



# THE BRANCH ADVISOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH, MISSISSIPPI | FALL 2022



## INTRODUCING OUR BRAND NEW CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH WEBSITE

AVAILABLE AT [OBMS.US](http://OBMS.US)



**CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH**  
 9200 Pigeon Roost Road  
 Olive Branch, MS 38654  
 662.892.9200  
 www.OBMS.us

MAYOR | **KENNETH R. (KEN) ADAMS**  
 662.892.9201

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER | **TODD ONDRA**  
 662.892.9202

CITY CLERK | **TENA STEWART**  
 662.892.9211

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER | **JASON MAY**  
 662.892.9200

POLICE CHIEF | **WILLIAM COX**  
 662.892.9400

FIRE CHIEF | **JOHNNY EASON**  
 662.890.7376

PARKS DIRECTOR | **JAMES CAMPBELL**  
 662.893.5219

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR | **COLE FESMIRE**  
 662.893.5209

SR. CENTER COORDINATOR | **NORMA SHAW**  
 662.890.7236

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

AT LARGE | **GEORGE COLLINS**  
 662.895.3308

WARD 1 | **GIL EARHART**  
 662.892.9218

WARD 2 | **PAT HAMILTON**  
 662.895.5765

WARD 3 | **JOY HENDERSON**  
 901.413.8361

WARD 4 | **DAVID WALLACE**  
 901.619.6992

WARD 5 | **JAN ALDRIDGE**  
 901.268.4119

WARD 6 | **DALE DICKERSON**  
 662.895.2543

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**THE BRANCH  
 ADVISOR**

THE BRANCH ADVISOR is published bi-annually by the City of Olive Branch, Office of Communications, 9200 Pigeon Roost Rd., Olive Branch, MS 38654.

**NEWS FROM CITY HALL**

**Meet our new Chief of Police, William Cox**

Police Chief William “Bill” Cox has over 20 years of law enforcement experience and has served the Olive Branch Police Department for the last nine years, having originally worked for the department in the early 2000s. During his absence, Chief Cox served his hometown of Philadelphia, MS, where he worked his way up from Patrolman, through the ranks, to Chief of Police. Chief Cox returned to Olive Branch in 2013 as Major over Criminal Investigations and was appointed Chief of Police on July 1, 2022.



Chief of Police William Cox

In 1994, Chief Cox graduated from Mississippi State University with a BA in psychology and completed graduate work at the University of Virginia in Criminal Justice Education. Chief is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and has served as an adjunct instructor for the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy for the last nine years. A published author, Chief’s work has appeared in both peer reviewed journals and trade publications.

This year, Chief Cox and his wife, Britta, will celebrate 27 years of marriage. They have four children, Carrigan, Lorelee, Connor, and Sam, who is currently a senior at Olive Branch High School.

**City Welcomes New Chief Operations Officer, Todd Ondra**

Olive Branch is pleased to welcome Todd Ondra, the new Chief Operations Officer for the City. Todd started in this new position on May 2, 2022. As the COO, Todd supports eight departments for the City, including IT, Engineering, Parks, General Services/Building, Planning, Fleet Services, Public Works, and the Airport. Todd brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the City following a nearly 40-year career at FedEx Express, where he retired as the Vice President of Global Operations. Todd is a team player who has provided invaluable insight and direction to the departments he oversees. He leads by example and serves our community and the citizens of the City of Olive Branch with respect and humility. Todd and his wife, Diane, have three children, TJ, Heidi, Brady, and three grandchildren.



Todd Ondra, C.O.O.

**CITY MEETING SCHEDULES**

MEETING	LOCATION	DAY	TIME
Mayor and Board of Aldermen	Courthouse 6900 Highland Street	First and Third Tuesday of Each Month	6:30 p.m.
City Planning Commission	Courthouse 6900 Highland Street	Second Tuesday of Each Month	6:00 p.m.
Board of Adjustment	Courthouse 6900 Highland Street	Second Thursday of Each Month	6:00 p.m.

## NEWS & UPDATES

### Thanks for voting for your parks!

The results of the August 2, 2022 Olive Branch Parks vote are in, and the levy was approved for hotel guests staying in Olive Branch to pay a 1% fee to provide funds to update and promote parks and recreation in our City! This is expected to generate over \$500,000 annually for the parks. There were **1,587 for** and **164 against, totaling 1,751 votes**. Thank you, Olive Branch, for getting out and voting for YOUR parks!



### Bucking in the Branch

Olive Branch got a taste of professional bull riding at the City's first-ever Rodeo. The event was held on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at the George M. Harrison Municipal Park. The event was presented by M5 Productions and featured a concert by Matt Bennett afterward. There was also an appearance by Jeff Cupp, the Rodeo Clown! The rodeo brought in quite a few sponsors, including Reliable Equipment, Kubota, Delta Industries, Frontier Western Store, Desoto Honda, and more!

The response from those who attended was overwhelming, so much so that there was a second event held on September 24, 2022, at the same location. Photos of the event, as pictured below, **are provided by Robert Pierce Photography.**



### City of Olive Branch launches brand new website!

Mayor Ken Adams, the Board of Aldermen, and all of us at the City of Olive Branch are excited to announce that on August 24, 2022, we launched our brand new website! It's now easier than ever to stay up to date on City events, meetings, and all things Olive Branch! The website was built by the team at CivicPlus, who specialize in Government and Municipal websites. Thank you to our Communications and IT Departments for all the hard work. Be sure to check it out by going to [obms.us](http://obms.us) today!

# Fall in Olive Branch

MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

THURSDAY NIGHTS  
IN OCTOBER | 7PM  
WESSON HOUSE LAWN



10.6 | Cruella



10.13 | Encanto



10.20 | Sing 2



10.27 | Hocus Pocus

OLIVE BRANCH Old TOWNE





## NEWS & UPDATES

# City of Olive Branch Specialty License Plate

Mayor Ken Adams and the Board of Aldermen are excited to announce that the public has spoken, and the overwhelming favorite for the new Olive Branch specialty license plate has been chosen. Pre-registration to order the new specialty plate is now open. You can pick up a form from City Hall or scan the QR Code at the bottom of this page. Please return the completed, **ORIGINAL** form to City Hall. We cannot accept photocopies or scans sent in via email. We must have the original form signed by the applicant. You can either drop it off in person or mail it to Olive Branch City Hall, 9200 Pigeon Roost, Olive Branch, MS 38654. Please **do not** send any money at this time. This is only for pre-registration purposes.

The City will contact you at a later date to collect the \$33 registration fee. We thank everyone who voted and look forward to seeing the new Olive Branch specialty plates on the roads early to mid-2023.

**HOLIDAY LIGHT GARDEN**  
LOCATED AT OLIVE BRANCH  
CITY PARK STARTING AT DUSK

11.22 - 12.31

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**  
WESSON HOUSE OPEN HOUSE  
PICTURES WITH SANTA  
TREE LIGHTING @ 7PM

12.1

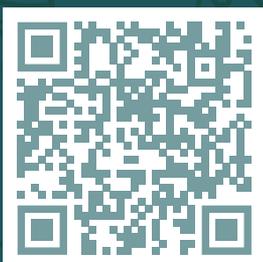
**CHRISTMAS PARADE**  
PARADE STARTS AT  
2 PM AT OLIVE BRANCH  
ELEMENTARY

12.3

**WREATHS ACROSS  
AMERICA**  
BLOCKER CEMETERY  
AT 12 PM

12.17

**BUY A WREATH FOR  
BLOCKER CEMETERY  
BY SCANNING BELOW.**  
LAST DAY TO PURCHASE IS  
NOVEMBER 28, 2022



## SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE



TO GET FORM, SCAN HERE  
OR PICK UP FORMS  
LOCATED AT CITY HALL



DELIGHT IN THE  
STUNNING ILLUMINATION,  
HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT, &  
SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

FOR TICKETS & MORE INFO,  
SCAN BELOW  
OR VISIT  
[LIGHTGARDEN.ONLINE](https://lightgarden.online)



Be sure to look for more details about upcoming events on the City's website and social media.

# Garbage and Recycling Collection Updates for 2023

Our recycling and garbage program will be changing on January 1, 2023. The recycling program through Waste Connections will continue to provide service; however, there are a few changes to your current service. Beginning January 1, 2023, garbage collection will be billed at \$10.00 per month per cart. **You MUST opt-in for recycling now if you want to continue or begin recycling service in January.** Please call 662-892-9305 by October 24, 2022, to help us efficiently and effectively distribute the new recycling carts to opt-in for recycling service.

Beginning January 1, 2023, the recycling service will be billed at \$5.00 per month per cart for those who opt-in for the service.

The new recycle cart will be a 96-gallon rolling container, which is five times the capacity of the current bins! We ask that you please leave your old EMPTY recycling bin at the road the last week of December for the City to pick up.

If you leave your current recycling bin out, with recyclables in it, on or after January 1, 2023, it WILL NOT be picked up. If you opt-in for the recycling service before October 24, 2022, you will receive your new cart prior to January 1, 2023.

**\*This will not go into effect in our newly annexed areas until October 2023. You will receive a mailer notifying you when you can opt-in for recycling at a later date.**

***Below is a list of acceptable and non-acceptable recyclables.***

**Acceptable recyclables:**

Cardboard, metal cans, plastic bottles, and jugs. They must all be clean and dry. We ask you not to bag it and ensure your cardboard is flattened.

**Non-acceptable recyclables:**

Aluminum foil, plastics (#3 through #7), glass, food-soiled containers, nonferrous

STAY  
IN THE  
LOOP



Text olivebranch to 888777 to opt-in today!

## OLIVE BRANCH SERVEDAY

OCTOBER 8, 2022 9AM-12PM

On Saturday, October 8, 2022, from 9 am to 12 pm, churches from across Olive Branch, under the leadership of the Mayor's Pastoral Advisory Committee, will be hosting citywide community service projects for the citizens of Olive Branch. Be sure to follow the City of Olive Branch on Facebook and Twitter to stay in the loop about the events going on in the City that day, and check out the website link below. This event is also part of **Faith & Blue Weekend**, where **local churches** and the **Olive Branch Police Department** work together to **better serve the community**. We are grateful for all our churches and law enforcement officers participating in this event.

For more information on this event, visit [obms.us/observeday](http://obms.us/observeday)

### 1ST ANNUAL MARDI GRAS PARADE!

Presented by the Olive Twig  
Humanitarian Group



✦ Old Towne Olive Branch on  
February 18, 2023 at 1pm

✦ Live music at the Wesson  
House stage from 3-6pm

✦ For more information follow us on  
Facebook - Olive Twig Humanitarian  
Group

✦ Contact us at:  
[Olivetwighumanitarian@gmail.com](mailto:Olivetwighumanitarian@gmail.com)



THE BRANCH  
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## UPDATES FROM THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

AT LARGE	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3	WARD 4	WARD 5	WARD 6
						
<b>George Collins</b>	<b>Gil Earhart</b>	<b>Pat Hamilton</b>	<b>Joy Henderson</b>	<b>David Wallace</b>	<b>Jan Aldridge</b>	<b>Dale Dickerson</b>
gcollins@obms.us 662.859.3308	gilearhart@obms.us 662.892.9218	phamilton@obms.us 662.895.5765	joy.henderson@obms.us 901.413.8361	dwallace@obms.us 901.619.6992	jan.aldridge@obms.us 901.268.4119	ddickerson@obms.us 662.895.2543

## City of Olive Branch Statistics and Facts

### ❖ CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH MISSION STATEMENT ❖

*Olive Branch, Mississippi is one of America's most livable cities, where one can live, work, worship, and play without leaving home. The City of Olive Branch municipal government strives to provide efficient and effective public services that promote this quality of life.*

- + Olive Branch currently has five city parks that encompass over 181 acres of land with lakes for fishing and fields for multiple disciplines of sports.
- + The City of Olive Branch supports 17,500 residential units for police, fire, EMS, and public works services. Olive Branch owns and operates the Olive Branch general aviation airport which encompasses three flight schools, a 6,000-foot runway, and leads the State in take-offs and landing activity for general aviation airports.
- + Olive Branch owns and operates the largest municipal natural gas company in the State of Mississippi, serving not only residents of the city but residents in unincorporated areas, and even residents of a neighboring County.
- + Olive Branch operates at a low municipal property tax rate of 38.5 mills, so a homeowner with a home appraised at \$300,000 only pays \$1,155 annually in City taxes.
- + The Mayor chairs active citizens committees to solicit what residents want in their City, which include: Parks and Recreation Committee, Ministerial/Pastoral Committee, Young Adults Committee, Senior Adults Committee, and the City Beautification Committee.
- + Olive Branch's governing body is comprised of a veteran Board of Aldermen and Mayor. The current Mayor served for 38 years on the leadership team of an international corporation and served 25 years as a part time elected judge of the county before being elected Mayor. The Chief Operations Officer of the City served in the corporate sector for four decades in an executive position prior to joining the City. Numerous department heads of the City have in excess of ten years' experience including the Chief Financial Officer and full time City Attorney. This vast experience is invaluable when providing stellar customer service to the citizens of the city.
- + Olive Branch has the fifth largest population in the State of Mississippi, at 47,000+ residents, and the second largest by land mass, at 56.01 square miles.
- + In 2023, Olive Branch will celebrate its 150th anniversary as an incorporated City.

# AREA DIRECTORY | WHO TO CALL

## Airports

Olive Branch ..... 662.895.2978  
 Memphis International ..... 901.922.8000

**Arts Council Olive Branch** ..... 662.404.2787 or 901.619.0261

## Birth and Death Certificates

Mississippi Department of Health ..... 601.206.8200

**Chamber of Commerce Olive Branch** ..... 662.895.2600

## City of Olive Branch

Ambulance (Olive Branch Fire Department) ..... 662.895.4111  
 Emergency ..... 911  
 Building Permits ..... 662.892.9331  
 Business License ..... 662.892.9238  
 City Court Clerk ..... 662.892.9500  
 City Engineer ..... 662.892.9351  
 City Hall ..... 662.892.9200  
 Fire Department Dispatcher (Fire or Ambulance) ..... 662.895.4111  
 Fire Department Station 1 ..... 662.895.9611  
 Fire Department Station 2 ..... 662.895.9612  
 Fire Department Station 3 ..... 662.895.9613  
 Fire Department Station 4 ..... 662.893.9614  
 Fire Department Station 5 ..... 662.893.9615  
 Garbage/Recycle Collection ..... 662.892.9306  
 Mayor's Office ..... 662.892.9201  
 Parks & Recreation ..... 662.893.5219  
 Planning & Development ..... 662.892.9334  
 Police Department ..... 662.892.9400  
 Police Dispatch (Emergency, Report Crime) ..... 662.895.4111 or 911  
 Public Works — Gas ..... 662.893.5209  
 Public Works — Streets ..... 662.895.4335  
 Public Works — Water ..... 662.893.5208  
 Senior Center ..... 662.890.7182  
 Street Lights ..... 662.892.9203  
 Rubbish Collection (Not Garbage) ..... 662.893.5209  
 Utilities ..... 662.892.9305  
 Water & Sewer — Emergencies After Hours ..... 662.895.4111

## DeSoto County

Automobile Tags ..... 662.469.8032  
 Crimestoppers ..... 662.429.8477  
 Board of Education/Schools ..... 662.429.5271  
 Handicap Decals ..... 662.469.8032  
 Homestead Exemption ..... 662.469.8029  
 Justice Court ..... 662.469.8026  
 Marriage Licenses ..... 662.469.8007  
 Property Tax Assessor ..... 662.469.8029  
 Property Tax Collector ..... 662.469.8032  
 Sheriff's Department ..... 662.469.8500  
 Voter Registration ..... 662.469.8350

## Drivers License

Olive Branch ..... 662.890.7211  
 Nesbit ..... 662.429.1353

**DeSoto County Tourism** ..... 662.393.8770

## Electrical Service

Northcentral Electric Cooperative ..... 800.325.8925  
 Emergencies (Nights, Weekends, & Holidays) ..... 866.438.2642  
 Entergy ..... 800.368.3749

## Golf Courses

Cherokee Valley ..... 662.893.4444  
 Olive Branch Country Club ..... 662.895.6525  
 Timber Truss ..... 662.895.3530

Wedgewood ..... 662.895.7490

## Health Department Clinic

Hernando ..... 662.429.9814  
 Olive Branch ..... 662.895.3090

**Library B.J. Chain Olive Branch** ..... 662.895.5900

**Literacy Council Hernando** ..... 662.429.2354

**Methodist Hospital Olive Branch** ..... 662.932.9000

**Mississippi Department of Revenue** ..... 601.545.1261

## Natural Gas Service

Olive Branch ..... 662.893.5209  
 Emergencies After Hours ..... 662.895.4111  
 Locate Underground Lines ..... 800.227.6477  
 Billing ..... 662.892.9305  
 Gas Leaks ..... 662.893.5209  
 Atmos Customer Service ..... 888.286.6700  
 Atmos Natural Gas Emergency ..... 866.322.8667

**Northwest Community College** ..... 662.342.1570

**Poison Control** ..... 800.222.1222

**Post Office Olive Branch** ..... 662.895.5966

## Social Services

Olive Branch Emergency Food Ministry ..... 662.895.2913  
 Palmer Home for Children (Hernando) ..... 662.449.2400  
 Sacred Heart Southern Mission ..... 662.893.0255  
 Thrift Shop/Food Pantry ..... 662.895.2913  
 Mid-State Opportunities ..... 662.895.4153  
 North Delta Planning Commission ..... 662.561.4100  
 Trinity Health Center (Horn Lake) ..... 662.222.1007

## Social Security Administration†

Hernando ..... 866.739.4771  
 Call Back Line ..... 866.592.2675

## State Representatives

Dana Criswell ..... 662.278.0299  
 Jerry Darnell ..... 901.277.1578  
 Dan Eubanks ..... 662.374.0035  
 Jeff Hale ..... 901.461.6673  
 Steve Hopkins ..... 901.827.0755  
 Hester Jackson-McCray ..... 901.410.7875  
 Bill Kinkade ..... 901.365.4830

## State Senators

Kevin Blackwell ..... 901.412.0431  
 Michael McLendon ..... 601.359.3229  
 David Parker ..... 901.473.9760

**Unemployment Commission WIN Job Center** ..... 662.342.4002

**Unemployment Compensation** ..... 888.844.3577

## U.S. Representative

Trent Kelly ..... 662.449.3090

## U.S. Senators

Cindy Hyde-Smith ..... 662.236.1018  
 Roger Wicker ..... 662.429.1002

†The Social Security office has moved. They are now located in Hernando at 2631 McIngvale Road, Suite 115, 38632. The phone number did not change.



## CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH

9200 Pigeon Roost Road, Olive Branch, MS 38654  
662.892.9200 • www.OBMS.us

According to *Money.com*, Olive Branch is one of the **TOP 50 BEST PLACES TO LIVE** in America and one of the nation's fastest growing communities.

### THE FINAL WORD

Olive Branch, Mississippi is one of America's most livable cities, where one can live, work, worship, and play without leaving home. The City of Olive Branch municipal government strives to provide efficient and effective public services that promote this quality of life. This is our mission statement that we developed when I began serving as Mayor. Over the course of this past year, our mission can clearly be seen many ways in what our team has accomplished.

The City of Olive Branch is the fifth largest city in the state by population and the second largest in land mass. Our population is more than 47,000 and we cover 56.01 square miles of land. We have 383 miles of roadway and maintain 240 miles of those roads. Our EMS Departments service almost 21,000 addresses, while our Public Works Department manages 113.88 square miles of natural gas and water lines.

A special election was held on August 2, 2022 for a 1% Tourism Fee on hotels and motels, and passed overwhelmingly. Thank you for voting to support your parks. All revenue generated from this fee will go a long way to enhance your existing parks and build new ones as well.

The advisory boards I began last year have provided excellent insight, suggestions, and opportunities. Some of the new events and programs we've enjoyed this past year are a direct result of these advisory boards. We had a City-Wide Clean-Up Day, with numerous volunteers, a kickball league has begun in our City Park, residents enjoyed a movie night at the City Park track, and we are about to have a "serve day" with our local churches. Many other opportunities were offered as a result of input from these boards.

So many great things are happening in the City of Olive Branch. We've enjoyed the "Bucking in the Branch" rodeo twice this year at our soccer complex, and we're looking forward to "Holiday Light Garden", a Christmas light display, at our main city park, November 22, 2022 through December 31, 2022. We are excited about hosting a large-scale event next year as we celebrate our 150th anniversary as the City of Olive Branch. More details about that are coming soon.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor of the great City of Olive Branch. I pray that you have a fantastic Fall, a wonderful Thanksgiving, and a very merry Christmas

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Adams  
Mayor

