



# NEWSLETTER

## OF OLIVE BRANCH, MISSISSIPPI

9200 PIGEON ROOST - OLIVE BRANCH, MS 38654 - 662 892-9220 - www.obms.us  
ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE COMMUNITIES  
AND THE FASTEST GROWING CITY IN THE NATION



SCOTT B. PHILLIPS, Jr.  
Mayor, City of Olive Branch



### Message From The Mayor.....

My second year in the Mayor's office is now complete. I am honored and humbled at the opportunity to continue a 25 year career of public service. During the first half of this term of office, my goal has been to validate the trust and confidence you placed in me by following through on commitments and stated priorities.

The City will soon complete the Phase II Paving Project that addressed many of the streets in dire need of repair. The total cost of this paving project was \$4,000,000. The 2016 paving project is scheduled to begin in early spring. As promised, street paving has been, and will continue to be, a focus of my administration.

In 2013 the Board of Aldermen accepted my recommendation to establish a true municipal reserve fund. Currently, there is approximately \$780,000 deposited in the "rainy day" account. The Board of Aldermen approved my request to budget an additional \$220,000 to be transferred to this fund in early spring 2016.

Improvements to the park facilities began earlier this year with the completion of a seawall around the large pond and improvements to the walking trail. The Parks Department now mows and maintains the green space at all of the Highway 78 interchanges within the City limits, making the gateways to our City more attractive.

The Board of Aldermen and I will continue to review other municipal needs. I applaud the Board of Aldermen for the leadership they have shown on each of the projects completed and their continued commitment to addressing additional issues.

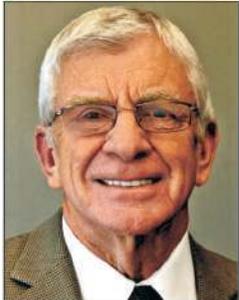
Finally, I said I would have an open door to the public, and that door remains open. I want to hear your opinions and concerns. It is my goal to continue to earn your trust, and to maintain a safe and peaceful community. I appreciate your prayers and the trust you have placed in me. ●

## FIVE SELECTED FOR 2015 INDUCTION INTO OLIVE BRANCH HALL OF FAME

# HALL OF FAME



BILL G. ALLEN  
9/21/1924 -



JIMMY NEAL ANDREWS  
1/27/1939 - 1/20/2015



WALTER S. CARTER, Jr.  
4/9/1915 - 4/23/2004



RUBY B. CHAIN  
1/19/1905 - 1/3/1999



WENDELL W. DAVIS  
1/25/1941 -

**2015-16  
Calendar of Events**

*In and around Olive Branch  
Oct. 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016*

**EVENTS IN OLD TOWNE**

Olive Branch Old Towne Association

FallFest 10am - 4pm.....Sat Oct. 24  
 Holiday Open House 10am - 3pm.....Sat Nov. 28  
 Old Towne Christmas with Santa 4:30pm - 8:00pm.....Dec. 1, 3, 8, 10

**WESSON HOUSE OPEN HOUSE**

Olive Branch City Beautiful

Thursday, 5:30pm - 7pm.....Dec. 3

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

Olive Branch City Hall

Thursday, 7pm.....Dec. 3

**CHRISTMAS PARADE** (Chamber of Commerce)

Saturday, 2pm.....Dec. 5

**MAYOR/BOARD of ALDERMEN**

Regular Meetings, Courthouse, 6900 Highland St.

Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Oct. 6  
 Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Oct. 20  
 Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Nov. 3  
 Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Nov. 17  
 Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Dec. 1  
 Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Dec. 15  
 Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Jan. 5  
 Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Jan. 19  
 Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Feb. 2  
 Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Feb. 16  
 Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Mar. 1  
 Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Mar. 15

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Regular Meetings, Courthouse, 6900 Highland St.

Tuesday, 6pm.....Oct. 13  
 Tuesday, 6pm.....Nov. 10  
 Tuesday, 6pm.....Dec. 8  
 Tuesday, 6pm.....Jan. 12  
 Tuesday, 6pm.....Feb. 9  
 Tuesday, 6pm.....Mar. 8

**BOARD of ADJUSTMENT**

Regular Meetings, Courthouse, 6900 Highland St.

Thursday, 6pm.....Oct. 8  
 Thursday, 6pm.....Nov. 12  
 Thursday, 6pm.....Dec. 10  
 Thursday, 6pm.....Jan. 14  
 Thursday, 6pm.....Feb. 11  
 Thursday, 6pm.....Mar. 10

**OLIVE BRANCH SALES TAX...7%**

**MEMPHIS SALES TAX.....9.25%**

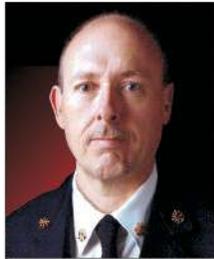
*Please*

Patronize our Local Businesses

**MONEY SPENT IN OLIVE BRANCH  
Benefits Everyone in Olive Branch**

*From the Roost*, the City of Olive Branch Newsletter, is published bi-annually, in-house, by the City of Olive Branch as a means of keeping our citizens aware and informed. We welcome any critique and suggestions regarding articles and content at 662-892-9382 or bcruthirds@obms.us.

**OLIVE BRANCH FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS**



**KEN GIVENS**  
Deputy Fire Chief

We have six new employees at the Fire Department as shown below. Three are for new positions and three are to fill openings within the department.

The Department is in the process of replacing and upgrading all of its radios to the new digital technology. We are also replacing all of our air packs due to the age of the units. We are expecting delivery in November of a new pumper (shown below) which will replace current Engine #4 (1991 vintage) which is housed at Station #4 on Pleasant Hill Road.

The Fire Department is supporting the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) with our "Fill the Boot" events at

various locations around the City throughout the year, as well as partnering with other county fire departments in the first annual "Fire in the Hole" golf tournament, also for MDA.

October is *Fire Safety Month* and we urge everyone to be especially conscious of fire safety around your homes and work places. It is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and be sure they are in good working order. If you do not have them, now is a good time to get them. ☺



**GABRIEL ANGLIN**  
FF/EMT - P



**JUSTIN DAVIS**  
FF/EMT - B



**CALEB FLANNIGAN**  
EMT-P



**CALEB MASON**  
FF/EMT - B



**IAN SAMMONS**  
FF/EMT - B



**JARRETT WEBBER**  
FF/EMT - P

HALL OF FAME SELECTIONS FOR 2015

This year's balloting has been completed and five Olive Branch citizens (two living and three deceased) have been chosen for induction into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame for the year 2015. Induction into the Hall of Fame is the highest honor the City can bestow upon one of its citizens. Following are the names and a brief biography of those selected:

**Bill G. Allen** - Bill Allen spent most of his life in the Olive Branch area after returning from WWII where he was a hero in the air war in the Pacific. He served as an Olive Branch Alderman and as a DeSoto County Supervisor. He became a respected businessman in the City and was involved with many of the civic organizations.

**Jimmy Neal Andrews** - (1/27/1939 - 1/20/2015) Jimmy Neal was devoted to the youth of Olive Branch, he coached boy's baseball and girl's softball and served on the Board of the O. B. Sports Association. He was a member of the NorthCentral Electric Association Board of Directors for 24 years.

**Walter S. Carter, Jr.** - (4/9/1915 - 4/23/2004) Walter Carter taught mathematics and coached football at OBHS in the '40s and '50'. Around 1960 he was elected Superintendent of Education for DeSoto County where he served 12 years. There is a scholarship at Northwest Community College in "Coach" Carter's memory.

**Ruby B. Chain** - (1/19/1905 - 1/9/1999) Ruby spent most of her adult life teaching music in the schools of Olive Branch from 1928 until 1971. She was a leader statewide in the PTA system serving twice as its President. Her contribution, along with that of her husband, to this community was unequalled in the 20th century.

**Wendell W. Davis** - Wendell spent 42 years in the DeSoto County school system as a Principal and Teacher at Olive Branch High School and Olive Branch Middle School. He has received numerous awards and recognitions from the State for his efforts and innovations in the field of education.

The following named individuals received votes in the 2015 Hall of Fame balloting which means their names will be carried forward in nomination to next year:

- |                      |                |                  |                         |                         |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| GILBERT ALLEN        | A. L. BRADY    | J. N. BROWN      | GEORGE COLLINS          | THOMAS DODDRIDGE        |
| Dr. GREG EVANS       | WILLIE GEORGE  | FLORENCE GOODWIN | K. McNEIL "Mac" HARAWAY | JULIA HARRIS            |
| JAMES "Cricket" HUNT | JAMES A. JONES | HUGH KEATING     | MARTHA PEARL LANGSTON   | Dr. C. L. MAPLES        |
| WILL MAXWELL         | HAROLD NICHOLS | T. H. NORVELL    | JANICE PAYNE            | SCOTTY B. PHILLIPS, Sr. |
| DON SAPPINGTON       | RITA SCHELLY   | GARY SNYDER      | Dr. T. H. STUART        | SAM WARE                |
| Dr. W. T. WILKINS    | DAN WILLIAMS   | JIMMY DALE YOUNG |                         |                         |

FIVE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME FOR 2014



BILLY W. BALDWIN



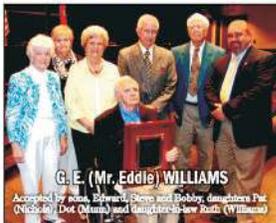
MARTHOLA ALLEN  
Accepted by husband, Bill and daughters, Edith (deceased), Linda and Ellen (deceased, Thelma)



WAYNE D. HOLLOWELL  
Accepted by son, Wayne, Jr. and daughters, Cecelia and Bobbi Carol



PERRY LEE BOWLAN



G. E. (Mr. Eddie) WILLIAMS  
Accepted by sons, Edward, Steve and Bobby, daughters Pat (Nichole), Doni (Queen) and Sandi (deceased), New Ruth (Williams)

Marthola Allen, Billy W. Baldwin, Perry Lee Bowlan, Wayne Hollowell and G. E. (Mr. Eddie) Williams were inducted into the Hall of Fame for the year 2014 in ceremonies held this past April at the Olive Branch Courthouse. The living inductees, and the families of those deceased were presented with Hall of Fame Plaques. This year's Inductees (2015) will be inducted in ceremonies at 6pm on April 21, 2016 at the new Courthouse on Highland Street.

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of Hall of Fame members Bob Marr on June 13th and Jan Johnson on August 1st of this year. Jan was a charter inductee into the Hall of Fame in 2007. Bob was inducted in 2011 and a member of the Hall of Fame Board since 2007. ☹



TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED

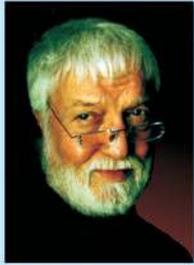
**CHESTER D. COCHRAN II** joined the U.S. Army in 1942. After basic training he was shipped to North Africa as part of the 85th Infantry Division. On March 27, 1944 they went into action near Naples, Italy against the German Gustav Line. After heavy fighting, they broke through the Gustav Line, won the Battle of Tremensuoli and entered Rome on June 5th as part of the American 5th Army. The 5th fought its way up the west coast of Italy where Chester was wounded in the battle for Mt. Varucci northwest of Florence. After convalescing in a hospital in Rome, he rejoined his unit and participated in the Arno/Po Valley Campaign. He was in Trieste, Italy when Germany surrendered ending WWII. He was discharged in November of 1945 and awarded the Purple Heart, the EAMETO Medal, the Bronze Star and the Good Conduct Medal.



S/Sgt CHESTER DUNCAN COCHRAN II

7/20/24 - 3/21/01

To Whom We Owe So Much



BILL CRUTHIRDS, SR.  
Curator - Olive Branch Museum

This is a story about East Side High School that was the high school for black students in Olive Branch between 1959 and 1970. Probably over 90% of the people now living in Olive Branch have never heard of it. It is from a time of upheaval in our nation's history when profound, and necessary, social changes were taking place across Mississippi and the South. More than just a story of East Side's 11 year existence, it is a history of why East Side High School ever existed in the first place, and that history goes back more than 150 years.

Prior to the American Civil War (1861-1865), there was no public education in the State of Mississippi for black children, and very little for white children for that matter. In fact, it was actually against the law to educate the slave children at all. **Abraham Lincoln's** *Emancipation Proclamation* issued on January 1, 1863 as a wartime measure during the dark days of the Civil War, freed the slaves in all of the 11 Southern States then in rebellion against the Union. During the closing months of the war, he went further and pushed hard for the passage of the *13th Amendment to the Constitution* which abolished slavery throughout the entire United States. It finally passed Congress on January 31, 1865, only 10 weeks before his assassination. In the four years following **Lincoln's** death, Congress passed, and the states ratified, the *14th and 15th Amendments* which granted full citizenship and voting rights to all former slaves.

Following the end of the Civil War, Mississippi and the former states of the Confederacy went through a period known as Reconstruction where, in order to be readmitted into the Union, they were required to enact new state constitutions guaranteeing the rights of all their citizens. Mississippi's State Constitution of 1868 called for free education of all children between the ages of five and 21, regardless of race, and established a uniform system of free public schools. It did not require the racial integration of the schools, but it did call for equal funding of the separate white and black schools. History shows that equal funding rarely, if ever, happened. Reconstruction ended in 1877 and for the next 75 years, aided by Jim Crow laws and another Mississippi State Constitution enacted in 1890, the segregated white schools in Mississippi flourished while schools for black children languished. Despite the more than 500 black schools built in the state during the early to mid-twentieth century with help from Sears-Roebuck magnate and philanthropist, **Julius Rosenwald**, black education fell further behind and struggled due to racial discrimination and inadequate funding.

Everything changed in the mid-twentieth century with the 1954 and '55 *Brown v. Board of Education* decisions by the U. S. Supreme Court. The Court struck down the separate-but-equal system of education in the nation's public schools, ruling it unconstitutional and a violation of the *14th Amendment*. For the first time in this country, fully integrated pub-

lic schools became the law of the land.

In Olive Branch and the eastern part of DeSoto County prior to the Supreme Court's 1954-55 rulings, black students up through the 8th grade attended small, mostly inadequate schools such as Botts Chapel, Center Hill, Center Point, Cockrum, Cowans, Halliburton, Line, Mt. Gillian, Payne, Suggs, Sycamore (Mt. Pisgah), Union and Wiggins Chapel. Many of these were in black churches and nearly all were poorly equipped and understaffed. The DeSoto County School Board paid the teacher's salaries, provided a few second and third-hand books, but provided little else. When black students finished the 8th grade, some managed to attend the County's Central High School for black students in Hernando because there was no high school for them to attend in Olive Branch or anywhere on the east side of the County. For many; however, the 8th grade marked the end of their education.

Reeling from the landmark Supreme Court decisions of 1954-55, diehard politicians and school boards across Mississippi and the South still thought they could avoid the eventual outcome by offering freedom-of-choice which allowed for token school integration, or by quickly spending money building new schools for their black students. It was perhaps along this line of reasoning that the new 30-classroom segregated East Side School for grades 1 through 12 was built in Olive Branch for its black students. There is no doubt the school on Pigeon Roost Road was needed as it quickly became overcrowded, and soon required several dozen portable classrooms to handle the more than 1,600 students who attended; but that was not the only reason it was built. It represented a last-gasp effort to prolong a moribund and doomed educational system at a time when the courts and the national conscience were just beginning to be awakened by the early stages of the Civil Rights Movement of the '50s and '60s. In violation of federal law from the day it opened in 1959, East Side High School's days as a segregated school were numbered. Surprisingly, it lasted for 11 years until the full integration of the schools in Olive Branch was completed in 1970.

On September 5, 1969, after 15 years of seemingly never ending appeals and delaying tactics by southern governors, politicians and school boards, the U.S. Supreme Court led by Chief Justice **Earl Warren** finally, with its *Alexander v.*



EAST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL BAND MARCHING IN FRONT OF SCHOOL

## SCHOOL 1959 - 1970

Holmes County Board of Education ruling, by implication, said; "Enough is enough", and ordered its lower courts to end the appeals process and to proceed with the immediate full integration of all public schools in the South.

Faced with the realization that full integration of all the schools was going to happen whether they liked it or not, school leaders in DeSoto County began to hold meetings proposing various plans they could use to accomplish it. They were discussing bussing black students here and white students there, when the Principal of Olive Branch High School (OBHS), **B. J. Chain**, disgusted with what he was hearing, stood up and forcibly said; "Nonsense. We have partial integration with freedom-of-choice in our schools already. Just open Olive Branch High School to the black students and we will make it work. It is that simple". They did, and he and others did, and OBHS was fully integrated in 1970 without the social upheaval and violence that tore apart so many communities across the South during that era.

Following full integration in 1970, segregated East Side High School was converted into integrated Olive Branch Junior High School, grades 4 through 9, under co-Principals, **Wendell Davis** (white) and **Henry Wilkinson** (black). Several years later it became Olive Branch Middle School.

East Side High School, whose Principal was Rev. **R. C. George**, lasted only 11 years but left an endearing legacy to the black students from the Olive Branch area who received their secondary education there. They realized they were living in a time of great social change in the country, but that didn't keep them from doing the things that high school students everywhere did. They took pride in their school, participated in its activities and enjoyed those teenage coming-of-age years and, without knowing it at the time, created memories and made friends and built relationships that would last their lifetimes. The one thing they did not do was have any interaction or contact with the other high-school in town, OBHS; it was just not allowed at that time.

Olive Branch businessman and member of the Olive Branch Hall of Fame, **G. P. Gillespie**, attended East Side High School shortly after it opened and graduated in the third graduating class in 1961. He played on the Golden Dragons baseball team and was a member of the band. He remembers being thankful when the new school opened because finally

the black students had a high school of their own. After going away to college, he came back and taught social studies at East Side prior to starting his very successful Gillespie Funeral Home business.

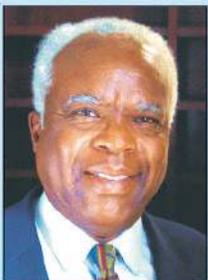
Perhaps the most famous person to attend East Side School is Judge **Bernice Donald** (then **Bernice Bouie**). After a distinguished career as a Judge in Tennessee, she was appointed by President **Barack Obama** to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. She attended East Side in elementary school before transferring to OBHS under the freedom-of-choice policy then in effect, where she graduated in 1969.

Prominent Olive Branch citizen and long-time member of the Northcentral Mississippi Electric Power Association Board of Directors, **W. T. Woods** attended East Side in the mid-'60s where he played in the school band. **W. T.** drove a school bus for East Side during his junior and senior years which was a common practice for the older students at that time. He graduated in 1968.

**J. B. Payne, Jr.** was in the 5th grade when East Side opened in 1959. He graduated in 1967 in a graduating class of 56 students. **J. B.** remembers playing football under Coach **John (Johnny) Agnew** for the Golden Dragons. His football career ended when he broke his leg in a game with Simms High School in Holly Springs. When he turned 16, he became a substitute school bus driver for the school

**Leon Gray** attended and played football at East Side High School, graduating in the late '60s. **Leon** also played in the band and at half-time would march with the band while still in his football uniform, then just stay on the field for the second half. After playing his college football at Jackson State, he was drafted into the NFL and played 11 seasons at New England, Houston and New Orleans to become the best known athlete to have attended East Side High School. **Leon Gray** died in 2001 at the age of 50.

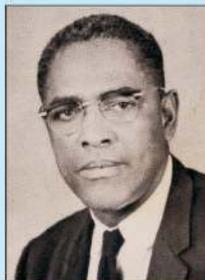
We have come a long way since those turbulent days of the 1950s and '60s; not far enough and not fast enough, but we will get there. Many of those who attended East Side are already gone and most of those remaining are in their '60s and '70s now. In another generation or two, they will all be gone and with them will die the first-hand memories of those childhood years at East Side High School. Maybe this story will help keep some of those memories alive. Let's hope so.



W. T. WOODS  
Attended East Side 1958 -1968



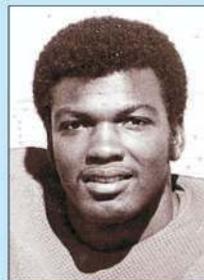
J. B. PAYNE, Jr.  
Attended East Side 1958 - 1967



Rev. R. C. GEORGE  
Principal, East Side High School



G. P. GILLESPIE  
Attended East Side 1958 -1961



LEON GRAY  
11/15/1951 - 11/11/2001  
Played 11 Seasons in the NFL



BERNICE DONALD  
Attended East Side. Transferred  
to OBHS. Graduated 1969

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE DEDICATED



A crowd of upward to 100 people attended the ceremonies on August 27th as Mr. Mike Smith spoke on the significance of the event followed by Mayor Scott Phillips reading the resolution passed by the Olive Branch Board of Aldermen dedicating the section of Pigeon Roost Road between the intersections of Old Hwy 178 and Hwy 305, *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive*. The street runs past the old East Side High School which is the feature article on pages 4 & 5 of this issue.

Mayor Phillips and his secretary, Janice Foster are shown in photo at left. Janice and Community Relations Director, Bill Cruthirds, were responsible for the design and procurement of the signs.☉



**Aldermen's Corner** This area of the Newsletter is open to all Olive Branch Aldermen for any comments or messages they wish to make to citizens of their wards or to citizens of the City as a whole.



Alderman  
GEORGE COLLINS  
At Large

I am happy to report to you that the state of affairs in our City is good. After nearly a decade of dealing with difficult economic times, we are finally able again to do the things that made us one of the nations highest rated places to live and raise a family.

We have all been inconvenienced this summer by all of the improvements and paving being done on our City streets but it was something we had to do following several years of having to put it off due to the recession's effect on the City's revenues. We should be able to stay on top of it and not get that far behind again.

New businesses continue to locate in Olive Branch, expanding the City's tax base and making it easier for us to maintain our current property tax rate, which is one of the lowest in the County. Residential housing starts are up after having been depressed for several years and that is a good sign.

We are beginning to fill some of the openings in areas of public safety personnel and infrastructure (see article on page 2) which is important to us all. All in all, It is a great time to live in Olive Branch.

gcollins@obms.us  
662 895-3308



Alderman  
GIL EARHART  
Ward 1

Recently Olive Branch and our surrounding area experienced some very heavy rains which caused flooding and anxiety in many areas. While this is not the fault of the City, we have had many calls for help. Your Mayor and Board have heard you and we are compiling a priority list of drainage problems that need to be addressed. To the extent that the City of Olive Branch can legally and financially get involved, we intend to do so.

The recent 5.5 inch rainfall in less than two hours put a strain on our storm water capacity. This storm water event was over the 100 year or 1% chance. Thank you for your patience and understanding. The City is on target with our road repairs. A drive to Walmart and Home Depot is much more enjoyable. Our Police Departments are being attacked around the country. This past year we hired five new police officers and have budgeted two additional officers for the 2015-2016 budget year. This increase in our patrols makes our City a safer place to live. Let's not forget to thank our police officers!

If you are interested in receiving the Board of Alderman Agenda before and after each meeting, please send me your e-mail address. It is a pleasure serving as your Alderman and as always, I welcome your e-mails and phone calls. Thank you.

gil.earhart@obms.us  
662 892-9218



Alderwoman  
PAT HAMILTON  
Ward 2

A word that describes Ward 2's phenomenal commercial growth is "EXPLOSIVE". Recent openings, to name a few, include Mellow Mushroom, Hobby Lobby, Academy Sports, DeSoto Collision Center, The Wooden Door and Man Cave Salon. Opening soon will be Fresh Market, Mapco, Red Fish Sushi Asian Bistro, Pyro's Pizza, MOE's Southwest Grill and Hickory Tavern Restaurant.

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If you are interested in receiving the Board of Alderman Agenda before and after each meeting, please send me your e-mail address. It is a pleasure serving as your Alderman and as always, I welcome your e-mails and phone calls.

phamilton@obms.us  
662 895-5765



Alderman  
HAROLD HENDERSON  
Ward 3

For several years now we have needed a traffic signal at the intersection of Bethel Road and Business Center Drive, near the Flying "M" building. The City of Olive Branch has proposed a traffic signal at that location and the study has been made which supports it. The warrant analysis was submitted to MDOT on September 9th of this year and approved on September 11th. The traffic signal will cost approximately \$150,000, with MDOT expected to pay the full amount.

We are nearing completion of the \$4,000,000 street improvement and paving projects the City has undertaken to improve our transportation infrastructure. The work on the ditch on Patton Drive in Ward 3 is ongoing and is expected to be finished this month, after which Patton Drive will be resurfaced.

I am happy to report the opening of Academy Sports, Hobby Lobby and Dairy Queen as just a few of the new businesses that are opening in our City.

hhenderson@obms.us  
901 413-8362



Alderman  
DAVID WALLACE  
Ward 4

As we transition into fall I hope that you've all had a great summer. I know we have had a lot of street repairs being done throughout the City and I know it has been an inconvenience but necessary as these repairs continue. I've also heard the several concerns re: storm water drainage in a few areas and have discussed them with Mayor Phillips about how to address these issues. We also have several new restaurants and retail businesses that have opened and will open like Mellow Mushroom, Academy Sports, Hobby Lobby, just to name a few. Also, I recently accepted the Tree City USA award from MS Urban Forestry Council on behalf of the City of Olive Branch for being a tree friendly city. It is awarded to cities that have demonstrated success with community forestry and green infrastructure. Thanks and hats off to the citizens of Olive Branch and our Parks Department. Thanks again for allowing me to serve.

dwallace@obms.us  
901 619-6992



Alderman  
MARK ALDRIDGE  
Ward 5

This past July marked the halfway point of the four-year term the voters of Ward 5 elected me to serve as their representative. During those two years, I have developed so much respect and admiration for my fellow Aldermen and the Mayor of this City who sincerely dedicated themselves to solving the problems and taking care of the needs of Olive Branch. It is an honor to be part of a group of people who have but one objective, and that is the needs of this community. We just do not have the bickering and show-boating and trying to take credit for things that we see so often in the media coverage of other governing bodies in the area.

I will not belabor the point about all the improvements we have made to our streets and roads during the past year. It speaks for itself.

The economy continues to improve and that means more new business tax revenues which will allow us to do more for the citizens of Olive Branch.

mark.aldridge@obms.us  
901 831-8442



Alderman  
DALE DICKERSON  
Ward 6

Summer's heat should soon give way to the cooler temperatures and beautiful fall colors. I hope everyone across the City is enjoying driving across the newly paved streets. This was a huge investment in our aging infrastructure. Thank you for your patience while this work took place these past few weeks. We are making improvements to our parks as well. We recently passed our new budget that is balanced and includes no tax increases or a pay raise for our employees. Our retail outlook continues to look great. Hobby Lobby and Academy Sports will contribute to our ever growing sales tax base. Our sales tax income continues to exceed our projections which bodes well for future needs. Several other retail establishments and other businesses, including an Arby's, will also soon open. Wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. I can be reached at the numbers listed below if you need me.

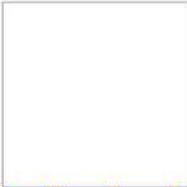
ddickerson@obms.us  
662 895-2543

***Whom do I call?***

AIRPORTS, Memphis International.....	901 922-8000	POLICE DEPARTMENT, Olive Branch, Administration.....	892-9400
Olive Branch.....	895-2978	Dispatcher (Emergency / Report crime).....	895-4111
AMBULANCE, Olive Branch Fire Department.....	895-4111	Emergency.....	911
Emergency.....	911	POST OFFICE, Olive Branch.....	895-5966
AMBULANCE BILLING.....	892-9236	PROPERTY TAX, DeSoto County (Olive Branch).....	469-8200
ANIMAL CONTROL, Olive Branch.....	895-4582	PUBLIC WORKS, Olive Branch To report Water leaks.....	893-5208
After Hours and Emergencies.....	895-4111	To report Gas leaks.....	893-5209
ARTS COUNCIL, Olive Branch.....	662 404-2787	To report Street issues.....	893-5249
AUTOMOBILE and VEHICLE TAGS, Olive Branch.....	469-8032	After Hours Emergency.....	895-4111
BUILDING PERMITS, Olive Branch.....	892-9333	SCHOOLS, Olive Branch area	
BUSINESS LICENSES, Olive Branch.....	892-9238	Chickasaw Elementary.....	895-6664
CABLE TELEVISION, Comcast.....	901 259-2225	Olive Branch Elementary.....	895-2256
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Olive Branch.....	895-2600	Olive Branch Intermediate.....	893-1221
CITY COURT CLERK, Olive Branch, Judy Jeans.....	892-9501	Olive Branch Middle School.....	895-4610
CITY ENGINEER, Olive Branch, Steve Bigelow.....	892-9352	Olive Branch High.....	893-3344
CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH.....	892-9200	Center Hill Elementary.....	890-7705
CODE ENFORCEMENT, Olive Branch.....	892-9341 or 892-9342	Center Hill Middle School.....	892-6800
CONGRESSMAN, U. S., Trent Kelly.....	662 449-3090	Center Hill High.....	890-2490
CRIMESTOPPERS, DeSoto County.....	429-8477	DeSoto Central Elementary.....	349-6234
CUSTOMER SERVICE, City of Olive Branch, Janice Foster.....	892-9203	DeSoto Central Middle School.....	349-6660
DRIVERS LICENSE, Mississippi, Olive Branch.....	890-7211	DeSoto Central High.....	536-3612
ELECTRICAL UTILITY SERVICE		Pleasant Hill Elementary.....	890-9654
Northcentral MS Electrical Power Association.....	895-2151	Lewisburg Elementary.....	893-6001
Emergencies (Night-Weekend-Holiday).....	1 866 438-2642	Lewisburg Middle School.....	892-5050
FIRE DEPARTMENT, Olive Branch		Lewisburg High.....	890-6708
Administration.....	890-7376	Overpark Elementary.....	890-8745
Dispatcher (Fire or Ambulance).....	895-4111	SCHOOL SUPERINTENDANT, DeSoto County	
Emergency.....	911	Milton Kuykendall.....	429-5271
GARBAGE COLLECTION, (Not Trash Pick Up) Olive Branch.....	892-9306	SENATORS, U. S.	
GOLF COURSES, Olive Branch, Cherokee Valley.....	893-4444	Thad Cochran.....	202 224-5054
Olive Branch Country Club.....	895-6525	Roger Wicker.....	202 224-6253
Plantation.....	895-3530	SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER, Olive Branch.....	890-7182
Wedgewood.....	895-7490	SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, DeSoto County (Dispatch).....	469-8580
HEALTH DEPARTMENT CLINIC, Olive Branch.....	895-3090	SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.....	866 739-4771
Hernando.....	429-9814	Olive Branch Office.....	890-0435
HOMELAND SECURITY (Chief of Police), Don Gammage.....	892-9400	SOCIAL SERVICES	
HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION, DeSoto County.....	469-8200	DeSoto Sunrise Homes.....	429-3609
HOSPITAL, Methodist, Olive Branch.....	932-9000	Emergency Food Ministry.....	895-2913
JUSTICE COURT JUDGE, Ken Adams.....	393-5810	Sacred Heart Southern Mission.....	893-0255
LIBRARY, B. J. CHAIN, Olive Branch.....	895-5900	Mid-State Opportunities.....	895-4153
LITERACY COUNCIL, Hernando.....	429-2354	Community Foundation.....	429-5002
MAYOR, City of Olive Branch, Scott B. Phillips, Jr.....	892-9201	House of Grace.....	342-1432
METRO INDUSTRIAL PARK, Olive Branch.....	901 484-1324	Food Pantry, Olive Branch.....	895-2913
MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY PATROL, Batesville.....	662 563-6400	Thrift Shop, Olive Branch.....	895-2913
NATURAL GAS SERVICE, City of Olive Branch.....	893-5209	STATE REPRESENTATIVES, Forrest Hamilton.....	895-5765
After Hours Emergencies.....	895-4111	Bill Kinkaid.....	601 359-4830
To Locate Underground Lines.....	800 227-6477	STATE SENATOR, David Parker.....	601 359-2886
NEWSPAPERS, DeSoto Appeal (Commercial Appeal).....	333-2020	STREET LIGHTS, Olive Branch.....	892-9203
DeSoto Times-Tribune.....	429-6397	SUPERVISORS, DeSoto County, Jessie Medlin, District 1.....	469-8002
NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Olive Branch.....	895-7600	Mark Gardner District 2.....	901 238-1600
NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Southaven.....	342-1570	TAX ASSESSOR, DeSoto County, Parker Pickle.....	469-8029
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, DeSoto Center, Southaven.....	342-4765	TAX COLLECTOR, DeSoto County, Joey Treadway.....	469-8030
OLDTOWNE ASSOCIATION, Olive Branch.....	893-0888	TELEPHONE SERVICE	
PARKS and RECREATION, Olive Branch.....	893-5219	Century Link Local.....	662 895-1234
PLANNING COMMISSION, DeSoto County.....	469-8023	CenturyLink Customer Service.....	800 201-4099
Olive Branch.....	892-9334	CenturyLink Telephone (Repair, 24 Hrs).....	800 824-2877
		To Locate Underground Cables.....	800 227-6477
		TOURISM, DeSoto County, Kim Terrell.....	393-8770
		Olive Branch, Bill Cruthirds, Sr.....	892-9382
		TRASH PICK-UP (Not Garbage) Olive Branch.....	893-5209
		TRAFFIC LIGHT MALFUNCTION, To report.....	892-9328
		UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION, Hernando.....	342-4002
		VETERANS AFFAIRS, Department of Benefits.....	800 827-1000
		VOTER REGISTRATION, Olive Branch.....	892-9213
		WATER, SEWER, NATURAL GAS SERVICE	
		City of Olive Branch (Billing Questions).....	892-9305
		Utility Averaging (Sewer Fee).....	892-9311
		Public Works, Olive Branch.....	893-5200
		After hours Emergencies, Olive Branch.....	895-4111
		To Locate Underground Lines.....	800 227-6477



9200 PIGEON ROOST - OLIVE BRANCH, MS 38654



# FROM THE ROOST

BI-ANNUAL

# NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE ROOST

Fall/Winter 2015

### OLIVE BRANCH POST OFFICE, 1888

Harvey Medlin gave us this photograph of the 1888 Olive Branch Post Office, taken just 22 years after the end of the Civil War. Now we know what the Post Office looked like, we just do not know, for sure, where it was located. Since that was 127 years and three, maybe four, generations ago, nobody remembers. The house in the left background of the photo at first appears to be the Wesson House, but closer scrutiny reveals that not to be the case. A more likely candidate would be that it is the house that stood for many years on Depot Street where the Fins and Feathers Restaurant parking lot is located today. That house, or one that succeeded it on the same site, was home to the Wallace family in the early-to-mid 20th century. If that is the house, it would mean the location of the Post Office in this photo was on the southeast corner of Pigeon Roost Road and Depot Street on the site where W.T. Woods would build his drug store 25 years later in 1913. That would have been a logical location for a Post Office since it was right up the Depot Street hill from where the new Train Depot was located. Olive Branch Bakery is located there today. If I am making some incorrect assumptions, I am sure someone will let me know about it.



PHOTO COURTESY HARVEY MEDLIN FAMILY