

# Community Update

A Bi-weekly News Report on the City of Olean  
From the Desk of Mayor Linda Witte



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### 9 arrests in March 1 raid of subsidized homes Street Crimes Unit nets cash, drugs,



Olean Police Chief Terry Schnell (center) and Captain Robert Blovsky (right), with members of the Street Crimes Unit, (l-r) Steve Pettit, Jason Deyoe, Brian Cross and Andrew Langdon, display the seized items in an early-morning bust.

Judy Lee-Suda (r), the city's Deputy Registrar for Vital Statistics, was feted by co-workers (inset) on her retirement. City Clerk Alexander Utecht (not shown) surprised Judy with a cake on her last day. Looking on are (l-r) Glenda Jester, Fred Saradin, Gregg Piechota, Terri Belli and Nancy Champlin. Judy's career with the city spanned 32 years. We wish you luck Judy!

### Kohl's "soft" entrance March 4 didn't shrink grand opener crowd

An enthusiastic Mayor Witte was on hand to cut the ribbon for the Kohl's grand opening March 7 at the Olean Center Mall. She visited the store before and after the event, along with hundreds of other shoppers. Economic Development officials hope the pace of commerce will increase in the downtown business district.

Olean Police announced a March 1 drug bust in three federally subsidized apartments in Wards 3 and 6, following a two-month investigation. Nine, including 6 Olean residents, were arrested and face charges in court. Marijuana and cocaine with a street value of about \$10,000, along with at least one long gun, three "airsoft" guns and about \$16,000 in cash, were seized. Both Mayor Witte and Chief Schnell expressed pride in the work of the officers, who were aided by the city's Emergency Response Team, the county Sheriff's Special Response Team and the NY State Police.

Mayor Witte noted taxpayers should be aware that the residences where the activity took place is subsidized Section 8 housing. She called for more accountability by the agencies and landlords who are responsible for providing this kind of public housing.



Edie Monkhouse (l) poses with son Curt on Feb. 25 as Mayor Witte presented him with a citation in recognition of his recent Eagle Scout Award.

## ***DPW crew continues in-house repairs on Sewer Treatment Plant Digesters***

Completion of repairs on the sewer treatment plant digesters is targeted for the end of April. Department of Public Works Director Tom Windus said the digesters were built in the 1930's and costly maintenance has been deferred for many years. For example, worn-out screens could not be replaced for many years due an estimated replacement cost of about \$375,000 apiece. This resulted in undigested waste clogging the digesters.

Covers like the one shown on this page must be functioning properly to capture, reroute and expel gases, prevent oxygen from entering the system and create the correct anaerobic atmosphere for digestion of sewage.

This four-foot deep cover at right has been removed from its digester. Rollers (the black brackets shown here will hold new rollers when the job is complete) allow the cover to move up and down as the volume of waste rises and sinks. The rollers were found to be seized up due to age and lack of grease fittings. New rollers will have grease fittings.

The stack, right, is 15 feet tall and captures gases in the waste digestion process. Inside, the rising gases are rerouted via piping down through the sewage and outside the digester into a separate processing system.

This rotting and rusty stack, shown here patched with steel piping "band-aids," has already been replaced.

Open latticework atop the cover (below, right) will be covered with 2x8's and a rubber roof to prevent further rusting and weather damage. According to Mr. Windus, his department has spent about \$16,500 to on the repairs.

### ***Welcome JCC ladies softball***

The JCC ladies' softball team will hold their first game on the North Olean Haggerty Field. A special thank-you goes to SolEpoxy's Jeff Belt for working with the JCC athletic director and softball coach, as well as the city of Olean's Department of Public Works Director Tom Windus, to make the return of girls' softball to Haggerty Field possible. Good Luck Girls!

#### **The season schedule is:**

**April 1, April 5, April 12, April 17,  
April 22, May 1, May 5**



**Photos by  
Mayor Linda  
Witte**





***Mayor proclaims March as Women's History Month***

***Everywoman Opportunity Center will accept the proclamation and mark the observance as part of the organization's 25th anniversary.***

Whereas, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways;

Whereas, American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; .....

Whereas, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions .....

Whereas, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;

Whereas, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all;

**Whereas, despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history:**

**Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Olean, and myself, Linda Witte, Mayor of the City of Olean, that March is designated as Women's History Month. The people of th City of Olean are called upon to observe *March 2012 as Women's History Month* with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.**

***Alan Bernstein, Paula Fidurko Wed***



*Mr. and Mrs. Alan Bernstein with Mayor Linda Witte just after she performed their wedding Feb. 29, Leap Year Day. Congratulations!*

***Good luck to all local sports teams!***

Playoffs and championships have captured our attention these days. Below is the Olean High School Varsity Boys Basketball team just after receiving the District Championship award. Mayor Witte would also like to recognize the talents of the OHS Varsity Girls Basketball team, the Christ United's team competing in the NYS playoffs, St. Bona's Girls basketball team for their amazing season, and St. Bona's Men's team. Special mention goes to St. Bona's girls coaches Crowley and Schmitt, who together received honors as the Number 1 Atlantic 10 Coaches of the Year.



***Rollerderby Games begin in April at the William O. Smith Recreation Center***

**Good luck skaters and have a great season!  
Here's the schedule!**

**April 21**

**May 12**

**June 23**

**July 21**

**August 11**

**September 1**