



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.....

Having completed my first year in the Mayor's office, I continue to feel honored and humbled at the opportunity to continue a twenty-five year career of public service. During the past year I have often been asked, "What does a Mayor do?" If one were to research Mississippi law, he or she would discover that a Mayor has the responsibility of managing the day-to-day business of the City and enforcing the ordinances, resolutions and orders of the Board of Aldermen. While this is true, a complete definition of a Mayor's duties should include earning the trust and confidence of the citizens by following through on commitments and stated priorities.

Before and after the election, I stated that the City should address the deterioration of our public streets. The Board of Aldermen recently awarded a \$500,000 paving project. This work has started and will continue through fall of 2014. The City is in the process of developing Phase II of the paving project that will address many of the streets in dire need of repair. We will spend approximately \$4,000,000 on this second phase which is slated to begin during the spring of 2015.

I said I would be a good steward of the City's finances. At my request the Board of Aldermen has established a municipal reserve fund. Currently there is approximately \$124,000 deposited in the account. The Board approved my request to budget an additional \$450,000 in early spring, 2015.

The City's millage rate was increased this year for the first time since October 2007. I realize no one wants a tax increase. However an increase was necessary to maintain the current level of municipal services and to ensure the continued safety of our residents. The City has faced rising costs like each of you have. For example, the City's cost for asphalt has risen as much as 45% since 2007. The millage increase is estimated to cost the owner of an average Olive

Continued on page 7 - MAYOR

FIVE SELECTED FOR 2014 INDUCTION INTO OLIVE BRANCH HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME



MARTHOLA ALLEN
9/7/1931 - 3/24/2013



BILLY W. BALDWIN
3/14/1941 -



PERRY L. BOWLAN
1/18/1947 -



WAYNE D. HOLLOWELL
7/31/1941 - 3/19/1998



G. E. (Mr. Eddie) WILLIAMS
7/28/1899 - 6/24/1972

**2014-15
Calendar of Events**

*In and around Olive Branch
Oct. 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015*

EVENTS IN OLD TOWNE

Olive Branch Old Towne Association
FallFest on the Roost 10am - 6pm..... Sat Oct. 25
Holiday Open House 10am - 3pm..... Sat Nov. 8
Santa on the Roost 4:30pm - 8:00pm..... Dec. 2, 4, 9, 11

MEMORY CARE FAIR (Senior Center - City Park)
Friday, 10am - 3pm (See article on Page 6).....Nov. 7

WESSON HOUSE OPEN HOUSE
Olive Branch City Beautiful
Thursday, 5:30pm - 7pm..... Dec. 4

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
Olive Branch City Hall
Thursday, 7pm..... Dec. 4

CHRISTMAS PARADE (Chamber of Commerce)
Saturday, 2pm..... Dec. 6

MAYOR/BOARD of ALDERMEN
Regular Meetings, Courthouse, 6900 Highland St.
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Oct. 7
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Oct. 21
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Nov. 4
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Nov. 18
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Dec. 2
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Dec. 16
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Jan. 6
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Jan. 20
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Feb. 3
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Feb. 17
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Mar. 3
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Mar. 17

PLANNING COMMISSION
Regular Meetings, Courthouse, 6900 Highland St.
Tuesday, 6pm.....Oct. 14
Tuesday, 6pm.....Nov. 11
Tuesday, 6pm.....Dec. 9
Tuesday, 6pm.....Jan. 13
Tuesday, 6pm.....Feb. 10
Tuesday, 6pm.....Mar. 10

BOARD of ADJUSTMENT
Regular Meetings, Courthouse, 6900 Highland St.
Thursday, 6pm.....Oct. 9
Thursday, 6pm.....Nov. 13
Thursday, 6pm.....Dec. 11
Thursday, 6pm.....Jan. 8
Thursday, 6pm.....Feb. 12
Thursday, 6pm.....Mar. 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 bcrthirds@obms.us.

120 YEAR OLD VAULT NO MATCH FOR BULLDOZER



In the 1890s J. N. Brown, owner of the J. N. Brown General Store on the corner of Pigeon Roost and Pleasant Hill (now Goodman) Roads constructed a brick, concrete and steel vault in the back of his building for his own use, and also as a place where the area citizens and farmers could lock up their valuables. We did not have a bank at that time. In the early 1900s, Mr. Brown, his son-in-law, T. H. Norvell and W. T. Woods founded the Bank of Olive Branch and located it in the back of the

Brown-Norvell Store so they could utilize the vault. The bank was successful and would later move up the street into its own building, but the old vault remained.

For the better part of the next century the Brown-Norvell building passed through several owners until 30 years ago, in August of 1983, when it was a grocery store, one night it burned to the ground; everything but the vault. With its 12" thick walls and roof, the old vault survived and when the debris from the fire was hauled off, it stood alone as a silent sentinel and a reminder of an Olive Branch that no longer existed.

Polly Brown respected the old vault and used it for display and storage during the 12 years she operated her garden shop/nursery there. She always managed to stay close to the old vault when the weather sirens sounded, knowing it would be the safest place in town in the event of a tornado. Its just being there was comforting.

George Harrison, a former owner of the building, and former Olive Branch Alderman, who died in 2002, said even though it was built long before he was born, he remembered, over the years, hearing some of those who had constructed the vault saying that in order to strengthen it, they had thrown every piece of scrap iron and old farm machinery they could find into the concrete to reinforce it. He would laugh and say that it could probably never be torn down. George did not live to see what a 21st century bulldozer can do to a 19th century structure. A 120 year old piece of Olive Branch history, across the street from the Wesson House and City Hall, was gone with a whim and, if a breeze was blowing on that August 15th day, the wind. ☹

MAYORS TAKE ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE FOR ALS

Recently Kevin Kerr, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Olive Branch, gave the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge to former Mayor Sam Rikard. Sam responded by challenging the present Mayor, Scott Phillips. Both Mayors dutifully carried out their part of the challenge by taking the five gallons of cold water and ice cubes on the front steps of City Hall from Firemen Patrick Rowland and Bryce Brasher. The challenge raises money for ALS research. As of this date, the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Foundation has received over \$100 million in donations as a result of the ALS Challenge. ☹



Former Mayor RIKARD and Mayor PHILLIPS take dousing on City Hall front steps

HALL OF FAME SELECTS FIVE FOR 2014

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 2014. 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:

MARTHOLA ALLEN - (9/7/1931 - 3/24/2013) Marthola contributed to the Olive Branch community for over a half-century during which time she was a founder and first President of the Chamber of Commerce, a founding member of the Olive Branch Ambulance Service and an active member of the business community.

BILLY W. BALDWIN - Billy Baldwin has served in the judicial system for most of his life. He was a DeSoto County Justice Court Judge for 20 years and a City Judge for 2 years. He served in the Municipal Court Office for 20 years and has been a Deputy Coroner/Medical Investigator for 30 years.

PERRY LEE BOWLAN - Perry Lee was a four-term Alderman of the City of Olive Branch, serving from 1981 until 1997. He was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department for 26 years and worked for Home/Century Telephone Company for 32 years.

WAYNE D. HOLLOWELL - (7/31/1941 - 3/19/1998) Wayne was General Manager of NorthCentral Electric Power Association for 11 years. He was President of the Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club and the DeSoto County School Board, where he served for 12 years.

G. E. (Mr. Eddie) WILLIAMS - (7/28/1899 - 6/24/1972) Mr. Eddie, as he was known to everyone, taught at DeSoto Agricultural High School, was the DeSoto County Tax Assessor and a founder and President of the NorthCentral Electric Power Association. He was active in the community and was a State Senator, 1956-63.

The following named individuals received votes in the 2014 Hall of Fame balloting which means their names will be carried forward in nomination to next year:

BILL G. ALLEN	JIMMY N. ANDREWS	SALLIE MAE BOGGAN	J. N. BROWN	WALTER CARTER
GEORGE COLLINS	WENDELL DAVIS	THOMAS DODDRIDGE	FLORENCE GOODWIN	K. McNEIL "Mac" HARAWAY
JULIA HARRIS	JOHN CLARK HUDSON, Sr.	JAMES "Cricket" HUNT	JAMES A. JONES	HUGH KEATING
MARTHA PEARL LANGSTON	Dr. C. L. MAPLES	WILL MAXWELL	T. H. NORVELL	DON SAPPINGTON
RITA SCHELLY	Dr. T. H. STUART	SAM WARE	SAM WATSON	DAN WILLIAMS

FIVE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME FOR 2013



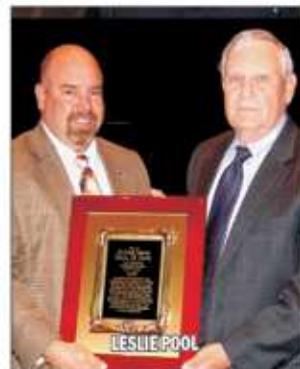
G. P. GILLESPIE



ERLEND R. NICHOLS



WALTON T. WOODS



LESLIE POOL



ALMA C. YOUNG

G.P. Gillespie, Erlend Nichols, Leslie Pool, Walton T. Woods and Alma Young were inducted into the Hall of Fame for the year 2013 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 (2014) will be inducted on April 16, 2015.

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of two members of the Olive Branch Hall of Fame earlier this year. Drue Birmingham died on May 26th at the age of 82. Dr. Elton Harris died on June 14th at the age of 87. Both of those gentlemen were pillars of the Olive Branch community and will be missed.©



TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED

JOSEPH ARLIE ALDRIDGE and CHEIFOUS CARLIE ALDRIDGE (twins) were drafted into the *U.S. Army Air Force* in 1943. After basic training they were shipped overseas to the *China-Burma-India (CBI) Theatre of WWII* and stationed at *Bengal Air Depot in Calcutta, India* for 12 months. They volunteered for duty in China and traveled by truck over the *Himalayan Mountains* by way of the famous "*Burma Road*" to their new assignment at the *Chung-king Air Depot in China* where they spent 12 months delivering supplies in support of *U.S. and Chinese operations in Western China*. At the war's end they were returned to the *U.S.* and discharged from *Camp Shelby, Mississippi* on February 4, 1946. Arlie died in 1990. Carlie is 90 years of age.



T/Sgt. JOSEPH ARLIE ALDRIDGE
2/26/1924 - 1990

T/Sgt. CHEIFOUS CARLIE ALDRIDGE
3/26/1924 -

To Whom We Owe So Much

THE DAY GORDON DAVIDSON SHOT R.P. FUNDERBURK



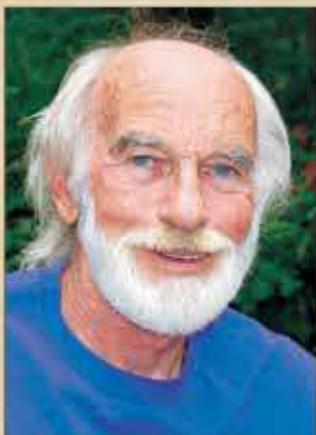
BILL CRUTHIRDS, SR.
Curator - Olive Branch Museum

One day several years ago I was talking to local artist, Liz Bass, in the museum here at City Hall, discussing things that have happened in Olive Branch over the years, when she said: "You should do a story about the time Gordon Davidson shot R.P." (R.P. being her husband, R.P. Funderburk, III). I had never heard the story so she briefly told me how it had happened many years ago. It is a good story and I filed it in the back of my mind to one day write it, but never quite got around to it. Several months ago, I ran into R.P. down at the Cotton Patch Framery and

mentioned it to him. He laughed about it and agreed to give me the details if I wanted to put it down on paper. I also talked to Scottye Davidson, who was married to Gordon Davidson at the time, and her business partner, Jan Johnson, and they filled in some of the blanks. Gordon passed away in 2010. So, here is the story of an event that happened here in Olive Branch Old Towne 43 years ago that most of you have probably never heard before:



Map of Olive Branch Old Towne as it appeared in 1971



R. P. FUNDERBURK, III today



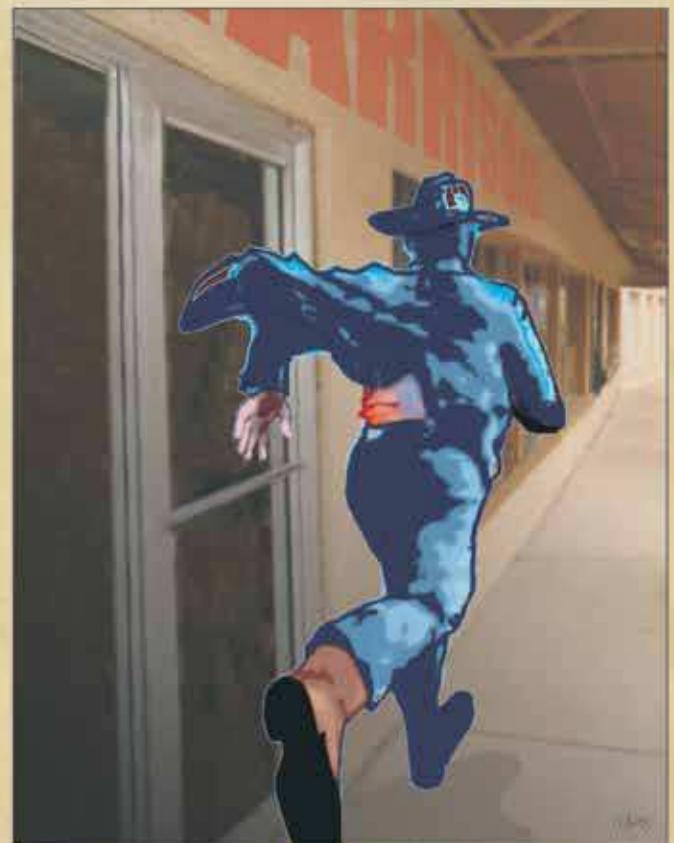
GORDON DAVIDSON
in his army uniform in 1944

The year was 1971. The City's population was a little over 1,500. A 27 year old R.P. Funderburk, III and his wife, Mary Ann, lived on Pigeon Roost Road next door to Fire Station #1 across the street from where our City Hall is located today. Gordon Davidson, his wife, Scottye, and their two children lived several hundred yards further on down Pigeon Roost past where the Funderburks lived, on the other side of the street. Jan Johnson and her husband, Pete, lived on old Hwy 78.

R.P. owned Funderburk's Dry Goods Store on the southwest side of Pigeon Roost, located between the MidSouth Factory Outlet Mens Store, owned by Scottye Davidson and Jan Johnson, and Harrison's Dry Goods Store in what is now known as Old Towne. Actually it was all one building, as it is today, with walls separating the various businesses.

Several months before the time of our story, after an attempted burglary, Jan and Scottye had decided, since they were carrying a sizable amount of inventory, that they needed a burglar alarm in their store. They purchased one and had it installed with a siren on the roof that could be heard all over town.

It was a chilly Sunday morning that mid-December of 1971. Jan Johnson and her husband, Pete, were going to drive down to Okolona but first decided to stop by the MidSouth Factory Outlet to pick up a gift she was



Scene presented to Gordon Davidson when he rounded the corner and looked up the sidewalk.

going to take with her. While she and Pete were quietly in the store, she told Pete she heard a racket up above the ceiling and shortly after that, the burglar alarm went off and the siren on the roof began to wail.

R.P. and his wife had been up for a while and were getting ready to go over to her parent's house when the quiet of the Sunday morning was shattered by the distant wail of the siren. Without a second thought, R.P. grabbed his black duster-type coat and his hat and bounded out of the house, heading for his store. It probably took him less than a minute to run past Maude Wesson's house on his left, cross Goodman Road, pass the Brown-Norvell Building, the Insurance business, the Bank of Olive Branch, and arrive at the MidSouth Factory Outlet. He saw Jan and Pete's car, found the door to their store unlocked and went in just as Jan was hanging up the phone after calling Scottye. She told him she had heard something up on the roof before the alarm went off and he decided to go next door to check his own store. He hurried out the front door, around the angle in the building-front and to his front door only to realize he had left his keys at home. Breathing hard, he put his face against the store window with his breath fogging the glass as he tried to look inside. The interior was dark and he couldn't see anything unusual. He was aware of a car arriving and pulling up to the curb down in front of the bank but didn't notice who it was. He stood there for a moment or two, still catching his breath from the run, when a thought flashed through his mind: *"If a burglar had been up on the roof, maybe he climbed down the back of the building into the alley that ran between the rear of the building and the DeSoto CoOp"*. To get to the alley and around to the rear of the building, R.P. had to go up the sidewalk past Harrison's Store and go around the end of the building. After hesitating a moment, he headed on the dead run up the sidewalk with his coat flapping in the breeze behind him as the siren continued to wail.

Gordon Davidson had been up for a while that morning, had eaten breakfast and the family was getting ready to go to church when the phone rang and it was Jan at the store calling to tell Scottye the burglar alarm was going off, and asking her to call Doug Herrington, the Town Marshal. Scottye told her husband, Gordon, what was happening and with her pleading after him to be careful, he grabbed his 12-gauge shotgun as he went out the door. He jumped into his car and sped up Pigeon Roost toward Old Towne, crossed Goodman Road, wheeled left and parked next to Pete's car in front of the Bank. With shotgun in hand, he jumped out and bounded the several steps to the front door of MidSouth Factory Outlet where he met Jan. Pete was inside trying to turn off the siren. Gordon had no idea that R.P. had been there only seconds earlier and was at that moment out of sight, around the building angle, at the front door of his own store. In the excitement of telling Gordon what was happening, Jan didn't mention that R.P. was there so Gordon didn't know. She half-ran with him up the sidewalk to the building angle after he decided to go on up the street and check out the other stores.

In that instant when he rounded the angle, everything came together as shown by the two red dots on the map.

R.P. had just hit full stride running up the sidewalk passing Harrison's front door when Gordon saw the "burglar" (R.P.) running away from him, fleeing the scene. Gordon, who was an army veteran of the 10th Mountain Division and some of the hardest fighting of WWII in northern Italy, knew how to use a weapon and instinctively raised his shotgun, aimed low to wound, not kill, and pulled the trigger. Above the screech of the siren, R.P. heard the roar of the 12 gauge behind him and felt the searing pain of the double-ought buckshot as it ricocheted off the sidewalk and slammed into the back of his legs knocking him down to the sidewalk in front of Harrison's Dry Goods Store (today's Old Towne Antiques & Upholstery). Jan screamed out *"You've killed him"*. Gordon came running up to check out the "burglar" he had gunned down, only to find that he had shot his good friend, R.P. A dazed R.P.'s first thoughts were that Jan was right, that he had been fatally shot.

Gordon was apologizing over and over and trying to tell R.P. how he had mistaken him for a burglar, which didn't mean a whole lot to R.P. at the time as he was in pain and trying to determine how badly he was injured. A small crowd of Sunday morning church-goers began to gather, gawking at R.P. as he lay bleeding on the sidewalk with the siren still screeching and an embarrassed Gordon Davidson trying to explain what had happened to anyone who would listen to him. R.P. remembers Neil Hoover driving up and asking him what he was doing sprawled on the sidewalk, to which R.P. replied, *"I've been shot"*. R.P. said it is strange, but one of the things he remembers after all these years was Neil saying he would get him a Valium.

As the commotion began to draw more people, Mr. G. B. Payne was one of those who arrived on the scene. Jan, a former nurse, told him that R.P. needed to get to a hospital. We did not have ambulances back in those days, so Mr. Payne drove down to Brantley Funeral Home and came back with their hearse and, with Davidson's help, got R.P. into it and drove him to Methodist Hospital in Memphis. Mrs. Gertrude Lyon (Ed Lyon's mother) went and told R.P.'s wife that he had been shot.

The doctors x-rayed him and said they would have to do surgery to remove the buckshot. R.P., being R.P., vetoed the surgery, so they removed what they could, patched him up, told him to get some crutches and take it easy for a while, and sent him home. He hobbled around for a month or two, finally got the feeling back in his toes and still carries some buckshot in his leg as a souvenir.

R.P. would later find out there was, indeed, a burglar up on the roof that Sunday morning, but, because of the siren, he was long gone by the time he and Gordon got there. R.P. said it was someone he knew, who came by the store several weeks later and told R.P. he was sorry he got shot. R.P. declined to identify him. He said nothing ever came of it and the person moved away many years ago. R.P. still sees him every now and then.

R.P. and Gordon remained good friends until Gordon's death 39 years later in December of 2010.

R.P. laughs about it when he tells the story today, but it wasn't so funny when it happened to him on that Sunday morning Old Towne sidewalk 43 years ago.

So now you know the story of **"The Day Gordon Davidson shot R.P. Funderburk"**.

MAYOR'S ACTION CENTER



JANICE FOSTER
Mayor's Action Center

Janice Foster now heads the City's *Customer Service Department*, better known as the *Mayor's Action Center*. If you are having a problem with regard to city services (not garbage pick-up), or feel that you are not receiving adequate attention, give **Janice** a call at **892-9203** or you can e-mail her at **jfoster@obms.us**. When reporting a burned-out streetlight, please give her the pole number to speed up the process. ●

MEMORY CARE FAIR, NOV. 7



JUNE SNEED
Seniors Coordinator

June Sneed, Seniors Coordinator announced that a Memory Care Fair will be held at the Senior Center, 8800 College Street (in City Park), on Nov. 7th from 10am until 3pm. The event is to inform, educate and enlighten all who are involved in the care of persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Professionals will be available to offer advice, options and opportunities available for the aging. Staff members from the Mississippi Alzheimer's Association will be on hand to discuss free training they offer to caregivers and to help you locate a support group in our area. A variety of vendors are taking part to extend their support and assistance. Local author, Tracy Crump will do a book signing of her book. For more information, call June Sneed at **662 890-7182**. ●

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

This fall, the Mayor requested, and the Board approved a 4 mill increase (approx. 11.5%) in the City's property tax rate (a mill is 1/100 of a cent). A lot of you didn't like it; I didn't like it, but it was something that we needed to do. The "Great Recession", which technically lasted from mid-2007 thru 2009, had a much longer-lasting effect, not only on individual citizens, but on municipalities such as Olive Branch as well. For several years, we simply did not have the funds to do everything that needed to be done, so we had to make some hard choices. Delaying spending on infrastructure needs (overlying streets, for example) didn't solve the problem, it only put it off and made it worse, but we didn't have a choice; we didn't have the money so we did what we had to do. Today, we are paying for some of those decisions as we try to catch up using revenue generated by a 7 year old tax rate that was established in 2007. One dollar in 2007 has the purchasing power of 87 cents today, so you can see what we were up against. None of us wanted the tax increase but it was something we had to do.

gcollins@obms.us
662 895-3308



Alderman
GIL EARHART
Ward 1

As fall approaches with re-forecasting and imminent weather changes, we too have imminent changes before us as a city. While tax increases are not always pleasant for your Alderman to vote on, nor are they pleasant on the citizens, I am confident that was the right decision. Our citizens will be seeing newly paved streets as early as the spring of 2015, more policemen on patrol, and a refreshed fire fighting force with more personnel available. Additionally, as we continue to grow with new retail and professional business locating in Olive Branch, your tax bills should remain stable as these businesses will begin contributing more to our overall budget in years to come. Lastly, we held my first Town Hall Meeting for Ward 1 on August 25th. I was really encouraged with a turnout of approximately 75 citizens. We had a good update on the "state of the ward" and a good banter of questions and answers. My only hope for next year is that we have more young people under the age of 50 to attend. Thanks to all of you for attending. I appreciate your interest and support. The future of our city lies in the hands of the next generation, so I challenge all families to become engaged in the direction of your city. Enjoy the changes of the season.

gil.earhart@obms.us
662 892-9218



Alderman
PAT HAMILTON
Ward 2

Ward 2 continues its phenomenal growth! A new 31,000 square foot shopping center located between Corky's Restaurant and Aldi's Grocery Store is now under construction. Several additional restaurants and shops are planned for this area. Coming soon before the Board of Aldermen will be a Popeye's Chicken located east of Aldi's Grocery Store. After much debate and community input, two primary concerns were addressed. A tax increase was necessary for more fire and police protection and the repaving of our City streets. The City is in the process now of repaving Bobo Place and Nance Place in the Wedgewood Farms Subdivision in Ward 2. And, it is comforting to know that the City is in the process of hiring five new police officers and three new fire fighters. As your elected officials, it is our responsibility to keep our community safe. I thank you again for your input and patience as we dealt with many challenges facing our City. If you are interested in receiving the Board of Aldermen Agenda, please send me your email address.

phamilton@obms.us
662 895-5765



Alderman
HAROLD HENDERSON
Ward 3

One of the most common complaints we on the Board have received over the past several years from citizens of Olive Branch has been the need for paving repairs to many of our City streets. In our 2013/14 budget, we allocated \$500,000 for paving overlays of streets that were in the greatest need of repairs. When you spread that amount over the entire City, that doesn't go very far, but it was a start. All of the Aldermen submitted lists of streets in their wards for consideration. In Ward 3, we were able to designate White Ridge Circle, East and West as being the first to be addressed. In this year's 2014/15 budget, we allocated \$400,000 for paving and drainage projects PLUS, we approved a bond issue that will provide an additional several million dollars for street paving projects. Our streets did not get in the shape they are in overnight, and we will not be able to get them where they need to be overnight, but by allocating the necessary funding to repair and bring them up to standard, which is what we are doing, we will, slowly but surely, get there.

hhenderson@obms.us
662 895-5653



Alderman
DAVID WALLACE
Ward 4

I hope all of you are doing well and enjoyed the summer season. As the City starts a new budget year we must address some urgent needs for our City and its citizens such as streets, City Park repairs and some of our drainage problems. The Board has approved a \$12 million bond to address these immediate concerns. The Board has listened and heard your concerns regarding these issues and I believe in them as well. Since the last City Newsletter was mailed, the Highway 305 project has come a long way and should be complete within a few weeks, drastically reducing traffic congestion. Recently, we had record rainfall amounts and some of our neighbors suffered tremendously and my prayers go out to them. Rains such as these have wreaked havoc on our streets as well and can cause unsafe conditions and be quite costly to repair. Our City's employees should be commended for addressing these in such a timely manner and in such bad weather conditions. Thank you for allowing me to serve our City and its citizens.

dwallace@obms.us
901 619-6992



Alderman
MARK ALDRIDGE
Ward 5

We have just gone through our annual budgeting process, the second one since I became an Alderman. I have found it is the single most difficult thing the Board of Aldermen has to deal with. We seem always to have more things that we need to spend money on and we seem to never have enough funds to do what needs to be done, so therein lies the problem. The State of MS mandates that municipalities must approve a balanced budget each year. At the end of the fiscal year, the Mayor is charged with presenting a budget proposal for the coming year to the Board of Aldermen. It is the duty of the Aldermen to either accept it or change it into something they can accept and approve. We can not project spending more than what we can reasonably expect to take in in revenues. A lot of give-and-take and compromise goes into the final budget and I am not sure that anyone is ever 100% completely satisfied with it.

mark.aldridge@obms.us
901 831-8442



Alderman
DALE DICKERSON
Ward 6

After long hours of budget meetings, public input and prayer, we approved a budget for next year that includes a four mill tax increase. This increase puts us in the mid range of millage rates of the twenty largest cities in the state. The increase will allow us to hire and equip five more policemen and three more firefighters. Calls for our police, fire and EMS services continue to grow. This budget will also allow us to borrow eight million dollars to try to catch up on street paving and some other projects that are needed throughout the City. After public input, we took out all employee raises that were proposed in the budget and applied that \$400,000 toward more street paving. Please bear with us as we work on our infrastructure needs in the City. If you need to talk to me, I can be reached at the below e-mail address and phone number.

ddickerson@obms.us
662 895-2543

WESSON HOUSE COMMITTEE CONDUCTS LIVING HISTORY TOURS

The Wesson House Committee, has begun its efforts to explore Olive Branch’s historical heritage by conducting living history tours of old Olive Branch. To date, the tours have been for kindergarten and first grade at O. B. Elementary and third grade at Chickasaw Elementary.

The tours start at Blocker Cemetery and proceed to the City Courthouse, City Hall, Fire Station #1, the Wesson House, the Chamber of Commerce and several Old Towne merchants. Volunteers portray historical Olive Branch personalities to bring the history to life and make it an educational event for the students.●



BRIAN HICKS, Curator of the DeSoto County Museum in Hernando, gives impersonation and history lesson on Olive Branch’s first Mayor, Ben Wesson, to students in rotunda of Olive Branch City Hall.

O.B. POLICE DEPARTMENT - 8th ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP B.U.I.L.D.



Each Spring, the Olive Branch Police Department conducts a four-week free summer camp for 100 students going into the 4th thru the 8th grades. In addition to fun and

games, the campers are exposed to lessons in teamwork, leadership, discipline, self-awareness and conduct. Shown above is the group photo of the 2014 campers●

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Branch home an additional \$5.34 per month in property tax.

The City intends to use a portion of the revenue from the millage increase to pay debt service on a new bond issue. The funds will be used to pay for road construction projects, drainage issues, repairs to current park facilities, park expansions and other municipal needs. I applaud the Board of Alder-

men for the leadership they have shown on each of these 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 maintain a safe and peaceful community. I appreciate your prayers and the trust you have placed in me. ●



9200 PIGEON ROOST - OLIVE BRANCH, MS 38654



FROM THE ROOST

BI-ANNUAL

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE ROOST

Fall/Winter 2014



THE END OF THE OLIVE PIT

On the morning of Monday, March 24, 1975, thirty-nine years ago, a pre-dawn fire destroyed the Olive Pit, a well-known Olive Branch restaurant owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dean Landreth. The snack bar/restaurant, converted from a former mobile home, was located on the east side of Hwy. 305 between Pigeon Roost Road and Old Hwy. 78 (trucks on Old Hwy. 78 can be seen in the background of above photo). At the time, it was one of the few restaurants in Olive Branch. Popular with the coffee and lunch crowd, it was renowned for its chili and lemon icebox pie. The Olive Pit was never reopened.