

# Community Update

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



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### Convenient bill-pay method now offered

Some new payment options are now in place for those who want to save a trip to the Olean Municipal Building.

The Online Bill Pay & Customer Service option is up and running on the city's website for water and sewer bills, and for parking tickets.

City officials have not yet publicized the option but have received a few payments from adventurous residents. Short notices of the service's availability will be included for the first time in a group of water bills that are being mailed out to one zone on Feb. 27.

### Announcement:

Mayor Linda Witte enjoyed a warm Tuesday afternoon recently with a brisk walk around the city, accompanied by her assistant.

Though the air has been warm and the sun shining more often than usual this season, the periodic winds of winter have deposited the same amount of trash in our yards and public spaces as an ordinary year. Except during rare snowfalls, the trash buildup is very visible and will continue to grow until the city's Parks crews and volunteers mobilize for annual cleanup. The Mayor deposited a large amount of trash in receptacles at Lincoln Park.

She urges everyone to take advantage of the warm periods and begin picking up a little part of their neighborhood, to beautify the city we all love and get a head start on the future effort.

If you want to pay a water bill or a parking ticket, go to [www.cityofolean.org](http://www.cityofolean.org) and click on "The Online Bill Pay & Customer Service" button from the menu on the right side of the home page.

This will take you to the online payments home page, where you will choose between water/sewer bill payment and parking ticket payment options.

This destination can also be reached by another path. Type this into your browser:

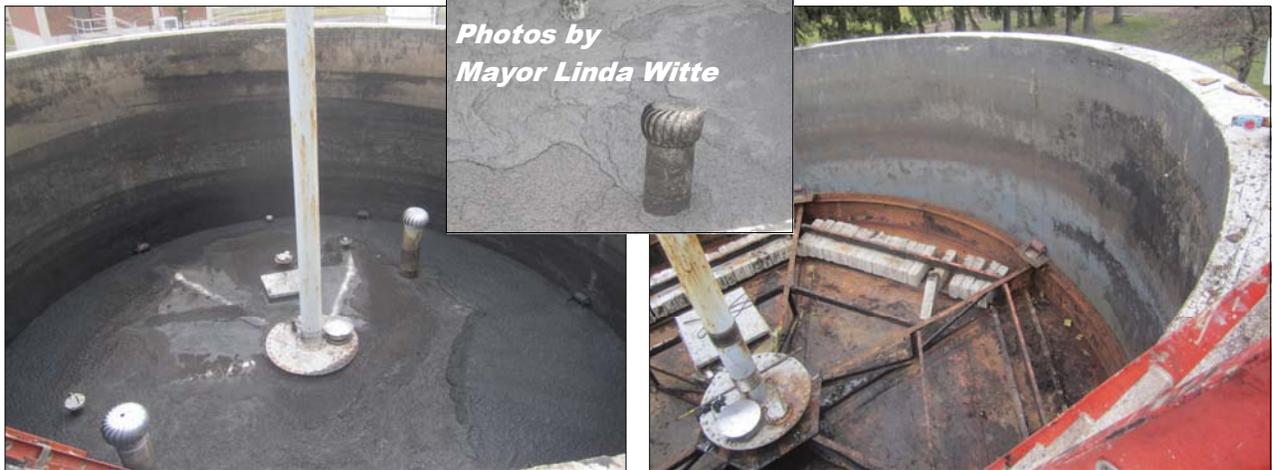
[https://](https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/oleanny/utilities)

[www.municipalonlinepayments.com/oleanny/utilities](https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/oleanny/utilities).

To proceed further bill payers must register and set up a password, while parking ticket payers can search for their ticket by citation number or vehicle information. Water and sewer customers can view their transaction history and chart water consumption through the last billing date. All transactions are billed \$3 for the service.



## Repairs hopeful for ailing Sewer Treatment Plant Digesters dating back to '30's



The Public Works Department recently discovered some problems within the city's three sewer treatment plant digesters and is working on an interim remedy for the situation.



The cement digesters were built in the 1930's and play a key role in the breakdown of sanitary waste before it reaches the primary and secondary treatment systems. After partially disassembling one digester, it was discovered the structures were in remarkably good condition for their age.

One digester cover was tilted and stuck due to a backlog of clogged and undigested waste.

Processing continues with only one of the digesters initially removed from service for repairs. The other two digesters were soon removed from service as well.

"We're trying to figure out how not to make it happen again," said Mayor Linda Witte, who has been closely watching the process of repairs.

She said the city has been lucky to find an engineer who specializes in these older digesters and has helped other cities with similar problems. Later further remedies or replacement options will be considered.

"We continue to work on the digesters, which can be fixed," said Mayor Linda Witte, who promises an update in the next edition of "*Community Update*."

## ***Cattaraugus-Olean Airport Support Group wants to go the extra mile***

The City Council is considering an offer from the Airport Support Group, an association of local pilots, business representatives and airplane owners who have raised thousands of dollars for various amenities and upgrades at the Cattaraugus County-Olean Municipal Airport in Ischua.

In legislation proposed in early February by Councilman Nate Smith (Ward 6), the Support Group would purchase a vehicle for the use of visiting pilots. The car would be kept at the Olean Airport, maintained and insured by the city. It would be available for aviators and passengers to drive into Olean or nearby to do business, go shopping or stay in a hotel. The driver would sign a waiver and supply their own gas.

The vehicle, called a crew car, would help attract and serve the flying public and airport customers. Airport Support Group members point out that availability of ground transportation at small airports is a key planning tool when pilots chart a route, fuel, food and lodging for a long flight. The Olean airport can boast technology, jet fuel and a fine runway, but pilots most often choose airports with access to business, restaurants, recreation, shopping and lodging.

Currently, cab fares to or from the Olean airport can run between \$50 and \$75, rental cars aren't a possibility, so airport staffers or hangar tenants have graciously ferried pilots to town.

Aldermen in the City Operations Committee voted the proposal out of the City Operations Committee Feb. 21 and were set to consider it in the Committee of the Whole Feb. 28. If the matter is accepted there, it will be sent to the full Council for action.

The airport sees frequent use. Statistics show that 466 flights were made to the Olean airport in 2011. Among these are counted: 145 local pleasure, 30 local business; 133 visiting pleasure, 158 visiting business. Just a few examples of the origins of airport visitors? Cape Cod; Oklahoma City, OK; Canada; Anchorage, AK; and Midlothian, TX.

## ***A new sign for local business!***



### ***Announcement:***

Several key city officials are undergoing disaster training, coordinated with Cattaraugus County EMS Director Chris Baker and others. Training is ongoing, with the goal to make the City of Olean the backup command center to assist impacted areas in this end of the county in the event of an emergency.

### ***How can the city help?***

As your Mayor I continue to have an Open Door Policy. You can contact my office at 376-5615 with questions and complaints. 2012 City Directories are available in my office. These list the phone numbers of the Department Heads and Alderman. Phone numbers and other information is also available on the city's website, [www.cityofolean.org](http://www.cityofolean.org). We want your suggestions! Employee salary information is available on the website [www.SeeThroughNY.net](http://www.SeeThroughNY.net) Aldermen can be contacted at these numbers:

Jim Brady, Council President, Ward 1: 372-3692

Ann McLaughlin, Ward 2: 560-8407 (c)

Christina Kamery, Ward 3: 307-7457

Matt Keller, Ward 4: 585-378-0557

Jim Finch, Ward 5: 373-0163

Nate Smith, Ward 6: 307-8199

Tom Morgan, Ward 7: 373-4860

To leave a message for an aldermen call 376-5635. Email addresses: first initial of the first name, the full last name, and [cityofolean.org](http://cityofolean.org):