

Community Update

**A Bi-weekly News Report on the City of Olean
From the Desk of Mayor Linda Witte**



January 3, 2012 Began the New Year

We welcomed the newly-elected Common Council members and the returning Council members during the annual meeting held January 3 and we welcome you here on these “Community Update” pages as we begin a new Mayoral calendar.

As my third year in office begins there is a great deal of exciting news to share with you. During the annual meeting I delivered a large amount of information in my State of the City address. If you would like to read it, you can view it on the city’s website (www.cityofolean.org then follow the link on the Home Page under “Latest News” — or visit “Mayor’s Community” and follow the links for the full text or a downloadable pdf.) No Internet access? You can call my office at 376-5615 and ask my secretary for a copy!

I am also excited to introduce this new bi-weekly newsletter. You will see it appear on the Mayor’s Community menu on the 15th and 30th of each month. I hope to include all of the behind-the-scenes happenings from my administration’s very busy schedule!

We are looking forward to a productive year in 2012. As you know one of the first challenges in the order of business is our 2012-2013 budget.

My goal is to hold the line on our taxes. Department Heads have started presenting budget requests to the aldermen.

On January 10 we heard from Tom Windus, the Director of the Department of Public Works, and the Police Department Chief, Terry Schnell. On January 17 John Anastasia of the Division of Youth and Recreation Services, and Fire Department Chief Bob Bell will make presentations.

This is an ongoing process. After the presentations to the Council I will be going through it in anticipation of our annual review by the New York State Comptroller’s Office. The city will continue to operate under deficit financing.

When the Mayor’s budget proposal goes back to the Council she presents it with the tax rate, so you understand the process.



Mayor Linda Witte read her State of the City Address January 3, 2012.

We are in the process of looking at some different projects in the Spring. One of the most exciting is the water, sewer and storm drainage, which will be a tremendous asset to the city’s East End corridor.

During December and early January we continued to benefit from mild weather because we did not have to pay overtime. At the same time we had to maintain our trucks to work within the city on the streets which were repaired.

Alderman Ann McLaughlin (Ward 2) and Public Works Director Tom Windus are preparing more information to bring more information to the Strategic Planning Committee. A Power Point will be presented on some of the ongoing issues within our city that we need to address. Another priority for the coming year is to update and revise our five-year capital plan.

You may have noticed there are signs and poles (such as street identification signs and “no parking this side” signs) that are slowly being replaced throughout the city. Many of them are difficult, if not impossible, to read. Soon our Christmas decorations will be taken down.

This past week the new fencing of the guard rail for the new culvert on Genesee Street went in

place.

Our Recreation Center has had the busiest season ever with record numbers of ice skaters and hockey players. We are proud not only of the volume of users but of the revenues this has brought to our city. Many people have commented on the new dashboards that we replaced in 2011.

We continue our collaboration with the Cattaraugus County Emergency Medical Services, and Police and Fire to secure an updated disaster plan for our community. Along with that as state and federal funding dwindles we have to work together and share services as this is an ongoing process.

We are looking forward to a new additions to our Olean City Center Mall. The opening of KOHL'S is coming in March and Sears is coming to the Mall. There are prospects for new stores to come.

I'd like to welcome some of the new businesses that have opened on West State Street. In the spring we will continue to work on Bradner Stadium.

A meeting was held January 11 by Twin Tier Aviation Association, an organization based at the Bradford Regional Airport, to seek new members in an effort to raise money to purchase a Cessna 172. It would be han-

gared at the city-owned Olean Municipal Airport and available for use by the Twin Tier Association members and for student flight instruction.. A large group discussed the proposal and the many possibilities that this new plan would create for private pilots and small businesses in Olean.

Another area of concern we are working on is a

warming center for the needy and elderly seeking shelter from severe cold this winter. The Community Warmth Consortium is working to put the final touches on a plan to use the John Ash Community Center, also known as the "Senior Center," for this purpose during periods of severe cold temps. This group is another example of collaboration among city, county



New and re-elected Aldermen were sworn by Judge Hank Mountain during the Common Council's Annual Meeting, held January 2, 2012. The Council started off the new term by posing for pictures taken by well-wishers: (front row from left) Ann McLaughlin (Ward 2), Tina Kamery (Ward 3), Jim Brady; (back row from left) Jim Finch (Ward 5), Matt Keller (Ward 4), Judge Hank Mountain, Nate Smith (Ward 6), Tom Morgan (Ward 7).

agencies, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and faith-based groups.

As your Mayor I continue to have an Open Door Policy. You can contact my office at 376-5615, or call the Department Heads or your Alderman with any suggestions you may have. Also, check out the rest of the city's website. For those of you who are interested in viewing employee salaries, the website www.SeeThroughNY.net publishes this information.

Aldermen can be contacted at these numbers:

Jim Brady, Council President, Ward 1: 372-3692
Ann McLaughlin, Ward 2: 560-8407 (c)
Christina Kamery, Ward 3: 307-7457
Matt Keller, Ward 4: 585-378-0557
Jim Finch, Ward 5: 373-0163
Nate Smith, Ward 6: 307-8199
Tom Morgan, Ward 7: 373-4860

To reach your aldermen in the City Building or to leave a message call 376-5635. You can email them (or any city employee) by addressing the email to the first initial of their first name, their last name, and cityofolean.org: For example: lwitte@cityofolean.org



Another well-attended event was the Olean Community Theater's annual awards ceremony, Jan. 12. The Bartlett House was sparkling and showed off its many unique and historical ornaments on Christmas trees around the building and displayed. Mayor Linda Witte attended. Several worthy participants received recognition and awards.