

December 2011 - February 2012

RIDGELAND LIFE



Ridgeland Christmas Parade
Ridgeland Launches New Website
Historical Society Project
Recre8
Benefit Runs and Rides

THE WINTER ISSUE





RIDGELAND LIFE

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LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

As I've indicated to each of you many times, the City of Ridgeland is very fortunate to have some of the best departments and department heads of any city in Mississippi, if not in the entire south. We excel in superior law enforcement, and our Fire Department services are second to none. Our Public Works Department continues to stretch its services further and further, even though the slow economy has reduced its budget. Our Community Development Department is working vigorously to ensure that codes are enforced through regular inspections, as well as ensuring that the City of Ridgeland continues its attempts to attract the very best businesses for economic development. Year after year, our Administrative Department is recognized for its outstanding achievements in financial accounting and budgeting.

From time to time, I think it's important to feature a department within the City of Ridgeland and, even though I have focused on this department in the past, I would like to draw special attention to our Recreation and Parks Department once again. As I've mentioned before, this department offers some of the best programs for our citizens of any Recreation and Parks Department anywhere. The department takes pride not only in the programs that are offered, but also in the parks that we are so blessed to have by ensuring that they are meticulously maintained.

I would like to announce that our Recreation and Parks Department has again won the James Ferrell Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Award of Excellence for hosting two of the highest-rated national tournaments in 2011. At the 80th ASA National Council Meeting recently held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Recreation and Parks Director, Chris Chance, accepted these two James Ferrell ASA awards.

Additionally, at this same meeting, Ridgeland's Freedom Ridge Park was selected as the host site for the 2012 ASA Girls' 18 and Under Gold Southern National Championship, which will be held August 1-5, 2012.

The selection of Freedom Ridge Park by the ASA for their prestigious tournament indicates the Association's confidence that the City of Ridgeland and our Recreation and Parks Department will do a superior job.

I would also like to point out that by bringing such tournaments into our area our economy benefits because families are staying in hotels, eating meals, shopping, and buying gas, as well as engaging in other activities that will bring revenue to our city.

Speaking of recreation, I would like to remind each of you about our multiuse trail etiquette. Since so many people are using the trails for cycling, jogging, and walking, it is critical that the trail etiquette rules be followed. Listed below are these rules:

- Be courteous
- no motorized vehicles
- Keep to the right, pass to the left
- give an audible signal when passing
- Use headphones in only one ear
- cyclists should yield to pedestrians
- keep pets on a short leash
- If you carry it in, carry it out
- keep pet waste off the trail
- If you see litter, please pick it up
- remember to bring water
- In case of emergency, call 911
- Do not obstruct the path when stopping

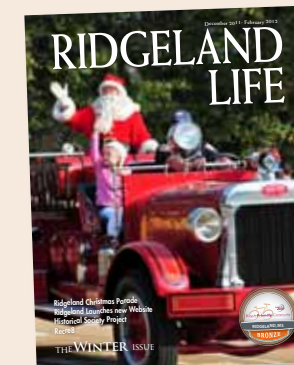
I also want to stress that when using a trail it is important to wear bright clothing. This enhances your visibility which, in turn, helps to prevent any type of accident.

As we approach the holiday season, I hope that the lives of each of you and your families are filled with many blessings. Remember to think about those who are less fortunate, and set a goal this year to share a blessing with someone who might not be as lucky as you.

Gene F. McGee



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland



ON THE COVER:

The Ridgeland Christmas Parade hosted by the City of Ridgeland will travel through Olde Towne, Jackson Street, and Sunnybrook Road on Saturday, December 3 at 2 p.m. Come out and enjoy the festive spirit of our community parade.

Ridgeland Life magazine is a publication of the City of Ridgeland.

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For information about Ridgeland Life magazine, contact the City's Community Affairs Coordinator via e-mail at sandra.monohan@ridgelandms.org.



CHRISTMAS PARADE

This traditional Christmas parade travels through Olde Towne Ridgeland, bringing spectators to the historic heart of the city. The parade route starts and ends at Holmes Community College on land that was settled by some of Ridgeland's founding families. Floats line up and start their progression turning east onto Ridgeland Avenue. The parade takes a turn onto Maple Street and travels the length of Maple to Jackson Street where it turns west toward Sunnybrook Road. Then, all of the floats, marching bands, police motorcycles, fire trucks, wagons, horses, dogs, bicycles, and all kinds of cars and trucks head down Sunnybrook to Ridgeland Avenue, ending at Holmes Community College, back where the parade began.

Peggy Horne, Beautification Committee member, said "I have enjoyed watching and judging the parade. The floats have always been nice." Horne is looking forward to the floats decorated in this year's theme, Star-Spangled Christmas.

"The enthusiasm of the participants is wonderful," said Peggy Gauthé, Beautification Committee member. "There is a competitive spirit among the businesses with their floats. The schools get recognized for some of their talents. It's Ridgeland community life."

Gauthé adds, "People come out to watch the parade and feel the holiday spirit. I enjoy it and everyone that I see is enjoying watching Santa Claus as he waves at all the children, the police on their motorcycles, the people on the floats, and the candy. It's a wonderful opportunity for the young and for others to feel young. It's a miraculous time of year where everyone feels the spirit of giving and how Ridgeland is a wonderful place to live."

"The parade is happy," said Gauthé. "Everyone is like a child. That feeling that a new year is coming, the spirit of giving and receiving of joy, all the smiling faces, all the people who donate their time and energy to the parade make it a joyous occasion."



Christmas spirit alive and well in Ridgeland

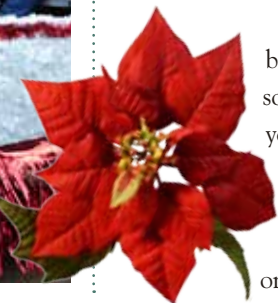
None of the Christmas events offered by the City of Ridgeland could happen without the Beautification Committee. This active group of city volunteers helps to plan and organize the events, judge numerous contests, decide on a theme, and oversee production. Members of the Beautification Committee include Jamie Freeman, Peggy Gauthé, Peg Harris, Peggy Horne, Phyllis Parker, and Lea Anne Stacy.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

The City of Ridgeland Beautification Committee judges the houses and businesses that are entered into the Christmas Decorating Contest. The judges ride together and go all over Ridgeland, making their decisions about the most festive decorations. There are a lot of homes to judge and the decision can be difficult.

The inside scoop on the contest is that the judges will not judge a home or business very highly if it looks like it was professionally decorated. Peggy Horne, judge and Beautification Committee member said, "We like to pick the ones that the residents did themselves. They went to the effort; they deserve the credit. If the home is festive and the owners offered up their time to make their home look Christmas-y for their family, friends, and neighbors, then we want to see them do well in the contest."

"Most of the houses and businesses are nominated by someone," added Horne. If you want to make a nomination, call Wendy Bourdin at 601.853.2011 and give her the address. Judging takes place on December 5.



LIGHTS AT FREEDOM RIDGE PARK

The public is invited to drive through Freedom Ridge Park and enjoy the City's special holiday light tour. Starting Saturday, December 3, the park will be lit up every night until the first of January. It will be full of holiday lights, Christmas decorations, and a huge Christmas tree with flashing lights that are synchronized to music. When motorists drive into the park, a sign will indicate the radio station that you can tune to and listen to the music. Add this light tour, provided by the City of Ridgeland, to your neighborhood touring this Christmas.



Floating Christmas Parade on the Reservoir

"There is nothing prettier than lights on the reservoir at night," said Peggy Gauthé, City of Ridgeland Beautification Committee member. "The Floating Christmas Parade is a time for people to get together and see the lights on the boats at night. The atmosphere is breathtaking with the stars out over the water and the boats floating by with colorful lights and music."

This City of Ridgeland and Pearl River Valley Water Supply District event is a must-see this holiday season. It is enjoyed by families and groups of friends and neighbors who come out and enjoy this spectacular show.

This festive event starts at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 3 at Old Trace Park on the Ross Barnett Reservoir. It is recommended that you bring a lawn chair or a blanket to sit on.



STREET CORNER SYMPHONY MEMBERS TO PERFORM AT SENIOR ADULT VALENTINE'S BANQUET

Street Corner Symphony, an a cappella group that gained national recognition as runners up from Season 2 of NBC's "The Sing-Off," will headline the Senior Adult Valentine's Banquet. "We are fortunate to have Street Corner Symphony come to Ridgeland and perform for our senior adults," said Chris Chance, Director of the City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department. "This nationally known singing group happens to include young men that grew up in Madison County. It should be a special performance for many of our attendees who watched these boys grow up here."



The Senior Adult Valentine's Banquet will be held at Highlands Presbyterian Church in Ridgeland on Monday, February 13, starting at 5 p.m. Cost is only \$5 per person. To reserve your seat at the banquet, please contact Lynda Assink at 601.856.6876 or call 601.853.2011.



RIDGELAND DANCERS GRACE THE STAGE IN THE NUTCRACKER

Nine Ridgeland members of the Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet Company will dance in the company's annual production of The Nutcracker. The holiday classic will be presented on December 10-11 at the Jackson Academy Performing Arts Center in Jackson. The company members who reside in Ridgeland and their roles include: Bella Bach, mouse; Anna Boyles, Russian Corps, Rosebud; Laura Lee Boyles, mouse; Salem Chism, Flower Demi, Mirliton, Snowflake; MacKenzie Holloway, mouse; Abigail McCaughan, Party Girl; Meredith McClellan, Chinese Corps, Party Guest; Mary Kate Shearer, Clara; and Paige Westover, Flower Demi, Mirliton Lead, Snowflake, Columbine Doll.

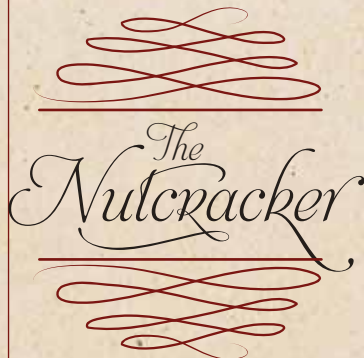
Guest artists Alys Shee and Jonathan Davidsson will dance the roles of the Sugarplum Fairy and her Cavalier. Shee is 2010 USA International Ballet Competition Junior Silver Medalist. Davidsson competed in the 2006 USA IBC.

The Nutcracker is the perfect way to ring in the holiday season and to introduce children to the power and beauty of classical dance, states a press release from the Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet. "At the heart of the Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet's mission is our quest to share the magic of dance with the people of our community, and to encourage a love of the arts in the hearts and minds of our audience members," said Jennifer Beasley, Artistic Director. "After nineteen seasons, our production of The Nutcracker is both our most important outreach tool, offering many in our community their first exposure to the ballet, but also a time-honored holiday tradition. It is just not the holiday season without The Nutcracker!"

The timeless story of Clara and the Nutcracker Prince has delighted audiences of all ages for more than 100 years. From the wondrous beauty of the Sugarplum Fairy, to the excitement of the mice and soldier battle scene,

there is something to entertain everyone. Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 10, with matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11. Tickets for performances and matinee tea parties may be purchased at www.msmetroballer.com or by calling 601.853.4508.

Nine Ridgeland members of the Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet Company will dance in the company's annual production of The Nutcracker. Shown from back left are: Meredith McClellan, Salem Chism, Anna Boyles, Abigail McCaughan, Laura Lee Boyles, McKenzie Holloway, Bella Bach and Mary Kate Shearer. Not pictured: Paige Westover.



Performances:

Saturday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 11.

Tickets for performances and matinee tea parties may be purchased at www.msmetroballer.com or by calling 601.853.4508.



Paige Westover is the 15-year-old daughter of Brock and Evelyn Westover. She is in 10th grade at St. Andrew's Episcopal School. Dancing since age 3, Paige is now a

senior member of the Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet Company. This year she dances the Columbine Doll, her favorite role, and lead Mirliton among other roles in the company's production of The Nutcracker.

Garnering top roles takes dedication and perseverance. Senior company members like Paige dance four to five days per week, including Saturdays. Anywhere from nine to 20 hours per week are spent in class at Mississippi Metropolitan Dance Academy and in rehearsal.

Summer study is important as well. Besides studying for two weeks each summer at the dance academy, Paige has attended summer intensives at Boston Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Boulder Ballet, Burklyn Ballet in Burlington, Vermont, and the International Ballet Competition.

In May, Paige and other company dancers will travel to Montreal, Canada for the Regional Dance America National Festival. There they will perform on an international stage and participate in master classes with internationally-known choreographers.

Paige says dance helps her in every aspect of her life. "It teaches excellent time management skills and the rewards of perseverance and hard work. Dance can open many doors...who knows where they will lead!?"



Salem Chism, 17, is the daughter of Brad and Julie Chism. Salem is a senior at St. Andrew's Episcopal School and a senior company member

with Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet. In this year's production of The Nutcracker, Salem will dance the roles of Flower Demi-soloist, Snowflake and Mirliton.

"If ballet were any easier, it would be called football," says Salem, whose brother is a freshman offensive lineman at Yale. "Dancing is unlike any other fine art or sport-it's a hybrid. A dancer must perform physically demanding movements while exuding effortless grace and poise. It's constantly a challenge, but I'm addicted to the struggle!"

Salem is no stranger to challenges or struggles. During the 2007 summer intensive at The Rock School in Philadelphia, Salem was encouraged to see a doctor regarding the unevenness of her hips and shoulders. She underwent two separate spinal surgeries.

The second surgery required extensive recovery time, but undaunted, Salem returned to the dance studio. She credits her dance training for her discipline and determination.

"I have a new set of challenges," says Salem. Of artistic director Jennifer Beasley, Salem says, "Ms. Jennifer has been amazing, finding ways for me to be a part of the dance company with my movement limitations. I will always be grateful to her for giving me a chance to continue doing what I love the most--dance!"

Next fall, Salem plans to attend college in the northeast. As she eventually pursues a career in the fashion industry, she'll have her dance training to thank for her creativity, attention to detail and motion.



Mary Kate Shearer, age 13, is the daughter of Dale and Janet Shearer. She is a seventh grader at Olde Towne Middle School. Mary Kate has studied dance at Mississippi Metropolitan Dance

Academy since age 3 and is in her fifth season as a member of Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet Company. Mary Kate will dance the role of Clara in the company's production of The Nutcracker.

One of Mary Kate's favorite quotes is from Thomas Edison: "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." It reflects the determination, discipline and undaunted attitude necessary in ballet.

"Dancing with Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet is helping me reach my goal of being a professional ballerina. The training I receive from local, guest and festival instructors is top-notch," says Mary Kate.

Mary Kate spends about 15 hours per week in class and rehearsal. She attends a two-week summer intensive at the dance academy each year and attended the Atlanta Ballet intensive in July of 2011. In May of 2012, Mary Kate and other Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet Company members will attend the Regional Dance America National Festival in Montreal, Canada during which, dancers will participate in performances and master classes taught by internationally-known choreographers.

"Dance is a beautiful art. If I did not dance, I would feel as if part of me was missing," says Mary Kate. "The intense training helps me be physically fit and disciplined. The friendships I have formed with other dancers will last a lifetime."



Highland Elem. Hosts 2nd Annual Titan Trot

For the second year, Highland Elementary is hosting its Titan Trot 5k run/walk and 1 mile youth fun run. It will be held at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 25 at Highland Elementary School, located at 330 Brame Road in Ridgeland. Participation is encouraged whether you walk at a leisurely pace or race against the clock.

Highland Elementary partners with several Ridgeland businesses to bring you a fun-filled day that is suitable for families. Titan Trot helps to raise funds for various school projects. Come out on February 25 and show your support for our local schools. For more information, contact Debbie Best at 601.940.2545.

First Annual Jingle Bell Ride for Arthritis

The First Annual Jingle Bell Ride for Arthritis will be held on December 10 on the Natchez Trace in Ridgeland. The Arthritis Foundation wants you to jingle with them and help raise funds and awareness. Participants may dress in a holiday costume, decorate their bikes, and enjoy festivities, refreshments, and awards. Teams of avid cyclists as well as recreational cyclists are welcome. Check in begins at 8 a.m. at Old Trace Park off Post Road in Ridgeland. For more information, go to www.2011jinglebellrideridgeland.kintera.org or contact Cynthia Baker at 601.853.7556 or email at cbaker@arthritis.org.



SouthGroup Preps for 4th Annual Make a Difference 5K Run/Walk

SouthGroup Insurance Services, headquartered in Ridgeland, has once again teamed with Friends of Children's Hospital to present the "Make a Difference" 5K Race on February 18, 2012. The race is SouthGroup's continuing quest to raise much-needed funds for the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital at The University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. The run/walk will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Woodlands Office Park at County Line Road and Woodlands Parkway in Ridgeland. The event will also include a one-mile fun run as well as activities for children. Pre-registration is available at www.southgroup.net.

"Last year, we had over 650 participants. The event exceeds our expectations each year. We were also able to present a check for \$25,000 to Friends of Children's Hospital. In the previous two years, we raised \$20,000 each year. We are looking for a bigger turn-out this year," said Cyndi Tullos, race coordinator.

Over 100 SouthGroup associates from around the state serve as volunteers for the event. For more information, contact Cyndi Tullos at 601-914-3220 or ctullos@southgroup.net.



RUNS, RIDES BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

The City of Ridgeland wants to encourage residents to participate in healthy activities on a regular basis. The Ridgeland Multiuse Trail; Freedom Ridge Park and Wolcott Park with their baseball, softball, and soccer fields; the Ridgeland Tennis Center; playgrounds at Friendship, Wolcott, and Freedom Ridge Parks; athletic and fitness programs from adult softball to tai-chi; bicycling on the Natchez Trace Parkway and other designated bike routes in and around Ridgeland; and walking/jogging trails at Friendship and Freedom Ridge Parks provide many opportunities for enhancing health and fitness for little or no cost. Local businesses and metro area clubs provide walking, running, and cycling groups as well as experts to assist you. If that isn't enough motivation, organized runs help many individuals to achieve physical fitness goals while doing something to aid their community or a cause they support. Please read below about three events that will get you up and off the couch this winter.

RIDGELAND LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The City of Ridgeland has recently launched a redesign to the city's website. Based on responses from users, city staff saw a need to better organize the extensive information made available to the public through the website. Ina Byrd, Deputy City Clerk Finance and Information Systems, said "I felt like we needed a website that was more visually appealing and that was organized in an easy to find format. I think that was accomplished with the redesign."

A quickLink Dashboard makes for a faster way to get to some of the most frequently viewed information. The Events Calendar is more comprehensive and easier to find on the website. Contact information, meeting schedules, social media, and plenty of useful information can be found with fewer clicks and less confusion to the user.

A consultant was needed to bring the city's website to this level of greater functionality and efficiency. ThinkWEBSTORE, located in Ridgeland on Lake Harbour Drive, was selected to conduct the work of redesigning the website for better performance. After reviewing proposals and discussing the project with potential consultants, city staff decided that thinkWEBSTORE offered the best match of skills for the city's needs.

David Overby, City Clerk and



Director of Finance and Administration, said, "The new city website functions not only to provide useful information to citizens, but also to improve the sense of community." A new header with rotating photos, much like a slide show, allows the city to showcase some of its features enjoyed by residents. Enhancements to the website that improve the sense of community include an Our Community section, the Calendar of

Events, a News button located on the quickLink Dashboard, and links to social media at the top of the home page.

City officials and staff hope that residents use the new website frequently to learn about upcoming meetings and community events, to check for the latest news from the city, to download forms, view maps, and find answers to your questions about city services.



Gold Medalist

Gold medalist Ben Rogers is a part-time employee of the Recreation and Parks Department since 2007 and son of Paul and Mandy Rogers. Ben bowls with Team USA and competed in the Special Olympics Summer World Games held in Spata, Greece in June and July 2011. He earned two gold medals, one in doubles and one in singles. Pictured here is Ben wearing one of his medals.

STEEN MOVES TO SUPERVISOR POSITION

Gerald Steen, Alderman-at-Large, was elected as Madison County District 3 Supervisor at the countywide election held on August 2. He has been a guiding force on the Ridgeland Board of Aldermen for over 15 years. Steen will be resigning his Ridgeland position and taking office as County Supervisor in January.

Steen got his start in public service in 1989 when a rezoning for apartments was posted in the area that became the subdivision of Shadowood-Wendover. As a very active and involved resident of Longmeadow HOA, he opposed the rezoning from residential to multifamily due to concerns of potential negative impact on property values in Longmeadow and surrounding areas. The results, one of the most desirable residential areas in Madison County, speak for his efforts.

He then served on the City of Ridgeland Zoning Board for approximately seven years. He was elected as Alderman-at-Large during a special election in 1996 and has served continuously since then.

His interest in public service has always been to help keep property values up. When he ran for Alderman in the '90s he ran for the same reason that he ran for Supervisor, to hear people's concerns, to

"I want to help bring people to work together with one voice and one vision for the County."

make progress and to "move forward" as he often likes to say, and to help make our community a better place to live.

Several accomplishments stand out to Steen when he thinks back on his service as Alderman-at-Large. His first vote was to approve the construction of a new police station. Steen said, "I always feel that public safety is important and helps to keep property values up."

The widening of County Line Road to five lanes on the east end was a signifi-



Steen is married to the former Linda Auttonberry, and together they parent two sons and two daughters. They reside off Old Agency Road in Ridgeland. Photo: Wiggins Photography

cant project, as well as the development of Freedom Ridge Park. As a Board member, he was persistent in working to get a public high school built in Ridgeland. This school, for which he fought, Ridgeland High School, has attained the highest academic ranking in Mississippi, "STAR school." The development of Highland Colony Parkway and the opportunities that it brings to Ridgeland is another proud accomplishment of Steen's.

Steen is well known among Home-

owners' Associations for his grassroots efforts of organizing people to come together and find a common ground. Sells Newman, Trace Ridge HOA President, said, "Gerald is not a bureaucrat. He has the personality and sincerity to get things done for people. He knows how to diplomatically stand his ground to do what is necessary, and he knows how to connect the dots and build consensus."

He wants to continue working with

HOAs as a Supervisor, as well as bringing together city leaders, agencies, and county organizations. Steen said, "I want to help bring people to work together with one voice and one vision for the County."

Steen grew up in Attala County, outside of Kosciusko. As a young person in the country, he enjoyed outdoor activities and helping on the family farm. "That's where I learned a lot of moral values, out on the family farm," Steen said.

After graduating from Ethel High School, he attended Holmes Community College. Steen moved to Jackson in 1982. He managed Wendy's on County Line Road for two years. He then worked for Flavorich Dairy and Luvel for 12 years. He has been with Victory Marketing, trade name Sprint Mart, since 1997. As a Region Leader, he is responsible for 22 locations.

"What motivates me is a challenge," said Steen. As Supervisor, he anticipates bringing different leaders and managers in Madison County together as one voice. In fact, he has already been working toward this and he is not even in office yet. He wants to help build a vision that everybody can support. He adds, "It is

important for the City of Ridgeland and the City of Madison to come together for the county to move forward."

He also wants to bring a trust level among the constituents for the county-elected officials. Steen said, "There has to be a trust factor." Jean McCarty, President, Central Ridgeland HOA, has worked with Steen for several years. McCarty said, "I have worked with elected officials for 40 years, and I have seen many public officials and a few public servants. A public official is a person who is elected to office; a public servant is one who diligently and tirelessly researches the issues to find long-term decisions that will serve his community well many years down the road. Gerald Steen is the rare public servant."

Steen sees the need for new roads and streets and well-maintained existing roadways in the county. "We need more east-west corridors to help move traffic, and we need the roads and streets for economic

development. We have to prepare and think ahead to be able to move forward."

He envisions a Master Plan for Madison County on a scale similar to the Ridgeland Area Master Plan. "It is very important to see where we want to be in 15 and more years."

Steen describes himself as a goal-oriented "doer." He enjoys a challenge and likes to challenge others to become better. He enjoys setting and achieving goals. He holds his employees accountable, and he will do the same at the county level.

Steen has a skill set to match. He is a good listener, who seeks to understand the issue at hand. He is good at organizing people and working with others to meet or exceed expectations. Gurvis "Cotton" Phillips has known Steen from First Baptist Church of Ridgeland and considers him a friend. Phillips said, "Gerald is a friendly person with everyone he meets.

He is the kind of person that you like to talk to. He is also dependable, honest, and trustworthy. Gerald will get an answer for you on any question or problem because that is the kind of fellow that he is. I hate to see him leave the City of Ridgeland."

"Gerald Steen has been good for Dinsmor and the City of Ridgeland," said Jim Smith, President, Dinsmor HOA. "We know he will be good for the county as well. Gerald knows how to communicate; he stays in touch with our needs and concerns. He is proactive and works hard to solve any issue. Honestly, Gerald has been our "go-to" person for the City of Ridgeland no matter what needed to be done. Bottom line, Gerald Steen gets things done in a timely and positive manner. Madison County is fortunate to have a person like Gerald in public office."

The City of Ridgeland will be holding a special election to fill Steen's unexpired term.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIDGELAND OVERSEES PROJECT

The Historical Society of Ridgeland oversaw a preservation project for the City of Ridgeland. Members of the Society carefully gathered the oldest documents and plats that pertain to the founding of the City and its early years of government. Mr. Ashley Koostra, Historian, Government Records, assisted with the determination of what was of utmost importance for the Society's first preservation project and for the City. All of the documents and plats have been stored in Ridgeland City Hall.

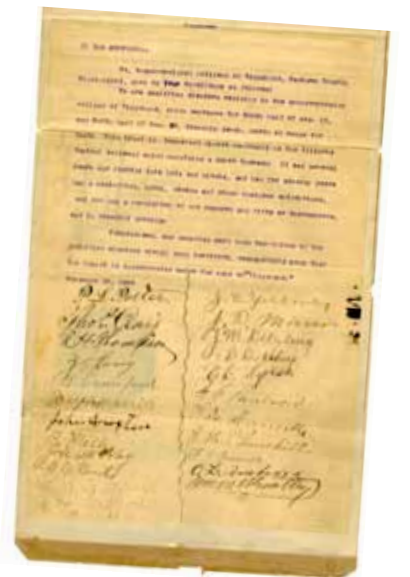
The items were turned over to Mr. Preston Everett, Reformatting Supervisor, with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for scanning into PDF files. Scans of all of the items totaled 476, and they are contained on eleven discs. The city is exploring options of making the materials available through the Mississippi Digital Library. The materials could be online by mid-year 2012.

Donna Dye, charter member of the Historical Society of Ridgeland and past president of the Mississippi Historical Society, said, "The oldest pieces include two plats of the Town of Ridgeland from 1896. Blocks 1 to 42 are pictured on one map and blocks 43 to 77 are pictured on the second map. The blocks include the area known as Olde Towne and its streets such as Jackson Street, Maple Street, Central Avenue, Washington Street, Perkins Street, and Porter Street.

Other maps include the First Addition to Ridgeland surveyed in 1896, the Plat of Alterations and Additions to certain lots within two blocks from 1898, and the Plat of Blocks 81, 82, and 86 of the First Addition to Ridgeland filed in 1904.

Scanned documents include the first book of Municipal Meeting Minutes from the Town Meetings of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen; the first Ordinance Book, containing Ridgeland's laws adopted by the first governing body from 1899 to 1925; the second Minute Book from 1928 - 1936; and the second Ordinance Book.

Charter documents include a proclamation from the Secretary of State signed by the Governor, A. J. McLaurin as well as the Incorporation Petition to the Governor. The petition includes signatures of residents of the unincorporated village of Ridgeland and was signed on November 20, 1899. The original town charter of incorporation stamped 22 January 1900 is also among the scanned items.



Incorporation petition for the Village of Ridgeland signed in 1899.



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, 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, \$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.

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.smcsoc.com or call 601-898-1996 for more information.

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

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 bullpens, two concession/restroom buildings and a maintenance facility.

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.

Recreation and Parks Staff

Director

Chris Chance, CPRP, CRSS

Administrative Assistant

Gilda Carter

Athletics

John Sidney North

Special Events

Wendy Bourdin, CPRP

Sponsorship

Julie Cox

Superstar Seniors

Lynda McMahan Assink

Outdoor Management

Stephen Donaldson, Cliff Egger, Sylvester Hamblin, Justin Hamil, Tim Taylor, CPSI, Latham Tenort, Claude Tharp, Steve Tillman

Directory

Administrative Office
601-853-2011

Administrative Fax
601-853-2015

Administrative E-mail
recre8@ridgelandms.org

Recreational Center
601-856-6876

Rental Information
601-853-2011

Freedom Ridge Park
601-853-2023

Athletics
601-853-2011

Hotline
601-853-2039

SMCSO Soccer
www.smcsoc.com

Special Events
601-853-2011

Programs
601-853-2011

Superstar Seniors
601-856-6876

MRYC
www.mryouthclub.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events Coordinator, Wendy Bourdin

Phone: 601.853.2011

E-mail: wendy.bourdin@ridgelandms.org

RIDGELAND CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Ridgeland Beautification Committee would like to invite all residents, businesses, and civic organizations to participate in the Ridgeland Christmas Parade. There is no cost to enter the parade, and it is a great way to show your holiday spirit as we kick off the Christmas season. The parade begins and ends at the Holmes Community College Campus on Ridgeland Avenue. The parade travels through the historic Olde Towne Subdivision and then to Jackson Street before turning onto Sunnybrook Road and finishing back at Holmes Community College.

Start Time: 2 p.m.
Event Date: Saturday, December 3
Location: Olde Towne Subdivision



CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

The Ridgeland Beautification Committee will be awarding prizes to the top Ridgeland residents and businesses that decorate their homes or businesses for the Christmas season. We will judge business and award the top two winners. We will judge residences in the following categories: Overall, Door and Porch, Religious, Judges' Choice and Children's Choice.

To ensure the Ridgeland Beautification Committee looks at your home or business, call 601.853.2011. The judge date will be the week of December 5.

FLOATING CHRISTMAS PARADE

This unique opportunity to celebrate the Christmas season will be one you will not want to miss. Come out and see the lights dance off the water of the Ross Barnett Reservoir. You may view the parade from Old Trace Park.

Program Price: No Cost
Event Date: Saturday, December 3
Rain Date: Sunday, December 4
Start Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Old Trace Park



PROGRAMS

Phone: 601.853.2011

DOG OBEDIENCE

The Jackson Obedience Training Club (JOTC) will offer puppy, beginner and advanced dog obedience classes. The nine-week class will teach obedience commands of heel, sit, down, stay, come and few other commands that you will use in everyday life with your pet. The JOTC is a non-profit organization that was established in 1969 and is licensed by the American Kennel Club.

Puppies must be 3 to 6 months old. Dogs for the beginner class must be at least 6 months of age or older. In order to be in the advanced class, your dog must have completed the beginner class. Proof of vaccination by a licensed vet is required.

Program Price: \$75
Program Area: Adult
Registration: February 21-March 25
Start Date: March 27
Start Time: 7 p.m.
Day of Week: Tuesday
Location: Ridgeland Recreational Center



NATCHEZ TRACE CENTURY RIDE

The Ridgeland Natchez Trace Century Ride will take place on Saturday, April 21. This recreational bike ride offers a scenic ride for all participants. Cyclists from across the southeastern United States will be in Ridgeland to participate in this ride. With several distance options, this ride may be designed for the beginner or for an experienced rider seeking a challenge to their endurance. Please visit our website at www.natchezcenturyride.racesonline.com.

Program Price: \$35
Registration: February 1-April 1
Late Registration: April 2-April 21
Late Registration Fee: \$45
Event Date: Saturday, April 21
Start Time: 7:30 a.m.
Location: Ridgeland Recreational Center

ATHLETICS

Athletics Coordinator, John Sidney North

Phone: 601.853.2011

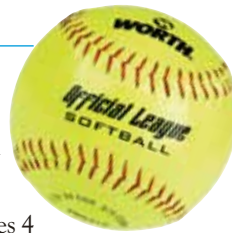
E-mail: john.north@ridgelandms.org



YOUTH SOFTBALL

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department and the Madison Ridgeland Youth Club will be holding baseball and softball registration for the upcoming spring.

The program is designed for boys and girls ages 4 to 18. Girls must be 4 years old by January 1, 2012, and boys must be 4 by May 1, 2012. This league is designed for all levels of participation and ability. With your registration fee, the participant will receive a hat, jersey, and socks. You are also able to register online. For more information, visit www.mryouthclub.com.



CHALLENGER LEAGUE SOFTBALL

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department will be offering Challenger League softball for the physically and mentally challenged. This is a chance to be a professional softball player for a season. The program also relies on buddies to assist the players. If you would like to be a part of the program, please contact Mandy Rodgers at 601.856.3623.

Program Price: None

SMCSO REGISTRATION

The South Madison County Soccer Organization will be holding spring soccer registration in December. This season runs from February through April. For more information, please call SMCSO at 601.898.1996 or visit www.smcsso.com.

START SMART BASKETBALL

Start Smart Basketball is a developmentally appropriate introductory program for children ages 3 to 5 years old that prepares them for organized basketball in a fun, non-threatening environment. Start Smart Basketball will meet for six one-hour sessions. Parent participation is required.

Each child will receive a 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 have been 3 by September 1, 2011.

Program Price: \$70

Registration: January 9-20

Program Date: February

Start Time: 6 p.m.

Days of Week: Monday and Thursday

Location: Ann Smith Elementary

SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Senior Adult Coordinator, Lynda McMahan Assink

Phone: 601.856.6876

Email: lynmac53@yahoo.com

All programs are held at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, located at 127 Old Trace Park, on the Ross Barnett Reservoir unless otherwise specified.

SPECIAL EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

SENIOR ADULT VALENTINE'S BANQUET

Join us on Monday, February 13, for a special Valentine's event for all area senior adults. Our entertainment this year is Street Corner Symphony! Street Corner Symphony is an epic acapella group from all over the southeast but proud to call Nashville, TN their home base. The group was formed in May of 2010 for the sole purpose of winning the Sing OFF. SCS brings a unique laid back southern soul to the competition. While SCS offers a diverse repertoire, the group has a rich heritage in gospel music. Two of the members are grandsons of the legendary southern gospel tenor Bill Shaw of "The Blackwood Brothers." In addition, five of the six members were preacher's kids and grew up singing and learning music in church.

Come and enjoy a delicious dinner and great entertainment as we celebrate the sweetest holiday of the year.

Program Price: \$5 per person

Event Date: Monday, February 13

Time: 5 p.m.

Location: Highlands Presbyterian Church
1160 Highland Colony Pkwy., Ridgeland

CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH COURSE

The City of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department is offering Beginning Conversational Spanish at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, located at 127 Old Trace Park. Beginning Conversational Spanish is a five-week course meeting every Monday afternoon. This class is great for those who want to begin learning the Spanish language, as well as for those who'd like to brush-up on their Spanish.

Eva Romo will be your instructor. Eva is from Mexico! She

¿cómo está?

has a degree in marketing from Mexico. She has also worked 12 years in customer service with a Mexican airline. She has served many hours as tutor and as a volunteer translator. Register now by calling Lynda at 601.856.6876.

Program Price: \$75

Registration: December 1

Dates: January 17 – Feb. 14

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Day of Week: Monday

INTRODUCTORY SELF-DEFENSE COURSE

The Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department is offering a 4-week Introductory Course on Self-Defense for adults. This class will meet once a week on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. beginning January 18. Andrew Dillon will be instructing the course. Andrew is a 2nd degree Tae Kwon Do-Black Belt, and he has practiced and taught traditional martial arts and self-defense for 14 years.

The goal of this course is to assist you achieve personal safety. This course is light contact, practical, and easy to use. It will also help improve your strength, agility, flexibility, and endurance. When it comes to crime and violence, the old saying "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is not only true, but a potential life saver. The hardest part is doing your homework before you find yourself in a situation. Register now by calling Lynda at 601.856.6876.

Program Price: \$40 for

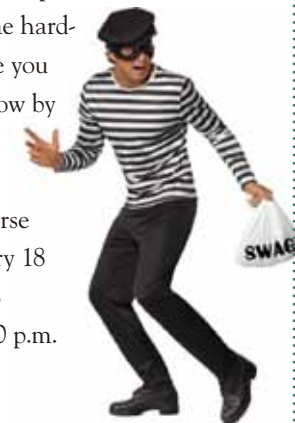
the 4-week course

Registration: Now till January 18

Program Dates: Jan. 18 – Feb. 8

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Day of Week: Wednesday



MEMORY AND MOTION

The Memory and MOTION Class is designed for individuals with Early Stage Alzheimer's. The program consists of a journey that explores using the senses through mental, emotional, and physical connection. The class will come packed with stress reduction exercises, a creativity theme and visual metaphor for understanding that will enhance communication and connection for participants and caregivers.

The Memory and MOTION class format will be divided into five segments that will build on (1) an overall 'Themescape' or

framework throughout the class followed with (2) breathing exercises to guide participants into the present moment and spatial orientation to a relaxing and safe environment, (3) memorization or visualization of a poem, song or hymn for emotional inspiration, (4) bilateral integration exercises that build physical confidence and promote well-being with mind and body, and (5) sensory stimulation using the 'theme' to enhance the sense of flow and rhythm throughout the class.

In the Memory and MOTION class, the five senses are brought together to enrich the teaching and the connection with memory and motion. The unity will increase social interaction, reinforce continuity and concentration, and build awareness for each participant and caregiver.

Contact Sara Murphy, Alzheimer's Association Outreach Coordinator, at 601.720.3309 or Lisa Newman, Memory and Motion Class Instructor, at 601.317.3042.

Program Price: \$5/per person/per class

Program Dates: January 10 – April 24

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Day of the Week: Tuesday (meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month)

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

RIDGELAND 50S PLUS

Come and join us on the first Thursday of each month at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Everyone, bring a large covered dish and enjoy good food, fellowship, and fun! Programs/Speakers for December-February:

December 1 – Christmas Party! Son Valley Hand Bells performing! January 5 – TBA. February – No meeting; come to Valentine's Banquet on Monday, February 13, at Highlands Presbyterian Church.

Call Lynda at 601.856.6876 to make your reservations.

Program Price: TBA

Program Dates: December 2, January 5

Start Time: 11:30 a.m.

Day of Week: Thursday

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 four 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: No Charge
Program Dates: January 26, February 23
Time: 1-4 p.m.
Day of Week: Thursday

CROCHET & COFFEE GROUP

Bring your own needles and yarn. Enjoy coffee and crocheting every second and fourth Monday of each month at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of coffee, crochet, and meeting new friends.

Program Price: No Charge
Program Dates: Dec. 12, Jan. 9 & 23, Feb. 13 & 27
Time: 1:30-3 p.m.
Day of Week: Monday



RIDGELAND QUILTERS

Don't you just love a handmade quilt? Quilts become family heirlooms and special gifts of significance. The Ridgeland Quilters wants you to join them, whether you are just learning or are an experienced quilter. Come and share sewing tips, project ideas, and quilting work.

Ridgeland Quilters meets on the first Monday of each month. We love to see any quilts you have completed. Bring your work for "show and tell," and please bring any projects you are currently working on, needles, material, patterns, etc. For more information, call Lynda at 601.856.6876.

Program Price: No Charge
Program Dates: December 5, February 6
Time: 1-3 p.m.
Day of Week: Monday



WEEKLY PROGRAMS

AGAPE MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

Join a group of men that meets every Wednesday morning at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Enjoy coffee, good fellowship and good friends. Call Earl Beck at 601.668.2322 for more information.

Program Date: Ongoing

Start Time: 9:30 a.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. Classes will be held at the Ridgeland Recreational Center located at Old Trace Park. Darlene Epple is the instructor for the class. Call Lynda at 601.856.6876 for more information.

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



LADIES BIBLE

Ladies Bible is a verse-by-verse study of God's Word. Individuals from various backgrounds are welcome. This study will help you apply Biblical truths to everyday life. Jeanette Prescott will be the facilitator of the class. All classes will begin promptly at 10 a.m. and dismiss at 11:30 a.m. Call Lynda at 601.856.6876 for more information.

Program Date: Beginning January 12
Time: 10-11:30 a.m.
Day of Week: Thursday

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. It is a nondenominational Bible study for men only. Enjoy an in-depth study of God's Word. Bob Shirley is your teacher! Call Earl Beck at 601.856.4252 or 601.668.2322 for more information.

Program Date: Ongoing
Time: 9-10:30 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! Call Lynda at 601.856.6876, and let her know you are coming!

Program Price: No Charge

Program Date: Ongoing
Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Day of Week: Tuesday

PAINTING WITH PASTELS

Have fun learning all about pastels, the technique of painting with pastels, pastel over watercolor underpainting, wet and dry method, working from photographs, photographing your finished paintings, protecting and framing your pastel painting. This class is open to all levels – beginners to advanced. Your instructor is Cecilia Baker. Instructor will provide: table easels, pastel paper and backboards (can be purchased at each session), drawing equipment and tape available at all times. (Feel free to bring your own equipment.) For more information and registration, please call Lynda at 601.856.6876.

Program Price: \$65/month
Program Date: Ongoing
Time: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Day of Week: Friday

TAI CHI FUSION

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 include: 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: \$5/class
Program Date: Ongoing
Time: 11-11:30 a.m.
Day of Week: Wednesday

YOGA FOR FLEXIBILITY, FITNESS, & FUN

Join us every Monday and Friday for yoga! Lisa Newman is the instructor, and she will guide you through gentle stretching exercises for your whole body. Tight muscles can cause discomfort and even contribute to injuries. Taking this class will also help with stress reduction and aid in relaxation.



Join this class today!
 Always consult



your physician before beginning any exercise program. For more information, call Lynda at 601.856.6876.

Program Price: \$10 per participant/per class
Program Dates: Ongoing
Time: 11 a.m.- noon
Day of Week: Monday and Friday

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS

The Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department is offering a Zumba Fitness Class every Thursday at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. The cost is \$5/per class. Zumba Fitness is a Latin-inspired dance fitness program that blends Latin music with contagious, easy-to-follow dance steps.

The Zumba program borrows from the following dance styles: Cumbia, Salsa, Merengue, Mambo, Flamenco, Cha-Cha-Cha, Reggaeton, Samba, belly dancing, Bhangra, Hip Hop, and Tango. Your instructor is Renata Gil. Renata is from Brazil and has her roots in Brazilian or Latino music. She is a certified instructor in Zumba. To register, please call Lynda at 601.856.6876.

Program Price: \$5/class
Program Dates: Ongoing
Time: 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.
Day of the Week: Thursday



TENNIS

Ridgeland Tennis Center, 201-A McClellan Drive
 Directors: Cheryl Harris and Susan Toler

JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS

Jan. 28-30 Bullfrog USTA Southern Section Designated
 Feb. 25-27 Girls 16's USTA National Open


ADULT TOURNAMENTS

Dec. 2-4 RTC NTRP State Champs
 Feb. 10-12 Sutherland Electric Inc./
 RTC 18th Anniversary Classic




JUNIOR GROUPS (AGES 10 & UP)

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30-6 p.m.
 Please call 601.853.1115 for more info regarding these groups, other age groups, private and semi-private lessons.


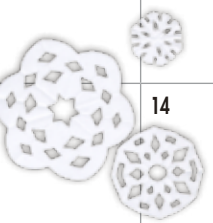

DECEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Registration for Conversational Spanish Course begins Registration for Self-Defense Course begins	2 Ridgeland 50s Plus Christmas Party, RRC, 11:30 a.m. RTCNTRP State Champs, Ridgeland Tennis Center	3 Ridgeland Christmas Parade, Olde Towne, 2 p.m. Floating Christmas Parade, Old Trace Park, 5:30 p.m.
4	5 Ridgeland Quilters, RRC, 1 p.m.	6 Ridgeland City Garden Club Christmas Luncheon, RRC, 11 a.m. Holiday Program with Santa, Ridgeland Public Library, 4:30 p.m.	7 Gingerbread House Program, Ridgeland Public Library, 3:30 p.m.	8 Gift Wrapping class, Ridgeland Public Library, 10:30 a.m.	9 	10 Jingle Bell Ride for Arthritis, Old Trace Park, 8 a.m. Gingerbread House Program, Ridgeland Public Library, 2 p.m.
11	12 Crochet and Coffee, RRC, 1:30 p.m.	13	14	15 Ridgeland Chamber Business After Hours, Cabot Lodge, 5 p.m.	16	17
18	19 Winter break begins for Madison County schools	20	21 	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Registration for Natchez Trace Century Ride begins	2	3	4
5	6 AARP Tax Assistance, Ridgeland Public Library, 9 am-2 p.m. Ridgeland Quilters, RRC, 1 p.m.	7 Ridgeland City Garden Club, RRC, "How to Utilize Drip Irrigation", 11 a.m.	8 	9	10 Sutherland Electric Inc./RTC 18th Anniversary Classic, Ridgeland Tennis Center	11
12	13 Crochet & Coffee, 1:30 p.m. Superstar Seniors Valentine's Banquet, Highlands Presbyterian Church, 1160 Highland Colony Pkwy, 5 p.m.	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 Historical Society of Ridgeland meeting, Public Library, 12 p.m. Ridgeland Chamber Bus After Hours, Pan-Asia, 5 p.m.	17	18 Make a Difference 5K Run/Walk, Woodlands Office Park, 8:30 a.m.
19	20 Professional Development Day at Madison County schools	21 Registration for Dog Obedience course begins	22 	23 Bridge, RRC, 1 p.m.	24	25 Girls 16's USTA Nat. Open Tournament, Ridgeland Tennis Center Titan Trot for Highland Elementary School, 330 Brame Road, 8 a.m.
26	27	28 Crochet and Coffee, RRC, 1:30 p.m.	29	Please view our online Events Calendar at ridgelandms.org for the most up-to-date events and information. *RRC stands for Ridgeland Recreational Center located at Old Trace Park on the Ross Barnett Reservoir.		

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day	2 Ridgeland City Garden Club, RRC, "How to Build Beautiful Water Features in Your Garden", 11 a.m.	3	4 Winter break ends for Madison County schools	5 Ridgeland 50s Plus, RRC, 11:30 a.m.	6	7
8 	9 Registration for Start Smart Basketball begins Crochet and Coffee, RRC, 1:30 p.m.	10 Memory and Motion, RRC, 10 a.m.	11	12 Ridgeland Chamber Business After Hours, Mattress Firm, 5 p.m.	13 	14
15	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, canned food drive project at ASE	17 Conversational Spanish Course, RRC, 1:30 p.m.	18 Introductory Self-Defense Course, RRC, 1:30 p.m.	19 Historical Society of Ridgeland, Ridgeland Public Library, 12 p.m.	20 Open House, Ann Smith Elementary, 8:30 a.m. Registration for Start Smart Basketball ends	21
22	23 Crochet and Coffee, RRC, 1:30 p.m.	24	25	26 Bridge, Ridgeland Rec Center, 1 p.m.	27	28 Bullfrog USTA Southern Section Designated Tournament, Ridgeland Tennis Center
29	30	31 				

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Gene McGee
MAYOR ★ RIDGELAND

EVENTS PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

At Ann Smith Elementary, we not only provide excellence in the classroom, but we also strive to educate the whole child in body, mind, and spirit. In October, we participated in two new events to promote physical fitness and a sense of community: International Walk to School Day and our 5K Frolic and Fun Run. We're pleased to report that both of these events were not only successful, but lots of fun, as well.

International Walk to School Day

On October 5, ASE participated in International Walk to School Day for the first time. Students, parents, ASE staff, City of Ridgeland officials, community leaders, and special guests met at The Annex on Pear Orchard Road and walked along the multi-use trail almost a mile, meeting up with other walkers along the way. We were joined by Ridgeland High School cheerleaders, Titus, and the RHS parade band, who provided entertainment as participants paraded to school. We'd like to say a huge thanks to the City of Ridgeland for their assistance with the walk, as well as the Ridgeland Police Department for helping to keep us safe.

5K Frolic and Fun Run

The PTO at ASE hosted the inaugural 5K Frolic and Fun Run on October 8. The race included a one-mile children's fun run, followed by a 5K run/walk. The scenic course started at ASE, took runners through several Ridgeland streets, continued along the multi-use trail and ended at the school. The proceeds of the race will be used to make upgrades to our playgrounds. We'd like to thank our volunteers, sponsors, participants, and the Ridgeland Police Department for helping to make our 5K Frolic and Fun Run such a big success!

ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

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

Ann Smith Elementary is a kindergarten through second-grade school serving the Ridgeland attendance zone of the Madison County school system.



Pictured are a few participants in International Walk to School Day: (from left) Landon McGee, Gabby Caraway, Julia Lynn, Ariyana Osborne, Brady Burnham, ASE principal Kathy Rigsby, Kacy Crothers, Daniel Lynn, Jamari Osborne and Stephen Weathersby.



ASE second-grader Kacy Crothers (left) came in first place in the Fun Run, and Isaac Livingston, a fifth-grader at HES, came in second place.

Important Dates

Dec. 8-9	Holiday program/first grade
Dec. 15	Holiday parties
Dec. 16	60% day
Dec. 19-Jan. 3	Winter break
Jan. 4	Students return to school
Jan. 5-13	After-holiday canned food drive
Jan. 16	MLK Day – no school; canned food drive project
Jan. 20	Open House
Feb. 14	Valentine's Day parties
Feb. 20	No school for students – professional development day

Canned Food Drive

In an effort to fight hunger in our community, we'll be collecting non-perishable food items for a New Year's project, starting January 5. Then on MLK Day – Monday, January 16 at 10 a.m. – we'll gather at the school to sort and box food items to be given to Our Daily Bread, a hunger-relief organization in Canton. If you'd like to contribute to our canned food drive, please drop off donations to the ASE office during school hours, Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

ASE Open House

Do you have a preschooler who will begin kindergarten in August? Have you recently moved to Ridgeland? Or are you considering making the switch to public school? Then please join us for an open house where you can find out more information about ASE. On Friday, January 20, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., you'll get the chance to tour the school, talk to our exceptional teachers and staff, meet ASE parents and ask lots of questions. Come see why Ann Smith Elementary is the perfect choice for your child's early elementary education!

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

At ASE, we're fortunate to have great support from businesses and organizations in the community. We rely on donations to be able to host school events and support our teachers and staff. These local businesses have donated or discounted their goods or services in a variety of school activities, ranging from our 5K Frolic and Fun Run, Walk to School Day, teacher appreciation lunches, fundraising, and even helping our second-graders till a pumpkin patch.

We'd like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their support so far this year: Cool Water Café and Catering, Mac's Fresh Market, The Donut Factory in Pearl, Fusion Coffeehouse, The Fresh Market, Target, Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Raising Cane's, O'Charley's, AJ's, Olive Garden, Kroger, McAlister's, Kelty Tile, Little Caesar's, Papa John's, The Club, Sweet Tree Yogurt, Fleet Feet, Indian Cycle, Trustmark, and The Grounds Guys of Brandon.

If your business or community group would be interested in donating goods or services, please contact Tammra Cascio, PTO co-president, at tammra@gulfguaranty.com



CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

ASE second-graders will be participating in Christmas Around the World, a team-based teaching program designed to teach students about holiday customs. Students will enjoy center-based activities such as learning about Christmas traditions of different countries around the world, creating special arts and crafts projects, and reading stories to promote cultural diversity.





HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

Grades 3-5 • 330 Brame Road
601.853.8103 • www.madison-schools.com/hes



HES Movie Night

We recently hosted a movie night in our outdoor classroom, where students, families, and friends gathered to watch "How to Train Your Dragon" on a big screen under the stars. Events like Movie Night provide a great opportunity to come together and meet other HES families and students. There were more than 500 people in attendance, and since it was such a success, we're planning another Movie Night for the spring! The Spring Movie Night will be on April 20th.



HES Homecoming Float wins Second Place

During this year's Ridgeland High School homecoming parade, HES won second-place in the community division for their Greek Mythology float. The theme for this year's parade was "A Journey Through Time." RHS's homecoming is a wonderful community-wide event where Ridgeland public schools get involved and create floats. To get our students excited about the homecoming game, the Ridgeland High School band, cheerleaders, football players and their mascot Titus also visited Highland for a pep rally!



HIGHLAND HANDS

Highland Elementary is starting an initiative this year called Highland's Hands where students will develop interdependence with their community. The main goal of this initiative is to teach our children the importance of working together for the common good of society. The students will be participating in various community service projects that will instill a lifelong desire to give back! We will be working with the City of Ridgeland, community leaders, and various nonprofit organizations in order to serve our local population. The kick-off to Highland's Hands was on National Citizen's Day in September, and our children practiced being good citizens by cleaning up Ridgeland's Multi-Use trail.

For the month of October, Highland students collected new stuffed animals to become "Battalion Buddies." On the Highland's Hands project day, children attached notes and letters to each "Battalion Buddy." The buddies will be given to local children of deployed military personnel. Highland students wrote letters for the families of deployed military personnel. The letters provided encouragement to those left behind by brave members of our community who are serving our country. We presented our donations to a military representative at our annual Veteran's Day program.

A Rake-a-Thon will be the November project. There will be a competition among classes to see who can fill the most trash bags with leaves! Children will be encouraged to rake the yards of people who may not be able to rake their yards themselves, like the elderly.

Highland's Hands has a new project each month.

Fundraising – Thanks

Highland Elementary would like to thank everyone who supported our early fall fundraiser by purchasing entertainment books. HES will have a couple more fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for new technology in the classrooms. Our students who were top fundraisers were treated to a pizza party and magic show. Thanks for your hard work!



TITAN TROT

Mark your calendars for the "Titan Trot" 5k run/walk and 1 mile youth fun run on February 25 at 8:00 a.m. This exciting community event will feature something for everyone. Whether an avid runner, casual walker, or somewhere in between we encourage you to join us in promoting Highland Elementary. In partnership with several Ridgeland businesses, this day will be filled with fun and excitement for the whole family. Your support of the Titan Trot will not only benefit your health, but it will help raise funds for various school projects. For more information, contact Debbie Best at 601.940.2545.

SPECIAL DATES/MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Titan Trot – February 25 • HES Movie Night – April 20

AR Wall of Fame

At the end of every nine weeks, the Accelerated Reader (AR) points for every student in the school are counted. Those students who have met the requirements for AR Wall of Fame are treated to a special pizza party! The AR program is just one of the ways our school helps to encourage reading and improve comprehension.



Three of the AR Wall of Famers stop to get a picture with librarian Mrs. Humphries during their pizza party. From left to right: Quinn Crothers, Jeb Bailey, Mrs. Humphries, and Stefan Stokic.

OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 6 – 8 • 210 Sunnybrook Rd. • 601.899.8730 • www.madison-schools.com/otm

DUKE TIP TALENT SEARCH

Duke TIP 7th Grade Talent Search identifies academically talented 7th grade students. Olde Towne Middle School announces that 34 seventh graders qualified for the Duke TIP program this year. These students will take the ACT as seventh graders. Duke TIP students have access to online resources and academic programs held throughout the country that are targeted to gifted students.

EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS AT OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Music, band and art students shine in various competitions through the year. The community has several opportunities to attend choir and band concerts. The Olde Towne Singers, under the direction of director Ms. Emily Rich, will present a concert in the late spring. OTMS bands, under the direction of Mr. M. Milner and Mr. K. Moffat also present a spring concert. Check the Madison County School website in the spring for these dates. Concerts are held at the Ridgeland High School Auditorium and are free and open to the public. This is a great opportunity to experience the superior musical programs offered in Ridgeland.



Claire Richert, 4th grader, is pictured here standing in front of the Creative Arts Club Gallery.

CREATIVE ARTS CLUB

Highland Elementary School has recently launched a new Creative Arts Club. Each month, students are encouraged to submit a poem, story, or illustration to be displayed at school. Those who turn in creative writing will have the opportunity to read their poems and stories aloud to others in the Creative Arts Club. The club will also sponsor the upcoming Titan Trot t-shirt design contest. The goal of the club is to submit something every month and become better writers and artists.

Some of Mrs. Humphries 5th grade Creative Arts Club members now publish a school newsletter. The first edition is available on the HES homepage at <http://www.madison-schools.com/HES>.



Olde Towne Middle School reveals new signage.



OTMS participated in the Ridgeland High School Homecoming Parade. Always a great community event, each grade level creates a float for the parade. Shown here is the 8th grade 80's themed float. The outfits brought lots of memories back to the parents on the float committee.

OTMS Science Club/ Science Bowl Team

Science teacher Mr. Bobby Robinson, Madison County and OTMS teacher of the year in 2009, has organized a new 8th grade science club at OTMS. Some of the experimental ideas are driven by student interests. For example, students requested explosive science, so an experiment was designed to look at characteristics of blast trajectories. They used the process of sublimation, (matter changing from a solid to a gas) confined in a drinking bottle. This results in a small energetic reaction that shows the characteristic of a blast radius that can be measured through a blast of dried beans. OTMS Science Club will also collaborate with the OTMS Radio and Technology Club, when they send their second rocket to near space sometime this school year.

The 12 Science Club members will also attend the Mississippi Regional Middle School Science Bowl on February 25, 2012 in Columbus, MS.



A visual feast - Talented OTMS students' work is shown on display boards provided through PTO fundraising

RECYCLE BOWL

Ridgeland High School students competed throughout the month of October until November 15 in the Recycle Bowl presented by Keep America Beautiful. Supported by Keep Mississippi Beautiful, Keep the Rez Beautiful, and Waste Management, RHS motivates students to adopt sustainable behaviors and incorporate them in their everyday life. The community was invited to participate to help RHS win the Recycle Bowl. The statewide award is \$1,000. Pictured front row left to right are Mary Webb, Maya Arnold, and Cierra Bracey. Back row left to right are Narlise Summers, Marian Cancio, Millie Adams, Shelby Huff, Cierra Bernard, and Brandon Sanders.



WINTER ATHLETICS

Titan Soccer
Dec. 12 vs. Provine
Dec. 16 vs. Florence
Jan. 5 vs. Lanier
Jan. 13 vs. St. Andrew's
Jan. 19 vs. Callaway
Girls' games start at 5:30 p.m. Boys' Games start at 7 p.m.

Varsity Basketball
Dec. 6 vs. Callaway
Dec. 12 vs. Neshoba Central
Dec. 17, 19, & 20 - Titan Shootout
Jan. 2 vs. J.Z. George
Jan. 24 vs. Lanier
Jan. 28 vs. Provine
Feb. 3 vs. Northwest Rankin
*Home games are listed.



RHS homecoming court, front row L to R: Rhae'Ven Ellis, Hanna Harris, Hope Gilbert, Taylor Cleveland, Jada Slaughter, Raven Manuel, Brittany Weathersby, Lindsey Evans, Tracie Hobbs, and Taneisha Johnson; seated left to right: Shelby Huff, Millie Adams, Tree Wilson, Tyrea Bully, Jaterrian Hudson, Jonathan Brooks, Francois Hudson, Josh Newell, Jaclyn Bush, Linh Nguyen, Lauren Franklin, Ramona Abraham, and Alisha Bell; back row L to R: Cameron Jackson, Alex Allen, Guy Johnson, Collin Carroll, Alex Brooks, Zach Gardner, Zach Wilson, Tucker Italiano, Sam Richard, Austin McQuirk, Jack Cutrer, Montez Thomas, Piero Bracamonte, and Andrew Hulbert. Not pictured: Emil Ellis and Cope Miller.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & SERVICE



Members of the Ridgeland High School Boys and Girls soccer team recently volunteered for the TOP SOCCER program, held at Freedom Ridge Park. TOP SOCCER is an outreach program for children and adults with special needs. Students played soccer games, parachute games, face painting and also enjoyed snacks with the TOP SOCCER players throughout the day.

RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

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



Band competitions The Ridgeland High School Band got their competitive season started October in Clinton where they finished 2nd to bands from all over the state. The following week on October 8, the RHS Band earned All Superior Ratings for the 10th straight year at Pearl. The 147-member band also participated in the Pearl Invitational that night and came in first place over some of the metro area's best bands. RHS Band sought to defend their state title and came in second place in class 5A. Band Director Jay McArthur is very proud of his band's accomplishments and is deeply indebted to all the RHS parents for their time and support through this season.



Ridgeland High School senior Piero Bracamonte was named National Merit Semifinalist. He is pictured with Ridgeland High School principal Lee Boozer.



Ridgeland High School seniors Millie Adams, Kristen Dupard, and Rachel Harris were recognized in September's *Portico Magazine* feature, "25 Students That Will Change The World".



Kristen Dupard of Ridgeland High School, was recently named the National Individual Event Tournament of Champions Dramatic Interpretation National Champion. Pictured here are Kristen Dupard, right, and her Act I winning coach, Stacy Howell, left.

THE VERITAS SCHOOL

A Christ-Centered and
Classical Education
1200 Highland Colony Parkway
601.713.1555
www.theveritasschool.org

EXPANSION PLANS

The Veritas School will expand in the fall of 2012 with a K-5th grade program to complement its existing 6th-12th grade school. This will allow for a complete classical education from beginning to end and for area parents to have another option in educating their younger children. The elementary school will be located at the same campus in which the middle school and high school are currently located (1202 Highland Colony Parkway). For more information contact the school at 601.713.1555 or visit theveritasschool.org.

Open House

January 10th, 6:30p.m.



The Veritas Fast-Pitch Softball team finished the season ranked 2nd in the MAIS District 5A and competed in the Class A State Championship. Shown is the team after earning a place in the State Tourny: (front row) Samantha Hancock, Marissa Parks, Maryanna Story, Taylor Warriner, (back row) Asst. Coach Rachel Wright, Eryn McCarthy, Mary Katherine Miller, Tori Earnhart, Emily Ables, Bailey Woods, Jordan Warriner, Waverly McCarthy, Rose Turner, and Head Coach George Warriner.

BASEBALL RETURNS

After a two-year hiatus, Veritas will be re-starting its baseball program under the leadership of Coach Tray Earnhart, who brings with him several decades of baseball experience. "We're excited to welcome Coach Earnhart to our faculty and coaching staff. He has a wealth of baseball experience," said Veritas Athletic Director Steve Spinks.

Earnhart grew up playing baseball in Madison and is the son of a former Jackson area baseball coach. Coach Billy Earnhart coached at Jackson Prep where he led his team to the state title. The elder Earnhart is now a scout for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Tray played baseball at Madison Ridgeland High School and continued playing some in college. Since college, he has coached at different levels, most recently at Beth Haven Christian School in Louisville, KY for the past seven years. Earnhart has a seminary degree and teaches the Bible classes at Veritas. Tray and his wife Shay recently moved back to their home state with their 4 children.



CHRIST COVENANT SCHOOL

752 Pear Orchard Road
601.978.2272
www.christcovenantsschool.net



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

North Campus – Grades 5 – 12
370 Old Agency Road
601.853.6000
www.gosaints.org



HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

412 W. Ridgeland Avenue
601.856.5400
www.holmescc.edu



RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Madison County Library System
397 Highway 51
Ridgeland, MS 39157
Phone: 601.856.4536
www.mcls.ms

Submitted by
Nan Crosby, Manager

Hours:
Mon. - Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri. - Sat.: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed on Sunday

HOLIDAY HOURS

Close at 12 noon
on December 16

Close at 12 noon
on December 22

Closed on December
23, 24, 26, 30 and 31

Closed on January 2
and January 16

ARTIST'S CORNER

Clarence D. Smith, Jr. Exhibiting January & February



Mr. Smith, a resident of Madison, MS, began his study of art at age 11 by drawing still life. He attended art demonstrations by Wyatt Waters and Alan Flattmann. Smith's paintings can be found in various collections in the Jackson Metropolitan area including Batson Hospital for Children and Blue Mountain College.

He has exhibited at Eudora Welty Library,

Madison Community Center and St. Catherine's Village. He works principally in oils and pastels but has produced watercolors, ink, charcoal, pencil and collages. His collages, made of bridge cards, are simply unique.

Need help with your taxes?

Free AARP TAX Assistance on Mondays,
9 a.m. until 2 p.m., February 6 – April 16

AARP Tax-Aide is a free tax assistance service for individuals who need help with their 2011 tax returns. Beginning on Monday, February 6 and extending through April 16, tax assistants will be available at the Ridgeland Branch from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If your tax return is complex, you will be advised to seek professional tax assistance. Tax assistants volunteer their time to aid residents.



Charles McCall assists Alberta Tucker with taxes.

Webelos Tour the Library

Pack 184, Highlands Presbyterian Church, Ridgeland. Left to right: Zachary Watkins, Roman Owens, Will Diaz, Ricky Marcellus





SKYPE for MILITARY FAMILIES

Danny Murphy of Canton was recognized at the Commodity Classic in Tampa, FL as an America's Farmers Grow Communities winner. The Monsanto Fund program gives farmers the opportunity to win \$2,500 for their favorite local nonprofit organization. Murphy chose the Madison County Library System to receive the donation. The Madison County Library System used this donation to purchase two PCs, Webcams, and headsets with microphones to provide SKYPE for military members/families.

A station is set up at the Ridgeland and Canton branches where the largest populations of military families reside. The computer is now available for use and no library card is necessary. The service is free to any military member/family member who visits the Ridgeland or Canton branch and requests use of this service.



Pictured here left to right are the Madison County Library System Board Members: Danny Murphy, Canton; Elizabeth Ann Gill, Madison; Homa Hill, Ridgeland; Nell Tharpe, Madison; Mary King, Camden; O.J. Pearce, Flora; Connie Machado, Ridgeland; and Samuel Brent Gholston, Monsanto Representative.



SGT Alana Harrigill, Human Resources Specialist for the Mississippi Army National Guard, is using the free Skype service at the Ridgeland Branch to communicate with loved ones serving in the armed forces.

MISSISSIPPI CRAFT CENTER

Thursday, Feb. 23, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Did you know the MS Craft Center is in your own "backyard"? Open year round, the center is a perfect destination for art enthusiast, group tours, meetings or conferences. It is located just

off the Natchez Trace Parkway in Ridgeland, Mississippi. Sheri Cox, Event/Education Coordinator for the Craftsmen's Guild of MS will share with you the story of the Guild's 38-year history. The Craftsmen's Guild operates the MS Craft Center at 950 Rice Road in Ridgeland. Join us for this informative talk on February 23, 2012 from 12:30 to 1:30.



SENSATIONAL GIFT WRAPPING

Thursday, December 8; 10:30 a.m.

Within one hour, you will learn easy techniques that will have you wrapping like a professional. Carole Davis, experienced gift wrapping stylist, will guide you through the process and give you the hands-on training that you need to wrap with confidence and ease. Bring a package and holiday paper to complete your first project. Space is limited. Reservations are required for the free class by calling 601.856.4536.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Winter Programs

Our family Holiday Program will be on Tuesday, December 6 at 4:30. All children and their families are welcome. We will have holiday stories, songs, crafts, plus a special visit from Santa! I hope you all can be there! Please contact Ms. Stephanie with any questions.

In addition to our Holiday Program, we will be offering a special Gingerbread House program for families. All children and their families are welcome! During this program, children can build their own gingerbread houses with milk cartons, frosting, graham crackers, and candy! The program will be on Wednesday, December 7 from 3:30-4:30 and Saturday, December 10 from 2:00-3:00. Sign up for whichever day is most convenient!

Please call the library at 601.856.4536 or email Ms. Stephanie at sjurs@mcls.ms to register by December 2, so we know how many people to expect!

Rising Readers

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

Tuesday, December 6 – Holiday Program with Santa!

Tues., January 3	Tues., January 10	Tues., January 17
Tues., January 24	Tues., January 31	Tues., February 7
Tues., February 14	Tues., February 21	Tues., February 28

*Please note that we will NOT be having Rising Readers on December 13, 20, and 27.

Mother Goose on the Loose

This story time program is for 0-2 year olds. We meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 am. Mother Goose on the Loose is an interactive program between children and their caregivers. We sing Mother Goose rhymes, play musical instruments, read stories, and do flannel board and movement activities. Join us on these dates:

Weds., December 7	Weds., January 4	Weds., January 11
Weds., January 18	Weds., January 25	Weds., February 1
Weds., February 8	Weds., February 15	Weds., February 22
Weds., February 29		

*Please note that we will NOT be having Mother Goose on December 14, 21, and 28.

Creative Arts Club

The Ridgeland Public Library has recently started a new club for 2-5 graders! The Creative Arts Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 3:30-4:30. The club focuses on creative writing and arts and crafts activities. Join us on these dates:

Weds., January 4 Weds., February 1

*Please note that we are not having an official Creative Arts Club in December!

RPL Anime/Sci-fi Club

The Ridgeland Public Library has an Anime/Sci-fi Club for 7-12 graders! This club meets on the third Saturday of each month from 11:00-12:30. If you are interested in watching Anime, drawing Anime, or just hanging out and having a good time, come check us out!

Saturday, December 17 – OFF FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Saturday, January 21 Saturday, February 18



CHAMBER'S BAKE SALE RAISES FUNDS FOR "ADAM'S PROJECT"

Ridgeland Chamber volunteers set up a tent and tables filled with delicious baked goods at the Township's Fall Festival to raise funds for "Adam's Project", a park for special needs children and adults to be built inside Ridgeland's Freedom Ridge Park.

The bake sale, the Chamber's 2011 Make A Difference Day project, was held Saturday, Oct. 29. Fund raising efforts are still ongoing with the Chamber seeking donations from corporate sponsors.

The proposed park would include a fully accessible play area through the use of ramps throughout, allowing for wheelchair access to all levels of play. Additionally, the park would use artificial turf, certified playground mulch and poured-in-place rubber surfacing to allow access to all areas of the playground.

"The proposed park would break down all barriers, physical and social, and allow children and adults to play alongside each other throughout the playground," said Robby Carr, Community Trust Bank and 2011 Make A Difference Day Chairman.

"The City of Ridgeland has a proud history of providing recreational opportunities for children and adults of all ability levels. Successful completion of this project would allow the City of Ridgeland to further expand on those opportunities."

2011 Ridgeland Chamber President Eddie Hopper, Office Products Plus, said the universal design playground would be unique in the central area of the state and with the exception of a "boundless" park in Hattiesburg, would be only the second of its kind in Mississippi.

"The playground as designed would certainly become the largest universal design in Mississippi, and would draw visitors from all over the state and region," Hopper said. "We would hope that successful completion of the project would inspire others to pursue similar opportunities to encourage play in people of all ages and ability levels."

"We are so excited to learn that the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce has selected 'Adam's Project' as the charity to

be honored at the Chamber's Make A Difference Day," said Drew Malone of Ridgeland, father of Adam Malone. "This selection by the Chamber reinforces our belief that the Chamber is on the cutting edge of what is important to the citizens and businesses located in the City of Ridgeland. Our vision to build an all-accessible playground will become a reality if we can continue to have such wonderful support through the businesses and organizations which are represented through the Chamber."

Fundraising efforts will continue through December 15, and for those who visit Little Caesar's Pizza in Ridgeland and mention "Adam's Project", Little Caesar's will donate \$1 for each pizza purchased with proceeds going to "Adam's Project".

To make a donation to "Adam's Project", please call the Ridgeland Chamber office at 601.991.9996 or visit www.adamsproject.org to make a pledge.



Thank You Sponsors!

- Another Broken Egg Café
 - Beagle Bagel
 - Cool Water Café & Catering
 - Fat Tuesday's
 - Fresh Market
 - Great Harvest Bread Co.
 - Hilton Jackson
 - Krilakis
 - Krispy Kreme Donuts
 - Little Caesars Pizza
 - Mac's Fresh Market
 - McAlister's Deli of Ridgeland
 - Newk's Express Café
 - Party City
 - Primo's Café
 - Wal-mart Ridgeland
- ...and the many volunteers who baked cakes, cookies & pies to sell! Your donations helped make our dream a reality!



Kandra and Brian McKinsey and their daughter Amari of Jackson, select yummy baked goods to take home.



Volunteers Dee Carr and Shelia Jackson, of BankPlus; Julie Cox, City of Ridgeland and 2011 Make A Difference Day Chairman Robby Carr, Community Trust Bank, finalize details of the bake sale.



Natalie Gibbs of Ridgeland helps her sons, Alex, left and Will, right, select Halloween cookies.



Ridgeland Chamber Junior Diplomats sell baked goods at the Ridgeland Chamber's Make A Difference Day Bake Sale. From left, Greg Abadie, St. Joseph Catholic School; Kalah Walker, Shelby Barham, Linh Nguyen, Emily Wasson and Ann Louise Seabrook, all students at Ridgeland High School.



Ridgeland resident Bruce McKinley, left and Ridgeland Chamber Board Member Hunter Arnold, Waggoner Engineering, look over the selection of baked goods.



Ridgeland Chamber President Eddie Hopper, Office Products Plus, with daughter Allison Parr and grandsons, Tristan and Hayden, enjoy the Fall Festival.

Business After Hours

Thursday, December 15
Cabot Lodge Jackson-North • 120 Dyess Road

Thursday, January 12
Mattress Firm • 224 Hwy. 51 N.

Monday, January 23
Annual Meeting • Hilton Jackson Hotel & Convention Center 1001 E. County Line Road

Thursday, February 16
Pan-Asia • 720 Harbour Pointe Crossing

Thursday, March 15
The Club at the Township and Sanctuary Body Spa of St. Dominics • 340 Township Ave.

CITY OF RIDGELAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Phone: 601.991.9996
www.ridgelandchamber.com



ALDERMEN EARN DESIGNATIONS FROM THE MISSISSIPPI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



Alderman Ken Heard, Ward 1, and Alderman Brian Ramsey, Ward 4, were awarded the designation of "Advanced Certified Municipal Official" by the Mississippi Municipal League (MML). Alderman Chuck Gautier, Ward 2, was awarded the designation of "Basic Certified Municipal Official" by the MML. The awards were presented at the Annual Small Town Conference held in Vicksburg in November. This is the second level of the Certified Municipal Official's program, which was implemented by the MML in 2002.

Before earning the Advanced CMO level, participants must have earned the Basic CMO certification, which focuses

on the basics of municipal organization, law, finance, and land use. It is only after the Basic CMO certification has been earned that participants can earn the Advanced designation, which requires 40 additional hours of course work and focuses on economic and community development. Heard and Ramsey are now working on the Professional Development level, which is the highest CMO designation given by MML.

MML Executive Director George E. Lewis stated, "The Advanced CMO program provides the participants additional training to help them better prepare for economic development opportunities that might become available



Brian Ramsey



Ken Heard

for their city. Being able to effectively lead their city toward economic development and growth is critical to all municipal officials."

Established in 1931, the Mississippi Municipal League is a private association representing 288 municipalities in the state. The mission of the MML is to help cities and towns excel.

ALDERMAN BRIAN RAMSEY RECEIVES NLC LEADERSHIP TRAINING HONOR



City of Ridgeland Alderman Brian Ramsey was recently recognized by the National League of Cities (NLC) for reaching the Silver and the Gold levels in its Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program. The awards were presented in Phoenix, AZ at the annual Congress of Cities Conference in November.

Only 386 NLC members have reached the Silver level. In order to reach Gold level, Ramsey earned 50 credits of the Leadership Training Institute curriculum. Ramsey is one of the fewer than 237 NLC members to have reached the Gold level.

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, and 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
 601-856-7113 — Office • 601-856-7819 — Fax
 paula.tierce@ridgelandms.org

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
 David W. Overby, CPA
 Director and City Clerk
 david.overby@ridgelandms.org



Police Department
 Jimmy Houston
 Chief of Police
 jimmy.houston@ridgelandms.org



Recreation and 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
 Phil Ayers, Karen Bishop, Ron Blaylock, Donald Pendergrast, Glenn Ray, Alex Ross, Connie Suber

Beautification Committee
 First Monday - 5:30 p.m.
 Peggy Gauthier, Peg Harris, Peggy Horne, Phyllis Parker, Lea Anne Stacy

Community Awareness Committee
 Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.
 Peggy Gauthier - Chairperson
 Elizabeth Barber, Janie Boyd, Shirley Gill, Dawn Hall, Scott Higginbotham, Stacy Howell, Paula Loeb, Sells Newman, Mike Smith, Darlene Turner

Contractors Board of Adjustment and Appeals
 Lantz Kuykendall-Chairman
 Terry Evans, David Pursell, Steve Rimmer, Ricky Skeen, Leroy Tubbs, Keith West

Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee
 3rd Tuesday - 6:30 p.m.
 Larry Anderson, John Evans, Jay Harris, Wayne Jimenez, James Freeman, Jerry Neill and Gabe Coker

Zoning and Planning Board
 Thursdays, the week of Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting - 6 p.m.
 Bernie Giessner-Chairman
 Michelle Caballero, Philip Huskey, Mark Irby, Walter Cox, Larry Miller, Julius Murray

CITY OF RIDGELAND

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

ALDERMEN

- Gerald Steen, At-Large 601-856-3645
- Ken Heard, 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, Mayor Pro Tempore, Ward 5 601-856-6861
- Wesley Hamlin, Ward 6 601-454-0353

CITY DIRECTORY

- Mayor's Office 601-856-7113
- City Hall 601-856-7113
- Water Department 601-856-3938
- Public Works 601-853-2027
- Community Development 601-856-3877
- Fire 601-856-7004
- Police/Public Safety Communications Center 601-856-2121
- Community Police Officers 601-502-6040
- 601-940-9030
- Anonymous Tip Line 601-853-2006
- Court Clerk 601-853-2001
- Library 601-856-4536
- Recreation & Parks 601-853-2011
- Tennis Center 601-853-1115
- Chamber of Commerce 601-991-9996
- Tourism Commission 601-605-5256

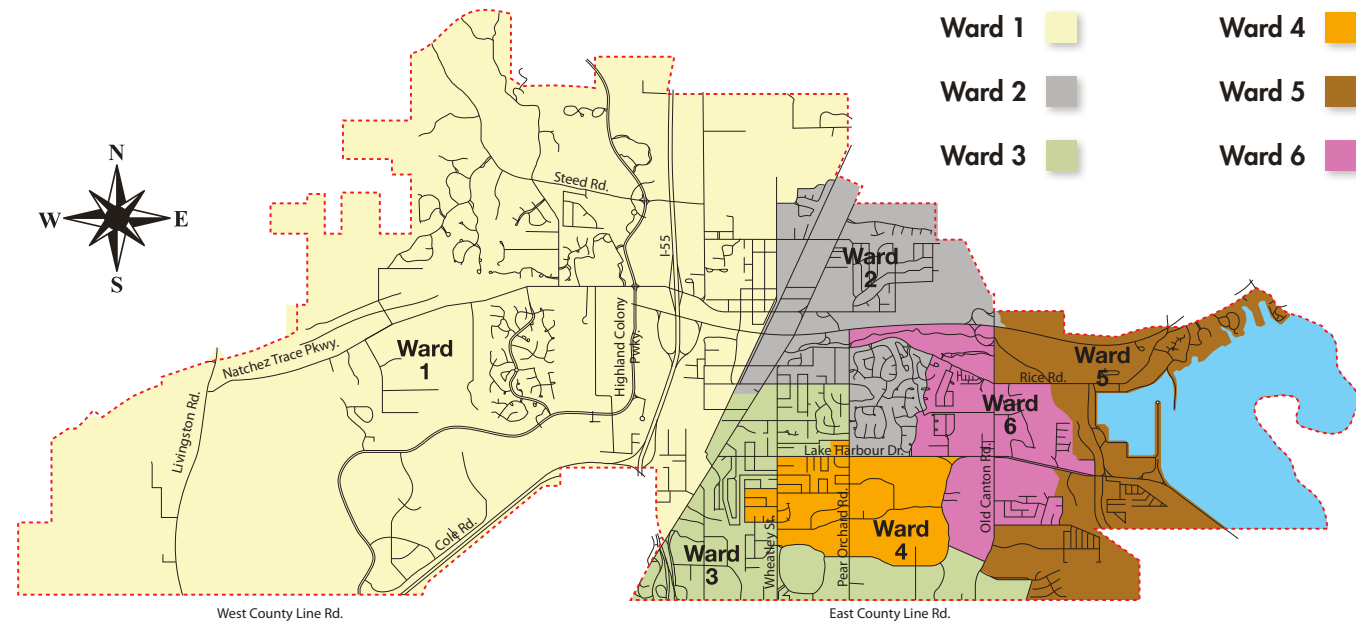


WHO & WHERE

RIDGELAND ALDERMEN

Your Elected Representatives

To learn more about your elected representatives, go to www.ridgelandms.org and click "City Government" at top left corner.



Gerald Steen
At-Large
601-856-3645



Ken Heard
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, Mayor Pro Tempore
601-206-5416



Wesley Hamlin
Ward 6
601-454-0353

