

FROM THE ROOST



Olive Branch Voted Fifth Best Place to Live in America

by JAY NICHOLS, Public Relations Coordinator, City of Olive Branch

Olive Branch, Mississippi was recently named the *Fifth Best Place to Live in America* by MONEY Magazine and Realtor.com. This is quite an honor and we are proud to have been selected, but for those of us who have lived here all our lives, this may not be that big of a surprise. Don't take it the wrong way, but we've always known that we live in one of the best places in America, it has just taken a little time for others to find that out. In 2005, we were named the *38th Most Livable City in America* by CNN/MONEY Magazine, and in 2007 we were once again in the top 100. In 2011, Bloomberg Business Magazine rated Olive Branch the *Fastest Growing City in the Nation Over the Past Twenty Years*, and now we've been named the fifth best place in America to live. What's been impressive to me is that we've been able to control our growth in such a way that families and

businesses continue to want to move here. I believe much of that can be attributed to the leadership we have seen in the past, and we continue to have today. To take a phrase from Mayor Scott Phillips, he, and our Board of Aldermen are committed to community and dedicated to progress. This is seen throughout our city every day with streets constantly being repaired, widened and/or resurfaced. Our City Park received an updated playground, new ball fields and other enhancements for families to enjoy. Community events are held throughout the year to bring everyone together, and our police and fire departments join in to enforce the importance of citizens' involvement in public safety. Yes, we are honored and humbled for this unsolicited recognition, but we already knew that we are blessed to live and raise our families in the great City of Olive Branch, Mississippi.



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**
901.413.8361

Ward 4 | **DAVID WALLACE**
901.619.6992

Ward 5 | **MARK ALDRIDGE**
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FROM THE
ROOST

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FIRST WORD A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

So many things
to be thankful
for this year

It's hard to believe that Christmas is upon us, and another year is almost over. Where has the time gone? So many things have happened this year in our city. Roads continue to be resurfaced, striped and widened. Craft Road construction was recently completed, and I know everyone who travels that stretch of road is thankful for that. We opened the new playground at the City Park, and it has already been enjoyed by thousands of children of all abilities. The new Complex "A" ball fields and concession stand is expected to be complete before the end of the year. If you haven't visited the City Park lately, let me encourage you to do so soon. Something we all should be extremely proud of is being named the *Fifth Best Place to Live in America* by MONEY Magazine and Realtor.com (October 2017, MONEY Magazine). This recognition was unsolicited and is a testament to our dedicated first responders, incredible businesses, A+ rated schools and all of you who make Olive Branch such a desirable place for parents to raise their children, and businesses to open their doors. I believe the best is still yet to come, and I thank you for the trust you've placed in me as your mayor of the great City of Olive Branch.

Scott B. Phillips, Jr.
Mayor of Olive Branch

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.

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



OB City Park Raises the Bar

With the grand opening in August of the new, all-inclusive, universal playground, the **Parks and Recreation Department** is setting a new standard of excellence and raising the bar for other city parks in America. In addition to the new playground, upgrades are currently underway to Complex A:

- ⦿ New concession building with upstairs tournament management area
- ⦿ Addition of 9/10-11/12 year old age group field

- ⦿ Three new fields that will be used for T-ball
- ⦿ Taller backstops on existing fields to better control foul balls
- ⦿ LED sport lighting
- ⦿ New wireless scoreboards for all fields
- ⦿ Controlled entry points into complex

The scheduled completion date for the upgrades to Complex A is December 29, 2017.

Improving Customer Satisfaction

Public Works has made the following efforts recently to improve on customer satisfaction:

- ⦿ **Rubbish Collection**—We have recently added two additional boom trucks to Sanitation which have allowed us to catch up on our service routes and stay at or ahead of schedule.
- ⦿ **Natural Gas Expansion**—City Gas is currently working to upgrade natural gas lines from 2" to 6" along Vaiden Road and DeSoto Road. Future expansion this year is proposed to upgrade natural gas along Highways 305 and 309 at Goodman Road.
- ⦿ **Water Department**—We have recently made some improvements to our Caroma plant, replacing a well pump and motor, and cleaning a well along with an upgrade to our monitoring system to keep record of our water treatment process. We replaced two well motors and a new pump at our Polk Lane plant. We replaced two well pumps at the Metro plant. Bridgetown Water Tower is back in service to increase water capacity.
- ⦿ **Street Department**—The leaf vacuum truck began collecting leaves at the beginning of November along its collection route, which will continue running through the month of March.
- ⦿ **Public Works** is looking to implement a mobile work order application software system to enhance the services they provide to the citizens. This will allow automatic feedback to citizens on work orders.

O L I V E B R A N C H
P U B L I C
S A F E T Y
E X C E L L E N C E



Public Safety Night Out

The Olive Branch Police Department and Olive Branch Fire Department held the *5th Annual Public Safety Night Out* on October 2, 2017. Thank you to everyone that came out and made this event a HUGE success!!! Of course the event would not have been possible without our AWESOME official sponsors, Walmart Olive Branch and Chick-fil-A of Olive Branch!!!! We also want to thank the Olive Branch Fire Department Station 4 for their safety demonstrations, Northcentral Electric Power Association for their arc truck demonstration, Homer Skelton Hyundai for the fireworks show, and all of our local businesses for showing up and taking part! Special thanks goes out to all of our hardworking Olive Branch Mississippi Citizens Academy Alumni Association members for volunteering their time! Watch for information about the 6th annual event next year.



Olive Branch Police Department

The Olive Branch Police Department had an extremely special department meeting in October with several different recognitions being made.

- ◉ **Detective Mark Ayers** was presented a service/retirement award in recognition of his years of service with the Olive Branch Police Department. Mark served from 2002 until 2017. Detective Ayers was shot in the line of duty in 2006, and although the incident left him paralyzed from the waist down, he continued to serve the people of Olive Branch until his retirement earlier this year. We are thankful for his service and wish him our very best.
- ◉ **Lt. Vicky Baldwin's** family was presented with a service/retirement award for her years of service with the Olive Branch Police Department. Lt. Baldwin served from 1984 until 2007 and was the FIRST female to ever work for the Olive Branch Police Department. She has definitely left her mark on our agency forever.
- ◉ The department also recognized **Leann Farr's** promotion to the rank of Captain! Captain Farr has been instrumental in OBPD's accreditation process, as well as coordinating the Lawfit program in Olive Branch. Her promotion makes her the first female in the history of the Olive Branch Police Department to obtain the rank of Captain and be appointed to the Command Staff. Congratulations to all three of these amazing officers!!!



Olive Branch Fire Department

Amazing things are happening with your Fire Department.

- ◉ The first female firefighter, Saralyn Durrett, is going to the Fire Academy and will graduate on April 12, 2018.
- ◉ The Department acquired a new fire truck, Truck One, for Station 3 (Industrial Park). The truck is a 2017 Pierce Ascendant 107 model.



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

IT IS AN HONOR to serve the citizens of Olive Branch as your Alderman at Large. I do not take this responsibility lightly and will continue to promote low taxes and improvements to infrastructure throughout our city. Many improvements can already be seen at our City Park. The new playground is now open and a new baseball complex is on schedule to be completed in December. I encourage you to enjoy all that our parks have to offer. Our Public Works Department experienced some delays in rubbish pick-up this past year. We have acquired two more knuckle boom trucks to help them catch up and get back on schedule. I appreciate the work they do that is all too often taken for granted. Thank you again for allowing me to serve. ► [Email gcollins@obms.us](mailto:gcollins@obms.us)

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

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY how grateful I am to be working with our mayor and other aldermen/women. While none of us are perfect, I can assure you that everyone's heart is in the right place and we strive to do the best we can to keep our city on the right path without sacrificing public safety or quality of life. All of us should be proud of the fact that MONEY Magazine named Olive Branch as the 5th best place to live in the USA! That does not come without a lot of hard work from ALL of our city employees. Also, kudos to every citizen for taking pride in your city, being kind to visitors, and keeping our city clean. Let's continue to visualize a litter-free city, one with an honorable work ethic that supports those in need. By doing so, who knows...we could be number ONE! ► [Email gil.earhart@obms.us](mailto:gil.earhart@obms.us)

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! As your Alderwoman for Ward 2, I am happy to announce the completion of Craft Road from Highway 78 to Goodman Road, which includes five lanes with sidewalks. Growth in Ward 2 continues with the construction of Arby's Restaurant next to Aldi's Grocery, and Potbelly Sandwich Shop located in the strip center on the northeast corner of Goodman and Southbranch Parkway. Captain D's is searching for a site to develop along the Goodman Road corridor. "Thank You" to each of my constituents who continue to receive the Board of Alderman Agenda emails. If you are interested in receiving these emails, please send me your email address. May you enjoy a blessed Christmas Season! ► [Email phamilton@obms.us](mailto:phamilton@obms.us)

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

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON is upon us, and a New Year is just around the corner. It's been a busy year and I look forward to working for the constituents of Ward 3 once again in 2018. Our Public Works Department continues to work on resurfacing roads throughout the city. Older roads, and those that are in the worst condition, are given first priority. The traffic light on Bethel Road, at the Flying J entrance, is on schedule to be completed in 2018. Our City Park has opened a new playground area, and we look forward to the completion of the new baseball and tee-ball fields. So much is happening in our city. 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**

ANOTHER YEAR is almost gone and we look forward to a great 2018. We've seen numerous street repairs this past year, and we continue to address other roads, with the worst receiving attention first. We have acquired two more knuckle boom trucks, which have allowed Public Works to catch up on rubbish pick-up and keep them on schedule. I appreciate the hard work they do each and every day. I am also grateful to our First Responders. Much of why we have been recognized as the fifth best place to live in America, is because of the safety they provide for all of us. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. ► [Email dwallace@obms.us](mailto:dwallace@obms.us)

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

2017 HAS BEEN a year of much progress for the City of Olive Branch. Streets have, and continue to be resurfaced, our City Park has received a new state of the art playground that is being visited by countless children and families, our Conquistadors football team has enjoyed an outstanding season, showing us what "OB Pride" really is, and new businesses and families are coming in and making Olive Branch their home. We are blessed to live in this city that was selected as the fifth best place in America to live, and we look forward to what 2018 will bring us. ► [Email mark.aldridge@obms.us](mailto:mark.aldridge@obms.us)

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

THIS IS THE TIME of year to celebrate holidays with family and friends. It is also a great time to reflect on the past year and to make plans for the New Year. I am certainly thankful for all of you because without you, we would not be the 5th best place to live in America. Thank you for what you do every day to keep this City such a wonderful place to raise families. Sherry & I take this opportunity to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ► [Email ddickerson@obms.us](mailto:ddickerson@obms.us)

Airports

Olive Branch 662.895.2978
 Memphis International..... 901.922.8000

Ambulance

Olive Branch Fire Department 662.895.4111
 Emergency..... 911

Arts Council Olive Branch 662.404.2787 or 901.619.0261

Automobile Tags 662.469.8032

Birth and Death Certificates

Mississippi Bureau of Vital Statistics 601.206.8200

Building Permits Olive Branch 662.892.9331

Business License Olive Branch 662.892.9238

Cable Television Comcast 901.259.2225

Chamber of Commerce Olive Branch 662.895.2600

City Court Clerk Olive Branch 662.892.9500

City Engineer Olive Branch 662.892.9351

City Hall Olive Branch 662.892.9200

Crimestoppers DeSoto County 662.429.8477

DeSoto County Schools 662.429.5271

Drivers License

Olive Branch 662.890.7211
 Nesbit 662.429.1353

DeSoto County Tourism 662.393.8770

Electrical Service

Northcentral Electrical Power Association 800.325.8925
 Emergencies (Nights, Weekends, & Holidays) 866.438.2642

Fire Department Olive Branch

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

Garbage Collection (Not Trash) 662.892.9306

Golf Courses

Cherokee Valley 662.893.4444
 Olive Branch Country Club 662.895.6525
 Plantation 662.895.3530
 Wedgewood 662.895.7490

Handicap Decals DeSoto County 662.469.8032

Health Department Clinic (Hernando) 662.429.9814

Homestead Exemption DeSoto County 662.469.8029

Justice Court 662.469.8026

Library B.J. Chain Olive Branch 662.895.5900

Literacy Council Hernando 662.429.2354

Marriage Licenses DeSoto County 662.469.8007

Mayor's Office Olive Branch 662.892.9201

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

Old Towne Association Olive Branch 662.893.0888

Parks & Recreation Olive Branch 662.893.5219

Planning & Development Olive Branch 662.892.9334

Poison Control 800.222.1222

Police Department Olive Branch

Police Department..... 662.892.9400
 Dispatcher, Emergency, or Report Crime 662.895.4111 or 911

Post Office Olive Branch 662.895.5966

Property Tax Olive Branch and DeSoto County

Tax Assessor 662.469.8029
 Tax Collector 662.469.8032

Public Works Olive Branch

Gas..... 662.893.5209
 Streets..... 662.895.4335
 Water 662.893.5208

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

Sheriff's Department DeSoto County 662.469.8500

Social Security Administration

Olive Branch 866.739.4771
 Call Back Line 866.592.2675

State Representatives

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

State Senators

Kevin Blackwell..... 901.412.0431
 Chris Massey..... 901.550.0334
 David Parker 901.473.9760

Street Lights Olive Branch 662.892.9203

Telephone Service Century Link

Repairs 24 Hours 800.824.2877
 Locate Underground Cables 800.227.6477

Trash Collection (Not Garbage) 662.893.5209

Unemployment Commission WIN Job Center 662.342.4002

Unemployment Compensation 888.844.3577

U.S. Representative

Trent Kelly 662.449.3090

U.S. Senators

Thad Cochran 662.236.1018
 Roger Wicker..... 662.429.1002

Voter Registration 662.469.8350

Water & Sewer Service

Olive Branch 662.892.9305
 Emergencies After Hours..... 662.895.4111



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FROM THE ROOST

WINTER 2017

Hall of Fame Inductees for 2017



Willie James
GEORGE

January 2, 1938–February 5, 2008



William Malone
MAXWELL

July 8, 1897–October 16, 1976

Mr. Willie James George and **Mr. William Malone Maxwell** were inducted into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame, Wednesday, November 8th, during the Olive Branch Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Proud family members were there to accept the honorary plaques on behalf of these worthy inductees. Olive Branch is what it is today because of these two men, and countless others, who gave so much of themselves to make Olive Branch one of the best places to live in America. [#MyCityofOB](#)