



# VOICE OF BUSINESS

## Businesses lead on equity and racial injustice



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The Dayton area business community is uniquely positioned as a regional leadership network that will help guide our region through equity and racial injustice changes which will better our community.

Business leaders have the platform to create real systemic change that supports workforce, philanthropic and supplier equity. Doing so will demonstrate a significant step in implementing change to address the racial injustice issues that became a part of a national dialogue this past summer.

Businesses have the platform to create real change, but we need our community partners to continue to help educate and inform us about needs, issues and challenges.

Private businesses and our public partners have identified partnerships to heal our communities and have

worked toward a greater good. Our public sector colleagues are key partners in this endeavor, as they are looked to as leaders to bring issues to the table and disseminate solutions throughout the community.

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley and I have been regularly meeting with Black clergy leaders in Dayton to better understand the unique challenges of their congregations and the importance the church plays in the community.

These meetings have been enlightening and helpful in understanding their unique needs and the role the business community can play.

I'm proud the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce ran toward the issues of equity and racial injustice, advocating for racism to be declared a public health crisis, and hosting a racial injustice roundtable to identify better ways that business leaders can improve and create equity.

Eighty-seven employers signed on to the chamber's advocacy statement calling for racism to be declared a public health emergency, and subsequently 74 attendees joined us for a roundtable to discuss the racial injustice. This strong commitment to improvement and continued learning

### ECONOMIC INDICATORS

#### Residential Home Sales

	July '20	July '19	%Change	YTD '20	YTD '19	%Change
<b>Number of Homes Sold</b>	1773	1668	6.29%	9172	9474	-3.19%
<b>Total Home Sales</b>	\$366,566,948	\$315,168,484	16.31%	\$1,750,126,850	\$1,669,882,543	4.81%
<b>Average Sale Price (\$)</b>	\$206,750	\$188,950	9.42%	\$190,812	\$176,260	8.26%

Source: Dayton Area Board of Realtors, Dayton Area Home Sales for July 2020

#### Sales Tax Collections

County	Current Rate	July 2020	July 2019	12 Mos Change	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	YTD Change
<b>Butler</b>	0.75	\$3,909,669	\$3,769,808	3.71%	\$25,113,712	\$26,072,353	-3.68%
<b>Clark</b>	1.5	\$2,635,118	\$2,471,814	6.61%	\$15,700,165	\$15,278,564	2.76%
<b>Darke</b>	1.5	\$901,192	\$817,444	10.25%	\$5,614,176	\$5,223,436	7.48%
<b>Greene</b>	1	\$2,798,035	\$2,529,069	10.63%	\$16,514,262	\$16,465,226	0.30%
<b>Miami</b>	1.25	\$1,933,300	\$1,725,600	12.04%	\$11,930,477	\$10,992,329	8.53%
<b>Montgomery</b>	1.25	\$9,770,812	\$9,193,937	6.27%	\$58,538,321	\$57,952,415	1.01%
<b>Preble</b>	1.5	\$582,079	\$533,110	9.19%	\$3,580,514	\$3,450,184	3.78%
<b>Warren</b>	1.25	\$6,136,157	\$5,140,283	19.37%	\$32,017,289	\$31,771,323	0.77%
<b>Region Total</b>		<b>\$28,666,361</b>	<b>\$26,181,064</b>	<b>9.49%</b>	<b>\$169,008,916</b>	<b>\$167,205,829</b>	<b>1.08%</b>

Source: [http://www.tax.ohio.gov/tax\\_analysis/tax\\_data\\_series/sales\\_and\\_use/publications\\_tds\\_sales/S1M0720.asp](http://www.tax.ohio.gov/tax_analysis/tax_data_series/sales_and_use/publications_tds_sales/S1M0720.asp)

### As business leaders, we know discomfort is inevitable, but silence is no longer an option to enact real change.

from our business leaders is a model of integrity and improvement.

Business leaders know we cannot change what we are unwilling to confront. The importance of having tough conversations at every level of an organization, but

particularly amongst leadership, is key to addressing this issue. As business leaders, we know discomfort is inevitable, but silence is no longer an option to enact real change.

It can't end here. The chamber is committed to

linking arms with the business community and working together to address these issues, better our places of employment and set the tone for the community at-large. The chamber is working directly with our business members to

develop a best practices model, educating our members on equity leadership, advocating for real change, and supporting our community through supplier diversity. We know the business community has the leadership platform, and we are willing to step up and use our unique position to create change and betterment for all.

### DAYTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- VIRTUAL: 68th Annual Safety Conference & Symposium, Oct. 28, 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Topic: Workplace safety
- VIRTUAL: 2020 Workplace Diversity & Inclusion Forum, Nov. 10, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Topic: Driving economic

- opportunity for our entire community
- VIRTUAL: Breakfast Briefing, Nov. 13, 9 to 10 a.m. Topic: "150 Year Journey of Flight" with Hartzell Propeller
- 2020 Legislative Reception, Nov. 16, 4 to 6:30 p.m., NCR Country Club, 4435 Dogwood Trail, Kettering. Topic:

- Meet the Dayton region's newly elected and incumbent public officials
- VIRTUAL: Safety Breakfast with the Experts, Dec. 17, 8 to 9 a.m. Topic: Workers' comp update
- Register for all events at [DaytonChamber.org](http://DaytonChamber.org).

## Laptops

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They don't have computers and can't attend classes held online.

A surge in worldwide demand by educators for low-cost laptops and Chromebooks – up to 41% higher than last year – has created monthlong shipment delays and pitted desperate schools against one another. Districts with deep pockets often win out, leaving poorer ones to give out printed assignments and wait until winter for new computers to arrive.

That has frustrated students around the country, especially in rural areas and communities of color, which also often lack high-speed internet access and are most likely to be on the losing end of the digital divide. In 2018, 10 million students didn't have an adequate device at home, a study by education nonprofit Common Sense Media found. That gap, with much of the country still learning remotely, could now be crippling.

"The learning loss that's taken place since March when they left, when schools closed, it'll take years to catch up," Henry said. "This could impact an entire generation of our students."

Sellers are facing stunning demand from schools in countries from Germany to El Salvador, said Michael Boreham, an education

technology analyst at Futuresource Consulting, a British company. Japan alone is expected to order 7 million devices.

Global computer shipments to schools were up 24% from 2019 in the second quarter, Boreham said, and were projected to hit that 41% jump in the third quarter, which just ended.

Chromebooks, web-based devices that run on software from Google and are made by an array of companies, are in particular demand because they cost less than regular laptops. That has put huge pressure on a supply chain that cobbles laptop parts from all over the world, usually assembling them in Asian factories, Boreham said.

While that supply chain has slowly geared up, the spike in demand is "so far over and above what has historically been the case," said Stephen Baker, a consumer electronics analyst at the NPD Group. "The fact that we've been able to do that and there's still more demand out there, it's something you can't plan for."

Adding to the problem, many manufacturers are putting a priority on producing expensive electronics that net greater profits, like gaming hardware and higher-end computers for at-home employees, said Erez Pikar, chief executive of Trox, a company that sells devices to school districts.

Before the year began,



Raymond Heller holds out the tablet he uses for school. Until recently, Heller was sharing one iPad with three siblings. JEREMY M. LANGE / THE NEW YORK TIMES

Trox predicted it would deliver 500,000 devices to school districts in the United States and Canada in 2020, Pikar said. Now, the total will be 2 million. But North American schools are still likely to end the year with a shortage of more than 5 million devices, he said. He added that he was not aware of any large-scale efforts to get refurbished or donated laptops to school districts.

Districts that placed orders early in the pandemic have come out ahead, industry analysts said, while schools that waited until summer – often because they were struggling to make ends meet – are at a disadvantage.

The Los Angeles Unified School District spent \$100 million on computers in March and said in September that it was unaffected by shortages. But Paterson

Public Schools in New Jersey had to wait until it received federal coronavirus relief money in late May to order 14,000 Chromebooks, which were then delayed because of Commerce Department restrictions on a Chinese manufacturer, Hefei Bitland.

Alabama schools are waiting for more than 160,000 devices, and Mississippi did not receive the first of the 320,000 computers the state had ordered until early October. Staples said it would receive 140,000 Chromebooks for schools in November and December, 40,000 of which are earmarked for California districts.

Daniel Santos, an eighth grade teacher in Houston, logs into his virtual classroom from home each morning and starts the day's American history lesson. Once he turns his students loose to

work on assignments, the hard conversations begin.

If students stop turning in homework consistently, Santos asks them privately: Do you have access to a laptop? One boy said he and his brother were sharing one computer at home, making it difficult for both to attend class. Others were completing assignments on their cellphones.

"It breaks my heart," said Santos, who hears the "demoralization" in students' voices. "They want to do their work."

Guilford County Schools, with 73,000 students, is encountering the same problem in North Carolina. The district ordered laptops in August with help from the March coronavirus relief bill, Henry said.

Many children in the area live in poverty and lack personal computers or reliable internet service, she said. Those who cannot attend virtual classes are receiving printed assignments delivered to their houses. Some are watching recordings of classes when they can log on to a device, and a small number have been allowed into district buildings for occasional access to computers and Wi-Fi, Henry said.

The district is pushing to resume some in-person instruction in late October because of the growing divide between rich and poor.

In eastern Idaho, the Bonneville Joint School District

is holding in-person classes, but hundreds of students have had to quarantine after possible virus exposure – and the district said it did not have enough Chromebooks for them all. It didn't place its \$700,000 order for 4,000 devices until late September because of budget challenges, said Gordon Howard, Bonneville's technology director.

While they wait for the order, students without computers are missing out on education.

"Those that are behind continue to get further behind, and it's through no fault of the kids at all," said Scott Miller, principal of the Bonneville district's Hillcrest High School in Ammon.

Many students at the Sante Fe Indian School, operated by New Mexico's Pueblo tribes, live in tribal homes without Wi-Fi access, said Kimball Sekaquaptewa, the school's technology director. The school ordered laptops with built-in SIM cards that do not require Wi-Fi to connect to the internet.

But the delivery date for the July order was pushed to October, forcing students to start the school year without remote classes. Instead, they were asked to find public Wi-Fi twice a week to download and upload assignments.

"There's a lot of frustration," Sekaquaptewa said. "We really wanted to hit the ground running, and now we're in limbo."

## Grants

continued from D1

were canceled and all but six weddings were rescheduled to 2021.

The addition is very helpful and Brightside has announced some fall patio shows, including "tip-what-you-can" music shows on Thursday nights and Sunday afternoons as long as the weather cooperates, she said.

The first show is today at 4 p.m. (Dixon's Violin), and shows will be moved indoors if there is bad weather, she said. The inside offers tall

ceilings, UV light filters and guests can use a table service app that allows for non-touch ordering and drinks.

Coco's Bistro is using its grant money to pay for eight air purification systems on the heating and air units, said Karen Wick-Gagnet, co-owner.

The business, located at 250 Warren St., also has rented eight patio heaters for October, at a cost of about \$2,200, not including the gas, she said.

Wick-Gagnet said she has preordered six heating units from a restaurant supplier and is waiting for them to

ship. The grant funding will help with equipment costs. Each unit costs about \$1,795.

Wick-Gagnet is hoping for a mild winter so Coco's can keep the patio open.

Many guests want fresh air, she said, and the restaurant also has three sets of courtyard doors in the dining room that can be left open.

Coco's business is down more than 30% from last year, but the restaurant tends to get busier during the holiday season, she said.

"My staff works tirelessly to clean, monitor all safety precautions and strive to do so in a manner to make all of

our guests feel safe," she said.

Speakeasy Yoga shut down on March 16 and remains closed to the public, but it operates a virtual studio offering various prerecorded classes and a few live sessions each day, said Tori Reynolds, owner.

Before the pandemic, Speakeasy Yoga offered about 45 in-person classes each week.

"The pandemic has been a bit rough for us, just like most businesses," she said.

But construction has begun on a new HVAC system, and Speakeasy has added an energy recovery ventilator

(ERV) to improve the indoor air quality to make it safer to be in the space, Reynolds said.

The studio is at 510 E. Third St. in the first floor of the Cannery Loft Apartments building.

"The system fully purges the polluted air in the room and tempers new, fresh, outdoor air being pulled in," she said. "This exchange can happen in a matter of minutes for a room of our size, and can be done many times a day."

This is important because the practice room doesn't have outside connecting doors or windows that could

let fresh air in, she said.

The grant money will help pay for the new air circulation and purification equipment.

The ERV will allow Speakeasy to reopen hopefully in mid-November, with limited classes of probably eight to 10 people, she said.

Normally, classes could have around 48 visitors.

Finally, South Park Tavern will use its money to help cover the cost of an expanded outdoor eating area.

The restaurant and bar at 1301 Wayne Ave. added a pop-up patio, offering new seating and tables.