

CORVETTES of Buffalo

VETTE NEWS SINCE 1981

JANUARY 2022



President Bob Joseph:



After 2 years it was good to get back to our regular Christmas Brunch. Karen and George Sparks as usual did a great job chairing the event and will be hosting again next year. They will be moving it north to the Classics V Banquet facility and I know we all will be looking forward to it.

My thanks go out to Skip Polowy for his continued efforts soliciting donations from his affiliated companies for Kids Escaping Drugs on behalf of Corvettes of Buffalo. This year KED will again be the charity of the 2022 Caravan. I want to put a shout out to Bob Woodley for his efforts in securing a Platinum partnership with Northtown Lexus. They are a leading XPEL instillation dealer in WNY. Thank you to Rose Ricigliano for organizing another successful ladies' luncheon. Great job ladies keep it going.

At this point I'm asking everyone for their suggestions for charitable donations from the Corvettes of Buffalo treasury. Please submit your suggestions by March 1 st for consideration by the board at the March Board Meeting. The website is complete and will be up and running right after the first of the year. It was previewed by the Board at the 2022 proposed budget meeting on December 18 th and both will be presented at the January meeting. Wishing everyone Health and Happiness in the New Year. Save the Wave!



EDITOR'S

NOTE:



With this January issue, I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year with good health to all.. Speaking of years, 1967 was a good one, though I, like the Corvette, have changed some since then.

And another year has passed, with winter sending most, if not all of our Corvettes into storage. Soon, I'll be writing this in Florida, where Bernadette and I hope to enjoy the sunshine and warmer temperatures. There I'll get to see many Corvettes at the shows I attend, just not my own. Our Corvette friends are always welcome to visit Sarasota, where we call home during the early months of the year.

In this issue, I call attention to Betty Skelton (no relation to Red Skelton that I know of), an amazing woman in the history of Corvettes. She was once known as the "fastest woman on earth". It serves as a reminder that Corvettes are just as important to many women as they are to men.

Also, if you get the chance, please check out, on the internet, [\[VIDEO\] Chevrolet's 'Holiday Ride' Christmas Video Will Leave You in Tears - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle \(corvetteblogger.com\)](#)

It's four minutes long and very well done.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

www.corvettesofbuffalo.com



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Meeting starts 7:00 p.m.

Visit us at: <http://www.corvettesofbuffalo.com/>

Send Newsletter Articles To: **Dave Spencer**

E-Mail: c7hotrod@gmail.com

Submissions must be in before the 25th

Late submissions will be published the following month.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Gene Colucci 12/30 (missed last month)

6th Mike Buccilli

7th Bonnie Binger and Lorry Kwiek

10th Lynda Graham

16th Nicolette Brett

19th Nancy Conroy

20th Joe Dionne

22nd Juan Phillips

29th Matt Behr

31st Mike Gruber

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

05th- 2015 Cameron Diaz and Benji Madden

14th 1954 Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio



Currently Planned COB Events:

- January 8th Regular Meeting
- February 12th Regular Meeting
- February 12th Pizza Party



Marianne's last official act as Treasurer (writing check for Christmas Brunch).

Info: Activities Director Lynda Graham



Traveling back in time!

Requested Church Pantry Donations.... Thank you!

January: paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.)





2021 Charity Recognition Awards

Thanks to Niagara Sheets LLC, this past year, we were successful in receiving Corporate donations from the Greenpac Paper Mill in Niagara Falls, NY along with WestRock Containerboard Mills, based in Atlanta, Georgia to support our Caravan fundraising effort for the Kids Escaping Drugs Campaign 2021.

New Greenpac Mill Manager Tony Newman (above), accepted our Community Partnership Award, in appreciation for their continued charity support with COB and KED. Joining me was Suzanne D'Amico from KED and President Glenn Giles from Niagara Sheets LLC.

We had great discussions regarding the KED Face2Face programs. Tony Newman also discussed a potential partnership with some of his business contacts in Niagara Falls during 2022. Hopefully, with Greenpac's and Niagara Sheets support, we can significantly grow our charity fundraising donations to KED in the future. Suzanne was excited and helpful in discussing current Coalitions in other WNY Communities that could be expanded to Niagara Falls businesses.

The Community Partnership Award plaques were also presented to Niagara Sheets and WestRock to recognize and thank them for their donations. They are proudly on display in their office entrance/lobby to show their Customers and Visitors.

It's amazing how a recognition award can continue to build relationships to support charities!

Skip Polowy
Corvettes of Buffalo

By **Keith Cornett**

Betty Skelton, the former acrobatic pilot and Corvette test driver who was known as the “fastest woman on Earth” died Wednesday August 31, 2011 at the age of 85. For her contributions to Corvette which included roles as a test driver, car show technical narrator and one of the founders of *Corvette News* (which later became *Corvette Quarterly*), Betty was inducted into the Corvette Hall of Fame in 2001. Betty was born in Pensacola, Florida and made her first solo flight at the age of 12. By 18, she held a commercial pilots license and was a certified flight instructor. Her father organized an amateur air show in 1945 and Betty was asked to do some basic stunts. Having mastered some aerobatic maneuvers, Betty became a professional aerobatic pilot and performed at air shows across the country. Betty’s most impressive stunt during this time was cutting a ribbon strung between two poles with her propeller while flying upside down 10 feet off the ground. Skelton held the title for the US Female Aerobatics Championship from 1948-1950. In 1949 she set the world light-plane altitude record of 25,763 in a Piper Cub and two years later broke her own record with a flight of 29,050 feet. In 1953 after retiring from aerobatic flying, Betty was piloting charter flights when she met NASCAR’s Bill France Sr. Bill invited Betty to Daytona Beach in 1954 where she drove the Pace Car. She then took a Dodge sedan to 105.88 mph on the beach, setting a stock car speed record for women. It was in 1956 that she joined Campbell-Ewald, the advertising partner of General Motors. She became the first woman technical narrator at the major auto shows where she would talk about the cars and demonstrate their features. Zora Arkus-Duntov put her to work as a test driver where she set numerous speed records with Corvettes. In 1957, Harley Earl and Bill Mitchell designed a special translucent gold Corvette which Betty drove to Daytona in 1957 to serve as the NASCAR pace car. It was also during this time that Betty Skelton became the official spokeswoman for Chevrolet. Her career in advertising was moving just a quickly. While at Campbell-Ewald, Skelton helped launch the internal magazine called *Corvette News* which later became known as *Corvette Quarterly*. She became VP of Campbell-Ewald’s Women’s Market and Advertising departing in 1969 and retired in 1976 after 20 years in advertising. Skelton was the first woman to drive an Indy car and she repeatedly set records for speed and acceleration at Daytona Beach and on the Bonneville Salt Flats of Utah. In 1956, she broke a transcontinental speed record, driving from New York to Los Angeles, covering 2,913 miles in 56 hours, 58 minutes. In 2001, Betty Skelton was inducted in the National Corvette Museum’s Corvette Hall of Fame for all her contributions to Corvette. She is also a member of the National Aviation Hall of Fame as well as the Motorsports Hall of Fame.





2021 Corvettes of Buffalo Member Benefits Sales Benefits

- New 2021 & 2022 Corvettes at MSRP
- \$500 off the Van Bortel price on used Corvettes
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- \$500 off any used vehicle at any of the Van Bortel Dealerships

Service & Parts Benefits

- 1 Free oil change for 1 Corvette per year, excluding Corvettes with a dry sump oil system where the first 6 quarts will be free (5w30 Dexos or Mobil 1 engine oil and AC Delco engine oil filter)
- 1 Free NYS inspection for 1 Corvette per year
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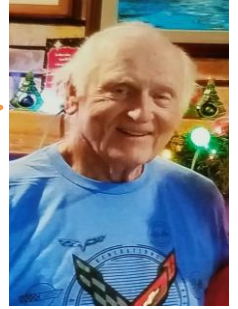
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Upcoming Museum Events & Events On-Site at the Museum

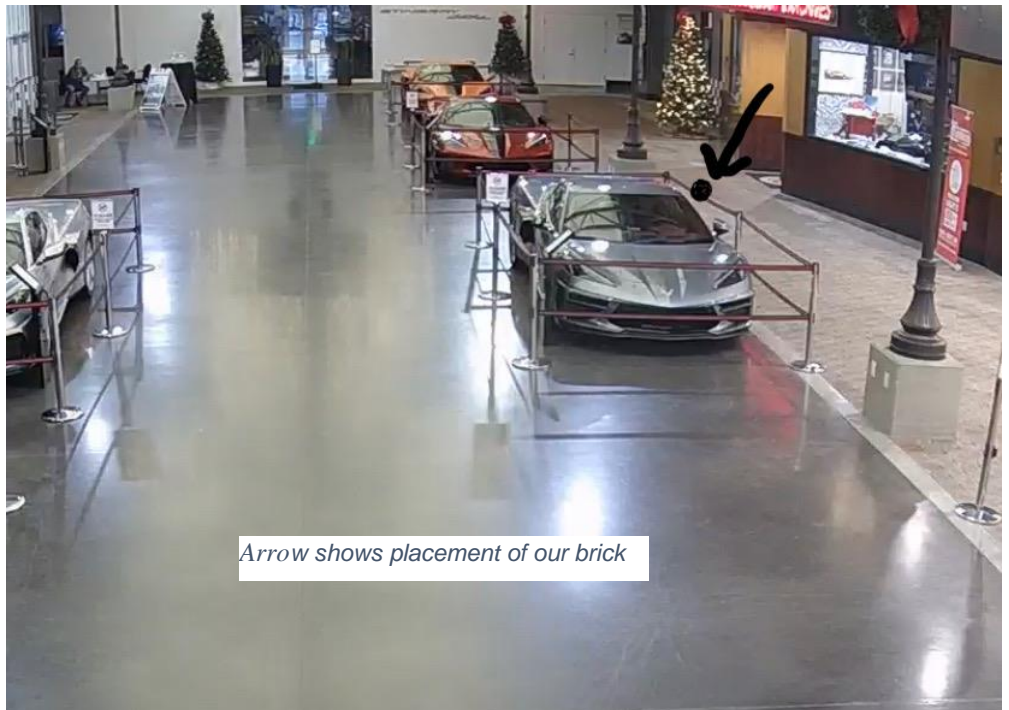
- 2022 9-Day Caribbean Cruise | April 15 - April 24, 2022 (LIMITED AVAILABILITY)
- Michelin NCM Bash | April 28 - April 30, 2022
- MiM Dragon Run Presented by Michelin at Biltmore Estate | May 1 - May 4, 2022 (WAIT LIST AVAILABLE)..... John Meyerhoff



Note from John: When ordering aftermarket wheels for the C8, make sure that the offsets are correct. In Florida, many C8 owners have gotten specialty wheels and removed the stock ones. Sometimes wheels that fit become a real problem if the offset differs from Chevrolet specs.

Also: In an update sent out to Chevrolet dealers today, General Motors announced it would be extending the 1st service visit time for 2020 to 2022 Corvettes from the standard 12 months of ownership to 36 months. According to the memo, the extension was made to be “more suitable for the driving habits experienced with Corvette owners” which is another way of saying that Corvette owners don’t put a lot of miles on their cars. We’re not sure what has prompted this as GM has the oil life monitor programmed to go off just under one year so you have to do that regardless. We’re thinking it has to do with the transmission filter that is required to be changed at 7500 miles but is included in the 1st service visit. Perhaps GM wants to condition C8 drivers now to wait until the full 7500 miles before triggering the free service visit as they were probably replacing the majority of those filters at well under 7500 miles. By **Keith Cornett**

Corvettes of Buffalo is now represented at the Bowling Green Corvette Museum!



Arrow shows placement of our brick

NCCC News: Jim Brett (our NCCC Governor)

For up-to-date info, check:

[The National Council of Corvette Clubs, Inc. ~ NCCC \(corvettesnccc.org\) or its Facebook site](http://The National Council of Corvette Clubs, Inc. ~ NCCC (corvettesnccc.org) or its Facebook site)



12/05 Illio Depolo Christmas Brunch:

It was a beautiful, yet cool day when we met at Quaker Run Plaza and headed down Route 219 to Ellicottville. While there at the brewery, we were all treated to a first round of drinks by Terry Decker in honor of Jim Decker, her beloved husband, who passed away May 30th of last year (both of them pictured below). Thank you, Terry and Jim (RIP)! She also hosted an informal get together at her nearby house after the event. We did not make it to that, but were able to stop at a similar meet at the home of Kevin and Holly Wyse (bottom of page 10) on the way home. We left that later in the rain. Dave Spencer



12/05 Illio Depolo Christmas Brunch:



12/05 Illio Depolo Christmas Brunch:



12/05 Illio Depolo Christmas Brunch:



12/16 COB Ladies' Luncheon:

Buffalo Brew Pub: It was another snow free/good weather day as our COB ladies met at the Brew Pub for a relaxing snack. Even after some high winds previously, the standing Buffalo you see there was still on his perch.



FREE FOR ALL PAGE: MAKE IT INTERESTING – (Editor) Send me things!

We are hearing a lot about Z06 lately, so here's some info on an earlier one you may not have known. It's **worth watching**: We also know that many of you may be new to the Corvette brand, and in that case, it's time for a history lesson on the King of the Hill Corvette – the C4 ZR-1. Hagerty's Jason Cammisa offers up these revelations about the C4 ZR-1 (with a Lotus designed LT-5) and he shares many details and stories behind the car that only the die-hards would know about, including its apparent ability to defeat police radar guns back in the day due to this "one weird trick."

It's fair to say that the most exotic engine to ever reside beneath the hood of a production Corvette was the 1990-'95 5.7-liter LT5—engineered by GM and Lotus, then machined and assembled by Mercury Marine's MerCruiser division in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The engine was initially rated at 375 hp and 370 lb-ft of torque, but a revised LT5 broke cover in 1993. Packing four-bolt main caps, improved heads, new pistons, revised cam timing, and new exhaust manifolds, that engine checked in at a gutsy 405 hp and 385 lb-ft of torque. Many of the LT5's innovations are common now, but they were revolutionary in the 1990s.

[The ZR-1 was too expensive to succeed — but too good to ignore | Jason Cammisa Revelations | Ep. 16 - YouTube](#)



FREE FOR ALL PAGE: MAKE IT INTERESTING – (Editor) Send me things!

COB member Juan Phillips: looking for a C5 Coupe in good condition. (Editor: The Chevrolet Corvette (C5) is the fifth generation of the Chevrolet Corvette sports car, produced by the Chevrolet division of General Motors for the 1997 through 2004 model years. Production variants include the high performance Z06.) Call Juan at 7165634775

And what you ask are these? My thanks go to club member Joe Weatherbee for the C8 front exterior filter screens he made for club cars. While I have another set that would require at least partial removal of the front spoiler for installation, these attach with the included tape (or wire) with little effort. They are plastic with a molded trim piece surround and Joe even provided a wire tool for easy removal. Editor Dave



Editor Dave: just want to put in a plug for Jim at J.M. Super Alloy Wheel & Bumper Repair in Hamburg. He painted my C8 wheels and the engine cover is next. He has a lot of excellent reviews on the web and is helping make my C8 a Zora (Z) themed Corvette.

It's winter, so let's hear from you folks out there. What are your dream upgrades for your Corvettes? Send them to me, even if they are only fantasy at this point!



My "Christmas Upgrade"

FREE FOR ALL PAGE: MAKE IT INTERESTING – (Editor) Send me things!

More from Gary in England and Pete Ricigliano December 14th:



Hi Peter, Hope you all well, just been watching the twister devastation in the mid-west. I hope they get the money and resources to rebuild quickly. Had a lot of wet and windy weather over here of late so vette tucked up. I will run her on dry, blue sky days throughout the winter whenever possible to keep things free and moving. We don't get many days of 0 degrees or hardly any snow so can use her as long as it is dry. Looking forward to getting the new shed finished but it is taking longer than I thought. Vette end nearly ready for floor concrete to go down, probably won't happen til after Xmas now. But it will be done when its done and should be very comfortable to work in. I hope you all have a good Christmas over there. Best wishes, your friend in the UK, Gary.

Gary I have been out of commission for the last 6 weeks, recovering from a full knee replacement. I am driving and getting around OK at this time and will be back to normal soon. I planned to have surgery after I put the Vette away with activities and travel winding down.

Weather in the Buffalo has been very mild so we did wine tours, Christmas parties and just getting ready for the Hollidays . New York is starting to make everyone wear masks for protection against the virus. This year has been a lot better than last year were there were friends and family that died from the Covid 19. My family got all 3 jabs and are feeling safer.

My son Nick is getting ready to get a paint job on his 1966 early next year so I will keep you posted on the progress. It would be nice drive a classic Corvette to the cruise nights again next year.

I hope you and your family have a healthy, safe, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Your friend from across the Pond. **Pete**

Good to hear you on the mend pete and getting back to full fitness. Been there 2 years ago with a massive shoulder tendons and bicep repair which took a year to heal fully. Things take longer when we get older hey. Keen to see the c2 painted. Take care pete and have a good one. Gary

Gary I have been out of commission for the last 6 weeks, recovering from a full knee replacement. I am driving and getting around OK at this time and will be back to normal soon. I planned to have surgery after I put the Vette away with activities and travel winding down. **Pete**



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**Editor's Note: Local Small Businesses are the backbone of our
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Remember, buy American if you can! Just look what
they did with the Corvette!

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Kevin & Val Horan's (Van Bortel) Z06

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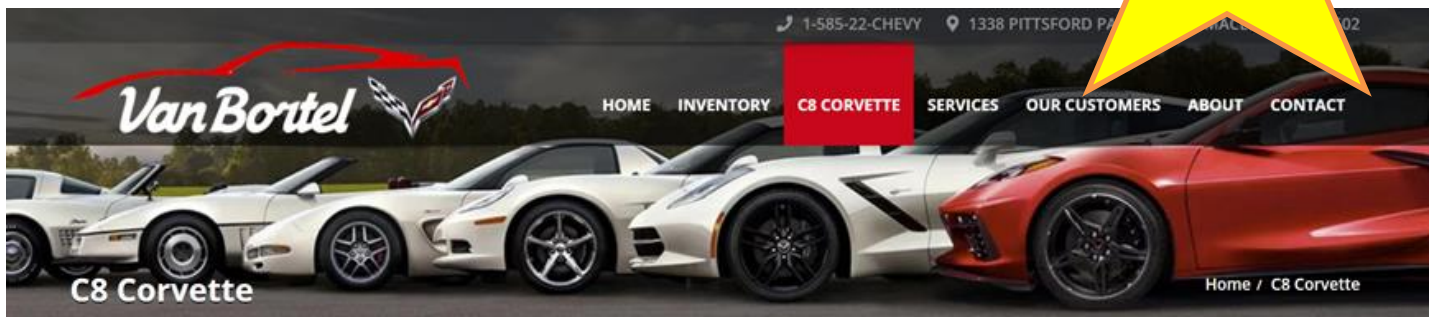
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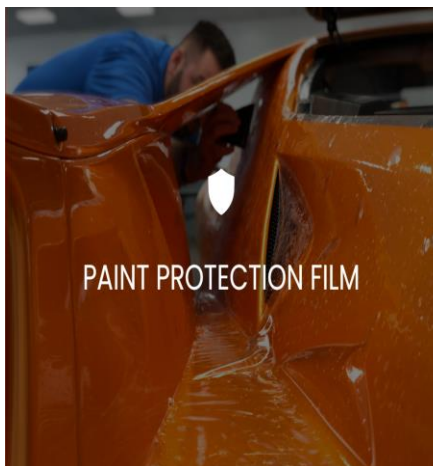
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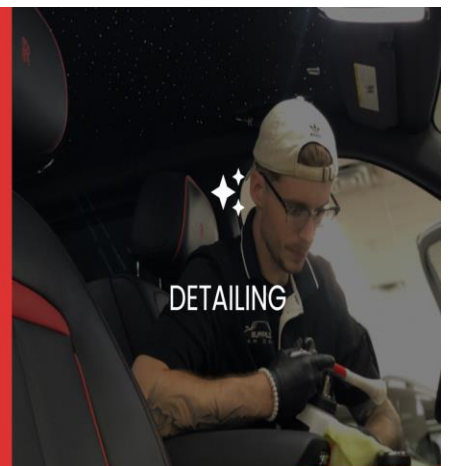
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Newsletter Editor Notes:

Restaurateur Russell J. Salvatore and infectious disease specialist Dr. Rajinder Bajwa will be honored when Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center brings back its annual gala fundraising event, the Premier. The black-tie formal, scrapped this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic, will be held Jan. 15 in the Seneca Niagara Casino in the Falls, the medical center announced. The event usually draws a sellout crowd of about 900. The 2020 Premier raised about \$275,000 for the hospital.

Co-chairs of the 2022 event include Buffalo Common Council member Darius Pridgen and his son, Pastor Craig Pridgen, and Dr. Ravinder K. Devgun, Memorial's chief of anesthesiology, and his wife, Sukhmender S. Saran.

Bajwa, Memorial's chief of infectious diseases, led the hospital's response to the pandemic.

Salvatore, owner of Russell's Steaks, Chops & More, has donated millions of dollars to area hospitals, including a major gift to renovate Memorial's welcome center in 2019.

– Thomas J. Prohaska



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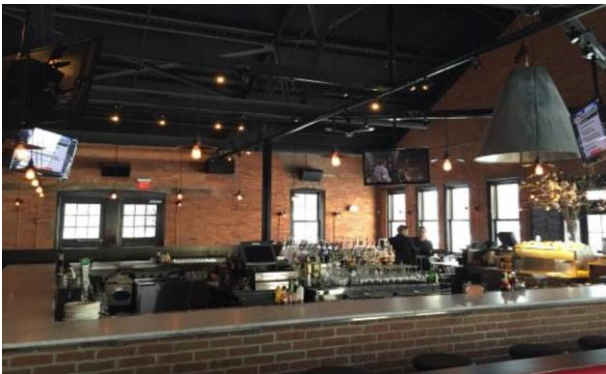
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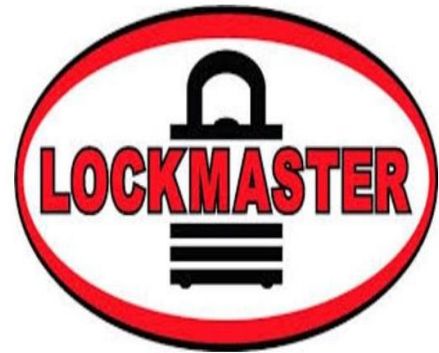
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Corvettes of Buffalo offer ad space in its monthly newsletter, on its website and on our Facebook page. Please review existing ads and newsletters at www.corvettesofbuffalo.com.

Our ad rates for **one year**, beginning with receipt of payment, are:

BUSINESS CARD 1/8 page	\$40.00
¼ page	\$75.00
½ page	\$135.00
Full page	\$250.00

Any questions. Please contact: Terry Decker 716-912-4217
Email: tdecker5151@gmail.com

Thank you in advance for your support of CORVETTES of BUFFALO.

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INCLUDE: 1) Business card and/or art work
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Office Use: Date Received _____ 1 yr. notification date _____