



Discover

A feature publication of The Courier & REVIEW TIMES

September 2026

Bon appétit, Findlay!

Longtime gourmet club meets for culinary adventures

By: Bret Nye

Photos provided by Suzi Healy

Over the past half century, local lovers of elegant cuisine have been meeting in the Findlay area to challenge themselves to create memorable dinner parties and lip-smacking meals. Since 1968, the club has stayed true to its original intentions: to make and procure high-quality food and drink for the group to try.

"There are 12 women in the group, and everybody really enjoys cooking," said member Suzi Healy. "And they do it quite well."

At least nine months out of the year, the Gourmet Club meets at a member's

home to eat together. But there's a lot more to it than that. Roles are assigned — hostesses prep their kitchens and dining rooms, planners create a menu by selecting recipes and plotting out how many portions will be needed, and the members of the group then contribute their dishes to the meal. The



A meal prepared by the Gourmet Club.

process starts weeks or months out from a planned dinner, so all recipe discrepancies, logistical concerns or other eventualities can be considered and dealt with. You could say they're not messing around. But, unquestionably, they also have a great deal of fun.

"I'd heard people talk about [the group], they were friends of mine, and they asked me to be a substitute," Healy said.

Group members find substitutes for themselves when they're unable to make a planned dinner. "That's usually how people have joined," Healy said.

Healy substituted enough times and did the job well enough that she was invited to become part of the group.

Continued on page 3

BACK TO SCHOOL SHOULDN'T MEAN BACK TO OUCH!



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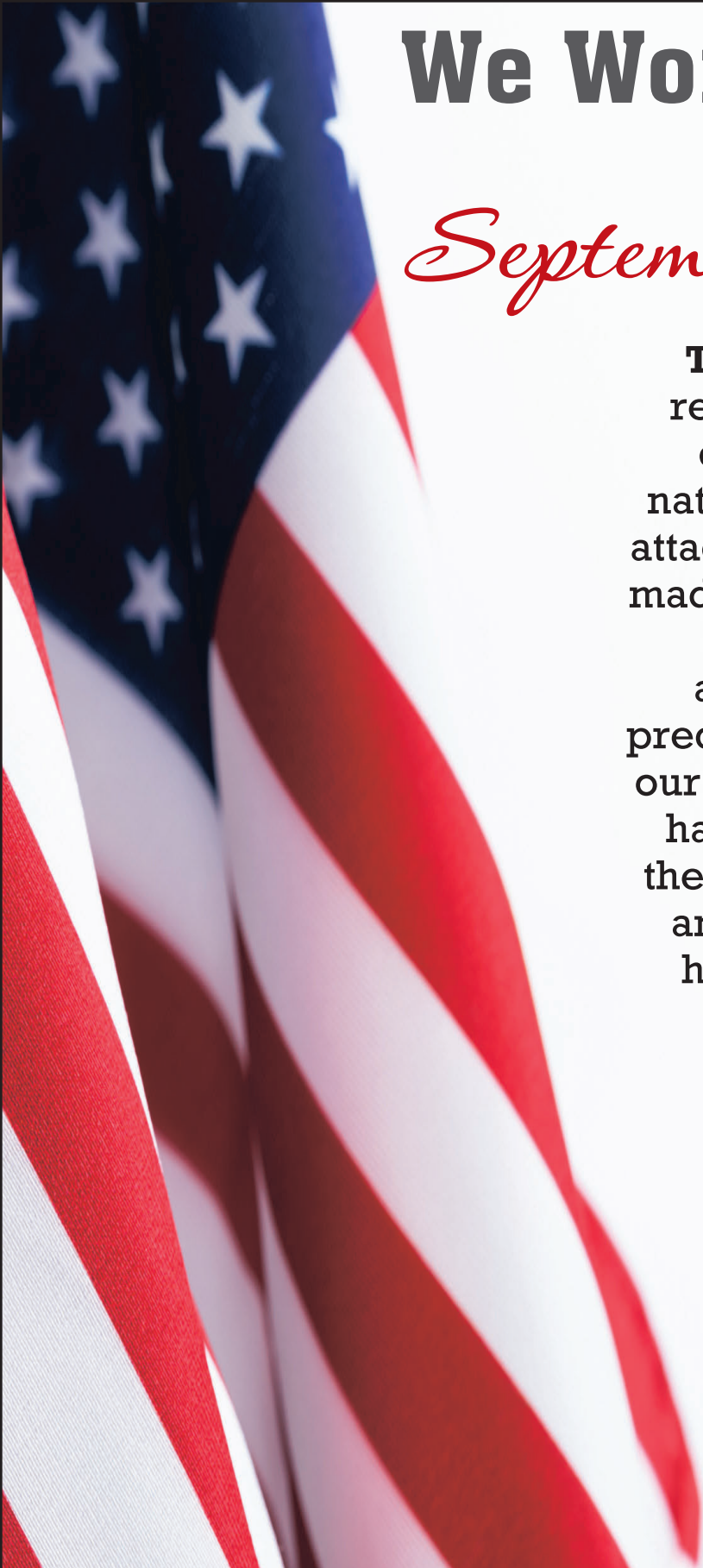
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A close-up, vertical view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The flag is slightly blurred, giving it a sense of movement or a soft focus.

We Won't Forget...

September 11, 2001

Twenty-five years later, we reflect on a day that forever changed our lives and our nation's history. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 made Americans everywhere more alert, more cautious and more protective of the precious freedoms that define our country. Though decades have passed, we remember the events with deep sorrow, and we continue to hold the heroes and victims close to our hearts. Please join us in honoring the men and women who so bravely responded to the call of duty on the morning of 9/11, as well as the victims who perished and their families.

Once a menu is decided upon and planners have things in place, an accompanying drink must be chosen. Dan Matheny, owner of the Findlay Wine Merchant in downtown Findlay, has been a help to the group, showing them wines to pair with different meals.

"We ask Dan, 'this is our menu, so what do you suggest at our price limit?' We aren't sommeliers, but he is, and he'll refer something to us."

The club also serves cocktails to go along with the menu.

"The older ladies didn't do that years ago, but it complements the meals," Healy said.

The group has prepared everything

special restaurant, and once they held an event at the country club. But almost always, the meals are about welcoming each other into their homes and trying to create (and consume) something delectable.

"We discuss things after a meal, and how we prepared it. In the early days, you didn't dare deviate from the recipe, but if we deviate a little now, we'll talk about it," Healy said. "I will never make this again" is said sometimes, or 'I'm going to make for my friends and family.'"

After meals are shared, the club keeps a notebook of all recipes, menus and invitations used each time. Some of the group's notebooks from over the years are kept by the Hancock Historical Museum. The group also likes to share successful

to plan the next luncheons and to pass out recipes. We will have a hostess and a co-hostess each month. We will not meet in June nor July. Limit 12 members."

Generally speaking, these bylaws are still closely adhered to. In 1974, club members also began reporting their costs



A holiday meal prepared by the Gourmet Club.



Members of the Gourmet Club pose for a photo during a dinner outing.

from wild game to noodles from scratch. Sometimes the fare involves familiar favorites like cornbread, salad and homemade noodles, while other times the home chefs will take on a cut of wild game or another culture's cuisine.

"Our meals are usually themed," Healy said. "For the seafood theme we did a shrimp boil; we've done Moroccan, Irish, German and French nights; and often we'll do a fall dinner, and something for Christmas."

The club sometimes plans a trip to a

dishes via social media.

"It's so fun," she said, "and the excitement people have for it is great."

A quick look back

The Gourmet Club's history traces back to 1968, when its first moniker was the Welcome Wagon Gourmet Club. The original group of six women laid out the purpose for the group in a set of guidelines back then: "The club will meet on the third Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. There will be a committee of two members to serve for three months



Members of the Gourmet Club prepare plates at a recent gathering.

for preparing a dish, so the group could chip in an equal amount for the meals. They also had lists of which member had which spice, liqueur or kitchen equipment on hand, as some common items used today used to be much harder to come by.



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Downtown Findlay

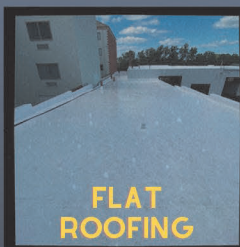
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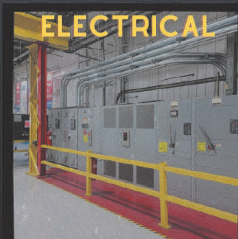
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Reception: September 4, 6-8 pm



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Off the Wall - 3D Art Show, September 29-October 20

Reception, October 2, 6-8 PM



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CLASSES [Register at www.findlayartleague.org](http://www.findlayartleague.org)

September Watercolor Fall Landscape - Fun for All: Sat, Sep 5 at 1PM-2PM and 2:30-3:30PM Cost: Free - Fun for All All materials provided All skill levels welcome. No experience necessary. Ages 10+ Instructor: Jennifer Doyle

September Colored Pencil Pie: Sat, Sep 19 at 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Cost: \$45 Supplies Required. All skill levels welcome. No experience necessary. Ages 15+ Instructor: Mike Fink

September Pottery Beginning Pottery - Wednesdays: Wed, Sep 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 28 at 7PM-9PM Cost: \$180 All supplies provided All skill levels welcome. No experience necessary. Ages 18+ Instructor: Marcie Allen

September Pottery Intermediate Pottery - Thursdays: Thu, Sep 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 29 at 7PM-9PM Cost: \$180 All supplies provided. Must have taken beginner or equivalent. Ages 18+ Instructor: Marcie Allen

September Acrylic Pour Dutch Pour: Fri, Sep 25 at 6:00 PM-7:30 PM Cost: \$65 All materials provided All skill levels welcome. No experience necessary. Ages 15+ Instructor: Thomas Craley

October Colored Pencil Rose: Sat, Oct 10 at 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Cost: \$45 Supplies Required. All skill levels welcome. No experience necessary. Ages 15+ Instructor: Mike Fink

October Water Pigments Old Town Pump: Date to be Announced Cost: \$40 All materials provided All skill levels welcome. No experience necessary. Ages 18+ Instructor: Patty Brown

October Acrylic Pour Rainbow Swipe: Fri, Oct 16 at 6PM-7:30PM Cost: \$65 All materials provided All skill levels welcome. No experience necessary. Ages 15+ Instructor: Thomas Craley

October Watercolor Spooky Landscape: Sat, Oct 31 at 1PM-2:PM and 2:30-3:30PM Cost: Free - Fun for All All materials provided All skill levels welcome. No experience necessary. Ages 10+ Instructor: Jennifer Doyle

Sign up and see more classes at FindlayArtLeague.org

117 W. Crawford St., Findlay | 419-422-7847 | FindlayArtLeague.org | contact@FindlayArtLeague.org



GET INVOLVED!

Join the **Findlay Art League**, the oldest visual arts organization in the region (est. 1947) Network with other artists and become actively involved in our community. Class discounts. Leadership/volunteer opportunities. We encourage active participation for the common good and well being of our community. As a volunteer-driven organization, your action makes our existence possible. Memberships starting at \$50/yr. Visit findlayartleague.org to register.

SEPTEMBER

LOCAL EVENT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1-7



HANCOCK COUNTY FAIR

Hancock County Fairgrounds 1017 E Sandusky St, Findlay

Event schedule available at hancockfairgrounds.org

Don't miss the Hancock County Fair, taking place annually the Tuesday before and through Labor Day. There will be great food, live entertainment, livestock shows, competitions, and much more.

SEPTEMBER 10



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

Riverside Park 231 McManness Ave, Findlay

The action begins at 4:30 pm, \$100 per team

Calling all picklers! Join United Way as they "smash" into campaign season with a friendly pickleball tournament at Riverside Courts. More information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1431674971683812>

SEPTEMBER 12



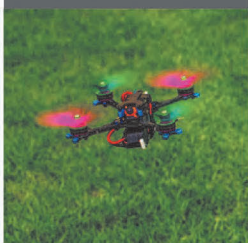
FLOCK WALK

University of Findlay - Koehler Center 1000 N Main St, Findlay

Step out for Cancer Patient Services' 5th Annual Flock Walk!

Join Cancer Patient Services for the 5th Annual Flock Walk at the University of Findlay's Koehler Center. Gather with family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors for a family-friendly morning of hope, remembrance, and community while supporting local cancer patients and families. Sign up or create a team today!

SEPTEMBER 12



PAINT THE SKY NIGHT FLY

Findlay Flying Circuits RC Park 3677 CR 18, Findlay

3 pm til "way after dark"

Pilots showcase model and combat planes outfitted with bright LED lights and glow setups, creating colorful light trails across the night sky. Bring what you have and come paint the sky. AMA membership needed to fly.

This information was pulled from community websites and was considered current at press time. We apologize for any information that may have been changed/updated after this edition was printed.

SEPTEMBER 13



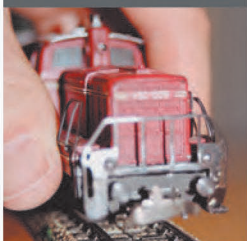
2026 FINDLAY HAMFEST

Hancock County Fairgrounds 1017 E Sandusky St, Findlay

Enjoy a beautiful day out from 8 am – 2 pm

Mark a century of ham radio tradition at our grand post-Labor Day celebration. Immerse yourself in the hobby or learn about the hobby from local club members and visiting enthusiasts.

SEPTEMBER 13



FINDLAY FALL MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Northwest Ohio Railroad Preservation 12505 Township Road 99, Findlay

Admission is \$5 for adults; under 13 get in free

The party lasts from 10 am to 3:30 pm. You'll find their train barn filled with tables occupied by vendors displaying and selling model trains, toy trains and railroad memorabilia. The gift shop and their model train displays will be open for your enjoyment.

SEPTEMBER 20



5K FOOT PURSUIT IN PURSUIT OF SUICIDE AWARENESS

Liberty-Benton High School 9190 CR 9, Findlay

The pursuit begins at 1 pm

Join a race dedicated to promoting suicide awareness and mental health support, hosted by the Crime Prevention Association of Findlay/Hancock County and the Hancock County Sheriff's Office Peer Support Team. This event isn't just about speed, it's about chasing hope, breaking the stigma, and supporting those who need it most. Register <https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/?raceId=179537>

SEPTEMBER 26



OKTOBERFEST

Downtown Findlay

Celebrate German heritage from 2 – 10:30 pm

Don't miss the 12th annual Oktoberfest in downtown Findlay! The family-friendly festival has become one of the largest single-day events in Hancock County. It includes live traditional German music and entertainment, a variety of contests, authentic German food from vendors like Schmidt's Sausage Haus, the Kinderplatz Kid Zone, and a selection of more than 40 craft and German beers!

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Volunteering makes an immeasurable difference in the lives of volunteers and those they help. Many people may be surprised to learn how positive volunteering can be for volunteers. Indeed, studies show that volunteering leads to better physical and mental health, among other benefits.

According to an article published by the American Heart Association and Jeffrey Burr, a professor of gerontology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, "compared to non-volunteers, volunteers have less depression, less anxiety, higher self-esteem, greater happiness, and a greater sense of meaning in life." Burr and the AHA note the health benefits of volunteering occur among all ages, and a deep look at how volunteer efforts are good for personal health shows just how profound giving back can be.

- **Reduces stress:** The Mayo Clinic reports that volunteering reduces stress and increases positive, relaxed feelings by releasing dopamine. When volunteers spend time in service to others, they report feeling a sense of meaning and appreciation, both of which can have stress-reducing effects.
- **Lowers depression:** Research has shown that volunteering leads to lower rates of depression and anxiety, particularly among people 65 and older.
- **Provides a sense of purpose:** AmeriCorps reports volunteering can provide a sense of purpose in older adults, which can help replace feelings of inadequacy due to loss of major role identities, such as wage earner or parent. This sense of purpose can improve life satisfaction and happiness.

- **Reduces blood pressure:** According to researchers at Carnegie Mellon University, older adults who volunteered for at least 200 hours annually decrease their risk of high blood pressure by 40 percent. This also may lower risk of heart disease and stroke.
- **Eliminates feelings of isolation:** Volunteers working together link people to others and their communities. This can help people overcome feelings of isolation, which may come from being new to a community or being a senior and having a smaller social circle.
- **Increases happiness:** Those who volunteer regularly tend to be happier and more empathetic towards others. Volunteering also instills a sense of pride that can make people happier.
- **Keeps the mind active:** Individuals who volunteer can improve their cognitive health. That's because volunteering engages a person in new skills, requires them to solve problems and keeps them mentally stimulated through various activities.
- **Improves physical health:** Some volunteer activities will involve physical tasks that can contribute to improved physical health because they constitute moderate exercise.

Volunteering offers a number of benefits that can improve both physical and mental health for those donating their time to help others.

To become a volunteer with United Way of Hancock County visit <https://www.liveunitedhancockcounty.org/volunteersunited> for more details.



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1st-7th	Hancock County Fair (Findlay)	hancockcountyfairgrounds.org
4th-10th	Fulton County Fair (Wauseon)	fultoncountyfair.com
8th-13th	Hardin County Fair (Kenton)	hardincountyfair.org
12th-19th	Williams County Fair (Montpelier)	wcofair.com
14th-19th	Wyandot County Fair (Upper Sandusky)	thewyandotcountyfair.com
20th-26th	Ashland County Fair (Ashland)	ashlandcountyfair.org

All Fair dates and web addresses were pulled from community websites and considered current at press time.

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