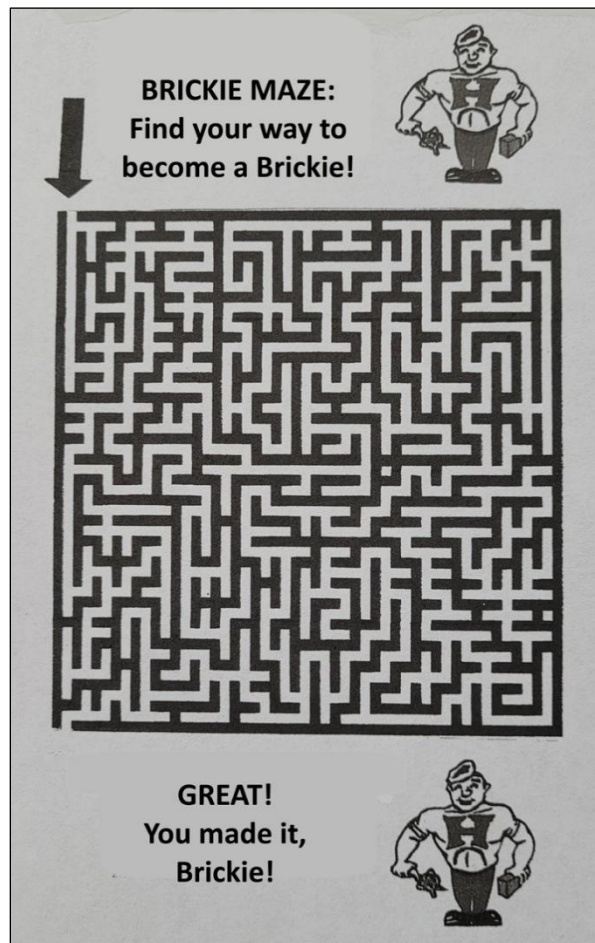
Does anyone have another story to add about Richard Worthington or the Hobart bands? If so, contact Paul Addison at [paul@hobartalumni.org](mailto:paul@hobartalumni.org).

## Reply to: Shop Classes and Print Shop: What Do You Remember?

**From Jim McCollough, Class of 1965:** I recall one significant event that was impressed on me (and my classmates) in Mr. Crowder's wood shop one afternoon. Mr. Crowder was absent that day, so Mrs. Dorothy Ballantyne was subbing for him. We were supposed to continue working on our projects, but somehow the idea came up that we would devote the day to making high quality paddles to be presented to various teachers. Mrs. Ballantyne was OK with that.

This activity led to some creative design features, such as drilling 1 inch holes in the business end of the nice walnut and oak paddles. Toward the end of the period guys were stalking unwary classmates in order to test their paddles. It was a lot of fun until somebody put the wood on Mrs. Ballantyne's behind. She very rapidly left the room.

It suddenly became very quiet. In about 3 minutes all the football coaches came into the shop and announced that it was now time to test everyone's paddle. One by one we were invited to bend over and hold our ankles while 2 strokes were administered with our own paddle.



ABOVE: A Brickie Maze for Amazing Brickies. This maze, submitted to us by Lyle Hatten, Class of 1958, was originally published in the San Diego Union Tribune. <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/>.