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Brickyard Brewing Company fire: 'This isn't the end of us. WE WILL BE BACK.'

A Tuesday night fire severely damaged the Brickyard Brewing Company in Lewiston. (Photo by Mark Williams Jr.)

Praise for first responders & thanks blaze didn't spread

BY JOSHUA MALONI
 GM/Managing Editor

Village of Lewiston officials applauded those who helped fight a late Tuesday night fire that damaged the Brickyard Brewing Company and part of the Brickyard Pub & BBQ.

At Wednesday's fiscal year-end meeting, Mayor Anne Welch said, "I want to thank the Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 ambulance and EMS, Upper Mountain Fire Co. and ambulances, Youngstown Fire Co., Sanborn Fire Co., Ransomville Fire Co., and Niagara Active Hose and Lewiston No. 2 for the quick response and coordinated effort to save the buildings. They did an awesome job containing the fire to the BBC.

"I saw firsthand how these men and



Balloons were placed in front of the BBC. Community members already are planning fundraisers for the restaurant owners and staff.

women put their life on the line, fighting these horrific fires. I left the scene at 2 a.m. and they were still fighting the fire.

"Also, our thanks to the Lewiston Police, Niagara County Sheriff's Office drone unit, New York State Police and U.S. Border Patrol for their assistance on traffic and crowd control.

"I'm very proud of our first responders, and I'm very grateful to live in this community. We are Lewiston strong."

Lewiston No. 1 was led by Chief Les Myers. In a press release, the company described what first responders found when they arrived at the popular neighboring restaurants.

SEE BBC, continued on Page 8

Community responds to Brickyard/BBC tragedy

BY TERRY DUFFY
 Editor-in-Chief

"Words cannot begin to express the pain we feel for our neighbors at Brickyard Pub and BBQ and Brickyard Brewing Company. Ken, Eric, Steve and the entire Brickyard family, we love you guys and will be with you every step of the way. Take care and God bless. #brickbybrick #Lewistonstrong."

That Facebook post by Lewiston businessman Tom Deal of Deal Realty aptly conveyed the feelings of the hundreds who stood by late Tuesday evening into early Wednesday morning and watched as first responders from throughout the River Region battled for hours to save the Brickyard/BBC complex on Center Street.



A sign on Mohawk Street signifies what the community is feeling, as people lend support to the Brickyard family. (Submitted)

It was the third tragic fire at the 400 block of Center Street location over the past 48 years – the earlier ones being a 1972 blaze at what was then Schneider's and a 2011 incident that damaged an upper apartment at the former Brio, now the location of the BBC. Investigations into the Tuesday incident continue, according to Lewiston No. 1 Fire Co. Chief Les Myers and Niagara County Emergency Services and Fire Coordinator Jonathan Schultz. Damages are estimated into the millions of dollars.

"One of the saddest days of my life," commented Brickyard staffer Graeme Litt on a Facebook post. "All our work gone. SEE #BRICKBYBRICK, continued on Page 2

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