Olean area residents and guests braved the cold, wet weather on the day after Thanksgiving to travel to North Union Street to see the Grinch, Snoopy, Charlie Brown, a host of other characters, and—of course—Santa and Mrs. Claus at the 31st Annual Santa Clause Lane Parade. An added benefit this year—the lighting of the new decorations that spanned Olean’s newly refurbished street. It was a fun night of celebration as Olean came alive with the holiday spirit.

It’s the season of celebrations and the season of giving.

In the Olean Municipal Building, the elves were not only decorating for the season, but they were busy making sure that everyone has a happy holiday. The staff of the DPW office collected money from City employees to sponsor 6 individuals in the Olean Times Herald and Interfaith Care Givers Gift Tree. The Auditor’s office collected donations for the SPCA and in the lobby Toys for Tots were collected.

Stop by the City Building to see the new first floor decorations—they make the building festive and bright.

The above photo of Mayor Aiello and family is from Facebook courtesy Vic Ozoger.
Some of the names of our early settlers and businesses are kept alive by the names of our streets: Hoops Street is located near Forness Pond. Van Campen Avenue runs along the railroad between Wayne and Coleman Streets. In that same vicinity lies Brickell Avenue and Keating Street. Jewett and Keating was the name of a tannery in Olean’s early history and Brickell Brothers and Company was a planning mill. A fire destroyed Brickell’s first building but the company rebuilt and employed about 25 people.

Adam Hoops and David Heuston purchased 20,000 acres in the wilderness after Benjamin Van Campen surveyed the land. The land was situated on the Allegheny River and timber was abundant. In 1804 Hoops sent his brother Robert to the land and he erected the first permanent structure along the banks of the river and the village was mapped-out. Times were tough and Adams Hoops lost the land—but the village, Olean, did prosper.

From Mayor Bill Aiello

It is the most wonderful time of the year—and I appreciate all the efforts of our municipal employees as they help others enjoy the season. In addition to the collections for the Gift Tree, the SPCA and Toys for Tots during the holiday season, our Firefighters participated in Breast Cancer Awareness Month by donning their pink shirts and our Police Department participated in No Shave November to raise Cancer awareness. I thank them all for making Olean a great place to live.

We had a very important visitor this month. Senator Schumer stopped by the Fire Station to discuss his new legislation (page 5). During his trip he got to see our new street and the renovations at the airport.

I attended the 2016 Regional Economic Development Council Awards in Albany on December 8, 2016. The City of Olean received three awards for a total of $664,600. Mary George and Keri Kerper in Community Development and Tom Windus in DPW worked hard in securing this grant money for the City. The grant will enable the City to purchase and install two boat launches in the Allegheny River, to construct a permanent farmer’s market on North Union Street and to further infrastructure changes on Main Street from North Union Street to the Hospital.

My office has a list of volunteers to shovel walks for the elderly and disabled. Thank you so much to those who volunteered—you help is greatly appreciated.

Finally, please enjoy the holiday season!
Veterans Day was celebrated in Lincoln Park on November 11, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Mayor Aiello was joined by Assemblyman Joe Giglio in honoring our veterans.

Mayor Aiello said, “One of my favorite things about Veterans Day is this annual gathering in Lincoln Park. All of us are here this morning to thank, remember and honor the local men and women who have served our country in the nation’s armed services. Nothing seems to me more “Olean” than this assembly of honor guards, our high school band, representatives of the armed forces, local civic leaders, citizens of Olean, visitors and friends.

“On this cool November morning, under these bare autumn trees, this gathering of a free and grateful people is exactly what every American veteran sought to protect. The fact that we gather here this morning is living proof that these veterans served us well. Thank you for your service and God Bless America.”

Master of Ceremonies for the event was former Mayor Bill Quinlan. The Boy Scouts and the Olean High Band were also on hand to thank our veterans.
The ribbon was officially cut on North Third on Saturday, November 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. by Erick Laine, former President and currently Chairman Emeritus of CUTCO.

“This is another great day for our City,” Mayor Aiello said. “This section of North Third Street is in the heart of the city’s Oak Hill Park Historic District and through this project the City was able to maintain the historic brick street and simultaneously upgrade the water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines.”

Mayor Aiello added, “This project was successful because of the many groups that helped it along to completion. The residents were very patient and accommodating; R. Patti Concrete, the contractor, did an excellent job; and staff from the City’s Department of Public Works contributed to many facets of the job. In addition the City was fortunate to receive a Consolidated Funding Grant through the Western New York Regional Development Council to help fund the project.”

“Olean is in the midst of a great transformation—one that is preserving the unique identity of our city while reasserting our downtown and surrounding neighborhoods as the hub for economic activity,” said Jeff Belt, SolEpoxy President and Western New York Regional Economic Development Council Co-Chair. “This North Third Street restoration project increases the value of historic homes here in the nationally recognized Oak Hill Park Residential Historic District with a durable street design that has stood the test of time. And, this project here in this beautiful neighborhood strengthens the Walkable Olean downtown revitalization efforts just a few blocks east of this project.”

Mayor Aiello attended the Regional Economic Development Award Ceremony in Albany on December 7, 2016. The City of Olean received three grants for a total of $664,600. A prior grant that the city received from these awards was used to help finance the North Third Street project.

In the photograph from the Governor’s Media Office: first row from the left: Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, Satish Tripathi, President of the UB and Co-Chair of WNYRDC, Governor Cuomo, Maria Bartiromo of Fox Business Network, and Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Executive.

Second row from the left, Howard Zemsky of Empire State Development, Jeff Belt President of SolEpoxy and Co-Chair of WNYRDC, Sam Teressi, Mayor of Jamestown, Mayor Aiello, and Athanasia Landis, Mayor of Fredonia.
United States Senator Chuck Schumer was in Olean to discuss his pending legislation, the Fire Fighter Cancer Registry Act, S. 2799. The legislation would create a registry that will help physicians track and treat firefighters with cancer.

“I would like to thank Senator Schumer for coming to Olean’s Central Fire Station, on our newly renovated North Union Street, to push for the creation of the National Firefighter Cancer Register,” said Mayor Aiello. “Our firefighters provide an essential, yet hazardous, service to Olean residents and they can be exposed to harmful toxins in the line of duty. This registry will help physicians track, treat and ultimately prevent cancer which, in turn, will benefit not only our brave firefighters and their families, but also our local taxpayers.”

“The link between our firefighters and cancer is one that must be broken,” said Chief Bell. “This registry will provide us with a great safety tool in helping us to track, treat and prevent this link that our firefighters face every day, and we appreciate Senator Schumer’s continued advocacy on behalf of those who put their lives on the line every day.”
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 online 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