



# OLIVE CONNECTION

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

## Welcome to the Olive Connection



**ANDREW TATARENKO**

Welcome back 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](mailto:atatarenko@mtolivetwp.org).

### ***Official Township Business***

On January 3, 2023, the Township held its Re-organization Meeting and Mayor Greenbaum provided the 2023 State of The Township Address for his last time as the Mayor of Mount Olive Township. Many exciting updates were given, most notable, the return to in-person meetings, the development of the newly acquired Pondview property, and continued work at Valley Brook Park and Budd Lake Beach. Also emphasized was the importance of tax stability and the announcement that there will be no municipal tax increase for the eleventh year in a row. Over the past several months, Departments have been working hard and focusing on developing the 2023 budget which will be presented to the Council on Saturday, January 28, 2023. The Administration is presenting a capital budget of just over \$5M, \$1.3M of which will be funded through various grants. Major projects include road resurfacing, a new 911 console, and upgrades to the Cloverhill Sewer Treatment Plant. Park improvements planned are to resurface the parking lots and tennis courts at Turkey Brook Park. A new senior transportation bus and police vehicles will also be recommended for purchase.

In addition, the Township submitted the Best Practices Inventory required by the State which resulted in a score of 96%. Scoring high on the BPI guarantees the Township will receive its final allotment of State Aid. A bond rating call with the S&P was also conducted and our AA+ rating was reaffirmed based upon our strong finances and management policies. A strong bond rating ensures lower interest rates on our debt.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- January 28 - Budget Meeting
- February 1 - Property Taxes Due

Yard waste pickup will commence the first week of March through the last week of April. Collection consists of shrub trimmings, leaves, twigs and garden refuse.

### ***Ordinances & Resolutions***

The Township Council has amended several ordinances to reflect the current environment. Salary & wages were established for Township employees, the construction fees were updated to include EV Charging Stations & a Continued Certificate of Occupancy fee, and a bond ordinance was adopted to provide funding for PFOA remediation for the Pinecrest Water System. The Council also approved a contract to Morris Habitat for Humanity to construct 10 affordable housing units at the old Cobblestone site, approved a Developers Agreement to construct 7 single family homes known as "Peacock Run at Flanders Village" off of Main Street and extended the agreement with Wawa for an additional year to complete the construction which was delayed due to unforeseen problems and the issuance of NJDOT permits.

## Other Developments

An outdoor fitness gym is under construction at Flanders Park which was funded through a NJ State Recreation Grant, a new shared service agreement was entered into with Netcong to provide sanitation pick up generating over \$100K in revenue, and seven EV charging stations will be installed shortly throughout the Township-owned parks and facilities. A Highlands Redevelop Area was also approved along Sand Shore Road and Route 46 for the potential of two industrial buildings consistent with the Zoning Laws.

## Employee Recognition



***Rose Barsanti - Tax Collector/Assistant Director of Finance***

Rose has been employed with the Township since 1995 starting as the Administrative Assistant to

the CFO, was promoted to the position of Assistant Treasurer in 2000, Assistant Tax Collector in 2003 and appointed as the Township Tax Collector/Assistant Director of Finance in 2005. Rose has the responsibility, oversight, collection, enforcement, billing and reporting of over a \$110 million tax levy as well as water and sewer rents and assessment levies totaling an additional \$5.5 million. She consistently maintains a high tax collection rate over 99% and keeps meticulous financial records resulting in no audit recommendations. Rose is always eager to assist, is well-liked by residents, and has an outgoing personality. CFO Sherry Kolody said: "Rose has steadfastly served the municipal staff, residents and vendors for almost 28 years and has been key to the financial accomplishment of Mount Olive Township."

## Stay Connected!

Facebook: @Mountolivetownship

Website: [www.mountolivetwpnj.org](http://www.mountolivetwpnj.org)

Emergency Alerts: AlertMTolive

Email: [info@mtolivetwp.org](mailto:info@mtolivetwp.org)

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## Department Highlight

### *Clerks Office*

The Clerks Office performs the core duties as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133 which includes acting as the Secretary to the Municipality and custodian of all minutes, books, deeds, contracts and archival records, the Secretary to the Governing Body, the Chief Administrative Officer in all elections held in Mount Olive, the Chief Registrar of Voters, the Administrative Officer responsible for acceptance of most licenses and permits issued and Coordinator and Records Manager responsible for implementing local archives and records retention and processing government records requests under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA). In addition, the Clerks Office performs free Notary Services.

In 2022, the Clerks Office processed over 800 OPRA requests, issued 45 bingo/raffle licenses, processed 24 liquor license applications, performed 94 Oaths of Office, registered 24 landlords, recorded 32 new ordinances and 407 resolutions, notarized 900 documents, and issued numerous licenses for Limo, Taxis and Solicitors.

## Grants \$\$\$

The Township was recently awarded several grants which will help supplement the cost of the following projects: \$7K grant from the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety to implement the Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over program, \$39K grant from the American Rescue Plan to purchase Fire Fighter turn out gear, \$82K grant from Morris County Open Space Preservation to purchase open space along Sand Shore Road to potentially construct a boat dock and fishing pier, and \$265K grant for the NJ Department of Transportation to rehabilitate the Rt. 46/International Drive Intersection.