



# 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

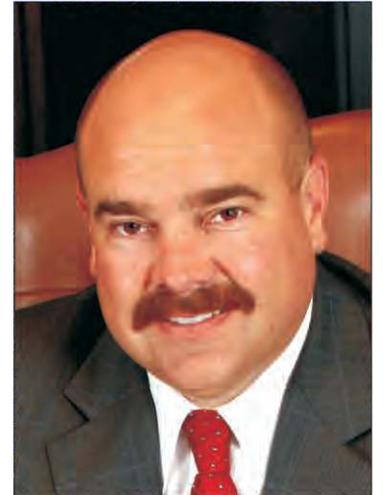
## Message From The Mayor....

If most of you are like me, we are ready to put this past winter behind us and get on with the things that make Olive Branch such a great place to live in the springtime. This winter was harsh and I am very thankful that we did not have to endure a major ice event such as hit our neighboring states. As we look around, we not only see signs of spring and summer but we see other changes around our great City. The Highway 305 widening project is a welcome sight. This project has taken several years to come to fruition. New commercial developments are locating here, businesses are expanding and new homes are being built.

I have spoken to many of you over the past few months. Many have voiced concerns and many have made positive comments about the achievements we as a City have experienced. I have listened to each of you with sincerity. I understand the need for road repairs and infrastructure improvements. My focus over the next few months will include the prioritization of paving projects. I anticipate paving projects to begin this summer. However, I realize it can not all happen at once and strategic long range planning is required.

As citizens of this great City we should rededicate ourselves to working to keep our City one of the best places in the country to live, work and raise our families. The quality of life in a community is not determined solely by its elected officials or its public service organizations; it is determined by the attitudes and efforts of everyone living in the community. We can make a difference; be a volunteer, donate to our Food Pantry and Thrift Shop, support our local charities, sponsor community events, help those in the community who are elderly or in need, patronize our local businesses, and above all, speak well of Olive Branch.

I am proud and honored to serve the constituents of Olive Branch and I will continue to work for each of you. ☉

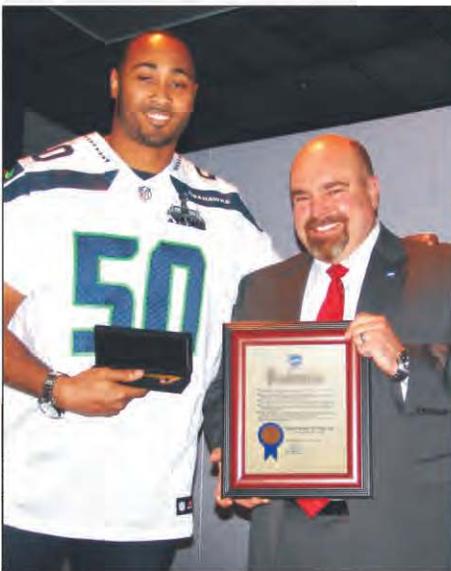


SCOTT B. PHILLIPS, Jr.  
Mayor, City of Olive Branch



## K. J. WRIGHT DAY CELEBRATED IN O. B.

More than a thousand people turned out to see Mayor Phillips present a Key to the City and a Proclamation to K. J. Wright proclaiming February 22nd as K. J. Wright Day in Olive Branch. K. J., a former All State football player at Olive Branch High School and a standout for four years at Mississippi State University during his college career, plays linebacker for the Seattle Seahawks in the National Football League and played an important role in the Seahawks win over the Denver Broncos in this year's Superbowl 48. The ceremony featured laudatory speeches by K. J.'s former Principal, Kyle Brigance and former Coach, Scott Samsel. He was also given proclamations by DeSoto Supervisor, Jessie Medlin and Mississippi State Senator, David Parker. ☉



**2014**  
*Calendar of Events*  
in and around Olive Branch  
through October 1, 2014

**EVENTS IN OLD TOWNE**

- Spring Hootenannies**  
Thursdays, 7pm-9pm.....April 3 thru June 26
- MayFest 5K Run/Walk**  
Saturday, 8am.....May 10
- MayFest Festival**  
Saturday, 9am-5pm.....May 10
- Rocking on the Roost Summer Concerts**  
Fridays, 7pm-9pm.....June 6 thru June 27
- Fall Hootenannies**  
Thursdays, 7pm-9pm.....Sept 4 thru Oct 30

**Celebrate Your Independence**

Olive Branch City Park  
Friday, 6:30pm - 9:30pm.....July 4

**MAYOR/BOARD of ALDERMEN**

Regular Meetings

City Courtroom at 6900 Highland Street

- Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Apr. 1
- Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Apr. 15
- Tuesday, 6:30pm.....May 6
- Tuesday, 6:30pm.....May 20
- Tuesday, 6:30pm.....June 3
- Tuesday, 6:30pm.....June 17
- Tuesday, 6:30pm.....July 1
- Tuesday, 6:30pm.....July 15
- Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Aug. 5
- Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Aug. 19
- Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Sept. 2
- Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Sept. 16

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Regular Meetings

City Courtroom at 6900 Highland Street

- Tuesday, 6pm.....Apr. 8
- Tuesday, 6pm.....May 13
- Tuesday, 6pm.....June 10
- Tuesday, 6pm.....July 8
- Tuesday, 6pm.....Aug. 12
- Tuesday, 6pm.....Sept. 9

**BOARD of ADJUSTMENT**

Regular Meetings

City Courtroom at 6900 Highland Street

- Thursday, 6pm.....April 10
- Thursday, 6pm.....May 8
- Thursday, 6pm.....June 12
- Thursday, 6pm.....July 10
- Thursday, 6pm.....Aug. 14
- Thursday, 6pm.....Sept. 11

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

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

*Please*

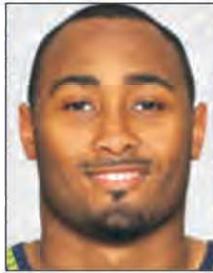
Patronize our Local Businesses

**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 bcguthirds@obms.us.

**UPDATE ON OLIVE BRANCH'S FAVORITE SONS**



K. J. Wright, following an outstanding football career at OBHS, received a football scholarship to Mississippi State in the SEC where he played four years for the Bulldogs. In 2011 he was signed by the Seattle Seahawks of the NFL and became a starter at the linebacker position in his rookie season. Two years later, toward the end of the 2013 season, K. J. broke his foot and was sidelined for six weeks as the Seahawks made their run for the Superbowl. He returned for the NFC Championship win over San Francisco and also for the Seattle 43 - 8 rout of the Denver Broncos in the Superbowl.



Ricky Stenhouse, Jr., a 2006 graduate of DeSoto Central High School, has worked his way up from dirt track racing, through NASCAR's ARCA-RE/MAX and Nationwide Series racing circuits, winning the Nationwide Series Rookie of the Year Award in 2010 and then winning back-to-back Nationwide Series Championships in 2011 and 2012. In 2013, he became full time in NASCAR's Sprint Cup Series driving the #17 Ford Fusion car for Roush-Fenway Racing. He won the Sprint Cup Series Rookie of the Year Award for 2013, edging out girlfriend, Danica Patrick, for the honor.



Ed Easley was drafted by Major League Baseball's Arizona Diamondbacks following All-American high school and college careers at OBHS and Mississippi State. In the 2013 season he played Triple-A ball for the Reno Aces where he was named the Arizona Diamondback Minor League Co-Player of the Month for the month of August with a batting average of .402. Ed was recently signed as a free agent by the St. Louis Cardinals where there is a good chance we will get to see him play for the Memphis Redbirds, a Cardinal Triple-A affiliate, as he works his way up the ladder to the Majors.

**DON'T FORGET**

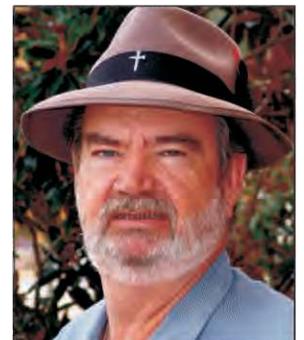


**OLIVE BRANCH CITY PARK**  
**FRIDAY**  
**JULY 4th**  
**6:30pm - 9:30pm**

**CELEBRATE YOUR INDEPENDENCE**

**CITY EMPLOYEE SETS EXAMPLE**

Barry Sisk, Environmental Inspector in the Public Works Department, practices what he preaches. He is a major donor in the Lifeblood Program with most of his blood donations going to St. Jude and Le Bonheur Childrens Hospitals. Barry has an unusual type of blood called "baby blood" that allows it to be given to extremely premature babies. As of today, Barry has made 155 blood donations of both whole blood and platelets and urges others to become involved in this very rewarding and much needed blood donor program. He said it takes very little of your time and is a virtually pain-free procedure; *"Most people do not realize how important donating blood is, and what a blessing it is to know that you are providing the gift of life to some of these babies"*.



BARRY SISK

The closest Lifeblood Center to Olive Branch is at 1055 Goodman Road East, Suite J, in Southaven. Barry urges anyone who wishes to participate to call and set up an appointment to donate blood or platelets. The phone number is 901 271-1260.®

FIVE TO BE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME



GEORGE PRESTON GILLESPIE  
3/24/1942



ERLEND R. NICHOLS  
5/21/1933 - 10/22/2012



LESLIE POOL  
3/10/1948 -



WALTON T. WOODS  
9/30/1894 - 4/11/1974



ALMA C. YOUNG  
11/23/1909 - 10/31/1994

On Thursday evening April 17th at 7pm in ceremonies open to the public at the new Courthouse at 6900 Highland, the above shown 2013 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 the City it is today. Including the five 2013 inductees, there are now forty members of the Olive Branch Hall of Fame (seventeen still living) whose lives span the 178 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 D. ALLISON 2012       | DRUE D. BIRMINGHAM JR. 2012 | BILLIE B. BLOCKER 2010       | MILTON S. BLOCKER 2007  |
| LEMOYNE BRIGANCE 2011       | FRANK J. BROWN Jr. 2008     | SARAH J. CAMP 2010           | B. J. CHAIN 2007        |
| BILL E. CRUTHIRDS, Sr. 2008 | SCOTTIE C. DAVIDSON 2008    | JAMES A. DODDRIDGE, Sr. 2010 | STEPHEN FLINN 2007      |
| Dr. D. C. FUNDERBURK 2009   | G. P. GILLESPIE 2013        | E. FORREST HAMILTON 2009     | A. MAURY HARAWAY 2010   |
| Dr. ELTON L. HARRIS 2012    | GEORGE M. HARRISON 2009     | JOYCE H. HASLIP 2012         | M. C. HERRINGTON 2007   |
| JAN R. JOHNSON 2007         | Dr. JULIAN F. JONES 2010    | BILL W. KERR 2008            | LUSH PUN TUBBY 2007     |
| ROBERT H. MARR 2011         | JACK McCAULEY 2007          | D. M. NICHOLS 2007           | ERLEND R. NICHOLS 2013  |
| G. B. PAYNE 2007            | H. GENE PHILLIPS 2011       | LESLIE POOL 2013             | SAM P. RIKARD 2009      |
| Dr. P. J. SCOTT 2012        | KENNETH W. SESSOM 2011      | HOMER D. SKELTON 2007        | BENJAMIN F. WESSON 2008 |
| JAMES E. WOODS 2009         | WALTON T. WOODS 2013        | MAURICE E. WOODSON 2011      | ALMA C. YOUNG 2013      |

Those to be inducted into the Olive Branch Hall of Fame for the year 2013 are:

**G. P. Gillespie**, former three term Olive Branch Alderman has been a long time community leader and owner of Gillespie Funeral Home, the longest running black owned business in Olive Branch.

**Erlend R. Nichols** (5/2/1933 - 10/22/2012), life-long Olive Branch and DeSoto County educator served in various capacities, culminating in becoming the Superintendent of the DeSoto County School District, the largest in the state.

**Leslie Pool**, Coach and Athletic Director at Olive Branch High School for twenty-four years. His record as Football Coach of the Conquistadors is legendary.

**Walton T. Woods** (9/30/1894 - 4/11/1974), owned Wood's Pharmacy, was an Olive Branch Alderman and one of the founders of the Bank of Olive Branch.

**Alma C. Young** (11/23/1909 - 10/31/1994), was a realtor, owned a florist shop and was active in community affairs, especially the Meals on Wheels program.

The nominating process to select the next five Hall of Fame inductees for this year (2014) starts on June 1st when the Hall of Fame Nominating Board 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 Nominating Board.

The twenty individuals listed below received at least one vote in the 2013 Hall of Fame balloting and, as such, are carried forward in nomination for 2014. The individuals listed here **do not need to be renominated**:

- JAMES H. ACREE  
BILL G. ALLEN  
J. E. BIRMINGHAM  
SALLIE MAE BOGGAN  
PERRY LEE BOWLAN  
J. N. BROWN  
WALTER CARTER  
THOMAS D. DODDRIDGE  
RUTH GADD  
K. McNEIL (Mac) HARAWAY  
JULIAN HARRIS  
WAYNE HOLLOWELL  
JAMES (Cricket) HUNT  
MARTHA PEARL LANGSTON  
Dr. C. L. MAPLES  
WILL MAXWELL  
T. H. NORVILLE  
RITASCHELLEY  
SAM WATSON  
G. E. (Mr. Eddle) WILLIAMS

CUT AND MAIL

I would like to recommend the following person to the Hall of Fame Nominating Board for ballot nomination consideration for the 2014 Olive Branch Hall of Fame Inductee Election:

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

Date of birth and death  
(if deceased - approx. if you don't know)

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

Phone



TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED

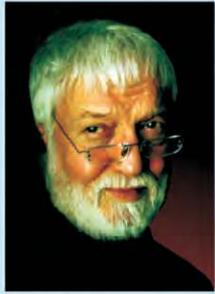
Earl H. Harrell was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944. After basic training at Ft. McClelland, AL, he was shipped from San Francisco to Base K at Leyte, Philippines where he was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division, 19th Regiment as a machinegunner. He served in both the Leyte and the Mindanao Campaigns. He spent four months with the 4025th Signal Service Group where his main task was guarding Japanese prisoners of war brought there from other areas of the Pacific. He was in a field hospital on Leyte when the atomic bomb was dropped and the war ended. He was returned to the States and assigned to the 4th General Hospital in Memphis. He was then transferred to Welch Convalescent Hospital in Daytona Beach, FL where he was discharged on May 19, 1946. He was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the Philippine Independence Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, the Pacific Campaign Commendation Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.



PFC EARL HARRELL  
12/4/1926 -

To Whom We Owe So Much

RECOLLECTIONS AND REFLECTIONS OF OLD OLIVE



BILL CRUTHIRDS, SR.  
Curator - Olive Branch Museum

You might be surprised at how many people who once lived in Olive Branch but now live in other parts of the country have contacted us and asked to be on the mailing list for our *From The Roost* newsletters. Some of them have been gone for half a century or more, but still like to keep in touch with what is going on in the town of their youth. They enjoy reading the historical articles that we publish about times and events that are history to us, but pages out of their lives. Some of these people; **Buddy Chain** of Oxford, MS and **Bobby Butler** of Arkadelphia, AR, come

immediately to mind, as having been especially helpful in providing me with historical information for some of the articles about old Olive Branch that I could not have gotten elsewhere.

I recently received an e-mail from **Mr. G. Ted Merrill** of Kalamazoo, Michigan with recollections of his youth in Olive Branch during the 1940s and 50s. He has been gone from Olive Branch for over fifty years. He has graciously given me permission to print it and I thought you might enjoy reading it:

LOOKING BACK

G. Ted Merrill

I grew up in Mississippi. I went to school from the first grade through college in Mississippi. We have all read stories and books about Mississippi. We have all probably seen movies about people in Mississippi. Much of that information is not flattering and much of what you have read or seen on television or in the movies is true. It is also true that I think my hometown was a great place and that people that I knew there were special.

Olive Branch, the town that I call home, was surrounded by numerous small dairy farms, many small agricultural farms and several very large cotton farms of well over a thousand acres or more.

The population of Olive Branch was about five-hundred people in the 1940s and 1950s. I don't know what the African-American to white population ratio was at that time, but I guess it was about 50/50 except on Saturdays when the people who gathered on the town square were 90% African-Americans. Saturday was their day to meet in town to socialize and sell farm products; watermelons, tomatoes and other produce.

There were segregated schools, waiting rooms, eating places, funeral homes, churches and residential areas. It was not fair; it wasn't right; but it is the way it was. Fortunately, much has changed over the years and opportunities are more equal now.

Many years have passed as I write these recollections, but there are a number of town people who must have made an impression on me because I remember their names after more than sixty years. I want to tell you about some of those people.

The first is **Miss Maude Wesson**. She had a small store on the south side of the town square. The store was wooden, unpainted, with a porch and a screen door. Few people went inside. She had cats, and when you opened the door you could tell she had lots of cats. I went to her store on Sunday mornings because it was the only place in town to get a Sunday Memphis Commercial Appeal newspaper. My dad would drive us there and send me in to get the paper. **Miss Wesson**, a gray haired woman, always in a baggy dress and an apron with big pockets, would usually follow me out and stand on the porch and talk to my dad. They would usually talk about politics and the war.

On the west side of the square was Brown-Norvell Company. **Joe Norvell** and his sister ran the store. On his side of the large store, **Mr. Norvell** had a butcher shop and general groceries. In the back of

the store he sold feed for farm animals. On her side of the store, **Miss Eugenia** sold dry goods. My mother did most of her grocery shopping at that store. **Mr. Norvell** was an interesting man. He lived in a large mansion (now Trustmark Bank) very near downtown. In addition to the store, he owned and operated the local cheese plant (where BancorpSouth is presently located). He played the piano and later the organ, which he donated, at the Baptist church.

Next to **Norvell's** store was the Bank of Olive Branch. The bank president was **G. B. Payne**. **Mr. Payne** was always happy and cheerful. He was a deacon in the Baptist church and sang in the choir. His wife, **Janice**, was the chief cashier at the bank. She played the piano at the Methodist church and organized, decorated and played for many events and weddings around town, including our wedding. Incidentally, the Baptist and Methodist churches were side by side and there was much interaction between the congregations.

Across the square from the bank was the Olive Branch Shoe Shop. **Mr. J. B. Wallace** was the shoemaker. He repaired shoes and later repaired radios and televisions. He even set up the first picture-show in town using a projector and a large white sheet set up after dark in the vacant lot next to **Norvell's** store. A seat on a wooden bench cost ten cents. **Mr. Wallace** needed the income because he had eleven children. He lived in a large house just off the square, around the corner on Depot Street across the street from the cotton gin.

The next building down from the shoe shop was Woods Pharmacy. **Mr. W. T. Woods**, the pharmacist, was a quiet gentleman. **Mr. Arthur Butler** worked there and was the soda jerk and the ice cream he served was delicious. We were allowed to sit at a table in the back of the store and read funny books for free. Woods Pharmacy is where I had my first interview for a job with the Upjohn Company. I will always be indebted to **Mr. Sam Sample**, the area District Manager.

Moving north along Pigeon Roost Road, off the town square, there was a barber shop and three dry goods stores side by side: Hudson's, Flowers and Funderburk's. Then, next to the water tower was Kerr Motor Company, the Ford dealer. **Mr. Kerr** was a quiet man with two sons, **Bill** and **Bob**, near my age. His wife was the Postmistress who operated the town Post Office by herself.

A few blocks south of town was the Olive Branch Consolidated School. **Mr. B. J. Chain** was the Superintendent. He was a big "bear" of a man who ran the school, taught math and physics, and coached football. His wife, **Ruby**, was a special lady. She taught piano, voice, directed the glee club and played the piano for most events. The **Chains** were a steady force in Olive Branch for over forty years. The B. J. Chain Public Library stands as a memorial to **Mr. Chain**.

Referring to the high school, I must say a word about my mother, **Mrs. B. S. Merrill**. World War II took the male teachers away and my mother was called to be a substitute. She stayed for over twenty

years teaching English and biology. I think she is revered by many of her students. She was always disappointed that she was unable to convince **Mr. Chain** that Latin should be added to the school curriculum; he was all math and science.

Looking back, Olive Branch might not have been the perfect place, but there were some good people there who did their best. Today, the town has grown a lot, much has changed and hopefully there are people there today who are making the town a better place for all, and in doing this, will be remembered in years to come by the young people who are watching.



Shown here is Ted Merrill's Senior Class photo from Olive Branch High School. He took a job with Upjohn in 1959, and after several assignments in Tennessee, Florida and Michigan, he and his wife, the former Carol Keating of Olive Branch, make their home in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

## BRANCH FROM KALAMAZOO AND ARKADELPHIA

As I mentioned earlier, another major contributor of historical facts and information about old Olive Branch is **Bobby Butler** who also grew up here in the mid-twentieth century and for many years has lived in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Here are some of his recollections:

## RECOLLECTIONS

Bobby Butler

**Mr. W. T. Woods** was a quiet and rather private man, as I knew him. He owned Woods Pharmacy and had an interest in a dairy farm out in Lewisburg. I think he also may have had a store in Byhalia, and some other businesses as well. My dad, **Arthur M. Butler**, started work for **Mr. Woods** at his pharmacy in 1930 and it was not long, because of **Mr. Woods'** other businesses, that my dad was, more-or-less, running the pharmacy himself, being buyer, stockman, janitor, filling prescriptions, working the fountain and all else. He opened the store six days a week and sometimes on Sunday afternoons. It was not unusual for him to get calls in the middle of the night to fill prescriptions, mostly from **Dr. Funderburk**. **Mr. Woods** made the ice cream for his drug store fountain in three flavors, vanilla, chocolate and strawberry, using a mix he acquired from Mid-West Ice Cream Co. He shaved and crushed the ice to make the ice cream and for use in the fountain drinks from a block of ice that always sat near the back door. My dad worked there for twenty years. I worked there as a soda jerk sometimes during the summertime.

The City nightwatchman always sorta fascinated me. His name was **Henry Mueller** and he was probably there more as a firewatch than to protect the businesses from intrusion. I do not recall him wearing a weapon; maybe a blackjack or a slapper. He carried a round clock-looking thing around his neck that he would "key" from a box outside each store which would keep a record of when he made his rounds.

On a certain Halloween night one year, some of us boys including **Leslie Shumake** and maybe **Gene Phillips** found some 18" cinder blocks in **J. E. Birmingham's** lumber yard. So, on a back street next to the lumber sheds (Commerce Street), as a Halloween prank, we started stacking the blocks and building a cinder block wall across the middle of the street. We were almost finished when Watchman **Mueller** showed up. In his deep, stern voice he instructed us to take it down and put the blocks back where we found them. Building the wall was fun. Taking it down and returning the blocks to the lumber yard was work.

On another Halloween night some of the fellows my age and I strung toilet paper across Old Hwy. 78 (now Hwy 178) on the hill just before you get to Goodman Road heading southeast. We hid and watched and it wasn't long before the first car came along. It just happened to be my dad and the dads of some of my accomplices. After we cleaned up the mess, we all got free rides home.

The big school bell always got stolen on Halloween night. One year a group of us boys were riding around and as we drove through the school campus, **Mr. B. J. Chain** stopped us and demanded that we tell him where the bell was. I think he knew that we did not get it that year but nevertheless, he got in the car with us and rode around for a while looking for it. **Guy Wayne Lowry** was driving. The bell was always found in a vacant lot or out in a field several days later and returned. I always wondered why **Mr. Chain** didn't lock it up ahead of time.

There was a black man who worked at the school that everyone knew as **M. C.**. I don't think I ever knew his last name (**Gales**). He was the janitor, handyman, furnace tender and did whatever needed to be done. He and his wife, **Ludy**, were very close to the **Chains**. They had kids in the black school, such as it was in those days.

My last year at OBHS was in the 11th grade along with **Buddy Chain**, **David Vanderburg** and the other kids that started out together in 1941 under **Mrs. Louise Henley**. There was a small group of boys in that 11th grade class that were not really trouble makers, but who needed to be kept busy, so during one period of the school day, **Mr. Chain** would gather us all in a small room off the library for open discussion about a number of things. Integration

was often a part of our discussions and even at that early date, in the early fifties, **Mr. Chain** would tell us that integration of the schools was inevitable at some point in the future. **David Vanderburg** and **Mr. Chain** had many discussions about financial matters and politics. **David** went on to become a successful businessman, but never got into politics.

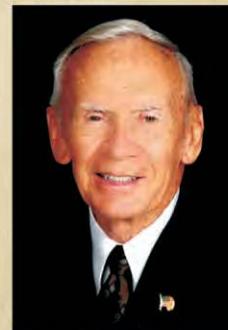
In recent years I heard **Mr. Chain's** daughter, **Carolyn**, say that her dad believed in giving social promotions rather than failing grades (even when deserved) which might keep a student from acquiring a high school diploma. His reasoning was that a student would be worth more to himself and to society with at least a high school diploma than without one. It makes sense.

**Mr. Chain** thought hunting was a waste of time and didn't hesitate to let us boys know what he thought. We countered by telling him how silly it was to hit a little white ball and go looking for it; **Mr. Chain** loved to play golf. Quail season opened on a certain Monday in November each year and **Jack Lowry** and I would always skip school and go quail hunting. Tuesday morning **Mr. Chain** would summons us to his office for our weak excuses as to where we were the previous day, after which he might call us jackasses and send us off to our classes. Despite **Mr. Chain's** protests, some of his star football players and **Max Wallace** and I would often go coon hunting all night, sometimes on a night before game day, and make it home just in time to go to school the next morning.

One year I worked all summer as a soda jerk at the drug store. One of our regular customers was **Mr. Milt Blocker** who was the consummate country gentleman. He came in every day while his brother, **Brooks**, stayed home to oversee their farm. **Milt** had stomach trouble of some sort and every day he would come in and order a Bromo Seltzer in a glass of water and a separate glass of carbonated water. He would mix the two together and drink it down, usually making a mess on the counter. Each morning, in his rumpled, baggy suit, he would go to the Cotton Exchange down on Front Street in downtown Memphis. I do not know what he did there. He would always return each afternoon. He didn't have a vehicle so he must have ridden the Greyhound which traveled up and down Old Hwy. 78. He knew I had purchased a used shotgun from **Big Pat Macintosh** who owned a grocery store where the barber shop is presently located. One day **Mr. Milt** brought me one of the chamois cloths they used to wipe the numbers off the blackboards down at the Cotton Exchange. He said I should use it to wipe down my shotgun each time I used it to keep it from rusting. That was very thoughtful of him and I will never forget it.

My mom and dad were married in 1932. Her dad was **W. A. Bowlin**, the pastor of Maples Memorial Methodist Church. The house where I was born and reared, long gone, was located at Highland Street and Old Hwy. 78 (now Hwy. 178). Over to the east was the **Altus Munns** home. That house was later used as a telephone exchange. My mom used to tell me she could remember warm summer evenings when young couples would roller skate up Old Hwy. 78 all the way to Capleville in Tennessee and back.

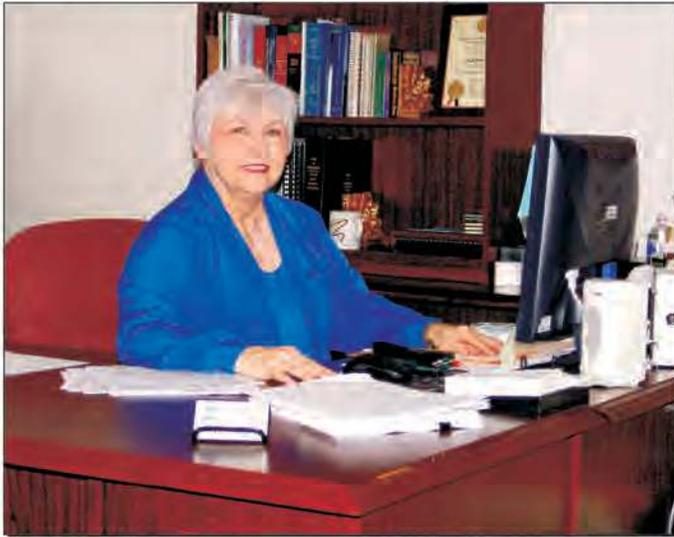
On many hot summer nights, our family and others would drive down to the Coldwater River out south of Miller, several miles below Olive Branch, and burn old tires for light and go swimming. The river was always cold and never quite clear but we kids didn't mind, and it was always a fun way to spend a hot summer evening.



Robert E. Butler  
11/12/1934 - 11/9/2013

Bobby Butler's family moved away from Olive Branch to Benton, KY in 1953 after his junior year at OBHS. He, along with his wife Dartha Jean and their three daughters, lived most of his life in Arkadelphia, AR. He stayed in touch with old friends in Olive Branch and was a frequent contributor of historical information and photos used in *From the Roost* newsletters. I am saddened to report that during the time this article was being written, on November 9, 2013, Bobby passed away following major heart surgery at the age of 78. He will be greatly missed.

CITY CLERK, JUDY HERRINGTON, TO RETIRE IN JUNE



Following a twenty year career with the City of Olive Branch, City Clerk Judy Herrington has announced her intention to retire in June. Judy has served under three different Olive Branch Mayors; she was hired during the administration of Mayor Milton Nichols, served sixteen years in the administration of Mayor Sam Rikard and has served during the first year of the administration of Mayor Scott Phillips. One of the most dedicated and respected employees of the City, Judy has distinguished herself over the years in performing the duties of the City Clerk position.

Judy's husband retired six months ago and, although she enjoys her work, she looks forward to joining him in retirement. She said they plan to do some traveling and she can't wait to try her luck with a vegetable garden and spend time working in her yard. She also wants to explore genealogy.

Those who have worked with her over the years will miss her and we all wish her well. ☺

*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 know all of you have had enough cold weather to last you for a while and I think I can speak for everyone in saying, I am sick of it and ready for springtime.

We are beginning to see an upswing in construction and business activity in the City following its having been depressed over the past several years because of the economy. That increase in new businesses and commercial activity is the natural progression following the explosive residential growth that Olive Branch experienced in the last decade of the 20th century. It is true that new businesses count roof tops and when that count reaches a certain threshold, businesses follow. I know there are those of you who wish Olive Branch could be like it used to be when we were much smaller, and I sometime yearn for those days as well, but that is not going to happen. People are going to come here, and businesses are going to follow, and one of the things I can do as a member of your Board of Aldermen is to be sure we evaluate and only approve businesses that are good for our City and good for the quality of life that we enjoy in Olive Branch. We can't stop the growth. We can control it.

gcollins@obms.us  
662 895-3308



Alderman  
GIL EARHART  
Ward 1

Hello spring! Goodbye winter! After a long and tough winter, your City has some long awaited and welcomed news: The Board of Aldermen has been presented with a five year Capital Projects List from which we will prioritize and put into motion major projects that include water, waste water and gas system improvements, street improvements and City Park improvements. We have appropriated \$500,000 for much needed street overlays which will start immediately. Additionally, your Board has issued a resolution regarding schools located in Olive Branch. The viability of all DeSoto County schools affects each of us, regardless of where your children may attend. The issues addressed by the resolution concern the efficient use of your tax dollars. Olive Branch is one of the fastest growing communities in the region, with a high school that is declining in enrollment. It is my opinion that the school district should take a serious look at school zone boundaries and take into consideration municipal concerns since it will impact our citizens, commerce, housing and connectivity for years to come.

gil.earhart@obms.us  
662 892-9218



Alderwoman  
PAT HAMILTON  
Ward 2

What an exciting year 2014 has been already in Ward 2. So many new businesses are opening up there is not enough space to list them all. We can now go to the Malco Theater and soon we will be able to eat at Corky's Restaurant and buy groceries at Aldi's Grocery Store. St. Francis Urgent Care is open in the Wedgewood Commons and Baptist Medical Group is on the way to the northeast corner of Goodman and Malone Roads. I am happy to say that housing construction has started up again and new roof tops will be seen soon. The Goodman Road corridor has many prospective businesses looking for locations. What a great time it is to live in Olive Branch where we no longer have to leave our city for food, entertainment or medical care.

Spring is on its way! Congratulations to Windstone Subdivision for starting a new Garden Club.

If you are interested in receiving the Board of Aldermen Agenda before and after each meeting, please send me your e-mail address.

As always, I welcome your e-mails and phone calls.

phamilton@obms.us  
662 895-5765



Alderman  
HAROLD HENDERSON  
Ward 3

I can not recall a time since I have been an Alderman when I could come to you with a more optimistic report on the state of affairs in our City. Olive Branch is on the move as we have shaken off the effects of four years of stagnant growth dumped upon us by a national recession that we didn't cause, but were affected by, and had to deal with. Good things are happening in Olive Branch. After years of waiting, the widening of Hwy 305 through the City is rapidly nearing completion. The movement of traffic through that corridor will be greatly improved. Many of you have long asked: "When are we going to have a movie theatre"? Well, now we do, and a really nice one at that. Our sales tax rebates from the State are on the rise which means we will have more funds to budget for infrastructure improvements. I know you may be tired of hearing it, but it is worth mentioning again: After twenty years, we have our own hospital. Last, but not least, there is a spirit of co-operation among members of our governing body and we are able to get things done. It is a great time to live in Olive Branch.

hhenderson@obms.us  
662 895-5653



Alderman  
DAVID WALLACE  
Ward 4

Let me begin by thanking you for allowing me to continue to serve you and our City. As winter winds down and spring approaches, we have a lot of work ahead of us as new residents and businesses continue to make Olive Branch their home and our streets are in much need of repair. This winter has been especially tough on our streets but we are working diligently to address these issues. The Hwy. 305 project has had some weather related delays, but is making progress toward their proposed completion date. We budgeted \$500,000 in the last budget for street repairs alone and will probably increase that amount in next year's budget. When a subdivision developer turns over new streets to the City, those streets are expected to have about a fifteen year life expectancy. Because of the phenomenal residential growth we experienced in the mid to late 90s, many of those streets are around that age now, and we must address them. We recently took bids for restriping our streets to make them safer for all of us.

Please contact me if you have any concerns.

dwallace@obms.us  
901 619-6992



Alderman  
MARK ALDRIDGE  
Ward 5

It has been a winter for the record books, but the spring/summer season is finally upon us. I hope and pray you and yours are well and ready for warmer weather.

I am about three-quarters of the way through my first year, and becoming more comfortable in my role as Alderman every day. When it comes to decision making, I believe there is almost always a right and wrong, but there were, and still are, many procedural/state law things to learn.

I am very excited about the opening of our Malco Theatre, Corky's and Aldi Grocery Store just to name a few.

We recently voted to join other municipalities in a congestion mitigation project to do everything we can to help ease traffic congestion along Goodman Road. Obviously growth and traffic go hand in hand.

I hope you will all make plans to join the City for MayFest, the 4th of July Celebrate your Independence in the City Park and other activities that are coming up. Please contact me if I can be of assistance and everyone have a great summer.

mark.aldridge@obms.us  
901 831-8442



Alderman  
DALE DICKERSON  
Ward 6

We have begun preparations for starting our 2014 street paving projects. We have identified three million dollars worth of work that is needed and we have \$500,000 budgeted. Obviously, we will not be able to do all that is needed right now. We will be prioritizing this work and getting bids so that we can get started on the areas that are in the greatest need as soon as possible.

Getting to where we need to be with regard to the paving of our streets is going to take us several years, but we will stay on it until we get it done.

To report some good news, our sales tax numbers (rebates from the state for sales tax collected inside the City) look great for December of 2013 and for the first two months of 2014.

Our new Malco Theatre has opened to rave reviews. Corky's Restaurant will be soon be opening.

We continue to get inquiries and draw interest from businesses looking at Olive Branch as a location to open new businesses or expand existing ones.

I can be reached at the numbers below if you need me.

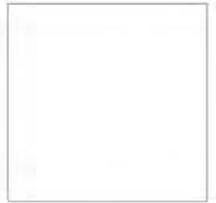
ddickerson@obms.us  
662 895-2543

***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.....	890-7315	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.....	893-8989	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., Alan Nunnelee.....	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
OLD TOWNE ASSOCIATION, Olive Branch.....	893-0888	TELEPHONE SERVICE	
PARKS and RECREATION, Olive Branch.....	893-5219	CenturyLink Customer Service.....	800 201-4099
PLANNING COMMISSION, DeSoto County.....	469-8023	CenturyLink Telephone (Repair, 24 Hrs).....	800 824-2877
Olive Branch.....	892-9334	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

Spring/Summer 2014



**OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARADE, 1957**

We came across two old photographs of an Olive Branch Christmas Parade from more than a half-century ago and when we joined them together, they form an amazing panorama of the old Olive Branch business district in the mid-1950s (don't look too closely or you will see that when we joined them we lost the automobile pulling the red sleigh in the foreground). By identifying the 1957 Ford Fairlane 500 (leaving) and the 1958 Chevrolet Impala (approaching), we established the date of the parade as being 1957. At that time, the City's population was around 600 and it appears a majority of its citizens attended the parade. The photographs were taken from the second floor of the City Cleaners building (gone since the early 90s) which was on the southeast corner of the Goodman/Pigeon Roost intersection. It is always fun to see how much (or how little) we have changed.