



AROUND ABOUT OLEAN



HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL



As the City shut down in mid-March to stop the spread of Covid-19, Olean's future was still a front and center priority. And, even in the darkest days of shut down, the dream of a brightly-lit First National Bank Building standing tall on State and Union Street was slowly being realized.

The City of Olean Community Development Program Coordinator, Keri Kerper, was working tirelessly with the Olean Urban Renewal Agency (URA), owners of the building; Savarino Companies, the preferred developer; and Johnson-Schmidt Associates the architectural firm; to take the first step in developing the building for the next generation of Olean residents.

Before selling the building to Savarino, the URA was on schedule to upgrade the roof. State funding grants were in place to finance the project. But there was more of an urgency to stabilize the building by removing and replacing the existing parapet and cornice. After getting approval to change the scope of the project from roof to stabilization, the drawings were rendered and the project went out to bid. All this happened in the Spring—as our city, our state and our nation were shut-down and it was quite an accomplishment.

So throughout July, and into August, if you look closely, you will see workers, high above our city, with an incredible view of our river valley, meticulously working, chipping away at the old and soon to replacing it with new.

What is next for the building? After this project is completed Savarino Companies will take possession of the bank building, as well as the former Siegel's Shoes building, and will re-develop Olean's treasured buildings into a mixed-use complex. The buildings will be anchored by 23 market rate apartments, and 14,000 square feet of commercial space for offices and retail uses. Amenities will include a fitness center, residential bulk storage units, laundry facilities, indoor bicycle garage, indoor trash storage and community meeting space.

It has been over 25 years since the last tenant left the "Manny Hanny" building. The banking floor housed the First National Bank of Olean which was started in Olean in 1887. The Bank merged with the First National Bank of Allegany in 1962. In 1973 the name of the bank was changed to Manufacturers' Hanover Trust and the bank was officially acquired by merger with Manufacture's Hanover in 1982. In 1992 the bank merged with Chemical Bank. Chemical Bank closed the Olean operation and the building was purchased by the late Olean developer, Louis Magnano. Over the years there have been numerous attempts to develop the building.



Looking for something to do as summer begins to fade away? Have you considered a squirrel hunt? Not real squirrels but the large fiber-glass ones, enhanced by area artists and displayed throughout the City.

A project that started in 2006, the whimsical sculptures, also known as Woodland in the City, were the brain child of Bob and Amy Sherburne, Evelyn Penman and Mark Barta. They started with 7 and now there are over 20 of the four foot artistically enhanced squirrels scattered about the city.

In our dark winter days—the add a splash of color to the dreary terrain. And in the other seasons, a squirrel will blend into the landscape, beckon an eye and garner a grin.

No one can resist the charm of a giant squirrel.



Olean's Squirrels were recently featured in the Spring Issue of *Western NY Heritage*. The Article by Char Szabo-Perricelli is entitled "Olean is Nuts About Their Squirrels." Thinking about a squirrel hunt? The Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce has some tools to help. A publication entitled *Guild to the Squirrels of Olean, NY* is an excellent resource as is limited edition of the *Woodland in the City Squirrel Calendar*.



Mayor Aiello joined the residents of the Pines for a Parade of Families and Loved ones in August.



As shutdown restrictions eased, Mayor Aiello, his wife Patty enjoyed outdoor dining at Angee's. Owner Anthony Fratercangelo also photographed.

Olean enterprises should be commended for their patience, adaptability and their perseverance as they contended with the shutdown, and the staged reopening. Throughout the City you will notice new street side dining areas, tents and umbrellas to help keep patrons and employees safe and healthy.

The weather has been great and we are hoping it stays that way through autumn. So our local businesses can thrive despite the disruption that COVID-19 has caused.

FROM MAYOR BILL AIELLO'S OFFICE

It has been quite a year—hasn't it? In January when we were looking forward to a new year, a new decade, who would have thought that the whole world would have been turned upside down in less than three months. But I must say that Olean residents took the Corona Virus shutdown in stride, adapted quickly to the changes and helped their neighbors through the rough spots. Once again the citizens of Olean proved their resilience and strength during a period of upheaval. And I thank you for that.

Things aren't back to normal by any means, but we continue to adjust our habits and traditions

as we work to stop the spread of the virus. And it appears that we are doing a very good job of it.

The City never closed during the shutdown, our doors were closed to the public, but the staff was working nonstop to prepare for the summer construction season. And as you will see in this newsletter there are some nice upgrades to our City that will be completed soon.

It is a shame that the summer concerts had to be cancelled. In an effort to preserve the popular series, I contacted the governor's office, Empire State Development, and the County Health Department. I got the same

answer every time—we cannot sponsor public events with more than 50 people attending—even with social distancing.

I am glad we were able to open the Franchot wading pool this year and have a modified Summer Recreation program for our younger residents. I want to thank Kris Shewairy, Olean's Youth and Recreation Director, for quickly adjusting to Governor Cuomo's re-opening guidance. He will continue to monitor that guidance and will get the Senior Center and the Recreation Center up and running as soon as possible

Enjoy the end of summer—and keep supporting our businesses.



Mayor Aiello and Vernon Robinson, Jr. Alderman, Ward 6

William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean is pleased to announce the appointment of Vernon Robinson, Jr. to the Ward 6 Alderman vacancy.

Mr. Robinson is currently the Storekeeper of Warehouse Operations for National Grid covering the Olean, Franklinville, and Wellsville Service Center. He is a decorated veteran and was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps, having served in Operation Restore Hope.

Mr. Robinson is a graduate of Franklin University and Jamestown Community College. He lives with his family on Washington Street.

“I am grateful that a number of residents were interested in the alderman position,” Mayor Aiello said. “Two mem-

bers of the Common Council and I interviewed four people for the position. Mr. Robinson’s work experience, veteran status and volunteer work within the community made him an outstanding candidate for the appointment and I look forward to working with him.”



Pat Schwabenbauer, Michael Blumenthal and Mayor Aiello

The Mayor’s Conference Room (Room 119) in the Olean City Building has a new, updated panoramic view of the east side of the 100 block of North Union Street taken by Olean photographer Pat Schwabenbauer.

This view of North Union Street is an updated version of a series of images photographed and put together by Michael Blumenthal in the early autumn of 2005. The two photographs are displayed in the conference room on the Wall of Mayors, a photo display of all of the past mayors of the City of Olean.

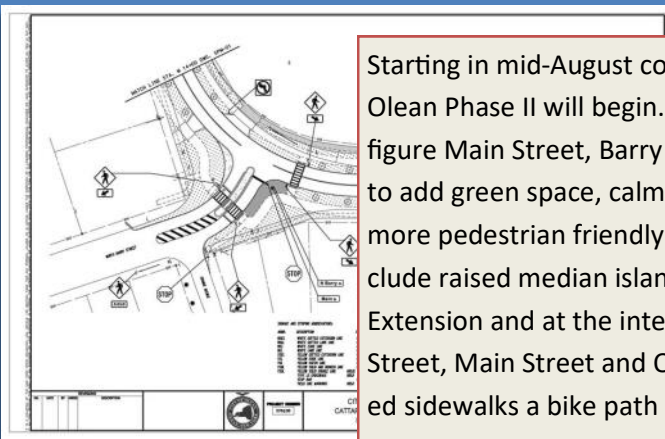
Mr. Blumenthal said that in March of 2006, he assembled the series of individual shots into a panorama of 10,606 pixels long by 2,086 pixels high and printed it on a Hewlett Packard large format printer.

Mr. Schwabenbauer said that “he stitched” six individual photos to create the 2020 version of the original photo and was delighted and relieved to see that it turned out so nice. He added that the Framing Shop in Olean did an amazing job framing the custom print and that he plans to do some more photos like this soon.

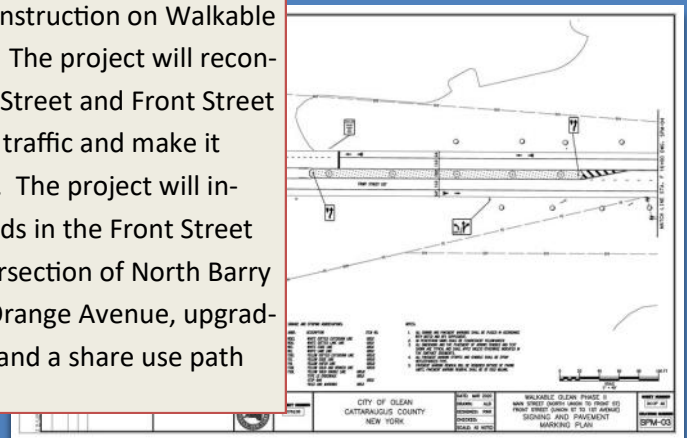


Despite the shut down, the pandemic and the not so nice spring weather— summer did come and the beautiful planters on North Union Street were on display to brighten the spirits of those traveling through Walkable Olean. Thank you to the Olean Beautification Committee and especially to chairperson Pat Driscoll who spearheads the planter initiative.

In addition, a number of organizations, industries, and non-profit groups have taken to the streets to clean-up litter and weed the gardens. Thank you to all who help to make Olean look its best.

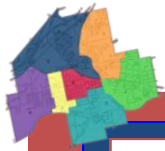


Starting in mid-August construction on Walkable Olean Phase II will begin. The project will reconfigure Main Street, Barry Street and Front Street to add green space, calm traffic and make it more pedestrian friendly. The project will include raised median islands in the Front Street Extension and at the intersection of North Barry Street, Main Street and Orange Avenue, upgraded sidewalks a bike path and a share use path



Times Square Entrance to the Municipal Building to be Upgraded

The City is pleased to announce that the upgrades to the Times Square entrance will start in mid-August. Contractors will be removing and replacing the current doors, ramp, railings, sidewalk and curbing. The project will take between 4-6 weeks to complete and the entrance will be closed during this period of time. Apologizes for any inconveniences—but the end result will be worth it.



It was a long, long spring, but summer did come, just about the time Olean started the reopening process after the COVID shutdown. Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and Senator George Borrello both made a trip to Olean’s beautiful North Union Street. Mayor Aiello met Lt. Governor Hochul at Christie’s Boutique and the two of them walked through town, to the First National Bank Building, crossed the street and strolled by the outside diners at the Beef and Barrel and finally to the Paper Factory.

Senator Borrello was also in town the following week with Assemblyman Joe Giglio. They had lunch with the Mayor on the deck of Union Whiskey—taking in the sights and sounds of Walkable Olean.



Mayor Aiello with Lt. Gov. Hochul in front of the First National Bank building



Mayor Aiello with Senator George Borrello at Union



Mayor Aiello with Lt. Governor Hochul and Scott Brook, of Christie’s boutique.

Mayor Aiello (middle) stands with the new Fire Chief to the left, Tim Richardson and the retiring Fire Chief to the right, Robert Bell.



Lieutenant Tim Richardson was appointed to the Fire Chief position on January 28, 2020. He replaced Robert Bell, a thirty-five year veteran of the Olean Fire Department and Fire Chief since 2000.

Chief Richardson is an 18 year veteran of the department. He has served as Lieutenant of EMS, Controlled Substances Agent, EMS Training Coordinator, American Heart Association Instructor, and Quality Assurance Program coordinator.

He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford with a degree in Sports Medicine and he later received an Associates Degree in Applied Sciences in Paramedicine from Corning Community College. He lives in Olean with his wife Michelle and their two children, Justin and Leah.

Chief Richardson will oversee the day-to-day operations of the department and serve as chief counsel to Mayor Aiello in matters of fire, building and emergency services.



A Modified Summer Recreation Season

As Olean slowly emerged from the COVID-19 shut down it appeared that the Youth Recreation program was going to also be cancelled. But fortunately, under the guidance for Summer Day Camps, the City’s Youth and Recreation Department was able to host the program. The staff quickly adjusted to the new rules and were able to provide Olean’s school age Children with some fun in the sun—or at the Recreation Center.

Fingers crossed for the full program in 2021!

Information about the school year Youth and Recreation program at St. John’s will be forthcoming .

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.



COVID-19 Resources In Cattaraugus County

Non-emergency Questions about Covid-19 response, Cattaraugus Count status, and related topics please call the Cattaraugus County Emergency Operations Center at 716-938-9119 or 716-938-2265

For information on travel restrictions and other items regarding NY State please visit the ny.gov website.

To schedule a test please go to the Cattaraugus County website: cattco.org and follow the links for diagnostic testing.



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

