

June - August 2012

RIDGELAND Life

Celebrate America Balloon Glow
Heatwave Classic Triathlon
Father's Day Fishing Tournament
Recre8

the **SUMMER** issue



From the Mayor

As the construction season begins this year, there are two very exciting projects that will be going on in Ridgeland that will cause some obvious inconvenience, but after completed, it will provide much needed traffic flow improvements.

The two projects are the new Madison-Ridgeland I-55 Interchange and the widening of Lake Harbour Drive from Northpark Drive to Highway 51. While updated information is provided in another section of this magazine about the new interchange between the cities of Madison and Ridgeland, I want to take some time to give you information concerning the Lake Harbour widening.

The City of Ridgeland received authorization from the Mississippi Department of Transportation to bid the project on May 3, 2012. The advertisements have been placed in the paper and the bids will come in on June 18th. The project will be awarded soon after that with MDOT's approval. Assuming everything goes well and the project comes in within the budget, we should be able to award the bid sometime in late June or early July and the Notice to Proceed should be soon after that.

This is a 609-calendar day project and includes widening Lake Harbour to five lanes and the construction of a 10-foot wide multiuse trail. As you know, the City has been working on this project for a number of years, and we are elated that MDOT and Federal Highway have finally given us the authority to move forward with this much needed widening.

We are also in the process of seeking approval from MDOT to move forward with the design to extend Lake Harbour Drive from Highway 51 to Highland Colony Parkway. We are hopeful that this project can be bid as a second phase of the Lake Harbour widening, and when constructed will give us an additional east - west corridor all the way from Highland Colony Parkway into Rankin County.

With the new Lake Harbour Drive extension, new I-55 Interchange and the widening of Lake Harbour, I believe that the traffic flow in our area will be enhanced tremendously. I, as you do, look forward to the completion of these projects.

On a different note, I'd like to congratulate all the high school seniors from Ridgeland. We wish you the best as you begin a new phase of your life.



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland

Gene F. McGee

RIDGELAND Life

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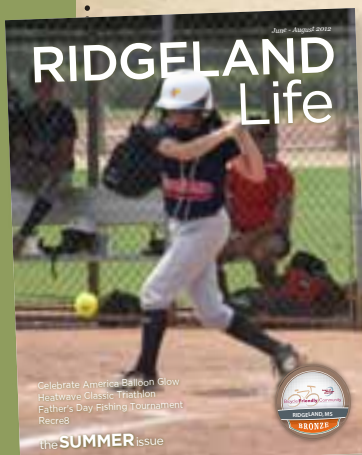
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ON THE COVER: ASA national softball tournaments can be found throughout the summer at Freedom Ridge Park. View a schedule in the Community Calendar located in the center of this publication. The City of Ridgeland has won numerous awards of excellence from the Amateur Softball Association for hosting championship tournaments. Photo by Belinda Reedy.

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

Editor
Sandra Rives Monohan,
City of Ridgeland

Art Direction and Design
Stephanie S. Wood,
Hederman Brothers

Printing
Hederman Brothers Printing

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

It's Not Just Hot Air

Neal McCoy and Jason Fratesi & the Dirt Road Jam Band Perform at Balloon Glow 2012.



Ridgeland's Celebrate America Balloon Glow is an Independence Day celebration that has been a tradition for twenty-two years. Presenting sponsor Northpark Mall provides a convenient location for Ridgeland and surrounding areas with plenty of parking for the thousands that gather for this evening celebration. Hot air balloons light up the twilight sky, providing the opening event of the Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Race and Festival that continues in Canton on Saturday and Sunday.

Spectacular fireworks have been a signature of the Celebrate America Balloon Glow event since the beginning. Over the years, more fun, more games, and more stage entertainment have been added to make the event as action-packed as possible.

The fun kicks off at 6:00 p.m., Friday, June 29 on the stage with the Karaoke Contest winner's performance (see accompanying article for more information) followed by the Mississippi-based Jason Fratesi & the Dirt Road Jam Band. Playing a wide mix of country, southern rock, and blues, Dirt Road Jam Band specializes in acoustic sets accompanied by mandolin and spoons. After the band's performance, you will get to enjoy the sights of the event's namesake, the hot air balloon glow.

As the sun sets, fans will be treated to a performance by multi-platinum country music recording artist Neal McCoy whose concerts exhibit a celebration of music, life, laughter, and joy, earning him the TNN/Music City News Entertainer of the Year twice and video of the year once. McCoy launched his recording career in 1988, producing numerous hits such as "Wink," "The Shake," and now "A-OK," co-produced by Blake Shelton. The evening concludes with one of the largest fireworks displays in the state.

Throughout the evening, food favorites such as funnel cakes and barbecue will be available, along with children's activities such as a space jump and slides. The Simon Kidgits Karnival area, free to Kidgits Club members, will include inflatable obstacle courses, face painting, lemonade, and lots of fun activities for children. For more information about the Kidgits Club, go to www.simon.com.

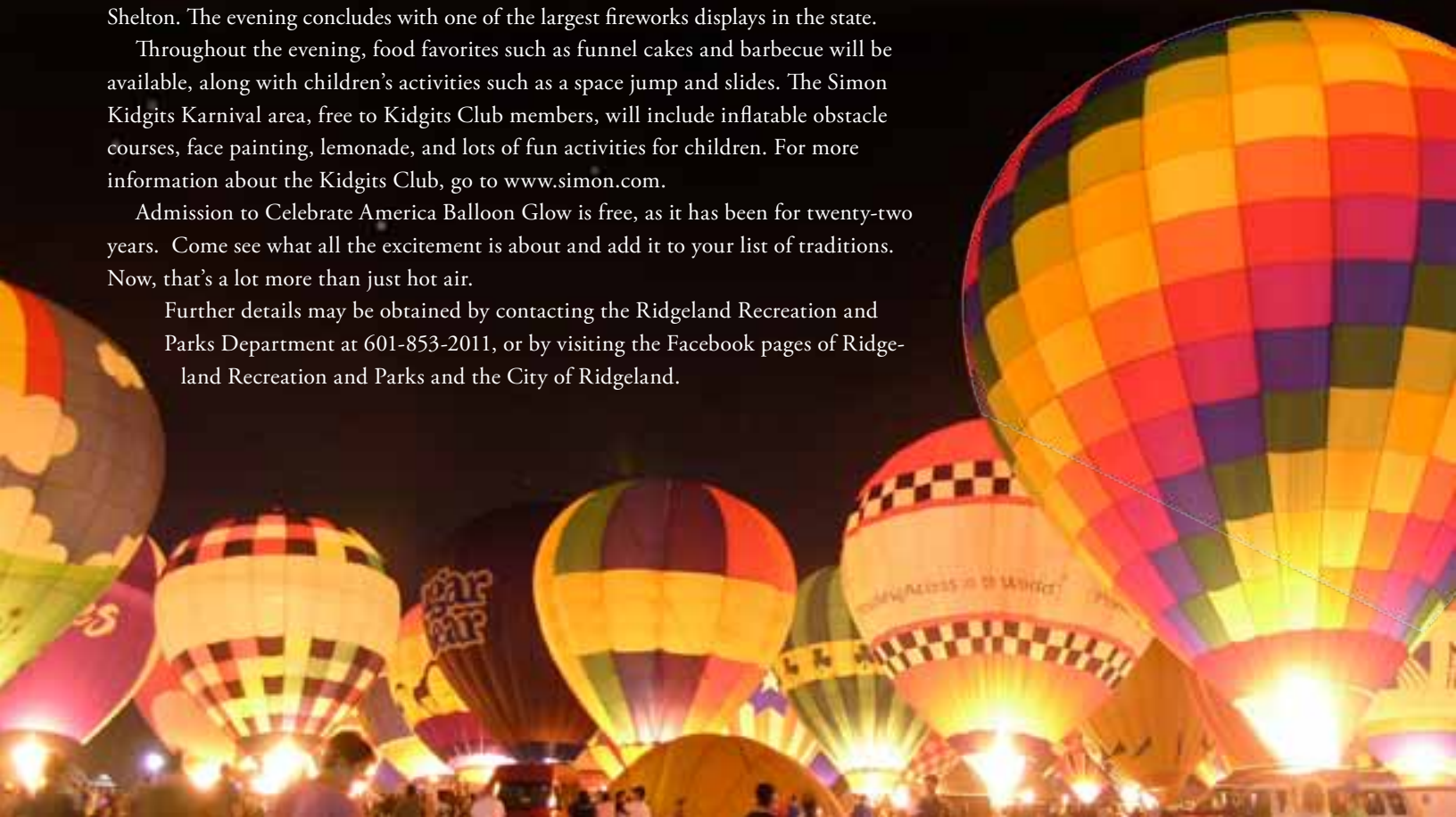
Admission to Celebrate America Balloon Glow is free, as it has been for twenty-two years. Come see what all the excitement is about and add it to your list of traditions. Now, that's a lot more than just hot air.

Further details may be obtained by contacting the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department at 601-853-2011, or by visiting the Facebook pages of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks and the City of Ridgeland.



Top: At this year's Celebrate America Balloon Glow, enjoy a concert by multi-platinum country music recording artist Neal McCoy.

Bottom: Jason Fratesi & the Dirt Road Jam Band will perform at this year's Celebrate America Balloon Glow.



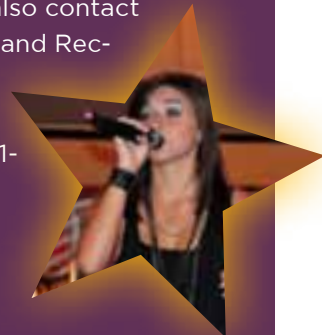
Your Chance to Glow

Let your star quality shine at the annual karaoke contest.

The winner of the annual Karaoke Contest, held during the week prior to Friday evening's Celebrate America Balloon Glow, will open the show for the headline acts. Imagine being on stage in front of thousands as the crowd's excitement is building for Neal McCoy, multi-platinum country music recording artist, and Jason Fratesi & the Dirt Road Jam Band, Mississippi home grown country music and southern rock band.

The annual Karaoke Contest is held at Center Court inside Northpark Mall on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 26 and 27, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The top five finalists from each night will advance to the finals on Thursday night, June 28 at 6:30 p.m.

The registration fee is \$25. Contest participants may pre-register by calling Angela at 601-566-0951 or e-mail krazykarokems@yahoo.com. You may also contact the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks office at 601-853-2011.



The Balloon Glow's annual Karaoke Contest will be held at Northpark Mall starting June 26 at 6:30 p.m.



Swim. Bike. Run.

Held the first Saturday in June, this year's Heatwave Classic Triathlon promises to turn up the heat again as nearly 500 participants are expected to swim, cycle, and run their way to the finish line in this intermediate distance event. The unique pottery designs awarded to winners in all classifications bring competitors from all over the Southeast to compete.

Participants take to the water at 7:00 a.m. to complete the ½-mile swim in the Ross Barnett Reservoir, and then climb on their bicycles for a 24.5-mile ride on the scenic Natchez Trace, followed by a 6.2-mile run along Ridgeland's beautiful multi-use trail. All participants receive a race t-shirt and a catered post-race meal, as well as race support throughout.

The Heatwave Classic Triathlon is sanctioned by USA Triathlon. USAT is the national governing body for triathlons in the United States. Registration for the Heatwave Classic is held online at www.heatwavetri.racesonline.com. A participant social, packet pick-up and on-site registration are held at Indian Cycle on Pear Orchard Road in Ridgeland the evening before the race. Race day packet pick-up is held at the Ridgeland Recreational Center before the race. There is no race day registration.

BlueCross BlueShield of Mississippi serves as the presenting sponsor for the Heatwave Classic Triathlon.

Want to check out a local triathlon? Heatwave Classic will be held on Saturday, June 2 at the Ross Barnett Reservoir in Ridgeland.



PRESENTED BY  BlueCross BlueShield of Mississippi

It's good to be Blue.



Celebrate Father's Day weekend with a fishing tournament at Old Trace Park in Ridgeland on Saturday, June 16.

Father's Day is for fishing

Fishing is the perfect way to slow down from life's hectic pace and enjoy your family. What better time to do that than Father's Day weekend? On Saturday, June 16, join the City of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department for the 16th Annual Father-Child Fishing Tournament at Old Trace Park on the beautiful Ross Barnett Reservoir. There is no charge to participate in this tournament, and prizes will be awarded for Biggest Fish, Most Fish, and Smallest Fish. The fun begins at 8:00 a.m. with judging taking place at 10:00 a.m. This tournament is a joint partnership with the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District and the City of Ridgeland. And, yes, moms are welcome!

SOMETHING'S FISHY HERE!



Get Wild this Summer

The 4th Annual Summer Wildlife Festival will be held on June 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parkway Information Cabin at milepost 102.4 of the Natchez Trace Parkway in Ridgeland. Join the Parkway Rangers for a day of adventure. Experience the snakes of Mississippi and the birds of prey. Try your hand at a craft and complete the scavenger hunt to win a prize.



A full slate of Junior Ranger programs are scheduled for June and July at the Parkway Information Cabin. The programs are free to the public. Sandra Kavanaugh, a Park Ranger for the Natchez Trace Parkway, said, "The NPS Junior Ranger program is a nationwide program that targets children ages 7 -12 who want to explore, learn, and protect our nation's National Parks. These programs allow children to see and participate in park activities at their own pace and in their own time. There is no membership fee or form and all events are free."

- ✦ *June 9, 10 a.m. – 12 noon, "Make a Splint Basket"* - Junior Rangers will choose to make either a Berry Basket or a Mail Basket to take home. Call 601-898-9417 to make a reservation.
- ✦ *June 23, 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., "Hug a Tree"* – Junior Rangers will learn about the beauty of trees and why they are special to the environment. Take home a special picture of your favorite tree in our yard.
- ✦ *June 30, 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., "Nature Bingo"* – Challenge yourself by discovering nature in our yard to make a bingo.
- ✦ *July 7, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m., "The Year of the Boatman"* – Go back in time with a Park Ranger to travel in the footsteps of the boatmen who used the trace to travel home from Natchez, Mississippi to Kaintuck territory.
- ✦ *July 14, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., "My Home is the Trace"* – Learn about some of the animals who make the trace their home. Make a plaster truck of your favorite animal to take home.
- ✦ *July 21, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., "Taking care of our planet: Recycle, Reduce & Reuse"* - Junior Rangers will learn how to be good caretakers of our planet by recycling materials to be reused into other useable materials. Make something out of a recycled material.
- ✦ *July 28, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., "Natchez Trace Toy Box"* – Buzz saw, whimmy diddle, Jacob's ladder, hopscotch, dancing man... these are just a few of the toys and games pioneer children found in their toy box. Junior Rangers will try them out and make a toy to take home.

To learn more about the National Park Service Junior Ranger program, go to www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger.

Junior Ranger programs are scheduled for June and July at the Parkway Information Cabin in Ridgeland.



MDOT Split Diamond Interchange Project's Phase 1 Underway

A much needed project has gotten underway this year that will improve traffic flow to and from I-55 in south Madison County. The MDOT Split Diamond Interchange Project will construct a split diamond between Madison Avenue and the proposed Colony Park Blvd. The project will add one lane to the interstate in each direction, add one-way frontage roads along I-55 between the Old Agency/Jackson Street Interchange and Madison Avenue, widen a portion of Madison Avenue, and build a portion of the new Colony Park Blvd. The addition of the split interchange and frontage roads will alleviate traffic at the existing interchanges of Old Agency/Jackson Street and Mississippi Highway 463.

“The purpose of this construction is to ease congestion along existing roadways, adjacent interchanges and intersections in Madison and Ridgeland. The proposed interchange will improve accessibility from I-55 to traffic generators in both cities,” said David Williams, City Engineer, City of Ridgeland.

Utility relocation was completed by both Ridgeland and Madison in the project area this spring. MDOT began Phase 1 construction on May 10. Phase 1



A new frontage road will be constructed along I-55 between Jackson Street and Steed Road by August 3 improving the flow of traffic in the area.

includes Sunnybrook Road improvements, reconstruction of the Sunnybrook Road/Jackson Street intersection, rebuild of the ramp from I-55 to Jackson Street exit by adding lanes and a traffic signal at the off-ramp, and building the frontage road between Jackson Street and Steed Road, all by August 3.

“The frontage road will connect to Ridgeland Avenue by Fitness Lady and continue to Steed Road. It will allow for

commuters to more easily get to and from Holmes Community College since they will be able to bypass Sunnybrook Road,” said Williams.

“Phase 1 will have a positive impact on existing traffic problems at Jackson Street and Sunnybrook Road. It will correct the alignment of Sunnybrook Road at the gas station, moving the entrance to Sunnybrook Road between the gas station and the paint store,” added Williams.

The Phase 1 project will be complete before the start of the new school year. The contractor, Hill Brothers Construction Company, Inc. out of Faulkner, MS, is allowed to work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. According to MDOT, lane closures for non-interstate work will be allowed Monday through Saturday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The entire project construction time is 2 ½ years. For more information about the entire project, visit www.gomdot.com or contact Ridgeland Public Works at 601-853-2027. Also, check www.ridgelandms.org for future press releases on the proposed Colony Park Blvd connector road.



Sunnybrook Road will be realigned during the Phase 1 portion of the project, moving its entrance onto Jackson Street from its current location.

New Pavilion to Provide Gathering Spot at Trailhead



A new pavilion and restrooms will be constructed at the trailhead located at Rice Road and Harbor Drive. Picnic tables and a bike rack will also be added as part of the project. This is an aerial view of the plan for the area.

The trailhead at Rice Road and Harbor Drive is about to receive some improvements. A new covered pavilion will be constructed over the summer. The pavilion will include two restrooms, two picnic tables, and one bike rack.

A walkway will lead from beside the existing water fountain and from the parking lot to the pavilion. "Trail users have requested restrooms, and we are seeking to meet that need," said David Williams, city engineer who is overseeing the project. The pavilion will provide a place to sit down in the shade, have some water or a snack, and to gather with other trail users. In the future, when funds are available, the gravel lot will be expanded and paved.

Up to \$100,000 of this project is being funded by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks through the Mississippi Recreational Trails Program. The remaining \$35,000 will be paid by the City of Ridgeland.

The National Park Service is still working on the section of trail that extends from Livingston Road to Clinton that is scheduled for completion in November.

Reasons to Scoop Your Pet's Poop

1. It's the law! The City of Ridgeland Animal Control Ordinance requires pet owners to remove any pet waste on public walks, public land, recreation areas, or private property. It is also unlawful to allow your own property to become unsanitary, unsightly, or malodorous.
2. Pet waste is a significant source of water pollution. Stormwater runoff carries it to water bodies such as lakes and streams. Polluted waters are not healthy for swimming and recreation. It is also harmful to the health of wildlife and fish.
3. Diseases, harmful bacteria, and parasites can be transmitted from pet waste to humans from direct contact or from ingesting contaminated water. Human diseases and illnesses include Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis, Toxocariasis, Toxoplasmosis, E.Coli, and other fecal coliform infection, Leptospirosis, Salmonellosis, roundworms and tapeworms.
4. Flies may also spread diseases from animal waste.
5. Children who play outside should be protected from potential illness. Always remove it from areas where children play.
6. It is unsanitary to step in pet waste and spread it into homes, cars and businesses. Scooping helps to keep our community clean.
7. You may even bury it in your yard as long as your property is not near any lake, stream, ditch, or well. Be sure to keep pet waste away from vegetable gardens. Composting is not a good option since the compost pile won't get hot enough to kill disease organisms.
8. It's easy to clean up while walking your dog. A pooper-scooper is not necessary. Carry plastic baggies in your pocket or



tied to your dog's leash. Baggies can be put on like a glove then turned inside out and tied to close. Place it in your garbage.

9. Practice good manners! Show consideration for your neighbors and your community by scooping your pet's poop! No one wants to step in it.
10. Animal poop odors are offensive; no one likes to smell pet poop.
11. Pet waste problems should be reported to the Ridgeland Police Department, Animal Control Officers, at 601-856-2121.



The new bridge at Old Agency Road is built to last well beyond our lifetimes.

Old Agency Road Bridge Completed Ahead of Schedule

The Old Agency Road bridge that has been under construction since January is now open and ready for travel. The project was completed ahead of schedule.

According to David Williams, the new bridge actually includes some concrete from the old bridge. Reuse of a portion of the old bridge saves the city money and it saves resources.

The bridge is now safe for trucks and the weight limit sign has been taken down. "The newly refurbished Old Agency Road bridge is built to last well beyond our lifetimes," said Williams. "It should still be here after 80 years."

Craft Retires After Almost 28 Years

On April 12, 2012, one of Ridgeland's long-time public servants, Ken Craft, retired after 27 ½ years with the Police Department. Craft is the first officer to retire who has spent his entire career at the Ridgeland Police Department. After holding several different positions within the police department, Craft retired as Dispatch Supervisor.

Starting his career with the Ridgeland Police Department in 1985, Craft worked in the emergency communications center (dispatch center) for two years, and then he moved to patrol for 18 years. After patrol, he worked in the investigations division for approximately two years. He retired as Dispatch Supervisor after holding that position for five years.

In the dispatch center back in 1985, Craft received all 9-1-1 calls for the City of Ridgeland, dispatching units of the police and transferring calls for service to the fire department. Of these early years, Craft said, "When I started with the dispatch center, it consisted of two telephones with one line each. One phone was the emergency line for the Fire Department and the other was for the Police Department. We had one radio with three channels: fire, police, and statewide. All records/radio logs

were kept handwritten in logbooks." Today, two communications officers per shift and a daytime supervisor must use three 9-1-1 lines and five administrative lines in a state-of-the-art computerized center.

Back in 1985, the population of the City of Ridgeland was significantly smaller and the size and amount of residential and commercial areas were smaller. The 1980 Census calculated a population of 5,000 for the City of Ridgeland. A city employee's job and the environment in which he worked were quite different at that time than it is today. Craft explains, "The dispatcher was also the receptionist and the court clerk. We did all the court work, and tickets could be paid 24/7 at the dispatch window. I worked nights and went as much as four to five days without a call on my shift." When Craft retired, he supervised eight employees. The city now has eight court clerks including six record clerks, one deputy court clerk, and one court clerk.

When Craft began working for the city, the entire police department was located in a manufactured building next to the current library. Craft says that it consisted of eight rooms and one bathroom.

Craft states, "The Police Department is the best that it has been since 1985. The



Ken Craft retired from the Ridgeland Police Department in April after almost 28 years of service.

technology and equipment is incredible compared to then."

Craft also says that he really enjoyed his career serving the residents, and working for the police department of the city has been a great life. "I could not have picked a better place to work and live than the City of Ridgeland."

When his retirement was announced on the City of Ridgeland Facebook page, "likes" and comments were abundant. Jay Houston wrote on Facebook, "What a guy. Great Officer, Training Officer and even better friend. There is no one that can replace him."

How to Prevent the Breeding of Mosquitoes On Your Property

The City of Ridgeland sprays for mosquitoes regularly throughout the mosquito-breeding season. This helps to manage the size of the mosquito population in our area. It does not completely eliminate mosquitoes nor prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases including West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, LaCrosse encephalitis, and Eastern Equine encephalitis.

To protect yourself from mosquito bites, avoid mosquitoes especially during the evenings and early mornings, which are peak mosquito biting times. You may choose to apply a topical mosquito repellent. Wear long-sleeved, long-legged clothing with socks and shoes when practical.

Property owners need to do their part to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes on their property. In order to protect you, your family, and other residents from mosquito bites around your home, you can do the following as suggested by the Mississippi Department of Health:

- Dispose of cans, ceramic pots, old tires, or other water-holding containers.
- Remove all leaf debris.
- Cover trash containers to keep out rainwater.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of all recycling containers that are kept outdoors.
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly, and clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Change the water in birdbaths every 2 to 3 days.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs.
- Drain water from pool covers.
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.
- Repair leaky water pipes and outside faucets.

Thank you for helping to minimize the impact of mosquitoes in our community. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 601.853.2027.



One of the best methods for preventing mosquitoes is to keep your gutters clean so that they drain properly.

Ridgeland Refinances Bonds at 1.35% Interest

The City of Ridgeland recently refinanced the \$6,000,000 General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds, Series 2004. In refinancing these bonds, the City was able to reduce the original interest rates from 3.50% to 1.35%. This reduction in interest rates will save the City \$222,319.40 or an average of \$31,565 annually through 2019. The refinance did not extend the maturity of the 2004 bonds.

The main reason for the lower interest rates is the City's Aa2 Bond Rating, which was recently affirmed by Moody's Investors Service. Demery Grubbs, Financial Advisor with Government Consultants, Inc., says that Ridgeland's rating continues to be one of the best in the State. "It generates savings for the City and its citizens," says Grubbs.

"We have saved the tax payers over \$200,000 and still have a 2019 maturity," said Mayor Gene McGee. "It pays to have a strong bond rating."

According to Moody's Investors Service, a bond rating is an indicator of a city's overall economic climate, financial strength, and management practices. Bonds receiving this rating (Aa2) are judged to be of high quality by all standards.

Waste Management, Inc. wishes to remind you that glass is not recyclable at this time in Ridgeland.



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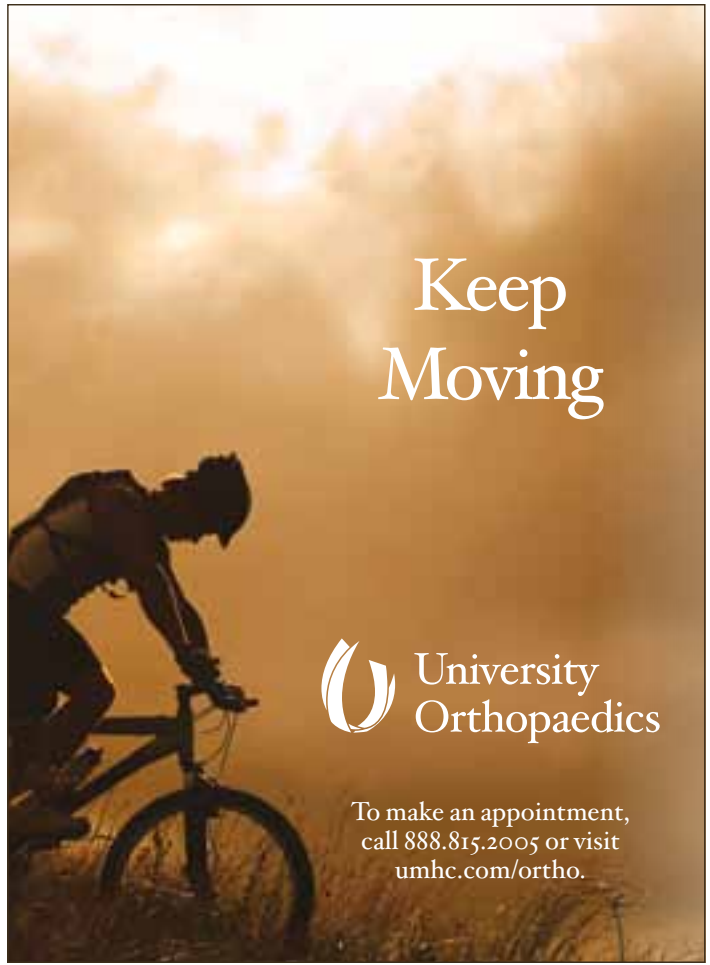


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Recreational facilities

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, and \$25 for non-residents. The security deposit, our "clean up insurance," is \$100.

Ridgeland Tennis Center

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

City Hall

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

Ridgeland Recreational Center

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

Friendship Park

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

The pavilion is available for rental at an hourly rate of \$15 for residents, \$25 per hour for non-residents, with a security deposit of \$100. Park hours are 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 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.

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

Madison-Ridgeland Youth Club

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



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, Jonathan Johnson

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.smcsso.com

Special Events
601-853-2011

Programs
601-853-2011

Superstar Seniors
601-856-6876

MRYC
www.mryouthclub.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Heatwave Classic Triathlon

The 27th annual Heatwave Classic will take place on Saturday, June 2. This triathlon is quickly becoming 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 Multi-Purpose 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 \$75.00 (after May 3, \$85)
Relay Team \$135.00 (after May 3, \$145)
\$10 Single event USAT Insurance per participant

Registration: Now-May 30
Event Date: Saturday, June 2
Start Time: 7:00 a.m.
Location: Old Trace Park

Celebrate America Balloon Glow

Come out and show your patriotism and enjoy an evening of good food, fun, entertainment, and fireworks at Northpark Mall. The MS Championship Balloon Fest will hold its opening ceremonies at the Northpark Mall Balloon Glow Field. The balloons will be inflated and set to glow. Our featured entertainment for the 2012 Celebrate America Balloon Glow will be country singer Neal McCoy. The opening act will feature Jason Fratesi & the Dirt Road Jam Band. The largest fireworks display in the metro-Jackson area will be the climax of the evening. For more information, contact the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department at 601-853-2011.

Program Price: Free
Event Date: Friday, June 29
Start Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Northpark Mall

Balloon Glow Karaoke Contest

The annual Balloon Glow Karaoke Contest will be held at Center Court inside Northpark Mall on Tuesday and Wednesday

evening (6:30-9:00 p.m.), June 26 and 27. The top five finalists from each night will advance to the finals on Thursday night, June 28, at 6:30 p.m. The registration fee is \$25. Singers can pre-register by calling Angela at 601-566-0951 or e-mailing at krazykaraoke@yahoo.com. The winner will open the show for Neal McCoy and Jason Fratesi & the Dirt Road Jam Band at the Celebrate America Balloon Glow on Friday, June 29.

Program Price: \$25.00
Registration: Pre-register @ krazykaraoke@yahoo.com
Location: Northpark Mall Center Court
Event Dates: June 26-28
Start Time: 6:30 pm

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, or visit www.losethetrainingwheels.org. Participants may register at the Ridgeland Recreation & Parks office located in City Hall.

NOTE: Space is limited, so register early.

Program Price: \$75.00
Registration: Now
Location: Ridgeland High School
Event Date: June 4-8



ATHLETICS

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

Father and Child Fishing Tournament

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will be holding its 16th-annual Father and Child Fishing Tournament on Saturday, June 16. As part of a joint partnership with the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, the tournament will be held on the beautiful Ross Barnett Reservoir. Come and enjoy a day with Dad! Bring your fishing pole or rod & reel and bait. Prizes will be awarded for Biggest Fish, Most Fish and Smallest Fish. This event is open to all ages. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011.

Program Price: Free
Event Date: Saturday, June 16

Time: 8-10 a.m.
Location: Old Trace Park



MRYC Summer Baseball

The Madison Ridgeland Youth Club will be having summer league baseball for ages 4-18. These games will be played at Wolcott Park in Ridgeland and Liberty Park in Madison. The season will be the month of July. Registration will be held in June. For more information, please visit their website, www.mryouthclub.com.

SMCSO Fall Soccer Registration

The South Madison County Soccer Organization will be holding fall soccer registration in July for boys and girls ages 4 to 18. The season runs from September thru November. For more information, please visit: www.smcsso.com. Dates for registration will be listed on their website.

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Flag Football

Come join the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department and NFL for its 16th season of flag football. This program has been growing for the past 15 years with more than 350 boys and girls, ages 6-9, participating. The program will build good hand-eye coordination and reflexes, as well as teamwork and the basic fundamentals of football. Flag football is also an excellent opportunity to experience physical exercise and social interaction. Players must be 6 years old by September 1, 2012. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011.

Program Price: \$70
Registration: July 30 - August 17
Event Date: September-November
Day of the Week: Tuesdays
Location: Freedom Ridge Park

Adult Softball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks 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-sanctioned rules will be in play for the leagues. We will offer 10 to 12 games for each league. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011. You may register at Ridgeland City Hall.

Program Price: \$500
Registration: July 30 – August 17

NFL Punt Pass and Kick

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department, in conjunction with the NFL, will be hosting the annual punt, pass and kick competition on Saturday, September 15 at Freedom Ridge Park. Registration will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. The competition will be for boys and girls ages 6-15. There will be five age groups: 6/7, 8/9, 10/11, 12/13 and 14/15. The top scorer in each age division will advance to the sectional meet to be held in Jackson. This is a free event. The winners at the sectionals will advance to the Team Championship in New Orleans.

Event Date: Saturday, September 15
Start Time: 9 a.m.
Location: Freedom Ridge Park

Start Smart Soccer

Start Smart Soccer prepares children ages 3-5 for organized soccer in a fun, non-threatening environment. The program helps parents teach their children a variety of soccer skills including: kicking, passing, and running/agility. The class will meet for six one-hour sessions. Parent participation is required. Each child will receive a soccer ball, a Koosh soccer ball, 4 cones, a participant's manual, and a t-shirt. A minimum of 10 participants is required in order to make a class. A maximum of 20 participants will be allowed. (Child must be 3 by September 1, 2012.)

Program Price: \$70
Registration: August 6 – 17
Event Date: September

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Start Time: 6:00 p.m.
Days of the Week: Mondays & Thursdays
Location: Freedom Ridge Park

SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Senior Adult Coordinator, Lynda McMahan Assink
 Phone: 601-856-6876. All Superstar Seniors Programs take place at the Ridgeland Recreational Center unless otherwise specified.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Agape Men's Coffee Group

Come to the Ridgeland Recreational Center every Wednesday morning, beginning at 9:30 a.m. for a men's coffee group. Enjoy fellowship and coffee at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, overlooking the beautiful Ross Barnett Reservoir. Call Lynda at 601-856-6876 for more information.

Price: No Charge
Date: On going
Time: 9:30 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 will be held at the Ridgeland Recreational Center located at Old Trace Park. Darlene Epple is the instructor for the class. Call Lynda at 601-856-6876 for more information.

Price: \$10/weekly
Date: On going
Time: Beginners Class, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 Advanced Class, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Day: Monday

Men's Bible Study

A Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. It is a non-denominational study for men only. Call Earl Beck at 601-856-4252 for more information.

Date: On going
Time: 9:00 a.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 under painting, wet and dry method, working from photographs, photographing your finished paintings, protecting and framing your pastel paintings. Professional artist,

Cecilia Baker, is your instructor. Table easels will be provided. Pastel paper can be purchased at each session; backboards and small sets of pastels can be purchased; drawing equipment and tape will be available at all times. (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.

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



Painting Pals

Is it hard for you to paint and/or draw at home? Bring your own supplies and enjoy painting at our Ridgeland Recreational Center, located at Old Trace Park, overlooking the reservoir. It's an ideal setting to paint or draw! Call Lynda at 601-856-6876 and let her know you are coming!

Price: No charge
Date: On going
Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Day: Tuesday

Tai Chi Fusion On The Reservoir

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks is offering a Tai-Chi Fusion on the Reservoir every week at the Ridgeland Recreation Center, located at Old Trace Park. Tai Chi has become an increasingly popular form of physical exercises around the world as a basic exercise program and as a complement to health care methods. A few of the benefits include increased flexibility and reduced risk of injury, focused breathing and concentration, improves mind-body connection, greater strength and stamina, better balance and stability, improved posture, stress reduction, and much more. Pre-registration is required by calling Lynda at 601-856-6876.

Always consult your physician before beginning any exercise program. You are encouraged to bring a water bottle and arrive on time. No pets or small children.

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

Yoga

Join us every Monday and Friday for yoga! Lisa Newman is the instructor, and she will guide you through gentle stretching exercises for your whole body. Tight muscles can cause discomfort and even contribute to injuries. Taking this class will also help with stress reduction and aid in relaxation. Join this class today! For more information, call Lynda at 601-856-6876.

Always consult your physician before beginning any exercise program.
Price: \$10 per participant/per class

Date: On going
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Days: Monday and Friday

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Bridge

Bridge games are held the fourth Thursday of each month at the Ridgeland Recreational Center overlooking the reservoir. It provides a beautiful setting for an afternoon game. The player with the highest score for the month receives a prize. Reservations are required 4 days in advance. Please call Lynda at 601-856-6876 or 601-853-2011 to reserve your chair. Please arrive at 12:45 p.m. to receive your nametag. The game starts promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Price: No charge
Dates: June 28, July 26, August 23
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 1st Monday of each month. We would 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, including: needles, material, patterns, etc.

Price: No charge
Dates: June 4, July 2, August 6
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Day: Monday

Thread, Yarn, & Coffee Group

Bring your own needles, yarn, and thread project the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of fellowship and coffee and work on your handmade project. It will be a great time of "show and tell" as you work on your own masterpiece.

Price: No charge

Dates: June 11 & 25, July 9 and 23, August 13 and 27
Time: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Day: Monday

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

AARP Driver Safety Program

AARP will present its Driver Safety Program for mature drivers. This course is a classroom refresher especially designed to meet the needs of older drivers. It covers age-related physical changes, declining perceptual skills, rules of the road, local driving problems, and license renewal requirements. Participants will be eligible for discounts on their automobile insurance rates.

Reservations are required and may be made by calling Lynda at 601-856-6876 or 601-853-2011. Please bring your AARP card and driver's license.

Price: \$14 (\$2 discount if you are an AARP member)
Registration: Now till August
Date: TBA
Time: 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Day: TBA

RIDGELAND TENNIS CENTER

Tournaments

June 2-6 MS JR Qualifying Closed Championship
August 3-5 RTC Junior Classic
August 17-19 RTC Summer Junior Novice

Summer Camps

June 11 – 14 Ages 10-18
June 18-21 Ages 4-6, 7-9, 10-18
June 25-28 Ages 4-6, 7-9, 10-18
July 9 -12 Ages 4-6, 7-9, 10-18
July 16-19 Ages 4-6, 7-9, 10-18
July 23-26 Ages 4-6, 7-9, 10-18

Please call 601-853-1115 for more information on camps, private lessons or group lessons.

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


JUNE 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 	2 Heatwave Classic 7:00am at the Reservoir Blessing of the Fleet, 2:00pm, Jackson Yacht Club, www.jacksonyachtclub.com
3	4 4-8 - Lose the Training Wheels at Ridgeland High Ridgeland Quilters 1:00-3:00pm @ RRC	5 Pupperty with Peter Zapletal 2:30pm Ridgeland Library	6 	7	8	9 
10	11 Ridgeland Tennis Center summer camps	12 Madison County Mystery Readers Ridgeland Library 10:30-11:30am	13 Ghost Writing Workshop for Incoming Grades 6-12 1:00-3:00pm Ridgeland Library	14 Magic with Tommy Terrific 4:30 pm Ridgeland Library	15 15 - 17 Men's ASA/BCS Softball Tournament Freedom Ridge Park	16 Fishing Tourn. 8:00-10:00am Old Trace Park Cook w/ Da Biscuit -Dutch Oven 101 9:00-11:00am RPL Anime/Sci-fi Club Cosplay Grades 7-12
17 Men's ASA/BCS Softball Tournament Freedom Ridge Park	18	19 Nighttime Tales (Puppets, Skits, and songs) 4:30 p.m. Ridgeland Library	20	21 Hist. Soc. of Ridgeland 12pm Ridgeland Library Chamber Bus. After Hours Trustmark National Bank 1029 Highland Col. Pkwy.	22	23 
24 21-24 USSSA Baseball State Tournament Freedom Ridge Park	25 Thread, Yarn, and Coffee Group 1:30-3:30pm RRC	26 26-27 Annual Balloon Glow Karaoke Contest 6:30-9:30pm at Center Court in Northpark Mall	27 Nocturnal Animals at 2:00pm Ridgeland Library Karaoke Contest, 6:30-9:30 p.m, Center Court, Northpark Mall	28 Dream a Little Zine Workshop for Incoming Grades 6-12 1-3pm Ridgeland Library Bridge 1-4pm RRC	29 Celebrate America Balloon Glow 6:00pm at Northpark Mall	30

JULY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Creative Arts Club for Incoming Grades 1-2 3-4pm Ridgeland Public Library Ridgeland Quilters 1-3pm Ridgeland Rec Center	3 Creative Arts Club for Incoming Grades 3-5 3:00-4:00pm Ridgeland Public Library	4	5	6 	7
8	9 Thread, Yarn, and Coffee Group 1:30-3:30pm Ridgeland Recreational Center	10 Who's in the Shadows? (Shadow Puppet Fairy Tales) at 4:30 pm Ridgeland Public Library	11 Thread, Yarn, and Coffee Group 1:30-3:30pm Ridgeland Recreational Center	12	13 Men's ASA State Softball Tournament Freedom Ridge Park	14 Men's ASA State Softball Tournament Freedom Ridge Park
15 Men's ASA State Softball Tournament Freedom Ridge Park	16	17	18	19 Hist. Soc. of Ridgeland 12pm Ridgeland Public Library Chamber Bus. After Hours Sweet Pepper's Deli and Vintage Wine Market	20 Miss. ASA State Softball Tournament Girls 8 & Under Freedom Ridge Park	21 Miss. ASA State Softball Tournament Girls 8 & Under Freedom Ridge Park
22 Miss. ASA State Softball Tournament Girls 8 & Under Freedom Ridge Park	23 Thread, Yarn, and Coffee Group 1:30-3:30pm Ridgeland Recreational Center	24 	25	26 Bridge 1:00-4:00pm Ridgeland Recreational Center	27	28
29	30	31	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.			

AUGUST 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 ASA 10 & Under A Southern National - ASA 18 & Under Gold & A Southern National, Freedom Ridge Park	2 ASA 10 & Under A Southern National - ASA 18 & Under Gold & A Southern National, Freedom Ridge Park	3 ASA 10 & Under A Southern National - ASA 18 & Under Gold & A Southern National, Freedom Ridge Park	4 ASA 10 & Under A Southern National - ASA 18 & Under Gold & A Southern National, Freedom Ridge Park
5 ASA 10 & Under A Southern National - ASA 18 & Under Gold & A Southern National, Freedom Ridge Park	6 6-17 Start Smart Soccer Regis. Mon. & Thurs. 6:00pm at Freedom Ridge Park Ridgeland Quilters 1:00-3:00pm RRC	7 	8 Madison County School students report back to school	9 	10	11
12	13 Thread, Yarn, and Coffee Group 1:30-3:30pm RRC	14 Metro Chamber Hilton Jackson Tailgate Party Madison Co. Mystery Readers Ridgeland Library 10:30-11:30am	15 	16 Hist. Soc. of Ridgeland 12pm Ridgeland Library Chamber Bus. After Hours Cool Water Catering & Events 1011 Lake Harbour Drive	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Bridge 1:00-4:00pm RRC	24 ASA Women's 35 & Over National - ASA Men's 40 & Over National Freedom Ridge Park	25 ASA Women's 35 & Over National - ASA Men's 40 & Over National Freedom Ridge Park
26 ASA Women's 35 & Over National - ASA Men's 40 & Over National Freedom Ridge Park	27 Thread, Yarn, and Coffee Group 1:30-3:30pm Ridgeland Recreational Center	28	29	30	31	



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Pictured are (from left) Katie Noble, Brayan Lopez, Ashley Box, Marina Goupalova and Makhi Marley.

Teacher of the Year

First-grade teacher Ashley Box was named Ann Smith Elementary's teacher of the year for the 2011-2012 school year. She is in her fourth year of teaching at ASE. A native of Madison County, Box attended kindergarten at Ridgeland Elementary before it was named Ann Smith Elementary. She received her elementary education degree from Mississippi College. Box's goal is to instill a love of learning that will last throughout her students' lives.

"I'm so pleased that Mrs. Box has been chosen as Ann Smith Elementary Teacher of the Year," said Kathy Rigsby, ASE principal. "She works so diligently with the students to help them succeed. You will find many innovative and engaging activities in her room. It's also good to know that Mrs. Box started as a student at ASE and now has returned to teach."

Box was chosen as teacher of the year by ASE faculty via a secret ballot, and she was recognized during ASE's April PTO meeting as well as at a school board meeting in the spring.

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.



ASE Wins PTO Contest

We are pleased to report that Ann Smith Elementary won Patty Peck Honda's best Madison County PTO contest, earning the most votes and receiving a \$500 check from Patty Peck. Not only is the \$500 a wonderful fundraising boost, but it's also great PR for our school.

"We're so excited about being the first PTO to win Patty Peck Honda's Best PTO contest," said Dixie Livingston, co-president of the PTO board. "It was fun encouraging our parents to vote for us and to see how we can come together to achieve something beneficial for our school. We're planning to add the \$500 to funds already set aside to improve our playground with new equipment over the summer."

ASE was even featured in an ad in the March issue of *Parents & Kids Magazine* announcing that we won the contest. Thanks to Patty Peck Honda for sponsoring the contest and for supporting our Madison County schools!



(From left, back) Sissy Lynn, PTO co-VP of public relations; Dixie Livingston, PTO co-president; Kathy Rigsby, principal; Tanya Webber, PTO secretary; Tammra Cascio, PTO co-president; Bob Aubrey, general manager at Patty Peck Honda; (front) ASE students Daniel Lynn, Jaylie Livingston, Thomas Webber, Reed Cascio and Julia Lynn.

ASE Principal Kathy Rigsby To Retire

Ann Smith Elementary principal Kathy Rigsby announced her retirement at the end of the school year. Much loved and respected by students, teachers and parents, Rigsby just completed her seventh year at ASE, and her official last day will be June 29. She's been a key leader during several big occasions at ASE, including the passing of the Madison County bond issue in 2009 and the \$3.3 million in renovations to the school that followed. She was also named the 2010-11 Administrator of the Year for the Madison County School District.

Rigsby's 25-year career in education has included roles as kindergarten teacher, counselor and principal. She served as principal at Marshall Elementary in Jackson for seven years prior to coming to ASE.

"Mrs. Rigsby has been such a positive leader who supports our teachers 100 percent," said second-grade teacher Paige Hawkins. "She's consistently made sure our school looks its best, that our children are taught good character and that the public sees the great things we're doing at Ann Smith Elementary."

Hawkins, who has been teaching at ASE for 10 years, says it's the little things

"Mrs. Rigsby has been such a positive leader who supports our teachers 100 percent..."

Rigsby does that make her teachers want to do their very best. Whether it's a simple act of kindness or a pat on the back, Rigsby knows just how to bring out the best in her staff.

"Mrs. Rigsby remembers what it's like being in the classroom. That's why she's always made an effort to encourage us with words of praise and to express her appreciation daily for what we do."

Rigsby is known for her professionalism and for being impeccably dressed,



Pictured are (from left, seated) Lazarius Williams, Kathy Rigsby, Maggie Sims; (standing) Paola Deleon, Dustin Bugg-Adams, and Christian Hales.

always wearing her signature high heels. She has emphasized learning to read in the lower grades so that students will read to learn in the future.

One of the biggest traditions she's brought with her to ASE is that of the "Big Fish," based on a series of books by Stephen Lundin and John Christensen. According to these books, there are four key concepts to building stronger

relationships within the workplace: *Play, Make Their Day, Be There* and *Choose Your Attitude*. Rigsby believes that instilling this philosophy at school brings a sense of community to her staff, as well as to the students. At ASE, faculty and staff are awarded a "Big Fish" when they've gone above and beyond, and it's a very great honor to receive one.

"Mrs. Rigsby expects us to come in, do our very best and work really hard – but enjoy being here," said Hawkins. "She knows

that teaching is more than a 7-to-3 job, and she wants us to have fun while we're here."

Madison County Schools board member Janet Shearer first met Rigsby when Shearer's daughter, Mary Kate, entered first grade at ASE, the year Rigsby became principal.

"The day Mary Kate met Mrs. Rigsby is one I will long remember," recalled Shearer. "Mrs. Rigsby wore a light pink suit with a pink flower lapel pin and coordinating pumps. Despite the August heat and it being the first day of class at her new school, Mrs. Rigsby was calm and collected. Looking at Mrs. Rigsby in awe, Mary Kate tugged my hand and said in a slow whisper, 'Mama, she's beautiful.'"

The Madison County Schools central office is in the process of accepting resumes and interviewing applicants for ASE's principal position.

"We hope that a new principal will be named by early summer," said Shearer. "Parents can expect a continuation of the strong leadership and excellence in education that has been the tradition at Ann Smith Elementary."

Reminder: Please Provide Residency Information

All students in the Madison County School District must provide residency information on a yearly basis. New and returning students must provide two current utility bills for the months of June or July. You may drop off residency information to the school office Monday-Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To find out more information about what documents are required for new students, please visit www.madison-schools.com/ase.

Kindergarten First Days of School

To help ease the transition of starting school, kindergarten students do not all begin school on the same day. Students whose last name begins with A-M report on the first day of school, Wednesday, August 8. Kindergartners whose last name begins with N-Z report on Thursday, August 9. All kindergartners report to school together beginning on Friday, August 10.

Important Dates

8/6/12 Meet the Teacher
8/8/12 Back to School*
TBD** PTO Meeting/
Open House

**Kindergartners with last names beginning with A-M will report to school on 8/8; those with last names beginning with N-Z will report to school on 8/9. **Check our website, www.madison-schools.com/ase, closer to August for exact date and time.*

Family Reading Night

To celebrate Read Across America and to encourage a love of reading among students, ASE held Family Reading Night in March. At least 300 people attended the family-oriented event, which took on an "Around the World" theme to highlight the variety of countries represented at the school. ASE students read passages of Dr. Seuss's *The Foot Book* in four different languages - Serbian, Chinese, French and Russian. And special guest, Mayor Gene McGee, followed by reading the entire book in English. Four different activity and literacy stations were set up, and all participants got to take home a book collected from ASE's February book drive.



Parent of the Year

Tammra Cascio was named Ann Smith Elementary's parent of the year for the 2011-2012 school year. Cascio is in her third year on Ann Smith's PTO board, having served as co-president for the past two years and as executive vice president prior to that.

"During Tammra's time serving on the PTO board, she has demonstrated a love for our staff, students and parents," said ASE principal Kathy Rigsby. "Her energetic efforts have enhanced our daily lives at ASE. And we are so grateful!"

Cascio works full-time as an attorney for Gulf Guaranty Life Insurance and has served on various boards within the law profession as well as in the community. She was recently named a 2012 Woman Lawyer Trailblazer by the Mississippi Bar Association's Women in the Profession Committee, and was the recipient of the Mississippi Bar Distinguished Service Award in 2010. Additionally, Cascio has served as Cub Scout den leader for Pack 184 based in Ridgeland. Her son Reed just completed kindergarten at ASE, and her oldest son Robert will be a fourth-grader at Highland Elementary in the fall. Cascio is living proof that you can be involved in your children's education, while still managing a successful career.



Tammra Cascio with her youngest son Reed.

HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

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



Pictured are (from left) president of MAPE Mississippi chapter, Debbie Anglin; Cindy Goodwin; Savannah Perry; Marilyn Naron; Ronnie McGehee; and Governor William Winter.

HES Receives Governor's Award

Congratulations to Highland Elementary School for winning a Governor's Award for the Highland's Hands project. Highland's Hands is the community outreach initiative that launched this fall at HES. HES was one of two elementary schools across the state to win a Governor's Award from the Mississippi Association of Partners in Education. Highland partnered with the Salvation Army, Mississippi National Guard Contractor Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and the City of Ridgeland.

Mississippi's school-community partnerships take center stage every year during the Governor's Awards, presented by Mississippi Association of Partners in Education.

The Governor's Award recognizes creative, results-oriented partnerships that emphasize student achievement in reading, science and math, the arts, fitness and health, community involvement, and many other areas that are vital to academic enrichment.

Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to HES Teacher of the Year Mrs. Girtie Banks! Mrs. Banks is a fifth-grade teacher who will be retiring at the end of this year. She will be truly missed!



HES Summer Reading Program

Highland is doing something a little different for summer reading this year. During the month of June, students are to choose two fiction stories and one informational text. After reading one, two or all three of the books, students will be able to come to Highland on June 5, 12, 19 or 26 to take an AR test between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m. If students complete each AR test with an 80 percent or above accuracy rate, they will be awarded with a special field trip at the end of June.



Please visit our website, madison-schools.com/hes, for additional information and reading lists.

Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy

HES fourth-grade teacher, Brenda Hill, is one of two teachers from Mississippi who will be headed to the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy in Jersey City, NJ, this summer. Mrs. Hill was chosen from more than 1,000 applicants from across the country. The selection panel based their decision on qualifications, dedication to inspiring students and overall commitment to enhancing the teaching profession.

The Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy was launched in 2005 to provide third through fifth grade teachers with tools to enhance curricula and discover innovative ways to teach math and science.

“Mississippi My Home” Musical

Highland Elementary has an outstanding music program led by Helen Bowen. Fourth graders recently performed in a musical called “Mississippi My Home.” This musical is a celebration of all things Mississippi. It was a combination of music, dance and drama, and every fourth grader played an important part.



Parent of the Year

Parent of the Year is Debbie Best. Debbie has been our PTO president for the past two years. Thanks for your dedication and hard work!



Arts for Autism Congratulations to Highland’s Hands for raising more than \$1,800 for Autism Speaks at their Arts for Autism event. The event included an iPod raffle drawing, silent auction, artwork sale, cupcake walk, inflatable boxing, inflatable jumper, face painting, pizza and more.

OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

OTMS Registration for 2012-2013

Madison County requires that students register before the beginning of each school year, even if they attended Ridgeland schools last year. Registration begins June 11. Office hours are 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Please bring the following proof of residency: two current bills (June or July gas, electric, landline phone and cable) addressed to your home and a copy of your mortgage, homestead exemption, property deed or lease. Information for new students can be found on the Madison County Schools website at www.madison-schools.com. Please register early in the summer if possible.

OTMS Band: All Superiors for 17th Year

The OTMS eighth-grade band was awarded all superiors from all judges at the Central Mississippi Band Festival in both concert and sight-reading categories, for the 17th year in a row. Congratulations, eighth graders and director Mr. Keith Moffat!

Ms. Lindy Perry Honored

Olde Towne Middle School honored Ms. Lindy Perry, OTMS secretary, with an Appreciation Award from the Olde Towne PTO. Ms. Perry works in the front office at OTMS. With her friendly smile, she helps many people throughout the day in an extraordinarily efficient and upbeat manner. Ms. Perry knows the students by name; in fact, she almost has all of their schedules memorized. Thank you, Ms. Perry, for sharing your talents to help make OTMS a friendly and fantastic place to go to school.

New Technology Courses

The Madison County School System is starting a new program within the Mississippi Curriculum called ICT (Information & Communications Technology) and STEM (Science, Technology and Math). These courses will be mandatory for all middle school students and continue on into high school, where they will help students gain credits toward graduation. These courses are designed to increase students' understanding of technology, communications and engineering in the 21st Century. ICT 1 will contain the following topics, but will not be limited to: orientation, ethics, basic operations and network, technology communication, keyboarding, word processing, publishing, multimedia applications and career exploration. ICT 2 will contain the following topics, but will not be limited to: orientation and ethics, spreadsheet and database applications, lab management and networking, and graphic design applications. STEM will contain the following topics, but will not be limited to: orientation and ethics, design process, computer-aided design (CAD), emerging technologies, sustainable design, power and energy, robotics, financial and economic literacy, as well as school to careers.

Technology courses will assist our students in preparing for the increasing demand for technology skills within higher education, the workplace and in society in general. Our nation loses thousands of prospective engineering and science students every year, as they choose other careers instead. To combat this problem, the ICT and STEM courses teach students the skills they need to make more educational and career choices a viable option.

"Dear Edwina, Jr." Musical Presented by OTMS Chamber Singers

The cast of "Dear Edwina, Jr." wowed the audience with their performance, which was Olde Towne Middle School's first theater musical production. Pictured are (from left, back) Elizabeth Winder, Kierra Mayberry, Kris Jones, Alan Merkle, Falandrous Stewart, Lundy Chester, Alyssa Cole, Georgia Merrill, Andre Vincent, Dyanmond Anthony, Kansera Williams, Justin Saddler, Director Emily Rich; (middle) Elizabeth Lanford, Ahmed Hassan, Fred Rhymes, Ferlandria Carter, Emili Hodges, Laura Joseph, Jace McArthur, Michael Ziegelbauer; (front) Samarah Iftikhar-Butt, Haydon Best, Nicole Moss, Blythe Blackwell, Natalene Vonkchalee, Mary Kate Shearer, Lexi Briggum, Jaclyn McDonald, Ricas Jones, Jonathan Fendlason. Not pictured are Jamal Fears, Victoria Lopez and Tice Sanders.



2012 Teacher and Parent of the Year

Kathleen Sorrell, seventh-grade math teacher, was selected as Teacher of the Year. Ms. Sorrell received her Bachelor of Professional Accountancy (BPA) from MSU and her Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) from the Univ. of Memphis. She inspires and challenges students to do their very best. Kathleen Sorrell has taught at OTMS for four years and has been teaching for seven.



Heather Walker received the Parent of the Year award from the staff of OTMS. Heather served as president of the OTMS PTO this year. She and her husband are the proud parents of four Titan students, including two Ridgeland High School graduates. Many thanks to Heather for all you have done in service to the OTMS community.



Olde Towne Space Program Olde Towne's second near space balloon launch was a resounding success again this year. The balloon, Leo-1, carried a payload of cameras and science experiments. It flew from Gluckstadt to Alabama, reaching an altitude of more than 90,000 feet before descending into a field of "nice" bulls 280 miles away. The chase vehicle recovered the balloon and its payload. Olde Towne is one of only a handful of middle schools in the country that has a viable space program.

This image is a shot showing the near space balloon after it popped as it was screaming back to earth at 182 mph vertical speed. The parachute (not shown) caught at around 35,000 feet.

RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

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



RHS Performs at Carnegie Hall

Ridgeland High School's choir was invited to perform at Isaac Stern Auditorium/Ronald O. Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall on April 1 as part of Distinguished Concert Singers International. Eric Whitacre, one of the most popular composers of our time, was guest conductor at this choral concert featuring high schools from throughout the country. The RHS choir, along with other high school groups, performed *the city and the sea*, a DCINY 2010 Premiere Project; *Cloudburst*, *Go Lovely Rose*, *Sleep*, *With a Lily in Your Hand* and Morten Lauridsen's famous *Dirait-On*. The audience was extremely enthusiastic, and each of the choir members directly contributed to the program's artistic success.

Titan Golf Tournament

Ridgeland High School hosted the Titan Golf Invitational on April 11. Teams from Ridgeland, Pearl, Warren Central, Forest, Vicksburg and Neshoba Central competed in the tournament held at Whisper Lake Country Club. Ridgeland won first place with a team-best score of 302, followed by runner-up Warren Central who scored 316.



Pictured are members of the Titan golf team (from left) Landon Albritton, Steven Eiders, Tyler Watts, Tyler James & Zach Hayes.



Pictured is the first archery team for Ridgeland High School. (From left, front) Shelby Baldwin, Fatima Bracamone, Ana Torres, Heather Van Horn. (Middle) Madeline Hall, Molly Harris, Keiwa Higuchi, Vipapret Kaur, Holli Gill, Jamie Logan, Sandra Martinez, Audrey Hall. (Back) Bill Richardson(Coach), Colton Johnston, Michael Poe, John Warren, Braelyn Howard, Zachary Clein, Martin McCandless, Adam Lewis, and Piero Bracamonte.

RHS Archery Team

In their first year, the archery team at Ridgeland High School shot in the State Championship, two tournaments and two matches. RHS ranks #3 in the state for the 5A/6A Division with a score of 2852 out of a maximum score of 3600. Ashton Cowart (not pictured) had a best score of 277, and Shelby Baldwin shot a score of 272. Both scores are out of a maximum of 300 points. RHS is currently the only archery team in the Madison County School District. Next year, there will be a new 8th grade team at Olde Towne Middle School.



***Do Right* Ridgeland High School celebrates former principal Lee Boozer with Do Right Day on February 17.**

Reprinted from *Titan Talk*, March/April 2012, By Devin Lott

On February 17, we had a program in honor of the greatest principal of all time, Mr. Boozer. The program started with Turner Lott interviewing the former superintendent, the mayor, and the new superintendent.

Many students and teachers recorded videos to tell Mr. Boozer how much they love, appreciate, and respect him for everything he's done for RHS in the past 10 years. After all the memories were shared (and the seniors of this year claimed to be the class of the decade), Lott called Mr. Boozer and Mrs. Boozer to center stage.

Mr. Johnson presented a glorious self-portrait to Mr. Boozer. Mrs. Summers and Mr. Dowdy gave Mr. Boozer an enormous check for over \$6,000. Last but certainly not least, we, the students of Ridgeland High School, gave Mr. Boozer the ungodly...err...I mean wonderful traffic light.

At the very end of the program, we unveiled the new name of the sports complex (The Lee Boozer Sports Complex) to Mr. Boozer. He was ecstatic and a bit confused. He really couldn't help but tear up. Mr. Boozer, if you're reading this, which I hope you are, we love and miss you.

Above: A new sign for the athletic complex was unveiled to Mr. Lee Boozer on Do Right Day. **Right:** Teacher Bill Johnson presents his painting of Boozer during Do Right Day on February 17.



Miss RHS Lauren Franklin and Mr. RHS Kris Givens.



RHS's Most Handsome Zach Gosnell and Most Beautiful Shelby Huff.


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Pictured are members of The Veritas School 2012 baseball team (from left, front) Thomas Miller, Bailey Kuiper, Case Hutchinson, Ian Clarke, Nathan Earnhart, Colton Storck, Caleb Storck; (back) Head Coach Tray Earnhart, Bryant Adam, Jared Robinson, Will Earnhart, Lance McTaggart, Robert Hamil, Lane McTaggart, Robbie Pierce, and Asst. Coach Brad Earnhart.



Junior varsity basketball starters were (from left) Shania Young, Mary Katherine Miller, Monica Williams, Taylor Warriner and Somer Dotson. Young and Miller are Ridgeland residents.



Veritas students competed in the MAIS Overall State Spelling Bee held for fourth- through eighth-graders. Sophie Hughes placed fifth in the seventh-grade division, and Edward Wiggins placed second in the eighth-grade division.



Ridgeland resident Robbie Pierce pitches against Rebul Academy.

NOW ENROLLING K-12th grade for the 2012 school year.

Holmes' Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter Honored

In April, Holmes Community College students attended the International Phi Theta Kappa Conference in Nashville. As part of the four-day leadership and development event, students and school leaders participated in seminars focused on leadership, scholarship and community service, along with more than 4,000 top students from across the world, at what was the organization's largest conference in history.

The event concluded with the Gala Awards Banquet, where outstanding Phi Theta Kappa chapters, students and advisors were recognized for their distinguished accomplishments and service.

Ridgeland's Alpha Lambda Sigma

Chapter was named Fifth Finalist to the Most Distinguished Chapter, in addition to winning the *USA Today* Case Study Challenge, for their work on stem cell research. The Ridgeland chapter also received the Distinguished Chapter Award, Distinguished Issue Award, Distinguished Honors in Action Project Award and Distinguished College Project Award. Ridgeland Campus Student William Harris Runion was named Distinguished Chapter Member.

Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society with a global reach. There are currently more than 1,250 chapters worldwide. This year alone, more than 135,000 of the world's most promising future leaders

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were inducted into the exclusive society that honors two-year college students for being the best of the best, as students and as leaders.

The Friends of the Library “Pass the Buck” to a new treasurer

Recently the Friends of the Ridgeland Library honored Betsy Adcock, Treasurer, for 25 years of volunteer service! Words can never express our gratitude to Betsy for maintaining the financial records for the Friends organization for so many years. Betsy attended college at Ole Miss and Belhaven and received an accounting degree. She later specialized in real estate development and property management accounting. In 1987, she became treasurer for the Friends as an active library patron. She has done extensive volunteer service with Stewpot, Community Services, Diabetes

Foundation of MS, MS Animal Rescue League, and the American Cancer Society. Betsy and her husband, Michael, reside in Olde Towne Ridgeland.

Accepting the buck is Debi Martinson Pearsall who has a background in marketing, hospitality sales, and training and education. Debi graduated from Ole Miss and began her career as an educator in Jackson and later joined Marriott International. Pearsall has worked in the hospitality industry for 25 years and has been actively involved with many professional and civic organizations. She was



Debi Pearsall and Betsy Adcock

a regional sales director/trainer for Extended Stay Hotel and now serves as a Group Hotel Specialist for Conference Direct. She lives in Ridgeland with her husband, Denny and their two labs, Mack and Maggie.

Madison County Mystery Readers

Host Authors Brad Parks and J.C. Patterson This Summer



Brad Parks, June 12 On June 12, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Brad Parks will discuss his latest novels via a conference call from Virginia.

Parks just published his third novel, *The Girl Next Door*. If you like curious characters with a fantastic sense of humor, you will enjoy Carter Ross, a reporter who makes more than his share of mistakes. Parks won awards for his first novel, *Faces of the Gone*, which was followed by his second book, *Eyes of the Innocent*.

J.C. Patterson, August 14 Love mysteries? Want to find exciting new authors to read? Don't miss J.C. Patterson, the Mystery Club favorite book reviewer, on August 14, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. J.C. writes, produces, and reviews books for newspapers and WLBT. His enthusiasm for mysteries is contagious, and you'll leave the meeting with a long list of new titles and authors you will want to read.

eBooks @ your library! If you are looking for free e-books, all you need is a MCLS library card, pin # and e-book reader, tablet, computer or smart phone. Users can check out best-selling titles by visiting <http://mcls.lib.overdrive.com>.

If you are new to OverDrive, please take a moment to review the Getting Started section of the website. There you will find resources helpful to first time users of e-books. All users will need to download and install OverDrive Media Console and Adobe Digital Editions.

Visit the MCLS website and select your eBook today!

Cooking With Da Biscuit: Dutch Oven 101

Sat., June 16, 9 – 11 a.m.

Have you ever lost power for a few days? Wondered how to cook a meal with the power out? Come and meet Biscuit T. Sims, THE HAPPY DUTCH OVEN COOK, a well-known Camp Dutch Oven Cook throughout the Southeast. He will be teaching a Basic Dutch Oven 101 course on how to prepare meals in the outdoors without electricity. You'll even get to taste some of his dishes. The Friends of the Library are sponsoring the program in conjunction with the summer reading activities. Bring the family; this program is great for all ages. For reservations, please call 601-856-4536.



RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

397 Hwy. 51 • Ridgeland, MS 39157 • 601.856.4536 • www.mcls.ms
Hours: Mon. - Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. • Fri. - Sat.: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Closed Sunday

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

“Dream Big – Read” & “Own the Night” Summer Reading Programs

It's summertime again! The library has been hard at work preparing to make this Summer Library Program an incredible event for all ages. This year's theme is “Dream Big – Read” for families and “Own the Night” for Tweens and Teens. Both themes are geared towards promoting nighttime fun as well as encouraging youth of all ages to read throughout the summer!

Our mission this summer is not only to continue to create fun-filled programming for the community, but also to ensure that the public can count on their library to help them beat the heat with awesome, free activities. Like every summer, we have great contests planned for children and youth to participate in that involve reading and winning GREAT PRIZES!

In June and July, we plan to have several family programs that are geared towards children of all ages. Amazing Teen and Tween Programs will be offered as well. Please see the listing below for programming details.

Swap Books The Ridgeland Public Library has a special section in the children's room for Swap Books. Swap books are free paperback books that you can take home to read and then return to the library when finished. Since you don't need a library card to check these books out, there is no due date or overdue fines. Many of our Swap books are on the school reading curriculum, so if you're looking for one, make sure to check with the library.

Also, if you have any old summer reading books, please think about donating them to the library. We always have students and parents looking for summer reading materials, and we aren't always able to order enough copies of the book for everyone. Having extras would help us provide more copies for the students.

For More Information The Summer Reading Program will end on July 13. In August, the staff takes a break from programming to prepare for all of our fun-filled Fall programs for families, tots, preschoolers, tweens and teens. As always, we look forward to seeing you all at the library this year. Don't forget to check the official summer reading calendar at www.mcls.ms for updated dates and times and more programs throughout Madison County. If you have any questions about programs for “Dream Big - Read” or “Own the Night”, contact Stephanie Jurss at 601-856-4536 or sjurss@mcls.ms.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Puppetry with Peter Zapletal

Tuesday, June 5, at 2:30 p.m.

Magic with Tommy Terrific

Thursday, June 14, at 4:30 p.m.

Cooking with Da Biscuit

Dutch Oven 101, Saturday, June 16, at 9 a.m.

Nighttime Tales (Puppets, skits, and songs), Tuesday, June 19, at 4:30 p.m.

Nocturnal Animals With the ZooMobile! Wednesday, June 27, at 2:00 p.m.

Who's in the Shadows? (Shadow Puppet Fairy Tales), Tuesday, July 10, at 4:30 pm

*Please note we will not be having our regularly scheduled tot and preschool programs from May through August. These programs will begin again in September.

CREATIVE ARTS CLUB

Join Ms. Stephanie as she leads the group in creative writing exercises and craft projects.

Incoming Grades 1-2

Monday, July 2, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Incoming Grades 3-5

Tuesday, July 3, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

TEEN & TWEEN PROGRAMS

Ghost Writing Workshop for Incoming Grades 6-12. Wednesday, June 13, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

RPL Anime/Sci-fi Club

Cosplay for Incoming Grades 7-12
Saturday, June 16, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Dream a Little Zine Workshop
for Incoming Grades 6-12. Thursday, June 28, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.



CITY OF RIDGELAND
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Phone: 601.991.9996
www.ridgelandchamber.com

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS & EVENTS

June 21

Trustmark National Bank
1029 Highland Colony Pwky.

July 19

Sweet Pepper's Deli and
Vintage Wine Market
1000 Highland Colony
Parkway, Suite 5001

August 14

Hilton Jackson Tailgate Party
1001 E. County Line Road

August 16

Cool Water Catering & Events
1011 Lake Harbour Drive

September 27

Denim & Diamonds
Jackson County Club

Ridgeland Chamber Seeks Junior Diplomat Applicants

Area high school juniors and seniors are invited to apply to become part of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce's 2012-2013 Junior Diplomat Program.

Students residing in Ridgeland, who attend Ridgeland High School, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Jackson Academy, St. Joseph Catholic School, Madison Ridgeland Academy, The Veritas School and Jackson Prep are invited to submit applications by the August 10, 2012 deadline.

"The purpose of the Junior Diplomat program is to instill in students a well-rounded appreciation of community service and introduce them to members of the business community," said Linda Bynum, Executive Director of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce.

Diplomats Julie Cox of the City of Ridgeland and Jim Lowery of Pear Orchard Business Center serve as Junior Diplomat co-advisors.

The Junior Diplomats meet the first Tuesday of every month at Chamber members businesses. This year, Kristen Dupard, a senior at Ridgeland High School, Greg Abadie, a senior at St. Joseph Catholic School and Anne Tatum McPherson, a junior at Madison Ridgeland Academy, served as co-captains of the program.

Throughout the year, the Junior Diplomats participate in many City and Chamber events, including the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Make A Difference Day, Sr. Adult Valentine's Banquet, the Natchez Trace Century Ride, Easter Egg Hunt, Heatwave Classic, KidFest! Ridgeland and Trunk or Treat!

"Students interested in the Junior Diplomat Program must complete an application and submit it to the Chamber office," Bynum said. "Every application is carefully read and reviewed. We want students in the program who have every potential of becoming tomorrow's leaders."

Each applicant must write a 100-word essay detailing why he/she would be a good candidate for the program. "Every application must include three letters of recommendation, and one of those letters must be from a teacher, principal or high school counselor," Bynum added.

Other criteria include a list of all extracurricular activities, awards received and offices held. All applicants must also have at least a 3.0 grade average.

Junior Diplomat applications are available at the counselor's office of each participating school and the Chamber office located at 754 S. Pear Orchard Road.

"One of the greatest aspects about this program is that our Junior Diplomats have gotten to know others with the same interests and goals," Bynum said. "They have become better acquainted with their community and they are realizing the importance of giving back to the community."

"If we can instill one basic premise," she added, "it is the age-old adage, 'we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.'"

For more information on the Chamber's Junior Diplomat Program, call the Chamber office at 601-991-9996.



Junior Diplomats from left, Anna Howard, Michael Nguyen, Lauren Franklin and Cierra Bernard volunteer in the hat making booth during 2012 KidsFest! activities at Freedom Ridge Park.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Ridgeland Chamber Junior Diplomats volunteer at the Chamber's Bake Sale to raise money for Adam's Project, a special needs playground to be built at Freedom Ridge Park. The Bake Sale was held in conjunction with the Township's Fall Festival.



Junior Diplomat of the Year Linh Nguyen is honored at Class Awards Day with a \$1000 Scholarship. From left, Julie Cox, City of Ridgeland and Junior Diplomat co-advisor; Linh Nguyen and Russell Wilcox of Woodlands Realty Group. The scholarship was made possible by a generous donation from Woodlands Office Park and Cappy's Valero.



Junior Diplomat co-captains Greg Abadie, a senior at St. Joseph Catholic School, and Kristen Dupard, a senior at Ridgeland High School, lead in the Pledge of Allegiance at the Ridgeland Chamber's December Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at Colonial Heights Baptist Church.



Ridgeland Chamber Junior Diplomats volunteered their services at registration for the Natchez Trace Century Ride. Seated from left, Dylan Keveryn and Mari Mac Collins. Back, from left, Anne Tatum McPherson, Seth Blackwell, co-advisor Julie Cox and Davien Watkins.



C. Rochelle Culp, Project Director of the MS Tobacco-Free Coalition of Madison, Yazoo and Holmes Counties, left, joins Junior Diplomats Anna Howard and Linh Nguyen as they witness Ridgeland Mayor Gene McGee sign a proclamation designating Nov. 7, 2011 "Smoke-Free Day in Ridgeland."



Ridgeland Chamber Junior Diplomat Emily Wasson of Ridgeland High School puts her artistic talents to work in the face painting booth at Trunk or Treat, the city's Halloween festival at Freedom Ridge Park.



Junior Diplomats volunteered for the TOP Soccer Jamboree held at Freedom Ridge Park. Front row, from left, Taylor Huddleston; Hanna Harris; Emily Wasson and Ann Louise Seabrook. Back row, from left, Philip Rafferty; Justin McCray; Dylan Keveryn; Davien Watkins; Seth Blackwell and Michael Nguyen.



Kristen Dupard, center, is presented a \$500 Spirit of Junior Diplomat Award made possible by Entergy Mississippi. From left, Junior Diplomat co-advisor Julie Cox, City of Ridgeland; Kristen Dupard and Patricia Rucker, Entergy.



Ridgeland Chamber Junior Diplomats enjoy coffee and conversation following mid-term exams at FUSION Coffeehouse at The Township. From left, Co-advisor Jim Lowery, Pear Orchard Business Center; Lauren Franklin; Michael Nguyen; Ann Louise Seabrook; Seth Blackwell; Cierra Bernard; Davien Watkins; Kalah Walker; Taylor Huddleston; Shelby Barham; Kristen Dupard; Linh Nguyen and Co-advisor Julie Cox, City of Ridgeland.

Ridgeland Departments



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



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



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



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



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



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

City Meetings

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

Architectural Review Board

2nd & 4th Tuesday - 6 p.m.
Bill Dicken - Chairman
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, Drew Malone, 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
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Aldermen

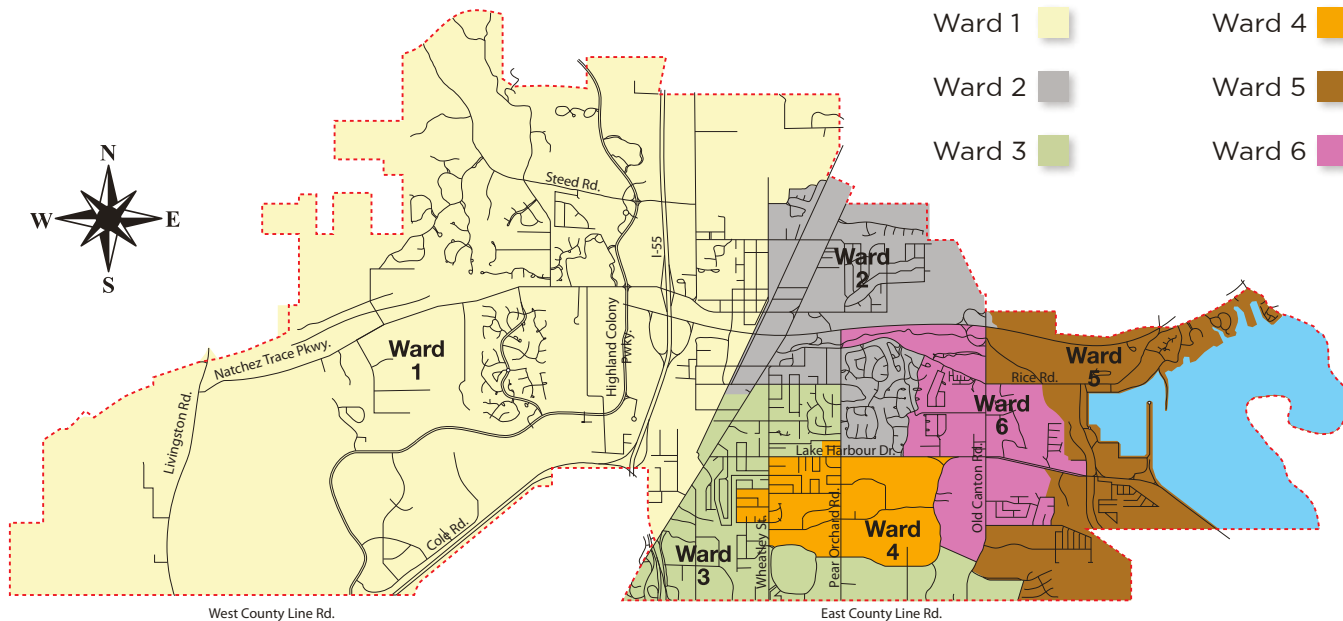
D.I. Smith, Alderman-at-Large 601-707-8845
Ken Heard, Ward 1 601-856-7727
Chuck Gautier, Ward 2 601-856-1291
Kevin Holder, Ward 3 601-856-1950
Brian Ramsey, Ward 4 601-506-1979
Scott Jones, Mayor Pro Tempore, Ward 5 . .601-856-6861
Wesley Hamlin, Ward 6 601-454-0353

City Directory

Mayor's Office601-856-7113
City Hall601-856-7113
Water Department601-856-3938
Public Works601-853-2027
Community Development601-856-3877
Fire Department601-856-7004
Police/Public Safety /Animal Control 601-856-2121
Community Police Officers601-502-6040
.601-940-9030
Anonymous Tip Line601-853-2006
Court Clerk601-853-2001
Library601-856-4536
Recreation & Parks601-853-2011
Tennis Center601-853-1115
Chamber of Commerce601-991-9996
Ridgeland Tourism Commission601-605-5252

Ridgeland Aldermen

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Alderman At-Large
601-707-8845



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
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