

Around & About Olean

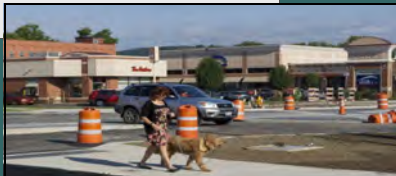
News and information from the Mayor's Office
at 101 East State Street.



EXCERPTS FROM THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

"Everybody knows—and certainly I do—how hard it is to get everybody to agree about anything. But I think we can all agree about one thing tonight—IT'S BEEN QUITE A YEAR IN Olean, New York 14760."

"So I'd like to review the highlights of this truly remarkable year—a year that saw people smiling broadly as they drove on North Union Street—when was the last time you saw that?"



"A year that saw thousands of people cheering the Olean Oilers on to their League Championship in Bradner Stadium."



"A year that saw a Water Policy put into effect and monthly water billing become a reality—a very helpful change for household budgets."

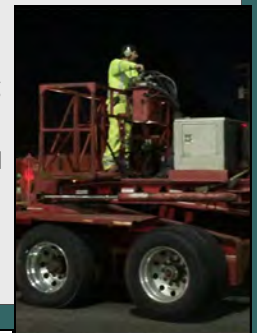


Reverend LaMont A. Higginbottom, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church gives the Invocation at the Annual Meeting of the Olean Common Council on January 4, 2016.

"And I think that we can agree about one other thing—that there is an excitement and enthusiasm, energy and optimism that our city hasn't seen and felt in a long, long time."



"A year that saw hundreds of people cheering with delight as a shipment from Dresser Rand made the turn from Wayne Street through that first roundabout along North Union Street and started for the Port of Albany."



"And it was a year that saw the early results of the North Union Street, Walkable Olean Project. A project that began in September 2011 when Jeff Belt of SolEpoxy commissioned Chuck Banas to prepare *Walkable Olean: A Vision for North Union Street.*"





“A year that saw volunteers transform our community. Groups such as Lila Ervay and Casey Jones’ City of Olean Neighborhood Preservation Committee, Kathy Pachiorowski’s Revitalizing Olean, as well as students from the Olean Intermediate Middle School and employees from local businesses, who picked-up litter, planted flowers and cleaned-up empty store fronts.”



“About 300 customers use our white mail box to drop off monthly payments. As a reminder, the white mail box was a suggestion from a resident. If residents have any suggestions that might help the City become more efficient, please stop by my office and let me know your idea.”



“Over the past two years it has been my pleasure to work with—and I stress *with*—the Common Council. I have been blessed to have individuals, who as Alderman, are here to do what is best for not only their constituents, but also for the City of Olean. I look forward to working with them in 2016 to continue the revitalization of Olean.”

More excerpts from the State of the City Address.



“Clearly, we’re ending a very interesting, very positive, very productive year in Olean. But interesting, positive and productive things aren’t ending with 2015. There are many exciting things in the 2016 pipeline...”

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

From the Mayor’s Office:

Happy New Year. We have had an excellent year in Olean. Our North Union Streetscape project is almost half way completed. Bradner Stadium now has a field house and additional storage space. Work has begun on the Wastewater Treatment project. We have a new playground in the Homer Hill neighborhood; the York Street and Prospect Avenue projects are completed and the desolate brownfields

are seeing investment. It has been a team effort in getting so many of these items done and I commend everyone from the Common Council members to the department heads and the City’s dedicated employees for working together for the betterment of our community. On January 4, 2016 a new Common Council was seated and I look forward to working with

them as we continue Olean’s revitalization and restoration. Speaking of revitalization, Revitalizing Olean did an excellent job decorating the First National Bank Building . It was so nice to see some life in the building. The group has done some top-notch work for our City and they have helped to fuel the optimism that has spread through the community.



Parks and Recreation



“The summer youth recreation program enjoyed the highest participation in many years with a registration of 463 children. Over 100 children participated in the swim lessons and hundreds more attended public swimming at the municipal pools.

In June of 2015, the department took over the operation of the senior programs at the request of the Senior League who contacted the City. In prior years the City would give the Senior League funding for the programs and to hire the director. This

new arrangement has worked out very well for both the City and for our Seniors who frequent the John J. Ash Community Building.”



STREETS



“This summer after the snow melted and the pot holes were fixed, the City’s Streets Division paved 12 unimproved streets. This makes a total of 38 unimproved streets that the department has reclaimed in the past two years. In addition, the department, with the help of the County, milled and paved 11 streets and re-bricked one street.”

More excerpts from the State of the City Address.

The new T-hangar at the Cattaraugus County Olean Municipal Airport was completed early in the year and is fully occupied. The old t-hangar is occupied at 80 percent capacity and the airport has 5 renters in the main hangar, including the newest addition L.C. Whitford Co. with two planes. Between January and the end of October the airport logged 618 flights.



AIRPORT



WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

“In August construction started on the long over-due upgrades at the Waste Water Treatment Plant...In January the City received notification that it was eligible, through the Environmental Facilities Corporation, for an \$18 million dollar interest free 30 year loan. This interest free loan will save our taxpayers approximately \$5 million in interest over the life of the loan....And in December the City received notice that it had received a \$4.7 million dollar grant under the New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2015.”



POLICE DEPARTMENT



More excerpts from the State of the City Address.



“During 2015 the Olean Police Department had 15,321 calls or blotter events which led to 2,599 incident/case reports. There were 587 arrests, and the street crimes unit made an additional 114 drug arrests...The OPD purchased a new module for record keeping. The software enables officers to access all of our records management software in the car. A GPS unit is embedded in the software allowing officers and dispatch to see the location of all vehicles.”





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“The city has over 125 miles of water lines throughout the City and over the past year the water distribution department had to repair 22 water main breaks and 19 service line breaks. The department replaced 8 service lines, 25 curb stops, 6 water main valves and 4 fire hydrants. They repaired 7 water main valves, 20 valve boxes, 112 street boxes and 4 fire hydrants. In addition the department disconnected 8 service lines, made 9 water main taps, thawed 61 service lines, completed 704 underground locates, flushed 813 fire hydrants and installed 820 feet of new water main. The department also assisted Cattco and

Zoladz as the two construction companies worked on Olean’s streets.

The City continues to account for the millions of gallons of water that are listed as “unaccounted for” in the annual water report...Judging from the water main break on December 23rd, these occurrences might be a major culprit in our unaccounted water. To relieve the pressure, and fix the break, the department had to open four hydrants for several hours.”



More excerpts from the State of the City Address.

FIRE DEPARTMENT



“When I took Office two years ago...Negotiations between the City and the Fire Fighters Association had broken down....In October of 2015 the City and the Fire Fighters Association were able to agree on terms and a settlement was reached for June 1st, 2013 through May 31st,2016...At this time we are still waiting for the Arbitrator to rule on the 2011 and 2012 contract years.

During the past year, the Olean Fire Department responded to 17 structural fires, 6 of which were fully involved. In addition the department responded to 38 other fires, 3 over pressure ruptures and 73 hazardous conditions, such as gas leaks and downed power lines.



The EMS Ambulance responded to 2,399 calls.



“The new optimism that is building in Olean starts in an office on the second floor that is staffed by two women. Their skill in writing and administering grants is extraordinary. And their efforts have brought funding to many of Olean’s well established business as well as many of our new ventures. They have secured funds to save our old architectural gems, to develop our long abandoned brownfields and to explore the recreational possibilities of our region’s most underutilized asset, the Allegheny River. And that is just the beginning.”



“In addition Community Development worked to get Olean’s Northwest quadrant, an approximately 904 acre area, a Brownfield Area designation, one of 11 new designations statewide.”

“Community Development worked with

Chuck Banas Design to implement the Downtown Olean Formed Based Zoning Code. This Code will ensure that Olean’s downtown will continue to attain the economic, social and environment benefits of a Walkable Downtown.”

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

AUDIT

“The General Fund ended the 2015 fiscal year with a fund balance of approximately \$3.3 million. The Water and Sewer Fund ended the year with a fund balance of over \$629,000 and \$1.6 million, respectively. These fund balances exceed the levels suggested by the New York State Comptroller’s Office.

“The City of Olean received an unmodified audit report in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), with no compliance issues with regard to NY State or Federal Grants and laws.

“Our property tax increase—held steady—at zero percent. And that’s all good news, but...

“All municipalities in our state have challenges and Olean is no exception. We have to live within the Tax Cap and this year that means we are bound to a .12 percent tax increase or if you prefer a dollar translation---raising the tax levy \$7,000.

But simultaneously we are hit with rising insurance costs, this year we anticipate a 12 percent increase or \$150,000. In addition, we will have to pay the debt service on the \$23 million dollar Waste Water Treatment project; save up for another complete property revaluation; and plan to borrow over \$1 million for the Rec. Center repairs. In addition all four of the City’s union contracts are in negotiations.

“Finally, have you seen the City Garage? It is in desperate need of replacement; and funding such a project will be problematical.

“Unfortunately, with all these items on our horizon, we see no increase in state funding such as Aid and Incentive for Municipalities. With all of these fiscal challenges the city faces, we will have to look at every avenue to tighten our belts, try to maintain services, and increase revenues.”

More excerpts from the State of the City Address.

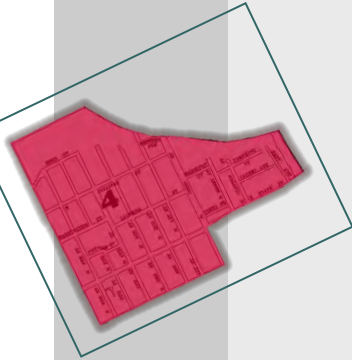


Alderman Kevin Dougherty—Ward 4

Kevin Dougherty became the Ward 4 Alderman on January 4, 2016. He replaced Steve Barnard who served the Ward for two years. Alderman Dougherty was raised in New Milton, Connecticut and moved to Olean in 2004. He is a graduate of Olean High School and University at Buffalo with a degree in business and a concentration in finance

He has started two businesses—Doughkem Enterprises and Factotum Jack Home Repairs.

Alderman Dougherty met his significant other, June, and her daughter, Miley, in 2012. They have a seven-month-old daughter, Quinn, and are expecting a son in June.



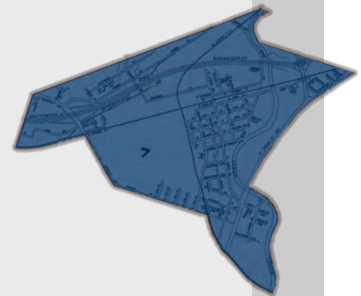
Alderman Brian George—Ward 7

Brian George was sworn in as the Ward 7 Alderman on January 4, 2016. He replaced Adam Jester who served the ward for two years. Mr. George was raised in Olean and attended Olean schools, JCC and Elmira College. He is married to Amy George, a Lieutenant at the Cattaraugus County Correctional Facility. They have five children, Blayre, Sierra, Halee, Brielle and Brock.

Mr. George has been employed at Cutco for nineteen years and is currently the Human Resources Coordinator for Safety Health and Wellness. He held a number of other positions at the company and was the Cutco/

USW Local 5429 Safety Rep and Chairman for 12 years and the Local Union President for 3 years. He has attended a number of advanced training courses.

Mr. George has served as the President of the Salvation Army Board, Vice President and Board Member of Leadership Cattaraugus, a committee member of Southern Tier Leadership Summit, a volunteer for Rebuilding Together and a youth soccer, basketball and baseball coach.



A New Council President is Named

The Common Council unanimously elected a new President at the January 4th meeting. Paul Gonzales, Alderman for Ward 3, took over the post that had previously been held by Adam Jester (Ward 7).

Council President Gonzalez was first elected to the Common Council in November 2012. He is a graduate of St. Bonaventure University, with a Master's Degree in Business Administration. He is a Production Planner at Dresser Rand in Olean.

He and his wife Nicole, a St. Bonaventure University employee, have two children, Stella and Jackson.



Contact information for council members:

Council President
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Nate Smith (Ward 6)
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Brian George (Ward 7)
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Christmas Cookie Competition



"And I'll Have a Caesar. No dressing. And one of those homemade cookies, the warm chocolate chip. No nuts. And a little slice of cheese cake. Uh, crème brulee, and um, hot fudge sundae, extra hot fudge." Scott Calvin in *The Santa Clause*.

The season of sweets, rolls in when the calendar hits late November. And in the spirit of the season, the residents, employees and volunteers at Eden Heights participated in a Holiday Christmas Cookie Competition on December 15th. Mayor Aiello helped to judge the competition with Meme Yanetsko from the Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce and Douglas Snyder who serves as President of the Resident Council.

There were twelve participants in the contest, and according to Mayor Aiello, judging the entries, was difficult, but tasty. The top three winners were:

First prize went to a homemade yellow cake covered in coconut, decorated with a gingerbread house and sugar cookies made by the residents of Eden Heights.

Second prize was a crispy chocolate Hershey kiss cookie, made by volunteer, Diane Canada.

The third prize was a chocolate peanut butter buckeye, made by employee, Deanna Foster.

Mayor Aiello is looking forward to his next invitation to Eden Heights.



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](#).

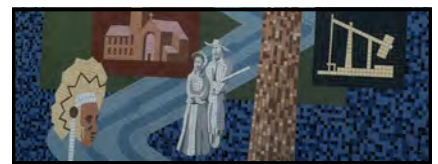
For more information please contact: 376-5670 or seniorcenter@cityofolean.org.



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

