



Bulldog Bulletin

South High School Alumni Association

Tradition of Pride and Excellence



From the President

Larry Latta '72

Spring has sprung! Oh that is a terribly overused quotation. How about this one: "Spring is the time of plans and projects". A fitting quotation for our Association's 2025 calendar of events.

We just had a very successful and enjoyable "Spring Dance" on April 19th. Photos of the event are on pages 4 & 5. I'm already looking forward to the 2026 dance.

As far as projects go your Association will be awarding scholarships to well deserving South High Seniors in the coming days. We have received eleven (11) applications to date. Thanks to all alumni who have donated to this most worthy cause. Donations are tax deductible and can be made with your membership renewal or online at <https://www.shsaa.family/donate>

Go Dawgs!

Dates To Remember In 2025

- July 19 SHS Alumni Association Breakfast Meeting at Plank's Café on Parsons Avenue, 9 am
- Sept 21 24th Annual SHSAA Picnic and Car Show at American Legion Southway Post 144. Please contact Larry Latta at 614/203-8737 for details and tickets.
- October 18 SHS Alumni Association Breakfast and Annual Meeting at Plank's Café on Parsons Avenue, 9 am, Election of Board Members for 2026-2028 terms.

Visit The SHSAA's Website & Social Media

The Alumni Association's website has archived newsletters, the alma mater, fight song and more! Contact Larry Latta (614/203-8737 (c); LATTA1013@aol.com) if you have ideas and updates for the site. Simply search <https://www.shsaa.family/>. The SHSAA also has Facebook and Instagram pages that are loaded with event notices and photos.



Columbus South High Alumni Association



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Volume 1, Issue 02

Spring 2025

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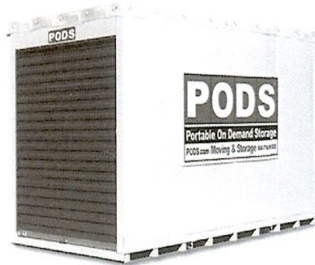
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Bank Run — The Shape of Things to Come

Larry Latta '72

Article by **VIRGINIA GORDON**, Communication Coordinator and **MELISSA TURPENING**, Bank Run Park Manager

A stroke of a pen formally created Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks 80 years ago this August. And in this 80th year we are working hard to open a new park that will be a boon for corporate and large non-profit groups seeking high-capacity facilities for their organizational gatherings. The name of Bank Run derives from the rock once quarried on site. It's a name given to a mix of gravel, sand, dirt and small rock fragments commonly found along riverbanks and gravel pits. Metro Parks looks forward to hosting many of our local residents, non-profit and corporate friends for events at Bank Run Metro Park over many years to come.

Bank Run Metro Park is in Lockbourne, Ohio. It's founded on the former Hoover Y Park and an adjacent disused quarry site, stretching to a combined 166 acres. The vision for Bank Run moves beyond the typical Metro Park and places greater emphasis on this new park as an event and meeting space. In particular, large events that Metro Parks struggles to host at its existing parks will be welcome and easily accommodated at Bank Run, such as organized 5K runs, festivals and very large picnics. A 5-kilometer trail has been laid out that will wind its way through woodland and around a large quarry lake. Users of the facilities will have an option to have Metro Parks Outdoor Adventure staff provide kayaking or paddleboarding try-it sessions on the lake.

Building renovations are underway at Bank Run that will yield two beautiful lodges, each accommodating 99 people for sit-down functions, plus a newly-built 299-person outdoor shelter. All of these facilities will be available for renting separately or in combination. With lots of additional picnic tables and grills and plenty of green space, Metro Parks expects it can accommodate gatherings of up to 10,000 people and more, a far larger capacity than for any of the 20 current Metro Parks. The lodges will include warming kitchens, microwaves and industrial-sized refrigerators to make self-catering clean and easy. A large stage with electrical connections is being renovated at Bank Run and can be used on site for music performances or presentations. There is still much work to be done to finalize parking lots and access roads and to restore utilities at the park, including city water service, and an opening date is dependent on these last pieces of the puzzle falling into place. But it should be soon.

The park is bordered on its northern-side by a beautiful stretch of Big Walnut Creek and trails will lead down to the river bank, where visitors can freely enjoy the scenic views. Acquiring the land that will become Bank Run Metro Park also allows Metro Parks to protect this section of the Big Walnut Creek watershed.

A fondly-remembered Granddaddy Slide was a feature at the old Hoover Y Park that Metro Parks intends to re-create, on an even bigger scale. The new slide will be 100-feet long and descend 25 feet for a one-in-four heart-pounder of a ride. Higher sides will lead to zero spills but no reduction in thrills.

Updates in the current phase of construction include the construction of an 80 ft x 80 ft shelter that will serve as a reservable facility holding up to 300 visitors. The structure has gone vertical and finishing touches to the metal roof are taking place. With no center posts and a vaulted ceiling, the shelter has a very cool feel to it! Next to the shelter is the existing four-season reservable facility, named The Ingram. Jeff Bosworth, Bank Run Metro Park's maintenance supervisor, and Jack Omori, maintenance technician, have been busy transforming the inside installing trim, drywalling (lots of drywalling), overseeing countertop installations, painting, installing toilets, sinks, kitchen cabinets, and more. The three season red barn, currently named Optimist Lodge, has a new restroom addition under construction, with a final punch list scheduled for mid-April. Design and remodel of the existing Optimus Lodge structure, inside and out, comes next.

In the coming six months, next steps include the less exciting but equally important utilities, including a new city water line and upgrades to the electrical transformers and secondary electrical connections. Construction of the slide, parking lot lighting, a wedding gazebo, multiuse trail connections, landscaping, tree plantings, stage remodel, development of the quarry, finding large quantities of clean fill for the quarry... OK, so there's still a lot to be done, but every day is a little bit closer!

Photos of the 2025 Spring Alumni Dance

Photos by Steve Stoll '63



Additional photos may be found in an album on the Alumni Association's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/southhighalumni>

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Photos of the 2024 SHSAA 23rd Annual Picnic & Car Show

Larry Latta '72



SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, September 21st for the 2025 SHSAA 24th Annual Picnic & Car Show. Details will be found in the Summer Edition of the Bulldog Bulletin.

Report from the Scholarship Committee

The 2025 Scholarship Committee: George Yates, Peggy McCathran, Cynthia Cornute Gorman, and Sandra Kientz Kipp, have received 11 scholarship applications to date. Deadline for submission is May 5th. This year we have once again received some of the strongest responses to the scholarship application.

According to the Association's guidelines students who are graduating seniors at South High School with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and graduating seniors with a GPA of 3.0 or higher from another high school who are family members of an Active Member of South High School Alumni Association are eligible to apply for a SHSAA scholarship. A college student who has completed at least two semesters with a GPA of 2.5 or higher and is a family member of an Active Member of SHSAA may apply. Students enrolled in college who previously have received a SHSAA scholarship may request additional support to continuing their education.

The Board of Directors expects to give scholarships totaling up to **\$23,000.00** this 2025-2026 school year.

Donations to the scholarship fund are tax deductible and greatly appreciated. You can donate by sending a check made to "SHSAA" and mail to P.O. Box 12214, Columbus, Ohio 43212-0214, or online via the Alumni Association's website donation page: <https://www.shsaa.family/donate>

Go Dawgs!

Obituaries

Contributed by Larry Latta '72

Elizabeth Dalton Wemmer '73	Richard Tabor '68
Eugene Tolliver '68	Jacqueline Katz Oxley '54
Richard Edward Mallory '73	Patricia Veitch Snyder '51
Doris Firman Reinhardt '64	Naomi Lee Ball Towers '52
Donald Williams '66	William Oliver Frase '54
Robert Funk Chosy '52	David L. Oty '63
Paul Kazee '61	Williard Watson '61
Janet Hensley '61	Carol Pemberton '61
Naomi (Nikki) Endicott '61	Garnet Derexson '61
Larry Bayes '61	Janet Baldeser '61
Nelson Douglas Pritt '60	Roger Hackett '56
Donald Lee Wishon '58	Joyce L. Leslein Starling '63
Adam Frederick High '53	Carol Allen White '77
Patricia A. Hawk Longshore '61	Jeanette M. Milam Green '73
John Larry Ketner '65	Dennis Robert Klingbeil '62
Joyce P. Diane Talbott '64	James F. Gillenwater '62
William Julius Harris '57	Judith Ann Hessenauer '64
Katherine J. Rings Green '72	Mary Francis Williams '54
Barbara Arledge Morrison-McKinley '60	

If there are death notices that we have missed, please call Larry Latta (614-203-8737) and these will be listed in our next issue.





Tradition of Pride and Excellence
South High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 12214
Columbus, Ohio 43212

Breakfast at Plank's on Parsons Avenue

Saturday, July 19, at 9:00 A.M.

Members of the Alumni Association and anyone else with connections to South will meet for breakfast at Plank's. Join us for good food and, best of all, great conversation.

Plan to be there!

Communication Committee

SHSAA President	Larry Latta
Newsletter Editor	Larry Latta
Newsletter Publisher	Larry Latta
Photographer	Steve Stoll

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