

Around & About Olean

Special Ribbon Cutting Edition



*O Holy One revered by many names,
we ask your blessing on our city and
its people and upon this particular and essential part of the city.
We pray for the wellbeing of all travelers and for visitors, and
a welcoming spirit that these thoroughfare enhancements
are intended to provide.*

*Give us the ability to be patient and kind
especially with the hesitant and confused in front of us.
Give us the courage to try new ventures even during rush hour.
Give us the prudence to use our turn signals as it is
helpful in letting others know our intentions.*

*Give us the attentiveness to pedestrians and
good judgement about others who should go before us.
A good and kind way to live and to drive.*

*As holy gurus and chiefs through the ages,
Often on their own critical journeys
the prophets and Jesus himself have taught.
What goes around in life comes around,
so be it here in Olean.*

Amen.

Father Greg Dobson's Invocation at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 10. 21.2016



Good afternoon—thank you all for attending today. They say that success has many parents but failure is an orphan. In that case, I am here today to officially declare that our momentous North Union Street project is a complete success, because this project has so many parents.

There are numerous people who made this project possible and carried it through to completion. I include the people who were patient while their businesses were affected and whose routines were disrupted. I include the people who offered suggestions—sometimes politely, sometimes not so politely, but whose comments were always welcomed.

I thank the people who supported the project all along and made it possible, and the people who criticized the project and made it better.



I would also like to remind you that we didn't merely change the traffic pattern on North Union Street--that was just the icing on the cake. Less noticeably, but more importantly, we also replaced the corroding and collapsing infrastructure beneath North Union Street.

My grandfather always used to tell us, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." I'm here today to thank the people of Olean, New York for their patience and courtesy---It was broke and we did fix it.

Mayor Aiello opening remarks North Union Street Transformation Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 10 21 2016.



As the detour signs are removed and the cones get stacked-up to leave the scene, the Walkable Olean North Union Street Transformation project is remembered:

Timeline

September 2011 – *Walkable Olean: A Vision for North Union Street* was prepared by Chuck Banas Design. The report was funded by Jeff Belt of SolEpoxy.

October 15, 2012 – Dan Burden of the Walkable and Livable Community Institute walked North Union Street with Mayor Linda Witte and other leaders. Following the walk he met with 100 City officials, business owners, and residents.

November 15, 2012 – The Common Council approved a contract with Hatch Mott McDonald to provide consulting services for a North Union Streetscape Project.

March 23, 2013 – Dan Burden returned to Olean and gave a presentation to residents. This event was sponsored by Jeff Belt of SolEpoxy.

May 29, 2013 – The Common Council agreed to allow the City to apply for the TIGER grant.

Summer 2013 – New York State Department of Transportation approval of this project was crucial. It was one of three projects that the department forwarded to FHWA/USDOT with a recommendation to approve.

September 5, 2013 – The City received notification that it had received a \$6.5 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration to implement Walkable Olean.

September 5 – October 5, 2013 – A series of events and public meetings were held at JCC and the Municipal Building.

October 22, 2013 – The Common Council voted to accept the proposed design by Hatch Mott McDonald and accept the TIGER Grant of \$6.5 million dollars.

March 19, 2014 – Plans were unveiled at a meeting in the Common Council Chambers.

July 9, 2014 – The Common Council released the City's share of \$1.46 million to the project.

July 21, 2014 – Bid packages were available to construction firms.

August 13, 2014 – The bids from four construction companies were opened. Catco Construction became the construction company for the project.

September 16, 2014 – The North Union Street Groundbreaking Ceremony took place.

Autumn 2014 – Work began on the railroad crossing and the area between Sullivan Street and the Mall. New York State Department of Transportation provided 90 percent of the funding for the improvements under a separate State program. The project total was approximately \$140,000.

December 11, 2014 – Olean received an additional \$865,000 in a State Grant for Green Initiatives on North Union Street.

Spring – Autumn 2015 – Construction from Sullivan Street to Main Street progressed. Three of the five modern roundabouts were completed.

Spring – Autumn 2016 – Construction from State Street to Sullivan Street progressed.

October 21, 2016 – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Walkable Olean North Union Street Transformation Project took place in front of the Olean Municipal Building.





Cattaraugus County Legislators Paula Stockman, Dan Hale, Frank Higgins, Joseph Boberg and Jim Snyder. Missing from the photo: Barbara Hastings.



Diego Sirianni (Empire State Development) Mayor Aiello, Patrick Meredith (NYS-DOT), Lori Cornell (Governor Cuomo's office) and Jeff Belt (Sol-Epoxy and WNYREDC).



Fred Eade and Peter Murad of Architectural Resources.



Chris Michel (Olean Business Development) and Captain Mike Marsfelder.



Tanya Zwahlen (Highland Planning) and Ron Centola of Ravi Engineering.



John Sayegh (JCC) and Sharon Myers (SMA Consulting).



Dr. Cory Duckworth (JCC) and his wife.



Jeff Belt (SolEpoxy and WNYREDC), Mayor Aiello and Jeff Lebsack (Mott McDonald).



Captain Ed Jennings, Tom Windus, Keri Kerper and Mary George.





Assemblyman Joseph Giglio and Mayor Aiello before the ceremony.

Father Greg Dobson, VF read his Benedic-tion—please see the front cover.



Congressman Tom Reed gave a Congressional Proclamation to the City Of Olean.



Ward 1 Alderman Gerard leFerber gave the Benediction (please see the last page).



Patrick Meredith, Assistant Commissioner DOT, discussed roundabouts. Olean boasts 5 of NY State's current 115 roundabouts.



Jeff Belt commended Olean as a City with a vision, a City with the courage to act and a City that gets projects done.



Larry Sorokes thanked the North Union Street businesses, and their liaison, Brenda Kasperski for their perseverance during the project.



Council President Paul Gonzalez quoted St. Francis of Assiss, "Start by doing what is necessary, then do what's possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible."





September 16, 2014

October 14, 2016



Top photos: Photographed from the bank building—North Union Street as it was when the ground was broken for the project and a week before the ribbon was cut.

Second Row: Left: Captain Mike Marsfelder and Chief Jeff Rowley at the Ribbon Cutting. To the right: Smiles and hand shakes after the ribbon was cut.

Bottom row: Left: Jeff Belt, Congressman Tom Reed and Mayor Aiello after the ribbon cutting. Right: Bill Heaney reads a letter from Senator Cathy Young, Aldermen Dougherty, Gonzalez, Tertinek and Smith can be seen in the background.

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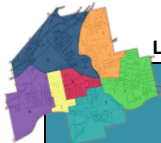
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May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

And rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Reverend Gerard leFeber gave the Benediction at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, which included a traditional Irish Blessing (Photo by Gregg Piechota, City Assessor).



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

