



# The Firelands Express



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Serving the communities of Amherst, Amherst Twp., Birmingham, Brownhelm Twp., Camden Twp., Florence Twp., Henrietta Twp., Kipton Village, New Russia Twp., South Amherst Village, Vermilion and Vermilion Twp.

## Digital Display Honors Alumni Who Served



During the design process for the new high school, plans were created for a dedicated area in the new building that highlighted our history and alumni. The district felt that it was especially important to reserve space for our alumni who served, or are currently serving, our country.

Over the last 18 months, information was gathered from service members, their families, and classmates for over 300 Falcons. Submissions have been received from 65 of our 68 graduating classes!

All of the information has been compiled into a digital display honoring these men and women. On January 30th, an informal dedication of the display was held to an extremely appreciative crowd. The permanent display is housed in the FHS Alumni Hallway, outside of the competition gymnasium. A key component of this project is that it is also viewable online for those who would like access as well.

In addition to the alumni information, the program also features our students who have chosen to enlist into the military. These students participate in a signing day ceremony at the high school and pictures from the events are included in the military highlight section.

Most importantly, the program features our Falcon Heroes. We have three young men who made the ultimate sacrifice. We are forever grateful for the service of:

*2LT John Pechaitis, FHS Class of 1960*  
*SPC Dale Gronsky, FHS Class of 1967*  
*Ssg James Hunter, FHS Class of 2003*

Outside funding for this project allowed the vision to become a reality. This project was made possible through generous donations from the Firelands Endowment, the staff of Firelands Local Schools, the Amherst Eagles, the VFW Vermilion, and Mrs. Rita German

Thank you to all of the men and women from Firelands who served or are currently serving. We see you and we appreciate you!

Additions, updates and pictures for the program can be emailed to Jennifer at [jbutchko@firelandsschools.org](mailto:jbutchko@firelandsschools.org).

Follow this link for the program:  
<https://fhsveterans.touchpros.com/>

## Kindergarten Registration Begins March 1st

Fall 2024 kindergarten registration begins March 1st for district residents. Children must be 5 years old by August 1st. Families can prepare for this process by having ready the following documents: parent or guardian identification cards; birth certificate of student; up to date immunization records; and two proof of residency documents (see list on website). Other documents that may be needed include any custody papers, special needs or gifted documentation, or residency affidavits.

To begin, please visit [www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org) and click on ENROLL. Registration is completed online through our Final Forms platform. Parents and guardians start by creating their parent account (or logging into their current account) and then adding the student for 2024-2025. A series of forms are included and there is space for documents to be uploaded. The Board Office will be available by phone or appointments can be scheduled if needed.

You may view this issue online at:  
[www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org)

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Digital Display, from page 1



## Firelands Hall of Fame to Induct Six in April

Congratulations to the 6 amazing inductees to the Firelands Hall of Fame reboot since our last inductees entered over 20 years ago.

Dr. Robert L. Baumann DVM  
Howard A. Born Sr.  
SSG James P Hunter  
Daniel E. Makruski  
Robert J. Matus  
Susan Pete

All of the candidate finalists were all exemplary examples of the outstanding people that make up our school and community. Everyone nominated was worthy of induction and we hope to honor them in future ceremonies.

The 2023-2024 Firelands Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place on Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> at German's Villa in Vermilion. Tickets for the event are open to everyone. Please check out the Firelands Hall of Fame Facebook page or email [firelandshalloffame@firelandsschools.org](mailto:firelandshalloffame@firelandsschools.org) for updated ticket information.

### Dr. Robert L. Baumann DVM Firelands Graduate: 1959

Dr. Baumann was a standout wrestler at FHS and went on to wrestle at OSU. Upon Graduating from OSU he enlisted in the US Navy and was sent to Officers Candidate School. He served on a Navy repair ship as a deep-sea diver during the Vietnam War. After returning home he went back to OSU and earned a degree in veterinary medicine. As a veterinarian he has served the Lorain County area for over 50 years and is still practicing about 2 days a week at his daughter's clinic at the age of 82.

Aside from taking care of

many residents' animals, both large and small Dr. Baumann has been an active member of the LaGrange Engine Club, has spoken at many events about his profession including school classes and was advisor for the Veterinary Medicine 4-H club. He has also served as the Veterinary for the Lorain County Fair. He has been very active in the OSU Veterinary Alumni and donated a room at the School of Veterinary Medicine in his wife's name. Dr. Baumann is a lifetime member of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association and has served as its President. He's also on the alumni board of OTS, the international veterinary fraternity. Dr. Baumann served in the US Navy Reserve for many years and was a Lieutenant Commander when he retired.

### Howard A. Born Sr. Henrietta Graduate: 1929

Howard A. Born Sr. was a lifelong resident of Henrietta Township. He was a farmer for over 60 years, specializing in dairy and grain farming. Prior to that, he was an independent trucker for approximately ten years.

He was one of the founders of Henrietta Township Zoning and served many years as the Township Zoning Inspector. He was a member of the Henrietta Farm Bureau, Henrietta United Methodist Church, and the Henrietta Grange. He also served on the Lorain County Farm Bureau Board for over 30 years and held the office of president of the board for several years as well.

A leader in his community, Howard A. Born Sr., served

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# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Scholarship Applications Due March 1st

The Firelands Endowment trustees announced this year's scholarship opportunities. The scholarships, totalling \$24,750.00, are made possible through the generous donations made by individuals to the Endowment to benefit the students of Firelands High School.

A full list of scholarships and application instructions are available on the website or in the FHS Student Services Office. If students/or parents have any questions they can contact the Student Services Office. Scholarship applications must be submitted by March 1st.

*submitted by Ann Buchs*

SCHOLARSHIP	TYPE	NUMBER/VALUE
Milad & Fanny Abraham	General	5 @ \$2,000
Susan Beecheler For Future Teachers	Teaching Career	1 @ \$1,000
Debbie Cook Fine Arts	Fine Arts	1 @ \$1,000
Firelands Community -South Amherst Rotary	General	3 @ \$1,000
Cameron Greene Memorial	General	1 @ \$750
John Hostetler	Medical or Agriculture	1 @ \$1,000
Jim Solomon Memorial	Sports/Science	1 @ \$1,000
John & Ethel Lupe Memorial	General	1 @ \$1,000
Bechtel Family Scholarship (2 <sup>ND</sup> Year college students only)		1 @ \$2,000
The Steve and Courtney Ortner Family FFA Scholarship	Agriculture	1 @ \$1,000
H.A. Born Scholarship	General	1 @ \$1,000
Marilyn Immler Memorial Scholarship (Connection to Old South Amherst School District)	Athletics	1 @ \$1,000
Firelands Schools: 1970 Champions	Athletics	1 @ \$1,000

## High School Theatre Production Set for March 6th



Welcome to Almost, Maine, a place that's so far north, it's almost not in the United States. It's almost in Canada. It's not quite a town because its residents never got around to getting organized, so it almost doesn't exist. One cold, clear, winter night, as the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky

above, the residents of Almost, Maine, find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broke. The bruises heal, and the hearts mend—almost—in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

*from the Firelands Blog*

## Middle School Musical March 26-27



Come one, Come all to the 30th annual Firelands Middle School Musical. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir members will be presenting from the story by Hans Christian Andersen, *The Little Mermaid*. Come and see many familiar characters and even some new ones perform

at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 26 and Wednesday, March 27. Tickets are on sale now during school hours. Reserved seats are \$5.00 each. You may also purchase tickets on the nights of the performances. Come support the arts!!

*submitted by Mrs. Wendy Johnson*