



Contact: **For Immediate Release**
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City of Olean Municipal Playgrounds to Reopen

City of Olean Parks are Smoke-free

Fireworks Reminder

June 23, 2020—Olean—After an extraordinarily long winter and spring, summer has finally arrived and William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean, would like to make a number of announcements regarding City playgrounds, smoke-free parks, and use of illegal fireworks.

“Our parks department has been instructed to take down the tape and remove the signs and I am pleased to announce that the playgrounds are open for our young residents to enjoy this summer,” Mayor Aiello said.

Families that intend to use the playgrounds are reminded that the COVID-19 virus is still active and they should follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines while using the playgrounds. This means maintaining social distances, washing or sanitizing hands frequently, keeping hands away from faces, and staying home when sick. It is suggested that visitors over the age of two wear facemasks while using the playgrounds.

In addition Mayor Aiello would like to remind residents that the Common Council passed Resolution #80-19 which banned the use of tobacco, nicotine or vapor devices in city-owned recreational facilities.

“The City is pleased to be partnering with the Coordinator of Reality Check for Cattaraugus County, Johnathon Chaffee, to have signs installed in the parks that remind residents of the new law,” Mayor Aiello said. “The COVID-19 shut-down stalled our efforts, but we hope to have them installed soon.”

Mayor Aiello would also like to remind our residents that the use of most fireworks is illegal. This includes consumer fireworks which are aerial in performance and are commonly referred to as sky rockets, bottle rockets, missile type rockets, helicopters, aerial spinners, roman candles, mines, shell devices, aerial shell kits, reloadables and audible ground devices which are commonly referred to as firecrackers and chasers, as well as metal wire handheld sparklers.

“As we get closer to the Fourth of July, I would like to make a personal request. We have received a number of calls regarding the use of fireworks throughout our community. I ask our residents to be mindful of their neighbors. Fireworks disrupt a number of households, including those with dogs,

families with young children and many veterans suffering from PTSD,” Mayor Aiello said. “Olean has always been a caring community, and I hope those who have fireworks would refrain from using them to allow their neighbors to live in peace.”

“I hope we have a great summer in the City of Olean. We will continue to monitor guidance from Governor Cuomo’s office regarding our reopening and will adjust summer scheduling accordingly,” Mayor Aiello said. “City staff, especially in the Youth and Recreation and Parks Departments have been very flexible as we reopen our facilities. We hope to have some guidance within the next week or so that will allow us to resume the Summer Concert Series when we enter Phase 4.”

“Let’s look forward to a fun summer, but we all have to continue to be vigilant and follow the CDC guidelines to fight the spread of COVID-19 in our community,” Mayor Aiello added.

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