

THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT

# Visitor's & Resource Guide **2021**



An \$11.7 million two-lane bridge replacement at Tucker will be completed this fall. — Photo by Jonathan Addy

Philadelphia-Neshoba County



# Welcome!

## to Philadelphia, Choctaw, & Neshoba County

Blessed with natural beauty and small-town charm, Neshoba County and Philadelphia offer the best in recreation, relaxation, and entertainment with events like the annual Neshoba County Fair, and Ham Jam Arts Festival. Philadelphia/Neshoba County is also home to the Pearl River Resort and an excellent system of public parks. The area offers bowling, skating and outstanding 18-hole golf course facilities at the two courses at Dancing Rabbit Golf Club on the Choctaw Indian Reservation and the Philadelphia Country Club.



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*Seated from left to right: Obbie Riley - District 5, Kevin Cumberland - District 2, Keith Lillis - District 1,  
Back row from left to right: Kevin Wilcher - District 4 and Kinsey Smith - District 3*

**WELCOME TO  
PHILADELPHIA  
& NESHOPA  
COUNTY**

**THE NESHOPA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

401 BEACON STRET, STE. 201 • PHILADELPHIA, MS 39350 • PHONE: 601-650-6281 • FAX: 601-650-3280 • EMAIL: INFO@NESHOBACOUNTY.NET

# New in town? What you need to know

## UTILITIES

Electricity and water for residents in the city of Philadelphia are provided by Philadelphia Utilities located at 435 Myrtle St. The phone number is 601-656-1121.

If you are rent or own your home or apartment, you can expect to pay a \$350 deposit for electricity and a \$75 deposit for water service. There is a \$15 additional service fee for both water and electricity connection.

You will need a picture ID, a rent receipt and a Social Security card. Businesses need a tax ID.

County residents should contact Central Electric, located at 1045 Holland Ave., and can be contacted at 601-656-2601. You should expect to pay a deposit based on location and credit rating, plus a \$25 membership into the Central Electric Power Association and a \$35 service fee up front.

Good credit may qualify you for a waived fee. With a bad credit check, the deposit is still required and will be based on your credit score and location.

Central Electric does not provide water service to the county.

The Central Water Association, located at 915 Valley View Dr., services all county water customers. The CWA phone number is 601-656-6171.

Renters in the Central Water Association district can expect to pay a \$200 fee for an existing meter and should provide directions to the property, a mailing address and the name of the previous tenant, if available.

If you own your home, the fee is \$100 and the same information is still needed.

If you need natural gas service for your home, you need to contact CenterPoint Energy. You can expect to pay a \$75 deposit up front and a \$40 connection charge on your first bill and you will need to provide proof of residency and identification when you pay your deposit. For any questions, call CenterPoint Energy at 800-371-5417.

## GARBAGE COLLECTION

The city of Philadelphia provides garbage disposal for its resi-

dents twice a week. The fee is \$11.70 per month and is included in the utility bill. For county residents, the garbage disposal fee is \$37.50 for three months and can be paid at the county Tax Collector/Assessor's Office at the Neshoba County Courthouse, Suite 105.

## VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES

If you moved from another county within Mississippi, the county Tax Collector's office says you do not have to get a Neshoba County tag until your current car tag expires. You will need to bring your old plate and receipt. If you have moved from out-of-state, you have 30 days to obtain a Mississippi car tag.

You will need to bring the name and address of any lien holders, if any, and your old plate.

Car tags are obtained at the county Tax Assessor/Collector's Office in the Neshoba County Courthouse, Suite 105.

The Tax Assessor/Collector is Mike Lewis.

You can reach the office at 601-

656-4541, or 601-656-4541.

## DRIVER'S LICENSE

Those who move into Mississippi have 60 days to obtain a new driver's license. If you have a valid out-of-state license, you need only to take the vision test. To receive your license, bring two proofs of residence, birth certificate and your Social Security card along with your current out-of-state license. Cost is \$24 cash for a four-year license and \$47 cash for an eight-year license. Debit or credit cards are also accepted.

The charge for an ID is \$17.

Those getting a license for the first time should bring both their original Social Security card and original birth certificate and two proofs of residence.

There is an additional fee of \$1 if your driver's license has expired.

The cost is \$7 for a permit and \$11 for an intermediate license for ages 15 and 16. Testing is done from 8 to 4 p.m.

Those 17 and under must also show proof of school attendance.

Neshoba countians may obtain their licenses on Monday through Friday at the Driver's License Station at the south end of Neshoba County Coliseum.

The office is normally open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The telephone number is 601-656-6120.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

Residents who have lived in Neshoba County at least 30 days may register to vote at the Circuit Clerk's Office in the Neshoba County Courthouse Suite 110.

The Circuit Clerk is Patti Duncan Lee. It is helpful to know your 911 address and have your driver's license. The minimum voting age is 18. You must register at least 30 days prior to any election to be entitled to vote in that election.

Registration can also be sent through the mail to 401 East Beacon St., Suite 110. Residents can also register at city hall, located at 525 Main St.

For voter registration questions, call Lee at 601-656-4781, or City Hall at 601-656-3612.

# Neshoba General Hospital



Department offers occupational, physical, speech and aquatic therapy to patients from pediatrics to geriatrics. Neshoba Outpatient Therapy is located at 205 East Hospital Road in Philadelphia, MS.

The Neshoba Wound Care Center offers convenient and comprehensive outpatient treatment for acute and chronic non-healing wounds, with surgical or non-surgical treatment.

The Neshoba Pain Management Center provides comprehensive pain management that is customized for each patient's needs. The clinic serves a multitude of patients suffering from acute or

chronic neck and lower-back pain, work-related injuries or automobile accidents, shingles pain, acute or chronic sympathetic pain, fibromyalgia, chronic headaches and more.

Neshoba Outpatient Infusion Center is an innovative and cost-effective alternative to time consuming hospitalization for your intravenous therapy treatment. Conveniently located and closely monitored by Dr. Dwight Keady specializing in infusion therapy.

Neshoba County Nursing Home is a division of Neshoba General. NCNH has 160 beds. 140 of those beds are utilized for Long Term Care and/or Short stay rehabilitation purposes. The remaining 20 beds are designated as a Memory Care Unit. NCNH provides Nursing Care, Social Services, Dietary needs, Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapies, and Activities to enhance the lives of the residents residing in the facility. The hospital owns and operates 4 local clinics, including an Urgent Care Clinic, which opens 7-days per week for our patient convenience. Neshoba Medical Associates clinic is located inside the Neshoba Medical

Pavilion at 213 East Hospital Road Philadelphia. Neshoba Medical Associates combines the services of Pediatric Medicine, Internal Medicine and Family Medicine in one central location. Pediatric providers are Dr. Julia Riley, Dr. Laraib Tabbal and Ann Richardson, CFNP. Internal Medicine providers are Dr. Dwight Keady, and Shelley Darby, FNP-C. Family Medicine providers are Dr. Heather Cannon, Dr. Hailey Thompson, and Paula Clearman, CFNP. Neshoba Urgent Care - Family Medicine Clinic is located at 1120 E. Main Street, Philadelphia. Urgent Care providers are Dr. Bobby Smith, and Jesse Stokes, FNP-C. Family Medicine Providers are Dr. Grant Guild and Shannon Kirkland, FNP-C. Neshoba Central Clinic, located on-campus at 1002 Saint Frances Drive, provider Jennifer Phillips, CFNP. Surgery Clinic of Philadelphia is located at 1003 Holland Avenue, in the Neshoba County Medical Arts Clinic. Dr. Andy Dabbs performs General Surgery located in Suite 101.

Philadelphia is home to Neshoba General Hospital and Neshoba County Nursing Home where the medical staff offers a variety of specialties in areas ranging from family medicine to pain management.

Neshoba General's emergency room is a designated Level IV Trauma Center. The hospital operates a paramedic-level ambulance service. Neshoba General EMS Department covers the county with 3 ambulances staffed with a paramedic and EMT 24-hours per day. They have an extra ambulance staffed daily from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. Neshoba Ambulance Enterprise are members of the Central Mississippi Emergency Medical Services District.

Inpatient and scheduled outpatient surgeries are routinely performed in our surgery suite. Also offered is 24-hour coverage in service areas such as:

Fulltime Diagnostic Radiology and CT services. Mammography, MRI, Ultrasound, Bone Density and is offered Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4 PM. Our Mammography Department is fully-accredited by the American College of

Radiology and the Food and Drug Administration. Neshoba's CT and MRI services are accredited by The Intersocietal Accreditation Commission. Interpretations are provided by Lakeland Radiology of Flowood.

Services provided by Neshoba's Respiratory Therapy Department include EKG, EKG stress testing, holter/event monitoring, pulmonary function testing, blood gas and EEG testing. Adjacent to the Respiratory Department is Neshoba Outpatient Sleep Center that is dedicated to diagnosing and treating sleeping disorders. The Sleep Center provides both inpatient and outpatient sleep assessments, staffed by experts in the areas of pulmonary medicine, neurology, clinical psychology, and otolaryngology. (ear, nose and throat).

Senior Life is a 10-bed inpatient Geriatric Psychiatric unit specializing in treating and relieving symptoms for senior patients who have psychiatric conditions and behavioral/emotional disturbances. Senior Life offers patients safe and comprehensive behavioral health treatment services.

Neshoba Outpatient Therapy

# Philadelphia-Neshoba County Historical Museum

The Philadelphia-Neshoba County Historical Museum houses a variety of artifacts including farm equipment, war relics and an intact vintage Neshoba County Fair cabin.

Opened in 1992, this museum explores local history in the 19th-century George Pegram Woodward home at 303 Water Ave. The museum does not charge a fee and is open to the public Monday through Friday.

Mack Alford has been board chairman of the museum for 10 years. Alford has always enjoyed history. He was a history major in college and taught in the Philadelphia school system in various roles from teacher to coach to principal for 30 years. He has been retired for 20 years and now pastors a small church near Johnsonville.

"I have always enjoyed history," Alford said. "I think it is important to preserve things of the past and that is a big part of what the museum does."

Alford said his favorite exhibit centers on the history of agricul-

ture in the area.

"Agriculture has brought several different types of farming to our county throughout the years," Alford said. "As the years go on it changes. It changes how people live and what they grow."

Alford said that they have a variety of farm implements dating back as far as the early 1800s on display that illustrate the changes the county has seen.

Another exhibit includes war relics from a confederate battle flag to a uniform worn during World War I and an exhibit dedicated to two local soldiers killed in Iraq, First Lt. Matt Stovall and Sgt. Joshua Shane Ladd.

Other exhibits highlight notable people from Neshoba County, including Blues legend Otis Rush and Little Debbie founder O.D. McKee who lived in the Dixon community for a time before eventually moving to Chattanooga and launching the iconic baked goods empire.

There is a whole room dedicated to Marty Stuart.

"Our Marty Stuart exhibit is



Marty Stuart on display at the Philadelphia-Neshoba County Historical Museum.

probably the one we get asked about the most. I know he mentions the county and the museum on stage a lot and we always get

people coming in wanting to see where he is from."

Chamber/Main Street Director Tim Moore said he enjoys bring-

ing local groups out there like Leadership Neshoba. He said many are surprised to find the wealth of knowledge about where they are from that is available to them.

Alford encourages potential patrons to come on their own or in groups. He said they often accommodate church groups from all over, though said with larger groups it is best to call ahead.

"It would take a half a day or more to see everything," Alford said. "I recommend people come in and take their time."

He also said that the board, appointed by the county and city, tries to keep new pieces coming in and update other exhibits when they can.

"I always ask people how long it has been since they last were at the museum," Alford said. "If it has been a few years, chances are you could come back by and see something new."

You can visit the museum on Water Avenue or call 601-656-1284 for more information.

# Philadelphia-Neshoba County Public Library

Visitors to the Philadelphia-Neshoba County Public Library take advantage of the many resources available.

Since 1929, the library has been serving the needs of children and adults in the red clay hills of Neshoba County.

The current 12,000 square-foot facility midway down Depot Hill between Beacon and Main streets opened on Dec. 5, 1976, and has been renovated several times.

In 2015, a new Library Bookmobile was launched into service, making stops at county areas, events, and local groups like the Boys and Girls Club of Philadelphia, nursing homes and schools.

The mobile library utilizes a 7'x14' trailer complete with vending window, air conditioning and loading ramp to be unfolded at places of all sorts throughout the county to provide library services.

At all events, the mobile library unit is open to the public in attendance, offering books, periodicals, genealogy resources, computer stations, wifi hotspot and friendly staff.

Tables, tents and chairs are used along the outside of the unit,

offering quiet and shaded reading.

The Philadelphia-Neshoba County Public Library has something for everyone and the ability to meet all of your information needs. The library offers an extensive collection of books, periodicals, DVDs and CDs, as well as eBooks, databases and archives online.

Great events are offered to the public for free at the library on a regularly occurring basis.

With a new focus on technology, the library offers free wi-fi. Finally, if you're in need of technical support, the library can serve as your own personal tech team by calling 601-656-4911.

The Philadelphia-Neshoba County Public Library seeks to improve the community through partnerships aimed at enhancing education, improving literacy and digital capability for all.

The library aims to serve with knowledgeable staff in a clean and contemporary environment, providing current and organized content in all accessible formats.

Additionally, the library continually seeks ways of serving the



Philadelphia-Neshoba County Public Library

community inside and outside its building's walls.

Go to [www.neshobalibrary.net](http://www.neshobalibrary.net)

for more eBooks, library events and information! In 2019, a Starbucks coffee kiosk was installed.

Visit [neshobalibrary.net](http://neshobalibrary.net) for more information.

## Philadelphia Mayor and Board of Aldermen

The governing body of the city consists of the Mayor and a five-member Board of Aldermen. Four members of the Board are elected from separate wards, while the fifth member is elected at large. The Mayor and members of the Board of Aldermen are elected for concurrent four-year terms.

The Board of Aldermen meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. in City Hall, 525 Main Street.

### Mayor

James A. Young

### Aldermen

Ward 1 — **Joe Tullos**

Ward 2 — **Jim Fulton**

Ward 3 — **Ronnie Jenkins**

Ward 4 — **Cassie Henson**

Alderman-at-Large — **Leroy Clemons**

### City Hall

525 Main Street

Phone: 601.656.3612

[www.philadelphiathecity.com](http://www.philadelphiathecity.com)



## Building & Permits

The Building & Permits is responsible for overseeing the effective, efficient, fair and safe enforcement of the City's commercial and residential buildings. Also, we are responsible for permit issuance to ensure proposed construction work is always done safely, timely, and professionally. We review, approve and issue plans to ensure code compliance.

A City of Philadelphia permit is an official document that authorizes the alteration, demolition, construction, enlargement, movement, repair, removal, or replacement of any building or structure, or of any accessory attached to a building or structure. The city requires permits to ensure safe building, coordinated development, effective land use, and high-quality site planning.

We inspect and enforce building safety and code compliance to ensure a safer community. We address permits and complaints regarding building, plumbing, and electrical work as well as housing safety.

### Zoning Regulations

<http://www.philadelphiathecity.com/zoning-regulations>

### Jay Eakes, Building Official

City Hall

525 Main Street

Phone: 601.656.0669

## Police and Fire Departments

To protect and serve, the Police Department is dedicated to the duty of safeguarding all City of Philadelphia citizens from crime, and helping citizens when emergencies arise. We strive to work cooperatively with all citizens to protect life and property, preserve peace, enforce laws and maintain civil rights through proper and responsive community based service. We are proud to work in partnership with the community to keep Philadelphia a safe and livable city.

The Philadelphia Fire Department's mission is to help people. We are dedicated to preserving life and property through prevention and professional, compassionate response. We provide excellent fire protection and emergency medical services to our residents and visitors. We also offer services such as Fire Inspections, Fire Code Enforcement and Fire Safety Education programs designed to meet the needs of our community.

### Eric Lyons, Police Chief

523 Main Street

Phone: 601.656.2131

### Pierce Clark, Fire Chief

907 Herman Alford Memorial HWY

Phone: 601.656.5841

### Philadelphia FAQs

[philadelphiathecity.com/faqs](http://philadelphiathecity.com/faqs)

- Can I pay my Philadelphia Utilities bill online?
- How do I get a marriage license?
- How do I get a building permit?
- What is the garbage collection schedule?
- Do I need a license or a permit to open a business?
- How do I pay a Parking Ticket?

# Philadelphia Municipal Airport

The Philadelphia Municipal Airport opened a new \$1 million airport terminal in 2017. The terminal offers a variety of amenities for pilots, including a lounge, office space, a conference room, a kitchenette and spacious accommodations with showers.

## Philadelphia Municipal Airport

1036 Saxon Airport Road  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
601.656.0203



**Dan Cumberland, Airport Manager**

## Philadelphia Municipal Airport Board

- **Brent Gray**, President
- **Don Fulton**, Vice President
- **Mike Tinsley**, Treasurer
- **Bruce Threadgill**, Secretary

# Community Development Partnership

The Community Development Partnership is an umbrella organization that includes the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street, the Industrial Development Authority and Tourism. The purpose of the Community Development Partnership is to lead Philadelphia-Neshoba County into being a community where existing industry prospers, new industries want to locate, tourists want to visit and residents are overwhelming proud to call it home.

## Community Development

The Depot  
256 W. Beacon Street  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
601-656-1000

**Members of the CDP board are:** John King, chairman; Elizabeth Frohse, vice chair; Scott Breazeale, Amanda Richardson, Jackie Hester, John Wilkerson, Shannon Morrow, Kristen Page, David Alexander, Mattie Hudson, Stanley Salter, Dr. Duane Stokes, Mayor James Young, Leroy Clemons, Supervisor District 2 Supervisor Kevin Cumberland, District 1 Supervisor Keith Lillis and Diane Maxwell from MBCI. David Vowell is president of the CDP.

# Cemetery and Animal Control

The City of Philadelphia maintains three cemeteries to provide a resting place for our departed loved ones. The cemeteries serve as a memorial that stand as a source of consolation and inspiration to the living and provide gardens where the memory of beautiful lives will be kept beautiful always.

Animal Control coordinates all animal control activities within the boundaries of Philadelphia and manages the animal shelter.

## Larry McKinney (Cemetery)

205 Rea Street  
601.650.3587

## Larry McKinney (Animal Control)

205 Rea Street  
601.650.3587

# City Clerk

The City Clerk is responsible for the maintenance of all official records for the City of Philadelphia.

525 Main Street  
Phone: 601.656.3612

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# Welcome to Philadelphia and Neshoba County!

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# Neshoba County Supervisors

The governing body of the county consists of the Board of Supervisors. Five members of the Board are elected from separate districts. Supervisors are elected for concurrent four-year terms.

The Board of Supervisors meet on the first and third Monday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Neshoba County Courthouse.

## Supervisors

District 1 — **Keith Lillis**  
 District 2 — **Kevin Cumberland**  
 District 3 — **Kinsey Smith**  
 District 4 — **Kevin Wilcher**  
 District 5 — **Obbie Riley**

## Neshoba County Courthouse

401 E. Beacon Street  
 Phone: 601-656-6281  
[www.neshobacounty.net](http://www.neshobacounty.net)



## County elected officials

### Sheriff Eric Clark

920 Chestnut Street  
 Phone: 601-656-1414  
[sheriff@neshobacounty.net](mailto:sheriff@neshobacounty.net)

### Tax Assessor/Collector Mike Lewis

401 Beacon Street, Suite 105  
 Phone: 601-656-4541  
[mlewis@neshobacounty.net](mailto:mlewis@neshobacounty.net)

### Coroner John E. Stephens

10921 Road 527  
 Phone: 601-650-3283

### Place 1 Constable Josh Burt

200 Bryd Avenue  
 Phone: 601-656-4053

### Place 2 Constable Keith McCrory

200 Bryd Avenue  
 Phone: 601-656-4053

### District 1 Election Commissioner Sherry Nance

401 Beacon Street, Suite 102  
 Phone: 601-656-5923  
[elections@neshobacounty.net](mailto:elections@neshobacounty.net)

### District 2 Election Commissioner Daneen Savell

401 Beacon Street, Suite 102  
 Phone: 601-656-5923  
[elections@neshobacounty.net](mailto:elections@neshobacounty.net)

### District 3 Election Commissioner Harold Richardson

401 Beacon Street, Suite 102  
 Phone: 601-656-5923  
[elections@neshobacounty.net](mailto:elections@neshobacounty.net)

### District 4 Election Commissioner Heather Kennedy

401 Beacon Street, Suite 102  
 Phone: 601-656-5923  
[elections@neshobacounty.net](mailto:elections@neshobacounty.net)

### District 5 Election Commissioner Charlene Kirksey

401 Beacon Street, Suite 102  
 Phone: 601-656-5923  
[elections@neshobacounty.net](mailto:elections@neshobacounty.net)

## The Industrial Development Authority of Neshoba County

256 West Beacon Street  
 Philadelphia, MS 39350  
 Phone 601-656-1000  
[info@neshoba.org](mailto:info@neshoba.org)  
[neshoba.org](http://neshoba.org)



The Industrial Development Authority of Neshoba County focuses on bringing more business and adding jobs to our community. The Industrial Development Authority of Neshoba County was created by an act of The Mississippi Legislature 1983 Regular Session with changes in 2003 and 2004. The Authority recruits businesses to locate in Neshoba County and it establishes relationships with existing companies to encourage and assist them in expanding. As a result of these activities, the Authority is able to enhance the business climate, increase employment opportunities and ultimately enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Neshoba County.

## Board Members

Member District One — **Pam Lovern**  
 Member District Two — **Duane Stokes**  
 Member District Three — **Stanley Salter**  
 Member District Four — **William "Bud" Dees**  
 Member District Five — **Mattie Hudson**  
 Member At Large — **James A. Young, Mayor City of Philadelphia**  
 Member At Large — **Kevin Cumberland, President Supervisors**

## Executive Director

David Vowell, President Community Development Partnership  
[dvowell@bellsouth.net](mailto:dvowell@bellsouth.net)



## Chancery Court

Cases heard in the Chancery Court include domestic/family matters, divorce, child custody, property division, adoptions, alimony, estates of descendants, land issues (titles, contracts), emancipation (declaring a minor to be 21 for work purposes), property title confirmation, property disputes (over \$50,000), insurance settlements to minors, and commitments of mentally disabled.

### Judge Joseph Kilgore

#### Place One

Sixth Chancery Court District  
401 Beacon Street, Suite 235  
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350  
jkilgore@neshobacounty.net  
Phone: 601-656-1881

### Judge Kiley Kirk

#### Place Two

Sixth Chancery Court District  
P.O. Box 387  
Louisville, Mississippi 39339  
judgekirk@winstoncounty.org  
Phone: 662-773-6686

#### Judge's Chambers

401 Beacon Street  
Suite 205  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
Phone: 601-656-7478

## Chancery Clerk

The Chancery Clerk occupies perhaps the most unique and diverse office in all of Mississippi government. The various duties given the Chancery Clerk by statute, or assumed voluntarily by the individual Clerk, cover a wide range of vitally important functions.

The duties and functions of the Chancery Clerk are governed by an elaborate assortment of statutes and court rules, along with procedures established either by the State Department of Audit or the Department of Finance and Administration. As the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, he records the official minutes. As Treasurer, the Clerk prepares the claims docket and payrolls for all departments of the County, and after Board approval, he writes and signs checks for payments.

As public recorder, the Clerk han-

dles the recording and storage of several types of documents and maintains various indexes that aid people in researching these records. The primary records are deeds and mortgages relating to real property, but the Clerk also records construction and condominium liens, federal tax liens, Lis Pendens (notices of pending lawsuits) and military discharges. The Clerk is in charge of the storage and authorized disposal of older land rolls, tax receipts and many other County records after their active use lifespan. As Clerk of the Chancery Court, the Clerk handles a multitude of tasks such as matters of estates, guardianships, conservatorships, divorces, child custody, adoption, property disputes and other matters of equity.

### Chancery Clerk Guy Nowell

Neshoba County Chancery Clerk  
401 E. Beacon Street, Suite 107  
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350  
chanceryclerk@neshobacounty.net  
Phone: 601-656-3581

#### Chancery Clerk's Office Staff

Kathy Greer  
Gidget Tate  
Wanda Savell

#### On the web

- Search Land Records
- Search Land Roll
- View county Ownership Maps

## Circuit Court

The Circuit Court has original jurisdiction over all civil and criminal matters not vested exclusively in another court. Most Circuit Court cases are heard by juries.

### Judge Caleb May

#### Place One

Eighth Circuit Court District  
Phone: 601-656-4830

### Judge Mark Duncan

#### Place Two

Eighth Circuit Court District  
201 Range Avenue  
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350  
Phone: 601-656-5776

#### Neshoba County Courthouse Judge's Chambers

401 Beacon Street, Suite 205  
Phone: 601-656-7478

### Circuit Clerk Patti Duncan Lee

Neshoba County Circuit Clerk  
401 E. Beacon Street, Suite 110  
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350  
circuitclerk@neshobacounty.net@neshobacounty.net  
Phone: 601-656-4781

#### Circuit Clerk's Office Staff

Tammy T. Clemons, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Aida Ward, Deputy Clerk

## Justice Court

The Neshoba County Justice Court resides over a myriad of matters, from civil suits to delinquent mobile home taxes. Traffic tickets issued by the State Highway Patrol and the Neshoba County Sheriff's Department are resolved in the Justice Court, as well as Public Service tickets, Gaming, Fishing and Marine Reserve tickets.

This Court hears all matters with regard to DUIs and violations of County ordinances. All felony cases are first heard in the Justice Court for initial appearance and the filing of affidavit. Judges from this office have court sessions at the jail to ensure each person's right to have an initial court appearance within three days of arrest.

#### Pay Traffic Citations & Fines

<http://www.neshobacounty.net/pay-traffic-citations-fines>

### Judge Paul Payne

#### Place One

200 Byrd Avenue  
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350  
Phone: 601-656-4053

Paul Payne is serving his first term as Justice Court Judge for Place One. He was elected in November 2019 and began his term of office on January 6, 2020. Paul previously served as Constable Place One before becoming Justice Court Judge.

### Judge Johnathan Spears

#### Place Two

200 Byrd Avenue  
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350  
Phone: 601-656-4053

Johnathan Spears is serving his second term as Justice Court Judge for Place Two. He was elected in November 2015 and began his first term in January 2016. Prior to becoming judge, Johnathan was a Deputy Sheriff and DUI Officer for the Neshoba County Sheriff's Department.

## County Prosecuting Attorney

#### Robert Lee Thomas

P.O. Box 388  
422 Center Avenue North  
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350  
Phone: 601-656-1871

#### Justice Court Office Staff

Kim Yates, Justice Court Clerk  
Patsy Long, Deputy Clerk  
Twyla Lovern, Deputy Clerk  
Jean Nowell, Deputy Clerk

#### Neshoba County Justice Court

200 Byrd Avenue  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
Phone: 601-656-4053  
justicecourt@neshobacounty.net

## Youth Court

Cases heard in the Youth Court include matters involving delinquent children, children in need of supervision, and neglected and/or abused children.

305 Main Street  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
Phone: 601-656-2812

## District Attorney

### Steven Kilgore

#### Eighth Judicial District

P.O. Box 603  
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350  
Phone: 601-656-1991

It is the duty of the District Attorney's Office to prosecute and defend for the State, in all courts of the County, all cases, criminal or civil, arising under the provisions of the law.

The mission of a District Attorney is to ensure that our legal system effectively protects each of us, our families and our communities from crime, delinquency, abuse, and other threats to the peace and safety of society, and to provide effective representation of county officers.

## Neshoba County Schools

The county school district serves over 3,000 students from Pre-K to high school at its campus on Golf Course Road and St. Francis Drive, just off East Main Street. The district consists of Neshoba Central Pre-K, Neshoba Central Elementary, Neshoba Central Middle School, and Neshoba Central High School.

**Superintendent**  
**Dr. Lundy Brantley**

**Central Office**  
580 East Main Street  
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350  
neshobacentral.com  
Phone: 601.656.3752

## Philadelphia Public Schools

The Philadelphia Public School District has a rich history and tradition in excellence. That history and tradition

has continued over decades and will continue well into the future. The district serves approximately 1,000 students in three schools — Philadelphia Elementary, Philadelphia Middle, and Philadelphia High School.

Philadelphia Elementary serves students in Pre-K to sixth grade, with Philadelphia Middle School serving seventh and eighth grade students. Philadelphia High School serves ninth-twelfth graders.

**Superintendent**  
**Lisa Hull**

**Central Office**  
248 Byrd Avenue  
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350  
phillytornadoes.com  
Phone: 601.656.2955

## Tribal Schools

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians operates the largest unified Reservation School District in the U.S., with current student enrollment exceeding 2,000 in grades pre-K-12th.

The Choctaw Tribal School System consists of six elementary schools, one middle school and one high school.

The district serves students who live in Leake, Kemper, Neshoba, Newton and Winston counties.

Schools include Bogue Chitto Elementary, Conehatta Elementary, Pearl River Elementary, Red Water Elementary, Standing Pine Elementary, Tucker Elementary, Choctaw Central Middle School, and Choctaw Central High School

Tribal schools are fully-accredited by both the Mississippi Department of Education and AdvancED.

The schools are operated as a department of the Tribe under the direction of Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben.

The Tribe's goal is to provide a

superior educational experience to all students, preparing them to be successful participants in Tribal and global affairs with a solid foundation in Choctaw language, history and culture.

**Director of Schools**  
**Dr. Randall Grierson**

**Central Office**  
122 Division of Schools Dr.  
Choctaw, Mississippi 39350  
www.choctawtribalschools.com  
Phone: 601.650.7302



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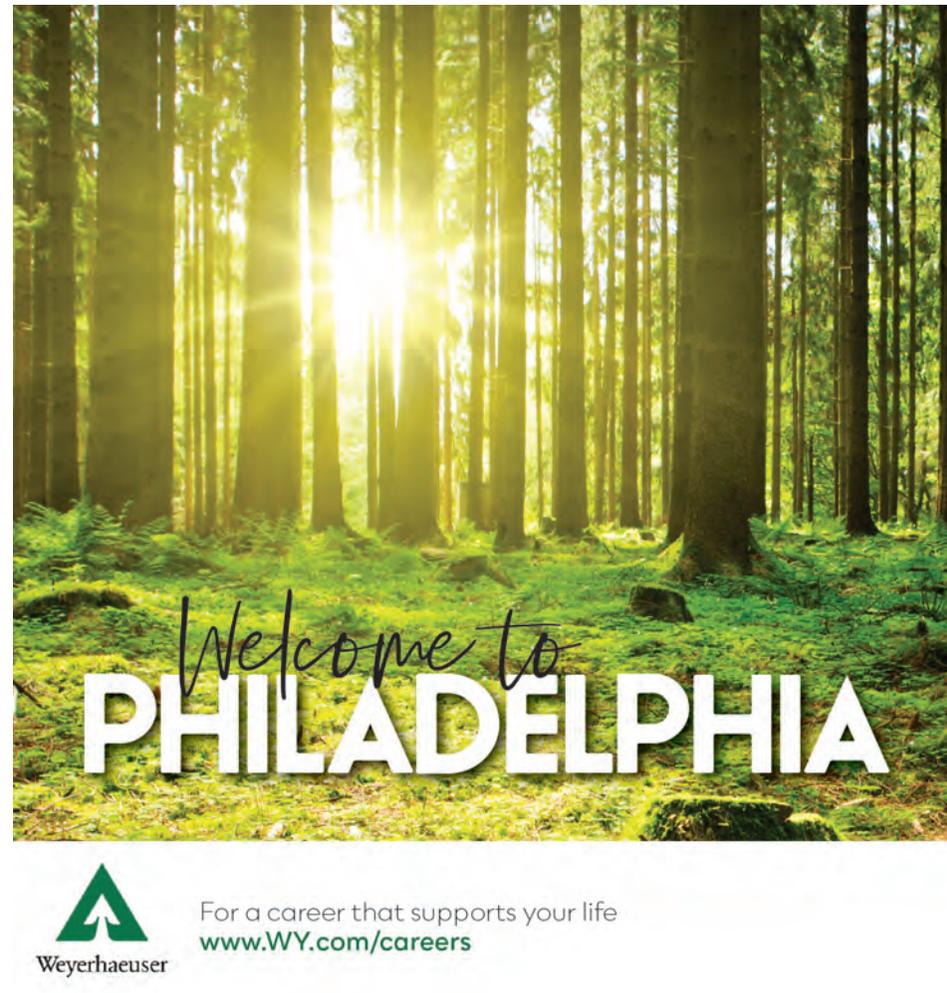
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# Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

## Tribal Government

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is the only federally recognized Native American tribe in Mississippi. There are eight officially recognized Choctaw Indian communities: Bogue Chitto, Bogue Homa, Conehatta, Crystal Ridge, Pearl River, Red Water, Standing Pine, and Tucker. There is also a community of Tribal members living on tribal trust land in Henning, Tenn. Pearl River is the largest community and is the site of Tribal government headquarters.

The Tribe is under the leadership of Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben and a 17-member Tribal Council.

The Chief is elected every four years and there are no term limits imposed on this position. Tribal Council members are elected for staggered four-year terms.

The Chief is elected by the people at large, while Tribal Council representatives are elected by the people in the community in which they reside.

- Administrative Offices: 601-656-5251
- Choctaw Fire Department: 601-656-0620
- Choctaw Transit: 601-650-7430
- Department of Public Safety (Police): 601-656-5711
- Attorney General: 601-656-4507
- Public Information: 601-663-7532

## Choctaw Health Center

The state-of-the-art 180,000 square-foot Choctaw Health Center (CHC) facility opened in March 2015 and is located at 210 Choctaw Circle off New Frog Level Road.

The CHC houses a 20-bed in-patient department; 42 exam rooms; 16-chair dental department with a separate pediatric dental unit; emergency department; treatment facilities such as radiology, lab, physical therapy and audiology; behavioral health and community and public health services; emergency medical services department; and all necessary support services such as housekeeping, maintenance, storage and supply.

There is also a pediatric unit in primary care; a respiratory therapy unit, full-time optometry services and specialty clinics with visiting providers. A 0.8-mile, figure-eight walking trail is also located on the campus.

The CHC features symbols, artwork and elements of Choctaw culture, along with photographs and pieces created by Choctaw artisans.

Tina Scott serves as CHC Director.

For more information about the Choctaw Health Center, call the MBCI Office of Public Information at 601-663-7532.

## Choctaw Indian Fair

Every July, Choctaw culture and spirit come alive in the Pearl River Community in Neshoba County during the exciting and colorful Choctaw Indian Fair.

The Fair takes place on the traditional homeland of the Choctaw people. This four-day event is a celebration of the rich Choctaw heritage amongst friends, neighbors and first-time visitors near and far. Fairgoers experience the courageous journey of the Choctaw people through historical and cultural displays, social dancing, tribal arts and crafts, traditional Choctaw food, the Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant, and World Series Stickball – the Little Brother of War. The fair also features carnival rides and games for the young and young at heart, as well as chart-topping musical performers.

When the first Choctaw Indian Fair was held in 1949, stickball was an important event, but only a handful of teams participated. Today, there are many teams with divisions in youth, men, women, and men 35 and up.

## Lake Pushmataha

Lake Pushmataha is approximately a 285-acre fishing lake constructed in 2000 and opened to the public in the summer of 2005. Handicapped fishing piers are available and fishing from the bank is a popular pastime. Picnic areas with grills are readily accessible for family oriented fun and recreation. No skiing and swimming is allowed, however, the lake is located adjacent to the Geyser Falls Water Theme Park and Clearwater Key. Events to be held at Lake Pushmataha must be requested in writing to the Choctaw Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Department.

For more information, contact 601-663-7827.

## Economic Development

Over the past 30 years that Tribe has developed a diversified economy that has created employment opportunities for every Tribal member in the workforce. The Tribe employs approximately 6,000 people in a wide-variety of industries and professions, while creating revenue to provide government services for its people. It has used flexibility to capitalize on a number of opportunities that leverage its resources with the resources and experience of its business partners. The Tribe has kept its eye on the goal of self-determination, and has grown from the worst economic conditions to the regional leader in economic development.

For more information, contact 601-650-1605.



Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben



# Pearl River Resort



1,200 slot machines and over 40 table games devoted to Craps, Blackjack, Roulette, and Mini Baccarat. Also featured is the Pearl River Bingo Room which provides players with the opportunity to win progressive jackpots in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Golden Moon features a

70,000-square-foot gaming floor with over 1,100 slot machines, 25 table games, an elevated 14 table poker room, a stunning one-of-a-kind video wall, and a center bar.

In addition to gaming and hotels, guests can enjoy European spa facilities, dining, shopping and live entertainment, and deluxe resort-style pool and lounge, Infinity Pool at Golden Moon. This updated amenity features indoor pool & hot tub, outdoor infinity pool with built-in zero entry chairs, a bar with large screen TVs, three private cabanas, daybeds, high-end green turf, LED lighting, and a staging area for live entertainment and special events.

Also featured is Dancing Rabbit Golf Club with two championship golf courses and Geyser Falls Water Theme Park with 13 waterslides including a six-story freefall speed slide, gigantic wave pool, exotic lazy river and a four-lane racing slide.

For more information on Pearl River Resort, visit [www.pearlriverresort.com](http://www.pearlriverresort.com).

## Chahta Immi Cultural Center

to the cultural center, one of the undisputed highlights are the handmade arts and crafts both on display for visitors and available for purchase at the cultural center gift shop. While beadwork and pottery are available, the hand-woven baskets are the main attraction.

Among the outreaches of the cultural center are an information center into the history and culture of the tribe, place-based learning for Choctaw art forms, and the promotion of the Choctaw language.

Visitors to the museum portion of the cultural center also are shown a 20-minute video presentation of the history of the Choctaw people.

While a large number of visitors actually visit the museum on an annual basis, the Cultural Center stretches its impact with several outreach exhibits, which feature cultural items and artifacts.

Those exhibits are located at the Pearl River Resort, the Dancing Rabbit Inn, McKissack Museum in Columbia, S.C., Mississippi Craftsman Guild in Jackson, the tribal schools, the MBCI Elderly Center, Chucalissa Museum in Memphis, and the Mississippi State Fair.

There are several items from the Cultural Center in the new Mississippi History Museum in Jackson. They will also be added to the new Arts and Entertainment Center in Meridian.



Chahta Immi Cultural Center

The hours of operation for the Chahta Immi Cultural Center are 8 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday with general admission being \$5. The museum is open by appointment only.

There are also education, military, and tribal member discounts available with seniors 57 and older and children under 5 being admitted free.

For more information 601-650-1685.

Pearl River Resort has all you need in one place for the perfect getaway. Located in east central Mississippi, Pearl River Resort is home to Golden Moon Hotel & Casino and Silver Star Hotel & Casino. As one of the premier gaming and entertainment destinations in the Southeast, these two exceptional casinos offer a wealth of fun and excitement for visitors from all walks of life. When it comes to accommodating visitors for every occasion, Pearl River Resort provides a comprehensive range of facilities and services in a comfortable Southern setting.

With nearly 600 guest rooms including 112 suites and 32 VIP suites, Golden Moon offers timeless and comfortable accommodations in a marvel of modern architecture. Silver Star features more than 500 beautifully appointed rooms. Guests are only offered the very best in accommodations with all the expected amenities from a world-class hotel.

Pearl River Resort provides guests with the ultimate gaming experience. Silver Star offers over

A pair of shoes worn by former Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Chief Phillip Martin when he first walked the streets of Washington, D.C. seeking support for the Choctaw nation are among the numerous items found in the Chahta Immi Cultural Center, which is located in the Choctaw Town Center shopping area.

It serves as a museum, archival center, gift shop and cultural center.

The Cultural Center began at its original site at the Choctaw fairgrounds in 1981, with Bob and Martha Ferguson basically operating it on a volunteer basis until 1985.

Chahta Immi means "Life way of the Choctaw people," so the cultural center is centered on "Living traditions."

Items on display in the "Choctaw Expressions" portion of the museum include a timeline of the Choctaw people, as well as artifacts from the past, including clothing, historical tribal documents and a replica of Pushmataha's tombstone.

While there is nearly 60 linear feet of showroom space for the artifacts, what lies behind those walls is even more intriguing and special to the Choctaw people.

The archives vault includes historical documents from all of the chiefs and tribal councils, as well as hundreds of baskets and other artifacts. There are also rows of files that include everything from articles, paper work, photos and photo negatives.

While there are many interesting aspects

# Historical markers everywhere

Several historical markers tell Neshoba's storied past

Some are celebrations of life, some are somber reminders of a dark past, but all of Neshoba County's historical markers help tell the story of the places, events and people who influenced the culture and shaped this tiny corner of America.

Neshoba has 17 state-sanctioned historical markers around the county, plus a handful of others put up by private entities. To see them all, it's about a 100-mile trek around the county, but one that's well worth it.

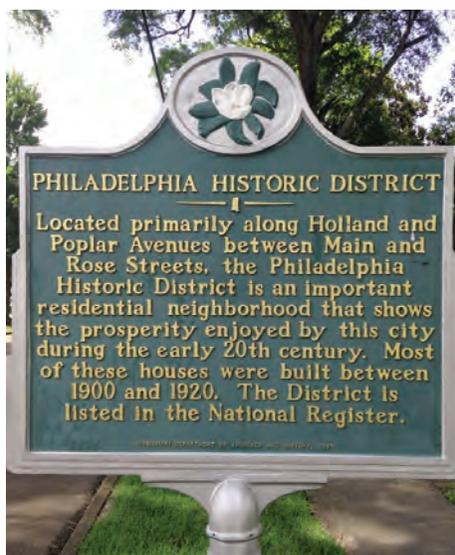
Few counties in Mississippi can claim to have as many places of interest - for better or worse — than in the Philadelphia area. Hinds County, which boasts a population 200,000 higher than Neshoba, has the same number according to the state register.

The subject of these markers range from celebratory to sobering.

The Mississippi Country Music Trail is one of many that makes several stops across the county.

There's one for Bob Ferguson, the filmmaker and anthropologist who wrote produced hundreds of major recordings and wrote timeless classics like "Wings of a Dove" and "Carroll County Accident."

There's another for Marty Gamblin, the Philadelphia native who ran Glen Camp-



bell's publishing firm and helped launch the career of Country great Alan Jackson. And no country tour would be complete without a stop by Main Street in downtown Philadelphia to stand near the spot where Marty Stewart performed with his first band, Musical Rangers, in the late 1960's.

It's not just country music, either.

We've got a Mississippi Blues Trail marker dedicated to the birthplace of legendary blues man Otis Rush, who was born

just south of Philadelphia in 1935, successfully captured the hardships of early life in Mississippi with his art and went on to influence musicians like Stevie Ray Vaughn and Eric Clapton.

From the spot that marks the beginning of Stewart's music career, there are eight more within a mile. The Neshoba County Confederate Monument, an engraved statue right across the street in front of the County Courthouse, honors the sons of Neshoba County who served in the war between the states.

Another 500 feet away is the old Neshoba County Jail, which played a pivotal role on the night three civil rights workers — Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman — were infamously slain.

Just a few blocks away, on Pecan Street, is a historical marker indicating the spot where Philadelphians made their stand against Grierson's Raid, which blazed a path of destruction through Mississippi en route to Baton Rouge from southern Tennessee.

Google may be great for spitting out information, but it's something else to stand in the places where all these events took place.

# Neshoba County Fair

Established in 1889, the Neshoba County Fair is called Mississippi's Giant House Party as people from all across the country gather every summer for a week-long reunion with harness and running races, a huge carnival and top musical entertainment and lots of food and drink.

The 600 cabins are the physical and social units of the Fair. Each one has its own distinguishable characteristics. Families come out ahead of time to get the cabins Fair ready. This includes cleaning and getting the decorations up. Many cabins carry a lot of history because they were built by parents, grandparents or great-great grandparents of Fairgoers today.

Cabins are indeed the center of activity and porches are the most popular place for gatherings or just sitting, visiting or watching children toss water balloons.

Happy Hollow, Sunset Strip, Founders Square, Bourban Street and Greenleaf Hollow, among others, all have their own personalities and traditions.

Visit [neshobacountyfair.org](http://neshobacountyfair.org) for more information or call 601-656-8480.

# Parks and Recreation

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic at press time, check availability.*

Walking trails, camping, fishing and a first-class playground are enjoyed year round at parks in Philadelphia and Neshoba County.

Among the most recent additions is a recreational volleyball court and a disc golf course.

Northside Park is home to a first-class baseball/softball complex and playground. What's more, the park is home to the senior citizens center, where numerous activities are enjoyed.

A second walking trail was completed in recent years which connects to the original one in the A. W. "Rack" Burt addition. The park also has a handicapped playground next to The Imagination Fun Station.

## BOOKER T. PARK

Numerous youngsters attend Headstart in a facility at Booker T. Washington Park. The park consists of a gymnasium where youth basketball is held.

There is also an outdoor stage and a concession-restroom building.

## BURNSIDE PARK

Burnside Lake Water Park consists of 115 acres in Neshoba County approximately



There are numerous parks in Neshoba County for residents to enjoy.

five miles northeast of Philadelphia on Highway 15. The park is located on Burnside Lake, an oxbow lake of the Pearl River. The park facilities include an auditorium that can accommodate meetings of up to 180 people in heated and air conditioned comfort, boat ramp, oxbow lake, fishing pier, three open-air pavilions, three lighted ball fields, picnicking areas, playgrounds,

nature trail, suspension bridge, bathhouse and comfort stations.

A \$28,000 playground was added at Burnside in recent past years, which was funded by Pearl River Basin and Development District.

## NORTHSIDE PARK

Located on north Pecan Avenue, North-

side Park is the hub of sports activity in the parks system.

The department's youth baseball, softball, soccer and T-ball programs are the park's most successful, boasting about 1,200 participants per year.

Another big program for children at Northside is the soccer, for boys and girls. Children aren't the only ones who can get exercise at Northside Park.

A recreational volleyball court was added recently. There is a mile and a half walking trail and several picnic tables for convenience.

## WESTSIDE PARK

Westside Park, located off Carver Avenue, is the location for another playground, outdoor basketball courts and the Westside Community Center. This center was completely renovated in recent years.

Pick-up basketball is a frequent activity at Westside Park. The community center is probably the park's main feature.

Used for family reunions, weddings, and singing, it's also the home of the Miss Black Neshoba County beauty pageant each year.

A new playground was added at Westside in recent years, which was funded by the city of Philadelphia.

For more information on area parks call 601-656-4101 or visit [neshobacounty.net](http://neshobacounty.net).

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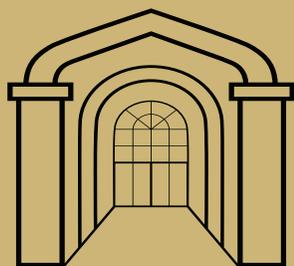
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# Learn About Choctaw

Over the past few generations, the Mississippi Choctaws have experienced a remarkable amount of change. But no matter how much change comes to the Reservation, one constant remains - the traditional culture of the Choctaw people. Choctaw culture is a vital aspect of community life.



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Due to COVID-19 restrictions, tours of the Reservation are currently not available. However, we encourage you to visit [www.choctaw.org](http://www.choctaw.org) and learn about Choctaw.

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