

The CENTER

A newsletter from Mt. Oliver Borough

Mt.
OLIVER



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Manager's Minute

With the worst of winter behind us and spring right around the corner, I'm starting to get excited for community clean-ups, spring plantings, and soon enough LIVE music on The Deck! Last year, we received so much positive feedback on our Borough-wide clean-up day, we decided to re-brand and expand into a series of Redd-Up Days, scheduled for the first Saturday of every other month from April through October. The format will stay exactly the same – select your streets, pick up your gloves and bags the day before, and work at your own pace. Drop the bags at any corner and Public Works will ride by on Monday to recover. I think we had so many volunteers last year because with this format it's not a huge commitment. If 25 people do their own street or their own block, it only takes about an hour with the whole Borough looking spotless by the end. While the Borough Building will be open between 9:00 AM to Noon the day of the event for refreshments, the nice thing is if folks are busy, you can pick up your supplies ahead of time and technically do your segment at any point that weekend, as long as the bags are there for Public Works early Monday morning.

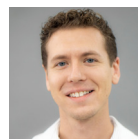
I'm also excited to announce that we've partnered with a company called Urban Landscapes to add some additional color along Brownsville Road and on Ormsby Avenue by the park with seasonal plantings and hanging baskets. Speaking of Ormsby, this is the year that the street will finally be paved, as well as all of the other streets impacted by the utility work last year.

The Façade projects in the 100-200 block of Brownsville will be resuming shortly, with more than a dozen storefront renovations slated for this year alone. We're also welcoming four new businesses to the Borough, including Reese's Soul Kitchen (130 Brownsville) and Echt Coffeehouse (107 Penn) – now open for business – as well as The Cheese Queen (156 Brownsville) and Two Coffins Tattoo – opening in April/May. We had our first Antique & Thrift Event on Saturday, March 5th showcasing our unique strip of local antique

stores and thrift shops where all attendees received a discount coupon and were encouraged to stay for lunch with even more specials from our local eateries. We're also busy planning a "Party on the Block" – a collaboration with First Sip Brew Box and Two Frays Brewing to take place on Saturday, March 26th from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. You can read all about the history and significance of the event and partnership in this issue.

Lastly, we're going to be submitting a grant application to do a master site plan for both Ormsby and Transverse Park. If awarded, we will host a series of meetings and focus groups to make sure we're planning places that are consistent with the community's wants and needs. I'm sure there will be a survey or two going out in the mail, as well. Please bear with us, because we'll also be soliciting feedback for the Clock Tower Plaza. The upcoming City of Pittsburgh Traffic Signal Project should help to enhance the traffic patterns at that intersection and make the plaza safer and more accessible to pedestrians. Now the question is how do we want to use? The Business District Advisory Committee has been working with the Allegheny Together Team to develop a concept, but now it's time to vet it to make sure we're on track.

That's all for now. Be sure to follow us on social media for more real-time updates on all of the happenings in the Borough!



Rick Hopkinson

Borough Manager
Mt. Oliver Borough



2022 MT. OLIVER
REDD-UP DAYS

April 2, June 4, August 6, October 1





Small Business Spotlight

ECHT Coffeehouse

Echt, pronounced “Esht,” is German for authentic, genuine, and real — exactly what Jorg Gerlach and his partner James Tyler are hoping to achieve with their business project in Mt. Oliver. ECHT Coffeehouse, located at 107 Penn Avenue, will be the first phase of the much larger ECHT Project that is open to the public, and the Borough’s first coffee shop.

The building, the site of the Borough’s former fire station, was purchased in 2016 by Gerlach. Since then, he and his team have been working to renovate the space and turn it into a hub of craftsman activity. The space now serves as a studio for welding, forging, wood work, ceramic tile work, and leather and fabric work.

The coffeehouse, run by James Tyler, will offer single-origin bean roasting in-house, serving everything from drip coffee to artisan espresso drinks. There will also be a food menu, offering options such as smoothies, breakfast and brunch items, and more. It will also serve as a showroom for the work of the in-house craftsmen — everything from the tables to the chairs to the sinks in the bathrooms are handmade.

In an article published by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Gerlach is quoted as saying: “The idea is to use the coffeehouse to explain what we’re doing in here.”

The coffeehouse fully opened on March 14, and is currently open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed on Tuesdays), though hours may expand.

Gerlach has resided in the Hilltop for 15 years, and has “always loved the classic main-street appeal of Mt. Oliver’s Brownsville Road.” “The fact that Mt. Oliver could keep its independence as a Borough with its own administration means that there is a community feel that is very unique,” said Jorg. “We think Mt. Oliver is on the way up, and we hope to contribute with interesting experiences. It is a tightly knit, beautiful community.”

Next steps for ECHT include the development of “Building II”, inside the former G.C. Murphy Department Store building at 221 Brownsville Road. This space will primarily be geared towards visiting artists, as well as community events. Coming next year in “Building I” will be a micro-distillery with specialty liquors.

“Mt. Oliver gives us an environment where new businesses can thrive and new approaches can be tested,” said Jorg.

For more information on the ECHT Project’s artist and craftsmen space, visit ECHT-Project.com. Information on the coffeehouse can be found at ECHT-Coffee.com.



Reese's Soul Kitchen and Catering

Reese's Soul Kitchen and Catering might be a familiar name to some. Having operated out of her home for the last few years, Reese Jackson's soul food kitchen will soon be a take-out staple on Brownsville Road.

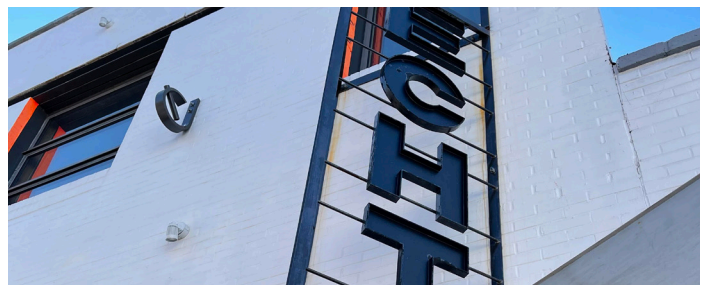
Reese specializes in soul food, with a menu including everything from ribs to oxtails to macaroni and beyond. Patrons can expect “healthy portions and great prices,” said Reese. The recipes are all family recipes, having been passed down the generations.

“I watched my grandparents, my mom, my aunt-- we had a big family. Everyone was always at our house, so we always cooked big. And I always jumped in to help. I just love to cook, it's a passion,” said Reese.

A resident of the neighborhood, Reese had been searching for a storefront in the area when she found the space at 130 Brownsville Road, with the help of Bruce Cellars, owner of One5210 Clothing at 226 Brownsville Road. “I was getting too big for my house,” she said. “It was time to move out.” She put in her offer, and the ball began rolling.

Long-time customers and brand-new patrons alike joined Reese in celebrating the grand opening of the storefront on March 5. “I was so excited to see the community come out,” she said.

“I’m picking right back up where I left off,” said Reese. “It’s a lot of work, but I’m ready. You’re in for the treat of your life if you haven’t had my food.”



Trending in MTO

MTO Antique & Thrift Event

Here are some photos of Mt. Oliver's first Antique & Thrift Event! Coupled with the Grand Opening of Reese's Soul Kitchen, it was so great to Brownsville Road so busy on a Saturday afternoon – and the weather was perfect!



First Sip Brewbox Presents: Party on the Block

Join First Sip Brew Box for its Party on the Block Event on Saturday, March 26th from 3:00 to 6:00 PM in the 100-200 blocks of Brownsville Road. Party on the Block is a global fulfillment event through First Sip Brew Box for Kweza Craft Brewery, sponsored by Two Fray Brewery and CNC Malt. The event will help raise awareness for the Kweza Crafty brewery in the United States, with Mt. Oliver at the focal point.



Kweza Craft brewery is the first brewery to exist in Rwanda that also happens to be founded and owned by women. Kweza means “harvest” and “purity” in Kinyarwanda. The brewery was started through a kickstarter campaign in 2016 and was reinvigorated with a new team in 2018. They source locally, sustainably, and practice a business model that supports women and the local economy. One of their chief aims is to increase Rawandan women’s generational wealth. The craft beer brewed between Two Frays and First Sip that will be released in Mt. Oliver at the event is called “Burning Lips,” and is a concoction of sorghum, corn, sweet potato, and hibiscus. Small businesses from Mt. Oliver will also be invited to sell their products and showcase themselves to the surrounding Pittsburgh community. The event will have live music provided by musicians Bryon Nash and Jacquea Mae.

First Sip Brew Box is a small business based out of 212 Brownsville Road in Mt. Oliver and is owned and founded by husband and wife Dennis & Sammie Guy. First Sip Brew Box is based on three pillars of being black-owned, woman-owned, and veteran-owned. First Sip Brew Box is the first of its kind in the United States as it offers a distribution service of non-alcoholic craft beer merchandise from craft breweries and causes all over the world, along with a creative video production service creating media content for small business owners – including many right here in Mt. Oliver – and craft breweries alike.





Upcoming Events

Council Meetings

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

Party on the Block

Saturday March 26 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
100-200 Block of Brownsville Road
A Collaboration with First Sip Brew Box
& Two Frays Brewing

Redd-Up Days

Saturday, April 2 from 9:00 AM to Noon
As well as Saturday, June 4, August 6, & October 1
Borough Building - 150 Brownsville Road

Summer LIVE Music Series

Fridays & Saturdays from June through August
@ The Deck. Schedule to follow!



Upcoming Trash Collection

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

Mar 15	Regular Collection	May 3	Regular Collection
Mar 22	Regular Collection	May 10	Regular Collection
Mar 29	Regular Collection	May 17	Regular Collection
Apr 5	Regular Collection	May 24	Regular Collection
Apr 12	Regular Collection	Jun 1	Holiday Collection
Apr 19	Regular Collection	Jun 7	Regular Collection
Apr 26	Regular Collection		

Trash must be placed curbside between 6:00 PM the day before and 6:00 AM 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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