

Fall
2022

The CENTER

A newsletter from Mt. Oliver Borough

Mt.
OLIVER



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Manager's Minute

Hello, Mt. Oliver!

I can't believe how quickly the summer has flown by. I think that's probably because how busy we've been! The Summer LIVE Music series just gets bigger and better every year with a wider variety of artists and music, and people discovering this little gem we call The Deck! Our Fall series is going to be jam-packed this year with more LIVE music, outdoor movies, a comedy show, and to finish it off, a Trunk-or-Treat followed by a Halloween Party! Also, I know it might seem early, but don't forget to save the date for Light Up Night! Always the Saturday after Thanksgiving (11/26).

Within the first half of the year alone, we've welcomed 5 new businesses (two of which are featured in this issue's spotlight) and we're continuing to attract more with our small business programs and just all of the buzz that's happening in the Borough right now. Our businesses have been featured in over a dozen newspapers, magazines, and online articles this year including big names such as Pittsburgh Magazine, Next Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Tribune Review, and Good Food Pittsburgh – just to name a few. Let's keep the momentum going!

I want to thank everyone who participated in the survey and public forum to provide ideas and feedback as we work to re-envision the Clock Tower Plaza. Your input has been crucial. In related news, the City's traffic signal project that stretches from 18th Street in the Southside Flats to the intersection at the Clock Tower has necessitated the temporary removal of the commemorative bricks at the plaza. The new ADA ramps and landing area are required to meet a specific slope and a portion of that area impedes on the commemorative bricks. Therefore, we have decided to remove all of the bricks and store offsite until they can be re-incorporated into the new plaza design. Anyone who wishes to pick up their brick instead may certainly do so by calling the Borough

Office. Otherwise, we will store for you until they can be re-incorporated.

I submitted a grant application in the spring to do a master site plan of Transverse Park. We have not heard anything back yet, but were told that it was a strong application. If awarded, we plan to hold a series of public meetings and focus groups to make sure updates to the park are consistent with what people want.

We are still accepting applications for the Military Banner Program from now through the end of the year. Banners will be displayed on the decorative light poles in the 300-500 blocks of Brownsville Road from Memorial Day to Veteran's Day. Applications are available at the Borough Building or can be downloaded from the Borough website.

Speaking of the website, I've been working on some upgrades to the website to make finding information and doing business even easier. We're exploring online payment options for real estate taxes and potentially permits. We're also going to be making some changes with trash and sewage billing. Stay tuned for more information, and as always, hope to see you around town!



Rick Hopkinson
Borough Manager
Mt. Oliver Borough



2022 MT. OLIVER
REDD-UP DAYS

October 1





Small Business Spotlight

Nbraidstyles

Contributing Author: Sebastian Foltz

Nbraidstyles is a new hair braiding salon owned and operated by Erudice Azonvide at 131 Brownsville Road. While Azonvide has been professionally braiding hair for 3 years, working with clients out of her home, she's recently expanded to open this salon in March 2022. Azonvide offers a variety of hair services and treatments for hair twists, dreadlocks and braids.

Why hair braiding? "It's something that I love to do," said Azonvide, adding that she likes to make people feel pretty. The idea first came to her as a young girl growing up in Cotonou, a city in the French-speaking West African country of Benin. There was another girl in her neighborhood who braided hair. Every weekend girls would line up to have their hair braided by her. She was the only one in the neighborhood. It was a good business, Azonvide thought. Maybe something she'd like to do some day. Her mother insisted, however, that she go to college first. So she did. She earned a degree in accounting.

The desire to own her own business never left her though. Nbraidstyles opened in March as an appointment-only hair braiding salon. So far Azonvide credits her social media presence for the majority of her business, and she hopes to continue to grow. Braiding is just the first step. The license was faster to complete than a full cosmetology program. She hopes to go back to school to complete that program and grow her business in the future, as well as hire other staff.

Four years ago she moved to Pittsburgh from Benin not knowing a word of English. "You can't say what you want. It's terrible," she said, remembering the challenge. She simply told herself she had to learn, and so she did. nToday she speaks English fluently. She credits her cosmetology teacher for helping her learn English but is otherwise self-taught.

For more information follow Nbraidstyles on Facebook and Instagram @Nbraidstyles. Appointments can be booked through her website nbraidstyles2.as.me.



Two Coffins Tattoo

Contributing Author: Sebastian Foltz

If you've driven through the intersection of Arlington and Brownsville recently, you've probably noticed the renovated storefront on the corner. 100 Brownsville Road is the new home to Two Coffins Tattoo and owners Haley and Justin Sims. The couple launched their business in Allentown in 2020, but have since outgrown their space.

"We were looking to move eventually," Haley said. "It just kind of worked out." The two-story shop, with a third floor converted into Justin's music practice space, is a big upgrade from their small storefront in Allentown.

"We really liked the space and the layout," Justin said.

A step in the shop and you can see why. The open-concept floor plan offers a welcoming modern feel, while preserving some of the building's traditional character. While they may have a macabre, metal-sounding name, don't be fooled. It's also a good place to get a flower tattoo. The store name actually comes from a mellow indie-rock love song by the band Against Me (think Johnny Cash meets Toad the Wet Sprocket). And Justin may look metal, but he's a self-described "big, mean looking dork," with strong opinions on the new Star Wars Obi-Wan Kenobi TV series.

For Haley and Justin, tattooing is all about being your own boss. Justin loves the association with the music world, and to be able to pursue his passion for art and all things "spooky." Haley – a self-described type A personality – likes the attention to detail. She works primarily in tattooing with bright colors while, Justin focuses on black. Together the couple have over 15-years of tattooing experience. Both are excited about their new location and the opportunity to grow a larger staff. The shop now has three full-time tattoo artists and 2 apprentices.

Two Coffins is open 12pm to 7pm and closed on Wednesdays and Sundays. However, it is best to book an appointment. Haley and Justin both have a four-to-six month wait list, with occasional openings due to cancellation. Check out their portfolios and learn more on their website www.twocoffinstattoo.com.

Trending in MTO

Summer Music Series Heating Up

Friends and neighbors enjoy a balmy summer evening on the Deck listening to the funky sounds of the Street Sneaker Band enjoying a local brew and snacking on charcuterie from Mt. Oliver's newest business, The Cheese Queen.



Animal Friends Vaccine Clinic Returns with a New Location

After taking a hiatus due to COVID, the Animal Friends Vaccine Clinic is back and here to stay! However, instead of being held at the Fire Hall along busy Brownsville Road, it is now located in the Public Works garage behind the Borough Building and sprawled out along the Middle Way Parking Lot where there is significantly less traffic and room to separate the animals. Through the generous support of Fragasso Financial Advisors, Animal Friends was able to vaccinate 129 animals at the event on August 5th. In addition, they provided 564 pounds of pet food and gave out hundreds of dog toys, harnesses, leashes, and collars – all free to the community! Some animals were also in need of medical intervention, such as a sweet kitty that was diagnosed with a life threatening pyometra during the clinic. She was transported by one of the Animal Friends team members for an emergency spay procedure. We are happy to report that everything went wonderfully during her surgery and she will recover to live a long and healthy life. If it weren't for the medical team's quick thinking and ability to assist, this story could have had a much different ending.



Sisters Place Gearing Up for "Socktober" Winter Clothing Drive

Contributing Author: Allison Hoffman

You may have seen Sisters Place's office on Brownsville Road or even stopped in for a "Free Coffee Fridays," but we want to officially introduce the organization! Sisters Place moved to Mt. Oliver in June 2021 after serving community members in Clairton for 28 years.

Sisters Place provides supportive housing and resources to families experiencing poverty and homelessness through their residential program. They also serve non-residential clients by offering community resources and events through their "Safe Space at Sisters Place" community support program. Services include free, one-on-one financial counseling with The Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Center, free STI and HIV testing with Allies for Health and Wellbeing, drop-in informal mental health support, kid-friendly events and more!

This October, Sisters Place is launching a "Socktober" winter clothing drive. They are requesting donations of new, with tags, winter clothing items such as socks, scarves, hats, gloves and coats. These items will benefit Sisters Place residential clients and clients of non-profit partner organizations. A drop-box will be in their office at 111 Brownsville Road through the month of October.

And don't forget to mark your calendars for their annual fall event, "Setting A Place to Call Home," on Oct. 7th at The Carnegie Science Center. You can learn more about Sisters Place programming and events by visiting their website www.sistersplace.org, checking out their Instagram "@sistersplaceinc" or visiting their Facebook page!





Upcoming Events

Council Meetings

3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 PM
Borough Building - 150 Brownsville Road

Hilltop Harvest Festival

Saturday, September 10th
3:00 PM to 6:00 PM @ The Deck
Family-friendly event featuring Live Music by The Jakob's Ferry Straglers, Hilltop Urban Farm Vendors, Beer from Allentown's Inner Groove Brewing, Community Art Project by Maria's Ideas, and more!

Falling for Mt Oliver Autumn Event Series

Fridays & Saturdays in September & October
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM @ The Deck
Follow us on facebook for the latest schedule!

Redd-Up Days

Saturday, October 1st from 9:00 AM to Noon
Borough Building - 150 Brownsville Road

Light Up Night

Saturday, November 26th
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM @ The Deck
Featuring Live Music by Caleb Smith, Local Merchants, Pop-Ups, Visit from Santa, Activities for Kids, and more! Don't forget to pick up your Passport to collect stamps from local businesses and win prizes!

Advertise with Us!

Mailed to every household in Mt. Oliver Borough

Business Card (3.5" x 2") = \$85 Quarter Page (3.5" x 4.5") = \$165

Contact 412-431-8107 x106 or rick.hopkinson@mtoliver.com



Upcoming Trash Collection

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

Sep 13	Regular Collection	Nov 1	Regular Collection
Sep 20	Regular Collection	Nov 8	Regular Collection
Sep 27	Regular Collection	Nov 15	Regular Collection
Oct 4	Regular Collection	Nov 22	Regular Collection
Oct 11	Regular Collection	Nov 29	Regular Collection
Oct 18	Regular Collection	Dec 6	Regular Collection
Oct 25	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.

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15210

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