

EDISON ALUMNI NEWS



STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

WINTER 2015

STRONG FUTURE FOR EDISON IN NORTHEAST

The Edison Alumni room has really taken shape and is approaching its final phase. Building the cabinets and then filling them to display our schools rich history is all that



is left. We are putting out a request to all alumni to let us know if you have any mem-

orabilia that you might want us to display. We are looking for unique items from each decade; footballs, helmets, uniforms, gloves, mementos from programs, anything you can think of that you feel represents either the school or community. The cabinets are being designed to display items through glass, but we also are building them to hold trays of items for every year the school has been open. So if you have a particular year you want to look up you simply go to that tray and browse. All 94 years and counting! It will be quite the display once we finish, with a little help from our alumni it will be that much better. If you have something sitting around gathering dust, we can give it a new home for everyone to see.

The alumni room is just one of the many great improvements happening at Edison, it

is an exciting time for Edison!

The auditorium has recently gone through a \$1.4 million renovation, and did you know Edison is now one of the greenest schools in the country? With all of the future solar panels and water capturing systems, Edison will be close to being self-sufficient in the very near future.

Our new athletic field is a one-of-a-kind “green” field. These high-profile improvements to the Edison High School campus that have been made possible by generous donations from partner organizations like the NFL, neighborhood and local environmental groups that have worked to support a strong future for Edison in Northeast.

Additional improvements are designed for them, including a community gateway/concession area on the east side of the field and a “Wall of Fame” adjacent to the bleachers.

Now is the time to join these partners and show

your support for Edison High School and the Northeast community.



Save the Date

Distinguished Alumni Award
nominations due February 28th

Scholarship Dinner/Fundraiser
Monday, May 2nd, 2016

So many people feel the importance of advancing a great Edison. This is an opportunity for the alumni, with our passion for the Blue & Gold and our deep sense of gratitude for the opportunities and memories Edison afforded us, to advance and sustain the work being done here that is both visible and significant. Large donors may contact E.C.S.F. to inquire about naming and recognition opportunities. While we welcome your financial support, giving is not only a money thing. We can all support Edison High by attending any of the many events and programs sponsored by the school and the ECSF. We request your help. Edison and Northeast deserve our support and payback.

Let us-- Edison graduates, friends of Edison, former and current residents of Northeast—together set the standard. It is our future.

We really do need everyone to help.

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION

Mission Statement

The Edison Community & Sports Foundation was established to further the efforts and achievements of student athletes at Edison High School. To further the aims and objectives of the foundation. The Board may seek to provide opportunities for the Northeast community to become involved in the Edison High School programs through cooperative activities with the Foundation.

The primary goals and mission of the Edison Community & Sports Foundation are:

To strengthen and expand our scholarship and scholastic efforts. To consider proposals which enrich the athletic experience for Edison community students. To support other educational and school related activities in the Edison community as the Board deems appropriate and financially feasible.



President,
Michael Iacarella



In Memory Of

Robert I. Anderson '39

Mark Casey

Julie DeVito '76

Shirley (Benson) Engstrom

Ralph Jasinski '50

Mark Leitschuh

Sharon (Bouta) Larson '61

Orletta (Olson) Nielson '52

Guil Parsons '38

Bonnie Jones-Trout

Harold Urista '42

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL IACARELLA

Hi Edison Alumni and Friends,

My dad always warned me that time will go by so much faster once you graduate from high school and boy was he right. I celebrated my 40th reunion this past October and I had the opportunity to show some of my classmates the school on a tour of the building starting from the Edison Alumni Room. Since I had never done this before I thought it would take about 20 minutes and we would be off to the bar to go reminisce about the good old days. But what was amazing was my classmates interest in how much the school has changed over time and how interesting those changes were. We ended up staying for one and a half hours. It was quite the tour.

Most of my classmates had not been in the building since the day they graduated, unlike me who has been coming

to this dear facility almost every day over the past 22 years. However, it was through their eyes that made me realize how much change has taken place over that time span. The auditorium has had a \$1.4 million renovation, the dirt is no longer in the dirt room, and the band room is in a different place and so on. The tour and questions just continued and my guests were quite impressed with each and every change that has taken place at this 94 year old structure.

Edison is now one of the greenest schools in the country. With all of the future solar panels and water capturing systems, Edison will be close to being self-sufficient in the near future. Also by the end of summer 2016, the building will be completely air conditioned and wired; an enormous job for a building of its size. Of course I also must talk about our Alumni Room which is so close to being completed. We still have cabinet/

display cases that need to be built and stocked, but we have everything else now to make it a nice space. It will be a wonderful place to connect all generations to this wonderful school.

I want to thank everyone who came out and supported the ECSF at the Indeed-We-Can ECSF Oktoberfest fundraiser on October 7th. We had a great turnout, good polka music by Andy Zurbey, swing music by Dan Kuch and a guest appearance by the Edison Alumni Band and our Tommie Mascot to make it a complete night. To make it even better, through all the fun we were able to raise a little over \$3k. Thank you all for your support. It was a great time to come back and have fun in Northeast!

Go Tommies!

Mike Iacarella
President ECSF

Michael Iacarella receives the Presidents Award by Niles Schulz

The Northeast Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce honored ECSF President, Mike Iacarella, on October 29th for his significant and generous service to our Northeast community. Mike's leadership with the ECSF has spearheaded our participation in activities such as Oktoberfest festivals, the All-Class Reunion, the Alumni room, etc. Mike is an integral to the Magnificent Edison Alumni Marching band. He is active in his church, school, and community. He seems to be tireless. If you attend an event in Northeast, it is likely that you will see Mike. It is also likely that Mike has helped organize and promote such an event. The recognition award is well earned.

The ECSF is fortunate to have Mike as our leader. He truly makes a difference in the lives of all who live and all who love Northeast.

Please join us in Congratulating Mike Iacarella!

GUIL PARSONS

Guil Parsons, Age 94, died peacefully Sept. 17, 2015. Born on a farm in Morris, MN Oct. 27, 1920. His family moved to NE Mpls. as a child, and graduated from Edison High School in '38 during the Great Depression. He participated in football, basketball, and track. After high school, he signed up for the Civilian Conservation Corps, as there was limited jobs/money for college. At age 18, with the CCC's, he moved to northern MN, where they helped build the Gunflint Trail road and bridges. In 1940, he started college at Augsburg with the plan of becoming a doctor. Guil played football at Augsburg. World War II interrupted his college, he enlisted in '42 he felt an obligation to serve his country. After his 3rd year at Augsburg, Guil went off to the Pacific Theatre with the U.S. Army as a radio operator. From '42-'45, he was involved in the liberation of many islands in Japan. He was involved in the mission that freed 552 Allied POW's from the Cabanatuan prison camp in Luzon- which was made into the movie "The Greatest Raid". He always said "war brought out the worst in man, but also the best in man." When he returned in '46, he came back to Augsburg College and decided to get his teaching degree. He captained the football team his Sr. year at Augsburg, and was class President. Guil's first teaching/coaching job was at Minnehaha Academy from 47-49. He head-coached football, basketball, and baseball and in 1949 all 3 teams won conference championships. In 1950, Edison HS had an opening, Guil took the job and decided to go back to his roots. From 1950-1980, he spent 30 wonderful years at Edison teaching Biology, History, and Drivers Ed. He helped train 1400 students how to drive. He was head track coach for 18 years, asst. basketball coach for 12, and coached football for 25 yrs. He was an assistant under Pete Guzy before becoming head coach in football. His tough Edison teams won many championships- including a couple undefeated seasons in the Mpls. City



GUIL PARSONS, THE QUIET HERO

I have always been proud to have graduated from Edison High School. Although some of my memories from sixty years ago have faded like a washed out water color, others seem to have been enhanced by time. I know now that the coaches I had, had played a larger part in my life than any of the academic instructors. It wasn't the teachers' fault. I daydreamed through most my classes; however, if you daydreamed on the field, some coach would bonk you on the head! They insisted that you stayed focused on the tasks at hand, that you give your all to the game and made you want to achieve, not just for yourself but for your teammates as well. I had some great ones: Pete Guzy, Louie Lopota and **Guil Parsons**, who at that time was an assistant coach.

My memories of Coach Parsons were of a handsome man, intelligent, steady, caring and extremely competent. His demeanor demanded the respect and attention that was awarded to any head coach. He never had to raise his voice, yet you did what he said without question. Now that this fine man has passed, I realized how little we knew personally about him, and that fact was due to one of his most admirable traits, his humility. Because he wasn't interested in advertising himself or in announcing his achievements it was only after his passing that they became public.

He was in his life, a true hero, a man of tremendous achievements and yet he refused to announce them. In an age where our politicians and athletes seem to want to shout their achievements to the public, humility seems to have become an uncommon and an exceptional trait.

Guil Parsons graduated from Edison, taught and coached at Edison, served as Athletic Director, spearheaded construction projects and since retirement had been a dedicated supporter of the school. At his funeral the family requested that memorials should be sent to ECSF (Edison Community & Sports Foundation) the providers of scholarships to Edison grads. I believe that if Guil Parsons were alive today, he would not care if his name was connected to the donations as long as "the kids from Edison benefitted from it." Guil Parsons was just that kind of man. How lucky I was to have known him.

by Red Lyons, Edison Class of 1955, Member of Edison Hall of Fame

Guil Parsons Cont.

Conference when it was the largest school system in the state. In his last few years, he became Edison's athletic director and supervised renovating the athletic field and building a new gymnasium. Guil retired in 1980, and is in the Edison Hall of Fame. He then became involved in the Edison Community Sports Foundation, which has given away thousands of dollars in scholarships to students of Edison HS. In retirement, Guil enjoyed traveling on cruises with his wife Sally, Canadian fly in fishing trips with his two sons, and enjoying time with his grandchildren.

Guil Parsons will be remembered for his lifelong commitment of building character in the student/athletes he had the privilege of mentoring, his insistence of people to do more; to give more; to work harder; to be prepared, and his loyalty and commitment to people he was associated with.

News from Edison High School

The Road for Edison Baseball Leads to the Florida Spring Training!!



If you have ever played baseball, you probably dreamed about Spring Training in Florida. Well, that is the 2016 Dream for the

Thomas Edison Baseball Team, The Tommie Baseball Players (and their parents) are engaged in a 6 month fundraising effort to reach the goal of flying our Baseball team to Florida in the spring of 2016 to participate in a spring training camp. The total cost for the Spring Training camp is \$30,000. Which includes the training facilities, scrimmage games, room

and board, meals, flight and a day of activity. We are hoping to send 20 players and 4 coaches in this total package price.

As of today the players, parents and coaches have done a variety of fundraising efforts to reach their goal. Efforts such as; A Bowl-A-Thon, Bagging groceries at Cub Foods, Live Band/ Auction, Landscaping work, NE Central Parade, Tent Event/ Spaghetti dinner, Raking leaves, selling Edison Spirit Wear and of course writing funding request letters to civic organizations, businesses, and community members. Overall, our efforts have been successful, however we have not yet reached our goal, So if you love baseball and you love Edison, consider supporting the Edison

Baseball Team's Florida Spring Training Dream and make a donation - no amount is too small and certainly no amount is too large!

Donations for the Edison Baseball Florida Run can be sent to the Edison Community & Sports Foundation (acting as the fiscal agent.) Checks can be written out to (ECSF) please make note in the memo line -Baseball Florida Spring Training or donate on-line by hitting the Donate button on the Foundations website-

www.edisonsportsfoundation.org

Mail Checks to :

E.C.S.F. P.O. Box 68032,
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Let's Play Ball - Go Tommies!!

Edison Tommie Parent

Group hosted it's 3rd Annual Edison Autumn Bazaar on November 14th featuring over 60 vendors. This event was a great success and provided an opportunity for the community to purchase gifts for the holidays that were locally made. There were a wide variety of artists and crafters and the items included pottery, photography, jewelry, warm mittens and scarves, sculptures and Holiday Centerpieces. Edison Art Students also had a booth that featured their wonderful artistic talents. Edison Athlete's were involved in the event as well by assisting vendors load and unload their art pieces, craft items, and supplies needed for their booth. The Edison Sports Foundation also had a table that featured the Edison Authors published works called "Class Backwards".

A theme for the Edison Tommie Parent Group is to "Catch the Tommie Spirit". Our goal is to have the broader community "Catch the Tommie Spirit"! Although this event is a fundraiser for the Edison Senior All Night Party, the group had additional goals in mind when planning the event. These goals included building bridges and connections between the broader community and Edison High School, providing an opportunity for our local artists and crafters to share their talents, and to provide affordable arts and crafts to the Northeast Community during the Holiday Season. This year over 50% of our vendors lived in the Northeast or Southeast communities. In addition, several of our vendors have an Edison connection either as an Alumni or as a parent of Edison students.

Thomas Edison High School Theater Presents

**You're a Good Man,
Charlie Brown**



Thomas Edison High School Auditorium
December 10-12, 2015, 7pm
700 22nd Ave NE 55418

Adults:\$8
Students:\$6

Based on the comic strip "Peanuts" by Charles Schultz
Book, music, and lyrics by Clarke Green
Produced by arrangement with TAMS-NITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY, INC.,
660 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022.



**Stop in December 10-12th and see EHS
"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"
as well as the beautiful newly
remodeled Edison Auditorium.**

Edison Class of 1981

SAVE THE DATE : Friday, August 12th at 7:00 P.M.
 Elsie's Restaurant, Bar, and Bowling Center
 729 Marshall Street NE Mpls MN 55413

Class of 1975 by Mary Kay Dalbec

The Edison Class of 1975 reunited in October, it was a great turn out of Classmates and one of our favorite teachers' Niles Schulz and his wife Jane came to surprise us all. The social hour before dinner gave everyone a chance to get reacquainted. After dinner there were prizes given out and then classmates were given the opportunity to come up to the microphone and tell their favorite high school memory or imitate their favorite teacher. The memories and laughter went on for an hour! Our class truly has a special bond that continues to bring us all back together every five years. For future class reunion information watch the Edison alumni newsletter or contact Mary Kay Dalbec at mardal777@comcast.net or 763-245-0299. New committee members are always welcome.

By Popular Demand....

**"Class Forwards" is finally ready for sale!
 All proceeds will go to the ECSF Scholarship Foundation Fund.**

The book is \$17.75, plus postage. To get yours, contact caroldavidlarsen@aol.com.



The book was written by 50 authors, all who attended Edison High in the '50s.

Here what the Edison Author's Committee has to say about the book: "This is a special book about a special time and place written by those who lived it. Read it" Dick Myslajek

"A treasure for us now, fantastic for geneologists of the future." Cathy Kohout
 "Step back in time as you read, and love the humorous, descriptive high school accounts from those who were teens in the '50s." Marilyn Sexton Lubrecht

"Even if you hated high school, you'll love this book." Norm Solberg

"As Edison once said, 'the most certain way to succeed is to try just one more time.' The authors of this book did just that." David G. Larson

"This is the second collection of memories growing up in Nordeast in the '50s. I hope you enjoy the read." Jean Torgerson Strong

"Browse this book and you'll find some of your own memories. I'll bet on it." Larry Kohout
 "If you grew up in the '50s, as we did, you will delight in this kaleidoscope of personal memories as we traveled our roads to adulthood." Carolyn Jodie Hagford

"This book is loaded with a great deal of glee (and some sad memories.) A love affair with the past." Carol Lyons Larson



Email your Class Reunion Announcement
 to EdisonCSF@aol.com
Please help us get in contact with classes from the 80's -present. Class lists are no longer public information and we'd like to keep these Alumni informed of what's going on at Edison too.
If you know of someone who may be able to help us get in contact with these classes please pass on our contact information or have them contact us.

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Contact Shaun Wakaruk at
 (763) 286-1830 or email your Business info to EdisonCSF@aol.com

CONTRIBUTORS....CARRYING ON THE TOMMIE SPIRIT!

GOLD LEVEL

Barbara (Sandin) Tigie, '54 in Memory of Ron (Rocky) Tigie '52

Dr. Bohdan Prehar , '60 in Honor of the Class of 1960

Richard Sherva, '66 in Honor of Ruben Wenzel

Scott Tomczyk, Toward the One Million Legacy Campaign!

Dave Spano Class of 1963

Bill Roatch, '69 in Memory of Greg Semanko '69

Betty (Gunderson) Wallien, '51 in Honor of The H.V.'s

BLUE LEVEL

Mary (Smaciarz) Litterman

George Shindo, '46 in Honor of the Class of 1946

50.00 LEVEL

Ted Cich, June '43 in Memory of Marion (Fisher) Cich, Jan '42

Ken Knutson, Class of 1959

James McNulty, '43 & Evelyn (Gormley) McNulty '46

James Wedin, '62 in Memory of Gerald Barbara, & Larry Wedin

TOMMIE LEVEL

Andy Keuser, '55 in Honor of Rita Andrescik 60th Class Reunion Co-Coordinator

Duane Nasser

FRIEND OF EDISON

AnnLiv (Solberg) Bacon, Class of 1960

Class of 1970 in Honor of the Edison Alumni Band-Great job at the reunion!

Joyce (Branca) Daher, '54 in Memory of her husband David (ToTo) Daher

Jeff Ezkierka, '80 in Honor of Walter Eskierka '44

Paul & Kathleen Gorzycki

Tony Jaros

Rena (Gorman) Merritt '72 in Memory of her sister Janice Gorman '67

25.00 LEVEL

Kristy Cottle, Class of 1970

Donna Gorski, in Memory of Liz Burkland

William Grivina, Class of 1961, Class President

Elizabeth C. Lundeen, Class of January 1937

Red Lyons, '55 in Memory of Guil Parsons

Raymond Miller, '58 in Memory of Jim Moore

Raymond Miller, '58 in Memory of Bob Peters

Glenn Pletscher, Class of 1944

Cathleen Proell

*Special Thanks
to all of our
Generous Supporters-
We Appreciate You!!*

Donate Online at:

www.EdisonSportsFoundation.org

Click Donate Now

YOU Make A Difference!

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Greetings Alumni;

We want to know how we are doing with our newsletter? It seems to be growing by leaps and bounds with every issue. What is most important to you?

We are now offering a place on our website where we share our Alumni stories. Go to [www.MplsEdisonAlumni.com](http://www.MplsEdisonAlumni.com) and click on Alumni News and Updates.

Thank you for reading and for your gracious feedback.

Please fill In this form and mail it with your contribution to:

**EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 68032 Minneapolis, MN 55418

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual Giving Level**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000.00 Gold Level
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 500.00 Blue Level
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 250.00 Tommie Level
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100.00 Friend of Edison
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00 Level
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25.00 Level



in Memory of : \_\_\_\_\_

in Honor of : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me regarding our Legacy Giving Program

Contributions made to the Edison Community & Sports Foundation help support this newsletter, EHS athletics/activities/community and provide scholarships for Edison students who have shown excellence in academics, athletics and the arts.

All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

Did you know you can make your contribution online? Check out our website and click donate now.

Donate online at [www.MplsEdsionAlumni.com](http://www.MplsEdsionAlumni.com)

*Thank you for your support!!*



200 West Broadway Ave Mpls

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PUB & GRILLE**

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Grab a Bite to Eat &  
Support our Pull-Tabs!

License # 01861

The Edison Community & Sports Foundation is looking to expand their Gambling Operations. If you have contacts with any local establishments please contact our Gambling Manager Lynn Miskowic at 612-296-7283 or email us at [EdisonCSF@aol.com](mailto:EdisonCSF@aol.com)



**Pull-Tabs**

**Bingo and Meat Raffle!!**

**Stanley's Northeast Bar Room**  
2500 University Ave NE

License # 01861 [www.stanleysbarroom.com](http://www.stanleysbarroom.com)

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**Edison Community & Sports Foundation**  
P.O. Box 68032  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

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**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE?**

Do you have something to share? If you have an item of interest to Edison alumni, please send it to us and we'll include it. Interesting historical photos, class reunion announcements, or anything to do with Edison school will be considered. Also the ECSF would like to offer classes the opportunity to utilize our mailing services and non profit mailing permit. Please contact us for more information. Send your information to:  
Edison Community & Sports Foundation  
P.O. Box 68032 Minneapolis, MN 55418



The Board of Directors meet at 7:00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Edison High School. Changes will be posted on our website [www.EdisonsportsFoundation.org](http://www.EdisonsportsFoundation.org)  
Michael Iacarella, President  
Niles Schulz, Vice President  
Rick Eskola, Secretary  
Shaun Wakaruk, Treasurer  
EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION

**WE'RE ON THE WEB**  
[WWW.EDISONSPORTSFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.EDISONSPORTSFOUNDATION.ORG)

The Edison Community & Sports Foundation is made up of 30 Board Directors who volunteer their time and efforts to support Edison High School students and organizations with scholarships and other charitable commitments. It started as a way to honor former teacher/coach and great athlete — Pete Guzy and has become a lasting tribute to his spirit and Edison's alumni's dedication to the school and Northeast Minneapolis.  
You can participate with the Foundation at the annual Hall of Fame Night, Distinguished Alumni Award Event, May Dinner, or Art Solz Memorial Golf Tournament, the Homecoming/Oktoberfest or with a contribution directly to the scholarship fund, or Legacy Program.