



For Immediate Release

Contact: William J. Aiello
(716) 376-5615

City of Olean and the Beautification Committee **Announces New Planting**

July 03, 2025—Olean—The City of Olean and the Olean Beautification Committee are pleased to announce that new shrubs, bushes and flowering plants have been planted in the North Union Street median from Hamilton Street to Sullivan Street. The new planting was funded through a grant from the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation to the Beautification Committee’s Beautiful Olean Fund.

“Last summer the beautiful Tesselaar Roses that enhanced the median were diagnosed with Rose Rosette Disease. Unfortunately there is no treatment and the recommendation to stop the spread was to remove the diseased roses,” said John Balacki, Vice Chairmen of the Beautification Committee. “It was also recommended that we refrain from replanting roses until 2026, so we went to work to find replacements.”

“John Balacki, Laurie McCarthy and the late Kathy Marzec were appointed to re-design the median. The plants chosen include varieties of diervilla, hydrangea, holly, and weigela,” said Danielle Eaton, Chairman of the Beautification Committee. “When established, this planting will provide four seasons of color and beauty. Plus, they left room to add roses next year, which will create a strikingly impressive median.”

The Committee would like to thank the Olean Water Plant for facilitating storage of the plants and City of Olean crew who installed them and are hydrating them during this heat wave,” said Danielle Eaton. “We are especially very grateful to the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation for providing the funding for this endeavor.”

“The Olean Beautification Committee dedicates numerous hours, in the boardroom and on their hands and knees in the gardens. Every summer we get to enjoy the fruits of their labors and that of the group of volunteers they recruit to keep the gardens blooming. The Committee is always looking for more volunteers. Please give my office a call if you would like to help out,” said William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean. “I would also like to thank the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation; the staff has provided the Committee with both funding as well and guidance.”

The Olean Beautification Committee has established the Beautiful Olean Fund in the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation. The Beautiful Olean Fund will help assist in the upkeep and maintenance of the public gardens in the City of Olean.

Established in 1994, the Community Foundation is growing good by connecting donors to the causes they care about most in our region. Grants from the foundation support many areas including education, scholarships, health care, the arts, community development, human service and youth development.

For more information about the Beautiful Olean Fund, please contact the Community Foundation at 716.372.CRCF (2723), email foundation@cattfoundation.org or visit www.cattfoundation.org.

###