

Greenwood Marching Woodmen and Irish Guard

Alumni Newsletter
The Tradition Marches On



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From Chaos to CASH!

Hello Alumni!

I thought you might get a kick out of seeing the tornado like organization that the garage has to go through before it is ready for our garage sale! It's one of those things that has to look worse before it can look better. So many of you have donated items to our garage sale and I am so very grateful. We are on track to be able to make our largest donation ever to the band at the end of the summer. Last year we raised \$7,000 in our series of sales. As of April 12, we have raised \$5300 and there is a lot of time left to go. Please feel free to contact me if you have things to donate as I will gladly pick them up.



Last fall John Price, Class of 1975, stopped by our sale and bought a few items to take back to his home in Florida. John was my mellophone and french horn mentor in high school. He tells the story that we met each other at the Greenwood City Pool when I was three and he was five. We have been lifelong friends and it always makes me happy to see him. If you ever get a chance to stop by one of the sales, I would love to see you. Reminiscing is good for the soul.



Gayla Gunn
Class of 1977



THANK YOU, Alumni, for maintaining ties with the GMWIG program with your continuing generosity and encouragement. You are so important to the program and to our kids. The past fall we continued the "Alumni and Friends Philanthropy" fundraiser on the website where you can still easily donate via the link:

<https://ghsband.org/alumni-and-friends-philanthropy/>

This year, a grand total of \$10,913 was raised! That amount includes \$7,000 from the garage sales. Every contribution counts and we greatly appreciate each one of you! As always, we will use the funds to provide our students the best opportunity for success. A necessary efficiency has always been a hallmark of the program, but the activity today requires more of a financial commitment from each participating program. Every dollar we raise is a dollar that is NOT charged to a student for their fees.

I remember marching in the Greenwood Marching Invitational in the 1985 and 1986 seasons (Shh! Don't tell anyone I was marching for Center Grove!). The Marching Invitational and Greenwood Winter Guard Invitational are cornerstones of our fundraising and our place in the community, both are so very important. I invite you to join us this coming year at these events, as a volunteer or as a spectator, or both! The Marching Invitational is set for September 20, 2025.

We had a great competition season this past fall, placing 2nd in Class B for the second year in a row. We don't show up anywhere to come in second place, but at the same time, you must appreciate the excellence in the fierce competition, and then you can appreciate that Greenwood is the one school the is ALWAYS there to win. We play in that rare air **every time** and I'm confident that we will be state champions again, soon! They certainly performed like champions this year and we are **incredibly proud** of this years Marching Woodmen and Irish Guard.

If you missed that masterpiece, check it out here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAjyDSjF09s>

We are now well into our Winter Guard and Winter Percussion seasons. All ensembles are performing to their potential and to expectations.

Our success is also your success and we hope to do you proud! Go Woodmen!! THANK YOU for giving us these wonderful footprints to walk in!

Andrew Short, GBPO President



Hello Greenwood Marching Woodmen Alumni and Fans!

Thank you for taking the time to read our alumni newsletter. We certainly appreciate Gayla Gunn's support and willingness to create and maintain the newsletter. We hope you enjoy hearing about the current version of the Greenwood Marching Woodmen!

It has been a busy winter in the band department. We have been working on two winter guard shows, the indoor percussion ensemble show, solo & ensemble, pep band, jazz band, and concert band. We also hosted the IHSCGA Greenwood Winter Guard Invitational, with almost sixty guards in attendance.

The winter guards have had a very productive winter season. Recently, the Varsity Open guard placed second at the Zionsville IHSCGA contest. The JV guard placed 7th in Regional A Round 1. State finals for each of these groups will take place at the end of the month.

The indoor percussion ensemble won the WGI PSA Prelims round at the WGI Indy Regional at Franklin Central HS and 1st place at the IPA Franklin Community contest. The group was promoted to Open Class for only the second time in school history and placed 4th in Open Class WGI Finals at the Regional.

There was a Community Performance featuring both winter guard and the indoor percussion ensemble on Friday, March 21st.

Any time you can set new records at a storied program like Greenwood, you're doing something right. We had a record number of students participate in the Greenwood Solo & Ensemble event in February. We also had an outstanding showing at the ISSMA District Solo & Ensemble Festival at Bloomington North HS. 2025 saw a Greenwood record for students qualifying for ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble.

ISSMA District Solo & Ensemble Results:

- 50 Gold Ratings
- 6 Silver Ratings

37 events qualified for ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble

ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble Results:

- 31 Gold Ratings
- 5 Silver Ratings
- 13 Gold Ratings were awarded "With Distinction"

The jazz band performed at the ISSMA Jazz Festival on March 7th and received a Gold Rating! The pep band performed and cheered at several basketball games this year. They sounded great!

On April 10th, the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band had an ISSMA Preview concert in the high school auditorium. The two bands performed at Franklin Community Middle School at the ISSMA Large Organization Festival on April 11th.

Symphonic Band Repertoire:

- Allegro Barbaro by Béla Bartók
- Nostalgia by Rossano Galante
- March-Chagu-Chagu by Satoshi Yagisawa

Wind Ensemble Repertoire:

- The Big Cage by Karl L. King
- Hennepin County Dawn by Samuel Hazo
- Rev by Randall Standridge

Thank you for all of your support and interest! If you would like to make a donation to keep the Marching Woodmen strong, please visit our website at <https://ghsband.org/>.

Luke Aylsworth
Director of Bands
Greenwood Community High School

Alumni Spotlight: Bob & Ellie Mitchell

The Greenwood Band program has had many fans over the years, but none like Bob & Eleanor (Ellie) Mitchell!

Bob played trumpet in the Danville, IN band growing up – playing in a dance band starting in 7th grade. He loved the Big Band music of the 1940's. Ellie took some piano lessons as a child. She also taught 5th grade at Northeast Elem. & 3rd grade at Our Lady of the Greenwood. Bob's son played trumpet at Lawrence Central. Their daughters Jan(elle) & Wendy Bartley played flute & trumpet in Greenwood's band, starting in Middle School with Mr. Dan Rice.

Bob & Ellie attended every performance, but especially enjoyed marching band. They put a sign in their yard every marching season promoting the Marching Woodmen.

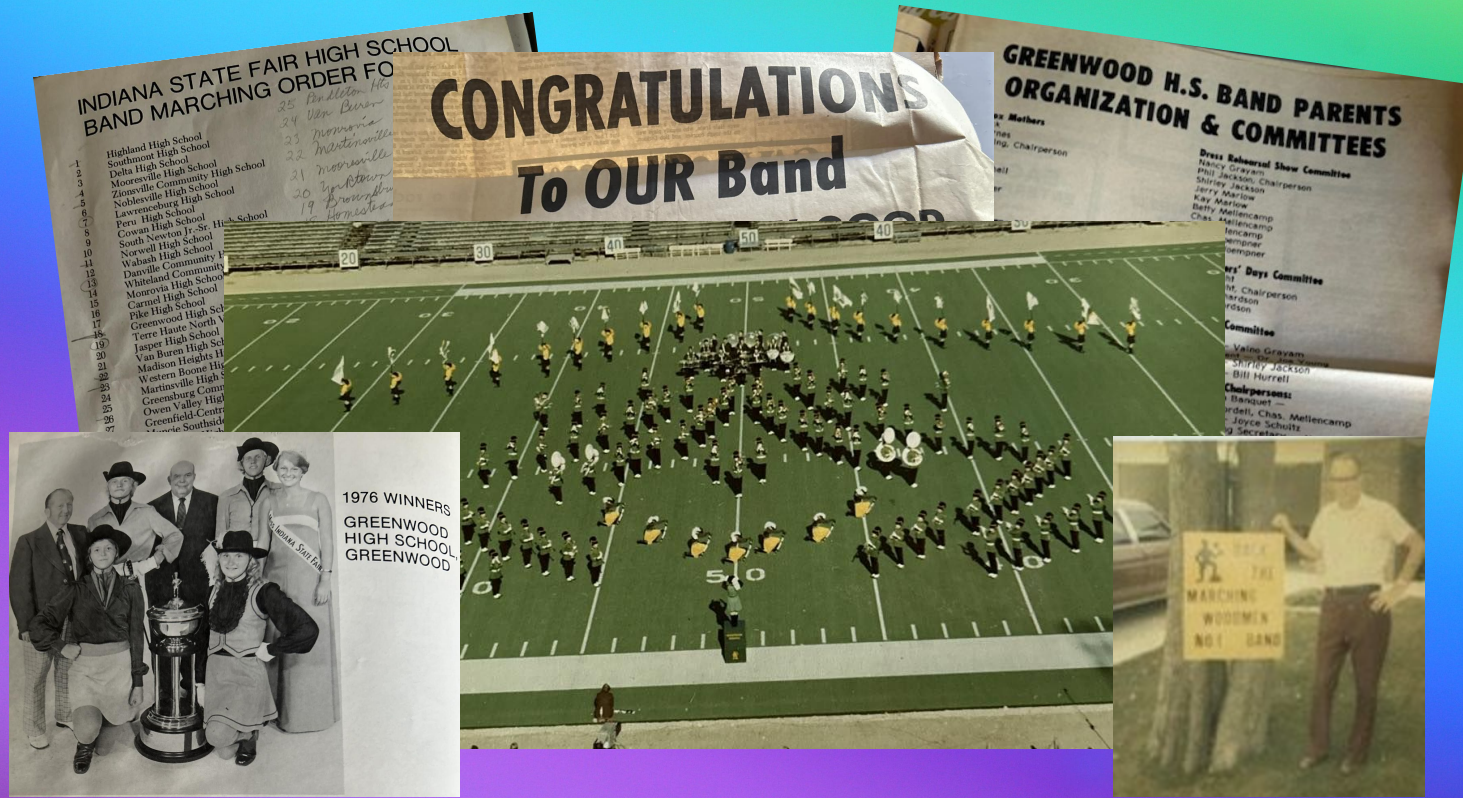
Janelle and Wendy were in High School band at the beginning of the 1970's as the band really started to be a state contender - under the direction of Mr. David Van Veld, Mr. Herman Knoll, and Mr. Tom Leslie. Bob & Ellie were there at every football game, state fair contest, and ISSMA field shows, as well as concerts. You could always see them cheering on the band in their green jackets & big buttons, waving their streamers.

Ellie served as a box Mom for several years. Bob could always pick the top 3 bands, and wasn't shy about pointing out any blunders from any band. For many years, they were invited to sit at the head table at the Marching Band Awards Banquet, and always looked forward to the honor.

Sadly, we lost Bob in June, 2015. But Ellie (age 91) continues to follow the band as often as possible. Bob & Ellie never missed State Finals, thanks to their daughters Janelle & Wendy, son in law Bill Cole (also a retired band director), and Greenwood Band alum, John Price. Ellie will be attending her 51st Indiana State Marching Band finals in November this year!!!! She always watches all 42 bands that day! But she has a special place in her heart for Greenwood. Many of the band's alumni know Ellie, and watch for her at the various performances. Ellie also enjoys the Greenwood Community Band, and attends their performances, too.

As we alumni look back on how our band experiences shaped us – no matter the career path we chose – band parents like Bob & Ellie Mitchell were certainly a big part of our development. Thank you!

- Janelle Bartley Cole – Class of 1976
- Wendy Bartley McCarrel – Class of 1978



Updates!

JV Irish Guard - 7th in Regional A

Greenwood Irish Guard - 6th in Open Class at IHSCGA State Finals

Kayla Rice was awarded the Tod Hinton Memorial Scholarship (IHSCGA's highest honor)

Greenwood Percussion - 7th in Scholastic Open State Finals

Greenwood Symphonic Band – Gold Rating

Greenwood Symphonic Band – Gold Rating in Sight Reading

Greenwood Wind Ensemble – Gold Rating

Greenwood Wind Ensemble – Gold Rating in Sight Reading

Thank You!!

Julie Lash

Andrew Short

Luke Aylsworth

Janelle Bartley Cole

Wendy Bartley McCarrel