



AROUND ABOUT OLEAN

HERE COMES THE SUN



After the long pause the City of Olean is back...

- The Parks are open, with many new attractions.
- Concerts in the Park are scheduled throughout the summer.
- The Senior Center is open for business.
- The Summer Youth Program is on track for a great summer filled with activities.
- Gargoyle Park has an 18 hole disc golf course.
- Lincoln Square is gaining popularity: The R.E.A.P Farmers' Market every week on Saturdays and the Foothills Crafters Market biweekly on Sunday.
- The Allegheny River Valley Trail is now equipped with a bike repair station
- The City co-sponsored a Spring Job Fair.
- Walkable Olean II is winding down and the Main Street corridor between North Union Street and the hospital looks great.
- The City celebrated Memorial Day again after the pandemic hiatus.

More information inside.....



There is a memorial in War Vets

Park that honors Olean's first resident, Robert Hoops. The stone mentions his service to our nation in the Revolution. It also says that he built a log cabin in Olean in the vicinity of the memorial. But it fails to mention some very interesting aspects of Mr. Hoops' life.

For example, Olean was the second town that he founded. In 1769, over 30 years before he settled on the banks of the Allegheny, he settled in what would become Belvidere, NJ.

Strangely enough the town lies on the confluence of two rivers, much like Olean.

In NJ he used the rivers for power and built mills and slaughterhouses. His farming expertise helped to feed the starving soldiers fighting for our freedom.



At the turn of the Century his wife had passed away and he was left destitute as the new nation suffered its first economic collapse. But he started again—in Olean—from scratch.

His story continues....More about Robert Hoops next month



Mayor Aiello spoke at the Memorial Day Celebration on May 31, 2021 in Lincoln Park. He said the following:

“Memorial Day reminds of us of the sacrifices that our fellow Americans made to allow us to gather together in this park.

“In his famous Gettysburg Address, President Lincoln told his audience that those who died at Gettysburg, should not have died in vain. He told the crowd that Americans should be dedicated to the cause for which the soldiers gave their lives. That cause, and I quote Abraham Lincoln, was, “that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

“Since that day in 1863 American soldiers have gone to the battlefield numerous times, not for domination and not to colonize, but to foster freedom worldwide. And many, many soldiers have lost their lives in that quest.

“Our job on this Memorial Day is to honor those who did not come home. To remember that our freedom came at a price, and that price was paid for by the lives of soldiers and the sorrow of loved ones left behind.

“We live in a great nation, our freedom is the envy of the world. And keeping America safe and free, isn't safe or easy, it's never over and the cost is high. Thank you to all who have served our great nation and especially those who are currently serving our nation at home and around the world.

“Happy Memorial Day. God Bless America. And God Bless Olean.”



FROM MAYOR BILL AIELLO'S OFFICE

Have to admit I was never a fan of the COVID restrictions. I enjoy attending the functions that are part of my job as Mayor, and I missed them as we worked to stop the spread of the virus. I am pleased that the restrictions have been lifted and we are able to sponsor or host community events again.

It was an honor to be asked to speak at the Memorial Day event. A fitting event for our first City-wide post Covid get together. And I hope it was the start of an

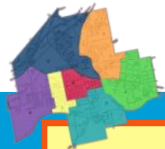
excellent summer. The City has plenty of events planned for the season—the youth and recreation summer events flyer has been published and it is chockfull of opportunities for a fun summer. In fact the summer concert series is back with 18 concerts planned.

DPW has been very busy—the pandemic did not slow down the schedule to improve Olean one iota. This summer, after the Main Street corridor is completed,

work will start on a number of projects including a series of safe crossings through the city.

LincolnSquare is so popular. REAP Farmers's weekly on Saturday, Foothills Crafter's Market bi-weekly on Sunday. Olean has a wonderful park system and the City's staff works to upgrade and enhance the amenities offered at the facilities. There are some great additions coming in the near future.

Enjoy the summer—it is going to be a great one.



Twelve new trees were planted long the eastern side of Forness Pond on Arbor Day. The trees were funded under the NYS Urban Forestry Council Tree City USA Reward Grant Program. The pond, used annually for a fishing derby, is part of a 37 acre City-owned parkland that also includes Bradner Stadium, Forness Park and numerous baseball and softball fields.



In addition the City recently received a \$32,750 grant to complete a tree inventory and management plan. The grant, awarded by the Department of Environmental Conservation is part of DEC's Urban and Community Forestry Program, which works to increase public awareness of the importance of trees and helps communities develop and implement comprehensive tree management plans to create healthy forests while enhancing quality of life for residents.



“Our urban forest is an important fixture in our community as evidenced by being named Tree City USA for 33 consecutive years. For the past three decades Olean’s leaders have realized that by maintaining a healthy and vibrant ecosystem, the quality of life of our residents and visitors can be enhanced,” Mayor Aiello said. The new trees in Forness Park and the DEC grant for the inventory and management plan will strengthen the City’s commitment to keep our canopy of trees healthy.



A bike repair station has been installed on the Allegheny River Valley Trail near the West State Street Crossing. The station includes a water fountain, a tire pump and a bike work stand complete with numerous tools for bicycle repairs.



In July 2020 Alderman Paul Gonzalez suggested that that the Trail could use a repair station and the Common Council agreed. Alderman Gonzalez and DPW Director Bob Ring worked with Chris Piaggi, owner of the local bike shop UpCycle, to design the station. Mr. Piaggi was very enthusiastic about the project and donated the work stand.” The City of Olean Department of Public Works prepared the area, ran the water lines, and

funded, as well as installed, the water fountain and air pump.

The Allegheny River Valley Trail is one of our region’s greatest assets. Many residents use it on a daily basis and the new repair station will give them a place to quickly fix their bike or get hydrated. Thank you to Alderman Gonzalez and Mr. Ring, Mr. Piaggi and UpCycle.





WALKABLE OLEAN PHASE II



Walkable Olean Phase II Part 2 is wrapping-up. A slow start because of the shutdown and COVID-19 shortages pushed the project into this year.

The project brings Walkable Olean into the hospital district. Adding an island to the Front Street Extension, a new traffic pattern at the Barry Street intersection, bump-outs on the curbs, new lights and new pedestrian crossings. It is much brighter and safer.

The Olean Beautification Committee has been working hard all spring to bring color and beauty to North Union Street. Look for some exciting changes on the street this year, including hanging baskets as well as an array of bright annuals in various gardens. The committee is always looking for volunteers to tend the gardens. Please call the Mayor's office for more information or look on the City's social media accounts for volunteering events.

Anyone interested in gardening and weeding is welcome to attend. No gardening experience is required, the work will be explained and questions will be answered. Please bring a trowel or shovel, gloves and hat if desired, and water for hydration. Sun screen is recommended. Safety vests and bags will be provided.



Below Mayor Aiello presents a Mayoral Proclamation to Marcia Gallineaux-Hubert of Dance Arts to mark the 40th year in which she has owned the studio.



It is great that we can start the summer mask free and get back to normal. Above Mayor Aiello is with Anthony Fraterangelo, Senator George Borrello, and Assemblyman Joe Giglio during the June StrOlean event.

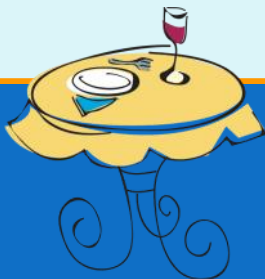


In Olean's Parks

Park Place @ Lincoln Square will be available for use soon. The facility, developed with the original Farmers' Market project in 2019, was scheduled to open last year, but COVID-19 restrictions put a hold on the completion of the building.

Park Place @ Lincoln Square offers caterers and restaurateurs a facility to manage events or open a pop-up restaurant in the park. Equipped with electric burners, a sink, a commercial grade refrigerator, and twelve café style table and chairs, the site is ready to host special occasions.

For more information about renting the facility, please contact Terri Belli at 716 376 5666.



Gargolye Park is the home a new disc golf course. The 18 hole facility was a collaboration between the City of Olean and the Twin Tiers Disc Golf Club. Much like the rules of golf, the object is to get from the tee to the hole in as few shots as possible. And the 18 holes wrap around the beautiful park that is located off West State Street on the same road as Applebee's.



The Summer Recreation Program is back this summer from June 28th until August 6. Registration is required. June 21 – 25 2:30 until 5:30 p.m. at St. John's School 921 N. Union Street.

For more information, please see the Summer Recreation Program on the City's website or [here](#)

Concerts are back! Nineteen concerts have been scheduled that will provide a variety of music genres appealing to all residents of Olean. The concerts will be held **every Thursday** until September 2 from **6:30 until 8:30**. **Sunday afternoon concerts** are scheduled for **June 13, July 11, August 8, August 22, and September 5** and will be held from **2:00 until 4:00 pm**.





Mayor Aiello was joined by Fire Chief Tim Richardson and City Clerk Lens Martial and his daughter at the Flag Day Ceremony at the Olean VFW. Mayor Aiello said the following:

“The Second Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act on June 14, 1777: “Resolved, that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.”

“In the 1800’s, Henry Ward Beecher, a clergyman, a reformer and an abolitionist wrote an essay entitled *The Meaning of Our Flag*.

“He wrote, ‘Our Flag carries American ideas, American history and American feelings. Beginning with the Colonies, and coming down to our time, in its sacred heraldry, in its glorious insignia, it has gathered and stored chiefly this supreme idea: *divine right of liberty in man*. Every color means liberty; every thread means liberty; every form of star and beam or stripe of light means liberty - not lawlessness, but organized, institutional liberty - liberty through law, and laws for liberty!’

“It is my honor to be here tonight with so many of you who have put yourselves in harms-way to protect our Flag and protect that “one nation, under God, indivisible in liberty and justice for all.”

“Thank you for your service and your commitment and dedication to our nation and the communities that make up our great country, the United State of America.”



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

