



## *Rankin County is “StormReady”*

Rankin County’s StormReady status was recently recertified through April 2013. The County is one of only twelve in Mississippi certified by the National Weather Service as a StormReady county committed to safety and preparedness. With this certification, Rankin County is better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education and awareness. “This success is clearly a result of county leadership, hard work, and commitment to the citizens of Rankin County,” said Stephen Wilkinson, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, and Jackson National Weather Service, “the citizens should take great pride in maintaining this status.”

StormReady is a nationwide program which provides emergency managers guidelines on how to take a proactive approach to improving hazardous weather operations. The program helps emergency management communicate effectively with citizens by providing safety skills necessary to save lives and property during severe weather. Residents will be better prepared to know what actions to take to protect themselves, their family, pets and property against severe weather.



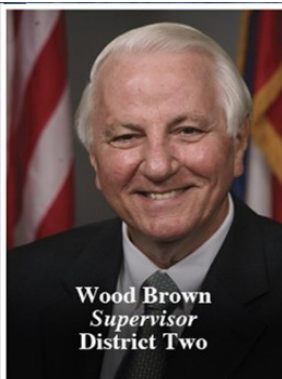
“The Board of Supervisors will continue to support safety measures taken throughout the county in the event of a natural disaster,” said Greg Wilcox, Board President and District Three Supervisor, “and having the StormReady certification is something we are especially proud of.”

The County’s StormReady status establishes a 24-hour warning of severe weather through a system that monitors weather conditions locally. With this status, there is more than one way to receive severe weather warnings, forecast and to alert the public. The County Emergency Operations Center has a weather plan which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

While committing to safety and preparedness for residents, business owners and visitors remains a priority, Rankin County Emergency Operation Center is equipped to handle natural disasters as well as man-made disasters. Please visit [www.rankineoc.com](http://www.rankineoc.com) to learn more about the Rankin County Emergency Operation Center.



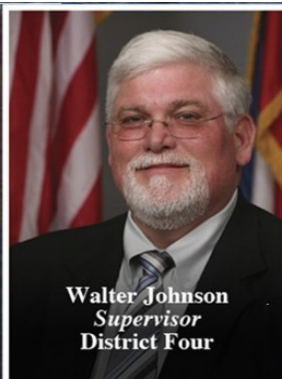
Jared Morrison  
Supervisor  
District One



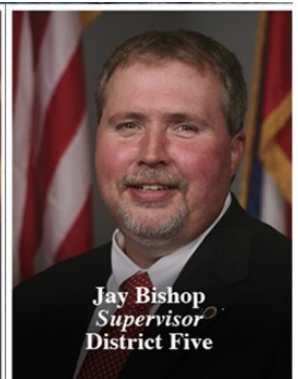
Wood Brown  
Supervisor  
District Two



Greg Wilcox  
Supervisor  
District Three



Walter Johnson  
Supervisor  
District Four



Jay Bishop  
Supervisor  
District Five

## RANKIN COUNTY RECEIVES THE AMERICAN FIREFIGHTERS AWARD



The U.S. Fire Administration awarded only a few fire departments throughout the country and Langford Volunteer Fire Department was one of the few. Langford Volunteer Fire Department will receive a grant of \$314,300.00 for new equipment. A new tanker is expected to be purchased with \$246,300.00 and \$68,000 will be used to purchase a new mobile breathing air cascade system.

“Rankin County Fire Services is always seeking grants to improve their equipment and increase their capabilities for the citizens of Rankin County,” said Bob Wedgeworth, Director, Rankin County Emergency Operation Center. “With better equipment you can save more lives,” said Chief Homer Rogers, Langford Volunteer Fire Department, “we are especially grateful for the extra funding to help us minimize injuries, save lives and save property from the destruction of fire.”

## NEW FIRE TRUCKS FOR RANKIN COUNTY

The county received four new fire trucks which were given to the Cleary, Evergreen, Langford, and Robinhood Volunteer Fire Departments. Four more fire trucks are being ordered and will be given to the Cato, Lake Harbor, Puckett, and Walters Volunteer Fire Departments. “The new fire trucks are really needed, especially among our volunteer fire departments,” said Tommy Steen, Rankin County EMA Director & Fire Coordinator, “the new trucks are equipped with modern technologies to help save lives.” Rankin County has 17 volunteer fire departments out of 39 stations.



## LONG AWAITED FIRE STATION COMING TO RANKIN COUNTY

For the past 17 years, the Monterey Volunteer Fire Department Station has been in the plans for Rankin County. On April 8, 2010, the Rankin Board of Supervisors, Monterey Fire Chief and Volunteer Firemen, County Emergency Operation Personnel, local State Legislators, Rankin First and other county leaders gathered to break ground at the new Monterey Fire Station site. Mr. Glen Clark donated the land for station to the county. “We appreciate the community support and leadership for the Monterey Volunteer Fire Station and the hard work of Chief James Webb and the volunteer firemen who risk their lives to save others,” said Greg Wilcox, Board President and District Three Supervisor.



The 5,300 square foot facility on will be located at the Live Oaks Subdivision entrance on Highway 468. The station is designed with two and a half bays for fire trucks and a rescue vehicle. There will also be a community room for meetings, a kitchen, gathering area and public restrooms. “In addition to the existing multi-functions of the community room, it is our future plan to have this facility to also serve as a Voting Precinct,” said Wilcox, “we are extremely excited about the construction of this new volunteer fire station especially with the increase of population over the years for this area. Out of ten bids for the project, the Board selected Coleman-Hammons of Brandon with the lowest bid of \$938,000.00. This project is being funded from the bond issue passed by the Board in 2008. The expected completion date of the project is scheduled for May 2011.



## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECEIVED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT**

The Rankin County Board of Supervisors received \$180,546.00 for new law enforcement equipment for the Sheriff's Department and the Pearl Police Department. New radios and new laptop computers were purchased for \$145,678.00, and \$34,868.00 is being used to purchase Stalker Radios and new shotguns.

The new equipment will allow local law enforcement to better communicate with MEMA, FEMA, Fire, Ambulance, and State Highway Patrol during emergency situations. "This is a huge help to law enforcement as we work to serve and protect the citizens of the county," said Ronnie Pennington, Rankin County Sheriff, "I am especially thankful for this additional funding."

The funds for the new equipment were received through a grant from the U.S Department of Justice, ARRA. "We are grateful for this funding as this is one of the many ways the Board is working to improve public safety throughout the county," said Jared Morrison, District One Supervisor.

## **RANKIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COMMENDS PEARL HIGH SCHOOL BAND**

The Rankin County Board of Supervisors presented a resolution commending and congratulating the Pearl Pirate Marching Band upon winning the Mississippi High School Activities Association and Mississippi Band Association 2009 Class 5A State Championships.

The Pirate Band has been superbly instructed and directed by third-year Director Jeff Cannon and the band staff have broadened the members' knowledge of music and refined their skills in implementation. Cannon attributes the band's success to the long hours of hard work put in by the students and an outstanding staff working as a team. "Accomplishing this goal has been a "team effort" among our staff working together with the students many months," Cannon said. "They are a disciplined group and very deserving of this achievement. There has been overwhelming support from the community, parents, school district administrators and the Rankin County Board of Supervisors." Ranking superior in music, visual, general effect, and color guard, the 160 member marching band performance was based on the opera, *Carmen*.

"The Pearl Pirate Band has a long and rich history of musical excellence and it is with great pride that the Board recognizes the special accomplishments of this outstanding group of student musicians, who have brought honor to their school, their parents, their community and to Rankin County," said Jay Bishop, District Five Supervisor.

The Pearl High School staff consist of Jeff Cannon, Pearl High School Band Director; Greg Springer, Associate Director of Bands; Aimee Sudduth, Assistant Band Director; Amy Henry, Director of Color Guard; Matt Little, Assistant Director of Percussion; Jason Herrell, Assistant Band Director of Pearl Jr. High School.



## **SUPERVISORS ADOPT FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE**

The Rankin County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to promote public health and safety, and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in the county. The ordinance will seek to restrict the potential danger to health, safety, and property. The ordinance will decrease water hazards and erosion caused by a flood. It will also require facilities to have protection against flood damages at the time of construction.

“This ordinance is to help protect the health of citizens and reduce expenditures of public dollars for costly flood control projects while minimizing prolonged business interruptions due to flooding,” said Greg Wilcox, Board President, and District Three Supervisor. The ordinance is in effect as of February 12, 2010. A copy of the ordinance is available at [www.rankincounty.org/CD](http://www.rankincounty.org/CD). Click on ONLINE SERVICES to view the Ordinance.

## **DOING THE BEST IN THE WORST OF TIMES**

Rankin County continues to have the lowest unemployment rate of 8% compared to the state at 12% and the nation at 10.4% according to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security’s Labor Market Data for February 2010. Although the 8% unemployment rate is somewhat high for the current ranking, Rankin County has always ranked #1 or #2 compared to other counties for the past 20 years. As the county’s population continues to increase and businesses continue to move to Rankin County, unemployment rates will continue to remain the lowest in the state.

Rankin County not only has the lowest unemployment rate in the state, but new businesses are opening on a regular basis. University Physicians Medical Clinic is one of many businesses coming to Rankin County. As a part of University of Mississippi Health Care, the 50,575-square-foot medical office building will house primary care and specialty services such as family medicine, internal medicine, orthopedics, urology, cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, otolaryngology, dermatology, audiology, rheumatology, and allergy. “We are excited about the new clinic here in Rankin County as it will serve not only this area but surrounding areas as well,” said Wood Brown, District Two Supervisor. The new clinic will be located at 1010 Lakeland Place, on the corner of Lakeland Place and Plaza Drive in Flowood and is scheduled to open on July 7, 2010.



Tom Troxler, Executive Director  
Rankin First Economic Development

“Rankin County continues to grow during these uncertain economic times. The medical and retail segments continue to grow in our county, as well as some expansions from our local industries like Valley Foods, US Foods and R Squared. As the economy improves, Rankin County should be well positioned to continue on a positive growth cycle,” said Tom Troxler, Executive Director, Rankin First Economic Development Authority.

“While recognizing the importance of the county’s economic development and high-tech needs of the County’s workplace, the school district is doing an excellent job to incorporate innovative skills into both public and private schools curriculums,” said Clovis Reed, Rankin County Administrator. Rankin County Schools continues the legacy of academic and athletic excellence. Being one of the fastest growing counties in Mississippi, Rankin County will continue to offer all the best in community life, education, employment, housing, and quality of life.

## **FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE THE BEST IN THE STATE**

Rankin County is the home to the Mississippi Fire Academy. The county has more academy trained firefighters than any other county in the State of Mississippi. “The County has the best fire departments with more certified firefighters. The Board of Supervisors is always supportive of our needs, allowing us to have the best equipment and technology possible” said Tommy Steen, Rankin County EMA Director & Fire Coordinator. “Having more certified firefighters allows us to have lower insurance rating,” said Walter Johnson, District Four Supervisor, “the Board is grateful for the academy to train more firefighters to save lives and property throughout the county.” For more information about the Rankin County Fire Departments and Emergency Operations, please visit [www.rankincounty.org](http://www.rankincounty.org)

## **COUNTY OFFERS NEW ONLINE SERVICES**

The Rankin County Board of Supervisors has agreed to have nCourt provide an online payment system that allows anyone who receives a citation to make the payment online. nCourt is a government services technology company which provides software that permits the payment of traffic citations on-line with a credit or debit card. The secured website will allow citation holders to enter their citation information, citation number and fine amount at which the payment will be processed. To make a payment, please visit the secured payment website at [www.RankinCotix.com](http://www.RankinCotix.com).

Rankin County also offers a convenient way to pay your taxes online. Mississippi 1-Stop is a self-service access to the County Tax Collectors office 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This online payment system is offered through Venture Technologies which allows citizens to pay Property Taxes and Renew Car Tags.

Please go to <http://www.rankincounty.org/TC/> to pay your Property Taxes and Renew Car Tags.

## **ONGOING ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

The Rankin County Board of Supervisors ensures county roads and bridges are safe and meet the needs of a growing population. The County Road Department maintains approximately 2,000 miles of roads and over 200 bridges. Long awaited roads such as Erlich, Old Fannin and Baker Lane are progressing to promote public safety and improve traffic flow from one end of the county to the other in less time.

Construction to alleviate severe traffic congestion has started for Erlich Road in Florence. A new "Box Culvert" is now complete as part of the drainage structures. Dirt work is being done on a consistent basis and, with dryer weather ahead, more phases of the project will continue. Old Fannin Road will be widened to five lanes with five new traffic lights to help the flow of traffic from Flowood to the Reservoir. Traffic lights will be placed at Eagle Drive, Bridlewood Drive, Farmington Boulevard, Oak Grove Drive, Avalon Way and Riverchase Drive. Road work continue to progress on Baker Lane. The "Detour" is expected to be lifted by mid-April. Traffic will be able to flow more easily from Andrew Chapel Road to Highway 471 once construction is complete.

The Road Department is continuously working to improve roads throughout the entire county. To report a road problem or concern, please call the Board of Supervisors Office at 601.825.1475.

## **RANKIN COUNTY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

For the first time ever, Rankin County has been chosen to host of the 2010 Mississippi Fire Fighters Fire Chief Conference on June 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> at Trustmark Park. This event will draw fire fighters and family from all over the state to the County. For more information about how to be a part of this event, please email Tommy Steen at [tsteen@rankincounty.org](mailto:tsteen@rankincounty.org)

During the week of April 12<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Rankin County will conduct a Spring Cleanup initiative. There will be 10 drop-off locations around the county that will accept items from the public. Please see the drop-off locations below:

Brandon-Recycling Center, 710 Marquette Road  
Florence-Old Unit Barn, 406 White Road, Florence  
Pearl -201 Compactor Road, Pearl  
Pelahatchie-Old Unit Barn, Brown Street  
Puckett-Means House Moving  
Reservoir-Station 3 on Northshore  
Richland-Club House on Cleary Road  
Pisgah-Old Gin on Carter Shore Road  
Plantation Shores-Parking Lot at Richmond Dr. & Lewis Rd  
Star-Old Wood Yard on Mangum Drive

Bulky items, White Goods, Waste Tires, Trash and Limbs will be accepted. Household Garbage, Batteries, Flammable Products and Acid WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. For additional information, please call the Rankin County Solid Waste Department at 601.825.9213.