



OLIVE CONNECTION

**MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**

Welcome to the Olive Connection



ANDREW TATARENKO

Welcome to the Olive Connection!! I hope you are enjoying the quarterly newsletter. The newsletter will continue to feature updates on official Township business, provide information of upcoming events and dates to remember, highlight Department services and provide relevant information about what's happening around Mount Olive. I hope you find this newsletter beneficial, engaging and an effective means of strengthening our great community. If you have suggestions on how to improve the newsletter or ideas on what information you would like to read about, please contact me at atatarenko@mtolivetwp.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- July 12-16 - Carnival Week
- August 1 - Property Taxes Due
- August 4 - Music & Movie
- August 5 - Block Party
- August 18 - Salsa in the Park
- August 26 - Food Truck/Fireworks
- September 23 - Country in the Park

Official Township Business

The Township recognized Local Government Week, from April 16th - 22nd, and encouraged all residents to support Township employees. Local government is the closest branch of government to most residents and the one with the most direct daily impact on the quality of life for residents. In addition, National Public Safety

Telecommunicators Week was recognized from April 9th - April 15th, as our Communication Officers are the ones whose faces are seldom seen, but their voices are strong and provide many with comfort and hope during stressful incidents. Our Communication Center is staffed 24/7/365.

Last year, 9,696 9-1-1 calls were answered and resources were dispatched to 3,635 fire and medical emergencies.

The Mayor signed several proclamations starting with recognizing Ralph DeVito for his lifelong commitment to Mount Olive Township, recognized National Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 2, 2023 and proclaimed the month of June as LGBTQ+ Awareness Month.

The Governing Body donated seven (7) surplus AED's to various sport associations, authorized an agreement with NTBB, LLC to install fiber optic cable and equipment in the Budd Lake section to improve internet service and compete with other providers, and joined RevolutionNJ in an effort to start planning and coordinating the 250th anniversary of The United States of America.

Ordinances & Resolutions

The Township Council has amended several ordinances and adopted resolutions to keep Mount Olive moving forward in the right direction. An ordinance establishing regulations for the installation of Electric Vehicles and Lead Paint Testing for residential rental properties was adopted along with establishing a Fire Watch policy and amending the Length of Service Awards Program for the Flanders Fire and Rescue Squad to encourage volunteerism.

An Accreditation Coordinator position was also created, which is 100% grant funded, to assist the Health Department in becoming a national standard for public health. In addition, a purchasing contract was awarded to Creative Bus Sales, Inc. for the purchase of a new Senior Transportation Bus partially funded through a grant and a new vendor has been selected to run a second Food Truck Festival on November 4th, 2023.

Other Developments

The Planning Board approved Chipotle in ITC South and a 500,000 S.F. warehouse located at 3000 International Drive (former BASF site). In addition, the Township resurfaced the Football/Baseball/Playground parking lots at Turkey Brook Park, rehabilitated the tennis courts and added pickleball lines, acquired lake front property at 97 Sandshore Road for a potential boat dock/fishing pier and installed six (6) public use AED's throughout our park system.

Employee Recognition



***Greg Widzemok - DPW
Roads Division Foreman***

Greg has been employed with the Township since 2001 as a Laborer in the Public Works Department and promoted to Foreman of

the Road Division in 2017. Greg's responsibilities include supervising twelve staff members who maintain and repair all Township streets, culverts and drains, including keeping streets in a clean and safe condition for travel, free of obstructions and hazards, and removal of snow and ice when required. He is involved in capital planning and overseeing the road resurfacing projects which includes over 115 miles of Township roadways. In addition, Greg is a dedicated member of the Flanders Fire and Rescue squad for twenty-four years, serving as Chief, Assistant Chief, Lieutenant and Captain of the Fire Division. Greg is also a committed volunteer to the Mount Olive Baseball/Softball Association as a proud coach. DPW Director Tim Quinn said: "Greg is a trusted and respected employee who shows much pride in his work and is dedicated to the Township and its residents".

Grant Applications & Awards

The Township recently applied for several grants which will help offset the cost of future projects. A \$260K NJ Historic Preservation grant to restore the Seward House Barn, a \$550K Connect and Protect grant to provide clinical professionals for mental health responses, a \$500K Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity grant, a \$300K Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure grant and \$50K COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental grant to assist with mitigating health impacts. In addition, the Township was awarded a \$15K Stormwater Mapping Assistance grant, \$64K Local Recreation Improvement grant for additional playground equipment at Flanders Park, a \$76K Clean Communities grant for our recycling efforts, a \$7K Lead Assistance grant and a \$15K grant to combat the invasive Spotted Lanternfly.



Department Highlight

Planning & Zoning Department

The Planning & Zoning Department is responsible for administering and enforcing the Township's Zoning, Subdivision and Site Plan Review ordinances. The office reviews all building permit applications to ensure compliance with the zoning ordinance. The office is also responsible for planning activities related to the long-term development of the community through amendments and updates to the Township Master Plan and assisting the Planning Board with all development applications consistent with the affordable housing laws and Highlands restrictions.

Zoning issues often arise when homeowners seek to construct fences, decks, pools, and sheds. Zoning permits are required for all regardless of their height and/or size. Sign permits are also required for all freestanding signs, wall signs, and banner-type signs prior to their installation.

Home-based businesses can be operated from a residential property, subject to satisfying the standards in the zoning ordinance. These standards are intended to ensure that the home-based business does not negatively impact the residential character of the neighborhood.

A licensed professional planner of the State of New Jersey is appointed as a full-time employee to oversee the Planning & Zoning Department.