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Oberlin Heritage Center Presents Local Author's Salute to OHS Billingsley Band Era

Music, fun, pride and affection are all wrapped up in the new book, "**Music Moved Us: The Amazing Story of the Oberlin High School Billingsley Bands**," penned by native Oberlinian **Pat Gorske Price** as a tribute to high school band director (1961-1970), Jim Billingsley. Price presents an upbeat, illustrated program at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) on **Wednesday, November 30 at 7 p.m.** Through the memories of more than 50 former band members whom Price interviewed for the book, you will come to applaud this top-rated, small-school band that wowed audiences at home and on the road under the direction of the beloved "B." The program is sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center and is free and open to the public.

As part of the program, Price will welcome fellow schoolmate and band member, **Steve Johnson**, who later took on the role of band director at Oberlin High School. In the book, Price refers to Johnson as B's most important legacy for revitalizing the high school band years after Billingsley's departure. Johnson was a constant in Oberlin's band programs for 25 years prior to his retirement. He now serves as a Board member at the Oberlin Heritage Center.

Pat Gorske Price was born and raised in Oberlin and considers herself very lucky to have been in high school during the "Billingsley years." She credits him with being the most important influence, besides her parents, during her formative years. She graduated from Baldwin Wallace College where she majored in theater and minored in English. Price spent 35 years in education, ending her teaching career at Oberlin High School where she resurrected the drama program and also taught English and speech. Happily retired, she continues to be involved with theater, writes regularly and travels with her husband, coincidentally a retired band director. Who would have thought that Billingsley would end up her second favorite band director!

Copies of *Music Moved Us: The Amazing Story of the Oberlin High School's Billingsley Bands* will be available at the program. The book includes a DVD and a CD of selected concert band pieces from the Billingsley era. You may also purchase the book at Oberlin's MindFair Books (13 West College Street, 440/774-6463) or order it online at www.longviewroadbooks.com.

For more information about this program, or about any of the Oberlin Heritage Center's other upcoming events, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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