



# Around & About Olean

News and information from the Mayor's Office

Excerpts from the State of the City Address.



Mayor Aiello gave the State of the City Address on January 3, 2017. The Very Reverend Gregory J. Dobson gave the Benediction. Father Greg was congratulated for celebrating his 20th Anniversary in Olean as Pastor of St. Mary of the Angels Church. Excerpts from the speech are found throughout this newsletter.

“Over the past three years it has been my pleasure to work with—and again this year—I stress *with*—the Common Council. I have been blessed to have individuals, who as Alderman, are here to do what is best for not only their constituents, but also for the City of Olean. I look forward to working with them in 2017 as we continue the revitalization of Olean.



“Speaking of that revitalization, we are going to do something different this year....we have added a slide show of some of events that took place over the year. [Click for slide show.](#)

It was one of my grandfather’s favorite sayings that everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die. I think you can say the same thing about progress. Everybody wants progress—but nobody wants to contend with it.



For the past two years the City of Olean has graciously and patiently put up with detours, limited parking and closed streets as well as the dirt and grime associated with major construction projects. I am pleased to report that almost everyone is happy with the changes. Our North Union Street businesses have gotten their street back

and suddenly they find themselves doing business in one of the most interesting downtowns in all of New York State.





“And—you may have noticed that since the project got underway, a number of new businesses, stores, restaurants and cafes have opened along the street.”



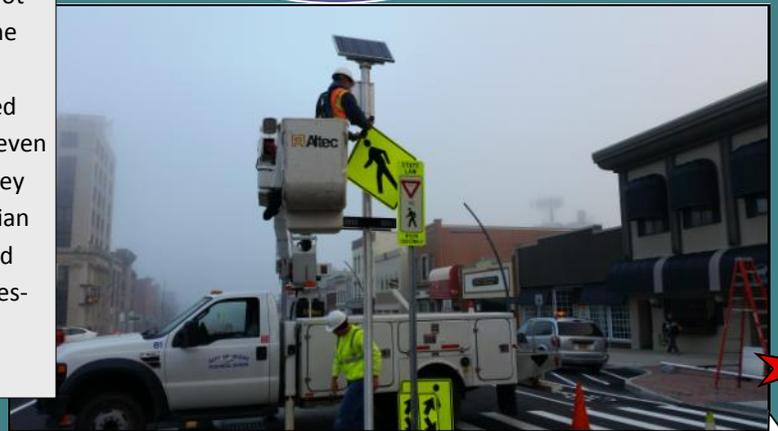
“It will be great to watch our revitalization efforts take hold. To see the grass grow, the trees bud, the flowers blossom and to see everyone looking left—always left—as they approach and navigate our roundabouts.”



“North Union Street stepped into the future, but the North Third Street construction project, with the restored brick street, slipped back into its historic past when the titans of the oil, publishing and construction industries built homes along the street.”

More excerpts from the State of the City Address.

“Our electricians were very busy this year. Not only did they install the lights for Santa Claus Lane, but they installed new street lights on seven streets in the City. They installed new pedestrian signals at two sites and installed the four pedestrian signals on North Union Street.”



### From the Office of Mayor Bill Aiello

Winter is moving right along and it hasn't been so bad this year. We had a storm or two in January. One of storms gave our Flood Control System a workout—but we lucked out and there wasn't much flooding.

We have had to call a couple of Snow Events this year. During a Snow Event parking restrictions are in effect, please see the [City's Code of Ordinances for more information.](#)

January has been a busy month. I attended the Olean Community Theatre Encore Awards at the Bartlett House; The Boar's Head Festival held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church; the Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King at the First Presbyterian Church, the Sports Show at Good Times, the Ecumen Awards at the African-American Center for Cultural Development, business after hours at McCarthy's Empe-

rium, and the St. Joseph's Pasta Dinner. I went to the Governor's State of the State address in Buffalo and the Governor's Budget Message at GOACC.

In the meantime the department heads and I have met to start the process of putting our budget together. We are working very hard to continue to keep the tax rate low and to provide the necessary services.



## Parks and Recreation



“The Youth Bureau & Recreation Department summer recreation program had 432 children registered to participate in a wide range of activities including archery, tennis, dance, martial arts, basketball, crafts, golf, bowling and an Olean Oilers baseball



clinic.

“The City’s pools at Franchot and War Vets parks were an attraction due to the hot, dry summer—over 100 children participated in the swim lessons.

“The 10 week summer concert series at Lincoln Park attracted over 1,500 residents of all ages and the 41st annual City Cup softball tournament drew 35 teams with over 400 participants.

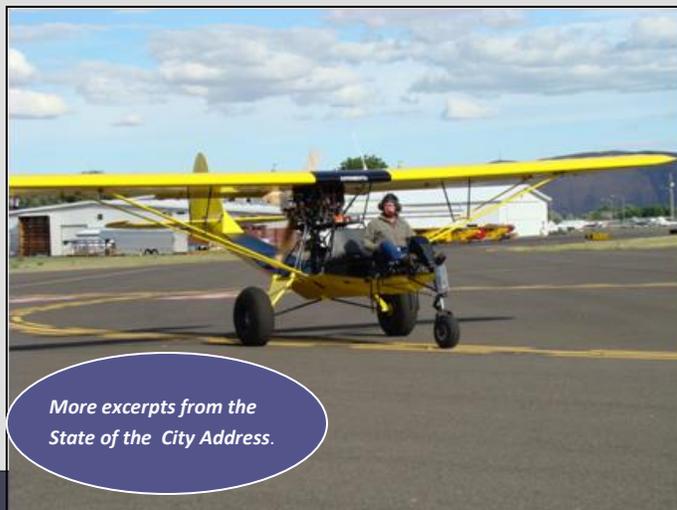
“The Senior Center experienced continued growth over the year. A wide variety of educational, social and recreational activities were available for Olean’s older population at the John Ash Community center on a daily basis. Over the past year a total of 18,335 participants took part in activities such as coffee, lunch, bingo, yoga, square dance and bus trips.”



“This past summer Sanford Reim, a pilot for 43 years, flew over our airport in a no cockpit airplane. He was seated in a chair with a seat belt and no windshield. As he scanned the horizon he said that he came across one of the nicest looking airports that he had ever seen. He said that it was obvious that the people managing the airport took great pride in maintaining it—he had to land to meet these people.

“As it turned out, he had to stay the night to make some repairs. He wrote to me and said, ‘I could not ask for more hospitality and help from the nicest people I have met...’ They lent him tools, they had a courtesy car for him to drive to town, and he stayed at a nice hotel with a great restaurant right next to it.

“Sanford Reim landed in Olean and recognized what we all agree on – Olean is located in a beautiful part of the world and the people are very helpful and accommodating.”



*More excerpts from the State of the City Address.*

AIRPORT



# WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

“Construction continued throughout the year at the wastewater treatment plant. Ongoing maintenance at the pump stations and buildings was completed by the plant’s staff. The pump at Bradner Stadium was repaired and the sewer maintenance crew continued to repair manholes, sanitary lines and catch basins as needed.”



More excerpts from the State of the City Address.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT



“During 2016 the Olean Police Department had 18,450 calls or blotter events which led to 3,341 incident/case reports, an increase over last year of 20 and 32 percent, respectively. The Criminal Unit generated 463 cases and made 234 arrests, of which 121 were drug arrests. The department made 83 DWI arrests. They have issued 2,168 traffic violations and 1,863 parking violations.

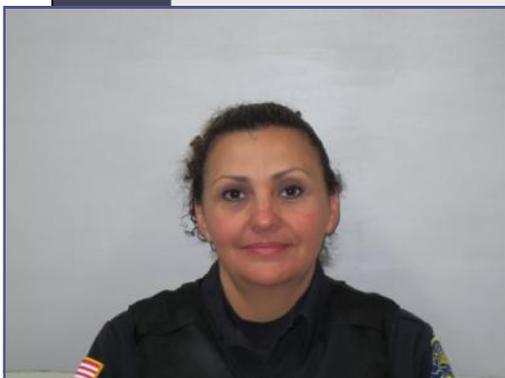
Along with his police work, Dan McGraw, the Resource Officer in the Olean City School District took part in a number of school activities including 876 student counseling sessions,

180 parent meetings, 6 superintendent hearings, and 37 home visits...

“Members of the police department received Narcan training from Southern Tier Health Care System. Dr. P. Henri Lamothe, Medical Director of the Southern Tier Overdose Prevention Program, commended Patrolman Ryan Aylor (photographed above to the right) for using his training as an overdose responder, administering Narcan and saving a life on November 24<sup>th</sup>.



Members of the Police Department also received CPR training during the year. Police Officer Denise Maestas (photographed to the right) was the first on the scene during a cardiac arrest event and took over the CPR. Her efforts, according to Firefighter Timothy Hite, allowed the ambulance crew to immediately apply the defibrillator and increase the patient’s potential for survival. In addition, Officer Maestas drove the ambulance to the hospital, allowing the crew to focus on the patient’s care.





# WATER DEPARTMENT



The city has over 125 miles of water lines and over the past year the water distribution department had to repair 15 water mains, 18 service lines, 15 valve boxes, 48 service boxes and 8 fire hydrants. The department completed 960 underground locates, flushed 820 fire hydrants, installed 670 feet of new water main, completed 108 street and lawn restorations, and replaced 4 fire hydrants. The water department also assisted Cattco and R Patti as the two construction companies worked on Olean’s streets.

According to the 2015 annual Drinking Water Quality Report, the Water Filtration department produced 1.21 billion gallons of water. The filtration plant produced 484 million gallons and the City’s well sites produced the balance.

The City continues to account for the millions of gallons of water that are listed as “unaccounted for” in the annual water report. Water meters have been installed on all of the City owned facilities. In addition a new flow meter was installed at well site M37/38 and a new flow meter has been purchased for the plant. By the end of next year all facilities will have new flow meters which will help track the water loss.



*More excerpts from the State of the City Address.*

# FIRE DEPARTMENT



During the past year, the Olean Fire Department responded to 3,849 calls for service. There were 1,659 fire and service related calls which included 21 building fires. The fire investigation team investigated 10 fires which included 6 fully involved house fires, 2 commercial fires, an apartment fire and one garage fire. The commercial fires took place at Cutco and Bean Contracting.

During 2016 there were 2,190 calls for EMS. Olean’s Fire Department was recognized by the American Heart Association for achieving a 75% or higher performance for the Mission Lifeline EMS Achievement program. This program was created by the American Heart Association to give healthcare providers resources and guidelines for heart attack care.

The Central Fire Station hosted United States Senator Chuck Schumer in December when he visited Olean to launch the first ever national firefighter cancer registry.

And, in 2016 the department became a member of Governor Cuomo’s High Volatile Crude Oil foam task force team.





“The skill of [Community Development] in writing and administering grants is extraordinary. Their efforts have brought funding to many of Olean’s well established businesses as well as many of our new ventures. This year at the New York State Economic Development Council Awards, the City received \$400,000 to set the stage for a new pedestrian-friendly neighborhood with a mix of modern, multi-family residential options that will join together the downtown and the City’s medical campus. Pictured to the left are Keri Kerper and Mary George from the City’s Community Development office.”

More excerpts from the State of the City Address.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

“Sunny Olean, LLC purchased of 110-116 West State Street and plans to invest over a million dollars to renovate the buildings for mixed use including upper floor housing and first floor commercial/retail use. The City applauds Jeff Belt’s enterprising vision and his commitment to Olean’s downtown revitalization.”



“The City also received \$220,000 for the development of a permanent Farmers’ Market. Local farmers’ markets can become the heart and soul of a community. The City was also awarded \$44,600 to purchase and install two portable launches in the Allegheny River that will expand recreational opportunities and help promote tourism.”

*At the Ecumen Awards with award recipients Dan McDowell and Della Moore.*



*January 2017 in pictures*



*At the Dr. Martin Luther King Tribute.*

*At McCarthy’s Emporium with the Enchanted Mountain Roller Derby at Business After Hours.*



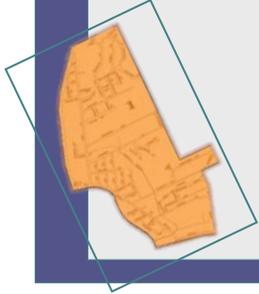
*With cub Scout Troop 621 at St. Mary’s.*



## Alderman Linda Witte—Ward 1

Linda Witte became the Ward 1 Alderman on January 3, 2016. She replaced Gerry LeFebre who served the Ward since June of 2013. Alderman Witte is not a stranger to the Municipal Building or City Government. She served as Mayor from January 2010 to December 2013 and has previously served as Ward 1 alderman. In addition she was elected to the Cattaraugus County Legislature.

Mrs. Witte is married to Dr. Gilbert Witte and has four children: Mandy, Melissa, Mike and Matt. According to an article written by Kelsey Boudin in the Olean Times Herald on October 15, 2016, Mrs. Witte is a registered nurse and she volunteers for Meals on Wheels, the Olean Food Pantry, Rebuilding Together and the Salvation Army.



## Alderman John Crawford—Ward 5



John J. Crawford was sworn in as the Ward 5 Alderman on January 3, 2016. He replaced Otto Tertinek who served the ward for two years. Mr. Crawford was born and raised in Olean, NY where he attended and graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a BA in History & Political Science and a MBA in Accounting and Finance. After working in corporate finance at Dresser-Rand, John accepted a position at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford as an Assistant Professor of Finance.

"I hope to provide Ward 5 with an active and energetic member on the Common Council and I would like to see some financial conservatism and oversight brought to our leadership. Ultimately, I would like to find ways to save our taxpayers money while optimizing our current budgetary constraints," Mr. Crawford said. "Also, if we could reboot the Neighborhood Watch Program, I believe that would be a great value add to our citywide safety initiative."

John lives on Winters Avenue with his wife, Rachel, and their family.



## Alderman Gonzalez is Re-elected Council

The Common Council unanimously re-elected Paul Gonzales, Alderman for Ward 3, as their President at the January 3rd meeting.

Council President Gonzalez was first elected to the Common Council in November 2012. He is a graduate of St. Bonaventure University, with a Master's Degree in Business Administration. He is a Production Planner at Dresser Rand in Olean.

He and his wife Nicole, a St. Bonaventure University employee, have two children, Stella and Jackson.



Contact information for council members:

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**Mayor Aiello attended and issued a proclamation at the Boar's Head Festival:**

**WHEREAS**, the Boar's Head Festival is the oldest festival of the Christmas Season;

**WHEREAS**, the boar was an vicious animal in the forest who menaced humans;

**WHEREAS**, the festival originated when an Oxford student stopped a charging boar with his book; later that night the boar's head, dressed and garnished, was paraded into the dining room accompanied by carolers;

**WHEREAS**, the presentation of a boar's head at Christmas came to symbolize the triumph of the Christ Child over sin;

**WHEREAS**, Immanuel Lutheran Church initiated this age old tradition in the City of Olean in 2016;

**THEREFORE**, I, William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean, do hereby commend Reverend Derek Cheek and the congregation for establishing a new Christmas season tradition in our City and proclaim today, January 9, 2017 as a day of tribute to the Immanuel Lutheran Church and its celebration of the Second Annual Boar's Head Festival.

*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)

