

# Community Update

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



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## Flyover, Crowds Create a Super Memorial Day Mix

More spectators were counted this year lining the North and South Union Street route of the Memorial Day Parade, held Saturday morning, May 28.

Organizers believe one reason for the swelling crowd of spectators was a flyover by a U.S. Air Force C130, the first time Olean has been treated to such a spectacle (see photo, Page 4).

Among the floats and participants were some city officials, marching alongside civic group members, emergency responders, veterans, and kids of all ages.

*Continued on Page 4; See "Parade"*



### May 28, 2012

Mayor Linda Witte joined military passengers in a fire truck during part of the annual Memorial Day Parade, and joined marchers in the annual trek south on Union Street in Olean.

## National EMS Week Theme celebrated... "EMS: More than a job. A calling."



Mayor Linda Witte was on hand at the Olean General Hospital to help celebrate Emergency Medical Services Week on May 24. Above, she serves a hot dog to Jerad Isaman. The event was sponsored by the Southern Tier Health Care Systems, and Olean General Hospital. STHCS is

the parent organization of Southern Tier Emergency Medical Systems, which trains and serves 91 EMS agencies throughout Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties. Right, Mayor Witte is thanked by Donna Kahm of Southern Tier Health Care Systems.

### ***Page 1 Photo Feature:***

*The banner on North Union Street marked the route of the city's annual Memorial Day Parade. Marchers and floats included city officials and workers, service groups, kids on bikes, the Olean High School band and scouting groups. Hundreds of spectators enjoyed the parade. (Photo By Mayor Linda Witte)*

### ***Vanishing bell returned to monument***

The cast-iron Navy ship's bell in the photo below is located just west of the Veterans Wall In War Vets Park. It was reported stolen in the May 22 edition of the Olean Times Herald. But on that day the bell had already been safely returned to the monument.

The bell's mysterious disappearance and reappearance was soon explained when Mike Cooper turned himself in to the Mayor.

The bell was actually removed for improvements May 20 and 21 by Mr. Cooper, a Navy veteran who had been helping clean up the memorial as a volunteer prior to Memorial Day. Mr. Cooper noticed the bell needed attention and borrowed it, stripping paint, sanding and then repainting it with bronze metallic paint. He detailed the lettering and then quietly reattached the bell. He came to the Mayor's office after reading the newspaper, and told his story to the police.

He said he decided to take action because the bell had been painted white instead of gold and did not properly represent an authentic ship's bell. Police officials decided not to press charges after hearing his story -- in plenty of time for Memorial Day. Thanks Mr. Cooper!



### **Announcements:**

I've returned to work after an unplanned -- but necessary -- gall bladder surgery June 4. I underwent surgery about 1 p.m. June 4, returned home June 5 and returned to my desk June 6. Many thanks to everyone who wished me a speedy recovery and helped out!

\*\*\*\*\*

The City Recreation Department will hold its annual auction of recovered bicycles on Saturday, June 9 in the William O. Smith Recreation Center. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. and the bidding will start at 10:00 a.m. Other municipal surplus items will be auctioned in addition to the bicycles! See you there.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mayor Witte will sell newspapers for the annual United Way Community Day fundraiser from 7 a.m. To 8 a.m. Friday, June 8. She will be hawking the special editions on East State Street near the Union Street intersection in front of the Municipal Building. Stop by with your donations and pick up a newspaper from the Mayor or look around town and purchase one from your favorite civic-minded volunteer .

\*\*\*\*\*

The Front Street yard waste site was closed in 2010 but residents of the city may place yard waste at the curb for free pickup six times a year from April through September on the last Wednesday of each month. The next date is June 27. Brush must be bundled with rope, yard waste such as leaves should be placed in containers no larger than 30 gallons. Items should be at the curb no later than 7 a.m. on collection day.

***S. Tier Diesel invests some “sweat equity” in Bradner Stadium!***



***Bradner Stadium - May 24, 2012: “Slow and steady wins the ongoing race” to complete the update of Bradner Stadium.***

*The Stadium is used by a number of athletic clubs and is the venue for some recreational and entertainment pursuits. It has many friends and supporters and slowly the facility is taking on a new shape, to the delight of all. The effort includes new light pole bases, like the one seen in the upper right corner.*

*On this day a large group of volunteers, primarily the Southern Tier Diesel Football team, gathered to remove some old bleachers. The happy crew is shown in the large photo above, with a stripped-down support structure as a backdrop.*

*They are (bottom row, l-r): Emery Marsh, Emmett Green, Bill Johnston, Mayor Linda Witte (with chainsaw), Kirk Rowland, Mike Miller, and Seth Hostuttler. In row 2: Tim Stafford, Jake Marsh, Nick Bocharski, Jason “Cowboy” Marsh, Chris Cole, Greg Neeffe, and Albert Doxey. In row 3: Seth Bocharski, Dave Filighera, Roger Wangelin, Christian Sevinsky, Andrew Caswell, Jason Kaszynski, Pat Folland, Shannon Knight, and Donnie Moore. In row 4: Jim Winters, Kelly Knight, Jason Folland, Devon Schoonover, Rob Osborne, Anthony Osborne, JR Bennion, and Brandy Wangelin.*





**Parade** .... (continued from Page 1)

Speakers included Olean native, Air Force Brig. Gen. Chris Eddy, who expressed gratitude for those who served and sacrificed, and U.S. Army Maj. Lance Newton, who recited the 1868 proclamation establishing the national holiday. A 21-gun salute and ceremonies at various cemeteries and parks were part of the activities.



The crowd looked to the sky to observe Olean's first flyover of the downtown Memorial, and to the wreath dropped tin the Allegany River honor fallen soldiers.



**How can the city help?**

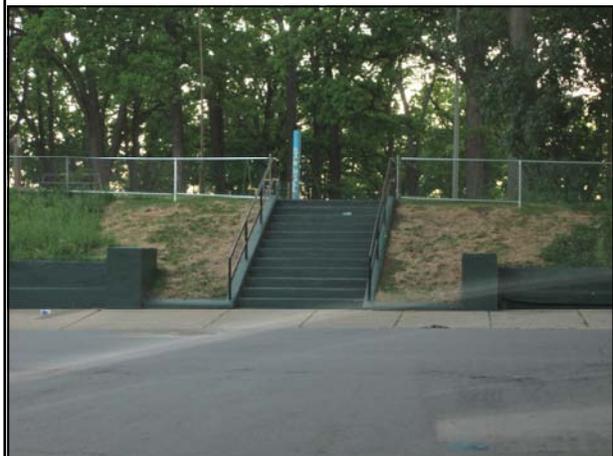
By Mayor Linda Witte

As your Mayor I continue to have an Open Door Policy. You can contact my office at 376-5615 with questions and complaints. Please stop in and pick up a 2012 City Directory for phone numbers of the Department Heads and Alderman. Information is also available on the city's website, [www.cityofolean.org](http://www.cityofolean.org).

**Adopt-a-Planter 2012**

The Warming House and St. Bonaventure University claimed the last planter in the 2012 Adopt-a-Planter Competition, just in time for the June 1 planting day. The redwood planters on North Union Street are already showing off flowers and greenery in readiness for a series of random inspections by the Portville Garden Club. Judging will be in the categories of: colorful, unique, general condition and overall design.

Why not take a stroll through the business district and pick your favorite arrangement.



The staircase leading from Laurens Street to Oak Hill Park has been repaired by contractors and the bank has been re-seeded. Other work is under way at Oak Hill Park for public enjoyment!

**Announcements** (cont'd from page 2)

The Neighborhood Preservation Committee welcomes volunteers for trash cleanup and safety activities in various parts of the city. Hundreds of volunteers are now involved in the third season of this effort.

To volunteer to help a larger group pick up trash, adopt your street to keep it clean, or if you are interested in "neighborhood watch" activities, call Casey Jones at 372-3772.