



For Immediate Release

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Volunteers Spend the Day Revitalizing King Street Park

October 1, 2019—Olean—William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean, is pleased to announce that King Street Park is now open to the public with a new look and new equipment. In addition it was all the work of volunteers with the financial help of KaBoom! Kuerig Dr Pepper and the City of Olean.

“The City’s Community Development Office secured a Let’s Play Construction grant from KaBoom! Keurig Dr Pepper to replace and upgrade playground equipment at the King Street Park. A stipulation in the grant stated that it had to be put together by volunteers, aided by the suppliers of the equipment, Parkitects,” Mayor Aiello said.

Mayor Aiello added, “The City of Olean’s Department of Public Works played a big role in getting the park ready for the new equipment and trail. The City Streets and Parks Divisions completed the site preparation; the City’s Water and Sewer Divisions and the Electricians did the utility locates; the City’s Engineering Department marked out the radius of the trail and laid out the location of the ADA sidewalk into the park, in addition they staked out the boundaries for the fall protection area and the placement of the equipment.”

“On Saturday, September 28 the new equipment and supplies were in the park ready to be built and installed, deliveries of gravel, mulch and cement were slated, food donations to cover breakfast and lunch were scheduled, many snacks and beverages were on hand and the weather report was promising. All we needed were volunteers, of which we got many,” Mayor Aiello continued.

“I would like to personally thank the volunteers including Fire Captain Jim Bennet’s Platoon, members of the City’s Departments of Public Works, Community Development, and Codes, the City Attorney, BonaResponds, a number of the City’s Aldermen and countless members from the community at large who were on hand to donate their time, talent and energy to the young people of our community,” Mayor Aiello said.

Reverend Tyrone Hall, pastor of the Lighthouse Church of God of Prophecy gave the invocation during the ribbon cutting ceremony at that took place at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. Before his prayer and blessing, he gave a brief history of the playgrounds in America stating that they were a place where

kids could be kids, where they could put their hands in the air and wave them like they didn't care, and playgrounds were a place where children could create relationships and build memories.

Kelly Andreano as Alderman for Ward 2 has advocated for an upgrade to King Street Park throughout her tenure on the Council. During the ribbon cutting ceremony, she thanked the staffs in the City offices of Community Development, DPW, Youth and Rec, and the City Engineer for the work they did to prepare for this day, from grant writing to design to logistics. She thanked her fellow Common Council members who unanimously voted for the additional funding, and she thanked Dunkin Donuts for the coffee, Union Whiskey for lunch and Worth W. Smith for the use of 12 sets of tools.

"Today our world has become cynical, but in this park today I saw the good in people. I saw a community come together for a common goal, the revitalization of a neighborhood park...there are far more things that unite us in our city than divide us. It was on display today," Alderman Andreano said. "There is no greater investment that can be made in a community than investing in our children, thank you for your investment in our future today."

During the ribbon cutting ceremony, Mayor Aiello said, "This lot has been important to the young people of our community for well over 100 years...today we all got to use our talents and strengths to build this playground, we got to work together to build something that will be used for years to come by the next generation of Olean's residents. That is what community is all about."

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