

Around & About Olean

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



The City of Olean thanks National Grid for the corporation's donation of manpower and equipment. On April 5, 2017 twelve employees helped the city plant a number of new trees and maintain existing trees in Mount View Cemetery.

Their continued support of the City's Forester and the Department of Public Works is appreciated and should be commended.

In addition the City thanks Gordon Scott, of Scott's Lawn and Landscape Service. He donated three yards of mulch that was used in the planting of the new trees.





In 1805 Adam Hoops donated a plot of land in Olean to be used as a public cemetery. As the City grew Oak Lawn Cemetery found itself in the geographic center of the community. Many houses were built around the cemetery and plenty of children lived in the area.

At the Common Council Meeting of September 23, 1904 the Finance Committee presented a report about Oak Lawn Cemetery. There had been discussion about erecting a fence around the cemetery. The committee said that a basic fence would cost thousands of dollars. A fence with ornamentation would cost even more. The finance committee, with the deepest respect for the families of loved ones buried at the cemetery, made a suggestion.....



‘If it could be discontinued as a cemetery and converted into a public park it would be of great benefit to the people of the City...The children from the whole of City west of Union Street could use it without the necessity of crossing Union Street...the ground would lend itself admirable to park purposes and nature has already done a great deal toward furnishing the base of ornamenting it in the way of trees...’

On May 5, 1905 with the approval of the Governor, the City was authorized to acquire Oak Lawn Cemetery for the purpose of establishing a public park, to move the graves in the park to another location and to issue a bond for the purpose of doing so.

Oak Hill Park as we know it today was on its way....



Photo courtesy Troop 621.

Boy Scout Troop 621 work together to spring clean Gargoyle Park in late April.

It starts in our parks—but not until scores of volunteers spend many hours of hard labor!



The Zonta Club did an excellent job cleaning and getting Lincoln Park ready for the summer.



From the Office of Mayor Bill Aiello

The Common Council passed a budget and I thank them for their diligence and dedication to Olean. It is going to be a tight year, but we will persevere, we always do—and always will.

Even though we have to tighten our belts this year, we will do our absolute best to provide all the services that our residents have come to expect.

There has been talk about the SPCA. We are in contract negotiations with the agency. We understand each other’s fiscal

restraints and hope to find a solution that will be mutually beneficial to both the SPCA and the City.

Money has been cut from our budget for tree removal. Luckily during the storm on May 1 we had very little tree damage. The City’s Forester Sue Cooper along with our parks and streets department traveled the City after the storm and found 8 trees down—three of which were on City property.

April brought us rain and storms, sun and shine, Earth

Day and Arbor Day. I want to thank all residents who spent time with gloves on and orange bags in hand picking-up litter, leaves, sticks and those pesky cigarette butts. Our City looks great because of their efforts and they did not go unnoticed. Oak Hill Park is getting a bit of a makeover. Take a drive by or spend some time in the park—you’ll like what you see.

We had our Annual Easter Egg Hunt—the City’s Parks Department out did themselves again this year.



Olean’s winters can be beautiful—but they are brutal too—just look at the streets. The parks needed plenty of maintenance after the winter winds died down. Thank you to many volunteers — **the OHS classes of Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Scordo, Mr. Sorensen and Mrs. Graves** took on Oak Hill Park and did an excellent job. **Boy Scout Troop 621** worked at Gargoyle Park and did a superb job readying that park for the summer. **The Zonta Club** took on Lincoln Park—as the tulips and trees bloomed—the park looked spectacular after the Club raked, weeded and spread mulch.

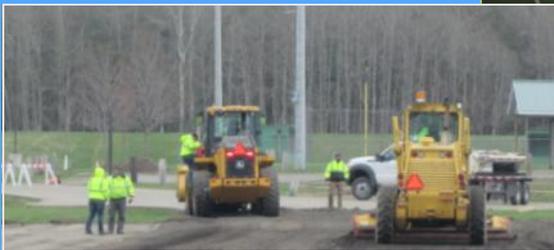


Photos Courtesy of Kirk Windus, Cattaraugus Region County Foundation





The Knights of Columbus stopped by Mayor Aiello's office in April to allow him to pick a raffle ticket. Former Ward 5 Alderman Otto Tertinek is in the photograph (second from the right). The boxes to the right are the U.S. flags that the City supplies the American Legion to place on the graves of deceased servicemen.



The Annual Olean Home Show was the last event to be held in the William O. Smith Recreation Center until the repairs are completed. The next day construction crews were on hand to begin a renovation of the facility.



Pfeiffer Nature Center received the Best Overall Booth award at the Greater Olean Home Show. The Pileated Woodpecker is really just a costume—but the costume was very well done and carried the booth to the top. The VanDyke Agency of Great Valley received the best use of the theme—love where you live. The Annual Home Show took place on April 7-9.





In Recognition of Arbor Day



Mayor Aiello, Council President Paul Gonzalez, City Clerk Al Utecht look on as Wayne Cooper presents the City of Olean a "Tree City USA" flag. Olean has been recognized as a tree City for 31 years.

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 28, 2017 **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.

In Recognition of Laurie's Retreat of Hope

I, William J. Aiello, by the virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Olean, do here-by congratulate and welcome Lynn Anzivine and the Pink Pumpkin Project on the occasion of the Pink Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of Laurie's Retreat of HOPE located at 404 Wayne Street. On behalf of the City of Olean, I extend my best wishes and express my confidence that the Pink Pumpkin Project will continue "giving hope to fighters, one pumpkin at a time."



Mayor Aiello with Lynn Anzivine and others at the ribbon cutting ceremony of Laurie's Retreat of Hope



So much going on in Olean Mayor Aiello with Charlie Love at the Olean YMCA, with the Easter Bunny at the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, and with Rotary Club members and the Silent Policeman Carver Isaiah Rashad II at Lincoln Park.



DPW DIRECTOR TOM WINDUS ACCEPTS A NEW POSTITION



Tom Windus, Director of Olean’s Department of Public Works resigned from his position in April. The City of Olean was very fortunate to have Mr. Windus at the helm of the DPW as the City undertook a number of significant public works projects.

During his tenure he supervised projects that enhanced the quality of life for residents of Olean. The projects include:

- the East State Street \$3.2 million reconstruction project;*
- the Bradner stadium restoration;*
- the North Union Street Complete Street Transformation;*
- the refurbishment of York Street and Prospect Avenue;*
- the North Third Street Complete Street Project;*
- the installation of a new hangar and fencing at the Olean Airport; and*
- the current and ongoing upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.*

In addition to the major projects, Mr. Windus led the department which has the responsibility for all the infrastructure in the City. Although the City wishes him complete success at his new post, his leadership, knowledge and his dedication to our community will be sorely missed. The City thanks Mr. Windus for his service.

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

