



# The Firelands Express



Volume 13, Issue 111

March 2023

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.

## Falcon Achievements at State, National Levels



There is much Falcon pride going around as we celebrate the many accomplishments of our musicians, artists, athletes and FFA members. Here are just some of the highlights of students who competed or will compete at a state or national level. Many of these students are pictured in the middle photo.

The Firelands Band (pictured bottom left) performed at the OMEA (Ohio Music Education Association) large group adjudicated event on March 11th. The band received an overall rating of superior from the panel of 4 judges. This qualifies the band to perform at the Band State Adjudicated Event that will be held at North Royalton High School on April 28th or 29th. The Firelands Choir is also headed to the OMEA state competition in April after having received a perfect score and superior rating. The Firelands Honors Choir also received a superior rating at OMEA Solo and Ensemble.

Mandy DeWitt, junior, made school history as the first female bowler to qualify for state. At the tournament, she placed in the top quarter. Caley Bombback was also the first gymnastics state qualifier in school history! She earned a 9.0 on her floor exercise at State and then placed 27th overall.

In early March, the Firelands Competitive Cheer Team (pictured at top) placed 6th at state in the Division 4 Non-Building category. See page 2 for more about their success and an event they hosted at FHS.

Aiden Bokulich and Ariannah Floyd qualified for the indoor track state meet. Aiden finished 15th in the 60m hurdles and Ariannah finished 18th in the 60m hurdles and 20th in the long jump.

Kyleigh Klingshirn went to the FFA State Public Speaking Contest on March 4th and placed 6th in the semifinals. She had placed 2nd

*continued on page 2*



## Kindergarten Registration Needed ASAP

Fall 2023 Kindergarten Registration must be completed before students can participate in kindergarten screening on May 17 or register for Safety Town this summer. Registration began March 1st for district residents. The process can be done completely online through our Final Forms portal. This is an online portal where all

*continued on page 2*

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

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
AMHERST, OH  
PERMIT NO. 117  
POSTAL PATRON



## Kindergarten, from page 1

registration forms are completed and documents are uploaded.

First, get documents ready including: parent or guardian identification cards; birth certificate of student; up-to-date immunization list for student; and two (2) proof of residency documents, such as utility bills. Other documents that may be needed include any custody papers, special needs documentation, or residency affidavits for renters.

Second, go to [www.firelandsoh/finalforms.com](http://www.firelandsoh/finalforms.com) and create or log into your parent account. Next, create a new student account for your kindergartner.

Upload documents when prompted and complete each form by typing your name at the bottom and clicking on the submit button. You can find all of these instructions and more on our website at [www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org) and click "Enroll Now." Please call the board office at 440-965-5821 with any questions.

## Achievements, from page 1

in Beginning Prepared Public Speaking at the district contest in February. See page 7 for more.

Kevin Williams became an OHSAA DII Wrestling State Qualifier by finishing 4th at the district tournament. At state Kevin had two tough matches and went 0-2 and was eliminated.

Aiden Bokulich has three sculptures in the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition. See page 3.

Also, Grace Gilles and her team qualified for the national Business Professionals of America competition which will be held in Anaheim, California. See page 5.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of these students as they make us #FalconProud!

## Firelands High School News & Updates

Congratulations to our winter athletes! In addition to those mentioned on page 1, Conner Rogers made 100 wins in wrestling. Isabella Simmons was named Lorain County League's girls basketball Player of the Year. We have a lot to celebrate with Firelands High School Athletics! Congratulations to all our winter athletes on a great season!

We administered the SAT on March 1st for all juniors. The Ohio Department of Education provides the SAT to all juniors, free of charge. We tested 144 students in grade 11, including the Firelands students that attend the JVS full time. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to take this college entrance test for free!

We will again be hosting our annual College and Career Fair on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> during school from 8:00 am to noon. Students will have a chance to meet representatives from colleges and universities, the military, and various organizations. Students can participate in mock interviews

as well as network and make contacts for future employment opportunities. Some of the organizations that will attend are: LCCC, the US Air Force, US Army, US Marines, US Coast Guard, Component Repair, LCJVS, Thogus Products, Kalahari Resorts, BGSU Firelands, Matrix Trade Institute, AJ Rose Manufacturing, Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 42 JATC, Skylift, and more.

We hosted a staff versus students Academic Challenge meet on March 2nd. I am proud to say that the staff won! Although the students were definitely worthy opponents. The team was on Channel 5 on March 18th for competition and won their match against Glen Oak and Western Reserve Academy! Congratulations to the Academic Challenge team!

We are planning a class trip to Washington DC next year for all juniors and seniors (current sophomores and juniors)! These two classes missed their Philadelphia trip in 8<sup>th</sup> grade due to Covid, so we are working to make it up to them. This would

be a three-day trip in the spring of 2024. Meetings were held with students and parents recently to talk about logistics for the trip.

Read more about our art students achievements and the FFA's most recent activities and accomplishments in this issue. We have a lot to be proud of at FHS!

*Submitted by Ms. Cathy Keener  
FHS Principal*

## Competition Cheer Team Hosts Event

The Firelands competition cheerleaders have worked very hard this season. On March 5th, they placed 6th at state in the Division 4 Non-Building category. Well done! While preparing for the state competition, they also hosted the first "Fighting with Fire Cheerleading Competition" on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Organized by FHS coaches Ashley Swift and Amber Bailey, they hosted 7 teams ranging from elementary to high school.

Firelands had representation from Firelands Youth Cheer (Coach Jackie Zeigler), Firelands Middle School (Coach Kacie Szemplak), and FHS (Varsity, Ashley Swift and JV, Amber Bailey). The high school teams competed for placement and Firelands middle school cheer team was able to have their first experience on a competition floor showcasing their Gameday routine.

The FHS team placed a very close second to Edison High School. Coach Swift and Coach Bailey would like to thank all the parent volunteers that helped make the event a great success!

*submitted by Coaches  
Ashley Swift & Kacie Szemplak*

## Coach Donelson Honored



In January, the Ohio Association of Track & Cross-Country Coaches awarded Coach Bob Donelson with the OHSAA 2022 Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award. He began his career at Firelands in 1978 and while demonstrating all the qualities named in this award, has made a positive impact on many students.

The Firelands Board of Education followed up with the "I Made a Difference Award" their February meeting as a way to recognize his many achievements and dedication to the students of Firelands school district.



## Bokulich Breaks Drought in Governor's Exhibition

The Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition, now in its 53rd year, is dedicated to the educational and artistic advancement of our talented young people in the state of Ohio. The exhibition is open to all of Ohio's 1,112 high schools, both public, private that are chartered by the State of Ohio Department of Education. The process of selecting artworks for the state exhibition begins on a regional level. Only 241 works were selected from among the 1461 entered from our region to advance to state judging. FHS sophomore Aiden Bokulich entered the maximum of 5 per student and had three sculptures advance to state competition.

From around 9,000 entries across the 15 regions, only 1,300 advanced to state judging. Two of Aiden's sculptures have



been selected for the final state exhibition. These sculptures are made of "Sculpey" polymer clay; "Your Pal, Smooshy" is a charming giant purple slug (pictured above) and "Veiled Malice" is a haunting bust of a shrouded woman gasping for air (pictured at right). The exhibition opens on Sun. April

23 at the Rhodes Office Tower in downtown Columbus following an awards program at the Riffe Center Capitol Theatre where Aiden will be honored on-stage. The exhibition runs through May 18. Learn more about the competition here. <https://www.govart.org/index.htm>

The Governor's show is the toughest competition art students face. The only 2 other high schools in Lorain County with works that made the state exhibition are Avon and Avon Lake. Firelands has steadily attempted exhibition over the years. Last year Aiden had 2 works pass regional jurying but did not make the state selection. Firelands has waited a long time to return to the Capital. Congratulations Aiden! We have momentum building and look forward to next year.



Submitted by Mrs. Laura Tawil  
FHS Art Teacher

**Read about the UH Scholastic Capsule Exhibition and the Scholastic Art Award Results in the Firelands Blog at [www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org).**

## FHS Students Attend Oberlin Rotary Meeting

On March 10th, students from the Firelands STRIVE program attended the Oberlin Rotary's March meeting. STRIVE is a mentoring program offered by the Rotary Club in conjunction with the FHS advisor, Mr. Matt

Deichler. Each STRIVE club locally awards a scholarship to the student who demonstrates the most improvement during his/her senior year.

One student from each local STRIVE program is then

eligible to compete for two scholarships from District 6600. These scholarships (\$2000 and \$1000 respectively) are awarded based on an interview process that occurs in late spring. During this meeting, our students were

introduced to the Rotarians and were able to see how a rotary club meeting was held.

Also at the meeting were two Firelands FFA students, Emmarose Woods & Jocelyn Bednar (pictured at left). These two FFA students competed in the 4Way Test Speaking contest that was held on-site!

Emmarose earned third place and \$75. Jocelyn was awarded first place, earned \$150 and has a chance to represent at the district contest in April.

Thank you to the Oberlin Rotary Cub for offering these opportunities for our students!

*from the Firelands Blog*



### PARADE NEWS

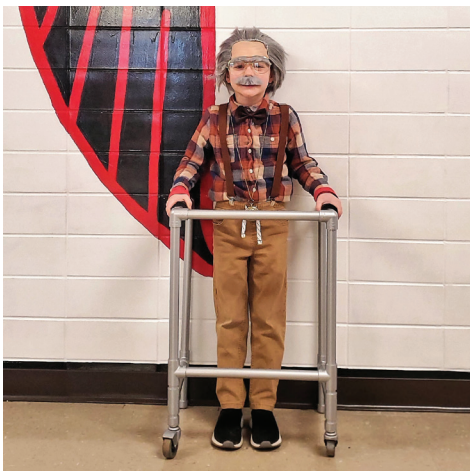
The 2023 Birmingham Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 29th at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Robert and Amy Davis to participate in the parade or to send donations. [Davishome6610@gmail.com](mailto:Davishome6610@gmail.com)



## Firelands Elementary School News & Updates

### 100th Day of Kindergarten

Our kindergarten students were very excited to celebrate the 100th day of kindergarten in February. We can see that they are 100 days smarter. Each classroom participated in different activities to celebrate the day and all that they have accomplished within the school year. A few of those activities included building with 100 Legos, putting together a 100 piece puzzle, building with 100 cups and bringing in a collection of 100 items. There were also kindergartners and teachers that dressed as if they were 100 years old. FES is so proud of how much our young Falcons have grown!



### Food Drive

A huge thanks to the Firelands community for generously donating so much food to the district drive. Firelands Elementary Falcon Leaders helped count, organize, and load the items for delivery to families in need.

### CAL Program for FES

Teaching artists are visiting classrooms at FES this spring! The programming, which is provided by The Center for Arts-Inspired Learning, is paid for by a generous grant from the Firelands Endowment, along with a Lorain County Nordson Foundation Grant. Each grade level had the opportunity to choose the program that was the best fit for their students, goals, and standards.

Kindergartners used their bodies and minds in creative movement during the program "Meditation and Movement." "Sign Stage: Gesture



Communication," an artist and program combination that has been a tradition for first graders at FES, is a program in which students will use body language and facial expressions, with improvisation techniques, to communicate thoughts and feelings.

Second graders will also experience a Sign Stage program, "Signing Dr. Seuss," using American Sign Language to communicate stories. In third grade, math standards will be supported through a program called "Folding Fractions: The Origami Sailboat."

In fourth grade, social studies learning standards will be supported through "Runaway Slaves: Escape to Canada." Fifth grade students will deepen their understanding of figurative language through poetry with a visiting artist from Lake Erie Ink. We are grateful for the funding we received to provide this programming and these unique experiences for our students!



### FES Parent Teacher Group

Firelands Elementary is very lucky to have an active PTG. Parents of FES students are encouraged to become involved with this group. They meet monthly and find ways to further enrich the FES environment for all of our students. They are actively planning events for the students. Feel free to reach out to them to see how you can assist. You can find them on Facebook (Firelands Elementary School PTG). Their scheduled meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 in the FES Library.

*continued next page*





## Grace Gilles to Compete at National BPA Event



Grace Gilles, a senior in the Web and Graphic Design program at LCJVS, has qualified for the National Business Professionals of America competition. The competition will be held in Anaheim, California, in April.

Grace and fellow teammates were recognized for their high-ranking performance as a top ten finalist in Virtual Branding Team Pilot. During the upcoming competition, they will be able to compete for Best-in-Show awards, engage with industry professionals, be recognized on stage during awards session, earn industry certifications and participate in the Leadership Passport program.

Best of luck to Grace and her teammates!

### Elementary, continued

#### Dates to Remember

- April 5.....PTG Meeting
- April 6.....PTG Fundraiser Pick-up  
Nothing Bundt Cake, 4 to 6 pm
- April 7-14.....Spring Break
- April 17.....BOE Meeting
- April 28.....PTG Dance (Girls)
- April 29.....PTG Dance (Boys)

*submitted by Mrs. Laura Groboske  
FES Assistant Principal*

## LCJVS: Vayda Wiles Gets Jump Start in Career

Most sophomore students attending Lorain County JVS shadow different career tech labs each quarter to be able to make an informed decision when applying for one of the two-year career-technical programs.

Vayda Wiles took a different path. She applied to take part in the LCJVS sophomore Pilot Program which allowed her to enter a junior-level program as a sophomore.

“Vayda is one of those students you count yourself lucky to have in class,” said Mason Bremke, Lorain County JVS Industrial Equipment Mechanics instructor and FFA advisor. “Already as a sophomore, she is proving to be a leader in the classroom and out.”

When thinking about her sophomore year, Wiles knew she wanted to be an agricultural teacher and also wanted to be part of an FFA Chapter. “I want to teach and be a part of FFA when I grow up, so that was my driving force to apply to be in the Industrial Equipment Mechanics



program. I also thought that having a job as a mechanic would be suited for me, so I knew this program would be a good fit.”

Wiles will complete the Industrial Equipment Mechanics program next year as a junior, and she is excited about what opportunities she will have in her senior year. “I’ve talked with Mr. Bremke and I might

do a capstone project for my senior year. I’ve also thought about taking the LCJVS Teacher Education Exploration program since I want to be a teacher. I like having the choice to do what I think will be best for my future.”

But being a part of the LCJVS FFA Chapter means the most to Wiles right now. “I was just voted in as the FFA Vice President for next school year, and so I will get a lot more experience and I just really like being helpful and helping out our chapter.”

The experience of being in a group and the leadership that she is learning from being a part of FFA is leaving a mark on Wiles. “Since I want to be an FFA teacher (advisor), I want as much FFA experience as I can get, and I’m getting that here at LCJVS.”

Lorain County JVS is now accepting applications for the 2023/2024 school year. Learn more and apply today at [www.lcjvs.com](http://www.lcjvs.com).

*submitted by Cheryl Fridenstine  
PR/Marketing Coordinator  
Lorain County JVS*

Attention  
Students  
& Parents

SPEAK UP

SAVE LIVES

By calling or texting the statewide hotline -844-SAFEROH- you can report anything that is suspicious or endangering you, your friends or your school.



# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Firelands Middle School News & Updates

Our staff and students have been very busy at FMS. Our track teams are gearing up for their season.

Our teachers have been working on Project Based Learning. The students in Mr. Nerlich's class had an entire project based on selling lemonade. They learned about unit rate, cost of purchasing items, and surveyed the staff to see what the staff was willing to pay for per glass. They also followed through on taking orders, making and delivering the lemonade. The students earned \$60.00 in profits and are going to donate this to the PBIS store for our student's prize box. What an amazing project! Way to go Mr. Nerlich and class!

Our Big Brothers and Big Sisters program has been moving along very nicely and we are so impressed with our students "biggs". The older students have gone above and beyond to make sure that their "littles" are doing well. This has



been such a positive experience for all involved.

We had a great turnout at the Falcon Showcase! So many of our staff and students were able to show off the great things going on here at FMS. Some of the items showcased were from our Reading club, the 3-D club, Robotics, Chess club and so much more!! I am so proud of all the amazing opportunities our students have!

In conjunction with our PTG, we are wrapping up the big

fundraiser! Thank you to all who have supported our students in this venture. This will all lead up to our Day of Awesomeness in May.

We held a Glow Dance themed dance on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Students were given glow sticks and other glowing items. Black lights worked to make such great effects at our dance. Thanks again to the PTG!

We also have a Family Bingo Night coming up on April 1. Please watch for more

information coming out for sign-ups!!

Our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) has continued to recognize students each week for being caught doing positive actions. We also had our monthly Fabulous Falcon pizza with the principal. It is so nice to see students recognized for doing all the right things. We love spending time with our students and being able to get to know them.

*Submitted by Mrs. Cara Hutchinson  
FMS Principal*



## NOW SHOWING: ALLADIN! TICKETS AT THE DOOR

The 7th and 8th Grade Spring Musical, Aladdin, will be presented on Tuesday, March 28 and Wednesday, March 29 at 7:00 PM. You can purchase tickets at the door the evenings of the performances. The musical will be presented on the new high school stage. Park in the back of the building and enter at the student parking lot entrance. Contact Mrs. Johnson for more information at [wjohnson@firelandsschools.org](mailto:wjohnson@firelandsschools.org) or call the main office at (440) 965-4255.

We are looking for alumni news to share with the community! If you or someone you know has news that you wish to share, email it to [sschaefer@firelandsschools.org](mailto:sschaefer@firelandsschools.org).



## FFA Hosts National Conference, Competes in CDEs

### National Conference

The Firelands FFA was contacted by the National FFA to gauge interest in hosting a conference that would normally be held in Columbus. It was decided that Firelands would host a 1-day leadership conference at the new high school on February 27th for 13 different schools! Mrs. Finnegan, FHS Agricultural Educator/FFA Advisor said, "By allowing Firelands FFA to host this conference we are able to extend a National Conference to northern Ohio FFA Chapters across the state, an opportunity that has been limited to Columbus for years. Our students have been working alongside the National FFA staff to plan logistics, program formatting, and advertisement for the conferences."

National FFA staff members arrived at Firelands from California, Washington, Wisconsin and Indiana to provide two different programs, "Connect Conference" (grades 7-10) and "I Am Conference" (grades 11-12). This FFA Member Leadership Series will empower students with new knowledge and skills that they need to be confident and capable leaders – both in their chapters and beyond.

7th to 10th grade students experienced the "Connect Conference" where students



were introduced to the conference theme and evaluated their role in connecting. They analyzed the importance of connecting, discovered tools and processes to cultivate healthy connections, and categorized the connections in their life. Finally, they examined the relationship between trust and influence and reviewed the content. Students motivated to create change.

11th to 12th grade students experienced the "I Am Conference" where students were introduced to the conference theme and summarized their self-concept. They used identity-based goal setting principles to determine who they want to become and used the habit loop to provide actionable steps to accomplishing their goals. Students used their identity-based goals to prioritize their time and evaluated balance in their lives. Finally, they provided feedback and reflection on their

experience at the conference.

Mrs. McCarty, FMS Ag Education teacher, said, "We were very excited to host this national conference at Firelands High School. We have connected with schools across Ohio, from as far as Adams and Fairview counties, and all these students will now have a great opportunity to learn and grow as leaders."

### Career Development Events

Congratulations to the FFA members that competed in recent CDEs! The Ag Diagnostics team of Joel Polen & Matthew Schnell competed at the district contest at Buckeye Central and earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place, narrowly missing a chance at the state contest.

Firelands hosted 21 schools for the sub-district speaking contest on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Three Firelands FFA members qualified for the district contest which was held February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Congratulations to Jocelyn

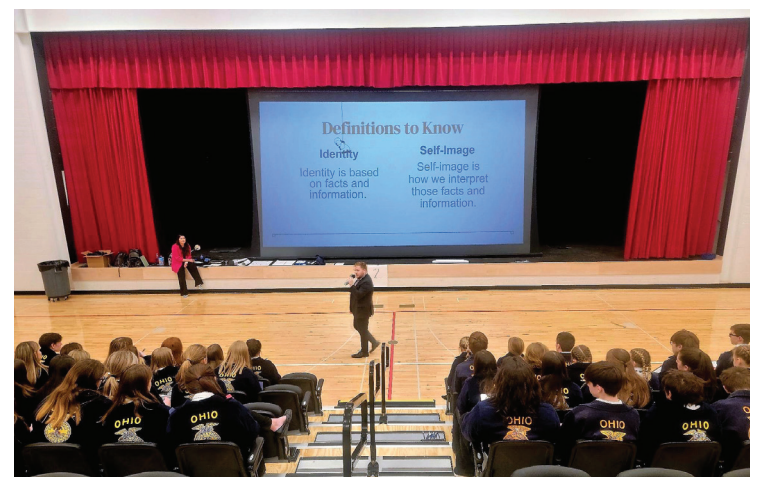
Bednar for earning 4<sup>th</sup> place for Advanced Prepared Speaking, Amy Gerber for finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in Extemporaneous, and Kyleigh Klingshirn for taking 2<sup>nd</sup> in Beginning Prepared. Kyleigh represented Firelands at the State Contest on March 4<sup>th</sup> and was 6<sup>th</sup> in her semi-finals room.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, eight freshmen FFA members took the State Greenhand Test. The team dominated the state, earning 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 174 schools. The team was 1<sup>st</sup> in the district. Jeanette Crawford was 6<sup>th</sup> individually out of 3643 students that tested. Jordyn Simpson earned 3<sup>rd</sup> in district and Trevor Wiley was 4<sup>th</sup>.

Also on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 15 FFA members competed in the Ohio Farm & Agribusiness Management Career Development State Contest. This is the first time Firelands has ever competed in this CDE. The team earned 6<sup>th</sup> in Ohio out of 105 schools and narrowly missed earning a state banner. The team earned 1<sup>st</sup> in the district. Garrett Schlechter was 1<sup>st</sup> individually in the district and Grace Tansey was 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Congrats to the teams & individuals that have earned state and district awards! Good luck to all members as we move into spring animal CDEs & mechanics CDEs.

*submitted by Mrs. Shanna Finnegan  
Agricultural Educator & FFA Advisor*





# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

## Advanced Robotics Class & Castle Crasher Competition

The Advanced Automation & Robotics class at Firelands High school recently completed the Castle Crasher competition. This project-based learning activity involved using VEX robotics equipment to build and program an autonomous robot to clear up to 10 buckyballs from an elevated 4' by 4' field in the least amount of time. Distance sensors that send out pulses of laser light were used to identify where the objects were located. Optical sensors that

measure ambient light, color, and proximity were used to determine the edge of the field to keep the robot from driving off the platform. Students documented their iterations and results in their engineering notebooks. Skills from this activity were connected with careers such as robotics engineering in relation to the automotive industry and manipulating rovers on Mars.

Submitted by Mr. Chuck Latto  
PLTW Instructor  
7th Grade Science/HS Robotics



PLTW stands for Project Lead the Way, a non-profit organization that develops STEM curriculum for use by elementary, middle and high schools. They provide transformative learning experiences, hands-on STEM courses for students and engaging professional development for teachers.



## FRIENDS OF FIRELANDS

2023

5th annual

Friends of Firelands

# GOLF OUTING

4 Man Scramble  
18 holes ~ Includes cart,  
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner plus Beverages

50-50 Raffle,  
Baskets, Prizes, and Course Challenges  
Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Carlisle Golf Course \* 39709 Slife Rd \* Grafton, OH

CHECK IN  
7:30AM

SHOTGUN START  
8:30AM

July 30, 2023  
SUNDAY

\$85/GOLFER  
21 and over

REGISTRATION : Mike O'Keefe @ okeefe24@icloud.com  
or 440-670-6469

## Fine Arts Festival Transformed into Art Night Firelands

The Fine Arts Festival began in 1996 as the only total K-12 event in the district featuring the music and visual art students. It was held on a Saturday afternoon in the spring with a district-wide art display and continual vocal and instrumental performances from all levels at the old high school. The festival expanded and moved to the South Amherst campus to include drama and dance acts, face-painting, make-it-take-it art, and refreshment and craft vendors. As the district has grown, so have the fine arts programs - now busier than ever all through the year - thanks to the talent, motivation and support of the Firelands school community.

Still needing a way to exhibit and applaud our incredible art students, the *festival* has been re-imagined as "Art Night Firelands" April 26. This intense K-12 event will feature art from

all 3 schools, in just 2 hours, on this 1 night. The new high school cafeteria gives us a brilliant light-filled space to display hundreds of works on brand new art panels.

There will be an awards presentation for all participants in the brand-new Auxiliary Gym Stage. There are also new special awards for works in the show. With thousands of our alumni having participated in Fine Arts Festivals of the past there will also be a new digital "Alumni Gallery" looping on the monitors in the exhibition. (see separate "Call-for-Art" posting) This year Firelands Elementary School welcomes Mrs. Casey Fleet as the inspiring new art teacher. This is a whole *new* show.

Let's make this first Art Night really sparkle!

Contact Mrs. Laura Tawil, Coordinator at [ltawil@firelandsschools.org](mailto:ltawil@firelandsschools.org)



## Food Service Information

Please reach out to Judy Baumann, Food Service Director, if you are struggling to pay for school meals. She can help you through the meal application process and offer other help as well. Email [jbaumann@firelandsschools.org](mailto:jbaumann@firelandsschools.org) or call (440) 965-4255 ext. 3097.

Meal applications can be completed anytime throughout the school year. If your income has been reduced by loss of job or any unforeseen circumstance, complete a meal application. You can complete it online at [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com) or you can request a paper application.

PaySchools Central can help you keep track of items your child is purchasing using their meal account. If you have not done so, register at [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com). This site also allows you to put money on your child's account. You can complete a meal application as well as view reports of account activity. If you use the auto replenish for the online payments, check the date you entered to be sure it doesn't

automatically add money at the end of the school year if the account falls below the limit you set to replenish.

If you feel your child is spending too much money, please have a conversation with them. Our cashiers may question what is being purchased but it is not their responsibility to stop a student from making purchases. Contact Judy Baumann if you would like to discuss your child's account.

The end of the year is fast approaching. If your child has money left on their account, it will roll over to the next school year. Any Senior that has money left on the account may request a refund or if they have a sibling the money will be moved to the sibling's account. If we do not hear from the parent or guardian, the money will be added to our emergency account to help other students in need.

*Submitted by Mrs. Judy Baumann  
Food Service Director*

## Alumni Spotlight: Otto Borsich Book Signing on April 30th



Renowned chef Otto Borsich II will be at the Brownhelm Heritage Museum on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a book signing. The biography/cookbook "A Chef is Born" was published in 2019 and is

available for purchase through Amazon.

Otto grew up in Brownhelm, graduated in 1978 from Firelands and tells a great story about his life! "This town and its residents still have an immeasurable impact on who I am today. Returning home for the book signing provides an opportunity to reconnect with my roots while giving back to the community that has given me so much. I am excited to share stories and hopefully educate, entertain, and empower others to persevere, to pursue their dreams," says Chef Otto.

You can read more about Chef Otto at [chefotto.net](http://chefotto.net). The Brownhelm Heritage Museum is at 1355 Claus Rd. in Vermilion. Light refreshments will be served.

## Call for Art: Alumni Exhibition

The Firelands Fine Arts Festival has been reimaged as "Art Night Firelands." The K-12 exhibition will be mounted in the new FHS cafeteria. There are 2 beautiful new display monitors at either end of the cafeteria which will play a looping slideshow of artwork from YOU, our alumni, in our inaugural Firelands Alumni Exhibition.

You may submit up to 3 high quality photos of visual works of art that you have originated and made since graduating from FHS. Works must be original to you. Share work that demonstrates how you've expanded on your art education at Firelands, how art plays a part of your adult life or your works that may inspire young Falcons to excel.

Two-dimensional works including digital photography and still digital graphics as well

as views of 3-dimensional works can be submitted. Although you may enter up to 3 works, not all entries may be accommodated. Animation, film, video and any digital-motion graphics cannot be accommodated at this time. This is a family event so please exercise judgment with what you submit for consideration.

Use this form to submit your works. <https://forms.gle/3zPNNQh46cqd3uPN8> Submission for entries closes April 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

The digital exhibition/slideshow will be opened Wed. April 26 from 6-8 pm at "Art Night". The compilation slideshow will be shared with all entrants. Please share this form with your Firelands alumni social network. Contact Laura (Ursem) Tawil for more information [ltawil@firelandsschools.org](mailto:ltawil@firelandsschools.org)

3 schools - 2 hours - 1 night

# ART NIGHT FIRELANDS

Wed. April 26  
6 - 8 pm  
Firelands High School

K-12 & Alumni Exhibitions  
Awards  
Entertainment  
Refreshments



## Board of Education February Meeting Highlights

The Firelands Board of Education met on Monday February 13th. Coach and retired teacher, Mr. Bob Donelson receive the “I Made a Difference Award.” Mr. Donelson has been with the district for 45 years and was recently recognized by his peers (see article on page 2.) He was thanked for his dedication and commitment, care and respect for kids, and especially for his belief in the potential of all students.

Mrs. Cara Hutchinson, FMS principal, spotlighted two PBL (project based learning) projects. Mr. Cliff Sewald and 7<sup>th</sup> grade science students shared their “create a cooler project” and Mrs. Shelby McCarty spotlighted the middle school FFA program.

During the Treasurer’s report, Mrs. Keri Agney shared that Firelands will be receiving \$140,000 in grant monies; \$50,000 in connectivity monies which will go towards 200 Chromebooks and licenses, and \$90,000 in K-12 Safety Grants. A full treasurer’s report can be located at <https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/fls/Board.nsf/Public>.

During the administration portion of the meeting, the special education director, Mrs. Cristin Cicco, shared that she presented at the Kinship program and provided answers to families with questions regarding intervention.

The district leadership went to extensive training for “value-added learning” and within the next month the training will be provided to all other stakeholders. Value-added analysis helps measure the impact schools and teachers have on student academic progress. The buildings were preparing for conferences and were collecting data from the latest benchmark testing to provide to the parents.

It was shared that the Firelands staff raised \$1300

for a local family who suffered devastating loss through a house fire. In addition, our students have been involved in numerous service projects since the first of the year.

Firelands High School, through Lorain County Public Health and our student resource officer, Mr. Adam Trifiletti, were able to bring the “Think Fast” program to the students, and it was well received.

Lastly, the food service coordinator, Mrs. Judy Baumann, is working with the broadcasting class to find ways to collect data so that they can better serve the students in the cafeteria.

During the board member reports it was shared that September 21<sup>st</sup> will be our annual fundraiser for the Endowment. The board was very pleased with all the service our students are providing our community, and the administration was thanked for providing our students with so many options to keep them involved and busy.

In superintendent’s reports, there was an in-depth discussion of the proposed draft of the Hall of Fame Charter and Nomination Form.

A full list of recommendations from the meeting can be located on the website, but a few highlights are that after several years the FHS students will be given the opportunity to travel to Washington DC again, the FHS course catalog was approved for 2023-2024, and we are pleased to have bus mechanic Mr. Ernie Coultrip join our staff.

The last item on the agenda was approving a 3-year contract with the teacher’s association which will expire in June 2026. Negotiations will begin with the members of the OAPSE association end of February, early March.

*Submitted by Mrs. Ellen Gundersen  
FLSD Board Member*



LORAIN COUNTY  
**JVS** lcjvs.com

Apply now  
for the 2023/24  
school year!

LORAIN COUNTY  
**JVS**  
INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT  
MECHANICS

Firelands  
Class of 2025  
LCJVS Industrial  
Equipment Mechanics

*Vayda Wiles*



# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS

The Open Doors Academy kids at FMS had surprise visitors when Mrs. April Harker brought in her baby goats for the students to spend some time with.



## FIRELANDS BAND BOOSTERS INVITE YOU TO AN ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST TO BENEFIT THE MIGHTY FALCONS MARCHING BAND

Sunday, April 2, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
at Firelands High School  
10521 Vermilion Road, Oberlin 44074

\*\* Donations Accepted \*\* Craft Show \*\*  
\*\* 50/50 Drawing \*\*  
\*\* The final drawing for Calendar raffle will be pulled during this event. \*\*



**Common Ground**  
The Cindy Nord Center for Renewal

TEAM BUILDING FOR  
YOUTH AND ADULTS

SEL SCHOOL  
PROGRAMS

ZIPLINE CANOPY  
TOUR

SUMMER CAMPS

AND MORE

COMMONGROUNDCENTER.ORG

440-965-5551

## CALL C & T's RENTAL

440-985-9334 Dennis Stock or 440-670-4096 Mike

**Chairs, Tables & Tents for Every Occasion!**  
**Lowest Prices Guaranteed!**

Chairs - 50 cents per chair  
Tables - \$5 each  
Tents - 20 x 20 = \$75  
20 x 30 = \$100  
20 x 40 = \$125

Tent Set Up Available \$40  
**\$150 Package Includes**  
**one 20 x 20 Tent, 64**  
**Chairs, 8 Tables and**  
**2 sides for Tent**



**HOUSE TO HOME**  
REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS, LLC.



**Amanda Dunn, Realtor**

Cell Phone 440-315-3886

dunnsold86@gmail.com  
www.H2Hrealtors.com

WANTED: ORGANIST/PIANIST/ACCOMPANIST

Part-time, Paid Position for the  
Henrietta United Methodist Church.

Please contact Parish Relations Co-Chairs:  
Ron Baumann at 440.653.7189, or  
Sara Schlechter at 440.213.7268



**LANDSCAPE  
& POWER**  
6001 Baumhart Rd, Lorain 44053  
440.989.9258  
nortshorepower86@gmail.com

northshorepowerandlandscape.com

**Full Service**  
Power Equipment  
Repair & Maintenance

**Power Equipment Sales**

Hustler Turf  
Husqvarna  
Bulk Supplies

Topsoil, Mulch & Stone

## EDWARDS TREE SERVICE & LANDCLEARING

Over 57 Years Experience and Modern Equipment  
Will Save You Money

Professional Pruning	<b>FREE ESTIMATES</b> 988-4477 or 1-800-686-4430	Senior discounts
Tree & Stump Removal		Workers comp
127' Crane		Bonded & Insured
75' & 89' aerial lifts		24-hr Emergency Service

**3 Generations of Firelands Graduates**



## IRS Help, LLC



Sarah Wacker, President  
330.865.7400

www.fixtaxproblemsnow.com

**HELPING INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES SETTLE  
THEIR IRS TAX DEBT SINCE 2010!**



# THE FIRELANDS EXPRESS



**Dewey Pelton**  
Septic Tank Cleaning  
Pumping & Installation  
440-965-8919  
Go Falcons!



**WATSON WELLNESS, INC.**  
Jeremy W. Watson, D.C.  
Brenden Hales, D.C.  
Chiropractic Physicians




162 Park Avenue, Amherst OH 44001  
440.452.7420  
www.watsonwellness.net  
watsonchiro@hotmail.com  
on Facebook: /WatsonWellnessInc

**CEDARSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**  
12220 Gore-Orphanage Rd.  
Wakeman, Ohio  
Phone: 440/965-4660  
Jane Bradford-Battig, D.V.M.  
Leonard R. Battig, D.V.M.



**The Comfort Zone**  
Salon & Spa  
440-986-2520

**Henrietta United Methodist Church**  
[www.henriettaumc.org](http://www.henriettaumc.org)  
"Pray for Our Children & Our Nation"  
52148 S. R. 113 (Telegraph Rd.)  
440-965-2400,  
Worship Services:  
9 a.m./11 a.m., Sunday School: 10 a.m.



**Keets Herefords**  
Registered Hereford Cattle  
All Natural Freezer Beef

**Brian (419) 651-0978**  
**Lisa (440) 320-6193**  
[ohioherefordlady@yahoo.com](mailto:ohioherefordlady@yahoo.com)

**DEICHLER'S... NOW THAT'S A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!**  
Full Service Auto Repair and Maintenance  
**Deichler's**  
Tire & Service Center  
South Amherst 440-966-9701 [deichlersofamherst.com](http://deichlersofamherst.com)  
48487 TELEGRAPH ROAD IN SOUTH AMHERST

**FATHER AND SON**  
**SEPTIC SERVICES**  
\*\*INSTALLATION EXPERTS\*\*  
**Septic & Aeration Systems**  
Cleaned, Installed & Repaired  
Call (440) 965-5800



**Cedar Point Beach House \$1,250,000**  
Life is good when you buy a Lake Erie house.  
Bay area and Lake Erie views.  
Gary Dodson 440-320-6464  
Natalie Iafolla 440-308-7336





**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING  
20 South Main Street  
Oberlin, OH 44074-1627  
440-775-4357

Fax 888-204-0358  
Toll-Free 800-755-4944  
[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)  
steve.schmittle@edwardjones.com  
max.schmittle@edwardjones.com



**Max Schmittle**  
Financial Advisor



**Peggy Karolak Ins Agcy Inc**  
Peggy Karolak, Agent  
805 Patriot Drive, Suite C  
Wellington, OH 44090-1302  
Bus 440-647-4600 Fax 440-647-3777  
[peggy@peggykarolak.com](mailto:peggy@peggykarolak.com)



*The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.*

**Confused about your Medicare options?**

HMO? Part D? Medicaid? Medicare?  
PPO? Medicare Supplement? Medicare Advantage?

**Representing all major carriers**

The Firelands Express is published 9 times each school year by the Board of Education of the Firelands Local School District. We are located at 112 North Lake Street in South Amherst, Ohio 44001.  
Main Office: 440-965-5821.  
Treasurer's Office: 440-965-5701.



**The Swanzer Agency Realtors**







Billy Swanzer 440-258-8209  
Josh Hammond 440-506-1036  
Stacy Jacobs 440-476-4366  
Cory Swanzer 440-574-0297  
Bill Swanzer 440-258-4104

\*\*\*\*\*Your Firelands Falcon Real Estate Connection\*\*\*\*\*  
Are You Buying or Selling Homes or Land in Firelands?  
Use a Falcon to Sell or Buy! We know and Love the Area! We Grew Up Here!

Who better to help you sell your home than someone from your own community?



**Sonsee Schramm**  
Sales Associate  
Office: (440) 282-8002  
Cell: (440) 897-3014  
Facebook: SonseeSchrammRealtor  
[sonseeschramm@howardhanna.com](mailto:sonseeschramm@howardhanna.com)  
1711 Cooper Foster Park Rd.  
Amherst, OH 44001



Making Memories One Home At A Time

Next Board of Education meetings:

April 17  
May 15  
June 12  
July 10  
August 14

Ad space available on page 11! Email [sschaefer@firelandsschools.org](mailto:sschaefer@firelandsschools.org)