

December 2012 – February 2013

# RIDGELAND Life



Bianca Knight, Grand Marshal  
Christmas Decorating Contest  
RECRE8  
Rental Inspection Program  
Recyclebank

the **WINTER** issue





## *From the Mayor*

By the time you receive this magazine, the new recycling program will be in full swing. While much information has been provided about this new program, I felt it would be a good idea to go over some of the main points of the program and remind each of us how important this program is.

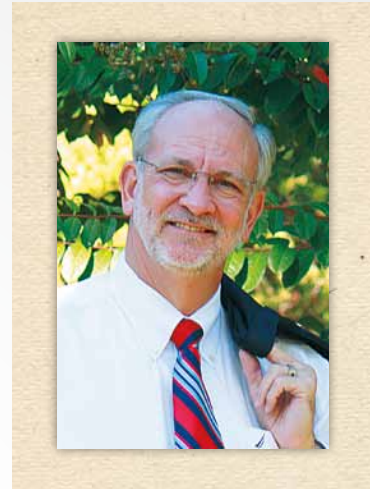
As you know, Ridgeland has had mandatory recycling for some time, and our percentage of participants has been very good compared to other cities. However, with the need to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill and to set an example for other cities, we felt it was important to go to an even more exciting and improved recycling plan. The new recycling containers have much more capacity and allow one to participate in the recycling program in a much easier manner. Also, the fact that each household will be able to build up points through the recycle bank and get discounts on many, many purchases will, we hope, give an incentive to increase participation in the recycling program.

There have also been some questions about the fact that the recycling company is not taking glass. Unfortunately, not being able to recycle glass has been an issue for a number of years, even before we started this new program, and we will continue to look to the recycling company to attempt to find markets so that glass can be recycled and not sent to the landfill. Our goal in the City of Ridgeland is to attempt to have as many products as possible to be recycled and to put a very small percentage of garbage into the landfill.

We have enjoyed very low tipping fees at the landfills in our area for a long time, but as the landfills fill up and the places to actually put garbage become more scarce, we will find that the cost of doing away with solid waste in landfills is going to get higher and higher. One can look to the northeastern United States and see the high prices that are being paid to carry garbage to the landfill, and this trend will come south to us as years go on. We enjoy relatively low rates to do away with our garbage at this time, and by working hard to recycle as many products as possible, we can plan for the future and not have to pay the outrageous rates that many cities across the country are paying. Plus, it is environmentally sound to reduce waste going to a landfill.

I hope that each of you will work hard to boost the amount of recycling that you do at your home. Recycling is good for the environment and will help us continue to grow as a green city.

As we reach this holiday season, my wishes for each of you is that you have a very blessed time and that the New Year brings you much prosperity and good health.



**Gene McGee**  
Mayor of Ridgeland

*Gene F. McGee*

# RIDGELAND Life

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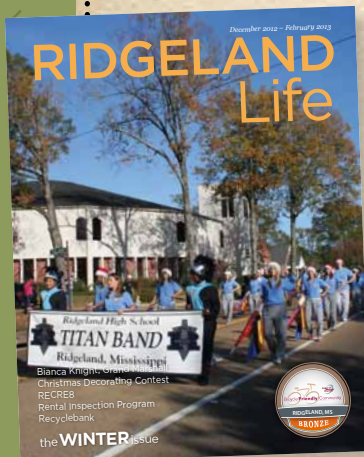
**ON THE COVER:** A highlight of the Ridgeland Christmas Parade will be the Ridgeland High School Marching Band, 2012 State Band Competition Bronze Medalist. The RHS Band is celebrating 10 years of All-Superior ratings. Don't miss our Grand Marshal, Bianca Knight, who is "home for the holidays."

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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](mailto:sandra.monohan@ridgelandms.org).





## *Christmas Parade features Bianca Knight as Grand Marshal*

“Home for the Holidays” is the theme for this year’s City of Ridgeland Christmas Parade, and what better way to celebrate than by welcoming Olympic gold medalist Bianca Knight home to Ridgeland when she serves as our 2012 grand marshal.

Bianca is a 2007 graduate of Ridgeland High School and saw her dream become a reality when she and teammates received the gold medal in the 4x100 meter relay at the 2012 London Olympics. Those “golden girls” also broke the 27-year-old world record with a time of 40.82 seconds.

So join us in Olde Towne Ridgeland on Saturday, December 1 at 2 p.m. for the City of Ridgeland Christmas Parade. The route will begin at the Holmes Community College campus in Ridgeland. The parade will begin eastbound on Ridgeland Avenue, turn southbound on Maple Street, then turn westbound on Jackson Street, then northbound on Sunnybrook Road and finish back at Holmes Community College. West Jackson Street will be closed from Sunnybrook Road to Maple Street during the parade.



*Save the Date:  
Saturday, December 1 at 2 p.m.  
in Olde Towne Ridgeland*





## Lights at Freedom Ridge Park

The public is invited to drive through Freedom Ridge Park and enjoy the City's special holiday light tour. Starting Saturday, December 1, the park will be lit every night until the first of January. It will be full of holiday lights, Christmas decorations and a huge Christmas tree with flashing lights that are synchronized to music. When motorists drive into the park, a sign will indicate the radio station that you can tune to and listen to the music. Add this light tour, provided by the City of Ridgeland, to your neighborhood touring this Christmas.

## Christmas Decorating Contest

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la... or in our case, yards and porches!

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will accept nominations for the Ridgeland Beautification Committee's Christmas Decorating Contest until December 7. Categories for this year are Door and Porch, Children's Choice, Business, Judge's Choice and Overall.

Judging will take place on Monday, December 10 (weather permitting). Please call the Recreation and Parks office at 601-853-2011 to make a nomination.



Judges Choice Winner 2011.



Children's Choice Winner 2011.



## Valentine Banquet headlines Comedian John Branyan

Join us on Monday, February 11, 2013, for a special Valentine's event for all area senior adults. Comedian John Branyan will headline the event.

Since November 1988 when John Branyan first took the stage as a comedian, he has been making people laugh from coast to coast. On stage, he's energetic and contagiously enthusiastic about numerous topics including: electronic cigarettes, Snuggies®, automatic flushing toilets and the proper age to stop chewing your shoe in church.

Born and raised in the heart of fly-over country, John is committed to "comedy that won't leave a filthy residue." There's nothing in his act that you wouldn't want to hear your children repeat. (In fact, if your children repeat anything he says, send him a video copy of it... He'd love to see it!)

"People didn't invent laughter. It was given to us by someone who knew we'd enjoy it. Every show, my goal is to hurt people. Seriously, I want people's jaws to ache. I want their sides to cramp up. I want them to experience dizziness from oxygen deprivation. When they are in pain, I've done my job."

And hundreds of audiences eagerly respond, "Bring on the pain..."

The Senior Adult Valentine's Banquet will be held at Highlands Presbyterian Church in Ridgeland on Monday, February 11, starting at 5 p.m. Tickets are only \$5 per person. To reserve your seat, please contact Lynda Assink at 601-856-6876 or 601-853-2011.



## Ridgeland Mobile Mapping App

The City of Ridgeland's Community Development Department's Planning and GIS Division has just released a mobile GIS mapping application. The mapping program is intended to be used by interested residents as well as city employees. The application can be installed on most smart phones or tablets (iPhone or Android) and can be linked to access the city's GIS database.

The phone/tablet application is provided by ESRI and can be downloaded through the iTunes store or Google Play. The app has the ability to not only view city data but edit it as well. A city department/job-specific map can be set up and used by city employees in the field. With the phone's internal GPS enabled, the user can track his or her location on the map while collecting information and updating the City's data.

This data is used by every department and, with this application, citizens can now view this data. It is expected that this application will improve productivity and efficiency, and the use of the application and project-specific maps will increase as more uses are developed.



## Newcomers Guide to Ridgeland Now Available

The City of Ridgeland has recently printed a *Newcomers Guide to Ridgeland* in a 6" x 11" card format. It is available to the public and distributed through City Hall. All new residents who set up a utility account through the Utility Billing office will receive one. To make it easy for newcomers to learn more about the city and its services, a scan code to the City of Ridgeland website, [www.ridgelandms.org](http://www.ridgelandms.org), is available on the guide.

The guide includes a city directory with an abbreviated list of services and functions for each department, making it convenient for you, ensuring that your call is made to the correct department. Additional city information is provided such as important Ridgeland laws to become familiar with as a newcomer, location and basic information about the city's recreational facilities and youth organizations, and how to get involved and be "in the know." Community information included on the card: auto tags, voter registration, electricity, natural gas, public schools, tax collector, chamber of commerce, library and visitors center.

The *Newcomers Guide to Ridgeland* is not just for newcomers! So, come on down to City Hall and pick up a copy to have on hand as a convenient, quick resource.

## 100% Rental Inspection Program



Did you know that the City of Ridgeland requires 100 percent of the rental properties in Ridgeland to pass inspection every time the unit is vacated by a tenant? The only exception is if the unit has been inspected within

the previous 12 months. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen adopted this provision for rental houses and apartments in April 2010 to improve assurance of public safety, health and welfare.

Ridgeland has a great relationship with Entergy to assist in the enforcement of this ordinance provision. Entergy requires a Release Permit from the Community Development Department in order to connect electricity to a residential structure in Ridgeland. When a customer makes application for electric service, Entergy normally advises every one of their new customers to contact the City of Ridgeland for the permit. The City's inspection manager is tasked with the function of taking the customer's information, verifying that a rental inspection is either required or not, and entering the information into Entergy's online program to clear the unit for electricity.

Considering the intent to ensure public health, safety and welfare, Ridgeland officials take this ordinance provision very seriously. If someone is found in violation of the required inspection process, they can be charged with a misdemeanor and will be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or 60 days in jail for each day they continue to be in violation. The ordinance also provides the ability for the water service to be disconnected or refused.

In addition to the rental inspection program, the Community Development Department continues to maintain strong support from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Code Enforcement Program, which focuses on rental and owner-occupied property. The City employs two full-time Code Enforcement Officers who manage citizen complaints about possible code violations, as well as canvass the City for violations. Officers have taken a much more aggressive stance this year for habitual violators who have found themselves addressing their issues in Municipal Court. The most common violations this year have been overgrown grass, parking in front yard, accumulation of items and exterior structure violations.

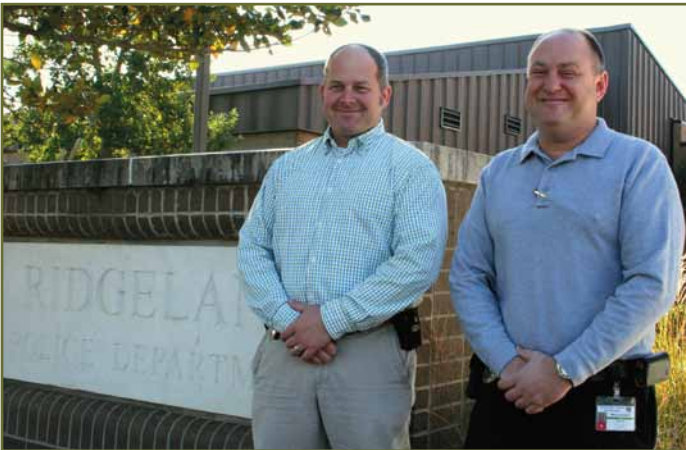
For more information about Inspection and Code requirements or to report a possible violation, please feel free to visit our website at [www.ridgelandms.org](http://www.ridgelandms.org) or contact the Community Development Department at 601-856-3877.



## Police Officers of the Month Announced



**Officer Ben Johnson** was selected as Officer of the Month for July 2012. He was nominated for an arrest in a larceny case. Due to Johnson's efforts, approximately \$1,200 in stolen goods from Kroger on County Line Road was recovered. As stated in the report by Detective Mark Penn, "Through Johnson's attention to detail during a traffic stop on I-55 near I-220, he observed numerous boxes of new items in plain view on the rear seat area of a stopped vehicle. Through Johnson's investigation, he determined that the occupants could not produce a receipt or any valid reason for possessing the items. Johnson was able to make a traffic arrest and continue his investigation which confirmed that the bulk of the items were stolen property."



L-R: Detective Adrian Ready and Detective Don Martin

John Neal, these burglaries occurred in multiple tenant office buildings where inner doors were kicked in and various office furnishings were stolen. In one burglary, a large amount of currency was also stolen. Throughout the investigation, Ready and Martin were able to locate and collect evidence and coordinate with the Madison PD that had also noted a similar pattern of business burglaries. A suspect vehicle description was developed leading to one of our alert patrolmen spotting the vehicle in a multiple-tenant building parking lot off County Line Road. The suspect was arrested for Possession of Burglary Tools. Over the following weeks, investigators executed numerous search warrants and were able to locate and recover items that were stolen from the businesses as well as seize the vehicle used by the suspect.

*"Your actions are commendable and indicative of a professional and motivated officer. I offer you my sincerest appreciation and congratulations as 'Officer of the Month.'"*

—CHIEF JIMMY HOUSTON

## Rice Road Trailhead project to be constructed over the winter

A new covered pavilion and restroom facility will be constructed at the trailhead of the Ridgeland multi-use trail near the Rice Road and Harbor Drive intersection. The facility will include an open-air pavilion with two restrooms, two picnic tables and one bike rack. Construction will begin in November and be completed in January.

The existing gravel parking lot will be closed during construction, and parking will not be allowed in the trailhead lot. The project is expected to be completed by January 2013. At that time, the lot will reopen and the trailhead facility will be available for use.

City officials are excited about this project and what it will mean to trail users as a community meeting place. The facility will offer an enjoyable place for picnics and fill a need for restrooms on the trail.

## Groundbreaking Held for Lake Harbour Drive Widening Project

The City of Ridgeland celebrated the start of construction of the Lake Harbour Drive Widening Project with a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, September 4. Officials, contractors and members of the public attended the history-making event. Construction began immediately by the City's contractor, Eutaw Construction Company, Inc. Engineering and design were completed by Waggoner Engineering, Inc.

Lake Harbour Drive is being widened to five lanes from Northpark Drive to Highway 51. The new roadway will be similar to the portion of Lake Harbour Drive located east of Northpark Drive. In the new design, the following elements are included: center turn lane, landscaping, multi-use trail, new traffic signals and new water lines.



Digging in for the first shovelful at the Lake Harbour Drive groundbreaking event held on September 4, 2012, (from left) Madison County Supervisor Gerald Steen, Congressman Gregg Harper, Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall, Mayor Gene McGee, Alderman-at-large D.I. Smith, Mayor Pro Tempore and Alderman Scott Jones, Alderman Wesley Hamlin, Alderman Brian Ramsey, Alderman Chuck Gautier and Alderman Kevin Holder.

*“Once complete, motorists will save time, money and fuel in their daily commutes.”*

*MIKE MCCOLLUM,  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS*



Project maps were available for viewing by the attendees of the groundbreaking event.



## Living Green in Your Home: Recycling

By Amanda Anderson



It's a great idea to reduce waste in your home and recycle instead of throwing away waste. It reduces the amount of waste that is dumped and can take years to decompose. By reducing your waste, you have less to keep up with. Through buying non-perishable items in bulk, you cut down on unnecessary packaging, and, therefore, have less to get rid of. Below are some tips to help you with your efforts to recycle and reduce waste in your home.

### Recycle

- Find a place that's convenient to collect recyclable items. The kitchen is a good option since most items come from there.
- Take your leftover plastic bags to the local grocery store, such as Kroger or Walmart, because they are collected to use for plastic lumber.
- In Ridgeland, we recycle everything but glass, Styrofoam™ and fabrics.
- Buy rechargeable batteries to save money in the long run. Recycle worn-out rechargeable batteries like those in power tools, cell phones and computers. Interstate Battery is a place in Ridgeland that recycles batteries and sells rechargeable batteries.
- Recycle junk mail or use it as scratch paper. You can opt out of certain mailing lists by going to [www.opt-out.cdt.org](http://www.opt-out.cdt.org).

### Reduce waste


- Buying non-perishable items in bulk allows you to cut down on unnecessary packaging.
- If there's a water cooler at work, use a glass instead of a plastic cup.
- Holding a yard sale or donating old items to a second-hand store are great ways to get rid of your old items that will be valuable to someone else.
- When needing paper copies, use both sides of the paper.
- By leaving the clippings after mowing your grass when it's dry, the lawn underneath will be broken down and fed.


In addition to recycling and reducing waste in your home, be sure to participate in the annual Household Hazardous Waste Day to rid your home of dangerous chemicals in a safe way. Details may be found on the City's website at <http://www.ridgelandms.org/city-departments/public-works/solid-waste-and-recycling/>. You may always contact the City of Ridgeland Public Works Department at 601-853-2027 with any questions about our curbside recycling collection program.

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**HOLIDAY EVENTS**

**Black Friday Midnight Opening**  
Friday, November 23 @ 12:00 am Goody Bags for the first 250 shoppers that register their email at Guest Services. 25 of those Goody Bags will be randomly stuffed with a certificate to redeem for a \$25 American Express Giftcard. Must be 18 and over to register.

**Pet Photos with Santa**  
Sunday, December 2  
Sunday, December 9  
Center Court – 4 pm to 6 pm

**Cookies & Milk with Santa & Kidgits**  
Saturday, December 8  
Center Court – 7 pm to 8 pm

**NORTH PARK MALL**  
1200E County Line Road, Ridgeland, MS SHOPPING LINE® 601.957.3744

simon.com   

## Groundbreaking Held for Adam's Project Universal Design Playground

The City of Ridgeland hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Adam's Project Universal Design Playground at Freedom Ridge Park. It was held on Wednesday, September 26 in Freedom Ridge Park, located at 235 West School Street in Ridgeland.

This universal design playground provides an area for play that allows accessibility and the opportunity for full participation for the physically challenged and disabled. Adam's Project, Inc. made the project possible through fundraising, awareness-building and the motivation to provide a playground for those with special needs. Various organizations, businesses and individuals have contributed to the project, which was inspired by Ridgeland resident Adam Malone who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

*"We are so thankful for the support we have seen from the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen on this project. With the construction of this playground, we hope to bring people of all abilities together to help end discrimination based upon a disability. Adam's Project looks forward to continue in our efforts to raise money for research in hopes of finding a cure for this horrible disease. I cannot praise Chris Chance and his staff enough for the support and leadership they have shown on making this park a reality. The entire community has come together to make this dream a reality."*

—DREW MALONE



Posing with shovels at the groundbreaking ceremony for Adam's Project Universal Design Playground are (from left) Alderman Kevin Holder, Alderman-at-large D.I. Smith, Alderman Brian Ramsey, Alderman and Mayor Pro Tempore Scott Jones, Alderman Chuck Gautier, Mayor Gene McGee, Alderman Wes Hamlin, Director of Recreation and Parks Chris Chance, Dylan Malone, Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce President Greg Starnes, Adam Malone, Angela Malone and Drew Malone.



A large crowd was gathered for this history-making event in the City of Ridgeland. Many supporters of the project were present.



The Malone family celebrated the groundbreaking of Adam's Project Universal Design Playground (from left) Dylan, Drew, Angela and Adam Malone.





## *FAQ about the New Recycling Program*

**What are we doing?** In October, Ridgeland residents received a new recycling cart. This 64-gallon rolling cart allows for all recyclables to be mixed together. The list of acceptable recyclables has not changed. For your convenience, acceptable items are listed on the cart. Some areas of the city now follow a new recycling collection schedule. Incentives to recycle are available to those who register through Recyclebank.

**Why are we doing this?** The City wanted to provide an incentive program to increase our tons of recycling. Currently, we produce 50 tons on average per month that does not go to the landfill. Our goal is to encourage more recycling and to be good stewards of our environment. The cart makes it easier to recycle more.

**What are the new containers?** Residents of single-family homes have received a 64-gallon cart with a lid, wheels and instructions on what to recycle. The larger cart allows you to recycle more and to easily roll your recyclables to the curb. You do not need to separate recyclables in the cart; they will be separated at the processing plant. If you have not already done so, you may place the old recycling bin at the curb on your recycling collection day for Waste Management to pick up.

### **What is the Recyclebank program?**

- How do I learn more and register? For general information and to register your account, go to [www.Recyclebank.com/wm](http://www.Recyclebank.com/wm). Each customer should have received a letter containing a unique PIN (personal identification number) informing you of the best way to register online. Please sign up so that you can begin accumulating credits right away.
- How do the points work? All accounts will receive 300 points after registration, then 2.5 points per pound of recyclables. The

way it works is all of the recyclables for the City are weighed, and points are evenly distributed to all account holders that recycle each month. A radio frequency identification chip is embedded into each recycling cart that records each time the cart is emptied into the recycling truck. This information is sent to Recyclebank for processing each account.

- What are my points worth? The value nationwide is \$164 per year per account holder who consistently recycles. This value is in the form of discounts at local and nationwide vendors (over 200) including McDonald's and Dick's Sporting Goods to name a few. Most are in the form of printable or downloadable coupons for direct savings or percentage off a purchase. All points are cumulative and are banked in your account until they are redeemed.
- How do I redeem rewards? Log on to your account through Recyclebank's website and browse rewards available in our area. Then print or download coupons to save money on items you purchase.
- What if I do not have a computer? You may open your account over the phone at 888-727-2978. Select option "1."

**What if I do not want to participate?** You may contact Public Works at 601-853-2027 to request that Waste Management pick up your cart, if you have not already done so. The recycling fee is mandatory, and the monthly fee is charged to all single-family residents. If at any time you change your mind and want to recycle, contact Public Works, and Waste Management will deliver your cart.

**Will there be a cost increase?** We have determined that there will be a slight cost increase. While you are paying \$3.01 now, it may go up to \$4.10, but we are not certain about the exact change at this time. We should know by January or February what the exact increase will be.

**TITLE VI POLICY STATEMENT** The City of Ridgeland, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, ensures that no persons in the City of Ridgeland shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, 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](mailto:paula.tierce@ridgelandms.org)

## 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 p.m.

### Wolcott Park

**349 McClellan Drive** - Wolcott Park, a 40-acre athletic facility, is located on McClellan Drive, off Highway 51. It features seven lighted baseball/softball fields, a playground, 14 batting cages, two 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.smcsso.com)

Special Events  
601-853-2011

Programs  
601-853-2011

Superstar Seniors  
601-856-6876

MRYC  
[www.mryouthclub.com](http://www.mryouthclub.com)



## SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events Coordinator, Wendy Bourdin  
Phone: 601.853.2011 • E-mail: wendy.bourdin@ridgelandms.org

### Ridgeland Christmas Parade



The Ridgeland Beautification Committee would like to invite all residents, businesses and civic organizations to participate in the Ridgeland Christmas Parade. There is no cost to enter the parade, and it is a great way to show your holiday spirit as we kick off the Christmas season.

The theme this year is "Home for the Holidays."

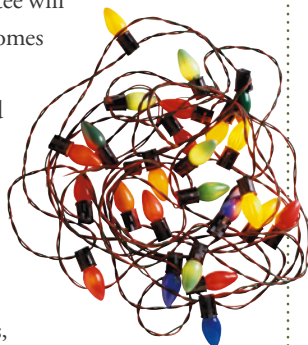
The parade begins and ends at the Holmes Community College campus on Ridgeland Avenue. The parade travels through the historic Olde Towne subdivision and then to Jackson Street before turning onto Sunnybrook Road and finishing back at Holmes Community College.

**Start Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Event Date:** Saturday, December 1  
**Location:** Olde Towne Subdivision

### Christmas Decorating Contest

The Ridgeland Beautification Committee will be awarding prizes to the best-decorated homes and businesses this Christmas season. The committee will judge businesses and award the top two winners. Residences will be judged in the following categories: Overall, Door and Porch, Judges' Choice and Children's Choice.

To ensure the Ridgeland Beautification Committee looks at your home or business, call 601.853.2011. The judge date will be Monday, December 10.



## PROGRAMS

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 six-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.

Two sessions will be offered in the spring. Registration will be held for Session #1 from February 1 to 28. Classes for Session #1 will begin on Tuesday, March 5. Registration will be held for Session #2 from March 18 to April 22. Classes for Session #2 will begin on Tuesday, April 30. Puppies must be three to six months old. Dogs for the beginner class must be at least six 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.

Contact Wendy Bourdin with any questions about this program or to register. E-mail Wendy.Bourdin@ridgelandms.org or call 601.853.2011.

**Program Price:** \$75  
**Program Area:** Adult  
**Registration:** Session #1 February 1-28  
Session #2 March 18-April 22  
**Start Date:** Session #1 March 5  
Session #2 April 30  
**Start Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Day of Week:** Tuesday  
**Location:** Ridgeland Recreational Center



## ATHLETICS

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

### Youth Baseball and Softball

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department and the Madison Ridgeland Youth Club will be holding baseball and softball registration for the upcoming spring. The program is designed for boys and girls ages four to 18. Girls must be four years old by January 1, 2013, and boys must be four by May 1, 2013. This league is designed for all levels of participation and ability. With your registration fee, the participant will receive a hat, jersey and socks. You are also able to register online. For more information, visit [www.mryouthclub.com](http://www.mryouthclub.com).



### Challenger League Softball

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department will be offering Challenger League softball for the physically and mentally challenged. This league offers participants a chance to be

a professional softball player for a season. The program also relies on buddies to assist the players. If you would like to be a part of the program, please contact Mandy Rodgers at 601.856.3623.

*Program Price:* None

### SMCSO Registration

The South Madison County Soccer Organization will be holding spring soccer registration in December. This season runs from February through April. For more information, please call SMCSO at 601.898.1996 or visit [www.smcsoc.com](http://www.smcsoc.com).



### Start Smart Basketball



Start Smart Basketball is a developmentally appropriate introductory program for children ages three to five years old that prepares them for organized basketball in a fun, non-threatening environment. Start Smart Basketball will meet for six one-hour sessions. Parent participation is required. Each child will receive a koosh ball, mondo koosh ball, a Start Smart participant manual and a t-shirt.

A minimum of 12 participants is required in order for the class to make. A maximum of 20 participants will be allowed. Child must have been three by January 1, 2013.

- Program Price:* \$70
- Registration:* January 7-18
- Program Month:* February
- Start Time:* 6 p.m.
- Days of Week:* Monday and Thursday
- Location:* Ann Smith Elementary

## SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Senior Adult Coordinator, Lynda McMahan Assink  
Phone: 601.856.6876 • Email: [lynmac53@yahoo.com](mailto:lynmac53@yahoo.com)

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

### Senior Adult Valentine's Banquet

Join us on Monday, February 11, 2013, for a special Valentine's event for all area senior adults. Since November of 1988 when John Branyan first took the stage as a comedian, he has been making people laugh from coast to coast. On stage, he's energetic and contagiously enthusiastic about numerous topics including: electronic cigarettes, Snuggies, automatic flushing toilets and the proper age

to stop chewing your shoe in church.

Born and raised in the heart of fly-over country, John is committed to "comedy that won't leave a filthy residue." There's nothing in his act that you wouldn't want to hear your children repeat. (In fact, if your children repeat anything he says, send him a video copy of it... He'd love to see it!)

"People didn't invent laughter. It was given to us by someone who knew we'd enjoy it. My goal is to hurt people in every show. Seriously, I want people's jaws to ache. I want their sides to cramp up. I want them to experience dizziness from oxygen deprivation. When they are in pain, I've done my job."

And hundreds of audiences eagerly respond, "Bring on the pain...."

- Program Price:* \$5 per person
- Event Date:* Monday, February 11
- Time:* 5 p.m.
- Location:* Highlands Presbyterian Church  
1160 Highland Colony Parkway  
Ridgeland, MS 39157



## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

All monthly programs will be held at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, 137 Old Trace Park, unless otherwise indicated below.

### Ridgeland 50s-Plus Christmas Party

Come and join us on the first Thursday of each month at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Everyone should bring a large serving of salad or vegetables and enjoy good food, fellowship and fun! The Diamond Dolls will be entertaining us with a variety of beautiful Christmas songs.

Call Lynda to make your reservations at 601.856.6876.

- Program Price:* No Charge
- Event Date:* Thursday, December 6
- Start Time:* 11:30 a.m.
- Location:* Ridgeland Recreational Center

### Ridgeland City Garden Club

The Ridgeland City Garden Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Enjoy lunch, informative/exciting programs and sharing the love of gardening with many friends. Call Nanette Sullivan at 601.856.6784 for more information. Our speakers for the months of December-February are:

December 4, 2012 – Christmas Luncheon at the home of (TBA) (Members only)





January 15, 2013 – Speaker: Karen Robinson (with MadCAAP) will give a presentation about the community garden in Canton and Ridgeland. This meeting will be held at the Ridgeland Recreational Center.

February 5, 2013 – Bonsai Creations, Speaker: Dr. Craig Escude, founder of the Jackson Area Bonsai Society. This meeting will be held at the Ridgeland Recreational Center.

- Program Price:** \$20/for the year to join the Ridgeland Garden Club
- Event Dates:** December 4, 2012; January 15, 2013; February 5, 2013
- Location:** Ridgeland Recreational Center



### Bridge

Bridge games are held the fourth Thursday of each month at the Ridgeland Recreational Center overlooking the Reservoir. It provides a beautiful setting for an afternoon game. The player with the highest score for the month receives a prize. Reservations are required four days in advance.

Please call Lynda at 601.856.6876 or 601.853.2011 to reserve your chair. Please

arrive at 12:45 p.m. to receive your nametag. Game starts promptly at 1 p.m.

- Program Price:** No Charge
- Event Dates:** January 24 and February 28
- Start Time:** 1-4 p.m.
- Day of Week:** Thursday
- Location:** Ridgeland Recreational Center

### Thread, Yarn, Crochet & Coffee Group

Bring your own needles, yarn, thread and handmade project to the Ridgeland Recreational Center on the second and fourth Mondays. 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. For more information, call Lynda at 601.856.6876.



- Program Price:** No Charge
- Event Dates:** December 10, 2012; January 14 and 28; February 25
- Time:** 1:30-3 p.m.
- Day of Week:** Monday

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS



### Agape Men’s Coffee Group

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

- Event Date:** Ongoing
- Start Time:** 9:30 a.m.
- Day of Week:** Wednesday
- Location:** Ridgeland Recreational Center

### Country Line Dancing

Learn the dance steps that are popular everywhere! In this class, you’ll discover a variety of line dances. It’s great fun, good exercise and you don’t need a partner. Classes will be held at the Ridgeland Recreational Center located at Old Trace Park. Darlene Epple is the instructor for the class. Call Lynda at 601.856.6876 for more information.

- Program Price:** \$10/weekly
- Start Date:** Ongoing
- Start Time:** Beginners Class 6-7 p.m.  
Advanced Class 7-8:30 p.m.
- Day of Week:** Monday
- Location:** Ridgeland Recreational Center



### Men’s Bible Study

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

- Event Date:** Ongoing
- Start Time:** 9-10:30 a.m.
- Day of Week:** Tuesday
- Location:** Ridgeland Recreational Center

### Painting Pals

Is it hard for you to paint and/or draw at home? Bring your own supplies and enjoy painting at our Ridgeland Recreational Center, located at Old Trace Park, overlooking the Reservoir. It’s an ideal setting to paint or draw! Call Lynda at 601.856.6876 and let her know you are coming.

- Program Price:** No charge
- Start Date:** Ongoing
- Start Time:** 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Day of Week:** Tuesday
- Location:** Ridgeland Recreational Center

## 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, and protecting and framing your pastel painting. This class is open to all levels from beginners to advanced. Your instructor is Cecilia Baker. The instructor will provide the following: table easels, pastel paper and backboards (can be purchased at each session), drawing equipment and tape available at all times. Feel free to bring your own equipment.

Register now by calling Cecilia Baker at 601.856.1802 or email [b1108@live.com](mailto:b1108@live.com).

**Program Price:** \$65/month  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m.-noon  
**Day of Week:** Friday

## Tai-Chi Fusion On The Reservoir

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department is offering a Tai-Chi Fusion on the Reservoir every Wednesday at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Tai-Chi has become an increasingly popular form of physical exercise around the world as a basic exercise program and as a complement to health care methods. A few of the benefits are: increased flexibility and reduced risk of injury, focused breathing and concentration, improvement of 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.

**Program Price:** \$5/class  
**Time:** 11-11:30 a.m.  
**Day of Week:** Wednesday

## Yoga For Flexibility, Fitness and Fun

Join us every Monday and Friday for yoga. Lisa Newman is the instructor, and she will guide you through gentle stretching exercises for your whole body. Tight muscles can cause discomfort and even contribute to injuries. Taking this class will also help with stress reduction and aid in relaxation. Join this class today! Always consult with your physician before beginning any exercise program. For more information, call Lynda at 601.856.6876.

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

## Zumba

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is offering a Zumba fitness class every Thursday, at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Zumba is a Latin-inspired dance-fitness program that blends Latin music with contagious, easy-to-follow dance steps. The Zumba program borrows

from the following dance styles: cumbia, salsa, merengue, mambo, flamenco, cha-cha-cha, reggaeton, Samba, belly dancing, bhangra, hip hop and tango. Your instructor is Renata Gil. Renata is from Brazil and has her roots in Brazilian/ Latino music. She is a certified instructor in Zumba. To register, please call Lynda at 601.856.6876.

**Program Price:** \$5 per participant/per class  
**Start Date:** Ongoing  
**Times:** 1-1:45 p.m.  
**Day of Week:** Thursday



## TENNIS

Ridgeland Tennis Center, 201-A McClellan Drive  
 Phone: 601.853.1115

Directors: Cheryl Harris and Susan Toler  
*The largest public tennis facility in Mississippi.*

## Junior Tournaments

**January 18 – 20** Bull Frog USTA Southern Section Designated

## Adult Tournaments

**November 30 – December 2** RTC NTRP State Champs  
**February 15-17** Sutherland Electric Inc./  
 RTC 20th Anniversary NTRP Classic

## RTC Fall Junior Program

**Ages 10-18**

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:30-6 p.m.

Cost: \$120 per 4-week session

Drop-in rate: \$20 per day.

Instructors: Robbie Creveling and Macy Price

**Ages 9 and under**

Call 601.853.1115 for information

Private, semi-private, and group lessons available

Instructor: Cheryl Harris

**Additional**

Lessons available for all ages and ability levels

Please call RTC at 601.853.1115 for more information concerning programs and activities offered at the largest public facility in the state.



## Positive Community Spirit: School and City

Positive community spirit infuses a welcoming and joyful atmosphere into our schoolwide events including Walk to School Day, Family Reading Night, Homecoming Events and our Back to School Picnic. We always have city officials and, at times, state officials and Olympic champions join our festivities.



Hundreds of students, parents, mascot Titus, and local and state officials celebrated Walk to School Day together. Titan Bianca Knight (foreground), Olympic gold medalist and world-record holder in the women's 4x100-meter relay, leads the way.

## ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

Grades K-2 • 306 S. Pear Orchard Road  
601.856.6621 • [www.madison-schools.com/ase](http://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.



## Titans Tone Up for Titan Trot 5K



Ann Smith and Highland Elementary students are excited to start the Titan Tone Up, a six-week fitness program culminating in the community road race Titan Trot 5K and one-mile fun run on March 2.

Children who meet the weekly goal will receive a small prize. Those who meet the goal for all six weeks will be eligible for other rewards and recognition.

When it comes to childhood obesity, Ridgeland elementary schools are doing their part to knock Mississippi down from its number-one ranking. The Parent Teacher Organizations of Ann Smith and Highland Elementary are teaming up to plan the Titan Trot 5K and one-mile fun run. The race will start at Ann Smith on Saturday, March 2.

Of course, it's going to take more than just a 3.1-mile run to battle the obesity epidemic. That's why in mid-January, both Ann Smith and Highland are launching the Titan Tone Up, a six-week program that will encourage students to get the recommended amount of physical activity each week, and help them to develop a lifelong habit of regular exercise. During the program, the children will be asked to keep a log of their physical activity outside of school hours. Examples include walking the dog, going to soccer practice, playing at the park—any activity that will increase their core temperature and their heart rate.



Students in Paige Hawkins' class enjoy personalized attention in the guided reading program.

## Ann Smith: Model School for Literacy

### *Data-Driven Developmental Reading Assessments*

Several times a year, Ann Smith Elementary (ASE) teachers conduct a one-on-one reading assessment with each student at ASE. This Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA2) provides teachers with a method for assessing and documenting students' development as readers over time. Its purpose is to identify students' independent reading level in terms of accuracy, fluency and comprehension. Once students' reading levels are determined, our teachers use the data collected from the assessment to group students according to their strengths and weaknesses. Our teachers then plan daily small-group guided reading lessons for each student at ASE. Daily small-group guided reading based off the DRA2 results is just one of the many instructional techniques teachers at ASE use to build each student's independent reading skills.

## Highly Qualified Staff

Our teachers and staff at Ann Smith are well educated! Twenty members of the ASE faculty have a master's degree or higher. Six faculty members are National Board Certified teachers. We are proud of our highly qualified faculty at Ann Smith.

## Fostering Future Scientists

### Focus on Second Grade

Second-graders enjoy an in-depth and comprehensive science curriculum at Ann Smith Elementary. Science is integrated into many subjects, including poetry and art, ensuring kids learn about it in many ways. Arachnids, autumn fruits and human physiology including the digestive system and the skeleton are some of the topics they have explored. Importantly, teachers note that students are fascinated and eagerly absorb complex topics.



Mrs. Pierce's creative science projects showcase what students learned in their physiology unit/human body unit.

## Open House

On Friday, January 25, ASE will host an open house designed to give parents more information about the school. Whether you have a soon-to-be kindergartner, have recently moved to Ridgeland or are considering public school, this open house will give you the opportunity to talk to ASE faculty and staff, tour the school, meet other ASE parents and ask questions. The time of the open house will be set soon, so be sure to check our website, [www.madison-schools.com/ASE](http://www.madison-schools.com/ASE), closer to the date to find out more details.

[www.bcbsms.com](http://www.bcbsms.com)

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## HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

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



## HES Clubs Excite and Motivate Students

Our teachers and staff are sponsoring new and exciting clubs for our students this year to help form relationships, encourage group participation, and develop students' skills and interests in certain areas. These clubs, which take place in six-week sessions, are offered weekly starting at 6:30 a.m. and are quite popular among students. The first session included a Science Club; Highland's Hands, a community outreach program; Creative Writing; a Newcomers' Club, where members created welcome packets for new students; Boomwhackers Club, which taught students to play lightweight tuned percussion tubes; and a Speed Stacking Club. More clubs are being planned and will rotate throughout the year. We'd like to express our appreciation to the teachers and staff members who are offering these clubs to our students outside the normal class schedule.

## HES to Hold Science Fun Day

On December 14, HES will offer Science Fun Day to fifth-graders for the second straight year. Led by Dr. John Hunt, associate professor of teacher education at Mississippi College, Science Fun Day will include hands-on, interactive science activities designed to excite and inspire students.

Dr. Hunt created this program using a model that incorporates volunteers to help teach various science principles through simple projects. These activities are standards-based and correlate to Mississippi State Science Framework and National Science Standards.

Groups of four and five students will line up at one of more than 30 science stations and participate in a brief demonstration of a simple science project.

The overall goals of the program are to motivate students to want to learn more and to provide teachers examples of ways to explore science concepts. "Science Fun Day was definitely one of the most fun things we have ever done," said fourth-grader Kimberly Blount, who participated in Science Fun Day last year. "It taught science in a fun way that was easy to understand."

## Third-grade Flat Titan Project

To learn more about the Ridgeland community, third-graders were assigned a Flat Titan project, based on the "Flat Stanley" book series. As part of the assignment, they were required to decorate a cutout of Flat Titan; take their Flat Titan to various offices, buildings or facilities throughout the community; and have their photos taken. Pictured at City Hall are (from left, front) Anastasia René, Kirsten Clements, Maggie Sims, Daniel Lynn, Ridge Mathews and Mikayla Bermond; (back) Mayor Gene McGee.



## Third-Grade Teacher Wins Nissan/BankPlus Grant

Third-grade teacher Lori Flood applied for and won a \$650 Nissan/BankPlus grant. With the money she received, she purchased an incubator and nonfiction books to go along with a unit her class is doing throughout the year called "The World Around Us." This unit involves an egg hatching project to spark her students' interests in science and reading, and it ties in closely to Common Core State Standards, which HES has begun implementing this year. Pictured are (from left, front) Jordan Mosley, Natalie Bretheim, Reagan Lunsford, Jack Culver; (back) Dallas Walton, Flood and Alexis Smith.





## Highland Hike: Exercise Safety, Exercise Safely

HES families, city and community leaders, school officials, and special guests participated in Highland Hike: Exercise Safety, Exercise Safely – our first-ever Walk to School Day – on Wednesday, October 10. Participants met at Christ Life Church of the Highlands and paraded a half-mile to the school, where a

reception was held. Students got to hear from guest speakers including Mayor Gene McGee, who signed a proclamation recognizing October as Walk to School Month for the City of Ridgeland; Madison County board member and registered dietitian Janet Shearer; and Mike Raffield of the Ridgeland Police Department. It was a wonderful day to get out and walk as a community!

## Business Partners

We're actively searching for businesses in the community willing to partner with our school to help provide financial support or in-kind donations. If you are a business owner or if you work for, or have a connection with, a company that would like to be a business partner, please contact Tammra Cascio, PTO co-president, at [tammra@gulfguaranty.com](mailto:tammra@gulfguaranty.com). We will recognize our business partners or in-kind donors in our newsletter, on our PTO Facebook page and through other publicity. We also ask that our parents, teachers and staff members support these businesses that are, in turn, supporting our school. Current business partners include BankPlus and Strawberry Café.

## Brenda Hill Attends Mickelson ExxonMobil Teacher Academy

This summer, fourth-grade teacher Brenda Hill attended the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teacher Academy, an all-expense-paid professional development program designed to help teachers develop innovative math and science teaching skills.

At the weeklong event, held in Jersey City, New Jersey, teachers were taught how to engage kids, especially third-, fourth- and fifth-graders, in science and math. The Mickelson family established the academy with the hope that students will become enchanted with science and math and will want to continue their education in these fields.

After attending the academy in July, Hill came back with such enthusiasm and excitement. "I received a mountain of books and supplies to use in the classroom," said Hill. "In addition, the activities I experienced help me make science and math an integral part of my classroom."

Additionally, Hill received a full membership to the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). She is also now eligible to participate in "The Learning Site," a web-based curriculum devoted to content and classroom

pedagogy, professional development web seminars conducted by leaders in science education, and E-mentoring from experts in her science discipline and grade level.

"A highlight of the week was a visit by Phil and Amy Mickelson who addressed the group and posed for a picture with us," said Hill. At the academy, Hill was able to shake Phil Mickelson's hand and thank him for the scholarship. "He looked at me and thanked me for what I do every day. It was awesome!"

At a recent teacher development day, Hill and fifth-grade teacher Savannah Perry, also an attendee of the academy, taught colleagues at Highland how to navigate through "The Learning Site" to build their own content libraries using thousands of free resources.

In addition, Hill sponsored a six-week club in October and November for young scientists, teaching them many of the same experiments she learned from the academy.

"Brenda Hill is such a great resource for us," said Principal Marilyn Naron. "We will continue to receive many benefits from her training."



Brenda Hill and fourth-grader Branson Tadlock are pictured preparing for a science experiment that illustrates Newton's Laws of Motion.

## Music Teacher, Mrs. Helen Bowen, Retires

Longtime music teacher, Mrs. Helen Bowen, retired at the beginning of the school year. "Everyone at Highland Elementary will miss Mrs. Bowen for many reasons, including her cheerful greetings in the car-rider line, her wonderful music programs and her dedication to our school," said HES principal, Marilyn Naron. Bowen transferred from Jackson Public Schools in 1995 and worked at Highland until her retirement. We wish her happiness and good health!



# OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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



## New Teachers

Olde Towne Middle School is very excited to announce our 12 new teachers who joined us this fall. Pictured are (from left, front) Angela Autrey, Akilah Potee, Alex Horrobin, Lisa Joyner, Courtney McMullan; (back) Ana Davenport, Eric Lantrip, Tammy King, Rebecca May, Ashley McQuirk, Michelle Denson and Shelia McGraw.



## OTMS Student Council

Olde Towne Middle School recently held elections for their student council officers. The student body chose the following students to represent them for the 2012-2013 school year:

- President:** Cameron Cleveland
- Vice President:** Khyreus Prophet-Leahman
- Secretary:** Victoria Green
- Treasurer:** Brayla Lawson

## *Eighth-grade Football*



Pictured are members of the eighth-grade football team. Photo by Bruckner's Photography.

Congratulations to the eighth-grade football team for being named the Central Mississippi Conference Champions. The team completed two full seasons undefeated. We're proud of these players and look forward to watching them carry on the tradition next year at the high school. A huge thank-you goes out to the OTMS football coaching staff: Eric Lantrip, Chris Dennis, Michael Howell and head coach Marchenne Hatchett.

## Students of the Quarter



OTMS is proud to announce the Students of the Quarter for the first nine weeks (from left) Julian E., Victoria G., Precious M., Shaun S., Callie P. and Ahmed M.

## OTMS Band Happenings

The OTMS bands have a busy season ahead of them. After having recently performed in the annual Christmas concert at RHS, the bands will now be participating in the Ridgeland Christmas parade on Saturday, December 1.

During the spring semester, the eighth-grade band will participate in the Central Mississippi Band Festival, where they have accumulated 16 years of All-Superior ratings so far. It will be in March, but no specific date has been set yet. The festival will be hosted by Ridgeland and held in the Ridgeland High School Auditorium.

Olde Middle School Bands' Spring Concert will be held in the RHS Auditorium on April 25 at 7 p.m. and will feature the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade bands.

We hope you'll mark your calendars now and come out to enjoy watching these talented students perform.

## Olde Towne 2012-2013 Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME	GRADES
Dec. 4	St. Andrew's	Away	4:30 p.m.	7th & 8th separate
Dec. 6	Yazoo County	Away	5:30 p.m.	7th & 8th combined
Jan. 5	MMS - All girls	@RHS	12:15 p.m.	
Jan. 10	St. Joe	Away		
Jan. 14	Northeast Madison	Home	5 p.m.	7th & 8th combined
Jan. 17	Forest	Home		
Jan. 22	Northwest Rankin	Away	4 p.m.	7th & 8th separate
Jan. 24	St. Joe	Home	5:30 p.m.	7th & 8th combined
Jan. 28, 29, 31	Titan Shootout	RHS		

## OTMS Titan Baseball Schedule 2013

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
February 28	Yazoo City	Home	4 p.m. DH
March 4	Rankin	Away	5 p.m. DH
March 7	Yazoo City	Home	4 p.m. DH
March 21	Brandon	Away	4 p.m. DH
March 25	St. Andrew's	Home	4 p.m. DH
April 1	Yazoo City	Away	4 p.m. DH
April 4	St. Andrew's	Away	4 p.m. DH
April 11	Northwest Rankin	Home	5 p.m. DH

## Used Book Sale to be held February 1

OTMS PTO is happy to announce our Inaugural Used Book Sale. We've already begun accepting donations and will continue to do so through February 1. We will accept all types of books, but request no encyclopedias, no magazines, no DVDs and no VHS tapes. For a small entrance fee, anyone may shop early at our pre-sale on Thursday, February 21. The sale will then be open to the general public on Saturday, February 23 and again on Saturday, March 2. For information on shopping times and purchasing pre-sale tickets, please contact the school in January at 601-898-8730.



# RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

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



## 2012 Marching Band

The 2012 Ridgeland High School Marching Band has been working hard since the beginning of the summer on this year's award-winning show titled "Hero." They began their competition season on October 6 at the Clinton Arrow Invitational Competition, where they received All-Superior Ratings and took fifth place overall among some of the finest marching bands throughout the state. On October 13, they once again received All-Superior Ratings at the Mississippi State Marching Evaluations in Pearl. Later that same evening, they competed in the Pearl Invitational Competition, where they won first place in music, second place in general effect and color guard, and third place in visual and overall.

## 2012-2013 Varsity Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TEAM	LOCATION	TIME
Dec 1	Madison County Tournament	Varsity	Velma Jackson	TBA
Dec 4	Callaway	JVB/Varsity	Away	5 p.m.
Dec 7	Lanier	Varsity	Home	6 p.m.
Dec 11	Philadelphia	JVB/Varsity	Home	5 p.m.
Dec 15	Kosciusko	JVG/Varsity	Away	5 p.m.
Dec 17	Neshoba Central	JVB/Varsity	Away	5 p.m.
Dec 21	Titan Shootout	Varsity	Home	1 p.m.
Dec 22	Titan Shootout	Varsity	Home	9 a.m.
Jan 3	J.Z. George	JVG/JVB/Varsity	Home	4 p.m.
Jan 4	Provine	JVB/Varsity	Home	5 p.m.
Jan 5	Madison Central	Girls Only	Home	TBA
Jan 8	Canton	JVB/Varsity	Home	5 p.m.
Jan 12	Philadelphia (Shootout)	Varsity	Away	TBA
Jan 15	Yazoo Co.	JVG/JVB/Varsity	Away	4 p.m.
Jan 18	Callaway	JVB/Varsity	Home	5 p.m.
Jan 19	Warren Central	JV Tournament	Away	TBA
Jan 22	Lanier	Varsity	Away	6 p.m.
Jan 25	Warren Central	JVG/B/Varsity	Away	4 p.m.
Jan 29	Provine	JVB/Varsity	Away	5 p.m.
Feb 5	Kosciusko	JVB/Varsity	Home	5 p.m.
Feb 8	Germantown	JVG/JVB/Varsity	Away	4 p.m.
Feb 12	Division Tournament	Varsity	Away	TBA
Feb 15	Division Tournament	Varsity	Away	TBA



Ridgeland High School senior Olivia Travis was named National Achievement Semifinalist.



Bianca Knight, RHS track standout and U.S. Olympic gold medalist, visited the Ridgeland High School *TITAN TALK* newspaper staff during September. Audrey Hall, staff reporter, interviewed Knight for an upcoming *TITAN TALK* feature. Knight posed with the staff after the interview. Pictured are (from left, front) Heather Van Horn, editor Jamie Logan, Kristen Simmons and Irina Tran; (back) reporter Audrey Hall, Holli Gill, Krissy Carter, Bianca Knight, Ana Torres and Devin Lott.



Ridgeland High School math teacher and head boys' and girls' soccer coach Jonathan Branch received the Watson Quality Ford Teacher of the Week for October 1-5. Pictured with Branch is assistant principal Tim Dowdy, along with Watson Quality Ford representatives. Branch was also featured on WAPT news.

## SCHOOLS IN RIDGELAND



Ridgeland High School hosted the 11th-annual homecoming festivities the week of September 24-29. Pictured is the 2012-2013 homecoming court (front row, from left) freshmen maids Aundria Price, Ferlandria Carter, Josie Williams, Destiny Course and Jori Warren; sophomore maids Katie McMurtry and Alex Medellin. (Middle) sophomore maids Bridget Landfair and Zyra Warfield; junior maid Kaneshia Banks; senior maids Montia Pace, Rhae'Ven Ellis, Tyrea Bully, Shanda Sanders, Hanna Harris, Kalah Walker and Jaclyn Bush; junior maids Hope Gilbert, Gabie Arceo and Brittany Weathersby. (Standing) freshmen beaus Clay Weatherspoon, John Parker Elkins and Alan Merkle; sophomore beau Peyton Joe; junior beau Montez Thomas; senior beaus Alex Allen, Josh Newell, Chris English, Jed Day, Justin McCray, Sam Richard and Taylor Roden; junior beaus Jackson Twitty and Gabe Jones; sophomore beaus Keshawn Williams and Amari Moyo; freshmen beaus Geron Allen and Trey Thompson.

## 2012-13 Ridgeland Titan Soccer Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Dec 1	Brooke Welch Tournament	Freedom Ridge	TBA	Jan 4	I-10/I-20 Tournament	Gulfport	TBA
Dec 4	Pearl	Home	5:30 p.m./7 p.m.	Jan 5	I-10/I-20 Tournament	Gulfport	TBA
Dec 6	Germantown	Home	5:30 p.m./7 p.m.	Jan 5	I-10/I-20 Tournament	Gulfport	TBA
Dec 7	Lanier*	Home	5:30 p.m./7 p.m.	Jan 8	Callaway*	Away	5:30 p.m./7 p.m.
Dec 11	Provine*	Home	5:30 p.m./7 p.m.	Jan 10	Lanier*	Away	5:30 p.m./7 p.m.
Dec 14	Florence	Away	5:30 p.m./7 p.m.	Jan 15	Provine*	Away	5:30 p.m./7 p.m.
Dec 17	Clinton	Home	5:30 p.m./7 p.m.	Jan 18	Callaway*	Home	5:30 p.m./7 p.m.

\* - Denotes District 4-5A match



Pictured are the newest additions to the staff at Ridgeland High School (from left, front) Emily Bechtold, Andrea Denson, Regina Patterson and assistant principal Teague Burchfield; (second row) Tammy West, Amber Wallace and Kathy Evans; (third row) Tisha Bailey, Minoo Srivastava, Bonnie Ballard and Sgt. John Mills; (fourth row) Rebecca Latson, Elizabeth Kimbrough, Jonathan Branch, Gerald Ray and Jacob Walker. Not pictured are Linda Garrett and Cheryl Johnson.

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Students had an "All-Out" day on the Friday of homecoming week and were allowed to wear Veritas school colors instead of uniforms.



Students dressed up for "Camouflage Day" during Homecoming week.



The Veritas School's 2012 Fast-Pitch Softball Team finished the season with a 24-6 record, placing first in their district, second in the South State division and earning a trip to the MAIS State Championship Tournament. Pictured are (from left, front) Sydney Butler, Amelia Parks, Sophie Hughes, Taylor Warriner; (middle) Eryn McCarthy, Marissa Parks, Ariana Haymer, Ashley Hollins, Bailey Woods, Maryanna Story; (back) Mary Katherine Miller, Nicole Erwin, Tori Earnhart, head coach Rachel Wright, assistant coach Ashley Mottola, Emily Ables, Jordan Warriner and Bailey Hamil.

## Drama Production

The Veritas School will present Charles Dickens' beloved "A Christmas Carol" and "Silent Night," which tells the story behind the well-known hymn, on Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8 at 7 p.m. in the school's theatre. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, \$16 family max.

## HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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



## Holmes Students More Likely to Graduate

According to a recent study released by *CNNMoney*, students who attend Holmes Community College are more likely to graduate or transfer to a four-year school than students who attend other community colleges nationwide.

Holmes ranks 76th out of 786 institutions, placing the school in the top 10 percent of America's community colleges. Holmes was the second-highest-rated Mississippi community college trailing only Pearl River Community College.

College Measures, a joint venture of the American Institute of Research and Matrix Knowledge Group, conducted the study in an attempt to help students and parents avoid "dropout factories," which are labeled as schools that graduate fewer than 25 percent of students. To make sure that schools did not appear on the list of Top Schools because of a statistical blip, small schools with fewer than 200 students were not considered as a part of the study.

The rankings are based on the percentage of students who graduated or transferred to a four-year university within three years of enrolling. Last year alone, graduation numbers at Holmes increased a dramatic

35.41 percent over the previous year, leading Mississippi's community college system in percentage gain. This is the second year in a row that Holmes has seen a significant increase in student graduation numbers, President Glenn Boyce said.

Boyce attributes the school's success to several factors, the first of which is a high-performing student population matched with an incredibly dedicated and talented faculty.

"Many of our students come to us lacking basic college readiness," Boyce explained. "I firmly believe that this type of national recognition is evidence that we make up more ground than most, and we do so without sacrificing quality. In many ways, it is our job to bring out the best in our students. This type of success penetrates to the very heart of our mission."

"Education is the most strategic advantage we have in Mississippi," Boyce said. "If we want to continue to move forward as a state and to change the lives of Mississippians, it is important that we stand firm in our commitment to meet the needs of Mississippi students and continue to build an educated workforce."

## RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

397 Highway 51  
Ridgeland, MS 39157  
601-856-4536  
Monday–Thursday: 9–7  
Friday–Saturday: 9–5  
www.mcls.ms



Caroline (age 7) and Rachel (age 5) Chamberlin of Ridgeland are pictured reading a children's book at the preview party on September 27, 2012.

### Mother Goose on the Loose

This storytime program is for infants to two-year-olds. We meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 am. Mother Goose on the Loose is an interactive program between children and their caregivers. We sing Mother Goose rhymes, play musical instruments, read stories and do flannel board and movement activities. The dates for Mother Goose on the Loose are as follows:

Wednesday, December 5  
Wednesday, December 12  
Wednesday, January 9  
Wednesday, January 16  
Wednesday, January 23  
Wednesday, January 30  
Wednesday, February 6  
Wednesday, February 13  
Wednesday, February 20  
Wednesday, February 27

**\*Please note that we will NOT be having Mother Goose on December 19, 26 and January 2. We hope that you all have a safe and wonderful holiday. Happy Reading!**

## WINTER PROGRAMS



Our family Holiday Program will be on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 4:30 P.M.** All children and their families are welcome. We will have holiday stories, songs, crafts, plus a special visit from Santa! I hope you all can be there! Please contact Ms. Stephanie with any questions.

In addition to our Holiday Program, we will be offering a special Gingerbread House program for families. All children and their families are welcome. During this program, children can build their own gingerbread houses with milk cartons, frosting, graham crackers and candy. Please call the library at 601-856-4536 or email Ms. Stephanie at [sjurss@mcls.ms](mailto:sjurss@mcls.ms) to register by December 3 so we know how many people to expect. The program will be on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 FROM 3:30 TO 4:30 P.M.** and **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 FROM 2 TO 3 P.M.** Sign up for whichever day is most convenient.

### Creative Arts Club

The Ridgeland Public Library has two Creative Arts Clubs. The third-through fifth-graders meet once a month on a Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and the first- and second-graders meet once a month on a Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. The club focuses on creative writing and arts and crafts activities. Please check the calendar at [www.mcls.ms](http://www.mcls.ms) for the January and February dates.

**\*Please note that we are not having an official Creative Arts Club in December! Instead, please sign up for one of the Gingerbread House programs.**



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## RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Rising Readers

Rising Readers is a fun storytime program for three- to seven-year-olds. We meet on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. The program includes stories, songs, flannel board activities, movement and a craft. The dates for Rising Readers are as follows:

Tuesday, December 4

**Tuesday, December 11 -**

**Holiday Program with Santa!**

Tuesday, January 8

Tuesday, January 15

Tuesday, January 22

Tuesday, January 29

Tuesday, February 5

Tuesday, February 12

Tuesday, February 19

Tuesday, February 26

**\*Please note that we will NOT be having Rising Readers on December 18, 25 and January 1.**

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## Chamber's Bake Sale Raises Funds for American Cancer Society

Ridgeland Chamber volunteers set up a tent and tables filled with delicious baked goods at the Township's Fall Festival to raise funds and collect old bras to benefit the American Cancer Society's "Strides against Breast Cancer" campaign.

The bake sale, the Chamber's 2012 Make A Difference Day project, was held Saturday, October 27.

"In honor of October being Breast Cancer Awareness month, the Chamber raised funds and served as a collection/drop-off site for old bras," said Make A Difference Day Chairman Carla Palmer Allen of CPA Realty.

Statistics show that one in eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime, but the good news is that 98 percent of all breast cancer is curable if detected early.

Riverwalk Casino Hotel in Vicksburg, along with Clear Channel Communications, hosted the fifth-annual Bras for Breast Cancer fundraiser. With more than 15,000 bras received last year from 43 different states, this year's goal was to receive 20,000 bras and at least one from each of the 50 states.

Riverwalk donated \$1 for each bra collected to the American Cancer Society. On November 1, Riverwalk held a ceremony of stringing together all of the bras collected and displaying them across the old Highway 80 Mississippi River Bridge.

"This fundraiser for the American Cancer Society is near and dear to a lot of people," said Carla Palmer Allen. "We appreciate all the Ridgeland merchants who so generously donated baked goods and the many volunteers who baked cakes, pies, cookies and breads for us to sell. Breast cancer has touched all of our lives in some way, and the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce is doing our part in the fight to find a cure."

### THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

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McAlister's Deli of Ridgeland  
Party City  
Wal-Mart Ridgeland

...and the many volunteers who baked cakes, cookies and pies to sell! Your donations helped raise money for a very important cause – fighting cancer and giving hope!



Bianca Green of Ridgeland buys brownies from Ridgeland Chamber Diplomat Alaina Reed of the Hyatt Place – Ridgeland.



Eric Sanders of BancorpSouth buys cookies from Diplomat Shelia Jackson, BankPlus; Alaina Reed, Hyatt Place – Ridgeland; Cailin Herring and Andrea Fields, Ridgeland High School.



CITY OF RIDGELAND  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

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

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS 5-7 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 13**  
Fitness Lady Health Clubs,  
331 Sunnybrook Road

**Monday, Jan. 14**  
Annual Banquet – Hilton  
Jackson, 1001 E. County  
Line Road

**Thursday, Feb. 21**  
Sombra Mexican Kitchen,  
140 Township Avenue



Jada Purry of California, dressed as a bumblebee, visits the Chamber's bake sale to check out all the "Sweet Treats for a Cure."





Ridgeland Chamber Junior Diplomat Emily Wheat of The Veritas School helps fill the American Cancer Society's bin with donated bras.



Alaina Reed of the Hyatt Place – Ridgeland tosses bras into the “Bake for a Cure” bin at the Ridgeland Chamber’s Make A Difference Day Bake Sale benefiting the American Cancer Society.



Susan Watkins of Kerioth Corporation, left, buys a delicious Primos caramel cake from Carla Palmer Allen, CPA Realty and Chair of the 2012 Make A Difference Day Bake Sale.



Jeff Eads of The Blake at Township buys cookies and caramel crunch from Diplomat Shelia Jackson, BankPlus.



Therica Readus of Madison buys Rice Krispy treats from Junior Diplomats Emily Wheat of The Veritas School, and Andrea Fields and Cailin Herring of Ridgeland High School.



Erin Freeman, left, Community Representative for the American Cancer Society, receives a check from Carla Palmer Allen, CPA Realty and Chair of the Chamber’s 2012 Make A Difference Day. More than \$500 was raised at the Chamber’s Bake Sale benefiting the American Cancer Society.



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## 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, Chad Carr, 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

601-856-7113, www.ridgelandms.org

### 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

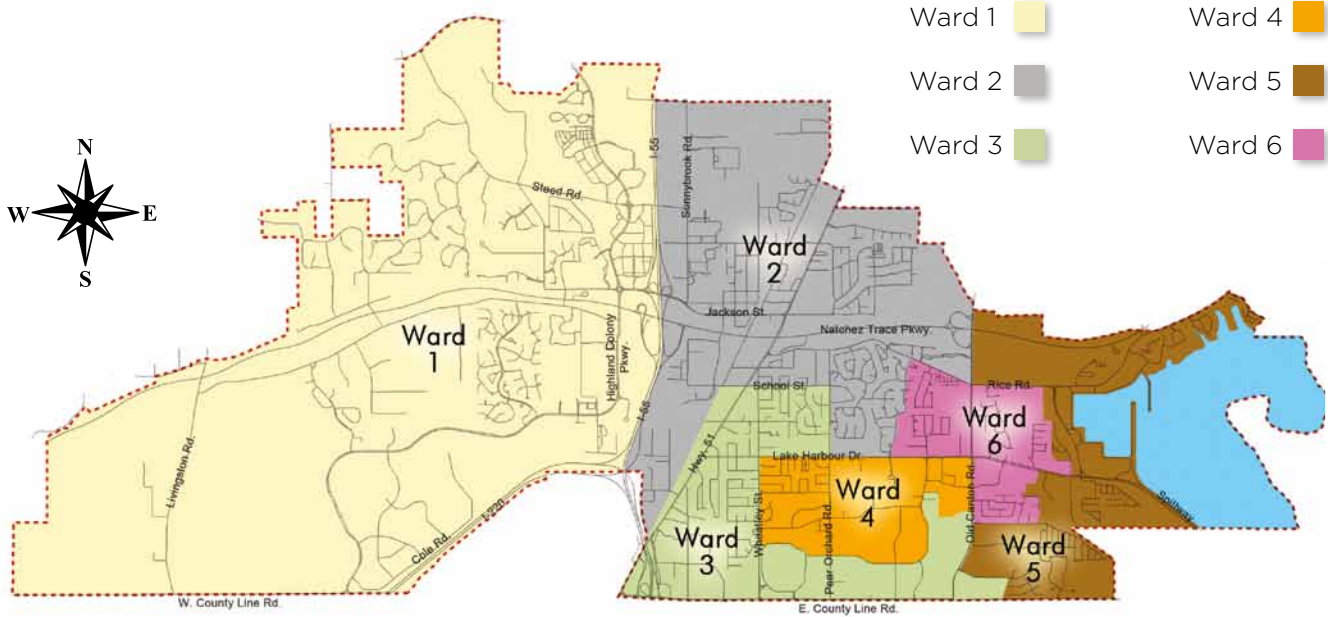
**Recreation and Parks**  
(special events, athletics and program registration, park information) . . . . . 601-853-2011

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



# RIDGELAND ALDERMEN

To learn more about your elected representatives, go to [www.ridgelandms.org/elected-officials/](http://www.ridgelandms.org/elected-officials/).



**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  
601-238-5361



**Brian Ramsey**  
Ward 4  
601-506-1979



**Scott Jones**  
Ward 5, Mayor Pro  
Tempore  
601-206-5416



**Wesley Hamlin**  
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