

March 2012- May 2012

RIDGELAND Life



KidFest! Ridgeland
Renaissance Fine Arts Festival
Dragon Boat Regatta
Recre8

the **SPRING** issue



From the Mayor

For the last two years, the City of Ridgeland has participated in competition with other cities across the state to be named the “Healthiest City in Mississippi” by Blue Cross Blue Shield. With this designation, not only comes the pride of being the healthiest city in Mississippi, but also Blue Cross Blue Shield gives a cash award of \$50,000 to the winner to be used in promoting a healthier city. Although the City has not been selected for the last two years, we will again be participating in the competition this year.

We are seeking volunteers to serve on our already established Healthy Ridgeland Committee. Dr. Rick Guynes, our Healthy Ridgeland Committee Chairman, has indicated to me that he is ready to do what it takes for the committee to win this competition. We have a number of other Healthy Ridgeland committee members who have worked hard and have continued to be enthusiastic about this effort. If you are interested and would like to become a Healthy Ridgeland Committee volunteer, please contact my Assistant, Deidre Smith at 601-856-7113, or you may email her at deidre.smith@ridgelandms.org. We have several new ideas and the more participants we have to volunteer and help us in this effort, the better chance we have being named “Mississippi’s Healthiest City”. Working on this effort is very rewarding, and the more we do to emphasize good health in our city, the better off our citizens will be.

In each edition of the magazine, I always have the pleasure of congratulating a group of individuals for their outstanding effort. It is with delight that I congratulate the Lady Titan Soccer Team for winning the State 5A soccer championship. These outstanding students displayed tremendous skill in the game of soccer all year and played outstanding in the championship game. Their record of 21-2-1 is outstanding and we at the City are very proud of them.

I would like to point out that Ridgeland High School is in its tenth year, and the Ridgeland Lady Titan Soccer Team has won the State Championship in their classification for eight out of the ten years that the school has been in existence. The two years they did not win the State Championship, the Lady Titans were Number Two in the State. What an outstanding group of ladies that represented Ridgeland High School and the City of Ridgeland so well. Congratulations to Head Coach Craig Winship and the staff. We’re proud of you and the entire Lady Titan Soccer Team!

By the time you get this magazine, the cold, dreary weather will almost be over, and I hope each of you will take advantage of the many opportunities that the City of Ridgeland offers to promote good health. Help us be named the “Healthiest City in Mississippi”.



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland

Gene F. McGee

RIDGELAND Life

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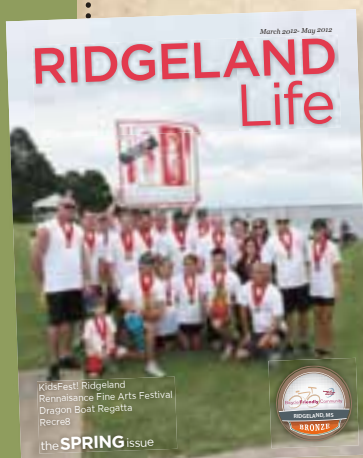
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ON THE COVER:

Fire on the Water, the Ridgeland Fire Department Dragon Boat Regatta team, earned first place in the 2011 Regatta which was held on the Ross Barnett Reservoir in Ridgeland. Photo by Elwin Williams.

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.

ADVENTURE ABOUNDS at KidFest!

Ridgeland

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M&F Bank



Exciting New Attractions and Old Favorites Arrive at KidFest! Ridgeland

April 6-7 & 14-15

Kidfest! Ridgeland is the most fun, affordable family adventure you will experience this year.

Ride a pony at a round-up, join the Backyard Circus, or sing your favorite song to the festival crowd. Thrill to the sea lions at Sea Lion Splash, enjoy the zany antics of Mutts Gone Nuts, and watch the famous Cowboy Monkey Rodeo. Meet some of your favorite storybook and cartoon characters, enjoy some time on the equipment at Touch-A-Truck, or ride the carousel, and don't forget the City of Ridgeland Easter Egg Hunt (April 6-7 only). Live the KidFest adventure.

Visit www.kidfestridgeland.com for a complete schedule, ticket and parking information. All performances, activities and attractions are included in the low admission price, and parking is free.

Visit www.kidfestridgeland.com to print a money saving coupon!

Mutts Gone Nuts

Top: Cowboy Monkey Rodeo returns by popular demand to KidFest! Ridgeland.

Above: Mutts Gone Nuts comes to KidFest! Ridgeland for the first time this year.

Right: Sea Lion Splash is an exciting new addition to KidFest! Ridgeland in 2012.



Ridgeland Hosts Fourth Annual Fine Arts Festival

100 of America's finest artists will feature artwork that is available to purchase at the 4th Annual Renaissance Fine Arts Festival on March 31-April 1, 2012. The festival will be on the grounds of the Renaissance at Colony Park on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

The Renaissance Fine Arts Festival was again named to the Top 100 Fine Arts Fairs for 2012 by The Art Fair SourceBook (AFSB). Last year the RFAF was rated #100 among fine arts fairs and jumped to #63 this year. The festival also leapt from #142 to #80 among fine craft fairs for 2012.

In comparison to the first Renaissance Fine Arts Festival in 2009, 73 artists were featured with 7,500 festival guests, with 80 artists and more than 10,000 guests in 2010. In 2011, 83 artists attended with over 11,000 guests. The festival continues to grow with 93 artists secured from 26 different states plus the country of Israel for 2012.

Festival guests can view artwork of national and international artisans and enjoy delicious foods from local restaurants.

The Renaissance Fine Arts Festival is a juried art show and sale. Artists are selected to participate in 12 different media categories such as jewelry, clay, photography, sculpting and painting.

Artistic director for this event, H.C. Porter of H.C. Porter Gallery of Vicksburg, Miss., said the festival is a wonderful event in the Ridgeland community and offers a unique way of bringing quality fine arts to everyone in a fun and approachable way.

"The Renaissance Fine Arts Festival brings to Ridgeland and Central Mississippi the opportunity for our community to gather in a casual outdoor setting around museum quality artists for important hands-on education and conversation," Porter said.

"If you are interested in collecting art,



Renaissance Fine Arts Festival returns for the fourth year on March 31 and April 1. View a wide range of high quality artwork in a casual setting.

curious about art or want a funky piece of jewelry, the Renaissance Fine Arts Festival is an excellent place to begin your art education and collection," Porter said. "In a short period of time, you can see a wide range of works in a huge variety of prices from our juried artists from around the nation."

Festival organizer, Bob McFarland of McFarland Productions in Ridgeland, Miss., said more artists applied to participate in the Renaissance Fine Arts Festival this year than in the past three years.

McFarland said this year the festival will again be focused within the Renaissance at Colony Park.

"I think the architectural beauty and ambiance of the Renaissance at Colony Park will continue to provide an improved experience for our guests," McFarland added.

Younger audiences will enjoy, pARTicipate, which is the children's 'make and take' area. Hands-on activities will include hat-making, whimsical puppets and creating masterpieces out of clay. Children will also be entertained by Magician Robert Day.

Maisy Mouse and Biscuit the puppy

will appear for story-telling at Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

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

An opportunity to be a festival sponsor is available to companies or organizations who would like to promote their brand at this contemporary visual art show that will showcase the state's widest selection of artwork. Sponsors are guaranteed the highest exposure with their company or organization logo on all printed festival materials and promotional broadcast airtime.

To learn more about the 4th Annual Renaissance Fine Arts Festival or to sponsor, visit <http://renaissanceartsfest.com/> or contact the Ridgeland Tourism Commission at 800-468-6078.

FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE TEAM BUILDING EXPERIENCE ...JUST ADD WATER!

Saturday, May 19th, 2012, the Madison County Chamber of Commerce will host its 4th Annual Dragon Boat Regatta on the Ross Barnett Reservoir at Old Trace Park in Ridgeland.

Weeklong festivities culminate on race day when 50 teams of 25 race head to head in forty-foot long boats. For those not participating, there will be room to watch the races, enjoy food and a free Kids Zone.

Dragon boat racing is a 2,000-year-old tradition that started in ancient China and is the fastest growing water sport in the world. This year the sport was featured on NBC's *The Biggest Loser*, ABC's *The Bachelor* and CBS's *Amazing Race*. Each boat holds 20 team members that paddle in unison to the beat of a drummer. This unique boating experience enhances work dynamics, employee motivation and self-confidence. Synchronicity is more important than strength. A perfectly synchronized team will always beat stronger than a less coordinated team.

"We are proud to bring such a diverse event to Ridgeland, Miss. that is favorable for this area's businesses as well as the community," said Kasey Perry, Executive Director of the Madison County Chamber. "This happens to be the cheapest company picnic you can find," followed Perry.

The Regatta is the perfect event for companies, schools, churches, sports teams, associations, non-profits, friends and families! Races are held across the U.S. in places such as Charlotte, Boston, New York and Disney World. If you are serious about gaining team unity, confidence and motivation visit www.paddlesontherez.com.

"Last year was just a warm-up...this year is competition...our game faces are ON," said Ridgeland Fire Department's Team Captain Shaun Moody, 2011 Grand Champions.

Right: Two forty-foot long boats race to the finish in Dragon Boat Regatta 2011. Pictured in the front is team, Waggoner Engineering, Inc. and in the back is team, Trustmark Bank.



Mississippi Sports Medicine celebrates at Dragon Boat Regatta 2011. Photo by Elwin Williams.



Kids Zone provides plenty of fun activities during the Regatta.





Spring Fling Regatta Weekend hosted by the Jackson Yacht Club offers sailboat races and good times.

Jackson Yacht Club Offers Classes & Events

Nestled atop the bluffs of the Barnett Reservoir is one of the Ridgeland area's best-kept secrets, the Jackson Yacht Club. It is located on the far eastern end of Ridgeland, overlooking the reservoir. If you are interested in learning about sailing, watching sailboat races, or viewing the reservoir from a comfortable and attractive facility, you can enjoy all of that and a lot more through the Jackson Yacht Club. Officers of the Jackson Yacht Club want readers to know that many opportunities exist for non-members with a member sponsor.

The following is a listing of classes and events available this spring that are open to the public.

Adult sailing class - March 3, 10, 17, 31

Family Bike and Kite Day - March 4

Spring Fling Regatta weekend - Sailboat races, food and live music. March 24 and 25

Gilliland Regatta weekend - Sailboat races, food and live music. April 14

Dragon Boat Paddler's Party - May 17

Youth Sailing Lessons - Contact JYC

For more information, contact The Jackson Yacht Club, located at 700 Yacht Club Road in Ridgeland by phone at 601.856.8844 or by email at manager@jacksonyachtclub.com. View their website at jacksonyachtclub.com.

Household Hazardous Waste Day For County Residents

For the last four years, the City of Ridgeland has sponsored Household Hazardous Waste Day for residents and small businesses. It is an annual opportunity for residents to take hazardous materials to a convenient drop-off site. New this year, the event is open to residents throughout Madison County. Grants from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) make this event possible.

Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on Saturday, May 19 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Holmes Community College on Ridgeland Avenue. Ridgeland Recreation and Parks staff will be on site to assist you.

Items for collection include: old paint cans, automobile motor oil, batteries (dry cell, marine or automobile), tires, fluorescent light bulbs, herbicides, pesticides, TV's, computers and old printers. Chemical containers need to be smaller than 5 gallons or 50 pounds and clearly marked. Compressed gas cylinders, medical waste, and explosives will not be accepted.

Many citizens have requested that this event be held more than once a year. The Public Works Department is looking into that possibility. In the meantime, the Environmental Service Center located at 1708 Terry Road in Jackson is open for the collection of your hazardous waste. Call 601.960.1193 or 601.960.0000 for hours of operation. Waste tires and white goods are accepted at 3137 South Liberty Street in Canton. For more information, contact the Madison County Road Department at 601.855.5670.



Mark your calendar for Household Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, May 19. Bring those old, unused chemicals and other household items for proper disposal and recycling.

Highway 51 Improvements Planned for Early 2012

Oak Place

Utilizing grant funding from the Mississippi Development Authority, the retail center, Oak Place, located at 587 Highway 51 in Ridgeland, will be getting a major facelift this year. Businesses located in the center include Kids Kloset, Exquisite Boutique, and American Title Check Advance. Ridgeland received one of four \$50,000 grants that were awarded throughout the state. Grant money will be used for a revitalization project at the center.

Alan Hart, "Oak Place is a major shopping center on a major thoroughfare in the city. We wanted to help provide incentives to renovate the center."

Oak Place has experienced decline over the years due to age and lack of attention. The city has long desired that the center achieve a makeover. The Ridgeland Area Master Plan reveals a different look for centers along the Highway 51 corridor than Oak Place currently presents. The concept for the Highway 51 corridor includes landscaping, well-maintained properties, and fully leased retail and office centers.

Hart adds, "Renovations will result in benefits for the city by providing more sales tax, more jobs, and more ad valorem taxes. The property owner could also potentially increase their lease rate, since the quality of the center will be improved. Thus, Oak Place will become a mid-grade retail center, a great place for entrepreneurs in Ridgeland to get a start."

The grant requires that any construction to the center be completed within one year. The grant was awarded in December 2011. The grant application was submitted by the City of Ridgeland to the Mississippi Development Authority. Ridgeland is also assisting the property owner with a project management plan for the revitalization project.



The owner will paint the center and make structural improvements to the foundation and the flooring. A new sign is also planned for the center. Plans for physical improvements to the parking lot include resurfacing, drainage improvements, and the addition of landscape islands. Trees will enhance the appeal of the center for shoppers.



Oak Place Shopping Center will receive a major renovation this year. Pictured here is the elevation rendering and the landscape plan rendering.



Log Village was demolished in Jan., 2012 in order to better market it to new prospective buyers.

Log Village

Log Village, located at 558 Highway 51, is coming down. Trustmark Bank will demolish the property in early 2012. Tenants that have recently moved out include Van's Comics which relocated next to Mac's at School Street Crossing and Trace Grill which moved into Gas Lamp Village, next door. After the site is cleared, it will be marketed as available property for development. Hart said, "The removal of Log Village will make the site more attractive to a larger audience of developers."

City Center Complex

The City of Ridgeland closed on the purchase of 24.5 acres in August, 2011 for the purpose of developing a City Center Complex. The property, located at the northwest corner of School Street and Highway 51, is the site of a former concrete manufacturing operation. The property will be undergoing \$80,000 of physical improvements over the next several months. With up to 50,000 cubic yards of concrete at the property, a concrete crusher will be used to break up the concrete for reuse in road construction. A contractor will be hired for this work by early summer 2012. The southwestern end of the site will be converted into a temporary gravel parking lot which will be used as overflow parking for events, games, and tournaments held at Freedom Ridge Park. "We hope to have a contractor hired for this work by early

summer 2012," said Hart.

A City Center Complex earned the top priority position among conceptual projects in the Ridgeland Area Master Plan. The Ridgeland Area Master Plan Steering Committee made the recommendation to develop this particular site for a future complex that includes a City Hall, an office and retail mix, and a festival green. At the time of this writing, no construction plans have been approved for the City Center Complex.

Other significant activity along Highway 51

The leasing of large vacant spaces such as the former D. Noblin furniture building near the I-55 overpass improves the visual quality of Highway 51. Mattress Firm moved into the building in the fall of 2011. Mattress Firm operates numerous stores across the metro area. According to Hart, sales figures have been higher than other metro area stores since their opening. The location coupled with attractive pricing is apparently filling the need for shoppers in Ridgeland.

At School Street Crossing, signage and landscaping improvements are in the works.

The Cappy's convenience store located at the northeast corner of School Street and Highway 51 has improved their canopy. The brand of gasoline products has been switched to Valero, an American refinery. With this change, Cappy's decided to enhance the aesthetics of the property.

Looking for Commercial Space in Ridgeland?

Look no further than rampupridgeland.com for free property listing info.

As we move into 2012, the City of Ridgeland would like to see the success of 2011 continue. When asked about the upcoming year, Bryan Johnson, Economic Development Assistant said, "We are working hard to fill vacant space and bring in businesses that our citizens request. We have created an Economic Development website to assist us with marketing and filling our vacant space."

"This website provides the information necessary to get business owners started in the right direction and find a location in Ridgeland. Whether a business is looking to relocate or to expand its current business, I want them to choose Ridgeland," said Hart.

Johnson adds, "Our ultimate goal is that www.RampUpRidgeland.com becomes a very valuable recruitment tool complete with property listings, economic development news, demographic profiles, and area business search capabilities, all of which should make choosing to locate in Ridgeland easier than ever before."

If you have any questions regarding the website, please call 601-856-3877.

Construction Projects and New Business in Ridgeland

A report of 2011 construction activity from the Community Development Department

The year 2011 provided the City of Ridgeland with many great opportunities and projects. According to Alan Hart, Director of Community Development, "We began to see some movement in the retail market, and as a result permit values for 2011 are up almost \$15 Million from 2010." Some of the notable construction projects and new businesses from 2011 are as follows:

Construction Projects

Metropolitan Bank	1065 & 1067 Highland Col. Pkwy. 201 Northlake Avenue, Ste. 109
Home 2 Suites	526 Evergreen Street
Community Trust Bank	1063 Highland Col. Pkwy.
Olde Trace Market	110 West Jackson Street

New Business

Krilakis	207 West Jackson Street, Ste. D
Hollywood Feed	1250 E. County Line Rd., Ste. A
Drench118	West Jackson Street, Ste. 800
Elite Scrubs	7048 Old Canton Rd., Ste. 1005
Razor Rection	107 Lake Harbour Dr.
Menchies	733 Lake Harbour Dr., Ste. H
Curves	500 Highway 51, Ste. P
Ridgeland Upholstery	410 Christine Dr., Ste. A
Apricot Lane	1000 Highland Col. Pkwy., Ste. 5008
Plato's Closet	1260 E. County Line Rd., Ste. D & E
Cache	1000 Highland Col. Pkwy., Ste. 7001
The Bike Crossing	115 West Jackson Street, Ste. 1D
Mattress Direct	920 E. County Line Rd., Ste. B
Altar'D State	1000 Highland Col. Pkwy., Ste. 3003
Sherry's Check Cashing	717 Rice Rd., Ste. B
Zsa Zsa's Gifts and Etc.	7048 Old Canton Rd., Ste. 2E
Family Pet Dentistry	7048 Old Canton Rd., Ste. 1006
Soma	1000 Highland Col. Pkwy., Ste. 9005
Sombra Mexican Kitchen	140 Township Avenue, Ste. 100
Al's Custom Tailoring	1000 Highland Col. Pkwy., Ste. 4004
Gigi's Cupcakes	1067 Highland Col. Pkwy., Ste. D
Wilson Auto Group LLC	450 Steed Rd.
Majestic Burger	1067 Highland Col. Pkwy., Ste. B
Another Broken Egg	1000 Highland Col. Pkwy., Ste. 1009

RAMP UP!
www.rampupridgeland.com

the City of **RIDGELAND**

Real Estate Agents & Business Owners
Compare a Ridgeland Location!

- View City Master Plan
- Interactive Site Selector Map
- Shop & Compare Discreetly

there's more here!
more *businesses*. • more *opportunity*.

www.rampupridgeland.com

Whether you are a building owner, a real estate agent, or a local business looking to expand, www.RampUpRidgeland.com will provide useful information regarding Ridgeland's commercial and retail properties. It is our hope that through this website we can match your business needs with the best possible location to give you a competitive edge. We stand ready to assist you in finding your real location, and the best news is that listing properties and use of the website is FREE. Give us a call and let us know how we can help you make the connection!

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We never forget that a great bank also needs to be a good neighbor.

At BankPlus, we are committed to supporting the Mississippi neighborhoods we serve. We're working side-by-side with you to make our neighborhoods even better places to live, work and grow. After all, isn't that what neighbors are for? For more information about BankPlus community support, visit BankPlus.net.

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Ridgeland Expands Recycling To Multi-Family Housing

Recycling services are now being offered on site for apartment residents by the City of Ridgeland. The first multi-family development to participate in the city's recycling program is Pear Orchard Apartments.

Mike McCollum, Director of Public Works, said, "The City of Ridgeland is expanding its recycling program to include multi-family housing residents. The City's recycling collection program currently serves single-family homes. For renters and small business, we have recycling drop-off centers at two of Ridgeland's fire stations. We anticipate that the City will increase its recyclable material from 50 to 75 tons per month with the addition of recycling at multi-family developments."

Courtney Wilkerson, Property Manager of Pear Orchard Apartments, said, "Pear Orchard is committed to being an environmentally-conscious part of the Ridgeland community. Our residents value the options provided by the City's new addition to their recycling program and Mid America Apartment Community's Greener Living Initiative. We are very excited about being the first apartment community to be able to offer this great service to our residents."

Ridgeland is unique among cities in the state because the City of Ridgeland is the first to initiate a multi-family housing recycling program. Mark Williams, Manager in Solid Waste and Recycling Programs, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), said, "This is the first time that I am aware of a city-sponsored recycling program for multi-family housing in Mississippi."

The City of Ridgeland seeks to be an environmental steward and set an example for other cities in the state. Ridgeland was accepted into the MDEQ enHance program in January, 2011. As stated in an MDEQ release, "Enhance is a voluntary stewardship program that recognizes committed environmental leaders who accomplish goals



The recycling dumpster for Pear Orchard Apartments is placed within an enclosure built through a MDEQ grant. Residents now have the convenience of recycling on site. Recycling bins are available for each of the 389 units.

beyond their legal requirements."

As of January, 2012, residents of Pear Orchard Apartments may drop off their recyclables in a new dumpster inside a wooden enclosure designed and built by the City of Ridgeland specifically for their recycling program. Recycling bins have been provided to each renter. There are 389 units in Pear Orchard Apartments.

McCollum explains, "The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality administers a solid waste grant program that enabled the City of Ridgeland to build some necessary infrastructure for the recycling dumpster and to provide recycling containers for the residents."

In order to educate residents, information has been delivered to residents with the bins. A flyer outlining what items may be recycled as well

as a letter explaining why it is important to recycle and requesting their voluntary participation are included, to help make the program a success.

"We are encouraged that Pear Orchard Apartments is leading the way in this effort, and we are confident that others will participate in the program once the benefits of recycling are realized."

If your apartment complex would like to participate in the city's recycling program, please contact Mike McCollum, Director of Public Works, at 601-853-2027.

THE ORCHARD

CONTACT US FOR A TOUR:
CALL 601-856-2205
OrchardRetirement.com

VISIT 600 S. Pear Orchard Road
Ridgeland, MS 39157

Permit Values Up In Ridgeland

Increase in permits reflects new businesses filling vacant commercial spaces, new high-value homes, new offices and banks.

The City of Ridgeland experienced a considerable increase in 2011 permit values over last year. Permits are issued for any new construction, renovations, and remodeling projects in Ridgeland. Each permit is given a value based on the value of construction.

Alan Hart, Director of Community



Pictured here is just one of the properties in Ridgeland that was built during the GO Zone years and had extensive construction activity in 2011, preparing spaces for new tenants. Trace Harbour Village, located at 7048 Old Canton Road in Ridgeland, is now 90% leased.

Permit values by year:

- 2011 - \$54,685,618
- 2010 - \$39,937,533
- 2009 - \$42,883,152
- 2008 - \$136,846,672
- 2007 - \$145,927,074
- 2006 - \$104,793,302
- 2005 - \$82,332,816
- 2004 - \$73,523,459
- 2003 - \$70,658,404

Development, City of Ridgeland said, “Permit Values for 2011 are up by almost \$15 Million from last year. This is the first increase we have seen since the last big year of 2008. Of greater interest, the permit values after 2008 represent only a few new development sites. Most of the commercial construction values of 2009, 2010 and 2011 have been dedicated to filling spaces that were built from 2006 to 2008 using GO Zone tax incentives. In 2007 and 2008, the

construction of Renaissance Retail Center and the Butler Snow Building took place.”

“Many of our vacant spaces have turned into prosperous stores and offices,” adds Hart. “We saw many new start-up businesses last year that translate into many new jobs.”

Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland said, “It is exciting to see the economy growing in the City of Ridgeland. This shows that the development community has confidence in our future and our pro-business attitude.”

Ridgeland Awarded NFIP Community Rating of Class 6

Better rating gives flood insurance premium reductions



The City of Ridgeland has recently received a rating of Class 6 for its National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating

System (CRS). This rating is a tremendous improvement from the previous Class 8 rating. The NFIP rates communities on their efforts to meet NFIP goals: reduce flood damage to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the program, and encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

The more activities a community implements to support NFIP goals, the

CRS rating improves, property is better protected from losses, insurance premiums are lowered. Cynthia James, EI, CFM, Ridgeland’s Floodplain Management Administrator and Drainage Engineer said, “CRS is a voluntary program. We participate for the benefit of the citizens.”

Ms. James adds, “It is important for us to strive to obtain a better rating. With every point decrease in class rating, the flood insurance rates are reduced by 5 %.”

The Class 6 rating gives flood insurance policy holders a 20% reduction in premiums. There are only five cities in Mississippi that have earned Class 6. Hattiesburg is the only other Class 6 city that is not located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Coastal communities typically

have more credit points toward their rating. Only three cities in Mississippi have earned a better rating, a Class 5, and those cities are located on the coast. The City of Ridgeland is among only 22 of approximately 300 NFIP-participating Mississippi cities and towns to have implemented plans and undertaken activities to meet requirements of the Community Rating System.

Ms. James said, “In Ridgeland, public information is one of the most important aspects of the program. Residents who live in a flood hazard area receive letters from the city advising them of their location. We seek to bring awareness to those residents and thus, to aid them in protecting their property from any potential loss from flooding.”

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, Sylvester Hamblin, 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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events Coordinator, Wendy Bourdin

Phone: 601.853.2011 • E-mail: wendy.bourdin@ridgelandms.org

Natchez Trace Century Ride



The Natchez Trace Century

Ride will take place on Saturday, May 12. This recreational bike ride offers a scenic ride for participants of all levels. The Natchez Trace Century Ride will be held on the same weekend as the Tour Le Fleur. Riders from across the southeastern United States will be in Ridgeland to participate in this recreational bike ride. This recreational ride is perfect for the beginner and, for the more experienced riders, it will present a challenge to their endurance. Please visit our website at www.natchezcenturyride.racesonline.com.

Program Price:	\$35
Registration:	Now – April 12
Late Registration:	April 13 – May 12
Late Reg. Fee:	\$45
Event Date:	May 12
Start Time:	7:30 a.m.
Day:	Saturday
Location:	Ridgeland Recreational Center



Kidfest! Ridgeland

Family Fun is on as KidFest!

Ridgeland takes over Freedom Ridge Park April 6-7 and April 14-15.

Guests enjoy train rides, pony rides, interactive activities, and shows. All shows and activities are “up close and personal.” Guests also have the opportunity to meet some of their favorite Nickelodeon and Nick Jr. characters. This special event provides an opportunity for parents and children to interact with each other and offers an affordable and memorable family experience. Tickets will be available at the gate. We do not accept debit/credit cards.

Ticket Price:	TBD
Location:	Freedom Ridge Park
Dates & Times:	Friday, April 6, 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 7, 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14, 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 15, 12:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Ride Of Silence

The Ride of Silence™ is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16. This special event seeks to build awareness of the importance of sharing the road safely for cyclists and motorists. Participating cyclists ride

no faster than 12 mph and remain silent during the ride. The ride begins and ends at Northpark Mall. Arrive at 6:15 p.m. for important speakers and announcements. Ride starts at 7 p.m.

Program Price:	No charge
Location:	Northpark Mall
Event Date:	May 16
Start Time:	6:15 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

Program Price:	No charge
Location:	Holmes Community College, Ridgeland Avenue parking lot
Event Date:	Saturday, May 19
Times:	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Heatwave Classic Triathlon

The 27th annual Heatwave Classic will take place on Saturday, June 2. This triathlon is a race favorite among tri-athletes in the Southeast. Over 400 participants from across the country are expected to descend on Ridgeland to compete for the top prize in the various age groups.

Participants will take to the water at 7:00 a.m. at Madison Landing and swim .5 miles. After completing the swim, participants will ride 24.5 miles along the scenic and historic Natchez Trace Parkway. After the ride is complete, participants will embark on a 10K run on the heavily-shaded Ridgeland Multiuse Trail.

For more information, call the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks office at 601.853.2011 or visit the Heatwave Classic website www.heatwavetri.racesonline.com.

Program Price:	Individual - \$75 - after May 4, \$85 Relay Team \$135 - after May 4, \$145 \$10 single event USAT ins./participant
Registration:	Now-June 1
Event Date:	Saturday, June 2, 2012
Start Time:	7 a.m.
Location:	Old Trace Park

PROGRAMS

Wendy Bourdin

Phone: 601.853.2011 • E-mail: wendy.bourdin@ridgelandms.org

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 a 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.

Registration will be held February 20 – March 19. 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
Registration:	February 20 – March 19
Start Date:	March 27
Start Time:	7 p.m.
Day:	Tuesday
Location:	Ridgeland Recreational Center

Lose the Training Wheels Bike Camp

Lose the Training Wheels is designed to assist children and/or adults with varying forms of disabilities and able-bodied children who may be struggling due to fear or other factors to learn to ride a bicycle without the use of training wheels. The LTTW camp uses adapted bicycles to help would-be bike riders overcome fear and lack of balance.

The LTTW camp will take place at Ridgeland High School, June 4-8. Campers will attend daily 75- minute sessions. The camp fee is \$75. Volunteers are needed to assist campers. For more information, contact Ridgeland Recreation & Parks at 601-853-2011. More information on the Lose the Training Wheels program is available at www.losethetrainingwheels.org. Participants may register at the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks office located in City Hall. NOTE: Space is limited so register early.

Program Price:	\$75
Registration:	Begins April 2
Location:	Ridgeland High School
Event Date:	June 4-8
Start Time:	Varies

ATHLETICS

Athletics Coordinator, John Sidney North
Phone: 601.853.2011 • E-mail: john.north@ridgelandms.org

Adult Softball

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department will be offering a men's open league (6 Homerun limit), a men's commercial league (3 Homerun limit), and a men's church league. All games will be played at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland. The leagues will be

open to the first 24 teams in each division. ASA sanction rules will be in play for the leagues. We will offer 12 games for each league.

Register at Ridgeland City Hall during office hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601.853.2011.

Program Price:	\$500
Registration:	March 5 – 16

Start Smart Baseball

Start Smart Baseball is a developmentally appropriate introductory program for children ages 3 to 5 years old that prepares them for organized tee ball and baseball in a fun, non-threatening environment. Start Smart Baseball will meet for six one-hour sessions. Parent participation is required. Each child will receive a bat, ball, glove, koosh ball, mondo koosh ball, a Start Smart participant manual and a t-shirt. A minimum of 10 participants is required in order for the class to make. A maximum of 20 participants will be allowed. Child must be 3 by September 1, 2011.



Program Price:	\$70
Registration:	March 5 – 16
Program Dates:	April 10 – 26
Start Time:	6 p.m.
Days:	Tuesday and Thursday
Location:	Freedom Ridge Park

SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Senior Adult Coordinator, Lynda McMahan Assink
Phone: 601.856.6876 • Email: lynmac53@yahoo.com
All Superstar Seniors Programs take place at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, located at 127 Old Trace Park, on the Ross Barnett Reservoir unless otherwise specified.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Agape Men's Coffee Group

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

Program Price:	No Charge
Start Date:	On-going
Time:	9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Day:	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 are led by Darlene Epple.

Program Price: \$40/month or \$10/weekly
Start Date: On-going
Times: Beginners Class, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 Advanced Class, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Day: Monday

Ladies Bible Class

Ladies Bible Class 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 is the facilitator of this class.

Program Price: No Charge
Start Date: On-going
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Day: Thursday

Men's Bible Study

A Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday for a non-denominational, in-depth study of God's Word. Call Earl Beck at 601.668.2332 for more information

Start Date: On-going
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Day: Tuesday



Painting Pals

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

Program Price: No cost
Start Date: On-going
Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Day: Tuesday

Painting with Pastels

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks is offering 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 paintings. Professional artist, Cecilia Baker, is your instructor.

Instructor will provide the following equipment: table easels, drawing equipment and tape are available at all times while pastel paper, backboards, and a small set of pastels can be purchased

at the session. (Please feel free to bring your own equipment and painting supplies.) Register now by calling Cecilia Baker at 601.856.1802 or email B1108@live.com or B1108@bellsouth.net.

Program Price: \$65/month
Start Date: On-going
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Day: Friday

SuperStar Seniors Walking Club

The Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department is sponsoring a walking club for senior adults. Come dressed to walk outside as we meet every Thursday morning at Fleet Feet (located at Trace Station Shopping Center). Fleet Feet has restrooms, water, coffee, and it is convenient to the walking trail. We will begin walking 20-30 minutes. Class will not meet if it is raining or freezing (32 degrees or below). There is no charge for this class! Register now by calling Lynda at 601.856.6876 or Allison at 601.707.7886.

Program Price: No Charge
Start Date: On-going
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Day: Thurs

Tai-Chi Fusion on the Reservoir

Tai-Chi Fusion is offered on the Reservoir every Wednesday morning. Tai-Chi has become an increasingly popular form of physical exercise around the world. A few of the benefits are increased flexibility and reduced risk of injury, focused breathing and concentration, improved mind-body connection, greater strength and stamina, better balance and stability, improved posture, stress reduction, and much more.

Program Price: \$5/per class
Start Date: On-going
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Day: Wednesday

Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness, & Fun

Join us every Monday and Friday for Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness & Fun! 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.

Program Price: \$10 per participant/per class
Start Date: On-going
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Days: Monday and Friday



Zumba

A Zumba Fitness Class is offered every Thursday. Zumba Fitness is a Latin-inspired dance-fitness program that blends Latin music with contagious, easy-to-follow dance steps. The 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 certified instructor is Renata Gil. Renata is from Brazil and has her roots in Brazilian or Latino music. To register, please call Lynda at 601.856.6876.

Program Price: \$5 per participant/per class

Start Date: On-going

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Day: Thursday

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

50's 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 March, April, and May will be announced in our monthly newsletter. Call Lynda to make your reservations at 601.856.6876.

Program Price: No Charge

Event Date: March 1, April 5, May 3

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Day: 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 1:00 p.m.

Program Price: \$1.00 each for Prize (winner)

Dates: March 22, April 26, May 24

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Day: Thursday

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 meet 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.

Program Price: No Charge

Dates: March 5, April 2, and May 7

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Day: Monday



Thread, Yarn, & Coffee

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

Program Price: No Charge

Dates: March 12 & 26

April 9 & 23

May 14 & 28

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Day: Monday

TENNIS

Ridgeland Tennis Center, 201-A McClellan Drive

Phone: 601.853.1115

Directors: Cheryl Harris and Susan Toler

Tournaments

March 2 – 4 Ridgeland Spring Junior Novice

April 28 – 30 Aquafina RTC Junior Open Champs

Call the Ridgeland Tennis Center at 601-853-1115 to get information about Spring Junior Clinic, private, and group lessons.

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MARCH 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 50's Plus, RRC, 11:30 a.m. Bilingual program, Ridgeland Library, 4:30 p.m.	2 Spring Junior Novice Tennis Tournament, Ridgeland Tennis Center Titan Baseball vs. Bayside Acad. JV-5 p.m. V-7 p.m.	3 Titan Baseball vs. St. Luke, 11 a.m. (V) Titan Baseball vs. Richland, 4 p.m. (V)
4	5 Registration begins for Adult Softball, Rec & Parks Office Registration begins for Start Smart Baseball, Rec & Parks Office	6 Titan Baseball vs. Provine, 5 p.m. (JV), 7 p.m. (V) Garden Club Daffodil Tour, RRC, 10 a.m.	7 Mother Goose on the Loose, Ridgeland Library, 10:30 a.m. Creative Arts Club, Ridgeland Library, 3:30 p.m.	8 Bilingual program, Ridgeland Library, 4:30 p.m.	9	10 Titan Baseball vs. Warren Central, 11 a.m. (JV), 1 p.m. (V) Knife Show and Hammer-In, MS Craft Center
11 Knife Show and Hammer-In, MS Craft Center	12 Spring Break week for Madison County Schools	13	14 Caregivers Workshop for Alzheimer's, Ridgeland Library, 2 p.m.	15 Historical Society, Ridgeland Library, 12 p.m. Business After Hours, The Club at the Township, 5 p.m.		17
18	19	20 Titan Baseball vs. Callaway, 5 p.m. (JV), 7 p.m. (V) Rising Readers, Ridgeland Library, 4:30 p.m.	21 Mother Goose on the Loose, Ridgeland Library, 10:30 a.m.	22 Bridge game, RRC, 1 p.m. Bilingual program, Ridgeland Library, 4:30 p.m.	23	24 Titan Baseball vs. Pearl, 10 a.m. (JV), 12 p.m. (V) MS Fire Boys Soccer Tourn., Freedom Ridge Park
25 MS Fire Boys Soccer Tourn., Freedom Ridge Park		27 Rising Readers, Ridgeland Library, 4:30 p.m. Dog Obedience classes start, Ridgeland Rec Center, 7 p.m.	28 Mother Goose on the Loose, Ridgeland Library, 10:30 a.m.	29 Bilingual program, Ridgeland Library, 4:30 p.m.	30	31 Renaissance Fine Arts Festival, 9-6 Near Space Balloon Launch, Olde Towne Middle School

APRIL 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Renaissance Fine Arts Festival, 12-5 MRYC Softball Tournament Girls, Freedom Ridge Park	2 Lose the Training Wheels Bike Camp registration Draw Down, Ridgeland High School	3 Titan Baseball vs. Callaway, 5 p.m. - JV, 7 p.m. - V Garden Club Mynelle Gardens Tour, RRC, 10 a.m. Kindergarten registration & program, Ann Smith Elem.	4 Mother Goose on the Loose, Ridgeland Library, 10:30 a.m. Creative Arts Club, Ridgeland Library, 3:30 p.m.	5 50's Plus, RRC, 11:30 a.m.	6 Easter Break for Madison County Schools KidFest! Ridgeland, 9-6:30, Freedom Ridge Park Titan Baseball vs. Clinton, 11 a.m. (JV), 1 p.m. (V)	7 KidFest! Ridgeland, 9-6:30, Freedom Ridge Park Titan Baseball vs. Natchez, 1 p.m. (V)
8	9 Easter Break for Madison County Schools	10 Rising Readers, Ridgeland Library, 4:30 p.m.	11 Mother Goose on the Loose, Ridgeland Library, 10:30 a.m.	12 In the Weeds Workshop, Ridgeland Library, 5:30 p.m.	13 Spring Musical performed by OTMS choir, Ridgeland High School Auditorium	14 KidFest! Ridgeland, 9-6:30, Freedom Ridge Park Market at Veritas, 1202 Highland Colony Pkwy, 10-5 Ridgeland High School prom
15 KidFest! Ridgeland, 12-6:30, Freedom Ridge Park	16	17 Rising Readers, Ridgeland Library, 4:30 p.m. Titan Baseball vs. Provine, 5 p.m. (JV), 7 p.m. (V)	18 Mother Goose on the Loose, Ridgeland Library, 10:30 a.m.	19 Historical Society of Ridgeland, Ridgeland Library, 12 p.m. Chamber Business After Hours, Community Bank, 5 p.m.	20 Titan Baseball vs. Germantown, 5 p.m. (JV), 7 p.m. (V) Highland Elementary School movie night	21 Rumbly 'in Ridgeland April 21, Holmes CC, 10-2
	23	24 Rising Readers, Ridgeland Library, 4:30 p.m. Arts for Autism, Highland Elementary School, 5:30 p.m.	25 Mother Goose on the Loose, Ridgeland Library, 10:30 a.m.	26 Bridge game, RRC, 1 p.m. Friends of the Library preview party, 4 p.m.	27 USSSA May Madness Baseball	28 Book Sale, Ridgeland Library - through May 3 Aquafina Junior Open Champs, Ridgeland Tennis Center
29	30	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.				

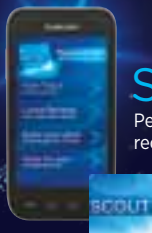
MAY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Ridgeland Garden Club Plant Swap, Reservoir Pointe, 11 a.m.	2	3 50's Plus, RRC, 11:30 a.m.	4 USSSA Baseball AA Nit	5 Bike Rodeo
6 	7	8	9 	10	11 Pepsi Pops, Old Trace Park, 7:30 p.m.	12 Natchez Trace Century Ride, Ridgeland Rec Center, 7:30 a.m.
13	14	15	16 Ride of Silence, 6:15 p.m., Northpark Mall	17 Historical Society of Ridgeland, Ridgeland Library, 12 p.m. Ridgeland Chamber Golf Classic, Lake Caroline Golf Club	18	19 Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8-12, Holmes CC Dragon Boat Regatta, Old Trace Park
20	21	22	23	24 Last Day for Madison County School students Bridge Game, RRC, 1 p.m.	25 MRYC Softball Tournament	26 
27	28	29	30	31		



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Important Dates

MARCH 1

Family Reading Night

MARCH 2

Read Across America Parade

MARCH 12-16

Spring Break

APRIL 4

Kindergarten Registration & Program

APRIL 6 & 9

Easter Break - No School

APRIL 24

Spring PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

APRIL 25-26

Earth Day Program

APRIL 27

Field Day

MAY 7-11

Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 24

Last Day for Students (60% Day)

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.



Sammy's Stage Renovation

An outdoor classroom at ASE was enhanced in the fall, thanks to the efforts of three members of the community. As part of a service project to earn his God and Country badge, Boy Scout Grady Fisher – along with his father Brent Fisher and Jerry Neill, senior minister at Meadowbrook Church of Christ – took on the renovation project, which included replacing rotten wood and broken boards,

cutting back the azalea bushes surrounding the classroom, and power-washing the benches and stage.

The outdoor classroom was originally built nearly 30 years ago and later dedicated in memory of Sammy Gainey, a Ridgeland Elementary second-grader who was tragically killed in a head-on collision while riding his bicycle on April 5, 1984.

Now known as “Sammy’s Stage,” the outdoor classroom, located on the east side of the playground, is used most notably during the annual kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast, where the story of Stone Soup is re-enacted for students. Teachers also have the opportunity to use the outdoor classroom on days when the weather is nice.

In the fall, a small dedication was held at Sammy’s Stage to unveil the renovations. On behalf of the PTO, co-president Dixie Livingston presented Hilda Gainey, Sammy’s mother and former Ridgeland Elementary teacher, with a new plaque in Sammy’s memory.

“We are so grateful that the PTO wanted to do this for us and for Sammy,” said Gainey. “His life was short, but he touched many with his outgoing personality. One of the hardest things for me to deal with is the thought that he is forgotten. Having that reminder in the form of a plaque is proof that he was a part of Ridgeland Elementary and the lives of those who were there when he was.”



Pictured (L to R): Dixie Livingston; Kathy Rigsby, principal; Ann Smith, former principal & school namesake; Hilda Gainey and Grady



Mayor Gene McGee reads to first-graders in Christina Polk’s class during Read Across America.

ASE Celebrates Reading

ASE will participate in two special activities to celebrate reading and commemorate the birthday of Dr. Seuss. On Thursday, March 1, at 6 p.m., the school will host its first-ever Family Reading Night. This free communitywide event is designed to encourage a love of reading among children and will take on an “Around the World” theme to highlight the variety of countries represented at ASE. Guest readers will read passages of a favorite Dr. Seuss book in four languages. There will be four different activity and literacy stations, and children will enjoy a light snack of “Hop on Pop” popcorn and juice. In addition, each student will get to take home a book collected from our recent book drive.

Then, during the morning of Friday, March 2, students will line the hallways for the Read Across America parade, led by the Ridgeland High School marching band and followed by parents, staff members and RHS mentors who will be dressed as beloved book characters.

ASE Adopts Common Core Standards For Success in the Classroom

This year, Ann Smith Elementary, along with the Madison County School District, transitioned to a new teaching framework for kindergarten through second grade. The Common Core State Standards are a state-led initiative that has been adopted by 45 states, including Mississippi. The initiative provides clear educational benchmarks for English and math, setting high standards for learning to ensure that students receive a high-quality education and are prepared for success in either college or the workforce.

While ASE has always placed a strong emphasis on reading and student achievement, the adoption of Common Core Standards has brought about some positive changes in the classroom. “We are asking more open-ended questions to encourage the children to think,” said kindergarten teacher Natalie Barry. “For example, instead of just asking what happens in the story, we are also asking ‘why’ questions.”

ASE teachers use a balanced approach to teach reading, where whole-group lessons and shared reading are combined to help students develop the skills necessary to read independently. With plenty of one-on-one instruction, each child has the opportunity to advance at his or her own pace. Under the Common Core Standards, students should begin reading independently, have extensive vocabulary skills and use problem-solving strategies by the end of kindergarten.

In first grade, the focus shifts to text complexity and critical reading of informational



Pictured answering questions during guided reading are first-graders (from left) Makhi Marley, Marina Goupalova and Brayan Lopez.

text. “Informational text is a main feature of the Common Core State Standards,” said first-grade teacher Lindsey Roberson. “I’m teaching my students not only how to read and understand different types of text, but to also recognize and use the different contents of a wide variety of text.”

The goal during first-grade is for students to become more independent readers and writers. Roberson explains, “First-graders will continue to learn and practice rules for recognizing the sounds that make up words and will be able to sound out more complex words. These foundational skills are necessary and important components of developing proficient readers that have a capacity to comprehend a wide range of reading materials.”

By the time a student is in second-grade, students will be reading fluently, with comprehension being a main concentration. Rebecca Coody-Cobb, a second-grade teacher, says that the goal at this stage is to develop independent thinkers and learners.

“Common Core has changed the conversational language between students and teachers,” said Coody-Cobb. “Students are now learning how to justify answers and become more confident learners. Students are now exposed to more problem-solving strategies that help them better develop a deeper understanding of all academic areas.”

To learn more about Common Core Standards, visit www.madison-schools.com.

Kindergarten Registration Registration for students who’ll be entering kindergarten in the fall will be held Wednesday, April 4. During the morning, parents are encouraged to bring their child to watch a short presentation by the current kindergarten class. Afterward, parents will have the opportunity to register, meet faculty and staff members, and take a tour of the school. To register, you’ll need to bring several documents such as proof of residency, social security card, birth certificate, immunization form, etc. For a complete list of requirements, visit www.madison-schools.com/ase.

HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

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



Science Fun Day

Highland Elementary third-graders got to participate in an action-packed Science Fun Day in December. Dr. John Hunt, professor at Mississippi College, captivated the students at HES with his break-through educational program. Science Fun Day is an interactive, hands-on learning experience that involves students and parent volunteers. Small groups of students rotated through the nearly 30 stations that were set up in and around the school gym. Each station had a simple science experiment with a parent volunteer leading the way. Every four minutes, a whistle blew so the small groups could rotate to the next station. At the end of the program, each student had visited every station and learned a practical science concept at each stop.

Science Fun Day was designed by Dr. John Hunt to show kids that learning science is fun and exciting. All of the experiments were designed to surprise the students and increase their knowledge of scientific principles.



Third graders Joshua Pleasant, Alex Lewis, and Bryson Williams

Arts for Autism

Highland's Hands will be hosting a silent auction, "Arts for Autism," on April 24 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April is Autism Awareness month, and the silent auction will help raise money for the cause. We will be featuring art by our children and merchandise from local vendors. We will also show a short video about autism.

Speed Stack Club

Highland Elementary P.E. instructor, Dock Daniels, has recently started a Speed Stack Club. The fastest stackers in the fourth and fifth grades were invited to join the club, which includes approximately 50 students. The Speed Stack Club participates in school wide demonstrations and will be competing against other schools in the area.

Speed stacking helps students develop bilateral proficiency equal performance on both sides of the body. By increasing bilateral proficiency, a student develops a greater percentage of the right side of the brain, which houses awareness, focus, creativity and rhythm. Stacking helps train the brain for sports and other activities where the use of both hands is important, such as playing a musical instrument or using the computer. Sequencing and patterning are also elements of speed stacking, which can help with reading and math skills.

Poet of the Year visits Fourth-Graders

Fourth-graders at HES were in for a treat when poet Doris Jones came to school to tell Native American and Pioneer stories. The students were having so much fun they may not have realized they were learning something. During the presentation, students learned about story elements and were active participants, contributing sound effects, refrains and hand motions to the tales.

Pictured (L-R): J.D. Dorris, Doris Jones, Kathleen Abadie, and Hannah Ryan.



Just Have a Ball Leadership Madison County visited fifth-graders this year to present a program of The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi. The program was called Just Have a Ball and covered nutrition, skills training with balls, music and performances. At the end of the day, all of the Highland Elementary fifth-graders were sent home with a ball. This was the pilot program; Leadership Madison County is hoping to bring the program to other schools in Madison County. Pictured are Leadership Madison County members and Principal Naron.



Highland's Hands

Our Caring for Christmas program was a huge success! Highland's Hands raised more than \$1,300 for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree during the month of December. Over 30 students, teachers and parents participated in the shopping day at Walmart, where they were able to purchase four bikes and numerous toys and clothes for families in need.

Mimio Technology in Every Classroom

Every classroom at Highland Elementary is now equipped with state-of-the-art Mimio Board technology. Mimio transforms regular white boards into interactive, touch-screen white boards. This "touch" technology allows students the ability to touch the screen and manipulate the objects on the screen. This capability lets students participate physically with the materials on the board. It also enables teachers to control their desktops directly from the board – or the opposite, control the white board from their PC. Mimio Boards also allow teachers to save everything they have written on their whiteboard to their computers. The internet is only a click away, as this technology operates seamlessly with online web pages and information. Teachers can remain in front of the class when moving from one computer application, file or website to another, keeping students' attention and preventing off-task behavior.

Electronic whiteboards assist in lesson planning, support diverse learning styles and provide a needed tool for graphic representation in math, science and art classes. Most importantly, they engage students, particularly when the learning is student-driven.

Mark Your Calendar:

MARCH 12-16
Spring Break

APRIL 6 & 9
Easter Break
no school

APRIL 20
HES Movie Night

APRIL 24
Arts for Autism
5:30-7:30 p.m.

MAY 24
Last Day of School
for Students (60% day)

OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Band News

OTMS shined in the Capital District Honor Band. Eighteen OTMS students were accepted into the Capital District Honor Band, more than any of the other 25 middle schools that participated. An intensive weekend of rehearsals was followed by a fantastic concert. The event was held at Ridgeland High School in February.

OTMS students selected for East Central Mississippi Honor Band included Kameron Shook, Maddie Davis, Lauren Slay, Anna Boyles, Natalene Vonkchalee, Kansera Williams and Kaleb Mack. East Central MS Honor Band was held February 3 and 4 at Ridgeland High School.

Natalene Vonkchalee was chosen to represent OTMS at the Mississippi Bandmasters Association State Clinic in Natchez last December. Only an eighth grader, she competed with high school students from around the state and earned first chair bass clarinet in the 2nd Band. Ridgeland's band program continues to demonstrate they are one of the best in the state.



Pictured from bottom: Maddie Davis, Elizabeth Lanford, Anna Boyles, Lauren Slay, Naomi DeAndrea, Justin Collins, Robert Simmons, Tyler Robbins, Fred Rhymes III, Natalene Vonkchalee, Kymberly Young, Juliette Richert, Natalie Erwin, Ferlandria Carter, and Ahmed Hassan. PHOTO CREDIT: Anna Boyles



OTMS 2011-2012 Student Council Officers are pictured (left to right): Alyssa Cole – Secretary, Kameron Shook – President, Cameron Cleveland – Vice-President, and Dasia Creswell – Treasurer

MCT2 State Testing

MCT2 tests are May 8-10. Parent volunteers are needed to serve as proctors. Please contact OTMS to learn more.

Radio & Tech. Club Strives to Break Near Space Balloon Record

Radio and Technology Club members will launch their second near space balloon on March 31 (rain date - April 7). The balloon carries telemetry equipment that transmits a digital signal to listeners all over the world. Two cameras, data recording equipment, and a number of science experiments developed by the OTMS Science Club will be also be aboard to capture data about temperature and wind speed and to collect pictures during the flight.

Olde Towne holds 6th place in the world for high frequency (<50Mhz) telemetry transmission from a near space balloon <http://www.arhab.org/#>. This record was established last year by their balloon, Titan 1, with a transmission of 2,047 miles. Transmissions are measured by receiving feedback from listeners all over the world who tune into the scheduled frequency of the near space balloon. The club is hoping to exceed a signal transmission of 4572 miles with this flight, to capture the world record. Good luck and God-speed to their balloon, Titan-2! Mr. Bill Richardson is the club advisor.

Arts News

OTMS students win Scholastic Art/Alliance for Young Artist Awards.

Silver Key Awards

- Taylor Barnes - printmaking and mixed media
- Bree Berryman - photography and solar printing
- Jasmine Holden - printmaking and mixed media
- Christina Quintero - printmaking (etching)
- Antony Shavers - printmaking (etching)

Honorable Mention

- Chase Cooper - printmaking (etching)
- Amesha Wraggs - mixed media
- Ally Hickey - mixed media
- Ariel Hollins - printmaking / mixed media
- Amesha Wraggs - collage / mixed media



Spring Musical

Olde Towne Choir will present the musical *Dear Edwina Jr* on Friday, April 13 at Ridgeland High School Auditorium. This event is open to the public.



Seventh Grade Football Undefeated

Congratulations! Old Town Middle School's Seventh Grade Football was undefeated this season.

RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

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



Booster Club Plans Annual Drawdown, "Viva Las Ridgeland"

Ridgeland High School Athletic Booster Club will hold their annual Draw Down on Monday evening, April 2, 2012. The theme this year is "Viva Las Ridgeland" and will boast a "Las Vegas" décor. The event will once again be held in the high school gymnasium and will also include a Silent Auction. Tickets will be on sale through the RHS front office or you may purchase from any Booster Club Board member. Each ticket entitles you and one guest to attend the Silent Auction / Draw Down and to be included in the drawing for \$10,000. In addition to the Draw Down and Silent Auction, over 20 local restaurants will be present with samples of their finest foods. Come join us for a fun-filled evening of music, good food, fellowship, and a chance to win \$10,000! For more information, visit the school website at www.rhstitans.com or call the front office at 601-898-5023.



French Club donates to Gateway

The Ridgeland High School French Club chose a Christmas fundraiser of collecting for the Gateway Rescue Mission, which is a homeless shelter in Jackson. Members could donate money or bring in canned goods. They were able to donate \$300 and several canned food items to the shelter. Pictured left to right are: Piero Bracamonte, Sam Golden, Rodney Kipchumba, Jamie Logan, Rusty Ryan of Gateway Mission, Allison Hopkins, Tre' Taliaferro, and Brooke Dearman. The French Club is sponsored by Linda Hegwood.



Heisman Winners

Ridgeland High School seniors (right) Rachel Harris and (left) Davien Watkins were chosen as the high school's Wendy's Heisman winners. This honor is given to those seniors who are scholar athletes. Harris was also a state finalist.

Support Your Titans

Get a Titan Personalized Car Tag



RHS awarded the PREPS Value Added Award

On March 21, 2012, Ridgeland High School will be awarded the "PREPS Value Added Award" for successful performance on the 2010-2011 SATP U.S. History statewide assessments. Ridgeland is the only high school in the Madison County School District to receive this award. The award is given based on performance on MCT2, SATP and QDI. The award ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Governor's Awards Ceremony for Community and School Partnerships recognized by the Mississippi Association of Partners in Education (MAPE) – a MAPE/PREPS Alliance.

National Honor Society

Ridgeland High School recently inducted new members to the school's National Honor Society chapter. Pictured front row left to right: Kristen Dupard, Allison Hopkins, Kalah Walker, Taylor Huddleston, Deonte Buckner, Michael Nguyen, Bryce Williams, Tamara Gonzalez, and Celeste Ballard; Second row left to right: Basilio Cabellero, Jimmy Swenson, Tre' Taliafero, Ann Louise Seabrook, Dylan Keveryn, Emily Wasson, Olivia Travis, Braelyn Howard, Jamie Logan and Alexis Martin; Back row left to right: Philip Rafferty and Rodney Kipchumba. The group is sponsored by Mrs. Deborah Lightsey.



Carroll Selected as Under Armour Pre-Season All-American

Collin Carroll was selected as a 2012 Under Armour Pre-Season All-American. Based on the selection, he played in the Under Armour Pre-Season All-American Tournament in Tuscon, AZ from January 13-15, 2012. He represented the Southeast region battling against other top players from across the country. Players were presented with their Pre-Season All-American award at the opening ceremonies. Teams then competed in two days of wood bat competition at the Kino Sports Complex, former spring training home of the Arizona Diamondbacks.



RHS Prom April 14

RHS Junior / Senior Prom will be held on Saturday, April 14 at Plantation Commons in Gluckstadt. Pictured here prior to the 2011 Prom (L-R): Tyler James, Shelby Huff, Tucker Italiano and Avery Huff.



Power Force

This winter, Ridgeland High School students enjoyed an assembly with John Jacobs Next Generation Power Force Team. The team spoke to 9th and 10th grade students about making good choices, honesty, and integrity.



Baseball Rings RHS Seniors show off their 2011 State Championship Baseball rings. Shown are Andrew Hulbert, John Bruening, Tucker Italiano, Austin McQuirk, Robert Richardson, Murphy Guillotte, and Collin Carroll.

THE VERITAS SCHOOL

A Christ-Centered and Classical Education
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The Veritas School's 2011-2012 boys soccer team: Front row: Kendall Clarke, Seth Spinks, Travis Gage, David Potvin, Sam Ross, Caleb Storck, Brooks Coker; Back row: Head Coach Tito Schwabe, Daniel Powell, Andy Haynes, Robert Hamil, Lance McTaggart, Will Earnhart, Jonathan Dolansky, Phillip Carr, and Asst. Coach Jeff Anderton.

Enrollment for K5-12th grade for the 2012-2013 school year is underway. Contact the school office for more info or to schedule a tour.

The Market at Veritas

Sat., April 14, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
On Grounds of Veritas School

The Market at Veritas is the school's annual spring fundraiser and will feature exhibitors offering unique handmade items. The Market will also have a variety of live music, a kid's play area, food, a student art sale, silent auction, and raffle. Come enjoy a beautiful spring day outdoors at our day-long celebration of music and the arts! Admission is \$5 per person; kids 10 and under are admitted free. For more information, call 601.713.1555 or visit www.theveritasschool.org



HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

412 W. Ridgeland Avenue • 601.856.5400 • www.holmescc.edu



Holmes Community College: Fueling Mississippi's Economy By Courtney Lange

For more than 85 years, Holmes Community College has been a leader in the areas of career technical and workforce training programs, providing the State of Mississippi with a strong and solid foundation of skilled workers in areas ranging from paralegal technology and welding to allied health professions.

In 2000, the school broadened its focus as automaker Nissan announced plans to open a \$2.06 billion assembly plant in Canton, located less than 10 miles from the school's largest campus, in Ridgeland.

"Yates Services has been working closely with Holmes Community College since construction of the Nissan Manufacturing Facility in Canton," said Larry Hannah, Safety Manager. "A significant amount of our "OSHA-required" training is conducted by the excellent and knowledgeable instructors at HCC."

"The staff has always been willing to help meet our needs in a friendly and professional manner. It is comforting to know that when our employees receive training through HCC, the result is an

immediate "return-on-investment" as a result of information and skills gained. The Workforce Development Team at Holmes Community College has proven to be a valuable business partner for Yates Services," he said.

Nissan's Canton plant began producing vehicles in May of 2003 and currently has a production capacity of 400,000 vehicles.

The Canton plant currently produces the Nissan Altima, Nissan NV commercial vehicle, Nissan Armada and Nissan Titan. Earlier this year, the automaker announced plans to move production of Nissan Xterra SUV and Frontier pickup models to the Canton plant, creating 300 additional jobs at the facility, which currently employs 3,500.

Statewide, the automotive industry has created upwards of 33,000 jobs annually, according to Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) economic modeling specialists. To date, Holmes has trained more than 33,000 people to work in the field.

As Nissan and the automotive manufacturing industry in the State of Mississippi have grown, so has Holmes and its

offerings. The school added an Industrial Maintenance program to meet the needs and demands of an automotive industry that generates billions of dollars of revenue statewide each year.

The school also provides Nissan's and its suppliers' employees with ongoing training in the areas Microsoft Excel, Access, and other computer training; Remarkable Leadership; Project Management; Machine Shop; Hydraulics; Industrial Automation; Forklift Operation Safety and Welding.

"During my tenure with Tower Automotive in Madison, we had a huge advantage in regards to training. Holmes Community College offers everything an employer needs to improve its workforce skills," said Bob Baughn, retired HR Manager. "Many of the training classes did not cost the employer anything due to grants being available. When there were training costs involved, they were reasonable and much lower than available from a third party vendor." specific craft or just basic leadership and supervisory training, Holmes made it happen," Baughn said.

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

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



CHRIST COVENANT SCHOOL

752 Pear Orchard Road • 601.978.2272
www.christcovenantschool.net



RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Madison County Library System
397 Hwy. 51 • Ridgeland, MS 39157
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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Orientation for Alzheimer's

Wednesday, March 14, 2 - 4 p.m



Please join us Wednesday, March 14,
from 2 to 4 p.m for *Family Orientation for*

Alzheimer's presented by the Mississippi Chapter of Alzheimer's Association. This educational program is designed for family members, caregivers, and friends of persons with a recent diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or a related memory disorder. Participants will receive an overview of Alzheimer's disease, gain an understanding of legal planning needs, and learn about community resources available.

In the Weeds: Overwhelmed, Overworked, and Under Coping

Thursday, April 12, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m



Sara Jane Hope,
Certified Trainer & Coach

Do you have too much going on in your life? Do you feel like you cannot cope with one more thing? Or, is what you are doing overwhelming and overworking others? This feeling comes in lots of shapes and sizes, but everyone has that feeling at one time or another. Participants will learn about the different symptoms caused by being overwhelmed and overworked and will identify what may be the source or their feelings. Simple steps for coping will be identified and discussed. Participants will leave this class with a better understanding of this phenomenon and how to deal with it. Space is limited, so call the library to make your free reservation (sponsored by the Friends of the Library).

Ready To Read?

Join us for the first Friends of the Ridgeland Library Book Sale in 2012! The preview party for Friends' members will be on Thursday, April 26, from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and Friends' members will be able to get a first look at our huge selection of books for sale. Not a Friends' member? Not to worry - you can join at the preview party! It's only \$12 for a single membership and \$20 for the family.

The book sale opens to the public on Saturday, April 28 and extends through Thursday, May 3, during regular library hours. Participating in annual book sales helps your local libraries purchase much needed supplies and materials that are not otherwise found in the budget!

Haley Berry, 6 years old, is happy with her new books!



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Mystery Readers' Favorites of 2011

Jean Gamble

Faithful Place – Tana French
 The Snowman – Jo Nesbo
 Iron House – John Hart
 Started Early, Took My Dog – Kate Atkinson
 The Poison Tree – Erin Kelly
 The Hypnotist – Lars Kepler

J. C. Patterson

The Snowman – Jo Nesbo
 Before I Go To Sleep – S.J. Watson
 The Drop – Michael Connelly
 Iron House – John Hart
 The Hypnotist – Lars Kepler

Janis Roberts

The Snowman – Jo Nesbo
 Bringing Back The Dead – Joe Domenici
 Learning To Swim – Sara Henry
 Iron House – John Hart
 These Things Hidden – Heather Gudenkauf

Carolyn Pope

Learning To Swim – Sara J. Henry

Faces Of The Gone – Brad Parks
 The Last Child – John Hart
 Faithful Place – Tana French
 Don't Scream – Wendy Corsi Staub

Linda Hamlett

Iron House – John Hart
 Tell No One – Harlan Coben
 Lying With Strangers – James Grippando
 The Hypnotist – Lars Kepler
 Never Knowing – Chevy Stevens

Anne Carsley

Heartstone – C. J. Sansom
 Hold Tight – Harlan Coben
 Tell No One – Harlan Coben

Wilma Blair

The Reversal – Michael Connelly
 The Informant – Thomas Perry
 Caught – Harlan Coben
 Room – Emma Donoghue
 Lying With Strangers – James Grippando

Tony Layer

Too Close To Home – Linwood Barclay

Brynda Creel

Learning To Swim – Sara J. Henry

Charlotte Anding

Breaking Silence – Linda Castillo
 Learning To Swim – Sara J. Henry
 The Informant – Thomas Perry
 Still Life – Louise Penny

Sue Stewart

The Butcher's Boy – Thomas Perry
 Sleeping Dogs – Thomas Perry
 The Informant – Thomas Perry

Jeanne Crasto

The Brass Verdict – Michael Connelly

Latane Cade

Room – Emma Donoghue
 Sister – Rosamund Lupton

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Rising Readers This is a fun story time program for 3-7 year olds. We meet on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. The program will last about forty-five minutes, and it will include stories, songs, flannel board activities, and a craft. Refreshments may be served. Join us on these dates:

Tues., March 7 Tues., March 20 Tues., March 27 Tues., April 3
 Tues., April 10 Tues., April 17 Tues., April 24

Mother Goose on the Loose This program is for 0-2 year olds. We meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Mother Goose on the Loose is an interactive program between children and their caregivers. We sing rhymes, play musical instruments, read stories, and do flannel board activities. This program lasts about half an hour. Refreshments may be served.

Weds., March 7 Weds., March 21 Weds., March 28 Weds., April 4
 Weds., April 11 Weds., April 18 Weds., April 25

Bilingual Program This story time is for 3-7 year olds. We will meet on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. during the month of March. The program is mostly in English, with a few Spanish words introduced throughout the program. We will have stories, songs, fingerplays and craft projects! This program will last about forty-five minutes. Refreshments may be served.

Thurs., March 1 Thurs., March 8 Thurs., March 22 Thurs., March 29

Creative Arts Club We have recently started a new club for 2nd-5th graders! The Creative Arts Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The club focuses on creative writing and arts and crafts activities. Dates for the Creative Arts Club are below.

Weds., March 7 Weds., April 4



Sweet!

Frida Lopez shows off her gingerbread house that she made during Ridgeland's Gingerbread House Program in December.

Spring Break

We will take a break from story time the week of March 11 for Spring Break. Also, note we will not have story time in May, as we will be preparing for our Summer Reading Program in June!



Ridgeland Chamber Celebrates "The Magic of Ridgeland"

Some 350 business leaders and city officials packed the Hilton Jackson's ballroom, celebrating Ridgeland's economic growth and development during 2011 and honoring volunteers for their dedicated service to the Chamber and City.

With its theme, "The Magic of Ridgeland", the Chamber's banquet featured Sir James Dixon, a grand illusionist magician from Memphis, TN. The evening also showcased award-winning musician Raphael Semmes and the Houdini Orchestra.

2011 Chamber President Eddie Hopper of Office Products Plus, said the Chamber topped off a strong period of growth in 2011. He noted the Chamber's 900 plus membership, over 70 ribbon cuttings and community service activities such as Make A Difference Day.

"2011 was an exceptional year for the Ridgeland Chamber. We enhanced networking opportunities and reached out to companies both large and small offering ways to help grow their businesses," Hopper said. Outgoing Chamber President Hopper passed the gavel to 2012 President Greg Starnes of Trustmark National Bank.

"Our 2012 theme Ridgeland ...Where Business is Always Welcome! reaffirms our emphasis on helping our businesses weather the tough economic storm by offering networking opportunities and other programs and services that encourage our businesses to buy and sell to each other," Starnes said. "We will also focus on ways to better help our smaller businesses promote their products and services as we face this national economic slowdown together."

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

2011 Award Winners

Trizell Hardin

Trustmark National Bank
2011 Diplomat of the Year

Shelia Jackson

BankPlus
2011 Volunteer of the Year

Michele Austin

Repeat Street
2011 Community Service Award

Janie Boyd

City Maker 2011

Renaissance at Colony Park

2011 Business of the Year

2011 Prime Sponsors

The Great Houdini

Adcamp, Inc.
BancorpSouth
BankPlus
C Spire Wireless
CenterPoint Energy
City of Ridgeland
Community Bank
Copeland, Cook, Taylor & Bush, P.A.
Entergy
H. C. Bailey Companies
Hilton Jackson
Kerioth Corporation
Madison County Journal
Mattiace Properties, Inc.
Trustmark National Bank
Waggoner Engineering, Inc.

The Amazing David Copperfield

Regions Bank

The Fabulous Doug Henning

M & F Bank
Southern AgCredit, FLCA
The ORCHARD

The Incomparable Siegfried & Roy

Capital Oil, Inc. / Cappy's
Citizens National Bank
Community Trust Bank
Joe Usry Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
SouthGroup Insurance
Staffing Solutions, Ltd.

Carnac the Magnificent

Bank First Financial Services
The Blake at Township
Burgers & Blues
Butler Snow
Hederman Brothers
Jackson Orthopaedic Clinic
MegaGate Broadband
Pear Orchard Business Center
Pepsi
Brown Bottling Group

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Humanitarian Noel Daniels, left assists in the presentation of the Chamber's 2011 Volunteer of the Year award to Shelia Jackson, BankPlus. From left, Daniels, 2011 Ridgeland Chamber President Eddie Hopper, Office Products Plus; Shelia Jackson, BankPlus and 2010 Volunteer recipient Angie Steadman, Trustmark National Bank.



Lisa Hancock, C Spire Wireless and 2010 Diplomat of the Year, presents the Chamber's 2011 Diplomat of the Year award to Trizell Hardin of Trustmark National Bank, left. Lester Walls, Inner City Fellowship of Christian Athletes and former Oakland Raiders offensive center, assists with the presentation.



Ridgeland Mayor Gene McGee presents the City Maker 2011 award to Ridgeland resident Janie Boyd. Boyd received the City's highest honor in appreciation for her service to the City of Ridgeland.



Michele Austin of Repeat Street, third from left, receives the Chamber's 2011 Community Service Award. From left, 2011 Ridgeland Chamber President Eddie Hopper, Office Products Plus; 2010 Community Service Award recipient Robby Carr, Community Trust Bank; Sweet Potato Queen Jill Conner Browne, who assisted with the presentation and 2011 Community Service recipient Michele Austin of Repeat Street.

Renaissance at Colony Park was named the Chamber's 2011 Business of the Year. From left, 2011 Ridgeland Chamber President Eddie Hopper, Office Products Plus; Kevin Hankins of C Spire Wireless, 2010 recipient and developers Andrew Mattiace, Mattiace Properties and H. C. "Buster" Bailey, H. C. Bailey Companies.



2011 Ridgeland Chamber President Eddie Hopper, Office Products Plus, right, passes the Chamber's gavel to 2012 Ridgeland Chamber President Greg Starnes of Trustmark National Bank.



2011 Ridgeland Chamber President Eddie Hopper, Office Products Plus and Ridgeland Chamber Executive Director Linda Bynum.



2011 Chamber President Eddie Hopper, Office Products Plus, recognizes retiring Board Members, from left, Robby Carr, Community Trust Bank; Scott Shoemaker, Shoemaker Homes; Barbara Harkins-Jones, Barbara's Boutique; Jay Bourne, BankPlus and Ted Enstrom, Joe Usry Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram.

CITY OF RIDGELAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Phone: 601.991.9996
www.ridgelandchamber.com

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS & EVENTS

March 15

The Club at the Township and Sanctuary Body Spa of St. Dominic's • 340 Township Avenue

April 19

Community Bank • 6158 Old Canton Road, Jackson

May 17

C Spire Wireless / Ridgeland Chamber Golf Classic Lake Caroline Golf Club

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



Interim City Clerk, Director of Finance and Administration
PAULA TIERCE
paula.tierce@ridgelandms.org



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



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

City Meetings

Mayor and Board of Aldermen Meeting
1st & 3rd Tuesday - 6 p.m.
Work session is held on Mondays prior to Board Meeting - 6 p.m.

Architectural Review Board

2nd & 4th Tuesday - 6 p.m.
Bill Dicken - Chairman
Phil Ayers, Karen Bishop, Ron Blaylock, Donald Pendergrast, Glenn Ray, Alex Ross, Connie Suber

Beautification Committee

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

Community Awareness Committee

Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.
Peggy Gauthé - Chairperson
Elizabeth Barber, Janie Boyd, Shirley Gill, Dawn Hall, Scott Higginbotham, Lee Hutchings, 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

- 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

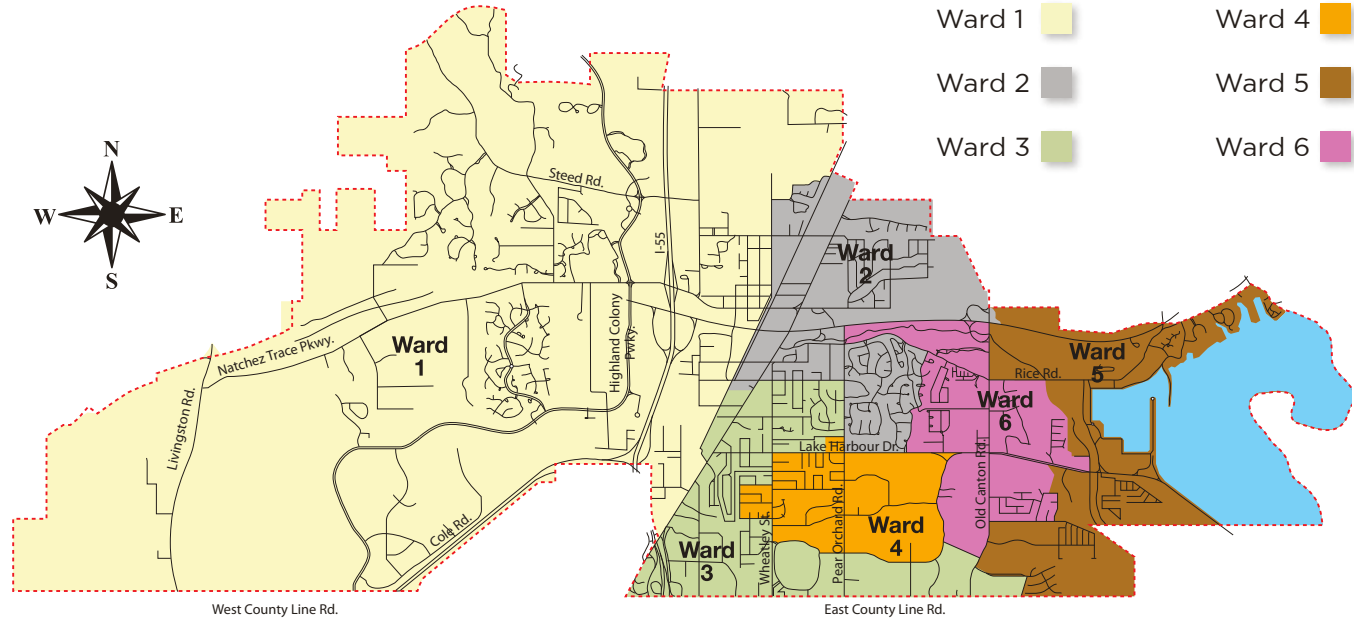
City Directory

- 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

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.



*Alderman-At-Large
seat vacant at the
time of printing.*

**Alderman
At-Large**



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

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