

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

November 20, 2020 FREE 20 Pages Vol. 29 / No. 49 • Vol. 33 / No. 40



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Pictured, clockwise from left: Ashley Warren of Warren's Village Hardware • Abigail and Greg Robertson of Greg's Pools and Abbi's Toy Corner • The inside of Hibbard's Old Portage Shop Wines & Liquors • A look into the showroom at the Old Chapel Antique and Artisan Market.

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

What is the key to success? For three of Lewiston's longest-tenured businesses, the answer is simple: service.

In a "different" sort of year, they invite shoppers to stop in and see what else makes their products, expertise and attention to detail unique. Each one offers something special not often seen in a "big box" store or from a one-click website.

Moreover, these three small businesses enable patrons to transform their homes and yards into respites in a year where, with limited travel options and even less events to attend, a "staycation" has become more necessary.

Stop by and see for yourself on Small Business Saturday.

Nov. 28 is the annual celebration of all things local – and a call to action for people to support hometown merchants.

Warren's Village Hardware
185 Portage Road, Lewiston

When the coronavirus left "New York State on PAUSE" last spring, people had two choices: They could sit inside and watch TV, or get outside and work on those long-overdue home improvement projects.

Judging from the foot traffic at Warren's Village Hardware, people chose the latter.

"We had a surge initially, when people were home, and when the unemployment was being subsidized. And now it's calmed down. I think ev-

erybody's project is done and complete. And we're going into what would be another surge for us, with the holiday season – you know, people decorating because family's coming over for Thanksgiving and Christmas," Bill Warren said.

He explained, "Mostly home improvement and paint and cosmetics was the biggest thing that we saw. We don't get deep into home improvements – we don't do flooring and carpeting and that kind of thing. But we went through a lot of paint and paint sundries during that period. But it was a little bit of everything – every department showed improvement – especially lawn and garden."

SEE SMALL, continued on Page 2

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

COVID and Christmas. Who would've thought?

With the holiday shopping craze now underway and dealing with COVID-19, many of us are now trying to plan our best route for handling the annual Christmas buying extravaganza.

The malls or online? Shopping local or "big box"? The options are many and, sooner or later, just about all of us are going to start this process of what to buy, for what person and how much.

This year there's also COVID-19, social distance protocols and the changing zones affecting the operations of some businesses. And let's not forget that mask.

How do we all plan to get this done anyway?

Well, one option is found at two unique businesses located in a quiet neighborhood along the Robinson Street strip in North Tonawanda. One is known as the Old Chapel Antique and Artisan Market, and found in a neat, old-time former church complex at 172 Robinson St. The other being its cousin – The Old Greenhouse Antiques and Décor – housed in long-time flower shop at 700 E. Robinson St.

NT residents Jacob and Jennifer Wankasky operate the two. Both sites offer the holiday shopper a number of neat gift buying options – and a pleasurable environment to browse or buy.

SEE NEAT, continued on Page 5

HIBBARD'S OLD PORTAGE SHOP LEWISTON • 754-8660 • OPEN 7 DAYS **Happy Thanksgiving**

Black Friday/Small Business Saturday In-Store TASTING OTHER DISCOUNTS & CASE PRICING DO NOT APPLY. HOLIDAY HOURS 9AM-4PM

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