

# Around & About Olean

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



## BRADNER STADIUM 2015



In the 1920's the Bradner family envisioned a 6,000 seat arena and they built it. The new stadium attracted the Detroit Lions and the Boston Braves for the opening game in 1927—from that day on the stadium was a mainstay for Olean recreation and sports.

By 2007 the stadium was worn down and tawdry. Mayor David Carucci put the stadium on his to-do list. The Olean Local Development Corporation was created, a consultant was hired, plans were drawn up and funds for redevelopment were sought. Unfortunately a nationwide financial disaster was on the horizon and progress on the stadium was halted.

In 2013, under Mayor Linda Witte, the

Common Council dedicated \$1.6 million to the project and work on the stadium was done in house by the City of Olean DPW. And they did an excellent job. Last June the stadium opened its doors to Olean Oilers Baseball and the Southern Tier Diesel Football.

But something was still needed. It was Mayor Aiello's turn at bat...he applied for a grant from the Cattaraugus County Legislature to build a field house. The Legislature offered \$200,000 for the project; Kinley Corporation won the bid and quickly broke-ground. Winter was bearing down and they wanted to get the building up as soon as possible.

Recently Senator Cathy Young offered

\$150,000 to the restoration to fund renovation of the press box, additional fencing and other projects.

A ribbon cutting ceremony took place on May 29, 2015 at field house. It was a project that took determination on all fronts—from our elected officials to the Olean Local Development Corporation. But a special note of appreciation goes out to Tom Windus and the City's DPW staff who worked through every season to complete a number of the stadiums upgrades.





As we observe this Memorial Day and honor the men and women who gallantly defended their country, it's a bit startling to realize that many of them were just kids—teenagers—and some of them died before they were old enough to drink.

We take so many things for granted—here, in Olean, here in the United States...

The next time you come in to the City Building, as you enter by either the South entrance or the North entrance, stop for a moment and look at the plaques on the wall to your right. They list, in raised letters, the names of Olean residents who died in the service of their country in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.



There are 113 individuals, many of them are names that are familiar. Somehow, this simple, stark presentation has more impact than monuments and statues. These were just young people who didn't make it back

Offer up a little prayer or a word of thanks to them...for the simple fact that you can come and go as you please, vote on election day, write letters to the editor, worship as you like...and stand here today honoring your nation and your flag and remembering the soldiers, sailors and airmen of the United States military who kept it flying.

Thank you all for being here today—and God bless America.

William J. Aiello  
Memorial Day 2015



Emaleigh VanHoutte was awarded a Mayor's Scholarship at the Salute to Youth Dinner in May. Emaleigh will be attending Medaille College to study accounting.

Local Students in the Spotlight.



Olean Youth Court in session in May with new participants.

Ally Rakus, a senior at Olean High School, joined the Mayor's office as an intern for her Participatory Government class. Among other things, Ally wrote copy for the Blight Task Force. She also worked hard on our newsletters—adding a creative touch. She'll be missed—but she will be on staff in Olean's parks before heading off to college.



*From the Mayor's Office:*

Patience is the word for the month. During May, work on the North Union Street Reconstruction Project closed down the street from Delaware to the Main Street intersection. Traffic has been diverted in various detours around the street. I admit, it is confusing; but the detour is only in place for a short period of time. The contractors want to get North Union Street back up and running soon. Our Fire Department is well aware of the detour. The De-

partment takes daily notice of the change in traffic patterns and adapts their routes as necessary. Back to the word patience. Mayor Carucci got the idea in 2007 to update Bradner Stadium. It is 2015—Oilers baseball is back in the stadium for the second year and the Southern Tier Diesel for the third year. Now we have a beautiful new field house. Changes take time—and patience. Thank you to my predecessors for their perseverance.

Our Blight Task Force in conjunction with the DPW is sponsoring a City-wide Clean-Up Week. It is the task force's first function as we start the process of ridding our beautiful Olean of blight. *Memorial Day, I Love Oak Hill Park Day* and a tour with Della Moore on *Walking Tour of African-American Olean* reminded me how lovely our parks and facilities are in Olean. Take some time and check them out—you'll be pleasantly surprised.





# Patriotism in Olean: Memorial Day Parade



The Olean High School Marching Band is led down South Union St. by a group of local Boy Scouts



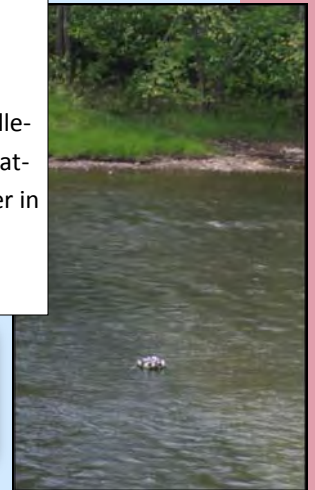
Representatives from the American Legion and the VFW read to a crowd filled with veterans, families, and students on the Veterans' Bridge.



Linda Edstrom enjoys her ride down North Union Street in the Memorial Day Parade on her creatively decorated bike.



On its journey to the Gulf of Mexico, a wreath that was tossed over the bridge into the Allegheny River is floating down the river in memory of fallen sailors.







# A BUSY MONTH IN OLEAN



Council Members Adam Jester, Jerry Lefeber and Otto Tertinek at the Cattaraugus County Municipal Officers Association dinner at the Olean Municipal Airport.



Former Olean Police Officers Jack Bell, Art Filjones and Mike Luty return to the Olean City Building for the annual Police Memorial Service.



Della Moore leads officials on the Walking Tour of African-American Olean. To the left is City Historian Dave Deckman. Brochures of the tour are available in the Mayor's Office



Marianne Laine, Mayor Aiello and his granddaughter Hannah at *I Love Oak Hill Park Day*.



National Grid Employees help the City to plant new trees in Mountain View Cemetery as part of the company's 10,000 Trees and Growing program.



Mayor Aiello presents the Special Proclamation for Neighborworks® Week to Kim Whitney at the Common Council Meeting on May 26th.



# North Union Street

Construction on North Union Street is in full swing. Portions of the street are closed to traffic and detours are in place. Please take caution when travelling on the streets.

Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring bi-weekly merchant meetings for the businesses along North Union Street. In addition City officials meet bi-weekly with the project’s engineers, construction crew and business liasons (pictured below).

For up-to-the-date information about the project, please visit the [Walkable Olean Website](#) or the [Walkable Olean Facebook](#) page.

A Travel Advisory Update can be sent directly to your email. Send a note to [anne@highland-planning.com](mailto:anne@highland-planning.com) to be added to the list. You can also sign up to the city notification system by texting Olean 14760 to 888777 to receive text alerts on any major traffic delays.

If you have any concerns or questions, please call the Mayor’s office at 376-5615.



Contact information for council members:

**Council President**  
**Adam Jester (Ward 7)**  
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# Eagle Scout Alexander Kruse



Alexander Kruse, a senior at Olean High School, was honored at the May 12, 2015 Common Council meeting for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Alex became a Boy Scout in 2010 and has earned over thirty merit badges. He served in numerous leadership positions including Quartermaster and Senior Patrol Leader.

In addition to the Boy Scouts, Alexander has volunteered his time to many Olean institutions including: Genesis House, Scouting for Food, the Warming House, Hospice, and the Salvation Army. He also volunteered for the St Stephen's Episcopal Church Thanksgiving Dinner and worked for a year to receive a religious emblem called God and Life.

Alexander obtained the Eagle Scout Award by participating as a member of the Louis Zamperini monument committee. He helped to lead the project to its stately finish in War Veterans Park. Alexander not only raised money, but he also volunteered to do the landscaping around the memorial.

Alexander organized a spaghetti dinner at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, he raised \$1,100 for the monument. He also arranged for landscaping donations from Pleasant Valley and Hillside Landscaping. Under his leadership, fellow scouts, family members and friends spent hours landscaping the memorial that was dedicated last year.

"Eagle Scout Kruse is an excellent example to our community of leadership, values and ideals," said Mayor Aiello at the Council Meeting.

## 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.



## So Many Ways to Pay your Bills

We love to see you in the Municipal Building. But if you can't find parking—or it is too hot and humid, there are many other ways to pay your bills. Just installed—a drop box right on Times Square. You can't miss it—it's white and has the City Logo proudly displayed. In addition, you can pay on line at this link:

[www.municipalonlinepayments.com/oleanny/](http://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/oleanny/)



The City's website is great source of up-to-date information. Please visit it at [www.cityofolean.org](http://www.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)

