

VFW hosts record-breaking chicken BBQ



Clockwise: Mike Hoch of Chiavetta's charcoal barbecues the chickens to a 170-degree temperature before taking them off the grills. • The cars waiting in the parking lot for their Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ dinners on Wednesday night. • A VFW volunteer carries an order to a waiting customer.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. BILLONI

Contributor
The Pvt. Charles N. DeGlopper VFW Post 9249 normally orders 360 1/2-chickens with a backup of 60 for each of its three spring Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ events at the post at 2121 Grand Island Blvd. This past Wednesday was its first takeout-only barbecue, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and no one had any idea of what to expect.
Luckily, Chiavetta's, which has been doing a number of these events during the

pandemic, has seen larger-than-normal numbers for its tasty barbecues. They brought more than the VFW had ordered and it still wasn't enough.
Long before the 4 p.m. opening, cars began lining Grand Island Boulevard – and they never stopped coming – resulting in a record 600 chicken dinners being sold out in less than two hours.
“We had an amazing group of volunteers, which performed above and beyond to get the dinners out the door. Our only regret was that we had to turn people away when we sold out,” said Alan Lee of the VFW,

who chairs the event for the post.
Lee made sure all the volunteers wore masks and gloves, and the inside of the post was completely sanitized. Only volunteers working on assembling the dinners were allowed inside.
Lee said the VFW will be prepared for the next two barbecue dinner events, which will be held Wednesdays, May 13 and 27. Dinners are \$10 each and include a 1/2 barbecue chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, dinner roll and butter.



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