

NEED TO READ

ONLINE wnypapers.com



Erie County Fair seeks 2024 'Ultimate Fairgoer'

DOT to host public meeting on proposed LaSalle Expressway bridge rehab

Teachers professional development workshop in Buffalo-Lewiston to focus on Great Lakes

'Classics at the Carousel'

Old Fort Niagara to present 'Rebels at the Gates'

New owners excited for next chapter of Syros

Summerfest: Bands, foods, fireworks and more at annual Porter on the Lake community happening



best summer EVER

Summer event listings and special deals

In print and online, we are your No. 1 source for local news Niagara Frontier Publications and www.wnypapers.com

Opinions

Use of all submitted letters and editorials is at the discretion of Niagara Frontier Publications. All entries should include the writer's/organization's name, number and address. Submissions, which may be edited for content/style/accuracy, do not necessarily reflect the opinion of NFP staff.

National Independent Retailer Month and the importance of small businesses in a community

Guest Editorial by Michael Kooshoian
Erie County District 3 Legislator

National Independent Retailer Month, celebrated every July, is a campaign that encourages consumers to shop locally and support independent retailers. This initiative highlights the crucial role small businesses play in fostering vibrant communities, promoting economic diversity, and ensuring sustainable growth. Understanding the importance of small businesses can motivate individuals to prioritize local shops and services, thus contributing to the overall health and resilience of their neighborhoods.

Small businesses are the backbone of the local economy. They generate employment opportunities, often providing jobs to residents within the community. This local employment can reduce commute times, decrease traffic congestion, and lower environmental impact due to reduced travel distances. Furthermore, money spent at local businesses tends to stay within the community, as these businesses often procure services and supplies from other local vendors. This recirculation of money helps to strengthen the local economy and fosters a robust economic environment.

Independent retailers contribute significantly to the unique identity and character of their communities. Unlike large chain stores, which often offer a homogeneous shopping experience, local businesses provide distinctive products and personalized services that reflect the unique culture and needs of the area. This individuality attracts both locals and tourists, enhancing the community's appeal and vibrancy. The presence of diverse independent retailers can transform neighborhoods into attractive destinations for visitors, further boosting local economies.



Small businesses are pivotal in fostering social connections within a community. These businesses often serve as social hubs where people gather, interact and build relationships. This sense of community can enhance social cohesion and contribute to the overall well-being of residents. Small business owners, who frequently live in the same community, are more likely to engage in local events,

support community initiatives, and contribute to charitable causes. Their active involvement can lead to a stronger, more connected, and supportive community. Supporting small businesses also has environmental benefits. Local retailers typically have smaller carbon footprints compared to large chain stores due to their lower energy consumption and reduced need for extensive transportation of goods. Moreover, local businesses are more likely to source products locally, which decreases the environmental impact associated with shipping and handling. By choosing to shop at independent

retailers, consumers can contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and promote more sustainable consumption patterns.

National Independent Retailer Month serves as a reminder of the vital role small businesses play in our communities. These businesses are not just economic entities; they are integral to the social fabric, environmental health, and cultural identity of the areas they serve. By supporting independent retailers, consumers can help ensure the continued growth and prosperity of their communities – this July, and throughout the year.

Lewiston GardenFest extends thanks

The Lewiston GardenFest committee would like to thank all the people who helped us have another successful festival. Thank you to the first responders, the Village of Lewiston, DPW, and the Tribune/Sentinel for all you do. In addition, we'd like to thank the Lewiston Council

on the Arts and people who participated in Porchfest. It has been a pleasure to bring visitors into the community to enjoy the benefits of the area. We hope everyone enjoyed the festival and will return next year.

Mary Ann Yates
Lewiston GardenFest Chairperson



Niagara County
Tribune/Sentinel
Founded February 14, 1987

©2024 Niagara Frontier Publications
1859 Whitehaven Road
Grand Island, N.Y. 14072
Phone 716-773-7676
Fax 716-773-7190

PUBLISHER
Skip Mazenauer
GM/MANAGING EDITOR
Joshua Maloni
EDITOR IN CHIEF/SENTINEL EDITOR
Terrence P. Duffy
WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Joshua Maloni
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Colleen Rebmann, Jeff Calarco
ACCOUNTING/OFFICE MANAGER
Kim Stacharczyk
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Jennifer Walowitz

PRODUCTION MANAGER/ GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Wendy Juzwicki
CLASSIFIED MANAGER
Wendy Puffer
CIRCULATION
Kim Stacharczyk
SENIOR REPORTERS
Michael J. Billoni, Patrick J. Bradley, Alice Gerard, Karen Keefe
CONTRIBUTORS
Kevin and Dawn Cobello, Michelle Blackley Glynn, Wayne Peters,

Editorial:
Dispatch@wnypapers.com
Sentinel@wnypapers.com
Advertising:
NFPDesign@wnypapers.com
Classifieds:
NFPClassifieds@wnypapers.com
Circulation:
NFPcirculation@wnypapers.com
Legals:
legalnotice@wnypapers.com
Website:
wnypapers.com

Grand Island Publishing Corp. Newspaper is printed in the U.S.A. and all rights reserved. © 2024 by Grand Island Publishing Corp. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the publisher. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will be returned only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

All letters, news releases and photos received will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication or brochure and are subject to Grand Island Publishing Corp's. unrestricted right to edit, comment or reject.

All original artwork, layout and design remain sole property of Grand Island Publishing Corp. Reproduction in whole or part of any advertisement is strictly forbidden.

Grand Island Publishing Corp. will not be liable for errors appearing in advertisements beyond replacement of the space occupied by the error. The publisher reserves the right to reject any advertisement at his sole discretion. Notification must be made in writing within one week of publication. Verbal notifications will not be accepted.

Grand Island Publishing Corp. does not knowingly accept any kind of fraudulent advertising. We suggest you investigate thoroughly any advertisement before you reply.

Verbal cancellations will not be accepted. Written authorization to cancel a display or commercial classified ad must be received by Grand Island Publishing Corp. before deadline for insertion.

The Tribune is published weekly.

Display Ads Deadline: MONDAY 5 PM

New York State Press Association, Niagara County Builders Association, Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, Wheatfield Business Association Inc., Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, The Niagara USA Chamber.

NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS
NYPA NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION