

Around & About Olean

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



REPORTING FROM CITY HALL

Madison Thieman and Meghan Palluconi, with their large camera bag and tripod in tow, have been familiar faces in the Municipal Building since January. They are reporters and their beat is government. They are also students: seniors in the Journalism Mass Communications program at St. Bonaventure University.

The dynamic duo were enrolled in Broadcast Seminar which produces SBU-TV News. Their semester-long assignment frequently brought them to City Hall.

They interviewed Department of Public Works Director Tom Windus when they covered the city's progress on and hopes for Bradner Stadium. Tom was also their source, along with Jeremy Meerdink, the sewer superintendent, when they reported on the planned upgrades to the city's sewer plant.

Meghan and Madison spent some time



Mayor Aiello with WBSU-TV reporters Madison Thieman on the left and Meghan Palluconi on the right.

with Olean's meter man, Jim McGinnis, and learned that yes, it is probably wise to feed the meter in Olean. It tends to be cheaper than a parking ticket. They queried Olean's auditor,

Fred Saradin, about the budget process and they interviewed Mayor Aiello, once in January, as their class started, and again in May for their final segment.

After videotaping a story the ladies take their feed to class on Friday morning, where they, along with their classmates, produce SBU-TV News. The program is available for viewing in the city on Time Warner Cable. If you missed the segments and are interested all of them are available on youtube.com (search SBU-TV).

Meghan is from Rochester and hopes to make a career in broadcast journalism. Madison who was raised in Waterford, Ohio is leaning more to the fields of public relations or advertising. It was truly a pleasure have Madison and Meghan roaming our halls in search of a story and we wish them nothing but success in their pursuits.

Youth Court members take their oath of office on April 1st in the Olean Municipal Building's Courtroom.



A curling tournament at the William O. Smith Recreation Center at the end of March.





Railroad tracks trailed into Olean: access to our natural resources led them—but Freedom Tracks were around much earlier. As early as 1825 Olean had a group of organized abolitionists and harboring fugitive slaves en route to Canada was a customary practice.



According to Olean lore four fugitive slaves were eating in the kitchen of Martin’s Hotel when two Virginians, hired to recover the escaped slaves, rode up on horseback. The innkeeper told them that the slaves had left for Buffalo on the Allegheny Road. When the Virginians returned emptied handed, the innkeeper denied them lodging and their arrogant guide was dragged to the Quirin lumber yard and was tarred and feathered by the locals. Meanwhile, the fugitive slaves were safe and sound in Pleasant Valley hidden on the property of Judge James Brooks.



The Badge of Honor Association honored Capt. Timothy Hassett, who was shot and killed by a burglar while on duty in Olean in 1909. Patrolmen Brian Cross & Sean Paar are holding the highway sign made in memory of Captain Hassett.



The Urban Renewal Agency met in the Mayor’s conference room in late April.



City and county officials met in the Mayor’s conference room in mid-April to discuss economic development our area.

From the Mayor’s Office:

The snow has melted, the dust is settling, spring is in the air and Olean’s budget has been passed. What is in store for our city in the coming year? Plenty--and it is all good.

The new budget allows for major road work on Prospect Avenue and York Street, two streets that were in disrepair long before the hard winter took its toll. Additional monies have been set aside to work on the other streets in the city that are showing what three months of sub-

zero temperature can do to pavement that is strong enough to withstand tons of heavy traffic.

The new budget allots for Olean’s share in the grant that will add to our miles of bicycle trails as well provide for a safe link between East and West Olean across the Olean Creek. The budget also makes allowances for Olean’s share in the upcoming North Union Street Renovation project.

As for new equipment, the

budget allows for the purchase of a ladder truck for the Fire Department as well as for a Zamboni for the Ice Rink.

Water and sewer rates were increased (4% and 3 % respectively), a necessary move to address our aging sewer and water lines and to comply with New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation consent orders to repair our waste water treatment plant.



Spring was finally in the air at the Annual Easter Egg Hunt in War Vets Park on April 19th. The event is sponsored by Olean's Youth and Recreation Department.



Even the Easter Bunny was in attendance and caught on camera—twice.



Olean NY: Tree City USA

When driving into Olean the first thing you see is a tree. Residents certainly don't notice it, but outsiders do. If you fly over Olean during the summer months, when the trees are in bloom and the leaves are green, you'll see the bigger structures—our factories and schools and hospital. But that's about it—the trees mask our homes in that aerial view of our city.

Olean is a Tree City and has held that distinction for twenty-eight years. The Mayor and Common Council celebrated Arbor Day at the Common Council meeting on April 22, 2014. Arbor Day has had a long tradition in the United States. It was



At the April 22 Common Council meeting, Mayor Aiello proclaimed April 25th as Arbor Day in Olean. In return Wayne Cooper, on behalf of the Arbor Day Foundation, presented a Tree City USA flag to the Mayor and Common Council President Ann McLaughlin.

started in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton, a newspaper editor in Nebraska. His efforts led to the planting of over a million trees in his home state.

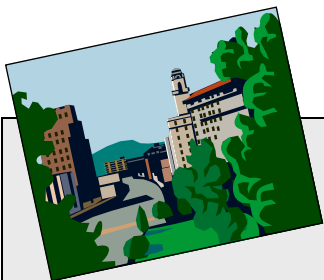
Trees are really pretty and they tend to increase the property values and enhance the economic vitality of Olean's business areas. But

deep within those trunks and limbs and buds and leaves, trees serve many purposes: they can reduce the erosion of our topsoil by wind and water, cut our heating and cooling costs as well as moderate the temperature and clean the air. And while providing habitat for wildlife, one large tree can simultaneously produce oxygen for up to four people—per day.

And that's not all. Trees are a renewable resource—supplying us with paper, with wood for our homes, and with fuels for our fires as well as many other wood products that we use daily.

Plus our trees, like our waterways, enticed early settlers to build a cabin here and call Olean home.

Time for Spring Cleaning



Curb-side Yard Waste Pick up

WHEN: Last Wednesday of each month (April through September)

DETAILS: All yard waste must be in PAPER lawn bags and/or containers no larger than 30 gallons.

Brush must be bundled together with twine or rope and be no larger than 3' long and 18" in diameter.

There is no charge for this service. Yard waste must be at the curb by 7AM on the last Wednesday of each month.

Please call the City of Olean Department of Public Works with any questions 376-5651.

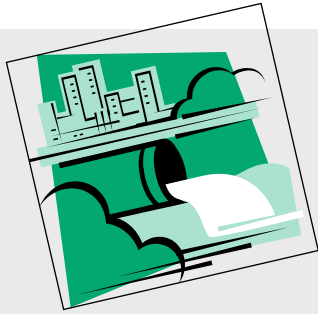
Street sweeping starts in the City of Olean on May 15th and runs through October 15th.

Cars must be off the street on nights in which the street is scheduled for sweeping. Please check the schedule for more details.

The schedule is posted on the City's website—www.cityofolean.org.

Members of the City of Olean Neighborhood Preservation Committee are keeping litter off of our streets. The project runs from May to October, members adopt an area and keep it clean—no set schedule just as needed. The committee needs more volunteers—please call Lila Ervay (372-0677) or Casey Jones (372-3772) to volunteer.





A Retirement—Kevin Kimball

After twenty-three years of years of service to the City of Olean, Kevin Kimball called it a day on April 3, 2014.

He started his career on January 15, 1991 in the Department of Public Works as a

Sewage Treatment Plant Operator Trainee.

In December of 2002 he was promoted to Sewage Plant Treatment Operator where he remained until his retirement.



Congratulations to Kevin on his retirement and on a job very well done.

Looking for a Few Green Thumbs

Spring has barely arrived but the Fourth Annual Adopt-a-Planter program is up and running at the Municipal Building. The first planter has been adopted and is temporarily housing office plants from the Mayor’s office and spring flowers from Pleasant Valley.

Why is it in the halls?

Good Question!

Under the previous administration twenty-five new planters were purchased. As they sat at the warehouse waiting for a break in the weather, we snatched one to see what it could do.

The new planters, purchased from Scott’s, are self watering. The planters have a rolled rim and the color, mill-stone, is actually a deep gray.

As in the past, the Mayor is hoping to recruit business and individuals to take on the challenge of adding some color to



our business district along North Union Street.

Worried about the upcoming revitalization of the street and plantings getting lost before the season ends?

There is no need to worry. According to Tom Windus, the Director of Olean’s Public Works Department, the North Union Street revitalization project will not hamper this year’s Adopt-a-Planter program.

“The earliest work can start is sometime

in late September. Even with the start of work this fall the contractor will not be able to start real construction until the summer of 2015,” Mr. Windus said.

“The Adopt-a-Planter program, originally suggested by Laurie McCarthy of McCarthy’s Emporium, is a great way to brighten our business district and give Olean that hometown touch,” Mayor Aiello said. “I am very appreciative of all the business owners and individuals who take on the responsibility of landscaping North Union Street whether it is on their own or by adopting a planter.”

Many of the participants from prior years have expressed an interest and are shedding their winter gloves to expose their green thumbs. But more volunteers are needed. If you are interested in adopting a planter, please call the Mayor’s office at 716-376-5615.

Common Council Corner

Contact information for the seven council members:

Council President Ann McLaughlin (Ward 2)

716-560-8407
amclaughlin@cityofolean.org

Gerard leFeber (Ward 1)
716-378-7877
jlefeber@cityofolean.org

Paul Gonzalez (Ward 3)
716-790-1121
pgonzalez@cityofolean.org

Steve Barnard (Ward 4)
716-307-1862
sbarnard@cityofolean.org

Jim Finch (Ward 5)
716-373-0163
jfinch@cityofolean.org

Nate Smith (Ward 6)
716-307-8199
nsmith@cityofolean.org

Adam Jester (Ward 7)
716-790-8226
ajester@cityofolean.org



Special Proclamation for Eagle Scout Cory Nedell



At the Common Council meeting on April 22, Mayor Aiello, commended Cory Nedell who obtained the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award. In order to achieve the Eagle Scout distinction, Cory undertook the challenge of cleaning the grave stones in the Veteran's Field of Honor at Mountain View Cemetery in Olean.

In addition to cleaning the head stones of veterans, the group of volunteers that Cory organized paid special attention to the headstone of the Revolutionary War Veteran, and Olean native, Ebenezer Reed. Research indicates that Reed was on the pension roll of Cattaraugus County for his two years of service in the Connecticut Militia. Reed, in addition to his service to our nation, founded, in

1820, the town of Allegany which was originally named Burton.

Because of the efforts of Cory Nedell, Ebenezer Reed's head stone in Mountain View Cemetery has been refaced and cleaned. In addition the base has been recreated.

"Eagle Scout Nedell is an excellent example to our society for his leadership, values and ideals." Mayor Aiello said as he issued the special citation.



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.



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 May activities include:

Kentucky Derby Party: May 3 at 6:00pm

Bingo and Pizza Day: May 14 at 12:00pm

Euchre Tournament: May 16 at 1:00pm

Lunch and Movie Day: May 20 at Noon

Coffee Hour: 9:00 Wednesdays

Square Dancing: May 12, 15, 19 & 27 at 1:00pm

RSVP Recognition Day: May 21 in Great Valley. Reservations necessary.

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