



FALL 2025

THE BRANCH ADVISOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH, MISSISSIPPI



On Tuesday, July 1, 2025 Mayor Ken Adams and members of the Board of Aldermen were sworn in during the regularly scheduled Board of Aldermen Meeting in the Olive Branch Municipal Court Building. This ceremony marked the beginning of a four-year term for these elected officials. You can find contact information for each official on page 2 or online at the City's website (www.obms.us).

Additionally, City Personnel were reappointed and sworn in along with the appointment of members of the City's Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Adjustment, Design Review Advisory Committee, and the Old Towne Design Review Advisory Committee.

Pictured Left to Right: Front: Gil Earhart (Ward 1), Pat Hamilton (Ward 2), Mayor Ken Adams, Jan Aldridge (Ward 5), Dale Dickerson (Ward 6).
Back: Don Gammage (Ward 3), David Wallace (Ward 4), George Collins (At Large).



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 OPERATING OFFICER
 MICHAEL RIKARD
 662.892.9202

CITY CLERK
 TENA STEWART
 662.892.9211

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
 JASON MAY
 662.892.9217

POLICE CHIEF
 BILL COX
 662.892.9400

FIRE CHIEF
 BILL CLARK
 662.892.9551

PARKS DIRECTOR
 GREG BOOKER
 662.893.5219

**STREETS & SANITATION
 DIRECTOR**
 JUSTIN ROSE
 662.893.5238

**UTILITY OPERATIONS
 DIRECTOR**
 LEE GERMANY
 662.812.1740

SR. CENTER COORDINATOR
 NORMA SHAW
 662.890.7236

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

AT LARGE: GEORGE COLLINS
 901.486.3594

WARD 1: GIL EARTHART
 662.890.0851

WARD 2: PAT HAMILTON
 662.895.5765

WARD 3: DON GAMMAGE
 901.870.2255

WARD 4: DAVID WALLACE
 901.619.6992

WARD 5: JAN ALDRIDGE
 901.268.4119

WARD 6: DALE DICKERSON
 662.895.2543

THE BRANCH ADVISOR

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From the Mayor's Desk

Millage Lowered after Reassessment

Dear Neighbors,

This summer, many in our community have chatted about the changes in property tax assessments and reductions in City, County, and School Millage rates. These changes in property tax assessments, or the ad valorem tax formula, were mandated by the State and come from DeSoto County Tax Assessor, Jeff Fitch. Our City currently has and will maintain the lowest millage rate of all Cities within DeSoto County. We will be reducing our property millage rate to 35.05 mills. This represents 8.96% reduction in our millage rate. In every way, Olive Branch is working to remain a great place to live, work, worship, and play.

Millage rates will be set using the new assessments. Tax bills based on the new values and tax levy will be issued in December 2025 and are due by February 1, 2026. Property taxes are calculated by multiplying the assessed value by the millage rate. Olive Branch's tax rate is now lower than it has been at any point in over a decade.



Like you, the Board and I are taxpayers ourselves. We share your concerns and your desire to see your tax dollars spent wisely. Taxes are your fiscal investment in your City to support its infrastructure, its future planning, and the recreational amenities you and your family love and enjoy. Taxes are a necessary part of keeping essential services running. Our millage rate will provide revenue to the City that allows us to support amenities such as:

- funding for street paving and road/traffic improvement projects, such as the Craft Road widening between Church Road and College Road
- matching grant funding for a multi-use trail along Church Road
- construction for our Fire Station #6 and Public Works facility
- purchasing a new ambulance and knuckle boom trucks
- adding additional City staff for the animal shelter and City EMS services
- park amenity maintenance

The Board of Aldermen and I will continue to work to remain fiscally conservative and annually evaluate ways to maintain or reduce the millage rate. Our City joins a small number of cities in the State of Mississippi to exceed \$1 billion dollars of assessed property value. I appreciate your patience this summer as we worked through this process. Please know that we are doing everything possible to balance fairness to taxpayers with the responsibility to keep our city running strong. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out.

Kenneth R. (Ken) Adams
 City of Olive Branch Mayor



CONTACT US

Mayor's Action Center

Phone: 662-892-9203



Sign up for Mayor Ken Adam's
 eNewsletter: *From the Mayor's Desk*

Want to stay in the loop with events happening in the City of Olive Branch? Sign up for our eNewsletter. This recurring newsletter is designed to help citizens stay informed and highlight upcoming events happening within the City. You can sign up via the Notify Me feature on our City website: <https://www.obms.us/list.aspx>.

CITY NEWS & UPDATES

Regarding Utility Line Strikes

The City of Olive Branch understands and sincerely regrets the inconvenience and frustration some residents have experienced due to recent utility service disruptions related to our ongoing infrastructure improvement work. We are currently undertaking one of the largest capital improvement (CapEx) projects in the city's history - upgrading water, sewer, and gas services in several long-established subdivisions. Many of these areas contain outdated utility systems that lack modern tracing wires and documentation. In fact, some of the original utility lines were installed decades ago, before the use of accurate "as-built" plans or standardized right-of-way installations. These challenges make locating underground utilities highly complex, and in many cases, their exact positions can only be identified during excavation. Before any digging begins, we follow all standard procedures to locate and mark existing utility lines. However, the absence of modern tracing infrastructure often limits the precision of these efforts. To address this, we've worked closely with utility providers, and our Public Works Department has deployed field representatives to actively assist on-site. Contractors are also required to use low-impact methods, such as hand digging, in sensitive areas to minimize potential damage. Despite these precautions, we have unfortunately experienced more utility line strikes than anticipated. Each incident has prompted a thorough review and we've continued to refine our processes. While temporary service disruptions are never ideal, halting the project is not in the long-term interest of our residents. Once completed, this initiative will result in significantly upgraded infrastructure. Many households will gain access to modern sewer connections - providing the opportunity to move away from aging septic systems - and all residents will benefit from improved water and gas reliability. We acknowledge that no utility provider can guarantee zero service interruptions, but we remain fully committed to minimizing disruptions and continuously improving our methods. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to modernize Olive Branch's infrastructure for the future.

City Names New Chief Operating Officer

During the July 1st Board of Aldermen meeting, Mayor Ken Adams announced the promotion of Michael Rikard to the role of Chief Operating Officer. A graduate of Olive Branch High School and Northwest Junior College, Michael has been an integral part of our leadership team, bringing a wealth of institutional knowledge and commitment to public service. With 20 years of dedicated service to the City, his experience spans a wide range of operational and leadership roles. Over the years, he has served as Water Department Technician, Building Inspector, Facility Maintenance Division Leader, Assistant Building Official, General Services Director & Building Official, and most recently as Streets & General Services Director.



Deputy Municipal Clerk Graduates MML Program

Lisa Dawson, Deputy Municipal Clerk, graduated from the Certified Municipal Clerk program June 25th in Biloxi during the annual Mississippi Municipal League (MML) conference. Developed and conducted by the Mississippi State University Extension Service, the program provides municipal clerks, tax collectors, and their deputies with additional education, and expertise. The three-year program covers 30 topics, including purchasing, personnel management, municipal law, and ethics of openness in government. Participants earn their certification after successfully completing topical assessments.

Assistant City Engineer Earns Master's Degree

Scott Young, Assistant City Engineer, graduated in August 2025 with a Master's Degree in Engineering Management from the University of Arkansas with a cumulative GPA of 3.8. Scott has been working diligently after hours and weekends for several years. He has been a tremendous asset to the City of Olive Branch and we are proud of his dedication and hard work. His degree brings an improved level of professionalism to the Engineering Department.



Olive Branch Airport Improvements

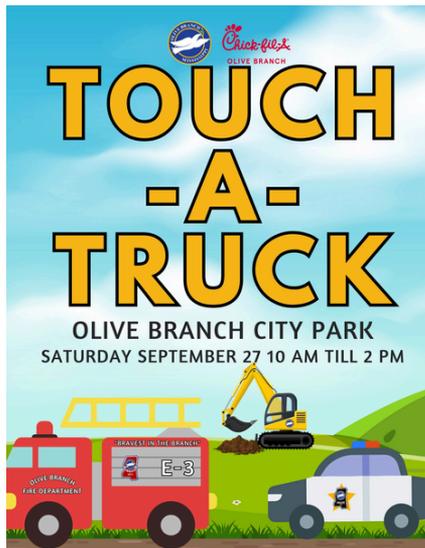
The Olive Branch Airport has made improvements this summer thanks in-part to grants from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Mississippi Department of Transportation including Taxiway refurbishments and active construction on a new corporate hangar. The airport set an all-time monthly total flight record in July 2025 with 13,136 flight operations. There are 82 airports in the State of Mississippi, including Gulfport, Jackson International, Tupelo, and Meridian - all of which are regional airports with passenger airline service. The Olive Branch Airport currently remains the busiest airport in the state for overall flight operations.

Youth Basketball Registration

Registration for Youth Basketball is open September 15th - October 12th. This is open to Boys and Girls aged 7-12 years old. It will be \$75 for DeSoto County Residents or \$100 for non-DeSoto County Residents. Registration can be completed online at www.olivebranch.recdesk.com or at the City Park's Office. For questions, please call (662) 893-5219.

Senior Center Fall Craft Fair

Join us at the Olive Branch Senior Center located at 8800 College Street to browse over 80 vendors - indoor and outdoor - on Saturday, September 27th! The Craft Fair will be open from 9am till 3pm. Food trucks will also be on site!



Touch-A-Truck & Car Show

Touch-A-Truck is a fun-filled event where kids of all ages get the chance to touch, explore, and climb on just about any vehicle or equipment they can imagine. From firetrucks and ambulances to backhoes and bulldozers, Touch-A-Truck has them all!

It's also an opportunity for adults looking for a career change, as we will have applications available on site. Special thank you to Chick-fil-A Olive Branch for partnering with us for this event this year! They will be hosting a car show on the City Track. To participate in the Car Show, please register at: <https://form.jotform.com/252235251508047>. We hope to see you there in Olive Branch City Park on Saturday, September 27th from 10am to 2pm!

Fall Movie Series: Movies Under the Stars

Join us on Thursday nights in October for Movies Under the Stars on the lawn of City Hall. Please bring blankets or lawn chairs. Food vendors and special pop-ups are scheduled starting at 6 pm. Movie will start at 7 pm.

2025 Line Up:

- 10/2: *The Wild Robot*
- 10/9: *The Addams Family*
- 10/16: *Encanto*
- 10/23: *Minecraft*
- 10/30: *Halloweentown*





7TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY

Walk for the Cure

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15
CITY TRACK AT CITY PARK
10:00 AM

Save the date for the 7th annual Breast Cancer "Walk for the Cure" hosted by the Olive Branch Senior Center on Wednesday, October 15th at the City Park starting at 10am. There will be door prizes, live entertainment, and more! Come join in and help support the American Cancer Society. Don't forget to wear pink!



Mayor's Youth Council Expanded

Olive Branch Mayor Ken Adams and the City of Olive Branch is proud to announce its expansion of Mayor's Youth Council from 30 to 68 council members. This year's council will be composed of 30 Juniors and 38 Seniors- 11 of which are returning for a second year of the program. All council members are residents of the City of Olive Branch from all across the City's Ward and proudly represent 10 area schools: AOP Homeschool, Cedar Crest Cottage Schools, Center Hill High School, Christian Brothers High School, DeSoto Christian Academy, DeSoto Central High School, Lewisburg High School, Northpoint Christian School, Olive Branch High School, and St. Mary's Episcopal School.

Community Shred & Drug Take- Back Day

Join us Saturday, October 25th at the Olive Branch Police Department for Community Shred and Drug Take-Back Day. Shredding Services will be available from 10 AM to 2 PM. While it isn't unusual for prescription medications to find their way into the wrong hands, this is too often the case. Misuse or abuse of prescription drugs increases the possibility of tragic and/or unfortunate situations taking place. Help us keep our community safe by safely disposing your unwanted, unused or expired medications. Additional year-round prescription medication disposal is available at Mike's Pharmacy located at 9065 Sandidge Center Cv. Ste. A in Olive Branch, MS.



COMMUNITY SHRED & DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25
10AM - 2PM
OLIVE BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT
10470 MS-178, OLIVE BRANCH, MS 38654



Community Trunk-or-Treat

Join us Thursday, October 30th for the City of Olive Branch's Trunk-Or-Treat in Old Towne. All ghouls and goblins are welcome starting at 6pm. Our final Movies Under the Stars screening of *Halloweentown* will start at 7 pm on the grounds of City Hall. A kid zone will be on the lawn of the Wesson House hosted by Compel Church. Food Trucks and other Food Vendors in Old Towne will be open for families to enjoy. If your business or non-profit is interested in hosting a trunk, please contact the Communications Department at info@obms.us.

2025 Special Election

The Special State Senate General Election will be Tuesday, November 4, 2025. To find out where you can cast your vote or look up additional information, you can do so on the DeSoto County Government website. <https://www.desotocountymiss.gov/120/Elections>.



CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON

Save the Date: 2025 Veterans Day Luncheon

Please save the date for the City of Olive Branch's annual Veterans Day Luncheon on Saturday, November 8th. This luncheon aims to honor the service and dedication of our City's Veterans. Limited seating is available. To-Go options will be provided. For more information, please send an email to info@obms.us. Registration for this event will open in late October.



Buy a Wreath for Blocker Cemetery

Sponsor a wreath this holiday season for a Veteran buried in Historic Blocker Cemetery. Visit <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/msbloc> to register to volunteer or purchase a wreath. The last day to purchase a wreath is Monday, December 1st. You can also make plans to volunteer in helping place the wreaths during our Wreath Placing ceremony on Saturday, December 13th at noon at Historic Blocker Cemetery.

Leaf Vacuum Truck Begins Collection for Fall/Winter Leaves

From December 1st to March 1st, leaves are not required to be bagged. Residents can place leaves adjacent to the front property line (curb or edge of pavement / between curb and sidewalk) at least five feet away from any mailbox, light/sign post, storm drain, fire hydrant, or other structure.



Light Garden Returns

The Light Garden in Olive Branch, Mississippi, transforms the City Park each winter into one of the Mid-South's most immersive holiday experiences. Spanning a walk-through display—about a mile circling the park's lake—it features hundreds of stunning lights, enchanting reflections, and live entertainment.

Light Garden opens November 28th through New Year's Eve, with special themed nights such as Military Night, Dog Night, 5K race events, and New Year's Eve fireworks lighting up the season. Season tickets are available. Free Admission for all Nurses, Teachers, Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and Active/ Retired Military! Includes all nights and all special events. Just bring your ID to the front gate.

Community Tree Lighting

Join the City of Olive Branch each holiday season as the spirit of community and tradition comes to life on the front lawn of City Hall on Thursday, December 4th. The event begins around 5 pm., with the lighting of the Community Christmas Tree happening at 7 pm. Expect live music, holiday treats, Selfies with Santa against the backdrop of seasonal cheer. It's a beloved, family-friendly celebration that brings together residents to kick off the festive season with warmth, fun, and community spirit in Olive Branch.

Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade

The annual City of Olive Branch Christmas Parade, hosted by the Olive Branch Chamber of Commerce, is a beloved community tradition typically held on the first Saturday of December. This year, the parade will be Saturday, December 6 at 2 pm. Festivities unfold along Pigeon Roost Road, beginning with lineup at Olive Branch High School around 12:30 pm. For more information, please call the Olive Branch Chamber of Commerce at 662.895.2600.

AREA DIRECTORY WHO TO CALL

AIRPORTS

OLIVE BRANCH	662.895.2978
MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL	901.922.8000

BIRTH & DEATH CERTIFICATES

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	601.206.8200
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CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH

AMBULANCE (OBFD)	662.895.4111
ANIMAL CONTROL / ANIMAL SHELTER EMERGENCY	662.895.4582 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
CODE ENFORCEMENT	662.892.9200
FIRE DEPARTMENT DISPATCH	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
FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 6	NUMBER TBD
GARBAGE/RECYCLE COLLECTION	662.892.9306
HUMAN RESOURCES	662.892.9258
MAYOR'S OFFICE	662.892.9201
PARKS & RECREATION	662.893.5219
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	662.892.9334
POLICE DEPARTMENT	662.892.9400
POLICE DISPATCH	662.895.4111
POTHOLE REPORTS	662.893.5208
PUBLIC WORKS	662.893.5208
SENIOR CENTER	662.890.7182
STREET LIGHTS	662.892.9220
RUBBISH COLLECTION (NOT GARBAGE)	662.893.5208
UTILITIES	662.892.9305
WATER & SEWER -EMERGENCIES AFTER HOURS	662.895.4111

DESOTO COUNTY

AUTOMOBILE TAGS	662.469.8032
BOARD OF EDUCATION/SCHOOLS	662.429.5271
HANDICAP DECALS	662.489.9032
HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	662.469.8029
JUSTICE COURT	662.469.8026
MARRIAGE LICENSE	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

Olive Branch Arts Council	662.404.2787
Chamber of Commerce	662.895.2600
Library (B.J. Chain)	662.895.5900
Post Office	662.895.5966

DRIVERS LICENSE

OLIVE BRANCH	662.890.7211
NESBIT	662.429.1353

DESOTO COUNTY TOURISM

662.393.8770

ELECTRICAL SERVICE

NORTHCENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EMERGENCIES (NIGHTS/WEEKEND/HOLIDAY)	800.325.8925
ENTERGY	866.438.2642 800.368.3749

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CLINIC

HERNANDO	662.429.9814
OLIVE BRANCH	662.895.3090

LITERACY COUNCIL

662.429.2354

METHODIST HOSPITAL OLIVE BRANCH

662.932.9000

MISSISSIPPI DEPT OF REVENUE

601.545.1261

NATURAL GAS SERVICE

OLIVE BRANCH	662.893.5208
EMERGENCIES AFTER HOURS	662.895.4111
LOCATE UNDERGROUND LINES	800.227.6477
BILLING	662.892.9305
GAS LEAKS	662.893.5208
ATMOS CUSTOMER SERVICE	888.286.6700
ATMOS NATURAL GAS EMERGENCY	866.322.8667

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

662.342.1570

POISON CONTROL

800.222.1222

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
HOUSE OF GRACE (WOMEN'S SHELTER) CRISIS LINE	662.342.1432
ELLA BEBE ANGELS (SUPPORT FOR WOMEN)	662.804.6612
DESTINY CENTER	662.420.2949
DESOTO COUNTY DREAM CENTER	662.510.5900

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

HERNANDO	866.739.4771
CALL BACK LINE	866.592.2675

WIN JOB CENTER

662.342.4002

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

888.844.3577

CITY MEETING SCHEDULES

All regular City meetings are open to the public and are held at the Courthouse located at 6900 Highland Street. Board of Aldermen and City Planning Commission meetings are live-streamed.

This is a great way for residents to stay informed if they cannot attend in person. To view the City's YouTube Channel, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofob>.

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN*	FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	6:00 P.M.
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION*	SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	6:00 P.M.
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT	SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH	6:00 P.M.

*Meetings are live streamed and archived via the City's YouTube Page.



The Branch eNewsletter

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Community Resources



If you or someone you know is in need of access to community resources, please check out a listing of community resources that are open and available to the public by scanning the QR Code.



CITY OF OLIVE BRANCH

9200 PIGEON ROOST ROAD
OLIVE BRANCH, MS 38654
662.892.9200 WWW.OBMS.US



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by visiting:

www.obms.us/payments