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June 2013

The Hicks Family Home 426 East Alabama Street

Dr. Leonard J. Hicks, the first African-American physician to be elected to membership in both the Lauderdale County Medical Society and the Alabama Medical Association, was described in the following manner by the late Dr. Carl F. Luckey who was Chief of Staff at Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital in Florence at the time: "He has always been a true example of what a doctor should be - an earnest, hardworking man who is devoted to his patients. Regardless of his color, this would be true of him."

Dr. Hicks had come to Florence to practice medicine in the early 1930's after graduating from Benedict College in South Carolina and Meharry Medical College in Nashville. He had furthered his education at the University of Pennsylvania, after which he had taught at Meharry Medical College. In Florence, his medical practice expanded almost exponentially as word spread of his competence and his engaging personality. It was quite natural, then, for him to become active in the life of the community and to assume various leadership roles. His death in 1973 left a void in the medical and cultural community of the Shoals. As a tribute to him, Dr. Hicks Boulevard bears his name.

The Hicks family's home is an excellent example of the classic bungalow style with its outstanding combination of bricks for its base and wood for its decorative touches. Even though it is now home to a business known as Brass Hardware and Accessories, it still looks and feels as if members of the Hicks family have just gone away for the weekend and will return at any moment. Some of Dr. Hicks's professional library and medical equipment remain on display there.

MAY 2013							JULY 2013						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31				

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<i>St. Patrick's Day in Florence</i>	1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						<i>Flag Day</i>	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<i>Staten's Day</i>				<i>Queen's Regatta</i>		
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						