

The CENTER



A newsletter from Mt. Oliver Borough



Manager's Minute

With spring right around the corner, I'm getting excited for another busy year of projects in the Borough. In February, I attended a kick-off meeting for the Allegheny Together Program with an energetic steering committee of residents, business owners, and local officials. Mt. Oliver was one of only two communities accepted into the 2020 cohort. The purpose of the program is to develop a business district plan based on market research and community priorities. The consultant team then provides on-going technical support to implement the plan, including support for business recruitment and retention activities and access to funding. At the same time, we are continuing to invest in physical enhancements to the business district. Both the Walnut Street and Middle Way Parking Lots are slated to receive a makeover this year. Together, these lots have the capacity to provide more than 35 off-street public parking spaces immediately adjacent to the business district that are safe, well-lit, and accessible. Additionally, we are installing new decorative pole banners, repainting all of the streetlights, and completing the final phase of the Brownsville Road Sidewalk Project in the 300-500 blocks of Brownsville Road. All of this work is made possible through the generous support of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and also the Mt. Oliver Neighborhood Partnership Program.

We are actually in the final year of our Neighborhood Partnership Program grant, and I have been working diligently with Economic Development South drafting the new work plan and meeting with corporate sponsors to secure commitments for another round of funding. The Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) is a six-year state tax credit program where corporations with high state tax liability commit to investing dollars in a community. In return, a portion of that investment can be applied towards their state tax liability. The Mt. Oliver NPP has always been a balanced mix of place-based commercial revitalization strategies, housing stabilization, and human services, to deliver a truly comprehensive approach to community development, with partner organization such as the Hilltop Economic Development Corporation, Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, and the Brashear Association.

continued on next page



Upcoming Trash Collection

The following dates are upcoming trash collection dates and changes due to holidays:

Mar 17 Regular Collection	May 5 Regular Collection
Mar 24 Regular Collection	May 12 Regular Collection
Mar 31 Regular Collection	May 19 Regular Collection
Apr 7 Regular Collection	May 27 Holiday Collection
Apr 14 Regular Collection	Jun 2 Regular Collection
Apr 21 Regular Collection	Jun 9 Regular Collection
Apr 28 Regular Collection	Jun 16 Regular Collection

Trash must be placed curbside between 6:00 p.m. the day before and 6:00 a.m. the day of scheduled pick-up. Residents may put out up to 15 bags and no more than 2 bulky items. For specific questions or service issues, please contact Waste Management at 1-800-866-4460.

Please note that TVs and other electronics are never accepted. For these and other hard to dispose of items, contact Evolution E-Cycling at 412-390-3450.



Mt. Oliver Earth Day Cleanup

Mt. Oliver Borough is organizing an Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday, April 18th from 9 AM to 12 PM. We're looking for 50 volunteers (in teams of two) to tackle every street in the Borough. Trash bags and gloves will be available at the Borough Building the morning of the event, along with team assignments. Afterwards, we invite everyone to meet back at the Borough Building to enjoy a pizza lunch from Maietta's Restaurant, where one lucky team will win a set of Pirate's tickets, generously donated by our Municipal Solicitor, the law firm of Goehring, Rutter, and Boehm.

Act Now! Here's how...

Contact Rick Hopkinson at 412-431-8107 x 106 or rick.hopkinson@mtoliver.com to register!



Facebook: @mtoliverborough



Instagram: @mtoliverpgh

I think the Borough has definitely improved over the past five years and is finally stabilizing. I also think with all of the above, we are ramping up to take it to the next level. This is going to be an awesome year, but we need everyone to be a part of the team – in whatever way that resonates with you – whether it's reporting concerns, volunteering for or attending a community event, spreading positive news to friends and family, assisting a neighbor, or just having pride in your property and your community. As they say, it takes a village!



Rick Hopkinson
Borough Manager
Mt. Oliver Borough



Port Authority to Eliminate Two Mt. Oliver Area Bus Stops

Contributing Author: Casey Flores

Beginning March 15, two Mt. Oliver area bus stops along the 48 bus route will be consolidated in order to improve efficiency, says Port Authority. Specifically affecting Borough residents will be the elimination of inbound/outbound stops at the intersections of Amanda and Arlington, as well as the stop in front of St. Peters Cemetery. The next-closest stops, each about 1-2 blocks away, will be retained. These stops slated for consolidation have less than 100 daily riders on average, according to Port Authority's website. This follows the recent streamlining of service along the 51 bus route.



Property Maintenance

There's been a lot of repairs and renovations occurring throughout the Borough lately. Accordingly, this is a friendly reminder that a permit is required for dumpsters, bagsters, and storage pods, even if they're stored on your own property. Applications are available at the Borough Building or can be downloaded from the Borough Website.



Small Business Spotlight

Contributing Author: Casey Flores

Maietta's Restaurant

For over 45 years, Maietta's Restaurant has been a staple in the Mt. Oliver community. Maietta's was founded in 1973 by Gino Maietta out of his passion for good Italian food. Today, the restaurant is still family owned and operated by daughter Rose Demino, her son Frank, and her brother John Maietta. The family mantra was and always will be serving up quality food at reasonable prices. Favorites include their eggplant Parmesan, meatballs, veal, lasagna, and of course their pizza. Although they are probably most widely known for their homemade Italian cuisine, Maietta's has an extensive menu of sandwiches, sides, and comfort foods – including breakfast items – that are sure to hit the spot any day of the week.

Frank Demino has been working at the restaurant since he was 13 and has seen the Borough go through many changes over the years. While retail sales from foot traffic have dropped in recent years, Maietta's has stayed busy thanks to takeout, catering, and most recently, food-ordering cellphone applications.

"I started with the 'Slice' app and that's really taken off," Demino says, noting he also has the company listed on GrubHub and recently inquired about putting his menu on DoorDash, as well. These apps offer their users the ability to rate their orders, and Maietta's boasts an impressive 94% satisfaction rate.

"We've stayed in business with a good reputation and good food," he says. "It was my grandfather's so I'm going to try and keep it going."

Maietta's is located at 203 Brownsville Road and is open daily from 10:00 am to 9:30 pm, except Sundays when it closes at 6:30 pm.



Throwback photo of Maietta's Restaurant from the early 1980s



Adopt-A-Lot

Is there a vacant lot next door to you that you've dreamed of owning? Maybe you've thought about building a garage, installing a swimming pool, or just always wanted to have a larger yard. The Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program is an easy and affordable solution. We have assisted numerous individuals in acquiring property through this process. For more information, contact Rick Hopkinson at 412-431-8107 x 106 or rick.hopkinson@mtoliver.com.



Meet Your Elected Officials:

Councilman Aaron Graham

Q: How long have you lived in Mt. Oliver?

A: I bought my house on Giffin in the summer of 2009 – over 10 years ago! At the time I didn't know much about the Borough but I was charmed by the potential I saw in the business district and all the nice houses in the neighborhood. It didn't take long before I understood the independent spirit that has kept Mt. Oliver from becoming part of the city for all these years. It's a truly unique place to live.



Q: What made you decide to join council?

A: I started attending council meetings a couple years ago, just to see what they were all about and find out who was representing us and what was going on. The public meetings are a great opportunity to find out what challenges we face and what opportunities exist to improve our neighborhood. It was interesting to hear what people were concerned about, and to see how the process works. When one of the council members stepped down before the end of their term, I wrote a letter to council asking to be considered for the vacant position. Participation is so important and in a small borough like Mt. Oliver, as you can make a big difference. I felt like I had some ideas and a perspective that wasn't necessarily represented at the time.

Q: What's something you're proud of that the borough has achieved during your council tenure?

A: Well, this newsletter is something I'm really proud of! I think outreach and community building is something Mt. Oliver really needs. I hear so much about what the Borough used to be, but I'm most excited about what we can be in the future. I've always tried to bring a positive

message to our public meetings and highlight the great things that are happening here. I also enjoy helping with our community events like Fall Fest. I can't wait to see what we do in the next year!

I'm proud of helping to pass the new zoning code – it sounds boring but helping to decide what is possible here – what kinds of businesses we can have, what citizens can do with their property and what our standards are going to be – is really exciting.

Q: What are some areas you're committed to improving?

A: I'm committed to spreading the word about the Borough while maintaining our do-it-yourself, independent spirit. I'd love to see residents participate in our clean-up initiatives and our community events. We are a close-knit community and we can only benefit from being more accepting and understanding of one another as we grow and evolve. I'm committed to working towards improving our standard of living from the inside out, so that we control our destiny and do what is right for our residents.

Q: What's your favorite part about Mt. Oliver?

A: I love the pride our residents have about growing up here and their rich memories of the past. I want to start taking more pride in our present and our future. Mt. Oliver is such a hidden gem and it has already come a long way since I moved here. We have a lot of dedicated people working to improve the business district, the standard of living, and our public parks. I know it seems like a slow process but I think things are coming along and you can already see the strides we're making. It's time to start spreading the word – Mt. Oliver is a great place to live! We're minutes from Downtown, minutes from Oakland, minutes from everywhere. A small town, right here in the city, doing it ourselves.

Q: How can people get in touch with you with their ideas/concerns for the Borough?

A: I love to hear people's ideas and concerns and talk about where we can go together. The best way to get in touch is to come to our council meetings and our community events and start to get involved that way. We really, really need and value participation and representation! Public council meetings happen every third Monday of the month at the borough building at 7:30PM. The borough is also on Facebook and Instagram, which are excellent ways to get involved with the community.

I can be contacted directly at council@mtoliver.com. For anyone who can't make it to the public meetings, or just wants to reach out, please feel free to send me a message to share with the rest of council. We're here to listen to you.



Trending in MTO

Mt. Oliver Borough Council honors Donald Baumgart, owner and operator of Don's Bar for 60 years of business in Mt. Oliver. Stop by today and have a drink with him or try one of their Lenten specials, including a fresh fish sandwich, basket of shrimp, crab cakes, and of course pierogies!



Don's Bar is located at 151 Margaret Street, or you can find them on facebook [@donsbarmtoliver](https://www.facebook.com/donsbarmtoliver).



Upcoming Events

Council Meeting

3rd Monday of every month at 7:30 PM

Municipal Building – 150 Brownsville Road

Mt. Oliver Volunteer Fire Department

Annual Fish Fry

Wednesday, February 26th, and every Friday of Lent

11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Fire Hall - 120 Brownsville Road

TC Candy Easter Egg-stravaganza

Saturday, April 4th from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM

TC Candy – 101 Brownsville Road

Featuring visit from the Easter Bunny and activities for kids. For more info, follow TC Candy on Facebook @ tccandy or call the store at 412-488-6358.



Advertise with Us!

Mailed to every household in Mt. Oliver Borough

Business Card: \$85

Quarter Page: \$165

Contact 412-431-8107 x106 or

rick.hopkinson@mtoliver.com

A newsletter from Mt. Oliver Borough | Spring 2020

The CENTER

150 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15210

Mt. OLIVER