

## Community Staple, Oliverio's Florist, receives SBA Loan-Guarantee More Than 35 Years ago – Business Still Thriving



*L to R: Karen Myers Braun, Branch Center Manager – WesBanco; Robert L. Greer, Bridgeport Mayor; Milda Oliverio, Owner; Karen Friel, SBA District Director; Luann Bush, Vice President – WesBanco*

Milda Oliverio has spent the past 39 years brightening the days of Bridgeport residents with her lovely flower arrangements. Oliverio's Florist received their first SBA guaranteed loan through Bridgeport Bank over 35 years ago, which they used to purchase the infamous pink building where they are currently housed. A year later they received another SBA guaranteed loan through WesBanco, which had taken over Bridgeport Bank, to put an addition on the top of that building.

Since then Oliverio's has thrived while providing beautiful bouquets to the community. During a "Be Sweet on Small Business" tour SBA's West Virginia District Director, Karen Friel received the opportunity to hear how the loan made over three decades ago changed the community and life of Oliverio.

"It's amazing to see the progression of what a lender taking a chance on a small business and a SBA loan-guarantee can do for a community," states Friel. "Milda had a dream to own a flower shop in Bridgeport and even thirty-nine years later, she is still passionate about it."

"With the help of the SBA and my lender, I have spent the past almost 40 years doing what I love in the community that I love," states Oliverio.

From starting up or expanding your business to recovering from disasters, SBA loan programs are available to help your business succeed. For more information on SBA loan-guarantees visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) or call the West Virginia District Office at 304-623-5631.

The U.S. Small Business Administration helps small businesses start, grow, and succeed. For more information on the programs and services available through the agency, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

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