A basketball game matching the City of Olean Police Department versus the Olean City School District Teachers took place on Wednesday, March 29th. Mayor Aiello and former Resource Officer Randy Langdon were the officials. Guess who won? It wasn’t one of the teams. The game was a tie. Two winners were the Olean High School Activities Council and the Olean Sports Booster who received the proceeds from the game. The spectators also won. By all accounts it was great fun. Thank you to the Olean High School Student Activities Council and the Olean Educational Support Personnel Association for inviting the two teams to participate in a great event for the Olean Community.
Lots of excitement in the springtime air. The smell of mulch permeated the Municipal Building as our Streets Division maintained the water gardens along North Union Street. They look great. The City was pleased to accept another award for our street—we do have the most interesting downtown in all of New York State. And the vacant buildings along North Union Street are beginning to see new construction and occupancy. Over at Forness Park the City has been busy working with the Town of Olean to repair the parking lot. The Parks department has been rolling the fields and the Sewer department installing new drainage. The City is very thankful to our neighboring municipalities, we share services frequently. The construction project at the William O. Smith Recreation Center will begin soon. Unfortunately the Municipal Pool will be closed this summer, but that won’t stop the City’s Summer Recreation programs—please keep an eye out for the program directory. There will be plenty of recreation events taking place throughout the City.

Our ever changing weather has brought about many potholes. Please keep an eye open for them and call my office if you notice a bad one.

Finally, thank you to the Common Council for their guidance and dedication as we went through budget process. They passed the Budget in early April.

The William O. Smith Recreation Center got its start in 1977 when the Common Council voted unanimously to apply for a $400,000 grant to build a new swimming pool and ice skating rink. What a difference that vote made.

Within a year Work & Silvis won the bid to take down the old “Big Pool” and construction started on the Rec. Center.

So! What did this do for the City? Olean already had a pool—since the 1930’s—summertime recreation was in place. But during those cold winter months, the City had ponds—nothing enclosed.

Now Olean boasts the only covered ice rink in Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties. And if there is ice—there is hockey.

From the Office of Mayor Bill Aiello
Friends and family packed the John J. Ash Community Center (below) to wish Quido Ramire a very, happy 101st birthday. City Clerk Alex Utecht, Youth and Recreation Director John Anastasia and Mayor Aiello are photographed with Mr. Ramire.

The 2017 Elk of the Year Awards Dinner was held on March 18, 2017. Robin Hurlburt was named Elk of the Year, an award that recognizes a Member who is always willing to help and a member who can get things done. Mayor Aiello is photographed below and to the left presenting Mr. Hurlburt the key to the City. Terry Shaw received the Citizen of the Year Award, an award recognizing a citizen who has contributed in a special way to the community. Mr. Shaw is the Activities Director at the Olean Senior Center. Mayor Aiello is congratulating Mr. Shaw below and to the right. His wife Janet is sitting to the right.

Girl Scout Troop 10167 of Portville stopped by Mayor Aiello’s office with boxes of cookies. The Mayor’s job was to choose his favorite cookie — Thin Mint or the new Girl Scout S’mores. The winner was…..Girl Scout S’mores. The troop showed the Mayor their badges and he gave them a tour of his office and conference room.

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March for Meals Community Champions Day

Cattaraugus County Department of Aging and Olean’s Meals on Wheels celebrated the 15th Annual Community Champions Day. Mayor Aiello participated in the event and delivered Meals on Wheels to local residents. March for Meals is a national campaign held annually during the month of March by Meals on Wheels to raise awareness of the struggles of our aging neighbors and to encourage local action. Frank Higgins, Cattaraugus County Legislator, also took part in the event and is photographed above with Quido Ramire and Mayor Aiello.
WHEREAS, members from Team AKT from AKT Combatives Academy were selected to prepare and train for the World Council of Jujitsu Organization’s World Championships to be held in Australia in October;

WHEREAS, Charlie Love, Mike Hanchett, Desmond White and Bryana Baer, members of Team AKT, were selected for TEAM USA and Barry A. Broughton, owner of AKT Combatives Academy, was named to the Team USA coaching staff;

WHEREAS, AKT Combatives Academy is located in the City of Olean and serves our community’s residents;

THEREFORE, I, William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean, on this the Twenty-eighth day of March in the year 2017, recognize Barry A. Broughton and the AKT Combatives Academy, and on behalf of the Common Council, wish TEAM USA luck and good fortune as the Team and Coach prepare for and compete in the World Championships.
Today we are here to commend Matthew Kwiatkowski who has obtained the Boy Scouts of America’s highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award. In order to achieve this great award, Matthew worked at the SPCA to design new, more spacious kennels for dogs that are less likely to be adopted. Each kennel measured four feet by nine feet and each had a doggy door leading to an equal size space outside.

Eagle Scout Kwiatkowski’s design removed four feet of wall leaving two, two foot sections on each end, one supporting the gate and the other acting as a barrier to drafts. One doggy door was blocked-off and insulated to further prevent drafts and to help keep the building warmer. The outside dividing wall was completely removed.

The end result of Matthew’s project allows two or three old dogs to spend their remaining days with companions and it provides a larger space for any special circumstances. The SPCA liked the design and Troop 621 is going to help to convert three more kennels using Matthew’s design.

Eagle Scout Kwiatkowski is an excellent example to our community of leadership, values and ideals. Therefore, I, William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean, do hereby issue this Special Citation in recognition of this fine young man.