



ERIE COUNTY CHAMBER of COMMERCE

604 W. WASHINGTON STREET, SANDUSKY, OH 44870
(419) 625-6421 ERIECOUNTYCHAMBER.COM



How to Improve Employee Engagement

Gallup defines engaged employees as those who are highly involved in and enthusiastic about their work and workplace.

To move your employees from simply "putting in their time" to being committed to their work:

- 1. Measure what matters most for employees' performance.** Leaders often focus on metrics that don't tie strongly to employees' psychological needs and ultimate performance. Act quickly. Employees who strongly agree that their organization acts on survey results are 1.9 times more likely to be engaged. If you're not using a survey that provides a framework for taking action, now is the time to switch.
- 2. Make it an ongoing process.** One of the most common mistakes that leaders make is to approach engagement as a sporadic exercise in making their employees feel happy. Employees need ongoing purpose and development, not biannual perks, to achieve more for your organization.
- 3. Empower managers to drive engagement.** Engagement isn't just an "HR thing." Managers account for 70% of the variance in team engagement. There are no quick fixes when it comes to human relationships. It is essential that managers effectively interact with and develop each team member over time.

2021 Gallup, Inc, <https://advise.gallup.com/>

Feel free to contact us anytime; we will work with you to determine the best way we can support you and your business.

Contact us today to see how we can help you grow!

info@eriecountychamber.com
(419) 625-6421

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS:

Hawaiian Luau

When: Tues., June 15

Time: 5pm to 7pm

Where: Erie County Chamber of Commerce, 604 W. Washington St. Sandusky, OH

[Click here to learn more](#)

SAVE THE DATE! 2021 GOLF CLASSIC

When: Mon., August 16

Time: To be determined

Where: Plum Brook Country Club
3712 Galloway Rd., Sandusky, OH

[Click here to learn more](#)



BBB ALERTS: MULTIPLE SCAM WARNINGS

FIRST: BBB has received several complaints this year regarding **Ziyzlo.com**, an **online outdoor living retailer**. Then, we found that this site seems to be connected to three other sites.

Consumers purchase products such as **fire pits or outdoor speakers** but instead receive nothing at all or unrelated items such as straw visor hats or leatherette coin purses. Some consumers even receive confirmation of their purchases and fake shipping/tracking information.

The address listed on the “contact us” page of Ziyzlo.com is actually a private, residential address in Marietta, South Carolina. Upon further investigation, BBB found that the website text and layout are **identical to three other websites**—**Zokgoc.com** offering kitchen items, **Barrye.world** offering women’s clothing, and **HTENCS.com** offering children’s toys and outdoor play items. The addresses listed for those online retailers are also private, residential homes in **Minnesota, Texas, and New York**.

NEXT: Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel is reissuing a warning to Michiganders to beware of **scammers claiming to be from state or local health departments** as well as vaccination clinics, asking for personal information. Health departments **will never call you** with threats or unrealistic demands that include asking you to hand over information like your social security number, birthdate or address.”

Hang up if they claim to be from a government agency or vaccination clinic and:

- request personal information;
- make threats;
- demand you get vaccinated; or
- ask if you are vaccinated or where you received your vaccination.

NEXT: AMAZON IS NOT CALLING! We have talked to scores of consumers who tell us they received calls **impersonating Amazon customer Service**. The scammers insist there is “A problem with your account(s).” Nonsense! Some departments at Amazon will call customers, but **Amazon will never ask you to disclose or verify sensitive personal information or offer you a refund you do not expect**. Amazon will never ask you to make a payment outside of their website and will never ask you for remote access to your device. If they claim there is a problem with your account (“There is a \$399 error in your account”) and they need to access your computer to fix it, hang up! **DO NOT LET THEM INTO YOUR COMPUTER!** Amazon will never send you an unsolicited message that asks you to provide sensitive personal information. Any customer who receives a questionable email or call from a person impersonating an Amazon employee should report them to **Amazon Customer Service** immediately.

NEXT: ELON MUSK IMPERSONATORS ! Elon Musk impersonators have stolen at least \$2 million from investors in **cryptocurrency scams** over the past six months, according to the FTC.

The theft is part of a so-called **giveaway scam**, whereby con artists pose as celebrities or known figures in the crypto world. **They promise to “multiply” the cryptocurrency that investors send — but pocket it instead.**



**“MY BIGGEST MOTIVATION?
JUST TO KEEP
CHALLENGING MYSELF. I
SEE LIFE ALMOST LIKE ONE
LONG UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION THAT I NEVER
HAD — EVERY DAY I’M
LEARNING SOMETHING
NEW.”**

**-RICHARD BRANSON,
FOUNDER VIRGIN GROUP**

Crypto scams have surged since October, hitting their highest level on record in the first quarter of 2021. **Bitcoin's** rise may have attracted new investors eager to profit — playing into scammers' hands, especially since crypto is unknown territory for many investors. One school teacher said she was a victim of the Musk "giveaway scam." She navigated to a website that appeared to be a BBC News article, which claimed that Tesla was planning to give away half of its \$1.5 billion stake in bitcoin. The teacher sent \$12,720 in bitcoin, before realizing she had directly transferred her crypto to a scammer's wallet.

This isn't the first time that Musk's name has been exploited by scammers. In 2020, crypto scammers targeted Twitter and took over high-profile accounts on the social networking site, including that of Musk. The scammers made at least \$121,000 in bitcoin from their hacking efforts

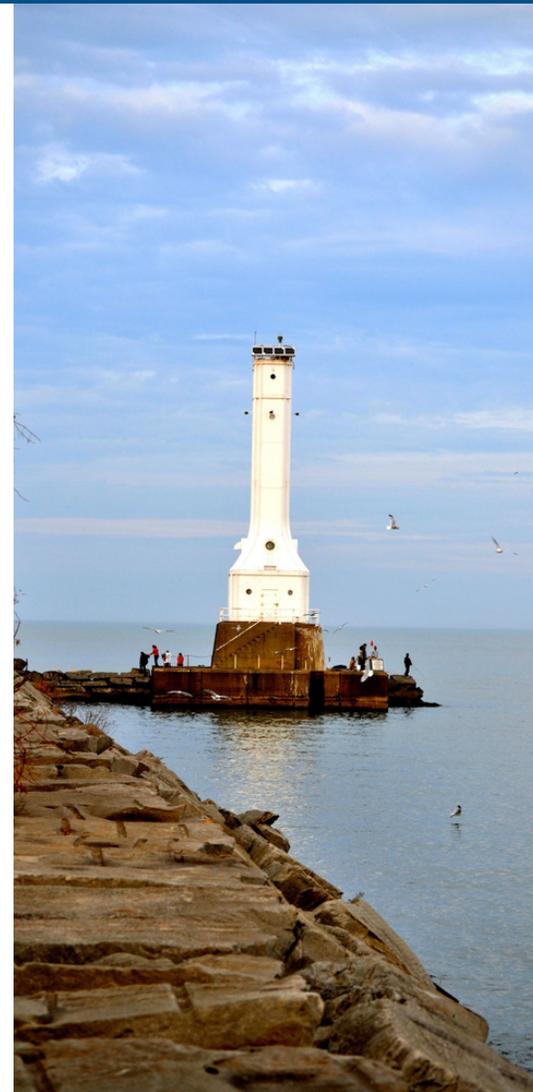
Crypto scammers aren't only impersonating Musk to defraud unsuspecting victims. They also often impersonate a government authority or a well-known business. Many have reported loading cash into bitcoin ATM machines to pay imposters claiming to be from the **Social Security Administration**, according to the FTC. Others have lost money to fraudsters posing as **Coinbase**, a well-known cryptocurrency exchange. Investors have also been lured to bogus websites that look like opportunities for investing in or mining cryptocurrencies.

FINALLY: Just reported! The US Customs Package Scheme. Consumers have reported two versions of this scheme to **BBB Scam Tracker**.

The suspicious package scheme: You receive a call, email or text saying the **U.S. Customs and Border Patrol** has intercepted a suspicious package addressed to you. You're instructed to respond immediately, **or a warrant will be issued for your arrest**. When you reach out, you learn they seized the package because it contained drugs, weapons, cash, or other contraband. The "officer" asks for your personal information in order to "verify your identity," but it's just a ruse to steal your identity.

The sweepstakes scheme: In another version of this scam, you're contacted by someone claiming to be associated with **U.S. Customs and Border Protection**. This time, they don't threaten you with arrest. Instead, they claim to have intercepted a package containing a **massive sweepstakes prize**. To receive your winnings, **you need to pay a huge fee** for "customs duties" or special shipping labels. A few years ago we talked to one Toledo family that fell for this scam and lost \$ 7,000!

- **Beware of unsolicited calls, texts and emails.** No matter who they say they are, stay cautious, and don't give out your personal information or send money.
- **Think it's a government official calling? Think again.** Government agencies typically reach out by mail, so they're unlikely to contact you by phone, email, or text message.
- **Do not trust a name or badge number.** Multiple consumers told Scam Tracker that the scammer provided a name and badge number. This is just an old trick to gain your trust.
- **Ignore it!** The US Customs and Border Protection advises anyone who encounters this scam to hang up or ignore the message.



“EVERY TIME YOU STATE WHAT YOU WANT OR BELIEVE, YOU’RE THE FIRST TO HEAR IT. IT’S A MESSAGE TO BOTH YOU AND OTHERS ABOUT WHAT YOU THINK IS POSSIBLE. DON’T PUT A CEILING ON YOURSELF.”

– OPRAH WINFREY, MEDIA PROPRIETOR

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT:



Everything we do is a celebration of seafood – from how we source our fish and shellfish to serving up new ways for you to enjoy it. Since 1968, we’ve been committed to bringing you a seafood experience you won’t find anywhere else. That’s how we Sea Food Differently®.

At Red Lobster, we take pride in sustainably sourcing our seafood and making every dish with passion and expertise, so you can discover new ways to enjoy fish and shellfish.



“YOUR WORK IS GOING TO FILL A LARGE PART OF YOUR LIFE, AND THE ONLY WAY TO BE TRULY SATISFIED IS TO DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS GREAT WORK. AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO GREAT WORK IS TO LOVE WHAT YOU DO.”

– STEVE JOBS, CO-FOUNDER, CEO, CHAIRMAN APPLE INC.

Ⓞ HOURS OF OPERATION - DINE-IN & TO-GO & TO-GO

Monday	11:00 AM - 8:30 PM
Tuesday	11:00 AM - 8:30 PM
Wednesday	11:00 AM - 8:30 PM
Thursday	11:00 AM - 8:30 PM
Friday	11:00 AM - 9:30 PM
Saturday	11:00 AM - 9:30 PM
Sunday	11:00 AM - 8:30 PM



For more information, contact Red Lobster at:

- 4016 Milan Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
- Kati Hutton - General Manager kesteward@redlobster.com
- [Facebook.com/redlobster](https://www.facebook.com/redlobster)
- <https://www.redlobster.com/locations/list/oh/sandusky/4016-milan-road>
- (419) 625-1122

RED LOBSTER SANDUSKY

WHAT'S NEW

Kati Hutton – General Manager – kesteward@redlobster.com
4016 Milan Road, Sandusky, OH 44830 (419) 625-1122

Catering:

Red Lobster in Sandusky offers Delivery or Dine In Options.

We offer a banquet room that can seat up to 50 people.

We offer many different catering options: family style, plated meal, and boxed lunches.

Drinks, Appetizers, Entrees, and Desserts available.



Our New Menu is Here:

15 meals under \$20

New Flavors...Classic Favorites!

New Flavors:

- Crispy Cod Sandwich
- Nashville Hot Chicken Sandwich
- Wagyu Bacon Cheeseburger
- Baja Shrimp Bowl
- Sesame-Soy Sa
- Imon Bowl
- Kung Pao Noodles with Crispy Shrimp or Grilled Chicken
- Hand-Breaded Chicken Tenders
- Bacon Wrapped Sea Scallops

Classic Favorites:

- Parrot Isle Jumbo Coconut Shrimp
- Grilled Shrimp Skewers
- Walts Fried Shrimp
- Fish and Chips
- Rainbow Trout Dinner
- 7oz Sirloin

New Takeout Area:



New Grant Programs Approved to Help Small Businesses

Governor Mike DeWine this week signed two bills from the Ohio General Assembly that include four new grant programs to help small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The programs are:

- **Food and Beverage Establishment Grant:** This program will provide grants of \$10,000, \$20,000, or \$30,000 to restaurants, bars, coffee shops, and other food and drinking businesses. The amount of individual grants to eligible businesses will be determined by the business' loss of revenue in 2020.
- **Entertainment Venues Grant:** This program will provide grants of \$10,000, \$20,000, or \$30,000 to theaters, music venues, spectator sports venues, museums, and other entertainment venues. The amount of individual grants to eligible businesses will be determined by the business' loss of revenue in 2020.
- **Lodging Grant:** This program will provide grants of \$10,000, \$20,000, or \$30,000 to hotels, motels, and bed and breakfast operations. The amount of individual grants to eligible businesses will be determined by the business' decline in occupancy rate in 2020.
- **New Small Business Grant:** This program will provide grants of \$10,000 to small businesses that were established after Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2020.

Details about the programs, including when applications will open, will be announced soon. Before the Development Services Agency launches the programs, more details will be posted under Investing in Ohio's Future at BusinessHelp.Ohio.Gov.

Each program will require applicants to have an OH|ID, and businesses that plan to apply can get an OH|ID now, if they don't already have one. Register in OH|ID (ohid.ohio.gov) by creating an account with a username/password. Click on Create OH|ID Account to set up an account in OH|ID. For help with the process, [click here](#).

Successful applicants also must register in the Ohio Supplier Portal in order to receive funds. That process can be completed after applicants are informed that their application has been preliminarily approved.



“I KNEW THAT IF I FAILED I WOULDN’T REGRET THAT, BUT I KNEW THE ONE THING I MIGHT REGRET IS NOT TRYING.”
-JEFF BEZOS, FOUNDER AND CEO AMAZON

Shop Small & Support Local

REFINANCE TO SAVE AND REWARD YOURSELF!

Refinance a qualifying loan with us to receive a 1% APR¹ discount, no loan processing fees, and a \$150 Visa Gift Card at closing!

QUALIFYING LOANS

- ◆ Personal
- ◆ Auto & Motorcycle
- ◆ Recreational Vehicle
- ◆ Boat & Personal
- ◆ Watercraft

OFFER DETAILS

- ◆ 1% APR¹ off qualifying rate
- ◆ Receive a \$150 Visa Gift Card at loan closing
- ◆ \$5,000 minimum loan
- ◆ No prepayment penalty
- ◆ No processing fees² – that's a savings of \$191

HURRY, OFFER ENDS MAY 31ST!

SANDUSKY
2911 Hayes Ave.

NORWALK
295 Milan Ave., Ste. C

HURON
2402 University Dr.

SANDUSKY
2409 E. Perkins Ave.

VERMILION
1607 State Rd., Ste. 11

VLFCU.ORG
800.691.9299



Membership eligibility required with a minimum deposit of \$25.00 in a Share Account. Member must be in good standing with VLFCU. Visa credit cards, loans secured by real property, business loans and loans currently held by VLFCU are not eligible for this promotion. All loans are subject to credit approval. 1. APR = Annual Percentage Rate. The rates and APR may differ depending on the term, credit qualifications, or loan-to-value. 2. Title fees still apply. Promotion effective from April 1, 2021 until May 31, 2021. Programs, rates and terms are subject to change or cancellation without notice.



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Gwon Kelley
Licensed Realtor

With the Erie County Chamber of Commerce You Can Advertise All Year Round!

Contact us at info@eriecountychamber.com.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2021

Media Contact: Tricia Applegate

tricia@firelandssymphony.com

419.651.7119

FSO Returns to Norwalk on June 5 for "Hello to Summer 2021" Pops Concert

Sandusky, OH (May 22, 2021) – The Firelands Symphony Orchestra (FSO) returns to Norwalk Reservoir's Veteran's Memorial Lake Park on Saturday, June 5 at 7 p.m. to perform it's first live, full orchestra concert since February 2020. The program will be a "Hello to Summer 2021" Pops Concert featuring a celebratory slate of popular tunes led by Maestro Carl Topilow and featuring internationally acclaimed American singer Laura Pedersen.

The concert is free and open to the public and made possible with funding provided by the Albert G. and Olive H. Schlink Foundation, along with support from the Mylander Foundation, Ohio Arts Council and City of Norwalk's Office of Park and Recreation. Freewill donations will be accepted at the concert.

"After last performing in Norwalk for their Bicentennial in 2017 and having the weather cancel last October's concert, the FSO is ecstatic about the opportunity to return to Norwalk Reservoir for the 2021 Summer Season opening concert." explains Tricia Applegate, FSO Executive Director. "In addition, the FSO has contracted with a local tent company to strategically place pole tents for audience members to use in the event of rain since area indoor venues are not available due to Covid restrictions."

In addition to the National Anthem and favorites such as Hang on Sloopy, the William Tell Overture, and Duke Ellington's American Jazz standard Caravan, the program for the Pops concert will include selections from movies including The Avengers, and The Incredibles; Broadway tunes from Mary Poppins, The Music Man, My Fair Lady, The Sound of Music, and Sondheim's Follies; as well as Classic Rock tribute collections from bands such as Queen, Journey, and ABBA.

As the featured vocalist for its most recent concert in February of 2020, the FSO is ecstatic to come full circle and present Ms. Pedersen on its first live concert program since Covid began. With a rare ability to make each song's character come alive, Ms. Pedersen has sung leading roles with opera companies from coast to coast including Cleveland Opera, Florida Opera, Sacramento Opera, Delaware Opera and more. During her four years as fest soprano in Bremen, Germany, she sang countless performances running the gamut from well known beloved operas like Don Pasquale, Die Fledermaus, Carmen, Marriage of Figaro, Orpheè, to musicals such as West Side Story, and a yearly premiere of commissioned Operas. Symphony appearances include soprano soloist in Beethoven Ninth, Verdi Requiem, Faurè Requiem (Carnegie Hall), Mozart Requiem, and Brahms Requiem. In addition to the FSO, she has appeared as featured soloist with Cleveland Orchestra's Blossom Music Festival for five years, solo artist with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, the Owensboro Symphony, the Lima Symphony, Bluewater Chamber Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Miami. Ms. Pedersen has sung World Premieres in Germany, Scotland, and many in New York City's Carnegie Hall.



LAURA PEDERSEN, VOCALIST



CARL TOPILOW, CONDUCTOR



Audience members are encouraged to bring their own blanket or chair to enjoy the Veteran's Memorial Lake Park as a beautiful backdrop to the FSO's live concert. In accordance with the State's most recent Orders, fully vaccinated persons may attend without a facial covering and without socially distancing. Unvaccinated individuals should continue to mask when unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their family/household. Regardless of vaccination status, each individual should perform a daily health assessment and stay home if they have a fever, cough, or other signs of possible COVID-19.

Patrons are also advised of possible changes to traffic patterns in Norwalk as the local high school celebrates graduation later that evening.

For more details about the above concerts, visit www.FirelandsSymphony.com or Facebook.com/FirelandsSymphony, call 419.621.4800 or email FSO@FirelandsSymphony.com.

ABOUT FIRELANDS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Firelands Symphony Orchestra (FSO) is a non-profit regional arts organization sustained by strong community support and patron loyalty. The FSO mission is "enriching lives through music". The organization achieves its mission by engaging audiences with outstanding live performances, cultivating appreciation for musical excellence through education and community engagement while maintaining high standards of organizational and financial stability. Visit www.firelandssymphony.com.

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FREE LIVE CONCERTS ALL SUMMER LONG!

More concert details at:
FirelandsSymphony.com/concerts
Facebook.com/FirelandsSymphony
(419) 621-4800

Made possible with funding from:

The Mylander Foundation
Albert G. and Olive H. Schlink Foundation
Patricia and Giovanni Bignoli & Bignoli Enterprises
Erie County Community Foundation
The Goff Family
Patrick Murray and Louise Murray Charitable Foundation
Buckeye Broadband



2021 **SUMMER** SEASON



Hello to Summer 2021 Pops Concert

Sat., June 5 at 7pm
Veterans Memorial Lake Park, Norwalk, Ohio



An Independence Day Pops Celebration

Sun., July 4 at 7pm
Jackson Street Pier, Sandusky, Ohio



Christmas in July Holiday Pops

Sun., July 25 at 7pm
Jackson Street Pier, Sandusky, Ohio



Superstar: The Songs. The Stories. The Carpenters.

Sat., Aug. 7 at 7pm
Veterans Memorial Lake Park, Norwalk, Ohio



A Night of Americana with Hey Mavis

Sat., Sept. 18 at 6:30pm
Paper Moon Vineyards, Vermilion, Ohio

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For Rental Information Please Contact
George Sortino
Sortino Management & Development Co
419-625-0362 or Email GSNiceGuy@aol.com





Save the date for Young Professionals Week 2021!

Get ready to join us this summer for the second annual

Young Professionals Week on the North Coast -

July 27th - August 1st.

A week-long platform for exploration, adventure, and engagement in issues that matter most to young professionals. Events throughout the week include networking, professional and personal development and socializing. Kick off the week with a keynote open to professionals of all ages, learn at Coffee Chats, relax at Happy Hours, and so much more.

Part conference. Part happy hour. All for you.



Stuff the Bus



PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

Date: 5/18/2021

Contact: Heather Gilchrist

Tel: 419.625.9025, ext. 1342

Cell Phone: 419.357.8319

Email: hgilchrist@vlfcu.org

Stuff the Bus Erie County 2021 Kick-Off

(Sandusky, OH), (May 18, 2021) –Stuff the Bus Erie County Committee

The Stuff the Bus Erie County Committee is asking for the community's assistance to help provide hundreds of backpacks to local students within the school districts of Sandusky City, Perkins Township, Edison, Huron, Margaretta, Vermilion, Monroe Preparatory Academy, and Sandusky Central Catholic Schools.

The committee is expanding the program this year to include students entering grades K-8. They are asking area businesses and organizations to help support this initiative by becoming a donation drop off site, conducting an internal collection with their staff/customers, or making a monetary contribution. Those interested should contact Heather Gilchrist at VacationLand Federal Credit Union at 419-625-9025 or hgilchrist@vlfcu.org.

Residents can participate by donating new backpacks and school supplies. A list of needed supplies and collection sites will be posted on the Stuff the Bus Erie County Facebook page and online at www.vlfcu.org/stuffthebus. Parents and legal guardians can also register students for the program online with the same link.

Tax deductible monetary donations are also being accepted for backpacks and school supplies. Please make checks payable to United Way of Erie County (write "school supplies" on memo line.) Mail checks to: VacationLand Federal Credit Union 2911 Hayes Ave., Sandusky, OH 44870, Attn: Marketing.

The campaign will conclude on August 2, 2021 to give the committee and their volunteers ample time to inventory donations, stuff the backpacks, and deliver to the schools. Distribution of the backpacks will be coordinated by each local school district.

About Stuff the Bus Erie County

Stuff the Bus Erie County is a committee comprised of the Sandusky Mall, United Way Erie County and VacationLand Federal Credit Union. Their goal is to provide new backpacks and school supplies to students entering grades K-8 at a school within Erie County. The program's success is based upon the generosity of local businesses, organizations, and community members.

###

If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please call Heather Gilchrist at 419.625-9025 (ext.1342) or e-mail at hgilchrist@vlfcu.org.



Stuff the Bus

We need your help!



Stuff the Bus Erie County is a committee comprised of the Sandusky Mall, United Way of Erie County and VacationLand Federal Credit Union. Each year we partner with local businesses, organizations, and community members to provide new backpacks and school supplies for students in Erie County.

In previous years, we assisted families with students entering grades K-5. We are excited to announce that we are **expanding the program to grades K-8** to any child attending a school in our county in 2021. This is possible through the generous donations we receive each year from community partners like you!

There are three ways you can help!

1. Encourage your employees to collect and donate school supplies. You can collect various items or you can agree to fill non-gender backpacks with requested supplies.
2. Conduct a school supply drive at your business and encourage your customers and employees to get involved!
3. Make a monetary donation. Every dollar helps buy supplies!

Thank you for supporting the future of our local kids by providing a fresh start to the upcoming school year!

Sincerely,

Stuff the Bus Committee of Erie County

- YES!** We are interested in hosting a collection site for our employees, clients, and/or customers from June 7 to August 2, 2021. **Please provide our organization with shopping lists.**

Note: Collection boxes available upon request.

Choose one:

- _____ Schedule a pick up at our business on Friday, July 30 between _____(hours.)
 _____ Schedule a pick up at our business on Monday, August 1 between _____(hours.)
 _____ We would like to make special arrangements. Please call us to discuss our idea/needs.

- YES!** We are interested in supplying #_____ backpacks filled with school supplies!

Please send us a shopping list.

Choose one:

- _____ We will have them ready for pickup on Friday, July 30 or Monday, August 2.
 _____ Please indicate date and preferred time: _____
 _____ We would like to make special arrangements. Please call us to discuss our needs.

- YES!** We will sponsor _____ completed backpacks at \$25 each. Our check is enclosed.

Company Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

Once your information has been received, you will be contacted by the Stuff the Bus Committee. **For questions**, please call Heather Gilchrist (VacationLand FCU) at 419.625.9025, ext.1342 or email: hgilchrist@vlfcu.org.

Please mail completed form and donations to: VacationLand Federal Credit Union 2911 Hayes Ave. Sandusky, Ohio 44870, attention Heather Gilchrist. **Make your tax deductible donation payable to:** United Way of Erie County – write “school supplies” on the memo line. Requests for collection sites can be scanned and emailed to: hgilchrist@vlfcu.org.