

# FROM THE ROOST

SUMMER 2017

FIRST WORD A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

## Committed to Our Community and Dedicated to Progress

Welcome to our newly redesigned **From the Roost** newsletter. We hope you like the new layout and find the information within of value. We have just completed our municipal elections and I appreciate the trust you've given me once again to serve as your mayor for the next four years. Let me also congratulate the incumbent aldermen for their re-elections. I know they will also work hard to serve the best interest of their constituents. We are all committed to our community and dedicated to progress.

If you haven't been to the Olive Branch City Park lately, let me encourage you to visit soon. Be sure to take your dog to the new Olive Bark Park and enjoy the new paved walkway around the lake. You will also see a new all inclusive universal playground, scheduled to be opened this summer. Construction is scheduled to begin soon on updating Complex A. This update will bring a new concession stand as well as t-ball and baseball fields.

Road overlays were a priority during my first term as mayor and we are scheduled to continue with roadway improvements for the next four years. Many new businesses have made their home in Olive Branch, and we are excited about the opportunity and jobs they bring to our great city.

We now have a presence on social media. We invite you to like and follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/cityofob](https://facebook.com/cityofob)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/cityofob](https://twitter.com/cityofob)) for real-time information about our city and be sure to tag your photos from around town with [#MyCityofOB](https://twitter.com/cityofob) on your social media accounts.



Scott B. Phillips, Jr.  
Mayor of Olive Branch



## Bill Cruthirds Passes Away

**IT IS WITH PROFOUND SADNESS** that we announce the sudden and unexpected passing of Bill Cruthirds, who retired this past December after serving with distinction as Director of Community Relations and Tourism for the City of Olive Branch.

During his 18 years with the City in the administrations of Mayors Rikard and Phillips, he was responsible for the interior design, space planning, and furnishings of the new city hall; the development of the Olive Branch Old Towne Association; the design and construction of the Veterans Monument, the city entrance sign on Germantown Road, and the Blocker Monument; the development of the Olive Branch Museum at City Hall; the creation of the Olive Branch Hall of Fame; the development of the Veterans' Book of Honor Program; and the publication of this newsletter, as well as many other community publications that kept city government connected with the people of Olive Branch. He is probably best known for the historical centerfold feature about the history of Olive Branch that he wrote for this newsletter. Mr. Cruthirds passed away in May at the age of 80.



City of Olive Branch  
9200 Pigeon Roost  
Olive Branch, MS 38654  
www.OBMS.us

Mayor | **SCOTT B. PHILLIPS, JR.**  
662.892.9201

City Clerk | **TINA GRIFFITH**  
662.892.9211

City Administrator | **JASON MAY**  
662.892.9200

Police Chief | **DON GAMMAGE**  
662.892.9400

Fire Chief | **JOHNNY EASON**  
662.890.7376

Sr. Center Coordinator | **JUNE SNEED**  
662.890.7236

Parks Manager | **WILL McNEER**  
662.893.5219

**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**  
901.413.8362

Ward 4 | **DAVID WALLACE**  
901.619.6992

Ward 5 | **MARK ALDRIDGE**  
901.831.8442

Ward 6 | **DALE DICKERSON**  
662.895.3308

**FROM THE  
ROOST**

From the Roost is published bi-annually by the City of Olive Branch, Office of Public Relations, 9200 Pigeon Roost, Olive Branch, MS 38654, Telephone 662.892.9375.



**MISS  
OLIVE BRANCH**

**ALLEN BAILEY SAFFOLD**

Eighteen young ladies made up the field of contestants for the Miss Olive Branch 2017 Pageant. The event was held at the Olive Branch High School Performing Arts Center, Saturday, March 25, 2017. Congratulations to Miss Olive Branch 2017, Allen Bailey Saffold, and all the beautiful contestants.



**City of Olive Branch  
on Social Media**

**THE CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH** began 2017 with a social media presence. Find us on Facebook ([facebook.com/cityofob](https://www.facebook.com/cityofob)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/cityofob](https://twitter.com/cityofob)). We encourage everyone to like and follow us for current information regarding all things Olive Branch. Look for indicators throughout our social media pages that will alert the public to road work, accidents, weather warnings, etc. In an effort to create community we ask that you use **#MyCityofOB** on your social media accounts when taking pictures in Olive Branch, and/or documenting your time at locations throughout our great city.

**MEETING SCHEDULES**

*Mayor and Board  
of Alderman*

The Mayor and Board of Alderman meet at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Courthouse located at 6900 Highland Street.

*City Planning  
Commission*

The City Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Courthouse located at 6900 Highland Street.

*Board of  
Adjustment*

The city's Board of Adjustment meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Courthouse located at 6900 Highland Street.

*Olive Branch is one of America's fastest growing  
and most livable communities.*

# New All-Inclusive, Universal Playground Under Construction



■ Land cleared before construction begins on the new playground.



■ Construction in progress for the new playground at the city park.



■ Architect's rendition of the new playground that, when completed, will be located next to the tennis courts at the city park in Olive Branch.

# Five Inducted into the Hall of Fame for 2016



**Pat Dorr**  
August 2, 1951-



**Dr. Greg Evans**  
June 27, 1952-



**Ray Magee**  
April 30, 1923-  
September 13, 1999



**Janice Payne**  
February 8, 1912-  
August 10, 1993



**Don Sappington**  
June 24, 1946-  
June 7, 2007

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

Bill G. Allen 2015  
Marthola Allen 2014  
Helen D. Allison 2012  
Jimmy Neal Andrews 2015  
Billy W. Baldwin 2014  
Drue D. Birmingham, Jr. 2012  
Billie B. Blocker 2010  
Milton S. Blocker 2007  
Perry Lee Bowlen 2014  
Lemoyne Brigance 2011  
Frank J. Brown, Jr. 2008  
Sarah J. Camp 2010  
Walter S. Carter, Jr. 2015  
B. J. Chain, Sr. 2007

Ruby B. Chain 2015  
Bill E. Cruthirds, Sr. 2008  
Scottye C. Davidson 2008  
Wendell W. Davis 2015  
James A. Doddridge, Sr. 2010  
Pat Dorr 2016  
Dr. Greg Evans 2016  
Stephen Flinn 2007  
Dr. D. C. Funderburk 2009  
G. P. Gillespie 2013  
E. Forrest Hamilton 2009  
A. Maury Haraway 2010  
Dr. Elton L. Harris 2012  
George M. Harrison 2009

Joyce H. Haslip 2012  
M. C. Herrington 2007  
Wayne D. Hollowell 2014  
Jan R. Johnson 2007  
Dr. Julian F. Jones 2010  
Bill W. Kerr 2008  
Ray Magee 2016  
Robert H. Marr 2011  
John B. (Jack) McCauley, 2007  
D. M. Nichols 2007  
Erlend R. Nichols 2013  
G. B. Payne 2007  
Janice Payne 2016  
H. Gene Phillips 2011

Leslie Pool 2013  
Sam P. Rikard 2009  
Don Sappington 2016  
Dr. P. J. Scott 2012  
Kenneth W. Sessom 2011  
Homer D. Skelton 2007  
Lush Pun Tubby 2007  
Benjamin F. Wesson 2008  
G. E. (Mr. Eddie) Williams 2014  
James E. Woods 2009  
Walton T. Woods 2013  
Maurice E. Woodson 2011  
Alma C. Young 2013

Now accepting nominations for the 2017 Hall of Fame class

The nominating process has been modified, effective for 2017, to allow for the selection of two nominees to be inducted into the Hall of Fame each year. The nominating period is now open for the 2017 class, and the general public is asked to participate in the nominating process by clipping out the form on page 5 (directly across to the right), entering anyone you think to be worthy of the honor, and mailing or returning it by September 1, 2017 to City Hall. Anyone receiving at least one vote from last year's nominees have been carried forward for 2017 and, as such, **do not need to be nominated again this year.** The list of those names carried forward from 2016 are as follows:

Gilbert Allen  
J. E. Birmingham  
J. N. Brown  
Willie Brown  
George Collins  
Willie George  
Florence Goodwin

David Haraway  
K. McNeil (Mac) Haraway  
Julian Harris  
James (Cricket) Hunt  
James A. Jones  
Martha Pearl Langston  
Will Maxwell

Harold Nichols  
T. H. Norvell  
Scotty B. Phillips, Sr.  
Rita Schelly  
Ken Shifflett  
Gary Snyder  
Dr. T. H. Stuart

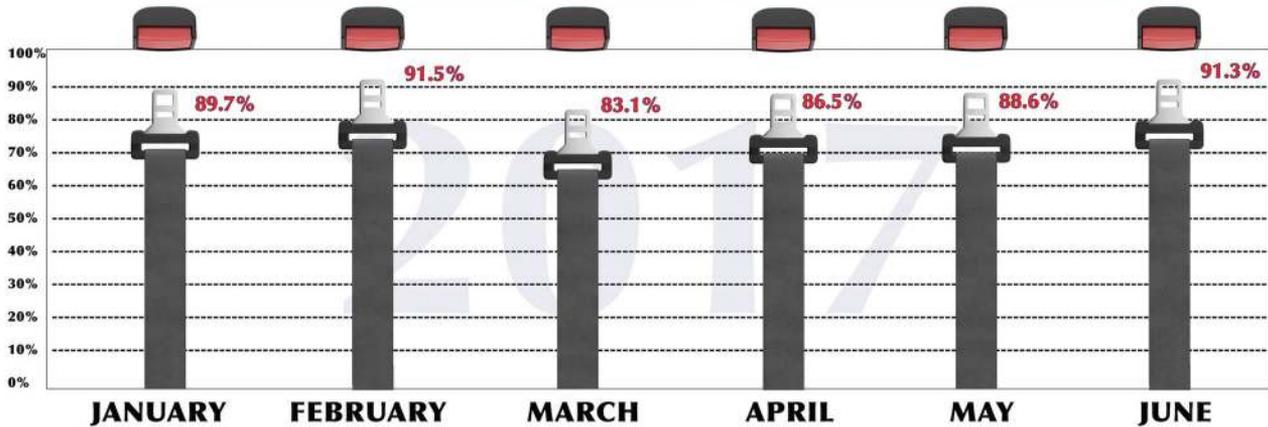
David Vanderburg  
Max Wallace  
Sam Ware  
Dr. W. T. Wilkins  
Dan Williams  
Jimmy Dale Young



# CLICK IT AND ARRIVE ALIVE!

DON GAMMAGE, CHIEF OF POLICE

## OLIVE BRANCH AREA FIELD SURVEYS FOR DRIVERS AND FRONT SEAT PASSENGERS SEAT BELT USAGE



National seat belt use rate in 2015 was 88.5%

State of Mississippi use rate was 79.6%

**Nationally, nearly half of all passengers' vehicle occupants, who die each year, are unrestrained!  
Vehicle accidents, in the U.S., are the leading cause of death for children, age 5, to adults, age 34!**

# Click-It and Arrive Alive Campaign

**THE OLIVE BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT** began a year-long seatbelt campaign in July 2016 in an effort to bring awareness to the importance of wearing your seatbelt. They began performing Olive Branch area field studies in May 2016. It's important to note that the national seatbelt usage rate in 2015, was 88.5%. The State of Mississippi saw a rate of 79.6% during the same year. The goal is to reach 100% usage to reduce the risk of injury related to motor vehicle accidents. March stats reflect an 88.3% driver seatbelt usage rate, down from 91.5% in February 2017. Please buckle up. The life you save could be your own!  
[#ClickItAndArriveAlive](#)



## 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 2017 Olive Branch Hall of Fame Inductee Election:

_____	_____	_____
Name for Hall of Fame Consideration	Date of Birth	Date of Death (if applicable)
_____	_____	
Your Name	Your Phone Number	

*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, Olive Branch, MS 38654. The deadline for receiving nominations is September 1, 2017.*

**GEORGE COLLINS, ALDERMAN AT LARGE | 662.895.3308**

**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS** were held in June, and I thank you for electing me as your Alderman at Large for another term. I am honored and humbled to serve you and the City of Olive Branch. The future of our city looks great. With low taxes and ongoing improvements to infrastructure, we continue to see great growth in businesses and families making Olive Branch their home. We are excited about the new playground that will open soon at the city park, as well as the baseball complex that is currently under renovation. Future plans include additional improvements to our parks and we invite you to enjoy all they have to offer.

► [Email gcollins@obms.us](mailto:gcollins@obms.us)

**GIL EARHART, ALDERMAN WARD 1 | 662.892.9218**

**AS YOU READ** this newsletter, the municipal elections are now over. Thank you for expressing your confidence in our current administration, and for re-electing me to serve for another four years. It has been, and will be again, a great privilege to help my fellow citizens with your concerns, frustrations, and visions for our city. I truly believe that our current administration has set the tone for public safety and economic development without losing sight of the high quality of life that we all desire. I am grateful for our community; for the men and women who serve us on our police, fire, and all other departments in our city. You have my full appreciation and respect.

► [Email gil.earhart@obms.us](mailto:gil.earhart@obms.us)

**PAT HAMILTON, ALDERWOMAN WARD 2 | 662.895.5765**

**THANK YOU** for the trust that you have placed in me to serve as your Alderwoman. For the past eight years, my primary focus has been on commercial and residential growth. New developments require new roads, while older roads need repaving and upgrading (e.g. Craft Road). This growth has also required additions to our gas, water, and sewage system. Storm water control problems are continuing to be evaluated to address flooding issues. Public safety is still our number one concern. We must be vigilant to protect our neighborhoods. Your input in the agenda that I send out before and after each of our Board of Alderman meetings is appreciated. If you are interested in being added to the list, send me your email address. It is a pleasure to serve as your Alderwoman. ► [Email phamilton@obms.us](mailto:phamilton@obms.us)

**JOY HENDERSON, ALDERWOMAN WARD 3 | 901.413.8362**

**THANK YOU** for re-electing me as your Alderwoman for the next 4 years. I am excited about the progress being made in our city. As paving continues throughout our city, first attention is being given to the streets with the most damage; the long awaited stop light at the Flying J entrance on Bethel Road will be installed by early 2018. Our new dog park is being enjoyed by our community, and we look forward to the completion of the new playground at our city park. May God Bless our city and its residents. Thank you for allowing me to serve you. ► [Email joy.henderson@obms.us](mailto:joy.henderson@obms.us)

**DAVID WALLACE, ALDERMAN WARD 4 | 901.619.6992**

**I WOULD LIKE TO** take this opportunity to thank the residents of Ward 4 for your vote and support in the Municipal Election that took place in June. I do not take the responsibility of Alderman lightly and believe that our best days are still to come. We've seen numerous street repairs and overlays this past year and will continue to address other roadways that need attention. We are actively working on drainage issues and are prioritizing the worst locations to be addressed first. Emergency services have played a major role in those desiring to move their businesses and families to Olive Branch. We recently acquired a new fire truck to replace a 1998 truck and several police cars have been replaced as well. It is an honor to serve as Alderman for Ward 4. ► [Email dwallace@obms.us](mailto:dwallace@obms.us)

**MARK ALDRIDGE, ALDERMAN WARD 5 | 901.831.8442**

**I APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT** and trust you've given me to serve our city once again. Many improvements have been made over the last four years. Streets have been, and continue to be, resurfaced; new businesses and families have made Olive Branch their home; and our city park has a dog park, retaining wall around the pond, resurfaced walking path and many other enhancements. School is about to start back and I pray for a great year for both children and teachers. "OB Pride" has been, and will continue to be, our mantra, as we cheer on our Conquistadors this season. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Olive Branch. ► [Email mark.aldridge@obms.us](mailto:mark.aldridge@obms.us)

**DALE DICKERSON, ALDERMAN WARD 6 | 662.895.2543**

**IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS** that I write about a heart breaking loss in our community. Bill Cruthirds, Sr. was a very close friend. I played touch football for eighteen years with Bill and his sons. Bill was over 50 years old and still played quarterback. Bill's son married my wife's sister. He encouraged me to get into politics when I expressed interest in running for office. He was a tireless advocate for this city and did so many things behind the scenes to make this city better. He had just retired from his job with the city in December. This is a very tragic loss for me personally and for our city. Keep his family in your prayers. If you need to reach me, please feel free to contact me through phone or email. ► [Email ddickerson@obms.us](mailto:ddickerson@obms.us)

<b>Airports</b>		
Olive Branch .....	662.895.2978	
Memphis International.....	901.922.8000	
<b>Ambulance</b>		
Olive Branch Fire Department .....	662.895.4111	
Emergency .....	911	
<b>Arts Council Olive Branch</b> .....	662.404.2787 or 901.619.0261	
<b>Automobile Tags</b> .....	662.469.8032	
<b>Birth and Death Certificates</b>		
Mississippi Bureau of Vital Statistics .....	601.206.8200	
<b>Building Permits Olive Branch</b> .....	662.892.9331	
<b>Business License Olive Branch</b> .....	662.892.9238	
<b>Cable Television Comcast</b> .....	901.259.2225	
<b>Chamber of Commerce Olive Branch</b> .....	662.895.2600	
<b>City Court Clerk Olive Branch</b> .....	662.892.9500	
<b>City Engineer Olive Branch</b> .....	662.892.9351	
<b>City Hall Olive Branch</b> .....	662.892.9200	
<b>Crimestoppers DeSoto County</b> .....	662.429.8477	
<b>DeSoto County Schools</b> .....	662.429.5271	
<b>Drivers License</b>		
Olive Branch .....	662.890.7211	
Nesbit .....	662.429.1353	
<b>DeSoto County Tourism</b> .....	662.393.8770	
<b>Electrical Service</b>		
Northcentral Electrical Power Association .....	800.325.8925	
Emergencies (Nights, Weekends, & Holidays) .....	866.438.2642	
<b>Fire Department Olive Branch</b>		
Dispatcher (Fire or Ambulance) .....	662.895.4111	
Station 1 .....	662.895.9611	
Station 2 .....	662.895.9612	
Station 3 .....	662.895.9613	
Station 4 .....	662.893.9614	
Station 5 .....	662.893.9615	
<b>Garbage Collection (Not Trash)</b> .....	662.892.9305	
<b>Golf Courses</b>		
Cherokee Valley .....	662.893.4444	
Olive Branch Country Club .....	662.895.6525	
Plantation .....	662.895.3530	
Wedgewood .....	662.895.7490	
<b>Handicap Decals DeSoto County</b> .....	662.469.8080	
<b>Health Department Clinic</b>		
Olive Branch .....	662.895.3090	
Hernando .....	662.429.9814	
<b>Homestead Exemption DeSoto County</b> .....	662.469.8029	
<b>Justice Court</b> .....	662.393.5810	
<b>Library B.J. Chain Olive Branch</b> .....	662.895.5900	
<b>Literacy Council Hernando</b> .....	662.429.2354	
<b>Marriage Licenses DeSoto County</b> .....	662.469.8007	
<b>Mayor's Office Olive Branch</b> .....	662.892.9201	
<b>Natural Gas Service</b>		
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	
<b>Newspapers</b>		
DeSoto Appeal .....	901.529.2317	
DeSoto Times-Tribune .....	662.429.6397	
<b>Northwest Community College</b> .....	662.342.1570	
<b>Old Towne Association Olive Branch</b> .....	662.893.0888	
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation Olive Branch</b> .....	662.893.5219	
<b>Planning &amp; Development Olive Branch</b> .....	662.892.9334	
<b>Poison Control</b> .....	800.222.1222	
<b>Police Department Olive Branch</b>		
Police Department.....	662.892.9400	
Dispatcher, Emergency, or Report Crime .....	662.895.4111 or 911	
<b>Post Office Olive Branch</b> .....	662.895.5966	
<b>Property Tax Olive Branch and DeSoto County</b>		
Tax Assessor .....	662.429.1335	
Tax Collector .....	662.469.8032	
<b>Public Works Olive Branch</b>		
Gas .....	662.893.5209	
Streets .....	662.895.4335	
Water .....	662.893.5208	
<b>Social Services</b>		
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	
<b>Sheriff's Department DeSoto County</b> .....	662.429.1470	
<b>Social Security Administration</b>		
Olive Branch .....	866.739.4771	
Call Back Line .....	866.592.2675	
<b>State Representatives</b>		
Dana Criswell .....	662.278.0299	
Dan Eubanks .....	662.374.0035	
Robert Foster .....	601.359.3287	
Jeff Hale .....	901.461.6673	
Ashley Henley .....	901.647.6255	
Steve Hopkins .....	901.827.0755	
Bill Kinkade.....	901.365.4830	
<b>State Senators</b>		
Kevin Blackwell .....	601.359.3234	
Chris Massey .....	601.359.2886	
David Parker .....	601.359.2886	
<b>State Tax Commission</b> .....		601.545.1261
<b>Street Lights Olive Branch</b> .....	662.892.9203	
<b>Telephone Service Century Link</b>		
Repairs 24 Hours .....	800.824.2877	
Locate Underground Cables .....	800.227.6477	
<b>Trash Collection (Not Garbage)</b> .....	662.893.5209	
<b>Unemployment Commission WIN Job Center</b> .....	662.342.4002	
<b>Unemployment Compensation</b> .....	888.844.3577	
<b>U.S. Representative</b>		
Trent Kelly .....	662.449.3090	
<b>U.S. Senators</b>		
Thad Cochran .....	662.236.1018	
Roger Wicker .....	662.429.1002	
<b>Voter Registration</b> .....	662.469.8350	
<b>Water &amp; Sewer Service</b>		
Olive Branch .....	662.892.9305	
Emergencies After Hours.....	662.895.4111	



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

# FROM THE ROOST

SUMMER 2017

## 2017 CLASS 6A GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS



The Olive Branch High School Ladies Basketball Team was recognized and presented with a proclamation from the Mayor and Board of Alderman, proclaiming Tuesday, April 4, 2017 as **OBHS Lady Conquistador Day** in the City of Olive Branch. These ladies won the Class 6A State Championship, March 11, 2017. We are EXTREMELY proud of their incredible accomplishment, and wish them much success in the years to come. Congratulations Coach Thompson and Team! **#OBPrize #TeamDCS**