

Bellevue
Public
Schools



Alumni
Spotlight



Brian Hamilton

Bellevue High, 1968

Welcome to our Alumni Spotlight series where we shine a light on some of the amazing alumni that have graduated from Bellevue Public Schools!

Know someone that should be in a future spotlight? Send us their name along with a brief explanation of why they should be in the spotlight. eMail: bps.alumni@bpsne.net

1968 Bellevue High graduate Brian Hamilton recently celebrated 100 years of his family business, Beardmore Chevrolet. Many of you are no doubt familiar with the Beardmore name. As Brian once said, "Bellevue and Beardmores go hand in hand". For any of Brian's accomplishments in life, what he might be best known for is his philanthropy and generosity to the Bellevue community. Brian serves as a great reminder that business should be about more than just making money.

He recently took some time to answer a few of our questions.



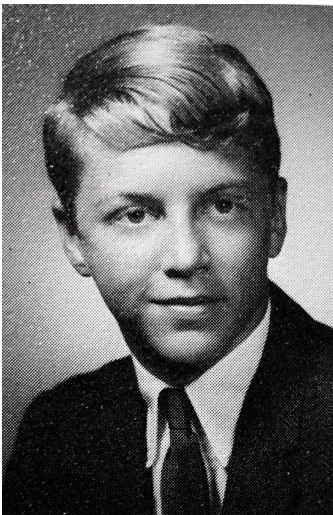
**Brian, sophomore
year**

What high school did you attend in Bellevue and when did you graduate?

Bellevue High, Class of 1968

Could you name one of your favorite teachers and share why they were your favorite?

Coach Bill James - always calm and collected but made you know what he wanted done. Great role model and family man.



**Brian's Senior
Picture, 1968**

Did you have a favorite place to hang out?

The teen clubs for socializing and dancing. Friday night was for Bellevue at the community center (now the Reed Center) and Saturday was at Offutt AFB next to the NCO club. Great fun!!

Do you have a good memory you could share from your time in BPS?

Great friends and competing in Intramural sports. Loved being on the Wrestling team and running track. Was not very good at either but enjoyed the teamwork it builds. I also enjoyed being a Sly Rogue, which was our intramural team.

Do you have any siblings that graduated from BPS?

My older brother Ron. He graduated from Mission when it was the High School. He has done well after attending Fort Hays State in Kansas.



Coach James in 1966



Please tell us a little about your family

I have been married to Carey for 47 years. We have two Children: Rebecca & Hilary and four Grandchildren: Morgan and Grant (Twins, 28 years old) Sera, 17 and Leah who is 9. Carey and I enjoy them immensely!

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a forest ranger for the park service. Later I wanted to be a terminal manager for a truck line. I did actually accomplish that, working for both Roadway Express and Yellow Freight systems here in Omaha.



Tell us a little about what you have done since graduating.

I attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln in 1968 and received a great education in business and economics. I went into Trucking for 10 years until we decided to buy a small Auto dealership in Grand Island in 1982. It was hard as interest rates were 18% and inflation was 20%. Businesses everywhere were struggling. We were fortunate and my wife and I now own 4 Automobiles dealerships. Beardmore Chevrolet Subaru in Bellevue, Midway Chevrolet Cadillac GMC Buick in Kearney, Nebraska and Midway Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Kearney. We used to own Hamilton Chevrolet in Grand Island but sold it 14 years ago. We continue to live in Omaha and Grand Island so commute back and forth. Bellevue, Grand Island, and Kearney are all very vibrant and growing communities.



Is there anything you are working on now that you could share with us?

No, I just wish for good health and happiness for myself and my family.



Which accomplishment of yours are you most proud of?

Having two wonderful daughters and being married to my lovely wife of 47 years. Community involvement for years in Grand Island, Kearney, and Bellevue. Also proud of serving on the board of Directors of the National Automobile Dealers Association for 12 years representing Nebraska dealers, Chairman of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and serving on the Nebraska Foundation Board.

What message would you like to give to current students in Bellevue Public Schools?

Visualize about what you would want life to look like. Your mind will take you there. Work Hard but also play hard. That combination will take you to a wonderful, fulfilling life.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

I have had much success since graduation, but Bellevue High and memories of 1968 will forever be one of my favorite times of my life. Friends that were only there for that brief time will never be forgotten. Enjoy every day and give it all you got.

“Brian has a true talent for making people feel comfortable. He is kind and generous and loves life! He is a one-of-a-kind.”

-Brian's wife, Carey Hamilton

“My father is the kind of person who walks into a room and lights it up with his enthusiasm and joy for being with others and the project at hand. I know that if I venture into a room full of people and become quiet enough, I will be able to hear my father's infectious laughter and know where to find him. Everyone who knows him, loves him, and we all feel really lucky to have him in our lives.”

-Brian's daughter, Hilary Hamilton

“My dad has a kind, gentle way with people. He has a great sense of humor and shows so much interest in the world around him. I am blessed to have him as my dad. I would never have such a worldly view if it wasn't for my parents' discussions. He is very generous in his time and heart.”

-Brian's Daughter, Rebecca Hamilton

“Whenever I hear someone say they know Brian Hamilton, almost always the next words uttered from their mouth are, “Genuinely, the nicest guy you will ever meet””

-Beardmore General Manager, Doug Christensen

“Brian is a family man that always puts his friends and family first. The happiness of others around him is one of the greatest attributes about Brian, he deeply cares about those around him.”

-Beardmore Operations Manager, Chris Fasbender

“Brian is the most generous/philanthropic person I have ever met with both his time and money”

-Beardmore General Sales Manager, Brian Kucks

Links

More information about Brian, Carey and the Beardmore Family

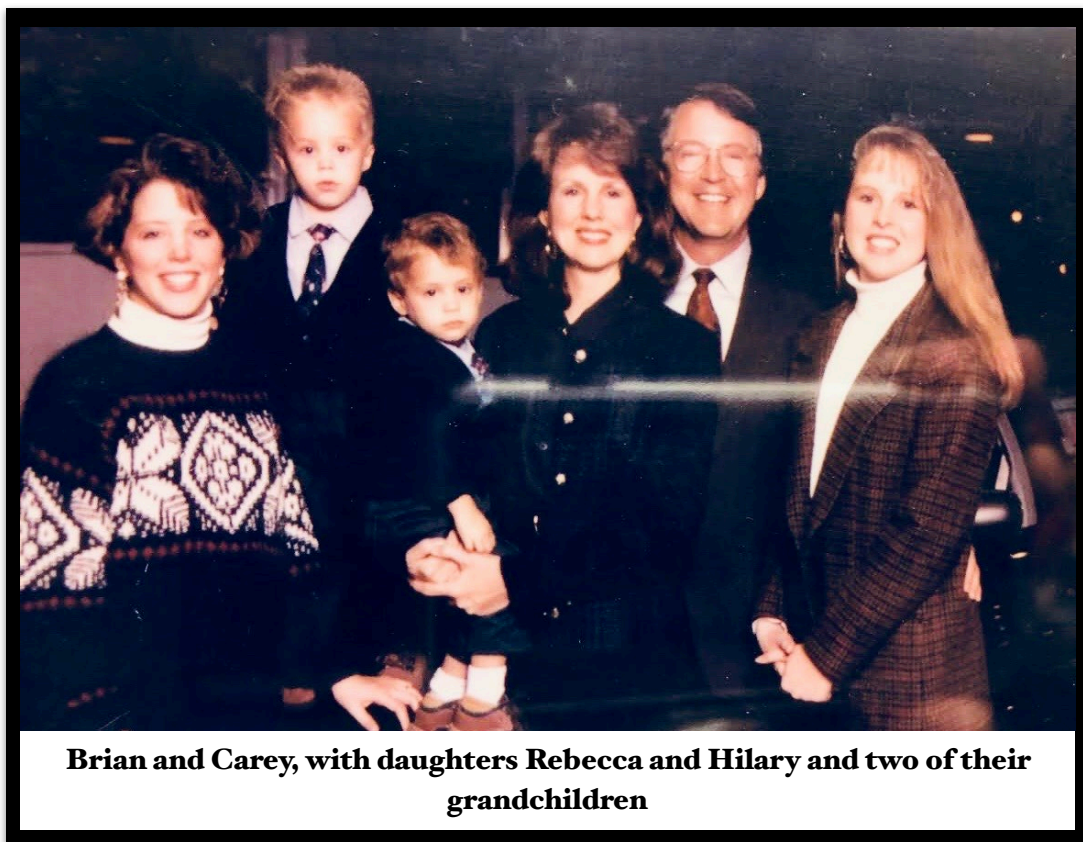
<https://www.beardmorechevy.com/AboutUs>

Promotional Video featuring Brian and Carey celebrating 100 Years of Beardmore

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LT5tX64ckKE>

About Us

The Alumni Spotlight is a recurring feature on the Alumni Association Facebook Page. If you know of a Bellevue graduate that we should shine the spotlight on, please reach out to us and they will be considered for a future column. Continue to invite your friends and family to Like and Follow our Alumni Association page: <https://www.facebook.com/BPSAlumni>



Brian and Carey, with daughters Rebecca and Hilary and two of their grandchildren