

Around & About Olean

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



EXCERPTS FROM THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

"Olean has just ended its 210th year—and I've just finished up my first year—and I'm pleased to be able to report, pretty confidently, that we've both done pretty well."

"Olean is in the early stages of a renaissance and I have to thank my predecessors, Mayor Witte and Mayor Carucci for getting it started. Both of them had their eyes on Bradner Stadium, they both realized that it was a jewel in the heart of Olean that had fallen in disrepair. It was the two of them who got the ball rolling on the stadium's reconstruction. And it was the City's DPW staff that pushed it forward during the coldest months of the year; their hard work allowed the stadium to re-open this summer to baseball, football, fireworks and Rally in Valley. Volunteers built the permanent stage and Cattaraugus County is helping the City fund a new field house."

"It was a banner year for our summer youth recreation program. The fee structure was eliminated, and a total of 462 children registered in the program which offered 154 activities."



"We had a harsh winter in 2014 and the streets department knew that better than anyone else. During the year they used 3,853 tons of salt on our roads. For comparison purposes they used 3,471 tons in 2012-13 and 1,360 tons in 2011-12. "

"The Cattaraugus County Senior Wellness and Nutrition Program returned to the John Ash Community Building in June."

"For the first time since 2003 the water filtration department produced 1 billion gallons of water during 2014."

"An interesting number was generated by the water department this year. Over the year they did 1,148 underground locates. This number caught my attention because that is the number of times they were called to the scene prior to digging. Digging generally means new construction, and new construction, whether it be a fence, an addition or new structure, means investment, investment in our hometown."

"The ambulance crew transported 2,395 citizens to the emergency room."

From January 1st until the end of November, 366 deeds were processed. All the tax certiorari cases were settled and no new cases were filed.

"The Code Enforcement Office issued 340 building permits during 2014 for a total of \$4.5 million dollars in building and demolition projects. This figure is a 24% increase over the 2013 figure."

"Over the past year Olean's water distribution department had to repair 24 water mains and thaw 43 service lines."



“In closing I’m looking forward to the next year. One of my ambitions for Olean’s 211th year and my second, is to make sure that the transformation of downtown Olean is carried on with a minimum of disruption and a maximum of optimism, patience and goodwill.



“To that end I ask for the hearty co-operation of everyone—residents, merchants, city departments, construction workers—to ensure that we come through-out our inevitable trials and tribulations with the cheerful and good natured spirit that has always been the hallmark of the fine people in this centuries old town on the river.”

From the State of the City Address 1/2/2015.



“Early on, I received a suggestion to place a Drop Box on Times Square which would enable citizens to make payments for City matters without having to park and come into the building.”

Mayor Aiello with City Clerk Alex Utecht and DPW Director Tom Windus at the City’s new Drop Box.

A new Common Council took office on January 2, 2015. From left to right: Steve Barnard, Ward 4; Kelly Andreano, Ward 2; Jerry leFeber, Ward 1; Nate Smith, Ward 6; Paul Gonzalez, Ward 3; Adam Jester, Ward 7; and Otto Tertinek, Ward 5.



From the Mayor’s Office:

I am very pleased to announce that the Mayor’s office has initiated a Blight Task Force. Members of the Task Force include the Common Council President, the City Attorney, the City’s Department Heads, the Code’s Supervisor and a member of the City’s IT Department.

Over the past year I have met with my Housing Committee and those meetings proved that

Olean needs a comprehensive plan to curb the problems that plague the City’s neighborhoods. Such a plan needs the combined expertise of the City’s Department Heads and the legislative power of the Common Council.

The Task Force had its first meeting in January. It was a very positive meeting. The group is committed to tackling blight and the departments are

working together to achieve this goal.

The snow is falling and the plows are out. Please remember that Olean has a parking ordinance in effect when four inches of snow falls during a twenty-four hour period. More information regarding the ordinance can be found on the [City’s website](#) or by calling the City Building.



MORE EXERPTS FROM THE STATE OF CITY ADDRESS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This is where things get interesting: Olean's future looks bright...
and the renaissance continues...

"New York State's Regional Economic Development awarded Olean an \$854,000 Green Innovation Grant that will be added on to our North Union Street project. The grant will enable the installation of additional trees and gardens and will allow them to grow by retaining, storing and reusing rainwater through innovative techniques in landscaping the project.

"The City of Olean was awarded a \$535,516 grant to assist in the construction of a bicycle and pedestrian crossing over Olean Creek. This project will improve access between the eastside of Olean and the downtown. The project will utilize the southern inactive railroad tracks and retrofit that portion of the existing railroad bridge and repurpose it as a bicycle/pedestrian crossing."

"And now, others are taking a new look at our downtown and making a commitment to its future:

Jamestown Community College is planning an expansion.

The Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce will relocate and establish an incubator at the former OBI building.

Beth Powers and others in the community are working to fund a rescue of Olean's North Union Street hub, the Manufacturers Hanover Bank Building.

Jeff Belt of SolEpoxy has purchased the properties from 110 to 116 West State Street to redevelop them.

The old Palmquist Jewelry Store has been brightly renovated and houses a new retail store.

A number of buildings along North Union Street have been purchased, and there is renewed interest in other buildings along the street."

"The City of Olean was also awarded a \$38,000 matching grant under the Department of State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Government officials from the City of Olean, Portville, Allegany, Salamanca, Seneca Nation of Indians, along with community-based organizations, and interested residents will collaborate to develop a plan and a vision to develop opportunities for recreational activities along the Allegheny River."

"In a section of town where property has long been written-off as useless, phase one of a comprehensive redevelopment plan has begun. Sixty brownfield acres, including a portion of the former ExxonMobil property, will be developed to include a hotel and a retail complex. "

The TIGER Grant

"allows us the opportunity to rebuild our deteriorating infrastructure—our waterlines, our sewer lines, our streetlights. It's an opportunity for us to rebuild our railroad crossing. And it is an opportunity for us to improve the traffic flow and bring a new ambiance to our business district."



“The finishing touches are being completed on the new T-Hangar at the Cattaraugus County Olean Municipal Airport. It should begin housing planes at the end of the month. It will hold ten planes and will provide additional income for the City.”



“Our police department has re-organized. Jeff Rowley was appointed to the position of Olean’s Chief of Police. We have two new captains and two new sergeants which includes a new Juvenile Officer. There is a new Resource Officer assigned to the Olean City School District and we have hired two new Patrolmen.”



“The number of responses for the engines was 1,790. That number includes service calls for everything from smoke detectors, structure fires, and hazardous materials response and rescue response.”



“Over the past year Olean’s water distribution department had to repair 24 water mains and thaw 43 service lines. The department lowered the water main on Prospect Avenue in the reconstruction project on that street. In addition the department aided the Western New York Pennsylvania Railroad in the first phase of the Streetscape project on North Union Street.”



“Olean’s waste water treatment plant processes 368 dry tons of solids per year with an average flow of 3.5 million gallons per year. It is a huge operation. The staff maintains and operates 10 pump stations and one flood station and they monitor 8 participants in the Industrial Pretreatment Program.”

More excerpts from the State of the City Address.

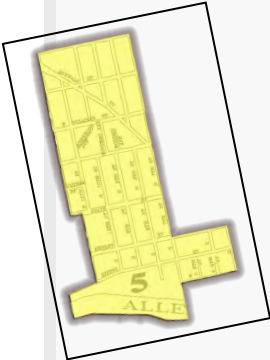


Councilman Otto Tertinek—Ward Five

Otto Tertinek was sworn in as the Ward 5 Alderman on January 2, 2015. He replaced Jim Finch who served the ward for seven years. Mr. Tertinek has lived in Olean over two decades. He is married to Patty Tertinek. They have two children , Liz and Nick.

Mr. Tertinek has served in the U.S. Army and spent his career in Criminal Justice . He started as Patrol Officer at Allegany State Park and then moved on to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Mr. Tertinek spent the majority of his career working as an investigator for NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Law Enforcement. His main area of expertise is in environmental conservation law and criminal investigation. He has testified as an expert witness in manslaughter and homicide hearings. Such testimony included the reconstruction of fatalities in hunting related shootings as well as Penal Law felonies.

In 2001, he was elected as the North East Chief's Association Environmental Conservation Officer of the Year.



A New Common Council President

The Common Council unanimously elected a new President at the January 2nd meeting. Adam Jester, alderman for Ward 7, took over the post that had previously been held by Jim Finch (Ward 5).

Council President Jester was elected to the Common Council in November 2014. He is a graduate of St. Bonaventure University, and is an alumnus of Leadership Cattaraugus. He is the Network Supervisor at Cutco and operates an IT consulting business , Adam's IT Services, LLC, which helps small businesses in the Olean area with their technology challenges.



A Fond Farewell to Alderman Jim Finch

Ward Five Alderman Jim Finch called it a day at the last Common Council Meeting in 2014. Alderman Finch, a former city employee, had been his ward's representative for seven years. He served as the elected President of the Council at his final meeting. During his tenure, Alderman Finch used his extensive knowledge of the City while serving on a number of committees, including the Urban Renewal Agency, the Historic Preservation Commission, City Operations and Strategic Planning. He also served as a council representative on ad hoc committees such as Fleet. He is also been very instrumental and a guiding force behind Olean's **Rebuilding Together** program.

"Jim knew the city inside and out," Mayor Aiello said. "I will miss both his guidance and his presence in the City Building; he brought a smile to everyone's face."



Contact information for council members:

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Eagle Scout Patrick Connelly



Patrick Connelly was honored at the Common Council meeting on January 27, 2014 for obtaining the Boy Scouts highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award. In order to achieve this award, Patrick undertook the challenge of refurbishing cabins at the Oswegatchie Educational Center in Croghan, New York.

The camp had a number of cabins that needed to be overhauled; Mr. Connelly recognized the problem and organized a group of his friends, fellow scouts and relatives to travel to Oswegatchie to refurbish a couple of cabins.

It was not an easy project. Every slat was a different length and had to be cut separately, in addition there were a number of different angles with which to contend. Under his guidance his group resolved a number of construction problems as they faced them. They replaced emergency windows that were warped and repaired screen doors that no longer closed. Mr. Connelly's project made it possible for other children to enjoy the camp.

In his special proclamation Mayor Aiello said, "Eagle Scout Connelly is an excellent example to our society of leadership, values and ideals" Patrick is the son of Olean Firefighter Michael Connelly and Jenny Connelly

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. 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

