

Buffalo News

Letter: Orchard Park can do better with stadium-related development

As a concerned resident and real estate professional, I care deeply about Orchard Park's future – which is why I'm concerned about the Town Board's decision regarding the development around the new Buffalo Bills stadium.

Under former Councilmember Conor Flynn's leadership, the town secured \$100,000 in state funding for a comprehensive feasibility study. The goal? To thoughtfully explore a mix of hotels, retail, and residential opportunities that could transform the stadium area into a vibrant, year-round destination for residents and visitors alike.

Unfortunately, the current GOP-controlled Town Board rejected this comprehensive plan in favor of a limited strategy that targets only a

few parcels for hotel development. As a result, we're already seeing potential projects shift to neighboring towns like Hamburg, taking with them jobs, revenue, and opportunity.

This short-sighted approach is a missed chance to thoughtfully shape Orchard Park's growth. Strategic development should be inclusive, forward-thinking, and designed with long-term prosperity in mind—not rushed decisions made behind closed doors.

If elected to the Town Council, I will push for transparent and inclusive planning processes. I will work to ensure that every major decision reflects not just today's needs, but the future we want for Orchard Park—one that supports small businesses, fosters smart development, and protects our town's unique character.

It's time to stop settling for missed opportunities. Let's start building the Orchard Park we deserve—together.

Braiden McElhaney

Candidate for Orchard Park Town Council

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