

Around & About Olean

News and information from the Mayor's Office at 101 East State Street.



A NEW LEASE ON LIFE FOR AN OLEAN TREASURE

The site where the Olean Creek meets the Allegheny River is significant to Olean. Major Hoops, the city's first resident, realized that the river gave this region some potential. He purchased some land and settled there. Others followed, including John Chapman, aka: Applesseed. He spent a winter at his uncle's cabin on the river before he made folklore fame.

Lumbermen saw the potential too. They came and quickly built mills. The Oliver Mill, built by one of Olean's first residents, Judge F. S. Martin, set up shop where War Vets Park is now located and used a nearby pond, Martin Mill's Pond, to store the logs.

As lumbering was pushed aside by more lucrative industries, the pond and mill were vacated. In the early 1920's a group of Olean citizens realized the hidden potential of the lands along the waterways and each invested \$1000 dollars. The purpose of their venture was to reclaim these lands for a city-wide park system.

As the details of the Olean park system were being worked out, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Bradner donated \$60,000 to the city for construction of a 6,000 seat stadium on the land where the pond sat. It was approved by a public vote in February 1926, and the opening event at Bradner Stadium featured the Detroit Tigers versus the Boston Braves on June 20, 1927.

Bradner Stadium has been a mainstay in Olean recreation ever since. It has served the city well as home for the



Olean Huskies and Walsh Eagles. For twenty-two years it served as the home for a Class D Baseball team with affiliations with teams such as the Brooklyn Dodgers, the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox. For many of the years the team was named the Olean Oilers and some of those who played at Bradner Stadium went on to baseball fame.

In 1972, like much of the city, the stadium was flooded, but it dried out in time for a belated annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration.

Unfortunately, both time and our incredibly brutal weather have taken their toll on the outdoor arena—Bradner Stadium has been in definite need of a face lift for quite some time.

With the guidance of the Olean Local Development Corporation the stadium is slowly, but surely getting refurbished. A few years ago the tawdry blue fence was painted brown, but it still needed something. The old fence was dismantled and a chain link fence replaced it. Giving a whole new look to the stadium amidst the beautiful environs of the river and the moun-

tains.

In addition new bleachers and new posts were installed, the tunnel from War Vets Park was reapointed and portable dugouts are on order. There is a new sound system as well as a new lighting and power supply.

Restoring the stadium has been a slow-process but that hasn't stopped the City from attracting new teams to use the Bradner Stadium facilities. The Southern Tier Diesel has been playing football at Bradner Stadium for six years. According to JR Bennion, the Diesel's manager, "Bradner Stadium is acclimated to family friendly and affordable events. The team is made up of family guys, who play for the love of the game." Bennion added that the Southern Tier Diesel brings a summer-time football league to the City, and it is not an expensive outing for a family. The Diesel's first game is scheduled for Saturday June 7, 2014.

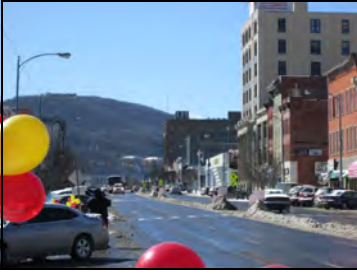
Brian O'Connell, Jr. brought the Olean Oilers name back to Bradner Stadium in 2012 with a team that is a member of the New York Collegiate Baseball League. The Oilers season starts on Friday June 6, 2014 and runs until the end of July.

As always the stadium will be hosting the annual Fireworks show on the Fourth of July and the Annual Rally in the Valley during the summer.

And progress on the Bradner Stadium Refurbishment will continue until it has been returned to its old splendor.



The Mayor's First Executive Forum



This very cold winter managed to freeze the ground as deep as five feet. Think that's a record for Olean? Think again. The Allegheny River and the land that Olean occupies has very, very interesting pre-historic significance.



During the ice age what we now call the Allegheny River stopped the glaciers. The north bank of the river where most of Olean is located had glaciers. The south side did not. This interesting fact explains the topographical change as Route 16 guides us along the forbidding terrain of Mount Herman.

The Olean Campus of Jamestown Community College hosted Mayor Aiello's first Executive Forum on Monday March 3, 2014. After the Mayor welcomed the thirty-one guests to the forum, Dr. Cory Duckworth, President of JCC, addressed the gathering. He spoke about the obstacles that face higher education and the actions that our local SUNY College is taking to overcome those hurdles.

Dr. Duckworth stated that the college forms partnerships and offers courses that are needed by our local industries. Dr. Duckworth also announced that the college recently purchased the Knights of Columbus building on the corner of Hamilton and North Barry Streets. Plans to renovate

the property are in initial stages, but the end result will be a building that is an asset to our community.

A spectacular buffet dinner was served catered by Sheila Darrow. Following dinner, John Sayegh discussed *StartUp New York* and the implications for JCC and the

Mr. Sayegh went into the details of the program and the role that Jamestown Community College will be playing in our region.

Following Mr. Sayegh presentation, Keith Kranick and Kathleen Martel from JCC's Center of Continuing Education spoke about the different programs that the college offers outside of regular college curriculum, which includes the very popular Kids College as well as training programs and professional development for local entities.

"the New New York is open-open to innovation, open to ambition, open to bold ideas. That's why New York has a new plan—all across the state. Move here, expand here or start a new business here and pay no taxes for ten years. We're New York, if there is something that creates more jobs, grows more business, we're open to it. Start a Tax Free Business@startup NY.com."

Text from a thirty second television advertisement that aired state-wide.

Olean area.

StartUp NY is Governor Cuomo's initiative to transform SUNY campuses and other universities across the state into tax-free communities for new and expanding business.

The forum finished with an open discussion about the future of Olean. Mayor Aiello finished the evening with a discussion regarding his first three months on the job.

From the Mayor's Office: The sun never stops shining in the Olean Senior Center.



On Monday, March 24, 2014 the Spring Luncheon was held at the Olean Senior Center, honoring the birthdays of volunteers Quido Ramire and Yoni Sinsabaugh.



At the same luncheon Caroline Fuller was awarded the *Outstanding Senior Award* for her commitment and dedication to the center.



The Latest on Olean’s North Union Street Project



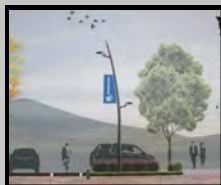
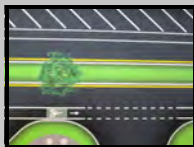
The future was on exhibit at the Municipal Building on March 18 and many came to view, question and comment on it. The lobby was alive with people and park benches. Artist renderings and street-scapes of our soon-to-be downtown were on display with a team of engineers and designers available to answer questions.



As residents filtered past the displays into the Council Chamber, Jeff Lebsack of Hatch, Mott, McDonald of Buffalo led a power-point presentation of the design elements which at this point in time is forty percent completed. Olean residents continue to offer suggestions and comments, which the engineering firm promises to consider and work into their plans. After the past winter snow removal was a big concern as was the routing of emergency vehicles through the rotaries.



Interested? But didn’t make to the meeting? Please stop by the City Building, many of the drawings are still on display on the first floor. You can even take a rest on one of the park benches that will be scattered though our downtown when the project is completed in 2016. Plus if you are tired of our dreary weather, there is a beautiful rendering of the wild flowers that will color our business district.



Common Council Corner

Contact information for the seven council members:

Council President Ann McLaughlin (Ward 2)
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amcloughlin@cityofolean.org

Gerard leFeber (Ward 1)
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Nate Smith (Ward 6)
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Adam Jester (Ward 7)
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The Mayor Proclaims March for Meals Month



Mayor Aiello issues the proclamation to Kathy Mackay the Director of the Cattaraugus County Department of the Aging at a luncheon at the Olean Nutrition Site at the St. Stephen's Club in Olean for Community Champions Day.

The Meals on Wheels volunteers are the backbone of the Senior Nutrition Program: over the past year the fifty-five volunteers in Olean worked a total of 3,292 hours and delivered 35,497 meals to 260 homebound residents. If placed into monetary terms the Meals on Wheels volunteers donated \$53,273 to the community. The volunteers not only delivered nutritious meals to the homebound, but also expressed caring concern and attention to their welfare.



Cattaraugus County Legislator Linda Edstrom and Mayor Aiello at the Community Champion Luncheon at the Olean Senior Nutrition Site at the St. Stephen's Club on March 19, 2014.

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 into 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.



Seniors are Never Bored In Olean

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. Some of the April activities include:

- Walking Program 8:30 M-F**
- Breakfast Bar 9:00 M-T-Th-F**
- Coffee Hour 9:00 Wednesdays**
- Square Dancing 12:30 Mondays**
- Computer Class 1:00 Tuesdays**

Other activities include AARP Tax Clinics, Euchre lessons, Wii Gaming Days, The Silvertones Singing, and much, much more.

For more information or for a complete calendar of events please call Kathleen Hamed at 376-5670.



"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