



OLIVE CONNECTION

MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Olive Connection

Welcome to the Olive Connection!! I hope you are enjoying the quarterly newsletter. Our goal with this newsletter is to provide a platform for communication and engagement within our community. We believe that by keeping you informed, we can strengthen our great community and work together towards a better future.

Official Township Business

On March 19, 2024, the Township formally adopted the 2024 Municipal Budget. This decision was made after careful consideration and evaluation of our financial situation. For the past 11 years, the Township was able to maintain a stable budget with no municipal tax increase. However, due to the loss of American Rescue Funds, reduced ratable growth, and increased costs in labor and statutory obligations, the Township made adjustments. Therefore, a budget was adopted with a three-point tax increase, which amounts to \$100.72 per year on the average assessed home of \$324,900. This increase is necessary to maintain the services and programs that our community relies on.

On another note, the Police Department has been busy promoting new officers in the new year. Detective Lieutenant Lou Sanchez was promoted to Captain, Sergeant Eric Anthony was promoted to Lieutenant and Corporal Tyler Mullyoly & Corporal Constantinos Pagonis were promoted to Sergeant. We are proud to have such dedicated and hardworking individuals in our department, and we are confident that they will continue to serve our community with excellence. The creation of a second Captain position in the Police Department was also done to ensure better oversight and management, leading to a safer community for all residents.

In previous meetings, we also had the pleasure of honoring two remarkable individuals. Resident Francis Lichowid was presented with a proclamation for her 102 years of life, and former Mayor Robert Greenbaum was recognized for his many years of dedicated public service. Their contributions to our community are greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- April 20 - Hidden Treasure
- May 1 - Property Taxes Due
- May 18 - Fairy & Pirate Festival
- June 15 - Touch a Truck
- June 23 - Block Party
- Chipper Service and Yard Waste Collection starts in April.

Ordinances & Resolutions

The Township Council took recent action and proactive steps to keep Mount Olive moving forward in the right direction. The decision to amend a bond to provide \$850,000 for road resurfacing is a crucial step towards improving the infrastructure in our Township, in addition to the adoption of the 2024 Capital Bond Ordinance in the amount of \$2.6M. This investment will be used towards various projects, including the replacement of a turf soccer field, a new Senior Transportation Bus, and funding for a Dry Line Feasibility Study. These projects will undoubtedly benefit the community and make Mount Olive an even more desirable place to live. The Governing Body passed a resolution requesting a meeting with the NJ Department of Transportation to discuss traffic concerns along Rt. 46/Rt. 206, showing their commitment to the safety of our residents. A new shared service agreement was authorized with the Township of Chester for the provision of "on-call/as needed" Plumbing/Mechanical Subcode inspections. A title search was also authorized for the Stark Cemetery for possible acquisition/donation. And finally, the Township is currently soliciting vendors for Brewery Concession Services and recreational camps.

Other Developments

The Land Use Board approved seven (7) residential units of affordable housing at 23 Stonewald Court Drive which will be constructed by Morris Habitat for Humanity. An extension of the developer's agreement with Wawa was granted with an anticipated project completion date of mid-September 2024 and contracts were also authorized for a new sanitation truck and playground equipment for Flanders Park. These investments in infrastructure and community facilities will undoubtedly enhance the quality of life for the residents of Mount Olive.



Department Highlight

Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works, through the Road Department, Parks, Buildings & Grounds, Sanitation, Fleet Maintenance, and Water & Sewer Departments, play a vital role in keeping our Township running smoothly. The Road Department's main function of maintaining 150 miles of Township roadways, proper signage, and drainage are essential for the safety and convenience of the traveling public. The Parks, Buildings & Grounds Department's daily maintenance of all Township facilities and 267 acres of Turkey Brook Park is commendable in addition to working closely and supporting the Recreation Department. The Sanitation Department's curbside collection of solid waste and single stream recycling program is a step towards a greener and cleaner environment. Fleet Maintenance's dedication to keeping all Township vehicles, including emergency response and police vehicles, in top condition is admirable. Lastly, the Water & Sewer Departments critical role in providing clean and safe water by maintaining ten municipal water systems and three individual sanitary sewer collection systems is a daunting task.

Grant Awards & Applications

The Township is pleased to announce an award of \$260K from the NJ Historic Preservation grant for the Seward House. This is a significant step in our ongoing efforts to preserve this historic landmark and make it accessible to the public. Furthermore, the Township has applied for other grants that are currently pending. These include a \$398K Morris County Historic Preservation grant for the interior restoration of the Seward House, a \$112K Local Recreation Improvement grant for new bocce ball courts at the Senior Center, and a \$100K LEAP Implementation grant to purchase a new Fire Prevention vehicle. These grants, if approved, will enable us to undertake much-needed projects and enhance services to our community.

Employee Recognition

Christie Stachnick- Technical Assistant to the Construction Official

Christie has been a valuable member of the Mount Olive team for the past 30 years and her dedication and hard work have been instrumental in the growth and success of our organization. Christie started her career in October 1994 as a part-time Switchboard Receptionist and her professionalism quickly led to her promotion as a full-time Clerk Typist in the Administration Department in December 1995. In 2000, Christie's knowledge in municipal government led to another promotion as the Benefits Coordinator. In this role, she handled workers compensation claims, health insurance benefits, and general liability claims. She became the main point of contact for all employee benefit needs. In 2016, Christie continued to advance her career in public purchasing and became the Qualified Purchasing Agent in 2017. She was responsible for preparing bids, RFPs, and administering purchasing contracts for the Township. In July 2019, Christie was transferred to the Building Department and became a Technical Assistant to the Construction Official. In this role, she has been responsible for reviewing construction permits for compliance, processing permits, maintaining blueprints, and archiving construction plans. She works closely with contractors, residents, and our inspectors to ensure that all projects are handled accordingly. Her knowledge and understanding of all Township functions have been a tremendous asset to our organization. Christie has always maintained a positive attitude and is always willing to help whenever needed.

Dedicated Years of Service

The Township would like to recognize and congratulate our employees who have dedicated years of service to the Township. Brian Braikovich, Matthew Gumann, and Scott Price have been with us for 25 years, Michele Doucette and Colin Baker for 10 years, and Dillon Nagy and Ron Criscuolo for 5 years. The Township is grateful for their commitment and contribution, and we look forward to many more years of working together.