Hall of Fame Honors Jamie O’Hara ('68): All-Time Great (and Grammy Winner!)

Inside this issue:
6 receive Distinguished Alumni Award
Voters to decide 2 school ballot questions
Gallery: Picture-perfect memory of fall sports
Giving thanks: 2019-2020 Donor Honor Roll
No Debate About It

The Foundation is proud to support the Ottawa Hills Speech & Debate Team as it helps students become better critical thinkers and public speakers. Our funding helped the team enter 15 competitions last school year. Nearly a third of team members made it to the state championship round, where they competed against 154 other schools.

It’s hard to argue with success.
NEW ROUTINES, RESILIENCE EASE COVID-19 DISRUPTION
Students, families, and teachers are adjusting to new realities in a COVID-19 world, from daily temperature checks and social distancing to hybrid-learning models.

FOUNDATION HONORS 6 WITH ALUMNI AWARD
The new honorees for the Distinguished Alumni Award continue to raise the bar in terms of career achievement and contributions to their individual professions.

HONORING A GREAT TRIPLE-THREAT ATHLETE
In compiling a list of all-time great OH female athletes, there is little doubt this year’s Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Katherine (Jamieson) Folino (’10) is at the top.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION:
Around These Hills celebrates the students, faculty, and alumni of Ottawa Hills Local Schools, and the donors making possible many of their achievements. It is published four times a year by the district’s Office of Communications in partnership with the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation. It is mailed to all homes and businesses in the Village, alumni, and donors to the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Around These Hills welcomes letters from readers at info@ohschools.org.

ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTS:
Around These Hills, 3600 Indian Rd., Ottawa Hills, OH 43606

On the cover
The play of Jamie O’Hara (’68) shined so brilliantly across multiple sports that teammates bestowed upon him the ultimate nickname: Gold. It’s also the color of the Grammy he won in 1986 as a songwriter. See profile starting on page 15.

LOOKING AHEAD: WINTER 2021
Our next issue will provide an update on our progress coping with COVID-19 and post-election coverage.
By the time this magazine arrives in your mailbox, our school year will be about 20 percent complete. And what a journey so far.

In some respects, this school year started March 11 with our first all-parent communication about safety steps the district was implementing as COVID-19 entered our lives. Within five days, our buildings were closed (not to reopen for students until Sept. 8). The journey continued with weeks of remote-only instruction and then capped by the most unconventional and memorable Commencement ever.

We then launched our Summer Learning Plan to help students and parents gauge readiness for the coming school year. Meanwhile, the local health department released guidelines about resuming in-person instruction. Our original Aug. 17 start date moved to Aug. 24, followed by two weeks of remote-only instruction. Unlike other northwest Ohio boards of education, ours decided to open doors weeks before the recommended start date, confident in our preparation and supportive of families’ desires for in-person instruction.

And that is where our journey has taken us as of early October: a model of in-person and remote “live instruction” for those students who have decided to remain at home. Through it all, we have bravely held on to traditions, from parades and Homecoming to sporting events and a fall school play.

The number of students studying in person grows weekly, rising to nearly 84 percent in late September. That’s a sign of the virus’ diminished hold on our lives and the public’s growing trust in our ability to educate, inspire, nurture, and maintain healthy spaces.

Amid this backdrop, the board voted to place two ballot issues before voters Nov. 3. And a citizens’ group was formed to achieve passage of Issues 15 and 16 (see story on page 5). Needless to say, everyone in the Village will be watching the outcome. Nationally, the Buckeye State is again a political bellwether as we have voted for the winner in 14 straight presidential elections.

How will we remember the fall of 2020? Much of that history has yet to be written. But I do know this: The themes of courage, resilience, and community will be abundantly present.

Side note: One of the great joys of this position is meeting OH alumni. Despite the relative small size of our district, our alumni make outsized contributions to their professions. In doing so, they bring positive attention and admiration to our Village and serve as role models for today’s students. I hope you make the time to read the bios of this year’s eight honorees starting on page 11. They will inspire you.

Superintendent Dr. Adam Fineske
afineske@ohschools.org

AdamFineske fineskeadam

DISTRICT LETTER
ON THE BALLOT

Voters to decide issues 15, 16

VOTERS IN OTTAWA HILLS WILL DECIDE two ballot issues Nov. 3 affecting the future of Ottawa Hills Local Schools. The Board of Education unanimously passed the necessary resolutions over the summer to place the issues before voters.

Issue 15: The bond request is 2.6 mills for 30 years; it would increase annual taxes on a $200,000 home by about $15 a month. The money would be used to renovate STEM and science classrooms and labs; install air conditioning and make other HVAC improvements in the Jr./Sr. High School to maximize use of the building 365 days per year; and build the Learning Commons, a 21st century collaborative learning space that will serve as a hub of intervention and support resources for every student.

Issue 16: The operating levy request is 4.9 mills; it would increase annual school taxes on a $200,000 home about $29 a month. It would be used to preserve small class sizes; increase staff for academic intervention and support of students’ social emotional wellness; and address state funding cuts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each mill assessed generates about $163,000 in revenue for Ottawa Hills Local Schools.

ONLINE: To read in-depth question-and-answer documents and other background on the issues, visit voteohschools.org.

COMBATING COVID: GAME ON

Safety is key as doors reopen

WITH THE OPENING OF BUILDINGS TO students Sept. 8, the district began a new chapter in its months-long battle with COVID-19.

In addition to new hygiene and cleaning regimens, Ottawa Hills Local Schools invested in additional technology (Apple iPads, AirPods) to make teachers as successful as possible under the hybrid-learning model. Since in-person instruction resumed, more families are choosing the in-person vs. remote option. As of late September, nearly 84 percent of students are on campus.

In preparation for students’ return, social-distancing and mask-wearing signage was placed in every classroom and hallway. At the Jr./Sr. High, window air-conditioning units were added to increase comfort levels and air filters in floor fans to improve air quality. In addition, the district hired a licensed practical nurse to ensure medical support was available each school day at both buildings and created a webpage for families at ohschools.org/healthservices.

The effectiveness of these efforts now has an official metric: a weekly positive case report for students, teachers, and staff. The district shares it with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department. Through Oct. 2, no positive cases were reported.

Meanwhile, athletic teams resumed competition although attendance was regulated. For its ability to keep students and families safe under those rules, the district received a very good report from the Ohio High School Athletic Association after its reps visited Niedermeier Stadium Sept. 18 to assess our compliance.

ONLINE: Read the Safe Fall Start-Up Plan at ohschools.org/safestart.

Hygiene-awareness signs are in place across the district.
Science programs receive two top honors from state

STEM PROGRAMS AT OTTAWA HILLS
Junior/Senior High School received multiple achievement awards this summer.

In July, the high school was named one of only 14 to earn the Harold C. Shaw Memorial School Award. The award is the highest achievement possible for schools competing at State Science Day. This year, 258 schools and 800 students participated; the event was conducted virtually because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The High School has now received the honor two straight years. Schools achieve the honor by having at least four students receive a “Superior” rating from judges on science presentations, or at least four projects with 80 percent of the students receiving a “Superior” rating and no students receiving a “Good” rating.

In August, 16 teachers and staff received The Governor’s Thomas Edison Award. Our district was the only one selected in northwest Ohio; we have now received the award eight times in the past nine years. It recognizes excellence in STEM education and student research during the prior school year.

Our recipients are: B. Tim Adkins, math and science teacher; Gerry Davis, STEM teacher; Patty Dowd, STEM teacher; Diane Drabek, math teacher; Dan Feuerstein, math teacher; Paul Genzman, math and science teacher; Mary Kate Halemann, science teacher; Kristin Johnson, art teacher; Joan Keckler, math teacher; Michael Leeds, instrumental music director; Hannah Lehmann, art teacher; Jeremy Nixon, science teacher; Liz Puskala, science teacher; Nicole Silvers, science teacher; Brooks Spiess, technology coordinator; and Anthony Torio, math teacher.

OPENING MINDS
Drive enhances collection diversity

WHEN THE CALL WENT OUT THIS SUMMER FOR A special kind of book, the OH community responded in a big way. More than 150 books by African-American authors and/or about African-American characters were donated. The request was organized by community group This Is OH and followed the June 7 “Rally for Racial Justice” held inside the Village.

Bookplates with the donor’s name are being placed inside the front cover to recognize the contribution. The books have been catalogued and added to the collections at both the Junior/Senior High School and Elementary School. Thank you to all of the contributors!
THE MAKEOVER SUMMER

Projects abound across campus

It was a busy summer for improvement projects across the district. With The Kadens Family Fitness Center now open, friends of the Ottawa Hills Music & Theatre Association created a fantastic new wardrobe and prop section from the former fitness room; new energy-efficient lights and associated electrical upgrades were installed at Niedermeier Stadium; new entry doors, hot water boiler, and some windows were installed at the Junior/Senior High School; and a unified, districtwide key-fob system is now managing keyless access at both buildings.

DATABANK

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Combined, the district’s 72 teachers have 1,408 years of experience! But when it comes to experience gained within our district, they are still a young bunch.

- Exactly 50 percent of OH teachers have at least 21 years of classroom experience.
- Nearly half have been in an OH classroom 10 or fewer years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># Years of Classroom Experience</th>
<th># of Teachers, Career Experience</th>
<th># of Teachers, Ottawa Hills Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-25</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-30</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEWS BRIEFS

Rose Hajjar named ‘Junior Philanthropist’ by ProMedica

Congratulations to 8th grader Rose Hajjar for being named “Junior Philanthropist of the Year” by the ProMedica Foundation. Rose raised money with her sisters to help support other children who are patients at ProMedica’s hospitals. She was originally in the hospital for a heart transplant. “Helping other children and people in the hospital and ProMedica makes me feel really good because I know what it’s like to be in the hospital," Rose said.

7 honored for Merit excellence

Congratulations to seven OH seniors for being honored as part of the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Corporation competition. Named among the 16,000 U.S. Semifinalists were Shiraz Hasan, Petar Isailovic, Ishan S. Khare, Danielle Sun, and Mattingly S. Wilson. Named among the 34,000 Commended students were Kavita Parikh and Hannah Shariff.

Browne named interim assistant principal at Jr./Sr. High

Darcy Browne was named interim assistant principal at the Junior/Senior High School for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Browne has been an educator, administrator, and staff member at Ottawa Hills for 17 years.

Sports roundup

Congratulations to the boys’ varsity golf team for winning its 12th consecutive Toledo Area Athletic Conference title. The Ottawa Hills Board of Education voted unanimously in September to add gymnastics as a club sport at the Junior/Senior High School. And the girls’ volleyball teams raised more than $4,000 during “Volley for a Cause” events in September in support of the nonprofit group METAvivor.
Faces in the Crowd

Only the lucky few (family members mostly) have been able to watch our Junior/Senior High School athletes compete this fall. And now for everyone else, here’s your opportunity: photos of all the fall teams and cheerleading squads! Here’s hoping that restrictions are loosened by year’s end and more fans are allowed to see these dedicated athletes and performers in person.

Varsity

Football
Girls’ Tennis
Girls’ Soccer
Boys’ Soccer
Field Hockey
Cross Country (co-ed)
Volleyball
Boys’ Golf (varsity/junior varsity)
Dance Team
**JUNIOR VARSITY**

- Boys’ Soccer
- Volleyball
- Girls’ Tennis

**JUNIOR HIGH**

- 7th/8th Grade Football
- 7th/8th Grade Cross Country (co-ed)
- 7th Grade Volleyball
- 8th Grade Volleyball
- 7th/8th Grade Field Hockey

**CHEERLEADING TEAMS**

- Varsity Cheerleaders
- Junior Varsity Cheerleaders
- 7th/8th Grade Cheerleaders
**ART GALLERY**

COVID-19 has disrupted but not extinguished the creative spirit of students. Here are three pieces of art from the classroom of art teacher Cindy Bodziak at the Elementary School.

- **Cityscape**
  Quinn Neuendorf (3rd Grade)
  (crayon drawing on paper)

- **Mandala Design**
  Emmy Pfeiffer (2nd Grade)
  (marker drawing on paper)

- **Cartoon Sunshines**
  Leo Treloar (1st Grade)
  (crayon drawing on paper)

---

**A basketful of thanks**

To show support for teachers and staff, the community made and delivered baskets in recognition of their hard work in creating a safe return for students this fall. Parent-support group OH21 organized the goodwill activity in collaboration with the Ottawa Hills Schools Parent Association and the district's Social Emotional Response Team. Thank you parents and other community members!

**OHMTA continues fundraising for new Wipfli Choralier Award**

The Ottawa Hills Music & Theatre Association (OHMTA) continues its fundraising to sustain “The Donna Tozer Wipfli Choralier Award.” OHMTA created the scholarship to honor Mrs. Wipfli, who retired this spring after 30 years as a district music teacher. It will be given annually to a graduating Choralier who aspires to the passions and artistic goals shared by Mrs. Wipfli. Send donations to Ottawa Hills Local Schools, 3600 Indian Road, Ottawa Hills, OH, 43606, with “Donna Wipfli Scholarship” in the memo. Questions? Email musicandtheatre@ohschools.org.

---

**TREASURE HUNT ANSWER**

The image is from one of the murals along the ceiling at the Harker Alexander Crow Memorial Library, dedicated Nov. 7, 1941, at the Junior/Senior High School.

---

**BEAR NECESSITIES**

**Take me out to the ball game!**

Just in time for the World Series, the Bear Cave has stacked up on new baseball caps (in your favorite colors, of course). The Bear Cave is open Fridays at the Junior/Senior High School. It is operated by OH Boosters to support OH athletics.
SALUTING EXCELLENCE
Foundation honors 8 alumni

Since 2017, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation has honored the district’s best and brightest at the Distinguished Alumni Award ceremony. Usually that event occurs during a home football game, and is preceded by an evening celebration of the past year’s donors who are supporting today’s students. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic has altered plans for those events, it cannot stop the celebration.

The award recognizes Ottawa Hills graduates who have made or are making a meaningful contribution to society and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the tradition of excellence at OH.

This year’s six inductees (including one posthumously) are Barbara Barker ('79), Mary (Carson) Fedderke ('65), Constance Hauman ('79), Bob Hinkle ('56), Amul Thapar ('87), and Gary M. Woodbury ('58). This year’s class continues to raise the bar in terms of career achievement. Its members include a national advocate for America’s small businesses, a multifaceted entrepreneur, a groundbreaking journalist, a world-renowned opera singer, a passionate builder of local nonprofit organizations, and a federal judge interviewed for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Thank you to everyone who submitted applications on behalf of these eight deserving individuals. The Foundation hopes that in the future, the honorees can be assembled and publicly celebrated. Until then, we will share their success in these pages, online, and in social media.

ALUMNI MEMORIAMS
Douglas Brown ('78) died Aug. 16.
Paula “Polly” Cochrane ('82) died June 14.
Joseph Gross ('77) died June 3.
Frazier Reams Jr. ('47) died July 20. (In 1966, he was the Democratic Party nominee for Ohio governor.)
Barbara Barker (’79)

**OCCUPATION:** Sports journalist  
**CURRENT HOMETOWN:** Hastings-on-Hudson, NY  
**SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER:** Dennis  
**CHILDREN:** Elizabeth and Christopher. Notes Ms. Barker: “Mom Susan still lives in the Village and is married to Ken Smith, father of Ottawa Hills classmate Kurt Smith (’79).” (Ms. Barker’s dad Vincent Barker is deceased.)  
**FAVORITE OH MEMORIES:** “I was a kid who did pretty well in school but wasn’t overly ambitious. In the late 1970s, girls weren’t always encouraged to think about their professional futures. The one academic thing I did enjoy doing was writing for the school newspaper because it gave me a license to walk around and ask my schoolmates prying questions. Jackie Boyle, who was then the advisor for The Arrowhead, challenged me to write about some controversial subjects. One of them—‘Hockey: Is it here to stay?’—ended up winning a high school contest. It was the first sports story I ever wrote, and got me thinking that I wanted to be a professional journalist.”  

**CAREER SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS:** Ms. Barker is an award-winning sports columnist who has appeared as a commentator on NPR, ESPN, and TV and radio stations in the greater New York area. She was the first woman to cover the New York Jets and New York Knicks. She was named the “Best Sports Columnist” in New York by the Associated Press Sports Editors in 2016 and again in 2018. She has covered 15 NBA Finals, seven Super Bowls, and one World Series. She also covers the U.S. Open.  

Her writing began in high school on the staff of The Arrowhead. She also wrote for The Michigan Daily as an undergraduate at the University of Michigan. She later earned a master’s degree in journalism from Northwestern University.  

She has worked for Newsday (Long Island, NY) since 1995 as a beat writer, columnist, and senior sports writer. She often speaks on women’s issues in sports.  

Barbara was nominated by classmate Christine Brennan (’79): “My friend and colleague Barb Barker has been an important voice in the world of sports in New York and around the nation for more than 20 years. She is an award-winning columnist and features writer in the sports department at Newsday and is part of the generation of trailblazing women who paved the way for hundreds of women to join the sports media in the 21st century.”

Mary (Carson) Fedderke (’65)

**OCCUPATION:** Vice President of Development Resources at United Way of Greater Toledo  
**CURRENT HOMETOWN:** Maumee, OH  
**SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER:** John (50 years and counting!)  
**CHILDREN:** Kirsten and Hans  
**FAVORITE OH MEMORIES:** “The trip to Europe (summer of 1963) with rising juniors and seniors. We visited nine countries in eight weeks. The trip fueled my passion for travel, art, culture, and history.”  

**CAREER SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS:** Mrs. Fedderke began her career as a family caseworker for the Lucas County Children’s Services Board. She then served in sales roles with United Business Products, Xerox, and Playtex Consumer Products. At Playtex, she was a regional manager for a 14-state territory. She then began a 15-year career as director of institutional advancement at The Toledo Zoo while also serving as the president of the Zoo Foundation. Upon “retirement” from The Toledo Zoo, she became vice president of development resources at United Way of Greater Toledo.  

Last year, the United Way of Greater Toledo raised almost $9 million and mobilized 1,000-plus volunteers to support about 50 partner organizations. “My career path may look somewhat circuitous, but it has led me to a truly satisfying career in development for nonprofit organizations that make this such a good community in which to live, work, and raise a family,” Mrs. Fedderke said. “The thread that runs through all of my jobs is my ability to make connections and build partnerships that result in greater impact.”  

Among her honors, Mrs. Fedderke received a 2019 “YMCA Milestone Award” and has been recognized numerous times as an outstanding leader within the businesses she supports. Her current community service includes board membership with Black Swamp Conservancy, Toledo Area Partners for Philanthropic Planning, and Maumee Valley Country Day School.  

She also serves as a community liaison to the University of Toledo Student & Academic Affairs Committee; as a member of The Toledo Club, Toledo Rotary Club, Planned Parenthood, and Toledo Museum of Art President’s Council; as a trustee to the Medical College of Ohio Foundation; and as the United Way Metropolitan coordinator and Toledo Museum of Art Mini Museum coordinator.
Constance Hauman (‘79)

**OCCUPATION:** Singer-songwriter, opera/concert singer, actress, producer, arranger, music director, creative director  
**CURRENT HOMETOWN:** New York City  
**SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER:** Divorced  
**CHILDREN:** Stepchildren  
**FAVORITE OH MEMORIES:** “I have so many, but I guess I would have to say in general it was all the wonderful teachers I had. Particularly Mr. O’Connell for history and then without question Eugene Jefferson for chorus, madrigals, and the musicals.”

**CAREER SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS:** A world-renowned classical singer, Ms. Hauman has portrayed more than 70 roles in more than 2,000 international performances. A graduate of Northwestern University, she received her break from legendary conductor Leonard Bernstein, who put her in for an ailing June Anderson in the role of Cunegonde the only time he conducted his operetta “Candide” (with the London Symphony Orchestra in 1989 shortly before his death). This performance catapulted Ms. Hauman to more than 150 performances as Cunegonde over a six-year period.  
She has performed with many symphonies and operas, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, London Symphony, New York City Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Dallas Opera, Michigan Opera Theater, and Toledo Opera.  
She made her theatrical debut in February 2009 to critical acclaim as Florence Foster Jenkins in “Souvenir, A Fantasia on Florence Foster Jenkins.” She later was nominated for “Best Performance in a Duo Comedy” by LA Theatre Awards. She has received the “Richard Tucker Award,” given to a performer who has “reached a high level of artistic accomplishment and who, in the opinion of a conferral panel, is on the threshold of a major international career.” She returned to the classical stage in December 2019 at the Vienna State Opera, portraying three roles in the world premiere of Olga Neuwirth’s “Orlando.”  
Shifting gears in the late 2010s, her 2015 album “Falling into Now” showcased the pop side with a blend of pop, jazz, orchestral, and alternative blue-eyed soul vibes. She built upon that style in her 2019 album “High Tides.” She also has served in numerous capacities for the indie rock-funk band Miss Velvet and The Blue Wolf. This fall, she launched an exciting new phase of her career with the album “The Quarantine Trilogy,” a series of improvisations that originated with her on piano.

Amul Thapar (‘87)

**OCCUPATION:** U.S. Circuit Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit  
**CURRENT HOMETOWN:** Edgewood, KY  
**SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER:** Kimberly  
**CHILDREN:** Zach, Carmen, and Nick  
**FAVORITE OH MEMORIES:** “Spending time with friends”

**CAREER SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS:** Judge Thapar is a U.S. Circuit Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, one of 13 appellate courts that sit below the U.S. Supreme Court. He was interviewed in July 2018 by President Trump to fill a U.S. Supreme Court vacancy (ultimately filled by Brett Kavanaugh).  
Judge Thapar received a bachelor of science degree from Boston College in 1991 and a juris doctor from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law in 1994. He was a law clerk for three years before becoming a practicing trial attorney. He also was a trial advocacy instructor at the Georgetown University Law Center.  
In 2007, President George W. Bush nominated him for an open seat on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. When he was commissioned in January 2008, he became the first U.S. federal judge of South Asian descent (his parents immigrated from India). His service on the District Court ended in May 2017 upon his elevation to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, to which President Trump had nominated him.
Gary M. Woodbury (‘58)

**OCCUPATION:** Business leader

**CURRENT HOMETOWN:** East Lansing, MI

**SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER:** Ann Howell

**CHILDREN:** William and Gary Jr.

**FAVORITE OH MEMORIES:** “The many friends I made at Ottawa Hills”

**CAREER SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS:** Gary M. Woodbury served as president and chief executive officer of the Small Business Association of Michigan from December 1988 until his retirement in June 2003. He also served as president of the Small Business Foundation of Michigan and as secretary of the Small Business Resource Center, Inc., and its three subsidiary corporations. In September 1993, President Clinton appointed him one of 11 commissioners to the White House Conference on Small Business. Subsequently, he chaired 10 state conferences that preceded the June 1995 White House Conference on Small Business.

Throughout his career, he served on numerous boards, including the City Club of Lansing, Rotary Club of Lansing, Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Michigan International Trade Coalition, National Small Business Association (NSBA), and the Alumni Association of Hillsdale College.

He also chaired many boards and initiatives, including the NSBA’s White House Conference on Small Business Committee, Michigan Society of Association Executives, and the Michigan Small Business Development Center Advisory Council. In 2000 during “Small Business Week,” he received a Lifetime “Special Achievement Award” for Advocacy from the U.S. Small Business Administration. In presenting the award, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy stated that Mr. Woodbury is one of the nation’s most visible small business advocates.

In 2006, he received the “Dr. John C. Howell Award” for “Outstanding Volunteer Service” from the Michigan Dyslexia Institute and was named to the Michigan Society of Association Executives Hall of Fame.

Robert (Bob) Hinkle (‘56)

One of the alumni nominated this year to receive a Distinguished Alumni Award was Robert (Bob) Hinkle (‘56). But before a ceremony could be conducted and his achievements acknowledged, Mr. Hinkle passed away in July at his Sylvania home.

Although born in Detroit, Mr. Hinkle grew up and achieved his success as an entrepreneur and civic leader in northwest Ohio. After graduating from Ottawa Hills, he attended The Ohio State University. At OSU, he was the football team equipment manager under head coach Woody Hayes and assistant coach Bo Schembechler. Mr. Schembechler and Mr. Hinkle became lifelong friends despite their difference in allegiance.

He left OSU to take a job with Owens Illinois as a management trainee in their Forest Products Division. It was not long before his entrepreneurial spirit took over and he started his own company. With a $1,200 loan from Jim White, Sr., he founded Hinkle Manufacturing, Inc., a specialty packaging company. In 1989, Mr. Hinkle was named the “Northwest Ohio Entrepreneur of the Year” and his organization eventually grew to more than 17 individual companies.

After retiring from day-to-day operations, Mr. Hinkle founded Stonebridge Investment Partners with a group of friends as investors. Stonebridge invested in and revitalized a number of companies and was eventually acquired because of its success.

Surviving are his wife of more than 54 years, Margaret Monasmith; sons Tab (Anne Marie), Scott, and Tyler (Ahlennah Belton) Hinkle; grandchildren Isabelle, Addison, and Bobby; dogs Bo and Crunchy; and many friends too numerous to name.
Jamie O’Hara (’68) was a four-sport athlete who earned All-League honors in three of them. His accomplishments came naturally to an athlete who started competitive sports at age 5 in swimming pools around northwest Ohio.

“My competitive spirit came directly from swimming,” said Mr. O’Hara, now 70 and semiretired in Nashville (more on that later). “I used to get up as a 5 year old at 5 in the morning, and go work out. And after school, I’d go another two hours.”

He briefly held a national record for his age group in the 25-yard freestyle. His coach was Alex Steve, who coached thousands of area youths in swimming and who died in December.

“He was the one who shot me full of competition,” Mr. O’Hara said. His play shined so brilliantly across multiple sports that teammates bestowed upon him the ultimate nickname: **Gold**.

Jamie O’Hara (’68) grew up in the Village and played in multiple youth sports leagues. Once at Ottawa Hills High School, he played baseball, basketball, and track and field from 1964-1968. His abilities as a catcher earned him a tryout with the Detroit Tigers and ultimately a contract offer at age 17. In basketball, he played guard. In his senior year, the team won its league title and he was named to the All-Lakeshore Conference team and Honorable Mention All-State.

But for Mr. O’Hara, one of two inductees this year into the Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame, his greatest achievements were in football. He was co-captain of the 1967 team that went 9-1 (the loss coming in a game in which a sick Mr. O’Hara did not play) and easily won the Lakeshore Conference with an average margin of victory of 34-11.

“I coached a lot of great athletes, including Jim White,” said Norm Niedermeier, a 40-year OH teacher who coached Green Bear football from 1957-1997. “But in my mind, Jamie was unquestionably the best male athlete that school ever had.”

Mr. O’Hara played varsity football for four years, and the Green Bears were 23-5 over his final three.

“He was great in every sport. And he was never a big shot. He just did his job 100 percent of the time,” Coach Niedermeier said. “A great team player and a fantastic person, too.”

His gridiron achievements in 1967 earned him the All-Northwest District Back of the Year Award; unanimous selection to the All-Lakeshore Conference team; and...
Class A Honors (Ohio then only had 3 classes, with A representing the smallest schools). He was second team All-Ohio as a junior. His abilities caught the attention of Ohio State’s Woody Hayes and Michigan’s Bo Schembechler, both of whom offered the 6-foot-1, 198-pound tailback a scholarship.

Coverage of his exploits were effusive. Wrote Mike Tressler in The Blade: “The era of O’Hara ended Friday night, the way it started—spectacularly.” That description came following Mr. O’Hara’s final game as a Green Bear in which he carried the ball seven times for 186 yards. “He almost isn’t human,” said Bill Lindeman, who coached the competing Elmore squad in that final game. “He’s too good for this league ....”

Mr. O’Hara ultimately chose the University of Indiana, then the reigning Big 10 Champions. (His older sister Micki was a student there, so that helped seal the deal, too.) He entered Indiana in the fall of 1968, and played on the freshmen football team. “I had one goal and that was to make it to the NFL,” Mr. O’Hara said in a recent interview.

In his sophomore year, the team moved him from tailback to wide receiver, but he also returned kickoffs and punts. He returned a kickoff 88 yards for a touchdown against Northwestern on Nov. 15, 1969. And then came the injury.

During a late-season scrimmage, he tore his ACL. Today, he might have had surgery and ultimately played again. But in 1969, no such option existed. His dreams of being a professional athlete were gone. (To this day, the knee still aches.)

To console their son, parents Lindy and James O’Hara, Sr. gave their son a guitar. The O’Hara family loved to listen to the guitar playing of Bill Eggers, boyfriend and future husband of Micki, in the family’s Edgevale Road home. Mr. Eggers then began to teach Mr. O’Hara a few chords in the early 1970s.

“The injury was the biggest blessing in my life,” said Mr. O’Hara. “I thought it was the worst thing that could have happened to me. But it opened me to music and my life totally changed.”

The Songwriting Career

While he sang in the Choraliers and performed in school musicals, he never considered himself musically inclined. He had never played an instrument before the guitar.

Mr. O’Hara had always loved country music, particularly the music of Kris Kristofferson, Roy Orbison, and the Everly Brothers. Guitar in hand, a new kind of musical appreciation flowed into him, as did a creative desire to write songs. Around 1975, he and then-wife Meredith Roemer (’69) were on their way to Nashville.

He arrived with 10 songs he wrote and recorded in Toledo. He began shopping them around, seeing if anyone was interested. His solicitations took him to the Nashville offices of Monument Records, then the recording studio for many country stars. Outside, a man was painting the building. “I said, ‘Is this Monument Records?’” Mr. O’Hara recalls asking. “He said, ‘Yes,’ and I asked, ‘What do you do?’ And he said, ‘I’m a songwriter.’”

He still laughs at the story, recognizing that the moment was either a sign to turn around and head back to Ottawa Hills or to find humor in the exchange and keep pursuing his dream.

He and Meredith literally walked across the street to Tree International, another Nashville publisher that found artists for songs produced by its stable of songwriters. They were impressed enough with his work that day to begin shopping his songs around to musicians. But he wouldn’t get paid for another five years—just credit as the song’s writer.
The next five years were a near-endless stream of day jobs (chauffer, working on railroads, waiter, housepainter) and writing songs at night. “In 1980, my career actually began,” Mr. O’Hara said. “I went in to the head guy at Tree and I said that’s it, I’m going to be a songwriter or I’m going to shrivel up and die. And since I’m a ‘songwriter’ now, you’ve got to start paying me.” They agreed, and for each accepted song, they now paid him $100 in addition to writer credit.

Over the next five years, he would write dozens of songs that would be recorded by country legends, including Conway Twitty, Ronnie McDowell, Don Williams, and Tammy Wynette.

Then one morning in 1985, a now-divorced Mr. O’Hara sat down at a picnic table—then serving as a dining room table inside his three-room home—and wrote a song. “I got up one day, sat on that picnic bench, and wrote ‘Grandpa,’” he recalled. The bosses at Tree International didn’t like much about it, including the long-ish title: Grandpa (Tell Me ‘Bout the Good Old Days). “I said, ‘No, you’re not changing a thing,’” he recalled. (Members of the Western Writers of America would later call it one of the “Top 100 Western songs of all time.”)

Later that year, mother-daughter country duo The Judds decided to record it and make it part of their new album. The song went to No. 1 for them and was nominated for two Grammys: one for “Best Country Song” of the year and one for “Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal” for their rendition of the song. “Grandpa” won both in February 1987.

But like a heartbreaking story in a sad country song, Mr. O’Hara wasn’t there to go up on stage (see related story).

By the time of the 1987 Grammy Awards, he had formed a group with friend and collaborator Kieran Kane called “The O’Kanes” and the Grammy goes to …

The man outside the building!

Imagine your 10-year journey in the music world has reached a new high: a Grammy nomination. Now imagine a comedy of errors involving limousines, taxis, and a disappearing ticket to the magical awards ceremony. Sounds like a sad country song, right?

Well, it happened to Jamie O’Hara on Feb. 24, 1987, at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. When his name was called that night, he was outside the building, knocking on doors and looking in windows.

He was in town with Donna Hilley, chief executive of Tree Publishing, and music partner Kieran Kane. Mr. O’Hara’s ticket was at Mr. Kane’s hotel (or so everyone thought).

Ms. Hilley wanted Mr. O’Hara and his wife Lola to ride in her limo, so they could all go together, so Mr. O’Hara cancelled his. But Ms. Hilley’s limo failed to show, so they had to scramble to get another ride.

They finally arrived at Mr. Kane’s hotel to get the ticket, but the desk clerk couldn’t find it, so they drove on to the Shrine Auditorium. Slowed by rain and a driver who could not find the building, they arrived to discover a line of limos snaking around the block. So they got out and ran in the rain to the entrance, where they got trapped outside with the fans, still confident they could get Mr. O’Hara another ticket. No such luck.

As curtain time drew near, he encouraged his friends to go on. In an era before cellphones, he would knock on doors and hope for the best.

“I knock on one of the side doors and a guy answers it and I say, ‘I know you’re not going to believe this, but I’m up for a Grammy and I don’t have my ticket,’” Mr. O’Hara said. “He said, ‘You’re right, I don’t believe you,’ and he shuts the door.”

Eventually, Steven Griel, manager of The O’Kanes, sees Mr. O’Hara outside the building. “What are you doing outside?” he asks Mr. O’Hara. “And I said, ‘I can’t get in,’” The manager found someone to open the door and Mr. O’Hara walked inside. Turning toward him, the manager said: “By the way, you won. Congratulations.”

While the story gets better with age, the Grammy itself hasn’t. “It’s falling apart,” Mr. O’Hara said. “But I love it in its broken way.”
One-of-a kind, year-round phenom

BY KEVIN MERRILL

If anyone ever compiles a list of all-time great female athletes at Ottawa Hills High School, there is little doubt Katherine (Jamieson) Folino ('10) is at the top. Inducted this year into the Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame, she excelled in three sports. She earned 18 varsity letters (including six for Dance Team and cheerleading) and as a junior set a state Division III record in 2009 in winning the state 300-meter hurdles. From 2007-2010 at States, she placed 10 times with one championship and two runner-up finishes.

In track, she was a four-time winner of the Toledo Area Athletic Conference (TAAC) “Female Athlete of the Year” and the TAAC “District Sportmanship Award.” And as a sophomore, she became the first OH athlete to place in three events at States.

Along the way, she set Green Bear records and won TAAC titles in field hockey, basketball, and track and field. And she crushed her senior hoops year. In addition to finishing her four-year career with 1,052 points, she was TAAC “Co-Player of the Year” (with teammate Lauren Abendroth); named to the All-Academic TAAC and District 7 teams; and to 1st Team District 7 and Associated Press All-District. Finally, she was Honorable Mention on the All-Ohio Team.

Today, she makes her home in Cincinnati (with husband Danny Folino) and works in the marketing department at Fifth Third Bank. After graduating from Michigan State, she spent three years with the Marathon LPGA Classic and was part of the team that helped to bring the Solheim Cup to Toledo in 2021.

“I loved my time at Ottawa Hills and it made me into the athlete I would become at Michigan State,” said Mrs. Folino. In her senior field hockey year at Michigan State, she was named to the Academic All-Big Ten team and was named the Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week for Nov. 5. In her senior year, she received MSU’s “Sportsmanship Award.”

“What made my memories so special are the people that made them special: all of my teammates during my four years as a Green Bear,” she said.

After 45 years, he’s still living in Nashville. Wife Lola keeps up his Facebook page (facebook.com/JamieOHaraMusic/) and he still writes the occasional song, such as “It’s Alright to Grow Old,” released in June by Brett Ryan Stewart.

Mr. O’Hara had an equally productive 1990s, writing songs that were recorded by George Jones, Tanya Tucker, Trisha Yearwood, Randy Travis, Lee Ann Womack, Emmylou Harris, Dolly Parton, and Linda Ronstadt. A great many of his songs have been recorded either by himself, The O’Kanes, or others.

After 45 years, he’s still living in Nashville. Wife Lola keeps up his Facebook page (facebook.com/JamieOHaraMusic/) and he still writes the occasional song, such as “It’s Alright to Grow Old,” released in June by Brett Ryan Stewart.

However, he also has taken on a new occupation: writing fiction. He won’t share details. But if he wrote a book titled “Gold” about his own life, chances are it would be too fantastical to believe.

(For a full list of her athletic achievements, visit ohschools.org/alumni.)
ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSE

Building business leaders of tomorrow

With support from the Foundation, students in grades 9-12 are learning about starting their own business. A grant from the The Billy Ciralsky Entrepreneurial Endowment Fund is providing 30 digital online textbooks for “Entrepreneurship,” a one-semester course taught by business teacher John Lindsay. The “Foundations in Entrepreneurship” textbook covers essential business topics and allows students to develop a business idea through project-based learning.

SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM

Developing confident speakers

The Ottawa Hills Speech & Debate Team is planning a successful 2020-2021 season thanks to Foundation grant support. The money will help to cover tournament and judging fees and membership dues. It also will purchase debate scripts, subscriptions, and research databases to help students prepare more effectively. The grant came from the Talmage Family Fund.

STEAM CURRICULUM

Giving a hand to hands-on learning

A Makerspace at the Junior/Senior High School moved closer to reality with Foundation grant support. The money is purchasing two 3D printers, two Cricut cutters, and associated tools; combined, the items are helping to expand and better integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) curriculum. Support came from the Foundation’s STEM Fund.

Gratitude is contagious, too

The global COVID-19 pandemic forced the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation to temporarily halt many of its traditions this fall. But that doesn’t mean we won’t share our gratitude for the many gifts we’ve received and lives we’ve been able to positively impact.

We’re grateful for the eight alumni who agreed to be recognized this year as either a Distinguished Alumni or Athletic Hall of Fame honoree (see stories beginning on page 11). We marvel at their achievements and the special place they hold in their hearts for our schools.

On behalf of the Foundation trustees, we are grateful (and excited!) to wrap up The Kadens Family Health & Wellness Capital Campaign with the completion of all three projects: fitness center construction, Multipurpose Room renovation, and greatly refurbished boys’ and girls’ locker rooms (see pictures on page 20). We honor those donors a final time on pages 20-21. The spaces get used daily and look fantastic!

Although we could not host our annual appreciation event for donors this year, we remain grateful for their financial support. That evening has always been magical: alumni interacting with younger students on a home football weekend. What could be better? We usually take a few moments then to provide an update on the Foundation. Now, plans are taking shape for a virtual “State of the Foundation” event later this fall. Stay tuned.

Lastly, we use the fall issue of Around These Hills to publicly recognize donors of the prior year (2019-2020). As that number grows yearly, so does our gratitude for the positive change they are making in students’ lives. With grateful hearts, we ask that you please continue to support them and our mission by making a donation to the Foundation today.
The final phases of The Kadens Family Health & Wellness Capital Campaign were completed this summer with the reopening of the girls’ and boys’ locker rooms at the Junior/Senior High School. The renovation required major electrical and plumbing upgrades to a space original to the 1939 building. While the mechanical upgrades were overdue and make
the space more functional, the spectacular wooden lockers steal the show. The spaces already have been the site of numerous post-game victory celebrations by Green Bear teams. The locker rooms were dedicated as “The Swigart Family Varsity Boys’ Locker Room” and “The Hylant and Berenzweig Families Varsity Girls’ Locker Room” in honor of the families’ love of Ottawa Hills, athletics, and our district.
Among the activities the Foundation supports annually are theater productions, including last spring’s “Aladdin Jr.”

**2019-2020 HONOR ROLL**

**Thank you, donors!**

Through the generosity of OH families, alumni, and many others, the Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation is able to help students today and into the future.

We want to publicly acknowledge our friends who helped to put our mission into action during 2019-2020 (July 1-June 30).

**Arrowhead**
($25,000 and above)

- The Kadens Family Foundation
- The Ciralsky Family:
  - William and Nancy Ciralsky
  - The Friedmans: Kevin, Meredith (Ciralsky) ’94, Emma, Cooper, and Hudson
- The Waldmans: Todd, Jessica (Ciralsky), and Jacob
- The Levins: Jon, Schuyler (Ciralsky) ’99, Jack, Wyatt, Scarlett, and Henry
- Class of 2019
  - Tracy and Craig Fall
  - Barbara and Bob Gatchel
  - Paul Goldner (’64)
  - Gordon and Susie (’64) Hufford
  - Corey and Sandy Hupp
  - Kelley Family
  - Steve and Neerja Jindal
  - Brian and Erica Kelm
  - Brian and Racquel Lorenzen
  - Mohammed Maaleh and Raniah Jaouni
  - Julia Mahoney
  - Leslie and David Risley
  - Joe and Diane Stancati
  - The Philip and Marina Yang Family

**Cupola**
($10,000 and above)

- Russell (’61) and Judy Carson in honor of Betsy Brady (’64)
- Stephen (’66) and Mickey Swigart

**Mesasa**
($5,000 and above)

- Annette Boice (’49)
- Tom and Betsy (’64) Brady
- Larry Mindel (’55)
- The Selfried Family
- Robert (’68) and Cappy Shopneck
- John (’96) and Shanie Swigart

**Veni, Vidi, Vici Giving Society**
($1,000 and above)

- Michael and Anna Bennett

**Victory Bell**
($500 and above)

- Gayle Austin
- Eric E. Barnum (’66)
- Dewey Cole (’70)
- Paul Daverio (’88)
- Kevin Gilmore, Linda Hillstrom
- Jewish Community Center
- Joseph Kidd
- Lucy Lambert (’66)
- Gordon (’52) and Marla Levine
- The Hanlon McMurray Family
- Rob and Elizabeth Weaver

**Green Bear**
($100 and above)

- Nancy (’70) and Duane Ankney
- Denise and Richard Armos in honor of Donna Wipfli
in memory of Rosanna Harrah
Deborah Harrah Murdock ('61)
Jay McGiveran ('58)
Stanley Linver ('70)
George and Kathy Lathrop
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
Gretta Laskey ('63)
David and Alison Krieger
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
Ken and Ann Hileman
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
Carol and Ed Bardi
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
Margaret and Robert Repp
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)

**Additional Gifts**

Carol and Ed Bardi
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
Jessica ('63) and Bob ('57) Baron
in memory of Debbie Shaw
Jessica Baron
Ron Cooperman ('61)

---

**Remembering ‘Coach Wags’**

Thank you to the many donors who
honored the life of Mark “Mick”
Wagoner, Sr., by helping to create
a fund in his name for Junior High
athletes. Additional donations can
be made online or by contacting the
Ottawa Hills Schools Foundation.

Thomas Adkins
Darryl and Sharon Allen
Judge James and Sandra Barber
R. L. and Karen Berry
Bill, Jean and the Buckley Family
Richard Cohen
Tracy and Lee Cohen
Judy and Jeff Cohn
Kristian and Elena Colvin
Bruce and Annabel De Boer
Mr. and Mrs. Joel P. Epstein
Fallen Timbers Republican Club
Thomas Hurley Findley Inc.

---

Anabel ('66) and Bruce DeBoer
Amanda Doblin ('93)
Judy and Nicholas Dye
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
Robert Groh ('53)
Joan Haigh ('49)
in memory of Jeffrey P. Jenks ('75)
Dr. and Mrs. Jules J. Isaacson
in memory of Billy Ciralsky
Frances Keiser
Jim and Erica ('89) Silk
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
Karen and R. L. Berry ('76)
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
George and Kathy Lathrop
in memory of Richard Berry
Lauren ('90) and Byrne Stapleton
in memory of Bill Lathrop, Jr.
Shirley Levy
Karen Mayfield
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
Stephen Meloy
in memory of Bill Lathrop, Jr.
Kathy Kress and Marvin Miller
Donna Niehous
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
Joan O’Connell
in honor of Mark, David, Ann, Leila
and Ellen O’Connell
Jack and Sarah Puffenberger
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
Robert Reichert ('63)
Robert and Donna Repp
Richard Cohen ('61)
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
Signature Bank
in memory of Anne Lathrop ('59)
‘Proof’ begins theatrical season

The fall play this year is “Proof,” which won the 2001 Tony Award for Best Play and the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The two-act play has four characters: Junior Avril Niemann plays Catherine, senior Danielle Sun plays Claire, senior Shiraz Hasan plays Robert, and senior Claire Petas plays Hal. The director is Amelia Lefevre. Ticket information is at ohschools.org/theater.

Performances are:
- Dec. 4 (7 p.m.)
- Dec. 5 (7 p.m.)
- Dec. 6 (2 p.m.)

Celebrating tradition, community

Despite limitations imposed by COVID-19, the Village and Ottawa Hills Local Schools were able to present the annual “Celebration of Village Life Parade” Oct. 2. The day included the crowning of the 2020 Homecoming Queen (senior Emma McLean). (View more photos at facebook.com/ohschools)