

FROM THE ROOST

WINTER 2018

FIRST WORD A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

We're Thankful for the Many Blessings in Our Lives

MERRY CHRISTMAS from my family to yours. This is my favorite time of the year. It's a time to gather with loved ones in celebration and thankfulness. It's often easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, but I encourage you to find time to enjoy the company of your family and friends.

We recently inducted two worthy individuals into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame; Mr. Gilbert Allen and Mrs. Martha Pearl Langston. Mr. Allen was the owner of Allen's Big Star Grocery and was instrumental in the creation of the Olive Branch Chamber of Commerce and numerous fundraising endeavors for Olive Branch schools. Mrs. Langston was the last of the lineage of Benjamin Wesson, the City's first mayor. She and her husband, Forrest "Red" Langston, lived in what is known as the Wesson House, across the street from the present day City Hall. At her request and in her memory, Forrest left the house to the City of Olive Branch. This is one of the greatest gifts the City has received.

I pray you all have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Remember those less fortunate than ourselves and those who are not able to be with family during the holidays. May we give thanks for the many blessings in our lives and not take for granted the time we have with family and friends.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Scott B. Phillips, Jr.".

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 | **JUNE SNEED**
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.



Gilbert Leon Allen
July 28, 1926–August 2, 2015



Martha Pearl Langston
October 6, 1920–October 15, 1987

2018 HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS

Mr. Gilbert Leon Allen and **Mrs. Martha Pearl Langston** were inducted into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame, Wednesday, November 14, 2018, during the Olive Branch Chamber of Commerce luncheon. The Hall of Fame is the highest honor the City can bestow on one of its citizens. It is because of invested individuals like these that Olive Branch is the City it is today. We celebrate with the family and friends of these inductees as they received plaques in their honor and memory. If you would like to submit someone's name for consideration for inclusion into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame, a nomination form will be included in the upcoming Summer 2019 *From the Roost* newsletter.

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.

Holiday & Winter Safety Tips

FROM THE OLIVE BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT

- ⦿ During shopping trips, be sure that valuables are not left visible in your vehicle. This includes, purses, phones, and packages. Store these items in your trunk and be sure your vehicle is locked.
- ⦿ While shopping, be aware of your surroundings as you make your way from store to store. If possible, park in well-lit areas closer to the stores. Be alert as you walk through the parking areas as traffic will be heavy.
- ⦿ Once Christmas has arrived, break down large boxes, which may be an indication of major purchases, before placing your garbage and recycling out for pick-up.
- ⦿ The Olive Branch Police Department will be out in force during the holiday season. If you see anything suspicious please call 662.895.4111. We love our community and wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

FROM THE OLIVE BRANCH FIRE DEPARTMENT

- ⦿ Keep candles at least **twelve inches** away from anything that burns.
- ⦿ Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous. Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect. Make sure your tree is **at least three feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles, or heat vents.
- ⦿ Make sure your Christmas tree does not block exits.
- ⦿ Discard your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.
- ⦿ Heating equipment is involved in **1 in every 7** reported home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths. Keep anything that can burn **at least three feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.
- ⦿ Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away as possible** from your home.
- ⦿ Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month**.
- ⦿ Plug only **one heat-producing appliance** (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.
- ⦿ Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year**.
- ⦿ Store cooled fireplace/stove ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least ten feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usafa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.



OLIVE BRANCH AIRPORT

Years in the Making

The City of Olive Branch recently purchased the Olive Branch Airport from Belz Enterprises. This acquisition has been in the works for many years and was made possible by a joint effort from numerous partners with no burden on any of our residents. We're excited about the opportunities this creates for our City and the business community. Thank you to the following partners whose joint efforts helped make this possible:

- Senator Roger Wicker
- Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith
- Representative Trent Kelly
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Mississippi Department of Transportation
- Jones Walker, LLP
Keith Parsons, Esq.
Ann Taylor, Esq.
- Raymond James
Lindsey Rea
Mary Morgan Gladney
DJ Mehigan
- Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
Vince Malavasi
Tom Henderson
Chris Tutor
David Bowman
- Belz Enterprises
- McNeill Commercial Real Estate/
Woods DeSoto, LLC
- Win Perkins, Airport & Aviation
Appraisals, Inc.



The City's acquisition of the Olive Branch Airport was years in the making and would not have been possible without the efforts of City leadership spanning decades, including (pictured left-to-right) former Mayor Milton Nichols, current Mayor Scott Phillips, and former Mayor Sam Rikard.



GEORGE COLLINS, ALDERMAN AT LARGE | 662.895.3308

THE City of Olive Branch recently purchased the Olive Branch Airport. This was a major accomplishment for our City that came about only through the hard work and combined efforts of a lot of people, including several City administrations. Having ownership of the airport will open up numerous and beneficial opportunities for our City. Also, the City recently acquired new equipment that will greatly enhance our Public Works department in their maintenance of water and sewer lines. Thanks to everyone who came out for our Christmas parade, which saw a record number in attendance. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season is joyous and safe. ► [Email gcollins@obms.us](mailto:gcollins@obms.us)



GIL EARHART, ALDERMAN WARD 1 | 662.892.9218

AS THE END of another year draws near, I want to take a moment to thank all the employees who serve our City so well! From the guys on the street working in all kinds of weather, to our Police and Fire personnel who put their lives at risk to keep us safe, and for the Parks and Recreation crew who work hard to see that we can relax, play, and recreate. To the Mayor and all of those in Administration, Maintenance, Engineering, Planning, and General Services, thank you for your leadership and willingness to serve our citizens with a cheerful heart. It is a great time to be an American and to live in one of the "most livable" cities in the country. I am thankful for all of you and for the blessings that we all have. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and God Bless. ► [Email gil.earhart@obms.us](mailto:gil.earhart@obms.us)



PAT HAMILTON, ALDERWOMAN WARD 2 | 662.895.5765

I WANT TO WISH each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The City has witnessed another year of tremendous growth: In Ward 2, we welcomed Wolf River Brisket, the reopening of Aldi's, Potbelly Sandwich Shop, Culpepper Place of Olive Branch, many other businesses and restaurants, and the City purchased the Olive Branch Airport. Also, a balanced budget was passed effective October 1 and no further increases in our taxes are anticipated. Our Board was saddened by the loss of Ward 5 Alderman, Mark Aldridge. We are happy to welcome his wife, Jan, to our board. If you are interested in receiving the Board of Alderman Agenda, please send me your e-mail address. As always, I welcome your phone calls and emails. ► [Email phamilton@obms.us](mailto:phamilton@obms.us)



JOY HENDERSON, ALDERWOMAN WARD 3 | 901.413.8361

I LOVE THIS SEASON in Olive Branch. It's wonderful to see the Christmas decorations in downtown and across our City. I'm thankful that we had beautiful weather for our Christmas parade—which included more than 100 floats—and the Christmas tree lighting at City Hall. I want to extend a special thanks to the Olive Branch High School carolers who performed at the tree lighting ceremony. One of the signs of progress, of which there are many, was the re-paving of Dockery Lane in Ward 3. I'm thankful for all of the people working behind the scenes who make our progress possible. I pray that everyone will have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ► [Email joy.henderson@obms.us](mailto:joy.henderson@obms.us)



DAVID WALLACE, ALDERMAN WARD 4 | 901.619.6992

THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS have been very productive for the City of Olive Branch. The 2019 budget for the City was recently approved and I'm happy to report the City is in sound financial condition. As you've read in this issue of *The Roost*, the City has acquired the Olive Branch Airport utilizing grants from the Federal Aviation Administration, as well as a grant from the State of Mississippi. Also, the City was able to retain the airport employees, making for a seamless transition. The City continues its annual repair of streets throughout each of the six wards. Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank former Alderman G.P. Gillespie for his dedicated and honorable service to our City and ask for your continued thoughts and prayers for his family. ► [Email dwallace@obms.us](mailto:dwallace@obms.us)



JAN ALDRIDGE, ALDERWOMAN WARD 5 | 901.268.4119

2018 HAS BEEN a year of ups and downs for my family and I am thankful for the prayers and support shown to us after the passing of my husband, Mark. I am humbled and honored that you have chosen me to now serve as your Ward 5 Alderwoman and I do not take this responsibility lightly. I will continue to be your voice and make decisions that are in the best interest of you and our City. Thank you again for the trust you've placed in me and for the love and support you've shown to my family. I covet your prayers for my family during the holidays and I pray that you and your family have a great Christmas and a prosperous New Year. ► [Email jan.aldridge@obms.us](mailto:jan.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. It certainly has been an eventful year for the City of Olive Branch. We bought the airport and announced plans to expand our City limits. The airport purchase will be an economic driver for many years for our City. 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

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
 Garbage Collection (Not Trash)..... 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
 Trash Collection (Not Garbage)..... 662.893.5209
 Water & Sewer Service..... 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 Electrical Power Association 800.325.8925
 Emergencies (Nights, Weekends, & Holidays) 866.438.2642

Golf Courses

Cherokee Valley 662.893.4444
 Olive Branch Country Club 662.895.6525
 Plantation..... 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

Old Towne Association Olive Branch 662.893.0888

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

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

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

WINTER 2018

Olive Branch Reaches More than 1.4 Million



Our Olive Branch Police Department was encouraged to join in on the **#LipSyncChallenge** that was circulating on social media this past summer. Our response to this challenge came in the form of a promotional piece for the City of Olive Branch. Special thanks goes out to our Olive Branch Police Department and Olive Branch Fire Dept for your involvement, as well as the Olive Branch citizens and businesses who played a role in our video.

To date, our video has reached more than 1.4 million people and shared more than 19,000 times on Facebook alone.

Our video can be found on our Facebook page as well as our YouTube channel.

This is #OurTown

Music Credits: Montgomery Gentry