

Family Express is a chain of convenience stores in the Midwest known for its passion for customer service, its unique logistical model, which delivers freshness to its stores daily, and its extraordinary labor force referred to as "the living brand." The company was named 2015 Chain of the Year by Convenience Store Decisions and, more recently, was ranked top two in the convenience store space in terms of customer service and experience. They build relationships with customers through friendly employees, inviting stores sporting an upscale colonial architecture, enhanced landscaping plans, and sensitivity to the environment.

As part of Family Express's strategy to pivot into made-to-order food service and better promote their proprietary brands, they were looking at digital message centers as a means to deliver dayparted communications to customers, with advertising messages that were immediately actionable. "Dayparting is more useful to the consumers because they do not have to process the information and remember it for a later occasion," said Gus Olympidis, President and CEO of Family Express Corp. "If the message is meaningful, they can act immediately."

Family Express recently selected Watchfire Signs to provide digital signage for its locations throughout the Midwest. The convenience chain has installed Watchfire electronic messages centers at nearly 90 percent of their locations to date.

Watchfire's Ignite content management software makes dayparting easy, with content scheduling that can change automatically according to time of day or weather conditions. Messages can be scheduled months in advance and, with cloud-based options, can be changed from anywhere there is internet access. Olympidis reports that Ignite has proven to be user-friendly and does not require highly technical individuals in order to use it at Family Express.

"Family Express wanted a digital messaging platform to complement our daypart marketing strategy, with the ability to customize all of our sign communications with ease on a system that is dependable," said Olympidis.

"We chose Watchfire because of their extraordinary reliability, the strength of Ignite, their programing software for the signs, and their corresponding support service."

GUS OLYMPIDIS | PRESIDENT AND CEO FAMILY EXPRESS CORP

