



# TIGER TALES

## CHAGRIN FALLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### WINTER 2023

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Fellow Alumni & Friends,

I was recently reminded once again why our hometown continues to be so special to us. The Historical Society did a special screening for the 45th Anniversary of The Gathering, the 1977 holiday classic starring Ed Asner and Maureen Stapleton. This made-for-tv movie was about a dying executive who arranges a final Christmas reunion with his estranged wife and adult children. The images from the film from decades ago still ring true today. Although we have a new toy store instead of Taggart's and the stairway and fencing to the falls have been updated over time, the charm of the town is still intact. The holiday lights put up by the Jaycees still welcome visitors and give us a daily reminder about how special our ur fellow Chagrinites are in exemplifying Mr. Mattern's motto by "Keeping Tiger Pride Alive."

For many of us we also got to feel a great sense of Chagrin pride recently when we were able to recognize a distinguished group of graduates into our Halls of Fame. As we listened in awe of their accomplishments, the student presenters made us realize that we'll continue to have a bright future with our young graduates establishing their own noteworthy triumphs. While we look forward to what 2023 will bring, we should feel confident that once again our community and school will continue on being a home to raise a family. We hope this year brings you happiness and that you can share the Chagrin spirit no matter where you are.

Brian McKenna '88  
Alumni Director

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## NEW TOM MATTERN HISTORY BOOK

*Has He A Horse: A History of the United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls* by the late Tom Mattern was published in September in conjunction with the celebration of the 180th anniversary of the church founding. Mattern, a former history teacher at Chagrin Falls schools and founder of the Chagrin Falls Alumni Association, was an avid historian who has already written and published a book, *History of Chagrin Falls Schools, Vol 1 1833-1960*.

Mattern, a 1955 CFHS graduate, was a devout Methodist for more than 60 years. In his role as church historian, Mattern meticulously examined "the rough draft of istory," 19th and 20th century Chagrin Falls, Geauga County and Cleveland newspapers, church bulletins and other

and other documents in compiling the history of the church. Mattern traces the connection between the early Methodist Episcopal Church which built a school house on what is now the site of the Chagrin Falls Middle School. Known as Asbury Seminary and named for Francis Asbury, the first bishop of the church, the school opened in 1843 and offered instruction to students who went on to teach or attend college. The church ceased operation of the seminary on Philomethian Street in 1858 and sold the building and property to the Chagrin Falls public schools which reopened the school. as the Chagrin Falls High School. Anecdotes, stories involving early Chagrin Falls residents and brilliant Chagrinites and CFHS graduates interested in the importance early churches of Chagrin Falls played in the history of the village. To

give local context to Tom's history, John Bourisseau '64, and president of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society Trustees agreed to write a preface for the book about the early founding of churches in Chagrin Falls. Church member Jerome McHale designed the book and Dwight Woodward served as editor. Mattern's history is available for sale at the Chagrin Falls United Methodist Church and the Fireside Bookstore on Franklin Street. Windjammer Adventure Publishing of Chagrin Falls published the book. Proceeds go to the Tom Mattern Memorial Fund at the UMCCF. -- Dwight Woodward

CFAA  
PRESENTS  
THE SECOND ANNUAL

# CHAGRIN FALLS EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY  
4  
2023

**TOURNAMENT PLAY**  
BEGINS AT 6:00PM SHARP

The Chagrin Falls  
Township Hall  
83 North Main Street

DOORS OPEN  
5:30 pm  
"Limited Seating"

Tickets available through Eventbrite or  
alumni@chagrinschools.org



## IN MEMORIAM

Jackie Laughlin Schwind 1946  
Christine Thoren Rundus 1960  
Stevie Hartz Taylor 1961  
Mel Simpson 1961  
George Reitz 1964  
Lewis Lowe 1965  
Virginia Batchelor Bair 1969  
Bob Birr 1969  
Bruce Shelton 1969  
Kevin Doyle 1970  
Dr. Watler Ettinger, Jr. 1970  
Suzanne Goodrich Russell 1970  
Tom Quesinberry 1970  
Chan Diamond 1972  
Lynne Larson Rommel 1972  
Don McCourt 1980  
Bill Pieramici 1985

Craig Walters 1986  
Phil Owen 1988  
Erin Blair Gutfranski 2004  
Retired chemistry teacher  
Stephen Mallick



## Marriages

**Alison Moy '08** & Anthony Armellin, Sept. 10, 2022.  
Isabelle Trask & **Zach Toedtman '08**, Nov. 5, 2022.  
**Carly Cott '11** and Drew Scheuer Nov. 6, 2022.  
Megan Donahey & **Spencer Diedrich '11**, Sept. 2, 2022.



## Births

To **Ian '99** & **Brittany Williams Mullins '10**, a son, James Arthur, Oct. 10, 2022.  
To Michael & **Emily Evanko Riley '03**, a daughter, Aria Mildred, Sept. 30, 2022.  
To Mikey & **Niki Gnatovich Kerins '03**, twins, Ryan & Remi, Aug. 18, 2022.  
To Ryan & **Sara Stricker Catanese '05**, a daughter, Avery Jane, Aug. 7, 2022.  
To Nicholas & Kelsey **Owen Coleman '06**, a daughter, Eloise Mae, Nov. 29, 2022.  
To Mallory and **Spencer Giesen '07**, a daughter, Adelyn Lindsay, Nov. 7, 2022.  
To John & **Molly Gerbasi Heaton '08**, a son, Chase David, Sept. 6, 2022.  
To Hunter & **Nadia McGinnis Chenevey '18**, a son, Caspian Joseph, Dec. 14, 2022.



## Donations

**Frank Swaye '61**, **Kathy Stull Cotten '69**, **Jeff Sindelar '70**, **Dee Dixon Speece '72**, **Lori Dixon Carey '75**, & **Kelann Maus '82** have donated memorabilia to the Chagrin Falls Schools Tom Mattern Historical Room. Dee & Lori's donation is in memory of **Wendy Dixon Magree '74**.

**Barbara Barriball Clark '57** has made a donation in memory of Mr. Dan Lopatt and retired teacher, coach, and Alumni Director **Tom Mattern '55**.

**Richard '57** & **Loretta Rufener Pinkett '59** have given a donation in honor of their classmates of 1957 & 1959.

**Janet Heaps Huffman '58** has given her Tiger Pride membership in memory of **Hazel Heaps '26**.

**Joan Schuster Hutto '58** has made a donation in memory of classmate **Jim Fitz '58**.

**Woody Woodrich '62** has donated his annual dues in memory of his brother **John Woodrich '65** and his mother Mary Woodrich, who had retired as 4th grade teacher at Chagrin.

**Barbara Leach '67** has given a donation in memory of retired high school science teacher and coach **John Hurst '52**.

**Judy Spresser Holder '67** has given her Tiger Pride membership in memory of retired French teacher Virginia Colignon.

**Jeff Birr '73** has given a donation in memory of his brother **Bob Birr '69**.

**Christopher Viland '82** has given his Tiger Pride membership in memory of his neighbors and friends **Tom Mattern '55** and **Jim Fitz '58**.

Several people have made a donation to the **Mark Morris '86** Fund that will support the CFHS Science Department including **Scott Morris '88**, parents Bill and Kathy O'Donnell.

An anonymous donation was made in memory of **Jack Rouru '56**.

## 2022 Halls of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony

On Thursday, Sept. 29, the CFAA was able to recognize 8 graduates for induction into our Chagrin Falls Schools Halls of Fame. Entering our Achievement Hall of Fame were **Dr. Bill Albers '70, Dr. Eric Pamer '73, Kevin Ryan '81, and Dr. Lisa Kroon '88**. Our athletic honorees were **Leslie Cikra '09, Megan Takacs '09, and Chris Trinetti '10**. We also recognized **Rob Crombie '70** who has had both a successful career and and has had a significant impact with giving back to our community.



**Halls of Fame Induction Class of 2022**

(Left to Right) Leslie Cikra '09, Dr. Lisa Kroon '88, Megan Takacs '09

2nd Row: Dr. Eric Pamer '73, Rob Crombie '70, Chris Trinetti '10

Picture by John Tillotson '72      Not Pictured: Dr. Bill Albers '70 & Kevin Ryan '81

## Fall Athletics Season

This past fall, CFHS had 280 student-athletes compete in athletics. This is over 50% of the 542 students at Chagrin. Of those 280, there were 70 seniors. There were 44 who earned all-conference recognition. Additionally, we had 39 seniors named CVC All Academic. The girls tennis team went 11-4 and came in 3rd place in the CVC. The girls volleyball team finished with a 8-14 record, finishing in 3rd place in the CVC. The football team had a record of 4-6 and was 6th in the CVC. The Boys cross country squad came in 9th in the District and had one regional qualifier. The girls runners came in 4th at districts and Mila Gresh finished in 9th place at the state meet. The boys soccer team went 10-8 and earned 3rd place in the CVC. The girls soccer team went 9-5-5 and won the CVC. They were also district runners up. The girls golf team finished with an overall record of 4-5 and came in third place in the CVC. The team also qualified for Districts. The boys golf team went 11-0 and won the CVC. They were also sectional champs, district champs, and finished 4th in the state. Sven Nielsen earned CVC MVP honors in boys golf, while his coach, **Anne Bierman Caja '81**, was voted as the CVC Boys Golf Coach of the Year.



# History of the First Yearbook

By Bob Thomas '69 (Originally printed in the Chagrin Falls Historical Society newsletter)

The CFAA, under the direction of Brian McKenna '88, has made available 105 CF Annuals / Zeniths on its website. The yearbooks were digitized by the Oklahoma Correctional Industries (OCI). Their program was designed to provide career training skills to prisoners. The Historical Society believes these books contain pictorial and textual information that can broaden our knowledge of life in Chagrin Falls. We know they are a treasure for learning what businesses operated in the village.

The 1911 Annual is the first to shed light on the lives and culture of the early 20th century. The class of 1911 entered the high school on Philomethian St., in 1907 as "36 zealot and ambitious boys and girls." (p10)

By the time they are seniors they only numbered 12 (7 girls, 5 boys). In the 'Senior History' it is revealed.... "Having lost a number of members, several of whom were matrimonially inclined, our class at the end of the sophomore year had dwindled to half the number that had entered high school as freshmen." (p10)

For sure there were many reasons for leaving school but getting married between your 9th and 10th grade is certainly a sign of the times. The senior class motto was "Ad Summum" (Rise to the Highest), a Latin phrase which reflects the school curriculum. Each senior was listed as having completed the "Classical Course" which are studies in Ancient Greece and Rome.

On page 15 is the "History of the Juniors" (c/o 1912). In 1906..."We entered the seventh grade with a gasp, we were to have a MAN (sic) for a teacher." Perhaps the first male teacher in Chagrin schools?

We get a glimpse of the fashion fads of the day. In their freshman year....."At this time the boys donned long trousers and the girls lengthened their dresses an inch and adopted rats" (see pic)

(Women wore their hair up on top of their heads in various fashions. Her hair is puffed out with the help of "rats", which are made of her own hair that she saved from her hair- brush and rolled between her hands to create the shapes seen here.)



"Our thinning numbers that entered the "Flat" class (a likely reference to freshman year) were reinforced by the arrival of such country students as had successfully passed the "Patterson examination."

The Boxwell-Patterson Examinations were created and administered by The State (OH) Commissioner of Schools which were "used in examining pupils from the rural and village schools for the purpose of ascertaining.....the fitness of such pupils to enter high schools."

We know that this exam consisted of 10 questions. A detailed explanation and one exam is available at this link. This yearbook also discusses scientific farming and the creation of an Alumni Association.

## IN THE NEWS

**Xenil Jefferson "Jeff" Wilson '46** recently celebrated her 75th wedding anniversary with her husband Cal. While at CFHS, Jeff would be the first post-war Blossom Time Queen. Over the course of their marriage they have raised three sons and have five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

**Joan Schuster Hutto '58** and her husband John divide their time between Northern Michigan and Florida. They enjoy being able to have their friends and family visit. The couple also relish the opportunity to Facetime with **Ellen McPeak Person '58** and her husband Dave.

**John Moorhead '59** published a book about his life. He has included many details about his time living in Chagrin Falls, as well as fond thoughts of Elsa Jane Carroll, his English teacher. The paperback is available on Amazon with a Kindle version will available shortly. The book is called John's Guide to a Life Well Lived. John recounts the triumphs and struggles of his life from his childhood during World War II through the decades that followed. He shares his memories of the family and relationships who guided him and the music and Christian Science philosophies that shaped and inspired his determination and will to be successful.

**Barbara Leach '67** retired last year and her new passion is learning Spanish and running rivers in Peru. Soon she will be going for total immersion for seven months in Lima, with a side river trip in Argentina.

**Judy Spresser Holder '67** lived on the Upper West Side in NYC for 45 years, flying for Pan Am, running a union (IUFA/JFK), and then flying for Delta Air Lines. After the Class of 1967's 50th reunion in 2017 her beloved father, Ralph, had a T.I.A. Judy moved into his home to care for him until he left to laugh with his dear "Suz" on Aug. 22, 2022. (Judy & her dad both had Covid at the time.)

**Janet Somers Gauvin '69** is enjoying her grandkids and starting to get some travel in.



**Scott Lax '70** is in his 8th year as a Lecturer in Creative Writing at the Cleveland Institute of the Arts. The Chagrin Valley Little Theatre recently announced that Scott's play, "1970," a new, 2-Act, full length theatrical adaptation of his novel The Year That Trembled, will have its World Premiere as the opening play for CVLT's 94th season. It will run for two weeks, Fridays through Sundays, September 22 – October 1. Scott rewrote it over the pandemic for community theatres and professional theatres. The previous, eponymously titled high school version of the play was twice produced at University School, in 2003 and 2013. There are eleven roles – 7 males and 4 females. There are 3 adult roles and 8 roles to perform 18-25-year-olds. They'll be holding auditions in the spring for interested actors. The Cleveland Institute of Art's Illustration Department has selected "1970" to be one of their Community Projects for their Illustration classes. Recent such projects have been posters for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, The Cleveland Zoo, and art for American Greetings. The Dover Public Library in Dover, Ohio will be presenting a "staged reading" of "1970" on March 18, which will be presented by theatre director Don Irven and his Black Box Theatre Company. The public will be invited, and they will be raffling off Opening Night Tickets for the World Premiere at CVLT in September. There will also be a book giveaway.

**Susan Black '75** took an early retirement after working as an Administrator in long term care for 30 years. Susan decided to move to Chan Chemuyil, Quintana Roo, Tulum Mexico in 2021 Living in expat community of 300. She volunteers at the after school program for the children once a week. She was also lucky enough to spend 4 days with **Katie Knapp Hill '75** this month. Katie also lives in Mexico. If anyone is ever in the area please let Susan know at [susanblack@comcast.net](mailto:susanblack@comcast.net). She would love to show you around.

**Christopher Viland '82** recently retired as the Cuyahoga County Sheriff and has taken a new position as Head of Cleveland Police Internal Affairs. Christopher was originally the Chief of the Solon Police Department and was the first to be appointed Cleveland Police Department's Inspector General.

**Matt Hanley '84** started a new position as National Business Director, Solid Tumor at Genmab in Los Angeles. Matt is also on the National Board of Directors of Kesem, a nonprofit organization that provides support and programs for children whose parents have cancer.

The much anticipated book '*Stanley Kubrick's The Shining*' edited by **Lee Unkrich '85** is now available for pre-order. The three-volume book features hundreds of never-before-seen photographs, rare production ephemera from the Kubrick Archive, and extensive new interviews with the cast and crew. A special collector's edition is also available. The book is being published by TASCHEN and the foreword was written by Steven Spielberg.

**Larry Biscotti '92** recently took a position with GE as its President of Healthcare Southeast Region. Larry is based out of Atlanta.

**PJ Meyer '94** just completed her double-Masters degree (Architecture and Real Estate Development) from the University of Maryland, along with the Capstone prize for the top student in the Real Estate program.

**Jimmy Leffler '99** (CFHS Athletic HOF Class of 2011) has been elected to the Baldwin Wallace University Athletic HOF Class of 2022. As a four year starter at shortstop for the Yellow Jacket baseball team, Jimmy was a three-time All-OAC first-team, three-time Academic All-OAC, and three-time All-Mideast Region selection with a career batting average of 0.373 with 109 RBI, 31 doubles, and 13 HR. In addition, he was named team captain and also a member of the 2002 OAC All-Tournament Team. Off the field, he was also awarded the distinguished Lee Tressel Scholar-Athlete award. Today, Leffler is a Lieutenant with the Beachwood (OH) Fire Department.

**Kurt Schron '01** was promoted to Chief Financial Officer of Cleveland based Jerger's Inc.

**Becky Wooden Hamid '04** is a realtor with Howard Hanna joining the MBA Team of Mary **Beth O'Donnell Wolfe '82** and **Anne O'Donnell Harmody '87**. Becky lives in Chagrin with husband **Youssef '00** and their two sons.

**Zak Gebler '05** is Chagrin's new Varsity Boys Lacrosse Coach. Zak has been an assistant coach for the past eight years, including for the 2015 and 2019 State Championship teams. Zak was region six assistant coach of the year last year and state assistant coach of the year and was a player on the 2003 state championship team.

**Hannah Furnas '07** is a Senior Research Science Manager on the Demography and Survey Science team at Meta in San Francisco. Hannah holds a PhD in Sociology and Demography, as well as Graduate Certificates in Survey Methods and Quantitative Methodology.

**Dan Lalich '08** recently wrote the research article "Explaining Bright Radar Reflections Below The South Pole of Mars Without Liquid Water" that was featured in the journal Nature Astronomy. Dan is a research associate at the Cornell Center for Astrophysics and Planetary Science at Cornell University.

**Courtney Lynch '09** was recently promoted to Senior Campus Recruiter at McKinsey & Company in Washington, D.C.

**Erin O'Toole Standish '09** has started a new position as Director of Genetic Counseling at SignatureDx, a medical laboratory focusing on women's reproductive health based in Pittsburgh.

**Geo Chapman '10** is a Senior Sales Engineer in the Commercial Division of software company Fivetran in Denver, Colorado.

**Austin Garofolo '11** is a General Manager for Tesla in Tyler, Texas.

**Will Hinman '13** is Director of State of Ohio Representative and Speaker of the House Bob Cupp.

**Nicholas Lenart '14** is a General Manager at Forward Hospitality Group in Cape Coral, Florida.

**Claire Reh fuss '14** and Derek Xiao, who met while competing on season 23 of Big Brother in the summer of 2021, recently won \$1 million after competing together on The Amazing Race. Outside of competing on television, Claire is an established Artificial Intelligence Technical Architect who has written code for national election campaigns, fortune 500 companies, and even satellites.

**Mad DeGreen '15** and his wife Carly have recently moved to Columbus, Ohio from Phoenix. Mac has opened up a brand new office for the company he works for, NetWorth Realty, where he is a Senior Acquisition Associate.

**Olivia Marti '15** is a Consultant at INSIGHT2PROFIT, a business management firm headquartered in Beachwood, Ohio. Olivia specifically works in the Transaction Advisory Group.

**Ben Stapulionis '15** started a new position as an AML Solutions Analyst at Deloitte in Nashville.

**John Anton '16** was recently promoted to Team Lead/Technology Consultant at Accenture in Cincinnati.

**Michael Rose '16** is a Sales Development Manager in Toronto at the software company Docebo.

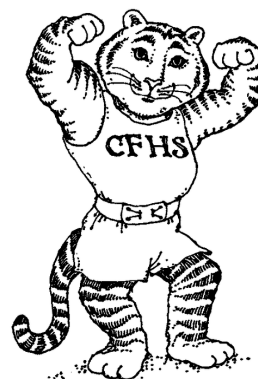
**Libby Schwab '16** is a Clinical Nurse II in the Emergency Department at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. She was recently elected to the Nursing Professional Governance at the hospital, specifically among the Nursing Workforce and Engagement Committee.

**Lena Bando '17** is a Behavioral Therapist at Cleveland Clinic's Lerner School for Autism.

**Charlie Clegg '17** is General Manager of the Southern Ohio Copperheads, a Collegiate Summer Baseball team within the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League (GLSCL) located in Athens, OH.

**Patrick Emery '17** is Co-Director of High School Programs and Program Associate at Cleveland Leadership Center. As Co-Director, Patrick is responsible for the design, coordination, and execution of Look Up To Cleveland school year and summer programs, and in his Program Associate role, he assists with the coordination, planning, and logistics for OnBoard Cleveland.

**Carter Kilby '22**, who recently graduated from CFHS, while also earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information at the University of Akron, has accepted a position as a Security Operations Technician at Epic in Madison, WI.





# CLASS & REUNION NOTES

The **Class of '53** is planning a casual reunion for the summer of 2023-- seventy years after graduation. Any member who would be interested in attending should send name, current address, phone number, or email address to Shirley Hills Takacs at 440-543-4991 or to Judy Burke Honeywell at [welljudy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:welljudy@sbcglobal.net) by January 23, 2023. Once we know how many would like to attend, plans will be finalized and all will be notified. The Class of 60 is hoping to gather in Chagrin during the weekend of June 10-11, 2023. If interested in attending, then please email [leekarenjohns@gmail.com](mailto:leekarenjohns@gmail.com)

The **Class of 1967** will be having their 55+1 Reunion on the Saturday of Blossom Weekend in 2023. Classmates will gather at The Village Martini and Wine Bar from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. for heavy hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. If you have updated contact information or questions please email Cindy Wyszynski ([cwysinc@roadrunner.com](mailto:cwysinc@roadrunner.com)) or Ralph Hastings ([hstngs@gmail.com](mailto:hstngs@gmail.com)).



**Class of 1970  
Reunion**

Photo by John  
Tillotson '72

*Top Row:* Rob Eagin, Doug Rinkoski, Bill Albers, Doug Pound, John Vince, Tom Maran, Scott Lax, Rob Crombie, Bob Prophater, Jon Schrock, Steve Taylor, Deane Tierney, Jeff Sindelar, Bob Hrovath, Rob Pomeroy and Chuck Burwell. 3rd Row: Darrell Johnson, Rob Rall, Gus Torres, Ron Paul, Sue Chalmers (Fuerstman), Sue Baker (Kaplan), Lorna Hern, Judy Zeleznik (White), and Jim Greer.

*2nd Row:* Dave Voss, Mary Lou McIlrath (Voss), Kathy Kilby (Roeder), Jackie Porter (Zahl), Chris Bailey (Albers), Karen Roeder (Bricker), Jennifer Stolph (Wilson), Debbie North, Kinney DeHamel, Paula Liebel (Lombard), Becky Blazer (Samardge), Diane Dalton, Gerry Price, Tom Taylor, and John Burkhardt.

*Front Row:* George Cale, Coach/Teacher Jim Hoppel, Kelley Ryan, Norman Rahl, Jim Murtaugh, and Rob Esper

**The Class of 1970** held their 50 + 2 ('70 is 70) reunion the weekend of October 7th, 8th, and 9th. The three day/ four event reunion started with a meet and greet gathering on Friday night at Panini's Bar and Grill. Saturday morning, more than a dozen classmates took a tour of the high school and the Tom Mattern Historical Room conducted by Brian McKenna, John Tillotson and Ruth McIlrath Cavanagh. Many memories were relived. Saturday night was the main Reunion

Dinner Gathering held at the Chagrin Valley Athletic Club, the location of our first – 10 Year Reunion some forty years ago. A “Memorial Table” with candle lit photos displayed the 26 classmates who have passed was a remembrance that the “Class of 1970 does not forget.”

Sunday concluded the weekend gathering with a brunch/lunch picnic held at the South Russell Park on Bell Road with food and refreshments provided. About sixty-five classmates, including a few spouses, came in from all over the country to attend different events throughout the weekend, one classmate who left Chagrin before his senior year and our AFS student from Peru, Gustavo Torres, came in from Mexico City. The weekend was noted as a great success allowing many to reminisce, make new connections and to see many classmates we had not seen in over thirty years. The committee is already looking at plans for a fifty-five reunion to be held in September, 2025. It is not that far away and we hope you will plan to attend. Please watch for information and postings in the Tiger Tales and on our Chagrin Falls High School Class of 1970 Facebook page.

The **Class of 1973** will be holding their 50th reunion Blossom Time Weekend, kicking it off at Town Hall on Friday May 26th . Saturday May 27th the class will be meeting at Rollhouse, 33185 Bainbridge Road, Solon Ohio from 3-7 p.m. for a casual event. Please return your information to Nancy or myself as soon as you can so we can get a count for our festivities...Nancy Lester (nkslester@gmail.com) -or- Betsy Street (betsygstreet@gmail.com). Make sure to visit our Class of 73 Facebook page for updates. The Class of 1977 will be having their 45 year reunion on Saturday, May 27, 2023 at Pine Lake Trout Club. The Class of 1979 will be getting together for our 44th on Saturday, May 27th. Class members, please go to our class reunion page for details: <https://sites.google.com/view/chagrin-falls-class-79/home>.

The **Class of 1987** held a small but mighty 35th reunion Memorial Day weekend in May 2022 at Burntwood Tavern in Chagrin Falls on Saturday night, and also a less formal jam with Spike and the Orazen Tavern Band at his private tavern on Sunday after the parade. Because this was a "graduation year" for many of the offspring from the class of 1987 our turnout for the reunion was a little smaller than usual. As a result, we have been finding other ways to stay connected. In December 2022 we had a snowball fight on our Facebook Page. If you got hit with a snowball, you have to share something exciting you have been doing with the class. We have had a lot of great participation and people have been sharing about their travels, their jeep adventures, and visits to colleges to see their kids. We expect to continue these shenanigans in February with a Cupid's Arrow game. You will have to share about someone you love - whether it's a significant other, child, or fur-baby. Just finding new ways to stay connected to our classmates that are all over the world.

### Class of 1987 Reunion



The **Class of 1988** will be celebrating their 35th year reunion over Blossom Weekend 2023. The weekend will begin with the All Class Reunion on the Friday evening at Town Hall. The festivities will continue Saturday night at classmates Brent Luce's home. Keep in the loop on information by joining the class Facebook group, CFHS Class of 1988.



## CHAGRIN ALL CLASS REUNION IN FLORIDA

The **Class of 1993** looks forward to seeing classmates for our 30th reunion the Saturday of Blossom weekend. More details in the coming months! The Class of '98 will be having their 25th reunion this coming Blossom. The reunion will be on Saturday May 27th, 2023. We are working on details but ask that if you have updated contact information or questions please email [98cftigers@gmail.com](mailto:98cftigers@gmail.com). We are really excited to see everybody!

The **Class of 2003** will be celebrating their 20 year reunion with lunch and drinks at Crooked Pecker on Saturday, May 27, 2023. Invite coming soon! Please contact Abbey at [scoteseabigail@gmail.com](mailto:scoteseabigail@gmail.com) to update your contact info.

The **Class of 2008** will be hosting their 15 year class reunion on Blossom weekend Saturday, May 27th, 2023. Meet us at Heinen's patio in the downtown Chagrin plaza from 2:00-5:00pm for small bites and a drink from the bar. Please reach out to Liz Wilson (Monda) at [emmonda@gmail.com](mailto:emmonda@gmail.com) with any questions, suggestions, or to be added to the Facebook group where we will send updates regarding the event. We would love to see you there!

The **Class of 2013** will be celebrating their 10 year reunion over Blossom Weekend. Details will be forthcoming in the next issue.

The **Class of 2018** will be having their 5 year reunion on the Saturday of Blossom Weekend. To be kept in the loop on the details, please email Eneh Turoczi, [eneh.turoczi@gmail.com](mailto:eneh.turoczi@gmail.com), or Michael Donley, [donley17@gmail.com](mailto:donley17@gmail.com), with your current contact information.

The 2023 All Class Reunion Florida Chagrin Falls High School will be held on Saturday Feb.25, 2023 from 11-3 pm. The location is Summerfield Community Park Pavillion at 6310 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. in Lakewood Ranch, Florida 34202. We welcome all Alumni, Family and Friends from Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools. Please visit any Chagrin Falls face book pages or our All Class Reunion Florida Chagrin Falls High School page for alerts, updates, details and important information. Feel free to message me on face book, call my phone 419 308 6686, or email me: [wsuzannebg@yahoo.com](mailto:wsuzannebg@yahoo.com). Happy New Year to all and hope to see many of you of you in February. CHAGRIN IS MY HAPPY PLACE

### ALMA MATER

*As the mist lifts high above us, in the valley view,*

*There you stand, Our Alma Mater, clear and  
brave and true*

*May we always keep your honor, keep your  
standards high*

*Hold your memories always with us, as the years  
go by.*

*Tho' in the time our paths may lead us, far across  
the sea,*

*Still our love will bind us ever, hand in hand with  
thee*

*Proudly singing of your honor, cry above the din*

*Praise to thee, our Alma Mater, praise to thee,  
Chagrin.*



# Chagrin Falls Post Office Memorial Garden

By Bruce Elliott

Reprinted with permission from the Cardinal, a monthly publication of the South Franklin Circle Resident's Assn.

The next time you visit the village post office, spend a few minutes viewing the memorial garden at the base of the flagpole. It honors a 2001 Chagrin Falls High School graduate who died in 2007 from combat wounds received in Iraq. **Sgt. Michael M. Kashkoush** grew up in Chagrin Falls and was a winning athlete in high school. He enlisted in the Marines and learned Arabic before becoming a counterintelligence specialist. It was in Iraq that he was killed by an insurgent sniper.

Chagrin Falls resident **Mark Gebler '75**, who was Postmaster at the time, initiated the process of renaming the building to honor Sgt. Kashkoush, and in 2008, Congressman George Voinovich submitted a bill to designate the post office as the "Sgt. Michael M. Kashkoush Post Office Building."

Public Law 110-224, renaming the Chagrin Falls Post Office, was signed by President G.W. Bush on May 7, 2008. A memorial plaque (pictured) stands in the entrance.

The beautiful Sgt. Kashkoush memorial garden is currently planted with patriotically colored petunias surrounded by US and USMC flags and centered by a memorial carved into rock. Sgt. Kashkoush's father spearheaded the memorial and worked with a landscaper who donated the boulder. At first, the memorial consisted of just the boulder but then members of the Chagrin Falls High School Alumni Association planted the surrounding garden.

For more than a decade now, **John Tillotson '72**, has been personally tending to the garden. Many residents have seen him weeding and watering the garden on their trips to the post office. I met with John and learned that the driving force for the investment of his time and personal funds is related to his father being a Marine as well as his wish to honor Sgt. Kashkoush and all of Chagrin's fallen soldiers.

Michael was beloved by his family, friends, and fellow Marines. In addition to the post office garden, he is honored by a plaque at the Chagrin Falls High School and a Battlefield Cross at Camp Hansen in Japan. Sgt. Kashkoush was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, and is buried in Evergreen Hill Cemetery.

Editor's note: If any alumni would like to contribute their gardening skills or some funds to help Mr. Tillotson replant and tend the garden next spring, please reach out to the CFAA.





## SCHOOL NEWS



### **Employees Recognized with Ray Markuszka 20-Year Service Award**

On August 15 during the Chagrin Fall Schools' convocation meeting to welcome back staff, Director of Operations Chris Woofter presented the Ray Markuszka 20-Year Service Award to the following employees: Mary Czerr, Diane Dobies, Lisa Dugach, Lisa Janson, Diane Santucci, Bobbie Serensky, and Sarah Tatarko.

Ray was a dedicated custodian on the 7-12 campus. He is best known as a loyal and hard-working man that put his heart into his daily job. In June 2000, Ray retired after 20 years of service to the District. Then shortly after his retirement, Ray suffered a heart attack that regrettably took his life. "It is in Ray's name that we show our appreciation to our staff members with 20 years of service," said Woofter.

Those being honored received a gift from PTO, had their picture displayed on the digital display near the central office, and were invited to a special luncheon with the superintendent.

### **Chagrin Salutes Teacher & Staff Employee of the Year**

At the staff convocation meeting, Chagrin Falls Schools surprised two staff members with one of the highest awards given by the District. Mike Sweeney, a math teacher at Chagrin Falls High School, is the Teacher of the Year. In addition to being a teacher, he is the varsity baseball coach, assistant varsity basketball coach, and eighth-grade football coach. The Staff Employee of the Year is Nicole (Niki) Lustig, an aide at Chagrin Falls High School.

### **Chagrin Schools Earns Recognition**

On the 2021-22 Ohio School Report Card, Chagrin Falls Schools had the 3rd highest performance index score in the State of Ohio (out of 607 school districts). The school is also one of only five districts in the State of Ohio with a performance index percentage higher than 100% on the 2021-22 Ohio School Report Card. In another evaluation, Chagrin is 1 of only 12 districts in the entire state to have five stars in every category on the report card. Five stars is the highest rating for districts.

### **National Merit Honors for Chagrin Students**

Chagrin Falls Schools is pleased to announce that two students have been named National Merit Semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The students are Michaela Plante and Rose Zabik. Semifinalists are the highest scorers in each of the 50 states and represent less than one percent of each state's high school seniors. Finalists will be announced in February. In addition to the semifinalists, Broderick (Bode) Freese, Ryan Hill and Jenna Santamaria have been named National Merit Commended Scholars. More than two-thirds (about 34,000) of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. t

## Betcha' Didn't Know

The first class at Chagrin Falls High School to wear a cap and gown at graduation was the class of 1932. Graduation still took place at the Assembly Hall in the Philomethian Street Grade School.

Golf became a club sport in the spring of 1932. By the spring of 1935, Chagrin had entered a league for interscholastic golf.

Excerpts from History of the Chagrin Falls Schools, 1833 - 1960 by Tom Mattern '55:  
"As the demand for more educational facilities continued to grow, on September 12, 1913, the board of education passed a "resolution of necessity," to build a new high school at an estimated cost of \$3,000. The original amount was not sufficient for the job and the board asked for an additional \$12,000. The election resulted in a vote of 120 for the levy, 117 against. The board proceeded to sell the bond and finish and furnish the school building.....The laying of the cornerstone of the new high school building on June 2, 1914 was an impressive event in the community. The ceremonies were conducted by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Mason of Ohio.....

The new brick Colonial Revival Craftsman high school was built in 1914.....Its completion made the Chagrin Falls School System the envy of surrounding communities. It even had 2 electric lights in each room and a "bubble fountain" (drinking fountain) on every floor. With its four-year high school curriculum and high school building, it became a favorite tuition school. Most schools in the area were still three-year high schools and remained so into the 1920s."

"On September 27, 1929, Chagrin students filled the old grandstand for the dedication of the new football field and quarter-mile cinder track. The playing field had been moved closer to the grandstand. The core of the football game that followed was Willoughby High School 45 - Chagrin Falls High School 0. The Cleveland Plain Dealer referred to the new facility as 'one of the finest in the state of Ohio.' As a result of the new facility, the annual Cuyahoga County Track and Field Meet was held at the Chagrin Falls High School Athletic Field under the direction of the Cuyahoga County Athletic Council on May 31, 1930."

## Do You Remember

AV carts; 1st day of school picture taken by your mom; who you shared a bus seat with; your favorite water fountain; the letter animals; spelling bees; covering the textbook with a grocery bag; writing your name in the front of the textbook and seeing names you knew; timed math tests in elementary school; pizza day; lunchables; the playground; 4 square; hopscotch; gym scooters; climbing the ropes in gym class; kickball; jump roping; the first musical instrument you got, which was likely the recorder; playing the xylophone or glockenspiel in music class; Heads Up 7up; carpooling & sitting in the last row of the station wagon facing backwards; your favorite backpack; the elementary school holiday show; your first rock concert; the school dress code; the mimeograph machine cranking out dittoes; knowing how to use the card catalog in the library; snow days; your first crush; and getting your varsity letter sweater or jacket.



## 1963 Zenith



## 1965 Zenith



## 1974 Zenith



## 1989 Zenith



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Your Tiger Pride membership (\$250 or \$100 if you are over 70) will go to the Scholarship Fund and Dues to the General Fund. Other donations will go to the General Fund unless you specify a different fund. Make checks payable to: Chagrin Falls Alumni Association.

Mail to: CFAA, 400 E. Washington St., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022