It has been a long couple of months for the residents of Prospect Street but at the end of the month the project started to wind down. The street now has new gas and water lines; new curbs; and the best of all—a new smooth road surface.

The North Union Street project started at the end of October. Early in the morning on October 29, the City of Olean crews worked on the pipes way below street level. Traffic has been diverted into two lanes for a stretch of the street.

To the left the City crews engaged in their annual leaf pickup. As always they did an amazing job ridding the City’s streets of the leaves. To the right York Street is next in line for new infrastructure and a new road.
Olean has always been known for its restaurants and the chefs that brought fine cuisine and old world hospitality to our humble town. Each year at Taste of Olean, the Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce honors our local chefs—past and present—and it leads to a trip down memory lane for many.

The chamber has honored Patsy Piccioli who was a renowned chef in town. He had purchased his North Barry Street restaurant from Lucia Bardenette, another well-known restaurateur who was also one of Olean’s first businesswomen. She also started Lucia’s. As for the North Barry Street restaurant, it was purchased by Neil and Denis Goodemote—the two men who had originally opened the Beef-n-Barrel on North Union Street.

Wow! That was just one building—as was the Beef-n-Barrel when it opened—seating only seventy-five patrons.

Angee’s opened in 1948 and has been operated by a member of the Fratercangelo family ever since—at the same location on North Union Street.

The late Louis Marra started a restaurant dynasty when he opened the Downtown Deli. He followed up with number of other eateries including The Old Library. Many of his children entered into the business and opened their own establishments throughout the area. There are many other stories on the GOACC’s website. It’s worth a read. In closing, congratulations to James McAfee, owner of the Beef-n-Barrel for winning this year’s LOUIE Award.

Mayor Aiello attended the second anniversary celebration for El Mariachi, the Mexican Restaurant on the three hundred block of North Union Street. The restaurant owned by Hernalando Feria and his family brings authentic Mexican cuisine to the heart of Olean.

Alderman Steve Barnard also attended the celebration which included a Mariachi band from the Buffalo area.

The North Union Street project has begun! Upgrades to the railroad crossing are in progress. At the end of the six week endeavor a median from Sullivan Street to the Olean Center Mall entrance will be in place. There are inevitable traffic delays and parking restrictions. Please visit the Walkable Olean Web Page for a travel advisory that is updated weekly.

Even if you are avoiding the delays with alternate routes, please do not avoid the North Union Street businesses. They need everyone’s continued support throughout the two and a half year project.

Leaves have been picked up throughout the City as Autumn starts to wind down. As always, the City’s crews have done an outstanding job maneuvering around the city and collecting the leaves.

Keep an eye on Bradner Stadium. Work will soon begin on a facility that will house the restrooms and concession stands. Work continues on Prospect and York Streets and should be wrapping-up soon.

It is a bit early, but have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!
Mayor Aiello proclaimed October 3 Manufacturing Day in the City of Olean in conjunction with the National Association of Manufacturers, the Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier and Dream It, Do It. In his proclamation, Mayor Aiello said that manufacturing is dependent on innovation and fresh approaches to fuel productivity and economic development, which in turn expands employment opportunities and boosts the standard of living and economic vitality.

He added, “The City of Olean is proud of its manufacturing sector and corporate leaders who are reaching out to the local community to grow candidates for the highly-skilled jobs they need to fill their workforce. The resulting “Dream It, Do It” is a national campaign that has taken hold in the City of Olean: Cutco Corporation, Cytec Industries, Dresser-Rand, Mazza Mechanical Services, Napoleon Engineering Services, National Grid, Pierce Steel Fabricators, Scott Rotary Seals and SolEpoxy have invited 400 students from 13 local schools into their factories to promote training, education and career choices that will grow our community.”

National Manufacturing Day educates and prepares students and stimulates their interest in engineering, technology, productive work habits and other skills needed to fill many of the specialty jobs available in our local manufacturing community.

In his proclamation the Mayor added, “The City of Olean is supportive of the “Dream It, Do It” partnership between our local manufacturing sector and our schools that will provide the needed skills to our area’s young people and keep them in the community.”

Evelyn Sabina of Dream It, Do It accepted the proclamation at the September 23, 2014 Common Council Meeting and copies of the proclamation were distributed to the local manufacturing participants.

On Manufacturing Day, Mayor Aiello toured Dresser Rand with the General Manager John Stahley and a group of students from Olean High School.
Members of the Olean Police Department spent an afternoon at the firing range. The police officers honed their skills against the backdrop of Olean’s beautiful Mount Herman in October.
St. Joseph’s Maronite Church in Dedicated

On October 25, 2014 St. Joseph’s Maronite Catholic Church dedicated their new Church Complex on Walnut Street. In attendance at the ceremony were Bishop Gregory Mansour of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, NY and Bishop Richard Malone of the Buffalo Roman Catholic Diocese.

Mayor Aiello gave a proclamation congratulating Father Anthony Salim and the St. Joseph congregation. The Mayor sited that the original St. Joseph Maronite Church was dedicated in 1919 to serve the spiritual needs of Olean’s Syrian-American and Lebanese-American community of diverse Eastern-rite traditions. On the afternoon of August 27, 2011 a fire roared through the Church and destroyed the structure, but not the congregation. The very next day the St. Joseph parishioners celebrated the Divine Liturgy, together with their friends, at St. Mary’s of the Angels Church and arrangements were made for the congregation to temporarily move into Transfiguration Oratory on Walnut Street. Since then St. Joseph’s Maronite Catholic Church purchased the Oratory from the Diocese of Buffalo and has completed a $1.7 million dollar construction and renovation project.

At the ceremony Olean Firefighter Steve Zlockie was recognized by the National Apostolate of Maronites and received the Silver Massabki Award for his service to St. Joseph’s Church. In 1860 the three Massabki brothers were martyred for their faith.

Plenty of Places in Olean for Entertainment

The after school recreation program at St. John’s is in full swing with programming from 3:00 to 5:30 every Monday through Friday for grades K-8. There are also Friday evening activities from 6:00 to 9:00 pm for grades 4-8 and Saturday afternoon recreation from 12:30 to 3:30 pm for grades K-8. There is a basketball league for grades 4-6; an intro to dance program for children ages 4-8 and an intro to martial arts for grades 7-12. Again see the website for more information.

The City of Olean has an interesting history that is filled with characters and intrigue. It all comes alive at the Bartlett House and the Olean Point Museum. Tours are free of charge from Wednesday through Saturday from 1:00-5:00. Check it out—find out about Olean’s early settlers and those who came to work in the forests, the tanneries or the oil fields and railroads. And those who built beautiful homes such as the Bartlett House.

It may be getting colder—but there is still plenty to do in Olean. The Ice Rink is open with many opportunities to skate.

Hours at the W.O. Smith Rec. Center:
M-F: 11:30am - 2:00pm
Tues & Thurs: 3:30pm-5:00pm
Sat & Sun: 1:30pm-3:00pm
Fri-Sun: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Fees:
Child/Senior $2.00
Adult $4.00
College Student w/ID $3.00
Family $10.00
Skate Rental $2.00
Sharpening $5.00

There are also hockey games, learn to skate programs and many other activities at the rink. For more information please get a program flyer at the City Building or go to the City’s website.
FOURTH ANNUAL ADOPT-A-PLANTER PROGRAM

Once again businesses, community groups and residents brought their trowels, plants and green thumbs to our business district and created color, lovely scents and a pleasant atmosphere amidst the concrete and asphalt.

This year nineteen groups adopted planters: K-9 Connection, McElfresh Map Company, Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce, McCarthy’s Emporium, Databranch, Southern Tier Agencies, Susan Avery in memory of Mary Avery, Tom and Joey Enright, Jamestown Community College, Marcia Kelly and Maureen Sheahan in memory of Dr. Francis Matthew Bohan, Former Mayor Linda Witte, her daughter Mandy and granddaughter Lily, the Price and Mahar Families, Neighborworks, Olean Medical Group, Community Bank, Bella Ruche, Uptown Florist, the McNamees of Olean and A Hairstyling Encounter.

Marian Blair of Olean graciously accepted the invitation to judge the planters. Four times during the summer she did a walk-about and judged them on eight different criteria. After the four viewings, the winner was the planter adopted by Maureen Sheahan and Marcia Kelly in honor of Dr. Francis Matthew Bohan. The planter was located near the railroad tracks on the east side of North Union Street. It was a beautiful arrangement.

At the October 14th Common Council Meeting Mayor Aiello thanked the participants for their dedication to the City of Olean. Each group was given a certificate and the winners received a gift certificate from Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce. Above Earl McElfresh receives the certificate for McElfresh Map Co.

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 or for a paper calendar of events please call Kathleen Hamed at 376-5670.

“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

The City’s website is great source of up-to-date information. Please visit it at cityfolean.org. In addition the city has a Face Book page and Twitter feed—all are excellent sources for information.

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@cityfolean.org