



MARK OLSON

ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATOR

10th District



Legislative Update Spring 2024

from the Desk of **Mark Olson**



Having been a volunteer firefighter since I was a teenager, I have personally seen the number of volunteers dwindle in recent years. So I was more than happy to visit each of the four departments in the 10th District during RecruitNY, a statewide effort to get more people involved. I'm pictured above at Manlius and Kirkville. Please consider giving some of your time. Just contact your department to get started.

I'M PROUD TO BE REPRESENTING YOU

2024 is underway, and I'm proud to be representing you at the Onondaga County Legislature again this year.

One of my main priorities for this term is improving public safety and ensuring our first responders have what they need to do their jobs the best they can. I'm happy to say I am continuing as the Chair of the Public Safety committee for the 2024-2025 term.

Let me take a moment to remember and honor Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen and Lieutenant Michael A. Hoosock with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office. As you know, both were tragically and senselessly killed in the line-of-duty. Lt. Hoosock also served with many other local agencies, including the Manlius Fire Department. My thoughts and prayers go to their families and all those who served alongside them. These two men will never be forgotten.

At the Legislature, I supported a new body camera system for the Sheriff's Office. The County Executive's office and the OCSO are

working closely to ensure this happens as the contract is already in place and no Legislative action is needed. It's imperative our deputies have cameras and that they work as intended.

I'm happy to report that funding was approved to replace emergency radios for Onondaga County Park Rangers. Their current 20+ year old radios will be replaced with new, modern technology which will allow our Rangers to speak directly with N.Y.S. Troopers and Onondaga County Sheriff's Deputies at events protected by multiple agencies, such as *Lights on the Lake* and Amphitheater shows.

I attended the grand opening ceremony of the county's new Emergency Operations Center in Liverpool. The facility is home to the county's Department of Emergency Management and has a space for officials from various agencies to gather to handle emergencies that happen throughout the county. Having toured the long-vacant building in 2022, I was quite impressed at how it looks today. I'm proud to have supported funding for this facility.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This year's State of the County address was held at ESM High School. It was a pleasure having County Executive Ryan McMahon visit our 10th District and outline his plans for the county in the coming year. I was honored to welcome the attendees and introduce Dr. Donna J. DeSiato, Superintendent of East Syracuse Minoa schools.
- I was asked to speak at the Town of Manlius, the Village of Fayetteville and the Village of Minoa's board meetings about county projects and initiatives, including the *Main Street* grant program which is improving our communities and *Plan Onondaga*, the county's comprehensive plan which is setting us up for a bright future.
- I helped approve funding for improvements to the Onondaga County War Memorial, the Erie Canal Museum, the Onondaga County Public Libraries, and Onondaga Lake Park.
- I supported funding for mental health services in all schools, including F-M and ESM.
- I sent a letter of support to help Minoa with upgrades to their Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- I secured a public art grant for the Village of Fayetteville.
- I secured a grant for a flood study in the Town of Manlius.
- Appointments:
 - Planning & Economic Development Committee
 - Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District Board
 - Criminal Justice Advisory Board
 - Stop DWI Advisory Board
 - Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

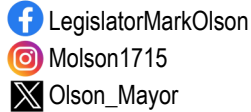
For updates from the Legislature, follow me on Facebook — [LegislatorMarkOlson](#)

MARK OLSON
County Legislator
10TH Legislative District

103 Barker Lane
Fayetteville, New York 13066
Work Phone: 315-435-2070

MarkOlson@ongov.net

Visit my website at:
www.PeopleForOlson.com



Meeting with Erich Schepp of the Central New York Funeral Directors Association to discuss and review county policies ensuring those who can't afford a proper burial receive one.



Updating the Fayetteville Village Board and residents on the great things happening in Onondaga County!

SPOTLIGHT: Dept. of Transportation



ONONDAGA COUNTY'S DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IS BASED AT 6230 EAST MOLLOY ROAD IN EAST SYRACUSE. ADMINISTRATIVE AND ENGINEERING OFFICES ARE LOCATED HERE AS WELL AS THE NORTH AREA MAINTENANCE FACILITY.

THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE THE TRAVELING PUBLIC WITH A SAFE, EFFICIENT, AND RELIABLE NETWORK OF HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES. THE COUNTY HAS OVER 800 MILES OF ROADWAYS AND MORE THAN 200 BRIDGES. DOT HAS A DYNAMIC WORKFORCE OF 100+ PEOPLE THAT LEVERAGE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING TO MOVE PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTY SAFELY AND SEAMLESSLY. SNOW-PLOWING AND PAVING ARE TWO OF THEIR LARGEST TASKS EACH YEAR.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS DIVIDED ONONDAGA COUNTY INTO FOUR SECTIONS. EACH HAS EQUIPMENT AND EMPLOYEES TO SERVICE ROADS AND A SHOP FOR PERFORMING EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND MAJOR REPAIRS. IN ADDITION TO THE NORTH AREA FACILITY, THEY ARE LOCATED IN CAMILLUS, JAMESVILLE AND MARCELLUS.

DOT'S FACEBOOK PAGE POSTS REGULAR UPDATES ABOUT ROAD PROJECTS AND IS A GREAT SOURCE OF INFORMATION:

[Facebook.com/OnondagaDOT](https://www.facebook.com/OnondagaDOT)

Responding to the CSX derailment

Many of you reached out in March following a train derailment in the Village of Minoa, concerned for your health and safety.

I have sent a letter to Joseph R. Hinrichs, the President and Chief Executive Officer of CSX Transportation. I expressed my dismay at the lack of information from his company in the hours following the incident and asked why local officials and the public were not notified of this incident in a timelier manner.

Two train cars ended up on their side next to the track and quite visible from Central Avenue, which as we know is a heavily-traveled roadway and a main access point to Minoa. The derailment happened overnight and throughout the day, there were many social media posts from people left in the dark and concerned about what may have leaked from those train cars. After much pushing from local media, hours later a CSX spokesperson finally shared the two cars had sunflower seed oil in them which did not leak.

I have personally spoken with representatives of the Minoa Fire Department, the Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, and the Onondaga County 911 Center. No one – not one single person – was contacted by CSX and alerted to this derailment. This concerns me greatly.

I fully understand there was no apparent leak of hazardous materials and that the derailment occurred entirely on CSX property. Still, with hundreds of homes, several schools and the East Syracuse Minoa School District transportation garage in the immediate vicinity, it seems like a notification by CSX to local emergency officials and news media would have occurred. They would have been able to immediately share the news with our county residents and let them know the derailment was minor and that there was no danger to the public.

I for one am grateful for the work of the CSX crew in determining there were no injuries or hazardous materials onboard the tipped train cars. They should be commended for their quick response. Still, I'm concerned that should there be a more significant derailment or one with hazardous materials, valuable time may be wasted in alerting local officials and the news media – and that's time that may cost lives.

Onondaga County and our local municipalities value our partnership with CSX Transportation and are glad to have them as part of our community. We are hopeful in the event of another derailment, no matter how minor, proper notifications will be made so the people of our county are not left wondering and concerned for their health and safety yet again.