



# Around About Olean



## Dedication of Oak Hill Park Stairs



Take a quick stroll down Laurens Street and see the restored, grand entrance to Oak Hill Park. The staircase is just beautiful. And if you venture up the steps you will see the sun sparkling through the leaves of the majestic trees, the beautiful benches on which to rest, and grounds that are free of litter and debris.

This beautiful park has been on Marianne Laine’s radar since she moved to the neighborhood 39 years ago. The park had seen better days: there were photographs and postcards to prove it.



In 2014 Mrs. Laine established the Olean Parks Beautification Fund at the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation. The fund initially provided for the cost of new landscaping. But her vision for the park was not complete. She was inspired by a vintage postcard:



Mrs. Laine, the Foundation, the City of Olean and contractor, Dan Long, of Dan Long Enterprises, worked together in the amazing restoration.



Mrs. Laine’s passion inspired other groups to get involved with the park. Olean High School students and the Theatre Workshop members worked to

clean the park in the spring and the Class of 1965 installed benches in the park.



On June 16, 2018 the City of Olean dedicated the Oak Hill Park steps to the Laine’s. The sign says, “A gift to the City of Olean from Erick and Marianne Laine through the Olean Parks Beautification Fund at the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation” The event was attended by a number of dignitaries and friends of the Laine Family.



It is a miracle—or is it? Every time you turn on your faucet—there is water. And plenty of it. You can fill a pool, wash your car, water your garden and wash all of your clothes, all on the same day, and the faucet doesn't sputter, the water doesn't stop, it will continue to flow.

We can thank last century's technology. A little over 100 years ago, Olean's city planners were facing a conundrum: the city's population was growing and industry was expanding. At the same time the wells along the Allegheny River that supplied water to the City were drying-up. But scientists were experimenting. In Little Falls, NJ they installed the first rapid sand filter in 1902 and in 1908 Jersey City began chlorinating its water.



The City planners decided to build a water filtration plant and started to look for an ideal location. Along the banks of the Olean Creek provided the perfect location and in 1917 plans for set forth to build it. The city bonded for the \$75,000 cost of the plant. In 1918 the plant opened; at the time it was considered the best water filtration plant in the nation.

More on Olean's 100 years of water filtration next month.



Mayor Aiello announced that Lucas Chapman and Zack Linderman were the recipients of the Mayor's Scholarship.

Mr. Chapman is the son of Roger and Wendy Chapman. During his years at Olean High School he was inducted into the National Honor Society and he was a member of the Spanish Club. He has participated in Homeless Huskies and the Roswell Institute Choir Performances. He has volunteered for Special Olympics and for the Genesis House. He has achieved high honors at the high school and is on the Dean's List at Jamestown Community College. In the fall he intends to attend St. John Fisher College to study accounting.

Mr. Linderman is the son of Kris and Rachel Linderman. He was a member of the Olean High School soccer, football and tennis teams. He was inducted into the National Honor Society and was a member of the select chorus and the Student Activities Council. Mr. Linderman received the Excellence in Education and Pride in NY Awards and the Rensselaer Medal. He has participated in Homeless Huskies and is on the Dean's List at Jamestown Community College. He works at the Sports Locker. In the fall he plans to study Engineering Science at Alfred State College.

"Congratulations to both Lucas and Zach, they are both fine young men and are assets to our community," Mayor Aiello said. "I wish them continued success as they continue their education."

The Mayor's Scholarship is awarded annually to two City of Olean residents who plan to attend a college or university in New York State and intend to study Criminal Justice, Accounting or Engineering. Over the years, former mayors have funded the scholarship in different ways. Mayor Aiello funds the scholarship through the donations that he receives when he performs marriage ceremonies.

## From the Office of Mayor Bill Aiello

What a beautiful summer, day after day of perfect weather. Maybe sometimes a little hot and muggy—but I am not going to complain.

The City has been busy, filling pot holes and cleaning up the debris left by a hard winter and extraordinary spring. And many volunteers have helped with the clean-up. Thank you to all.

We added some color to the North Union Street Corridor, with the help of the Beautification Committee. Did you know

they have as a group volunteered over 1200 hours of their time? Their efforts do not go unnoticed! In fact the street looks great.

The new steps at Oak Hill Park have been dedicated. Once again thank you very much to Marianne and Eric Laine, such a wonderful gift to our beautiful park and historic district.

The Downtown Revitalization Initiative recipients have been announced by Governor Cuomo's office. The City was very lucky to receive a large

portion of the grant. We will be able to carry our streetscape down South Union Street and State Street—on both the east and west side. It is an exciting time for Olean.

The Fourth of July Fireworks were—as always—fantastic. Thank you to the Olean's Professional Firefighters for sponsoring the event. They work hard year round to bring this show to Olean.

The Summer Rec. program and Concerts in the Park are in full swing—please take advantage of them. Enjoy the rest of the summer



## Recognizing Firefighter Gonska



**WHEREAS**, within minutes of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, New York City public safety personnel were on site to rescue victims stranded in the building;

**WHEREAS**, 343 firefighters and 60 police officers never made it out of the building, they never saw their families again, they died as they attempted to save lives;

**WHEREAS**, the memory of these heroes has not been forgotten: their arduous task and their bravery on that most fateful day is memorialized and recreated in the New York City Memorial Stair Climb;

**WHEREAS**, Olean Firefighter Daniel Gonska participated in this event on July 1, 2018, carrying 125 pounds of equipment, Firefighter Gonska ascended the 80 floors of 3 World Trade Center, outside the Manhattan temperature registered in at 101 degrees, despite the grueling conditions he successfully completed his challenge in one hour, ten minutes and fifty seconds;

**WHEREAS**, Firefighter Gonska climbed in memory of New York City Firefighter Joseph Hunter, a 32 year old who served in Squad 288, as a child Hunter was fascinated with the fire department, at the age of 18 he joined the South Hempstead Fire Department as a volunteer, he graduated from Hofstra University and New York City's Fire Academy, he was a 6 year veteran of the department, Squad 288 lost 8 members on September 11, 2001;

**WHEREAS**, Firefighter Gonska not only completed the Memorial Stair Climb, but also raised \$2,712 for the Ray Pfeifer Foundation, the 2018 beneficiary of the event, this foundation assists 9/11 first responders with medical needs not covered by insurance;

**THEREFORE**, I, **William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean**, and on behalf of the Common Council **recognize and commend Firefighter Daniel Gonska** on this day, Tuesday July 10, 2018. Firefighter Gonska is an asset to the City of Olean Fire Department and to the citizens of our community.



# Olean Flower Power



North Union Street is brimming with activity—even in the gardens. Take a walk and see what is different—lots of color, plenty of butterflies—it is an oasis and so beautiful. Something of which to be very proud. The Olean Beautification Committee worked hard over the past year to add color and depth to Olean’s new gardens. And they did an excellent job. They estimate that they spent over 1200 man hours on the gardens. Olean’s volunteer force is amazing.



The sun doesn’t always shine on Olean—but the chilly air never stops the enthusiasm at the annual planting in the Children’s Memorial Flower Garden at Franchot Park. The event took place on June 10th in the Johnny Appleseed Memorial Tree Grove. The event was very well attended. The local Boy Scouts as well as members of Olean Fire and Police Departments helped to plant flowers.





## OLEAN IS VERY BUSY IN THE SUMMER



Concerts in Lincoln Park are in full swing. Thursday nights are rocking in the park and the crowds are amazing. Concerts are held every week on Thursday at 6:30. All you need is a chair. If it's raining—the band does play on—only indoors at the John Ash Community Center on North Barry Street. The weekly concerts will continue

through until August 23, 2018. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church provides refreshments.



It was a beautiful day for the annual Memorial Day Parade and Service . The parade traveled south on North Union Street to the bridge. The traditional wreath ceremony took place on the bridge and the parade continued to the Veterans Field of Honor in Mount View Cemetery. During the service, Mayor Aiello said, "We should remember that the people we memorialize today were not just heroes and patriots. They were husbands, wives, sons, daughters, mothers, and fathers—there were somebody's best pal or

somebody's best gal.

"We don't have to look too hard across today's world to recognize that the business of keeping America safe and free--is not safe, it's not easy, it's not over and the cost is often high. Thank you to all who have served our great nation."



The Golden Olympics took place in June at Good Times. It was a great event and Mayor Aiello got to reconnect with many old friends.



Olean’s good friend Mel Cunningham stopped by a couple of weeks ago. He was visiting Olean to celebrate his 75th year as a member of Olean First Baptist Church. He also brought us a copy of his book, *My Walk With Jesus—The Solid Rock*. The book was written by Mr. Cunningham with Deb Wuethrich. It chronicles Mr. Cunningham’s life from Washington, Indiana, to West Virginia to St. Bonaventure, and on to World War II, where he landed in Normandy six weeks after D-Day. He fought his way across Holland before he was injured as his unit advanced on the Germans and met a vicious counterattack. Reading this chapter brings tears to your eyes as his bravery and his faith combined to save his life .

He settled in Olean after the war. He had met his wife while he was attending a military training program at St. Bonaventure. He was a Baptist and met her when he attended services at the Olean First Baptist Church. After their marriage they were very active members of the Olean community.

In the past five years, Mr. Cunningham worked very hard to make Cattaraugus County a Purple Star County and Olean a Purple Star City. In 2014, Mr. Cunningham presented Olean Patrolman Brian Cross with the First Responders Award .

### 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](mailto:seniorcenter@cityofolean.org).



The City’s website is great source of up-to-date information. Please visit it at [cityofolean.org](http://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](mailto:waiello@cityofolean.org)

