

Around & About Olean

Special Thanksgiving Edition



The View From Above



Employees from Vertical Access were harnessed to the roof of Olean’s First National Bank Building in early November. They were assessing the structure in anticipation of preparing bid specs for the roof. Vertical Access sent the above photos to Mary George, Director of the Urban Renewal Agency and Director of Development for the City of Olean.

Manufacturers Hanover merged with Chemical Bank in 1992 and the bank branch closed shortly thereafter. The building was purchased by Park Center Development in 1994 and the office building was vacated.

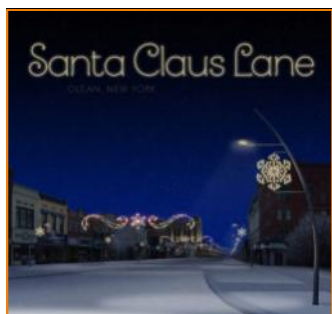
Who knows what the future holds for the bank, but the North Union Streetscape project has brought on a renewed interest in an Olean treasure.



It is a new look for Santa Claus Lane this year. The

garland is being replaced with 14 skylines 15 stars and 60 snowflakes. It promises to be a stunning display of lights.

The Santa Claus Lane Committee, co-chaired by Pam Pezimenti and John Dwaileebe, has worked diligently to raise \$125,000 for the new display and upkeep of the lights. Local businesses and individuals have pitched in to make these new, lights possible. A tradition which started years ago.....



Santa Claus Lane has been an Olean institution since 1929. No parade—just some fresh garland sprinkled with red, green and white lights suspended across Union and State Streets. Edward F. Devlin was the chairman of the project.

By 1934, under the leadership of Mayor Fred Forness, the Common Council passed a resolution, the Olean Chamber of Commerce raised some money and the C.W. Gabler Electric Company installed festoons across the streets. It was a tradition that lasted until 1972—38 years.

The Santa Claus Lane that is now being replaced is credited to the late Louis Marra. Local merchants and others raised over \$80,000 to purchase new garland and lights. Over the years lights were added to Olean's parks and bridges.

Olean is definitely festive during the holiday season, which by the 1934 resolution, lasts until January 2.

Happy Thanksgiving



From Mayor Bill Aiello

My wife Patty and I want to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for this year. My surgery in January was successful and my doctor found out that — yes, I do have a heart.

In September our twelfth grandchild was born. We are blessed with wonderful children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters.

And we are so fortunate to live in Olean, NY. We live in such a wonderful City. It never ceases to amaze me. In Olean, people are always willing to help each other.

During the past few weeks my office put out a call for volunteers to shovel snow for those who cannot shovel their walks—within minutes our phone began to ring. The generosity of our residents is remarkable.

As I write, Santa Claus Lane is still a work in process. I cannot wait until Santa Claus turns on the lights after the parade on Friday, November 25th. In addition, The Bartlett House on Second and Laurens Street will host an open house—please stop by to see how the Holidays were celebrated at one of Olean's grand homes.

I will be hosting a ribbon cutting for the North Third Street project on November 26th at 10:00 a.m.

Back to what I am thankful for—the City of Olean Department Heads and Employees. This hard working group never, ever says no—I don't think it is their vocabulary. They find solutions to every problem and continually work to make Olean a great place to live. The City runs 24/7, which includes holidays and weekends, and it's the dedication of the employees that keeps our City running. Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving.



All hands were on deck—or in this case on the State and Union Street Roundabout—as a 26 foot blue spruce was raised. The tree, donated by Wayne Cooper, was a left over favor from his wedding reception. His wife, City For-

ester, Sue Copper, said that he brought it here when they moved and he planted it on their property. Thirty-five years later it is helping Olean residents celebrate their new streetscape and Santa Claus Lane decorations. Always dependable National Grid was there to help the City's DPW, Electricians and Fire Department to raise the tree. The Olean Police Department directed traffic. Before opening the road, the Fire Department did a quick check to make sure Santa Claus would be able to put one last decoration on the tree next week when he and Mrs. Claus come to Olean for the annual parade.

As this occurred, Pam Pezzimenti and Kelly Patrone worked diligently in Lincoln Park—placing new lights on the frames of Olean's old trees. Olean is going to sparkle this Holiday season due to the dedication and help of so many residents.



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The Mayor and Common Council of the City of Olean received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of valuable contributions toward disability inclusion from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. Members of the team met later in the day with Mayor Aiello and Mary George at the Municipal Building.



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

