

Community Update

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



Sharing and Caring in Olean in 2012

The City of Olean Firefighters were among city employees who contributed nonperishable Thanksgiving food items for the “Stuff the Cube” challenge led by Buffamante Whipple Buttafaro. The collection was then given to the Olean Food Pantry for distribution to needy families. Shown here with their department’s donations are Olean City Firefighters Donald Carpenter (left) and Brian M. Livoto (right) The Food Pantry will distribute the collected fixin's along with turkeys to needy families in time for the holidays. To get involved with some worthy charitable holiday causes, see Page 2.

E. State Reconstruction in final phase

On Nov. 14 Olean Public Works Director Tom Windus wrote to East State Street residents and business owners about the progress of the East State Street Reconstruction Project.

“I am pleased to inform you that the final phase of the East State Street reconstruction project is now under way. This past week all traffic was shifted to the south lane from Front St. to King St. Also, binder was placed at the intersection of King St. and that intersection

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Scenes like this, sewer, water, energy, phone and road work, should end in mid-December if the weather holds and all goes well with the East State Street Reconstruction Project.

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Mayor urges the public to join city employees: holiday charities roundup

By Mayor Linda Witte

The City of Olean participates in several charity drives and collections during the holidays. I am proud to stand beside city employees and everyone from the public who helps out and donates to these worthy causes, such as a local merchant's recent collection of food items for the Olean Food Pantry.

While thanking everyone who participated in that and other ongoing efforts, I want you to be aware of several efforts under way which are in need of a variety of contributions. Items are being collected in my office or in the city building:

Olean Food Pantry: Nonperishable food items are always needed. The Mayor's Office could deliver the items in time for Thanksgiving, and again for the Christmas holiday. If you wish to contribute please bring your donations to the Mayor's Office.

Toys For Tots: Two large boxes will be placed in the Municipal Building Foyer to hold donations of new, unwrapped toys. Distribution takes place about a week before Christmas. This drive has been successful in the past. Anyone who would like to get an application to nominate a child to receive toys should contact the Marine Corps Reserve (Reggie Dallaire – 372-4267). Also, information is available online at www.toysfortots.org.

Warming Center: The Center (John Ash Community Building) is opened to victims as a shelter during emergency periods of severe cold, or when one or more families lose their power and heat. Needed are comforters, puzzles, movies, books, games and toys. The Center is also in need of filling an "emergency box" with nonperishable food items and blankets for the people being sheltered there.

Genesis House: The annual Luminaria Night

(Dec. 21 is the longest night of the year) raises money through sales of \$10 candle kits (white bags with votive candles burning inside) which are lit at 6 p.m. in yards around the city. The Mayor collects these donations for Genesis House. She and some of the donors pay for extra kits and circle the city building with them. The lighting decorations on the building are turned off and the candles are lit at 6 p. m. (Hint: If you can't buy kits please show up to help set them out and light them!)

Gift Tree: Interfaith Caregivers and the Olean Times Herald's annual referral program lists 120 families for "adoption." We have adopted #73, a family of 6. Please contact the Mayor's office if you can contribute one or more of the items in the description (gift certificates are OK too): "Girl (4) – 4T clothing, shoes size 10-11. Wants: girl stuff. Girl (3) – 4T clothing, shoes size 7-8. Wants: girl stuff. Boy (1) – clothing sz. 12-18 months, shoes. Wants: toys. Boy(5) – clothing 5T, shoes sz. 12-13. Wants: toys."

Warm Hearts: About 150 senior citizens are given bags of canned fruit, canned soup, throw blankets or crocheted lap throws, and puzzle books. The empty gift bags are also needed for the distribution. I work with the Olean Medical Group assemble the bags and provide them to the Cattaraugus County Department of Aging for distribution just before Christmas.

SPCA: Glenda Jester in the Auditor's Office collects items during the Christmas season for the care of shelter animals in the SPCA (food, toys, blankets, litter). Note: Don't forget that pets are also victims of emergency disasters and bad weather when their owners are homeless or displaced. These pets need food and blankets while they are given shelter at these times by the SPCA.

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....Holiday Charities Roundup

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Hurricane Sandy Victims/Salvation Army: We will assist the Salvation Army in collecting a list of needed NEW items for distribution in the storm area. The list includes items for people of all ages and sizes, both male and female: new coats, new hats and gloves (including work gloves), new socks and underwear, paper supplies (bathroom tissue, paper towels, etc.), new blankets, garbage bags, baby supplies (disposable diapers, formula, baby food), batteries (all sizes), canned goods, work gloves, N95 masks, cleaning supplies, laundry soap, Gatorade for survivors and first responders, granola bars, nutria grain bars, snacks of any type, brooms, shovels, school supplies, backpacks and bags, diapers, bleach, trash bags. The Olean Salvation Army drives the items to Buffalo for delivery to the storm area when a sufficient quantity is collected.

Snow Shoveling: Volunteers are needed to shovel snow for the elderly and disabled residents of our city. These people call my office to get names of the volunteers (or contractors who charge a minimal fee). These people then contact the volunteer to arrange the service. To volunteer for this very worth cause, call 376-5615.

Thank you all for caring. I am proud to work with such a generous group of public servants.

Mayor Linda Witte

Mayor Linda Witte

....E. State Reconstruction

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is now open to the public. Striping is underway on the portion of East State Street between King St. and the east City line.”

The letter continues: “This week it is anticipated that the contractor will begin doing catchbasin tie-ins, water line work, and grading on the north side of East State Street from King to Orchard. The week of November 26th curb and gutter work will begin in the north lane with paving expected to be completed the week of December 3rd and the entire length of East State Street open to two-way traffic the week of December 10th. While this work is under way on the north side of East State Street you may have very limited access to your driveways and we continue to ask for your patience during that work. The above timetable is of course weather-dependent but we remain optimistic that we will be able to keep to this schedule.”

Anyone who has questions or concerns about the East State Street reconstruction should call the Department of Public Works at 376-5650.



The hard-working crews have dressed up the landscape for a few months but will soon be a memory on East State Street. Officials are busy planning other projects to renew the city's aging infrastructure.

Page One Photo Feature: *Overlooking the City of Olean on a fine fall morning; St. Mary's R.C. Church spires stand out among the stunning foliage.*
Photo by Mayor Linda Witte

Can the city help?



As your Mayor I continue to have an Open Door Policy on the first floor of the Municipal Building at 101 East State St. You can call my office at 376-5615 with questions and complaints. Please stop in and pick up a 2012 City Directory for phone numbers of the Department Heads and Alderman. Information is also available on the city's website, www.cityofolean.org. At that location is a link where you will find this newsletter!

Announcement

The Common Council will again be asked to suspend metered parking from Dec. 12 through Dec. 26. This is just one of the really nice features of living in Olean. Stay tuned!



The public is invited to the 2nd Annual Christmas Show Foodraiser

***Carol Swanson's music students
will perform in a recital***

***2 p.m., Nov. 25, 2012
Christopher Columbus Club
504 N. Union Street***

**Price of admission is a nonperishable food item
Donations will benefit the Olean Food Pantry on
Leo Moss Dr.**

Are You Thinking of Getting Married?

Call Mayor Linda Witte to schedule your wedding within the Olean City Limits. Mayor Witte has performed many weddings during her term in office.

To schedule a ceremony, call 376-5615. It is New York State Law that marriage ceremonies cannot be performed until 24 hours has passed since a marriage license was issued. To obtain a license, call the Department of Vital Records at 376-5605 or the City Clerk (376-5604).

Announcements

Pay tickets, water, sewer bills on-line! The Online Bill Pay & Customer Service option is up and running on the city's website for a \$3 fee. Go to www.cityofolean.org and click on "The Online Bill Pay & Customer Service" button from the menu on the right side of the home page. At the online payments home page, choose between water/sewer bill payment and parking ticket payment options.

Water and Sewer bill payers register and set up a password, then view transaction history and chart water consumption through by billing date. Parking ticket payers simply search for the citation number or vehicle info. (This destination can also be reached by typing this into your browser: <https://www.municipalonlinepayments.c>