

# Buffalo Launch Club offers takeout orders and new menu items

**BY MICHAEL J. BILLONI**  
Contributor

The Buffalo Launch Club on Grand Island followed the state and county mandate for all restaurants to close its doors in mid-March because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Once restaurants offered takeout and delivery services in the weeks following, the BLC began brainstorming on how it could do the same and provide opportunities for some of its furloughed restaurant staff.

“We made sure our employees knew they were being furloughed and, when we could, they would be called back to work,” explained Ken Pelletier, the club’s rear commodore.

Within a short period of time, chef John Dobson and Acting General Manager Lisa Harris presented club officials with a plan offering a takeout menu for Wednesday-Saturday dinners for individuals or a family of four to six.

Club member Dr. Gary Ehlert, M.D., advised the team if they were going to pursue this opportunity they must comply with all health agencies and do it as safely as possible.

“Safety of our staff and customers is our No. 1 goal,” explained Pelletier, who said everyone in the club and kitchen wears gloves and face masks at all times.

Ken Knight, a club member and founder of Pickleball Island, led the marketing efforts to promote



From left, members Ken Bambach and Jim Burke deliver meals to a waiting customer at the Buffalo Launch Club (Photos courtesy of the BLC)

dinners to the public through the BLC website ([www.buffalolaunchclub.com](http://www.buffalolaunchclub.com)) and advertising. Service began March 26 for both club members and non-members. The most popular item has been the club’s famous fresh fish fry, which is offered in a variety of ways.

Customers call in (716-773-7629) to place and pay for their orders and give a pick-up time. They can drive up to the portico, where staff will bring a bag with their order to the car on a serving tray to eliminate human touch.

“The customers have really ap-

preciated our attention to detail in regards to the safety measures,” Pelletier said.

Beginning next week, the Buffalo Launch Club will expand its takeout service to Wednesday through Saturday evenings.

A new menu is posted on its website each week.

“We now have this down to a science and business has been picking up, so we will be bringing in more staff,” Pelletier continued. “I also believe we will be offering this takeout service for the foreseeable future, even after the restaurant is open.”

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## Catholic Health receives donation of Fowler’s Chocolates ‘We Applaud You’ candy bars

Catholic Health caregivers and leadership smiled through their surgical masks earlier this week, as they were treated to the delivery of more than 1,500 “We Applaud You” Fowler’s Chocolates candy bars by City of Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown and SUNY Trustee Eunice Lewin at the Sisters of Charity Hospital Main Street Campus.



Coordinated by Lewin, the “sweet” gesture was the result of donations from Marta Fernandez and John Straubinger for Sisters of Charity Hospital, Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, St. Catherine Labouré Health Care Center, Father Baker Manor, and St. Joseph Post-Acute Care Center; and The Siegel Family Foundation Philanthropic Fund for the COVID-19 Treatment Facility at St. Joseph Campus; in partnership with Fowler’s Chocolates.

Each chocolate bar is wrapped in a brightly colored and personalized “We Applaud You” wrapper as a tribute to the dedicated men and women who are on the frontlines serving the COVID-19 patients in the community.

“We’re so grateful for this special treat for our caregivers, who have given their all during this COVID-19 crisis, and to Mayor Byron Brown and Ms. Eunice Lewin for their coordination and support,” said Marty Boryszak, senior vice president of acute care services and COVID-19 response incident commander. “These chocolate bars will help brighten our caregivers’ day by bringing some sweetness during an otherwise challenging time.”

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**The Beach House** – 5584 East River Rd. 773-7119

**Brick Oven** – 2457 Grand Island Blvd. 773-4445. [www.brickovenpizzagrandisland.com](http://www.brickovenpizzagrandisland.com)

**Buffalo Launch Club** – Thursday, Friday & Saturday, food & beverage special menu. 773-7629. Visit us on facebook or [www.buffalolaunchclub.com](http://www.buffalolaunchclub.com)

**Burger King** – 1700 Grand Island Blvd.

**Dick & Jenny’s** – 1270 Baseline Rd. 775-5047. [www.dickandjennysny.com](http://www.dickandjennysny.com)

**Dunkin Donuts** – 2024 Grand Island Blvd.

**Eggsquisite Eats** – 1752 Grand island Blvd. 775-5034. [www.eggsquisiteeats.com](http://www.eggsquisiteeats.com)

**John’s Pizza and Subs** – 2131 Grand Island Blvd. 774.0020. [www.johnspizzaandsubs.com](http://www.johnspizzaandsubs.com)

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**McDonald’s** – 2231 Grand Island Blvd.

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