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## OWNERS APPRECIATE COMMUNITY, WORKING TOWARD REOPENING



Farmers Market raffle  
 raises almost \$8,000  
 for employees

**BY JOSHUA MALONI**  
 GM/Managing Editor

One of the largest crowd gatherings of the spring was for something nobody wanted to see.

On the night of Tuesday, May 26, a fire ripped through the top of the Brickyard Brewing Company on Center Street, damaging the structure and sending water and smoke into the adjoining Brickyard Pub & BBQ.

Employees, neighbors, elected leaders – all stood aghast as first responders battled the blaze into the late night.

“The first two days after the fire, the morning after, it was like a funeral procession in front and back of the building,” co-owner Ken Bryan said. “People just sat out back and front and cried – people that I didn’t even recognize.”

Shock, loss, anger: People were sad to see a Lewiston staple shelved.

They mourned – and then they got motivated.

Jamie Symmonds was one of those people.

“When I learned of the fire – once the initial shock wore off – I just thought I had to kind of jump into the helping mode, because every one of them – the Brickyard family – have been helpful, supportive – from back when I was Angel to Apple and another business on Center Street, to now when I’m Willow Consulting,” she said. “All the events and different things I do, they have been giving and kind and generous; they just – they don’t say no. They’ve always helped me, and been big supporters of mine. So, I just knew I had to do something.”



Brickyard team members are serving their signature barbecue and beer at the Lewiston Farmers Market. At right, Eric Matthews and Ken Bryan receive a check for \$7,600 from Jamie Symmonds. The funds raised at the Lewiston Farmers Market will go to the Brickyard employees.

Residents sought to help Bryan and co-owner Eric Matthews, but the duo quickly said all efforts should go to their employees. A half-dozen or so fundraisers were planned, with proceeds set to go to the Brickyard family.

On the first weekend of June – the first Saturday of her Lewiston Farmers Market summer season – Symmonds held a basket raffle for the Brickyard team.

“I thought it was a perfect platform where people could come out. And I knew the market itself this year would probably be busy because of all the circumstances, so I thought, ‘What a perfect way to combine the two efforts,’” she said. “The outpouring from, one, volunteers, the people who reached out and said, ‘How can



I help you?’ I appreciated that. To the businesses who have reached out, from far and wide, from Buffalo to Wilson – all over – wanting to donate to the raffle basket. And then the people who came out.”

Nearly \$8,000 was raised in just four hours.

“Twenty-six years we’ve been

in town doing business, it’s by far the most overwhelming thing/event/anything that I’ve seen done in this village,” Bryan said of the fundraisers. “It’s just, it’s almost tear-jerking. The support that has come out for us, you know people that have texted, called, whatever. ... I’ve had five

SEE BRICKYARD, on Page 12

## NC officials seek waiver for REDI projects

\$31.7M in shoreline  
 projects affected

**BY TERRY DUFFY**  
 Editor-in-Chief

As planning continues toward restoration of Niagara County shoreline areas under the New York State Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI), Niagara County legislators are now putting out the call for Gov. Andrew Cuomo to consider waiving the 5% local funding share.

Under the Cuomo-backed REDI measure, approved by the State Legislature and announced with great fanfare last year, impacted shoreline communities along Lake Ontario from Youngstown to the St. Lawrence became eligible for millions in state assistance to repair damaged areas from high water levels.

“Let’s do everything we can to get ahead of it and be prepared,” Cuomo said at a press gathering in Olcott last year as he detailed the planned state assistance. “... Contact your local government officials, have them contact the state, and we’ll get you what you need.”

Through the REDI plan, the state committed toward funding of 95% of the costs, with localities expected to pick up the remaining 5% balance.

In Niagara County, that amounted to 11 lakeshore-area rehab projects now in planning for communities stretching from Newfane to Youngstown. Significant projects along the Lake Ontario waterfront include the \$14 million Olcott Harbor Breakwater in the Town of Newfane, the \$4.4 million Wilson Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Village of Wilson, the \$3.6 million Sunset Island West Barrier Bar in the Town of Wilson, the \$2.1 million Village of Youngstown Waterfront Project and the \$1.2 million Lewiston Landing (nearing completion) in the Village of Lewiston.

Total cost of those projects  
 SEE COUNTY, on Page 12

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