

The CENTER

A newsletter from Mt. Oliver Borough

Mt.
OLIVER



www.MtOliver.com



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Manager's Minute

Hello, Mt. Oliver! I can't believe summer has come and went. Our summer event series was a huge success, and while we're sad it's over, we have some awesome bands lined up for the fall!

I'd like to welcome our new Code Enforcement Officer, Phil Quattrone. Phil brings decades of experience to the Borough. Phil we will be conducting all occupancy and rental inspections, as well as enforcing the Borough's property maintenance codes. If you'd like to get in touch with Phil, you can email him at phil.quattrone@mtoliver.com or call the Borough Office.

In July, Mt. Oliver hosted PA House Democratic Leader Joanna McCClinton, where we toured the business district, showcasing impacts the Borough has made over the past few years with the help of state grants. Shortly after, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) announced that Mt. Oliver received the \$50,000 Keystone Communities grant that I applied for back in April to fund at least ten façade improvements in the 100-200 blocks of Brownsville Road. We are still waiting to hear back on our \$2.4 million Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) application for commercial district revitalization, housing stabilization, and human services programming. However, the Hilltop Alliance did secure funding from other sources to hire a staff person ahead of schedule to do economic development in the Mt. Oliver and Allentown business districts. Meg O'Brien started in August and you can learn more about her and her background in the pages that follow.

The Hilltop Economic Development Corporation (HEDC) and Mt. Oliver Borough partnered with the Allegheny County Health Department to host mobile vaccine clinics at the Borough Building. We had our first clinic on August 19 and have another scheduled for September 9. We're going to keep doing these as long as there is demand. Follow us on social media or check in the South Pittsburgh Reporter for scheduling updates.

Finally, save the date for Mt. Oliver's Light Up Night which will be on November 27 – the Saturday after Thanksgiving. We'll be unveiling our holiday passport program so again, be sure to follow us on social media or in the South Pittsburgh Reporter for news and updates.



Rick Hopkinson

Borough Manager
Mt. Oliver Borough



Left to Right: Jennifer Slagle, P.E. (The Gateway Engineers), Representative Jessica Benham, PA House Democratic Leader Joanna McCClinton, Borough Manager Rick Hopkinson, Ruthann L. Omer, P.E. (President of the Hilltop Economic Development Corporation)



Borough Manager Rick Hopkinson showing off the improvements to The Deck



Small Business Spotlight

What's in the Flavor at Flavor of Puerto Rico

By Yvette Rodriguez-Schmidt

Let me introduce myself, I'm Yvette Rodriguez-Schmidt and I'm co-owner and manager of the restaurant Flavor of Puerto Rico. My husband Victor is the Chef and makes all the wonderful, flavorful food that is served in our restaurant. From the Stewed Chicken (Pollo Guisado), Steak with Onions (Bistec encebollado), and so much more. All the recipes, however, are mine and passed down from mother to daughter, from the sofrito recipes to seasoning of our meals. It took my husband months to lockdown recipes because I don't measure anything, we just season until our ancestors tell us it's enough. So, he followed me around and with trial and error he was able to get a recipe written down. However, there is a part of the flavor that can never be duplicated or replaced and that's the love. Love of the food, love of the culture and love of the land. That's why most Puerto Ricans learn to cook with music on, we become one with the music, the rhythm takes over and you can taste that in our food. So, when you come to our restaurant you just don't get amazing food from my culture but all the love that goes into it. From my family to yours, Bienvenidos (Welcome)!!

Flavor of Puerto Rico is located at 160 Brownsville Road. Their business hours are:

Mon – Thur: 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Fri: 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM; 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Sat: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Sun: 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Follow them on facebook @FlavorofPuertoRico



Army Veteran and Social Worker

Build Business to help Business

First Sip Brew Box is a husband-and-wife small business started from the ground up. They promote craft breweries by designing collaboration merch (e.g. high quality shirts, hats and glassware), and partner with other small businesses that make products out of beer. These items are compiled and assembled into a Brew Box that is shipped to hundreds of subscribers around the globe, as well as influencers in the beer industry that do unboxing reviews. They then create social media assets, photos, and videos showcasing the collaboration.

Founders and co-owners Dennis (right) & Sammie (left) Guy have been in the business for past five years, where they have been primarily operating out of their home. Over the summer, they expanded into the storefront at 212 Brownsville Road, and in August, they launched their newest venture, First Sip Studios. "We've been asked over the years by many companies that see how good of a job we do on social media via photography and video production if we could do it for them," said Dennis. "Historically the answer has been 'no,' but with the recent launch of First Sip Studios we now can."

Mt. Oliver Borough, in partnership with the Hilltop Economic Development Corporation (HEDC) and Trailblaze Creative, has teamed up with First Sip Studios to bring these services to Mt. Oliver Businesses at little to no cost. Interested businesses can apply for Mt. Oliver's innovative Marketing & Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) online at www.mtoliver.com.

Be sure to follow the duo on social media @firstsipbrewbox and @firstsipstudios to stay up to date on the latest trends in craft beer and of course upcoming craft beer events through the region.



Mt. Oliver Welcomes increased Capacity for Business District

Meg O'Brien is the new Director of Economic Development at the Hilltop Alliance where she leads the business district programs in Mt. Oliver's Brownsville Road and Allentown's East Warrington Avenue business district. In this role, Meg supports small business owners, commercial property owners and entrepreneurs through a variety of programs including rent abatement, signage grants, facade improvements, and marketing assistance. She also links prospective businesses to property owners with available space, helping to attract reinvestment and growth. Meg works closely with Mt. Oliver Borough, the Hilltop Economic Development Corporation (HEDC), the Allentown CDC, and the Allentown Business District Committee.

Meg comes to the Hilltop Alliance from Detroit, where she worked at the Downtown Detroit Partnership. Most recently serving as Public Space Manager, Meg's work revolved around strategic planning, community outreach and program development. She focused primarily on bringing more visitors and businesses to Downtown Detroit. Meg studied Economics and Anthropology at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. She also holds a Masters in Public Policy from Trinity. Meg is excited to call Pittsburgh home, moving back to be with family. In her spare time, she enjoys biking, playing the saxophone and watching her nephews.



Trending in MTO



Façade Improvements

Façade Improvements are now underway and in various stages all throughout the business district! Check out the 'before' and 'after' for 100 Brownsville!

Summer Events Series

Our Summer Events were an overwhelming success! Here are some of our favorite photos!



WE'RE INVESTED IN MT. OLIVER

Contributing to the communities we serve is integral to our business. We proudly support Mt. Oliver and its work to revitalize outdoor spaces and make its community a better place to live and work.



**PENNSYLVANIA
AMERICAN WATER**
WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®



Upcoming Events

Council Meetings

3rd Monday of every month at 7:30 PM
Borough Building - 150 Brownsville Road

Fall Fridays on Main

Live Music Fridays in September & October from 6-9 PM
The Deck - Next to 150 Brownsville Road



Upcoming Trash Collection

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

Sep 14	Regular Collection	Nov 2	Regular Collection
Sep 21	Regular Collection	Nov 9	Regular Collection
Sep 28	Regular Collection	Nov 16	Regular Collection
Oct 5	Regular Collection	Nov 23	Regular Collection
Oct 12	Regular Collection	Nov 30	Regular Collection
Oct 19	Regular Collection	Dec 7	Regular Collection
Oct 26	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.

The following days are considered holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. **If the holiday falls on a Wednesday through Sunday, then trash pick-up in Mt. Oliver will not be delayed.** 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.

Advertise with Us!

Business Card = \$85 Quarter Page = \$165
Contact 412-431-8107 x106 or rick.hopkinson@mtoliver.com

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150 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15210

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