

September – November 2014

RIDGELAND Life



Chief of Police Retires, New Chief Sworn In
Fourth Annual Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out
Haylie Best, Scout Sports All-American Softball Player
How to Safely Share the Multiuse Trail
Don't Flick It Cigarette Litter Prevention Campaign

the **FALL** issue



From the Mayor

I wish to congratulate former Chief of Police Jimmy Houston on his retirement. Chief Houston led the department for the last 12 years in an exemplary fashion. Under his leadership, the Ridgeland Police Department became one of the most outstanding departments in our State and made Ridgeland a much safer place to live and do business. His approach to law enforcement is one to be admired and I am thankful for his service to our City.

Although I am sad that he has retired from the City, I rejoice with him in his newfound work at Holmes Community College as an instructor. Not only will this allow him to continue to share his expertise, but it will also give him more time to spend with family and friends and enjoy the many fruits of his years of labor. We, in the City of Ridgeland wish you well, Chief Houston and thank you for your service.

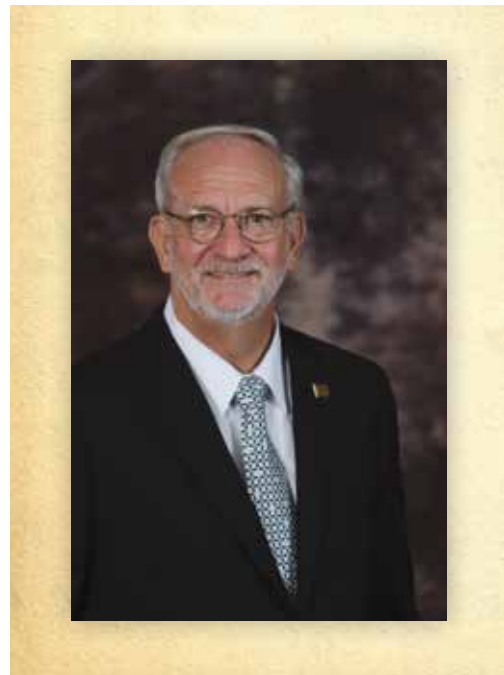
It is also with much excitement that we welcome our new Chief of Police Randy Tyler. Chief Tyler has been with the City of Ridgeland more than 26 years and brings a level of professionalism and commitment that will continue to make the Police Department grow and serve our City in a grand way. Chief Tyler's commitment to law enforcement is outstanding, and I look forward to many, many years of service with him as head of this department. Please join with me in congratulating Chief Tyler on this appointment. I know you, like me, are excited about his appointment to this position.

On another note, I know each of you is enjoying the opening of the newly widened and reconstructed Lake Harbour Drive. Not only does this project create a much safer and easier way for traffic to move east and west, but with the addition of the multiuse trail, it increases the opportunity for walkers, runners, and bicyclists to safely exercise in this area.

The next phase is to extend Lake Harbour Drive over the interstate and connect to Highland Colony Parkway. This project is under design and right of way will soon be appraised and acquired. Once this phase of Lake Harbour is completed, it will add a much needed east-west corridor from Highland Colony Parkway all the way to the eastern city limits of Ridgeland. This will aid our ultimate goal of moving thru-traffic off Jackson Street and improve the development of the Jackson Street District.

Since the school year has just gotten underway, we wish each student success in this new school year.

Gene F. McGee



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland

RIDGELAND Life

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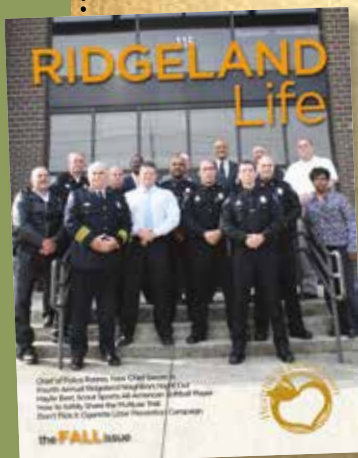
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ON THE COVER: *The City of Ridgeland congratulates former Chief of Police Jimmy Houston on his recent retirement and welcomes new Chief of Police Randy Tyler. Houston can be found at Holmes Community College where he is teaching criminal justice, or you might spot him fishing on the reservoir or playing with grandchildren. Tyler was hired by the department in 1987 and has served as Assistant Police Chief since 2007. This outstanding police department will continue to serve and protect the citizens of Ridgeland to the best of their ability, as they have always done. Photo credit: Think Webstore*

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For sponsorship opportunities, contact Julie Cox at Julie.Cox@RidgelandMS.org.

For information about *Ridgeland Life*, contact Sandra Rives Monohan at Sandra.Monohan@RidgelandMS.org.

Mayor's Fun Walk

Let's go walking Ridgeland...at the 2014 Mayor's Fun Walk! This year's walk will be held Wednesday, October 22 at 9 a.m. and will begin at the Ridgeland Recreational Center with a stroll on the beautiful multi-purpose trail. There are no set distances, so you can walk as little or as much as you want. Walkers will return to the Recreational Center to a morning of refreshments, door prizes and entertainment. You don't want to miss this fun, fit event! Be sure to check out the Recre8 section for complete event details.



Trunk or Treat

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department will hold their annual Trunk or Treat fall event at Freedom Ridge Park Thursday, October 30 from 6-8 p.m. Children can go trick or treating from car to car where volunteers have filled their trunks with candy and prizes. There will also be

games, face painting and much more.

Admission is \$3 per child (10 and under).

Volunteers are needed to provide vehicles, candy, and manpower to make this event a success. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Rec and Parks office at 601-853-2011.



Senior Adult Trips

Senior adults, do you like to travel but don't want to drive for hours at a time or travel alone? Our senior adults have enjoyed several trips throughout the year and have one more trip scheduled - to tour the beautiful Bellingrath Gardens in December. Be sure to check out the Recre8 section for details!

Fourth Annual Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out

Written by Holli Gill



Residents of Trace Ridge visited with elected officials and Ridgeland police officers and firefighters at their annual Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out in 2013.

This year, the City of Ridgeland will hold its fourth annual Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out Thursday, October 16, 2014. Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out is a way for neighborhoods to come together and for neighbors to get to know each other. This is also a time for people to meet their local law enforcement officers and firemen, as well as their aldermen.

Last year, we had 10 neighborhoods participate in this event. One of these neighborhoods was Trace Ridge. Each year, the residents of Trace Ridge meet in front of the cemetery located in the center of their neighborhood. They have catering from Penn's, and get to enjoy treats such as chicken-on-a-stick, hushpuppies, french fries and coleslaw. "It's a great opportunity to fellowship with neighbors," says Sissy Lynn, Trace Ridge resident.

The children of the neighborhood get to enjoy time playing together. They even have the opportunities to tour a fire truck and meet a police dog. While the children get to experience these adventures, the parents are able to speak with Mayor McGee, the aldermen, firefighters, and police officers about any concerns they may have.

Any neighborhood can participate in this event, and it's a great way to get to know the other residents of your neighborhood. Each neighborhood has a different way of celebrating and coming together, whether it is a cook out or a dog parade. If you want to participate in this event, or need more information, please contact Mike Raffield, with the City of Ridgeland Police Department, at mike.raffield@ridgelandms.org.

TOPSoccer Jamboree



TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for youth athletes with special needs. The program provides meaningful learning and physical participation opportunities to these young athletes through the game of soccer. The emphasis of the program is on development, training and meaningful participation rather than on competition.

This year's TOPSoccer Jamboree will be held Wednesday, October 15 at Freedom Ridge Park. Stations will be set up with various activities and skill levels of participation. All participants will receive a medal, a soccer ball and a T-shirt. More than 300 volunteers from Ridgeland High School, Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce and Northwest Rankin High School will host games, face painting and fun activities. For more information, contact the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department at 601-853-2011.

Renaissance Euro Fest 2014

The great automobiles and motorcycles of Europe will be coming to Renaissance at Colony Park in Ridgeland, Miss. for the sixth annual Renaissance Euro

Fest Classic European Auto and Motorcycle Show. Entries in the show must be 25 years or older (built prior to 1990) except for a selection of newer special interest autos. For European auto enthusiasts, this is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beauty of British, Italian, German and many other European vehicles. If



Beautiful classic European automobiles and motorcycles can be viewed at the sixth annual Renaissance Euro Fest Classic European Auto and Motorcycle Show set for Saturday, Oct. 4.

brands such as Rolls-Royce, Ferrari, Porsche, BMW, Alfa Romeo, Fiat, Jaguar, Norton, Ducati, BMW and Mercedes-Benz (to name just a few) excite your senses, then this is the event for you!

This year the event will be held Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The show is open and free to the public. More than 15,000 spectators are expected to view 150 autos manufactured in five different countries, coming from eight different states.

For more information, please visit www.euro-fest.net or contact via email: mike_marshall@bellsouth.net or phone: 601-946-1950.

Fall Food & Music Events

- Latinfest - Saturday, September 30 - Old Trace Park
- Smokin' on the Rez - October 24-25 - Old Trace Park

Mississippi Craft Center Discover Series

- September 18 - Surface Design or Mosaic Sculptures
- October 14 - Pottery or Chain Maille Bracelet Making
- November 13 - Candle Making or Blacksmithing

Races in Ridgeland

- Salvation Army Kettle Bell 5K - September 6 - Madison Landing
- "The Way to Go" 5.29K for College Savings - September 20 - Renaissance at Colony Park
- Witchcrafted: Costume Fun Runs - October 25 - Mississippi Craft Center
- Turkey Day 8K - November 27 - Fleet Feet

RIDGELAND CHIEF OF POLICE RETIRES, NEW CHIEF SWORN IN

Written by Holli Gill

On July 24, 2014, Ridgeland said goodbye to former Chief of Police, Jimmy Houston. Houston's law enforcement career started in 1973. In 1997, he became Chief of the Flowood Police Department. He also served with Jackson Police for a time. Now, after 12 years of serving as Ridgeland Police Chief, he has retired.

Houston has begun teaching at Holmes Community College. He was recruited by the Holmes team not only to teach but also to help build the Criminal Justice program.

Former Assistant Chief of Police Randy Tyler took over as Chief of Police, effective July 25, 2014. Tyler has 30 years of law enforcement experience behind him, starting when he was hired as an officer October 1, 1987. Since then, he has served in all areas of the Ridgeland Police Department, including Interim Chief from May to September 2011.

The Ridgeland Police Department's strong history started with Binford Watkins and was continued by Jessie Moore, Harold Acy, Charlie Newell, and Jimmy Houston. Now, the department has entered a new era of Randy Tyler, to add his mark to this history.



Jimmy Houston (left) and Randy Tyler (right) shake hands at a retirement reception held in honor of Jimmy Houston. Mayor McGee proudly looks on in the background.



Randy Tyler is pictured being sworn in as the new Chief of Police by Mayor Gene McGee.



A representation of Jimmy Houston's long history in police work can be seen in the collection of badges and pins framed as a retirement gift.

Update on Fiber to the Home

Why do we want it?

Fiber to the Home is breakthrough technology that can transform your personal Internet, digital home phone and high-definition (HD) television experience at home with ultrafast Internet connections and a competitive phone and HD television package. Installation of this service in the Bridgewater subdivision is already causing a drop in the prices of competitive service carriers, and construction is not even complete in Bridgewater yet!

It is more reliable than broadband service and higher in quality, especially for video and voice. People who do a lot of online research and who own multiple devices equipped with Internet would benefit from its fast signals and connectivity that is not affected by changes in weather. Home-based businesses that need an ongoing connection for operations would enjoy the dependability of fiber optic Internet. Entertainment can be taken to a new level with several devices streaming at once.

Getting this technology can enhance the value of your home. It makes our community more attractive to newcomers and new businesses. More high-technology based businesses will want to locate in Ridgeland. Education at home and at school can be greatly enhanced through this technology. City services and amenities will improve with more growth in business. Tremendous economic development opportunities come to communities that are fortunate enough to get Fiber to the Home technology.

Where are we in getting it throughout Ridgeland?

All neighborhoods west of I-55 have pre-qualified for Fiber to the Home technology. Construction is almost complete in Bridgewater and construction has begun in the Old Agency East fiberhood, which includes Dinsmor and Greenwood Plantation.

Highland Colony North fiberhood was the third area to get prequalified for fiber and construction has begun there as well. Highland Colony North includes the subdivisions of Canterbury, Carlton Parke, Fox Hollow, Old Agency Village, Rolling Meadows, Stillwood, The Township, and Windrush.

At 36 percent, the Ann Smith fiberhood only needs 9 percent of its homes to pre-register in order to qualify at the 45 percent level. This area includes the subdivisions of Shadowood-Wendover, Heatherstone, and Oakmont. The Montrachet/Muirwood/Camden Park fiberhood is halfway there with 17 percent of the required 35 percent of its homes preregistered.

The 51 North fiberhood shows 9 percent of homes preregistered. This fiberhood is bordered by N.E. Madison Drive on the west, the Natchez Trace Parkway on the south, McClellan



Drive on the north, and the city limits on the east. Olde Towne fiberhood shows a 7 percent pre-registration rate.

What can you do to get it?

Most Ridgeland residents have the option to pre-register for service at www.cspire.com/ridgeland. The only provider currently offering this technology is C Spire, who is giving Ridgeland residents until December 31 to qualify for service in their fiberhood. This same link will allow you to determine if your house is located in a fiberhood. After this date, C Spire will likely focus on helping other cities that want Fiber to the Home.

If you have already registered and want your fiberhood to be eligible, talk to your neighbors, hold informational meetings, and host a sign-up party. Contact the City of Ridgeland Community Development Department, and they can connect you to C Spire representatives, who can help you host an event and tell you more about the services offered.

Some citizens hesitate over the \$10 fee required at sign-up. Superior connectivity through fiber optics is expensive to build. C Spire is making a tremendous investment in Ridgeland. This \$10 is a tiny investment to pay toward greater competition in the area of Internet, telephone and television service providers and tremendous economic development potential for your community.

Keep garbage can and recycling cart out of sight

Code Enforcement wishes to remind you... please place your garbage can and recycling cart out of sight from the street. You may get fined if you don't comply!



Promote your business through Rec & Parks Sponsorship

Now is the time to think about sponsorship for 2015! You can become a Ridgeland Recreation & Parks partner for as little as \$500 and that includes an ad in this magazine! Our sponsorship program gives you an opportunity to promote your business and provides an avenue for you to become involved in the community. Please give me a call or send me an email and give me an opportunity to stop by your office to discuss our program with you. You can reach me at 601-853-2011 or Julie.Cox@ridgelandms.org. Partner with us and get your company name in front of THOUSANDS of people!



TURN RECYCLABLES INTO REWARDS

Be sure to use the recycling cart provided by the City of Ridgeland for all of your recyclables. The City of Ridgeland is working together with Waste Management and Recyclebank



to provide incentives for recycling. The more you recycle, the more points you earn. As you build up points, you can trade them in for discounts on a variety of products and services! Visit Recyclebank.com today to sign up!

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SHARE THE TRAIL... *Safely*

The Ridgeland Multiuse Trail is just that - multiuse. Walkers, runners, bicyclists, skaters, strollers, and dogs use the trail all at the same time. It is estimated that 59,625 people use the trail annually.

There are a few very important rules of etiquette to keep in mind when using the trail. These are for your safety and the safety of other trail users, so please observe them.

- Show courtesy to all trail users at all times.
- Do not block the trail.
- Keep to the right, pass to the left
- Bicyclists should always yield to pedestrians.
- Bicyclists must give an audible signal and slow down when passing.
- If you use ear buds or headphones, use in only one ear.
- If you are on wheels, be prepared to come to a stop at any time.
- Bicyclists should ride at a safe speed and slow down in conditions where there is congestion, reduced visibility or other hazardous conditions.
- Keep your pet on a short leash that does not extend across the trail.

Maximum length of 4 feet.

If you are a cyclist, please be aware that other trail users may not hear you approaching. Please pass on the left and alert pedestrians by saying, "Passing on your left."

Keep in mind that if you wear ear buds or headphones, please keep one ear open for hearing those who may be passing you. Just one step to the left could be all it takes to collide with someone on wheels who you did not hear coming.

The trail is not to be used for speed cycling! It is designed for a maximum speed of 30 mph on straight sections that have clear visibility of the path ahead. If there are curves in the trail, you should ride no faster than 12 mph. Keep in mind that you may need to stop unexpectedly at any time, so travel no faster than you are able to do so.

Dogs are welcome on the trail as long as they are not a nuisance or a danger to others. Allowing your dog to stretch its leash across the trail is very dangerous. It could cause a bicycling accident or trip a runner. Keep your dog close to you on the right side of the trail.

In addition, please clean up any excrement left by your pet. We suggest using a baggie inside out like a glove to scoop it, then tie the bag and throw it away in the trash receptacles provided for you.

Remember that the trail is to be *shared* by all types of users. We can avoid conflict by following the rules outlined above. If you see someone in need of medical attention on the trail, please call 9-1-1. Now, get out and enjoy the trails!



Here, two trail users are peacefully coexisting on the trail. The walker's dog is on a short leash and being kept on the right side with its companion. Thus, the runner's path is not obstructed by a leash. Both trail users are exercising without music, enjoying the sounds of nature and able to hear oncoming trail users from any direction.

Trail Maintenance



An older section of the Ridgeland Multiuse Trail was temporarily closed this summer by the City of Ridgeland. Approximately 1500 feet of trail was rebuilt and repaved along Rice Road and Highway 51. When it reopened, trail users complimented the City on a speedy job and the smoothness of the rebuilt section.

The City budgets annually for trail repairs. "This allows us to be proactive about maintaining the trail," said Chris Bryson, city engineer.

If you see any trail areas in Ridgeland that need repair, please contact the Public Works Department at 601-853-2027.

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New and Improved Lake Harbour Drive



Lake Harbour Drive is smooth sailing now. Many steps were taken to reduce congestion along this busy roadway in Ridgeland. Not only was Lake Harbour widened from Northpark Drive to Highway 51, but two left-turn lanes were added at Pear Orchard Road. These new lanes will move vehicles more quickly onto Lake Harbour Drive.

If you look around, you will notice an abundance of new landscaping along the roadway and at intersections. Plantings of low shrubbery and trees as well as decorative concrete and lighting add some beautification to the roadway.

Be sure to use the pedestrian signals if you are using the multiuse trail along Lake Harbour. The trail changes sides from the south side of Lake Harbour to the north side of Lake Harbour at Pear Orchard. If you push the button at the pedestrian signal, it lets the traffic signal system know that you are waiting. Be aware that the push-button is not instantaneous. It will give you a walking signal on its next rotation.



SEWER INTERCEPTOR SYSTEMS TO RECEIVE NEW LINERS

Two interceptor sewer systems in Ridgeland, the Purple Creek Sewer Interceptor and the East Madison County Sewer Interceptor, are receiving new liners. Interceptor sewers are large sewer lines fed into by multiple trunk lines throughout the city. All the flow from Ridgeland that goes to the Jackson treatment plant flows through these two interceptor sewer systems.

The Purple Creek Sewer Interceptor extends from Highway 51 to County Line Road. The East Madison County Sewer Interceptor extends from Lake Harbour Drive to Mule Jail Road. Each system contains approximately 1 mile of concrete pipe.

After conducting a study of the existing concrete pipes, it was found that rainwater and groundwater were infiltrating the systems and adding to the flow. As the system has aged, joints and cracks have developed allowing this inflow to happen.

The city's project includes cleaning out debris in the pipes and improving the structural integrity of the pipes to reduce the volume of flow. Instead of replacing concrete pipes, the city is installing liners. The quality of the liners is such that as the concrete deteriorates over time, the integrity of the system will not be diminished.

The installation of epoxy-coated liner material is a much more cost effective solution than concrete pipe replacement. The project will cost the City of Ridgeland \$2.6 million. Replacement would have cost millions more.

The City of Ridgeland pays the City of Jackson for wastewater treatment and the treatment cost is based on the amount of flow. Reducing the flow coming out of Ridgeland will reduce the amount of money sent to Jackson for wastewater treatment. This will also save the city money while having a more reliable system in place.



Pictured here is a section of a 36-inch sewer interceptor located under Lake Harbour Drive, before and after it was cleaned and lined. Pipe deterioration is apparent in the "before" photo while the "after" photo reveals the newly installed liner. This repair added a 50-year service life to the interceptor. A new project to be conducted in Ridgeland will install liners in 2 miles of interceptor sewer systems providing similar results as seen here.

Business Improvement District Set to Bring New Life to County Line Road Area

A study is underway by the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) to determine the feasibility of forming a Business Improvement District for the County Line Road area. A Business Improvement District (BID) is operated in a clearly delineated area within which property owners or merchants are subject to a self-imposed assessment that is used for improvements to the area. It is a community development tool utilized by communities in states that have enabling legislation to address challenges in the district, often revitalizing an area and boosting local businesses.

Currently, the CMPDD is surveying the area to calculate square footage occupied by businesses and figuring possible assessment values that would be charged to each property owner. The proposed BID area extends from Highway 51 to just east of Pear Orchard Road. Excluded from the BID are residential parcels, a church, a cemetery and a few warehouse properties.

If formed, once the study is complete, the property owners of the BID would elect a board that can make decisions for the improvement of the area. Improvements could include enhanced security, beautification through landscaping, and improved definition of the area for branding and marketing purposes. It is anticipated by City of Ridgeland Economic Development staff that more ideas to improve the area will come from the property owners as they develop the program.

When asked, "What would it mean for Ridgeland if the BID is formed?" Bryan Johnson, economic development assistant said, "It would mean businesses working together on both sides of the road to improve County Line Road commerce. Our success is tied to their success and vice versa. It would help grow businesses, bring new retailers into the area, and vacancies would be filled."

Johnson added, "A BID adds a board to the mix that can make decisions for the area for its betterment, and it can enforce its own rules and regulations that are set up by the BID. This would be in addition to the City of Jackson's and City of Ridgeland's efforts applied in this area."

It sounds like an HOA for a commercial area. With an HOA, homeowners pay required fees to the Homeowners Association. The HOA oversees covenants that are above and beyond what a city requires. It sets standards for the neighborhood that helps to maintain it as a desirable place to live and make the area unique.

Alan Hart, director of community development, said, "The most impressive thing to me about a BID is that the businesses have a direct role in determining their future."



The Central Mississippi Planning and Development District developed this map of the proposed Business Improvement District for County Line Road.

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KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL WORKING TO PREVENT CIGARETTE LITTER

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful has been working on a cigarette litter prevention campaign. A billboard has been up and running in Ridgeland utilizing a

Keep America Beautiful “Don’t Flick It” graphic. It’s a simple message. Just don’t flick your cigarette butts!

Don’t underestimate the impact of that one cigarette butt. Litter breeds litter. Cigarette litter harms wildlife and pollutes waterways. It takes years to decompose. Please use receptacles or your automobile ashtray.

KRB conducted a cigarette butt count at Holmes Community College Ridgeland campus. While Holmes is a smoke-free campus, it appears that commuters are smoking in their vehicles and wrongfully disposing of their cigarette litter in the parking lots. KRB is responding with education and the distribution of vehicle ashtrays.

KRB decided to spend grant funds from Keep America Beautiful on the purchase of pocket size ashtrays for vehicles and cup holder-size ashtrays, both of which will be distributed at Holmes. Educational information will be posted on tables in the cafeteria. Distribution of ashtrays and placement of educational material will occur twice this fall and twice next spring. Then, a recount of cigarette litter will be conducted to see if the campaign was successful in reducing cigarette litter in the parking lots.

Sometimes cigarette disposal receptacles are needed to reduce this form of litter. Goodwill Industries was very interested in being the recipient of receptacles for outdoor areas of their office and two store locations in Ridgeland. Six cigarette litter receptacles were ordered over the summer and they will be installed this fall.



This billboard has been running in Ridgeland since this summer as part of a cigarette litter prevention campaign organized by Keep Ridgeland Beautiful.



Pocket-size ashtrays will be distributed on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland campus this fall and next spring to help reduce the disposal of cigarette litter in the parking lots.

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful elects chairman

Jan Richardson was recently elected as chairman of Keep Ridgeland Beautiful (KRB). This organization joined the Keep America Beautiful network of affiliates on February 25, 2014. Keep Mississippi Beautiful has been extensively involved in providing training, guidance, and grant money.



Jan Richardson has been recently elected as the first chairman of Keep Ridgeland Beautiful. Keep Mississippi Beautiful is sending her to the annual conference of nationwide Keep America Beautiful affiliates in October.

The new chairman brings experience in community service in Ridgeland and a heart for environmental stewardship and beautification. Her organizational and leadership skills will help move KRB forward. Mike McCollum, director of public works, served as the acting chairman until Jan was elected.

Mike McCollum said, “Jan Richardson will make a superb chairman of Keep Ridgeland Beautiful. She understands the concept of volunteerism as demonstrated by her level of community involvement. Jan’s hard work was even recognized by the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce by presenting her with the “City Maker Award.” I look forward to her leadership and working with her in the upcoming year.”

Flashing yellow turn signals installed along Highway 51

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) has installed new traffic lights along Highway 51 in Ridgeland that feature a flashing yellow left turn signal. These new lights are located at the following intersections: US 51 at Ridgewood Road (Southbound only), US 51 at Lake Harbour Road (Southbound only), US 51 at School Street, US 51 at Rice Road (Southbound only), and McClellan Drive (Southbound only).



The flashing arrow signal replaces the circular green light for left turns. When the flashing yellow left turn signal is flashing, drivers should yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians before proceeding with caution. Fewer collisions occur at intersections where the flashing turn signal is used than with the standard green circle light.

You may view a video demonstration of the new signal at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEN0pnO0F1k>.

GOT GEAR MOTORSPORTS EXPANDING

Move will provide more showroom and warehouse space for Ridgeland business

REPRINTED FROM JULY 2, 2014 ISSUE OF THE CLARION-LEDGER. Written by Nell Luter Floyd.



Got Gear Motorsports bought the building that formerly housed Mattress Firm and is connecting to it, more than doubling in size.

Construction is underway at Got Gear Motorsports in Ridgeland that will more than double the size of its showroom for utility vehicles and recreational vehicles and provide the business higher visibility along U.S. 51 North.

“We bought the property that used to be where Mattress Firm was located and are connecting that building to our existing building,” said Raymond Walters, sales manager at Got Gear Motorsports at 230 U.S. 51N in Ridgeland. “We are expanding from 28,000 square feet to 60,000 square feet.”

Work is being done to raise the roofline on the exterior of the former Mattress Firm building, so it will merge with the Got Gear Motorsports building, once a skating rink and later home to Jackson Athletic Club.

“We want the rooflines to blend,” Walters said. “It’s a big investment, and we think it’s going to look great.”

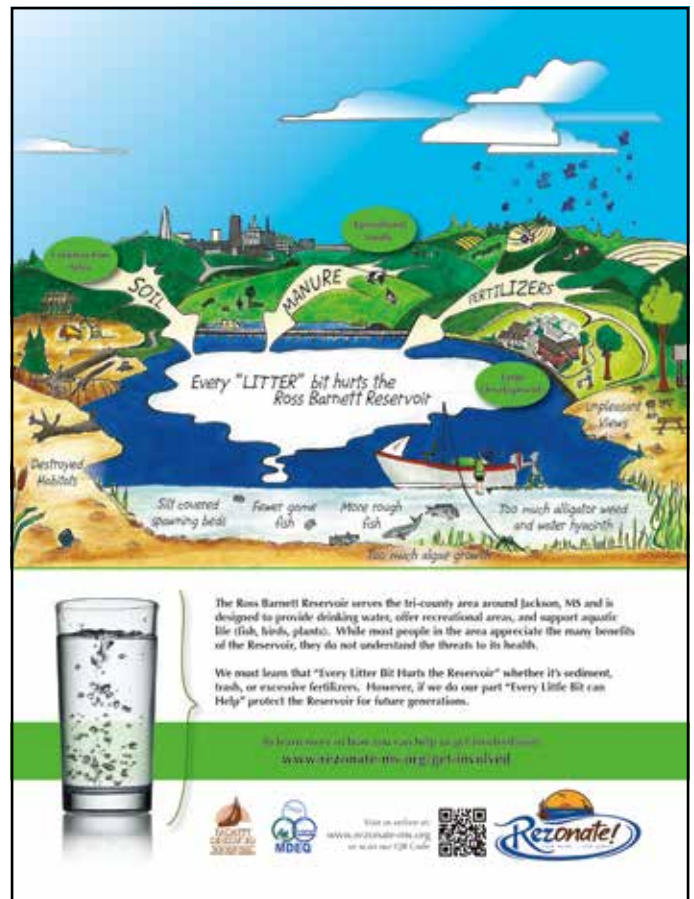
With the expansion, the front of the building will be oriented to face U.S. 51 North instead of sitting perpendicular to it, making the business easier for shoppers to locate, Walters said, “I’ve worked here for eight years, and people still call and ask for directions,” Walters said.

The expansion will provide more showroom and warehouse space for the numerous brands of motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, side by sides, go carts, Jet Skis, boats, trailers, accessories, clothing and parts available at Got Gear. The business also has a service department and offers online shopping at its website (www.gotgearmotorsports.com)

Owned by Scott Hume and David Ashcraft, the 13-year-old business employs 33-35 people, and the expansion is expected to make it necessary to hire several more employees, Walters said.

The expansion is also expected to increase the amount of business at Got Gear Motorsports by 25 percent, he said.

Alan Hart, director of the Community Development Department for the city of Ridgeland, said he has no doubt the expansion will have an impact. “It will make Got Gear the place to go when shopping for power sports,” he said.



Local Church Honors HES Fifth-Grader, Teacher and Administrators

Highland Elementary student Fulton Lamar loves school and especially his teachers. The fifth-grader, who attends The Church Triumphant Global with his family, chose three Highland faculty members to be honored as “Star Educators” at the Ridgeland church’s 16th annual academic awards ceremony, entitled “Dominating Through Education.”

“It is vitally important that when our youth are accomplishing worthwhile goals and excelling in academics that we, as a unified community, take a moment to applaud their diligence and hard work,” said Bishop Adrian D. Ware of The Church Triumphant Global.



Pictured are (from left, front) Fulton Lamar and Brenda Price; (back) Marilyn Naron and Cindy Goodwin.

Fulton couldn’t choose just one faculty member to be recognized. Instead, he chose the three who have had a lasting impact on his education: Brenda Price, a resource teacher; Cindy Goodwin, instructional coach; and Marilyn Naron, retired principal.

“I really can’t choose favorites, but I’d like to say that they’re all very kind to me,” said Fulton. “I think they’re pretty great teachers to be with because they inspire me to do my very best.”

For a brief time at the beginning of the previous school year, Fulton, who has dyslexia and ADHD-Inattentive Type, was struggling to keep up with his work until Brenda Price stepped in. “Mrs. Price was a godsend,” said Bettye Simmons, Fulton’s mother. “She noticed he was having problems staying organized. She took it upon herself to make him a binder with all his subjects in place so he would stay on task. It kept him organized and focused on his schoolwork. She would check it and make sure he did his work every day. She goes the extra mile.”

That extra mile paid off for Fulton, who maintained a cumulative A-B average throughout his fourth-grade year. His mom says he’s an avid reader and loves to learn. And now he has a plaque from his church to recognize his hard work and determination.



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Historical marker tells of Ridgeland's formation

Reprinted from the June 19, 2014 issue of the Madison County Journal. Written by Duncan Dent.

Descendants of some of the oldest families in the city gathered on Tuesday, June 17 for the unveiling of a new historical marker highlighting the city's rich history.

The marker, located at Olde Towne Ridgeland Plaza on the corner of West Jackson Street and East Madison Drive, tells of the city's beginnings in 1832 when William Austin purchased land near the Natchez Trace. The land was later sold twice before the Highland Colony Company purchased it in 1896, and the name was changed to Ridgeland.

Robby Carr, descendant of an early Ridgeland family, is the treasurer and youngest member of the Ridgeland Historical Society, was there to celebrate the placement of the marker. His family's legacy in Ridgeland traces back about 115 years.

"It is an honor and privilege to be a part of this town," Carr said.

Carr said his family came to Ridgeland from Indiana after hearing about job opportunities mentioned in advertisements by the Highland Colony Company in 1898. His family was largely farmers, but they also bought up a lot of land in the area that would become Ridgeland. It has become the site of Ridgeland city schools and Holmes Community College.

"Ridgeland has been a good place for my family ever since my forefathers came to work for the Highland Colony Company," Carr said. "You really have to like where you live to stay somewhere that long."

Eloise Gilbert, a descendant of the Yellowleys - some of the earliest slaves brought to Ridgeland - was very happy to know that her family was part of the deep and complicated history being remembered by the historic marker. Gilbert had her granddaughter at the ceremony. Her family has lived in Ridgeland since 1848.

"I was born here, left and moved back to be back with my mom and family," Gilbert said, "I'm just happy. It's a good feeling to be a part of history."



Historical Society of Ridgeland president Nancy Batson and Mayor Gene McGee unveil the historical marker in Ridgeland.

Nancy Batson, president of the Ridgeland Historical Society, said that the event brought an encouraging turnout. She said the Historical Society is fortunate to be connected with many members of the community that are still in touch with their family histories in Ridgeland.

"We are just so privileged to be in contact with the families of old settlers of the city of Ridgeland. We are trying to educate the people on the history of Ridgeland and I think this marker will do that," Batson said.

Mayor Gene McGee commended the Historical Society for making people aware of the history of Ridgeland and said he likes that they have a permanent fixture in the Olde Towne Plaza.

"It's really exciting. The Historical Society has worked very hard to display this marker and I think it will be a long lasting reminder of our history," McGee said.



Haylie Best, the Best in Mississippi

Haylie Best competed in the Scout Sports All American Games in Albuquerque NM August 7-10. She qualified for the event through regional and national competitions against some of the best softball talent in the country. She was one of 48 girls chosen out of the 240 that qualified for the national events. "She is a very intelligent ball player, always in the right spot at the right time. Haylie really stands out among the crowd when you pay close attention to the details at 2B." says Mark Malany, President of Scout Sports.

Two time Olympic gold medalist and ESPN sports analyst Michelle Smith spoke to the participants Thursday evening and presented them with their jerseys. Her team, The E"lime" nators, lost their first game Friday night 3-5. On Saturday they came out and had two huge wins to make it to the championship game Sunday. On Sunday they were tied going into the bottom of the seventh inning and the Red Team hit a walk-off home run to center field to win the game 3-2.

Haylie was unmatched on defense making 17 plays in the field including a huge double play in the final game. Runner on second and a line drive missile hit right at her and she flips the ball to the short stop for the double play to end the scoring threat. On Saturday she ignited a rally with a huge drive to center field for a double. The team would go on to score 11 runs in that inning. They won the game with an All American Games record 17 runs.

"This experience has been unbelievable! I had such a great time and my teammates were amazing. I made great friends and played with some tremendous athletes this weekend. I want to play again next year and get better. It was an honor to represent Mississippi and Ridgeland. I know I gained a lot of respect when my hit to the fence sailed over the center fielders head." says Haylie.

The only player from Mississippi, Haylie recorded a total of 17 assists and put-outs in the field and hit .429 with a double and 2 RBI's. Her team consisted of players from Texas,



Haylie Best competed August 7-10 in Albuquerque, New Mexico on the Scout Sports All-American Fast Pitch Softball Team. She is the only participant from Mississippi.

California, Arizona, and Oklahoma and ranged in age from 15-18. Each of these girls will play college softball and Haylie hopes to one day play with or against them.

Haylie has played fast pitch softball since she was seven when her family first moved to Ridgeland with her parents, Jim and Debbie Best, and her twin sister Haydon and younger sister Ashley. She plays competitive softball with MS Motion99/

Team DeMarini, the Madison Ridgeland Youth Softball Club and MRA. She also umpires younger girls' softball for the Madison Ridgeland Youth Softball Club.

She would love to coach one day along with being involved with either sports management or sports science. She plans to play softball in college and compete for a national championship. She tells us that she loves softball and looks forward to the next time she can step out on the field again. Many people supported her efforts to attend the All American Games and she extends a special thank you to all of them.

The Madison Ridgeland Youth Softball Club offers competitive softball in the spring and fall. For more information, visit www.mryscsoftball.com.



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Recreation and Parks Directory

Office
601-853-2011

Fax
601-853-2015

E-mail
recre8@ridgelandms.org

Recreational Center
601-856-6876

Freedom Ridge Park
601-853-2023

Rental Information
601-853-2011

Hotline
601-853-2039

Youth Organizations

South Madison County Soccer Organization

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

Madison-Ridgeland Youth Club

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

Recreational Facilities

Freedom Ridge Park

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

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

Ridgeland Tennis Center

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

City Hall

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

Ridgeland Recreational Center

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

Friendship Park

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

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

Wolcott Park

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

Ridgeland Multiuse Trail

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Trunk Or Treat

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will hold Trunk or Treat at Freedom Ridge Park on October 30, 2014. Volunteers will fill their trunks with candy and prizes. The kids will go trick or treating from car to car. Other activities will include games and face painting. Trunk or Treat is for ages 10 and under only.



Program Price: \$3 per child 10 and under
Event Date: Thursday, October 30
Time: 6 -8 p.m.
Location: Freedom Ridge Park

Volunteers Needed for Trunk or Treat

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department needs volunteers to provide vehicles, candy, and manpower to make Trunk of Treat a success. If you are interested, please contact our office at 601-853-2011.

Ridgeland Christmas Parade

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

Registration forms will be available October 1. Registration is open until December 5, 2014.

Start Time: 2 p.m.
Event Date: Saturday, December 6
Location: Olde Town Ridgeland

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Christmas Decorating Contest

The Ridgeland Beautification Committee will be awarding prizes to the top Ridgeland residences and businesses that decorate for the Christmas season. We will judge businesses and award the top two winners. We will judge residences 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 8, 2014.

ATHLETICS

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

MRYC Basketball

The Madison Ridgeland Youth Club will be holding fall basketball registration for the upcoming season for boys and girls grades K5-12. Games and practices will be held at Madison County schools. The participant will receive a jersey with their registration fee. Please visit www.mryouthclub.com for the most current information.

Registration: October-November
Fee: TBA
Location: TBA

NFL Punt Pass And Kick

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks, in conjunction with the NFL, will be hosting the annual punt, pass and kick competition Saturday, September 13 at Freedom Ridge Park. Registration will be held 9- 9:30 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 and open to all boys and girls ages 6-15. The winners at the sectionals will advance to the Team Championship in New Orleans.



Event Date: Saturday, September 13
Start Time: 9 a.m.
Location: Freedom Ridge Park

SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Contact: Lynda McMahan Assink, Senior Adult Coordinator
 Phone: 601-856-6876
 E-mail: lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Mayor's Fun Walk

Step out with us for the Mayor's Fun Walk! This event is held at the Ridgeland Recreational Center located at Old Trace Park. Join Mayor Gene McGee as he leads us on an easy (light) walk using the beautiful multi-purpose trail. You may walk as little or as much as you want. We will return to the Ridgeland Recreational Center for brunch, door prizes, and special musical entertainment.

Guy Hovis is our musical entertainer this year. Hovis is one of the more recognizable faces in America. He has been on national television for more than 40 years beginning with Ark Linkletter's House Party Show on CBS in 1967. He has recorded 15 albums, has been nominated artist and producer of the year by the Gospel Music Association and is a member of the Mississippi Music Hall of Fame. Hovis, however, is best known for his 40 plus years as a member on the Lawrence Welk Television Show, which is still aired weekly on public television stations throughout the country.



You must pre-register to reserve your event T-shirt. Visit www.ridgelandms.org to print a form or pick one up at Ridgeland City Hall or the Ridgeland Recreational Center.

Program Price: No Charge
Event Date: Wednesday, October 22
Time: 9-10:30 a.m.
Location: Ridgeland Recreational Center

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Superstar Seniors' Turkey Feast

Mark your calendar to attend Ridgeland's Superstar Seniors' Turkey Feast! We will have a delicious Thanksgiving lunch and great entertainment. Our entertainment this year is Rita Sweatt. Rita is a pastor's wife from Amory, Mississippi. She often is a guest soloist and speaker for events and conventions.



Rita is going to present a music/drama presentation that will set the mood for the holiday!

Seating is limited. Tickets must be purchased in advance. You may buy your tickets at Ridgeland City Hall or the Ridgeland Recreational Center.

Program Price: \$5 - Tickets are sold in advance, starting Monday, October 13.
Event Date: Thursday, November 13
Time: noon-1:30 p.m.
Location: Highlands Presbyterian Church

Magical Christmas Night At Bellingrath Gardens Trip

Trip Dates: December 5-6
Price: \$268 (Double)
Deposit: \$50 due by October 16

Exciting experiences are ahead as our group travels through southeast Mississippi to Mobile. We will arrive in time for lunch. We will visit colorful Ft. Conde on Mobile Bay that dates from 1723 and has recently been restored.



Afterward, we will stop at Oakleigh, the city's official antebellum home, for the special Holiday Tour. The mansion is never more decorated than during this time of year. Then, we will make our way to the hotel for check in.

Get ready for an unforgettable evening that begins with dinner at Bellingrath, followed by the Magical Night in the Gardens and Home. There are millions of twinkling lights, 1000 displays in 12 sections, poinsettias, and eye-poppin' decorations everywhere, a choral performance, Christmas in the Home.

As we return home, we will stop at the famous Outlet Mall with dozens of shops that attract visitors from surrounding states. Christmas is around the corner and this is an opportunity to find some gifts at a reduced price.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

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

Ridgeland City Garden Club

The objective of our club is to provide education and to promote the love of gardening, landscape and floral design, and to encourage civic beautification and environmental responsibility. If you are interested in anything related to gardening, horticulture, flower arranging, the environment and more, then we are the club for you! If you are interested in attending any of our meetings or becoming a member, please send an email to Nanette Sullivan at sullinsjs@gmail.com or call 601-856-6784. We would love to have you join us!

September 2 – Karen and Maur McKie are the owners of Green Oak Nursery. Karen’s expertise includes: Interiorscape, Landscape, Colorscape, and Christmascape. Please join us for this colorful, entertaining, and educational program. Guests are welcome.

October 7 – Donna Beliech with the MS Extension Service will be here to tell us how to plant and grow fig trees with new techniques for keeping the “critters” away. Guests are welcome.

November 6 - Please note the date change. Mary Ellen Garner, Florist Extraordinaire will make magic happen with flowers -- fresh and dried. This program will be held just in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Program Price: \$20 (Yearly dues)
Event Dates: September 2, October 7, November 6
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Day of Week: Tuesdays (November 6 is on a Thursday)

Bridge

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



Program Price: \$1 each (for prize)
Event Dates: September 25 and October 23
Time: 1–4 p.m.
Day of Week: Thursday

Dollars & Sense Ladies Financial Record Help

Checkbook out of balance? Come join a group of ladies each month and receive class instruction on such things as: balancing your checkbook, reconciling your bank statement, paying bills, or even shopping for your highest CD rates. A retired businessman has offered his time to give you a little help. Come join us! Pre-register by calling Lynda at 601-856-6876 or email: lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org.



Program Price: Free
Event Dates: September 17, October 15, November 19
Time: 1-3 p.m.
Day of the Week: Wednesday

Thread, Yarn, Crochet & Coffee Group

Bring your own needles, yarn, thread, and handmade project the second and fourth Mondays, at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of fellowship, coffee, and working on your handmade project. It will be a great time of “show and tell,” as you make your own masterpiece. Call or email Lynda for more information.

Program Price: Free
Event Dates: September 8 and 22, October 13 and 27, November 10 and 24
Time: 1:30–3 p.m.
Day of Week: Monday

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

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



Agape Men's Coffee Group

Begin your day by joining a group of men that meet every Wednesday morning at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Enjoy coffee, lively conversation, and the opportunity to meet new friends. Call Lynda at 601-856-6876 for more information.



Time: 9:30 a.m.
Day of Week: Wednesday

Line Dancing

Learn the dance steps that are popular everywhere! In this class, you'll discover a variety of line dances. It's great fun, good exercise, and you don't need a partner. Darlene Epple is the instructor for the class. Darlene has been a member of MCWDA (Mississippi Country Western Dance Association) since 1995. She has taught at birthday parties, church socials, and office events. Darlene's motto is "Line Dancers don't make mistakes, they make variations." As long as you are on the dance floor, having fun, with a smile on your face, that's all that matters. Call or email Lynda for more information.

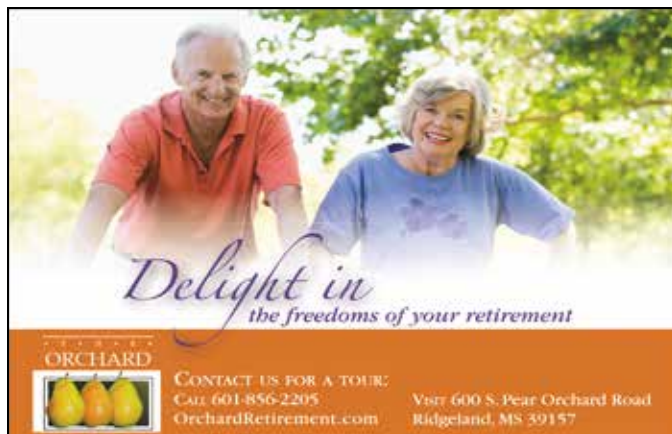


Program Price: \$40/month or \$10/week
Times: Beginners Class, 6-7 p.m.
Advanced Class, 7-8 p.m.
Day of Week: Monday

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. This is a nondenominational Bible study for men only. Enjoy an in-depth study of God's Word and interesting discussion. Bob Shirley is your teacher. Call Earl Beck at 601-856-4252 or 601-668-2322 for more information.

Time: 9-10:30 a.m.
Day of Week: Tuesday



Painting Pals

Is it hard for you to paint and/or draw at home? Bring your own supplies and enjoy painting at our Ridgeland Recreational Center overlooking the Reservoir. It's an ideal setting to paint or draw! Call or email Lynda for more information.

Program Price: No cost
Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Day of Week: Tuesday

Restoration & Relaxation Yoga

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

Start Date: Class begins Monday, September 8
Program Price: \$5/class
Time: 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Days: Mondays and Fridays

Yoga For Flexibility, Fitness, and Fun

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



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

Start Date: Class begins Monday, September 8
Program Price: \$5/class
Time: 11:30 a.m.-noon
Days: Mondays and Fridays

Working Your Body Naturally A Strength Class For Senior Adults

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks is offering a program designed to develop body strength, body awareness, and endurance for daily senior living. Learn to exercise with correct positioning that will improve posture and spinal alignment, increase bone density, and strengthen your joints. Each session is a flowing and challenging safe workout. All exercises are done without the use of heavy weights or machines. National Certified Pilates instructor, Jacy Miller (PMA-CPT), encourages each participant to work on his/her own unique physical needs and goals. Come to this groundbreaking and effective class! Always consult your physician before beginning any exercise program.

Program Price: \$10/month
Start Date: On-going
Times: 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays

SEASONAL PROGRAMS

Balance & Fall-Proof Your Life

Are you ready to improve your balance and be as healthy as you can be? This is a 6-week exercise program that progress through a set of balance training activities.

Your muscles have loss some mass and your joints maybe stiff, but you can do slow, controlled, low intensity movement. If you have had a history of falling, now is the perfect time to exercise and regain your balance and control.

Sign up today for this class that provides the latest in fall prevention, balance exercises and total body strengthening. Always consult your physician before beginning any exercise program. Pre-register for class by calling or e-mailing Lynda.

Registration: Now until September 10
Program Dates: Class begins September 10
Program Price: \$30 for six week course/or \$8/class
Time: 11 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
Day of Week: Wednesday

Title VI Policy Statement

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

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

Tai-Chi Fusion On The Reservoir

Tai Chi is an ancient practice proven to reduce pain and improve your mental and physical well-being. Tai-Chi is safe, easy to learn, and suitable for every fitness level. 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. Always consult your physician before beginning any exercise program. Pre-registration is required by calling or e-mailing Lynda.



Registration: Now until September 10
Program Dates: Class begins September 10
Program Price: \$30 for six week course or \$8/class
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Day of Week: Wednesday

TENNIS



Ridgeland Tennis Center
 201-A McClellan Drive • Phone: 601-853-1115
 Directors: Cheryl Harris and Susan Toler
The Ridgeland Tennis Center is the largest public tennis facility in Mississippi.

Chick-Fil-A Junior Tournament October 25-26

Lessons

Six teaching pros are available for private and semi-private lessons at the Ridgeland Tennis Center. Call 601-853-1115 to schedule lessons.

The RTC welcomes Agnes Gee to the teaching pro staff. Gee is an Ole Miss Hall of Fame member.

Junior Drills for ages 11-18 are led by instructor Robbie Creveling. Call him directly at 601-316-5364 for pricing and schedules.

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Academy Of Kung Fu 626 Ridgewood Rd Ridgeland 601-856-5051

ASE To Serve As Model School For Writing

National educational firm, Generation Ready, has partnered with Ann Smith, providing the school with a writing consultant to help both students and teachers reach the highest possible standards in narrative, informative and opinion writing. Ann Smith, in return, will continue to serve as a model school for this type of instruction, hosting school districts locally, nationally and worldwide.

Additionally, Generation Ready is recording Ann Smith teachers as they lead guided reading and writing instruction. The footage will be a part of their "Best Practices" professional development series, which highlights the research-based literacy practices Ann Smith teachers use to reach each student. With this series, teachers and administrators from around the country will be modeling their curriculum after Ann Smith's, in order to bring up their standards to those set by the Common Core Curriculum.

"Writing instruction at Ann Smith focuses on students seeing themselves as writers with an important story to tell," explained Dr. Melissa Phillely, principal. "Teachers use mentor texts and favorite pieces of children's literature to inspire students to be creative and express their unique and important ideas on paper."

Students at Ann Smith engage in daily writer's workshops that include a lesson, writing time and sharing time. There is also time for one-on-one conferences where teachers can tailor instruction to meet the individual needs of each student.

New ASE Librarian

You name it and David Schommer has done it. Ann Smith's new librarian has served in just about every possible position you could imagine at a school—from principal to yearbook adviser. He's been an assistant coach, a stage band director and has taught math, science, social studies, English and reading.

For the last 10 years he's been the librarian at Watkins Elementary in Jackson, also serving on the school's administrative team. There he earned numerous awards including, Community Foundation of Greater Jackson Outstanding Educator in 2010, Metro Jackson Teacher of the Year in 2011, and Watkins Elementary Teacher of the Year in 2013.

"I've always had an interest in serving as a librarian," Schommer said. "The position allows me to serve the entire school community, in a fun and creative way. I enjoy bringing information and people together. This fosters lifelong learning."

It's an exciting time for library and media specialists in schools, Schommer said. "Look at the rate at which information is expanding. More information means that school library/media specialists are going to become increasingly necessary to maintain our educational institutions. It's great to be a part of a field that is transforming and evolving."



Story time in David Schommer's library is always a student favorite, especially when he dresses as his favorite children's books characters.



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Join the parade! ASE plans fourth annual Walk to School Day event

You're invited to help Ann Smith Elementary promote pedestrian safety, health and fitness, and environmentally friendly forms of transportation at the fourth annual Walk to School Day event Wednesday, Oct. 8. Last year, over 300 students, parents, city leaders and community members participated, walking up Pear Orchard to the school in parade fashion. Ann Smith was one of thousands of schools in more than 40 countries celebrating International Walk to School Day.

"Last year, Ridgeland was named Mississippi's Healthiest Hometown in part because of health-promoting events like this," said DeVaughn Smith, this year's Walk to School Day organizer. "Many of our students walk to and from school every day thanks to Ann Smith's convenient location. Our school connects to the multi-use trail and is right around the corner from several neighborhoods and apartment complexes. Walking to school is great exercise and also a wonderful way to get to know your neighborhood and community."

The parade will begin around 7 a.m., and everyone is invited to join in the fun. More details will be announced as the event comes nearer.



Last year approximately 300 students, parents and community members joined the parade up Pear Orchard to Ann Smith Elementary to promote health, fitness, environmentally-friendly modes of transportation and pedestrian safety.



HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

Grades 3 - 5 • 330 Brame Road

601-853-8103 • www.madison-schools.com/hes

HES TO HONOR VETERANS

An annual tradition at Highland Elementary, the school's Veterans Day Program honors our men and women who have so bravely fought for our country's freedoms, as well our U.S. troops currently serving in the military. This year's celebration will take place Thursday, November 6 at 9 a.m. in the Highland gym, and the school is asking our military leaders, both past and present, to join in the festive ceremony.



Highland fifth-graders sing during the school's 2013 Veterans Day program.

Veterans Day is a particularly bittersweet occasion for Paula Tharp, the school's new principal. Her father, Captain Hilliard Wilbanks, was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and served as a Forward Air Controller during the Vietnam War. He went off to war when Tharp was 2 years old and never returned.

"In the war, my father flew alone in a Bird Dog, a small Cessna-type aircraft, and his responsibility was to direct all ground attack strikes," said Tharp. "All he had to defend himself was an M-16 that he carried for self-defense in case his airplane was shot down. He also carried white phosphorus smoke rockets, used to mark targets."

On Feb. 4, 1967, Wilbanks warned U.S. soldiers of an ambush on the ground by firing a smoke rocket to mark the location of the Vietnamese soldiers. Ignoring his own safety, he swept low over the enemy force three times, firing his rifle out a side window. It was enough to slow the enemy, but his aircraft was struck and later crashed to the ground. Wilbanks died en route to a medical facility.

Wilbanks' brave actions saved 130 U.S. and Vietnamese soldiers that day. On Jan. 24, 1968, the Air Force Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to Wilbanks for his actions in this engagement. The Medal of Honor is the highest award our nation can confer, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.

"We're so proud of my father and his selfless actions," said Tharp. "Veterans hold a special place in our hearts and are owed our highest respect. Their loyalty and dedication to our country and its values, and their willingness to put themselves aside without a thought is to be honored and treasured. What may seem from the outside to be a sacrifice, actually, for my father and my family, was a great honor."

New Principal brings an impressive wealth of experience to Highland

A former teacher, elementary school principal, Mississippi Department of Education leader and educational specialist with a school improvement company, Paula Tharp has just the right mix of experience, knowledge and passion to take over the helm as Highland Elementary's new principal.

Tharp, who has been in education for 27 years, has spent the past 13 of those years at Generation Ready, a national organization that partners with schools to provide classroom and school-based professional development. The organization believes the single most important factor in improving student outcomes is the quality of classroom instruction.

Perhaps it's this background that has been the biggest influence for Tharp's number-one goal at Highland: to make sure every student has a great teacher. "My passion is supporting teachers in their professional learning and seeing their improvement impact learning experiences for children," said Tharp. "We're all learners all the time, and what I hope to continue at Highland is the mindset that no matter how well we think we've done for our students, we can always do more and do it better."

Tharp is no stranger to Ridgeland public schools. Last year, she worked with Ann Smith administrators and teachers on the Generation Ready writing program initiated at the school, and now Ann Smith serves as a model school for the organization's writing standards.

Tharp, who began her new role at Highland in June, had the opportunity to work alongside Principal Marilyn Naron for



Pictured are (from left) Dae'quan Lott, Stephanie Vergara-Lindo, Paula Tharp, Nolan Ainsworth, Katie Partridge and Sydney Barfield.

a month before Naron retired. During the summer, Tharp visited with administrators at Olde Towne and Ann Smith, as well as HES teachers and parents, to gain a greater knowledge of the Ridgeland zone and to work on ways to create a seamless transition as students move from school to school.

"I've been so impressed with the passion everyone has for the children in our school community. We have all the ingredients, drive and expertise at Highland to meet the challenges of increased standards and higher expectations."

Tharp and her husband John have a daughter and two grandchildren. She is currently working on a doctorate in educational leadership through the University of Mississippi.

Q&A with Paula Tharp

How has your background prepared you for your role as principal?

I've been fortunate over my 27-year career in education to work with, be exposed to and study the work of many educational thought leaders across the nation, and I've encountered many different school and district settings. I feel very confident in knowing not only the research around practices of effective schools, but also how to put that research into action in very practical and realistic ways.

What are your goals or vision for Highland?

We want to continue and intensify the focus on reading across all grades and in all content areas. We'll work to provide students with the reading skills needed to understand more complex nonfiction text they will encounter in content areas. In addition, we will work intensively in math and science to ensure our students are proficient on new standards for these areas. We'll also be creating a plan to expand our technology resources and integration into instruction in connection to the district's technology initiative. Our services for students with special needs are deeply important to us, and our highly qualified, caring staff will be diligent in helping each of them reach their goals. We also will continue to grow the Highland community and family spirit nurturing students' unique gifts, talents and interests as well as ensuring every child's academic success.

What strategies or programs will you put in place to inspire students to learn?

This year, we'll do more with our academic vocabulary programs.

We know that vocabulary is key, and we want to be sure we're addressing it effectively and in a motivational way. We're also looking at the process we use to teach writing as a component of our literacy instruction. We'll provide all teachers support in implementing effective processes to teach writing and ensuring the process is consistent across all classrooms. Our "specials" – music, P.E., computer and library – are ideal classes to address standards in ways that are motivating to students, so our specials teachers will be partnering with the classroom teachers to extend learning. Technology is naturally motivating, so we'll continue to look for additional ways to learn through the use of technology and digital media.

What do you see as Highland's greatest opportunities?

Highland has incredible expertise and commitment among the staff and tremendous support from our parents and community. With a strong foundation in place, I know we're prepared to take the next step and meet the challenges of increased standards. Another of our greatest opportunities is our diversity. We're fortunate to have families of several nationalities, cultures, gifts and talents represented in our school, making our Highland family representative of our American culture. With a strong foundation, a diverse culture and our commitment to children, we can accomplish much.

A more in-depth interview with Mrs. Tharp can be found on Highland's website, www.madison-schools.com/hes.



OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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OTMS TSA Students Honored at National TSA Competition

In late June, 24 dedicated students of the Olde Towne Middle School Chapter of the Technology Student Association (TSA) braved a 22-hour bus ride to attend the TSA National Championships in National Harbor, Maryland, which is located just outside of Washington D.C. These students entered in several different categories in hopes of placing on this national level. Some of these categories are dragster, flights, structural modeling, VEX robotics and technology essays.

The students of the OTMS TSA Chapter placed in the top 24 teams in VEX robotics. One student, Julia Jia, placed as a finalist in Essays on Technology. She ranked sixth out of approximately 60 entries. Jia was allowed to use only three notecards she brought filled with information, citations, and ideas. Armed with these, she only had a short amount of time to write her essay. She then interviewed with the judges as part of making it to the finals. As well as Jia making her mark, the Chapter as a whole received the TSA Middle School Chapter of the Year for Mississippi. This is a national award that went out to the top middle and/or high school chapter from each state present at the competition.

Bill Richardson received the award of National TSA Adviser of the year for Mississippi. This award is a very high honor and shows the leadership abilities of these student Advisors.

Richardson led this trip as Sponsor of the OTMS TSA Chapter, but he was accompanied by fellow TSA sponsors Sheila McGraw, Bobby Robinson,

and Tammy King. The overall Madison County Delegation was made up of 112 students from various schools from the county. This Delegation made up over half the total Mississippi delegation at Nationals. Next year's TSA Nationals will be held in Dallas, Texas, where the group hopes to make their mark once again.



Pictured are the members of the OTMS VEX robotics team, which placed in the top 24 in the VEX robotics competition at the TSA National Competition. Back (left to right): Melvin Nguyen and Bill Richardson, sponsor of the OTMS TSA Chapter. Front (left to right): Keelan Horne, Ashley Milner, Julia Jia, and Jon Diamond.

Interview with OTMS Principal Dowdy

Welcome to OTMS, Mr. Dowdy! Please share your thoughts about the transition to your new job as principal.

It is truly an honor to be selected as the leader of Olde Towne Middle School. OTMS has a reputation of success, and by being selected as the new principal, I am charged with maintaining the successes that are present and leading OTMS to even greater results. The transition has been very smooth. I was able to spend time with Mr. Lawrence and learn the daily routines at OTMS.

Ridgeland schools are known for their inclusive culture. Many students have said they are friends with everyone and embrace the different interests that their friends have. This is somewhat unusual for middle school. Any comments about how this culture helps students be successful academically and socially?

One of the neat things about the Ridgeland zone is the diversity of our student population. At one point, RHS had students from 14 different countries, and I believe this prepares our students for life after school. Our nation is a melting pot, and I think the diversity in our schools mirrors the diversity

of America. It's great for our students to be exposed to other cultures, and our students do a great job of welcoming any and all into the Titan family. Without a doubt, it prepares our students for life!

OTMS has the best Middle School Technology Student Association in the state under the leadership of Mr. Richardson and a team of enthusiastic teachers. Will science and technology continue to be one of the focuses at OTMS?

I am excited about the OTMS TSA program. We will maintain it as a focus for our students. We are also looking at ways to expand the program as we go forward.

Anything else you might want to add?

I think OTMS is the best-kept secret in Madison County. I invite anyone who wants a tour to come by the office and ask for me. I know, for a fact, we have a great teaching staff, a diverse curriculum and opportunities for students to excel in academics, technology, fine arts and athletics.

Lawrence's Academic Legacy Upheld as OTMS Welcomes Principal Dowdy

Allen Lawrence, who served as the principal of Olde Towne Middle School from 2003-2014, retired at the end of June. During his time as principal, OTMS was a top-rated Level 5 School from 2003-2007. This tradition of success continued once the accountability model changed and students began taking the MCT2. With a new curriculum, Mr. Lawrence very successfully guided teachers toward approaches that were needed to continue to see outstanding academic growth from the students. From 2008-2013, OTMS was designated a High Performing School based on the State Accountability Rating. Mr. Lawrence was stern, but he was passionate about educating every student that entered Olde Towne Middle School and ensuring that teachers were equipped to educate all students.

"I had the privilege to begin my career in education as a first-year teacher under Allen Lawrence in 2003," said Crystal Williams, OTMS assistant principal. "In 2007, I became the assistant principal at OTMS, and I could not have been more blessed to have had a better boss, mentor and friend."

Madison County School Board member and Titan parent, Philip Huskey commends Lawrence on his career. "Allen Lawrence's service as principal at Olde Towne Middle School will be greatly missed by the students, parents, and staff in Ridgeland. Mr. Lawrence provided guidance for students at what, quite frankly, can be a difficult passage between elementary to high school. His leadership provided a firm, nurturing, calm atmosphere at OTMS, where students blossomed. Under his watch, OTMS received consistently high-performing ratings in academics, athletics and extracurricular activities like band, choir, Beta Club and Technology Student Association. While we are saddened by his retirement, we wish him the best in his future endeavors."

In late spring, Tim Dowdy, who served as assistant principal at RHS for the past three years, was named OTMS principal and began transitioning to his new role at the end of the 2014 school year, working alongside Lawrence.

"We look forward to Mr. Tim Dowdy's administration at OTMS," said Huskey. "Mr. Dowdy has been in the Ridgeland zone as a teacher, coach and, most recently, as an assistant principal at Ridgeland High School. He has in-depth knowledge of the zone and our students. I've been impressed already by his enthusiasm, work ethic and plan for the future of the OTMS students and staff. I encourage all of our parents to pay a visit to Mr. Dowdy and support him as he takes the lead at OTMS."



Mr. Tim Dowdy, left, the new principal at Olde Towne Middle School has had a smooth transition into the position with support from Mr. Allen Lawrence, who retired in June 2014 after leading Olde Towne Middle for 11 successful years.

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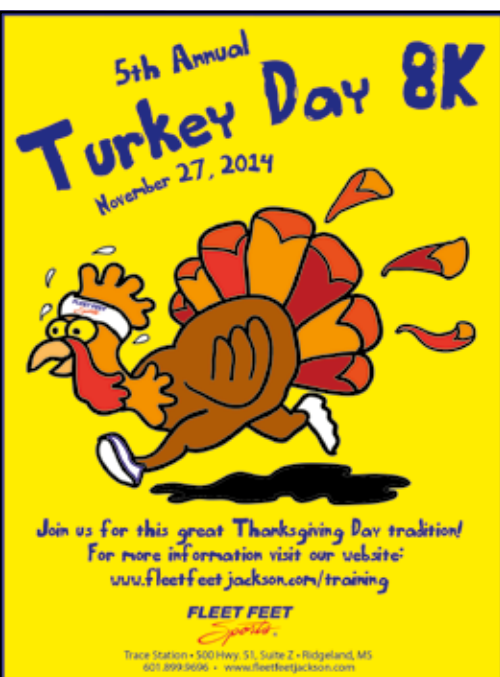


RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 9-12
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www.madison-schools.com/rhs

Fall Athletics

The RHS Homecoming Game will be held October 3. The Titans will take on Lanier at Titan Field. For a schedule of fall athletics, visit the school website at www.madison-schools.com/rhs.



RHS 2014 STAR Student Inspired by Highland Elementary Teacher

A former third-grade teacher at Highland Elementary made a big impact on one of her students nine years ago, and as a result, both were honored as STAR student and teacher at the end of the 2014 school year.

Sam Palmer, a 2014 graduate of Ridgeland High School and the school's STAR student, selected his favorite elementary teacher, Teresa Logan, as his STAR teacher. The STAR teacher is the person who has made the greatest contribution to the student's scholastic achievement.

"When I was told I had to pick my STAR teacher, I immediately knew I wanted to choose Mrs. Logan," said Palmer. "It's really hard for me to recall what it was like in most of my elementary classes, but I can easily remember Mrs. Logan's classroom. Her teaching was very hands-on and what I would call 'transformative.' When we would learn about a particular time period in history, she would transform the entire room to reflect the times. We even got to churn our own butter!"

Logan taught third grade at Highland for several years before moving to the elementary school's special education department. In 2013, she was named Highland's teacher of the year. Logan describes Palmer as being a very bright, but shy, student. "He was just a joy to teach because he was so inquisitive and excited about learning," she recalled. "He had the best disposition and was always happy and eager to be at school. He brightened my day every day. I have no doubt Sam will succeed in whatever path his life takes."

To be eligible for the STAR student honor, a student must be a graduating senior with a minimum ACT score of 25 and a minimum average of 93. Palmer easily met those requirements, earning a 35 on the ACT and excelling in the classroom as well as extracurricular activities.

Other honors and recognitions he's received while at RHS include being invited to attend the HOBY Leadership Seminar and Madison County Economic Leadership Day, being chosen as one of *Portico Magazine's* "25 Students Who Will Change the World," being named Ridgeland High School's Scholar of the Week by Blitz 16, and being nominated as a United States Presidential Scholar.

Additionally, Palmer was involved in Mu Alpha Theta, the academic competition team, national honor society, jazz band and indoor percussion. He was on the homecoming court for two years and was voted "most witty" by his classmates.

This fall, Palmer will attend the University of Mississippi, where he received several honors scholarships and was accepted into their honors program. He plans to major in biological sciences, attend medical school and specialize in genetic pediatrics.

Palmer and Logan were both honored at the Mississippi Economic Council's Education Celebration last spring.



A BALANCING ACT

While many classmates sun by the pool, Ridgeland High student and aspiring ballerina Mary Kate Shearer plies, fondues and jetés through summer. For six hours per day, for six days per week, for six weeks, Shearer trades sunshine for studio lights as she hones her ballet technique. She dances at Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet in Madison for two weeks and then travels to a summer training program at a school such as Philadelphia's The Rock School of Ballet or Atlanta Ballet.

This summer Shearer received one of four Jones Walker scholarships to the USA International Ballet Competition dance school in Jackson. The scholarships are awarded through audition to Mississippi ballet students. Shearer was glad to have an opportunity to study with an international faculty so close to home before attending Colorado Ballet's summer training "intensive" program in Denver.

Summer training helps strengthen and develop serious, young dancers. It gives them opportunities to learn from a variety of teachers, experiment with different styles of dance, study nutrition and anatomy, and experience ballet-company life.

The summer training also prepares Shearer for Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet company auditions held each August. Shearer began in the company at age 9 as an apprentice. For the 2013-2014 season, Shearer held the rank of senior company member. She hopes to become a soloist for the company before graduating and taking the next steps to becoming a professional ballerina.

As fall brings more hours in the classroom, Shearer, a 15-year-old sophomore, looks forward to time in classes like French, theater and choir.

"French is the language of dance," says Shearer. "Studying French helps me understand what different steps mean. For example, fondue means to melt. Knowing that helps me know what quality to make the movement."

Shearer adds, "Choir helps me interpret the music, and theater helps me act, even when I can't speak."

Besides offering classes that support her future aspirations as a ballerina, Ridgeland High School administration and faculty encourage Shearer's success in a variety of ways.

Administration allows a limited time away from school for Shearer to participate in Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet outreach performances and Regional Dance America Festival. At festival Shearer attends master classes, performs with Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet and auditions for scholarships.

Shearer's after-school schedule is dominated by ballet. Because Ridgeland High club meetings are scheduled at the beginning of the school day, Shearer has been able to participate in a variety of activities like student government, lady madrigals, French club, thespian club and Mu Alpha Theta.

In the next few years as she and her classmates weigh options for the future, Shearer will consider colleges, professional ballet companies and combined college-ballet company opportunities. Her experiences at Ridgeland High, training with Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet and summers spent trading sunshine for studio light may lead Shearer to the spotlight.



Mary Kate Shearer, a Ridgeland High sophomore and Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet senior company member, was awarded a Jones Walker scholarship to the 2014 International Ballet Competition dance school. Shearer strikes a balance between her traditional high school studies and her ballet training with the support of faculty and staff at Ridgeland High. Photo by: Leah Kackley

1:M MacBook Digital Initiative

Ridgeland High School students received exciting news this summer: each student in the high school would be issued a new MacBook Air to use during the school year as part of Madison County School District's 1:M initiative. Students and parents attended a training session, and paid a small usage/insurance fee before the laptop was issued. Students will be able to use the computers at school and at home.

Many students enjoy staying up-to-date on Apple products due to the proximity of Ridgeland's Renaissance Apple store (Mississippi's only retail Apple store), and they are enthusiastic about how the computers will enhance their education. Juliette Richert, a junior at Ridgeland High, offers, "Participation in M:1 means all of the students and teachers will have top-notch, compatible and reliable computers, which will be phenomenal. We are really grateful our school district has developed this program."



Ridgeland High students are engaged in an orientation session for Madison County's digital initiative 1:M, which provides each student with a MacBook Air to use at school and at home.

RIDGELAND BOOSTER CLUB LOOKING TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

The name of the organization may be Ridgeland High School Athletic Booster Club (RABC), but organizers want the community to understand that the RABC are supporters of much more than just the high school football team.

In fact, RABC supports all sports, from football, basketball and baseball to tennis, track and yes, even bowling. The club promotes integrity, good sportsmanship, community spirit and Titan Pride! It encourages all students to be involved in athletics; either by participating in a sport, volunteering to manage, and/or attending events as a team spirit-filled fan! Not only does the booster club support the high school athletic program, but it provides funding to support middle school athletes, as well. With a goal to mold great students for future programs, RABC endeavors to build team spirit and Titan Pride even among the elementary schools via TEAM TITAN recognition at high school home football events.

The group has set a significant goal this year - doubling its membership and community involvement. "We're grateful to have nearly 100 individuals and community businesses faithfully support 300 student athletes, but this year we want to reach out to everyone. I, personally, want to encourage all residents of Ridgeland to show your support for these students and join the

booster club," says Roger Bishop, 2014-15 President of RABC. He adds, "It doesn't matter if you have a child who plays sports, nor does it matter if your child is still in the lower schools, we value your participation!" Parents, grandparents, neighbors, friends, alumni and local businesses are all welcome to join.

"What a blessing from the Lord we have received from the Titan Booster Club. There are many great things that our athletes receive from this hard working and unselfish organization," commented Coach Kenny Burton, Athletic Director at Ridgeland High. Over the last several years, the booster club has supported students by giving thousands of dollars to help purchase equipment, meals, transportation, letterman jackets, and championship rings.

Titan support and pride comes in many forms and we would love for our families and community to be a part of it all. You can show your support by wearing Titan apparel or by purchasing the Titan Car Tag. The booster club sponsors additional events such as the annual Community Homecoming Parade and Festivities and the Draw Down and Silent Auction. General membership meetings are held quarterly to keep all members informed.

Many may already be aware of the Booster Club sponsored Titan Tailgate dinners, but did you know it is open to all Titan fans? Simply bring your drinks and a dessert to share and stop by to enjoy a delicious meal before the game for less than \$15 for the family; \$5 per individual.

Anyone signing up for the Titan Club level (\$25 or higher) or above by September 16, 2014 will receive a "FREE" Titan Tailgate Ticket. All membership levels will receive a 2014-15 car decal. Memberships must be renewed annually. Corporate sponsorships are available. Business memberships include advertisements and announcements at various sporting events.

Download membership forms at RHSTITANS.com. You can also stay abreast of activities by downloading our mobile app. For more information on RABC, please email rhsboosterclub@gmail.com or talk with a member.

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Holmes Community College Now Offering Professional Concrete Mixer/Truck Driver Program

In response to the increasing needs of the trucking industry and the vast career opportunities the industry offers, the Holmes Community College Workforce Department on the Ridgeland Campus is now offering a 8-10 week Concrete Mixer Truck Driver Professional Program. This program will benefit both individuals entering the workforce and those seeking to change to a rewarding career.

The program, taught by Danny Cather, is a combination of classroom and actual road driving that includes basic customer service skills, quality assurance, proper safety techniques, handling of cargo, knowledge in the basics of concrete, and training for a commercial driver's license. Participants in the program will obtain a Class A commercial driver's license, First Aid/CPR certification, and National Ready Mix Concrete Association (NRMCA) Concrete Delivery Professional certification during the course. Upon completion, drivers can be placed in any ready mix business across the state of Mississippi or the southeast United States.

According to the American Trucking Associations (ATA), there are approximately 25,000 unfilled truck driving jobs nationwide. Cather said that not only are there numerous trucking industry jobs across the U.S., but that there are also several positions available right here in Mississippi and in the Jackson area. Local companies have reported as many as 50 in-state job openings, with 15-20 of them in the Metro Jackson and surrounding areas. The drivers will work on interstates, bridges, sidewalks, new home foundations, commercial buildings and parking lots, among other sites.



The first cohort of students began classes on July 21, and the program is available year-round. Students are trained on the block surrounding the campus as well as in a small concrete plant located on North Wheatley Street. The concrete plant and two concrete mixer trucks were donated to Holmes specifically for the program. In addition to on-campus training, Cather takes the students to local concrete plants and work sites to get an inside look at the business, and to Meridian to practice on a TranSimVS Truck Driving Simulator.

For admittance into the program, a high school diploma or GED is desired. Interested participants should possess a current Motor Vehicle Report (MVR), as well as a solid work ethic based on a positive attitude, good communication, aptitude and decision-making skills.

"A commercial driver's license (CDL) learner's permit is preferred," Cather said, "but I'm willing to work with promising potential students who meet all other qualifications."

The cost of the program is \$1,400, and the class will meet in the D.P. "Pat" McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus.

"We are so excited to offer this new program at Holmes," said Angela Crain, workforce development coordinator for the Holmes

Ridgeland Campus. "This is one of several new programs on the Ridgeland Campus, and one that gives participants immediate entry into the workforce."

Other new programs at the Ridgeland Campus include the critical care paramedic program, interior design, and surgical technology.

For more information on the concrete mixer truck driver program, please contact Angela Crain at acrain@holmescc.edu or (601) 605-3370. For more information on Holmes Community College, visit www.holmescc.edu.

HOLMES COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

412 W. Ridgeland Avenue • 601-856-5400
www.holmescc.edu



Holmes Community College offers workforce training at the McGowan Center located at the Ridgeland campus. For a listing of current classes, go to <http://www.holmescc.edu/workforce/classes/index.aspx>.



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Closed on Sunday

Madison County Mystery Readers Host Best Selling Author, Sheldon Siegel

The Madison County Mystery Readers Book Club invites you to Skype with San Francisco author, Sheldon Siegel. Mr. Siegel has jumped onto best-seller lists and into readers' and reviewers' affections with seven outstanding novels featuring San Francisco defense attorneys Mike Daley and Rose Fernandez. More recently, Mr. Siegel introduced his fans to a new series featuring Chicago homicide detectives David Gold and A. C. Battle in the electrifying thriller *The Terrorist Next Door*.



Mystery author
Sheldon Siegel

Please join the Mystery Readers for what should be an enlightening and entertaining conversation with a well-loved author on Tuesday, October 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Decorating your Home for the Holidays

Karen Martinson McKie, florist and owner of Green Oak Garden Center, will share easy fall decorating ideas to add pizzazz to your entryway and festive table arrangements. Using her passion for varieties of foliage, Karen will demonstrate how to create color arrangements to give your home that special touch. We hope you can join us for this free program sponsored by the Friends of the Ridgeland Library on Friday, October 10 at 1 p.m.



Holiday decorating by Karen McKie

ARTIST CORNER

OCTOBER SHOW BY M. W. "BUTCH" STUART



Ridgeland Yacht Club

M.W. "Butch" Stuart, resident of Brandon, has returned to his easel using oils and watercolors to capture the inspiring sights of the Ross Barnett reservoir. His paintings will be on exhibit at the Ridgeland Public Library during the month of October. You are invited to attend an opening reception to meet the artist on Saturday, October 4, 2 – 4:30 p.m.

November/December Show by Pastel Society of Mississippi



Members of the Pastel Society of Mississippi pictured left to right, bottom, Gwin Robertson, Dorothy Parr, Dotsy Peel, Jeri Flinn, Julia Sherwood, Nancy Armistead; second row, Dianne Norman, Patricia Fitzgerald, Cindy Taylor, Loyce Watkins, Grace Low, Linda Dees, Kitsy Lowther; third row, Melissa Tackett, Elizabeth Hilton, Helen Pennington, Ella Jane Putnam, Pat Owens, Lynda McCalman, Gail Coley, Sallie Schott, Cecilia Baker; fourth row, Ann Armstrong, Sherry Hager, Mary Ann Blakeney, Phyllis Parker, Jane Seymour. Not pictured: Rose Base, Gloria Culver, Peggy Harkins, Donna Hunt, Margie Kaldon, Nettie Kennedy, Jan Kingsley, Rosemary Leggett, Vicki Lueb, Leslie Milam, Jeneane Mixon, Melinda Neill, Wilma Pickett, Cecilia Sawicki, Darlene Scott, Lyn Smith, Virginia Whittington Georgia Wright.

The Pastel Society of Mississippi was founded in 2009. With 45 members from throughout Mississippi, they are a very active member of the International Association of Pastel Societies. Several shows and workshops by well-known pastelists are held during the year. This year, the internationally renowned artist Richard McKinley will judge their November show. The Pastel Society of Mississippi meets the of each month with inspiring programs which are open to visitors. Anyone interested in attending may contact the President, Julia Sherwood (601-988-5107), or Membership Chairman, Sallie Schott, (601-368-9534).

Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale

Throughout the year, patrons donate their new and gently used books to the Friends organization in support of the Library. Some donated books go directly to the library shelves and the rest are sold at the two book sales coordinated by the organization.

As the primary source of revenue for the Friends of the Ridgeland Library, the book sale proceeds support the Reading Program for children and teens and provide revenue for equipment purchases and branch improvements.

Your support of the sale and membership in the Friends of the Library is greatly appreciated. An individual membership is currently \$12, Family \$20, Corporate \$100, and Lifetime \$250. One of the favorite benefits of being a member of Friends of the Ridgeland Library is the opportunity to attend a Book Sale Preview Party. Members get first choice on book selections before the sale is opened to the public. We invite you to become a new member or renew your current membership at the Preview Party on September 4.

The success of our sales is a combination of dedicated volunteers, quality books, and your support. Drop by and browse for treasures!



Haley Mannsdale, 8 years old

Ridgeland Branch
will be closed
for inventory
October 20 - 23.

Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale

Book Sale dates: September 5-10

Preview Party: September 4,
4 - 6:30 p.m. (Friends' Members)

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMMING

Contact: Cindy Graves

email: cgraves@mcls.ms

Fizz, Boom, Read!!

This summer, we had almost 650 students participate in our Reading Program. In response to the recent focus on Common Core in school curriculum, this year's theme was "Fizz, Boom, Read!" which placed heavy emphasis on science-based learning. The Ridgeland Library offered two workshops a week for children and teens during the months of June and July. These workshops included hands-on experiments similar to traditional science fair projects. Topics included basic circuitry, robotics, vermiculture, surface pressure freezing points, among others. Additionally, prizes were awarded to participants for meeting a reading goal.

The library would not have been able to offer the Reading Program without the help of our Teen Volunteers as well as the generous support of our sponsors. This year's sponsors included the Ridgeland Friends of the Library, Entergy, Trustmark, Regions, Bank Plus, Mississippi Children's Museum, Mississippi Museum of Art, Malco Theatres, MSU Extension Service Whataburger.



After applying the pressure of several hundred rubber bands, our Watermelon Explosion event was literally a blast!



Summer's first Readologists

FALL PROGRAMMING

Ridgeland Readers

(ages 3-7-year-olds)

Tuesdays: 4 p.m.

Programs include stories, songs, flannel board activities, movement crafts.

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14, 28; November 4, 11, 18

No programs on October 21 or November 25.

Baby Bookends

(ages 0-2-year-olds)

Wednesdays: 10:30 -11 a.m.

Mother Goose on the Loose is an interactive program between children and their caregivers. Participants will sing rhymes, play musical instruments, read stories, and do flannel board and movement activities.

September 3, 10, 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15, 29; November 5, 12, 19

No programs October 22 or November 26.

FamFun Family Program: Campfire With The Critters!

(For the whole family)

Thursday, October 30

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Come for stories, crafts trick-or-treating in the library! Critter costumes encouraged.

**FRESH, *flavorful* food deserves
FRESH, *flavorful* beverages!**

Come try our alcohol selection. You may wonder how you ever did without!



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CITY OF RIDGELAND
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

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

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AND EVENTS

Thursday, September 18
Ridgeland Under the Stars
Jackson Country Club
345 St. Andrews Drive
Tickets available from the
Chamber office.
6 -9 p.m.

Thursday, September 25
Town of Livingston
Hosted by the Madison
County Creative Economy
Council
5-7 p.m.

Thursday, October 16
The Blake at Township
608 Steed Road
5-7 p.m.

Thursday, November 20
**Internal Medicine &
Pediatric Associates**
6919 Old Canton Road
5-7 p.m.

Thursday, December 9
Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
**Colonial Heights
Baptist Church**
444 Northpark Drive
Tickets available from the
Chamber office.

2014 is Year of the Creative Economy

Governor Phil Bryant declared 2014 "The Year of the Creative Economy: Mississippi Homecoming". And, just like Mississippi's Creative Economy, Madison County is a crossroads of people, places and prosperity.

It's the creative people, businesses, organizations and places that contribute significantly to our local economy.

The Third Annual "Madison County Celebration of the Creative Economy" will be held Thursday, September 25, 2014 from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Town of Livingston located at the intersection of Highway 463 and 22 in Madison County. The reception will be held on the grounds and in the new buildings in Livingston.

The MCCEC was organized in the fall of 2011 to recognize and salute Madison County creative people, businesses and places that contribute significantly to our local economy and the state economy as a whole. The MCCEC is comprised of the Madison County Business League, Madison County Economic Development Authority, Madison County Foundation, and Ridgeland Tourism, Mississippi Crafts Center and Chambers of Commerce representing Ridgeland, Madison, , Flora and Madison County. Members of all these organizations will be invited to attend the event. Please view our website at www.madisoncountycreativeeconomy.com for more information.



2014 Members of the Madison County Creative Economy include: From left, Jan Collins, Madison County Business League; Mina Thorgeson, Ridgeland Tourism Commission; Gray Marchetti, Madison County Foundation; Nancy Perkins, Craftsmen's Guild; Elizabeth Bryant, Madison the City Chamber of Commerce; Linda Bynum, Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce; JoAnn Gordon, Convention and Visitor's Bureau and Film Office; Susan Marquez, Susan Marquez Consulting and Jana Padgett, Convention and Visitor's Bureau and Film Office. Not pictured: Mary Beth Wilkerson, Ridgeland Tourism Commission; Shelia Blakely, Flora Area Chamber of Commerce; Paige Petersen and Jodi Maughon, Madison County Chamber of Commerce and Jordan Hillman, Chamber Main Street Association.

THE CITY OF RIDGELAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PRESENTS

Ridgeland
Under the Stars
THE Stars



Featuring
ENTERTAINMENT BY:
*the quintessential, high energy,
sophisticated and versatile dance band*
Almost Famous

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

COUNTRY CLUB OF JACKSON

345 St. Andrews Drive • Jackson, MS

From 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres • Silent Auction • Entertainment by Almost Famous

Tickets \$40 each • \$70 per couple

Call the Ridgeland Chamber today to reserve your ticket • **601-991-9996**

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Renasant Bank • Roundtree Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram

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WLEZ 98.1 FM • WRTM 100.5 • WYAB 103.9 FM



The City of Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization committed to the development of new and existing business and quality of life for the residents of Ridgeland. Proceeds from Ridgeland Under the Stars help fund the Chamber's community service programs which impact the 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
RANDY TYLER
Chief of Police
randy.tyler@ridgelandms.org



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

City Meetings

Mayor and Board of Aldermen Meeting

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

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

Architectural Review Board

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

Bill Dicken - Chairman

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

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful

First Monday - 4:30 p.m.

Jan Richardson - Chairman

JoAnn Alford, Lynda Assink, Wendy Bourdin, Pat Busby, Claire Jackson, Phyllis Parker, Lea Anne Stacy

Community Awareness Committee

Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.

Drew Malone - Chairman

Shirley Gill, Dawn Hall, Vicki Heath, Scott Higginbotham, Lee Hutchings, Ann Knight, Mike Smith, Deborah Thomas, Darlene Turner

Contractors Board of

Adjustment and Appeals

Lantz Kuykendall - Chairman

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

Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee

3rd Tuesday - 6:30 p.m.

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

Zoning Board

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

Bernie Giessner - Chairman

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

City of Ridgeland

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

Aldermen

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

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

Chuck Gautier, Ward 2 601-856-1291

Kevin Holder, Ward 3 601-856-1950

Brian Ramsey, Ward 4 601-506-1979

Scott Jones, Ward 5 601-856-6861

Wesley Hamlin, Ward 6 601-454-0353

City Directory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

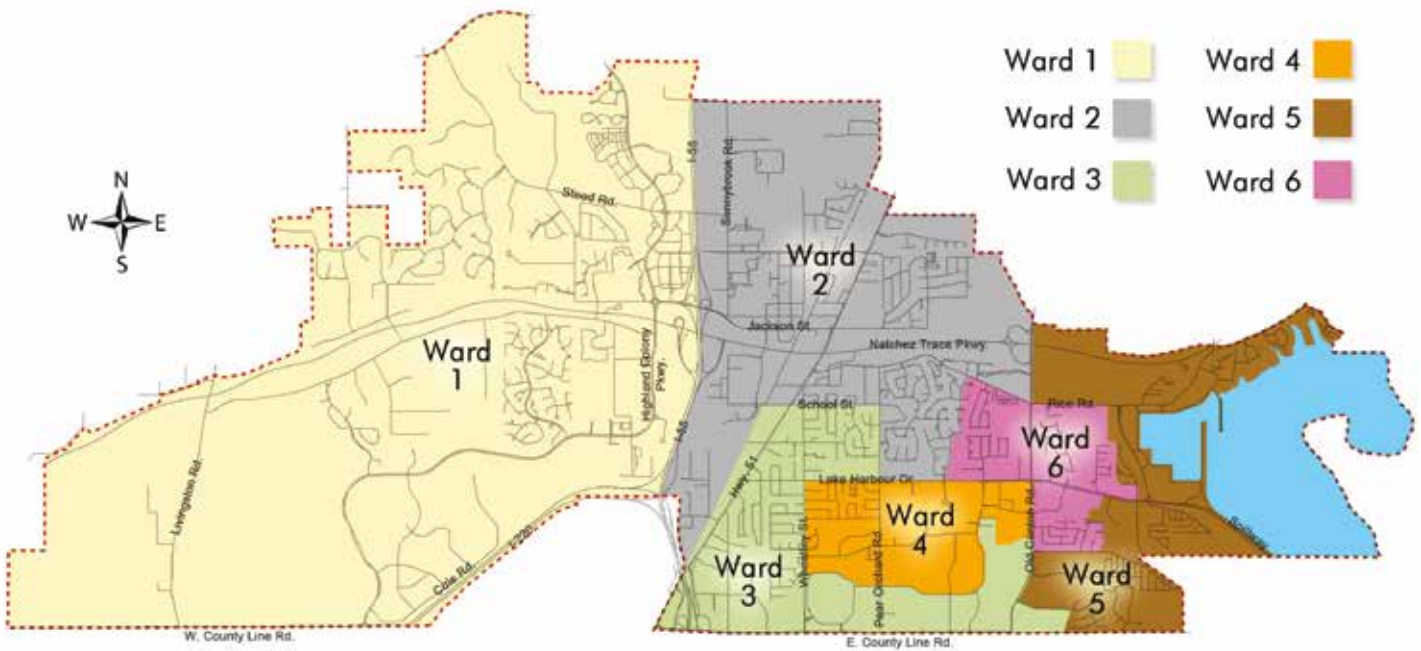
Public Works Department
(*road, garbage, recycling, water, storm water*) 601-853-2027

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

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

RIDGELAND ALDERMEN

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



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



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



Chuck Gautier
Ward 2
601-856-1291



Kevin Holder
Ward 3
601-238-5361



Brian Ramsey
Ward 4
601-506-1979



Scott Jones
Ward 5
601-206-5416



Wesley Hamlin
Ward 6
601-454-0353



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