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We are blessed to have such a great community that will always support local small businesses. As such, La-Vera is trying to make life a little easier. We are now offering a new curbside family meal pickup program. We will offer this service every Monday. Wednesday & Friday and our menus will change accordingly. Our daily meal option will include a protein, starch and vegetable and will be good for 4-6 people and will cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$36-\$40. We are also offering curbside takeout Thanksgiving dinner options!

Please visit our website at www.la-vera.com or call 440-943-0087 for more information or *auestions!*

Did you know?

Conscientious consumers who want to help local entrepreneurs thrive may not need any extra incentive to support small businesses in their communities. However, that doesn't mean it isn't worth noting the tax benefits of buying local compared to

buying online or in other towns or cities. Small businesses pay sales taxes to the city and county where the business is located. which means a significant amount of the money spent at local businesses is ulti-

SEE PAGE 11

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Take a Trip down Rt. 20 - Two of Ashtabula County's Largest Gift Shops Now Open for the Season!



Catherine's Christmas



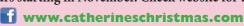
Now Open for our 29th Season Season ends December 24th

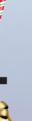
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How consumers can help small businesses

Small businesses continue to be the backbone of the North American business community. According to the career resource Zippia, there are 33.2 million small businesses in the United States. Those organizations employ around 62 million people. The financial wellness company Fortunly says that small businesses account for nearly half of all private sector jobs in Canada. In fact, small employer businesses made up 98.1 percent of all businesses in Canada in 2021.

Despite the prevalence of small businesses and the abundance of people willing to become entrepreneurs, 20 percent of these firms fail within the first year, and only 55 percent survive five years or more, says Zippia. The COVID-19 pandemic was particularly harsh on small businesses. However, many of them survived through digitization that they plan to continue to utilize

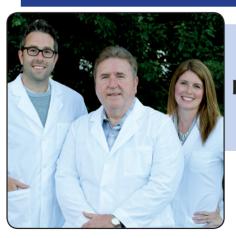
even when the pandemic is long gone.

Maintaining a small business through economic highs and lows and other issues often comes down to customer involvement. Consumers are the driving forces behind the success of small businesses. Here are some effective ways for consumers to help small businesses grow.

- Shop local. The "Shop Local" movement has been around for awhile but remains as relevant as ever. Shopping local means becoming repeat patrons at the independent businesses that comprise Main Street as opposed to the chain stores that dominate strip malls.
- Share on social. Social media can be a great way to spread the word about businesses you like and point out particular examples

SEE PAGE 11

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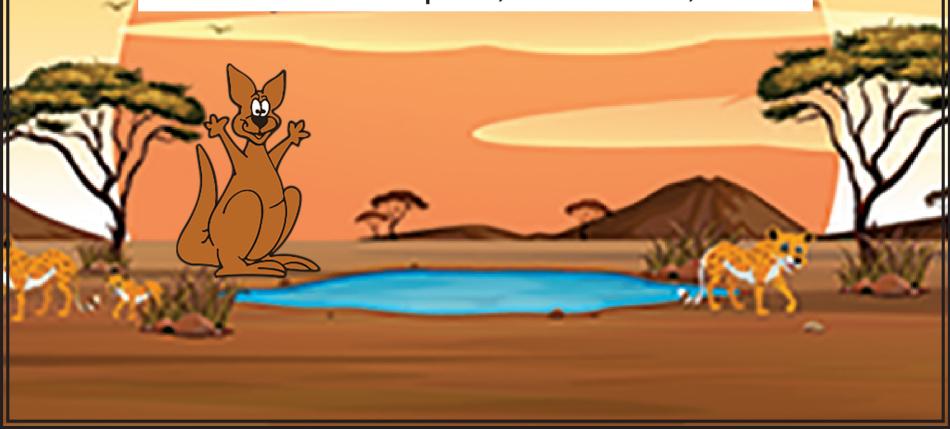
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SMALL BUSINESS FROM PAGE 9

why you shop there. Utilizing social media platforms to highlight the positive attributes of a business can help that business grow.

• Call direct for take-out orders. Those ubiquitous third-party food delivery services may be convenient, but businesses have to share the profit from your purchase with the delivery service, cutting into their bottom lines. Pick up your order or rely on the restaurants' own

delivery teams.

- Engage with the business online. Complicated algorithms and other factors determine how a business' website or social media page gets seen by the public. You can help things along by liking pages, visiting the website frequently and sharing any posts.
- Speak about a business in person. When out and about, whether you're dining with friends or chatting with a stranger, try to push and recommend businesses you support. If someone compliments your lawn, shoes or haircut. mention the businesses that did the work or sold you the products.
- Suggest opportunities for exposure. If you know about a school or organization looking for vendors, make the suggestion to a small business you use frequently. They may get new customers from participating in the event.

Small businesses are driving forces in the economy. Consumers can do their part to keep them thriving and profitable.

DID YOU KNOW FROM PAGE 3

mately going to the community at large. In addition. local businesses tend to hire local residents, who pay taxes on their incomes. Those taxes also benefit the towns and cities where workers live and work. This ripple effect of supporting local businesses is one reason why the Small Business Adminstration estimates that, for every \$100 consumers spend at a small business. \$48 remains in the community.



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On behalf of our employees and ourselves, we at Klemenc Construction Co., Inc. would like to personally thank the local communities our business associates and especially our customers for doing business with us. It is because of you, we attribute our success. When you patronize a small business, you not only support our local communities but our families as well.



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