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Maggie Tidwell

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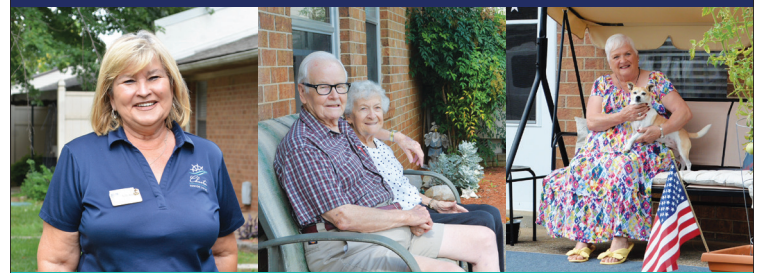
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ISSUE 7 2024

**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:** 10  
Dreams Come True

## *Good Living*

**DREAMING OF A WORLD WITHOUT ALZHEIMER'S** 12  
Walk to End Alzheimer's evokes a more memorable future

**SGT. CLAU REPORTS FOR DUTY** 18  
Don Butler's dedication to Toys for Tots

**ORCHESTRA KENTUCKY CELEBRATES 25TH SEASON** 22

**FROM BUS RIDES TO SHERIFF BADGE** 24  
How a childhood connection forged a lifetime commitment

**UNASSUMING BUILDING, UNFORGETTABLE FOOD: DANNY'S PASTA CO. & FOCACCIARIA** 28  
Don't let the exterior fool you — this is the best pasta in Bowling Green

**SAVOR SUMMER'S BOUNTY** 30  
Enjoy the season's first fruits and vegetables





40

## Good Stories

### 32 THE SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT

Local flight school connects Bowling Green to the world beyond

### 36 A VISION THAT CAME TRUE

Local nail tech runs the most significant nails-only convention in North America

### 40 TOP CROPS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

Local nonprofit provides fertile ground for social interaction

## Good Times

### 44 CHARITY LISTING

### 46 ADVERTISER INDEX

# Tell us something good



...cation that comes celebrating. Dairy is father Steve, his and his wife Kara family started dairy been in Tennessee with is a way to ob- behind the scenes, local. ...ght on many people farmers do a lot of in terms of raising care of cattle, being ribbons, and wear- ...k goes into dairy s. The Nash family of 2020. "We'd al-

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Chasing a shooting star

Dreams come true in our hometown.

WHEN I was 8, I wanted to be a teacher. I remember my third grade teacher clicking the chalk on the green board on the wall. And when I was 9, I wanted to be a director. My parents bought me a camera for Christmas, and my cousins and I would recreate our favorite movies in the yard. When I was 11, I wanted to be a writer. I remember classmates telling me how terrible my stories were. While they probably weren't, it felt like a crowd of kids surrounding me, pointing and laughing. I went home and ripped the pages over and over, trying to hold back tears. I thought, "No one will ever read another word I write." The 11-year-old me was wrong. My story — my dream — didn't end there; it was just the beginning. Today, I can offer you living proof that the wildest dreams do come true.

Our dreams are like shooting stars across the night sky. They're beautiful; they're exciting. We think, "How in the world does that work?" And we spend our entire lives chasing that shooting star. We spend every day, step after step, trying to make our dreams come true. Dreams don't always take off into space like a rocket. Sometimes, we land too hard. Sometimes, we never get off the launchpad. Thankfully, we have the launchpad we need. Our hometown is a place where dreams come true, and this issue of Good News Magazine is living proof of that.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." The goal of this issue is to prove your dreams are beautiful and the future is brightly dazzling. The truth is, the shooting star has always been inside us — we just had to realize it. GN

Wesley Bryant,  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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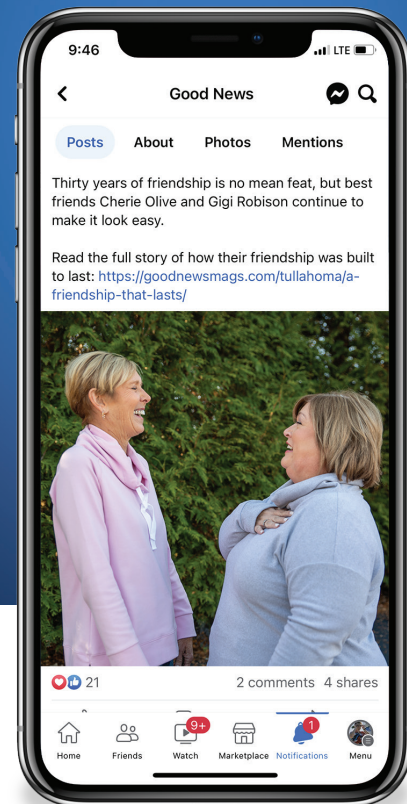
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# DREAMING OF A WORLD WITHOUT ALZHEIMER'S



Walk to End Alzheimer's evokes a more memorable future.

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Amanda Guy

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Judith Ann Richards

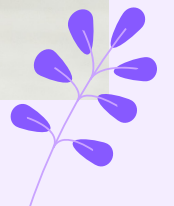
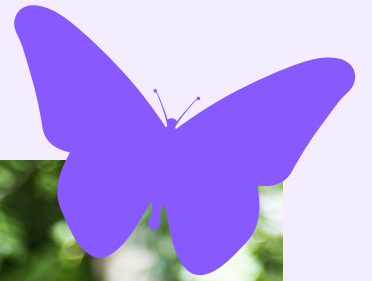


**A**LZHEIMER'S DISEASE affects countless families across Kentucky. Jana Boswell used these adjectives — devastating, horrific, shameless, brutal, dreadful — to describe how the disease affected her precious mother, Judith Ann Richards.

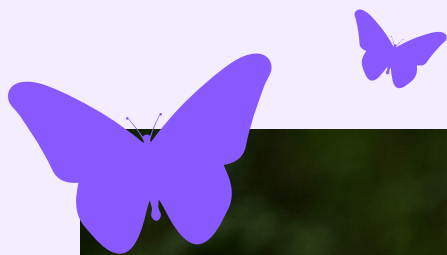
“We started noticing small things that Mom was doing to alert us,” said Jana. “She would forget her keys or her coffee cup. Then, it progressed to forgetting to turn off her car — not understanding simple math or numbers. Ultimately, things became much worse. She left something on the stove and caught the kitchen on fire. The decision was made to move her into an assisted living facility.”

After two years, Judith's cognitive abilities deteriorated to where she no longer dressed or fed herself, and she eventually lost her ability to walk. When she became ill, her family contacted hospice. Although Judith had recognized her family throughout her journey with Alzheimer's, that day, everything changed.

“That was the most heartbreaking moment — when she no longer knew us. Mom was a very vibrant and strong individual. She had an incredible work ethic while working at Overhead Door for over 30 years. She had a special way with animals.



Johnnie Mikel Boswell, Jana Boswell, and Taylor Boswell-Teddler holding photo of grandmother, Judith Ann Richards



Often, she could walk right up to a bird in her yard and pet it. Her smile and personality lit up every room she entered. Mom was loved by many.”

Jana raised her fist in defiance, gritted her teeth, and said, “Alzheimer’s, you are one of the worst things I have ever seen. You creep into beautiful people and take over their most prized possession — their memory. You will not last forever. We are coming for you and will crush you soon. I cannot wait for the day you lose your power and can no longer bring pain and anguish to families.”

To raise awareness and help others diagnosed with this disease, Jana joined the South Central Kentucky Walk to End

Alzheimer’s leadership committee. Last year, the group raised a whopping \$112,000!

“We give the funds to local support groups and educational workshops while also providing funds to two medical research institutions in Louisville and Lexington. As many people are considering donating to missions and looking for organizations to support — the question of, ‘Does the money stay local and impact our community directly?’ The answer is a resounding ‘yes!’”

In 2023, the South Central Kentucky Walk to End Alzheimer’s event had approximately 500 participants, and the upcoming event on Sept. 28, at Hod Rod Stadium is expected

to be even bigger! So, the organization increased the fundraising goal to \$140,000!

“This is an amazing opportunity to join people battling Alzheimer’s and dementia, along with their caregivers, to show them they’re not alone on this journey. We have many business sponsors who attend the event to show their support and to share their desire to have a part in funding our efforts to provide resources to families and help fund critical medical research.

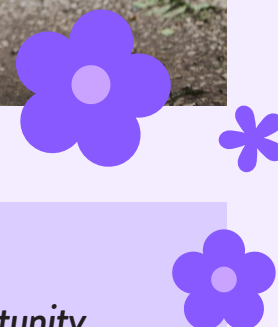
“We have a beautiful ceremony that depicts the different roles we all have in fighting Alzheimer’s and dementia, whether that be as a caregiver or as a community member supporting our mission to ‘END ALZ.’ Our ceremony is also a time to reflect on those we have lost to this dreadful disease and honor those currently suffering from Alzheimer’s and dementia.”

The Walk to End Alzheimer’s is now the world’s largest event to raise awareness and funds to support families affected by Alzheimer’s disease. Its mission is one of hope — the hope that in the future, more treatment options will be available to help families regain valuable time with their loved ones.

“The Alzheimer’s Association leads the way to end Alzheimer’s, and all other dementia, by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Their goal is to provide resources to families presently battling Alzheimer’s and dementia while looking toward a future without Alzheimer’s. We want to support the families by providing a 24/7 crisis line, support groups, and educational workshops in the community to bring awareness. In the end, we want to ‘END ALZ’ by providing treatments that result in survivors of Alzheimer’s and dementia.”

Judith Ann Richards was an incredible woman who was affected by a disease that — although it took her memory — could never erase her legacy. And that legacy lives on through her daughter, Jana Boswell, and everyone working to ‘END ALZ’. GN

*For more information, visit <http://act.alz.org/bowlinggreen>. If interested in sponsorship opportunities, email Danita Reiger-Ward at [dareigerward@alz](mailto:dareigerward@alz) or Jana Boswell at [ohdbg@overheaddoorbg.com](mailto:ohdbg@overheaddoorbg.com).*



**“This is an amazing opportunity to join people battling Alzheimer’s and dementia, along with their caregivers, to show them they are not alone on this journey.”**

**- Jana Boswell**







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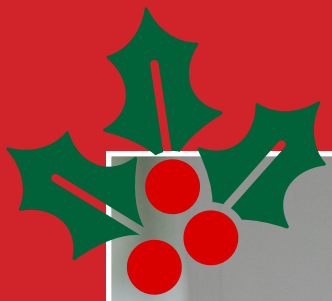
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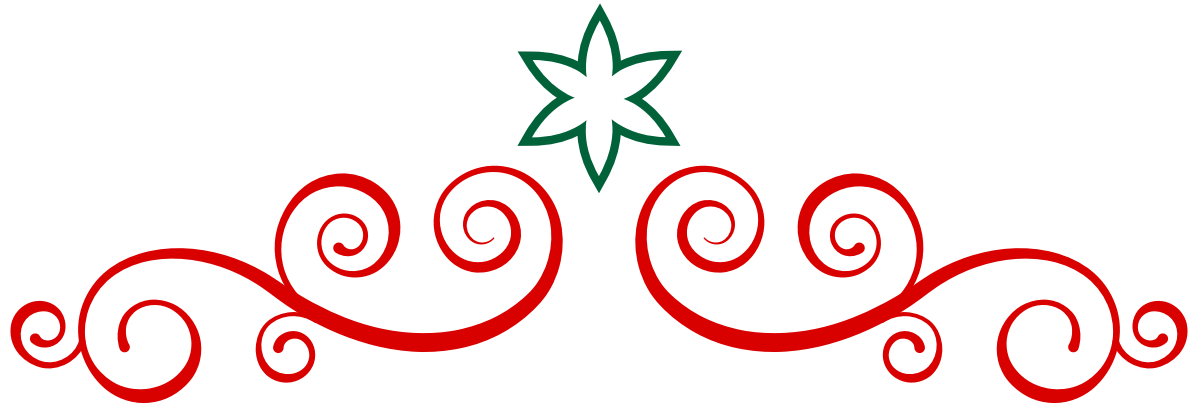


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Don Butler



# *Sgt. Claus reports for duty.*



Don Butler's dedication to Toys for Tots

By Richard Klin // Photography by Amanda Guy



**D**ON BUTLER was a Marine sergeant who served in Vietnam. Today, the longtime resident of Bowling Green serves as Sgt. Claus — a gift-giver and greeter for Toys for Tots drives.

Butler's involvement with Toys for Tots is not happenstance. Toys for Tots' long, exciting history is significantly linked — then and now — to the Marine Corps Reserve. The organization's founding dates back to Los Angeles in 1947, when Diane Hendricks, the wife of Marine Reserve Maj. Bill Hendricks, needed a suitable charity where she could donate her homemade dolls for children in need. Failing to find an existing organization to her liking, Bill founded Toys for Tots, tapping into the goodwill of his reserve unit.

Toys for Tots became an immediate priority of the Marine Corps Reserve. Its growth came about very quickly, and within a year, it became a nationwide program with a logo designed by Walt Disney. Bill was an executive at Warner Brothers, and Toys for Tots benefited from his access to Hollywood's movers and shakers. Numerous celebrities became spokespersons, and the Toys for Tots theme was recorded by — among others — Nat King Cole.

In the intervening decades, the program has grown exponentially. By 1970, Toys for Tots was distributing 6 million toys. By the 1990s, the figure had climbed to 7.9 million, and in 2020, an astonishing 20 million toys were distributed. In 1995, Toys for Tots was deemed of sufficient importance to warrant a directive from the

secretary of defense that designated it as an official mission of the Marine Corps Reserve. Today, Toys for Tots is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable foundation.

Butler has been a member of the Bowling Green chapter for the past 20 years. The Marine Corps League, Detachment 1095, sponsors Toys for Tots. "We took it on simply because of the need," he said. Toys for Tots provides children with toys at Christmastime. The chapter collects toys and books and raises money throughout the year, aided by volunteers, businesses, and organizations. Its particular age focus is on infants up to 12-year-olds. There is also outreach from other organizations for older kids.

For the first three Saturdays in December, Toys for Tots welcomes children and families from all over Warren County to a distribution center, where they will receive a bag of toys and books. Toys for Tots serves 14 counties across Kentucky and has, of course, a national reach.

"Every child deserves a little bit of Christmas," Butler said. "We're just providing hope for children and families at this very important time of year. And for children and needy families who don't have the resources to go out and buy a lot of things, we provide that supplement."

Because he was a real-life sergeant and sports a full beard and mustache, taking on the persona of Sgt. Claus came very naturally. He has also been involved in many services for children over the years. Sgt. Claus is a natural fit for many reasons.

Even though Sgt. Claus is garbed in a red sweatshirt, suspenders, and red sweatpants, he is certainly not Santa Claus. "I don't want to be a fake Santa Claus. Everybody knows I'm Sgt. Claus! There are very legitimate Santa Clauses around town!"

Butler — aka Sgt. Claus — greets the families on distribution days, paying particular attention to the children. Families, volunteers, and Butler's brother Marines really get a kick out of it. Families sometimes will bring their children and leave them in the car while they come in to pick up the toys. "They'll see me and say, 'Can I get our children and have a picture?' And I'll take several pictures with the children and families and volunteers. It's been very positive and heart-warming, especially at this special time of the year."

The Bowling Green Toys for Tots has been booming for the last decade or so, picking up steady momentum, steam, and support from the community and volunteers. Butler also specifically cites Coordinator Janel Doyle, who leads all the activities and events that make all our efforts successful for the children and families at Christmas. Butler said that Toys for Tots is just one of many missions of the Marine Corps — and the rest is history!

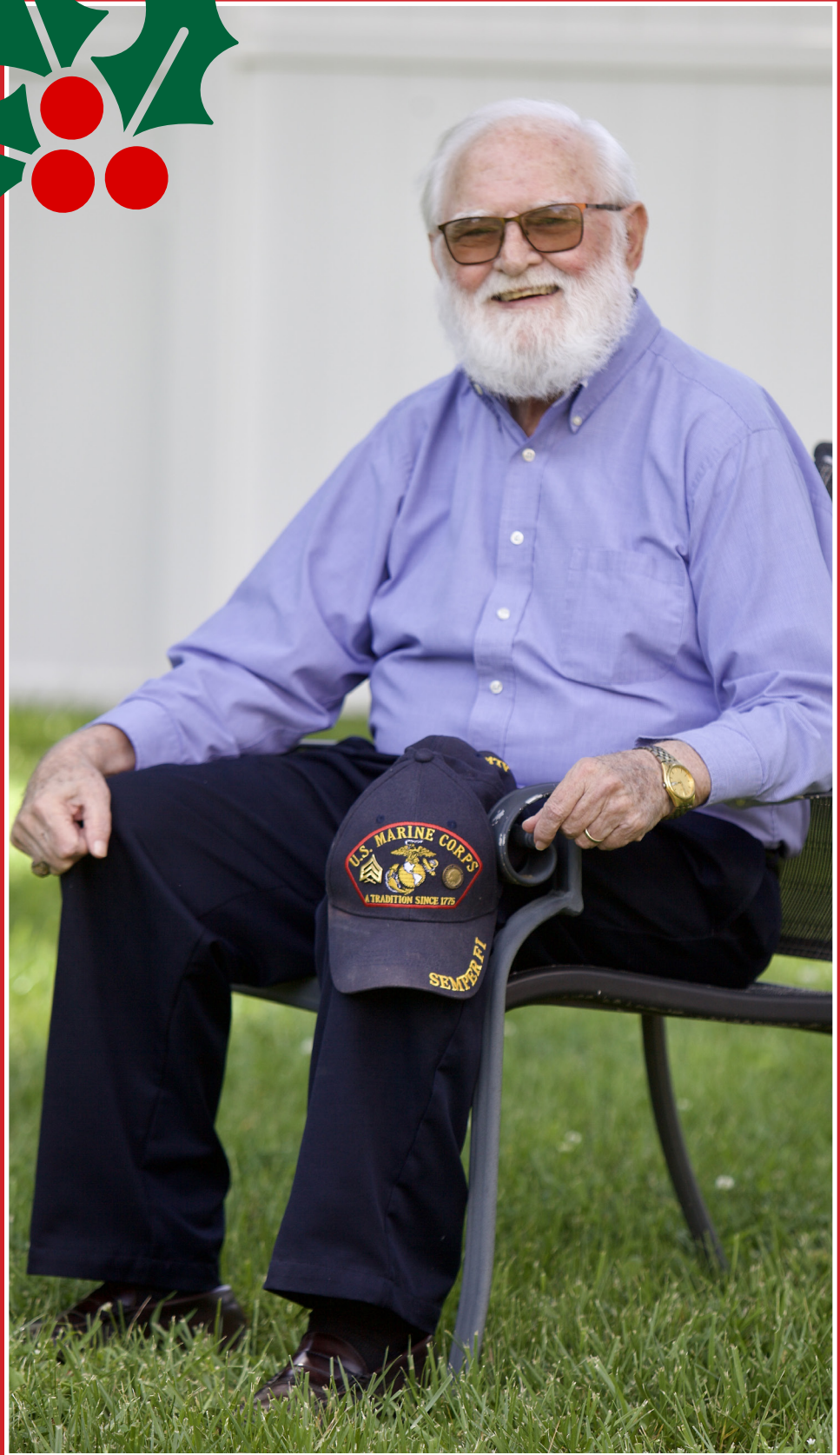
The significance of these acts of generosity can't be underestimated. A beloved toy can alter everything for children facing difficult circumstances or scarcity, and a book can open up a new world. Toys for Tots doesn't work miracles, but it brings about small transformations — and small transformations are enough. **GN**



“

*Every child deserves a little bit of Christmas. We're just providing hope for children and families at this very important time of year. And for children and needy families who don't have the resources to go out and buy a lot of things, we provide that supplement.*

*-Don Butler*



# Orchestra Kentucky celebrates 25th Season

Photography by Makenzie Belcher

## A message from Jeffrey Reed

“25 years sure have gone by fast,” said Orchestra Kentucky Founding Music Director and Arts of Southern Kentucky President and CEO Jeffrey Reed. “When I started Orchestra Kentucky as a chamber ensemble with a few close friends, I could not imagine what it would become and how this generous community would embrace and nurture it. I am grateful beyond words and hope that our 25th season lives up to the artistic vision we established long ago — to provide something for everyone.”



## Origins of Orchestra Kentucky

Orchestra Kentucky was founded in the summer of 2000 with no funds and just a vision of two friends, Jeff Reed and Mike Thurman. Both are musicians who saw the need in the Bowling Green community for an orchestra of professionals. They contacted several friends, some who were musicians — some not — and met several times to discuss the possibility of starting an orchestra.

Those friends were Duncan McKenzie, Evan Walters, Chuck and Janet Smith, and Greg and Helen Motter. The decision was made to organize and start an orchestra with Jeff Reed as music director. Mike was elected president. Chuck was elected treasurer and Helen secretary. The group chose the name Bowling Green Chamber Orchestra to reflect its small size. On Jan. 22, 2009, the group was renamed Orchestra Kentucky to reflect its larger size and increasing reach into the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Local musicians were contacted and rehearsed every Monday evening for several weeks at Royal Music Company before the first concert on Sept. 11, 2000. The first concert was presented at Christ Episcopal Church in Bowling Green. Approximately 150 people attended the concert, which included the music of Wagner, Handel, and Mozart. Two businesses contributed enough money to get the group started (Republic Bank and Jim Johnson), but several musicians agreed to play without being paid. Enough funding was found to take the group through the first season, a constitution was written, the orchestra was incorporated, 501(c)(3) status was obtained, goals were set, and the orchestra was on its way.

A milestone in the orchestra's history was the decision to present a rock band and vocalists with the orchestra. Jeff organized a group of local rock musicians, later named The Rewinders, and had Pam Thurman and Chuck Smith transcribe the orchestral parts. The first concert of Beatles hits sold 450 tickets, with nearly 2,000 tickets sold in the sixth year of the show. New shows have been added since then.

## Chris Allen, Jeff Reed Interview

Excerpts from WNKY Weather Chief Chris Allen interview with Orchestra Kentucky Founding Music Director Jeff Reed.

### Tell us how Orchestra Kentucky began.

“We gave our first concert at Christ Episcopal. It was sold out, and we quickly had to move to Living Hope, and we filled that. And then we went to Van Meter and the Capitol, and then finally with SKyPAC — this is our home.”

### When you started Orchestra Kentucky, did you have any idea what it would become?

“I did not envision it being this successful. My life has been a fairy tale for somebody who wanted to be a conductor. When I was taking seventh grade music class in Wabash, Indiana, we did a unit on conducting. The teacher taught us the conducting patterns, and I said, ‘That’s what I want to do.’ I thought I would end up being a high school band director. There’s nothing wrong with that — you can impact a lot of students’ lives through teaching. I thought Orchestra

Kentucky would be a nice little community group that would have a few followers. It’s turned into a thousand subscribers, and me getting to conduct with some remarkably talented people. It’s been a dream, and I’m very thankful for that.”

### Which concerts stand out the most to you?

“The first Beatle madness concert was important. That was the thing we did that first got the community’s attention and got us some recognition. The other was 9/11. We did a free patriotic concert, and I think that was the moment when the community came together and saw us in a different light. I was thinking the other day about Jimmy Webb — one of the greatest songwriters in history — was here. I got to spend a few days with him. What a genius. Glen Campbell — Neil Sedaka, who took me to Europe and all over the United States as a conductor. The main joy that I’ve gotten out of it is entertaining audiences. When you look out over the theater, and you see people genuinely enjoying themselves — that is the payoff.”



### What about the future?

“Eventually, I see myself handing the baton off to someone much more talented than I am who can take it to another level — someone who is a community member and conscious of the need to be part of the community. I see everything continuing to grow. If you’re not growing, you’re dying. There is no such thing as the status quo, I don’t believe in the arts. Onward and upward — that’s where I want to go.” GN

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## HOW A CHILDHOOD CONNECTION FORGED A LIFETIME COMMITMENT

By Amanda E. West  
Photography by Amanda Guy



**B**RETT HIGHTOWER'S suitcase bobbed against the heels of his tennis shoes as he climbed each step of the Greyhound bus. The driver secured his luggage in the overhead compartment, and Brett slid across the vinyl seat, waving goodbye to his parents. He would spend a week of his summer with his grandfather, Dr. Ted Hightower, in a community that was — and would forever be — extra special to Brett.

Even though Brett is a native of Louisville, those childhood connections he formed while his grandfather served as minister of the State Street United Methodist Church led him to attend Western Kentucky University (WKU), to enlist in the Marine Corps Reserve and provided him a place of respite while he convalesced from life-threatening injuries sustained while serving in Afghanistan. Now, as the twice-elected sheriff, he mirrors the love and care his grandfather once showered on his beloved congregation, doing the same for his community.

Brett learned to care about the needs of others from his parents, who were teachers, and while doing community service projects with his church youth group. This allowed Brett to view life through the lens of uncovering the deepest needs and then meeting them. His desire to make the world a better place flickered constantly, igniting a wildfire he could no longer ignore.

“In my heart of hearts, I always felt this desire to serve in the military. During my junior year at WKU, a friend of mine asked me to give him a ride to the Marine Corps recruiting station. When we got there, I began talking to the recruiter ... I wasn't a



**“I strive to be the best caretaker of this position that I can. I regularly go into our community and listen to the needs being voiced, and I strive to find ways to meet them.”**

**- SHERIFF BRETT HIGHTOWER**

hard sell because I always wanted to enlist. I had one year left at WKU, so I signed up for the regular reserves.

“My plan was to go to boot camp between my junior and senior year, finish my degree, and then I could decide if I wanted to serve full time and work toward becoming an officer or stay in the reserves. Either way, I was going to complete my degree and serve my country.”

From as far back as Brett could

remember, his parents had peppered him with the idea that he would attend four full years of college. Although he'd signed the official papers and had enlisted in November 1989, he wasn't quite ready to divulge his secret. During Christmas break, his mom began making summer plans, giving him the perfect opportunity to share his decision.

“I don't recommend anyone tell their parents — especially their mother — the way I did. All she heard was, ‘I've joined the Marine Corps.’ She didn't hear the part about me completing my degree. She kept saying, ‘You're going to be activated,’ to which I assured her that hadn't happened since Korea or Vietnam.”

His plans changed abruptly on Aug. 2, 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait the day before he graduated boot camp. He was deployed stateside for six months, but true to his promise to his mother, he returned to WKU and finished his degree in communications before joining the police force.

Brett spent 17 years with the Bowling Green Police Department. He'd worked his way up to captain when his unit was deployed to Afghanistan. On the morning of Aug. 16, 2008, Brett was injured in close combat with the Taliban when shrapnel fractured his jaw and damaged his left vertebral artery. At that moment, nothing mattered except his devoted wife and two young daughters. How could they endure this loss? He was determined to return home to his family.

Before Brett even returned to the States, he was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his deployment service and combat injury. During his recovery, he was stationed at Fort Knox before accepting a position as law enforcement coordinator for the United States Attorney's Office. While there, he served as liaison for all federal, state, and local law enforcement for the 53 counties in the Western District of Kentucky.

During this time, the Hightowers became foster parents, and Brett's commute to Louisville took a toll on everyone. What began as a short-term placement for two children became permanent, and the family, along with several friends, encouraged Brett to run for sheriff.

“This is the people's office,” said Sheriff Hightower. “I strive to be the best caretaker of this position that I can. I regularly go into our community and listen to the needs being voiced, and I strive to find ways to meet them.” **GN**



Unassuming building,  
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# Danny's Pasta Co & Focacciarria



Don't let the exterior fool you —  
this is the best pasta in Bowling Green.



## GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!

We will feature a local food critic's thoughts as they dine in Bowling Green. This month Eve Vawter visited Danny's Pasta Co & Focacciarria.

Eve Vawter  
FoodCriticBowling-  
Green@Gmail.com

## Danny's Pasta Co & Focacciarria

825 College St.  
Bowling Green, KY  
(270) 936-7415  
www.dannypastaco.com

**C**AN YOU eat one of the best meals in Bowling Green while sitting in your car? Yes, you can — that's if you pay a visit to Danny's Pasta Co & Focacciarria on College Street, housed in a tiny cinder block building. When I say "tiny," I mean "sardine can" tiny. Danny's has a few tables outdoors, but this amazing pasta deserves more than being eaten in a parking lot. If this restaurant ever expanded into a larger dining space that served wine, it could be in the top running for the best restaurant in Bowling Green.

Danny's has a very cute, small grocery area where you can buy items like Italian sodas, imported olive oils and tomato pastes, coffee, spices, and Alessi breadsticks. A refrigerator case is stocked with homemade pizza dough, pasta sauces, and burrata. The restaurant counter houses delicious homemade focaccia pizzas, where you can get everything from a Margherita to whatever specialty combination the staff dreams up that day. The pep-

peroni was the perfect combination of chewy yet airy, with a robust tomato sauce covered in some spicy pepperoni. The sausage and jalapeno was another standout.

You can create your own pasta by picking which pasta, protein, vegetables, or sauces you want to be added or choose from the house favorites. We picked the Bucatini Cacio e Pepe, which is one of the simplest Italian dishes but also one of the easiest for a restaurant to mess up. That was not the case with this traditional Roman pasta, which was perfectly creamy and flavored with salty Parmigiano and bourbon pepper. The Orecchiette Merguez is a dish I'm still thinking about, consisting of mushrooms, garlic, sausage, tomato paste, and tongue-scorching harissa — all cooled down with splotches of creamy goat cheese. It's fantastic.

Danny's is one of the best places to eat in Bowling Green, and I hope it expands into a traditional dining space. Food this excellent really deserves to. **GN**



# Savor summer's bounty



Submit your recipes to be included in Good News Magazine  
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# Enjoy the season's first fruits and vegetables.

**A**S THE warm summer sun shines high in the Southern sky, it's time to embrace the vibrant flavors of the season. Our July recipes showcase the best of summer's produce, from juicy peaches and crisp cucumbers to sweet corn and zucchini.

Whether you're hosting a backyard gathering or enjoying a quiet evening at home, these dishes will have you savoring the tastes of the season. From refreshing salads and grilled favorites to fruity desserts, let's dig into the simple pleasures of summer together! **GN**



## Strawberry Pretzel Salad

*In memory of Pat Hopper*

2 c. pretzels, crushed  
4 T. sugar  
3/4 c. margarine, softened  
1 pkg. cream cheese, 8 oz., softened  
1 c. sugar  
1 container whipped topping, 8 oz.  
1 lg. pkg. strawberry gelatin  
1 1/2 - 2 c. boiling water  
2 pkgs., strawberries, frozen, slightly thawed, 10 oz.

In a large bowl, mix together pretzels, 4 T. of sugar, and margarine. Pat pretzel mixture in a 9x13 baking dish. Bake at 400° for 6 minutes. Cool. In a mixing bowl, mix cream cheese, and 1 cup of sugar. Fold in whipped topping. Spread over pretzel crust. In a separate bowl, mix strawberry gelatin with boiling water. Stir until dissolved. Add frozen strawberries. Refrigerate until gelatin starts to thicken slightly. Stir, then pour over cream cheese layer and refrigerate until set.

## Peachy Blueberry Cobbler

*Submitted by Louella Turner*

1 c. sugar  
2 t. baking powder  
1 c. AP flour  
1 t. salt  
1 c. milk  
1/2 c. butter, melted  
3 med. peaches, peeled, sliced, lightly sugared  
2/3 c. fresh blueberries  
vanilla ice cream, optional

In a medium mixing bowl, combine sugar, baking powder, flour, and salt. In a small mixing bowl, combine milk and butter. Pour over sugar mixture. Mix until smooth. Pour into a greased 12x8x2 glass baking dish. Spread peaches evenly over the top of butter. Sprinkle with blueberries. Bake at 350° for 50 minutes or until batter rises through the fruit and top is golden brown. Serve cobbler warm and topped with vanilla ice cream, if desired.

## Fresh Summer Salsa

*Submitted by Marguerite Eddins*

1 habanero chili pepper, seeded, minced  
4 lg. plum tomatoes, chopped  
2 T. vinegar  
1 t. sugar  
1/2 t. salt  
1 med. cucumber, peeled, diced  
1 c. fresh cilantro, finely chopped  
2 T. olive oil  
1 t. ground cumin  
tortilla chips, for serving

In a small mixing bowl, combine pepper, tomatoes, vinegar, sugar, salt, cucumber, cilantro, olive oil, and cumin. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Serve with tortilla chips.



*Justin & Maggie  
Tidwell*

✦ ✦ **THE SKY IS** ✦ ✦  
**NOT THE LIMIT.**

Local flight school connects  
Bowling Green to the world beyond

By Sara Hook  
Photography by Adin Parks

**A CERTAIN FREEDOM** is found in soaring through the skies, viewing the world below, and the horizon stretching to either side. It's incredible even in a passenger plane — but when your hands are on the airplane's yoke, it is something else entirely.

That's the joy behind flying for Justin and Maggie Tidwell, founders of Bowling Green's flight school, Flywell Aviation. Based at the Bowling Green-Warren County Regional Airport, Flywell Aviation has spent the last four years spreading that joy through the Kentucky community and connecting the community to the world

beyond. Flying, Justin said, makes the world smaller.

"You can get anywhere you want to go in half the time or less," Justin said. "You're able to see and meet people that you normally wouldn't run across without that connection."



Both Bowling Green natives, Justin originally worked as a military contractor flying drones and unmanned aircraft overseas, while Maggie worked for local businesses across the town. However, they saw a void in flight schools around Bowling Green, and with a pilot shortage throughout the country, a business like Flywell Aviation seemed like a perfect solution.







“We just thought that it was a good opportunity to spread what we enjoyed as a career and a hobby to others and help them meet the goal to become a professional pilot,” Justin said.

Flying runs in the family for both Justin and Maggie, as both of their fathers were pilots. Still, it was a Young Eagles program that gave Justin his first flight when he was 8, sparking a lifelong love for the skies. Maggie flew regularly with her father as a child, but Justin ultimately taught her how to fly. That ripple effect is the reason Flywell offers multiple op-



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YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN  
YOU GIVE THAT FREE RIDE  
TO A CHILD WHAT IMPACT  
IT’LL HAVE LATER ON IN  
THEIR LIFE.  
*Justin Tidwell*”

opportunities for kids — their own Young Eagles program and a summer camp in coordination with the airport authority.

“You never know when you give that free ride to a child what impact it’ll have later on in their life,” Justin said.

Flying is a promising career and hobby, and Flywell Aviation has lessons for everyone. Some of the students are looking to become full-time pilots, some learn so they can expand their business further, and some learn so they can more easily take their family on vacation. Justin said that each year, Flywell’s eight instructors help around 20 people get their pilot license or upgrade their existing license.

The company offers more than lessons and summer camps. Flywell assists companies in aerial photography, helps people honor their loved ones, and consults for those working with drones or looking to buy planes. It offers discovery flights for those who simply want a single ride, whether it be to see the sights of Bowling Green or to overcome a fear of flying. The

flights are regularly donated to charity events and auctions.

Even without paying for a lesson or a flight, there is a way to see what Bowling Green offers by air — Flywell’s Facebook page, run by Maggie, is full of beautiful photos of the area.

“A lot of people follow our Facebook page, Flywell Aviation,” Maggie said. “Even if they don’t have their license, they love to see the pictures and feel like they’re a part of the aviation community.”

Flight by flight and person by person, Justin and Maggie are spreading a love of the sky throughout the Bowling Green community. Their students may go on to become career pilots or hobbyists or never fly again, but there is no doubt they have been changed by what they learned. After all, the sky is not the limit with Flywell Aviation. **GN**

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*To learn more about Flywell Aviation, visit them on Facebook, call (270) 779-0231, or email [justin@flywellaviation.com](mailto:justin@flywellaviation.com).*

*Jill Wright*

# A VISION THAT CAME TRUE

Local nail tech runs the most significant nails-only convention in North America.

By Sara Hook  
Photography by Adin Parks

**E**VERY YEAR in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, hundreds of nail techs worldwide gather to network, shop, and learn at the Nail Tech Event of the Smokies. As the largest nails-only show in North America, this provides a unique opportunity for nail professionals in the South — all because of the hard work of Bowling Green's own nail tech, Jill Wright.

The event started as a dream after Wright was continually disappointed at other beauty shows.

"I had flown to the bigger shows, and when I say big shows, we're talking international hair, skin, and nail shows," Wright said. "Nail techs are typically the red-head-

ed stepchildren of the industry — we're pushed to the back into a corner and not given much attention."

Wright said most shows are in big cities, not in the South, and primarily taken up by hair booths.

There were very few nail companies and little opportunity to meet other nail techs.

"I thought, 'Wouldn't it be fun to do a little networking event?' Because I had been to one at one of the shows," Wright said. "It was small, in a back room. Most of the people couldn't even find it, so we had [about] 10 people in the room."

Networking was one of her goals, but education was just as important. The South was underserved







when it came to nail education, and even beauty schools had a limited curriculum. To solve that, Wright began working on a small networking event. Her goal was to gather just 50 techs and for a few nail companies to send educators. There were many companies to choose from, but few were interested in the event.

“It was like the biggest hurdle you ever saw,” Wright said. “Back then, nail companies had not heard of a nail tech networking event, so I literally got rejection after rejection.”

Wright was working full time as a nail tech, and she spent her mornings and nights sending emails and trying to find people to come. Finally, she found enough attendees, but it was so difficult that Wright determined not to do it again. The nail techs, on the other hand, had a different idea. The event was such a resounding success that many of them begged Wright to do it again.

“It liked to have killed me, putting that on, and I thought there’s no way I could do this again,” Wright said. “But the nail techs

loved it, and they begged me. They were like, ‘Jill, we need this because our area of the South is so underserved.’ When nail companies would send educators to teach classes, they would send them to the big cities, and they weren’t down South — none of the big cities were down South.”

Wright and the many family, friends, and clients who volunteer for the event have since grown it from its original 50 to the hundreds it serves today. By the third year, they outgrew their first venue and the next venue the year after, and by the fifth, they moved into the Gatlinburg Convention Center. All of that hard work was to serve her profession.

“We nail techs deserve education just like everybody else,” Wright said. “I just wanted to prove to the entire beauty industry that it could be done. I had a vision for what I wanted to happen in the South, and I made it happen.”

For many techs, that education can be vital to their careers. Working in the profession involves more than just polishing nails — techs need to know the chemistry and science behind what they do and



the signs of diseases and disorders. Many go further and get their medical nail tech certification as well. Beyond that, Wright said she hopes the event shows young, budding nail techs how many career options are available to them.

“There’s just so many more possibilities aside from just sitting at the nail table working all day — which is fun to do, but at some point, most people want more out of their life,” Wright said. “Being a nail tech can offer that.”

The Nail Tech Event of the Smokies offers a lot to those who attend, but the story behind it can teach all of us. Wright’s dream of a fun little networking event has grown into something that affects hundreds of her fellow professionals every year and the thousands of people those nail techs serve. Hard work and determination truly do bring about incredible results. **GN**

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*Jill Wright*

# TOP CROPS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

Local nonprofit provides fertile ground for social interaction

By Amanda E. West  
Photography by Amanda Guy

**H**IGH SCHOOL graduation brings excitement. Every experience becomes a cherished memory as prom night fades into snapping last-minute photos, distributing caps and gowns, and college acceptance letters pile up on the dresser. But for some, high school graduation marks the end of an era — the end of the rhythm of planned social gatherings, a large pool of friends, and a reason to leave the house each day.

With the date of their daughter's graduation circled on their 2014 calendar, Bill and Carol Greer asked themselves, "What will come next for Ginna?" Her peers and twin brother were

attending college or starting new jobs. Ginna had survived a stroke as an infant and was now courageously battling recurrent seizures, so although others around her had unlimited possibilities opening up to them, Ginna's future remained uncertain.

"Once an individual with intellectual and developmental delays reaches the age of 21 and is no longer in school, the system of education, supports, and encouragement essentially stops," explained Bill. "This leaves many individuals dependent upon government assistance and lacking opportunities to develop their potential, find purposeful work, and make a positive







▲ Bill, Ginna, and Carol Greer

**WE GROW FOOD.  
WE GROW  
POTENTIAL.  
AND WE GROW  
COMMUNITY.**

*Top Crops Mission  
Statement*

impact in the community. We were seeing such capable individuals in Special Olympics who were sitting at home every day with no job or no way to contribute, and we thought, ‘What can we do to make this better?’”

The Greers came up with a daringly creative idea — one that would benefit not only their daughter, Ginna, but others they cared about as well. They named it “Top Crops.” Its mission statement is, “We grow food. We grow potential. And we grow community.”

After their initial concept of providing gardening opportunities to individuals with varied abilities, they needed a piece of land, a substantial greenhouse, green thumbs, basic gardening know-how, faithful volunteers, a place to sell their bounty, and plenty of customers. They refused to let this growing list of needs uproot their dreams.

“A garden would be social — a way to introduce healthy food choices. It would be great exercise outside, and the Community Farmers Market (CFM) could add another level of learning and social opportunities for not only our gardeners but — just as importantly — with the greater Bowling Green community. We

met with the founders of CFM, and they were very accepting of Top Crops being part of the market. We’ve been with CFM for 10 years now, and fellow CFM vendors have just been wonderful.”

Western Kentucky University (WKU) graciously stepped in. It provided Top Crops with a long-term lease of a 1/3-acre site at the WKU Agriculture & Research Education Center — WKU’s working farm off Nashville Road, with more than 800 acres. WKU farm personnel continue to provide support and guidance to help Top Crops’ garden grow.

Several corporations — such as Atmos Energy, Connected Nation, and countless individuals and local businesses — have supported Top Crops since its humble beginning in 2013. The annual United Way Day of Caring provided volunteers to support project builds at the garden site. Another team of volunteers constructed display shelves at the Top Crops booth at CFM. The Home Depot Foundation provided the first garden beds, and Top Crops was able to purchase the high tunnel greenhouse with a grant through the National Resources Conservation Service — a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



▲ Bill Greer and John Michael Huffman



▲ Andrew Wash and Alice Christian

“We started Top Crops to give individuals with disabilities a chance to have continuing educational experience, a social outlet, and for our gardeners to provide products beneficial to the health of the community. For both the gardeners and our volunteers, it’s become a wonderful family of individuals that gather for a common goal, and we manage to make it fun as well. Our customers at the CFM are eager to connect with our gardeners, and we look forward to those interactions each week.”

Top Crops currently has 10 regular gardeners who work the garden and run

the booth at the CFM. It partners with The HIVE Inc. and other local nonprofits striving to empower anyone with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing social gatherings and enjoyable learning opportunities.

“Every person has great potential and the ability to make a positive difference in our community. By investing our time and talents in others and creating opportunities to continuously learn and grow, we help them reach their potential, and we help our community become a better place for all.” GN

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[www.bowlinggreennami.org](http://www.bowlinggreennami.org)

## **Toys for Tots of Southern Kentucky**

Collects new, unwrapped toys from October through December and distributes those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community each year. Volunteers and community support are a must for this program to fulfill its mission, which is overseen by the local Marines.

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Hardy and Son Funeral Homes & Cremation.....	17	State Farm Insurance - Tony Rhoades.....	5
Holy Trinity Lutheran School.....	17	The Mint Gaming Hall.....	4
Hospice of Southern Kentucky.....	17	Twin City Barns.....	4
J.C. Kirby & Son Funeral Chapels & Crematory.....	3	UPS Store - Tony Brown.....	3
Morgantown Bank & Trust.....	9	Warren County Stormwater.....	9
Overhead Door Company of Bowling Green.....	16	WGGC.....	8

## The Value of Good News

Good News Magazine not only lets you reach your audience directly, it's also a way to build brand recognition and positive associations over time. Placing your ad alongside engaging, positive stories means it's much more likely to be seen and well received.

Our beautiful design and community focus result in a premium publication that readers keep in their home for long periods of time — leading to more views of your ad.



### LOCAL AUDIENCES

Your message reaches fans of the magazine. Local readers suggest more than 90% of the stories we tell.



### LONG SHELF LIFE

Readers look at your ad over and over again. 60% of readers keep every issue for more than 60 days.



### POWER OF PRINT

Social media is drowning in negativity. Readers notice your ad as they crave the good ol' days.



### POSITIVE ASSOCIATION

Your ad lives with positive and 'viral' content. Readers fall in love with their town and your business.



2300 Gary Farms Blvd., Bowling Green KY 42104  
(270) 904-1168 • Open daily 10:30AM - 9:00PM



## HOT SPECIALTY SUBS

### HOOK & LADDER®

**S \$6.29 | M \$9.09 | L \$12.79**

Smoked turkey breast and honey ham smothered with Monterey Jack, served Fully Involved® (mayo, lettuce, tomato, onion, deli mustard, and a pickle spear on the side).

### TURKEY BACON RANCH™

**S \$6.79 | M \$9.59 | L \$13.19**

Smoked turkey breast, pepper bacon, sharp cheddar cheese topped with peppercorn ranch, mayo, lettuce, tomato, and onion.

### FIREHOUSE MEATBALL®

**S \$6.19 | M \$9.19 | L \$12.89**

Italian meatballs, melted provolone, zesty marinara, and Italian seasonings. Best meatballs guaranteed! \*Contains gluten

### CLUB ON A SUB™

**S \$6.79 | M \$9.59 | L \$13.19**

Smoked turkey breast, Virginia honey ham, crispy pepper bacon, and melted Monterey Jack, served Fully Involved® (mayo, lettuce, tomato, onion, deli mustard, and a pickle spear on the side).

### ITALIAN™

**S \$6.19 | M \$9.19 | L \$12.69**

Genoa salami, pepperoni, Virginia Honey Ham, melted provolone, Italian dressing, and seasonings, served Fully Involved® (mayo, lettuce, tomato, onion, deli mustard, and a pickle spear on the side).

### FIREHOUSE STEAK & CHEESE®

**S \$6.59 | M \$9.19 | L \$13.69**

Sautéed steak with Provolone, topped with sautéed onions, bell peppers, mayo, mustard and a dill spear on the side.

## ALL NEW SUB!

### BBQ CUBAN

**S \$6.99 | M \$10.99 | L \$13.99**

### ENGINEER®

**S \$6.19 | M \$9.29 | L \$12.99**

Smoked Turkey Breast with sauteed Mushrooms and melted Open-Eyed Swiss, served Fully Involved® (mayo, lettuce, tomato, onion, deli mustard, and a pickle spear on the side).

### FIREHOUSE HERO®

**S \$6.19 | M \$9.29 | L \$13.19**

Premium roast beef, smoked turkey breast, Virginia honey ham, and melted provolone, served Fully Involved® (mayo, lettuce, tomato, onion, deli mustard, and a pickle spear on the side).

### NEW YORK STEAMER®

**S \$6.19 | M \$9.29 | L \$13.29**

Corned beef brisket, pastrami, melted provolone, mustard, mayo, and Italian dressing.

### SMOKEHOUSE BEEF & CHEDDAR BRISKET®

**S \$6.99 | M \$10.99 | L \$13.99**

Smoked beef brisket, melted cheddar, BBQ sauce & mayo with a dill pickle spear served on the side.

### SPICY CAJUN CHICKEN

**S \$6.39 | M \$9.29 | L \$12.99**

Grilled, Cajun-seasoned chicken breast, jalapeños, melted pepper jack cheese, lettuce, onions, deli mustard, and our housemade Cajun mayo.

### JAMAICAN JERK TURKEY

**S \$6.09 | M \$9.09 | L \$12.89**

Smoked Turkey Breast Topped with Jamaican Jerk seasoning, Pepper Jack Cheese, Mayo, lettuce, tomato, onion, and Jamaican Jerk sweet mustard sauce

### PEPPERONI MEATBALL

**S \$6.99 | M \$10.99 | L \$13.99**

Italian meatballs, marinara, extra provolone, crispy pepperoni, and Italian seasoning on a toasted garlic bread roll.

## BUILD YOUR OWN SUB

Served hot, or make it cold.

Choose your protein, bread, cheese, veggies, and condiments.

Try it Fully Involved® with lettuce, tomato, onion, mayo and deli mustard

### SMOKED TURKEY BREAD M \$8.99

### VIRGINIA HONEY HAM \$8.99

### GRILLED CHICKEN BREAD S \$6.29 | M \$9.19 | L \$12.99

### PASTRAMI S \$6.29 | M \$9.09 | L \$12.79

### ROAST BEEF S \$6.09 | M \$9.09 | L \$12.79

### CORNED BEEF S \$6.09 | M \$9.09 | L \$12.79

### TUNA SALAD S \$5.99 | M \$8.99 | L \$12.19

A blend of tuna, relish, mayo and black pepper with provolone. Served cold.

### VEGGIE \$8.89

Caramelized onions and green bell peppers savory mushrooms, Provolone, cheddar, Monterey Jack, lettuce, tomato, onion, mayo, deli mustard, and Italian dressed

All subs and extras also available in small and large sizes.

## EXTRAS

Extra Cheese 95¢  
Add Bacon \$1.50  
Add savory mushrooms 90¢  
Gluten-free roll \$2.49

## KIDS' COMBOS

Choose Meatball, Smoked Turkey Breast, or Virginia Honey Ham with Provolone, or Grilled Cheddar Cheese \$5.99

Served with 12 oz AHA! flavored water, dessert, and a kid-sized fire hat

## SALADS

All salads start with Romaine; diced tomato, green bell pepper, and cucumber, Mozzarella; and choice of dressing

### HOOK & LADDER SALAD® \$9.99

Smoked turkey breast and Virginia honey ham

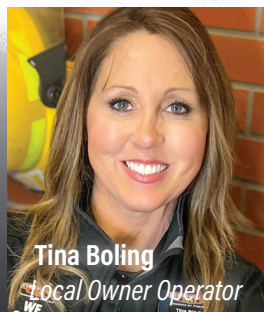
### ITALIAN WITH GRILLED CHICKEN SALAD® \$9.99

Grilled chicken breast and Genoa salami

### FIREHOUSE SALAD® \$9.99

Smoked turkey breast, Virginia honey ham, or grilled chicken breast

### NO MEAT \$7.99



Thanks to supporters like you, FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION has awarded millions of dollars worth of lifesaving equipment and resources to fire, police and public safety organizations across the country.

Prices vary by location. Prices subject to change.

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Graves  
Gilbert  
Clinic

# Health Walk

2024

Bowling Green, Kentucky

The Graves Gilbert Clinic Health walk is designed to bring providers and patients together to connect, while enjoying a walk outdoors. Rain or shine, join us for the opportunity to learn about current health topics and speak directly with a Grave Gilbert Clinic provider.

Let's walk together towards a stronger, healthier community.



**Free Health Education,  
Medical Screenings  
and Giveaways!**

### **Bowling Green Ballpark**

Saturday  
Mornings

**7:30-9am**

June 15th  
July 20th  
August 10th  
October 19th



### **Lost River Cave**

Last Wednesday  
of the Month

**7:30-9am**

May 29th  
June 26th  
July 31st  
August 28th  
September 25th  
October 30th



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