

Around & About Olean

*News and information from the Mayor's Office
at 101 East State Street.*



Breaking Ground on a New Downtown



No turning back now.

On September 16 on a bright sunny day in Olean, Mayor Aiello, the City's Aldermen, representatives from the offices of Governor Cuomo, Congressman Tom Reed, Senator Cathy Young, Assemblyman Joe Giglio, New York State DOT, Empire Development, JCC, Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce, Hatch Mott McDonald as well as the City Department Heads gathered in front of the Olean Municipal Building and made history.

The Walkable Olean North Union Street Reconstruction will start in earnest in mid-October, with work concentrating on the railroad crossing. During the next two years our business district will see a complete overhaul: reduction in traffic lanes, added bike lanes as well as a median and traffic circles. In addition the street's water and sewer lines, streetlights and electrical lines will be upgraded.

With the backdrop of the City's Mural, Mayor Aiello cited Olean's past: "Olean's history is vast and varied, filled with characters and trailblazers; people who invented and innovated; individuals who saw opportunities and took them. And that is why we are here today. This project is a great opportunity for our City."

Other speakers at the groundbreaking included Lori Cornell, speaking on behalf of Governor Cuomo and Empire Development, Bill Heaney represent Senator Young, and Common Council President Ann McLaughlin. Larry Sorokes, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, recited a litany of the merchants and restaurateurs who have made our business district an attraction over the years—and he pronounced each one correctly! Alderman Jerry leFeber gave the invocation and Rev. Dan McDowell the benediction.

Before the benediction and groundbreaking, Mayor Aiello spoke directly to the North Union Street businesses, "I want to take this time, to pledge to you, that my office will work diligently to keep this street as business and as pedestrian friendly as possible during construction. The North Union Street businesses are our eyes and ears on this street. And, during the construction phase, if you have a suggestion or if you hear a complaint that we can correct, please call my office or stop by---let me know about it. Together, we can work to find a solution.





Lat.42.08 North—Long 78.43 West—Olean, NY

October 1, 2014

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The highest airport in New York state at 2,120 feet, lies North of Olean off of Route 16 on Hatch Hill Road. It was built in 1959 by Earl Ek at a cost of about \$1.5 million, the city's share was 57 percent and the federal government picked up the rest. The Airport dedication took place on May 30, 1959. And it was quite a festive day! Charles Matson, Chairman of the Airport Commission flew his Beechcraft Bonanza from the airstrip on the River Road to the new facility; he gave rides throughout the day.



The Olean Pilots Club had a Fly-in Breakfast and three members of the National Midget Race Association put on a flying exhibit. It is estimated that 10,000 people attended the event and 200 planes flew in for it, including a Mohawk Airlines Plane. Mayor Ivers J. Norton presided over the festivities.

Airstrips were not new to the area. The first in the area can be located on a 1929 Rand McNally Map. But this new one had a longer runway which could accommodate larger planes. The location was chosen because it was above the ground fog level, which had plagued earlier fields.

For more information about Flight in Olean, please see the webpage on the [City of Olean website](#)—it's fascinating.



Mayor Aiello hosted his Executive Forum at the Cattaraugus County Olean Municipal Airport in early September. Bill O'Connell from the airport gave a tour of the facility to the attendees. Mary George and the Mayor updated the guests on Olean's ongoing renovations. Attendees discussed the future of the Manufactures Hanover Building as well as other issues that the city is facing.

From the Mayor's Office:

Thank you for your patience. The improvements on Prospect and York Streets continued through September and to top it off East State Street from the bridge to Barry Street was gutted and repaved at the end of the month.

Work will start in earnest on the North Union Street Pro-

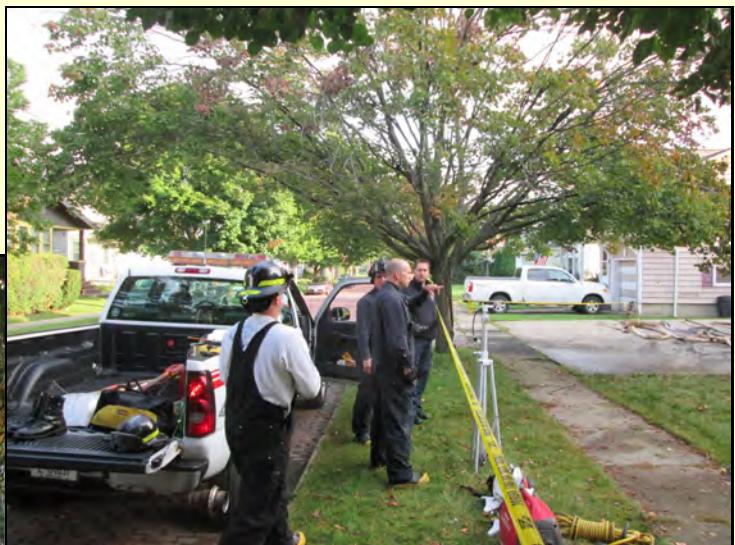
ject in October, with upgrades to the railroad crossing. In addition, a median will be added that will run from Sullivan to the Olean Center Mall. The work should be done before the cold weather settles into town. Phase two will begin in the Spring. The construction company for the entire

project is Catco Construction which is located in Alden, NY. With the opening of school, our Youth Rec. program moved from the parks to the St. John's facility. For more information please visit the City's [website](#).

Finally, school is in session, and the leaves are falling, please drive carefully.



The west end of Olean was a busy place on the morning of September 15th. As the fire department investigated a house fire on South Seventeenth Street, the water department fixed a pesky leak around the corner on West State Street.





SEPTEMBER WAS A BUSY MONTH



To the left a student who helped with litter control during the summer stopped by the Mayor's office before he started the school year at Archbishop Walsh Academy. Above the participants line up for the Out of the Darkness Walk at Good Times of Olean. To the right Dave Murowski stopped by with his therapy dog Sierra.



The Olean Y Celebrates 10 years
at the Wayne Street location!



Monthly Department Head Meeting with a new department head.



Mayor Aiello is one of the judges at the Swine,
Wine and Music Festival at War Vets Park.



A New Police Chief is Named

Jeff Rowley was approved as the City's new Police Chief by a unanimous vote of the Common Council on September 23rd. Jeff Rowley joined the Olean Police Department in 1990. Over the course of 24 years he rose in the ranks from Patrol Officer to senior-level positions including Captain in Charge of Investigations and most recently as Captain of the Patrol Division.

Chief Rowley was selected by the Mayor for appointment upon the recommendation of an advisory committee consisting of retired law enforcement officers, local business and civic leaders including a member of the Common Council.

Olean's Police Department dates back to about 1852, when John King was the sole police officer for the village. Daniel Allen was the Chief of Police at the turn of the century; he had a reputation for being kind and having a big heart. John (Jack) C. Dempsey is probably Olean's best known Chief, having served consecutively from 1917 until 1951. Under his watch, the notorious Al Capone was arrested in Olean—for speeding. In 1970 Michael Luty was the Chief of Police in Olean. Under his tenure the 911 emergency number was instituted on August 3, 1970.

As for Police Buildings, the first jail stood about where the Auditor's office in the city building now stands. It was a one story timber framed building. Funding was established for the building in 1852. The old Police Station was located on Whitney Avenue—it was not a coincidence that it was located right next to the railroad tracks.

Congratulations to Chief Rowley and best of luck as he starts a new era in Olean's law enforcement.



September 11th is Remembered in Olean



"We must never forget the victims of September 11th. And we must take time to thank the brave men and women who make sacrifices every day so that we can live in a free society," Mayor Aiello said at a memorial held at American Legion Post 530. Earlier in the day the Mayor gave blood at the American Red Cross Blood Drive at Good Times of Olean.



Common Council Corner

Contact information for the seven council members:

Council President Ann McLaughlin (Ward 2)
716-560-8407
amclaughlin@cityofolean.org

Gerard leFeber (Ward 1)
716-378-7877
jlefeber@cityofolean.org

Paul Gonzalez (Ward 3)
716-790-1121
pgonzalez@cityofolean.org

Steve Barnard (Ward 4)
716-307-1862
sbarnard@cityofolean.org

Jim Finch (Ward 5)
716-373-0163
jfinch@cityofolean.org

Nate Smith (Ward 6)
716-307-8199
nsmith@cityofolean.org

Adam Jester (Ward 7)
716-790-8226
ajester@cityofolean.org



EAGLE SCOUT ETHAN FREEMAN KELLEY



Ethan Freeman Kelley was commended at the Common Council Meeting on September 23 for obtaining the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award. In order to achieve this great award, Ethan undertook the challenge of researching, writing and publishing a Historic Olean Walking Tour.

Ethan's Eagle Scout Service Project leads a walker to forty-four historic sites in downtown Olean. The tour starts at Lincoln Park and takes a traveler past many of the sites which are part of Olean's saga. Ethan's publication documents well known locations such as the original library, the banks, the high school, the parks and the churches. His research went further and describes locations that are long gone such as the

Palace Theatre, the Higgins Mansion, Olean Landing, Blake's Opera House and Home Dairy Cafeteria.

Ethan's extensive research and diligence is evident in The Historic Olean Walking Tour publication with the inclusion of geographic coordinates, historical facts and numerous photographs.

In his special proclamation Mayor Aiello said, "Eagle Scout Kelley is an excellent example to our society of leadership, values and ideals."

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. October activities include:

Square Dance/Silvertones: Mondays 12:30/1:00pm

Walking Program: M-Th at 9:00am

Exercise Program: Tues. at 9:30am

WII Gaming on Wed. & Thurs.

War Vets Park at 5:00 pm

Coffee Hour: 9:00am Wednesdays

Euchre: Oct. 10 & 17

Computer Class: Tuesdays at 1:00pm

Movie Day: October 15

Halloween Party: October 30

For more information or for a complete calendar of events please call Kathleen Hamed at 376-5670.



"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