



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:

- April 22 - Hidden Treasure
- April 22 - Tree Seedling Pick Up
- May 1 - Property Taxes Due
- May 20 - Fairy & Pirate Festival
- June 17 - Touch a Truck
- June 23 - Block Party

Official Township Business

On March 21, 2023, the Township formally adopted the 2023 Municipal Budget. Notwithstanding post pandemic inflation, for the 11th year in a row, the Mayor and Council have passed a budget that will include no municipal tax increase. Additionally, on February 7, 2023, the Mount Olive Police Department promoted Dave Turner to Lieutenant and Dave Hering to Sergeant to fill two vacancies created by retirements. Sixty-six (66) volunteer Fire and EMS members were also recognized through the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) which was created to reward members of the volunteer emergency services for their loyal and devoted service to the residents of Mount Olive. A \$1,907.42 contribution was made into a deferred-income account for each of the volunteer members. The Township is always looking for dedicated residents to volunteer their services. Please reach out to your local volunteer Fire & EMS Department for more information.

Mount Olive also partnered with Green Vision, Inc. and will be donating surplus IT equipment to support the non-profit organization who teaches individuals with autism how to properly dismantle and recycle unwanted electronics.

Finally, third-party vendors are being sought out for the Recreation Department to provide for a second Food Truck Festival and a new and improved Winter Festival.

Ordinances & Resolutions

The Township Council has amended several ordinances and adopted resolutions to keep Mount Olive moving forward in the right direction. A Capital Bond Ordinance was adopted appropriating just over \$7.5M toward various projects. Major investments include the construction of a new Health Center, road resurfacing, and a 911 emergency response communication system. A new shared service agreement was also authorized with Washington Township for plumbing sub-code services generating an additional \$30K in revenue. In total, all of our shared service contracts generate over \$700K in gross revenue.

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Facebook: @Mountolivetownship

Website: www.mountolivetwpnj.org

Emergency Alerts: AlertMTolive

Email: info@mtolivetwp.org

Public Access Channel: Channel 78

Other Developments

EV Charging stations have been installed at four (4) Township properties at no cost to the taxpayers (Townhall, Library, Turkey Brook Park & Flanders Park). The Planning Board approved phase I of the JAS major subdivision which includes 146 single family homes, 168 townhouses and 100 affordable "stacked townhouses" on Continental Drive in the International Trade Zone, a printing and graphic shop approved at the old plumbing supply store known as 325 Route 46 and a 196,748 S.F. warehouse was approved located at 2000 International Drive.

Employee Recognition



***Liz Meininger -
Recreation Marketing
Director***

Liz has been employed with the Township since 2002 as a Recreation Specialist, was promoted to the position of

Recreation Program Coordinator in 2008 and took on the responsibilities of the Recreation Marketing Director in 2015.

Liz has the responsibility of developing programs, marketing and planning recreational events, obtaining sponsorship, coordinating park improvements, and initiating creative ideas that enrich lives, promotes health and encourages a sense of community. She has been the recipient of many awards, including the 2012 NJRPA Employee of the Year, 2017 Morris Park Alliance Award of Merit, 2019 Morris Park Alliance Outstanding Program, and the 2022 Morris Park Alliance Community Recognition Award. Liz is the heart and soul of the Recreation Department. Liz is hard working, dedicated, enthusiastic and full of fun. Recreation Director Jill Daggon said: "Liz is our superpower, great at thinking outside of the box and inspiring others. She consistently lives up to our motto "We Can Rec Anything!".

Grant Applications

The Township recently applied for several grants which will help offset the cost of future projects. A \$415K Morris County Historic Preservation grant to restore the Seward House Barn, a \$280K LEAP implementation grant to purchase a new Sanitation Truck, a \$25K DEP grant for stormwater management mapping, a \$600K Community Funding grant to improve water quality in the Budd Lake Watershed and a \$112K recreation grant for new playground equipment at Flanders Park.



Department Highlight

Finance Department

The Finance Department provides for the coordination and oversight of all the Township fiscal operations. It controls budget expenditures, administers the Township's debt and cash management programs, prepares year-end financial statements and makes prudent financial recommendations to the Mayor, Council and Administration with regard to financial policy. The Township's excellent financial management practices and fiscal responsibility are reflected in its AA+ bond rating from S&P Global. In addition, since 2000, the Township has consistently received excellent audit reports from an independent auditing agency.

The Department has three main divisions: Finance, Collections and Assessment. The Division of Finance is responsible for payroll, accounts payable/receivable, cash management, budgeting and fiscal reporting. The Division of Assessments is responsible for determining the fair market value of every parcel of real property as well as maintaining appropriate assessment records for each. The Division of Collections maintains an accounting of all tax, water, sewer and assessment collections and enforces the collection of delinquent charges through foreclosure of municipal tax liens and municipal tax sales.