

March – May 2014

RIDGELAND Life

KidFest! Ridgeland
Century Ride
Fine Arts Festival
Bicycle Safety Month
New Fitness Equipment

the **SPRING** issue



From the Mayor

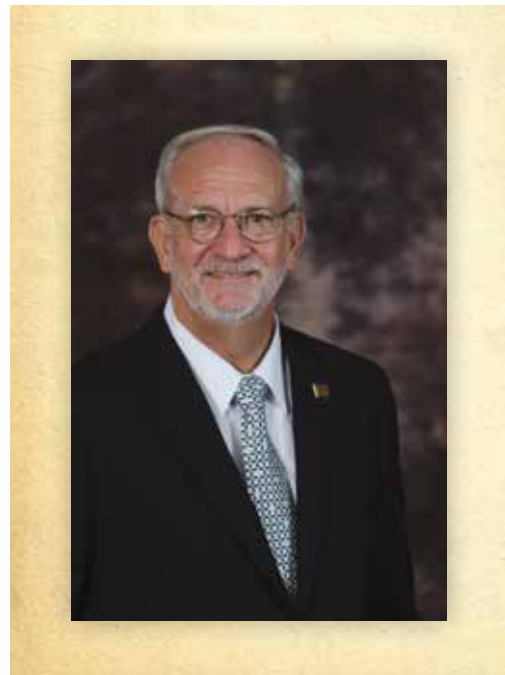
Ridgeland is in the race to get Fiber to the Home, an ultra-high speed Internet service for residences. This 1 Gbps Internet is provided over fiber optic infrastructure that can be built directly to your home, providing Internet that is 100 times faster than what we currently experience. City leaders view Fiber to the Home as a once-in-a-lifetime economic development and quality of life opportunity. To learn more, visit www.RidgelandMS.org.

Fiber is the infrastructure of the future for consumers and for cities as our economy and our lives are driven more and more by technology and data. Fiber to the Home would provide Ridgeland with a competitive advantage that will benefit education, health care, and small business creation. When Ridgeland officials were approached by C Spire to set up an agreement for future service, we knew that this was a chance to advance Mississippi and our city as a technology hub. No other company has made this opportunity available to us.

City leaders met with the former Mayor of Kansas City, who was in office when Kansas City was fortunate enough to get Fiber to the Home through Google Fiber. Kansas City experienced immediate results in their neighborhoods and in their city overall. Young people moved across the country to Kansas City to start new businesses, home values increased and city services were improved. This led to revitalization of older neighborhoods, attraction of new families, and more business growth. If Ridgeland gets Fiber to the Home, we expect the same to happen here.

We need the citizens' help in order to get Fiber to homes in Ridgeland. A certain percentage of residents in what is called a "fiberhood" needs to pre-register for the service. This is not a commitment to become a customer but an expression of interest that CSpire will use to determine which "fiberhoods" will get fiber. To pre-register, you pay \$10 which will be credited toward your first bill if you choose to go with the service. Please consider taking a moment to visit www.cspire.com/ridgeland and pre-register for this service.

Gene F. McGee



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland

RIDGELAND Life

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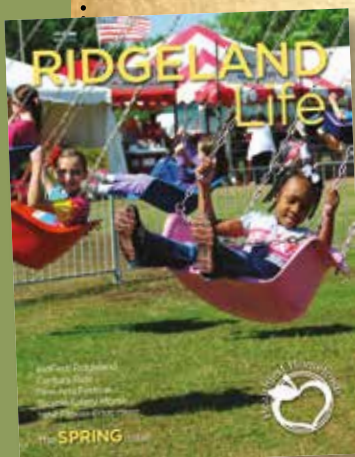
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ON THE COVER: *KidFest! Ridgeland will be returning this year over two weekends, April 12-13 and April 18-19. Come for carnival rides, exciting entertainment and fun activities for the whole family. See page 4 for more information and go to www.kidfestridgeland.com for coupons.*

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KidFest! Ridgeland Promises a Fun Family Adventure

Four fun-filled days. KidFest! Ridgeland promises to deliver more fun than ever before with new attractions and the return of crowd favorites! The City of Ridgeland Department of Recreation & Parks will host KidFest! Ridgeland for four days over two weekends (April 12-13 and April 18-19). As always KidFest! Ridgeland will feature a variety of shows, interactive activities and lots of other attractions which are all included in the price of admission.

■ **KidFest! Ridgeland**
April 12-13 & 18-19, 2014

■ **Easter Egg Hunt**
April 18-19, 2014 (in conjunction
with KidFest! Ridgeland)



Bengal Tiger Encounter is a new program offered at KidFest! Ridgeland in 2014. The tigers will appear on April 12 and 13.



Funny Little People features life-sized puppets that will bring laughter to the entire family. See them perform on April 18 and 19 at KidFest! Ridgeland.

NEW THIS YEAR, Bengal Tiger Encounter. This exotic animal production brings you an inspirational and educational program featuring the Incredible Bengal Tiger. These tigers are helping to educate the public on the loss of habitat and the killing of tigers for profit in India and Asia. These tigers are loved and protected as well as cared for by devoted trainers. Appearing Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13.

ALSO NEW for 2014, Those Funny Little People is a one-of-a-kind entertainment company with life-sized puppets that dance, sing and make people laugh. The Little People have been in several theater productions such as *The Wizard of Oz*. Making their television debut in 2011, Those Funny Little People appeared on the TV show *America's Got Talent* as four elves, an agent and a showgirl. The group resonated with audiences everywhere and placed within the top 36 acts. Appearing Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19.

A crowd favorite returning this year is Jimmy Riffle of the hit show *Gator Boys* as seen on Animal Planet. Watch him subdue fully grown alligators while risking life and limb. Meet and talk with him after each show. Appearing Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19.

Many fun and exciting activities will return including Nylon Zoo, Backyard Circus, Kid Karaoke, Train Rides, Mutts Gone Nuts, Touch-a-Truck, Pony Rides, and Cowboy Monkey Rodeo.

The City of Ridgeland's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held during KidFest! Ridgeland on Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19. Check the schedule online at www.kidfestridgeland.com for hunt times.

KidFest! Ridgeland is the most fun, affordable family adventure you will experience this year. Visit www.kidfestridgeland.com for a complete schedule of attractions, activities, ticket and parking information. All performances, activities and attractions are included in the admission price, and parking is free.



Easter Egg Hunts will be held at KidFest! Ridgeland on April 18 and 19.

Get Your Ride On with Century Ride

Natchez Trace Century Ride • Saturday, May 3, 2014

Small town authentic charm and hospitality and stretches of national scenic byway gear you up to get your ride on for the jumpstart of cycling season rides. The Natchez Trace Century Ride, starting and ending in Ridgeland, provides an experience for riders of all ages and abilities.

Spring will have sprung with warmer temperatures...the glimmering waters and abundant wildlife around the Ross Barnett Reservoir will invigorate you for the journey. Countryside stretches in Madison County and Pelahatchie steady the pedals for reflection, and around town spins will delight you with discovery.



Ridgeland's annual springtime century ride will be held on May 3.

With your choice of distances from 25, 50, 62 and 100 miles with mild to moderate elevation, it is a great ride to find your stride. There will be "energizer" stops highlighting local music, food and hands-on fun every 10-15 miles.

Ride with friends, ride with family or solo the day - but the more, the merrier we say. If it's about the swag, this year be cycling hip and order the new 2014 "Get Your Ride On" cycling jersey!

And you will not want to miss "Ridgeland Rockin' after the Ride," a celebration of a successful ride with culinary delights, toe-tapping music and stories to take home. There will be door prizes galore and the chance to win the grand prize giveaway of a bike. Post-ride social will be presented by the Ridgeland Tourism Commission.

The Natchez Trace Century Ride will take place on Saturday, May 3 at 7 a.m. and will start at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. A registration fee of \$35 includes Welcome Party on Friday evening, ride, event T-shirt, post-ride meal and post-ride social. Late registration fee will be \$45 after April 11. For complete event details, routes, to register and order your cycling jersey, go to www.natchezcenturyride.racesonline.com.

For more information on the ride, contact Ridgeland Recreation and Parks at 601-853-2011 or go to www.ridgelandms.org. The Natchez Trace Century Ride is presented by The Bike Crossing and is an event of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks.



6th ANNUAL RIDGELAND FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

The 2014 Ridgeland Fine Arts Festival will be held the weekend of April 5- 6, 2014. The festival will take place on the grounds of the Renaissance at Colony Park on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

The Ridgeland Fine Arts Festival, a program of the Ridgeland Tourism Commission, is a juried art show and sale. Artists are selected to participate in 12 different media categories such as jewelry, clay, photography, sculpting and painting. The 2014 festival will feature approximately 100 artists from across the United States. The festival was named to the Top 100 Fine Arts Fairs for 2011 by The Art Fair Source Book (AFSB).

The festival was developed in 2009 by the Ridgeland Tourism Commission to provide art enthusiasts with the opportunity to purchase artwork and to interact with artists in an informal and relaxed setting. Its goal has been achieved – to offer tourists more reasons to visit Ridgeland while generating a positive economic impact for the city.

Younger audiences will enjoy the Children's Craft Corner for creating their own crafts. Hands-on activities and Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild demonstrations presented by the Mississippi Craft Center will help pique the interest of the young art enthusiasts and the continued development of their art education. Youth art displays will also be presented by local area schools.

For more information on the 2014 Ridgeland Fine Arts Festival go to www.ridgelandartsfest.com or contact the Ridgeland Tourism Commission at 601-605-5252.



Enjoy the sixth annual Ridgeland Fine Arts Festival April 5-6 at the Renaissance at Colony Park. This juried art show and sale will feature approximately 100 artists from across the United States.

BICYCLE SAFETY MONTH

May is **Bicycle Safety Month in Ridgeland**. Mayor McGee signs a proclamation every May declaring the importance of promoting bicycle safety. May is also National Bike Month. Several bicycling events take place in Ridgeland during the month.

- **Natchez Trace Century Ride** - Learn about the Century Ride event on pages 5 and 14. Select your distance and join in this exciting bicycling event.
- **Bike Rodeo** - Encourage a lifelong love of bicycling for your child(ren) through Bike Rodeo. Safety lessons, proper helmet fitting and skill-building will help ensure bicycle safety for children. Bike Rodeo will be held at 9 a.m. the morning of the Natchez Trace Century Ride at Old Trace Park.
- **Ride of Silence** - This is an annual event to bring awareness to the importance of sharing the road safely. See RECRE8 on page 14 for details.
- **National Bike to Work Week** - This national event will be held May 12 – 16. Bicycling to work is feasible for some residents. With increased interest in sustainable transportation options, the number of bicycle commuters is growing.
- **National Bike to Work Day** - Bicycle commuting is encouraged through this national event held Friday, May 16. You may want to visit www.bikeleague.org for more information.
- **Bicycle Maintenance Clinic** – This free basic maintenance clinic will be hosted by Indian Cycle on Thursday, May 15, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- **Group Rides** - Hosted by Indian Cycle, these community rides are held on Mondays at 6 p.m. These rides will begin for the season after daylight saving time starts on March 9.



Stephanie Brown Powell teaches bicycle safety at Bike Rodeo 2013 to participating children. Obstacle courses and races made for a skill-building and fun event.

Dragon Boat Regatta



Teammates work together in the Madison County Chamber Dragon Boat Regatta, held at Old Trace Park in Ridgeland. This year's event will be held Saturday, May 17, starting at 9 a.m. Admission to the Regatta is free.

The Madison County Chamber of Commerce will bring the Dragon Boat Regatta to the Ross Barnett Reservoir on May 17, 2014. This marks the sixth year for the event in Madison County. It is the only event of its kind in the state of Mississippi. This unique boating experience enhances work dynamics, increases employee motivation, improves communication, and boosts company morale. Teamwork is essential to be successful in this competition. Synchronicity is more significant than strength. A perfectly synchronized team will almost always beat a stronger, but less coordinated team.

It's not too late to get involved. Enter your company, school, church, sports team, association, and friends and families. A team of 25 (8 of which must be female) includes 20 paddlers, 1 drummer and 4 alternates. Contact the Madison County Chamber for pricing and to register your team.

Spectators are welcome! Come out and cheer for the boaters and enjoy a day at the reservoir. Plenty of kids' activities make it fun for the whole family. For more information, go to www.paddlesontherez.com or call 601-605-2554.

Schedule of Events

May 12-14: Team Practices
4-8 p.m. | Pelican Cove Grill, Ridgeland

May 15: Paddler's Party
6-10 p.m. | Jackson Yacht Club, Ridgeland

May 17: 6th Annual Madison County Chamber Dragon Boat Regatta
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Old Trace Park, Ridgeland

FROM THE DESK OF... *The City Clerk*

The City Clerk takes a few moments to respond to some frequently asked questions at City Hall. Got a question? You just might find your easy answer here!

Fiber to the Home

What is "Fiber to the Home"?

Fiber to the Home is a transformative infrastructure project that will provide service that includes an ultra-fast 1 Gbps Internet connection, plus home phone and television, provided over fiber optic connections directly to the home. *Fiber to the Home* provides Internet speeds at an average of 100 times faster than most other Internet services that are available locally today. This technology is deployed through fiber optic cabling which has been used for commercial, industrial, and telecommunication applications for years. The bottom line is that fiber optic technology is ultra-fast and can provide a variety of benefits now and especially in the future as new technologies can no longer operate at slower speeds.

What does it mean for Ridgeland residents?

- The ability to browse the web with instant page changes and no buffering.
- The ability to download movies in seconds.
- The ability to stream multiple movies simultaneously on devices throughout the home.
- Gamers will enjoy a truly rich, more immersive multi-player experience.

Fiber to the Home has the potential to transform our community into an even more desirable community, which would lead to improved city services and quality of life such as better police and fire protection, better roads, expanded parks and multi-use trail system, and the best restaurants and shopping opportunities. *Fiber to the Home* will make Ridgeland unique since access to this technology is extremely limited in almost all residential markets.

Does "Fiber to the Home" improve my home value and potential for resell?

Yes. *Fiber to the Home* provides endless opportunities to gain access to future technology. The future of technology promises everything from virtual doctor visits, remote access to the classroom, remote access to the office, and even live participation in civic events, right from the convenience of your home. You may not be interested in participating in virtual doctor visits, having remote access to the classroom or office or attending civic events from the comfort of your home; however, having the technology available may just be the determining factor for a potential buyer.

Is the City of Ridgeland endorsing C Spire or offering any guaranty of its products or services?

No. The City of Ridgeland advises you to consider all options available for getting fiber optic lines to your home.

Are there any other providers currently offering sign-up for fiber optic to your home?

C Spire is the only provider that is currently offering sign-up for fiber optic to your home.

What do I need to do to show my support for "Fiber to the Home"?

You must pre-register to become eligible. You will be asked to pay a \$10 deposit which can be recovered on the first bill. If for some reason, C Spire decides not to offer the service in a certain area, C Spire pledges that they will refund the \$10 deposit.

When will the fiber be installed?

C Spire pledges to begin the installation process once a critical mass of citizens pre-register. The quicker you pre-register and get your neighbors to pre-register, the sooner the installation will begin to your home.

Solid Waste and Recycling

When is the next household hazardous waste day?

May 17, 2014. The items collected include propane tanks, flammable aerosols, flammable paint, flammable liquids, pesticides, herbicides, corrosives, dry cell batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, tires, and electronics including television sets, computers and printers.

Where can I dispose of old appliances and electronics?

Old appliances and electronics can be recycled through MS Recycling. For free pick-up of your old appliances and electronics, call 601-853-3788.

What is the "Rewards for Recycling" program?

The City of Ridgeland has teamed up with Waste Management and Recyclebank to reward you for home recycling. Recyclebank rewards you for taking every day green actions – like recycling – with discounts and deals from more than 3,000 local and national businesses. On average, Recyclebank members can earn up to \$165 in reward value through their annual recycling efforts. By recycling, you can easily recover the recycling fee that you are charged on your utility bill each month.

continued on page 8

From the Desk of... the City Clerk

continued from page 7

How does the "Rewards for Recycling" program work?

Recycle all that you can with your Waste Management recycling cart; it will be calculated and weighed along with your neighbor's recycling. You will earn points each time you bring your cart to the curb. The more points you earn, the more rewards you can get. Redeeming your Recyclebank points for rewards can save residents money each time you shop at many national retailers and local businesses right here in Ridgeland.

How do I sign up for the "Rewards for Recycling" program?

You can visit www.recyclebank.com/wm or call 1-888-727-2978.

Relocation

If I am moving, what do I need to do about my water services?

Contact the Water Billing office at 601-856-7113 and give them the date that you will be moving and your forwarding address. Water Billing will send a meter reader out to get your final reading. Your deposit will be applied to your account and you will be mailed a final bill at the last address we have on file. If payment is not made, the account will be sent to collections and you will be responsible for all fees associated with the collection of the amount due.

If I am moving, can I take the Waste Management Recycling container with me to my new address?

No, the recycling container is the property of the City of Ridgeland. If you do not leave the recycling container at the address in which it is assigned, the replacement cost of the recycling container will be charged to your account.

Fifty Plus Club Memories

by Sarah W. Grantham, founder of 50's Plus Club and longtime Ridgeland resident

In 1977 I was a widow, trying to run a heating and air conditioning business. I did not find much encouragement by the men who ran similar businesses. My husband, Raymond Grantham, died in 1974. My life was rather dull without the companionship.

Brother David Ray, who was serving as Minister of Central Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS, approached me and asked if I would be interested in helping him start a 50+ Club in Ridgeland. He had started one in his church. I wanted to know more about the club and what it had to offer senior citizens.

He stated that he felt a need for power extraordinary that touches and transforms lives. His remarks were very interesting. He said most people need power to face life, accept things, improve and overcome in order to be and have meaning in events that touch us all.

People want power to act and react positively as God in 2 Tim. 1:7 wrote about a power willed by God- not a spirit of fear but a spirit of power, love and a sound mind.

I was immediately "sold" on the idea of starting a 50+ Club in Ridgeland. We were granted by the City of Ridgeland a building to use for our meetings. At that time, 1997, there were no church plans for seniors. Once one became a senior, he was expected for the "rocking chair," to sit back and wait. Under the inspiration and guidance of Rev. David Ray, we began our 50+ Club with more than a hundred people in attendance.

As we outgrew the old police building and maintenance warehouse, we were granted a place on the reservoir that the city purchased.

Our programs were motivational and we found lots of talent in our local people. Minnie Jane Burns, a great pianist, Pete Walker, a wonderful song leader, and I was responsible for the programs. We came together as a group who loved each other, were a positive, believing people and were encouraged to pray: "Father, I accept your forgiveness for every wrong in my life this day. I forgive everyone who has thought, spoken, or acted in a harmful way toward me. Amen."

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that we will all get old unless we die. Dying is not a catastrophic development. Changes required by maturity are looked upon as liabilities and that after 40, one's life is a downhill slide. Anyone can feel secure if his trust is in the Lord. Fifty+ is still active and members are enjoying the things that make life worthwhile.

Each day we should fill our minds with inspiring and courageous thoughts. That is what 50+ is all about.



Make Your Spring a Little Greener



Doing some spring cleaning? Making plans for spring break? Waste Management and Recyclebank have some great tips for you:

1. Clear the clutter in your garage, kitchen and bathrooms – Do you have old cleaning supplies or appliances that you haven't used for years? Check with <https://www.recyclebank.com/partner/earth911> for recycling solutions. Many household items will be accepted at Household Hazardous Waste Day on May 17. Appliances may be picked up for recycling by calling MS Recycles at 601-853-3788.
2. Cleaning out your kids' closets can be like taking a trip down memory lane – but how about reusing or recycling those hand-me-downs? Recyclebank has some great tips for diverting used kids clothes from the trash. Check them out at the Live Green Blog: <https://www.recyclebank.com/live-green/10-Ideas-for-Your-Kids-Outgrown-Clothes>. Also, Madison Countians Allied Against Poverty is a local charity that accepts donated clothes.
3. Looking for eco-friendly vacation ideas? How about a staycation?! There are so many great places to explore right outside your front door and with Recyclebank you could have great discounts just waiting for you! Check out the Recyclebank rewards catalog for Entertainment & Recreation options for your points: <https://www.recyclebank.com/rewards/entertainment-recreation>
4. Shop for your groceries outside! Visit one of the farmers' markets in and around your community to buy seasonal veggies from local farmers and decrease your own carbon footprint. <https://www.recyclebank.com/live-green/the-insiders-guide-to-the-farmers-market>. In Ridgeland, try Freshway Produce located on Old Canton Road.

Living a more eco-friendly lifestyle has never been easier (or more rewarding)! Get dozens of additional tips (and extra points) at Recyclebank.com, brought to you by Waste Management.

PETS AND LAWN CHEMICALS - Be Wise and Be Safe

By Tom Sagar

While walking my pet in our community, I noticed several properties with small flags. The wording on the flag noted, "CAUTION, Pesticides Application, KEEP OFF." I try to keep my pet on the sidewalk; however, she occasionally wants to step on to my neighbor's lawn (private property). If I am aware of chemicals used by my neighbor, my pet stays on the sidewalk. Since I do not know all of the residents in our community and am totally unaware of chemicals that may or may not be used by them on their lawn/shrubs, I decided to do some research on "Lawns, Pets and Chemicals."



Protect your pets, like you would young children, from hazardous lawn chemicals.

My research on the Internet provided important educational data and information that would be vital to the residents of our city who own pets. Several articles address the hazards and dangers of various chemicals, and the effects they have on our pets are explained in the publications noted below. Other publications and pamphlets address safeguards on how to protect your pet.

Important safeguards for your pet:

1. Never apply chemicals to your lawn or shrubs when pets are present, and keep pets away from the treated areas for the amount of time specified on the chemical use label.
2. Read chemical labels carefully and follow directions.
3. Use care when walking your pet, and clean their paws after a walk.
4. Avoid using chemicals when feeding bowls, water dishes, and pet toys are in the area.
5. If you suspect chemical poisoning, seek veterinary assistance immediately.

Additional information on this subject may be obtained from the following Internet sites:

1. Pets and Pesticides - A factsheet from Safer Pest Control Project www.spcpweb.org/factsheets/PetsFactsheet1.pdf
2. *Pesticides and You*, Fall 2007 (Vol. 27, #3) "Pesticides and Pets: What you should know to keep your pets safe" www.beyondpesticides.org/infoservices/pesticidesandyou/
3. Pets and Pesticide Use -Topic Fact Sheet by National Pesticide Information Center www.npic.orst.edu/factsheets/petspest.pdf

Remember that pets are not just property; they are another member of the family.

HEALTHY LIVING THROUGH EXERCISE

By Amanda Anderson

Healthy living can be defined as more than just being free of sickness. It is making healthy lifestyle choices, eating nutritious food and a balanced diet, exercising, getting enough sleep and reducing stress. Some individuals choose to stop smoking or using tobacco products when they want to live a healthier lifestyle.

If you want to become healthier by adding walking, running, cycling, team sports or other forms of exercise to your life, you live in a city full of opportunities. In Ridgeland, there are so many places and ways to get out and get moving!

With your doctor's approval, you can enjoy the many benefits of physical activity. It controls weight because it burns calories. Exercise fights diseases such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and certain types of cancer. It can help you to avoid or minimize your risk for the following: strokes, depression, arthritis, falls, and metabolic syndrome which represent a group of risk factors. Physical activity improves your mood and boosts energy. If you can't set aside time to exercise each day, get more active by incorporating more walking or physical activity into your daily routine.

Ridgeland was selected as Mississippi's Healthiest Hometown 2013, so take advantage of what the City of Ridgeland has to offer you that can keep you physically fit. Ridgeland is home to several parks for outdoor recreation. Check out the RECRE8 section of Ridgeland Life to learn more about the city's parks, athletics and fitness classes through Superstar Seniors.

Ridgeland has more than 14 miles of multi-use trails for biking, walking, running and skating. Additions to the trail system are being built along Lake Harbour Drive. Trail maps are available for your use on the city's website and at City Hall.

The Ridgeland Trails, mountain bike and hiking trails managed by the Tri-County Mountain Bike Association, are located on property owned by the City of Ridgeland off N. Livingston Road and Giles Lane in Madison County. A small fee goes toward maintenance of the trails and allows day use in this natural area. Ridgeland also has a BMX Track, Magnolia Ridge BMX, which is located at 338 N.E. Madison Avenue. Lastly, several fitness facilities, swimming pools, Taekwondo and other martial arts studios, as well as yoga and Pilates studios can be found throughout Ridgeland.

Ridgeland is fortunate to be home to the Ross Barnett Reservoir and the Natchez Trace Parkway. The Reservoir is popular for water skiing and sailing. The Parkway is frequently visited by bicyclists, hikers and horseback riders. Visit www.therez.ms/ and www.nps.gov/natr/ for more information.

Incorporating physical activity into your life is a great way to improve your health. Living in Ridgeland makes it convenient for you to take advantage of a multitude of opportunities to get fit and active. Be sure to include other positive lifestyle choices, along with your exercise program, to be the healthiest you that you can be!



Over 14 miles of multi-use trails in Ridgeland provide a popular place for runners to exercise.

BOTTOMS UP

STORMWATER POLLUTANTS FIND THEIR WAY INTO WHERE WE FISH, WHERE WE SWIM AND WHAT WE DRINK. Everything that goes into our storm drains—sediment, grass clippings, soap, pesticides, pet waste, litter, whatever—makes its way straight to our streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. Stormwater pollution is our biggest source of water pollution. It all adds up. It all comes back. Help keep stormwater pollutants out of the Ross Barnett Reservoir. Remember, it's your water...your legacy!

MDEQ

MISSISSIPPI RESERVOIR

Visit us online at:
www.rezonate.ms.org
or scan our QR Code

Rezonate!

New Fitness Equipment Installed

The City of Ridgeland received a \$50,000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation for earning the award, Mississippi's Healthiest Hometown 2013. Shortly after being notified of the grant award, the Healthy Hometown Committee met with city officials and made a recommendation that the grant money be used to purchase fitness equipment for installation in some of Ridgeland's outdoor recreation areas. This project, titled "Fitness for All," is designed to provide users of all ages and abilities with a complete outdoor fitness experience at public parks and trails in Ridgeland.

Equipment pieces were selected to complement existing facilities and to maximize the use of the grant. Over the winter months, equipment was ordered and installed at the Ridgeland Multiuse Trail, Freedom Ridge Park and Friendship Park.

Since the Ridgeland Multiuse Trail is used primarily for cardio conditioning, equipment installed for trail users allows for cross training through strength-building. Equipment pieces include an Adult Fitness Unit, Horizontal Chin Station, Step-Up Fitness Station and Bench Dip Station. All of this equipment can be found adjacent to the pavilion at the Rice Road and Harbor Drive intersection.

Fitness for All seeks to enhance fitness of all ages with the addition of specialized fitness equipment for older children and adults at Freedom Ridge Park. Existing playgrounds are well used by younger children and a one mile walking trail is used by all ages. By adding a Custom X-Scape Fitness Play Structure at Freedom Ridge Park, children of all ages can get exercise while playing. An Accessible Multi-Station Gym has been installed near the Universal Design Playground for adults and older children in wheelchairs. A Climbing Wall for ages 13 and over was also installed as part of this project. An entire family can now exercise together at Freedom Ridge Park.

The grant made it possible to enhance an existing fitness area at Friendship Park with new strength-building equipment: a Seated Leg Press Machine and a Seated Chest Press Machine. The design of Friendship Park allows for parents and children to exercise in adjoining areas with a 1-mile walking/running trail and playground in close proximity. Children get exercise while playing and climbing at the playground and running on the trail, and adults and older children have the option to add the use of fitness equipment to their cardio routine.

The addition of outdoor fitness equipment at Ridgeland's public parks and trails will give participants the option to have a more complete workout. Trail users can incorporate strength training, and parents can work out while children play. Older children can play alongside younger children. Wheelchair users can exercise in the same area. Ridgeland's project offers fitness for all - all ages, all abilities and all parts of your body for a complete fitness experience outdoors.



Friendship Park gained a seated leg press and seated chest press.



An adult fitness unit, horizontal chin station, step-up fitness station and bench dip station are now available for public use at the Rice Road trailhead facility.



The X-Scape fitness play structure makes it easy for children of all ages to get fit while they play.

Shoemaker Homes brings home Best in Mississippi awards

Submitted by the Home Builders Association of Mississippi

The Home Builders Association of Mississippi handed out its annual Best in Mississippi Housing awards on November 20, 2013. Shoemaker Homes earned two prestigious awards from this statewide organization for construction located in Ridgeland.

The Single Family Award for New Construction of a Spec Home with 1,800 to 2,500 Square Feet went to Shoemaker Homes for "The Berchman" located in The Enclave Subdivision in Ridgeland. With wrought iron gates, rich wood flooring and similar architectural elements, a fleur-de-lis and magnolias are all that's needed to make this exquisite new home even more Deep South.

The Subdivision Development of the Year Award went to Shoemaker Homes for "The Enclave at Towne Center" in Ridgeland. Shoemaker Homes approached the 61-home gated development as an "an affordable, convenient community with efficient upscale living." Even in homes that met minimal standards of only 1,750 square feet, Scott Shoemaker wanted to load them with amenities typically seen in much larger homes, using the philosophy - "little things are the hinges which great results turn." Ayefour Development Group incorporated "aging in place" elements that define the all-ages-friendly community at bustling Towne Center Boulevard.



The entrance to the Enclave at Towne Center is near the intersection of Pear Orchard Road and Towne Center Boulevard, a central and convenient location in Ridgeland. This subdivision and one of its spec homes, "The Berchman" won awards from the Home Builders Association of Mississippi.

City Maker Gives Exceptional Service to Community

At the 2013 Chamber of Commerce awards banquet in January, Mayor Gene McGee presented the City Maker Award to Jan Richardson for her tireless efforts to promote Ridgeland's public schools. The City Maker Award is the highest honor the City of Ridgeland can bestow upon an individual. The award is given for exceptional service, commitment and dedication to the City of Ridgeland.

Richardson has a long history of involvement in the public schools. She currently spearheads the PTO public relations committee, a group of involved parents who work to publicize all the good news coming out of our public schools. In addition, she serves as co-president of the Highland Elementary PTO, the vice president of public affairs at Olde Towne Middle School and the co-chair of Do-Right Scholarships at Ridgeland High School. She has also served as liaison to the Chamber to promote the schools to the business community. "It is an incredible honor to receive the City Maker Award and a huge surprise," said Richardson. "I feel like I share this award with many wonderful parents who are dedicated to supporting Ridgeland schools and businesses. We have worked together on projects ranging from creating an outdoor amphitheater, bringing computer coding into the classroom, health initiatives and promoting our schools in the community, all with strong support from our school principals and staff."

Mayor McGee personally chose Richardson for the city's top honor. "Not often does one have the opportunity to meet a person like Jan," said McGee. "She is someone who rolls up her sleeves to work to make the community better, but does it in a way that does not draw attention to herself. It was without question she deserved to win the City Maker Award, and I am honored to have selected her as this year's winner."

Ann Smith Elementary principal Dr. Melissa Philley recalled meeting Richardson the summer she first became principal. "My first experience with Jan was when she coordinated the parent meeting for all of the PTOs two summers ago," said Philley. "I had just stepped into the principal role at ASE, and it was wonderful to know that there were parents like Jan who put their hearts into everything Titan. She does a lot of behind-the-scenes work, like coordinating parent meetings, to ensure that the Titan Zone is a tightly bound community. Jan Richardson is a true friend to all of the schools in the Ridgeland Zone."

Additionally, Richardson serves on the newly formed Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Committee, soon to become an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. She works on recycling efforts with the city, the schools and in her neighborhood. And she continuously seeks ways to serve her community and help maintain Ridgeland as a great place to live.

"Jan has such a positive energy around her," added Philley. "Her zest for life, education and children is really energizing. She makes you proud to be a Titan and motivates you to use your own talents and gifts to make our community a better place to live."



Jan Richardson was presented with the 2013 City Maker Award at the annual awards banquet of the City of Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce. Pictured here (from left) is Jan's husband Allen Richert, Jan Richardson, and Mayor Gene F. McGee.

Recreation and Parks Directory

Office
601-853-2011

Fax
601-853-2015

E-mail
recre8@ridgelandms.org

Recreational Center
601-856-6876

Freedom Ridge Park
601-853-2023

Rental Information
601-853-2011

Hotline
601-853-2039

Youth Organizations

South Madison County Soccer Organization

SMCSO is a non-profit organization providing an opportunity for the youth of our area to participate in soccer. Visit www.smcso.com or call 601-898-1996 for more information.

Madison-Ridgeland Youth Club

MRYC is a community organization providing an opportunity for youth in our area to participate in baseball, softball, tackle football, cheerleading and basketball. Visit www.mryouthclub.com for more information.

Recreational Facilities

Freedom Ridge Park

235 West School Street - Freedom Ridge Park, a 50-acre athletic facility, is located on School Street just behind the Ridgeland Police Department. The park features four lighted adult regulation softball fields, four lighted regulation soccer fields, four picnic pavilions two playgrounds including a universal playground for use by individuals with physical disabilities or limitations, two concession/restroom buildings, a lighted walking trail and a maintenance facility.

Each of the four pavilions at Freedom Ridge Park is available at an hourly rate of \$15 for residents, and \$25 for non-residents. The security deposit, our "clean-up insurance," is \$100.

Ridgeland Tennis Center

201 McClellan Drive - The Ridgeland Tennis Center, a full-service public facility operated by tennis pros, is located at 201 McClellan Drive, off Highway 51. The center is home to 17 lighted, hard tennis courts, men's and women's locker rooms, a 2,000-square-foot covered porch for viewing, and a fully stocked tennis pro shop.

City Hall

304 Highway 51 - Ridgeland City Hall is home to four soccer fields during the soccer season. During baseball season, this property converts to three T-ball fields.

Ridgeland Recreational Center

137 Old Trace Park - The Ridgeland Recreational Center is housed in a two-story rustic lodge overlooking the Ross Barnett Reservoir. Daily activities for Superstar Seniors as well as nightly classes for all ages take place during the week in this facility.

Friendship Park

475 Lake Harbour Drive - Friendship Park is a multi-purpose neighborhood park facility. With a large lighted pavilion, a one-mile lighted walking/jogging trail, a fitness court, playground equipment, and restroom facilities, the park accommodates many and varying needs.

The pavilion is available for rental at an hourly rate of \$15 for residents, \$25 per hour for non-residents, with a security deposit of \$100. Park hours are 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Wolcott Park

349 McClellan Drive - Wolcott Park, a 40-acre athletic facility, is located on McClellan Drive, off Highway 51. It features seven lighted baseball/softball fields, a playground, 14 batting cages, two bull pens, two concession/restroom building and a maintenance facility.

Ridgeland Multiuse Trail

More than 14 miles of trails are available for public use in Ridgeland. Several miles of the trail travel through National Park Service property along the Natchez Trace Parkway. Parking for the trail is available at the intersection of Rice Road and Harbor Drive, at the Parkway Information Cabin, and on N.E. Madison Drive off W. Jackson Street. Water fountains, benches, and trash cans can be found along the trail. Please enjoy the trailhead facility that includes a covered pavilion with picnic tables, restrooms, bike repair station, and recycling container. A fitness station is conveniently located adjacent to the pavilion at the intersection of Rice Road and Harbor Drive.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events Coordinator, Wendy Bourdin
 Phone: 601-853-2011 • Email: wendy.bourdin@ridgelandms.org

Natchez Trace Century Ride

Get your ride on! The Century Ride will take place on Saturday, May 3. Offering a choice of distances, this recreational ride is suitable for all ability levels. The Century Ride will use the same routes as last year. For route information, please visit our website at www.natchezcenturyride.racesonline.com.



- Registration: Now – April 11, 2014
- Registration Fee: \$35
- Late Registration: April 12, 2014 – May 3, 2014
- Late Registration Fee: \$45
- Event Date: Saturday, May 3, 2014
- Start Time: 7 a.m.
- Location: Ridgeland Recreational Center

KidFest! Ridgeland

Family Fun is on as KidFest! Ridgeland takes over Freedom Ridge Park April 12-13 and April 18-19. Guests enjoy train rides, pony rides, festival rides, backyard circus, activities, and shows. Special shows this year include Bengal Tigers and Gator Boys. Ultimately, the objective is to provide an opportunity for parents and children to interact with each other and provide an affordable, memorable family experience. Tickets will be

Title VI Policy Statement

The City of Ridgeland, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, ensures that no persons in the City of Ridgeland shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any programs or activity it administers. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should contact:

Paula W. Tierce, Title VI Coordinator
 City of Ridgeland
 304 Highway 51 • P.O. Box 217
 Ridgeland, MS 39158
 Phone: 601-856-7113 • Fax: 601-856-7819
paula.tierce@ridgelandms.org

available at the gate. We do not accept debit/credit cards. Visit www.kidfestridgeland.com for more information.

- Ticket Price: TBD
- Location: Freedom Ridge Park
- Dates & Times: Saturday, April 12
9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 13
12 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Friday, April 18
9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 19
9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Ride of Silence

The Ride of Silence™ is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2014. This special event seeks to build awareness of the importance of sharing the road safely for cyclists and motorists. Participating cyclists ride no faster than 12 mph and remain silent during the ride in honor of those cyclists who have been injured or lost their life due to collision with vehicles. The ride begins and ends at Northpark Mall. Arrive at 6:15 p.m. for key speakers and announcements. Ride begins at 7 p.m.



- Program Price: Free
- Location: Northpark Mall
- Event Date: May 21
- Time: 6:15 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day

Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2014, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Holmes Community College. Residents of Madison County may drop off hazardous wastes from their homes and garages during this annual event.

Items for collection include: old paint cans, automobile motor oil, batteries (dry cell, marine or automobile), tires, herbicides, pesticides, TV's, computers and old printers.

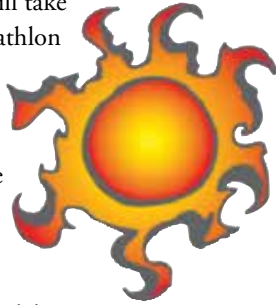
Compressed gas cylinders, fire extinguishers, medical waste or explosives will not be accepted.

Chemical containers may not be larger than 5 gallons or 50 pounds, and it is preferable that chemicals be in their original containers or clearly marked for identification purposes. No business waste will be accepted.

- Program Price: Free
- Location: Holmes Community College, Ridgeland Avenue parking lot
- Event Date: Saturday, May 17
- Times: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Heatwave Classic Triathlon

The 29th annual Heatwave Classic will take place on Saturday, June 7, 2014. This triathlon is a race favorite among tri-athletes in the Southeast. Over 400 participants from across the country are expected to descend on Ridgeland to compete for the top prize in the various age groups.



Participants will take to the water at 7 a.m. at Madison Landing and swim 0.5 miles. After completing the swim, participants will ride 24.5 miles along the scenic and historic Natchez Trace Parkway. After the ride is complete, participants will embark on a 10K run on the heavily shaded Ridgeland Multi-Purpose Trail.

For more information, call the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks office at 601-853-2011 or visit the Heatwave Classic website at www.heatwavetri.racesonline.com.

Program Price:	Individual: \$75 - after May 1, \$85 Relay Team: \$140 - after May 2, \$150 \$12 single event USAT Insurance per participant
Registration:	Now-June 5
Onsite Registration:	June 6-7, 2014
Onsite Price:	Individual: \$100 Relay: \$165
Event Date:	Saturday, June 7, 2014
Start Time:	7 a.m.
Location:	Old Trace Park

PROGRAMS

Wendy Bourdin
Phone: 601-853-2011 • Email: wendy.bourdin@ridgelandms.org

Dog Obedience

The Jackson Obedience Training Club (JOTC) will offer puppy manners, beginner basic obedience and advanced training classes. The JOTC is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1969 and is licensed by the American Kennel Club.

Puppies must be 3-5 months old. Dogs for the basic obedience class must be 6 months of age or older. This class teaches basic commands of heel, sit, down, stay, come and other usable commands. The advanced class teaches the exercises necessary to obtain AKC's Canine Good Citizen Certification.



Each session lasts for six weeks. Proof of vaccination by a licensed vet is required. Two sessions will be offered in the spring. Classes for Session #1 will begin, March 4. Registration will be held for Session #2 March 18-April 30. Classes for Session #2 will begin, May 6.

Program Price:	\$75
Registration:	Session #1 February 1-28 Session #2 March 18-April 30
Start Date:	Session #1 March 4, 2014 Session #2 May 6, 2014
Start Time:	7 p.m.
Day of Week:	Tuesday
Location:	Ridgeland Recreational Center

ATHLETICS

Athletics Coordinator, John Sidney North
Phone: 601-853-2011 • Email: john.north@ridgelandms.org

Start Smart Baseball

Start Smart Baseball is a developmentally appropriate introductory program for children ages 3 to 5 years old that prepares them for organized tee ball and baseball in a fun, non-threatening environment. Start Smart Baseball will meet for six one-hour sessions. Parent participation is required. Each child will receive a bat, ball, glove, koosh ball, mondo koosh ball, a Start Smart participant manual and a T-shirt. A minimum of 10 participants is required in order for the class to make. A maximum of 20 participants will be allowed. Child must be 3 by January 1, 2014.

Program Price:	\$70
Registration:	March 3 - 14
Event Date:	April 1 - 17
Start Time:	6 p.m.
Days of Week:	Tuesday & Thursday
Location:	Freedom Ridge Park



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Adult Softball

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department will be offering a men's open league (6 Homerun limit), a men's commercial league (3 Homerun limit), and a men's church league. All games will be played at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland. The leagues will be open to the first 24 teams in each division. ASA sanction rules will be in play for the leagues. We will offer 12 games for each league.



Register at Ridgeland City Hall during office hours, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011.

Program Price: \$500
 Registration: March 3 – 14

SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Senior Adult Coordinator, Lynda McMahan Assink
 Phone: 601-856-6876 • Email: lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org

All Superstar Seniors Programs take place at the Ridgeland Recreational Center unless otherwise specified.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Agape Men's Coffee Group

All men are welcome to join every Wednesday morning, beginning at 9:30 a.m. for a men's coffee group. Enjoy fellowship, storytelling, jokes, and coffee at the Ridgeland Recreational Center.



Program Price: No Charge
 Start Date: On-going
 Times: 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
 Day of Week: Wednesday

Balance & Fall-Proof Your Life

A Prevention and Balance Exercise Class for Optimum Senior Health

This class will teach you the latest in fall prevention and balance exercises. It will also help in Total Body strengthening that will keep you one step ahead in improving your life. Class will meet every Wednesday for 6 weeks, 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Cost of the class is \$8/class or \$30/6 weeks. Register for class by calling Lynda at 601-856-6876 or email lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org.

Program Price: \$8/class or \$30/6 weeks
 Start Date: March 19
 Times: 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Day of Week: Wednesday

Country Line Dancing

Learn the dance steps that are popular everywhere! In this class you'll discover a variety of line dances. It's great fun, good exercise, and you don't need a partner. Darlene Epple is the instructor for the class.



Program Price: \$40/ month or \$10/weekly
 Start Date: On-going
 Times: Beginners Class, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 Advanced Class, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 Day of Week: Monday

Men's Bible Study

A Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. It is a non-denominational, in-depth study of God's Word. Call Earl Beck at 601-668-2332 for more information.

Start Date: On-going
 Times: 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
 Day of Week: Tuesday

Painting Pals

Is it hard for you to paint and/or draw at home? Bring your own supplies and enjoy painting at our Ridgeland Recreational Center, located at Old Trace Park, overlooking the reservoir. It's an ideal setting to paint or draw!

Program Price: No cost
 Start Date: On-going
 Times: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
 Day of Week: Tuesdays

Tai-Chi Fusion on the Reservoir

Tai-Chi has become an increasingly popular form of physical exercise around the world as a basic exercise program and as a complement to health care methods. A few of the benefits are: increased flexibility and reduced risk of injury, focused breathing and concentration, improved mind-body connection, greater strength and stamina, better balance and stability, improved posture, stress reduction and much more.



Program Price: \$8/per class or \$20/4 weeks
 Start Date: On-going
 Times: 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 Day of Week: Wednesday

Restoration & Relaxation Gentle Yoga

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks is offering a Yoga class for beginners. This is a great class for those who are beginning exercise or rehabbing from an injury. Offered at a slow pace, this class will focus on the basics of yoga, breath work and gentle movement. These movements will not add stress to the joints. A sense of well-being will come from breathing and gentle yoga stretches. This class will help you let go of the everyday stresses of life. Always consult with your physician before beginning any exercise program. For more information and to register, call or email Lynda.

Start Date: On-going
 Program Price: \$5/class
 Times: 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 Days of Week: Mondays and Fridays

Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness, & Fun!

Join us for this fun class led by Lisa Newman. She will guide you through gentle stretching and strengthening exercises for your whole body. This class is for those who have had some experience with yoga. Standing poses will be introduced as well as strength poses.

Participants may want to join both yoga classes for only \$10: Restorative and Relaxation Yoga and Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness and Fun! Always consult with your physician before beginning any exercise program. For more information, call or email Lynda.

Start Dates: On-going
 Program Price: \$5/class
 Times: 11:30 a.m.–noon
 Days of Week: Mondays and Fridays

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MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Bridge

Bridge games are held the fourth Thursday of each month at the Ridgeland Recreational Center overlooking the reservoir. It provides a beautiful setting for an afternoon game. The player with the highest score for the month receives a prize. Reservations are required 4 days in advance. Please call Lynda at 601-856-6876 or 601-853-2011 to reserve your chair. Please arrive at 12:45 p.m. to receive your nametag. Game starts promptly at 1 p.m.

Program Price: \$1.00 each for prize (winner)
 Dates: March 27, April 24, May 22
 Times: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 Day of Week: Thursday

Ridgeland City Garden Club

The Ridgeland City Garden Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Enjoy lunch, informative/exciting programs, and sharing the love of gardening with many friends. Call Nannette Sullivan at 601-856-6784 for more information and how to join the Garden Club.

Program Price: \$20/for the year to join
 Dates: March 4, April 1, May 6
 Day of the Week: Tuesday
 Location: Ridgeland Recreational Center

Thread, Yarn, Crochet & Coffee

Bring your own needle work (needlepoint, cross-stitch, crochet, knitting, etc.) on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of needlework and meeting new friends.

Program Price: No Charge
 Dates: March 10 & 24, April 14, May 12 & 26
 Times: 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
 Day of Week: Monday

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Spring Fling in Brilliant Branson Trip

We will take a 4 day trip to Branson, stopping first to visit the Historic Arkansas Area. We will stay at the Hilton at the Landing for 3 nights. We will see shows: *Six*, *Jonah*, The Haygoods. Price includes 6 meals, sightseeing, local tours, guides, admissions, fees/gratuities, hotel and baggage handling, and motor coach. Call or email Lynda at lynda.assink@ridgelanddms.org for brochure.

Registration: Deposit \$100 per person
 Program Price: \$599 Twin, \$575 Triple
 Dates: May 5 – 8
 Days of the Week: Monday-Thursday

TENNIS

Ridgeland Tennis Center
 201-A McClellan Drive
 Phone: 601-853-1115



Directors: Cheryl Harris and Susan Toler

The Ridgeland Tennis Center is the largest public tennis facility in Mississippi.

Tournaments

March 8	Grand Prix 10 and Under Junior Tournament
April 11 – 12	Wheelchair Tournament
April 26 – 27	Aquafina Junior Level 3 Tournament
May 31 – June 3	MS Junior Qualifying Closed State Champs

Private, semi-private and group lessons are available year-round. Please call 601-853-1115 for more information.

ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

Grades K-2 • 306 S. Pear Orchard Road
601-856-6621 • www.madison-schools.com/ase



Caring for children a way of life for Teacher of the Year

Suzanne Pierce has been teaching children since she was a child herself. As the oldest in a family of seven children, a mother of four children, and a teacher for the last 22 years, Pierce has made caring for children part of her daily life as long as she can remember.

"I can't remember a time in my life when I wasn't surrounded by children," Pierce said. "I began teaching children at my church when I was just a teenager and still teach children's church even now. I never really considered any other career. I just always knew that (teaching) was what I wanted to do."

Pierce has been teaching second grade at Ann Smith for 12 years. Before that, she taught sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade math and fifth-grade science at Forest City Schools and Scott County Schools. "I really enjoy teaching second-graders because they love learning," explained Pierce, who was recently named "Teacher of the Year" by her peers. "They are like little sponges, and they love their teachers! It is so wonderful to look back at the end of each school year and remember where they started and how much they've grown. It's amazing how much they can learn in 180 days! I love being a part of that."

Pierce felt honored to be recognized by her coworkers.

"I can honestly say that I work with the most dedicated, hardworking, creative group of teachers that I have ever met!" Pierce said. "It is very humbling to be recognized by them."

Pierce has many fond memories at Ann Smith, and many more yet to be made. One that particularly stands out involves a military parent who made a surprise visit to her classroom.

"One of my students' mom was stationed in the Middle East for six months during the school year," Pierce explained. "She contacted Sissy Lynn, one of the parents at ASE, to tell her that she would be coming home and would like to surprise her son, who was in my class. We worked together to set up the 'homecoming.' We had the dad come read to my class and told him that the local TV station wanted to do a story about parents volunteering in the classroom. The mom came into the classroom to surprise them both. It was such a great experience."

Pierce grew up on the coast in the small town of Moss Point and attended the University of Southern Mississippi. Her husband is a pastor. Her daughter Haley is 24, twins Hannah and Reed are 20, and her youngest son Riley is 6. When she is not teaching, she enjoys scanning for new classroom ideas on Pinterest.



Ann Smith Teacher of the Year Suzanne Pierce loves to be surrounded by children. Here she is 'surrounded' by Abby Houck and Joshua Good, (standing), and (front, from left) Kennedy Brooks, Alex Guerra and Anne Avery Lunsford.

Upcoming Events at ASE

March 10-14: Spring break

March 28: Titan Tone Up Bounce
Palace Field Trip

March 29: Titan Trot 5K & 1-Mile
Fun Run

April 1: Mazzio's night

April 2: Kindergarten registration

April 22: Spring PTO meeting

April 25: Field Day

May 2: Kindergarten Circus Day

May 5-9: Teacher appreciation
week

May 7: Teacher appreciation
luncheon

2013-2014 PTO Board

Jenny Culver, president
jenny-culver@hotmail.com

Marci Williams, exec-vice president
williams.marci@gmail.com

Semantha Grogan, treasurer

Tom Grogan, treasurer

Erin Rodgers, secretary

Shirley Johnson, fundraising

Tammra Cascio, academic affairs

Merry Lunsford, academic affairs

Stephanie Edwards,
parental relations

Aarin Schnackenberg,
public relations

Titan Trot 5K & 1-Mile Fun Run Around The Corner

The PTOs of Ann Smith Elementary, Highland Elementary, Olde Towne Middle and Ridgeland High School are teaming up for the Titan Trot 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run on Saturday, March 29, at 9 a.m., at Ridgeland High School. Registration is free for all K-12 Titans, but the event is open to the community as well. It's not too late to register. Drop by any of the Ridgeland schools or visit www.titanrot5K.org.



Getting fit is fun

Ann Smith kids are stronger than ever after participating in the Titan Tone Up program. For the last several weeks, students have been keeping track of their daily physical activity outside of school hours in a fitness log. The event kicked off in February with an energetic assembly presented by Rochelle Culp of the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition. The students then went home with their first fitness log where they've kept track of all their exercise—from karate class to walking the dog to playing “Just Dance” or other active video games in their living room. Their goal has been to log 270 minutes of physical activity each week. At the end of each week, students who turn in a completed log receive a prize, such as a water bottle or jump rope, donated by St. Dominic's Hospital, sidewalk chalk donated by BankPlus, or a Clif Kid Z bar, donated by the Clif company. Children who participate all four weeks will be invited on a field trip to the Bounce Palace.



Ann Smith kids get energized for the Titan Tone Up at the kickoff assembly.



Every year the kindergartners and their families enjoy the Thanksgiving Feast. Many say it's one of their most memorable events at Ann Smith. Kindergarten registration begins at the school on April 2.

Kindergarten registration starts next month

Do you have a preschooler ready to start kindergarten? Ann Smith is holding a kindergarten registration event on Wednesday, April 2. Registration will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. that day. However, if you come at 8:30 a.m., you and your rising kindergartner can tour the school and enjoy a brief presentation by current kindergarten classes.

Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2014, to be eligible for kindergarten for the 2014-15 year. You will need to bring a birth certificate, immunization record, and proof of residency, such as a lease agreement, homestead exemption or house deed. Two current utility bills must also be provided closer to the start of school.

Life behind the lens: PTO photographer named Parent of the Year

You might want to frame this photo of Sissy Lynn—it is a rarity. Lynn, Ann Smith Elementary’s Parent of the Year, is much more comfortable on the other side of the camera. If you’ve ever attended an event at Ann Smith, there’s no doubt you’ve seen her before, looking through the lens of her camera, capturing memories of some of the greatest, sweetest and most inspiring moments at Ann Smith. Lynn’s efforts to promote Ann Smith and its sister schools in Ridgeland are tireless, and her passion for education is contagious.

“It brings me great joy when I walk through the halls at ASE, and students hug me and ask me to take their photo. Some of them know me by name, but others call me the ‘camera lady’ or ‘Daniel’s mom’ or ‘Julia’s mom.’”

Lynn began working with the Parent Teacher Organization of Ann Smith when her son Daniel started kindergarten in 2009. Daniel is now a fourth-grader at Highland. Her daughter Julia is in Paige Hawkins’ second-grade class. Lynn has served in various positions on the PTO board including vice president of public relations for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years and executive vice president for the 2012-13 school year.

“I’ve always loved volunteering, and taking a proactive role in my kids’ education was a priority for me,” Lynn explained. “Since I have a background in marketing, I decided that helping with publicity was the best fit for my skill set.”

Although she is not a current PTO board member, she is a member of a four-school volunteer public relations team that works to promote the Ridgeland zone, and she is also serving as co-vice president of public relations on Highland’s PTO board. Additionally, she helps maintain Ann Smith’s website and Facebook page and is frequently at the school volunteering or, of course, taking pictures.

In 2011, Lynn organized Ann Smith Elementary’s first Walk to School Day, an international event that promotes pedestrian safety, physical fitness and environmentally friendly modes of transportation. She organized the event again in 2012, when ASE received the STEP it UP Award from MDOT, and again in 2013.

“I’m very proud of how successful Walk to School Day has been in the three years since we brought the event to ASE. When we first started planning Walk to School Day, I had no idea what to expect,” she said. “Having such great participation says to me that our ASE families value physical fitness and take great pride in their community.”

Lynn is a freelance copyeditor. Her husband Randy Lynn is vice president and creative director at Maris, West & Baker Advertising. She grew up in Raymond, received an English degree from Belhaven College and has lived in Ridgeland since 2000.



Sissy Lynn, Ann Smith’s Parent of the Year, and her daughter, Julia, a second-grader in Mrs. Hawkins’ class.

A DAY OF SERVICE

What better way to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., than to spend the morning serving your community? Ann Smith families gathered on Monday, Jan. 20, to help sort and pack toiletries for donation to Madison County H.O.P.E. for Kids, an organization that provides healthy essentials to Madison County children experiencing economic challenges. Once finished with the sorting, volunteers all pitched in for a campus cleanup.



After sorting through donations collected for Madison County H.O.P.E. for Kids, Ann Smith families all pitched in for a playground pick-up at the school.

HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

Grades 3 - 5 • 330 Brame Road
601-853-8103 • www.madison-schools.com/hes



HIGHLAND LAUNCHES COMPUTER PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE

Highland Elementary held a workshop in the fall to provide training for teachers to incorporate computer programming (or “coding”) concepts and activities into their classrooms.

The workshop was led by Mississippi State University graduate student Joshua Crowson, who received his undergraduate degree in elementary education and is currently working on his master’s in computer science. Crowson addressed the importance of teaching computer programming skills and provided hands-on training using Scratch, a platform developed by MIT for teaching computer programming to young children.

“Scratch makes learning programming really easy because you drag and drop blocks of code to build your program, rather than typing it out,” said Crowson. “It’s a little bit like building with LEGOs. You can create animated stories, games or quizzes. It’s a lot of fun for kids because it’s easy for them to jump right in and make things happen very quickly.”

Following the teacher training, teachers had the opportunity to apply their skills, working with Highland students to complete a coding assignment. “It was amazing how quickly the kids learned how to do it,” said third-grade teacher Mena Burnett. “These kids have grown up with computers their entire lives. By the end of the workshop, they were teaching *me*.”

Principal Marilyn Naron considers the teacher workshop to be just the first step in a broader initiative. “We wanted to train teachers first so that they can introduce kids to the idea of computer programming and use it to reinforce other subject areas,” said Naron. “Computer science is a critical part of STEM education, and every child needs to be exposed to it.”

The teacher workshop was sponsored by Maris, West & Baker, *Parents & Kids Magazine* and Venture Technologies. The Highland coding initiative was inspired by Code.org, an organization which is working to counteract the decline in computer science education that has occurred over the past 10 years, which includes dramatic decreases in female and minority students choosing computer science career paths.



At the conclusion of the coding workshop, participating teachers got the chance to work with students one on one to implement the coding skills they learned.

Show Choir Wins Big in Vicksburg

The Madison-Ridgeland Young Singers (MRYS), an auditioned show choir led by HES music teacher Lou Ann Evans and her husband Gene, won first-place honors at the V105.5 Christmas Caroling Contest in Vicksburg for the second straight year. The group is made up primarily of Highland students, as well as other elementary students in the Madison-Ridgeland area.

Mrs. Evans has been leading an elementary show choir for the past 15 years. She created a Young Singers group in honor of vocal teacher Opal Setaro, who also headed up a choral group called Young Singers that Evans participated in as a child. “I want to continue her legacy by instilling the love of music in the hearts of these children the way she instilled it in mine,” explained Evans.

MRYS competed in the preliminaries of the V105.5 competition on Tuesday, December 10 at Warren Central High School and made it to the finals on Saturday, December 14 – winning both divisions they entered. During the finals, Miss Mississippi 2013 Chelsea Rick co-hosted the event and presented trophies to the winners in front of a standing-room-only crowd. For winning both divisions, MRYS received \$2,000, which will be used to help purchase a new sound system.

“These Young Singers always rise to any challenge that I place before them,” said Evans. “The music I chose for the competition was challenging for this age group, but they worked very hard and performed it like champions.”

In addition to the V105.5 competition, MRYS performed at other venues including Christmas on Ice, Christmas by Candlelight at the Old Capitol and a Christmas concert at Highland. This spring, the Young Singers will sing the national anthem at a Mississippi Braves game, perform at Gathering on the Green at the Old Capitol and present a year-end concert at Highland.

Highland Participates in Historic 'Hour Of Code' and Wins \$10,000 Worth of Computers

In December, Highland Elementary launched a weeklong computer science event with the unveiling of a \$10,000 check from Code.org, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting K-12 computer science education.

Highland was one of only 13 schools in Mississippi to make the commitment for every student to participate in Hour of Code. Code.org chose one \$10,000 prize to be awarded to a public school in every U.S. state. Highland's full participation made the school eligible to become Mississippi's winner.

Hour of Code, held during Computer Science Education Week, December 9-14, was the largest education event in history, with more than 18 million individuals across 170 countries having participated. Code.org aggressively publicized the event, which was supported by companies like Google, Apple Computer, Facebook and Microsoft.

Highland's event was attended by representatives from the City of Ridgeland, the Madison County School District, the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce, Innovate Mississippi, HES technology committee members, HES teachers, and third- and fourth-grade students from the school's Pathways gifted program.

Mayor Gene McGee addressed the role technology has played in Ridgeland's economic development, describing how students and communities can benefit from early STEM education, such as computer science. "We're exposing our students to skills needed to succeed in high-paying, high-technology careers," said McGee. "We are also encouraging students to use their minds to think in new ways."

Aresia Rhodes, a business analyst with the Ridgeland-based technology company Bomgar, talked about how computer programming classes at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science prepared her for success at technology companies including Hewlett Packard and Cisco and, upon her return to Mississippi, Bomgar, one of America's fastest-growing private companies. She urged students to make the most of the opportunities given them. "I challenge you to make use of every opportunity that is given to you," said Rhodes. "You can do anything as long as we give you the tools you need to learn."

The \$10,000 check was presented to Naron by Dr. Ronnie McGehee, Superintendent of Madison County Schools. "I offer my congratulations to Mrs. Naron and the Highland community for this effort," said McGehee. "It's an opportunity for our students to learn how to be creators of content, not just be consumers of it."

Following the check presentation, Highland Pathways students began their Hour of Code with a coding tutorial with characters from the popular games Angry Birds and Plants vs. Zombies. Videos featuring Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg introduced programming concepts and offered encouragement for the new coders.



During the Hour of Code kickoff, third-graders Marissa Cohen (left) and James Woody work together to complete a coding tutorial featuring Angry Birds.



Pictured are members of the award-winning third-grade Young Singers choir during their performance at the finals of the Christmas caroling competition.

Upcoming Dates

- March 10-14 - Spring Break
- March 29 - Titan Trot
- April 17 - Field Day
- April 18 - Good Friday/No School
- April 21 - Easter Holiday/No School
- April 28-May 2 - Teacher Appreciation Week
- April 29 - Spring PTO Meeting
- May 5 - Fifth-grade Science Test
- May 13-15 - MCT2 Assessments
- May 22 - Last Day of School

Drama Club Tackles the Issue of Bullying

Highland has launched the school's first-ever after-school drama club for fifth-graders. Led by fifth-grade teacher Annette Reiter and special education teacher Mary Ann Murphy, the drama club began meeting in November. The students brainstormed about what type of play they wanted to present and chose the topic of bullying, a problem relevant to what children their age sometimes deal with at school and in extracurricular activities.

In late January, the drama club presented "Bully Tales," a play that incorporated fairy tales, fantasy and sports, while bringing the issue of bullying to a whole new light. Drama club members gave two presentations – one open to parents and community members and the other to fifth-graders during school.

"We're very proud of our drama club members for their commitment and dedication," said Reiter. "They worked exceptionally hard, while exemplifying a high standard of behavior. The students think drama club is awesome and hope it will send the message of 'No bullying at our school.'"



Drama club members are pictured after a rehearsal for "Bully Tales."

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Technology Student Association Offers Hands-on STEM

In its second year, the Technology Student Association continues to expand to meet the interests of students and staff, whose interests range from 3D printing, coding, video game development, radios and robotics. Grants from VEX funded the new VEX Robotics Team. The VEX robot, which looks like a vehicle, is seen in the picture below. It is designed and built by the students, with support from teachers Mr. Bill Richardson and Mr. Bobby Robinson. In competition, students direct their robots to pick up balls and drop them off at designated spots. Olde Towne's VEX Robot team came in third place out of 24 teams in their very first competition.



The Technology Student Association's VEX Robotics Team designed and built a robot. VEX Robotics Team members are (from left): Julia Jia, Jon Diamond, Keelan Horne, Melvin Nguyen, Bryce Burrell, and Ashley Milner.

OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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MADISON COUNTY Middle School Teacher of the Year

Angela Autrey, Olde Towne Middle English Language Arts teacher, was honored as the 2013-14 Madison County School's Middle School Teacher of the Year. Autrey, a graduate of the University of Texas, Dallas, has taught for 29 years in six different states. She challenges students, integrating test data and classroom interaction to gauge individual needs and progress. She believes, for example, in teaching grammar within the context of a novel; and using innovative cooperative learning groups to develop a thorough understanding of concepts. In a typical month, students write essays, work on advanced grammar and punctuation, develop new vocabulary, work on a group project and explore literature.

In her distinguished career, Autrey's contributions are many: she coordinated and implemented a school-wide literacy plan, taught enormously successful AP classes, coached award-winning cheerleading teams, and became involved in English Language Learner (ELL) instruction. In her two years at OTMS, she has thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Titan community; she frequently participates in school-related activities like homecoming and attends sporting events and concerts to support her students.



Madison County Middle School Teacher of the Year, Angie Autrey (center), with students Ashley Baldwin, Mercedes Caldwell, Zenyah Lacy and Anastasiia Svlatenko.

OTMS GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS CELEBRATE PERFECT SEASONS

How do you spell UNDEFEATED? At Olde Towne Middle, we spell it “OTMS Basketball.” Seventh-grade boys and girls teams and the eighth-grade girls team all had perfect seasons!

Even more impressive, the boys eighth-grade team has extended their winning streak to two straight seasons. As seventh-graders, they won every game and again this year as eighth-graders, they proved they were unbeatable.

Summertime meant hours in the gym, conditioning, refining skills and building the team. Dedication, talent and excellent coaching by Michael Howell, the boys’ coach, and Chris Dennis, the girls’ coach, made this the most exciting basketball season in OTMS history.



Olde Towne Middle eighth-grade boys basketball team remained undefeated during both their seventh- and eighth-grade seasons.



Undefeated Olde Towne Middle girls basketball team.

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Olde Towne Middle School Students Raise \$4,133 to Drill Well in Afghan Village

The students of Olde Towne Middle School have raised more than \$4,000 to drill a water well at a school in a remote Afghan village. The students took the OTMS Water Challenge, replacing sodas and energy drinks with water for two weeks and donating the money saved to drill the well.

The seventh-grade students engaged in a cross-curricular study of the region during the fall. The students read articles in their English classes about the educational struggles for girls in particular, studied the history of the Indus Valley in social studies, and discussed the mechanics of well operation and water sanitation in science. Students on the Water Challenge Committee developed marketing materials including TV spots, PA announcements, and posters to help get the word out.

“The support for the Water Challenge has been overwhelming,” said Dan Fuller, OTMS English teacher. “When we started, we really didn’t know what a reasonable goal would be, but the students wanted to aim high. Thanks to sacrifices from the entire Olde Towne community, the trajectory of an entire village will be changed forever.”

Suzanne Dennison has been teaching for 35 years, with the last 18 at Olde Towne, and led the history component

of the project. “Cross-curricular projects give us the opportunity to explore topics in-depth,” said Dennison. “When students hear about a region of the world from different perspectives in their various classes, the learning comes alive. We too often take what we have for granted; our students had the opportunity to see the everyday challenges faced by others halfway around the world and were able to do something about it.”

Olde Towne has partnered with the Afghanistan American Friendship Foundation (AAFF), a well-respected charity with a track record of good fiscal management and a lean operational structure, ensuring that all of the funds will go toward the construction of the well. The AAFF constructs schools and digs wells throughout underserved mountainous regions of northern Afghanistan. In the region where the well will be drilled, it is estimated that less than 20 percent of the population has access to clean drinking water¹.

AAFF board president Chris Gregory was thrilled to hear the final result of the students’ efforts. “On behalf of Afghanistan American Friendship Foundation (AAFF), we would like to thank Olde Towne Middle School for their commitment, dedication and generosity,” said Gregory. “Our organization’s focus is ‘Building Hope’ and through Olde Towne’s amazing efforts, we can do just this by digging a well to provide fresh, clean water. The new well, built with money raised by the OTMS water project committee, will serve a girl’s school in the Faryab province of Afghanistan, giving each student access to safe drinking water. What a wonderful gift to give to these students!”

The OTMS Water Challenge committee plans to continue fundraising in the spring, with donations supporting the girls’ school in Faryab where the well will be built. Donations to the project may be sent to the school with checks made out to AAFF, or directly through the AAFF website at aafriendshipfoundation.com.



Olde Towne Middle School Water Project Committee. Members are pictured (from left, back): Cameron Clifton, Nia Wade, and Morgan McCray; (front) Iqra Jatoi, Olivia Perkins, Jessica Homer, and Callie Partridge.

¹ <http://afghanag.ucdavis.edu/country-info/Province-agriculture-profiles/faryab/Faryab.pdf>

RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 9-12 586 Sunnybrook Road
601.898.5023 www.madison-schools.com/rhs



Ridgeland High School art students recently won awards for the Scholastic Arts Competition. Left to right: Danielle Morgan won honorable mention in the mixed media category for her poem collage; Asia Lopez won the silver key for digital art; Katie Tackit won honorable mention in the ceramics category.

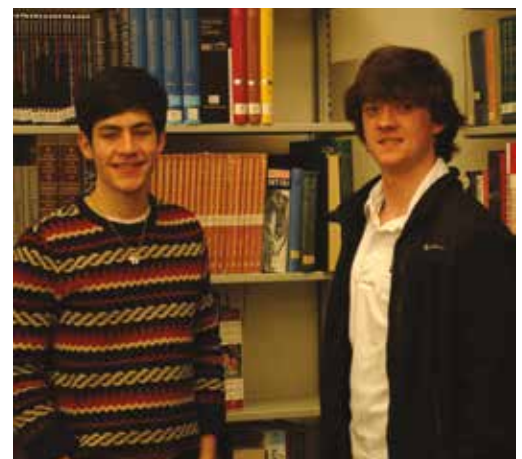


Ridgeland High School seniors Gabie Arceo and Emil Ellis received the Wendy's Heisman award.



Ridgeland High School senior Gabe Jones received an appointment to West Point beginning in the fall of 2014.

2014 Titan Draw Down
sponsored by the Ridgeland Athletic Booster Club
Annual \$10K Drawn Down & Silent Auction
Tickets on sale now - \$100 each
purchase tickets from RABC members or RHS front office
Monday, March 31, 2014
@ 6:30 p.m. - RHS Gymnasium
*enjoy Titan Tasters from local Ridgeland Restaurants
It's Sweet being a Titan!



Ridgeland High School seniors (left to right) Sam Palmer and Justin Ryan were named STAR students.

Meet Mr. Dowdy

Tim Dowdy is in his third year as assistant principal at Ridgeland High School. His responsibilities include buildings, maintenance and discipline for ninth and 11th grades. Dowdy comes to the role with a wealth of teaching and coaching experience and a true commitment to the young people in Ridgeland.

Currently residents of Ridgeland, Dowdy and his wife Kristin, a nurse at University Medical Center, have seven nieces and nephews and four great nieces and nephews. Dowdy's father was a Baptist preacher, so his family lived in several places during his school years. He graduated from Adams County Christian School in Natchez where he was a three-year letterman in baseball, and his favorite subject was science.

Dowdy studied biology education at Mississippi State University, and he holds a master's degree in education administration from Jackson State University. Before becoming an administrator, he taught biology and coached baseball for 19 years in Mississippi, including a stint at RHS from 2002-2006. *The Clarion-Ledger* twice named Dowdy the Jackson Metro Coach of the Year.

A self-described baseball junkie, Dowdy has attended a game in 23 of 30 major league baseball stadiums. He has yet to visit the stadiums in Tampa, New York (Mets), Toronto, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Minnesota and Oakland.

In addition to "collecting" baseball stadiums, Dowdy collects states. He has visited 44 of the 50 states and has a goal to visit them all.

A career in education was Dowdy's choice because he wants to make an impact in children's lives. The relationships with the students are the most important aspect of his job, he says. "It's important that they know that we truly care about them." To parents he says, "I am here for your students if they need me."

When asked what he likes best about his job, Dowdy says, "Seeing the smiles and reactions from our students when they are successful, academically and in extracurricular events. RHS is a wonderful place to work and a great place for the children of Ridgeland to get an education."



Tim and Kristin Dowdy at a St. Louis Cardinals game.

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THE VERITAS SHOWCASE

On Thursday, March 27 at 6 p.m. Veritas will host its annual “Showcase.” Admission is free and includes a seated dinner. This is a great opportunity to find out more about The Veritas School. Speakers and presenters will include alumni, current students, faculty members, and Veritas staff. Corporate sponsorships are available to businesses that desire to partner with Veritas in education. Visit TheVeritasSchool.org (“Showcase” tab) for more info or call the school office at 601-713-1555.

A Whodunit Mystery Theatre!

Veritas will present its spring drama, “Suspect Hollywood,” Friday April 11 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 12 at 1:30 p.m. Director Cameron Stone is casting for his next big blockbuster, “The Peril of the Prodigal Son.” He is almost bankrupt and hoping this will get him back in the game in Hollywood. He has promised the lead to everyone, including stars like Arnold Bonebreaker and Mary Ott. He’s made a lot of enemies by doing this. Someone is out for revenge! Who is it? Come and figure it out! Tickets are \$15.00 per person and include a three-course meal with prizes being awarded if the mystery is correctly solved. Visit: TheVeritasSchool.org (“Life at Veritas” > “Arts” > “Drama”) for more info and to purchase tickets. Or call the school at 601-713-1555.



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North Campus—Grades 5–12

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EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Upcoming Events

Spring Band Concert

April 29, 7 p.m.

Spring Break

March 10-14

Spring Choir Concert

May 6, 7 p.m.

Upper School Graduation

May 23

CHRIST COVENANT SCHOOL



752 Pear Orchard Road
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Our Garden

Kristi Ballard, Christ Covenant School Garden Director

Our garden is a beauty-filled, natural life laboratory where the mission, values, and philosophy of Christ Covenant School are most vividly portrayed—a place where not only plants but relationships are nurtured.

The garden itself and each grade's plantings are thoughtfully planned for form and function. We practice faithful stewardship by using microbe-rich organic fertilizers, incorporating our own compost, practicing crop rotation,



planting many open-pollinated and heirloom varieties, recycling cardboard as weed mats, controlling ants with diatomaceous earth, spraying weeds with vinegar, and saving seeds. The garden becomes an extension of the classroom as teachers spread a blanket for read aloud time, play "I Spy," or practice estimation during the carrot harvest.

The students are involved in all aspects of the garden from sowing seeds, to tying up teepees for running beans to climb, to harvesting the fruit from our small orchard. Our eighth graders serve each spring doing heavy-duty garden chores and leave behind handmade stepping stones for all to enjoy.

Hard work, patience, and God's blessing result in a bountiful harvest, sometimes enjoyed fresh from the vine—warm cherry tomatoes, freshly-snapped sugar peas, and crunchy cucumbers. At other times, we include our treasures in delicious recipes prepared by the students such as fresh salsa, pizza margarita, or peach ice cream.

What a joy to watch children from K5 to fifth grade smile as they tickle the roots of their transplants, tuck them into "bed," and water them in with little yellow watering ducks; to see the hesitant eaters pleasantly surprised by the taste of fresh beets or asking for seconds of leek pizza; to oversee a bevy of girls deadheading flowers to encourage more blooms, to etch into my memory the picture of a young man smiling up at a sunflower taller than he, to overhear a kindergartener say to her mom, "That's the one I planted right there!", to spy a row of young chefs glowing with pride as they chop vegetables they grew...!

Our garden is a place where God's attributes are personified, a place for the refreshment of body, mind, and soul. If you ever visit our campus, please take a stroll down our garden path and be blessed.

"Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." Matthew 13:8



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Fri – Sat. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed on Sunday

Favorite Mysteries For 2013

by the Madison County Mystery Readers

Why do we enjoy mysteries so much? Mystery lovers respond to this genre because they are a safe thrill, challenging the reader's ingenuity for the solution to a puzzle. One can experience the dark side of a character and know that justice will prevail. If you are fascinated with mysteries, you are invited to attend the Madison County Mystery Readers at the Ridgeland branch on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Below is a list of recommended titles.

Jean Gamble, Facilitator

- LIFE AFTER LIFE – Kate Atkinson
- GHOSTMAN – Roger Hobbs
- BRILLIANCE – Marcus Sakey

Janis Roberts

- CLOSE MY EYES – Sophie McKenzie
- RECONSTRUCTING AMELIA – Kimberly McCreight
- TUESDAY'S GONE – Nicci French

Darlene Huerstel

- HEARTSICK – Chelsea Cain
- SWEETHEART – Chelsea Cain
- THE STRANGER YOU SEEK – Amanda Kyle Williams

Carolyn Pope

- CLOSE MY EYES – Sophie McKenzie
- GHOSTMAN – Roger Hobbs
- CATCH ME – Lisa Gardner

Randy Nichols

- GHOSTMAN – Roger Hobbs
- BROKEN HARBOR – Tana French
- DARK MIRROR – Barry Maitland

New Online Resources Available at the Madison County Library System

Visit the Madison County Library System website at www.mcls.ms to use the following new online resources: Ancestry.com; Rocket Languages; Mississippi Code; and the Gale Virtual Reference Library, an eReader system.



ARTIST CORNER

Students from Dianne Norman's School of Art are exhibiting paintings at the Ridgeland Library. The artwork will be comprised of different mediums that include oils, watercolors, and pastels. Students, from beginners to professionals, attend her school and exhibit professionally in many venues. Having taught art for 30 years, Dianne is a winner of multiple art awards and is a charter member of the Mississippi Artists Guild.



Art students of Dianne Norman's School of Art prepare for an exhibit at the Ridgeland Library to be held March through May.

Favorite Mysteries continued...

Anne Carsley

TRUST YOUR EYES - Linwood Barclay
 LADY OF ASHES - Christine Trent
 THE ROYAL SPYNESS - Rhys Bowen

Jeanenne Riecken

THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY - Louise Penny
 HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN - Louise Penny
 THE BLACKHOUSE - Peter May

Charlotte Anding

A TAP ON THE WINDOW - Linwood Barclay
 THE BLACK BOX - Michael Connelly
 GONE GIRL - Gillian Flynn

Wilma Blair

BODY DOUBLE - Tess Gerritsen
 TELL NO LIES - Gregg Hurwitz
 THE MOST DANGEROUS THING - Laura Lippman

Lee Mills

HARD BOUNCE - Todd Robinson
 THE PROPHET - Michael Koryta
 THE HANGING SHED - Gordon Ferris

Sue Stewart

MOONLIGHT MILE - Dennis Lehane
 GONE BABY GONE - Dennis Lehane
 KILL YOU TWICE - Chelsea Cain

Pamela Otto

BODY DOUBLE - Tess Gerritsen
 ICE COLD - Tess Gerritsen
 THE SURGEON - Tess Gerritsen

Glenda Cox

BOMB SHELL - Catherine Coulter
 WHISKEY BEACH - Nora Roberts
 ONE SHOT - Lee Child

Don't forget to check the official event calendar at www.mcls.ms for further details, updated dates and times, and more programs throughout Madison County. Visit us on Facebook too! If you have any questions about programs, contact Cindy Graves at (601) 856-4536 or cgraves@mcls.ms.

Children And Young Adult Programming



Congratulations to Sanika Janorkar who just read 500 books in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program.

Ridgeland Readers

This is a fun story-time program for 3-7-year-olds. We meet on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. and the fourth Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. The program includes stories, songs, flannel board activities, movement, and usually a craft.

Tuesday afternoons at 4 p.m.

- March 4, 18, 25
- April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Thursday morning group at 10:30 am

- March 27 and April 24



Can you say "Rrrrr" for Ridgeland Reader story time pirates?

Baby Bookends

This interactive story-time is for children ages 0-2 and their parents and caregivers. We sing rhymes, play musical instruments, read stories, and do flannel board and movement activities. Program meets on

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

- March 5, 19, 26
- April 2, 16, 23, 30

**Please note: No program on March 12, April 9, or during the month of May.*



Jonathan found the perfect book title to toddle over to in the Children's Room.

It's story
TIME
 @your library™



Ridgeland Readers Story Time participants make friends. They also received free books through Mississippi Public Broadcasting's "Reading on the Road."

FAMFUN Family Programs

This program is for the whole family. Join us for family fun 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 1.

POPCORN & PJS

Make a "firecracker" craft, hear stories, snack on some popcorn, and help Mrs. Cindy make some noise!

ART JUNCTION

This program is for 1st -5th graders. We meet on the third Thursday each month from 4 - 5 p.m. and will focus on a new project at each meeting

as well as a short "Chapter Chat" segment highlighting a particular book series or thematic focus.

March 20 - Storytelling Activities

April 17 - Puppetry workshop

**Please note there will be no program in May.*

TEEN TIME

For tweens and teens ages 10 & up. Teens are welcome to come as a volunteer or participate in games and craft activities. Event day and time will vary from month to month. Please check our online calendar for dates and times. March/April dates will feature a Jam Session and a Divergent Book Club opportunity.



Storytelling fun with Mrs. Doris Jones at a Ridgeland FamFun program.



Art Junction students in action during a drama workshop.



It's cool to volunteer! Teen volunteers hard at work - join us to help out when you can!



CITY OF RIDGELAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

754 S. Pear Orchard Rd.
Phone: 601-991-9996 • www.ridgelandchamber.com



2013 Annual Awards Banquet Goes Broadway

Some 400 business leaders and city officials packed the Hilton Jackson's ballroom, celebrating Ridgeland's economic growth and development during 2013 and honoring volunteers for their dedicated service to the Chamber and City.

With its theme, *Ridgeland Goes Broadway*, the Chamber's banquet featured concert artist James Martin and award-winning musician Raphael Semmes and the Mississippi Live Ensemble.

2013 Chamber President Carla Palmer Allen of CPA Realty said the Chamber topped off a strong period of growth in 2013. She noted the Chamber's 900 + membership, more than 80 ribbon cuttings and community service activities such as Make A Difference Day and the Chamber's campaign to raise \$5,000 for the Ridgeland Police Department.

"2013 marked the 20th Anniversary of our Chamber," Palmer-Allen said. "We have reached many milestones over the last 20 years. Today, we are recognized across the metro area as an organization with momentum, constantly setting new goals and offering fresh, innovative programs."

Outgoing Chamber President Palmer-Allen passed the gavel to 2014 President Marc Petro of Community Bank.

"Our 2014 theme is '*Ridgeland . . . Working Together For Success*,' and this year we will place renewed emphasis on helping businesses succeed by offering networking opportunities that encourage our businesses to do business with each other," Petro said.

We will also focus on ways to better help our smaller businesses promote their products and services and spread their message throughout Madison County and beyond," Petro said, adding, "We know we will be met with new challenges in 2014 but we stand ready to meet those challenges head-on together."

Ridgeland Chamber volunteers were honored for their contributions to the Chamber and the City of Ridgeland.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AND EVENTS

Thursday, March 20
Ridgeland Tourism Commission
1000 Highland Colony Pkwy, Suite 6006
5 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 17
The Club at Township & Sanctuary Body Spa
340 Township Avenue
5 - 7 p.m.

May 15
C Spire/Ridgeland Chamber Golf Classic
Lake Caroline Golf Club at 1 p.m.

June 19
TownPlace Suites
310 Southlake Avenue
sponsored by MS Tobacco Free Coalition of
Madison, Yazoo and Holmes County
5 - 7 p.m.



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 Ridgeland ~ Community Bank ~
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 Jackson ~ Kerioth Corporation ~
 Madison County Journal ~ Mattiace
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 ~ Waggoner Engineering, Inc.

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 Denton Gibbes and
 The Gibbes Company.*



Retiring Board Directors - 2013 Ridgeland Chamber President Carla Palmer Allen, CPA Realty, LLC, center, presents awards of appreciation to Hunter Arnold, Waggoner Engineering, left and Eddie Hopper, Office Products Plus, right.



2013 Ridgeland Chamber President Carla Palmer Allen, CPA Realty, left; Ridgeland Mayor Gene McGee and First Lady Jane McGee and Ridgeland Chamber Executive Director Linda Bynum.



Diplomat of the Year - Kristy Daniels of Regions Bank, center, is named 2013 Ridgeland Chamber Diplomat of the Year by Trizell Hardin of Trustmark National Bank, Ridgeland Chamber Diplomat Co-Captain and 2011 Diplomat of the Year recipient. 2013 Ridgeland Chamber President Carla Palmer Allen looks on.



“Working Together For Success” – 2014 Ridgeland Chamber President Marc Petro pledges to work with the business community to place renewed emphasis on helping businesses succeed.



Business of the Year – Cool Water Catering & Events receives the Ridgeland Chamber’s 2013 Business of the Year Award. Proprietors Lanny and Judy Gaddy accept the award from Developer Clint Herring of The Township at Colony Park, the 2012 recipient.



2013 City Maker Award – Jan Richardson of Ridgeland was named City Maker 2013, Ridgeland’s highest award by Mayor Gene McGee.



Passing the Gavel – 2013 Ridgeland Chamber President Carla Palmer Allen, CPA Realty, passes the gavel to 2014 Ridgeland Chamber President Marc Petro of Community Bank.



Volunteer of the Year – Lisa Walls of Fox/Everett, Inc., left, is named 2013 Ridgeland Chamber Volunteer of the Year by Kristy Daniels of Regions Bank, center, who received the award in 2012.



2013 Gene F. McGee Economic Development Award – Mayor Gene McGee presents the 2013 Gene F. McGee Economic Development Award to Scott Shoemaker of Shoemaker Homes for The Enclave at Town Center, a community of 61 upscale homes.



Community Service Award – Charles Breuning, General Manager of Papa John’s Pizza – Ridgeland, left, accepts the Ridgeland Chamber’s 2013 Community Service Award from Adam Malone who received the award in 2012.

RIDGELAND DEPARTMENTS



Community Development
ALAN HART
Director
alan.hart@ridgelandms.org



Fire Department
MATT BAILEY
Fire Chief
matt.bailey@ridgelandms.org



Public Works
JOHN M. MCCOLLUM
Director
mike.mccollum@ridgelandms.org



Finance and Administration
PAULA TIERCE
City Clerk/Human Resources Director
paula.tierce@ridgelandms.org



Police Department
JIMMY HOUSTON
Chief of Police
jimmy.houston@ridgelandms.org



Recreation & Parks Department
CHRISTOPHER CHANCE
Director
chris.chance@ridgelandms.org

City Meetings

Mayor and Board of Aldermen Meeting

1st & 3rd Tuesday - 6 p.m.

Work session is held on Mondays prior to Board Meeting - 6 p.m.

Architectural Review Board

2nd & 4th Tuesday - 6 p.m.

Bill Dicken - Chairman

Karen Bishop, Ron Blaylock, Tom Bobbitt, Donald Pendergrast, Glenn Ray, Alex Ross, Connie Suber

Beautification Committee

First Monday - 5:30 p.m.

Jamie Freeman, Peggy Gauthé, Peggy Horne, Phyllis Parker, Lea Anne Stacy

Community Awareness Committee

Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.

Drew Malone - Chairperson

Peggy Gauthé, Shirley Gill, Dawn Hall, Vicki Heath, Scott Higginbotham, Lee Hutchings, Mike Smith, Darlene Turner

Contractors Board of Adjustment and Appeals

Lantz Kuykendall - Chairman

Terry Evans, Ronnie Hales, David Pursell, Steve Rimmer, Ricky Skeen, Clay Sutherland, Leroy Tubbs, Keith West

Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee

3rd Tuesday - 6:30 p.m.

Larry Anderson, Gabe Coker, John Evans, James Freeman, Jay Harris, Wayne Jimenez, Jerry Neill

Zoning Board

Thursdays, the week of Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting - 6 p.m.

Bernie Giessner - Chairman

Michelle Caballero, Walter Cox, Philip Huskey, Mark Irby, Larry Miller, Julius Murray, Rhett Stubblefield

City of Ridgeland

City Hall, 304 Highway 51, Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157
601-856-7113, www.ridgelandms.org

Aldermen

D.I. Smith, Alderman-at-Large 601-707-8845

Ken Heard, Mayor Pro Tempore, Ward 1 601-856-7727

Chuck Gautier, Ward 2 601-856-1291

Kevin Holder, Ward 3 601-856-1950

Brian Ramsey, Ward 4 601-506-1979

Scott Jones, Ward 5 601-856-6861

Wesley Hamlin, Ward 6 601-454-0353

City Directory

Animal Control
animalcontrol@ridgelandms.org 601-856-2121

Anonymous Tip Line
(*criminal investigations division*) 601-853-2006

City Hall/Mayor's Office 601-856-7113

Community Development Department
(*development, property maintenance, zoning, signs, permits*) 601-856-3877

Community Police Officers
(*residential/neighborhood concerns and service*) 601-502-6040 & 601-940-9030

Court Clerk
(*traffic violations, misdemeanors and fines*) 601-853-2001

Emergency (police and fire dispatch center) 9-1-1

Finance and Administration
(*business licenses, elections, meeting minutes, budget, public records*) 601-856-7113

Fire Department
(*non-emergency calls, safety education programs*) 601-856-7004

Police Department
(*non-emergency calls, public safety concerns*) 601-856-2121

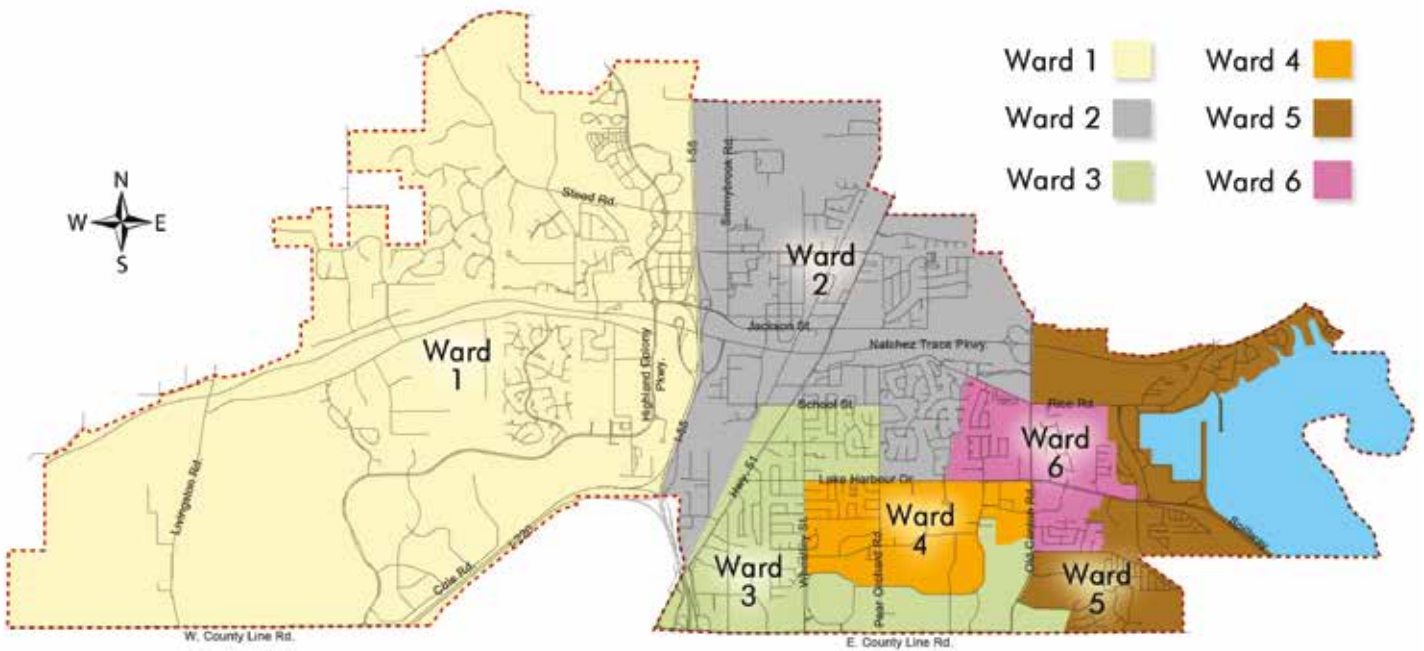
Public Works Department
(*road, garbage, recycling, water, storm water*) 601-853-2027

Recreation and Parks
(*special events, athletics and program registration, park information*) 601-853-2011

Utility Billing Department (water, sewer, garbage, and recycling billing)
utilitybilling@ridgelandms.org 601-856-3938

RIDGELAND ALDERMEN

To learn more about your elected representatives, go to www.ridgelandms.org/electedofficials/.



D.I. Smith
Alderman At-Large
601-707-8845



Ken Heard
Ward 1
Mayor Pro Tempore
601-856-7727



Chuck Gautier
Ward 2
601-856-1291



Kevin Holder
Ward 3
601-238-5361



Brian Ramsey
Ward 4
601-506-1979



Scott Jones
Ward 5
601-206-5416



Wesley Hamlin
Ward 6
601-454-0353



NORTHPARK MALL

