

STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWS

2026 Annual Golf Tournament Huge Success!

Hi everyone,

Wow, what an incredible day! The Edison Community & Sports Foundation's 41st Annual Golf Scramble was a tremendous success, and we couldn't have done it without you. Even with the temperatures reaching a sizzling 100 degrees, 148 amazing golfers, 40 dedicated volunteers, and dozens of our generous sponsors all came together at Columbia Golf Course on July 27th to show their wonderful support for Edison students.

Thanks to this extraordinary community effort, we are absolutely thrilled to share that the event raised more than \$45,000 for future scholarships and educational opportunities! We want to extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to every single sponsor, golfer, volunteer, and donor who helped make this year's tournament the most successful in our Foundation's history.

We truly hope you enjoyed some of the new changes we made this year, and we already can't wait to welcome you all back next year!



2026 Distinguished Alumni

The Edison Distinguished Alumni Award was first presented in 2010 to honor graduates for their personal achievements. The Edison Community & Sports Foundation is pleased to announce the 2026 Distinguished Alumni:



Ramona Harristhal

Ramona Harristhal (Mona Bystedt) grew up on 23rd and Jackson Street, kitty-corner through Jackson Square from Edison High. She saw the school every day of her childhood as she played in the park. Thanks to the park

board, she was mentored by college students who worked at the park during summers. Jackson Square is where she first heard about college. She loved learning. School and the public library in the next block were important to her. She valued the education she received at Edison and worked hard to prepare to continue education after Edison. She was the first in her family to attend college. She discovered that many doors were open to her because of her education. She wanted others to know that doors could open for them, too, with education. Mona was fully engaged at Edison High School. In her senior year, she was a member of the Senior Cabinet,

David Iacarella

Dave grew up at 2534 Polk Street with 4 bothers. He was close to Central Avenue and Lowry. Where in those days there were tons of small businesses and the characters that owned them. This was his stomping grounds as a kid. Dave had a paper route delivering the Star Tribune which he attributes as having a huge impact on his life. From delivering papers, selling subscriptions door to door, and collecting money from customers every two weeks he learned to manage money, personalities and time. He also met many great people and NE entrepreneurs and became one himself! While attending Edison High School Dave was working at Little Jacks while participating in Edison social and sports events. Upon graduating from Edison in 1970, Dave worked at Milton Johnson Company until entering the Army in 1972. Where he served in the Military Police and was stationed in the Panama Canal. After being honorably discharged from the Army, Dave started his first business in Northeast, Metro Aluminum and Siding. Wanting more he then attended the University



Distinguished Alumni continued on pg. 3...

THANK YOU to the 2026 Edison Community & Sports Foundation Golf Scramble Sponsors and Participants!

By the Numbers

41 years strong
148 Golfers
40 Volunteers
60+ Sponsors
100+ and Still Smiling
\$40,000+ Raised

Honoring Community ·
Empowering Students ·
Creating Futures



Premier Sponsor



Tommies Elite Sponsor



Blue & Gold Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Showcase Cart Sponsor



BLUE SPONSORS: C & M Heating & A/C · Cub Foods · Jax Cafe · American Food Groups · Sheboygan Sausage · Switchback Foods

BEVERAGE CART SPONSORS: Central Avenue Liquors · Elsie's

PUTTING GREEN SPONSORS: Northeast Goldbrick's Club · Old National Bank · Patriot Insurance Company · Ready Meats · SDK CPAs

HOLE SPONSORS: Big Louie's · Castle Building & Remodeling · Chris Rog · Class of '72 · Commissioner Irene Fernando · Cowboy Saloon · Doug Jones, Class of '65 · Eastside Old Timers · Elliott Law Offices · Gopher Liquor · Grumpy's Bar · Higgins Insurance Agency · Ideal Dinner · Jim Nesser Insurance · Jim Zahorski Construction · Kiwanis Club of Northeast Minneapolis · Knight Cap Bar · Mailing Solutions · Marino's Deli · Mauer Chevrolet · Minneapolis Police Federation · Minnesota Senior Sports Association · Minute Man Press · Moe's Tavern · Moose on Monroe · NE Palace · NE Yacht Club · Palisade Asset Management LLC · Rick Escola Law Office · Roseville VFW · Sarna's Classic Grill · Senator Doran Clark · Sentyrz Supermarket · Shaw's Bar & Grill · Tony Jaros · Wren Realty



Distinguished Alumni cont...

Ramona Harristhal cont...

Upon graduating from Edison High School in 1965 she attended the University of Minnesota where she graduated in 1969, with a degree in Biology and German. Mona's career began in a physics lab at the 3M Company, researching high temperature materials. She worked on creating early catalytic converters and on extruded ceramic fibers for many applications. Moving to The Pillsbury Company, she was initially involved in purchasing commodities and then held positions in the company's foodservice division, including Associate Marketing Manager for baking mixes and finally Marketing and Sales Manager for Pillsbury's foodservice flour business.

In 1992, Mona became the first employee of the Page Education Foundation, founded by NFL Hall of Fame and Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page and his wife Diane. The Page Education Foundation provides financial aid, encouragement and mentoring to Minnesota students of color, helping them pursue and succeed in post-secondary education while passing their successful experiences on to younger members of our community. Mona's work began in the Foundation's second year of granting scholarships. By her retirement, the total number of Page Scholars had grown from 18 that second year to 650 annually. Mona's work required connecting with educational institutions across the state, introducing them to the Foundation's work and recruiting students to apply for Page Grants. She recruited adults in the community, corporations and educational enterprises to mentor Page Scholars. Mona has served on the Page Education Foundation since 1992, helping to raise millions of dollars to support their important work. Since her retirement, she remains active in supporting their activities.

Mona was a mid-career Peace Corps volunteer in the Federated States of Micronesia, a country made up of 600 small islands in the Pacific Ocean. In 1990, she moved to the island of Kosrae, working as a business development volunteer islandwide in marketing, tourism, and agriculture projects. Her primary work occurred in her village of Tafunsak, helping local residents develop new skills, create marketing plans, apply for loans, and enrich the community through their entrepreneurial efforts. She has maintained a loving connection with her Peace Corps family and the people of Kosrae. She continues to support Kosrae through visits and currently by a campaign to obtain donated reading glasses for the island's residents.

Mona's community involvement shows her dedication to helping young people succeed. Over the years she has been on numerous executive, engagement, nominating, scholarship and fundraising committees for a wide variety of organizations. Since 2001, Mona has served as a member, President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Minneapolis College Foundation Board (MCTC).

Since graduation in 1965, Mona has been an ambassador for Edison High School. She has served on the Edison

Community & Sports Foundation ("ECSF") Scholarship Committee since 2019. She was instrumental in establishing the Edison Community & Sports Foundation's Wes Hendrickson Memorial Scholarship to remember her childhood friend and Edison classmate who was killed in Vietnam. Since 1992, she has worked with Edison's faculty and staff to recruit students and help them obtain scholarships and other support, including Wes Hendrickson Memorial Scholarships, Page Grants and Minneapolis College programs. She's a loyal supporter of the ECSF Golf Tournament and Niles Schulz Awards dinner and other activities that have led to the success of the Edison High School community.

Since childhood, Mona has been dedicated to serving others, and throughout her career Mona has encouraged and mentored young people to understand that education is the best tool available to develop and achieve their dreams. We warmly welcome Ramona Harristhal as a recipient of the Edison High School Distinguished Alumni award in 2026.



David Iacarella cont...

of Minnesota, switching to Control Data Institute to be part of the growing computer industry.

In 1987, he founded, Talent Software Services. Talent is an IT staffing services company providing staffing solutions with a local customer base that includes Medtronic, Best Buy and Boston Scientific. The Staffing Industry Analyst Organization recognized Talent as one of the Fastest Growing Staffing Firms of 2024.

Dave is involved with several national organizations that support veteran owned businesses. Talent is committed to giving back to fellow Veterans. They are proud of their history of transitioning military Veterans into the workforce. Their commitment to supporting veterans, disabled veterans and veteran spouses have earned the company numerous recognitions from a wide range of veteran organizations. For all his efforts, Dave Iacarella received the Veteran's Business Enterprise® of the Year award in 2020.

Over the years, Dave has been an adamant supporter of Edison Community & Sports Foundation, Edison Alumni Band, The Northeast Lions and the Minnesota 100. Dave's dedication to Northeast is clear through his consistent generosity and commitment over the years. Dave believes in giving back to the community where he gained the skills that launched his incredible journey in life.

We are pleased to welcome Dave Iacarella as an Edison High School 2025 Distinguished Alumni.

Congratulations!

Edison Hall of Fame to Honor 2026 Class



The 2026 Edison Hall of Fame inductees will be honored at our annual dinner. This year's event will be on Thursday, October 22, 2026 at Elsie's Entertainment Center. The event is free to attend with donations welcome. The event will start at 6:00 p.m., with social time and appetizers. Dinner will be served with inductions to follow. Honorees to include:

Julie Kobo (1988)

1985 Freshman year 4th out of 300 runners in Swain Invitational Cross country meet
1987 All conference in basketball, Top 5 in scoring
1988 Track 1st place in Distance Medley, 3rd in 4x800
All conference in 1988, basketball
2nd place scorer in the city

Dontae Johnson (1996)

4 year starter basketball
MN Mr. Basketball nominee
Average 25 pts/game Scored 1369 career points (the most scored up to that year)
837 career points

1984 Girls Softball City Champs

9-3 record Outscoring opponents 125-5
If you were a part of this team, please contact John Banisky at the number below.



Jake Herlofsky and Sophia Grey will accept their previous awards.



Circle of Champions will honor teams from 1981, 1982 and 1983.

Join us for a fun event to honor some of the finest athletes to wear the blue and gold! Text John Banisky at 651-285-3618 or send email to edisonhof@gmail.com to express your interest in attending.



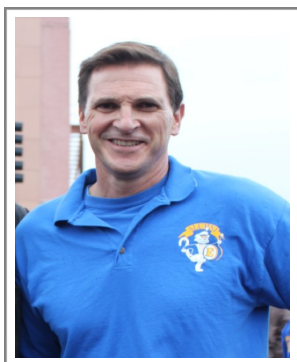
Help Us Nominate Someone for the Distinguished Alumni Award!

The Distinguished Alumni Award was first presented by the Edison Community & Sports Foundation in 2010 to honor living Edison graduates for their personal achievements. Edison High School has a rich, vibrant, and diverse heritage and has produced **THOUSANDS** of graduates over the years. Many of these Alumni have achieved remarkable accomplishments that are deserving of recognition. But without your help we may never know!

Please take a moment to drop us an email with the name and brief background of someone you think should be considered for the award. Our goal is to recognize those living alumni for what they have accomplished, it all starts with your assistance! For even more information you can visit our web site for nomination criteria and forms at: edisonsportsfoundation.org/distinguished-alumni-award/

Email us at - EdisonCSF@aol.com or robhovde1954@gmail.com
Thank you!

Letter from President Iacarella



Greeting Fellow Tommies and Friends of Edison,

It always amazes me how many great people I run into who just happen to have gone to Edison High School in Northeast Minneapolis. As I have said before, the melting pot that was Northeast helped build the character and personality that allowed so many Edison graduates to go on to do great things in the world.

So, I am asking for your help. If you know an Edison grad whom you believe has done something remarkable, please let us know. And it doesn't have to be in a monetary way. It can be in any aspect of life where you feel that person has made a significant difference in the lives of others. All you need to do is go to the ECSF website and fill out the **Distinguished Alumni Referral Application**. With your help, we can recognize those individuals who have done their part to make a difference in the lives of others.

I also want to give a big shout-out to the ECSF Golf Committee for putting on our most successful tournament ever! I want to personally thank Bernie Kunza for his leadership and determination in reaching his ambitious fundraising goals. A special thank-you also goes to all of our wonderful sponsors who really stepped up when asked to support our cause. And, of course, thank you to all the golfers who came out to play, joined in the fun, and helped support our school and community. Your participation helped

make the tournament such a tremendous success.

Next year will be the Edison Alumni Band's **Jubilee Year!** That's right-50 years of proudly representing Edison and Northeast Minneapolis throughout the local area and across the country. There are a lot of fun things being planned for 2027, with the highlight being a trip to California to perform at Knott's Berry Farm and visit Stan Freese, former Edison band director. Stan was instrumental in bringing back Edison's music program in the late 1960s and early 1970s and has continued to work with the Alumni Band on several projects over the years. The band would like the opportunity to show Stan our gratitude for all he has done for us and for Edison.

A trip of this magnitude comes with significant expenses, and throughout its 50 years, the Alumni Band has performed without formally asking for anything in return. Donations are now welcome to help defray some of the costs of this special Jubilee trip, including lodging, instrument transport, and transportation for band members while in Los Angeles. Your support will help make this memorable celebration possible as the Edison Alumni Band marks 50 years of music, friendship, and Edison pride.

Go Tommies!

Mike Iacarella, President
Edison Community and Sports
Foundation

Special Thanks to all
of our generous
supporters.
We Appreciate You!!
Click here to



In Memory Of...

Walter George Berglund
Steven "Steve" Bergman, '84
Don Browne, '59
Kathleen J. "Kay" Burzynski, '47
Darryl (Butch) Crossman
Kate Nellie Eckman, '39
Shirley Joyce Erickson, '47
Thomas "Tom" Folsom Jr.
Gayle Charlotte Green, '57
LaVon Jeanette Halfen, '50

Barry Patrick Hamilton
Norman Hart Sr.
Sandra Lee (Richmond)
Holscher, '77
Nancy (Pettersen) Lindblad
Ruth Bernadine Lunquist, '44
Grace Dana Maxwell, '55
Kenneth Edward Mrugala
Vivette C. Nickander
William Clayton Oberg

Bruce Robert Ochu, '61
Judith "Judy" M. Olson, '55
David Lloyd Regel, '67
Eric Rice, '93
Paul Zurbey



ECSF Supports Local Groups



The second annual Edison All-Comers Track Meet was a great success! There were over 220 event entries, along with 15 4x4 teams (60 people in that race alone). The meet was the definition of All-Comers. The ages of participants ranged from 4 to 72 years old! This event had over 20 volunteers, and the Mayor of Minneapolis even stopped by for the fun. We also ended up giving away over 100 hot dogs. A huge thank you to the Edison Sports and Community Foundation for providing funds to purchase a new starting pistol and other various food items, which made the event significantly better. Hopefully, next year, we can continue our partnership to support the new hot dog mile!

The Titans are a youth hockey program that serves the children of NE Minneapolis and its surrounding communities. Thanks to donations from the ECSF, we are able to provide hockey for half the price of all of our neighboring hockey associations. In addition, we are able to provide equipment for any child that needs it at no additional cost. We also provide scholarships to 15% of our program so they can play for free. Our goal is to make the game of hockey accessible to any child that wants to play regardless of their ability to pay. Thank you ECSF! We couldn't do it without your support!



CONTRIBUTORS CARRYING ON THE TOMMIE SPIRIT!

GOLD

Howard Taylor, in memory of Wes Hendrickson

TOMMIE

Bohdan Prehar, in memory of Class of '60 and in honor of All Edison Veterans

FRIEND OF EDISON

Jeff Sherman, in memory of Jim Jaremko

Aleda Jackson, in honor of Class of 1959

Jeanine Brannon

Barbara Guille, in memory of Phylis Horn Askay,
Class of '46

Dan Koehler, in memory of a great friend,

Jim Maruska

John Pielow, in memory of Donald Pielow

OTHER

Stephanie Maciag Smith, in honor of
Michael G. Smith

Myrna Podany, in memory of Wes Hendrickson

Robert Antoine, in memory of Brian Hagggar, '63

Anita Monette, in memory of Beverly Warren

Correction from Summer Newsletter:

Deborah Jansen, in memory of Joe, Joal and
Terry Moses

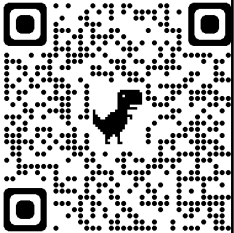
Please fill in this form and mail it with your contribution to:
EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION Check here to receive Email
P.O. Box 68032 Minneapolis, MN 55418 confirmation of your donation: _____
Donate online at www.MplsEdisonAlumni.com

Name: _____ Maiden Name _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Class of: _____
Contact me regarding our Legacy Giving Program _____

Individual Giving Level	In Memory of: _____
\$ _____ Other	In Honor of: _____
_____ \$1,000 Gold	
_____ \$500 Blue	
_____ \$250 Tommie	
_____ \$100 Friend of Edison	
_____ \$50	
_____ \$25	

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.

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Edison Community & Sports Foundation is to engage students, staff, alumni and community to direct resources to support programs, facilities and opportunities that advance Edison.




Reunion Announcements

Class of 1960 - Luncheon

October 19th, 2026, 11:30 AM at Sarna's, Columbia Heights. Contact Barb Findorff at 763-383-8710 for more information.

Class of 1974

September 24, Route 47 Pub & Grub, 7820 University Ave. N.E., Fridley, 6 PM. No RSVP, no cost, just come and catch up with classmates in this "between reunions" casual get-together.

Hall of Fame Plaques

Since the hall of fame plaques were taken down from the gym walls, they have been sitting in my basement waiting to be claimed by anyone interested. As some of the plaques were faded past recognition, and to make requests more efficient, a list of names will be posted to our website under the hall of fame section.

If the plaque that interests you is available, you can request it at: edisonhof@gmail.com and we can arrange delivery. The space in my basements thanks you in advance! John Banisky

STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

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

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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 NE Minneapolis. You can participate with the Foundation at the annual Hall of Fame Night, Distinguished Alumni Award Event, Niles Schulz Scholarship Dinner, Art Solz Memorial Golf Tournament, the Homecoming/Oktoberfest or with a scholarship contribution or Legacy Program.

Board of Director meetings are held at Edison High School on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Changes will be posted on our website www.EdisonSportsFoundation.org
Michael Iacarella, President
Mary Dalbec, Vice President
Rick Eskola, Secretary
John Lawson, Treasurer

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION
WE'RE ON THE WEB WWW.EDISONSPORTSFUNDATION.ORG



Do you have something to share? If you have an item of interest to Edison alumni, please send it to us and we will include it. Interesting historical photos, class reunion announcements, or anything to do with Edison school will be considered.

The ECSF would also 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