



OUT & ABOUT

Holiday Happenings

- One of a Kind Holiday Show – 12/2-5 Hundreds of talented artists, makers and designers will set up shop at The Mart. Chicago. oneofakindshowchicago.com.

With coronavirus quarantines putting limits on personal interactions, people are increasingly turning to a lost art to connect with loved ones: sending cards.

Paper Source Inc.'s greeting-card sales have soared by 1,200% since social distancing measures went into effect in March, said Chief Executive Officer Winnie Park. That includes higher demand for sympathy, friendship and "thank you" cards, as well as a 10-fold increase in Mother's Day sales.

"One of the great silver linings out of this is the time for people to slow down and go back to the basics," Park said in an interview. For Paper Source, that has meant 150,000 cards shipped. "We've seen explosive growth during this period."

The company was able to meet the sharp spike in demand in part by leaning on its network of small, independent suppliers, which were able to ramp up. And its network of card-makers was able to quickly produce designs for the quarantine era, like distanced sympathy, safety and health-care heroes.