



HIGHLANDER HIGHWAY

The official newsletter of the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation Volume VIII, Issue III
September 2015

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,

Here we go starting another year full of tradition! The year of 2016 will mark the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation's 20th anniversary. Twenty years ago a vision began to develop a Foundation to serve the entire Oak Hills Local School District. Today we are proud to say that students in all nine of our school buildings have benefitted from our generosity. Over 237 grants have been awarded, totalling more than \$285,000. Great job, everyone!

The Scottie Yard Playground has been our largest project. This playground at Oakdale Elementary School is truly one-of-a-kind. It is designed to allow children of all abilities to enjoy. The partnership and generosity of Green Township (\$100,000!) earned them the playground naming rights. I'm proud to call the new space the Green Township Scottie Yard Playground. The balance of the funding (another \$108,000) was secured by the Foundation, parents, students, staff, community members, grants and charitable foundations. I invite everyone to see the wonder of this playground, built by 55 volunteers and funded by the generosity of many.

The next awesome project happening in the District is the OHHS auditorium renovation, the lone Holt Auditorium Renovation Campaign (IHARC). How many of us did our best theatrics or song and dance on that stage? Now, after 57 years, work has begun to bring this stage into the current century. The Foundation has demonstrated our support to this project with the purchase of auditorium seats. We will continue to update you on our involvement as the project proceeds. Please take a minute to visit the IHARC website at www.oakhillsauditorium.com for updates and opportunities to get involved.

This year's homecoming celebration is Friday, October 23. Please join us for a delicious pasta dinner in the Commons at Oak Hills High School before the game. Reconnect with friends and have fun in the photo booth. Reservations for the dinner are requested. Visit our website at www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com and click the events tab to save your spot today. The suggested donation per family is only five dollars. We are now a school of generations. It is great to have Highlander grandparents with Highlander grandchildren!

The Foundation recognition dinner will be April 20, 2016. A shortened school calendar makes this earlier date necessary. But, it is never too early to start thinking what Highlander you know who is deserving of Distinguished Alumni recognition. What will be the hottest temperature day of the year? Let me give you a clue... what is the date of the Foundation golf outing? Heat factors this year were over 100 degrees. No more! Next year's golf outing is scheduled for May 6, 2016 at Aston Oaks. Ron Bisher and his committee are already planning this 'cool' event.

We are happy to welcome a new member of our board from the class of '82, Debbie Benjamin! Debbie will assume the responsibilities of Treasurer. She has been active with the Foundation for a number of years, having served on the golf outing committee. Or, maybe you met Debbie as the one behind the camera taking photos at numerous Foundation events? We are so thankful she has accepted this important role.

The easiest and most appreciated way for all of you to show support and gratitude for Oak Hills is through your contribution to our annual fund drive. This is what allows the continued support of our students and staff to be creative, to go beyond and truly demonstrate "Highlander Strength." These monies offer learning experiences for our students which are not provided by tax dollars. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization, so as you plan your year-end charitable giving, please consider a gift to the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation. Our annual drive letters will be mailed in November, but you can donate any time using a credit card or PayPal account on our website.

Another easy way to remember and support the Foundation is as simple as going Krogering! Take a minute and connect your Kroger Plus Card to the Foundation. Visit a Kroger store or their website, www.kroger.com/communityrewards, and search for us. We're number 29526. Kroger has been a terrific partner donating over \$2,000 to the Foundation to date, thanks to those who have already signed up and connected your plus card. You must renew your connection each year.

This year looks to be one of our best! I am honored to again chair this wonderful Foundation and thankful for the board members who selflessly give their time to the mission of the Foundation. I want to introduce to you those who make up this board. Future editions of the Highlander Highway will feature a guest column written by one of our board members.

Yours in red and black, Cheryl Ann O'Leary Sieve '67

An interview with new Athletic Booster President, Sherry (Wurster) Gregor '89

We recently sat down with Sherry Gregor to learn more about her and find out what the Athletic Boosters are doing. Here is our interview with her.

How did you become the President?

I was asked by past President Jane Miller if I would be interested in joining the Booster Board. They were looking for a few new volunteers to take over some positions, one being President. I had volunteered to help with the Stag in years past and attended other Booster functions so I was familiar with their mission; I wasn't sure I was prepared to take on a leadership role. With the promise of lots of help and guidance from my friends, I agreed to lead the organization. Other new board members include Dan Acus, third VP and Kelli Lepof.

Returning board members are 1st VP Peggy Bepler, 2nd VP Sue Willenborg '84, Treasurer Don McGinnis '86 and Secretary Heather Abrams '87. I'm really glad I got involved. It's a fun group and we do great things for our student athletes and Oak Hills athletics!

What is the purpose of the Athletic Booster organization?

The main role of the Boosters is to support the student athletes and coaches. We use funds obtained through our membership drive and fundraisers to pay for things not covered by the Athletic Department's budget. Over the years, our non-profit organization has provided sport-specific equipment, helped fund the new weight room, installed the turf in our stadium, donated the sound system for the soccer field and tents for the cross country teams, and renovated the baseball and softball fields. And, that's not all! Already this year we have purchased new headsets needed by the football coaches, paid for new storage space for the Athletic Department and painted the football locker room.

We've seen some upgrades at the stadium, what's going on?

Our biggest project this year has been the renovation of the stadium concession stand and our new stadium spirit wear shop.

Our board members and volunteers spent hot summer afternoons repainting and upgrading the old space. These were both really fun projects, building community, improving the aesthetics of our stadium and making us proud to be Highlanders. Guests will notice our school spirit as soon as they pull in our parking lot. There are still a few finishing touches we're adding, including a new marquee and some additional signage. We're very excited to share the finished product.

We've heard something about a helicopter ride at homecoming. What's that about?

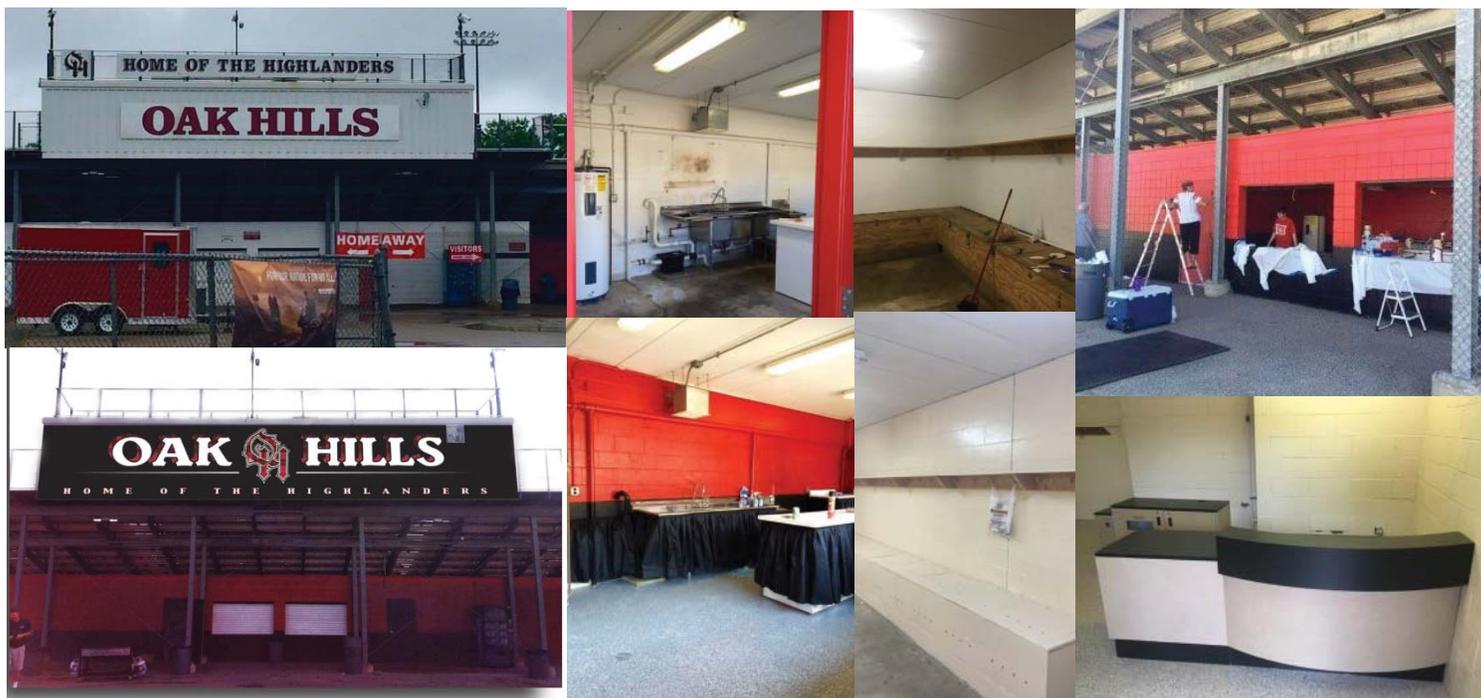
Yes! This year's fall fundraiser is a chance for two to win a helicopter tour over the city of Cincinnati, landing on the 50-yard line during the homecoming game on October 23 to deliver the game ball! Tickets are only \$5/chance and can be purchased through our website, oakhillssports.com. Second, third and fourth places winners will receive a cash prize.

What's on the horizon? Do you have any big events coming up?

Our next big event will be the Oak Hills Sports Stag. We will be forming a planning committee very soon. Volunteers are needed and much appreciated! If you're interested in helping, please contact me at sherry.gregor@ohathleticboosters.org. I'd love to talk to you. Stay tuned to find out who our 2016 speaker will be!

How can graduates get involved?

If you would like to help support Oak Hills sports and our 950 student athletes, please consider joining the Boosters. You can find membership information by visiting oakhillssports.com and clicking on the Boosters tab. We offer a variety of membership levels from \$1,000 to \$35 including Platinum, Silver, Black, Red and Basic. No matter your budget, there's a membership level appropriate for you. Additional membership benefits, depending on level, include window decals, concession dollars, reserved seats, parking passes, spirit wear and more! You can also follow our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/OakHillsAthleticBoosters>, for news and updates.



Thank you, Chizer Family!



Pictured above: Mary Stone '92, Cindy Chizer, Kam Misleh, Cheri Chizer Misleh '72, Paul Chizer, John Chizer '75, Lew Chizer, OHLS D treasurer Steve Bain, OHHS principal John Stoddard, OHLS D superintendent Todd Yohey. Not pictured: Claudette Pratt, sister of Ginny Chizer.

It is with great pleasure we announce that the box office in the newly renovated Oak Hills' auditorium will be officially named the Ginny Chizer Box Office.

Mrs. Chizer was a long-time English and Drama teacher at the high school from 1971 until 1993 when she retired. She served as the drama director for 10 years. She taught and inspired her students to have an unconditional love of theater, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in theater, film, teaching and the arts. Her family honored her legacy on September 12 with their very generous donation to purchase naming rights for the box office.

"Ginny Chizer had two families -- her blood family and her theater 'kids,'" Ginny's daughter, Cheri Chizer Misleh said. "We are



honored to share her memory with future Oak Hills theater lovers."

"She left such an indelible mark on so many of us, it seemed only right for her name to be associated with the auditorium," former student Mary Stone said. "The box office was the perfect fit for their gift. All patrons have to visit the box office and her name will now be prominent and top-of-mind. I couldn't imagine it any other way."

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, workshop or stage. 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 the IHARC steering committee at OHHS.IHARC@gmail.com for more details or with questions.

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](tel: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.

2015

Class of 1965: September 18, 2015 meet and greet at Maury's Tiny Cove. September 19, reunion at the Metropolitan Club atop the RiverCenter in Covington, KY. Contact Jim Schubert for more information at jschubertx@gmail.com.

Class of 1971: A reunion committee is forming. Please contact oakhillsreunion1971@gmail.com with your maiden name, home and preferred email address, phone number and synopsis of your last 45 years since high school.

Class of 1980: September 26, 2015 at Hollywood Casino. Contact Melissa Grove at Mashisha@gmail.com for more information.

Class of 1995: November 14, 2015 at the Miami Township Community Center. Contact Carrie (Ostermeyer) McCoy for more information at carriemccoy5@gmail.com. Join the Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/166979986838624/>.

Class of 2000: A planning committee is forming. If you're interested in helping, please contact Nick Spicher at ngspicher@hotmail.com.

Class of 2005: November 28, 2015 at Rhinegeist Brewery. Contact Nick Geluso at nickgeluso@gmail.com for details.

Looking ahead . . .

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 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.

Oak Hills School District Saves Taxpayers Nearly \$5 Million



Steve Bain, treasurer OHLSD

In May 1997, the Oak Hills Local School District community supported a bond issue for the construction of Rapid Run Middle School and renovations to other buildings in the District. The original terms of the \$50.7 million bond issue were a 28-year amortization schedule (expiring in 2025) and a fixed interest rate of 5.46%. The District refinanced the bonds in 2005, lowering the interest rate to 4.35%. The bonds were callable again in 2015; meaning the District had an opportunity to refinance this general obligation bond for a second time.

The District's Finance Committee reviewed bond refinancing options in the spring and recommended formal approval to the Board of Education. In early September, the District secured the refinancing of the general obligation bond with a fixed average interest rate of 2.44% for the duration of the bond issue, providing a total 10-year savings of \$4.96 million to our local taxpayers.

"Over the course of the last 11 months, our administrative team monitored economic indicators to determine the best potential timing to refinance the general obligation bond," Treasurer, Steve Bain, commented. "Clearly, the timing of these callable bonds and the favorable interest rates were beneficial to our community, as evidenced by the significant savings to our constituents."

The favorable fixed interest rate was attainable largely due to the District's recent upgrade in credit rating from Moody's Investors Service. A credit rating measures an entity's ability to repay debt obligations. Moody's recently upgraded the District from an Aa3 to an Aa2 rating (Aa2 is considered a superior credit rating).

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

Reunion season is in full swing!

Several classes celebrated class reunions this summer, with more planned for the fall. We'd like to thank the volunteer committees who worked so hard to make these events happen. Enjoy some of the photos they've shared with us.



Left: The class of 2010 celebrated five years on August 8 at the Next Chapter in Mt. Adams.

Below: The class of 1975 celebrated 40 years on September 4 at the Art Museum in Eden Park.

Right: The class of 1975 reunion planning committee included Blaine Heitkamp, Tina LaScalea Sehlhorst, Karen Saab Heitkamp, Bob Murphy, Chuck Eckert, Jackie Menke Tucker, Marietta Bucalo, Ron McCamey, Jay Hand, Beth Hughes St. Clair, Holly Schoenecker Casper, Peggy Floetker, Lisa Puckett Hall



Left: The class of 1990 celebrated 25 years on September 12 at the Next Chapter in Mt. Adams.

Right: The class of 1985 celebrated 30 years on September 12 at the Hillside Gastropub in Dent.



Homecoming dinner, October 23

Join us on October 23 for a casual dinner before the homecoming game. The fun begins at 6 p.m. in the Commons at Oak Hills High School. Please make your reservations online at www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com and click on the events tab. Include your name, graduation year and number of guests in your party. Suggested donation



is \$5/family and includes pasta dinner, photo booth memory strips, Oak Hills souvenir cup, building tours and more! We hope you can join us!

The dinner is sponsored by the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation and the OHHS student council. Tickets to the football game vs. Fairfield must be purchased separately from the Oak Hills Athletic Office at 513-467-7105 the week of the game.



The Scottie Yard is open!

We did it! Thank you for making our dream-come-true playground become a reality. On September 1 we held our official ribbon-cutting ceremony and opened the playground for our students, staff and community. Huge thank you to Green Township for their very generous gift toward the project.



It was great to have so many of our donors, volunteers and parents at the event. Phase I is now complete. We've still got a bit more to raise to complete phase II of the project including permanent fencing and a colorful mural honoring all of our donors and supporters.



Gifts to the Scottie Yard are still being accepted. Checks made payable to OHAEF can be mailed to 6325 Rapid Run Road, Cincinnati, OH 45233 or you can contribute online with a credit

Welcome new Foundation treasurer, Debbie Benjamin '82!

"I chose to be a member of the Board of Trustees because I want to continue the efforts of those who have helped the Oak



Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation, students and teachers over the years. It is imperative that our future teachers and students reap the rewards for generations to come. Giving back has always been the theme and I want to be a part of such a wonderful organization."



card or PayPal account on our website www.oakdalescottieyard.com. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Be sure to visit our [Facebook.com/OHHSAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/OHHSAlumni) page and the Scottie Yard website for continued updates and photos. Please let us know what you think and share pictures of your children and grandchildren enjoying the new playground. You can post them to our Facebook page, email them to OHHSAlumni@ohlsd.org or share them with us via the free Oak Hills app by clicking the green 'submit a photo' button.



Debbie has worked in the financial services industry for 28 years at various companies as a New Business Processor, Customer Service Representative, Administrative Assistant and Office Manager. She has been with New York Life since 2005 as the General Office Administrative Assistant.

Her passion is photography and when given the opportunity, she photographs weddings and engagement sessions for family and friends. She has volunteered with the Foundation for several years taking photos for us. Benjamin serves as the official Foundation event photographer. She has attended the annual Oak Hills alumni golf outing for the last five years and the annual recognition dinner for the last two capturing memories for our guests. She loves to travel and spend time with family and friends.

She also serves as the Foundation social chairman.



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Calendar of events and activities

2015

- 9/30: 12:00 p.m., Live Twitter chat with Superintendent Yohey @OHLSD, use #suptson in tweets and replies
- 10/23: 6:00 p.m., Annual Homecoming dinner, OHHS
- 11/5: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Oak Hills Band Association craft fair, OHHS
- 11/8: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Choral Boosters mattress sale, OHHS in the Commons

2016

- 2/26: 6:30 p.m., OHHS PTA presents Ladies Night Out fashion show, Receptions West
- 4/20: 5:30 p.m., Annual Foundation recognition dinner, Receptions West
- 5/6: 1:30 p.m., Annual alumni golf outing, Aston Oaks



OHLSD welcomed more than 50 teachers to the district this year. Some are pictured here during new hire orientation in August.

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/ohalumniupdate>

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.