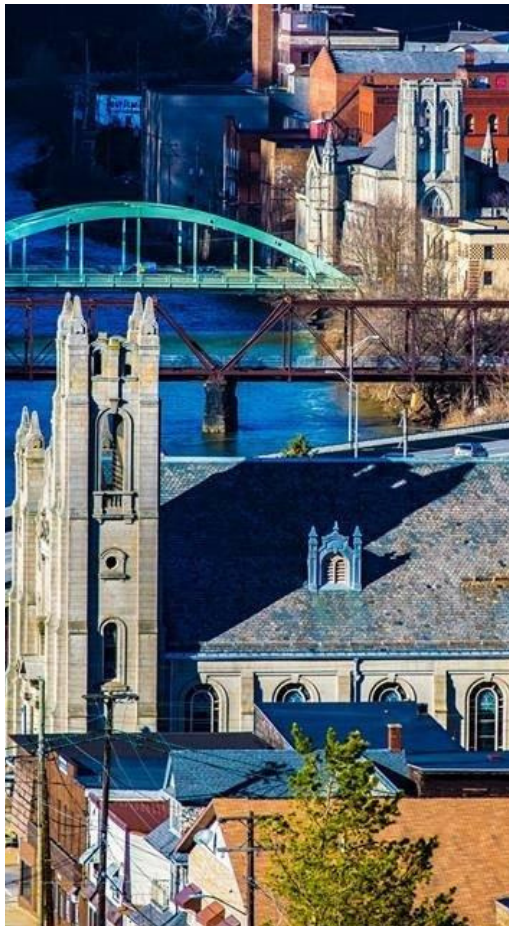
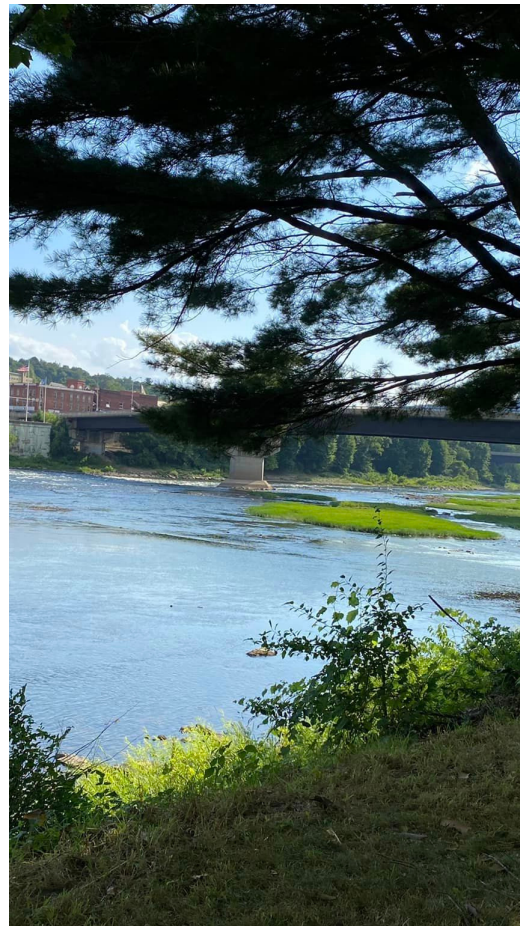




YOU CAN
CREATE HERE



YOUR DREAMS
ARE AFFORDABLE



YOU CAN ACCESS
UNIQUE RESOURCES

OPPORTUNITY: OIL CITY

A guide to doing business
in Oil City, Pennsylvania



● 217 Elm Street, Oil City PA 16301 ● (814) 677-3152 x 101 ● oilcitymainstreet.org

WELCOME TO DOWNTOWN OIL CITY!

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Downtown Oil City has majestic architecture, unique shops & restaurants, stately churches and scenic views of the Allegheny River and Oil Creek. By locating your business in downtown Oil City, you'll be neighbors with over 130 businesses & organizations including:

- 16 restaurants, cafes & taverns
- 22 shops & art galleries
- 6 banks/credit unions
- 11 personal care businesses (barber/salons, tanning, body art)
- 17 professional services (legal, financial, insurance, real estate)
- 11 health care professionals, plus the YMCA, YWCA and four more dance/fitness facilities
- The National Transit Building, Oil City Library and the Venango Museum of Art, Science & History plus Justus Park, the Town Square and Creekside Park

We'd love for you to be a part of our business district.... let's get started!



OIL CITY DEMOGRAPHICS

	Oil City	Venango County
Population	10,557	54,984
Median Household Income	\$36,098	\$46,487
Median Age	39.4	46
Average Home Values	\$48,800	\$85,000

Source: 2010 United States Census

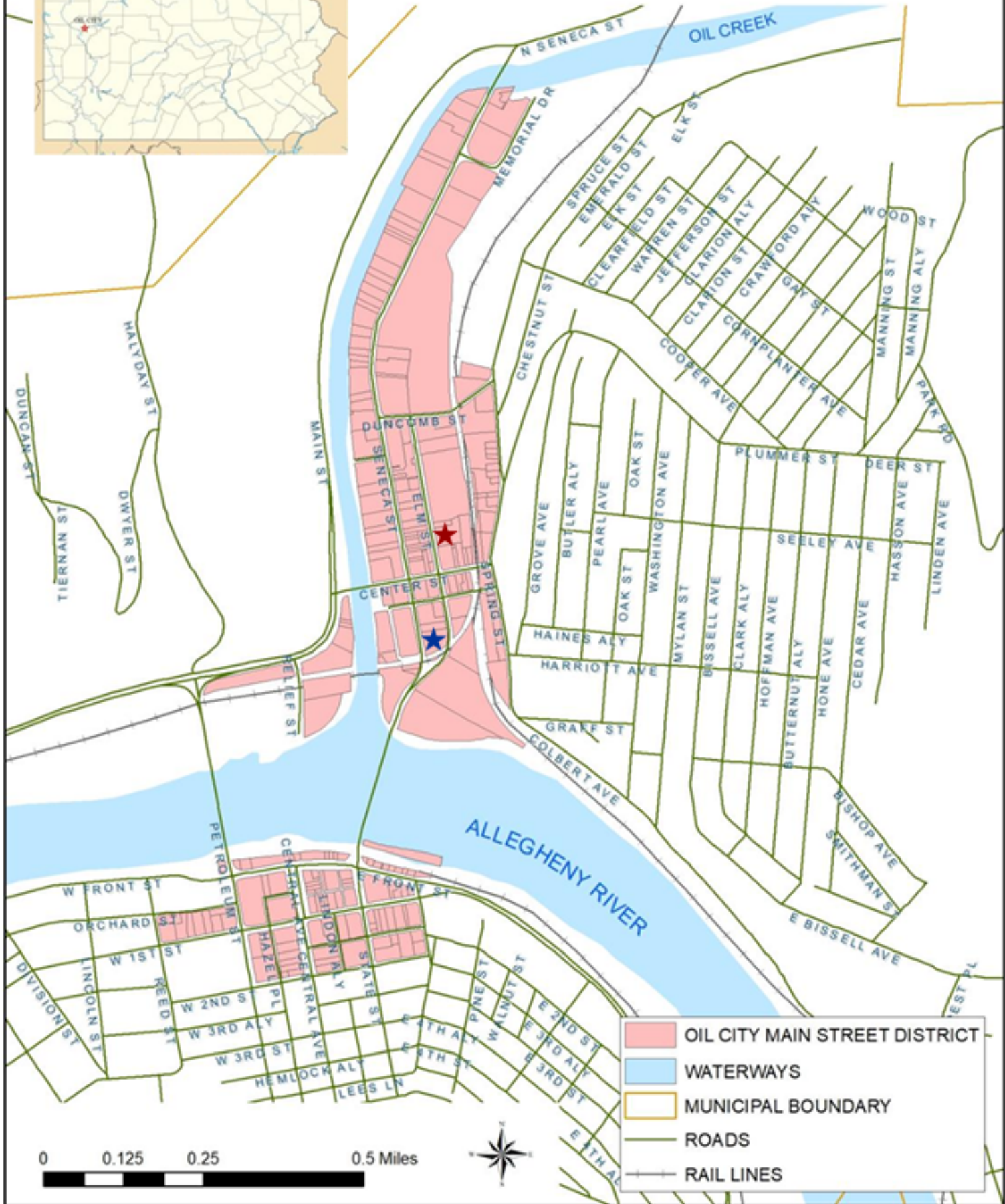
WHAT IS “MAIN STREET?”

The Oil City Main Street Program is a community-driven initiative that works to revitalize the central business district (C2 and some C1 zoned areas) of Oil City. We are a designated Keystone Main Street, nationally accredited by Main Street America. **Our Mission** is to make Oil City’s downtown business district attractive and vibrant, providing a foundation for the healthy growth and success of current and future businesses and residents. Our downtown will become a regional destination for visitors to enjoy the arts, recreation and entertainment by leveraging our rich heritage and natural resources.

OIL CITY MAIN STREET PROGRAM DISTRICT MAP

VENANGO COUNTY, OIL CITY

MAP as of 9/19/19



CITY OF OIL CITY
 21 Seneca Street, Oil City PA 16301
 (814) 678-3021 www.oilcity.org



OIL CITY MAIN STREET PROGRAM
 217 Elm Street, Oil City PA 16301
 (814) 677-3152 x 101 www.oilcitymainstreet.org

PLANNING FOR YOUR BUSINESS



“As a young professional and new business owner, I feel I have many opportunities to make a difference here. I’m excited to see my business grow and contribute to the revitalization of downtown Oil City.”

Ashley Sheffer
Core Goods

Starting a business isn’t easy or quick: good planning is a key element to success. Get the information you need to write a business plan, research potential locations, obtain financing, and get you on your way!

We encourage you to utilize the following resources to help you start and grow a successful business:

SCORE

217 Elm Street, Oil City
Frank J. Hajduk
ven193@yahoo.com
(814) 354-2368
erie.score.org

Provides free confidential business advice through a network of 10,000 volunteer business experts over email, phone, or in person.

Clarion University SBDC

(Small Business Development Center)
330 North Point Drive, Suite 100
Clarion, PA 16214-3873
(877) 292-1843
sbdc@clarion.edu
web.clarion.edu/sbdc

Offers consulting, assistance, seminars, and workshops to help entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses.

Small Business Jump Start Program

(814) 437-1619
rbeith@franklinpa.gov
facebook.com/Small-Business-Jump-Start150224894988192/

10-week program held in spring and fall to help students develop effective business plans.

Pennsylvania Business One-Stop Shop

business.pa.gov

Practical information to help you plan, register, operate, and grow your business. Includes business registration forms, an Entrepreneurs’ Guide for new and first-time business owners, webinars, and more.

NEW BUSINESS CHECKLIST

When you have firmed up your business plan, you will need to visit both City Hall and the Main Street Office several times while preparing to open:

- 1.) **Obtain Zoning Approval**
City Hall: Zoning Office (814) 678-3016
Ensure that your business concept is permitted in your desired building/space; Fees may apply if zoning variance is needed.
- 2.) **Explore Downtown Opportunities**
Oil City Main Street Program (814) 677-3152
Learn about available sites, funding opportunities and other downtown resources.
- 3.) **Obtain a Building Permit**
City Hall: Code Office (814) 678-3003
State Law, Fee based on cost of project.
- 4.) **Pass a Commercial Fire Inspection**
Oil City Fire Department (814) 678-3061
Ensure that the building/space is safe to operate in, determine Occupant Load (maximum occupancy).
- 5.) **Obtain a Business License**
City Hall: Code Office (814) 678-3003
Requirement for anyone doing business within the City of Oil City; Fee New: \$25, Annual \$25-\$100 based on sales volume.
- 6.) **Obtain a Sign Permit**
City Hall: Zoning Office (814) 678-3016
City Ordinance; Fee \$5.
- 7.) **Obtain Alarm Permit**
City Hall: Police Department (814) 678-3080
Ensure emergency response; Fee \$30/year.
- 8.) **Complete Emergency Call Form**
Police Department (814) 678-3080
Provide police/fire with contact info in case of emergency; No fee
- 9.) **Obtain Parking Permits (optional)**
City Hall: Police Department (814) 678-3080
Keep on-street parking available for downtown patrons. Fee \$5 application fee, \$30/quarter. Meter bags \$5 deposit for move-in.
- 10.) **Contact the Utility Office**
City Hall: Utility Office (814) 678-3002
Sign up for water/sewage & trash service, schedule final read of previous account holder. Fee \$20 one-time account setup fee, applied to first bill.
- 11.) **Complete Business Profile Form**
Oil City Main Street Program (814) 677-3152
Provide contact info for downtown business directory and discuss opening plans/needs, operating schedule, & downtown opportunities.



“We see tremendous value in our location in the heart of Oil City’s downtown business district. We love the feeling of being deeply ‘connected’ to a community where our roots have been since 1930. We strongly feel there is an energy and spirit in being a part of a downtown with a storefront; and we recognize that doesn’t just happen anywhere. Our desire is to be a positive contributor in the extraordinary revitalization efforts here in Oil City!”

Ashley Carchedi
Rossbacher
Insurance Group

FUNDING, FINANCE, & TAX INCENTIVES



“When deciding to relocate, we knew we wanted a town with access to outdoor amenities, a vibrant art scene, and amazing historic architecture. We also wanted a place with an energetic entrepreneurial spirit, willing and able to redefine itself. We moved our home and studio here in 2016, and Oil City perfectly matched the sort of place we were looking for.”

**CJ Hurley &
Barbara Pierce**
CJ Hurley
Century Arts

Façade Improvement Grant Program

- 50/50, reimbursable matching grant for exterior storefront improvements on eligible buildings located within the designated Oil City Main Street District.
- Maximum grant: \$5,000, subject to individual project limits.
- Eligible projects include: awnings, signs, cleaning, painting, architectural restoration, lighting, and professional design assistance.
- Grants are subject to availability of funding.

All projects require approval by the OCMS Design Committee and Oil City Council. Contact Stevette Rosen, Main Street Manager at (814) 677-3152 x 101 or srosen@oilregion.org.

Oil City LERTA Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance

- Tax exemption for pre-approved alteration or new construction on eligible deteriorated or underutilized industrial, commercial or other business property.
- Tax forgiveness on the assessed value of improvements for up to 10 years (100% year 1, sliding to 0% in year 10).
- Must be filed with the City of Oil City at the time a building or alteration permit is secured.

Contact the Oil City Code Enforcement Office at (814) 678-3003.

Federal & State Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credits (RITC)

- 20% Tax Credit for rehabilitation of income-producing historic buildings
- Must be “substantial rehabilitation” (amount of rehab is greater than adjusted basis of the building or \$5,000; completed within 24-month period)
- Must remain under same owner & income-producing for 5 years
- 10% credit may be available for non-historic buildings

For more info, contact the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC): Scott Doyle, (717) 783-6012 or midoyle@pa.gov or Karen Arnold, (717)783-9927 kaarnold@pa.gov or visit <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Grants-Funding/Pages/Federal-TaxCredits.aspx>

Oil City Qualified Federal Opportunity Zones

- A federal tax incentive that encourages long-term investment of unrealized capital gains into certain low-income census tracts that have been designated by Governors as Qualified Opportunity Zones.
- There are two zones in Oil City, including all of the North and South Side Business Districts and some surrounding residential areas.

For more info, FAQ's and map visit <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/funding/federal-funding-opportunities/qualified-opportunity-zones/>

OTHER LENDING SOURCES

The Northwest Commission

northwestpa.org

Revolving Loan Funds for 50% of project costs for business expansion projects.

Range: \$35,000 - \$200,000.

The Progress Fund

progressfund.org

Tourism-related businesses such as restaurants, retail, outfitters, canoe rentals, bed & breakfasts, inns, wineries, breweries, coffee shops, etc. Range: \$20,000 - \$750,000.

Bridgeway Capital

bridgewaycapital.org

SBA loans for startup/expansion \$10,000 - \$3,000,000; COVID-19 Response loans \$5,000 - \$50,000; microloans also available.

Oil Region Alliance

oilregion.org

Route 8 & 62 Corridor Revolving Loan Fund: preserving/renovating buildings or eligible businesses along the corridor, machinery & equipment purchases, working capital. Range: \$5,000 - \$50,000.

POSTING JOB OPPORTUNITIES

When you're ready to hire staff, these local resources are available to help connect you with job seekers:

Pennsylvania Career Link

<https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/jponline/Common/LandingPage/> Employer.

Register online to post a job or search for candidates; contact Christina Roberts christina.roberts@nwpacareerlink.org or (814) 678-5050 for more info.

Venango County Job Board

<https://beherevenango.org/about/work-here/> Click on "Post A Job" to enter the position details, or contact Ashley Sheffer (814) 676-8521 or asheffer@venangochamber.org.

Manpower

<https://www.manpowergroupusa.com/manpower/staffing-solutions> Contact Stacy Snider (814) 676-8775 stacy.snider@manpower.com

ExploreVenango.com

<https://explorevenango.com/whos-hiring-in-venango-county-41/> Email listing to explorejoblistings@gmail.com or call (814) 297-8004

The Derrick/The News Herald

(local newspaper, paid classified ads) <https://www.thederrick.com/> (814) 676-7444.



“As a manufacturing company whose facility is located in the downtown area, we have a unique opportunity to not only provide great careers for our employees but also to partner with the city to show that industry can in fact enhance the downtown community.”

Ryan Bell
Webco Industries

HELPFUL TIPS

Interested in starting a business in Oil City, or improving your current business? Consider these tips:

Create a welcoming storefront

- Keep your windows and sidewalk clean
- Have clear signage (integrate your brand's colors)
- Post your business hours (and stick to them)
- Keep the door open on warm days

Offer exceptional customer service & hospitality

- Smile and greet customers as soon as they walk in
- Be friendly in person and on the phone
- Communicate your hours, specials, etc.

Get involved with local events

- Participate in events downtown (see next page)
- Donate items and baskets to raffles
- Hang flyers and share events on social media

Volunteer with the Main Street Program

- Join a Main Street committee and take part in creating change in our downtown
- Help with events, downtown cleanup, etc.

Make Connections & Network

- Communicate and/or cross-promote with other business owners
- Join the chamber of commerce or young professionals group and attend events
- Attend City Council meetings

Communicate with us!

- Let us know if you have an idea, feedback, or issue with your business (see contact information on last page)



“Oil City is the perfect home for Trailasana Yoga Studio. We are fortunate to be part of a welcoming and supportive community. The local paved, dirt, and water trails are an added bonus that compliment the culture of the studio.”

Bobbie Jones
Trailasana
Yoga Studio



Oil City Main Street Program

2024 Events

April 17 - Oil City Community Cleanup Day

9:00 am - 8:00 pm

April 26 - Oil City Uncorked Wine, Shine, Hops Walk

4:30 - 8:30 pm, Southside. **Tickets at oilcitymainstreet.org**

May 18th - Spring Planting Day 8:00 am-Noon

June 6th -August Thurs. Curb Market on Southside 11a-6p.

June 13 - Music on the Square

7:00 - 9:00 pm, Town Square performance by band **Crush**

July 4th NO Curb Market Enjoy your Independence Day.

Thank you to those who sacrificed for our Freedom!

July 11- Music on the Square

7:00 - 9:00 pm, Town Square-**Route 8 Band**

July 24-27th - Oil Heritage Festival Art Show

Wed 24th kick off 7-9pm Tom Petty Tribute Band

August 8- Music on the Square

7:00 - 9:00 pm, Town Square **South of 90**

August 16 - NOT UNDER THE BRIDGFEST (Band TBA)

September 20- Oil City Uncorked

4:30 - 8:30 pm, Northside **Band TBA**

November 25 - Small Business Saturday

November 26 - Artist Sunday

various downtown venues **Music TBA**

December 1-3 - Oil City's Christmas Past

Various downtown venues, music and more

December 2 - Jingle Bell Run (5K Run/Walk)

9:00 am, starts at Town Square

See our Facebook page for updates and new and exciting experiences for you and your family!

**Events Subject to change!*



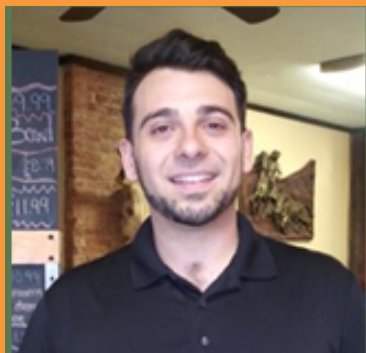
oil city
curb
market

June-Aug: Thursdays 11-6
Central Avenue Plaza


OIL CITY
MAIN STREET PROGRAM

oilcitymainstreet.org

OTHER RESOURCES



“Oil City is set in a beautiful, historical location. With a picturesque landscape set on the Allegheny River and friendly people, it's my pleasure to be able to serve fresh, healthy, and original Tex-Mex options.”

Chris Antonov
The Taco Shack

LOCAL MEDIA

Venango Newspapers

The Derrick & The News-Herald;
Good Times
thederrick.com
(814) 676-7444

First Media

FROGGY, MAJIC, & WUZZ
firstmedia.co
(814) 432-2188

Stream TV

streammedia.tv
(814) 758-0986

exploreVenango

explorevenango.com
(888) 845-1011

NETWORKING & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VFLEX – Future Leaders & Entrepreneurs Exchange

c/o Venango Chamber
24 Seneca St
Oil City, PA 16301
flex@venangochamber.org
venangoflex.org

Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism

217 Elm Street
Oil City, PA 16301
(814) 677-3152
oilregion.org

Venango Area Chamber of Commerce

24 Seneca St
Oil City, PA 16301
(814) 676-8521
chamber@venangochamber.org
venangochamber.org

Oil City Arts Council c/o Oil City Community Development Dept.

21 Seneca Street
Oil City, PA 16301
(814) 678-3017
banderson@oilcity.org
oilcityartscouncil.org



OIL CITY MAIN STREET PROGRAM

We hope this guide is helpful and that we've answered some of your questions... but we're happy to assist you further!
For more information, please contact:

Oil City Main Street Program

217 Elm Street
Oil City, PA 16301
(814) 677-3152 x 101
oilcitymainstreet.org



Stevette Rosen
Main Street Manager
srosen@oilregion.org



Barbara Pierce
ARTS Oil City
bpierce@oilregion.org

GET INVOLVED

We invite you to volunteer and/or join a Main Street Committee to help with downtown Oil City revitalization efforts. Our committees are:

- Design
- Promotions
- Organization
- Economic Vitality
- Safe, Clean, & Green

Contact us today to see how you can get involved!



"The benefits of the Main Street Program have been very valuable to us. Through participation in downtown initiatives, we've been able to be proud of our storefront and window displays. It's been a great experience and I encourage current or future downtown business owners to look into the what the program offers to help you add to the community and highlight your business."

Sandra Young
SJ Young Financial,
Raymond James



217 Elm Street
Oil City, PA 16301
(814) 677-3152 x 101
oilcitymainstreet.org