



Sharon Faller Simmons: Whitmer High School Graduate – 1958 Working Status: Retired.

After graduating from high school, I attended Ohio University then graduated in 1962 from The University of Toledo with a BA degree in marketing. I spent the next several years as an advertising copywriter and publications director, while also serving as editor of the monthly newsletter published by the Advertising Club of Toledo. In the early 1980's, I served as governor of the Fifth

District, American Advertising Federation, for Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky.

In 1975, I became editor/publisher of the *Village Voice of Ottawa Hills*. I covered, photographed and wrote about news events both in the Village and throughout the greater Toledo area – and ultimately, over the next 30 years, grew the publication into a well-read monthly news magazine. Working with me was my life partner, Ron Coffman, a Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist and public relations consultant.

Prior to our reunion, Ron and I will have celebrated our 28th anniversary. He has shared with me three children (now grown) and eight grandchildren. Together we have raised (or have been raised by!) Tiger, our beloved grey tabby cat.

Publishing the *Village Voice* was an ongoing joy for me, and while we didn't live in Ottawa Hills, I became very involved with the community. Upon selling the publication in 2005, the Ottawa Hills Village Council honored me with lifetime honorary citizenship.

Currently, I serve as an officer of the Toledo Animal Shelter Auxiliary, and work on committees for the Toledo Area Metroparks and the Ottawa Hills Foundation. Many pleasurable hours are spent walking in the park, weight training, doing Pilates, practicing T'ai Chi, and – now that I have time to do so – renewing my love of literature and film.

Favorite Memory of Whitmer High: Each holiday season, I fondly recall rehearsing and presenting our holiday concerts. But, I loved everything about Whitmer.

Personal Information:

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