

*From
Mayor Aiello's*

City of Olean
EARTH DAY
APRIL 22, 2020

Phone Numbers:
City Clerks' Office
716 376-5604
Mayor's Office
716 376-5615

Dear Residents,

Today is Earth Day and the City of Olean has always benefitted from the good will of our residents as April 22 was the unofficial start of the City's Litter Control Program. In the past my office was busy this time year, handing out gloves and orange bags to Lila Ervay's large network of volunteers; organizing with officials from Olean High School for their annual Oak Hill Park Clean-up Day; and working with the many volunteers who weed our North Union Street gardens.

This year is different as we all adjust to the various facets of Governor Cuomo's stay at home order due to COVID-19. For example my office has the bags and the gloves, but as the City Building is closed we don't have a mechanism to distribute the products to our residents. In addition social distancing can be difficult when a group works together to keep our City free of litter or cleaning our parks and weeding our gardens.

As we approach Earth Day this year, I ask residents to please remember that littering, including cigarette butts, is not acceptable in the City of Olean. Sec. 20-8 of the Code of Ordinances says, "It shall be unlawful for any person to place, throw, or deposit or cause to be placed, thrown, or deposited any waste upon any sidewalk, subway, street, alley, lane, gutter or any public ground in the City or into any stream or upon the banks of any stream running through or adjacent to the city."

For the time being, we can't work in groups, but we can still work together to tidy our lovely City. That said I ask Olean residents to pick-up and dispose of any litter that has accumulated over the winter on their properties and, if possible, around their neighborhoods. It's an easy chore, will only take a few minutes and will prevent litter from blowing into our public spaces.

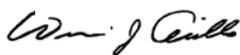
Earth Day was discussed at a recent Common Council Meeting and the members fully agree. In fact Ward 5 Alderman John Crawford had an excellent idea and suggested that members of our community celebrate the **50th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 25**. He said, "As we all struggle to overcome the mental and emotional effects of social distancing, it would be wonderful to get as many people out in their yards, sidewalks, and subways on **Saturday, April 25, between 11:00 and 2:00**. This way we can see our neighbors, chat with them from a safe distance and support the beautification of our neighborhoods and city."

Council President, Ward 3 Alderman Paul Gonzalez agreed, "Whenever I'm going through a difficult time, I find it important to focus on the little things such as making your bed every day, eating healthy, and keeping your house neat and clean. I would encourage everyone in the City of Olean to get outside on April 25th and work to clean and beautify their homes and properties."

Ward 2 Alderman Jason Panus added, "We're all on this Earth together, so let's make it a good one."

Let's take this time to be ready to tackle the bigger jobs when the restrictions are lifted. If you are interested in volunteering to pick-up litter or weed a garden, please give my office a call at 716 376 5615. Together we'll plan ahead for that sunny day when we can once again enjoy the fresh air and ambiance of our home town.

Sincerely,



William J. Aiello
Mayor