

February 2021

Vette News Since 1981



STAY HEALTHY, STAY
SAFE, and Save the Wave!

Notes from the President

Bob Joseph: As we begin 2021, we are finally seeing some light at the end of this long tunnel. Although we are still not able to resume our normal meetings and activities those involved with the VetsnVettes car show, Caravan and the COB 40th Birthday Party are trying to find a way to pull these events off this year. The Picnic and Christmas Brunch are both scheduled and hopefully will go off as planned, so for now watch for my COB updates and the Newsletter for what's happening. I am happy to announce that beginning in 2021, Van Bortel Corvette will be the Official major sponsor of Corvettes of Buffalo! Mike Fagenbaum director of Corvette Sales and Marketing has showed an interest in Corvettes of Buffalo since April 2020 because of the good things he has heard about the club and his association with many members who are past customers. This association provides us not only the benefits associated with Chevrolet and Corvette but also with the Ford and Subaru dealerships in the Van Bortel family. You can find Matts introduction letter and the 2021 Member Benefits later in this newsletter. I am excited to work with Matt and Van Bortel Corvettes in the coming year.

As we move forward with our new sponsor, I would like to look back and express a sincere "Thank You" to <u>Paddock Chevrolet</u> and everyone at the dealership for their support and assistance during the past 10 plus years. It has been great working with you.

Editor's Note Dave Spencer



Of particular

importance this month is our new Corvettes of Buffalo sponsor, Van Bortel Chevrolet dealership, that we highlight in this issue. They have much to offer, as do we for them. I'm impressed by the operations there that I've seen in the past. If particular subjects are important to or desired by you, please email me at c7hotrod@gmail.com

WNY COVID 19

Restrictions

Corvettes of Buffalo will continue to meet all guidelines to keep our members safe, with general meetings remaining cancelled. We will make an announcement when we are able to resume.

Watch for "COB UPDATES" and check Members Only Section of the Web Site.



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF www.corvettesofbuffalo.com

CORVETTES of Buffalo

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Liaison for Out of Town Corvette Clubs

Mike & Lee Buccilli

716-648-2037

Meeting every second Saturday of the month at First Presbyterian Church (on hold)
9675 Main St. Clarence, NY, 14031
Meeting starts 7:00 p.m.

Send Newsletter Articles To: Dave Spencer

E-Mail: c7hotrod@gmail.com

<u>Submissions must be in before the 27th</u>

Late submissions will be published the following month.

February Anniversaries

17th Bob & Norma Joseph
18th John & Tracy Kowalske
21st Peter & Rose Ricigliano



February Birthdays

2nd John Biggie, Donna Harrer, and Diane Miller (this day's a biggie for birthdays!)

7th Carole Rotando

9th Paul Brozyna

20th Skip Polowy

22nd Debbie Schafer

23rd Janet Craft

24th Maureen Polowy



PLEASE NOTE:
VETERANS ARE ENCOURAGED
TO CALL 716-862-7868 (V.A.) FOR
THE NEW COVID SHOT







Dear Members of the Corvettes of Buffalo.

My name is Matt Fagenbaum and I oversee the Corvette operations of Van Bortel Chevrolet. I have been with Van Bortel since our Chevrolet location opened in 2013 and have been able to work with Kitty Van Bortel to create and grow our Corvette business. Corvettes have been in the blood of Van Bortel since 1953 when Kitty's father, Howard Van Bortel, owned Palmyra Motors in Palmyra, NY. At the time Van Bortel was the largest Corvette dealer in the world. Kitty grew up in the business and has always had a passion for Corvettes. Van Bortel Corvette has grown to be the largest in New York State and one of the top 11 largest in the Country.

Unlike the typical Chevrolet dealership, the Corvette is not just another car to us. We have an entire team dedicated to Corvettes from sales to service. When you deal with us, you are dealing with someone who understands the car and shares the same passion with you. We have a large indoor facility where all our Corvettes are kept. We have one of the largest allocations of new Corvettes in the country and have a great selection of clean pre owned Corvettes in stock as well. In addition, we have two dedicated Master Corvette technicians who can work on all generations of the Corvette.

We are excited about the opportunity to join the Corvettes of Buffalo as the presenting sponsor of the Club. We already have met and worked with many of you and have heard nothing but good things about what the club does for the community. We are not a sponsor that just sends a check and puts our name on a flyer. We are looking to become an actively involved part of the club. While it may be tough now in Covid times, we look forward to being able to join some of your events and putting on events throughout

the year at our dealership. Our goal is that we can both help each other be successful and grow.

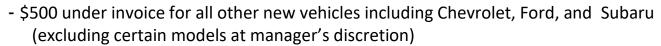
I have attached the member benefits that we would offer you as your Chevrolet dealer, as well as benefits towards our Subaru and Ford dealerships. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you!

Matt Fagenbaum

2021 Corvettes of Buffalo Member Benefits

Sales Benefits

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



- \$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
 - 15% discount on Corvette Labor
 - 15% discount on OEM GM Corvette Parts
 - 15% discount on Enclosed Trailer Service
- 15% discount on OEM parts and labor for all other vehicles at any Van Bortel dealership



-Must present your COB Membership card to receive these benefits

For any questions or more information Please contact your Corvette Team at 585-22-CHEVY

Van Bortel Corvette
1338 Pittsford Palmyra Rd- Macedon, NY 14502



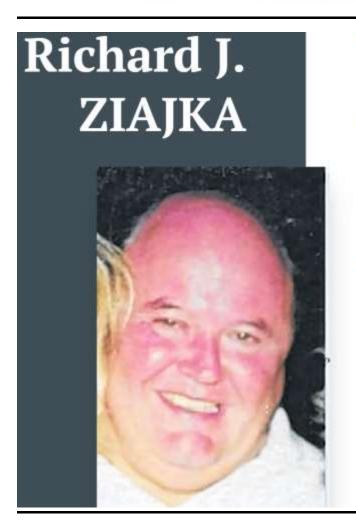
Van Borto

Hello Everyone,

I received the news today that Richard Ziajka has passed away on January 15th. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family at this time. Condolences can be sent to:

Karen DeSantis 6744 Ridge Road Lockport, NY 14094-9462

This obituary I found on Legacy.com may interest you: https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/buffalonews/name/richard-ziajka-obituary?pid=197524975



IAJKA - Richard J.
January 15, 2021, dear father of Michelle
(Michael) Walsh, Jennifer and the late Cheryl
Ziajka; beloved soulmate of Karen DeSantis and former
husband of Susan Ziajka; grandfather of Andrew, Colton,
Noah and Nathan. No prior visitation. Private services are
being held by the family with a Celebration of Richard's
Life to be held at a later date. Arrangements by PERNA,
DENGLER, ROBERTS FUNERAL HOME. Condolences at
www.denglerrobertspernafuneral.com

To plant trees in memory, please visit our Sympathy Store.

Published by Buffalo News on Jan. 17, 2021.



All of us share a fondness for Corvettes, and Richard was no exception. While these times limit our times together to share that common affection, it also shows the real value we have as a group of friends. RIP Richard!!! (Editor)











Our (Dave and Bernie) Florida escape from winter:

On the right is the front and back of the place we are staying in Sarasota, Florida. The outside is a work in progress, but coming along nicely. Lots of room for company with 3 bedrooms and the landlord is an old work friend of mine. Bernie's doing some of the inside decorations (she's gifted in that way) and things are quite comfortable with many new appliances.

On the top left is a Sebring Orange dealer (not chevrolet) car that we spotted on one of our many sightseeing trips in the area. It's a basic 1LT with the only option the \$1K color, and when we inquired about it, the price was \$99,999. Needless to say, C8 Corvettes down here carry a very high retail price and we've seen at least 3 on lots for sale, plus more running aroud on the street.

The bottom left 2 photos were taken at a Ceramic coating shop a couple of blocks away from us. They deal with many high end vehicles there, of which I have also taken Mclaren, Porsche, and Ferrari pictures. I'm not a fan of the Corvette hood on the bottom, which featured a Jake with a large cigar in it's mouth. But it's "The.Yachtbroker", a boating company, which explains the suds, dollar signs, and even a coffee cup on it.

If you get down this way, give us a call! Most people are masked in the stores and attractions.



Here's a shot of my friend's wife's (Victoria) 2019 Cadillac CTS-V down here in Florida that we've ridden in and even driven. It is a limited edition and has the stock supercharged 640hp Corvette engine with a few hp modification upgrades. It's also had a ceramic coating to protect the paint. If you need a 4 door Corvette with a lot of luxury options, but a \$100k price, it's the one to get. They plan on customizing even further this year..... Editor Dave

[VIDEO] 2020 Corvette Owner Takes Epic 9,000-Mile Road Trip Across America

By Keith Cornett - Jan 25, 2021





If you get the chance, watch this roughly nine-minute video on line, and there is also an extended one that you can see. Yes, I like the Sebring orange car color, but it is the scenic sights that it visits that are amazing. It can be found at <a href="[VIDEO] 2020 Corvette Owner Takes Epic 9,000-Mile Road Trip Across America - Corvette: Sales, News & Lifestyle (corvetteblogger.com). It's a fast-moving video of America's treasures and features drone shots and stops along the way of this historic route. You won't be disappointed, especially if you hook it up to a big screen television. I also plan to see the longer version that's out soon.





Hi... I'm John Meyerhoff, your National Corvette Museum representative with this news from the Museum.

Museum Receives "World's Fastest Corvette"

1984 Land Speed Race Car Joins Collection

Referred to as the 'World's Fastest Corvette,' this highly modified 1984 has competed and held records in several Bonneville salt flat speed trial classes, reaching over 270 miles per hour.

Juris Mindenbergs of Redmond, Wash. Acquired the car stock in 1986, modifying it for Bonneville racing with the assistance of Mike Dorgan, Don Schellberg, Art Morrisson and Larry Kalsch with his expertise and dyno facility.

On October 1, 1988 at a USFRA Bonneville meet, Mindenbergs achieved a top speed of 271.04 MPH with his two-way average of 266.45 MPH setting a record in the AA-GT class and breaking Mickey Thompson's longstanding mark. Hot Rod Magazine's December 1989 issue called this naturally aspirated, and on gasoline Corvette one of the ten most awesome race cars of the 1980s.

Later, owner Bobby Moore of Tulsa, Okla. Achieved many Bonneville class records, including eclipsing Mindenbergs' 1988 AA-GT class mark in 2004, which are highlight on the vehicle's rear window.

Mindenbergs reacquired the vehicle in 2016, donating it to a Museum in the Pacific Northwest in 2019.

And on another front, from the Museum comes this:

Motor Authority Names Corvette 'Best Car To Buy'

By Corvette Museum January 14, 2021

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While electric

cars seem to be the up-and-coming automobile, for Motor Authority, it was the traditional performance that won this year's 'Best to Buy' award – being both fun to drive and an outstanding value.

According to writer Kirk Bell, "Most importantly, it's the kind of car we want to own and drive. And the way it drives is what earned the Corvette the Best Car to Buy 2021 award." "It's one of those cars that almost reads your mind when you drive it," Motor Authority contributor Brian Wong said after a drive. "If I wanted the nose to dive in, it would. If I wanted to hang on the power and get it to move around a little in the back, it would." Interactive Content Manager Joel Feder compared the new Corvette to a Ferrari and the best Corvette of the last generation, the ZR1, which won Motor Authority's Best Car To Buy 2019 award. "This car's steering is so much more precise. Its turn-in is so much quicker. Frankly, it reminds me a lot of the 488 Spider and that car was like \$300,000. And it's going to be 10 times more reliable."

"The C8 will make kids' mouths drop open, grown adults stare, and people ask all sorts of questions. Many don't even realize it's a Corvette," Feder said.

Contributor Brian Wong pointed out an aspect of the car we can all appreciate. "I love the theater of the Corvette," he said. "When you lift up the back and you see the engine and all the carbon fiber sitting there. That's something you don't get with the old Corvette." While the reviewers didn't all agree with every aspect of the car, they did agree on one thing. "Our bottom line goes back to how the Corvette drives. It makes us want to drive it, which is the mission of a sports car."

"When I think back to all the cars I drove this year, that is the one I will remember the most. I had the most fun with it. I went out and drove it every single day," said Wong. Senior Editor Robert Duffer felt the new Corvette captures the essence of the sports car. "You make excuses to go out and drive it. It's a great place to be," he said. "It gives you all the thrills you want out of a car."

Feder pointed out the Corvette's obvious value. "It's a lot of performance car for not a lot of money," he said. "It's astounding what they did with the change to the mid-engine design."







----Original Message-----

From: Gary Watts Removals <garywattspianoremovals@gmail.com>

To: Peter J Ricigliano peterricigliano@aol.com>

Sent: Fri, Jan 22, 2021 4:01 pm Subject: Package arrived (Remember this from the January issue!)

Pete Ricigliano: I got another email from Gary in the U.K, who purchased my old Corvette.

Helio Peter, hope all well with you, A double good day today, not only did my long awaited registration papers arrive but an hour later, a package arrived from the western new york club.

I was thrilled to read the kind words from Geanine informing me that I had been made an Honorary member and excited to see the various goodies you guys had sent. What a lovely gesture and made me feel very included. I have posted a pic of the shirt and goodies to our club explaining that you and I had written articles describing our journey with your 72. The club have suggested I send them the articles for possible inclusion in the UK national magazine too. Thank you Peter for organising all this, I will promote and represent your two clubs whenever I can on this side of the pond and I will indeed "Save the Wave". Number plates will be ordered in the next couple of days and then I will report back on my first proper drive. The number they have issued is a nice looking one with the age related "K" for a 1972 car.

AWW 165K

It must stand for "Awesome"! Which it definitely is !

Also, I had to go to the Bank last week and bumped into the lady that refused to send you the money back in August, I showed her a picture of your / my car on my phone, she was thrilled that all was well and that it arrived safe and wished me many years of enjoyment in it ends well!

Take care Peter, kind regards, your friend in the UK, Gary.

And now, a few random shots from the past: Can you guess when and where they were taken?

























Remember my friends, I am still looking for personal Corvette stories for this, your, newsletter. I can rewrite them to your satisfaction if you would like, or, if you prefer, we can make up some. Okay, probably not that, but you get the picture.

Remember all the businesses that you've asked for years and years to donate to your clubs, events, and organizations? They're calling in a favor.

Answer the call.

Support the local businesses in your community! W See

Editor's Note: Local Small Businesses are the backbone of our Communities and are hurting in these Covid times. Please use them!

Remember, buy American if you can! Just look what they did with the Corvette!

Corvettes of Buffalo Advertisers Pages



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A Review: Greek and Mediterranean cuisines are recommended to taste at this **restaurant**. Order mouthwatering chicken souvlaki, doner kebabs and souvlakia. **Olive Tree** offers you perfectly cooked pudding, pancakes and ice cream. Try the delicious coffee offered here.. The cozy atmosphere of this place allows guests to relax after a hard working day.

(716) 651-9940

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 Friday
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 Saturday
 7 AM - 11 PM

 Sunday
 7 AM - 11 PM

 Monday
 7 AM - 11 PM

 Tuesday
 7 AM - 11 PM







AAA Inspector Notes

Fine dining meets unsurpassed hospitality at this elegant restaurant. Offering quality steaks and seafoods including the ever-popular cold shellfish tower for two with one-half rock lobster tail, King crab legs, oysters, littleneck clams and jumbo shrimp. The 16-ounce New York strip steak, 28-ounce bone-in rib-eye, 14-ounce center-cut pork chop, New Zealand lamb or Atlantic salmon top the list of favorites. Enjoy a cocktail in the high-energy lounge.



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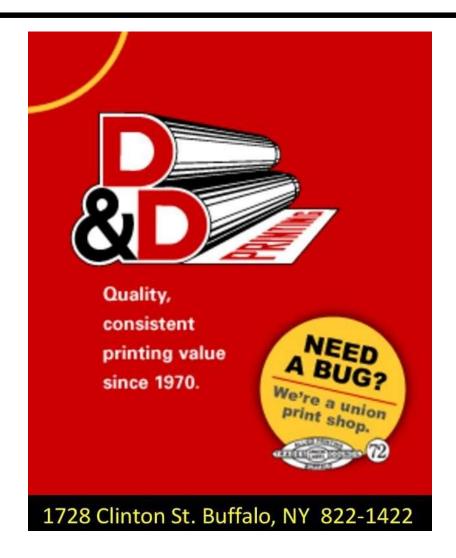
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