February 2018 Spotlight: Kishman’s IGA

Operating since 1954, Kishman’s IGA is a third-generation family business. Originally started by George Kishman, passed to Tom Kishman and now operating under the third-generation: Matt, Tommy and Kristin Kishman. Matt, Store Manager, began working at the store throughout his high school career and later returned after graduating from Youngstown State University in 2008. Aside from his work in the store, Matt is very involved in the Village of Minerva, serving on the Rotary, the Chamber Board, as President of the Athletic Booster Club, and recently asked to serve on the National Grocers Association Board. Kishman’s joined OGA in 2015 and we are excited to welcome him to the Executive Committee for 2018 – 2020.

Six years ago, Kishman’s was renovated and the aisles flipped, adding over 12,000 square feet to its initial 29,000 sq. ft. size. The improvements came with expanding the storage space in the back of the store and building two warehouses across the street. Inside the store there’s a new soup and salad bar with interchanging cuisine options, a dine-in cafe to tie it together, and all new refrigeration systems designed to keep products fresher longer.

Kishman’s IGA is a big supporter of everything local – from local coffees, to wine, beer and spices. At their new growler station, they host weekly Happy Hours from 4 – 7PM on Monday through Saturday and on the second Friday of every month, there is a tasting where customers are able to taste the local beers on tap and take home gifts from local Minerva vendors. Kishman’s partners with The Wine Buzz, an Ohio based wine magazine by featuring a local wine on display at the store from the magazine. With coffee, they have a signature Kishman’s IGA blend from a local coffee company, Caruso’s Coffee. The Village of Minerva has many festivals throughout the warmer months and Kishman’s participates in them by taking their concession wagon smoker to the events.

We’ve all heard of “Big Foot” but have you heard of the Minerva Monster? In August 1978, the area was abuzz with reports of a Bigfoot creature — 7 feet tall, hairy and smelling of ammonia — that had been reported peering into the kitchen window of the Cayton family’s farmhouse near Minerva, invading the chicken coop and even hurling rocks at the home. A documentary, “Minerva Monster” was created from the story of the Monster and the Village of Minerva have made an annual holiday out of it. Kishman’s IGA joins in on the fun with featured cookie cakes, cupcakes, and a foot long sub named in honor of the Minerva Monster.

Besides the traditional forms of community involvement, Kishman’s stays busy by keeping up with the digital trends rapidly moving into the grocery industry. Recently, they updated their checkout system with a digital coupon function for their customers. They recently purchased iPads for the department heads to easily share photos of their staff (90-100 employees) for online promotions. Prepared meal-kit’s, expanding grocery delivery, online shopping and automated weekly text ads are all hot topics of discussion and being considered in 2018.

Kishman’s IGA is most known for their bakery – making the donuts from scratch every morning and baking cakes in-store daily. Baked goods aren’t the only notable thing at Kishman’s, as the pressure-fried chicken is another delicious offering as well as their great customer service. Matt and his siblings plan on continuing to serve the community of Minerva, and have hope that one day in the future, their children will take over the family business.

If you haven’t been to Kishman’s IGA, we definitely recommend stopping by to check it out! Visit their website to learn more about their catering, events and all of their departments; and be sure to follow their social media sites: Facebook and Instagram.