

Opinions

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Negatives outweigh positives with Project Olive

A new 117,000-square-foot Amazon distribution facility is opening this week in Tonawanda. To celebrate, according to the Buffalo News, the trillion-dollar multinational corporation donated 80 meals to FeedMore WNY. That's right ... 80 meals.

The distribution facility has an enormous footprint, but it will be dwarfed by the proposed project on Grand Island. Project Olive

is designed to be a 3.8-million-square-foot facility. That's 32.5 times larger than the Tonawanda facility.

Given that, one can imagine that Amazon may be willing to donate a hundred meals if the project goes through!

In California, where the multiple distribution facilities in one area do not add up to the proposed size of the project on

Grand Island, an investigative report estimates \$642 million in uncompensated public costs for noise, road damage, accidents and harmful emissions in 2018 alone (<https://www.bisnow.com/national/news/retail/new-report-takes-amazon-to-task-about-the-damage-its-warehouses-do-101986>).

No matter what Amazon offers in terms of taxes, jobs, and incen-

tives for Grand Island, there is no way that this facility can be justified for our town. The negatives outweigh the positives from any angle, except for the only one that matters to Amazon founder Jeff Bezos: putting money in his pocket. It will come at an unbear-

able cost to the people of Grand Island and the surrounding communities. We must let our town officials know that this project must be stopped.

Dave Reilly

Grand Island Lions Club Islandwide Clean-up held June 13



Members of the Grand Island Lions Club kept the Island beautiful Saturday, June 13, during the Islandwide Clean-up. Pictured are Lions with some of the 13 bags of trash they cleared. (Photo courtesy Grand Island Lions Club)

Can You Help?

Can You Help? is a free service provided by Niagara Frontier Publications in an effort to help community neighbors reach out for your support. These releases will be published as they are provided by those in need.

Another Island business helps Buffalo's Response to Love Center

In an April issue of this paper, you may have seen an article about the Island Deli & Meat Market owner Eric Berger and Tracy Crouse, the manager of the deli, had provided food for the needy through the Response To Love Center on Buffalo's east side.

The first week of July, Chris Polizzi, the owner of The Viking Diner, called Richard Gurbacki a member of the board of directors at RTLC. Chris indicated that he had some food and wondered if RTLC could use it. Of course, the answer was "Yes" as the center provides daily meals to hundreds of people from all over the east side of Buffalo and that number has been growing since early March. So this small Grand Island business makes the decision not to forget that many people and families that live in Western

New York are struggling much more than we are and loads Gurbacki's SUV with chicken and juice and other foods that were taken to the center.

Sister Mary Johnice Rzadkiewicz, the director of the Response to Love Center, jointly stated that the organization focuses on improving lives by addressing human needs and providing a pathway to self-sufficiency. Only through the kindness and consideration of businesses like The Viking Diner and people like Chris Polizzi can we continue to address those needs. Gurbacki added to please remember and support local businesses like the newly reopened Island Deli and The Viking Diner (check out the new patio) in your normal, everyday life here on the Island.

You also can help the RTLC by bringing your bottles and cans to the Bottles and Cans Retrieval Center, 2447 Grand Island Blvd., and indicate that your deposit should go to Sister Johnice and RTLC.

For more information about the Response to Love Center go to <http://www.responsetolove.org/> or contact Richard Gurbacki at 361-1145.

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All inquiries are confidential

Our Mission Statement:
Provide confidential emergency assistance, primarily food, for Grand Island residents who find themselves in temporary need. A volunteer organization, using churches and other organizations to collect and stock an immediate needs food pantry, and raising money through community wide fund drives (Share Your Happiness at the Holiday Season).



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