



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

Winter 2023



AROUND ABOUT OLEAN

State of the City 2023



On January 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Olean Common Council members old and new, city department heads, family members, and residents filed into the Council Chambers for the annual meeting of the Olean Common Council. New members of the Council were administered the oath of office, members voted for the Council President and Mayor Aiello gave his 10th State of the City Address. He mentioned the First National in his address:

This year the First National opened as a residential tower and it provides an excellent example of Olean's grit and determination. The building's fate was tied to a rollercoaster for well over 25 years. So many times it was going to be redeveloped--and as many times it fell through. But a group of people never gave up on it—including the city's Community Development Office, members of the Olean Urban Renewal Agency and the Common Council.

Ultimately the Savarino Companies took possession and redeveloped the building. But this year as the scaffolding came down and as the lights in the apartments began to shine, Olean residents were reminded that anything is possible—as long as you never give up and abandon your cause.



In February 1917 the Palace Theatre opened in Olean. The opening night program included music, vaudeville, and the photoplay (or silent movie), "Miss George Washington" starring Marguerite Clark. Tickets were \$1 for seating in the orchestra and balcony; 50 cents for seating in the gallery.



Built by Charles Bordonaro, the Palace was designed by Leon H. Lempert, Jr., an architect known for bowled auditoriums. The Palace Theatre provided Olean residents with first rate entertainment until it was demolished in 1998. For more information follow this link: [Olean Times Herald](#).



*The Palace Theater in 1951
You're in the Navy Now
Starring Gary Cooper*



The City of Olean Employee's took part in the Souper Bowl of Caring again this year. The program run by Olean High School students under the direction of Mrs. Marie Rakus, faculty advisor and Naomi Hill and Ishana Ramiall, students coordinators, collected non-perishable food items to be distributed locally in the Olean area. The drive takes place the week before the NFL Super Bowl, hence the name. Mayor Aiello is photographed with Ishana Ramiall (left) and Naomi Hill (right).

The City of Olean and the Olean Campus of Jamestown Community College co-hosted two New York Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials (NYCOM) workshops on January 26 and January 27, 2023. The workshops, presented by John A. Mancini, NYCOM Counsel, were titled Municipal Ethics: The Do's and Don'ts and the Powers and Responsibilities of Local Officials. Attendees included local elected officials and municipal employees.

Attendance exceeded expectations with registrants from the counties of Allegany, Erie, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Wyoming. Above Mayor Aiello is standing with John Mancini (left) and Ellicottville Mayor John Burrell (right)



FROM MAYOR BILL AIELLO'S OFFICE

So far it has been a rather mild winter. Although there have been some extremely cold and windy days. The City's Department of Public Works has been alert to weather changes and has done an excellent job keeping our streets clear of ice, snow and debris.

We are looking forward to the warmer months. In fact the Youth and Recreation Department has already booked the musicians for 20 Lincoln Park concerts to take place between May 18 and September 21. The series is always very popular. The schedule is [here](#).

There will be a number of capi-

tal projects taking place this summer. More information on how they will affect traffic will be available soon.

The ice rink at the the Rec. Center has been very popular this year. If you want to take advantage of the rink, it will be open until April 9.

The Beautification Committee recently met and decided to add more hanging baskets and zinnia gardens to the North Union Street Median. The group is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping in the upkeep of our lovely North Union Street gardens, please give my office a

call.

My office is also working on the litter control program. We received some great help from the St. Bonaventure Swim Teams in January (see page 4). The seasonal program will be starting on Earth Day (4/22). Details will be announced soon but please feel free to contact my office if you wish to volunteer.

Lets hope that our last few-months of winter do not surprise us with anything unpleasant and we have wonderful spring.



St. Bonaventure Swimmers Clean-up Olean



The St. Bonaventure University Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Teams helped the City of Olean with a mid-winter litter pick-up on January 11, 2023. Head Coach Mike Smiechowski brought his teams of almost 50 swimmers and divers to Downtown Olean to clean up Union and State Streets in an event that was organized by Tom Buttafarro, St. Bonaventure University Director of Government and Community Relations.

"I was very pleased that the teams offered to help with litter control," said Mayor Aiello. "Our volunteer programs slow down during the winter months, but the litter does not stop from accumulating. The weather was perfect, it was cold, but there was no snow or ice, and they were able to pick up the trash that blew around during the Christmas blizzard. I would like to publically thank Coach Smiechowski and his St. Bonaventure swimmers for a job well done."





Olean is resilient and our short term history shows what we can do when we put our minds to it.



Lincoln Square



King Street Park



*Walkable II
Main Street*



North Third Street



Skating Rink and Pool



Walkable I — North Union Street

"The North Union Street Transformation Project was just the beginning and provided the catalyst for us to continue to make Olean a place where people want to live and raise a family. The Community Development Office explored every grant opportunity available and even while the North Union Street project was moving full steam ahead, we were able to start numerous projects to enhance our quality of life in Olean."



North Union Streetscape Expansion

"Grants helped fund the field house at Bradner Stadium and renovate the ice rink and other facilities at the Recreation Center."

"Grants helped build Lincoln Square, Trailhead Parklet, and upgraded King Street Park. Marianne and Erick Laine provided the funding to restore the entrance to Oak Hill Park. A new playground was installed near Homer Hill. The City, through the Cattaraugus County Land Bank, secured property which will enhance the entrance of Franchot. With the help of Cattaraugus County, Forness Park was upgraded and we received a grant to plant new trees around the pond."

"The City didn't stop there.....optimism was growing as we continued to look for opportunities to achieve our potential."



Trailhead Parklet-

*Mayor Aiello
State of the City 1/3/2023*



"I am a true believer that Olean is the best place in the world to live. Sure we have plenty to deal with like the changeable weather, but that makes our residents versatile and able to adapt very quickly to changing circumstances."

"I am going to go out on a limb and say that there is not another city in the country where such an abundance of people work tirelessly to keep Olean relevant and provide residents with a safe and growing community. And it starts with our department heads."

*Mayor Aiello
State of the City 1/3/2023*

Above City of Olean Department Heads. Front Row Left to Right: Keri Kerper, Community Development Program Coordinator; Ward Near, Human Resources Specialist; Mayor Aiello, Jack Hart, City Attorney, Lens Martial, City Auditor, Robert Thompson, DPW Director. Second Row: Frank Caputo, City Clerk; Kris Shewairy, Youth and Recreation Program Coordinator; Fire Chief Tim Richardson; Brad Camp, Superintendent of Water and Sewer; Gregg Piechota, City Assessor; Police Chief Ron Richardson.



"This is the start of my 10th year as Mayor of our great city and it has been my privilege to work with a wide range of individuals--all of whom have the best intentions for the future of Olean."

"It is an honor to work with the Common Council as we face the challenges inherent in a small city. And I pledge that we will continue to work together as a team to refurbish our infrastructure, make our community safer and keep the tax rate at a minimum."

*Mayor Aiello
State of the City 1/3/2023*

Above City of Olean Common Council. Left to Right: John Crawford, Common Council President, Alderman-Ward 5; Jason Panus Alderman-Ward 2; Sonya McCall, Alderman-Ward 4; Mayor Aiello; Vernon Robinson, Jr., Alderman-Ward 6; Jennifer Forney, Alderman-Ward 3; Lawrence JR Bennion, Alderman-Ward 1; David Anastasia, Alderman-Ward 7.



**Go
Bills
Great Season
Excellent Fans
&
Fabulous Photo**

Look closely for some hidden features.

Sitting: Lens Martial, Terri Belli, Linda Huff, Tiffany Taylor.
Standing: Mayor Aiello, Connie Dutton, Brad Camp, Erica Shore, Ally Bretzin, Amber Miller, Sue Meyers, Stephanie Olson.

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

