



# Around About Olean

## Trailhead Parklet



Mayor Aiello cut the ribbon and opened Olean’s first “urban parklet” on Friday July 19, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at Trailhead Parklet on Whitney Avenue.

Last year the City of Olean won a grant from KaBOOM!, the national non-profit dedicated to play, and the *Built to Play Initiative*, supported by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. The grant helped the City bring a new, playful installation to help get more Olean kids playing.

“The City was very lucky to receive this grant,” Mayor Aiello said. “Through the community-driven design competition, we were awarded a Play Everywhere project. Trailhead Parklet, is right in the heart of downtown Olean and part of the Allegheny River Valley Trail.”



“This grant allowed us to transform a piece of property—the site of the old police station—which has been vacant since the 1950’s, into a wonderland. Innovative equipment such as an outdoor ping pong table, LED glow swings, a rock climbing wall, and outdoor musical instruments will most certainly bring out everyone’s inner child.”

Mayor Aiello thanked KaBOOM! and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation’s *Built to Play Initiative* for their support of our community.

Through their grant, we have another attraction in Walkable Olean. He also thanked the staff in the City’s Community Development Office and the Department of Public Works for working diligently together to make the parklet a reality.

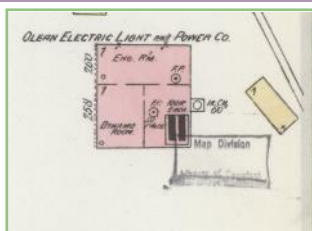




Olean was at the forefront of industrial development. When oil was discovered in our region our City became a hub of activity and distribution of the natural resource.

In light of this, Olean in the 1880's was growing quickly and a number of local businessmen decided to experiment with electricity. Electric power was in its very early stages of development: Thomas Edison had just opened the first American power plant in 1882 when he successfully distributed electricity to Pearl Street in New York City.

This group of Olean businessmen took note of that and thought that the growing City of Olean could benefit from electrical power. They formed Olean Electric Light and Power Company.



On May 14, 1888-they were successful when North Union Street and West State Streets were powered-up. According to the Olean Evening Herald, the business district was filled with residents and City officials. Bands played as they waited. The paper said that when the hour arrived, the switch was pulled and Olean took one of its greatest steps forward.

Gone was the unsteady flicker of the gas lamps. And in their place were 30 arc lights glowing with electricity.



Mayor Aiello purchased Maureen LeBoeuf's book *Developing Your Philosophy of Living and Leading: One Moment at a Time*. The former Maureen Keenan was raised in Olean and had a career serving in the United States Army. She earned the rank of Brigadier General and was the first woman to chair a department at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Retired Brigadier General LeBoeuf was at the June StrOlean event signing copies of her memoir.

Congressman Tom Reed and District Director Alison Hunt stopped by the City Building before a town hall meeting at the John Ash Senior Center on April 17, 2019. The meeting was held to discuss Social Security and Medicare.



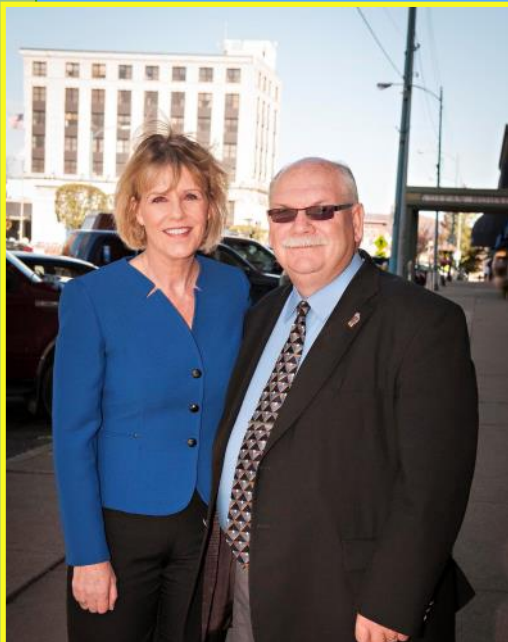
Map to the left: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Olean, Cattaraugus County, New York. Sanborn Map Company, Aug, 1891. Map. [https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn06143\\_002/](https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn06143_002/).

### From the Office of Mayor Bill Aiello

It has been a great summer. The gardens and planters on North Union Street look great. Thank you to our Beautification Committee and our many volunteers who weed and keep our gardens under control. We have had two ribbon cuttings: The Homeridae LLC Solar Farms and Trailhead Parklet. In addition I attended the ribbon cutting at the Tri-County Arts Council which has relocated to the first block of West State Street. Nice to see that those buildings that have been long since forgotten have a tenant again.

Our Youth and Recreation Department has kicked in to summertime mode. More concerts in the park this year and very well attended. The summer youth recreation program is very popular again this year and once again a wide variety of programming is available. The City's swimming pools are getting plenty of use and new this year—a roller skating program in the Rec. Center Rink. Construction is winding down on "Lincoln Square" that is the name that the Common Council chose for the open air building in Lincoln Park. We are

looking forward to cutting a ribbon on that facility on 8/24. Have you ever noticed how negative some of the social media comments are when people talk about Olean? I ask residents to call my office if they have a complaint and see if we can fix it. So many members of our community and our staff are working nonstop to promote Olean—attempting to get people to move or start businesses in our community. Unfortunately, the negativity on social media hinders our efforts. Please! Before you hit send, please give the City a chance to mend!



### *Tribute to Senator Catharine Young*

Mayor Aiello presented Senator Catharine Young a Key to the City of Olean at a celebration of her service as a State Senator, State Assemblyman and County Legislator on June 8, 2019 at the Bartlett County Club.

In the special proclamation, Mayor Aiello said, “Catharine Young worked tirelessly for her constituents throughout her tenure in public service: she championed Kendra’s Law, she sought tax relief and responsible government, she worked for increased school and library aid, she worked to strengthen our local hospitals, and worked to grow manufacturing jobs and small businesses in our region”

Mayor Aiello added, “Catharine Young’s unwavering commitment to the City of Olean has been apparent throughout her tenure. She was a driving force behind our community’s revitalization as she secured funding to help refurbish Bradner Stadium and the William O. Smith Recreation Center as well as to build the Farmers’ Market.”

“Catharine Young is not only a dedicated leader, she is a role model and a strong supporter of the City of Olean,” Mayor Aiello said. “Therefore...I extend our appreciation for her 25 years of service to our community. Her contribution to Olean is significant and accordingly, I hereby present her with a Key to the City of Olean, New York.



Mayor Aiello and family, as well as City of Olean Police and Firefighters attended the National Children’s Day celebration in Franchot Park on Sunday, June 9, 2019.

Children’s day has been celebrated in Olean since 1995. At that time the city committed a portion of the park for a Children’s Memorial Flower Garden as a living memorial to all children, living or deceased, regardless

of race, color or religion. And each year, on the second Sunday in June, flowers are planted in the garden to make it a day of remembrance and commemoration.



*National Children’s Day  
June 9, 2019*



## *Olean Solar Farm*



Mayor Aiello and officials from BQ Energy cut the ribbon and announced the completion of Homeridae Solar Farm on July 17, 2019. The solar farm is located at 231 Homer Street, on land that was previously the site of the oil refinery and storage facility of Socony Vacuum which moved out of the area in the 1950s. After years of lying dormant, the former industrial site was remediated under the New York State Brownfield Clean-up program.



Homeridae has built a new 4,074 kilowatt solar system and the electricity produced by the solar farm will be sold to the City of Olean and significantly reduce the City's electrical costs.

"Converting a brownfield into a solar farm is another example of Olean working toward making our city more sustainable," Mayor Aiello said. "By using solar energy, we are decreasing the City's electric bill and reducing the City's carbon footprint. We see this as a win-win for our citizens and the environment."

Paul Curran, managing director of BQ Energy said, "Renewable energy, particularly solar, represents a vital part of our energy future. Installing solar on brownfields makes particularly good sense since the land has limited applications." This is the third project which BQ Energy has installed on Olean's brownfields.

Other speakers at the event included Assemblyman Joe Gilgo, Davetta Thacher, Senior Project Manager representing NYSERDA and the New York Green Bank, and Paul Kazmierczak, Jurisdiction Manager from National Grid.

## *Memorial Day in Olean 2019*



Olean residents gathered together on Memorial Day to remember the great sacrifices made by our military to protect our freedom.

Mayor Aiello said, "Memorial Day brings our community together in a very special way: we congregate to watch the parade, we stand by the river for the wreath ceremony and we gather here in Veterans Field of Honor.

He added, "We should remember that the people we memorialized today were not just heroes and patriots, They were husbands, wives, sons, daughters, mothers and fathers. They were somebody's best friend. Since we can no longer thank them, it is so important to remember and honor them as we do today."





### *Tribute to Olean's Special Olympians*

Olean's Special Olympians brought home numerous medals this year, a great job by all the athletes. Mayor Aiello and Youth and Recreation Director Chris Shewairy were lucky enough to see the bowling team off as they traveled to Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY (pictured on the top right).

At the July 23, 2019 Common Council Meeting the members of both the swim team and the bowling team were recognized.

Members of the bowling team included: Adam Bennet, Christopher Case, William Fye, Ray Gynnip, Stephen Hornaday, Vicki Lemon, Matthew Mitchell, and Larry Ordway. The coaches were DR. Carl and Marsha Case.

The swimming competition took place at the University of Buffalo. Members of the swim team included: Ben Goldberg, Dora Seymour, Cameron Roulo, Anne Daniels, Stephanie Vanderhoef, Rebecca Nagel, and Joshua Gagliardo. The coaches were Taylor Gnan, Amy Williams, Tammy Goldberg, and Jean Gagliardo.

Congratulations to all.





Olean has been lucky enough to receive grants and other assistance to help finance the reconstruction of East State Street and North Union Street, to refurbish the William O. Smith Recreation Center, as well as to build the field house at Bradner Stadium and Lincoln Square in Lincoln Park.

But Olean is most fortunate to have residents, businesses and service organizations who support our community in numerous ways. For example the Olean Rotary Club, which originally built the gazebo in Lincoln Park, is in the process of upgrading the facility. The group has added an entrance—opening it up to allow a better viewing experience at events that take place in the park.

Our Beautification Committee worked throughout the winter to plan upgrades to our gardens and spent days arranging the flowers in the planters that you see along the street and in front of Bradner Stadium. Each year Lila Ervay organizes a group of individuals who spend hours picking up litter and disposing of it. We have a group of gardeners who pull weeds and keep the rain gardens spruced-up. Lana Waterman and the group at the State and Union Facebook Page, post beautiful photos of our community giving our residents and former residents a chance to see why Olean is a special place.

I want to thank everyone who has volunteered in some way to make Olean not just a City, but a wonderful community. And please continue the good work— your contributions are making our hometown, Olean, a place to be very proud of.

### 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)

