



THE BRANCH ADVISOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH, MISSISSIPPI | SPRING 2022

CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH OBFEST

Saturday, April 30, 2022 • 9 AM-2 PM
Olive Branch City Park
8267 Goodman Road, Olive Branch, MS 38654

★
OPEN TO
THE
PUBLIC

Vendor
Market

Food
Trucks

★
FREE
EVENT

Pet
Adoptions
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
*Hollywood
Feed*

Church
Tents

YMCA
OF OLIVE BRANCH



Bob Marr
Classic Car Show

FOR CAR SHOW OR VENDOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION,
VISIT WWW.OBMS.US OR CALL 662.892.9200.



CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH
 9200 Pigeon Roost Road
 Olive Branch, MS 38654
 662.892.9200
 www.OBMS.us

- MAYOR | **KENNETH R. (KEN) ADAMS**
662.892.9201
- CITY CLERK | **TENA STEWART**
662.892.9211
- CITY ADMINISTRATOR | **JASON MAY**
662.892.9200
- POLICE CHIEF | **DON GAMMAGE**
662.892.9400
- FIRE CHIEF | **JOHNNY EASON**
662.890.7376
- PARKS DIRECTOR | **JAMES CAMPBELL**
662.893.5219
- PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR | **COLE FESMIRE**
662.893.5209
- SR. CENTER COORDINATOR | **NORMA SHAW**
662.890.7236

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

- AT LARGE | **GEORGE COLLINS**
662.895.3308
- WARD 1 | **GIL EARHART**
662.892.9218
- WARD 2 | **PAT HAMILTON**
662.895.5765
- WARD 3 | **JOY HENDERSON**
901.413.8361
- WARD 4 | **DAVID WALLACE**
901.619.6992
- WARD 5 | **JAN ALDRIDGE**
901.268.4119
- WARD 6 | **DALE DICKERSON**
662.895.2543

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-  twitter.com/Cityofob

**THE BRANCH
 ADVISOR**

THE BRANCH ADVISOR is published bi-annually by the City of Olive Branch, Office of Communications, 9200 Pigeon Roost Rd., Olive Branch, MS 38654.

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

**Police Chief Don Gammage
 Announces Retirement**

Police Chief Don Gammage announced his retirement at a meeting of the Olive Branch Police Department on March 18, 2022. His retirement is effective June 30, 2022. Chief Gammage began his 37-year career in law enforcement in 1985. He began serving the City of Olive Branch in 1992 and, in 2009, was appointed Chief of Police by the Board of Aldermen during the Rikard Administration. During his 30 years of service to Olive Branch, Chief Gammage has held every position within the Police Department, the last thirteen years as Chief of Police.

During Chief Gammage's retirement announcement, he brought attention to a list of 25 goals he made when he began as Chief of Police, and he said he had accomplished every one of them. A highlight of Chief Gammage's tenure has been his strategic efforts to engage the Olive Branch community, building trust and partnerships within the community. Several programs were developed from this initiative, including *Camp B.U.I.L.D.*, *Citizens Academy*, *DARE*, *LEAD*, *Public Safety Night Out*, and *Shop With A Cop*.

In his announcement, Chief Gammage said, "I have been blessed beyond measure. There has been no greater highlight in my career than to have represented the great City of Olive Branch and its citizens as Chief of Police." He went on to say, "Thank you to all the officers who have served the City during my tenure. And thank you for the effort and sacrifice you make every day to protect the citizens of this city. It has been said that a leader is only as good as those who surround them, and I have been surrounded with a great team who have bought into my vision and helped make it a reality." ■



Chief Don Gammage

**Business License
 Office Update**

Introducing **Lisa Dawson**, the City's new Business License Clerk. As a reminder to all current business license holders, all business licenses will expire on September 30, 2022. Renewal notices will go out in late July. Remember, you must renew your business license by September 30, 2022. For questions or more information, contact Lisa Dawson at **662.892.9238** or lisa.dawson@obms.us.



**OB Welcomes
 New IT Director**

Olive Branch is pleased to welcome **Josh Cornell**, the new IT Director for the City. As IT Director, Josh oversees all information systems and technology, and guards against cybersecurity attacks that threaten critical services, such as dispatch and EMS. Josh brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the City. Josh and his wife, Angela, have two dogs, Ellie Rae and Sammy.

**THE BRANCH
 ADVISOR**

Welcome to the inaugural edition of **The Branch Advisor**, previously published under the name **From the Roost**. The name change reflects the City's goal to keep readers informed about news and events that matter while providing valuable information that supports the citizens of Olive Branch to live, work, worship, and play in one of the best places to live in America.

CITY MEETING SCHEDULES

MEETING	LOCATION	DAY	TIME
Mayor and Board of Aldermen	Courthouse 6900 Highland Street	First and Third Tuesday of Each Month	6:30 p.m.
City Planning Commission	Courthouse 6900 Highland Street	Second Tuesday of Each Month	6:00 p.m.
Board of Adjustment	Courthouse 6900 Highland Street	Second Thursday of Each Month	6:00 p.m.

Olive Branch Resident Turns 107

Recently Mayor Ken Adams and the Board of Aldermen had the privilege of honoring Elizabeth Woods Wiseman in recognition of her 107th birthday. A life-long resident of Olive Branch, Mrs. Wiseman is known by many people in Olive Branch as a selfless, kindhearted person. She says she always tries to be nice and live by the Golden Rule, which entails "treating people right." Congratulations, Mrs. Wiseman, on being 107 years young!



Friday, April 15 GOOD FRIDAY

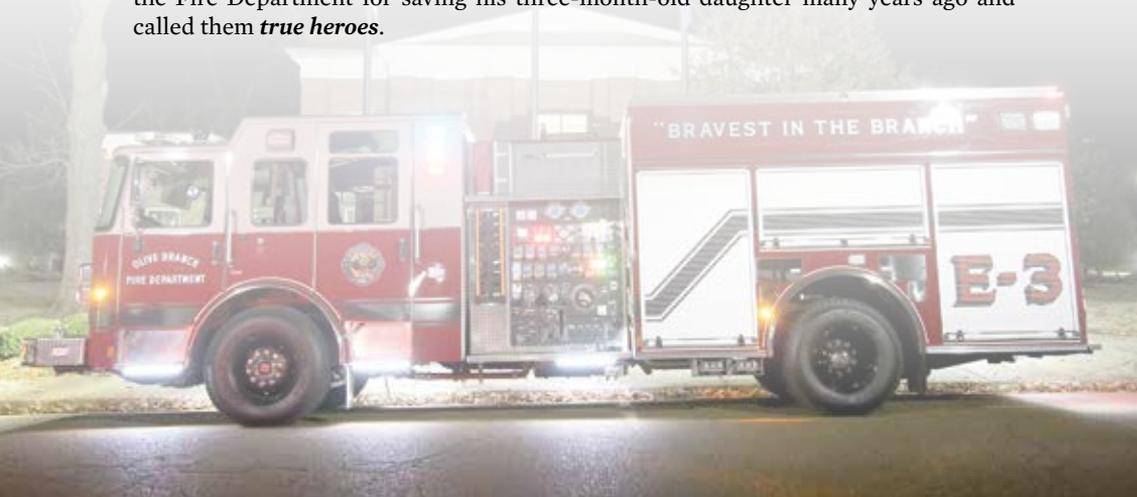
City Hall and all administrative buildings closed.

Saturday, April 30 OB FEST

See ad on cover for details.

Olive Branch Fire Department Receives Multiple Accolades for Heroic Actions

At the March 1, 2022 meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, the Olive Branch Fire Department was recognized for heroic efforts that resulted in no loss of life and no loss of property in two separate incidents. One family came forward to express their thanks for the actions taken to save the life of a father who had a collapsed lung. The father was also present to offer words of gratitude as well. Another Olive Branch resident addressed those in attendance to offer his heartfelt gratitude for the Fire Department's work involving a grass fire in Pleasant Ridge Estates. He played video clips that showed how rapidly a fire moved through the subdivision and how equally rapidly the Olive Branch Fire Department responded to extinguish the fire. Thanks to the Fire Department's actions, no homes were lost. The same resident also thanked the Fire Department for saving his three-month-old daughter many years ago and called them *true heroes*.



Saturday, May 7 FISHING RODEO George Harrison City Park

8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 14 DESOTO COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

For details, visit www.OBMS.us (look in the *Latest News* section).

New Name for Airfield at Olive Branch Airport

Effective February 15, 2022, the airfield at the Olive Branch Airport is now known as **Taylor Field** in honor of the late David Taylor, who served as manager of the Olive Branch Airport from 1984 to 2014. Mr. Taylor inspired and trained countless people who went on to have successful careers in aviation. Today, the Olive Branch Airport's success and good reputation are directly attributable to David Taylor's expertise, skilled management, and passion for aviation.



SATURDAY MAY 21

More details coming soon on the City's social media platforms and website.

Saturday, May 21 BUCKING IN THE BRANCH RODEO George Harrison City Park

7:30 p.m.—11:30 p.m.
Gates open at 6:00 p.m.

HAPPENING IN THE OB

Monday, May 30 MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

City Hall and all administrative buildings closed.

June 6–July 1 CAMP B.U.I.L.D.

Sponsored by the Olive Branch Police Department.

For more details, contact the OBPD at 662.892.9400.

Friday, July 1 FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION Olive Branch City Park

More details coming soon

Monday, July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY

City Hall and all administrative buildings closed.

Tuesday, August 2 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Sponsored by the Olive Branch Police Department

For more details, contact the OBPD at 662.892.9400.

Monday, September 5 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

City Hall and all administrative buildings closed.

For more info, visit www.OBMS.us.

NEWS & UPDATES

Senior Center Offers Great Opportunities for Olive Branch's Senior Citizens

The Olive Branch Senior Center, located at 8800 College Street, provides many great opportunities for the senior citizens of Olive Branch to stay active and engaged in our community. With about 2,000 participants each month, the Senior Center offers aerobics and yoga classes, card games (Bridge, Rook, and Euchre), dominoes, line dancing, quilting and sewing groups, and a variety of other activities. The Senior Center is committed to providing quality programs, entertainment, and exercise while playing a positive role in the health and welfare of the senior citizens in Olive Branch. Take a look below at some of the current opportunities to get connected. For more information about the Senior Center, contact Norma Shaw, Senior Center Coordinator, at 662.890.7182 or nshaw@obms.us.

Aerobic Classes

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
8 a.m. & 9 a.m.

Chair Aerobic Classes

Monday & Wednesday, 11 a.m.

Yoga Classes

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday
Call the Senior Center for times

Line Dance Class

Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Golden Branches*

2nd, 3rd, & 4th Thursday of the month
**Must be a member to participate*

Alzheimer's Support Group

4th Thursday of the month
1–2:30 p.m.

Meditation Class

Friday, 10:30 a.m.

Monthly Luncheon

Last Friday of the month, 12 p.m.



CONGRATULATIONS

REBEKAH
WALLACE

MISS OLIVE BRANCH 2022

HOME OF THE BRAVE
JULY 1ST
CELEBRATE YOUR
Independence
FIREWORKS & FESTIVAL

Look for more details on the City's website and social media closer to the event date.

Now Accepting Nominations for the 2022 Hall of Fame

The nominating period is now open for the 2022 Olive Branch Hall of Fame. The general public is asked to participate in the nominating process by completing the form at the bottom of this page. You may enter anyone you think that is worthy of the honor, by mailing or hand-delivering this form to City Hall by July 29, 2022 (marked: **"Attention Hall of Fame"**). Anyone receiving at least one vote from last year's nominees has been carried forward for 2022 and, as such, **does not need to be nominated again this year**. The list of those names carried forward from 2021 are:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Sallie Mae Boggan | Phil Lachaussee | Ken Reid |
| Willie Brown | Forest Langston | Jason Shifflett |
| George Collins | Harold Nichols | M. H. White, Sr. |
| Don Gammage | T. H. Novell | |
| David Haraway | A. Gene Phillips | |

Members of the Olive Branch Hall of Fame and the year they were inducted are:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bill G. Allen 2015 | Thomas D. (Tommy) Doddridge 2020 | D. M. Nichols 2007 |
| Gilbert Leon Allen 2018 | Pat Dorr 2016 | Erlend R. Nichols 2013 |
| Marthola Allen 2014 | Dr. Greg Evans 2016 | G. B. Payne 2007 |
| Helen D. Allison 2012 | Stephen Flinn 2007 | Janice Payne 2016 |
| Jimmy Neal Andrews 2015 | Dr. D. C. Funderburk 2009 | H. Gene Phillips 2011 |
| Billy W. Baldwin 2014 | G. P. Gillespie 2013 | Scott B. "Scotty" Phillips 2019 |
| Vicky Jo Baldwin 2019 | Willie James George 2017 | Leslie Pool 2013 |
| Judy Holloway Berryhill 2021 | Oscar Floyd Geeslin 2020 | Sam P. Rikard 2009 |
| Drue D. Birmingham, Jr. 2012 | E. Forrest Hamilton 2009 | Don Sappington 2016 |
| Billie B. Blocker 2010 | A. Maury Haraway 2010 | Dr. P. J. Scott 2012 |
| Milton S. Blocker 2007 | Dr. Elton L. Harris 2012 | Kenneth W. Sesson 2011 |
| Perry Lee Bowlen 2014 | George M. Harrison 2009 | Homer D. Skelton 2007 |
| Lemoyne Brigance 2011 | Joyce H. Haslip 2012 | Lush Pun Tubby 2007 |
| Frank J. Brown, Jr. 2008 | M. C. Herrington 2007 | Benjamin F. Wesson 2008 |
| Sarah J. Camp 2010 | Wayne D. Hollowell 2014 | Dr. William T. Wilkins 2019 |
| Walter S. Carter, Jr. 2015 | Jan R. Johnson 2007 | G. E. (Mr. Eddie) Williams 2014 |
| B. J. Chain, Sr. 2007 | Dr. Julian F. Jones 2010 | Lawrence "Dan" Williams 2019 |
| Ruby B. Chain 2015 | Bill W. Kerr 2008 | James E. Woods 2009 |
| Bill E. Cruthirds, Sr. 2008 | Martha Pearl Langston 2018 | Walter T. Woods 2013 |
| Scotty C. Davidson 2008 | Ray Magee 2016 | Maurice E. Woodson 2011 |
| James Paul "Jim" Davis 2021 | Robert H. Marr 2011 | Alma C. Young 2013 |
| Wendell W. Davis 2015 | William Malone Maxwell 2017 | |
| James A. Doddridge, Sr. 2010 | John B. (Jack) McCauley, 2007 | |

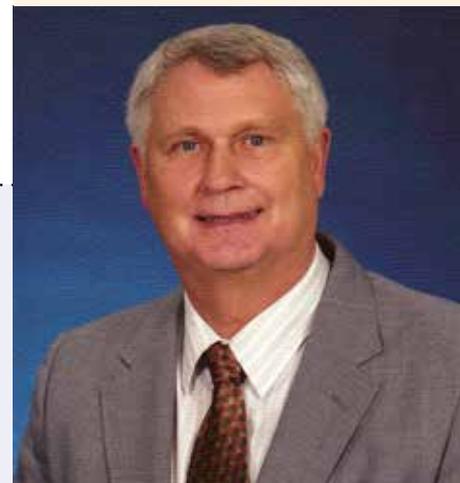


Judy Holloway Berryhill

February 1, 1951–September 29, 2018

Mrs. Berryhill was a friend to everyone in Olive Branch, and served the needs of countless families during times of celebration, and in times of grief. You could always count on Judy to be there in times of need.

To read more about Mrs. Berryhill, visit www.OBMS.us/HOF.



James Paul "Jim" Davis

December 29, 1948–

Jim enjoys raising beagles and hunting rabbits. He is a friend to all, and serves the Olive Branch community with honesty, integrity, and sense of pride. A native of Arkansas, he will proudly tell you that Olive Branch is his "hometown."

To read more about Mr. Davis, visit www.OBMS.us/HOF.

CUT HERE

HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

I would like to recommend the following person to the Hall of Fame Nominating Board for ballot nomination consideration for the 2022 Olive Branch Hall of Fame Inductee Election:

Name of Person Being Nominated _____ Date of Birth _____ Date of Death (If Deceased) _____

Your Name _____ Your Phone Number _____

Why should this person be considered for the Hall of Fame? _____

Please cut along the dotted line and either drop off at City Hall or mail to: City Hall, **ATTN: Hall of Fame**, 9200 Pigeon Roost Road, Olive Branch, MS 38654. All nominations must be dropped off at City Hall or postmarked by **July 29, 2022**.

UPDATES FROM THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

AT LARGE	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3	WARD 4	WARD 5	WARD 6
						
George Collins	Gil Earhart	Pat Hamilton	Joy Henderson	David Wallace	Jan Aldridge	Dale Dickerson
gcollins@obms.us 662.859.3308	gilearhart@obms.us 662.892.9218	phamilton@obms.us 662.895.5765	joy.henderson@obms.us 901.413.8361	dwallace@obms.us 901.619.6992	jan.aldridge@obms.us 901.268.4119	ddickerson@obms.us 662.895.2543

Answers to Your Rubbish Pickup Questions

Members of the Board of Aldermen and City officials often receive questions from residents regarding rubbish pickup. To help answer the most common questions, the Board of Aldermen would like to share the following guidelines and the Dos & Don'ts for rubbish pickup.

- + Rubbish pickup is separate from trash collection (everyday household trash placed in the blue carts). The Public Works Department for the City is responsible for rubbish pickup, while Waste Connections is currently responsible for trash collection, including recycling.
- + Tree limbs and acceptable rubbish must be cut to a five to six-foot length.
- + If possible, pile limbs running in the same direction.
- + Items that must be bagged or boxed by the homeowner for City curbside rubbish pickup are roof shingles, sheet rock, tile, hardwood flooring, leaves, grass, mulch, dirt, etc.
- + City curbside rubbish pickup service cannot collect garbage, recyclables, or hazardous waste that other services handle.
- + City curbside rubbish pickup service cannot pick up tires, glass, aerosol cans, any items that will hold water, plastic, or metal, such as bottles, buckets, paint cans, oil cans, gas cans, caulk tubes, spray jugs, etc.
- + City curbside rubbish pickup service cannot pick up bricks, blocks, or rocks.
- + Please place all acceptable debris in one pile behind the curb, but close enough that the City boom truck can reach it from the street side as City boom trucks cannot leave the asphalt.
- + When placing acceptable debris on the curbside, be mindful of the height of surrounding power lines and tree limbs, and structures such as cars, mailboxes, street signs, poles, drain inlets, light poles, fences, etc.
- + The City boom trucks cannot pick up debris placed under low power lines, low tree branches, or within five feet of structures.
- + Be aware of hills and other traffic safety hazards and place acceptable debris in a flat, safe area.
- + It is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure that the curbside rubbish debris is appropriately separated to be picked up.
- + The City does not pick up for commercial businesses or property such as tree contractors or apartment complexes.

❖ CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH MISSION STATEMENT ❖

Olive Branch, Mississippi is one of America's most livable cities, where one can live, work, worship, and play without leaving home. The City of Olive Branch municipal government strives to provide efficient and effective public services that promote this quality of life.

AREA DIRECTORY | WHO TO CALL

Airports

Olive Branch	662.895.2978
Memphis International	901.922.8000

Arts Council Olive Branch 662.404.2787 or 901.619.0261

Birth and Death Certificates

Mississippi Bureau of Vital Statistics	601.206.8200
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Chamber of Commerce Olive Branch 662.895.2600

City of Olive Branch

Ambulance (Olive Branch Fire Department)	662.895.4111
Emergency	911
Building Permits	662.892.9331
Business License	662.892.9238
City Court Clerk	662.892.9500
City Engineer	662.892.9351
City Hall	662.892.9200
Fire Department Dispatcher (Fire or Ambulance)	662.895.4111
Fire Department Station 1	662.895.9611
Fire Department Station 2	662.895.9612
Fire Department Station 3	662.895.9613
Fire Department Station 4	662.893.9614
Fire Department Station 5	662.893.9615
Garbage/Recycle Collection	662.892.9306
Mayor's Office	662.892.9201
Parks & Recreation	662.893.5219
Planning & Development	662.892.9334
Police Department	662.892.9400
Police Dispatch (Emergency, Report Crime)	662.895.4111 or 911
Public Works — Gas	662.893.5209
Public Works — Streets	662.895.4335
Public Works — Water	662.893.5208
Senior Center	662.890.7182
Street Lights	662.892.9203
Rubbish Collection (Not Garbage)	662.893.5209
Utilities	662.892.9305
Water & Sewer — Emergencies After Hours	662.895.4111

DeSoto County

Automobile Tags	662.469.8032
Crimestoppers	662.429.8477
Board of Education/Schools	662.429.5271
Handicap Decals	662.469.8032
Homestead Exemption	662.469.8029
Justice Court	662.469.8026
Marriage Licenses	662.469.8007
Property Tax Assessor	662.469.8029
Property Tax Collector	662.469.8032
Sheriff's Department	662.469.8500
Voter Registration	662.469.8350

Drivers License

Olive Branch	662.890.7211
Nesbit	662.429.1353

DeSoto County Tourism 662.393.8770

Electrical Service

Northcentral Electric Cooperative	800.325.8925
Emergencies (Nights, Weekends, & Holidays)	866.438.2642

Golf Courses

Cherokee Valley	662.893.4444
Olive Branch Country Club	662.895.6525
Timber Truss	662.895.3530
Wedgewood	662.895.7490

Health Department Clinic

Hernando	662.429.9814
Olive Branch	662.895.3090

Internet, Telephone, and Television Services

CenturyLink	662.219.3345
CenturyLink (Repairs 24 Hours)	800.824.2877
CenturyLink (Locate Underground Cables)	800.227.6477
Comcast Business	855.566.6422
Xfinity/Comcast	800.934.6489

Library B.J. Chain Olive Branch 662.895.5900

Literacy Council Hernando 662.429.2354

Methodist Hospital Olive Branch 662.932.9000

Mississippi Department of Revenue 601.545.1261

Natural Gas Service

Olive Branch	662.893.5209
Emergencies After Hours	662.895.4111
Locate Underground Lines	800.227.6477
Billing	662.892.9305
Gas Leaks	662.893.5209

Newspaper

DeSoto Times-Tribune	662.429.6397
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Northwest Community College 662.342.1570

Poison Control 800.222.1222

Post Office Olive Branch 662.895.5966

Social Services

Olive Branch Emergency Food Ministry	662.895.2913
Palmer Home for Children (Hernando)	662.449.2400
Sacred Heart Southern Mission	662.893.0255
Thrift Shop/Food Pantry	662.895.2913
Mid-State Opportunities	662.895.4153
North Delta Planning Commission	662.561.4100
Trinity Health Center (Horn Lake)	662.222.1007

Social Security Administration†

Hernando	866.739.4771
Call Back Line	866.592.2675

State Representatives

Dana Criswell	662.278.0299
Jerry Darnell	901.277.1578
Dan Eubanks	662.374.0035
Jeff Hale	901.461.6673
Steve Hopkins	901.827.0755
Hester Jackson-McCray	901.410.7875
Bill Kinkade	901.365.4830

State Senators

Kevin Blackwell	901.412.0431
Michael McLendon	601.359.3229
David Parker	901.473.9760

Unemployment Commission WIN Job Center 662.342.4002

Unemployment Compensation 888.844.3577

U.S. Representative

Trent Kelly	662.449.3090
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U.S. Senators

Cindy Hyde-Smith	662.236.1018
Roger Wicker	662.429.1002

†The Social Security office has moved. They are now located in Hernando at 2631 McIngvale Road, Suite 115, 38632. The phone number did not change.



THE CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH

9200 Pigeon Roost Road, Olive Branch, MS 38654
662.892.9200 • www.OBMS.us

According to *Money.com*, Olive Branch is one of the **TOP 50 BEST PLACES TO LIVE** in America and one of the nation's fastest growing communities.

THE FINAL WORD

Greetings from City Hall! It's my honor to serve the citizens of Olive Branch, and I sincerely appreciate all of the emails and calls of support. As you know, the City is experiencing phenomenal residential and business growth as people and companies are attracted to what Olive Branch offers. We issue approximately 300 new home permits annually and approximately 21 new business licenses each month. As we continue to grow, we are working diligently to maintain a community feeling. We see this through events held at our City parks, such as youth and adult sports leagues, OB Fest, the upcoming fishing rodeo, Movies Under the Stars during the fall, and various other events throughout the year. We have a vibrant Senior Center that offers activities and programs that allow our senior citizens to stay active, connected, and engaged.

Our citizen advisory committees are up and running. The volunteers who serve on these committees provide outstanding feedback and innovative vision each time we meet. We appreciate their dedication and commitment to ensuring that Olive Branch continues to be a great place to live, work, worship, and play.

The Board of Aldermen and I approach every decision with the needs of the citizens as our number one priority. Recently we requested State lawmakers pass legislation allowing a referendum on a proposed tourism tax of one percent on hotel and motel bills. We purposely drafted it where the one percent fee is added to hotels and motels only, not restaurants. This ensures no new tax burden on Olive Branch residents. If passed, these new tax revenues will pay for much-needed improvements to our City parks. We also continue to invest in our first responders and Public Works departments to enhance the services provided to our citizens.

We are hopeful that the COVID-19 pandemic has leveled out. Society has learned that this illness can be lived with, and we have adjusted and continued moving forward. I hope you have a great and safe summer with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you at the various events held throughout our City this year.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Adams
Mayor

