

Read All About It:

# OUR MEMBERS & OUR COMMUNITY

We serve our membership as a catalyst – the organization through which business and professional people work together for the common good of the community.

Volume 41, No. 1

January & February 2023



## A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT - REV. CHRIS BOECKEL

Hi, I am Rev. Christopher Boeckel, the new President of the Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce. Another year is upon us, and everyone from the OP Chamber including our Board of Directors wishes you a fabulous and successful new year. I am excited to continue the journey of serving our amazing businesses, and people that make up Orchard Park.

I am committed to serving all of our OP Chamber events such as the Annual Golf Outing, the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade, the Taste of Orchard Park, the Festival of the Arts, and the Annual Health, Fitness & Business Expo. For the past 5 years, as Pastor of OP Living Water Church, I have encouraged my congregation as well as others to get involved and serve alongside the OP Chamber as we strive to make our events the most beneficial for our members and the community. We have begun to see more volunteers and community supporters participating in the OP Chamber of Commerce's Major Events. I have a great focus on community involvement and service and I hope to encourage others to join us as we strive to create new opportunities for all businesses.

The Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce continues to actively advocate for our members and new business start-ups. Throughout the pandemic; we provided important updates, masks, COVID testing kits, gloves and additional resources to our members. We also helped businesses navigate through volumes of information by going to the source to provide the most up to date accurate information. Many of our members were able to secure funding and assistance during the most critical times. We have also assisted prospective business owners in the Orchard Park area with data and connected them to the proper Town and Village departments to assist in fulfilling their dream. The Last few years have really taught us the importance of working together through adversity. The Chamber's mission is *"to serve our membership as a catalyst – the organization through which business and professional people work together for the common good of the community"* has become more of a reality than ever before. We are looking forward to continuing our pro-active role in developing enhanced member services.

Our Executive Director Don Lorentz and the entire Board of Directors have been working on strategic plans for augmenting the new Bills Stadium with opportunities for local developers and local businesses to spur new development. We are committed to work with the Orchard Park Economic Development Committee along with the Town and Village of Orchard Park to enhance our local businesses and bring a renewed life to our community while supporting our local businesses and members. I am grateful to serve in 2023 as we **"Work Together Today to Create a Fabulous Tomorrow"**.

## Grand Opening Celebration!

### Amanda Haas Massage Therapy, LLC

Congratulations to Amanda Haas, owner of Amanda Haas Massage Therapy on the January 12<sup>th</sup> Grand Opening of her new office at 4230 N. Buffalo St., Ste. 8 in the Village of Orchard Park.

Offering various massages, Amanda customizes the massage to the client, and is hands-on for the full allotted time of the scheduled service.

Book your relaxation mini-vacation massage today at [www.haasmassage.com](http://www.haasmassage.com).





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## Outgoing Remarks From Your Past-President David Even



Thank you all for another fantastic year! I am happy to report that the Chamber is back to its pre-pandemic activity and has grown our annual signature events. Our committees are hard at work exploring new opportunities and have some outstanding scheduled networking opportunities. Next up is a networking mixer at the Bills' stadium. More details will follow in the coming weeks! We have also made great strides in advocating on behalf of our businesses which will help us serve you better! A sincere thank you to all of our members that have supported us and have allowed us to succeed at our goals.

2022 saw the Chamber capitalize on last year's momentum as all of our signature events grew. Our

Annual Golf Outing, Independence Day Parade, Taste of Orchard Park, and OP Festival of the Arts/Business Expo were all great successes. The OP Festival of the Arts saw an increase in vendors and an unprecedented increase in traffic. Vendors, business expo participants, sponsors, and patrons were thrilled and provided great feedback. We also saw our Executive Director, Don Lorentz, breathe new life into the WNY Chamber Alliance. He has volunteered to lead this organization which helps all member Chambers work together to support each other and the entirety of the business community. Thank you, Don!

We continue to work on strengthening partnerships with the Orchard Park School District, the Village of Orchard Park, the Town of Orchard Park, and other area chambers to bring new and exciting opportunities for our membership and our community. This is culminating with a new format to the Orchard Park Economic Development Committee that will once again see all parties working together. One such result from the committee was a joint presentation to the Town Board in February in an effort to rezone the Bills Stadium. This should go into effect very soon. In 2023, we expect this relationship will make it easier for businesses to succeed in the Town and Village of Orchard Park with insight from the school district.

I urge everyone to consider attending our monthly Southtowns Connections Networking Group meetings and the bi-monthly OP Business Connections networking group meetings in person. I personally have had the privilege of meeting a lot of people at these meetings. Please contact us or visit our website calendar to join us at future meetings! If you would like to join one of our Chamber committees, please reach out to me or any of our Board members. All feedback is greatly appreciated.

As always, I would like to thank our Executive Director, Don Lorentz, our Administrator, Dawn Jenkinson, and my colleagues on our Board of Directors for their dedication and commitment to the betterment of our members. I know you are in great hands with Don, Dawn, and incoming President Chris Boeckel.

## Kudos & Congratulations!



...Ann Cardena, named manager of the Orchard Park AAA Travel & Insurance Center.

...Adam Wittmeyer, hired as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Orchard Park.

...Kim Pegula, co-owner of the Buffalo Bills and president and CEO of Pegula Sports and Entertainment, recognized by Business First's Power 100 Business Leaders of Color.

...Illo DiPaolo, owner of Illo DiPaolo's Restaurant & Banquet Facility, honored by Business First at their 2022 40 Under 40 Awards luncheon.





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[www.facebook.com/jodylawrencelutcf](http://www.facebook.com/jodylawrencelutcf)

### Financial Advisors · Insurance Services · Retirement Planning

As your local Comparion licensed agent, I am committed to helping you find the right coverage for your insurance needs with options from Liberty Mutual or other companies if needed. With nearly 20 years' experience in insurance, I enjoy helping people live more secure lives and have seen the power of being properly insured. I pride myself on giving great service. Call me today for an auto, home, pet or life insurance quote.



### Feldman's Lawn & Landscape

Nathaniel Feldman 716-480-9886  
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### Landscaping & Lawn Maintenance

Established in 2019, Feldman's Lawn & Landscape is one of WNY's fastest growing green industry businesses. Nate began servicing his neighbor's properties in 2014 when he was a senior in high school. Once word began to spread about his work ethic, attention to detail, and interpersonal skills, he realized that he had found his calling. Feldman's is proud to serve Buffalo and the Southtowns region, with both residential and commercial services.



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### Attorneys

Established in 1817, Hodgson Russ is one of the oldest law firms in the US. Former firm attorneys include Presidents Millard Fillmore and Grover Cleveland, former Congressman & World Bank President Barber Conable, and former Asst. Secretary of the US treasury Donald Lubick. With approximately 200 attorneys, the firm assist clients with virtually every legal issue an organization may face.



### Orchard Park Fire District EMS Inc.

Eric Knavel 716-662-2619  
4222 S. Taylor Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127  
[www.opfdems.org](http://www.opfdems.org)

### Education · Emergency Services

Formed in 2009, the Orchard Park Fire District EMS is a not-for-profit Paramedic service that works in conjunction with the three fire companies of the Orchard Park Fire District to provide Emergency Medical Services 24 hours a day 7 days a week to the residents residing in the 38.5 square mile town of Orchard Park. We also offer numerous educational lifesaving training opportunities.



### Michelle Sperazz Studios

Michelle Sperazz 716-468-5353  
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[www.michellesperazz.com](http://www.michellesperazz.com)

### Makeup Artists · Photography & Videography

From performing on stage to modeling to shooting commercials, Michelle has always been around makeup and the entertainment industry. With her extensive background as a performer, Michelle has a good eye and sense of perfection that is required for makeup and photography design. She is available for contract work for children, senior, family portraits and headshot photography. Schedule a consultation today!



# EAT, DRINK & NETWORK

*Please join us for a special get-together!*

## OP CHAMBER BUSINESS BASH

**Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**DUNN TIRE CLUB – HIGHMARK STADIUM**

**Dinner Buffet & Cocktails**



**COST: \$50 PER PERSON**



**RSVP REQUIRED BY MONDAY, 02/13**

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**Business**

# After Hours Mixer

**Networking at its Best . . .**

***Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.***

Join us for a St. Patrick's Day Celebration and a wee bit o' fun!

**Patti Looney Photography LLC**

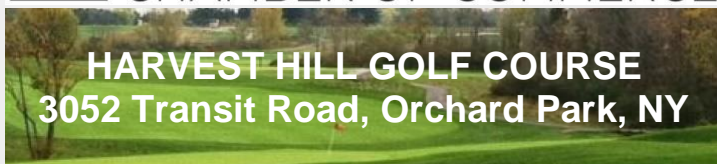
3907 N. Buffalo Rd., Orchard Park

*Please RSVP in Advance*

*Call 662-3366 or email [opcc@OrchardParkChamber.org](mailto:opcc@OrchardParkChamber.org)*



**ORCHARD PARK**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



# 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

**Monday, June 26th**



## REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIP DETAILS



<b>Premier Dinner Sponsor</b>	Donate \$2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4 Golfers (All Inclusive)</b></li> <li>• <b>Logo</b> in our Newsletter &amp; on Golfers' Program</li> <li>• <b>Event Signage</b> &amp; Your Sign displayed at Dining Area</li> </ul>
<b>Premier Lunch Sponsor</b>	Donate \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2 Golfers (All Inclusive)</b></li> <li>• <b>Logo</b> in our Newsletter &amp; on Golfers' Program</li> <li>• <b>Event Signage</b> &amp; Your Sign displayed at Lunch Area</li> </ul>
<b>Premier 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Sponsor</b>	Donate \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2 Golfers (All Inclusive)</b></li> <li>• <b>Logo</b> in our Newsletter &amp; on Golfers' Program</li> <li>• <b>Event Signage</b> &amp; Signs on 2 Beverage Carts with your Representatives Serving</li> </ul>
<b>Premier Cart Sponsor</b>	Donate \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2 Golfers (All Inclusive)</b></li> <li>• <b>Logo</b> in our Newsletter &amp; on Golfers' Program</li> <li>• <b>Event Signage</b> &amp; Exclusive Signage on all Golfers' Carts</li> </ul>
<b>Ace Sponsor</b>	Donate \$400 plus prize of any value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition in our Newsletter &amp; on Golfers' Program</li> <li>• <b>Hole-In-One</b> Sponsorship of a Par 3 Contest Hole</li> <li>• <b>Event Signage</b> &amp; Set up a Company Display at Event</li> </ul>
<b>Eagle Sponsor</b>	Donate \$250 plus prize of any value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition in our Newsletter &amp; on Golfers' Program</li> <li>• <b>Hole Sponsorship</b> (Company name displayed on sign at a hole)</li> <li>• <b>Event Signage</b></li> </ul>
<b>Golf Toss Sponsor</b>	Donate \$200 plus prize of \$150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition in our Newsletter &amp; on Golfers' Program</li> <li>• <b>Signage at Game Toss Site</b> along with Company Representative</li> </ul>
<b>Birdie Sponsor</b>	Donate \$100 plus prize of any value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition in our Newsletter &amp; on Golfers' Program</li> <li>• <b>Hole Sponsorship</b> (Company name displayed on sign at a hole)</li> </ul>
<b>Raffle Sponsor</b>	Donate a raffle prize minimum value \$75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition in our Newsletter &amp; on Golfers' Program</li> </ul>

### Promote Your Company By Donating Items To Be Included In Our Golfer Registration Bags

#### Entry: \$175.00 per Golfer **(ALL INCLUSIVE)**

- Entry Gift for Every Player
- Skill Games, Fantasy Golf Cards & Raffle Tickets
- Sandwich, Snack & Beverage
- Dinner, Awards & Raffle Reception

**Registration:** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Brunch:** 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**Shotgun Start:** 11:30 a.m.

**Dinner, Awards & Raffle:** 5:00 p.m.

**Format:** Scramble

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Players (if applicable) 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Golfer(s)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Sponsorship(s)  
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**Please complete and return with payment to:**

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**A PORTION OF ALL PROCEEDS GOES TOWARDS OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

## Kudos & Congratulations Continued!

...**Eco Serve Pest Services**, who received the Family Business Award from Buffalo Business First.

...**Fox Run at Orchard Park**, winner of the Buffalo News Best Independent Living Community in the 716.

...**Luisa Bostick, Roopa Chakkappan, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Chelsea Latta, Lindsay Menasco and Sara Nagel Miller**, named partners at **Hodgson Russ LLP** and **William Turkovich**, named leader of the firm's Federal & International Tax Practice.

...**Horton Law PLLC** has been named by U.S. News - Best Lawyers to its Best Law Firms 2023 list for Employment Law - Management.

...**JuileAnne Barber**, clinical vice president of behavior health services at **People Inc.**, honored by Business First at their 2022 40 Under 40 Awards luncheon.

...**Latricia Davis**, director of inclusion, diversity and equity at **West Herr Automotive Group** and owner of **INTRO Lifestyle Boutique**, recognized by Business First's Power 100 Business Leaders of Color.

*Thank You!*  
*To Our Outgoing Board Members*

December 31<sup>st</sup> marked not only the end of the year, but for three board members, we bid a fond farewell.

**Clair (Terry) Montroy, Esq.** has been practicing law since 1978. Terry joined the Chamber Board in 2016 serving as president in 2020.

**Kenneth Thompson** joined the Chamber board in 2019 serving on the Membership & Business Strategies / Marketing Committee.

**Paul Voytovich, CPA** is the owner of Voytovich Financial LLC. Paul was elected to the Chamber board in 2017 serving as treasurer for six years.

The dedication and professionalism of these individuals will be missed. Although they are leaving our Board, we are confident that they will remain involved in the organization that they have represented so well. We thank them for their service and wish them well.

*Congratulations!*

Newly installed officers and directors of the Chamber are prepared to begin their terms of service on the board. We thank them for their commitment.

### 2023 Officers

President.....Rev. Chris Boeckel - O.P. Living Water Church  
President-Elect / Treasurer..... Kristina Grochala - KeyBank  
Past - President..... David Even - W.G. Arthur Company  
Vice-President..... Marc Gonzales - National Air Cargo  
Business Networking Chair.....Greg Wright - Buffalo Bills, Inc.

### New Board Members

Roberta Bemiller.....RLB Coaching & Career Consulting  
Mark Jentsch.....Ben Rentals / Golf Car Express  
Tony Olivo.....CSI Group LLC  
Michael Risman.....Hodgson Russ LLP  
Roger Schmitt.....Roger Schmitt Insurance Agency / Farmers

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The Newsletter of THE ORCHARD PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
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Kristina Grochala . . . President-Elect / Treasurer  
David Even . . . Past-President  
Marc Gonzales . . . Vice-President  
Greg Wright . . . Business Networking Chair  
Donald Lorentz . . . Executive Director

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Roberta Bemiller . . . RLB Coaching & Career Consulting  
Rev. Chris Boeckel . . . O.P. Living Water Church  
Kristina Grochala . . . KeyBank  
David Even . . . W.G. Arthur Company  
Marc Gonzales . . . National Air Cargo  
Audrey Hall . . . Eco Serve Pest Services  
Mark Jentsch . . . Ben Rentals / Golf Car Express  
Tony Olivo . . . CSI Group LLC  
Michael Risan . . . Hodgson Russ LLP  
Justin Rojek . . . West Herr Automotive Group  
Dennis Salemi . . . Research and Design  
Roger Schmitt . . . Roger Schmitt Insurance Agency / Farmers  
Gregory Wright . . . Buffalo Bills, Inc.

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

**OP CHAMBER  
BUSINESS BASH**

**Highmark Stadium**

**GET INTO THE GAME**

Dunn Tire Club  
February 23, 2023

**Registration Info**  
[CLICK HERE](#)

**Business Connections**

Networking Group Meetings  
2nd & 4th Thursday of the month  
8 am in the OP Chamber Office  
[CLICK HERE](#)

*travel  
the  
world*

More info coming soon.

**Cruising the Danube to the Black Sea**

River Cruising from Austria to Romania

**October 1st – 13th**

**Alpine Lakes & Scenic Trains**

Switzerland & Northern Italy

**August 24th – September 1st**

**Monday, June 26, 2023**  
Harvest Hill Golf Course

**Registration & Sponsorship Info**  
[CLICK HERE](#)

**Business**

**After Hours  
Mixer**

Networking at its Best . . .

Join us for a St. Patrick's Day celebration  
and a wee bit o' fun!

**Wednesday, March 15th**  
5:30 - 7:30 pm

**Patti Looney Photography**  
3907 N. Buffalo Rd.

**Registration Info**  
[CLICK HERE](#)

**Southtowns Connections**

Networking Group Meetings  
2nd Tuesday of the month  
Noon at Buffalo's Best (Lunch \$15 cash)  
[CLICK HERE](#)

## CONNECT • EXPOSURE • GROWTH

Opportunity for all to do business in Orchard Park. Call the Chamber today at 662-3366!