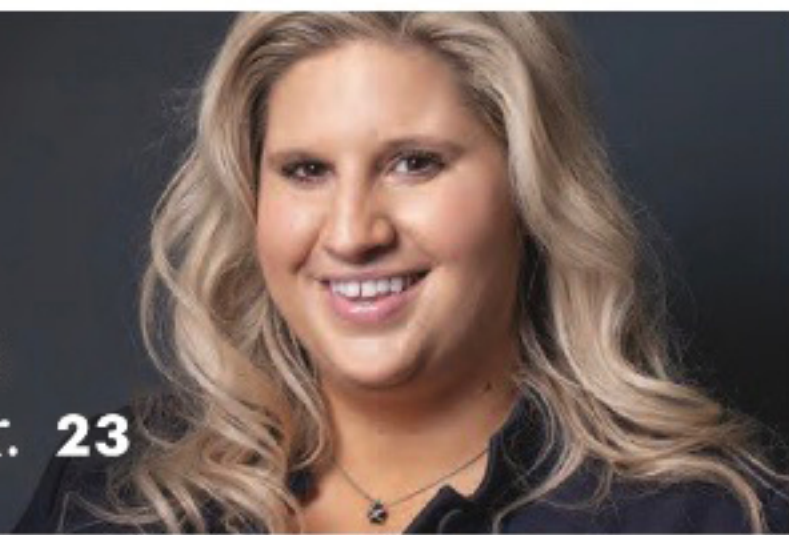


# BUFFALO BUSINESS FIRST

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### PPP TO HELP LAID-OFF EMPLOYEES

# Legacy pizzeria keeps focus on every day of work

La Nova Pizzeria in Williamsville is jammed with a steady stream of customers picking up pizza, wings and subs.

Behind the counter are brothers Joey Todaro IV, 25, and Dante Todaro, 23. Both are vice presidents, but the titles mean nothing. They both make pizzas, handle phone orders, cash out customers and do whatever needs to be done.

The Todaro brothers are the fourth generation to run the family business, founded in 1957, that includes the flagship restaurant on West Ferry Street.

"I know there is a lot to be expected," Joey Todaro said. "Dante and I both understand the legacy that is tied to La Nova Pizzeria and what it means to Buffalo."

La Nova has grown to an operation with more 150 employees: 80 on West Ferry Street, 40 on Main Street and 30 at La Nova Wings Inc., founded 26 years ago by Joseph Todaro III. Based in Cheektowaga, La Nova Wings handles global orders for chicken wings.

The only sit-down restaurant is on West Ferry, where 10 employees have been laid off. President Joseph Todaro III filed for the federal Payroll Protection Program and is waiting for a response from his bank.

"I need it to help keep people from the (West Side) neighborhood employed," Todaro said. "The last thing I want to do is hurt the people



BOTH PHOTOS: JOED VIERA

Joey Todaro IV, left and below right, and brother Dante Todaro, man the counter in Williamsville where La Nova opened in 2011.

who made La Nova what it is."

The younger Todaros are the first to graduate from college. Joey is a St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute alumnus who graduated from Johnson & Wales University with a food-service management degree. Dante is a Nichols School alumnus with a business degree from Loyola University Chicago.

"You can't be trained for what's going on now," Dante Todaro said.



"We are all learning by a lot of trial and error."

Both brothers are proud of their college degrees, but said the real education came on West Ferry Street working side by side with their grandfather, Joseph Todaro Jr., and their father

"It was like a second school day for us," Dante Todaro said.

Take-out orders have risen 10 percent in the last month, and they say the 14-hour work days will pay dividends down the road.

"All we can do is get up in the morning and go to work and see what the day brings us," Dante Todaro said.

"La Nova Pizzeria is a lot bigger than Dante or myself," Joey Todaro said. "This much we know, everyone has to eat. And in Buffalo, pizza and wings matter."

### BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

# PPP to build cushion for missing accounts receivable

If this were a normal work week, Andrew Terragnoli would be in his office at Buffalo's Tri-Main Center working on architectural drawings for client projects.

Terragnoli is still working, but from home. As are his four employees at Studio T3 Engineering PLLC, where he is managing member. For now, he said he's busy.

"Construction may have stopped, but design work hasn't," Terragnoli said. "If anything, we are under more pressure now because when the restrictions are lifted, everyone is going to rock and roll immediately."

His projects include the Persistence Preparatory Academy Charter School, which will take over the former Buffalo Public School No. 62 on Urban Street; a new day-care center on Niagara Falls Boulevard in Wheatfield; and a Holiday Inn Express in Arcade.



One project by architect Andrew Terragnoli is this renovated apartment building at 197 W. Utica St. in Buffalo's Delaware District.

JOED VIERA

But more than design work is keeping Terragnoli busy. He's filed for the federal Paycheck Protection Program and expects to get an answer soon.

Doing the PPP paperwork was not difficult, Terragnoli said. He compared the forms to traditional bank-loan documents.

"Filing was one thing, but waiting to hear (if his loan was approved) is another," said Terragnoli, who expects to hear if his request was approved this week.

"I need it to keep going," Terragnoli said because of accounts receivable.

Studio T3 is owed more than six figures in past-due payments from clients. Most have cited the COVID-19 crisis as the reason why payments are slow in coming, Terragnoli said. He understands everyone's predicament, but he, too, has bills that need to be paid.

"Money is coming in, but in dribs and drabs," Terragnoli said. "In my line of work, I don't have much leverage other than holding back drawings, and I don't want to go down that road. This new world takes a lot to get used to. I know things are totally out of our control, but this has been a tough year for development."