

“This goes to show it is the smaller local businesses who care about and are in touch with their communities. When they are bought out by larger national corporations they are a number on a balance sheet without regard to the importance they may have in a community.”

Susie at courant.com/readerspeak on a story about weekly newspapers returning to their local roots

Loss Of Local Businesses Hurts

Over the past few weeks, I have followed the news in The Courant about the closings of local car dealerships. I'm not sure I really understood the impact of these closings until a few days ago. While visiting Hartford Hospital, I noticed a very large plaque recognizing

the Thomas family of Thomas Cadillac for what must have been a very large donation to a capital campaign.

Clearly, as consumers move toward the mega-superstores of national chains, we forsake the value of doing business with our neighbors who give back to our community. I'm not sure if the big national chains will make up the charitable giving of the Thomas family and others like them. If not, we will all pay the price for not buying from locally owned businesses.

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