FROM THE ROOST Spring/Summer 2013

NEWSLETTER

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

Mayor SAM RIKARD

Message From The Mayor.....

Since this is quite possibly my last chance to communicate with each of you before I leave office at the end of June, I hope you will allow me to reflect and reminisce on the past sixteen years. Together we have been able to be a part of building and creating one of the best cities in America. You can be proud of the reputation that Olive Branch has and will continue to have in the future. I have stood before many television cameras, talked with both TV and print journalists, cut many ribbons for new businesses, been a part of welcoming numerous new industries to Olive Branch and, for the most part, been the spokesman and the face of Olive Branch to the public for those sixteen years. It has been an honor for me to do that. Without the help of our dedicated City employees and the support and commitment of citizens such as yourselves to our community we would not have become the successful community that we are today. I have always felt a sense of pride when I was introduced as the Mayor of Olive Branch and I thank all of you for that.

A lot has changed since 1997. At that time, City Hall shared a building with Fire Station #1. The Utility and Planning Departments were located in leased space in Old Towne. The Police Department and Court shared the old Methodist Church building. Our Grants Department and the Finance Department shared a building that was one of the first locations of Home Telephone Company. Fleet Maintenance and the Parks Depart-ment shared space at the Kent Sessoms Water Plant. Our Animal Shelter was four or five pens located out in the open near the Ross Road Sewer Treatment Plant.

Our city has more than doubled in population since then. In fact, more than half of you who read this article have made your homes in Olive Branch since I first became your Mayor. Germantown Road and Hacks Cross Road were both crowded two-lane roads then. The Hwy 302 Bypass was under construction. Church Road did not connect to Hwy 305 and Craft Road extended only a short distance south of Goodman Road. We did not have a Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowes or Target and only a few of the national chain restaurants, businesses or hotels that we have today. Together we met the challenges of the economic boom of the 90s and then weathered the recession several years later.

Today, Hwy 305 is about to be widened through the middle of town and Methodist Hospital is nearing completion. The home construction industry is slowly recovering and sales tax collections are at record highs. Several new industries are under construc-tion today with others scheduled to locate here in the near future. People choose to make Olive Branch their home, businesses locate and thrive here and industry chooses to build and stay here because you, the citizens of this community and our amazing team of public servants have made Olive Branch the city it is today, a place where people want to raise their families and where job-providing businesses feel welcome. You are the heart and soul of our city and the reason for our outstanding success.

I will end this brief summary of the past sixteen years by saying to each of you, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor and I wish each of you the best as you continue to guide Olive Branch to even bigger things and better days in the future.

IT IS YOUR PRIVILEGE AND YOUR DUTY AS AN AMERICAN

SEE NEW VOTING WARD MAPS AND POLLING LOCATIONS ON PAGES 6 & 7

2013 Calendar of Events in and around Olive Branch through October 1, 2013

EVENTS IN OLD TOWNE

Strut Your Mutt, Pigeon Roost Plaza
Saturday, 10am-12noon.....April 13
Spring Hootenannies
Thursdays, 7pm-9pm.....April 4 thru June 27
MayFest 5K Run/Walk
Saturday, 8am.....May 11
MayFest Festival
Saturday, 9am-5pm.....May 11
Rocking on the Roost Summer Concerts
Fridays, 7pm-9pm.....June 7 thru June 28
Fall Hootenannies
Thursdays, 7pm-9pm.....Sept 5 thru Oct 31

Celebrate Your Independence
Olive Branch City Park
Thursday, 6:30pm - 9:30pm.....July 4

MAYOR/BOARD of ALDERMEN

Regular Meetings
City Courtroom at 6900 Highland Street

Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Apr. 2
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Apr. 16
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....May 7
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....May 21
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....June 4
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....June 18
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....July 2
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....July 16
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Aug. 6
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Aug. 20
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Sept. 3
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Sept. 17 20

PLANNING COMMISSION

Regular Meetings
City Courtroom at 6900 Highland Street

Tuesday, 6pm.....Apr. 9
Tuesday, 6pm.....May14
Tuesday, 6pm.....June 11
Tuesday, 6pm.....July 9
Tuesday, 6pm.....Aug. 13
Tuesday, 6pm.....Sept 10

BOARD of ADJUSTMENT

Regular Meetings
City Courtroom at 6900 Highland Street

Thursday, 6pm.....April 11
Thursday, 6pm.....May 9
Thursday, 6pm.....June 13
Thursday, 6pm.....July 11
Thursday, 6pm.....Aug. 8
Thursday, 6pm.....Sept. 12

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.

CITY DEDICATES MONUMENT TO FOUNDER

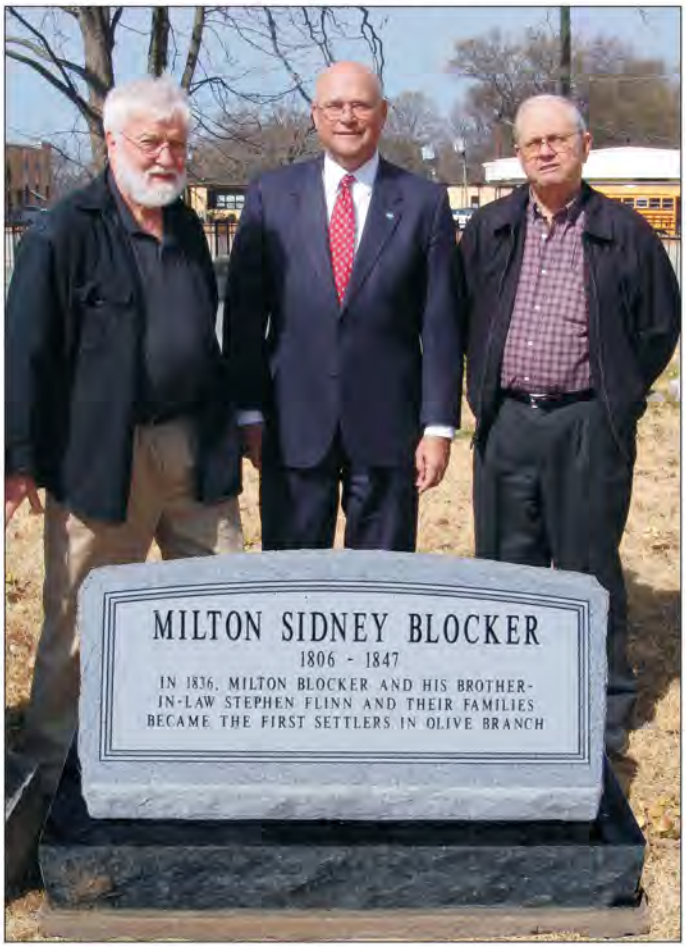
In April of 1836, Milton Blocker and Stephen Flinn and their families became the first settlers in the north Mississippi area that would eventually become the City of Olive Branch. Both of them (brothers-in-law by reason of their being married to the Wilson sisters), sold their farms in Limestone County, Alabama and traveled by flatboat up the Ohio and down the Mississippi to Memphis, and then by wagon down into the recently opened land of the Chickasaw Cession. About a dozen miles out of Memphis they met a Chickasaw Indian, Lush-Pun-Tubby, and purchased from him 1,280 acres of land that he had been given under the terms of the Treaty of Pontotoc Creek which effectively removed the Chickasaw from Mississippi to the Oklahoma Territory.

Blocker built the first house in the area and later purchased most of Flinn's interest in the 1,280 acres. He also built a sawmill and a cotton gin and became a successful planter as the new community began to develop.

In 1847, Blocker was on a cotton selling trip down the Mississippi River to New Orleans when the boiler on the Steamboat Medora exploded, the boat sank and he was killed. He was brought back to Olive Branch and became the first person buried in the cemetery located on his property that today bears his name.

Over the 165 years since then, the original monument placed on Milton Blocker's grave had weathered to the point of being barely readable and was laying scattered in several pieces in the condition shown in the photo below when, two years ago, City Community Relations Director, Bill Cruthirds discovered it and felt the founder of the City deserved something better. He designed a new monument for Blocker and proposed it to the Mayor. The Mayor approved it and on March 20th of this year, the new monument was set in place. Former Alderman, Bob Marr was instrumental in soliciting donations from Rotary and others to pay for the monument. Cruthirds plans to salvage the old monument and place it in the City Museum in City Hall.

Original MILTON BLOCKER monument placed in 1847



(LtoR) Community Relations Director, BILL CRUTHIRDS, Mayor SAM RIKARD and former Alderman, BOB MARR

FIVE TO BE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

HELEN ALLISON

DRUE BIRMINGHAM Jr.

Dr. ELTON HARRIS, DDS

JOYCE HASLIP

Dr. P. J. SCOTT

On Thursday evening April 18th at 7pm in ceremonies open to the public at the **NEW COURTHOUSE** at 6900 Highland, the 2012 Olive Branch Hall of Fame Inductees will be inducted into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame. It is the highest honor the City can bestow upon one of its citizens. Each year, five of Olive Branch's citizens, living or deceased, are inducted into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame in recognition of their contribution toward making Olive Branch what it is today. Including the five 2012 inductees, there are now thirty-five members of the Olive Branch Hall of Fame (sixteen still living) whose lives span the 176 years since the first settlers arrived here in 1836.

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

HELEN ALLISON 2012	DRUE BIRMINGHAM Sr. 2012	BILLIE BLOCKER 2010	MILTON BLOCKER 2007
LEMOYNE BRIGANCE 2011	FRANK BROWN 2008	SARAH CAMP 2010	B. J. CHAIN 2007
BILL CRUTHIRDS, Sr. 2008	SCOTTYE DAVIDSON 2008	JAMES A. DODDRIDGE, Sr. 2010	Dr. D. C. FUNDERBURK 2009
STEPHEN FLINN 2007	FORREST HAMILTON 2009	Dr. ELTON HARRIS 2012	GEORGE HARRISON 2009
A. MAURY HARAWAY 2010	JOYCE HASLIP 2012	M. C. HERRINGTON 2007	JAN JOHNSON 2007
Dr. JULIAN JONES 2010	BILL KERR 2008	LUSH PUN TUBBY 2007	ROBERT MARR 2011
JACK McCAULEY 2007	D. M. NICHOLS 2007	G. B. PAYNE 2007	H. GENE PHILLIPS 2011
SAM RIKARD 2009	KENNETH SESSOM 2011	HOMER SKELTON 2007	Dr. P. J. SCOTT 2012
BENJAMIN WESSON 2008	JAMES WOODS 2009	MAURICE WOODSON 2011	

Those to be inducted into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame for the year 2012 are:

Helen Allison (1911 - 1993), was a lifelong resident of Olive Branch, active in local businesses, who maintained, throughout her life, a love affair for this City and the people who lived here.

Drue Birmingham, a third generation native of Olive Branch has spent his lifetime practicing law in the City and contributing to the Olive Branch community.

Dr. Elton Harris, DDS, always active in service to the community, practiced denistry in Olive Branch for fifty-four years, thirty of those years as the City's only dentist.

Joyce Haslip, was the first female to be elected to the Board of Aldermen. Her services to the City Beautiful Commission and to the City as a whole are legendary.

Dr. P. J. Scott, served the needs of the City for thirty-five years as Pastor of First Baptist Church of Olive Branch.

The nominating process to select the next five inductees for this year (2013) starts on June 1st when the Hall of Fame Nominating Board begins the process of considers names for ballot nomination. The general public is asked to participate in the nominating process by clipping out the form below, entering the name of anyone you think to be worthy of the honor, and mailing it or returning it to O. B. Hall of Fame - Olive Branch City Hall - 9200 Pigeon Roost - Olive Branch, MS 38654 before June 1st. All names submitted will be considered by the Hall of Fame Nominating Board.

The nineteen individuals listed below received at least one vote in the 2012 Hall of Fame balloting and, as such, are carried forward in nomination for 2013. These individuals **do not need to be renominated**:

BILLY BALDWIN
J. N. BROWN
WALTER CARTER
GEORGE COLLINS
SAM DROKE
ALAN DUPREE
Dr. GREG EVANS
WAYNE HOLLOWELL
JAMES "Cricket" HUNT
Dr. C. L. MAPLES
WILL MAXWELL
E. R. NICHOLS
HAROLD NICHOLS
T. H. NORVILLE
LESLIE POOL
DON SAPPINGTON
A. Y. SIVLEY
SAM WATSON
G. E. WILLIAMS

CUT AND MAIL

I would like to recommend the following person to the Hall of Fame Nominating Board for consideration for induction into the **Olive Branch Hall of Fame:** Mail to: HALL OF FAME - 9200 PIGEON ROOST - OLIVE BRANCH, MS. 38654 or drop by Olive Branch City Hall before June 1st.

Name for Hall of Fame consideration

Please give us your name and phone number in the event we need more information

Phone

TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED

James Herbert Acree entered the U.S. Army in 1942 and went through basic training at Pomono, California. After additional training, he was shipped to the European Theatre of WWII. He participated in the Ardennes Campaign with the 84th Infantry Division. His unit was briefly attached to Patton's third U.S. Army during the Battle of the Bulge. The 84th liberated several of the SS concentration camps and spearheaded the American drive to the Elbe River to link up with the Russiam Army coming from the east. He was awarded the World WarII Victory Medal, the American Service Medal, the European/ African/Middle Eastern Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. After Germany's surrender, he was shipped back to the States and was undergoing amphibious training in California for deployment to the Pacific when Japan surrendered and WWII came to an end. He was honorably discharged from the Army at Camp San Luis Obispo, California in 1945 with the rank of Tech-3.

Tech-3 JAMES HERBERT ACREE
8/3/1922 -

To Whom We Owe So Much

OLIVE BRANCH CITY HALL

OLIVE BRANCH COURT HOUSE

EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

OLIVE BRANCH MUSEUM

Veterans Honor Book Program

City's Moody Bond Rating

New City Logo

TREE CITY USA

George M. Harrison Soccer Complex

Green City Award

GE Energy

Olive Grove Terrace

Hamilton Beach

Little Caesars

Payless ShoeSource

Carvel Imaging

ZAXBY'S

IHOP

Krystal

Harley's

MID-SOUTH ICE HOUSE ICE ARENA & SKATING CENTER

Publication of Bi-annual City Newsletter

Wendy's

Osaka

CARQUEST AUTO PARTS

CVS/pharmacy

NAPA AUTO PARTS

Chick-fil-A

Numerous Locally Owned Restaurants & Businesses

CATO

DOLLAR TREE

PORTER PAINTS

PAPA JOHN'S

DANVER'S

Homer Skelton Ford OLIVE BRANCH

Pueblo

OUTBACK SELF STORAGE

KYOTO

SUBWAY

T.J.maxx

Back Yard Burgers

O'Reilly AUTO PARTS

Quiznos Sub

meineke

BUFFALO WILD WINGS GRILL & BAR

GUADALAJARA Grill AUTHENTIC MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Helen of Troy

T-Mobile

McALISTER'S DELI

Northcentral Electric Power Association

CASA MEXICANA

HOTELS

Hampton Inn
Comfort Inn
Comfort Suites
Holiday Inn Express
Magnolia Inn & Suites
Candlewood Suites
Super 8
Best Western
Fairfield Inn & Suites

cspire wireless

at&t

ups

HUDDLE HOUSE

AMERICAN RV

Lenny's sub shop

ROSS DRESS FOR LESS

chili's

RACK ROOM SHOES

RadioShack

Panera Bread

Milwaukee

SILVERCREEK
Premier Retirement Living

Olive Branch Hall of Fame

"Thank you Sam. We're

TWO TIME LISTING IN THE TOP 100

DURING THE SIXTEEN YEARS OF THE RIKARD ADMINISTRATION

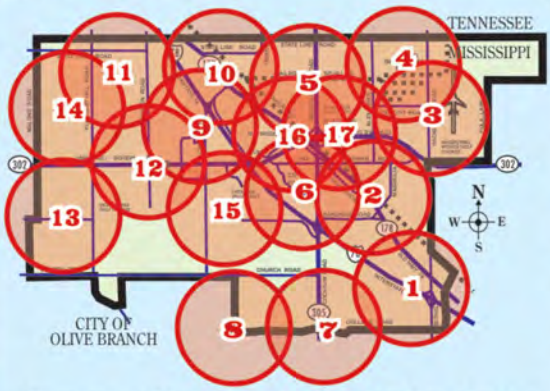
29 POLICE IN 1997 - 80 IN 2013

OLIVE BRANCH
MISSISSIPPI
America's Fastest Growing City
Over Past Twenty Years

OLIVE BRANCH POLICE STATION

OLIVE BRANCH SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

GERMANTOWN ROAD WIDENING



Emergency/Disaster Early Warning Siren System

OLIVE BRANCH METHODIST HOSPITAL

HIGHWAY 302 BY PASS

Built two New FIRE STATIONS, Acquired one.

Driver's License Office in Olive Branch
Social Security Office in Olive Branch
DeSoto Tax Office in Olive Branch

Nine Different Banks Located In City

Construction, New Olive Branch High School

Numerous Medical, Dental & Optometry Facilities

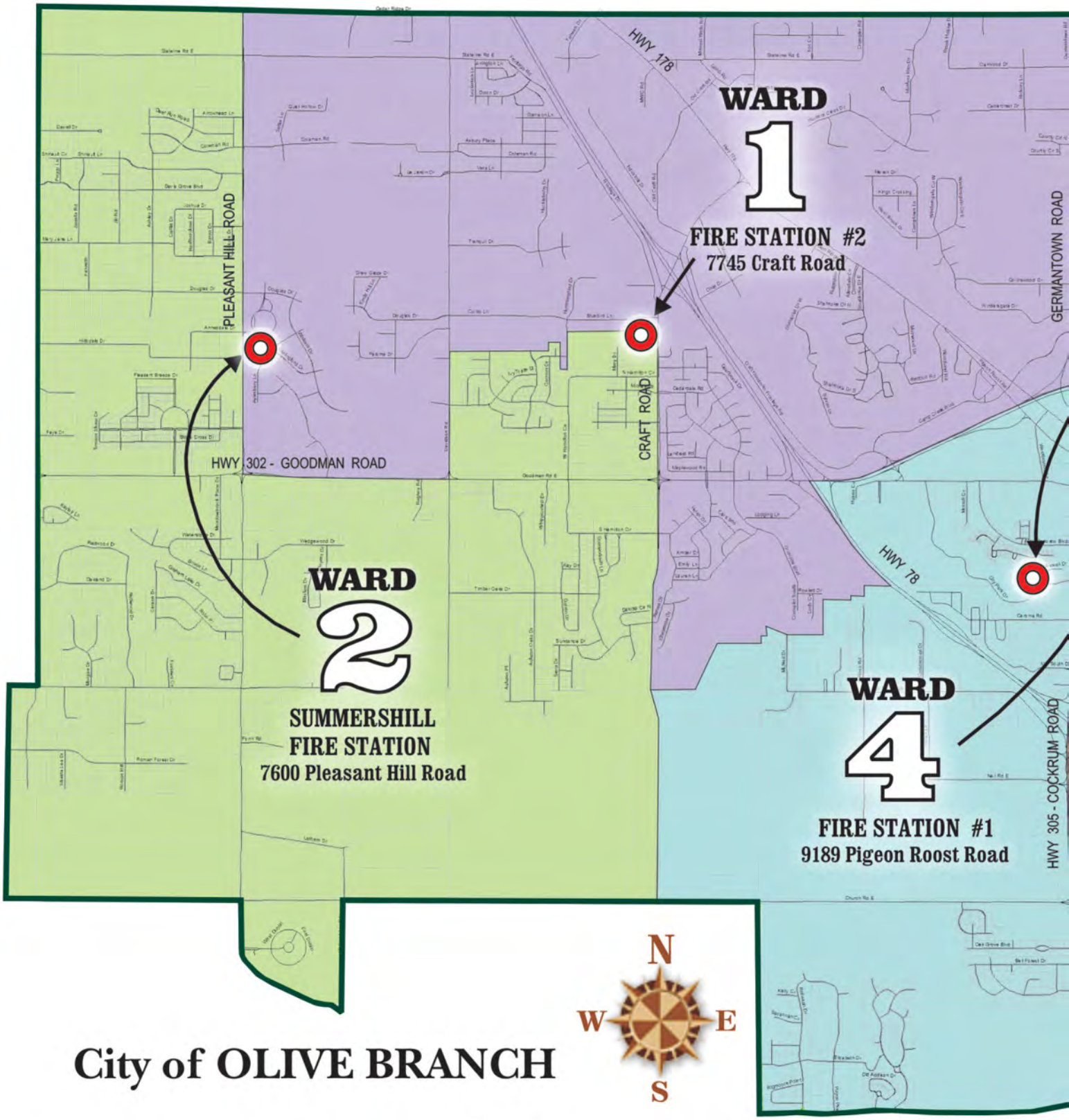
Construction, Airport Control Tower

glad you came our way"

MOST LIVABLE CITIES IN AMERICA

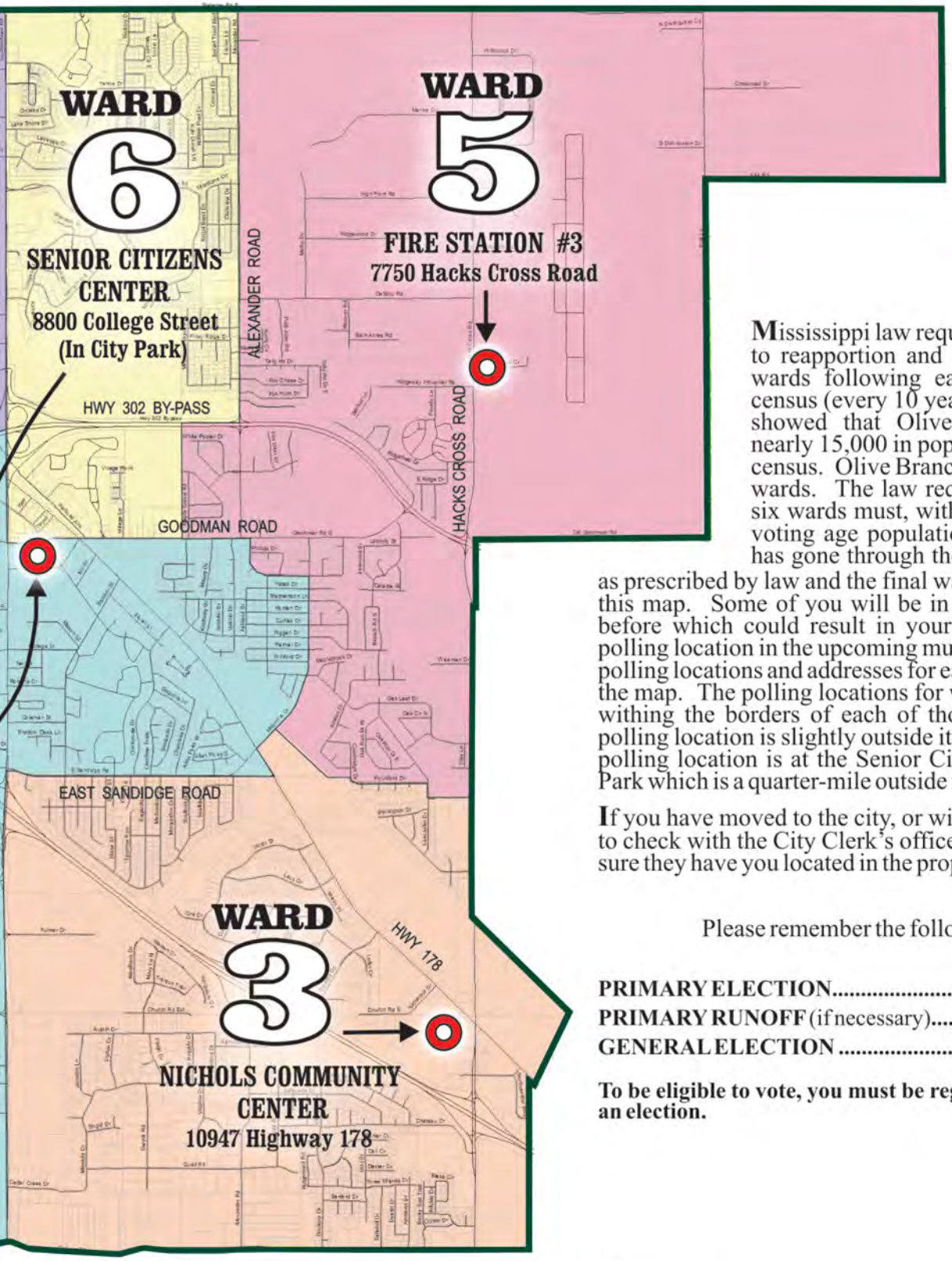
The business logos shown here represent national and regional companies and do not include the hundreds of privately owned companies that opened.

NEW VOTING WARDS AND POLLING LOCATIONS FOR



City of OLIVE BRANCH

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS COMING UP THIS SPRING



JUDY HERRINGTON
Olive Branch City Clerk

Mississippi law requires all municipalities to reapportion and redistrict their voting wards following each decennial federal census (every 10 years). The 2010 census showed that Olive Branch had grown nearly 15,000 in population since the 2000 census. Olive Branch has six geographical wards. The law requires that each of the six wards must, within 5%, have an equal voting age population. City government has gone through the redistricting process as prescribed by law and the final ward lines are shown on this map. Some of you will be in a different ward than before which could result in your voting at a different polling location in the upcoming municipal elections. The polling locations and addresses for each ward are shown on the map. The polling locations for wards 1, 3, 4 and 5 are withing the borders of each of those wards. Ward 2's polling location is slightly outside its borders and ward 6's polling location is at the Senior Citizen's Center in City Park which is a quarter-mile outside its borders.

If you have moved to the city, or within the city, you need to check with the City Clerk's office (662 892-9211) to be sure they have you located in the proper ward.

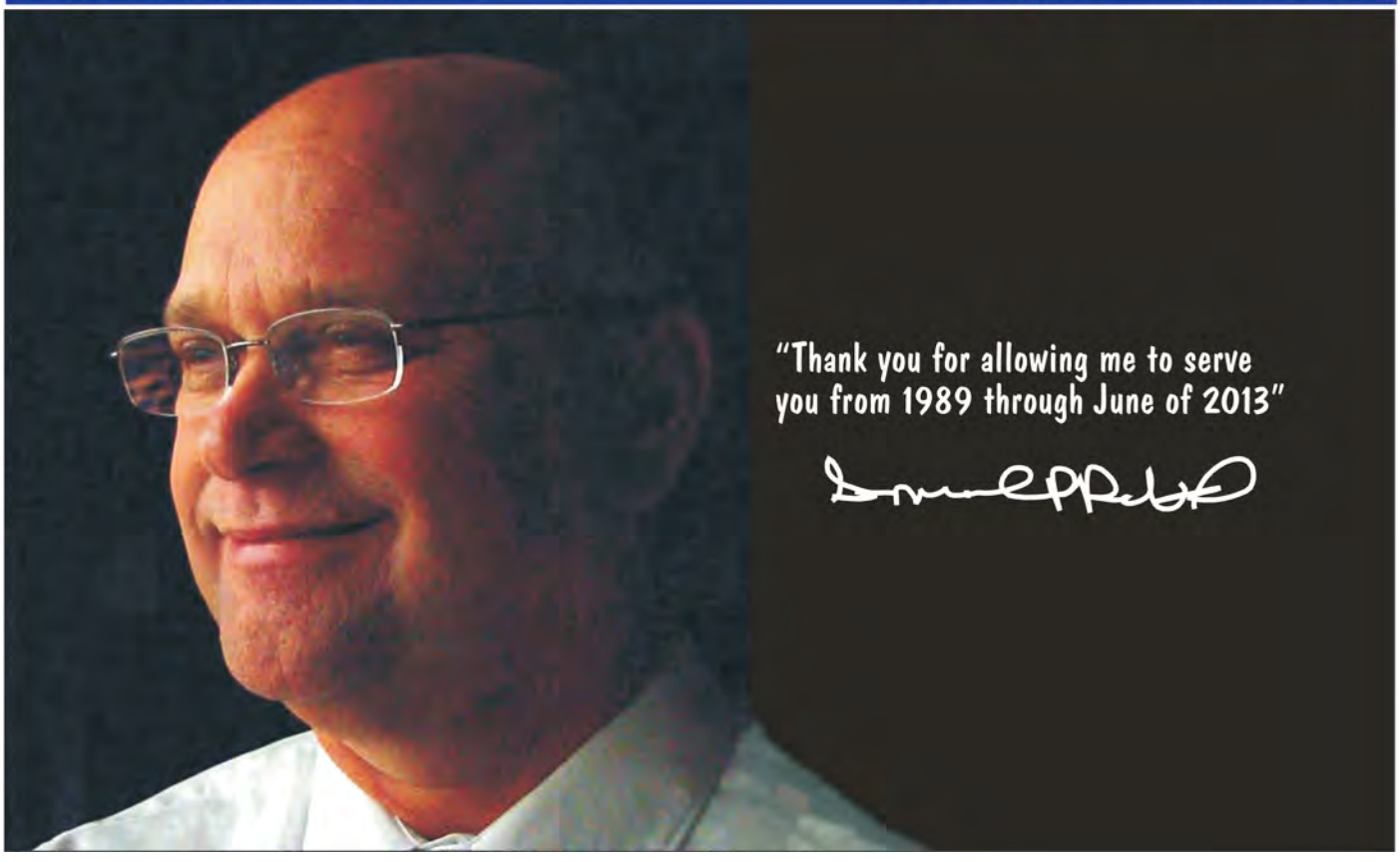
Please remember the following dates:

PRIMARY ELECTION.....Tuesday, May 7
PRIMARY RUNOFF (if necessary).....**Tuesday, May 21**
GENERAL ELECTION .....Tuesday, June 4

To be eligible to vote, you must be registered 30 days before an election.

9200 PIGEON ROOST - OLIVE BRANCH, MS 38654

FROM THE ROOST

BI-ANNUAL

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