



Olean, NY Lat. 42.08 North—Long 78.43 West—Olean, NY

Autumn 2022



AROUND ABOUT OLEAN



North Union Street Streetscape Expansion

The City of Olean celebrated the North Union Streetscape Expansion on Friday, October 7, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. on the upgraded City Building Plaza. The \$1.1 million project was funded in part by the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and included enhancements to the plaza as well as outdoor seating with fire pits at two locations, safety lighting at crosswalks, decorative lighting along the street, upgraded garden and sidewalks, as well as wayfinding and interpretive signs.

During the ceremony Mayor Aiello referenced the cold, rainy October Day six years ago when the City cut the ribbon for the Walkable Olean North Union Street Transformation Project. He said that the weather did not hinder the excitement as the participants knew that the City had completed an award winning renovation of the North Union Street business district and they were already witnessing the positive effects.

Other speakers at the event included Benjamin Bidell from the New York Department of State Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure, George Filgrove from Senator George Borrello's office and Wendy Brand from Assemblyman Joe Giglio's office.



North Union Street has had many makeovers since its inception. From horses to street cars to automobiles, the street has changed with the times. As have the buildings. Some like the Olean House, have the same footprint as the original hotel. Others like the southern corner of Laurens have changed significantly over the years. Today the corner is the home of Blue Bird Square, a modern office building. Earlier the corner housed an ornate building. The intended purpose was to house the Oil Exchange, but apparently it was never used for that. Instead it became an early home of the Exchange National Bank and the offices in the building housed many of the businesses that emerged from the oil trade. The "Metropolitan" building was later demolished to make way for the S.S. Kresge Co. Store.

*The Metropolitan Building*

During Breast Cancer Awareness month the City of Olean Profession Firefighters partnered with the Pink Pumpkin Project in a boot drive. In addition Mayor Aiello issued a special proclamation at a Common Council Meeting. He is photographed with officials from the Pink Pumpkin Project.

Mayor Aiello recently attended a New York Conference of Mayors Conference (NYCOM) in Saratoga Springs. NYCOM is an association of, and for cities and villages in NY. NYCOM is an aggressive advocate for members interests, provides practical information on every area of municipal activity, and provides training and education for local officials. NYCOM's partnership programs facilitates shared services and predictable costs. Three mayors from our region are in the photograph to the right: Mayor John Buckley from Hornell, Mayor Aiello and Mayor John Burrell from Ellicottville.



FROM MAYOR BILL AIELLO'S OFFICE

Olean was beautiful in the autumn—the trees never let us down as the colors changed from green to red, yellow and orange. We are lucky to live in the Allegheny River Valley.

The City is busy. Numerous streets have been milled and paved and many new ADA compliant crosswalks installed.

The project on North Union Street is wrapping up; a few more details have to be added. The project in Oak Hill Park continues. And we are

planning for numerous public works projects for the next construction season.

The City received a little over \$1.3 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, \$200,000 of that amount was allocated to the Boost Business Grant Program to assist small businesses in two areas: marketing and real estate. I am pleased that most of the funds have been expended.

The ARPA funds were also used to purchased equipment for the fire depart-

ment, fix the water line on the East Olean Bridge, as well as upgrades to the City's IT, and HVAC systems in the City Building and the John J. Ash Community Center. In addition \$500,000 was allocated to the Splash Park that will be located in War Veterans Park.

We are getting ready for winter. The crews picked up leaves on city streets — twice— and now—the plows are ready to go. We are hoping for a mild winter—but you never know.



The North Union Streetscape Expansion project included the design and installation of numerous wayfinding and interpretive signs throughout the downtown district. Michael Haas of Delta Engineers, Architects and Surveyors worked on the design of the street. The logo (above right) and the boards including the maps, were designed by Carlo Piech with information and photographs provided by the Bartlett Center, the African American Center for Cultural Development and the Mayor's office. The signs were manufactured by Color-Ad. Additional wayfinding and historical trail signs will be installed in the near future.



At the North Union Street Streetscape Expansion Ribbon Cutting, Mayor Aiello said, "When we cut the ribbon for the North Union Street project in 2016, the official photograph was taken with the former dark, uninhabited, Manny Hanny as the back drop (see below). Look at First National now—it's an active construction site, there are residents in the building; at night the lights shine and highlight the building's architectural detail. It is a visual proof that all of our efforts are making Olean a better place for the next generation to work and live."

The former bank and office building had been vacant for well over 25 years when Savarino Companies purchased it from the Olean Urban Renewal Agency in 2020.





Olean celebrated Veterans Day on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. in Lincoln Park, the ceremony was hosted by the American Legion. Mayor Aiello joined Senator Borrello and Assemblyman Joe Giglio as guest speakers at the event. Mayor Aiello said, "Good Morning and thank you veterans—today we are honoring your sacrifice, your grit, your determination and your service to our nation.

"You have protected us and fought for our values. In your quest for our freedom, you have made personal sacrifices, you have endured physical and mental hardships, and you have experienced loss.

"Our nation's heritage is deeply rooted in liberty; and like you, brave men and women, throughout our 246 year history have answered the call to defend and protect our freedom.

"It is a privilege to be with you today, and acknowledge you for your noble service, your dedication and commitment, your strength and courage, your bravery and optimism.

"We can stand in this beautiful park, on this autumn day, and peacefully assemble because like you, generations of Americans, from every background, have answered the call to defend and support the United States.

"And for that---we are so grateful.

"Happy Veteran's Day and God Bless America."



From Left to right in the photo is Gail Feuchter, Mayor Aiello and Dan DeCerbo, co-owner of the Old Library Restaurant and Inn.

Gail Feuchter, events and marketing coordinator at the Fannie E. Bartlett Center, recently applied for and received a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to place a historical marker in front of the Old Library on South Union Street. The plaque was recently installed and unveiled. The Olean Public Library can trace its roots back to 1871. In 1908 the library received a grant from Andrew Carnegie to fund a new building. In the mid 1970's the library moved to the current location. The inscription on the marker is below.

There are three other Pomeroy funded road markers in Olean. Please visit them to learn more about Olean's History. The signs are located in Lincoln Park, the Bartlett House and at Mount View Cemetery.

FORMER LIBRARY
BUILDING OPENED IN 1910.
DESIGNED BY EDWARD TILTON AND
FUNDED BY ANDREW CARNEGIE.
LIBRARY RELOCATED IN 1973.
BECAME RESTAURANT IN 1983.
WILLIAM G. POMEROY FOUNDATION 2022



Mayor Aiello held a Volunteer Appreciation Pizza Party at the John J. Ash Community Center on Friday, October 14, 2022. Numerous volunteers who serve the City were invited to attend. Guests represented the Litter Control Group, the Downtown Olean Beautification Group, the Senior Center and the Bartlett House.

Longtime volunteer Larry Ordway was presented a key to the City for his many years of dedication and service to Olean. Mayor Aiello said, "Larry is truly an ambassador for Olean. He is a volunteer at the John J. Ash Community Center and the SWAN Program. He is a volunteer and guide on the OATS Bus System and he is a promoter and greeter for the Concert in the Park series. He also volun-

teers at the Warming House, Church Without Walls and Harvest Field Ministries. He is always willing to help everyone—and he seems to know everyone."

Mayor Aiello added, "Olean is a great community and our volunteers work very hard to enhance our quality of life. From organizing activities at the Bartlett House and Senior Center to working our gardens and keeping our streets clean, Olean is a much better place because of their hard work and commitment. On behalf of the Common Council and the residents of Olean, I offer our thanks and appreciation for a job well done."

Mayor Aiello also recognized Mary Droney, a founding member of the Olean Beautification Committee, for her commitment and dedication to the community.



The City Building Elves have been very busy decking the halls and the grounds for the Christmas season. The entrance lobby got a brilliant makeover this year that will put a smile on even the Grinch's face.

Many City of Olean employees and vendors contributed to the Olean Times Herald/Interfaith Caregivers Gift Tree and sponsored 11 individuals ranging in ages from 2 to 60 years old (see photograph below of the wrapped gifts). Thank you to the elves who purchased, wrapped and delivered the gifts. In addition the City had a drop off box for Toys for Tots.

The box was located right across from *Brilliance*, the snow person! (pictured on the left)



To the right Terri Belli and Connie Dutton place reindeer on the East State Street side of the Municipal Building.





Happy Halloween
from the
City of Olean

Making Wedding Plans?



Mayor Aiello is available to perform marriage ceremonies in the City of Olean. Please call his office (376-5615) for more details. There is no set fee, however any donations will be placed in the Mayor's

Scholarship Fund.

New York State law requires you to obtain a marriage license twenty-four hours prior to a marriage ceremony. For more information about marriage licenses please call the Department of Vital Records at 376-5605 or the City Clerk at 376-5604.

Many marriages are performed right in the Mayor's Office. The John Ash Community Center on Barry Street is an excellent spot for a reception as are Olean's various parks facilities. For more information on the city's facilities please call 376-5666.



Olean Senior Center

The Olean Senior Center located at the John Ash Community Center on North Barry Street has many activities and programs for those age 55 and above. The monthly calendar is now on the city's website under the [Youth and Recreation Department-Olean Senior Center](#).

For more information please contact: 376-5670 or senior-center@cityofolean.org.

The City's **NEW** and **IMPROVED** website: cityofolean.org, is a great source of up-to-date information. In addition the city has a Face Book page and Twitter feed—all are excellent sources for information.

"I'm open to suggestions and I'd like to hear from people. If we're doing something you think is right, I'd like to know. If we're doing something you think is wrong, I'd like to know. If you have suggestions for me, I beg you pass them along."

—Mayor Aiello, January 2, 2014



You can reach the mayor at his office in the Olean Municipal Building at 101 East State Street in Olean, or by phone at 716 376-5615, or by e-mail at waiello@cityofolean.org

