



## **BOROUGH OF MT. OLIVER**

*(INCORPORATED NOVEMBER 9, 1892)*

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### **Manager's Report**

*June 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026*

#### **Administration & Governance**

*The following administrative functions are performed on an ongoing basis to ensure the effective operation of Borough government:*

- Direct day-to-day municipal operations and support Borough staff.
- Conduct daily staff coordination meeting.
- Oversee payroll, purchasing, accounts payable/receivable, cash receipts, utility billing, tax collection, budget monitoring, contract administration, financial reporting, and records management.
- Coordinate with the Borough Engineer, Solicitor, professional consultants, regulator agencies, and partner organization.
- Provide administrative support to Borough Council and the Borough's Board and Commissions, including the Planning Commission, Civil Service Commission, and Zoning Hearing Board.
- Prepare for and attend Council meetings, including agenda preparation, research, and follow-up implementation.

#### **Projects & Initiatives**

#### **STAFF & OPERATIONS**

##### **Organization Vision & Strategic Planning**

The Borough Manager and staff have initiated a long-term organizational visioning process to establish a shared direction for municipal operations and community development. Through a series of staff workshops, seven strategic domains were identified to organize the Borough's work: Staff & Operations, Housing & Neighborhoods, Business District, Parks & Public Spaces, Infrastructure & Mobility, People & Community Wellbeing, and Community Identity & Pride.

**June Update:** Staff are now refining initiatives within each domain, identifying priority projects that can be owned and implemented by individual team members, and aligning the Borough Manager's Monthly Report with this strategic framework to better communicate progress to Council.

##### **Fleet & Equipment Replacement**

The Borough maintains a long-term fleet replacement program to ensure Public Works has safe, reliable, and efficient equipment necessary to provide essential municipal services, including snow and ice control, street maintenance, and emergency response. As part of this effort, the Borough was awarded a \$119,124 Local Share Account (LSA) grant to purchase a replacement Public Works salt truck.

**June Update:** The replacement salt truck has been ordered and is currently being outfitted to the Borough's specifications. Delivery remains on schedule for fall 2026.

## **HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS**

### **Housing Study**

Council authorized a comprehensive Housing Study utilizing the Borough's professional consultants and staff to evaluate existing housing conditions and develop strategies to reduce blight, increase homeownership opportunities, and strengthen neighborhoods throughout the Borough.

**June Update:** Developed the project scope of work and facilitated kick-off meeting with the consultant team to establish project objectives, deliverables, and the project schedule.

### **Redd Up Days**

The Borough's Red Up Days program is a community engagement initiative designed to foster neighborhood pride, encourage resident stewardship, reduce litter, and enhance the appearance of residential neighborhoods through recurring volunteer clean-up events.

**June Update:** Continued the monthly self-paced clean-up series by providing supplies to residents and coordinating post-event collection of debris by the Public Works Department.

## **BUSINESS DISTRICT**

### **Business Recruitment & Retention**

The Borough works with the Hilltop Economic Development Corporation (HEDC), the Hilltop Alliance, property owners, and entrepreneurs to recruit new businesses, support existing businesses, reduce commercial vacancies, and strengthen the Brownsville Road business district.

### **June Update:**

The HEDC executed a five-year lease with Open Gate Therapeutics for 139 Brownsville Road. The business is relocating from Allentown and has begun tenant improvements to the space. The property will also receive exterior improvements through the Borough's Façade Improvement Program.

Hosted the quarterly Down2Business networking event at The Deck, bringing together existing business owners, entrepreneurs, and community partners. The event welcomed several new participants and generated multiple prospective leads for available storefronts in the business district.

Attended the Small Business Succession Planning Conference at the University of Pittsburgh, hosted by the School of Business and the Center for Governance and Markets, to identify strategies and resources that can help existing businesses transition ownership, reduce commercial vacancies, and support long-term business retention in Mt. Oliver.

### **Commercial Property Redevelopment**

The Borough partners with the Hilltop Revitalization Collaborative (HRC) to acquire, rehabilitate, and lease strategic commercial properties that support long-term revitalization of the Brownsville Road business district. HRC has acquired seven commercial properties in the 100 and 200 blocks of Brownsville Road, including the former Mike's Lunch building at 200 Brownsville Road. That property was awarded a \$162,156 Main Street Matters Grant for renovation into a new neighborhood restaurant.

**June Update:** Attended the project kickoff meeting at the former Mike's Lunch property to finalize the scope of work, review commercial kitchen equipment needs, and establish the project schedule for bidding and construction.

### **Façade Improvement Program**

The Borough was awarded a \$100,000 Main Street Matters Grant to implement a Commercial Façade Improvement Program for eligible properties located in the 100–300 blocks of Brownsville Road and along Hays Avenue. The program provides financial assistance to commercial property and business owners for exterior building improvements that enhance the appearance of the business district, encourage private investment, and strengthen the overall image and vitality of Mt. Oliver's commercial corridor. To launch the program, the Borough hosted an informational workshop for business and property owners at the Borough Building, followed by individual consultation meetings with interested applicants to discuss project eligibility and application requirements.

### **Business District Events & Activation**

The Borough coordinates events and programming to increase visitation, support local businesses, and promote Brownsville Road as a community destination.

#### **June Update:**

The Borough was awarded a \$5,000 Main Streets Allegheny Grant to support the 2026 Juneteenth Celebration and Summer LIVE Music Series. In addition, the Borough secured \$6,000 in additional sponsorship funding from Gateway Engineers, GRB Law, Trailblaze Creative, Northwest Bank, Senator Jay Costa, and Representative Jessica Benham to further enhance event programming.

Successfully planned and hosted the Borough's annual Juneteenth Celebration on June 20, attracting an estimated 150 attendees. Three Mt. Oliver businesses—That New Wing Spot, Jaelin's Cookies & Creamery, and Flavor of Puerto Rico—participated as pop-up vendors and collectively generated an estimated \$1,650 in sales, demonstrating the event's ability to directly support local businesses while attracting visitors to the Brownsville Road business district

Launched the Summer LIVE Music Series with a performance by the Red Barn Band on June 27. Despite inclement weather, approximately 40 residents and visitors attended the kickoff event. The concert series will continue through the end of August, providing ongoing opportunities to increase foot traffic, support local businesses, and activate the business district.

## **PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES**

### **Transverse Park Master Plan**

The Borough was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to develop a comprehensive Master Site Plan for Transverse Park. Throughout 2024, a Council-appointed committee worked with the consultant team to guide the planning process, including extensive public engagement and stakeholder outreach. Council adopted the Master Site Plan in March 2025, establishing a long-term vision for improvements to the Borough's largest park. Following additional Council-directed revisions, the consultant developed updated plan alternatives to refine the layout and priorities. Upon adoption of the revised Master Plan, the Borough will begin pursuing grant funding and other financial resources to implement the improvements in phases.

**June Update:** Reviewed the consultant's revised master plan alternatives and forwarded them to Borough Council for consideration at the July Council meeting. Council is expected to select a preferred layout to guide future grant applications and phased implementation.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE & MOBILITY**

### **Roadway and Sidewalk Improvements**

The Borough continues to implement a comprehensive roadway and sidewalk improvement program focused on pedestrian safety, ADA accessibility, and long-term asset preservation. The Borough was awarded a \$138,538 Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant for the Safe Routes to School Program, which includes sidewalk and ADA improvements along Church Avenue and Ottillia Street. The construction contract was awarded to Michael Facchiano Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$87,716.68, and is in the construction phase.

The Borough has also implemented a preventative pavement maintenance strategy through its 2025–2030 Pavement Maintenance Plan to maximize the life of Borough streets while minimizing long-term costs. The 2026 program includes crack sealing and pavement rejuvenation (sealcoating) projects. The 2026 Crack Sealing Program was completed by Russell Standard in the amount of \$9,352.04, while the 2026 Pavement Rejuvenator Program was awarded to Pavement Tech, Inc. in the amount of \$23,125.00, with work scheduled for completion in late summer.

To advance future roadway improvements, the Borough has submitted Local Share Account (LSA) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications to resurface Margaret Street (Hays Avenue to the terminus) and Park Road, including associated ADA curb ramp upgrades. Award notifications are pending.

**June Update:** Facchiano completed the Church Avenue and Ottillia Street sidewalk improvements as part of the Safe Routes to School Program. Because construction costs came in under budget, the Borough authorized additional sidewalk and curb ramp improvements on Fremont Street after a resident identified deteriorated conditions during a public meeting. The supplemental work will further improve pedestrian safety and ADA accessibility while maximizing the use of available grant funding.

### **Sanitary Sewer Operation & Maintenance**

The Borough maintains a comprehensive Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Program to preserve the integrity of the sanitary sewer collection system, reduce inflow and infiltration (I&I), and comply with Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requirements. As part of the program, approximately 10% of the Borough's sanitary sewer system is inspected by closed-circuit television (CCTV) annually, with identified defects addressed through pipe lining, point repairs, or excavation as necessary.

The Borough also completed a major Phase II Consent Order project to reduce inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer system. The project was supported by a \$97,400 ALCOSAN GROW Grant and Pennvest loan, with construction completed by Wilson Excavating under a contract totaling \$314,961. The Borough continues to administer grant reimbursement and loan closeout activities associated with the project.

The 2026 CCTV inspection contract was awarded to Razor Lake Materials in the amount of \$29,150, and the scope of the 2026 sewer lining and point repair program is being finalized based on inspection results.

The Borough continues to coordinate with ALCOSAN on implementation of the approved Regionalization Transfer Agreement, which provides for the transfer of select regional trunk sewer lines while the Borough retains ownership and responsibility for the local collection system.

**June Update:** A pre-construction meeting was held with Razor Lake Materials on June 4 to review project requirements, scheduling, and coordination for the 2026 CCTV inspection program. Field inspections are now underway, with televising of approximately 10% of the Borough's sanitary sewer system expected to be completed within the next several weeks. The inspection results will be used to identify deficiencies and develop the Borough's 2027 Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Program.

#### **Utility Coordination**

The Borough coordinates with public utility providers to facilitate infrastructure improvements, review and issue permits, minimize impacts to residents, and ensure that streets, sidewalks, and other public infrastructure are properly restored following construction activities. Current coordination efforts include projects by Columbia Gas and Pennsylvania American Water.

**June Update:** Columbia Gas completed meter relocations and final concrete restoration is underway. Pennsylvania American Water continued its Lead Service Line Replacement Program throughout the Borough. Final punch list items remain for the Sherman and Stamm waterline replacement project.

### **PEOPLE & COMMUNITY WELLBEING**

#### **Animal Friends Vaccine Clinic**

The Borough partners with Animal Friends to host an annual low-cost pet vaccination and licensing clinic, providing residents with convenient access to preventative veterinary care while promoting responsible pet ownership and public health. Due to the program's continued growth, the event has been relocated to Transverse Park to better accommodate participants and reduce traffic congestion. This year's clinic will serve dogs only, with plans to explore a separate cat clinic at an indoor venue in the future.

**June Update:** Began advertising the July 31 Animal Friends Vaccine Clinic through the Borough's website, social media platforms, and in-office displays. Continued coordination with Animal Friends regarding event logistics and preparations.

### **COMMUNITY IDENTIFY & PRIDE**

*Future initiatives will be added to this strategic domain as they are identified through the Borough's ongoing strategic planning process.*