

Around & About Olean

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



And.... They're Back



Slowly they moved back into Olean—the giant construction vehicles, the traffic cones, the detours, the orange fences, the flashing lights and the army of construction workers. It started early with the Verizon upgrades completed by Northrop and then Catco moved in to complete phase one of the North Union Street overhaul: from the railroad tracks to Main Street the lights were installed and landscaping was added. And from Sullivan to State, construction on the final phase of the project has begun. So far the road has remained opened to two way traffic. Parking is sketchy on the North Union Street but the city parking lots on North Barry Street and North First Street are open for business. Most of the retailers have coupons to validate one hour of free parking in the lots. Don't hesitate to come downtown, enjoy the restaurants and do some shopping. And watch the construction—this is history!





In 1880 Milton Forbes started the Olean Street Railway Co. It was a horse car line that connected the Erie Depot with Olean's downtown business district. It went down the middle of North Union Street and veered to the right at the Pennsylvania Rail Road tracks. It was 7,750 feet in length and built on three foot six inch gauge. The company owned seven cars and twelve horses.

Company officials made the first trip in the fall of 1880, and then the excited public paid a five cent fare to ride the street car. The State Street line was built in 1891; it was built on standard gauge as they prepared to switch to electric operation in the near future.



On June 22, 1893 the first electric car went down West State Street and on July 16, 1803 the original North Union Street line switched to electric power. The powerhouse and barn were located at the corner of Main Street and North Union Street (the Hampton Inn). After hours, it was known for sandwiches, beer and poker!

By 1903 the company had over 30 miles of track and operated routes through Olean to Allegany and Bolivar and Shinglehouse.

On July 4 1899, a record 14, 237 passengers road the rails. Fare to Allegany and Portville was ten cents and trains ran every 40 minutes.

The line extended to Bradford with stops at Flat Iron Rock, Rock City and Knapps Creek, and State Line.

Information from: *Western New York and Pennsylvania Traction [1991] by Benson W. Rohrbeck*



As work on North Union Street continues, a piece of trolley track was discovered by residents Earl McElfresh and Steve Teachman. They brought it in for Mayor Aiello. The trolley served Olean residents from 1880 until 1928 and the tracks can still be found deep underground.

Three years—twenty-four trees. Employees from National Grid once again teamed-up with the City to plant trees in Mount View Cemetery. This was the third year that they have given back to the City in honor of Arbor Day.



From Mayor Bill Aiello

It's been a rainy spring, but that has not stopped the activity in the City of Olean.

Work on North Union Street has picked right back up where it left off. We have lights on the north end of the street and more and more people are giving the roundabouts a go!

We have a budget. The Common Council, the Department Heads and I worked very hard to provide the services our residents deserve while remaining within the .12 percent tax cap to which we are bound. I want to thank all of them for a job well done.

We have made a dent in our unpaid parking tickets taking in little over \$37,000. I would like to thank the Police Chief Jeff Rowley, the Olean Police Department and Christine Sherlock; the City Clerk Al Utecht and his staff Kathy Monroe and Sue Russo; and Jerry Volz of City's IT Department for their hard work and dedication as the City took on the challenge of collecting the unpaid fines.

The Common Council, the City Attorney and I met with a number of landlords in April. The landlords are not pleased with the City's new Water

Policy that went into effect in June 2015. We listened to their concerns and plan to meet again, however I am firm believer that the City's water policy has to be fair to all residents of Olean.

The Olean Firefighters are busy raising funds for the City's annual Fourth of July Fireworks. If you see them roasting hotdogs, please stop by, it is for a good cause.

Finally, it's May and summer is just around the corner. The Farmer's market will be back in Olean soon and festival season will be upon us. Olean is a great place to live!



Olean Celebrates 30 Years as a Tree City USA



WHEREAS, In 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees;

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska;

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world;

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife;

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products;

WHEREAS, trees planted in Olean increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community;

WHEREAS, trees are a source of joy and spiritual renewal;

WHEREAS, Olean has been recognized as a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting ways.

THEREFORE, I, William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean, do hereby proclaim April 29, 2016 **ARBOR DAY** in the City of Olean, and I urge all citizens to support efforts to care for our trees and woodlands and to support our City's Community Forestry Program,

AND FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generations.

Wayne Cooper of the Arbor Day Foundation, presents Mayor Aiello and Council President Paul Gonzalez with a flag and crystal plaque for achieving a 30 year anniversary as a Tree City USA.



Mayor Aiello and the Common Council recognized the Olean High School Cheerleaders and Varsity Basketball team at the April 12, 2016 Common Council Meeting.





PROCLAMATIONS



WHEREAS, one hundred years ago, seven men secretly planned an insurrection in Ireland to end British rule. It was dubbed the Easter Rising;

WHEREAS, the 1916 Rising did not have the support of the Irish people at first;

WHEREAS, the British stopped the insurrection by deploying over 16,000 troops, who arrested over 3,000 Irishmen, imprisoned 1,400 insurgents and executed 16 of the rebel leaders;

WHEREAS, public outrage grew as word of the executions spread; Irish national pride strengthened and the

long and winding road to Irish independence was underway;

THEREFORE, I, William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean, do hear-by proclaim April 24, 2016 as a Day to Remember the Irish Easter Rising in the City of Olean.



WHEREAS, Special Olympics transforms lives through the joy of sport and participants discover new strengths and abilities, skills and success;

WHEREAS, Unified Special Olympics are dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences;

WHEREAS, Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team;

WHEREAS, a simple principle inspired Unified Sports: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding;

WHEREAS, Unified Sports provides an environment where no one is judged by their abilities or disabilities;

WHEREAS, St. Bonaventure University will host a unified basketball tournament with teams from Olean, Allegany/ Limestone, Hinsdale, Franklinville and Portville participating in the event;

WHEREAS, the tournament will commence here in Olean with a torch run from Lincoln Park to the Reilly Center where the opening ceremonies will be held;

THEREFORE, I, William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, April 27, 2016 as Unified Special Olympics Day in the City of Olean, and I urge all citizens to take part in this inspirational event, by watching the torch run or enjoying some great basketball on the St. Bonaventure University campus.

<p>Contact information for council members:</p> <p>Council President Paul Gonzalez (Ward 3) 716-790-1121 pgonzalez@cityofolean.org</p>	<p>Gerard leFeber (Ward 1) 716-378-7877 jlefeber@cityofolean.org</p> <p>Kelly Andreano (Ward 2) 716-790-8483 kandreano@cityofolean.org</p>	<p>Kevin Dougherty (Ward 4) 716-378-1724 kdougherty@cityofolean.org</p> <p>Otto Tertinek (Ward 5) 716-372-1947 otertinek@cityofolean.org</p>	<p>Nate Smith (Ward 6) 716-307-8199 nsmith@cityofolean.org</p> <p>Brian George (Ward 7) 716-307-8075 bgeorge@cityofolean.org</p>
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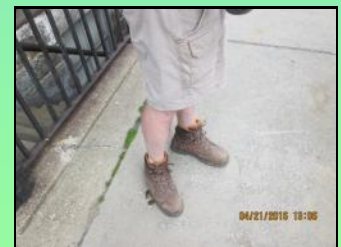
OLEAN GETS A NEW WATER LINE



Pictures tell this story. Many of the buildings on North Union Street were without water for a short period of time on April 21. There were some surprises as the Olean Water Department and the contractor went to replace the ancient water pipes below street level.

But they worked through them and water was restored in very short order.

At the Olean House one business reported pipes sputtering and plenty of brown sediment after the water was restored. But that only lasted for a minute or so—and then it was back to normal, clear, clean Olean water!



These boots have seen some walking! Whose are they?



A SPECIAL PROCLAMATION

TO RECOGNIZE

JEFF ANASTASIA

WHEREAS, Coach Jeff Anastasia was inducted into the New York Basketball Hall of Fame on March 13, 2016;

WHEREAS, Coach Anastasia, during his 29 years as Coach of the Olean Varsity Boys Basketball Team, has won 535 games;

WHEREAS, Coach Anastasia has led his teams to 12 Sectional Titles, 6 Final Four appearances and 2 State Championships;

THEREFORE, I, **William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean**, on this the Twelfth day of April in the year 2016, recognize **Coach Jeff Anastasia** and hereby present him with a Key to the City of Olean, New York.

Students! Looking for a summer job.. The City needs Lifeguards —for more information please call John Anastasia at 716 372 5698.

It is Street Sweeping time—the schedule is on the city’s website.

The Bradner Bash will be held on Friday May 27, 2016. See the City’s website for more information.

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 if it is too cold and rainy, there are many other ways to pay your bills. Recently 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/



The City’s website is great source of up-to-date information. Please visit it at 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

