

THIS IS SURRATTS FOUNDATION E-NOTICE 2016-11 OF NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Hello Hornets! Here are some items that might be of interest:

1. SCHOOL PLANS EXCITING HOMECOMING ACTIVITIES! This year's football Homecoming week kicks-off today with the traditional Powder Puff Game, followed tomorrow by the Homecoming week Class Day. Also tomorrow, November 2, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Clinton IHOP, the Hornets Marching Band will hold a Homecoming Meet and Greet Fundraiser. All of our readers in the area are encouraged to stop by to support Surrattsville's great Marching Hornets!

Then, on Friday November 4, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Gym, the School will host a battle of the bands and stroll-off between the current Band, alumni Band members, and sororities and fraternities, an event that's bound to be entertaining (and fun!). The public is cordially invited to this great event.

Finally, the Homecoming game will be held on Saturday November 5 at 2 p.m., and we're hoping for a record-setting attendance. Why not come out and support the Hornet gridiron squad!

2. SCHOOL LAUNCHES ATHLETICS HALL OF HONOR, AND REQUESTS NOMINATIONS. The School has proudly established a Surrattsville Athletics Hall of Honor. We received this exciting notice from Athletic Director and Coach Demario Newman about the Hall of Honor: "On Saturday October 15 we honored Davin Meggett at halftime of our football game as the first inductee of the Surrattsville Athletics Hall of Honor. Please reach out to past graduates to ask for nominees of individuals who played sports at Surrattsville and made a significant impact. Please email any ideas to demarie.newman@pgcps.org."

[Ed note: Here's a fascinating video about the inaugural inductee to the Hall:
<https://campusinsiders.com/videos/why-former-maryland-player-davin-meggett-became-a-teacher/>.]

3. AND ALL OF OUR READERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE NEXT ATHLETICS HALL OF HONOR CEREMONY ON DECEMBER 5! And speaking of the new Hall of Honor, we just received this very exciting news from Richie Andresen (61)! "The first State Championship team from Surrattsville is going to be inducted into the SHS Athletic Hall of Honor. Specifically, the undefeated 1960 Boys' Basketball Team will be inducted in a special ceremony during the December 5 Boys' Basketball home opener, between the JV and Varsity games (perhaps around 6:30 p.m.). At this point, team members Martin Padgett, Gary Deckers, Jesse McLain and Sam Wynkoop have stated that they will be attending. We are

encouraging all alumni to attend and lend their support. Why not arrive before the JV game to cheer-on the JV Hornets!”

4. SEEKING CUSTODIAN FOR FALLEN HEROES PLAQUE FOR DECEMBER 5 HALL OF HONOR CEREMONY.

Bob Jeter (64) is seeking someone to escort the Foundation’s Fallen Heroes Plaque to the Hall of Honor ceremony on December 5. Please email Bob at bobsjeter@gmail.com if you might be able to assist with this.

5. RECOMMENDING THE SCHOOL’S WEBSITE. We’re grateful for the many visitors we get to the Foundation’s outstanding (and always interesting website at www.surrattsville.org. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Rich Grace (81) (and his predecessors Mike Gifford (84) and Bill Thomas (76)) for their tireless efforts establishing and maintaining our site.

Another truly outstanding website is the School’s official site at <http://www1.pgcps.org/surrattsville/>. Why not take a minute to visit that link to learn about all of the very exciting initiatives going on at the School under the leadership of new Principal Katrina Lamont.

6. UPDATE ON CLASS OF 64 REUNION. We received this update from the Class of 64 on their reunion plans: “Class of 1964 70th Birthday Celebration Update: Sadly to say, because of Hurricane Matthew, the celebration had to be cancelled. To say we were “bummed” to have to cancel the party is putting it mildly. We had no choice. We did have two couples come before the cancellation: Bill and Theresa Adams pulling their fifth^h wheel came on Tuesday and had to leave early Thursday morning and Connie (Shaw) and Wayne Plummer came from Texas on Monday and decided to stay through the storm. We managed to have fun with all of them. However, you cannot keep the class of 1964 down for long. Another party is planned for April 29-30, 2017. This time, our theme is “Seniors Gone Wild”! How wild is yet to be known... Updates to follow!”

7. CORRECTION TO ITEM IN LAST E-NOTICE. Several readers noticed that we had the graduation year wrong for author Bill Crawford (62) in the last e-Notice. Here’s a corrected version of that item about the great new books by Bill and by Jerry Spence: “I recently had the pleasure to read two absolutely fascinating books about Vietnam War experiences by Surrattsville authors. The first, written by Gerald A. Spence (62), is “The War: 361 Days, 12 Hours and 27 Minutes in Vietnam.” Jerry’s riveting account of his time in Vietnam actually starts with references to tenth grade, runs through his induction and training at Ft. Bragg, provides a detailed and fascinating account of his time as an infantry soldier in Vietnam, and ends with a summary of his back-in-the-world service in the U.S. Army. What I found striking about Jerry’s beautifully written book was its total lack of interest in sensationalizing what was indeed a sensational experience, in favor of simply telling it like it was.

The second was written by William C. Crawford (62), “Just Like Sunday on the Farm: Crawdaddy Remembers the Nam and After.” Bill’s books is a wide-ranging collection of essays, stories and photos (taken by Bill, who was an Army combat photographer), with an emphasis on Bill’s Vietnam War experiences and insights but also including post-Vietnam periods and Bill’s work as a professional photographer employing the “forensic foraging” technique. Unlike Jerry’s straight-ahead retelling of his experiences and impressions, Bill’s book contains pointed and provocative commentary, using a no-holds-barred approach and writing style.

These books are available on Amazon, and provide a fascinatingly broad view of two Hornets’ experiences in and reactions to the War in Vietnam. Congratulations to Jerry and Bill on the publication of their books!”

8. UPDATE ON CLASS OF 75 REUNION. We received this very wild and crazy update from the Class of 75 about their upcoming reunion plans! “Class of 75 Birthday Party - The Class of 75 is turning 60 next year and is planning a birthday party in Las Vegas on Labor Day weekend. All classes, friends, parents, teachers, and adult children are invited to join in. Information will be communicated via the Facebook group "Surrattsville Class of 75 turns 60". Not all of the details are finalized, but Friday September 1, 2017 we will be meeting at the Still Bar, located in the Mirage Hotel. It will be a very a la carte event in order to keep the expenses down. I can be reached by Facebook private message or sberry75@gmail.com, for any private concerns or questions. Steve Berry (75)”

9. HORNET ARTIST FEATURED ON WUSA. Some of our readers may have seen the nice feature earlier this year about Hornet artist Paul Nichols (82) about his Washington Redskins-related art work: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/maryland/redskins-fan-painting-special-kirk-cousins-football-/27947645>. Paul (who can be reached at PaulN420@aol.com) has done sports-related artwork on baseballs, bats and footballs, and has donated art to auctions for the Washington Nationals and to the Negro League Baseball Museum.

[Ed. Note: We would love to have information about other Hornet artists to feature in upcoming e-Notices. Our readers may remember that internationally-acclaimed Hornet painter Kevin Fitzgerald (71) received a Foundation Achievement Award in 2003. <http://surrattsville.org/achievement/2003.shtml>]

10. FOUNDATION LAUNCHES MUSICAL FUND RAISER. Thanks to the inspiration and hard work of Foundation Board member Greg Laxton (81), the Foundation has launched a new fund raiser that offers digital downloads of recordings of Surrattsville’s Teen Club and other bands. (In addition to his volunteer service on the Foundation Board, Greg is perhaps the world’s leading authority on rock and roll pioneer – and Accokeek native – Link Wray.)

If you have any recordings that Greg could feature, please email him at greg.laxton@gmail.com. Greg's first offering is a recording of Teen Club regulars "Crusader Rabbit," at these links: <https://loudr.fm/release/live-1972/Ky24D> and <http://www.oldlinemusic.com/styled/page8/>.

Thanks to Greg for his efforts in spearheading this latest fund raising effort by the Foundation!

11. MORE SURRATTSVILLE MEMORIES FROM DAYS GONE BY. The following is the latest installment of Wayne Tatum (74)'s always evocative memories of his time at Surrattsville Junior High in the 1960s. (We're running Wayne's reminiscences as a serial that started in the July 1, 2016 e-Notice, and we're sure Wayne's stories will stimulate lots of memories of times likely long gone-by among our readers. Wayne can be reached at wayne.tatum.ctr@usmc.mil.)

"A Day in the Life: On any given weekday in Crestview we would wake up to the smell of DDT or other agent being sprayed from large trucks that slowly drove up and down the streets while lawn sprinklers were moving back and forth, maybe shooting powerful bursts or spraying straight up and out on green lawns, some having a newly planted sapling or two, supported with stakes attached by wire or rope. Yards were maintained by the parents and kids, not HOAs. Auto emissions testing was not on our radar. TV was free. 'Pay TV' was the horror awaiting us, but not for a few more years. The phones were Ma Bell land lines, some TV sets were still black and white, tennis shoes brands were all unique and easily recognized because there were few. Our summer footwear consisted of either sandals, bare feet, Keds, PF Flyers or Chucks. Desert boots could be worn if you needed to keep up your rock-n-roll image, with blue jeans. Dungarees. Levi's. Denims. Lees. Wranglers. Hippy britches. For playtime, GI Joe still rocked the world of preteen boys, inquisitive adolescents like myself would secretly try out little sister's Kenner's Easy Bake Oven with a light bulb that didn't bake anything unless you were willing to wait for your little sister to leave the house and you were hungry enough to sit around two or more hours for the soggy cake to be edible. You received your daily dose of medicine from AM/FM music stations, the best newspaper in town was the Washington Star, and our beloved losing Redskins now had the best football coach in the NFL, Vince Lombardi. For one's cool summer fun day plan, if a pool wasn't accessible, indoor playtime was boring and the schoolyard was just - too -hot, Marlow Heights had the answer.

The Original Best Dog in Show: Never think that as men of the woodlands and Frisbee fields that the brothers Chesley and yours truly spent our entire days at Crestview environs, never! In fact, we even had free rides to and great discount prices for le Cinema, first run films thanks to the good folk at the summer recreation department. I among others have figured out that a Peanuts movie could be based entirely on Snoopy's adventures, and that Linus, Charlie Brown, Peppermint Patty, Violet, Lucy, Pigpen and the ("whah-whah") rest could stick with the Sunday comics. The Marlow Heights movie theater had a large screen and great eats. For a kid that is.

And this was THE place to view Disney movies. The only place I'd seen more Disney films was at the ABC drive in Oxon Hill.

Our Home Town Pride: Now as for the Ranch, between their bad movie marathons and ketchup laden food served at movie horror-thons, the occasional hit movie made it noteworthy beyond the "cheap motel" label. That is where I first viewed "Planet of the Apes" in the late spring of 1968 as I sat with my brother Walt and my father in the front bench seat of a good old American made GM boat. The film started off just right: space, future, crash into a lake, all hope lost journey into simian hell and the more enrapt I became, the more those two were engaged in laughing their heads off. Who cares – I loved it. This led to a film debacle of my own that summer, and I needed to scout for a set location. So bringing with me about 12 kids from Crafton lane including the Chesley clan, we wandered deep into a forested area far off all paths and into the lost creek flats near Fiocca's auto parts yard for the 'science fiction / action packed' thriller never before seen or cared about – "Planet of the Skeletons"! A piece of "Jason and the Argonauts", a touch of fifties horror, a few devious skeletal thespians to be named later, and a whole bunch of Planet of the Apes. But first and foremost without access to a regular 8 mm movie camera or even the slightest possibility of using next door neighbor Billy's 8mm b/w (even if his little brother was suddenly given a starring role in my cinematographic wonder), we were dead in the Fiocca mudflats. Then we had a glaring second problem - no money, as this was the sixties. Today's kids of all ages use iPhones or androids and have access to more cash than we ever thought about, with the world of imagination right at their fingertips. We the ancient mariners of Clinton had to work for our fun. My indie film making career was over before it started, even if the kids thought we were actually filming while the brothers Chesley and I brainstormed. Keep 'em busy. As we were about to leave, Dave lit and tossed a firecracker, causing my well-honed military instinct to kick in and I almost ran smack into it midair head level twenty feet or so away from where it was thrown. I can tell you who the FIRST skeleton would've been if it'd been a cherry bomb. So much like Brian Wilson's hidden tapes but with much less throughput and quality, "Planet of the Skeletons" remains on the shelf of my half-baked ideas."

12. GIFTS ADD TO FOUNDATION ARCHIVES. Thanks to Cathy Wise McCloy (65) and Frank Wise (62), the Foundation Archives have received copies of the 57 and 58 Boomerangs that were owned by their late sister Jackie Wise (59). Cathy and Frank note that Jackie died a number of years ago and would have been only too glad to donate them. We very much appreciate the generosity of the Wise family in providing these treasures to the Foundation's collection of yearbooks.

The Archives currently is lacking:

-All yearbooks before 1950

-1983-1989
-1995
-1998
-2000
-2001
-2004
-2005
-2007-present

If anyone has extra copies of any of these missing links, we would love to have them.

(And the Foundation has surplus Boomerangs available for \$10 (including shipping) from these years: 1991, 1999, 2002, 2003, and 2006. Please send me an email at hsmith@smithdowney.com if you would like one.)

13. COPIES OF 1929 AND 1944 YEARBOOKS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING. And speaking of yearbooks, thanks to the efforts of Foundation Archivist Shelby Lee Oppermann, the 1929 and 1944 Surrattsville yearbook is available for viewing at the link below. The Foundation would love to have old yearbooks, or even photocopies or scans of them, for its Archives.

1929:

<file:///C:/Users/Henry/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content.Outlook/U8U2IAZ4/1929%20Blue%20and%20Gold%20Surrattsville.htm>

1944:

<file:///C:/Users/Henry/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content.Outlook/U8U2IAZ4/1944%20Surrattsville%20yearbook.htm>

14. FOUNDATION ARCHIVES SEEKING PERMANENT PHYSICAL HOME. And speaking of the Foundation's Archives, we're seeking a permanent home for these precious objects. Anywhere in the Clinton/Southern MD area would be fine, and a room or building that starts at 8 x 10 and goes to infinity would be very nice. If you have a lead on a space that might be available to preserve this very important history, please send me an email at hsmith@smithdowney.com.

15. REQUEST FOR INFO ON CLASS GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL. We're compiling a list of Class gifts to the School for the Archives, however significant or small. Perhaps the grandest of all Class gifts to the School came from the Class of 2006 under the leadership of their officers and sponsor, Rhonda Erwin. That Class not only replaced the stage curtains but also replaced the goal posts on the athletic field, and still had money left over! If you recall any Class gifts, please send me an email at hsmith@smithdowney.com.

16. 2016 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN IN PROGRESS. The Foundation's 2016 Annual Campaign is in progress. As always, no donation is too small (or too large) to assist with the mission of the Foundation, and donations are treated as charitable contributions because of the Foundation's 501(c)(3) status. Because the Foundation has no overhead, every dollar contributed advances the work of the Foundation. Contributions can be made online at surrattsville.org or by mail using the form at the end of this e-Notice. And many thanks to the very generous early donors to the 2016 Campaign who are listed below!

17. CLASS OF 97 PLANNING 20TH REUNION. We received this email from Jim Wilkinson (97) about the Class' upcoming reunion plans: "As part of our planning for the upcoming 20 year reunion, we are looking to update our contacts information. Please email me at jwilktnl@gmail.com if you have any information on Class of 97 members. Thank you!"

18. FALLEN HEROES PLAQUE AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS. Here's an update from Bob Jeter (64) on the Foundation's Fallen Heroes Plaque that hangs in the Foundation's Legacy Hall at the School alongside the American and Maryland flags that flew over the U.S. and Maryland Capitols in its honor. "The Fallen Heroes Plaque is available for display at class reunions or any other worthy functions. Feel free to contact me, Bob Jeter, 904jeter@gmail.com or 410-315-9403, preferably well in advance of the date so transfer arrangements can be made. Bob" (Bob also is looking for a volunteer to collect the plaque from its current location in Clinton and drop it off to him in Annapolis. Please let Bob know if you might be traveling in that direction any time soon.)

19. DON'T FORGET TO CHECK-OUT THE FOUNDATION'S VARIOUS YOUTUBE VIDEO PROGRAMS. Thanks to the tireless efforts and creative talents of the Foundation's youtube master, Foundation Board member Sandra Smith Simmons (70), the Foundation's youtube channel now features many programs of interest, such as programs featuring the Foundation's Fallen Heroes Plaque that was conceived and executed by Bob Jeter (64), the 2015 Achievement Award recipients, and the 2015 Scholarship recipients. The programs can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SurrattsvilleFDN>

20. IF YOU USE AMAZON, PLEASE USE AMAZON SMILE. The Foundation just received another quarterly charitable contribution check from Amazon Smile. Here's the link to do your on-line shopping through Amazon Smile to help create these regular contributions to the Foundation. (Shopping on Amazon Smile is identical in all respects to shopping on regular Amazon.)

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-2224546>

Here's hoping your November is off to a great start!

Henry Smith (71)

MANY THANKS TO THESE EARLY DONORS TO THE 2016 CAMPAIGN!

Steve Profilet (71)

Sandra Smith Simmons (70)

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THE SURRATTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.

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