

Small ways consumers can help small businesses

Small businesses continue to be the backbone of 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.

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 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

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business you use frequently. Small business owners can reap the rewards of working alongside one another in an intimate setting by sharing tips for

success with one another. They may get new customers and benefit in many ways from their involvement in holiday fairs and seasonal, community events.

Small businesses are driving forces in our local economy and communities.















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Shop Small Business Saturday in Downtown Newburgh

The 4th annual Shop Small Weekend Shopping Crawl will take place on November 26 and 27, 2022.

Newburgh's Shop Small Weekend is a walkable shopping crawl encompassing the downtown Liberty Street and Broadway area. Shoppers can spend the day strolling between shops and restaurants while enjoying the unique experience the City of Newburgh has to offer.

Shop Small Weekend is an extension of Shop Small Saturday, an economic initiative created by American Express to encourage consumers to spend money within their home communities and the small businesses that make them up after a day of shopping mass retailers for Black Friday.

In 2021, 38 small businesses within the Liberty Street and Broadway corridor participated in Shop Small Weekend, offering sales, discounts, and specials and a chance to win various raffle prizes. Shop Small Weekend is a prime opportunity to support local businesses during the holiday shopping kickoff, coming together to strengthen the Newburgh community.

Shoppers will start at Newburgh Mercantile, 75 Broadway or APG Pilates, 87 Liberty Street to pick up their Shop Small Weekend passport. For every visit to a participating business, shoppers will get their passports stamped. Every five stamps earn one raffle ticket to win one of several prizes from participating businesses at the end of the weekend.

This year they have added a "Best Holiday Window" competition. Participants are listed on the passport for shoppers to vote for their favorite decorated window.

Small Business Passports:

- 1. Register and sign up for your Shop Small Passport at Newburgh Mercantile, 75 Broadway or APG Pilates, 89 Liberty Street starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
- 2. Get your passport stamped at every business* you visit. For every 5 stamps you earn, you will receive one raffle ticket. Look for the white and blue balloons. *Restaurants require purchase.
- 3. Drop off your stamped passport at Newburgh Mercantile or APG Pilates prior to 6 p.m. to be entered for your chance to win a raffle prize basket.







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Eggbert returns for more Winter Wonderland Magic

By KERRY BUTRICK DOWLING

The spirit of the holiday season is coming alive in the Hudson Valley, and one of the most popular holiday traditions for local residents is Eggbert and his winter wonderland at Devitt's Nursery and Supply in New Windsor. The iconic popular talking egg is one of the area's most beloved holiday traditions for all ages. For the 2022 holiday season, Eggbert and his hard working team of Devitt's elves have new special surprises ready to delight the young and old.

Annie Shupe, Marketing Manager at Devitt's, was eager to share the special holiday magic getting ready to be unveiled this holiday season starting on Black Friday. Each year, approximately 20,000 to 30,000 guests visit the winter wonderland. Shupe shared that Eggbert came to Devitt's in 1971, when the previous owner Jack Devitt bought him from Cornell University. Eggbert was originally used by Cornell University to promote the agricultural program. "Prior to Eggbert, the Devitt Family put on a small Christmas trail with animals, but Eggbert really stole the spotlight. Much like the Devitt Family, Hudson Valley families just fell in love with Eggbert and it became a tradition right away," shared Shupe.

This year, guests will be immersed in new holiday exhibits as they navigate the trails of the winter wonderland. The grandest new addition is Clair, a second egg that the Devitt's team envisioned years ago, but sadly the pandemic put her journey to the winter wonderland on hold. The story of Clair is nothing short of holiday magic as she begins her new life in the Hudson Valley with her friend Eggbert.

"The Devitt's owners have wanted to bring something new to the trail for a few years. Clair was in the thralls of Hollywood and was very content with working for Santa. She absolutely loves getting toys out to the children of the world, but in a correspondence with Eggbert in 2019, she had mentioned that she missed Christmas in the Hudson Valley. There is just something so magical about Christmas in New York. So after much convincing and consideration. Eggbert and the owners agreed that Clair would finish her contract up in the North Pole and come home. Santa was sad to see her leave, but was very happy she would



be working side by side with Eggbert to spread the joy of Christmas," said Shupe.

In addition to Clair who will be showcased in her own exhibit, the winter wonderland has other new exhibits including a chicken show with a classic truck and a brand new slot car track where customers can try their hand at racing. Farm animals, Santa and other holiday displays will also be on display. Shupe also said Devitt's poured new concrete to make the trail ADA compliant for all guests.

In recent years, merchandise was in demand by visitors and Eggbert enthusiasts, so Devitt's opened up the holiday shop to include Eggbert merchandise. "Devitt's is just honored that families want to bring Eggbert into their homes. The ornaments have been a hit from the beginning, and I think getting the new Eggbert ornament every year is a part of the Christmas tradition. Devitt's is just so happy that people get as 'eggcited' as we do about it year after year," said Shupe. Shupe went on to say that enthusiasts from all over the country and even Canada purchase ornaments off the online store to bring a little piece of the Hudson Valley into their home.

Eggbert's Holiday Shop is open seven days a week for people to stop in and shop around for Christmas decor, Eggbert merchandise, toys, home decor, snow globes and old world decorations. Adults can also stop at the tasting bar where guests can try the Angry Eggbert IPA crafted by Newburgh Brewing Company releasing on November 17 and, new for this year, a special vintage from Magnanini Winery.

Shupe said the IPA has become something of a collector's item. Every year they have a new design for the can from their highly creative design team and customers absolutely love what they come up with.

Paul Halayko of Newburgh Brewing Company shared that for the past three years a portion of the proceeds from sales of the Angry Eggbert IPA go towards purchasing trees for families. "This is the third year we are doing this. It started in 2020 when we knew that Christmas might be a tough time financially for a lot of people because of the pandemic. We ask families to reach out to us discreetly if they need a little extra help during the holidays and us buying them a Christmas tree might help make their holiday a little bit better," he explained.

With the holiday season upon us, Devitt's is honored and proud to continue the tradition of being a part of the holiday season for families. "Genuinely, and I can speak from experience because my family and I have been visiting Eggbert for over 31 years, it really is the nostalgia of it all. Devitt's truly puts their customers first and knows just how important and meaningful Christmas on the Farm with Eggbert is, and we never want to disappoint so we always go all out. I think seeing children, and even adults, experience the magic that is Eggbert and Christmas on the Farm-to watch them get so absorbed in it all- is truly what makes the event so special year after year. We're looking forward to sharing that with everyone this holiday season," said Shupe.

For more information about Eggbert and Christmas on the Farm including pricing, merchandise and hours of operation, please visit: www.devittsnsy.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DEVITT'S NURSERY AND SUPPLY

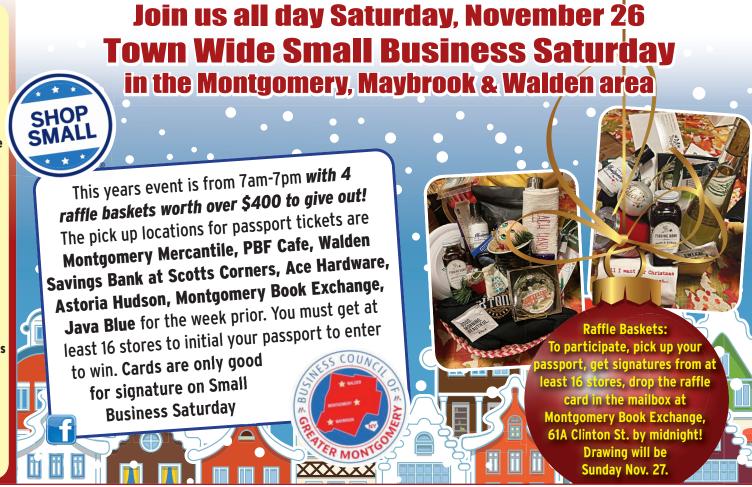


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