

# DISCOVER 419

A feature publication of The Courier and Review Times

Gobble,  
Gobble, Gobble



## A community gives thanks

By **BRENNA GRITEMAN**

**LIFE EDITOR**

Three hundred volunteers, 75 turkeys, 95 cans of green beans and 1,500 dinner plates equal one massive community meal fit for up to 2,500 hungry Thanksgiving diners.

The numbers are enough to make anyone's head spin, but StoneBridge Church committee members have the planning down to a sort of science. The process is also helped along by good, old-fashioned math.

"Some of it is just a simple math equation," says Stephanie Schack, children's director at StoneBridge and a member of the Thanksgiving dinner committee. If you're looking to prepare 2,000 servings of stuffing, for instance, you can whip out your calculator to determine just how much butter you'll need to get the job done. (Last year, all told, the meal required 240 1-pound blocks of butter.)

Planning is also determined based on the particular donations that come in each year. Basic menu items like turkey, green beans, potatoes and stuffing are non-negotiables, but other food items can change based on community giving. Schack says the committee started holding early planning sessions in the spring, and members have met monthly

since summer. Past dinners have served an average of 2,000 plates — "give or take a few" — but the committee is prepared to serve 2,400 to 2,500.

Over 300 volunteers help pull off this lofty effort and make the whole thing look easy. Volunteers come from within the church and from neighboring congregations, area high schools, service clubs, businesses and private homes.

**Continued on pg. 3**



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Continued from pg. 1

Volunteer opportunities begin Monday and continue through Thursday evening with cleanup. In those four days, volunteers prepare 75 turkeys and 89 cans of yams; mix up 19 5-gallon jugs of lemonade mix; and shuffle 1,500 dinner plates, 1,800 to-go containers and 4,000 napkins (among many, many more things).

Schack says that while the shopping list does add up — the cost of 1,280 pounds of turkey is estimated at about \$1,835, and desserts alone cost about \$1,500 — much of the food is donated. Financial donations pour in from local families and businesses, and the meal is and always will be free to attend.

While StoneBridge hosts the event, Schack says it is a community meal in every sense of the word.

“Sure, we house it here ... but it is truly a community effort. StoneBridge could not put this on by ourselves,” she says. “This is by all means the community’s meal. We’re just proud to host it.”

The true history of the dinner is a bit of an urban legend, Schack says. Most agree that it’s been housed at the church for about 15 years, and many suggest the community meal originated at Red Lobster. People started gathering at the restaurant instead of cooking their own Thanksgiving meal, and soon outgrew the space. The meal then moved to another church before settling at the larger StoneBridge.

In keeping with the event’s origins, the meal remains open to the general public. Attendees need not be a member of the church or have a financial need for a free dinner. Diners can come simply because they want to keep their own kitchen tidy, or because they’re looking for some good company.

“No matter the reason ... come be with us. We’ll be your family for the day,” Schack says.

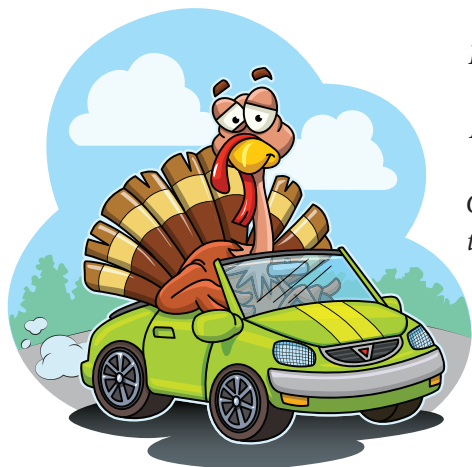
Serving is from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28. Dine-in and drive-thru are both available. The church is at 2111 Stonehedge Drive on Findlay’s east side.

Delivery is available within city limits and must be requested by noon Nov. 26. Call 419-422-6869 to request delivery.

Visit [stonebridgechurch.org/events/thanksgiving](http://stonebridgechurch.org/events/thanksgiving) to sign up as a volunteer, to make a donation or for delivery.



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**Humans of Findlay is a documentary project based on the blog “Humans of New York.” The project was created to introduce many of the unique people of Findlay, Ohio. The man behind the lens and the project is Dave Morrow. Morrow has interviewed over 700 people of Findlay, ranging from age 5 to 102 years old, with a wide range of diversity and backgrounds. Jenna Wilkins has joined Dave in continuing the Humans of Findlay project.**

**On April 4, 2018, a proclamation was signed by Mayor Lydia Mihalik designating the day as “Humans of Findlay Day.” Each of the stories have been read up to 30,000 times, and can be located on [humansoffindlay.com](http://humansoffindlay.com), Humans of Findlay Facebook page, as well as in this monthly magazine. Know someone that you feel should be featured? Send a nomination on the Facebook page.**

## MATT BOSTDORFF



Some people praise Matt Bostdorff's dedication, while others, including myself, question his sanity. Make your own decision after reading his story.

Our next Human of Findlay was nominated by the Findlay and Hancock County K9 law enforcement officers for his years of dedication voluntarily helping train the K9 dogs of NW Ohio.

Matt Bostdorff, known by his close friends as “Boz”, arrived in this world in 1976, taking up residence with his family on Devil’s Hole road in Luckey, Ohio. Matt is the oldest child of Roger and Barb Bostdorff, joined later by sisters Christy and Cyndi. His father’s career would take the family from Ohio to Michigan, down to Cleveland and finally back to the Toledo area. The family would finally put down permanent roots in Eastwood.

Matt graduated from Eastwood High School in 1994. He did well academically, earning a 3.8 GPA, and was chosen to be the Vice President of his class. He found his niche as a long-distance

runner while in middle school, eventually becoming good enough to run in district and region events in high school. He won the league championship in his senior year. His record was strong enough for him to earn a scholarship from BGSU.

Matt started attending BGSU as an “undecided major” but eventually found his interest in Electronic Technology gradually learning how to dismantle and repair motor controls, circuits and more. This was also during the very early years of the internet and Matt was hooked on the blossoming technology. Matt graduated with a degree focused in Electronic Technology. After graduation Matt worked for a time in Dallas until the tech company was bought out.

He returned to Ohio, joining the Buehrer Group, an architectural engineering firm that designed buildings, specifically schools. Matt was responsible for designing and setting up the data, video and voice systems in schools all over Ohio. In 2002 he was part of the team that designed the Van Buren “Castle” elementary building.

When the project was finished, he was speaking with the superintendent who shared that the Van Buren school district had no one to manage this new high tech “state of the art” system. Matt jumped at this opportunity and has spent the next 16 years implementing and overseeing the system. This included providing “Netbooks” to every student resulting in a paperless system. (He has moved on after the 2018 school year to assume the technology management role at his alumni Eastwood school district.)

He met his wife Nickey in 2005 at a basketball game he was announcing. “She was different from anyone I had ever dated. She was very mature, comfortable to be around and I felt I could relax and just be myself. By the third date I knew.” They would merge households shortly afterwards. They made it permanent in 2013. “I married my best friend that day,” states Matt. Nickey and Matt were close friends with Bowling Green police officer Gordon Finger and his wife when Gordon chose to become a K9 officer. When Gordon returned from initial training with his new partner Arci, he offhandedly asked Matt if he would help train Arci by being a “suspect”, putting on a protective

suit and allow the dog to practice bites on him. “I was like, I can do this one time. I wanted to give it a try. I arrived at the old BG airport at the agreed time to find not one but ten K9 teams waiting to have a shot at biting me!! I quickly learned these were not “fluffy” nips. These dogs were rocket launchers that appeared to want to rip my face off!”

By the end of the three-hour training session Matt was still in one piece, was hooked and is “celebrating” three years of being a “bite decoy” every Monday evening for the NW Ohio K9 group. Matt has become very close friends with the officers of this group. “It’s like a brotherhood and I am very humbled that they have accepted and taken me in.”

Matt shared a painful life-changing event. “I was looking for some way to be more involved in my community, to make a difference. I considered entering local politics, such as city council or school board. Then one day my world changed, when a dear friend and close associate committed suicide. I worked with him every day and I missed the signs. It shook me to my core. I began to question: “Why am I here? What purpose am I serving? Could I have done anything different?”

“Only one thing helped me cope with that incredible pain and loss. Working with the dogs every week I found a release.”

Two recent events have started to give Matt peace and to validate his efforts these past three years. In the past several months, two of “his” K9 teams were involved with dangerous individuals. It was necessary to deploy the dogs and the suspects were quickly apprehended by bites from K9’s Deke (FPD) and Charlie (HCSO). Both K9 officers called Matt immediately after the apprehensions to thank him. They were very grateful to “Boz” as they affectionately call him. Because of his dedication and willingness to help train these amazing police dogs, no citizens or officers were hurt. Matt sees no end in sight to his helping “take a bite out of crime.”



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Nov 29 @ 7 - 10pm  
Nov 30th @ 1 - 2:50pm &  
7 - 10pm

## Skate with Santa

Saturday, December 7th, 2019, 1:00-2:50pm

In addition, join Santa's helpers to decorate a cookie and make a craft. Admission is \$5 and skate rental is \$3.

## Learn To Skate Session III

Saturdays

Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21

12:10-12:35 - Tots, Intermediate, & Adults

12:35-1:00 Beginners (Ages 5-16)

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SATURDAY NIGHT	Varies	\$5 admission, \$3 skate rental
SUNDAY	2pm-3:50pm	\$5 admission, \$3 skate rental

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## NOVEMBER 1 - DOWNTOWN FINDLAY ART WALK

Enjoy a free, family-fun event featuring area artists and musicians, as well as downtown galleries. During the evening restaurants, merchants, and more open their doors to showcase live entertainment, visual art and other unique art experiences. 5:00-9:00PM



## NOVEMBER 2 – FOSTORIA GIRLY BAG RAFFLE

Ladies -get ready for a great night! Girly Bag Raffle-Purses with a Purpose is a new twist on a favorite event. Instead of bingo, there will be a raffle of 30+ designer hand bags. Enjoy dinner, cocktails, and a wine wall to make a fun ladies night out. St. Wendelin Parish has partnered with First Step Domestic Violence Shelter of Fostoria for this amazing event. Anyone who brings a new or gently used purse filled with personal care items will be given five extra raffle tickets. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to First Step to support their important mission. Tickets on sale at the Parish Office 323 N. Wood St., Fostoria. Event will be held at Stacy's Place 625 Plaza Drive, Fostoria. 5:00-10:00PM.



## NOVEMBER 10 - FINDLAY HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Learn about Hancock County's legacy of military service as we honor our veterans and active duty military personnel. Refreshments are provided and admission is free for veterans. 2:00-5:00PM. For more information visit [hancockhistoricalmuseum.org](http://hancockhistoricalmuseum.org).

## NOVEMBER 11 - FINDLAY A NEW LEASH ON LIFE: THE K9s For Warriors Story

Special screening of the film documentary "A New Leash On Life: The K9s For Warriors Story" at the University of Findlay. The film has won 4 Emmy awards, 3 Telly awards and has been featured on PBS, several media stations nationwide, worldwide as well as on Amazon prime. The film features local Paramedic, Louie Belluomini and his service dog Star with Hanco EMS in Findlay and Putnam County EMS in Ottawa, Ohio. You will have the opportunity to meet local K9 team Louie and Star and the other two K9 teams featured in the film, Shilo and K9 Javie and Adam and K9 Molly. Please join this free event and consider making a donation to the K9s For Warriors program. 6:55PM- 9:00PM

6:55 Louie, Shilo, Adam and their service dogs introductions  
7 PM - Presentation of Documentary and Q&A following the film





## NOVEMBER 21 – FINDLAY

### KAN DU GOLDEN CELEBRATION

The Kan Du Group, formerly Blanchard Valley Industries is celebrating 50 years of serving adults with developmental disabilities! The community is invited to a very special evening at the Hancock Hotel to honor Kan Du's past, celebrate their successes, and raise funds for their future. The evening will be filled with music, awards & recognition, a meal catered by Mancy's Steakhouse, the comedy of Earl Musick - a professional cartoonist, artist and illustrator, and an auction filled with art and gift baskets.

\$60 per person or \$100 per couple. You can also sponsor a ticket purchase for one or more of the people we serve! 6:00-9:00PM  
More information available at [www.kandugroup.org](http://www.kandugroup.org).

## NOVEMBER 23 –

### BOWLING GREEN

#### HOLIDAY PARADE

Celebrate the holidays with the annual parade in historic downtown Bowling Green. Marching bands, floats and 100 units from dance groups, to sports teams, to scouts, and other organizations. Bowling Green's parade boasts of being Northwest's Ohio's best! 10AM – 12PM

## NOVEMBER 29 – DOWNTOWN FINDLAY

### CITY OF FINDLAY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Celebrate the Christmas season with a family tradition – the City of Findlay Tree Lighting Ceremony kicking off the most wonderful time of the year in Dorney Plaza. The ceremony also kicks off Santa's House in Downtown Findlay! 6:00PM



*\*At press time, the information was pulled from community websites and was considered current. We apologize for any information that may have been changed/updated after the Discover 419 edition was printed.*

## NOVEMBER 30 – BLUFFTON

### BLAZE OF LIGHTS

Enjoy a lighted collection of vintage Christmas folk art and holiday light display in downtown Bluffton just minutes from I-75. Amid towering lighted evergreens, the Ream folk art cutoff figure display turns the downtown business district into a sparkling destination from November 30 through January 1. Farmer Harry Ream and his wife Dorothy started making and displaying Christmas decorations in 1938. In the mid-80s, the Ream family donated 168 wood cutouts to the village. Dozens more have been added by artist Terry Mullenhour. The village added almost 1.5 miles of light strands in 2018. This is a Christmas family adventure you won't want to miss!

## NOVEMBER 30 – 419 AREA

### SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Small Business Saturday began in 2010 and encourages holiday shoppers to patronize their local small businesses. The 419 area has an endless number of options of brick and mortar businesses whose owners also live, work and play in their communities. Small Business Saturday is a registered trademark of American Express.

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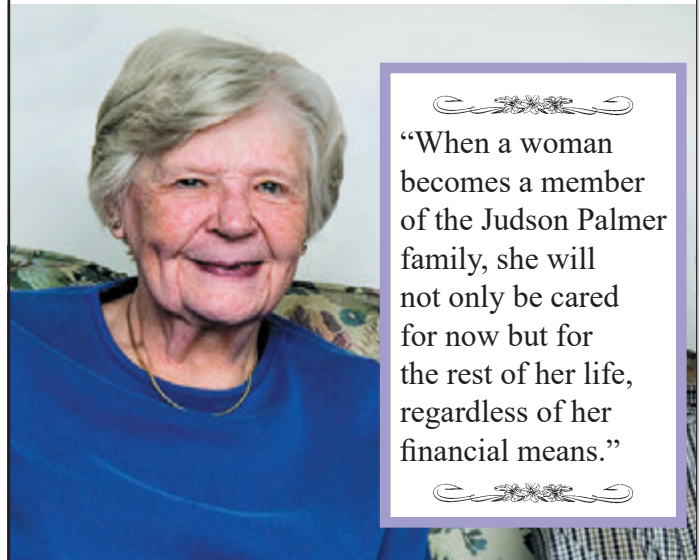
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3 sizes, lots of stencils and colors to choose from.  
Perfect for beginners  
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**10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.**  
**CHIEFTAIN GYMNASIUM**

Admission is \$3 in advance and \$4 at the door  
Students are free! Food, drinks, Christmas tree raffles,  
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Complete & return the form below for advance tickets.

Merry Mistletoe Market Advance Tickets \$3 each

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Your name will be on the reserve ticket list at the admission table





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**Front:**

**Back:**



[vet-er-uh-n] - noun  
1. Person who wrote a  
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## PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE ICE CREAM PIE

Pumpkin Cheesecake Ice Cream in a Graham Cracker Pie Crust topped with Cinnamon Frosting & drizzled with Caramel



## HARVEST PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE™

Pumpkin Cheesecake Ice Cream, HEATH® Bar, Caramel & Whipped Topping

New!

# Cookie BUTTER ICE CREAM

## COOKIE BUTTER OBSESSION™

Cookie Butter Ice Cream with Cinnamon & double the Graham Cracker Pie Crust



## Reese's Peanut Butter Ice cream cup by COLD STONE®



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LIKE IT CVD 119 SIS 137 SHAGS 206 SMOOTHIE 142 FRAPPE 236	LOVE IT CVD 121 SIS 140 SHAGS 162 SMOOTHIE 189 FRAPPE 237	GOTTA HAVE IT CVD 126 SIS 164 NOS-49 134 PLAIN WHIPPLE 235 SHIPPED WHIPPLE 246	Expires 11/30/19
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