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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, please contact
Gene McGee, Mayor, at 601-856-7113

MORE RECYCLABLES PROCESSED FOR RIDGELAND

The City of Ridgeland currently offers residential recycling services. Homeowners in Ridgeland are given one recycling bin and curbside recycling service is provided once per week. Residents may request more than one bin and they may recycle more often at Ridgeland Fire Stations 1 (Central) and 2, located at 456 Towne Center and 408 Ridgeland Avenue respectively, where recycling dumpsters are available. Also, renters and businesses may use the recycling dumpsters at Fire Stations 1 and 2. Recycling dumpsters are not currently available at Stations 3 and 4.

With the recent closure of Red Cycling, Inc. in Canton, Ridgeland now takes its recycling to Recycling Services, 3002 N. Mill Street, Jackson. Red River Services continues to pick up recycling for Ridgeland and deliver it to the recycling plant. Prior to the contract with Red River Services, Ridgeland had a contract with BFI, Inc. for collection and processing.

A lot has changed in recycling collection and services over the last few years in Ridgeland. Below are some of the changes:

- Recyclables do not need to be sorted by the homeowner. All recyclables are sorted at the recycling plant.
- Types of recyclables have increased dramatically. All types of plastic from milk jugs and drink bottles to plastic bags are acceptable and recyclable. Glass is accepted at the recycling plant and then picked up by a glass recycling company. All types of paper including glossy newsprint, magazines, phone books, junk mail, paper towel rolls, etc. are all accepted and recycled.
- What cannot be recycled at this time: styrofoam, foam rubber, textiles and waste food. The State of Mississippi does not currently allow for the recycling of styrofoam and foam rubber due to toxic gases. Textiles and waste food are not recyclable in Mississippi.

According to Pat Evans, Project Manager, Recycling Services, Inc. recycling is worth the effort because it does make a difference. It saves energy to recycle which translates into direct savings to the individual. It takes less energy to manufacture products from recycled materials than from raw materials. Plastic recycling reduces petroleum use and thus reduces the consumption of oil and the cost of gasoline. Recycling saves landfill costs and reduces toxic waste in the natural environment. Most new products sold today do not state that they are made from recycled materials. Recycling also creates jobs.

Remember that recyclables do need to be clean and dry. Wet newspaper does not recycle well. Food waste needs to be removed and rinsed.

If you are looking for ways to increase your recycling and reduce your landfill waste, consider what you throw into your trash can. If it is a clean paper product, recycle. If it is plastic, rinse clean if necessary and recycle. Do you use a lot of Styrofoam, possibly from disposable plates and cups? If so, could you use washable plastic or plates and glassware instead? Do you throw away a lot of food waste? If so, could you start composting, which has the added benefit of making fertilizer for your gardens, or could you use a garbage disposal? Do you use a lot of paper towels and napkins? If so, could cloth towels and napkins be used instead?

City leaders want to encourage recycling among residents in Ridgeland. Saving energy and natural resources benefits all of us. Think before you throw away.

If you have any comments or questions about recycling in Ridgeland, please contact the Public Works Department, the Mayor, and/or your Alderman. The Board of Aldermen has not made any decisions to change the recycling container size or the frequency of trash pickups in Ridgeland.

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