



AROUND ABOUT OLEAN



LINCOLN SQUARE OPENS



Mayor Aiello, city officials, contractors involved in the project and local residents attended the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of Lincoln Square, Olean's new open air pavilion in Lincoln Park on August 24, 2019 during the R.E.A.P. Olean Farmers' Market.

The Lincoln Square project was funded in part by former Senator Catharine Young, Cattaraugus County and Empire State Development. The project included a permanent building to house the Farmers' Market and other vendors as well as restrooms, park furniture, landscaping and an outdoor bistro.

Lincoln Park has been a part of Olean since it was founded. Initially called the Public Square and was charted from South Street to Times Square and Union Street to Barry Street.





A tree grows on South Street.

It may or may not be just a tree. It's hard to tell. But at the turn of the last century, Theodore Roosevelt came to Olean and gave his friend Frank W. Higgins a tree. And together they planted it.

There is a photograph that showed up on Facebook. It was a newspaper clipping of the man who would serve as New York State Governor, Frank W. Higgins, holding the tree in place. The other gentleman in the photo digging a hole for the tree was Theodore Roosevelt. He may have been governor at the time and he would serve as president of the United States. The photo ran in the newspaper years later....it unfortunately does not have a date, and the paper says it was planted at the Higgins home on South Street....



If you look at the photograph, it appears that they may have planted it in the park. The tree is photographed above and it played an important part in the landscaping of Lincoln Square. According to Sue Cooper, City Forester, it is the type of tree that President T. Roosevelt was known to give and it looks to be the right age. City Historian Dave Deckman agreed that it is possible that it is the tree planted by the two famous politicians.



Reverend Kim Rossi of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church gave the Invocation :

Let us, now bring our hearts and minds together in a spirit of prayer and meditation.

We come together on this glorious summer day to celebrate a new beginning, for this Farmers Market in this new location of Lincoln Park in the City of Olean.

Here we are gathered in this beautiful new facility,

the result of the work and dedication of members of the City of Olean,

and also the combined efforts and commitment

of the many professionals and laborers, whose hard work has provided it.

We are filled with the spirit of gratitude.

This morning, we invoke the presence of the Spirit of Life

to bless this building, to bless the work of many who will occupy it, to bless this community, bless it's relationships, and bless it's future.

May this building be as a Ship,

carefully loaded with hopes and dreams and plans,

riding on waters both smooth and rough,

carrying an entire community of diverse people,

picking up new passengers along the way,

bringing with them their wares to sell, and

the goals they have set before themselves –

nothing less than the rejuvenation and life of this Olean community.

All this we pray in the names of all those who have gone before us

and those who are now with us, and those who are to come

in this City of Olean and the surrounding communities.

AMEN and BLESSED BE!



Other speakers at the event included (from the top) Jeff Belt, President of SolEpoxy and Chairman of WNYREC, Dan Hale, Vice Chairperson of Cattaraugus County Legislature, Mark Schindlbeck from the REAP Farmers' Market, Tammy Hilmey, architect of Lincoln Square, Lee James of Congressman Reed's office. Mayor Aiello to the left, introduced the guests and spoke about the parks history. Reverend Rossi is pictured to the right



FROM MAYOR BILL AIELLO'S OFFICE

It has been an excellent summer. The City's Youth Recreation program in the parks had a banner year. Our pools were opened and made those hot summer days easier to handle. The summer concerts in the park were well received. And new this year, the City initiated roller skating at the Rec. Center. At the end of August the City

opened our newest facility, Lincoln Square. If you haven't visited the REAP Farmers' Market on Saturday morning, it is worth the visit. You'll find some great buys and probably meet up with an old friend or an acquaintance. A number of streets and crosswalks were worked on during the summer. In addition we

started a TNRV program to work on the feral cat problem that has plagued our neighborhoods. It was a great season and I look forward to fall. The Beautification Committee did an excellent job with the flowers on North Union Street and we are always looking for more volunteers to help with weeding.



SCENES FROM LINCOLN SQUARE OPENING AUGUST 24, 2019





Lincoln Park has been a part of Olean since it was founded in 1804. Initially called the Public Square, it was charted from South Street to Times Square and Union Street to Barry Street.. The above photo was taken in 1861.

The original St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church is on Barry Street. The building was moved to the corner of East State and Barry Street to allow for the current Church to be built.

The residence on the corner is the home of C.V.B.Barse. Mr.

Barse was president of the Exchange Bank and elected to the State Legislature. His home was moved to make room for the Higgins’ mansion. One part of this extensive house is on the corner of West Henley and Seventh Street.

The next building is the First Baptist Church. The small building on the right is the original Olean Police Station.

Scenes of Lincoln Park over the years Courtesy of the Olean Historical Society



The three surrounding photographs are in a Olean Historical Society scrapbook. They show Lincoln Park from different angles during its 215 years of serving as a public square. At some point the “Plank Road” or today’s E. State St. intersected the Public Square.

The town hall and School #3 were built on the land between the East State and today’s Times Square. School #3 was demolished in the 1950’s to make room for today’s Municipal Building.

On the South Union Street side, The Foreman Library stood from 1889-1908 when the Olean Public Library received funds from Andrew Carnegie to build the Beaux-Arts style building designed by Edward Tilton. At about the same time (1909-10) the Olean Post Office was built. It was designed by James Knox Taylor.





More scenes of Lincoln Park over the years
Courtesy of the Olean Historical Society

There are a number of monuments in Lincoln Park. The first monument is illustrated in the upper right hand corner. It was dedicated to Major Hoops by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Olean founder, during the City's Centennial Celebration in 1904.

In 1909, Civil War veterans of the local GAR petitioned the commissioners of the park to name it Lincoln Park in honor of the great President, Abraham Lincoln. They also planned for a suitable soldiers' monument to be erected in the park. In 1938 the Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War followed through and built the monument in the center of the park.

After WWII, the Gold Star Mothers commissioned a monument to honor those who served our country and made the ultimate sacrifice. The benches that surround the monument remind us of the four basic freedoms for which our soldiers fought: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom from Fear, and Freedom from Want.

The bell at the west end of Lincoln Square has had a long history in Olean. It was originally the bell of the first Lutheran Church in Olean. In 1884 the town's board of trustees purchased it, had it recast and placed in the town hall where it functioned as a fire warning system. During WWII it was moved to the Exchange Bank and its toll signaled a black out, a WWII defense measure. When the war ended the bell was tucked away with old pipes in the South Union Street pump station until 1954—when it was shined up and moved to the park as the City celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Special Thanks to City Historian Dave Deckman and Gail Feuchter of the Bartlett House for supplying historical information and photographs.





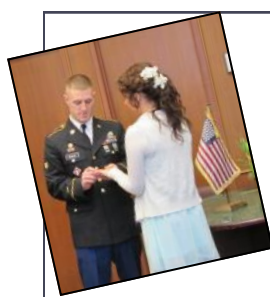
Lincoln Park has long been a place of congregation for our residents. In 1915 the Women's Suffrage Movement held a torch rally in the park. And Robert Kennedy visited the park—twice. The Rotary Club has been a big supporter of Lincoln Park. The Gazebo was built by the Rotarians and is currently being refurbished by the group. The Rotarians also commissioned the "silent policeman" on the corner.



"In this age when we are connected by computers, when we listen through ear buds, when so much of our daily routine includes screen-time, it is so important to have a refuge like this to bring us together, in the great outdoors, in the center of town, to interact and socialize with other members of our community. I thank Olean's forefathers for planning and preserving this common area for us and I thank everyone who has supported the Lincoln Square project as we dedicate this new structure which will set Lincoln Park up to be Olean's 21st century's Public Square."—Mayor Aiello @ Lincoln Square Opening



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

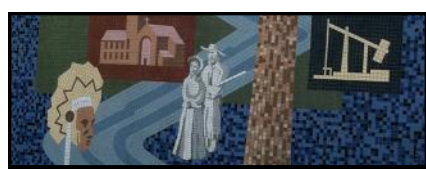
The Olean Senior Center located at the John Ash Community Center on North Barry Street has many activities and programs for those age 55 and above. The monthly calendar is now on the city's website under the [Youth and Recreation Department-Olean Senior Center](#).

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

