FROM THE ROOST Fall/Winter 2011

NEWSLETTER

OF OLIVE BRANCH, MISSISSIPPI

9200 PIGEON ROOST - OLIVE BRANCH, MS 38654 - 662 892-9220 - www.obms.us

ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE COMMUNITIES
AND THE FASTEST GROWING CITY IN THE NATION

Message From The Mayor.....

Mayor SAM RIKARD

In April of this year, *Bloomberg Business Week Magazine* listed Olive Branch as the fastest growing city in *America* over the past two decades. Earlier in 2005 and 2007, *CNN/Money Magazine* listed Olive Branch as one of *America's* best places to live. Those accolades do not just happen. Good planning and good decisions by government and the private sector have all contributed to make Olive Branch a good place to live and work. Industry continues to locate in Olive Branch, small businesses invest in our city and national franchises choose to locate here also. After a twelve year effort, *Olive Branch Methodist LeBonheur Hospital* broke ground on October 19th. To say this has been a good year in spite of a depressed national economy would certainly be an understatement.

Photos of Groundbreaking on Page 4

I hope that all of you enjoy the upcoming holiday season and take advantage of all that Olive Branch has to offer.

FIVE SELECTED FOR 2011 INDUCTION INTO OLIVE BRANCH HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME

LEMOYNE BRIGANCE
11/25/1935 -

ROBERT MARR
7/4/1929 -

H. GENE PHILLIPS
11/23/1931 - 7/9/2007

KENNETH SESSOM
8/1/1933 - 4/4/2003

MAURICE E. WOODSON
2/17/1889 - 5/19/1967

Story on Page 3 - **HALL OF FAME**

2011 Calendar of Events in and around Olive Branch through April 1, 2012

EVENTS IN OLD TOWNE
Olive Branch Old Towne Association

Hootenanny, Thursday 7:00pm.....Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27
Classic Car & Flywheeler Show 9am - 3pm.....Sat Oct. 29
Trick of Treat Old Towne 12Noon.....Sat Oct 29
Old Towne Holiday Open House 10am - 4pm..... Sat Nov 19
Santa Claus in Old Towne 3:30pm - 7:30pm. Nov.... 28,29, 30 Dec. 1

WESSON HOUSE OPEN HOUSE
Olive Branch City Beautiful
Thursday, 5:30pm - 7pm .....Dec. 1

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
Olive Branch City Hall
Thursday, 7pm.....Dec. 1

CHRISTMAS PARADE (Chamber of Commerce)
Saturday, 2pm.....Dec. 3

MAYOR/BOARD of ALDERMEN
Regular Meetings
City Courtroom at 6900 Highland Street

Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Oct. 4
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Oct. 18
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Nov. 1
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Nov. 15
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Dec. 6
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Dec. 20
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Jan. 3
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Jan. 17
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Feb. 7
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Feb. 21
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Mar. 6
Tuesday, 6:30pm.....Mar. 20

PLANNING COMMISSION
Regular Meetings
City Courtroom at 6900 Highland Street

Tuesday, 6pm.....Oct. 11
Tuesday, 6pm.....Nov. 8
Tuesday, 6pm.....Dec 13
Tuesday, 6pm.....Jan. 10
Tuesday, 6pm.....Feb. 14
Tuesday, 6pm.....Mar. 13

BOARD of ADJUSTMENT
Regular Meetings
City Courtroom at 6900 Highland Street

Thursday, 6pm.....Oct. 13
Thursday, 6pm.....Nov. 10
Thursday, 6pm.....Dec. 8
Thursday, 6pm.....Jan. 12
Thursday, 6pm.....Feb. 9
Thursday, 6pm.....Mar. 8

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 bcruthirds@obms.us.

CHICKASAW REPRESENTATIVE VISITS CITY

Recently the *Secretary of the Chickasaw Foundation*, **Kirkland Perry**, from *Ada, OK* visited *DeSoto County* as part of the 175th anniversary celebration of the founding of the *City of Hernando.* While here, he paid a visit to *Olive Branch* where he was presented a key to the City and a framed tribute to the *Chickasaw* people by **Mayor Rikard** and given a tour of the *Olive Branch Museum* in *City Hall*. The *Chickasaw* were the original inhabitants of the Olive Branch area before their removal to *Oklahoma* in 1837.

SILVER CREEK RESIDENTS VISIT CITY HALL

Back in the early summer the residents of *SilverCreek Retirement Living* were given a presentation about the history of Olive Branch at their facility. Following the presentation, they were invited to visit the *City Museum* in *City Hall*, which they did several weeks later. While they were here they were given a tour of *City Hall* and spent some time visiting with *Olive Branch Mayor* **Sam Rikard** in his office. Those attending were (L to R): **Carolann Eggerling**, **Doddie Prichard**, **Nick Kobe**, **Tracy Higgins** *(Life Enrichment Coordinator)*, **Ellie Harbin** and **Ethel McCaughan**.

During the visit, **Ms. Harbin** presented *Museum Curator*, **Bill Cruthirds**, with a framed drawing of the old *Bailey House* (INSET) which was the home of **Walter J. Bailey**, *Mayor of Olive Branch* 1924-37. The old house, located off *Germantown Road*, north of town, was built in 1859 and stood for 119 years until it was torn down in 1978.

OLIVE GROVE TERRACE HEARS CITY HISTORY

The week of Sept. 12th was *National Assisted Living Week* and *Olive Grove Terrace Assisted Living* celebrated it by treating their residents to a week-long series of lectures and presentations presented by guest speakers. Shown at right is a presentation on the history of Olive Branch given by *Olive Branch Museum Curator*, **Bill Cruthirds**. In the audience was **Jan Johnson**, whose, *"Yall Come"* TV commercials for her business figured prominently in the City's history during the 1970s and 80s.

HALL OF FAME SELECTS FIVE FOR 2011

The 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 2011. 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:

LEMOYNE BRIGANCE - Since completing his education at the *University of MS* and *MS State*, **Lemoyne** has devoted his life to the education of the youth of *DeSoto County*, including 36 years in the schools of Olive Branch.

ROBERT MARR - A long time citizen of Olive Branch, **Bob** served for many years as the *U.S. Postal Clerk* for *Olive Branch* and was elected to two terms as a *City Alderman* where he served with distinction.

H. GENE PHILLIPS (11/23/1931 - 7/9/2007) - **Gene** lived his entire life in Olive Branch and contributed to the betterment of this community as a businessman, an elected *Alderman* and as a long-time City employee during the time of record-breaking City growth.

KENNETH W. SESSOM (6/1/1933 - 4/4/2003) - **Kent** as he was known, lived most of his life in Olive Branch. He was hired by the City in 1952 to help develop the City's utility infrastructure and would work for the City a record, 44 years providing valuable service in helping create the foundation that Olive Branch is built upon today.

MAURICE WOODSON (2/17/1889 - 5/19/1967) - **Maurice** and his wife came to Olive Branch in the late 1920s and built the *Maywood Beach* resort that would serve the community for 72 years. The *Maywood Community* that he developed around the beach would, at times, rival Olive Branch in size.

The following named individuals received votes in the 2011 *Hall of Fame* balloting which means their names will be carried forward in nomination to next year:

MARTHOLA ALLEN	HELEN ALLISON	BILLY BALDWIN	DRUE BIRMINGHAM
J. N. (Doty) BRANTLEY	J. N. BROWN	GEORGE COLLINS	WENDELL DAVIS
J. S. DICKSON	G. P. GILLESPIE	Dr. ELTON HARRIS, DDS	WAYNE HOLLOWELL
LILLIAN HUDSON	MARTHA PEARL LANGSTON	WILL MAXWELL	HAROLD NICHOLS
T. H. NORVILLE	JANICE PAYNE	LESLIE POOL	Dr. P. J. SCOTT
Dr. W. T. WILKINS	G. E. WILLIAMS	W. T. WOODS	ALMA YOUNG

2010 HOF INDUCTEES ENSHRINED IN APRIL

In ceremonies that took place this past April in the *City Courthouse*, the 2010 *Hall of Fame Inductees* were inducted into the *Olive Branch Hall of Fame*. *Mayor* **Rikard** presented plaques to **Sarah Camp** (below right), 2010's only living inductee, and to the families of deceased inductees, **Billie Blocker**, **James A. Doddridge**, **Maury Haraway** and **Dr. Julian Jones**.

BILLIE B. BLOCKER

JAMES A. DODDRIDGE

A. MAURY HARAWAY

Dr. JULIAN JONES

TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED

HAROLD BOLYSTON WALKER received his basic navy training at *Tulane University* in *New Orleans*, where he graduated and enlisted in the *United States Navy* in 1943. He served fourteen months in the *Pacific Theatre* as *Assistant Engineering Officer* on the *Destroyer, USS Maddox (DD-731)*. He served twelve months on the *Destroyer, USS Lind (DD-703)*, including a combat tour during the *Korean War*. He completed his ten years of naval service with a twelve month assignment as *Executive Officer* and later *Commanding Officer* on the *Destroyer Escort, USS Blackwood (DE-219)* stationed in the *Atlantic*. During his *U.S. Navy* career he was awarded the *WWII Victory Medal* along with various other *WWII* and *Korean War Pacific Theatre Service Medals*. He resigned his commission and left the *U.S. Navy* in 1953.

Lt. Senior Grade HAROLD B. WALKER
8/16/1924 -
To Whom We Owe So Much

Methodist℠ Healthcare

Olive Branch Hospital

GROUNDBREAKING

October 19, 2011

This, one of the most historic days in Olive Branch's 175 year history, is the culmination of a 14 year effort that began in 1997 when Representative Tommy Woods, Chamber Director Jack McCauley and I met and began the quest for a hospital in Olive Branch.

Olive Branch Mayor, SAM RIKARD

Clockwise from top left: Lieutenant Governor, PHIL BRYANT - Groundbreaking Ceremony - State Senator, MERLE FLOWERS - Mayor, SAM RIKARD addresses group - Olive Branch Aldermen and attendees - Senator FLOWERS, Mayor RIKARD and Representative FORREST HAMILTON - Hospital Site.

CITY'S PINK GARBAGE CART PROGRAM RAISES $10,000 FOR CANCER AWARENESS

The *City of Olive Branch* through the *Friends of Olive Branch* recently presented a $10,000 check to the *Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Memphis-MidSouth Affiliate*. The money was raised from donations by Olive Branch citizens who opted to replace their blue garbage carts with pink ones to show breast cancer awareness. Breast cancer affects one in eight women in this country. For every pink cart distributed to citizens of Olive Branch, *Cascade Solutions* (manufacturer of the garbage carts) makes a $5 donation to the *American Cancer Society*. The *Friends of Olive Branch* passes along all of the citizen donations to the *Susan G. Komen fund*.

Pink garbage carts are still available. Anyone who wants a pink cart and is willing to make a minimum $20 donation should call **Pam Martin** at (662) 892-9375 and send your check or money-order to *Friends of Olive Branch, 9200 Pigeon Roost, Olive Branch, MS 38654.*

Those in photo at right are (l to r): *Mayor* **Sam Rikard, Clay Cox** - *Allied Services*, **Jackie Riles** - *City Utility Dept*, **Pam Martin** - *Friends of Olive Branch*, **Gerry Burke** - *Allied*, **Elaine Hare** - *Susan G. Komen*, **Pat Hamilton** - *Alderwoman* and **Don Tullos** - *Alderman*.

Holiday Happenings Around Town

Events scheduled for Olive Branch between now and the end of the year that you do not want to miss.

OLIVE BRANCH OLD TOWNE
Presents

Fall/Christmas OPEN HOUSE
Start the Holiday Season by visiting the shops and businesses of Old Towne
Saturday, November 19
10:00 am until 4:00 pm

Santa Claus in Old Towne
Kids have photo taken with Santa
November 28-29-30 and December 1
3:30 until 7:00 pm

2011 CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING @ CITY HALL
THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 1st at 7pm
Immediately Following City Beautiful's WESSON HOUSE Open House from 5:30pm until 7pm
Caroling by the First Baptist Church Celebration Choir

35th Annual OLIVE BRANCH Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 3rd - 2 pm
This year's Parade is limited to 100 entries.
Call 662 895-2600 to register or on line at www.olivebranchms.com

CITY OF O.B. ACQUIRES TWO STATE-OF-THE-ART FIRE ENGINES

Fire Chief JOHNNY EASON and Asst. Fire Chief SCOTT PHILLIPS accept delivery of Fire Department's newest pumper.

The *Olive Branch Fire Department* recently added two reconditioned trucks to its fleet of fire-fighting vehicles. One of the features of the new pumpers are the 100 foot extension ladders that allow fire fighting and rescue efforts for up to a ten-story building which should handle the City's needs for the foreseeable future. By purchasing reconditioned equipment, the City was able to get twice the fire fighting capability over purchasing new equipment.

Aldermen's Corner

This area of the Newsletter is open to all of Olive Branch's Aldermen for any comments or message they wish to impart to the citizens of their Wards or to the City as a whole.

Alderman, Ward 1
DON TULLOS

As 2011 comes to a close it has brought about many new things and a sad look back to 9-11-01. The country stopped and remembered those who lost their lives 10 years ago and to say thanks to those that put their lives on the line every day to protect our freedoms; our military, police, fire-fighters and others. I would like to say to all who serve or have served THANK YOU! We have seen the ground breaking for the Methodist Hospital which will be a great asset to Olive Branch and north Mississippi. Welcome Methodist! New businesses continue to come to Olive Branch bringing new jobs and residents to our great city. The city passed a Non-Smoking ordinance which was a major request from most of our citizens. The Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Trash Cans have been a huge success and have raised $10,000 so far for cancer research. If you would like to participate, contact City Hall. It has been a busy but interesting year and as I look forward to an exciting 2012, contact me if I can assist you.

dtullos@obms.us
662 892-9216

Alderwoman, Ward 2
PAT HAMILTON

Presently, Ward 2 has the largest population of all the six Wards in the City. As required by law, the City is presently in the process of redistricting to better balance the population in all of the City's Wards, which means Ward 2 will have to lose approximately 2,125 constituents. As the process goes forward, I will keep you informed with regard to changes that some of you will encounter in your voting precinct. Redistricting maps will be available for your convenience. It has been a privilege serving all of you, both those who will be moving into another Ward as well as those who will remain in Ward 2.

If you are interested in receiving the Agenda before and after the Board of Alderman meetings, please e-mail me your address or call me. and I will be happy to e-mail it to you.

As always, I appreciate your comments and suggestions.

phamilton@obms.us
662 895-5765

Alderman, Ward 3
HAROLD HENDERSON

Ground breaking for the long awaited Methodist/Le Bonheur Hospital was held on October 19th. The hospital will be located on the southeast corner of Highway 78 and Bethel Road. They will offer a full service hospital with 100 beds. Methodist expects more growth on the property as our community grows. The building of this hospital will contribute to our local economy and offer over 500 full time jobs. It is very exciting to know that within 24 months we will have our own hospital right here in our community. So many of you have expressed to me how much you are looking forward to having health care services so close and convenient. I know this will have a positive impact on Olive Branch.

If there is any way I can be of service to the citizens of Ward 3, or to any citizen in the City as a whole, do not hesitate to contact me.

hhenderson@obms.us
662 895-5653

Alderwoman, Ward 5
SUSAN JOHNSON

I am very excited about Methodist Hospital's ground breaking to begin construction of their new facility in Olive Branch. I welcome all of the new businesses and industries that have chosen our City as their new home. The holiday season is approaching and I urge everyone to shop at home. Money spent in Olive Branch benefits everyone in Olive Branch. Please visit the O.B. Chamber of Commerce and Old Towne websites for upcoming holiday events for you and your family to enjoy. I would like to take this time to thank our City employees for their hard work and dedication. They have continued to provide good service and protection to our citizens while we have struggled with uncertain revenues for the past two years. If any of you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me.

With best regards,

sjohnson@obms.us
901 336-3213

Alderman, Ward 6
DALE DICKERSON

I know all of you are tired of reading these columns and hearing the Aldermen tell you how bad the economy has been and how hard things are. I am tired of it too. We, as a City, went through a difficult time; We had some hard choices to make, and we made them, and we are a stronger City because of it. We are not out of the woods yet, but we are well on our way and I am confident Olive Branch will continue to be the "*Crown Jewel of DeSoto County*". There is a reason for us being named the fastest growing City in the country. In 2005 and 2007, Olive Branch was ranked as one of the top 100 most livable communities in the country, and nothing has changed; We still are. I am a firm believer that we can be even better than we think we can be, and I intend to exert every effort to see that we continue to expand upon, and enhance the things that make us such a great place to live. I believe Olive Branch's greatness is in front of her.

ddickerson@obms.us
662 895-2543

STENHOUSE RACES TO TOP

By JOHN CORNISH, Student, Olive Branch High

RICKY STENHOUSE, JR.

Hometown hero Ricky Stenhouse, Jr. brings Olive Branch, Mississippi to the attention of millions every weekend. Now one of the most exciting young guns in NASCAR, Stenhouse proudly takes his hometown background and his hometown fans with him.

Despite the debris, heat, intensity, pressure and wrecks, Ricky Stenhouse, Jr. acquired a love for racing during his early days in Olive Branch. Stenhouse, at the age of twenty-three, makes Olive Branch residents proud on race weekends. He races with the big guns now in the NASCAR Nationwide Series, but the love of racing developed early in life for Ricky Stenhouse.

At the ripe age of six, he started racing go-karts and by fifteen he was one of the top A-main go-karting racers in the nation. When Ricky was eleven he won the Indoor Thunder Go-Kart Nationals and a Shootout A-Main title. In 2003, he eventually switched to racing winged sprint cars at sixteen. He won the Dirt Wing Sprint Car Rookie of the Year. In that same year, Ricky was given the glorious accolade of Memphis Motorsports Park Rookie of the Year.

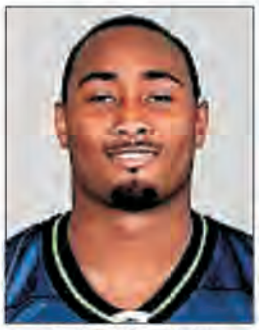
Ricky's success in his early youth laid the foundation for his great driving career. He climbed up the ranks in go-karting and winged sprint cars. Ricky's perseverance on the track led him to his first USAC National Sprint Car Series start at Memphis where he finished seventh. He continued his quality finishes in 2005 where he came in fourth at Knoxville, Iowa, including four United Sprint Car Series events.

In 2006, Ricky had his breakout season by winning both the 360 and 410 winged sprint car series. The wins at these events pushed Ricky into the spotlight. He caught the eye of racing powerhouse Roush Fenway Racing. Ricky received a call in 2007 from Jack Roush inviting him to be a part of his all-star racing team. He accepted the offer and became a top contender in the ARCA series in 2008. Ricky followed his winning ways in 2009 at the age of twenty-two, when he moved to the NASCAR Nationwide Series.

Ricky Stenhouse's success at the track started as a youth here in Olive Branch. Because of his career development, Ricky now resides in Cornelius, North Carolina. However, he will always be a fan favorite in his hometown of Olive Branch, Mississippi.

WRIGHT STORMS THE NFL

By JOHN CORNISH, Student, Olive Branch High



K. J. WRIGHT, JR.

K.J. Wright's career started with humble beginnings at Olive Branch High School. Then went on to a dynamic career at Mississippi State University. Fast forward to the bright lights of the National Football League, Kenneth Bernard Wright, Jr. serves as an inspiration and role model to the citizens of DeSoto County. K.J., as he is nicknamed, has shown his leadership on Friday and Saturday nights and now on Sunday afternoons.

K.J. Wright's hard work, perseverance and leadership started right here at Olive Branch High School. During his junior season K.J. emerged as a defensive mastermind producing fifty tackles and six quarterback sacks. He followed his junior season with a more impressive senior season leading the defense and an Olive Branch team to a 12 and 2 record. K.J. had forty-eight solo tackles, thirteen sacks and one interception. His efforts earned him a forty-fifth ranking among the nation's strong-side linebackers. Wright's work ethic was apparent in his stats and records. His Coach, Scott Samsell, said of K.J.: *"K.J. is an outstanding athlete, but what is more impressive to me, he is an outstanding person. He is a living example of what it takes to be successful"*. As a senior, he was offered several scholarships to top universities and committed to Mississippi State University in December, 2006.

K.J. was originally slated to be red-shirted in 2007, his freshman season, but he persevered and was activated recovering a fumble and recording seven tackles on special teams. He took over strong-side outside linebacker position as a sophomore. He finished second on the squad with seventy-two tackles. K.J. was the first Mississippi State player to have two quarterback sacks in a game for a stretch of fifteen games. His junior year he recorded eighty-two tackles, once again second highest on the team. Named the team captain in 2010, K.J. was all over the field where he recorded ninety-eight tackles, broke up nine passes and caused a fumble. After the outstanding season, K.J. received an invitation to play in the prestigious 2011 Senior Bowl. K.J. graduated from Mississippi State University and prepared for the National Football League draft.

He produced amazing NFL combine numbers catching the eye of many NFL owners. At 6-4, two-hundred and forty-six pounds, K.J. already produced the physique of a National Football League linebacker. Drafted in the fourth round by the Seattle Seahawks, K.J. (No. 50), set out to prove himself with the professionals. He did so in training camp and has started every game this season. He has produced thirteen tackles and has continued his playmaking ability. The future is bright for K.J. Wright.

K.J.'s leadership, hard work and perseverance makes him an icon to Olive Branch residents. He has proven hard work and dedication are the right qualities to advance in life. He has shown Olive Branch pride, power, passion and class on and off the gridiron. K.J. Wright truly exemplifies the characteristics of an Olive Branch role model.

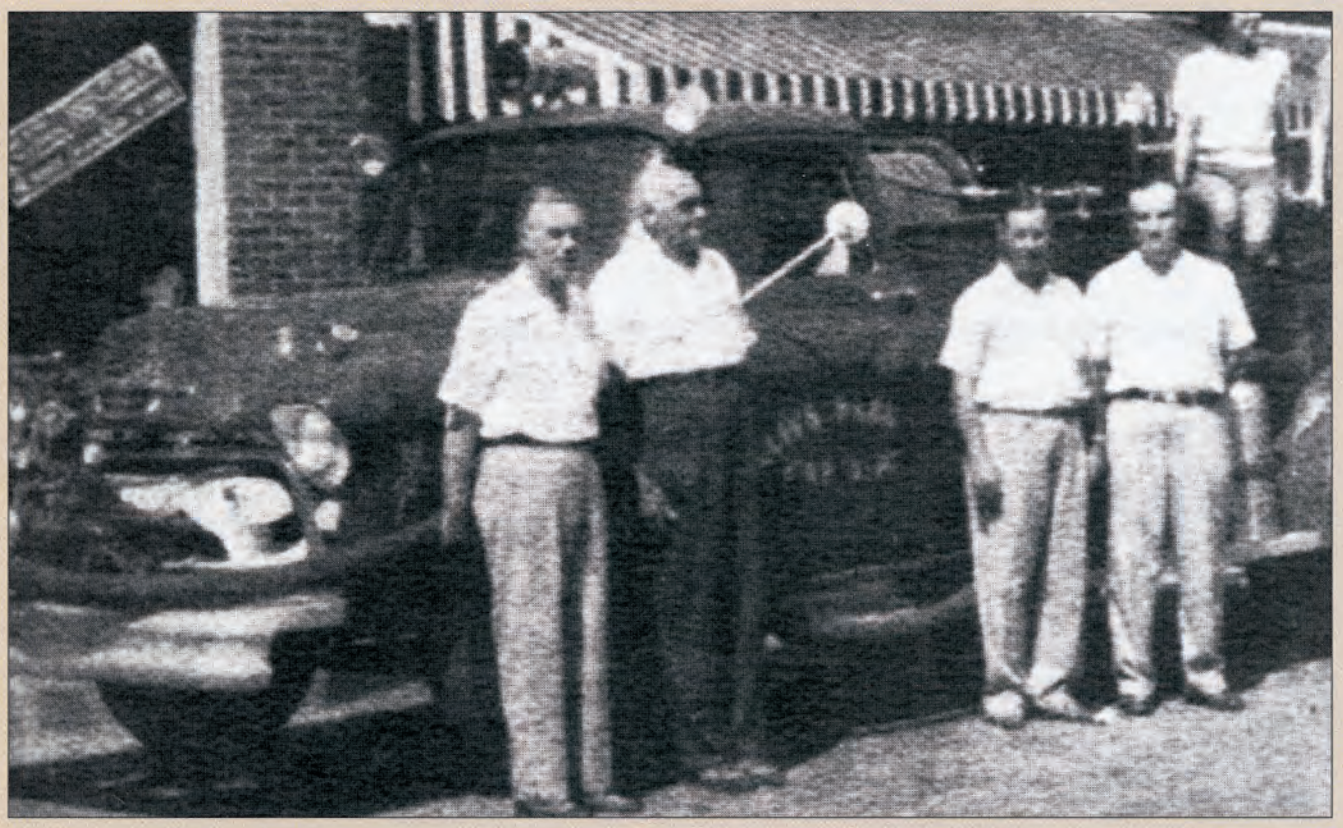
9200 PIGEON ROOST - OLIVE BRANCH, MS 38654

FROM THE ROOST

BI-ANNUAL

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE ROOST Fall/Winter 2011



CITY'S FIRST FIRE TRUCK PURCHASED IN 1955. L to R: ALDERMEN JOE NORVELL, R. P. FUNDERBURK, BRUCE PAYNE, CLARK HUDSON.