



HIGHLANDER HIGHWAY

The official newsletter of the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation Volume IX, Issue I
February 2016

The Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation will enhance the achievement, heritage and educational opportunities for Oak Hills students and staff by providing alumni and community resources to promote unity and pride, and build a legacy for a stronger community.



Greetings Highlanders,

Welcome to another edition of the Highlander Highway and the opportunity learn what has taken place already this school year and what lies ahead. Homecoming was October 3 and it was great to see many of you at the pasta dinner prior to the game. We hope to see even more of you next year. It is a great time to catch up with people from so many different graduation classes.

Reunions are another great way to catch up with people. As time marches on, there are many reunions each year; this year will be the first time a class can have its 55th year reunion. 2016 will play host to 11 classes celebrating their every five-year reunion. The Oak Hills community is growing older—as are we all. If you are in one of those classes meeting together this year, let us know how it went and what surprises there were. As Highlander grads you are part of a great tradition of outstanding graduation classes. I count it a privilege to be a part of the Oak Hills community and OHHS in particular, even though I didn't attend OHHS as a student. I have many wonderful memories of students and events and hope you all can say the same.

Speaking of tradition and memories, I had the opportunity this past fall to speak to a group of people interested in Oak Hills (for a variety of reasons) about that 'tradition.' I shared with them that 'true tradition' never graduates. We need look no further than 'that school' up the road in Price Hill. They carry 'their school' with them long after they graduate, wearing school hats and shirts, some with their graduation year, to many community events. When a need for their school arises they are standing in line to give back. While we have many graduates and groups do this, we seem to fall short of this kind of tradition. As graduating classes were moving through OHHS, I remember those classes looking for ways to be remembered and searching for what they could give the school.

The Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation would like to develop the tradition for Oak Hills that we see in those other local schools. We saw that start to happen with the Green Township Scottie Yard playground at Oakdale, with many individuals and groups contributing. The Foundation played a part in that project and now is offering support to the IHARC (Ione Holt Auditorium Renovation Campaign) and has already made a contribution. Please consider making a donation directly to the campaign or to OHAEF and earmark it for the auditorium. The Foundation is always looking for financial support to continue to fund projects and programs not covered by tax dollars. Your generosity allowed for 21 educational grants for the 2015-16 school year. Thank you for providing the resources that allow us to fulfill our mission. Our end of the year request for funds had many positive responses. If you missed out, donations can still be made through our website at www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com.

As we look to 2016, many activities are on the horizon. How about nominating someone from your class for the Distinguished Alumni Award? Information outlining how to nominate a classmate is available on our website and social media pages. You may even want to nominate a faculty or staff member for the Distinguished Staff Award who you feel went above and beyond what was expected. Those awards will be presented at the Foundation's recognition dinner on April 20, 2016 at Receptions West. Please consider attending the event too!

While we count on donations for much of our funding, we also have a huge fundraiser coming up in July, the annual alumni and community golf outing at Aston Oaks on July 15. Ron Bisher '88 and his committee are already working on this. Donations for door prizes and hole sponsors are needed as well as participants. All the event details will be posted on our website and social media pages. Our next few months will be busy.

Fundraising and capital projects are challenging for all schools, but especially for public schools like Oak Hills. Your Alumni Foundation is working to continue the quality of the educational experience you received when you were at Oak Hills by raising funds to contribute to this end. We want Oak Hills schools to continue to not only be better, but the best. Thank you for staying up with your school district and the opportunity to continue to serve the OH community.

Sincerely,

Jim Williamson
Former OHHS principal & Trustee, Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation



We need you!

Thank you! Your support helped us build an inclusive and accessible playground at Oakdale Elementary School, a year ahead of schedule! We officially opened the Green Township Scottie Yard on September 1. Your financial commitment to the

Foundation's mission also enabled us to deliver 21 education grants to teachers and classrooms throughout our nine district schools. You made it happen, and we are so thankful for your generosity.



Mr. Boatright's class at Delhi Middle School enjoyed reading *To Kill A Mockingbird*. They will attend the live performance at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park thanks to the education grant they received from the Foundation this year.

We are proud that all of the opportunities we have provided to thousands of district students and community residents were made possible through private, individual donations, like those from our Highlander graduates, like you. Our support funds school programs and projects not covered by tax dollars.

This year we are excited to support the fundraising efforts of the Lone Holt Auditorium Renovation Campaign (IHARC). That's right; the auditorium is getting a \$2.6M makeover! Our goal is to raise the necessary funds to name the orchestra pit after longest-serving Oak Hills' band director, Larry Welsh, who retired in 2015 after 35 years of service. We are joining forces with the Oak Hills Band Association, Inc. in this endeavor. Will you help us make it happen?



Larry Welsh leads the Oak Hills Marching Band in the Harvest Home parade.

Consider your time spent performing on the Oak Hills' stage in the band, orchestra, or chorus or as an academic achiever, Oakette,

cheerleader, Thespian or stage crew member. Help us honor the stars who graduated from our stage and do your part to renovate our facility for our future Highlander talent.



The 1992 cast of *Steel Magnolias* joined the 2016 OHHS cast on stage for a photo after the February show!

Our annual appeal is critical to our continued success. We've seen that donors like you can make magic happen. Please make your tax-deductible gift today so we can wave our magic wand once again. Thank you for your consideration and generosity. Your donation is essential to ensuring our young Highlanders graduate with an excellent education and state-of-the-art facilities.



Sneak peek rendering of what the renovated Lone Holt Auditorium at OHHS will look like. Get more information and see pictures of the ongoing construction at www.oakhillsauditorium.com.

Donating to the Foundation is easy. Simply visit our website at www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com and select the "Donate" tab to make your gift with a credit card or PayPal account today. Checks made payable to OHAEF can be mailed to our office at 6325 Rapid Run Road, Cincinnati, OH 45233. If you'd like to designate your gift to the auditorium project please indicate that in the memo line of your check or in the notes section when you make your online payment. Thank you!



Thank you, Lion King, Jr. Cast and Crew!



Pictured above: Linus Ryland '84, Jill Ryland '87, Molly Cary, Meredith Stein, Ben Seibert, Sabrina Ryland and Caroline Eichorn

We are so proud of the Lion King, Jr. cast and crew! Together, they raised \$900 for the lone Holt Auditorium Renovation Campaign to purchase three seats in the new facility! One seat will be named for the Rapid Run Middle School cast and crew. They surprised teacher and choir director Molly Cary and the Ryland family with the announcement that a seat would also be named for each of them!

Individuals wishing to contribute to the project can make tax-deductible donations to sponsor a seat in the new auditorium, purchase a leaf on the giving tree, sponsor a show or event, and purchase naming rights to the stage, orchestra pit, tech booth or workshop. Consider honoring a friend or respected teacher with a gift in their name. Checks may be sent to IHARC-OHBA at 3200 Ebenezer Road, Cincinnati, OH 45248. Online donations can be made with a credit card or PayPal account on the project website at www.oakhillsauditorium.com. Email Mary Stone '92 with the IHARC steering committee at OHHS.IHARC@gmail.com to find out how you can contribute.

Mick Telkamp Memorial Scholarship



Please consider a donation to the Michael (Mick) P. Telkamp '87 Scholarship. This is a \$1,500 scholarship that will be given in Mick's honor to a worthy senior at Oak Hills High School who is pursuing a career in the arts. If the goal is exceeded, this scholarship will continue next year.

Donating is easy. Simply mail a check payable to OHAEF and mail to 6325 Rapid Run Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45233. Please indicate Telkamp Scholarship in the memo line. You can also visit our website, www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com, and click the 'Donate' tab to make your tax-deductible gift today. Thank you.

Class Reunion Review

Is your class hosting a class reunion? Do you need guidance to organize and plan your event? Contact Emily C. Buckley in the Oak Hills Alumni Office at 513-598-2682 or buckley_e@ohlsd.org for more reunion information. Your event will be added to the alumni website as well as the official Alumni Foundation Facebook page and we'll tweet about it! Reunion information will also be included in future issues of the *Highlander Highway* and the electronic newsletter, *The Tartan Times*, so be sure to keep the alumni office updated on your reunion plans and details.

Below are the listings of upcoming reunions. Additional details can be found on our website, www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com.

2016

Class of 1966: September 3, 2016 at The Farm. Please contact Jean (Megerle) Hartmann at Meanjeanh@hotmail.com if you're interested in helping.

Class of 1971: August 6, 2016 at the Lawrenceburg Event Center, from 6-10 p.m. For more information contact oakhillsreunion1971@gmail.com. Be sure to join the Facebook group Oak Hills Class 1971 for more updates.

Class of 1986: A reunion committee is forming. Contact Dean Etter if you'd like to help with the planning at deanetter@yahoo.com or 513-628-3610.

Class of 1996: A reunion committee is forming. Contact Jill Heltman at jillh@villagepantrycatering.com if you'd like to help with the planning.

Class of 2006: A reunion committee is forming. Contact Kelly Ujvary Jacob at kelly.ujvary@gmail.com if you'd like to help with the planning.

Looking ahead....

Class of 1978: September 2, 2018 (Sunday of Labor Day weekend ~ fireworks!) at Paul Brown Stadium in the Club East Lounge. Please visit the class website <http://www.oakhills78.com/> and be sure to update your contact information to stay informed.

If you've recently held your class reunion, please send your updated class list to the alumni office to ensure your classmates' official records are updated to receive future mailings. We'd love to post some of your photos on our website and Facebook pages too! Class lists and photos may be emailed to Emily at buckley_e@ohlsd.org or mailed to: Oak Hills Alumni Office, 6325 Rapid Run Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45233.

Looking for class representatives

We are looking for class representatives to act as an extension of our alumni office. Help us share information with your class by publishing updates to Facebook and Twitter and emailing or calling your classmates. We'll send you alumni news and ask you to help spread the word! Help us keep our database current by updating your classmates' snail mail and email addresses. Encourage your classmates to attend our functions and keep them informed! If you're interested contact Emily at buckley_e@ohlsd.org or call 513-598-2682.

From the desk of Oak Hills Treasurer, Steve Bain



Steve Bain, treasurer OHLSD

In November 2015, the County Auditor provided Property Valuations for collection year 2016.

Our valuations increased by 0.18% from the prior year. The County Auditor reappraises values every three years (and last year was a reappraisal year). The minimal increase in property valuations aligns with projections in the District's most recent five-year

financial forecast. While the increase in valuation is small, this is the first increase in property valuations since 2007!

Historical Trends (collection year):

2009 = -1.11% (reappraisal)
 2010 = -0.11%
 2011 = -0.15%
 2012 = -9.74% (reappraisal)
 2013 = -0.25%
 2014 = -0.23%
 2015 = -3.64% (reappraisal)
 2016 = **0.18%**

Ever wonder how much you pay in school taxes as compared to other districts in Hamilton County? Out of the 23 Hamilton County School Districts, Oak Hills residents pay the 5th lowest amount of school taxes. (See chart on right from the County Auditor.)

Additional Oak Hills Local School District financial information can be found at ohlsd.us.

Oak Hills Local School District	
School Taxes Paid Per \$100,000 Home	
Hamilton County	
----- Collection Year 2016 -----	
School District	Annual Cost \$100k Home
FINNEYTOWN LSD	\$ 1,909
MARIEMONT CSD	\$ 1,748
ST. BERNARD	\$ 1,710
WINTON WOODS LSD	\$ 1,660
MADEIRA CSD	\$ 1,541
MT. HEALTHY CSD	\$ 1,503
LOVELAND CSD	\$ 1,476
READING CSD	\$ 1,457
DEER PARK CSD	\$ 1,443
CINCINNATI CSD	\$ 1,424
MILFORD	\$ 1,392
WYOMING CSD*	\$ 1,326
FOREST HILLS LSD	\$ 1,277
NORWOOD CSD	\$ 1,272
NORTH COLLEGE HILL SD	\$ 1,238
PRINCETON LSD	\$ 1,170
LOCKLAND CSD	\$ 1,157
NORTHWEST LSD	\$ 1,123
OAK HILLS LSD	\$ 1,100
THREE RIVERS LSD	\$ 1,025
SYCAMORE LSD	\$ 957
INDIAN HILL EVSD	\$ 776
SOUTHWEST LSD*	\$ 715

(*) School District Income Tax - Not Included

Join us for the annual golf outing



The annual alumni golf outing is set for July 15 at Aston Oaks with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m.

Ron Bisher '88 is once again serving as this year's golf outing chairman. We've booked the course and we're looking for players and sponsors.

Are you interested in helping? Our committee is gathering to

prepare for our July event. If you'd like to help and be involved with the excitement, please contact Emily at buckley_e@ohslsd.org.

Keep an eye on our website and social media pages for more information. Registration will be open soon. Grab your pals and reserve your spot before we sell out!

Oak Hills School Board



Pictured: Scott Bischoff, Jan Hunter, Julie Murphy, Paul Cooper, Jeannie Schoonover

2016 School board meeting schedule

All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

March 7	Delshire Elementary
April 4	Oakdale Elementary
May 2	John Foster Dulles Elementary
June 6	District office
July 11	District office
August 1	District office
September 12	Bridgetown Middle School
October 3	Rapid Run Middle School
November 7	Oak Hills High School
December 5	Delhi Middle School

We welcome Paul Cooper to the board this year and Jan Hunter was elected for another term..



2016 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI & STAFF AWARD

Call for nominations | Due February 29, 2016

Nominate a distinguished Highlander

It's that time again. The Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation is currently accepting nominations for our Distinguished Alumni and Staff awards. Winners will be recognized at the annual Foundation dinner on April 20 at Receptions West. Visit our website for the nominating criteria and official submission form.

All nominations are due back by February 29. Don't delay; nominate an amazing Highlander today!

Seeking Foundation Treasurer

We have a current opening on our Board of Trustees for a Treasurer. If interested in this volunteer position, please contact Emily at buckley_e@ohlsd.org. Candidates must have knowledge of QuickBooks and live in the Cincinnati area. Other duties listed below:



- * Attend all board meetings
- * Maintain knowledge of the organization and personal commitment to its goals and objectives
- * Understand financial accounting for non-profit organizations
- * Deposit checks to bank in timely manner
- * Write checks for outstanding bills in timely manner
- * File 990 at year-end
- * Make sure Secretary of State listing is up to date
- * Keep listing with the Attorney General current
- * File annual report with the Attorney General
- * Move donations, registration fees and all monies from PayPal account to bank account in timely manner
- * Compile monthly financial reports for OHAEF board.
- * Prepare financial overview/review for board meetings
- * Maintain Taylor-Hoke scholarship fund.
- * Communicate with Foundation chairman and district development coordinator on a monthly basis; share reports, review numbers, changes to account, discrepancies, etc.
- * Meet to review financial reports with Chairman prior to each board meeting
- * Maintain file of check copies for annual fund, golf outing, annual dinner, misc. donations, etc.
- * Present the annual budget to the board for approval
- * Review annual audit and answer board questions about it
- * Participate on 1 board committee

Get involved!

We currently have two open board seats and are looking for dedicated individuals interested in helping us grow our organization, raise funds to support our education grants and special projects. Do you want to help us make a difference?

If you're not interested in a board seat, but would still like to help, we have several volunteer opportunities in the following areas: events, communication and marketing, planned giving and development. Email Emily or Cheryl for more information at OHedFoundation@ohlsd.org. We'd love to have more of our Highlanders involved.

In memoriam

It is with great sadness that we must share the news of the passing of dedicated Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation board member, Marjie Salinas '65.



Marjie was instrumental in helping us build the Green Township Scottie Yard at Oakdale Elementary. Her energy, passion and enthusiasm were contagious. She volunteered countless hours working for the Foundation and on our special events, golf outings, awards dinners and the Oak Hills Local School District levy committee in 2013. We will miss her spirit and her spunk!

Marjorie (Marjie) Salinas (born Marjorie Ann Eppensteiner) passed away surrounded by her family on Wednesday the 10th of February 2016. Marjie is reunited with her loving parents John and Marjorie and her beloved husband Richard Salinas.

Marjie loved so many things about her life, and her favorites included book club, Oak Hills alumni gatherings, happy hours, going to the movies, her beloved cat, Cash, enjoying nights on the town and bonding over travels with her daughter Leticia and making the most of celebrations with her niece and nephews. She loved her group of Columbus gal pals, the Darnall family, the Brennan families and her hometown Delhi crew.

Marjie is survived by her sister Joyce and her brother John (Janis) Eppensteiner; her step-children Christine, Richard, Yvette, Stephanie and Leticia Salinas; her 12 grandchildren; her nephews and niece John, Rose, Alex and Ross Eppensteiner; and many dear other family members and friends.

Marjie's spirited life was celebrated at B.J. Meyer Sons Funeral Home, 5864 Bridgetown Rd., on Sunday, February 14. We are so touched that she and her family chose to have memorials made to our Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation, 6325 Rapid Run Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45233.



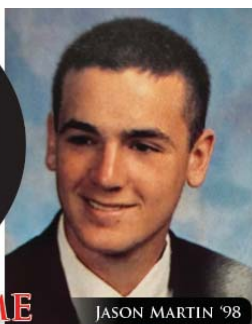
TOM PRICE '79



DAVE SOULT '89



HALL OF FAME



JASON MARTIN '98



BROOKLYNNE RIDDER '09

Members of the 2016 Oak Hills Athletic Hall of Fame were honored at a dinner on January 28 at the Meadows. They also received recognition before the boys basketball game on January 29. Congratulations #highlanderstrong



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 Cincinnati, Ohio 45233
 ohlsd.us/

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If you have received this publication in error, please call the Alumni Office at 513-574-3200 or email OHHSAlumni@ohlsd.org to remove your address.

Calendar of events and activities

- 2/19 & 20: 7:00 p.m., Best of Oak Hills Variety Show, OHHS Commons, \$5 at the door
- 2/24: 6 - 7:00 p.m., 2016-17 Kindergarten Parent Preview, all district elementary schools
- 2/26: 6:30 p.m., OHHS PTA presents Ladies Night Out fashion show, Receptions West
- 3/5: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Oak Hills Band Association Craft Fair
- 3/12: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., district Creative Arts Festival, OHHS
- 4/16: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Community Electronics Recycling Day
- 4/20: 5:30 p.m., Annual Foundation recognition dinner, Receptions West
- 7/15: 1:30 p.m., Annual alumni golf outing, Aston Oaks



Have a child ready to enter kindergarten next year? Join us at any of the five district elementary school buildings on February 24 from 6-7 p.m. to meet principals and kindergarten teachers, tour the building and check out kindergarten classroom. The evening also includes a brief Q&A session. Kindergarten registration will take place on March 15 & 16 at each elementary school building from 4 - 6:30 p.m. #chooseoakhills

Connect with us!



"Find us" on the web

<http://oakhillsalumniassociation.com/>

Please visit us to find class reunion dates, golf outing details and homecoming information.



Please update your contact information

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/OHalumniupdate> to update your contact information so that we may stay in better contact with you.



"Watch" us on vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/ohaluniedfoundation>

Watch our Scottie Yard Playground build day video.



"Follow" us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/OHalumniAssoc>

Follow us to receive instant updates on events, reunions and district news!



"Like" us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/OHHSAlumni>

Thank you for "liking" us and spreading the word. Share your news so we can celebrate you!



"Network" with us on LinkedIn

Search group: [Official group of Oak Hills High School Alumni](#)

Network with other alumni professionals to connect and share your events, job postings and more.