

Community Update

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



Topics Inside:

Egg hunt, new playground bring hundreds to War Vets Park ...	1
Funds awarded to repair River dikes.....	1
Announcements... ..	2, 4
Schumer unveils a proposal for small business tax breaks ...	3
Elk of the Year.....	3
On-line bill paying available, city contact info.....	4

Funds awarded to repair Allegheny River flood dikes

The City of Olean’s flood-control dikes along the Allegheny River will receive \$5,246,000 in repairs, according to an announcement made April 16 by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

The award came as a welcome surprise to Mayor Linda Witte, who had been aware of a strong need for the upgrades along the aging dike system that holds back the Allegheny River’s flood waters.

“We are happy to get this money and it’s something that will help our city’s public safety needs,” said Mayor Witte.

Olean’s flood-control system is one of 31 NY Works Projects chosen for repairs Western New York. The region will receive a total of \$17,064,000 as an initiative in what Gov. Cuomo called a “transformative” budget. The effort is meant to reinvent state economic development and put people back to work rebuilding the state infrastructure.

Continued on Page 2; See “Dike Repairs”



New park pleases all generations

Hundreds of children and parents turned out for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at War Veteran’s Park April 7. Children hunted with others in age groups, met the Easter Bunny and collected chocolate bunnies. Top egg collectors were given prizes.

But the new playground equipment proved the biggest attraction as youngsters tested the apparatus installed last week. A fun time was had by all! More pictures can be seen on the Mayor’s web page. Go to www.cityofolean.org, then click on *Mayor’s Community* from the lefthand index and scroll down.

Page 1 Photo Feature:

Contractors have been busy in early April with sidewalk repairs, beginning with the sections that are the city's responsibility. They have moved to the neighborhoods to make more repairs.

(Photo Credit: Mayor Linda Witte)

Dike repairs.....

Continued from Page 1

A 15-member New York Works Task Force will help create tens of thousands of jobs by coordinating comprehensive capital plans, overseeing investment in infrastructure projects, and strengthening communities.

Olean's project received the largest amount of money in the Western New York Region.

In a press release issued April 16, the Governor's office promised to post real-time updates of the repairs on the Internet. The state's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) maintains 106 flood control projects, of which 91 have been rated "minimally acceptable" or "unacceptable" by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Additionally, DEC owns 577 dams statewide. Of the DEC-owned dams, DEC engineers classify at least 24 dams as "high" and "intermediate" hazard structures, where failure poses serious threat to life or significant property damage.

Announcements:

Contractor crews are out replacing **sidewalks** around the city. If you noticed paint on your sidewalk blocks and they were later removed, the crews will be pouring new ones soon, or have already done so. Sidewalk replacement is largely complaint-driven and owners have a choice whether to replace them within 20 days or have the city replace them (because they pose a liability). The blocks may shift upward an inch but then pose a tripping hazard. These and the blocks that are broken or missing should be replaced. The errant blocks are temporarily patched by the city until a contractor is hired for the annual project. When the city takes action to replace the blocks, the adjoining property owners are billed (approximately \$112 per block, or more for driveway blocks).

Do you park on the street? Don't forget that **street sweeping** begins May 15! Please check with the Department of Public Works if you haven't located an alternate parking spot.

The **East State Street reconstruction project** is getting closer and bids went out April 23. Work should begin in June.

The Urban Renewal Agency has been working on stabilizing the Manufacturer's Hanover Trust Bank Building (the vacant building affectionately called "**The Manny Hanny**") and is located at



the northwest corner of the Union and State Streets intersection). The gable at the top of the building façade, pictured here, was removed, and netting was wrapped over the front of the dental molding and cornice to prevent pieces of the façade from falling to the sidewalk below.

"Announcements" Continued on Page 4

Charles Schumer unveiled small business tax-break proposal in Olean



Mike Grinsell (l) and Chaz Rishel (center) of NES' inspection services department, explain their work to the Senator.



Mayor Linda Witte, right, introduced Senator Charles E. Schumer after he toured NES Bearings. He met for more than an hour with local entrepreneurs to describe his proposal for small business tax breaks and then met with the group privately to hear their questions and concerns.



Eric Schenfeld (l), NES Bearings business development manager, and Crystal Weich (center), of Scott Rotary Seals, are examples of small business leaders whose firms can benefit from the proposed bill's tax breaks.



Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) chose NES Bearings as the Olean location to unveil his proposed legislation on April 13. He met with Mayor Linda L. Witte and local business representatives to explain the Small Business Jobs and Tax Relief Act of 2012, designed to ease costs for small business. Sen. Schumer said the Southern Tier's economy has remained more steady while extremes were felt elsewhere in the 2008 economic downturn.

Sen. Schumer pointed to new businesses springing up in the area as the economy begins to "turn the corner." His legislation would provide tax

write-offs for capital equipment purchase costs and tax credits for new worker hiring in 2012.

NES (host of the meeting) and Scott Rotary Seals, were featured. NES plans to hire 4-7 new workers, for savings of \$16,000. Scott Rotary Seals would save \$13,000 in new hires. Both would also save and tens of thousands of dollars in equipment write-offs for 2012.

"NES and SRS are the exact kind of small businesses we should be able to jump-start," Mr. Schumer said, adding this will fit into the rise that has been noted in the export markets. He described the legislation as "bipartisan" and said it should come to a vote in May.

(More pictures can be seen on the Mayor's Community web page at www.cityofolean.org.)



Mayor Linda Witte (left) was on hand March 30 to present the Key to the City to Elk of the Year Carolyn Torrey (second from right); Sr. Margaret Carney (center), O.S.F., president of St. Bonaventure University, received the "Citizen of the Year" award; and Leola Strang (second from left) received this year's "Officer of the Year" during the Elks Lodge Annual Awards Ceremony and Dinner.

Pay tickets, water, sewer bills on-line!

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.

If you want to pay a water bill or a parking ticket, go to 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://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/oleanny/utilities>.

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.



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.

2012 City Directories are available in my office. These list the phone numbers of the Department Heads and Alderman.

Phone numbers and other information are also available on the city's website, www.cityofolean.org.

We want your suggestions! Employee salary information is available on the website www.SeeThroughNY.net

Aldermen can be contacted as below:

Jim Brady, Cncl. Pres. 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. To correspond with city employees and officials, type the first initial of the first name, the full last name, @, and cityofolean.org.

In the meantime, I encourage you to enjoy our parks and trails, some of the amenities that give our city such a fantastic quality of life -- get outside to see, smell and hear the signs of spring in our city!

Announcements (cont'd from page 2)

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

If you would like 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.