

# Around & About Olean

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



## Union St.: Above

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There is absolutely no denying that from above Olean is beautiful. Nestled comfortably in the midst of the foothills of the Allegheny mountains, with the Allegheny River and Olean Creek winding their way through town, Olean is a "site" to behold on a clear day.

But on those bitter cold days that come out of the blue—ask the water department what it looks like below when there is a water main break. On November 19 the water department responded quickly to fix a break in the line on North Union Street (first two pictures above). Despite the cold and a second break they were able to get service restored to Wendy's and CVS within hours.

But help is on the way for our aging infrastructure. Above, in the center picture, the water department installs part of the new line that is part of the North Union Street Project.

Other upgrades are depicted in the two other photos—the railroad crossing was upgraded, new curbs were put into place and the median from Sullivan Street to the Olean Center Mall was constructed. It will be a long project, but the 2014 installment was not too painful for local drivers.

As for the aerial shot of Olean—it is courtesy John Stahley, General Manager of Dresser Rand in Olean. A larger version is on display in the Mayor's Office.



**Not yet elected as a Senator from New York State, Robert F. Kennedy made a campaign swing through Olean.**

**Although he was a Republican, Olean Mayor Edward Husted allowed Mr. Kennedy access to the Olean Municipal Building and his office prior to Kennedy's appearance in front of local residents. According to "A Bit of History", a short memoir written by Mr. Husted, "On the day of his visit I never saw so many people assembled except at a ball game. The crowd swelled into the thousands, spilled through the park and onto South Street. I recall standing in a city hall second floor window marveling at the sea of people below.**



**Robert Kennedy visited Olean once before on October 9, 1960. as he made a campaign swing through Olean for his brother's presidential bid. He was escorted through Lincoln Park by former Olean mayor Fred Forness. If you are interested, there is a video on YouTube of one of Robert Kennedy's visits to Olean. The Southside of the Municipal Building was the stage for his speech to his supporters.**



*Senator Kirsten Gillibrand visits Olean*



Senator Kirsten Gillibrand visited Olean on November 10, 2014 to promote two pieces of legislation that she is sponsoring. With the backdrop of the beautiful wedding dresses at Bella Ruche Bridal Boutique on North Union Street, the Senator talked about the Pedestrian Safety Act and the Safe Streets Act. Mayor Aiello, Police Chief Rowley, and Susie Austin, owner of Bella Ruche, also spoke.



Senator Gillibrand flew into the Cattaraugus County Olean Municipal Airport and drove through the construction on North Union Street which, when finished will make Olean more pedestrian friendly. Through her two bills, Senator Gillibrand hopes to bring safe and pedestrian friendly business districts to other communities across the state.

*From the Mayor's Office:*

The North Union Street project has begun! Upgrades to the railroad crossing are in progress. At the end of the six week endeavor a median from Sullivan Street to the Mall entrance will be in place. Winter came a little bit earlier than anticipated this year. But the City's crews were ready to contend with the snow and ice cold temperatures.

Our Code Enforcement Department is looking for a few volunteers to help our senior citizens shovel this winter. Please remember our city has an ordinance for residents to keep the walks free of snow and ice. Olean has been know to be festive during the Christmas season and this year is no different. Take a stroll down Santa Claus lane and through our parks, over

our bridges and even to Bradner Stadium. Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Olean DPW, National Grid and many volunteers have once again outdone themselves in bringing the spirit of the Holidays home to Olean. Finally I would like to introduce Kelly Andreano as the alderman representing Ward 2. She was approved by the Common Council on November 25<sup>th</sup>.





## CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS — NOVEMBER 11, 2014



With Lincoln Park as the venue, it was the perfect day to honor those who have served our nation. The event was organized by the local American Legion and VFW. Former Mayor Bill Quinlan was the Master of Ceremonies and US Army Major Tim Hite addressed the crowd. Assemblyman Joe Giglio spoke as did Mayor Aiello. The Mayor said, *"Veterans Day is a celebration of our living veterans—a chance to thank them for their service, to thank them for their sacrifices, and to thank them for delivering our nation safe and sound—safe and secure—to this gathering in Lincoln Park and to all the other gatherings like this all across the United States of America—an America that is great and free because of them."*

The Boy Scouts and the Olean High School band participated in the program. Band leader, Mr. Jason Fox, performed *Taps* after the Honor Guard's twenty-one gun salute.





The Battlefield Cross. In the background an Olean resident shows her grandchildren their great-uncle's name on the monument.



Mayor Aiello with veteran's Bill Button and Bill Moore at the Bartlett House.

Veteran's Days events continued at the World War II Monument by Veteran's Memorial Bridge. In the afternoon a dedication ceremony for a Perpetual Memorial for Olean area veterans was held at the Bartlett House and Olean Point Museum . City Historian Dave Deckman worked with Ann Padlo on the event. Mayor Aiello was joined by Former Mayors Quinlan, Carucci and Witte at the dedication.



Mayor Aiello and City Historian Dave Deckman at the Olean Point Museum.



It was a perfect day for a ceremony to honor our Olean Veterans.



## Squirrel Houses in Lincoln Park

Last February was one of the coldest Februarys ever. And if we were cold, so were the critters. Tom Freitag, an Olean resident, was in Lincoln Park and noticed that the squirrel houses that were high above in the trees were long gone. The squirrels who lived in the park had no place to stay warm and dry.

Tom Freitag got an idea and came to the Mayor's office. He asked the Mayor that if he had squirrel houses built, would the Mayor guarantee that they



would be placed in the park? Without hesitation the Mayor agreed and Tom went out and made connections and plans. Home Depot donated the wood and others helped to build the houses.



In November four squirrel houses were completed for Lincoln Park and just in the nick of time—it looks like we are on track for a nasty, cold winter. We'll adapt—and so will the squirrels with the help of Tom Freitag, and city electrician Dustin Kelley—who braved bone chilling temperatures to place the first squirrel house in the park.

## Rink, Rec and Records

It may be getting colder—but there is still plenty to do in Olean. The Ice Rink is open with many opportunities to skate.

There are also hockey games, learn to skate programs and many other activities at the rink.



The annual *12 Ice Skating Days of Christmas*, sponsored by Olean-area businesses & organizations, will start on December 19. At various times the rink will be open for public ice skating free of charge

For more information on any of the programs, please pick up a program brochure at the City Building or go to the [City's website](#).

The after school recreation program at St. John's is in full swing with programming from 3:00 to 5:30 every Monday through Friday for grades K-8. There are also Friday evening activities from 6:00 to 9:00 pm for grades 4-8 and Saturday afternoon recreation from 12:30 to 3:30 pm for grades K-8. There is a basketball league for grades 4-6; an intro to dance program for children ages 4-8 and an intro to martial arts for grades 7-12. Again see the [website](#) for more information.



The City of Olean has an interesting history that is filled with characters and intrigue. It all comes alive at the Bartlett House and the Olean Point Museum. Tours are free of charge from Wednesday through Saturday from 1:00-5:00. Check it out—find out about Olean's early settlers and those who came to work in the forests, the tanneries or the oil fields and railroads. And those who built beautiful homes such as the Bartlett House.



## Common Council Corner

Contact information for the seven council members:

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

**Kelly Andreano (Ward 2)**  
kandreano@cityofolean.org

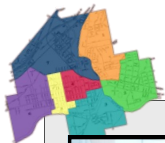
**Paul Gonzalez (Ward 3)**  
716-790-1121  
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**Steve Barnard (Ward 4)**  
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**Jim Finch (Ward 5)**  
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**Nate Smith (Ward 6)**  
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**Adam Jester (Ward 7)**  
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For twenty-seven years Olean High School has hosted a Community Thanksgiving dinner . Mayor Aiello took the above pictures at this year's dinner.



To the left: Sgt. Jason Hlasnick returns to the Olean Police Department as the Youth Officer after a term in the Olean School District as the School Resource Officer. To the right, Mayor Aiello, Craig DiCola and Assemblyman Joe Giglio pose with Union Street's famous mannequin.



### 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. The monthly calendar is now on the city's website under the [Youth and Recreation Department-Olean Senior Center](#).

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

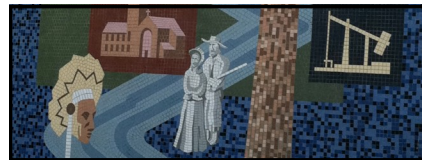


The City's website is great source of up-to-date information. Please visit it at [cityofolean.org](http://cityofolean.org). In addition the city has a Face Book page and Twitter feed—all are excellent sources for information.



*"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](mailto:waiello@cityofolean.org)