

FROM THE ROOST

WINTER 2019



Christmas

IN OLIVE BRANCH

**TREE LIGHTING
AND WESSON HOUSE OPEN HOUSE**

Thursday, December 5, 7 PM
Olive Branch City Hall

43rd Annual
Chamber of Commerce
CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday, December 7, 2 PM
Parade Begins at Olive Branch Elementary



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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



FIRST WORD A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Focusing on the Christmas Season

We had a great crowd for our Halloween event this year. Thousands of you strolled down Pigeon Roost and visited the local Old Towne businesses. We are grateful for the participation from these local businesses and other vendors who also got involved. Our Fall *Movies Under the Stars* was also a hit, as we saw hundreds attend each Thursday night during the month of October. We look forward to hosting these events again next year. We now focus our attention on the Christmas Season. We hope you will join us for our Annual Tree Lighting, which will take place at City Hall, Thursday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. In addition to the tree lighting, the Wesson House will be open for tours, carolers will be singing on the steps of City Hall, and Santa will be here to meet with the children. The following Saturday, December 7, the Olive Branch Chamber of Commerce will host their 43rd Annual Christmas Parade, at 2:00 p.m. The theme of the parade this year is *I'll Be Home for Christmas*. From my family to yours, have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Scott B. Phillips, Jr.
Mayor of Olive Branch

FRONT COVER

The Olive Branch community celebrating together at the 2018 Tree Lighting Ceremony in front of City Hall

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.

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.

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

MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

Hundreds of people turned out this Fall to enjoy Movies Under the Stars on the lawn of the Wesson House.



Holiday Safety Tips

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 doesn't block exits.
- ⦿ Discard your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.
- ⦿ 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.
- ⦿ 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**.
- ⦿ 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.
- ⦿ 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**.



2019 OLIVE BRANCH INDUC



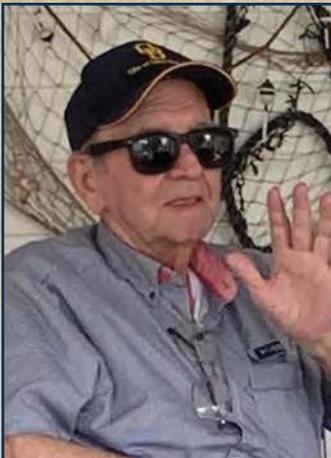
VICKYJO BALDWIN | 7.24.1941–2.11.2011

Vicky Jo Baldwin was born July 24, 1941 to Reva and Joe McCall. She and her younger sister were raised in West Memphis, AR and attended grade school in Hulbert, AR. Her high school years were spent at West Memphis High School.

Vicky moved to Olive Branch when she married Billy Baldwin, March 16, 1962. Billy was elected Justice of the Peace in 1976 where he would serve until 1984. At that time he was elected Justice Court Judge. Billy was an Olive Branch City Judge, as well as a DeSoto County Coroner. He was inducted into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame in 2014. Vicky and Billy had two children; daughter Marie, and son Bill. Once her grandson, Justin Early, was born, he became the center of her world. She would be extremely proud of him today for attending Delta State University. Vicky and Billy were married for fifty years, until her death on February 11, 2011.

Vicky served Olive Branch as the first female officer of the Olive Branch Police Department from September 7, 1984 until March 16, 2007. She was well respected within the department and throughout the City. Her hard work and dedication to her job earned her the rank of Lieutenant. Vicky paved the way for other women in law enforcement, as she was the first female officer to receive this rank.

Billy was a member and President of the Olive Branch Jaycees and Vicky was a member of the Jaycees. Whenever possible, Vicky enjoyed playing softball and was an outstanding player. Billy, Vicky, and their family, have been greatly respected and highly valued members of the Olive Branch community. The City is better today because of their service and contribution.



SCOTT BAIN "SCOTTY" PHILLIPS, SR. | 9.6.1936–8.20.2019

Scott Bain "Scotty" Phillips, Sr. was born September 6, 1936 to Myrtle and Arthur Phillips. He had one older brother and they were both born and raised in Olive Branch, MS. Scotty, as he was known by his friends, attended grade school in Olive Branch and graduated from Olive Branch High School in 1954.

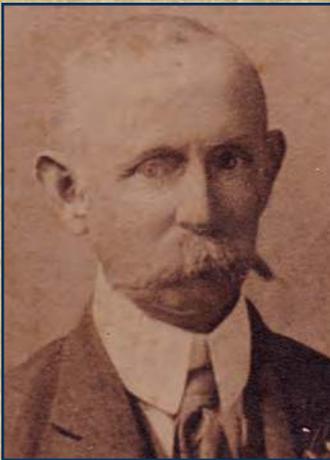
Scotty was married to Sharon Travis Phillips for almost thirty-four years until her passing, January 19, 2005. They had one son, Scott Bain Phillips, Jr., who would marry his high school sweetheart, Stacy McInvale, in 1994. Scotty and Sharon were overjoyed with the arrival of their granddaughters, Madison and Mabree, and were the kind of grandparents everyone wished to have. After Sharon's death, Scotty became the chauffeur for his granddaughters and took the job quite seriously. He would often arrive at the school hours ahead of time, to be sure he was the first in line, so they didn't have to wait nor walk too far. Of course it wouldn't be right to take them home right away, so a quick trip to Sonic was often required for a snack after school.

Scotty was a hard worker. He worked several jobs during his lifetime. He was employed by Centurytel, Allen Food, and Home Depot, but it was when he began his career in the grocery business, that most people remember Scotty for. This career began at the Family Grocery in Mineral Wells, then at his own store, Phillips Thriftway. He also worked at Piggly Wiggly, and Allen's Big Star. He was an incredible butcher and always greeted everyone with a smile and a hand shake. He was well known at his home church, First Baptist Church of Olive Branch, and as a member of the Lion's Club. Scotty was a City of Olive Branch Alderman from July 1981 until June 1989.

His lifetime accomplishments are simple, but profound, He was a respectful son to his parents, faithful husband to Sharon, supportive father to Scott, and loving "Da" to Madison and Mabree. He and Sharon raised a son who would one day become Mayor of the City of Olive Branch and follow in his father's footsteps of a life of service to others.

CH HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

If you would like to recommend someone that you believe is worthy of induction into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame, look for the **Hall of Fame Nomination Form** in the Summer 2020 edition of *The Roost*.



DR. WILLIAM THOMAS WILKINS | 11.21.1859–12.14.1924

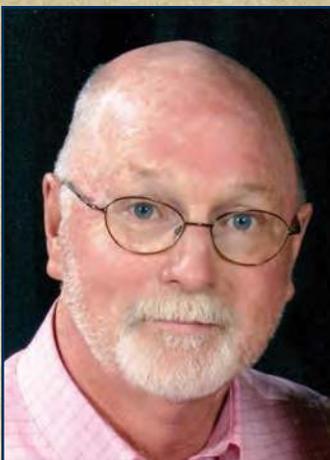
William Thomas Wilkins was born in Marshall County, near Holly Springs, MS, November 21, 1859. He had one younger brother, J.C. Wilkins, who also became a doctor.

Dr. W.T. Wilkins joined the Methodist Church at a young age and graduated from Memphis Hospital Medical College in 1882, at the age of twenty-three. He joined the Masonic Order DeSoto County Lodge Number 100, Cockrum, MS, in 1884. He and Lou Ella Dickey married November 14, 1888, in Lewisburg, MS, where they would reside for nineteen years. It was here that Dr. Wilkins built a large medical practice in his profession.

Dr. Wilkins and Lou Ella had six children: Dr. Ellis LeRoy Wilkins, Annie Lou Shinault, Ella Dickey Woods, Linnie May Wren, Elizabeth Lester, and William Thomas Wilkins, Jr. In 1907 he moved his family to Olive Branch, MS, where he continued his practice, and lived here until his death from pneumonia in 1924. Being extremely successful and influential in the community, Dr. Wilkins had a large number of people attend his funeral. At the time of his death, he was president of the Memphis Chapter of the S.A.R.

During his time in Olive Branch, he also started the Home Phone Company. His son, Ellis LeRoy, would serve as the chief lineman, to make it easier to get calls from patients. This also allowed him to finish his rounds and not be called back as soon as he got home. Ellis LeRoy would follow in his dad's footsteps by graduating from Memphis Hospital Medical College in 1911, with a cousin, Creed Scott Wilkins.

In his obituary, it was said "It is not too much to say that no man in DeSoto County had more friends or stood higher as a man, citizen, husband, or father than Dr. Wilkins. His many fine qualities endeared him to all who knew him, and his death is a loss to his community and his country."



LAWRENCE "DAN" WILLIAMS | 12.11.1946–

Lawrence "Dan" Williams was born December 11, 1946, in Memphis, TN, to Dorothy and Thomas Williams. He has a twin sister, Chip, and a younger brother, Tracy. Dan is a product of the Olive Branch School System and is a graduate of Olive Branch High School. During his time at OBHS, Dan played basketball and baseball, and was inducted into the Honor Society. He continued his education at Memphis State University from 1964 until 1969 and earned his BBA in Accounting. During this time, he also served the community as a volunteer fire fighter and volunteer EMT with the ambulance service.

Dan and his wife, Mary, were married in 1986. Between them, they have four children: Tim Williams, Chris Williams, Jarrod Lyon, and Brandon Lyon. They also have seven grandchildren.

Dan is a life-long resident of Olive Branch and worked as a home builder from 1958 until 1967. He's operated Ajax Co. Inc. from 1967 until the present. He and Mary have helped build forty Habitat Houses and find pleasure in helping those in need.

Some of Dan's hobbies include cabinet making, golf, and singing. He enjoys traveling with his wife and has been a member of Mineral Wells United Methodist Church for fifty-one years. He served as the Choir Director for 35 of those years.

Dan says that Olive Branch was and continues to be a wonderful place to grow up and raise a family. In the 1930's his family had a dairy farm on one hundred acres at State Line Road and Hacks Cross Road. He is amazed at how times and the landscape have changed and is thankful for the honor of being inducted into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame with so many others who have made Olive Branch what it is today.



GEORGE COLLINS, ALDERMAN AT LARGE | 662.895.3308

WHAT A YEAR! 2019 has been another banner year for the City of Olive Branch. We've experienced another year of growth — residential growth, commercial growth, and industrial growth. This sustained growth across all sectors helps to improve the quality of life for all of the citizens of Olive Branch. No wonder so many new people are choosing to call Olive Branch "home." Because of the City's solid financial footing and a responsible, shared vision of growth and prosperity from Mayor Phillips and the Board of Aldermen, the best is yet to come! We have so much to be thankful for this holiday season. To everyone, have a safe and joyous holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ▶ [Email gcollins@obms.us](mailto:gcollins@obms.us)



GIL EARHART, ALDERMAN WARD 1 | 662.892.9218

WE HAVE just closed down a very busy fiscal year. Our police and fire departments are growing, streets continue to get resurfaced, and we are learning to operate an airport. We are fiscally sound under the leadership of Mayor Phillips and fiscal year 2019/2020 looks even more promising. Our chief aim is to provide our citizens the utmost in public safety, quality of life, and business opportunities. These goals are not without challenges, yet we are committed to these goals, along with others, to continue the path of becoming a model city, not only in Mississippi, but across the country. As we wind down the year I want to personally wish all of our City staff and our citizens a peaceful, joyful, and blessed holiday season. I hope to see you all at our Christmas Parade! ▶ [Email gil.earhart@obms.us](mailto:gil.earhart@obms.us)



PAT HAMILTON, ALDERWOMAN WARD 2 | 662.895.5765

2019—The year has come and gone! Olive Branch has had one of the most productive years, with growth in all areas. It gives me great pride to represent you and be a part of the City's prosperity. This year has seen the addition of restaurants, hotels, banks, and many other businesses. This has not happened in a vacuum. There has been much planning and promoting. Our parks provide a recreational environment. Our Police Department provides us with safe neighborhoods. Our infrastructure, such as gas, water, and electricity, are assessable for commercial growth. Our roads and interstate traffic have welcomed much commercial growth. This sets the stage for more growth and prosperity in 2020. I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. ▶ [Email phamilton@obms.us](mailto:phamilton@obms.us)



JOY HENDERSON, ALDERWOMAN WARD 3 | 901.413.8361

IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE to share good news, and 2019 has been a year of good news in Olive Branch! Most recently, new traffic lights are being installed at the Flying J on Bethel Road. Also, we have been able to repair a number of roads throughout the City. Please join us for the Christmas Tree Lighting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, at City Hall. It's going to be a great evening, and the Wesson House will be open for tours. Then, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 7, you will definitely want to catch the 43rd Annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade. The parade route starts at Olive Branch Elementary School. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ▶ [Email joy.henderson@obms.us](mailto:joy.henderson@obms.us)



DAVID WALLACE, ALDERMAN WARD 4 | 901.619.6992

LAST YEAR at this time I reported that 2018 had been a very productive year and that the City was in sound financial condition. As we close out 2019, I'm happy to share the same report: this year has been a highly productive year and, once again, we close out the year in sound financial condition. Good news never gets old! Roads are being repaired, new businesses are moving in, and new homes are going up across our City. It's a great time to work and live in Olive Branch. Please check out the details in this issue of *The Roost* regarding this year's Christmas Tree Lighting on December 5 and the Christmas Parade on December 7. We would love to share these holiday events with you and your family. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ▶ [Email dwallace@obms.us](mailto:dwallace@obms.us)



JAN ALDRIDGE, ALDERWOMAN WARD 5 | 901.268.4119

2019 HAS BEEN an amazing year! I'm thankful for the progress and growth in our City. I'm especially thankful for many streets being repaired, as I'm sure you are as well. Hopefully, we will see more in the coming year. A great resource for connecting with your community is the *Next Door* email. It's very informative. Check it out at NextDoor.com. Bring the family and join us at City Hall for the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Thursday, December 5, at 7 p.m. Also, don't miss the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7, starting at 2 p.m. at Olive Branch Elementary School. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ▶ [Email jan.aldridge@obms.us](mailto:jan.aldridge@obms.us)



DALE DICKERSON, ALDERMAN WARD 6 | 662.895.2543

AS 2019 FADES away and the promise of 2020 awaits, it is a good time to reflect on the past year. Our growth continues in every area. Our housing starts are up, our residential sales numbers are very strong, which speaks well about the livability of our City. Commercial growth also is strong and there are exciting plans for a couple of large projects. Industrial growth has been phenomenal. This industrial growth has provided numerous job opportunities and tax revenue that eases the burden on homeowners. It also provides much needed tax dollars to our school system, which is a benefit that often gets overlooked. Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends. I hope to see many of you at our Christmas parade and tree lighting. Have a happy and prosperous 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
 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

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
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FROM THE ROOST

WINTER 2019



2019 OLIVE BRANCH TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Thousands of people turned out on Halloween night for the Third Annual City of Olive Branch Main Street Trunk-or-Treat in Old Towne.