Lots of talk about the gardens along North Union Street. The rain gardens, as they are called, are a combination of plants and “designer” soil that when planted together not only absorb water, but remove pollutants from the storm water. If you look carefully, the gardens are recessed, this allows the garden to retain the storm water and further watering after the plant takes hold, should not be necessary. However—there will not be standing water either, as the gardens should only hold water for forty-eight hours after a storm. The benefit—less water ends up in the City’s storm-water system and less water has to be treated.

Along the street there are four different types of trees, eight different shrubs, five grasses and 11 perennials.

Two of the new plantings are described below and to the left. More on the other plants next month!

**Hameln fountain grass** is also known as Pennisetum Alopecuroideae. It is a lovely ornamental grass. The grass itself is green—but the feather-like foliage changes colors as the seasons change. It is resistant to disease and pests and it attracts butterflies and birds. Hameln is a town in Germany—known to be the home of the Pied Piper.

**The Littleleaf Linden** not only provides shade with its dense leaves—it has fragrant flowers in the spring. It is an old tree originally from Europe. In German lore it was the favorite tree of the Freya—the goddess of love and Frigga—the goddess of married love and the hearth. But the Scandinavians—they stayed away from the tree at night—the tree was a favorite stomping ground for the elves!
As the project on North Third Street draws to a close a quick look at the history of the street is in order. According to Olean Heritage Homes 1845-1900, published by the Olean Historical Society in 1989, Lambert and Sallie Whitney bought most of the wooded area between Second and Third Streets in 1851 for $600. In 1853 they sold six lots at the north end of the street to Nelson and Ascha Andrews. They built a home and two out buildings that faced Third Street.

Kathy Paciorkowski from Revitalizing Olean dropped off antique press plates that she recovered. Revitalizing Olean has taken a special interest in the former First National Bank of Olean, which later became Manufacturers Hanover Bank (Manny Hanny). The bank itself moved out in the early 1990’s when Chemical Bank acquired Manufacturers Hanover. The press plates will find a new home at the Olean Pointe Museum.

Ascha Andrews sold some of the property to George Winters in 1875. He built a house on Second Street—but sold a portion of his property facing Third Street to William Simpson who lived in a house at 228 North Third Street.

The house at 230 North Third Street was built before electricity was used—natural gas was used for lighting and the original owner—Dr. Joseph Clark—was the first doctor to use x-rays in Olean.

*Above map detail from an 1869 map of Olean

From Mayor Bill Aiello

September 2, 2016 was a big day in Olean. Catco, the North Union Street contractor, worked very hard and late. At about 6:30p.m. North Union Street, from State Street all the way to Main Street was opened to traffic. The five roundabouts were completed and traffic flowed freely.

Unfortunately work ground to a halt about a week later due to a dispute between New York State and the contractor. In a nutshell, Catco was required to subcontract a percentage of the job to a Woman or Minority-owned business. Catco subcontracted to a business that could not, due to a family illness, recertify as a DBE. When Catco was notified that this business would not be able to fulfill their obligation, Catco filed for a waiver with the state. This was in March, the waiver was denied in September. Catco has filed a remediation plan with the state, and as soon as that is approved, they will be back on the job.

We are disappointed that this happened, but it is between Catco and New York State. The City was, unfortunately, affected by, but not a party in the dispute. But luckily our street is open to traffic. The project still needs landscaping, striping and lights on the west side of the street. Catco is confident that the job will be competed by the deadline date late in October.

In the meantime we are planning for a ribbon cutting on October 21, 2016.

In other news—North Third Street looks great. Bricks and curbs are in place, finishing touches are being made.

Olean is wonderful in the fall—keep an eye on the trees.
The Paper Factory is in the midst of a face lift. The new paint job looks great.

More Upgrades on North Union Street.

Air delivery of drywall to the third floor of the Green Acres Café. The third floor of the building will be used for housing. The second floor has a new tenant, Lavender Lotus Yoga. Green Acres, on the street level, continues to be one of North Union Street’s premier restaurants. Good luck to building owner and former Alderman Adam Jester as upgrades continue on the building.

A new bakery has opened on North Union Street to the delight of Olean’s pastry fans. The atmosphere is welcoming and the décor is wonderful. Breakfast and lunch are served daily. The apple fritters and the turnovers get rave reviews in the City building.

Progress continues on the buildings at the corner of North Union Street and Whitney Avenue. The new windows at 319 look great. Can’t wait to see what’s next in the refurbishment project.

The Paper Factory is in the midst of a face lift. The new paint job looks great.

Many other new businesses have opened on North Union Street in the past two years, including Brittani’s County Loft, Windworks, Hello Gorgeous, Nick Shembeda Plumbing and Heating, A Cut Above, Ravyn and Robyn and Skin Deep Tattoo. Boundless Connections will be opening in the former Greater Olean office later in the month. We thank all these business owners for their confidence in Olean. And, would like to say good-bye and thank you to some of the businesses that have closed including Custom Shoe Repair, Attards and Mineo Marketing. We wish their owners well as they start their new adventures.
Another one of Olean’s oldest streets got an upgrade this summer. The Complete Streets Project is nearly finished on North Third Street. The project included new curbing, new sewer and water lines and landscaping along the City’s right of way. The brick street was preserved and will be much easier to drive on when it re-opens very shortly. It was a very long project and the residents’ patience is very much appreciated. For more on the historical nature of North Third Street, please see page 2 in this newsletter.

Olean’s North Union Street said good-bye to its final traffic signals in the summer. To aid street crossing for pedestrians new devices were installed at a number of the crosswalks. The devices are activated by a hand motion. The device will say, “Lights are flashing.” The flashing lights give motorists the heads up that there are pedestrians about the cross the street—and allows for a safe crossing for Olean’s pedestrians.
At the September 27, Common Council meeting, Mayor Aiello proclaimed October as National Manufacturing Month in the city of Olean.

The City of Olean is proud of its manufacturing sector and corporate leaders. In the month of October they reach out to the local community to grow candidates for the highly-skilled jobs that are needed to fill the workforce.

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;

Dream It. Do It.” is a national campaign that has taken hold in the City of Olean. Local industries including Dresser-Rand, SolEpoxy, Napoleon Engineering Services, Cutco Corporation, Eaton/Cooper Power Systems, Keystone Tool & Die, Mazza Mechanical Services, Pierce Steel Fabricators, Scott Rotary Seals, OSM Corporation, Total Piping Solutions, Bimbo Bakeries, CA-BOCES, Dresser-Rand Challenger Learning Center, Jamestown Community College MTI, St. Bonaventure University, Setterstix and Composite Panel Solutions invited 550 students from 10 area schools into their factories and educational institutions to promote training, education and career choices that will grow our community;

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and the Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier (MAST) devoted October 7, 2016, as National Manufacturing Day—to educate and prepare students and stimulate 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;

Once again this year “Dream It. Do It.,” in partnership with Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce, will provide a month of activities celebrating Olean’s manufacturing base. The number of skilled manufacturing jobs in the city appears to be on the rise and these efforts are an attempt to turn the local skilled labor shortage around, which could provide the additional benefit of increasing the city’s population over time and improving our economic viability.

Evelyn Sabina and Chris Napoleon were on hand to accept the proclamation.
SUICIDE PREVENTION

WHEREAS, the Out of Darkness Suicide Prevention and Awareness Walk is proof that when people work together they can make big changes in the world;

WHEREAS, a suicide takes place about every thirteen minutes in America and has an enormous ripple effect that takes its toll not only on families, friends, and co-workers, but on the entire community as well;

WHEREAS, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in America and is the fourth leading cause of death in adults ages 15-64;

WHEREAS, ninety percent of people who die by suicide meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental health issue, early identification and intervention of these symptoms could help lower the suicide rate;

WHEREAS, proceeds from the Out of Darkness Walk help to fund national research through the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the local services provided through the Cattaraugus County Suicide Prevention Coalition and Department of Community Services;

THEREFORE, I, William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean, proclaim September 24, 2016 as Suicide Prevention Day in the City of Olean. And furthermore urge all citizens to participate in the Out of Darkness Walk on Saturday September 24th.

Walk For Hospice

It is a pleasure to be here today... To be here on the Allegheny River Trail with families who are not only honoring loved ones, but who are spending their Saturday morning walking to raise funds for Homecare and Hospice.

Thank you for being here.

Homecare and Hospice is headquartered in my hometown of Olean. But it serves residents throughout our county, Cattaraugus, as well as the surrounding counties of Allegany, Genesee and Wyoming.

In Olean, we have companies that make knives and turbines, plastics and bearings, among so many other things; but this organization, Homecare and Hospice, is much different. Its one product is caring. The Homecare and Hospice employees tend to the sick and the terminally ill and offer emotional support to family members.

The numbers are staggering. In 2015, Homecare and Hospice has helped more than 400 hospice patients, for a total of 18 thousand hours in the 4 county area. The numbers prove that it is an essential service; and as Mayor, I am proud to have Homecare and Hospice located in Olean.

Have fun on your walk and enjoy this beautiful setting along the Allegheny River and through St. Bonaventure University.

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.

So Many Ways to Pay your Bills

We love to see you in the Municipal Building. But if you can’t find parking—or if it is too cold and rainy, there are many other ways to pay your bills. Recently installed—a drop box right on Times Square. You can’t miss it—it’s white and has the City Logo proudly displayed. In addition, you can pay on line at this link: www.municipalonlinepayments.com/oleanny/

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

“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

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@cityofolean.org