

Chalk on the Blackboard

By Liane Rakow Stout

Greetings from the Historic 1916 Buffalo High School located at 303 Pearl Street in Buffalo, North Dakota, just three miles north of I-94 at exit 314. After closing its doors in 1978 the school experienced years of neglect until 2001 when it became the property of the Buffalo Historical Society, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Properties.

In the past twenty years the school has had major renovations including electrical and lighting, heating and cooling, repairs to floors, walls, windows, woodwork, and ceilings, installation of handicap restrooms and a food service area, brick truck pointing, masonry repairs, new roof, handicap ramp, and sidewalks with a handicap parking pad. Interior renovations on the main and upper level are almost complete and necessary work continues in the basement area. All these projects at the Buffalo High School have created a valuable heritage center for community events, celebrations, educational opportunities, meetings, and reunions.

In 2010 the 1916 BHS Capital Campaign Committee organized the first high school homecoming event and that tradition continues. This “old school” provides the perfect setting with the amenities and historic charm for classmates, employees, faculty, family, friends and neighbors to get together and celebrate. This year is no exception, rather it is more important than ever to gather, remember and reminisce.

Please save the date, Friday, July 15, 2022, for our Annual High School Homecoming starting at 6 pm, as part of the Shuffle off to Buffalo celebration. Everyone is invited to join the fun on Friday night at the school and enjoy great food, the beer garden, music, and the opportunity to step back in time. Saturday will have a full day of family fun with our annual car show, concessions, crafters, entertainment, games and so much more.

We want to recognize the 1972 graduates of Buffalo High School on their fiftieth anniversary. They include Keith Anderson, Jay Buhr, Steve Hovland, Dale Kasowski, Lora Pfeifer Killoran, Sheree Ernest Killoran, Renee Hansen Radloff, and Mary Storhaug Solberg. An interesting note from their class history is “the first year of junior high was probably the most frightening year they ever had when they thought they would never be able to find their way around the big high school”.

In the fall of 1975 the Buffalo -Tower City School opened as a trial merger with grades 9-12 in the Buffalo School building. The merger of the two school districts was so successful that the reorganization plan was approved and in the fall of 1976 the Maple Valley School District #4 was in operation. It has been 45 years since thirty students became the very first class to graduate from Maple Valley School in May 1977. One year later the Buffalo High School closed when grades 7-12 were moved to the school building in Tower City.

Other graduates of Buffalo High School who are reaching milestones this year are members of the Class of '70 turning 70 years old, the Class of '67 celebrating 55 years, and the Class of '61 who graduated 61 years ago. There are many reasons to gather and remember our time together in school when it really was our home away from home. Make plans to come home to celebrate with each other at our Annual High School Homecoming on Friday evening, July 15, and enjoy the many Shuffle activities all day Saturday, July 16.

For more information about the Annual Shuffle off to Buffalo celebration and the Historic 1916 Buffalo High School, please call me at 701-412-4485 or connect with us on Facebook or visit www.buffalond.com.

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