

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 43, No. 2

February 2025

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



To all our valued Chamber Members,

I'd like to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your continued support of the Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce and all the initiatives we work on for you. As we head into 2025, we're all facing a variety of challenges, but we're also seeing exciting new opportunities. The Chamber remains committed to creating programs that foster community engagement and bring fresh energy to Orchard Park.

So, what does this mean for you and your business? We've been working on strategic platforms designed to help you showcase your expertise, connect with other businesses and professionals, and drive more foot traffic—and potential customers—to Orchard Park.

Many of our members are already taking advantage of these opportunities through seminars, sponsorships, booth participation, or simply attending Chamber events. We understand that running a business involves tough decisions, but as a business service organization, the Chamber provides programs that would be difficult to achieve on your own. Our major events draw 20,000 to 40,000 attendees, and our goal is to help you make valuable connections with this audience. How you engage with them can directly impact your business's success.

Unlike a lottery, where winning is based purely on chance, your involvement with the Chamber is directly tied to the results you see. I often hear from members who say, "I didn't get anything out of my Chamber membership." When I dig deeper, I typically find they haven't taken the time to read our communications or participate in events and seminars.

With over 30 years of experience as a marketing instructor, I can tell you that one of the most important aspects of marketing is setting a budget for advertising and promotion. For many businesses, this often gets pushed to the back burner or is budgeted last. But the reality is, it's challenging to know how much to spend and what the return on investment will be. When you take a closer look at the cost of participating in the Chamber's programs, you'll quickly see the value—especially given the wide market reach we offer.

I encourage you to visit our Chamber website to explore the variety of opportunities available. I'd also like to personally invite you to join us for the **Mix, Mingle & Maximize Event on February 26th at Mangia's**, where we'll dive deeper into our current programs and discuss new ideas we can develop together to better serve your business.

Thank you for being a key part of the Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce. We're excited to partner with you and help your business thrive in 2025.

On a personal note, it saddens me to say goodbye to W.G. Arthur's Co. and, more importantly, to the incredible people who made this store such a cornerstone of our community. I've known Joe Wales since his days as a student at OPHS when he worked part-time at the store. Joe has poured his heart and soul into both Arthur's and Orchard Park, and it's been an honor to call him a friend and colleague when he took on the role of Chamber President. He's always been a key part of what makes Orchard Park such a special place. When Tom Morrow passed the torch to Joe, I knew the store's legacy was in great hands and would continue to be the heart of our village.

When David Even joined as Vice President, it was inspiring to see both of them working side by side with such passion and dedication. Arthur's has been a cherished institution for 117 years, and many of us consider it a family tradition. A heartfelt thank you to Joe, David, and the entire team for their years of service to our community. I wish you all the very best in whatever the future holds.

Mix, Mingle and Maximize



SCAN HERE



ORCHARD PARK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A NIGHT WITH THE
CHAMBER!

A night with the OP Chamber awaits you

\$25/Person

Your ticket includes hors d'oeuvres
and two complimentary drinks
as we showcase exciting new opportunities.

MANGIA'S M-LOUNGE

Wednesday, February 26th

5:30pm – 7:30pm

RSVP must be made by: February 19th

Email: OPCC@OrchardParkChamber.org

Online: OrchardParkChamber.org

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CREDIT UNION



Great Rates on Savings Accounts,
Credit Cards, Loans & Much More!



6520 Webster Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127
716.972.0051 • financialtrustcu.com

For all your banking needs!



**THE Original
PANCAKE
HOUSE**
The origin of great taste.



ORCHARD PARK
3019 Union Road
716.674.3344

WILLIAMSVILLE
5479 Main Street
716.634.5515

AMHERST
2075 Niagara Falls Blvd.
716.691.8219

www.opwny.com



6170 West Quaker Street, Orchard Park, New York
Call: 662-7848 Visit: Amigone.com
Proud member of the Orchard Park Community



Real Estate Services

DOUGLAS MCFARLAND

6505 East Quaker Street
Orchard Park, NY 14127
Cell: (716) 472-8425

douglasmcfarland@howardhanna.com



"Taking Care of Business"
In the Southtowns



**Corporate Screening &
Investigative Group, LLC**

A Professional Investigative and Consulting
Firm serving the Education, Healthcare,
Corporate and Legal Industries.

PO Box 1274 Orchard Park, NY 14127
716.583.4628 • 866.786.3466
corpscreen.com



RBS Wood Burning

...Transforming timberto treasure.

Roger Schmitt, Owner

716-720-2985 www.RBSWoodBurning.com

**★NATIONAL★
OVERHEAD DOOR CO.**
716-667-3500
"The Home Of Quality"
www.NationalOverhead.com

All Chamber
Members
Receive 10% Off
Residential
Service Calls

Mention This Ad!

Contact us:

Don Larson, Sara Vella & Staff
Sales@NationalOverhead.com



**WNY'S FINEST
PREMIUM
CIGAR SHOP**

Over 100,000 Cigars
IN STOCK

674-7833 (PUFF)

2911 Southwestern Blvd - Orchard Park, NY

GIFT CARDS

AVAILABLE AT
buffalocigars.com

**Reimagine
Great Banking.**
Discover the credit union difference



716.662.1311
GreatErieFCU.com
Orchard Park | East Aurora

HUNT
Since 1911
HUNT Real Estate ERA
5546 Camp Road
Hamburg, NY 14075

Always There For You

COLLEEN BRUNELLE

Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

Charles S. Hunt Founders Club Member

of: (716) 648-2300
fax: (716) 648-2159
cell: (716) 713-5704

colleen.brunelle@huntrealestate.com
www.colleenbrunelle.com



"Empowering Our Clients"
Group Benefits * Medicare * Individual

April E. Hartloff

Owner-Employee Benefits Specialist
april@hartloffbenefits.com

Hartloff Benefit
Solutions, LLC

Cell: 716-481-3884
Fax: 716-655-5907

437 Olean Rd
East Aurora, NY 14052

www.hartloffbenefits.com



Payroll Services
part of the Client Solutions Group family

Get It Right Payroll

**Are You Paying More
for Less Service?**

Don't take chances, use Get It Right Payroll!

Ph: 716-672-2990 • Fax: 716-672-2991
www.payrollservices.net



livelife.

716.662.5001 • foxrunorchardpark.com

Fox Run is the premiere Continuing Care
Retirement Community in the Southtowns

**Click on the ads to
contact our
Member Advertisers.**



MEET OPChamber Advantage: A GREAT HEALTH PLAN STRATEGY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES!

The **Orchard Park Chamber** in partnership with **Hartloff Benefit Solutions LLC** have teamed up to provide our members with the most comprehensive Health Insurance Programs available. We invite you to set up a free consultation with one of their Health Insurance Brokers to come up with the best coverage, at the most effective costs for you and your business. The peace of mind knowing that you have industry experts guiding you through this process is our main goal. Ask them about **The 3 E's of Benefits - Educate, Empower Enroll!**

OPChamber Advantage Offers:

- Group/Employee Benefits
- Voluntary Benefits
- Medicare Benefits
- Dental/Vision
- Group Life/Disability
- Supplemental Insurance Packages
- Think HR/Mineral – HR Resources



Hartloff Benefit Solutions, LLC
437 Olean Rd
East Aurora, NY 14052
Office: 1-716-655-5901
www.hartloffbenefits.com

TAKE IT EASY AND WORRY LESS WITH *OPChamber Advantage!*
For more information, contact our partnership team at Hartloff Benefit Solutions.
April@HartloffBenefits.com or call: 716.655.5901

TRIPS FOR 2025

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks feat. San Diego & California's Central Coast **Sept. 24- Oct. 3, 2025**



Highlights: San Diego Harbor Cruise • Carlsbad Walking Food Tour • Los Angeles City Tour • Old Mission Santa Barbara • Pismo Beach • Paso Robles Wine Country Lunch • Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks • Choice on Tour: Explore Giant Forest with Local Guide or Brisk Hike with your Tour Manager • Getty Center

From soaring redwoods to cultural meccas and verdant valleys, explore the rich sights, sounds, and tastes of California. Wander through a forest of

some of the world's largest trees at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Dive into history in San Diego and into the glitz and glamour of Los Angeles. Discover a centuries-old mission in Santa Barbara and go on a walking food tour in the charming coastal town of Carlsbad. Savor a glass of locally produced wine and lunch at a Paso Robles vineyard. This and much more awaits!



Land/Air Inclusive Price (from BUF): \$4,999/person (double) ; \$6,399/person (single)

**** Price above includes \$100/person Air Booking Bonus if deposited by 3/24/25**

Price includes: Round Trip Air from Buffalo Airport, Air Taxes, Airport-Hotel Transfers + 16 Meals.

Trip Weblink: <http://gateway.memberchoicevacations.com/link/1277764>



Winter in Croatia feat. Plitvice Lakes & the Adriatic Coast **November 1-10, 2025**



Highlights: Opatija • Pula Amphitheater • Farm-to-Table Dinner • Zadar • Sea Organ and Greeting to the Sun • Split • Choice on Tour: Ethnographic Museum or Diocletian's Palace • Traditions of a Dalmatian Village • Plitvice Lakes National Park • Zagreb

Travel back in time – and explore the fascinating present – as you tour through stunning Croatia. Discover the Pula Arena, a wonderfully preserved Roman amphitheater, as well as the massive Diocletian's Palace, built as an emperor's retirement villa. Take a walk along the cascading lakes of

Plitvice Lakes National Park and enjoy a three-night stay at Opatija, a celebrated seaside town known for its mild climate. Wander through a Dalmatian village and learn about its heritage and traditions, and experience light and sound in a whole new way at Zadar's popular art installations. Throughout your tour, get a taste of regional cuisine with beautifully prepared meals featuring fresh local ingredients.



Land/Air Inclusive Price (from BUF): \$4,099/person (double) ; \$4,699/person (single)

**** Price above includes \$250/person Air Booking Bonus if deposited by 5/2/25**

Price includes: Round Trip Air from Buffalo Airport, Air Taxes, Airport-Hotel Transfers + 13 Meals.

Trip Weblink: <http://gateway.memberchoicevacations.com/link/1305328>



TRIP FOR 2026

Cultural Treasures of Japan

April 10-24, 2026



Highlights: Tokyo • Ginza • Asakusa Sensoji Shrine • Tea Ceremony • Hakone • Lake Ashi Cruise • Matsumoto Castle • Takayama • Sake Tasting and Hida Beef Dinner • Choice on Tour: Takayama Jinya or Takayama Matsuri Yatai Kaikan • Kaiseki Dinner • Shirakawa-go • Kanazawa • Kyoto • Bullet Train • Hiroshima • Maiko Show

It's Cherry Blossom Season!

Immerse yourself in the ancient and modern cultures of Japan. Learn the art of the tea ceremony and stand



before the famous Senso-ji Buddhist temple. Tour Matsumoto Castle, known as the "Crow Castle" for its black exterior. Taste legendary Hida beef and sip sake at a local brewery. Delve into Kyoto, the marvelous cultural capital of Japan. Board the Shinkansen "bullet" train to travel to Hiroshima to visit Shrine Island and the Peace Memorial Museum. Absorb the beauty of the Golden Pavilion and the majesty of Nijo Castle. Japan slowly draws you into its eclectic culture and charm, revealing incredible moments every step of the way.

Land/Air Inclusive Price (from BUF): \$9,249/person (double) ; \$10,999/person (single)

** Price above includes \$100/person Air Booking Bonus if deposited by 9/12/25

Price includes: Round Trip Air from Buffalo Airport, Air Taxes, Airport-Hotel Transfers + 19 Meals.

Trip Weblink: <http://gateway.memberchoicevacations.com/link/1305327>



**PLEASE CONTACT THE ORCHARD PARK CHAMBER FOR
MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EXITING TRIPS
AND OTHER UPCOMING TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES.**

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO

SHOP SMALL
-&-
support local businesses

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Marc Gonzales . . . President
William Meister . . . President-Elect
Kristina Grochala . . . Past-President/Treasurer
Roberta Bemiller . . . Vice-President
Greg Wright . . . Business Networking Chair
Donald Lorentz . . . Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erik Ardenski . . . WNY Wood Products
Roberta Bemiller . . . RLB Coaching & Career Consulting
Rev. Chris Boeckel . . . O.P. Living Water Church
Donald Bray . . . Transworld Business Advisors of Buffalo
Kim Clouden . . . Fattey Beer Company
Jeremy Gilbert . . . Defy Security
Marc Gonzales . . . National Air Cargo
Kristina Grochala . . . KeyBank
Audrey Hall . . . Eco Serve Pest Services
Tony Helta . . . West Herr Automotive Group
William Meister . . . Federated Insurance
Michael Risman . . . Hodgson Russ LLP
Justin Rojek . . . West Herr Automotive Group
Roger Schmitt . . . RBS Wood Burning
Gregory Wright . . . Buffalo Bills, Inc.

 **ORCHARD PARK**
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

 **CHAMBER REVIEW** 

The Newsletter of THE ORCHARD PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
6524 East Quaker Street, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Upcoming Events February 2025

Feb. 11th - **12pm** Southtowns Connections
Networking Group

Feb. 13th - **8am** Business Connections
Networking Group

Feb. 26th - **5:30-7:30pm** Mix, Mingle & Maximize
Business Bash

Feb. 27th - **8am** Business Connections
Networking Group

Sign up at: <https://orchardparkchamber.org/networking/>



ORCHARD PARK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CONNECT • EXPOSURE • GROWTH

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