

FROM THE ROOST

SUMMER 2020

FIRST WORD A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

We Are In This Together

THE FIRST HALF OF 2020 has seen many challenges, and we continue to navigate the uncertainty of COVID-19. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and sacrifice during the Governor's "Safer at Home" Executive Order. I also commend you on your continued efforts to minimize the spread of coronavirus through practicing social distancing and wearing masks as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Mississippi State Department of Health. More than anything, thank you for your prayers as the Board of Aldermen and I lead our City through this pandemic.

This virus has caused chaos throughout the world and has made it necessary for numerous regularly scheduled events and programs to be delayed and/or cancelled. We've seen this first hand in our Parks and Recreation Department, with the cancellation of our youth spring/summer recreational baseball, softball, and soccer programs. This was an extremely difficult decision, but was done knowing that the risk was much greater than the reward for not only our youth, but the coaches, officials, parents, grandparents, and staff. For the same reason, we must cancel our July 4th event this year. As we continue to see additional positive cases, most of which our local healthcare professionals tell us are caused by community spread, we know there is no good way to provide a safe environment for thousands of people to convene at our City Park for a fireworks show. We look forward to a spectacular show in 2021.

The statement we've made from the beginning of this situation continues to remain true today; we are in this together, so we're staying apart. Please continue to practice social distancing at this time. Use some sort of facial covering when in close contact with others. Healthcare workers tell us that this isn't intended to prevent you from getting the virus from others, as much as it is to prevent others from contracting the virus from you. Many walking around may have the virus with little to no symptoms, and never know they may be spreading it to others. We will get through this together, and be stronger as a community because of the way we serve one another during this time.

God Bless,



Scott B. Phillips, Jr.
Mayor of Olive Branch





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 | **NORMA SHAW**
662.890.7236

Parks Director | **JAMES CAMPBELL**
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**
901.413.8361

Ward 4 | **DAVID WALLACE**
901.619.6992

Ward 5 | **JAN ALDRIDGE**
901.268.4119

Ward 6 | **DALE DICKERSON**
662.895.2543

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.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

The Spring of 2020 came in with unprecedented conditions in which the Olive Branch Fire Department was forced to handle. The COVID-19 pandemic required us to make changes to operating procedures to ensure the safety of our firefighters and paramedics and at the same time, provide the same level of care and services to the citizens of Olive Branch that they are accustomed to. One of the changes includes additional medical questions that enables our paramedics to be safe and provide the proper medical care to our patients.

The current pandemic has required us to add several new hires, while promoting others, in order to meet the needs in our City. We will continue to grow and face the challenges that are presented to us. Our citizens will continue to see our firefighters wear protective equipment while interacting with patients and the public, as a continued safety measure.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope each of you will have a safe and happy summer.

Chief Johnny Eason
Olive Branch Fire Department

The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented changes to the entire nation and the Olive Branch Police Department was no exception. Our officers handled the changes with all the grace and dignity one would expect from this group of outstanding professionals. While changes were necessary to ensure the safety of our citizens and staff, our department continued to provide full law enforcement services at the professional level our citizens have come to know and expect.

Citizens will continue to see officers wearing masks and gloves when interacting with the public as a continued safety measure. Also, many of our public relations events and community outreach programs remain on hold at this time in an effort to decrease the likelihood of exposure for our citizens and staff. This measure is only temporary and we look forward to resuming our full program and events calendar as soon as safely possible.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope each of you will have a safe and happy summer.

Chief Don Gammage
Olive Branch Police Department



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.

According to Money Magazine, Olive Branch is the Fifth Best Place to Live in America and one of the nation's fastest growing communities.

FREE MASK GIVEAWAY



The City of Olive Branch Police and Fire Departments, along with some of our Aldermen and Alderwomen, participated in a FREE mask giveaway May 30, 2020, and June 13, 2020. These masks were secured by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors and were distributed at various locations throughout the County. We encourage you to follow the City of Olive Branch Facebook Page at [facebook.com/cityofob](https://www.facebook.com/cityofob) for timely information. If the County provides these masks again, we will post that information to our Facebook Page.

2020 Olive Branch 4th of July Celebration Cancelled

After consultation with our local healthcare professionals, and based upon CDC and MSDH recommendations, our Board of Aldermen has made the difficult decision to cancel the annual "Celebrate Your Independence Fireworks and Festival" for this year. Having thousands of people, shoulder to shoulder, for hours in the park, could endanger many of our residents through community spread of COVID-19. The health and safety of the people in our City is, and always will be, our primary concern. We look forward to the 2021 July 4th event.

PARKS AND RECREATION UPDATE

- Playgrounds are still closed, but we are looking for the safest way to reopen them to the public. There is no timetable for the reopening.
- COVID-19 forced us to cancel our Spring Soccer season as well as our youth baseball/softball season.
- Complexes A & B, as well as the Soccer Complex, are open on a first come first serve basis, based on weather and maintenance schedules.
- The tennis courts are open.
- The Dog Park and lakes are now open.
- At this time, we do plan to have the 2020 fall soccer season.

CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

OCTOBER 8, 2020*
OCTOBER 15, 2020*
OCTOBER 22, 2020*
OCTOBER 29, 2020*

Movies start at 7:00 p.m. on the lawn of The Wesson House, located across the street from City Hall.

* Dates are subject to change, pending the state of COVID-19 at that time.



■ **SAVE THE DATE!**

**2020
OLIVE BRANCH
TRUNK-OR-TREAT**

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 31, 2020*

5:00-7:00 PM

OLIVE BRANCH OLD TOWNE

Now Accepting Nominations for the 2020 Olive Branch Hall of Fame

The nominating period is now open for the 2020 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 August 31, 2020 (marked **"Attention: Hall of Fame"**). Anyone receiving at least one vote from last year's nominees has been carried forward for 2020 and, as such, **does not need to be nominated again this year**. The list of those names carried forward from 2019 are as follows:

Willie Brown
George Collins

Oscar Geeslin
David Haraway

Harold Nichols
T.H. Norvell

Ken Reid

2019 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Vicky Jo Baldwin
7.24.1941-2.11.2011

Scott B. "Scotty" Phillips, Sr.
9.6.1936-8.20.2019

Dr. William T. Wilkins
11.21.1859-12.14.1924

Lawrence "Dan" Williams
12.11.1946-

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

Bill G. Allen [2015](#)
Gilbert Leon Allen [2018](#)
Marthola Allen [2014](#)
Helen D. Allison [2012](#)
Jimmy Neal Andrews [2015](#)
Billy W. Baldwin [2014](#)
Vicky Jo Baldwin [2019](#)
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](#)
Willie James George [2017](#)
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](#)
Martha Pearl Langston [2018](#)
Ray Magee [2016](#)
Robert H. Marr [2011](#)
William Malone Maxwell [2017](#)
John B. (Jack) McCauley, [2007](#)
D. M. Nichols [2007](#)
Erlend R. Nichols [2013](#)
G. B. Payne [2007](#)
Janice Payne [2016](#)
H. Gene Phillips [2011](#)
Scott B. "Scotty" Phillips [2019](#)

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](#)
Dr. William T. Wilkins [2019](#)
G. E. (Mr. Eddie) Williams [2014](#)
Lawrence "Dan" Williams [2019](#)
James E. Woods [2009](#)
Walton T. Woods [2013](#)
Maurice E. Woodson [2011](#)
Alma C. Young [2013](#)

 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 2020 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

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, Olive Branch, MS 38654. The deadline for receiving nominations is August 31, 2020.

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

DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS we have been reminded why we love Olive Branch, why we call it “home.” Our City, both residents and leaders, have responded to the COVID-19 global pandemic with courage and wisdom...TOGETHER. Thank you! Many services are beginning to return to normal operations, including much needed paving projects for our roads. We are grateful for your patience as we endeavor to provide critical services while navigating the precautions necessary to protect everyone in our City. As we move through the remainder of summer and into fall, we are looking forward to being able to schedule more activities through our Parks and Recreation Department. Again, thank you for your patience. We’re in this together! ▶ [Email gcollins@obms.us](mailto:gcollins@obms.us)

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

WE LIVE IN unprecedented times indeed! This seems to be the new “normal” as COVID-19 has given us major challenges in all facets of life. Wearing face masks, facing business closures, job layoffs, and learning to work remotely, or go to school remotely, presents all of us with new learning curves each day. While these are challenges indeed, I want to assure you that the City of Olive Branch is coping with and managing these challenges well. We are sound fiscally, our police, fire, and city personnel are still committed to serving our public. Our local economy, by all indications, has not been affected nearly as bad as it could have possibly been. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you who have been personally affected. I wish you the very best for your future. ▶ [Email gil.earhart@obms.us](mailto:gil.earhart@obms.us)

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

OUR BELOVED COUNTRY, the United States of America, has been assaulted on two fronts, the coronavirus and civil unrest. The City of Olive Branch has dealt with these crises most directly from the Governor’s office. The coronavirus is, hopefully, on a down swing. We have been blessed by the leadership of our Mayor, Scott Phillips, and Police Chief, Don Gammage, who have led us through both. Ward 2 is continuing to grow. Residential growth is still on the rise. We are happy to announce the arrival of Mugshots Restaurant, west of the Malco Theater on Goodman Road. The dove is our City emblem and is a Biblical symbol of life after the flood. For us it is a sign of renewal and prosperity for our City after the coronavirus. Let us pray for our City and Country. God Bless America! ▶ [Email phamilton@obms.us](mailto:phamilton@obms.us)

**JOY HENDERSON, ALDERWOMAN WARD 3 | 901.413.8361**

GREAT JOB, OB! It has been a very challenging last few months but we met the challenge! Recently the OBPD and OBFD distributed masks at the high school and it was very encouraging to see so many residents come by for their mask. It proves to me how many of you are determined to stay safe. Each car that came thru the line was offering encouraging words to our FD and PD. Thank you for that! Also, we are thankful to DeSoto County for furnishing the masks, and to Dominos Pizza for feeding the volunteers. On another note, it’s exciting to see the light at the intersection of Flying J and Bethel Road operating and the traffic running smoothly. The City is hard at work in an effort to keep things running smoothly during these challenging times. ▶ [Email joy.henderson@obms.us](mailto:joy.henderson@obms.us)

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

THE FIRST HALF of 2020 has brought us some tough times, but the people of Olive Branch have risen to the challenge and together we will make it through this season. I’m grateful for our first responders who, in the midst of the current pandemic, have made the necessary adjustments to continue to serve the citizens of Olive Branch. The City is in good financial shape and we recently approved a street paving project. Many roads will receive needed overlays and all of us can appreciate that. Please continue to check on your elderly and/or health compromised neighbors. I’m honored to serve as your Ward 4 Alderman and I pray you all stay safe. ▶ [Email dwallace@obms.us](mailto:dwallace@obms.us)

**JAN ALDRIDGE, ALDERWOMAN WARD 5 | 901.268.4119**

IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE that this update finds you safe and healthy. I want to personally thank everyone for their patience and cooperation as we have all worked together to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community. With regard to the recent flooding issues we have experienced in some areas of the City, please know that our new city engineer is working diligently to mitigate flooding in the impacted areas. I know that many are disappointed that this year’s 4th of July fireworks celebration had to be cancelled. I am as well. Please know that the health and safety of our citizens will always be our first priority. Working together, we will make it through these challenging times stronger than ever. Have a happy and safe summer! ▶ [Email jan.aldridge@obms.us](mailto:jan.aldridge@obms.us)

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

TO SAY THE YEAR 2020 has been wild is an understatement! With the COVID pandemic, stay at home orders, and economic nationwide shutdown, it has tested all of us. Many states and cities will be struggling budget-wise due to a lack of dollars and the loss of revenue. We will be no different. Municipal Court and our Parks Department have taken a big hit. We will know later in the year how our sales taxes will be affected. Our conservative budgeting has us prepared for a continued economic downturn. We have a diverse tax base with sales tax and ad valorem. We are not overly dependent on either one. Our fund balances are strong and we have a healthy rainy day fund. I ask you to join me in a prayer for our country, state and city. ▶ [Email ddickerson@obms.us](mailto:ddickerson@obms.us)

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

Cable Television Comcast 901.259.2225

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
 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

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

Newspapers

DeSoto Appeal 901.529.2345
 DeSoto Times-Tribune 662.429.6397

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

Olive Branch 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

Telephone Service Century Link

Repairs 24 Hours 800.824.2877
 Locate Underground Cables 800.227.6477

Unemployment Commission WIN Job Center 662.342.4002

Unemployment Compensation 888.844.3577

U.S. Representative

Trent Kelly 662.449.3090

U.S. Senators

Cindy Hyde-Smith 662.236.1018
 Roger Wicker 662.429.1002



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

FROM THE ROOST

SUMMER 2020

Congratulations Class of 2020



CENTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL

William Gibson, Valedictorian
Destiny Pettis, Salutatorian

LEWISBURG HIGH SCHOOL

Brady May, Valedictorian
Morgan Vanderburg, Salutatorian

DESOTO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Raegan Stafford, Valedictorian
Reagan Kubis, Salutatorian

OLIVE BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL

Reagan Logan, Valedictorian
Abigail Long, Salutatorian