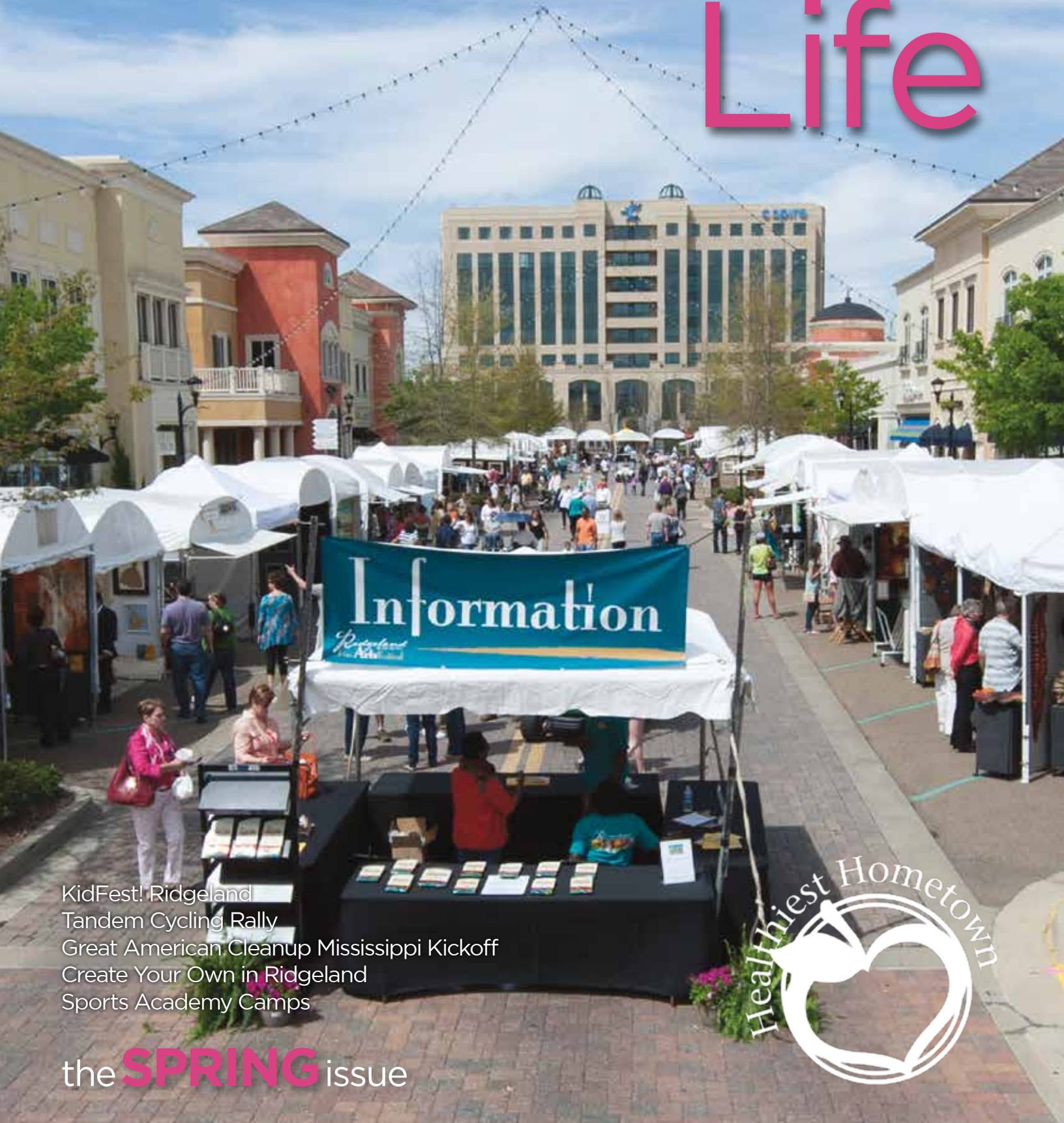


March – May 2015

RIDGELAND Life



KidFest! Ridgeland
Tandem Cycling Rally
Great American Cleanup Mississippi Kickoff
Create Your Own in Ridgeland
Sports Academy Camps

the **SPRING** issue



From the Mayor

If you are like me, you are looking forward to spring and warmer temperatures with the idea of getting outside and into an exercise program. The opportunities and facilities are plenty in Ridgeland. You may walk at Friendship Park or take advantage of the beautiful trails along the Natchez Trace or choose to go to one of the many private clubs in our city. I encourage you to spend time improving your health, and by doing this, it will certainly improve your quality of life.

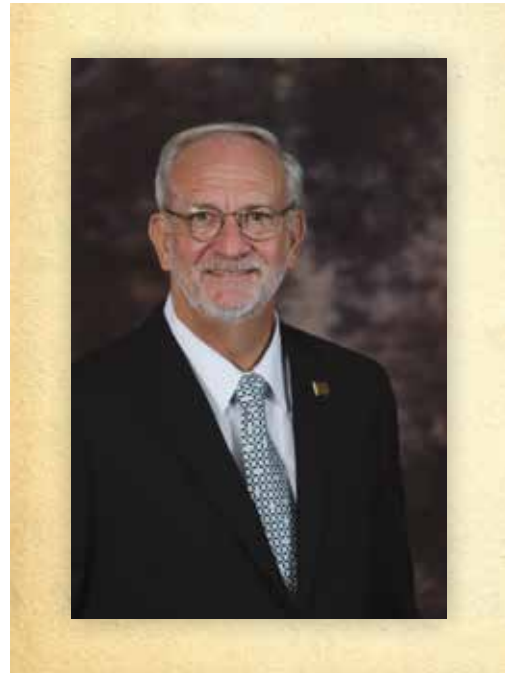
There are many ongoing projects in Ridgeland, and I'm very excited that progress is being made in several areas. Planning and engineering continue to move forward on the new City Center location. I anticipate we will be able to go to bid this year on the initial phase of the City Center. This will include re-designing the entrance on School Street, as well as a new entrance on Rice Road once the National Park Service approves our request. The other part of Phase One is the actual building of a new City Hall that will serve citizens of Ridgeland better.

Another project is the extension of Lake Harbour Drive from Highway 51 to Highland Colony Parkway. This project has been designed, and we are beginning to acquire right-of-way at this time. Once this project is complete we will have a beautiful east-west corridor from Highland Colony Parkway to the east side of Ridgeland. An additional project that should be completed this year is the new Madison-Ridgeland Interchange.

We are also in the right-of-way acquisition stage for Colony Park Boulevard which will connect Highland Colony Parkway to a relocated intersection at McClellan Drive and Highway 51. Once this connection is made, along with the Lake Harbour Extension, east-west traffic movement in the city will really open up. It will result in lighter traffic on Jackson Street, allowing us to convert that area into a downtown that will be friendlier to pedestrians and businesses in that area.

On another note, it is exciting that the City of Ridgeland is the location for a Miranda Lambert concert Memorial Day weekend. It is another one of those special events in our city that shows that Ridgeland is the best place to be!

Gene F. McGee



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland

RIDGELAND Life

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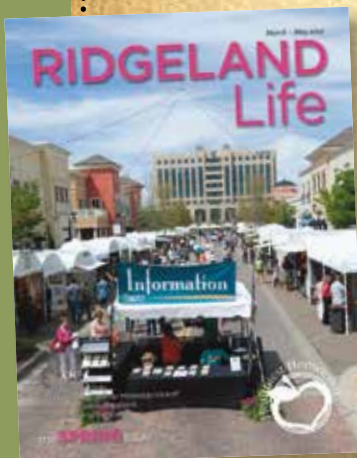
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ON THE COVER: A springtime highlight in our city, the annual Ridgeland Fine Arts Festival features a juried fine art show in a relaxed outdoor setting. Interact with the country's finest artists, enjoy live music, get your art on at creative craft corner, and be sure to view the student gallery, all at Renaissance at Colony Park. Learn what else makes April 17-19 a destination weekend in Ridgeland on page 5 of the spring issue of Ridgeland Life.

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

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13th Annual KidFest! Ridgeland

Presented By Blue Cross & Blue Shield Of Mississippi

April 3-4 & April 11-12

Four fun-filled days. KidFest! Ridgeland, presented by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, promises to deliver more fun and flexibility than ever before with new attractions and the return of some crowd favorites. The City of Ridgeland Department of Recreation & Parks and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi will host KidFest! Ridgeland for four days over two weekends (April 3-4 and April 11-12). As always KidFest! Ridgeland will feature a variety of shows, interactive activities and lots of other attractions which are all included in the price of admission.

New this year - Aussie Kingdom. This wonderful exhibit and show will entertain festival guests as well as educate them. Aussie Kingdom provides many interesting facts about the different species of kangaroos and wallabies, along with native Australian birds such as the kookaburra and rainbow lorikeet. Currently, they have 8 different species of these wonderful marsupials, (pouched animals). They also present information about their native land and the people of Australia. This is a high impact "WOW" factor program which includes all the animals on display throughout the day for everyone to enjoy the wonderful antics of the animals at play. Aussie Kingdom will appear both weekends of KidFest! Ridgeland April 3-4 & 11-12. They will perform three shows each day.

Also new for 2015 - Kazoobie Kazoo Show. Rick Hubbard celebrates more than a decade of providing positive family entertainment throughout the United States, and every moment has been KAZOOBIE! Rick invented the word "kazoobie" to describe his performance. It means "exceptional, fun, involving everyone." Rick's "Kazoo Band" shows get every audience member involved. Each person receives a free kazoo and performs with Rick in the grand finale. Leading up to this kazoobie event, Rick performs his popular original songs and features "Kids Appearing On Stage" or "KAOS" as Rick calls it. While Rick performs on guitar, banjo, steel drum and other exotic instruments, kids participate on stage - dancing, singing, shaking maracas or playing inflatable guitars. Every song is an opportunity for kids to participate. Kazoobie Kazoo Show will appear at KidFest! Ridgeland April 11-12. There will be four shows on Saturday and three shows on Sunday.



For another exciting new attraction, you can meet Paddington Bear from the hit family movie "Paddington" at Freedom Ridge Park during KidFest! Ridgeland. Appearing Friday, April 3 and Saturday, 4. Be sure to have your picture made with him.

Sea Lion Splash returns to KidFest! Ridgeland with their unique show that gets everyone cheering and laughing. The sea lions amaze festival guests as they balance balls, shoot hoops, dance, perform handstands and show their pretty smiles. The show is educational and funny. The sea lions will appear

in four shows on April 3-4. The sea lions are on display between shows.

Also returning this year, Those Funny Little People is a one-of-a-kind entertainment company with life-sized puppets who dance, sing and make people laugh. The Little People have been in several theater productions such as *The Wizard of Oz*. Making their television debut in 2011, Those Funny Little People appeared on the TV show *America's Got Talent* as four elves, an agent and a showgirl. The group resonated with audiences everywhere and placed within the top 36 acts. Appearing Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4.

America's Got Talent finalists, The Fearless Flores Family, return Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12 with their daredevil motorcycle stunts that impressed the judges and America on NBC TV's hit show, *America's Got Talent*.

The City of Ridgeland's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held during KidFest! Ridgeland on Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4. Check the schedule online at www.kidfestridgeland.com for hunt times.

Children and adult festival guests will have the opportunity to dress up as frogs, fish, mushrooms or rainbow twirlers and be the featured performers for The Nylon Zoo.

Following a trip to The Nylon Zoo, take a ride on the carousel, a train, a pony or a carnival ride. Also, don't miss the chance to view the world's smallest horse, only at KidFest! Ridgeland.

The Temporary Tattoo booth is always a festival favorite, as children get their faces, arms and legs decorated with festival designs. With Kid Karaoke, children can perform their favorite songs on a kid-sized stage. Robert Day, a Mississippi magician,



will show families how to perform magic tricks at The Magic Tent.

Children can use their imagination and creativity to become clowns and ringmasters at the Backyard Circus.

For boys and girls of all ages, Touch-A-Truck provides the opportunity to get up close and personal with large trucks and equipment provided by the Ridgeland Department of Recreation & Parks.

Gates will open at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 3 and Saturdays, April 4 & 11 and at noon on Sunday, April 12. Gates close at 6:30 p.m. all days. Admission is \$12 at the gate, but coupons for \$2/guest off the regular admission price are available at www.kidfestridgeland.com. All performances, activities and attractions are included in the admission price. For children younger than two, admission is free.

KidFest! Ridgeland has been named a Family Favorite by *Parents & Kids Magazine* and was recently named a “Top Twenty Event” by the Southeast Tourism Society.

For more information on KidFest! Ridgeland, see www.kidfestridgeland.com or contact the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department at 601-853-2011.

Destination Weekend in Ridgeland

Ridgeland Fine Arts Festival, Sante’ South Wine Festival and Ridgeland OBO Tandem Cycling Rally planned for April 17-19

The Ridgeland Tourism Commission (RTC) will present a spectacular destination weekend when it hosts the area’s first tandem cycling rally. The Ridgeland One Behind the Other, or “OBO,” will be held April 17-19, 2015 in conjunction with two of the city’s other premier annual events, the Ridgeland Fine Arts Festival (RFAF) and Santé South Wine Festival (SS). Events like these create crossover appeal to all visitors and establish Ridgeland as a destination for any business and leisure traveler.

The Ridgeland OBO Rally will feature some of the city’s excellent cycling routes, including the Ridgeland Multi-Use Trail and Ridgeland’s section of the Natchez Trace Parkway, a national scenic byway connecting the cities of Nashville, Tenn. and Natchez, Miss.

In its seventh year, the RFAF, a juried fine art show, provides an opportunity for the country’s finest artists to interact with local and regional patrons in an informal and relaxed outdoor setting. Held at Renaissance at Colony Park, the festival features live music and provides activities to further art education through its student gallery and Creative Craft Corner presented by the Craftsmen’s Guild of Mississippi. The festival is presented by the Ridgeland Tourism Commission.

The Santé South Wine Festival is an international showcase of the world’s premier wines and some of Mississippi’s most succulent culinary delights. Since 2006, it has grown into the largest wine and culinary extravaganza in the state and a signature event for the greater capital city area, generating proceeds for the Alzheimer’s Association® Mississippi Chapter. SS affords a rare opportunity for the wine enthusiast to speak directly with the winemaker and features exceptional wines and fine food samplings from top Miss. restaurants for a worthy cause.

For more information on this exciting weekend, go to www.visitridgeland.com. Those interested in volunteering for the RFAF may call the RTC at 601.605.5252 or visit www.RidgelandArtsFest.com/Volunteers.



The seventh annual Ridgeland Fine Arts Festival will come to the Renaissance at Colony Park this April along with two other events, the Sante’ South Wine Festival and the Ridgeland Tandem Cycling Rally.



The first tandem cycling rally in Mississippi is coming to Ridgeland April 17-19. Register for this fun event at <http://ridgelandtandem.com/>.

Dragon Boat Regatta Marks Seventh Year

The Madison County Chamber of Commerce will bring the Dragon Boat Regatta to the Barnett Reservoir on Saturday, May 16. This marks the seventh year for the event and it is the only one of its kind in the state of Mississippi. This 2000 year old tradition features teams of 20 paddling a 40 foot long boat to the beat of their drummer. Dragon Boat racing enhances work dynamics, employee motivation and self-confidence. Teamwork is essential to be successful in this competition. Synchronicity is more important than strength.

It's not too late to register a team! The Regatta provides an opportunity to create shared memories, market your organization and get involved in the community. Team practices and a paddlers' party add to the experience. Enter your company, school, church, sports team, association and friends and families. A team of 25 (8 of which must be female) includes 20 paddlers, 1 drummer and 4 alternates. Contact the Madison County Chamber of Commerce for registration information.

Spectators are welcome! Come out and cheer for the paddlers and enjoy a day at the reservoir. Plenty of kids' activities make it fun for the whole family. Volunteers are also needed for event and activities assistance. All volunteers receive a free T-shirt, lunch and VIP parking. For more information, go to www.paddlesontherez.com or call 601-605-2554.

- **Team Practices:** 4 – 8 p.m., May 11 – 13 at Pelican Grove Grill
- **Paddlers' Party:** 6 – 10 p.m., May 14 at the Jackson Yacht Club
- **Dragon Boat Regatta:** 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., May 16 at Old Trace Park



Dragon Boat racing at the Barnett Reservoir

The Mississippi Chorus Chamber Singers and Anacrusis Youth Ensemble to Sing in Ridgeland

The Chamber Singers and Anacrusis Youth Ensemble of The Mississippi Chorus will perform Handel's jubilant *Dettingen Te Deum* at St. Columb's Episcopal Church in Ridgeland on Sunday, March 22, at 4 p.m. under the baton of artistic director Michael Hrivnak and assistant artistic director, Jennifer Adams. Tickets may be purchased at the door (Adults \$20; Children \$5).



The Mississippi Chorus will be performing Handel 4 p.m., Sunday, March 22 at St. Columb's Episcopal Church in Ridgeland.

The Mississippi Chorus Chamber Singers, a small auditioned group from within the 100-member Grande Chorus performs choral masterworks appropriate for a smaller number of vocalists with a small to moderate-sized orchestration.

Handel was commissioned to write the commemorative work in 1743 to celebrate the victory at the Battle of Dettingen over the French army. George Frederic Händel, "Composer of the Musick to the Chapel Royal" at the time, wrote the jubilant piece which features 18 short solos and choruses in a brilliant, martial character, accompanied by brass and drum.

The Mississippi Chorus enjoys a rich, multi-faceted heritage of wonderful people and wonderful music presented in a wonderful spirit of generosity and inspiration! Based presently in Ridgeland, The Mississippi Chorus reaches into the entire central Mississippi area and beyond to deliver fine choral music. The Chorus is made up of dedicated volunteer members who love to sing and enjoy the fellowship that choral music offers. Boasting a membership drawn from several Mississippi cities, the Chorus welcomes new recruits at any time of the year and requires auditions only for section placement.

Each year, the Chorus presents a full season of concerts focused on the classical choral music repertoire. The Mississippi Chorus often partners with similar organizations such as the Mississippi Opera, the Mississippi Symphony, the Mississippi Boy choir, and the Mississippi Girl choir to prepare and perform challenging choral works. Such collaborative efforts can produce superlative artistic experiences to enrich audiences and performers alike. Chorus outreach grows with each season to introduce new audiences to fine choral music and to recruit new singers into the membership.

The season finale of The Mississippi Chorus will be by May 2 at 7 p.m. when the chorus will present A German Requiem by Johannes Brahms, venue to be announced. The program will feature soloists Roseann Mannino, soprano and bass-baritone Matt Daniels. Joining the chorus will be Anacrusis Youth Ensemble, Holmes Community College Concert Choir, and Orchestra.

For more information, visit their website MSChorus.org or call 601-278-3351.

Arts on the Green

From 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. on April 18 St. Andrew’s Episcopal School will proudly host its fifth annual Arts on the Green on its Ridgeland campus.

The event theme calls for attendees to “Travel the World in Our Backyard,” featuring various cultural traditions, arts, performances, and interactive activities from around the globe.

Designed to be family-friendly, this year’s Arts on the Green will include the following:

ARTISAN’S VILLAGE

A great place for patrons to shop-one-of-a-kind arts and crafts, the Artisan’s Village will have artists on-hand displaying and discussing their creations with visitors at their tents in the Commons area, and along outdoor sidewalks. Some of the exceptional creations you can expect to find this year are paintings, photography, furniture, as well as, jewelry, pottery and even culinary arts. Admission to the Artisan’s Village is free.

LIVE PERFORMANCES

Live music and entertainment on two stages will feature many St. Andrew’s students and Jackson Metropolitan Area Performing Arts organizations. Admission to live performances is free.

ONLINE AUCTION

With various items displayed on-site, historically, auction items have included vacation homes, art, wine tastings and special teacher/student activities. To get a sneak peak and head start on bidding, please visit www.artsonthegreen.info March 30 when the auction goes live!

CHILDREN’S GREEN

This year’s Children’s Green will be designed like an international village featuring six countries from around the world, where unique crafts, sports, and country specific rituals will be available. Tickets for the Children’s Green are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

EARTH BALLOON

The 20-foot high, inflatable Earth Balloon is an interactive display where children can learn about the world from the inside out. It portrays the planet as viewed from space and serves as an educational tool for kids of all ages to step inside and explore everything from geography, population, climate, resources, migration routes and more. Admission to the Earth Balloon is free.

LITTLE GREEN DRESS FASHION SHOW

The Little Green Dress Fashion Show will showcase local fashions, as well as, clothing made by the student Environmental Club from recycled items. Hosted by Jeff Good, President of Mangia Bene Restaurant Group and Stephanie Garriga, Director of Institutional Advancement for St. Andrew’s, the show will take place in the Center for Performing Arts at 12 p.m. April 18. Tickets for the Little Green Fashion Show are \$15. A special



St. Andrew’s Episcopal School students enjoy the Children’s Green at Arts on the Green 2014.

rate of \$25 applies to Little Green Fashion Show and Garden Tea Party tickets purchased together.

GARDEN TEA PARTY

High fashion will meet High Tea at the Garden Tea Party. Reminiscent of high tea at the Windsor Court Hotel in New Orleans, the Garden Tea Party will be located in the Center for Performing Arts and will take place at 1 p.m. April 18. Tickets for the Garden Tea Party are \$15 if purchased separately from the fashion show tickets.

St. Andrew’s mission is “To nurture a diverse community in the Episcopal tradition, fostering spiritual growth, moral responsibility, academic excellence, and artistic and athletic pursuits, while preparing for a life of service to our community and the world.” Arts on the Green was designed to reinforce this mission and St. Andrew’s deep commitment to our global community.

Please visit www.artsonthegreen.info for additional information. See you on the Green!

Get Medicare Ready!

Call a local
licensed
Humana agent.



Josh Errington, Agent
(601) 201-5448
(TTY: 711)

Humana.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

Humana is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in the Humana plan depends on contract renewal. Call Humana sales and customer service: 1-800-336-6807 (TTY: 711), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful to Host Keep Mississippi Beautiful's Great American Cleanup State Kickoff

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful representatives are excited to announce that Keep Mississippi Beautiful's Great American Cleanup State Kickoff Event will be held in Ridgeland this year. The kickoff program and project will take place Friday, April 24 at Midway Park. The event is part of a series of litter cleanup and beautification events being held across the state during the Great American Cleanup.

The project's focus is renovation of Midway Park, including painting a newly refurbished basketball court, installing new picnic tables, benches and grills and planting shrubs and flowers to beautify the park. Keep Mississippi Beautiful selected Keep Ridgeland Beautiful's project for the Kickoff Event and is helping sponsor the project.

Keep Mississippi Beautiful's support will help fund the purchase of tables, benches, grills and landscape material. Volunteers for the Kickoff Event will install the equipment and conduct additional beautification efforts that day.

"Ridgeland is one of our newest affiliates, and we are excited to host this year's State Kickoff in the city and help make Ridgeland's

Midway Park a better place," Keep Mississippi Beautiful Executive Director Sarah Kountouris said. "Each year, people from groups like Keep Ridgeland Beautiful across the state and nation gather for the Great American Cleanup as a way to give back to their communities and make them better places to live, work and play."

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful representatives are proud to be hosting the kickoff event for the state of Mississippi. "We were delighted to have been selected as the host city for the kickoff event," said Jan Richardson, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful. "We felt a strong connection to the park project and it presented a need in Ridgeland. The project will result in a greatly improved neighborhood park that will provide a wonderful place for McLaurins Tougaloo Heights neighborhood events, outdoor recreation and family reunions."

A special program will begin at 8:30 a.m. when participants will hear from Kountouris, Mayor Gene McGee and additional noteworthy speakers. The Junior ROTC color guard will present the flag and the Ridgeland High School band will play *America the Beautiful*. The public is invited to the program to help celebrate this special project.

"We are so appreciative of the support given to us by Keep Mississippi Beautiful. They have worked with us to develop a kickoff event that will be enjoyable to all," said Richardson.

Midway Park is located at 325 Midway Avenue off Holmes Street behind Prassel Lumber on Highway 51. Currently, the park has an open field for play, shade trees, a basketball court and a few trash cans. Adcamp sponsored resurfacing of the basketball court and the driveway. Bulldog Construction sponsored work and materials for curbing. City crews are working to replace fencing around the property and add a new basketball goal.

Parking for the event will take place at City Hall, 304 Highway 51. Colonial Heights Baptist Church will shuttle volunteers to the work site and will sponsor lunch for volunteers.

Volunteers include Keep Mississippi Beautiful affiliates, McLaurin Tougaloo Heights Neighborhood residents and other local citizens, students from area colleges and high schools, local church members and corporate sponsors. Volunteers at the event are encouraged to share their work with others by using the #GAC2015 and #CleanGreenMS hashtags on social media. If you would like to be involved in the project, please contact Renee Buckner with the City of Ridgeland at 601-853-2027 or renee.buckner@ridgelandms.org.



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CREATE YOUR OWN IN RIDGELAND

Creating your own arts and crafts is a popular activity here in Ridgeland. The following businesses attest to it. Each locally owned business described below offers a different specialty including jewelry-making and beading, sewing and quilting, chalk-painting furniture, painting for wall art, mosaics, pottery and more. If you ever thought you would like to find a craft or art that you can call your own, look no further! It's all right here to choose from in Ridgeland. Call on these local experts to learn more about creating your own!



Ann Bankston stands ready to show you how to make jewelry that reflects your personal style. Visit Ann at Village Beads in Ridgeland.

Village Beads

398 Hwy 51., Suite 30 at School Street Shopping Center (corner of Highway 51 and School Street, across from the Ridgeland Public Library)

601-853-3299 • www.Villagebeads.com

10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday- Friday; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday

Owners: Ann Bankston, Cheri Bankston, Jim Bankston

Village Beads offers an incredible and large selection of beautiful beads and all the jewelry-making supplies you could use. Here you can find everything from the latest trends in high quality pearl and leather to unique stones and antique beads. A knowledgeable staff that loves to teach can help you select the right items and learn how to make custom pieces right there in the studio.

“You can make one-of-a-kind pieces that you cannot get anywhere else,” said owner Ann Bankston.

Bankston adds that the staff at Village Beads can help you create custom jewelry to match a special outfit. “Or,” Ann said, “If you see a picture on Pinterest of jewelry that you want, we can teach you how to make it.” Village Beads also sells ready-made but unique jewelry.

“It’s very therapeutic and relaxing to do beading. It’s an instant gratification hobby and a lot of fun,” said Bankston.

Jewelry-making and beading is the kind of hobby that can support itself. Many of Village Beads’ customers make jewelry for resale. These customers and others take advantage of volume discounts and frequent shoppers discount cards.

The best way to learn is to take one of their classes in basic bead stringing. Classes are held regularly on Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. Other classes are taught by appointment.

A small studio fee will allow a customer use of their specialty tools while making jewelry on site. Working on pieces while in the store, allows the customer to select beads while creating jewelry.

If you want jewelry-making to be a social event, Village Beads hosts Girls’ Night Out, birthday parties, and other special occasions.

Touching the stones is encouraged here and that’s something you certainly cannot do with Internet shopping. Ann Bankston said, “There is so much variation in the stones. It’s the kind of thing you have to touch and see.”

Full of color and beautiful stones, it’s difficult not to get lost in the artistry of jewelry-making when you are there. You want to explore, to learn and get inspired.

In need of jewelry repair? Village Beads staff will provide pearl knotting and repair costume jewelry, filling a niche that a traditional jewelry store doesn’t fill.

Spruce

637 Highway 51 (corner of Highway 51 and Ridgeland Avenue)

601-853-0860 • www.fauxfinishbiz.com

Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Owner: Virginia Weathersby

Virginia Weathersby has the education, experience and talent to help you transform an old piece of furniture or an outdated home accessory into something beautiful. Her retail store in Ridgeland, Spruce, specializes in chalk paint, milk paint and waxes that are easy to use. Courses offered at Spruce are suitable for beginners to advanced decorative painting students.

Even if you have never picked up a paint brush, Weathersby will help you gain the confidence to paint your own furniture. Through her instruction, you can learn a new skill that you can repeat at home on your own.

Weathersby says, “I love the classes. I love teaching and getting to meet so many different people. I especially enjoy seeing how happy they are at the end of the class when they realize what they have accomplished.”

Weathersby’s store on Old Fannin Road was the first store in



An expert in decorative painting, Virginia Weathersby, will show you how to transform your furniture with chalk paint, milk paint and waxes. Drop by Spruce in Ridgeland to learn more and sign up for a course.

North and South America to carry Annie Sloan's Chalk Paint. She was taking a class in Scotland when she first learned about this fabulous paint produced in Oxford, England. It has been popular in Europe for 25 years, but it wasn't until four years ago when it became popular in the U.S. A distributor in New Orleans decided to bring it to the U.S. if Weathersby would sell it in her store. Now, over 400 retailers in the United States carry the paint thanks to Weathersby's decision that day. What a trend-setter!

"Annie Sloan's Chalk Paint is just so user-friendly," says Weathersby, "and the results are always great."

Call the store for the class schedule. Some of the classes offered include: Bring Your Own Piece, Chalk Paint 101, Milk Paint Classes, Mixed Media Classes, and starting this fall, Weathersby will offer Trumeau classes.

Newsflash from Spruce: They will be having a major blowout sale of their furniture and accessories this spring. Weathersby wants to sell the inventory and make more room for the paint shop.

Bernina Sewing Etc.

665 Pear Orchard Road, Suite 104

601-991-2120 • www.berminasewingetc.com

Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. • Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Owners: Ann and C. Nolan Hudson

Sewing is back in style. Just look at Etsy or other websites geared toward cottage industries. You'll see handmade clothing, bedding, décor items, and more that all use sewing as a basis of the items.

Ann Hudson, co-owner of Bernina Sewing Etc., has noticed younger people wanting to be creative whether in making their own garments or sewing for children. "Moms try to replicate styles that are popular and expensive. They can also be really creative, making exactly what they want," said Hudson.

Is *Project Runway* more your style? Helpful and trained staff

at Bernina will guide you in selecting patterns and fabric to work with your latest design idea.

Bernina Sewing Etc. in Ridgeland offers popular sewing classes to fit your schedule. There are weekly classes, monthly classes, night classes, and project classes of all types. Quilting remains one of the most popular sewing classes for advanced seamstresses. Embroidery is another popular class and it includes the use of specialized equipment and software.

A good one to try if you are considering sewing as a hobby is the two-hour night class or Saturday class in beginning sewing. You'll learn the basics on your own machine or borrow one in the store. Even children (8 years and older) can learn how to sew in a regular class offered monthly on Friday afternoons. Once you get the hang of basic sewing, you might want to join a club or come to lunch bunch.

Whatever you choose to do, helpful and well-trained teachers are available to you. Each employee of Bernina Sewing is also an instructor.

Bernina Sewing Etc. offers a state of the art classroom. A student can get an up close view of what the instructor is stitching through their projection system. Bring your own machine or use one of their classroom machines.

Products sold include sewing machines, embroidery machines, sergers, quilting accessories, fabric, books and patterns. Bernina is a family-owned business out of Switzerland that has been building sewing machines for four generations. Hudson said, "Bernina machines are not all expensive, but they are all good quality. We offer machines that fit almost any budget."

So, if you are interested in learning to sew or to perfect your techniques, Bernina in Ridgeland will "hook" you up!

Love quilts? Starting March 2 and running for two weeks, come to Bernina to enjoy the Robert Kaufman Quilt Trunk Show.



Bernina Sewing Etc. offers popular sewing classes to fit your schedule. Ann Hudson and her team will help you learn to sew if you have never made a stitch or help you to advance in your sewing skills.



Relax and have fun at Easely Amused where you can produce an entire painting during one class! Here Amy McCart is leading birthday party attendees in an owl painting.

Easely Amused

115 W. Jackson Street, Suite F (floor across the hall from Ely's Restaurant)

601-927-4900 • paint@easilyamused.com

www.easilyamused.com • www.facebook.com/easilyamused

Owner: Bridget Veazey • Studio Manager: Amy McCart

Teaching painting for 6 years in Ridgeland, Easely Amused remains a local favorite and a favorite for the metro area among those seeking a creative experience. You get to take home a creation, whether you are artistic or not! The staff at Easely Amused teaches all sorts of painting and craft classes – acrylics, watercolor, mixed media, abstracts and more.

Owner Bridget McCart Veazey said, “We love giving people the opportunity to get messy and creative. Our goal is to take away any intimidation or hesitation people have about exploring their artistic side... it’s about relaxing and having fun.”

Easely Amused offers at least 5 classes per week and they host private parties for all ages. They feature local artists as guest teachers, allowing customers to become familiar with the work of local artists and the creative process. Classes for kids will be hosted over Spring Break as well as lots of summer classes and mini-camps for kids.

“We are extremely proud of the work that our customers produce and we especially love seeing pictures of their masterpieces hanging in their homes! But, most of all, we want our customers to enjoy their creative time in a happy, positive environment where they can make great memories with their family and friends!”

Some of Easely Amused favorite celebrations/classes offered throughout the year: Elvis’ Birthday Party, Christmas in July, Paint Your Own Pumpkin, 80’s Night, SEC Tailgate Date Night, Picasso Portrait Date Nights and many more.

This spring, don’t miss classes during spring break, Easter Egg Painting, other special paintings and the opportunity for parties.

Be sure to go to their new location in the Olde Towne Ridgeland shopping center at 115 W. Jackson Street, Suite F, which they say stands for Fun!

Craftsmen’s Guild of Mississippi

950 Rice Road • 601-856-7546

www.msccraft.org • education@msccrafts.org

Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. • Sunday, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Education Coordinator: Jennifer Wolfe

Craft classes are offered at the Mississippi Craft Center, located at 950 Rice Road in Ridgeland. Some of the popular classes include mosaics, pottery, blacksmithing, fused glass and weaving or spinning.

There are many options for learning and getting your craft on at the Mississippi Craft Center. Discover classes are held on a Tuesday or Thursday evening once or twice a month. Pioneer is a 10-week intensive course for a student to learn a particular skill. Four-week intensives are also available.

Jennifer Wolfe, education coordinator at the Mississippi Craft Center, said, “Discover classes provide the opportunity to get exposed to a new craft. If interested in pursuing more, the next step would be intermediate courses or intensives.”

One-on-one instruction is also available. Club meetings or parties can be held at the craft center, where an instructor is booked to teach a basic craft class.

Check in for the latest schedules at www.msccraft.org or www.facebook.com/CraftGuild.

Starting March 31, a 10-week course in Weaving or Spinning will be offered at the Mississippi Craft Center. A one-evening class in the basics of glass fusing will be held on April 15.



Pictured here is a batik class in session at the Mississippi Craft Center. The Craftsmen’s Guild of Mississippi offers craft classes and one-on-one instruction for all levels of students.

Seize the Day with Fiber to the Home

Fiber to the Home is a residential service that provides customers with ultrafast Internet of 1 Gigabit per second. Internet this fast means the end to buffering, the ability to transfer data at the speed of light, download and upload at the blink of an eye and run several devices simultaneously in your home faster than ever before. This is the technology of NOW. And Ridgeland has it.

Fiber to the Home means more economic opportunity for Ridgeland. It can enhance education, health care and business. It can improve home values. Other Internet providers are watching and getting more competitive with their pricing.

Paul Gay, Rolling Meadows resident said, "I was very excited about getting C Spire's Fiber to the Home service. I have been involved with microcomputer construction and utilization since the late 70's, before Commodore or Tandy or IBM entered the market. I know from experience the impact that increases in speed or storage can have on productivity and ultimately on job creation."

"Ridgeland, by partnering with C-Spire, has positioned itself to gain hundreds and perhaps thousands of good technology jobs," adds Gay. "I pray that men and women of vision will seize this opportunity to make a great community even more exceptional by harnessing this remarkable advance."

Bryan Johnson, economic development assistant for the City of Ridgeland, is working to help more homeowners gain this exceptional service. He talks to people about it every day and is learning how it is improving quality of life for Ridgeland residents.

"For example," Johnson said, "professionals living in fiber-connected neighborhoods are excited about Fiber to the Home making their work lives easier. In the past, they did not have a choice but to drive into the office after hours to access files. If they tried to download those files on their home computer with their old Internet service, it would take all night! Now, with fiber installed, they can download large files instantaneously without having to leave their home. "

In order to get this ultrafast Internet, your home must be located in a fiberhood that has qualified for fiber or is already connected or under construction. By going online to www.cspire.com/fiber, citizens can pre-register for service or sign up for service if it's available. A certain percentage of residents pre-registering are required for a fiberhood to qualify for construction.

Below is a list of Ridgeland fiberhoods and where they stand:

- Ann Smith: Qualified
- Bird Lanes: Qualified
- Bridgewater: Connected
- Central North, Central South: below 10% of 35%
- 51 North: 16% of 35%
- Highland Colony North: Under Construction
- Montrachet/Muirwood/Camden Park: 30% of 35%
- Old Agency East: Under Construction
- Olde Towne: 12% of 35%
- Reservoir and Southeast: below 10% of 35%

Johnson said, "What is really helping neighborhoods go green is when neighbors talk to each other about it. If you have already signed up for Fiber to the Home, please tell your neighbors!"

Wondering about the level of customer service from C Spire Fiber to the Home? According to residents that have undergone the installation process, it has been more than satisfactory. David Williams, resident of Dinsmor and Internet and high-definition Television customer said, "I was really pleased with the customer service I received when I called C Spire. They were very helpful and knowledgeable. The Internet connection is very fast and reliable, and the picture quality and sound are phenomenal. The remote is easy to use and has lots of great features that I haven't had before. It was nice that the installers set up the remotes for the various components that I have throughout my house."

Contact Bryan Johnson for more information at 601-856-3877 or bryan.johnson@ridgelandms.org.

Sports Academy Camps Coming To Ridgeland This Summer

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department has partnered with Skyhawks Sports Academy to bring you a new offering of summer camps. Skyhawks provides a wide variety of fun, safe and positive programs that emphasize critical lessons in sports and life, such as teamwork, respect and sportsmanship. Programs are designed to give each child a positive introduction into sports while fostering a lifelong love for an active, healthy lifestyle.

"Our patient and knowledgeable staff use a variety of skill-building games and activities to give each athlete a complete understanding and overview of the sport," said local franchise owner, Paul Van Hooydonk.

Since 1979 Skyhawks has taught over one million boys and girls life lessons through sports. Please view www.skyhawks.com for further information. For a complete sports camps schedule, turn to RECRE8 in this issue of *Ridgeland Life*.

Outstanding Local Athlete Nicholas Rowan

Junior-varsity offensive guard for the Madison Ridgeland Academy Patriots, Nicholas Rowan is an active eighth-grader who excels in football. Rowan was invited to play in the Eastbay Youth All-American Bowl this past December in Naples, Florida. He played against the top football players in his age group in the country.

A press release from Matt Valentini, Assistant Director of Eastbay Youth All-American Bowl, states, "Pitting the nation's top youth football players against each other in an East versus West all-star format, the Eastbay Youth All-American Bowl brings together the top youth talent in America."

At 6'2" and 290 pounds, this Ridgeland resident did his part in the game, as stated in a *Madison County Journal* article published January 8, 2015 and written by Tyler Cleveland, "he finished with five pancakes and five knock-down blocks. Two of the scoring runs came on plays when he pulled to the other side and drove a defender backwards. He even picked up one tackle."

Warren and Theodora Rowan feel honored that he was selected. Warren Rowan, father of Nicholas, said, "It takes a community to produce a quality athlete like Nic. If it was not for Madison Ridgeland Youth Club, he would not have taken an interest in football. He has worked with several coaches from the area and found support from the community and his school that has led him to where he is today."

Rowan also plays basketball and keeps up a 3.93 GPA. Rowan said, "My parents have always encouraged me to do my best. That is the way that I can reach my fullest potential. For as long as I can remember, I've dreamed of becoming a medical doctor. In order to make this dream a reality, I know that it will take hard work, persistence, sacrifices, and dedication, all of which I am willing to do in order to achieve my goal."

It's very likely you will be hearing this Ridgeland's name for years to come. Nicholas Rowan, we will be watching you and cheering you on!



Pictured here, center, MRA eighth grader Nicholas Rowan with parents, Theodora, left, and Warren, right, holding the Eastbay Youth All-American Bowl banner.

Please Help Find The Missing Mayors

In the foyer at Ridgeland City Hall, there is a display wall of Mayoral photographs that goes back to the year of the first elected Mayor for our city. It is an important part of our history as a city, depicting the Mayors and their terms in chronological order. There's a little problem, however. Three of the Mayoral photos are missing!

No, they were not stolen! Since the display wall was created, these Mayoral photos were not available to add to the wall. A name card states the years of their terms and is placed in order. Below are the missing photos and terms of office.

- R.L. Porter, 1900 - 1909
- W.L. Evans, 1915 - 1919
- J.P. Cooke, 1919 - 1927

The Historical Society of Ridgeland needs your help in locating photographs for these mayors. If any descendants or other persons have a photograph of any of the missing mayors, please contact the Historical Society of Ridgeland. The Society seeks to preserve Ridgeland history and would like to make a copy of your photo for the public. Contact Nancy Batson, President, Historical Society of Ridgeland at 601-856-3933 or ndbatson@bellsouth.net.



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Alderman Ramsey Selected As American Canoe Association Mississippi State Director

Do you enjoy paddle sports such as canoeing, kayaking, rafting, or stand-up paddleboarding? Then, you will want to talk to our very own, Alderman Brian Ramsey. He is the new Mississippi State Director of the American Canoe Association.

The American Canoe Association (ACA) is a national nonprofit organization providing education, support and promotion of paddlesport competition and recreation. The ACA has over 30,000 members and sponsors over 4,300 events each year. Their State Director Program seeks to increase the effectiveness of the ACA at the state level.

Mississippi has plenty of waterways that are suitable for paddle sports. Ramsey plans to help promote paddlesport competition, foster a paddlesport community, and assist others learn how to enjoy local waterways. Having experienced the enjoyment of recreational canoeing and kayaking, Ramsey wants to encourage individuals to get involved in paddlesports and to develop more paddling clubs in the state.

Ramsey also sees the big picture for the state in a boost to economic development and employment as well as environmental awareness and health. Ramsey has a vision for development of a paddlesports venue that could include not only flatwater activities, but a whitewater center as well.

“Paddlesports is one of the fastest growing segments of the recreation market,” said Ramsey. “Mississippi is wide open to become a regional paddlesports destination and I feel that Ridgeland is poised to be the center of it all.”

Currently, Ramsey is sending a callout for instructor training and for club formation. If you are a paddlesport enthusiast, contact Ramsey to help form his team of instructors or get a club started in your school or organization. Contact him at 601-506-1979 or msstatedirector@americancanoe.org. To learn more about the American Canoe Association, visit www.americancanoe.org.



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

Madison-Ridgeland Youth Club

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

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

Wendy Bourdin

Wendy.bourdin@ridgelandms.org • 601-853-2011

Natchez Trace Century Ride

Get your ride on! The Natchez Trace Century Ride will take place Saturday, May 2. This recreational bike ride offers a scenic ride for participants of all levels. The Century Ride will use the same routes as last year. For route information please visit our website at www.natchezcenturyride.racesonline.com.

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Program Price:</i> | \$35 |
| <i>Registration:</i> | Now – April 10 |
| <i>Late Registration:</i> | April 11 – May 2 |
| <i>Late Reg. Fee:</i> | \$45 |
| <i>Event Date:</i> | Saturday, May 2 |
| <i>Start Time:</i> | 7 a.m. |
| <i>Location:</i> | Ridgeland Recreational Center |

KidFest! Ridgeland

Family Fun is **on** as KidFest! Ridgeland takes over Freedom Ridge Park April 3-4 and April 11-12. Guests enjoy train rides, pony rides, interactive activities and a variety of shows. All shows and activities are “up close and personal.” Ultimately, the objective is to provide an opportunity for parents and children to interact with each other and provide an affordable, memorable family experience. Tickets will be available at the gate. We do not accept debit/credit cards.

Enjoy a great day of family fun. Kidfest will be held April 3-4 (Friday and Saturday) and April 11-12 (Saturday and Sunday) at Freedom Ridge Park. Visit www.kidfestridgeland.com for coupon, schedule, Easter Egg hunt times and more information.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| <i>Ticket Price:</i> | \$12 at the gate, \$2 with online coupon |
| <i>Location:</i> | Freedom Ridge Park |
| <i>Dates & Times:</i> | Fri., April 3 from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Sat., April 4 from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Sat., April 11 from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Sun., April 12 from 12 p.m.-6:30 p.m. |

Ride Of Silence

The Ride of Silence™ is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20. This special event seeks to build awareness of the importance of sharing the road safely for cyclists and motorists. Participating cyclists ride no faster than 12 mph and remain silent during the ride in honor of those cyclists who have been injured or lost their life due to collision with vehicles. The ride begins and ends at Northpark Mall. Arrive at 6:15 p.m. for key speakers and announcements. Ride begins at 7 p.m.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Program Price:</i> | Free |
| <i>Location:</i> | Northpark Mall |
| <i>Date:</i> | Wednesday, May 20 |
| <i>Time:</i> | 6:15 p.m. |

Household Hazardous Waste Day

Household Hazardous Waste Day is held every May for Ridgeland and Madison County residents. It is funded by a grant from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. This year, it will be held Saturday, May 16, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Holmes Community College in the Ridgeland Avenue parking lot.

This event provides an opportunity for residents to clean out garages and homes of hazardous waste items. No business waste will be accepted. Items for collection include: paint cans, motor oil, batteries, tires, herbicides, pesticides, TV's, computers and old printers. Chemical containers may not be larger than 5 gallons or 50 pounds, and it is preferable that chemicals be in their original containers or clearly marked for identification purposes. Compressed gas cylinders, fire extinguishers, medical waste or explosives will not be accepted.

Stations will be set up in the parking lot for the various items collected. Participants may drive up and drop off. Volunteers will be on site to help you unload heavy items.

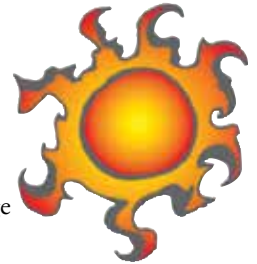
Heatwave Classic Triathlon

The 30th annual Heatwave Classic will take place Saturday, June 6, 2015. This triathlon is a race favorite among tri-athletes in the Southeast. Over 400 participants from across the country are expected to descend on Ridgeland to compete for the top prize in the various age groups.

Participants will take to the water at 7 a.m. at Madison Landing to swim .5 miles. After completing the swim, participants will ride 24.5 miles along the scenic and historic Natchez Trace Parkway. For the final portion of the competition, participants will embark on a 10K run on the heavily shaded Ridgeland Multiuse Trail.

For more information, call the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks office at 601-853-2011 or visit the Heatwave Classic website at www.heatwavetri.racesonline.com.

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|-----------------------|---|
| <i>Program Price:</i> | Individual: \$75 Beginning May 1, rate increases to \$85. Relay Team: \$140 Beginning May 1, rate increases to \$150. USAT Insurance required for participants. Cost is \$12 for single event insurance. |
| <i>Registration:</i> | Now – June 6 |
| <i>On-site Reg.:</i> | June 6 |
| <i>On-site Price:</i> | Individual: \$100 Relay: \$165 |
| <i>Event Date:</i> | Saturday, June 6 |
| <i>Start Time:</i> | 7 a.m. |
| <i>Location:</i> | Old Trace Park |



PROGRAMS

Wendy Bourdin

Wendy.bourdin@ridgelandms.org • 601-853-2011

Dog Obedience

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

Two sessions will be offered in the spring. Registration will be held for Session #1 February 1-28. Classes for Session #1 will begin on Tuesday, March 3. Session #2 registration will be held March 10-May 1. Classes for Session #2 will begin on Tuesday, May 5.

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

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| <i>Program Price:</i> | \$75 |
| <i>Registration:</i> | Session #1 February 1-28 Session #2 March 10-April 21 |
| <i>Start Date:</i> | Session #1 March 3 Session #2 May 5 |
| <i>Start Time:</i> | 7 p.m. |
| <i>Day of Week:</i> | Tuesday |
| <i>Location:</i> | Ridgeland Recreational Center |



ATHLETICS

Athletics Coordinator, John Sidney North

John.north@ridgelandms.org • 601-853-2011

Adult Softball

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

The leagues will be open to the first 24 teams in each division. ASA sanction rules will be in play for the leagues. We will offer 12 games for each league. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011 or john.north@ridgelandms.org.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Program Price:</i> | \$500 |
| <i>Registration:</i> | March 2 – 13 |
| <i>Location:</i> | Ridgeland City Hall |
| <i>Times:</i> | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. |



Summer Camps by Skyhawks Sports Academy

Skyhawks provides a wide variety of fun, safe and positive programs that emphasize critical lessons in sports and life, such as teamwork, respect and sportsmanship. Programs are designed to give each child a positive introduction into sports while fostering a lifelong love for an active, healthy lifestyle. Patient and knowledgeable staff use a variety of skill-building games and activities to give each athlete a complete understanding and overview of the sport. Since 1979 Skyhawks has taught over 1 million boys and girls life lessons through sports. Please view www.skyhawks.com for further information.

MULTI-SPORT (Soccer and Flag Football)

- Boys and Girls ages 5 to 8
- Boys and Girls ages 8 to 12

This multi-sport camp is designed to introduce young athletes to a variety of different sports in one setting. For this program, soccer and flag football are combined into one fun-filled week. Athletes will learn the rules and essentials of each sport through skill-based games and scrimmages. By the end of the week, your child will walk away with knowledge of two sports along with vital life lessons such as respect, teamwork and self-discipline.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Dates and Times:</i> | Mon.-Fri., June 1-5, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. |
| <i>Location:</i> | Freedom Ridge Park |
| <i>Registration:</i> | open online at www.skyhawks.com |
| <i>Program Price:</i> | \$125 |
| <i>Dates and Times:</i> | Mon.-Fri., July 13-17, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. |
| <i>Location:</i> | Freedom Ridge Park |
| <i>Registration:</i> | open online at www.skyhawks.com |
| <i>Program Price:</i> | \$125 |

For more information and to register, go to www.skyhawks.com or contact Paul Van at 601-790-0868.

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FLAG FOOTBALL

- Boys and Girls ages 7 to 9
- Boys and Girls ages 9 to 12

Skyhawks Flag Football is the perfect program for young athletes who want a complete introduction to “America’s Game” or for those who simply want to brush up on their skills in preparation for league play. Through our “skill of the day” activities, campers will learn skills on both sides of the ball including the core components of passing, catching, and de-flagging or defensive positioning – all presented in a fun and positive environment. Skyhawks Flag Football is recommended for beginning to intermediate athletes. The week ends with the Skyhawks Super Bowl, giving participants a chance to showcase their skills on the gridiron.

Dates and Times: Mon.-Fri., June 8-12, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Location: Freedom Ridge Park
Registration date: open online now www.skyhawks.com
Program Price: \$125

For more information and to register, go to www.skyhawks.com or contact Paul Van at 601-790-0868.

GOLF (SNAG-Starting New at Golf)

- Boys and Girls ages 5 to 9

Skyhawks Golf focuses on building the confidence of young athletes by teaching proper technique to refine essential skills of the game. Golf is a challenging and lifelong sport, so young athletes need proper focus on the fundamentals of form, swinging, putting and body positioning. To assist in this training, Skyhawks has adopted the SNAG (Starting New At Golf) system to its curriculum. SNAG utilizes a set of equipment designed for beginning golfers, including oversized plastic club heads and “mini tennis balls” to help build confidence and to have fun. Developed by PGA professionals, SNAG is specifically designed for the entry-level player; SNAG simplifies instruction so that young players can make an easy and effective transition onto the golf course. No need to bring your own clubs--all equipment is provided. We keep the instructor-to-camper ratio low, resulting in limited availability.

Dates and Times: Mon.-Fri., June 15-19, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Event Location: Freedom Ridge Park
Registration: open online at www.skyhawks.com
Program Price: \$125

For more information and to register, go to www.skyhawks.com or contact Paul Van at 601-790-0868.



CHEERLEADING

- Girls ages 5 to 10

Skyhawks Cheerleading teaches young athletes the essential skills to lead crowds and support the home team! This entry-level cheer program ensures that each camper learns cheers, proper hand and body movements, and jumping techniques. There is no stunting—just a big focus on fun while each cheerleader learns important life skills such as teambuilding and leadership. The week concludes with a choreographed performance!

Dates and Times: Mon.-Fri., June 15-19, 9 am-12 pm
Location: Freedom Ridge Park
Registration: open online at www.skyhawks.com
Program Price: \$125

For more information and to register, go to www.skyhawks.com or contact Paul Van at 601-790-0868.

MINI-HAWK (soccer, basketball, baseball)

- Boys and Girls ages 4 to 7

This multi-sport program was developed to give children a positive first step into athletics. The essentials of baseball, basketball and soccer are taught in a safe, structured environment with lots of encouragement and a big focus on fun. Mini-Hawk games and activities were designed to allow campers to explore balance, movement, hand/eye coordination, and skill development at their own pace. Skyhawks staff are trained to handle the specific needs of young athletes.

Dates and Times: Mon.-Fri., June 22-26, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Location: Freedom Ridge Park
Registration: open online at www.skyhawks.com
Program Price: \$125

For more information and to register, go to www.skyhawks.com or contact Paul Van at 601-790-0868.

T-BALL

- Boys and Girls ages 4 to 7

Skyhawks Baseball takes the rich history of the game from Cooperstown to your town. Local Skyhawks staff use our progression curriculum to teach the fundamentals of fielding, catching, throwing, hitting and base running, all in a fun, positive environment. Specifically designed for beginning and intermediate players, this camp teaches all athletes new baseball skills along with vital life lessons such as respect, teamwork and responsibility. Participants come away with new friends, new skills, and a love for the game.

Dates and Times: Mon.-Fri., July 6-10, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Location: Freedom Ridge Park
Registration: open online at www.skyhawks.com
Program Price: \$125

For more information and to register, go to www.skyhawks.com or contact Paul Van at 601-790-0868

SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Senior Adult Coordinator, Lynda McMahan Assink
Email: lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org • Phone: 601-856-6876

All Superstar Seniors Programs take place at the Ridgeland Recreational Center unless otherwise specified.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Balance & Fall-Proof Your Life

(A Prevention and Balance Exercise Class for Optimum

Senior Health)

Are you ready to improve your balance and be as healthy as you can be? This is a 6-week exercise program that progresses through a set of balance training activities. Your muscles have lost some mass, and your joints may be 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 for this class in the latest in fall prevention, balance exercises and total body strengthening. Always consult your physician before beginning any exercise program. Register for this class by calling or emailing Lynda.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Program Price:</i> | \$8/class or \$30/6 weeks |
| <i>Start Date:</i> | March 18 |
| <i>Times:</i> | 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. |
| <i>Day of Week:</i> | Wednesday |

Tai-Chi Fusion on the Reservoir

Tai-Chi is an ancient practice proven to reduce pain and improve 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. Register for class by calling or email Lynda.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Program Price:</i> | \$8/per class or \$30/6 weeks |
| <i>Start Date:</i> | On-going |
| <i>Times:</i> | 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. |
| <i>Day of Week:</i> | Wednesday |



Beginning Self-Defense Class

The goal of this course is to assist you in achieving personal safety. It will also help improve your strength, agility, flexibility and endurance. When it comes to crime and violence, the old saying “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” is not only true, but a potential life saver. The hardest part is doing your homework *before* you find yourself in a situation.

Andrew Dillon will be your instructor. Andrew has a 3rd degree Tae Kwon Do Belt. Register by calling or emailing Lynda. (Participants who have previously taken this course may attend at no charge.) Register now by calling or emailing Lynda.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Program Price:</i> | \$40 |
| <i>Date:</i> | Saturday, March 14 |
| <i>Time:</i> | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. |

Beginners' iPad Class

Are you thinking about buying an iPad and want to learn more about it? Or do you own an iPad and want to put it to better use? These lessons are designed for beginners and will cover the very basics from what that round button at the bottom of the iPad does to how you can move or delete an app. This class will use a hands-on approach on how to identify device buttons and icons, learn email, photos and videos. Expand your iPad understanding by acquiring helpful and numerous tips.



Josh Sullivan will be your instructor. Josh started with Apple, Inc., while in graduate school. He now has his own small technology consulting business – Magnolia Innovative Solutions. He offers in-home and business training.

Bring your iPad, jot down your Apple ID and password and bring it to class. Call or email Lynda to register for this class.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Program Price:</i> | \$40 |
| <i>Date:</i> | Thursday, March 19 |
| <i>Time:</i> | 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. |

Organizing Your Photos on the Mac

Do you want to know how to view, improve and organize your photos? Learn how to edit, cropping, resizing, download and send photos. Organizing your digital files is a multi-step process. Josh Sullivan is your instructor. He will break down the steps one by one, talk about backup options, demonstrate helpful features and answer specific questions. This class will focus on how to use Mac's iPhoto software. Call or email Lynda to register for this class.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Program Price:</i> | \$40 |
| <i>Date:</i> | Thursday, April 30 |
| <i>Time:</i> | 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. |

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Agape Men's Coffee Group

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



Program Price: No Charge
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Day of Week: Wednesday

Country Line Dancing

Learn the dance steps that are popular everywhere! In this class you'll discover a variety of line dances. It's great fun, good exercise, and you don't need a partner. 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/weekly
Times: Beginners Class, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 Advanced Class, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Day of Week: Monday

Men's Bible Study

A Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. It is a non-denominational, in-depth study of God's Word. Call Earl Beck at 601-668-2332 for more information.

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

Painting Pals

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

Program Price: No cost
Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Day of Week: Tuesdays

Fitness for Everyone

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks is offering a new 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.

A certified instructor, Sally Holly, 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: TBA
Time: 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Days of Week: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Restoration & Relaxation Gentle Yoga

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks offers a Yoga class for beginners. This is 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, breathe work & movement. These gentle movements 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.

Program Price: \$5/class
Time: 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Days of Week: Mondays and Fridays

Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness, & Fun!

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

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

Program Price: \$5/class
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Days of Week: Mondays and Fridays

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Bridge

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

Program Price: \$1 each to go toward the winner's prize
Dates: March 26, April 23, May 28
Times: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Day of Week: Thursday

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 relating to gardening, horticulture, flower arranging, the environment and more, then we are the club for you! To attend our meetings or to become a member, please contact Nanette Sullivan, 601-856-7684 or sullinjs@gmail.com.

March 3 - Dr. Gary Bachman, Research Professor of Horticulture, MSU and a regular speaker on Southern Gardening Radio. He will present "Accessible Gardening." Lunch will follow the program.

April 7 - Tour The Oaks – the historic home and garden of former mayor James Boyd. This antebellum Circa-1853 Greek Revival house has the original furniture used by the Boyd family and is located in the heart of downtown Jackson. A picnic lunch will follow the tour.

May 5 - Annual plant swap at Reservoir Pointe. Box lunches from George's Catering will be provided by the club. Please bring 2 plants to swap. This is a members-only event.

Program Price: \$20/for the year to join the Ridgeland Garden Club
Event Dates: March 3, April 7, May 5
Day of the Week: Tuesday
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Location: Ridgeland Recreational Center

Thread, Yarn, Crochet & Coffee

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

Program Price: No Charge
Dates: March 9 and 23, April 13 and 27, May 11
Times: 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Day of Week: Monday

TENNIS

Ridgeland Tennis Center
 201-A McClellan Drive • Phone: 601-853-1115
 Directors: Cheryl Harris and Susan Toler



Tournaments

April 25 – 26 Aquafina Junior Level 3
 May 30 - June 2 MS Junior Qualifying

Lessons

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

- Ladies Open Drills held on Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. for NTRP 3.5 and above. Drop-ins are welcome.
- Academy for youth players, intermediate and above, held Monday – Thursday, 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. Call Agnes at 601-842-1648 for pricing.
- Junior Drills for ages 11-18 may be scheduled through Robbie at 601-316-5364.

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

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FAMILY + MATH = FUN!



Sophia Sanchez is proud of the geometric flower she created using a variety of multi-colored shapes.

Families who do math together, have fun together. The first annual Family Math Night at Ann Smith added up to a good time. Parents and children rotated through a variety of math stations with mind-bending games, puzzles and activities. Thanks to BankPlus for supporting the event and sending each child home with a piggybank.



Jalen Buggs (from the left) with Lynette Hearn, mom, and Erica Hearn, sister, Jeremiah Bell and Yasheaka Bell, mom, work together on a fun puzzle.

New assistant principal 'baits hook' to catch success

It was only his second year of teaching, and Harvey Williams, Jr., was already receiving additional leadership responsibilities from his principal and his fellow teachers were looking to him for advice and direction. "They saw something in me that I didn't see in myself at the time," Williams said. "I knew that there was more for me to do in education. I started seeing the vision and my purpose clearer." Williams decided to pursue a master's degree in educational leadership at Jackson State University. He became a certified K-12 administrator by the end of his third year of teaching. He is now pursuing his doctoral degree.

Williams, now the assistant principal at Ann Smith Elementary, believes that to be successful in education, teachers and administrators must "reach before you teach." Comparing teaching to fishing, Williams said a teacher must "bait the hook" in order to get students to "bite" or engage in the learning process.

"You have to reach them before you can teach them. Like any good book or movie, your presentation needs to draw people in early so they will stick around until the end," Williams explained. "When I was teaching, I would find creative ways to bring my lessons to life and to connect with my audience, my students. Once I have reached them, I can most effectively begin to teach."

Reaching before you teach also means developing a relationship with the students and the staff. "The feeling of togetherness that I was able to convey to my students is only accessible if I have taken the time to get to know each of them. This is the key to learning in any situation and with people of any age."

Williams' many responsibilities as assistant principal include implementing instructional and behavioral goals, handling discipline issues and collecting behavior data, evaluating special classes, and overseeing maintenance and facility management.

"My goals for Ann Smith are to assist Dr. Philley in making this a great school year, support the mission of the school, and work with our dedicated staff and community to help provide the best educational experience for our students," Williams said.

Before beginning his career in administration, Williams taught music in Jackson Public Schools for five years. His passion for music developed when he was a boy in church. "I would watch people come to church with their heads down, depressed, sad, and distressed by life struggles, but when the choir began to sing and the musicians began to play, the people would start to smile, clap, sing, and dance because of the impact of the music. I knew then that's what I wanted to be a part of. I love to see people smiling, and their spirits uplifted," Williams said.

Williams started piano lessons at 8, and as a youth played alto saxophone in the band, and piano and organ for two choirs at church. He received his bachelor's degree in music education on a full scholarship at Jackson State. He has been a member of the world-renown Mississippi Mass Choir for the last five years and has traveled internationally with them, including a recent trip to Spain. He sings at weddings and other special events and is the minister of music at his church.



Teacher of the year sets expectations high

For Sheena Taylor-White teaching is not a job, it's a way of life. She sets expectations high for herself, her students and her fellow teachers, which is why she was honored with Ann Smith's Teacher of the Year award. "My teaching philosophy is simple: Challenge all students and watch them grow to their full potential."

Taylor-White grew up in Jackson and received her bachelor's degree in elementary education and her master's degree in reading education from Jackson State University. Before coming to Ann Smith in 2012, she taught pre-kindergarten in Hinds County.

"Teaching is a lifestyle and it is an honor to wake up every day and be with some of the best students in Madison County Schools," she said. Taylor-White attributes much of her teaching success to her family and team of teachers and administrators at Ann Smith.

"She has a very firm but loving class environment and is able to patiently guide all of her students to meet kindergarten standards and above grade-level objectives," said Dr. Melissa Phillely, principal. "She is a wonderful example of what having high expectations for all students can do! Not only is she a great teacher in her own class, she is a strong leader for the kindergarten team."

Taylor-White serves as the kindergarten grade level chair. She is also a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.



Teacher of the Year Sheena Taylor-White with students (from the left) Akyrea Luton, Ryan Lankford, Caysen Young, and Kiko Kampen.

Kindergarten registration just around the corner

It seems like just yesterday that your child was a warm bundle in your arms... and then you blinked—and now that child is running, jumping, singing the ABCs and ready to start school. Ann Smith is holding a kindergarten registration event Wednesday, April 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parents and children who come at 8:30 a.m. can tour the school and enjoy a brief presentation by current kindergarten classes.

Children must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2015, to be enrolled for the 2015-16 year. Bring a birth certificate, immunization record, social security card, and proof of residency, such as a lease agreement, homestead exemption or house deed.

Pathways kids learn to code

According to *U.S. News & World Report* some of the best jobs today are in computer programming, web development and information technology. These jobs are among the highest paid, in the most demand and have the most opportunities for advancement. However, because many students are not exposed to computer programming and information technology in elementary, middle or high school, they aren't choosing those fields when they get to college, said Pathways teacher Lynda Flynn. Last year Highland Elementary incorporated computer programming into their curriculum, and this year second grade students in the gifted program at Ann Smith began learning programming as well.

"The children really ate up the lessons in computer programming," Flynn said. "In the process, they are learning how to think in detail and in sequences. Through the program Scratch, Jr., they have 'sprites,' characters that they learn to animate through computer coding language."

In December, the Pathways students joined the students at Highland, along with tens of millions of students in 180-plus countries in an "Hour of Code." The event was a part of Computer Science Education Week and promoted computer-programming literacy among students of all ages.



Second grade Pathways students (from the left) Camilla Valdes, Dania Brown, and Drew McDonald animate their 'sprite' with computer coding.

Parent of the year never too busy to support Ann Smith

On any given day you'll find Parent of the Year Angelique Lee volunteering at Ann Smith—even when her daughter McKenzie is home sick.

"She organizes our teacher breakfasts and lunches, takes pictures of each class on our Fun Fridays, and supervises PTO events like the limo ride to Mazzios," said McKenzie's teacher, Emily Melichar. "And she filled in at the last minute for the BMX show even though her own daughter was home sick with a virus."

Lee, co-vice president for the Parent Teacher Organization, started volunteering last year as a room parent. Lee is the director of Family Life Center at Tougaloo College, and is pursuing her doctoral degree at Jackson State University in urban and regional planning with an emphasis in community development.

"Finding time to volunteer has definitely been a juggling act, but I made the commitment to serve my school as much as possible, and with that in mind, I found the time," Lee explained. "Also, I have been fortunate to have a flexible job schedule with an understanding boss who also has a child at Ann Smith."

To parents who want to do more for Ann Smith, but aren't sure where to start, Lee suggests starting with their child's teacher, then talking to a PTO board member.

"We have activities every month and would love our parents to actively participate," she said. "The most rewarding experience about volunteering at ASE has been getting to know the other moms, who are also our teachers as well."



Parent of the Year Angelique Lee with daughter McKenzie.

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Honoring Dr. King through service



Ann Smith families commemorated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday by collecting needed supplies for Sunnybrook Children's Home, organizing them for delivery, and then cleaning up the playground area at Ann Smith.

Ridgeland Schools Light the Road To Fitness

Ridgeland offers plenty of amenities to help families stay physically fit, including 15 miles of multi-use trails, several parks, tennis courts, fitness clubs and plenty of other recreational opportunities. It's no wonder the city was named Mississippi's Healthiest Hometown in 2013 by the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation.

Despite Ridgeland's best efforts to help residents be healthy, our state still has a high obesity rate among children. That's why, Ridgeland's elementary schools are proactively teaching students the importance of physical activity, nutrition and overall wellness.

In the fall, Ann Smith and Highland Elementary hosted Get Ready to Run (GRTR) kickoff events at their respective schools to jumpstart a 12-week P.E. program, designed by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi (BCBSMS), that introduced students to the benefits of running, physical fitness and healthy lifestyle choices. City leaders, BCBSMS Team Blue volunteers and teachers escorted students as they walked or ran around the schools.

The GRTR program culminated with the Mississippi Blues Marathon One-Mile Fun Run on January 10. Quite a few ASE and HES students participated despite the below-freezing temps. Highland won \$500 for the best storyboard in the GRTR storyboard contest. The winning board, titled "Highland Elementary Lights the Road to Fitness," included photos of our students showcasing their GRTR training.

Starting March 2, students at both schools will participate in Titan Tone Up, a four-week fitness program, which rewards students who achieve the recommended amount of weekly activity. Titan Tone Up will motivate students to get in shape for Titan Trot, a 5K run/walk and one-mile fun run. Sponsored by the PTOs of the Ridgeland schools, Titan Trot will be held Saturday, March 28 and is open to the community. Registration



At the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Get Ready to Run kickoff event at Highland, representatives from the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition handed out water and healthy snacks to students as they completed their walk/run.

forms are available at Ridgeland City Hall, the Ridgeland Library and Fleet Feet, or you can download one at madison-schools.com/rhs.

"Our Ridgeland schools have a strong history of emphasizing student health and wellness," said Jan Richardson, Highland PTO co-vice president of health and wellness. "Being active benefits students' school performance as well as their physical health."

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Highland Students Learn Digital Literacy Skills Through Coding



Pictured at Highland's coding workshop are fifth-graders (from left) Poonum Gill, Paige Hopkins and Emma Stokic.



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At Highland Elementary, students are learning about computer programming, an important digital skill that will prepare them for the future as they move through Olde Towne, Ridgeland High School and maybe even into technology-oriented careers.

This past November, Highland held a coding workshop for students to encourage early computer science learning. The workshop was part of Mississippi Innovation Month's 30 days of events to promote innovation, creativity and STEM education in our state. More than 30 students attended, along with several teachers, parents and volunteers.

Highland parent Randy Lynn led the workshop. Lynn, a partner and creative director at the advertising agency, Maris, West & Baker, addressed the importance of computer programming skills and provided hands-on training using Scratch, a platform developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to introduce computer programming to elementary-age children.

"Computer programming has a reputation for being difficult to learn," said Lynn. "But it's hard to learn any new skill if you have no foundation. Learning to code is the key to true digital literacy, and there are resources available that make coding accessible and fun for kindergartners on up. Parents and teachers in Ridgeland have really embraced this idea."

During Computer Science Education Week in December, all Highland students participated in Hour of Code for the second straight year. Hour of Code is an initiative to counteract the decline in computer science education that's occurred over the past 10 years, which includes dramatic decreases in female and minority students choosing computer science career paths.

In 2013, Highland was one of 13 schools to participate fully in Hour of Code, and the school was selected to win \$10,000 worth of computer equipment from the nonprofit organization, Code.org.

"Coding is something that shouldn't be reserved only for gifted students or high-achievers," said Paula Tharp, Highland's principal. "It's important for all students to be exposed to this kind of learning, which is why we participate in Hour of Code and offer other opportunities for our students to learn coding skills. If we can introduce our students to computer programming while they're in elementary school, it may just be the inspiration they need as they continue their education."

Highland clubs promote arts, science and community involvement

Thanks to two after-school clubs, Highland students are getting the chance to expand their talents and skills outside the classroom.

Launched in the fall, Drama Club includes 71 total members, 31 of whom participated in the production of “Bully Tales,” a play incorporating fairy tales, fantasy and sports, while bringing the issue of bullying to a whole new light. Led by fifth-grade teacher Annette Reiter and special education teacher Mary Ann Murphy, the Drama Club gave two performances of “Bully Tales” in December. Not only did Drama Club members take on various responsibilities to make the play a success – such as creating artwork and promotional posters, stage setup, acting and singing – they also collected items and raised awareness for two charitable organizations: the Mississippi Food Network and Community Animal Rescue & Adoption (CARA).

“This year, we incorporated third- through fifth-graders in the Drama Club,” said Reiter. “We also coordinated with Ridgeland High School in their food drive for the Mississippi Food Network. We think it’s important to instill in students the need to give back to the community. We’re so proud of how the students worked together to make the production and contributions a success.”

The Drama Club is currently gearing up to present its second production, “Charlotte’s Web,” in late spring.

In January, Highland launched a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Club for fifth-graders. A small number of students who showed interest and abilities in STEM learning were selected by teachers to participate in this club. Fifth-grade science teachers Tim Bermond and Brenda Hill, the club’s sponsors, have been working with Olde Towne Middle School (OTMS) teacher Bill Richardson to create a club that will tie in to some of the STEM opportunities that OTMS offers.

According to Hill, the STEM Club has a different feel from the regular school day, for both students and teachers. Activities are designed for minimal teacher involvement and maximum student participation. The club members’ first project was a competition to build the tallest tower made from straws, a meter of tape and a meter of string, while supporting a marshmallow – all in 18 minutes or less. Other projects have included bridge-building and even working with VEX robots.

“Our goal for the STEM club is to encourage students to think creatively, as they solve problems, create and build, which ties in to the ‘engineering’ part of STEM,” explained Hill. “The other three components of STEM are integrated into the projects, as well. We’re laying a foundation upon which students can grow at OTMS.”



Members of the Drama Club are pictured with items they collected for CARA.

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SCIENCE FUN DAY

What happens when you put groups of fifth-graders in a gym full of rotating science stations? You get engaged, amazed future physicists and engineers who are full of questions and observations about the world around them. Known as Science Fun Day, this annual event is led by Dr. John Hunt, professor of teacher education at Mississippi College and director of education at the STEM Institute.

“Science Fun Day is a highlight of our fifth-grade year,” said Brenda Hill, fifth-grade science teacher and one of the organizers of the event. “There’s a surprise awaiting students at each station. Learning science with hands-on activities, even in fifth grade, helps students internalize concepts. What’s so great is that, after Science Fun Day, students will suddenly remember an experiment that Dr. Hunt presented about a concept that I am teaching. These creative, hands-on experiments ignite students’ interest in science in such fun, memorable ways.”

Science Fun Day featured more than 30 hands-on, interactive science activities designed to engage small groups of students in critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Activities included demonstrations and experiments involving combustion, center of gravity, air pressure and eddy currents, just to name a few. Dr. Hunt created this program using a model that incorporates volunteers to help teach various science principles through simple projects.

“We’d like to thank our parent volunteers and especially the STEM Club members at Ridgeland High School, who stayed all day to demonstrate science principles to our students,” said fifth-grade teacher Tim Bermond, co-organizer of Highland’s Science Fun Day. “Our fifth-graders really looked up to these high school students, listening to every word they said. This experience is invaluable to our students as they prepare for the challenges of middle school science and even STEM careers down the road.”



Pictured are members of Ridgeland High School’s TSA Club who volunteered at Science Fun Day.



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Olde Towne Middle School Parent of the Year

OTMS administration announced Angela Sterling Bailey was selected as the 2014-15 Parent of the Year. Selected by the teachers, this award attests to her dedication to the school community.

Bailey is serving as OTMS PTO President this year. In addition to her strong leadership she is always looking for ways to contribute to school life in innovative ways.

“As a member of the OTMS PTO board, I have been fortunate to work with Angela Bailey on a daily basis,” affirms Bridgid Berry, OTMS PTO board treasurer.

“As the PTO board president, she is the heartbeat of our board and always goes the extra mile to ensure that the needs of the parents, students and faculty are addressed and met. In addition to being a professional in the workplace, Angela is a parent of three boys, Alex, Ford and Jeb, all of who actively participate in Ridgeland schools. I know that I speak for many when I say how thankful I am to have her leadership and friendship. She is an asset to our schools and our community.”

Bailey, RN, CFNP, has been an employee of Jackson Heart Clinic for nine years, and is well loved by her patients. She is married to Ridgeland Fire Chief Matt Bailey. Angela attends many events in support of her Titans; from early morning cross-country meets to frigid soccer matches made bearable by portable heaters and high school band competitions, sometimes all in one day. Bailey’s oldest son, Alex, graduates from RHS with honors in May.

“I am overwhelmed by the support and appreciation the Olde Towne Middle School administrators, teachers, parents and staff have shown me as PTO president,” said Bailey. “We have had an outstanding year with the help of many faithful volunteers. As we have worked with the other Ridgeland schools, I quickly learned that my “Titan Family” extended beyond the walls of Olde Towne to all four Ridgeland schools.”



Olde Towne Middle School Parent of the Year award winner, Angela Bailey.

Olde Towne Middle School And Ridgeland High School Vex Robotics Teams



Ridgeland's Olde Towne Middle School (OTMS) and Ridgeland High School VEX Robotics teams pictured with their VEX robots are (front row, left to right), Ridgeland High students Ashley Milner, Randy Townsend, Kevin So; OTMS students Sophia Pepper and Andre Parks-Zea. Back row, left to right, OTMS students John M. Graves, Juliet Beckholt, Jarrett Huddleston, Allie Ishee, Lovpreet Singh, Timothy Thomas, Austin Chester, Ahmed Moumad and Steven Ramsey. Not pictured: James Madden.

The VEX Robotics Competition is an initiative of the Technology Student Association (TSA), an international organization devoted exclusively to the needs of students interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Richardson created a TSA team three years ago, and now Olde Towne and Ridgeland High School's programs are one of the most highly acclaimed in the nation. Between writing grants to fund the TSA teams, recruiting teacher mentors and building tremendous community support, Richardson has led OTMS and RHS teams to a tradition of excellence. They have qualified for state since the club's inception and for the national TSA competition since their second year in existence.

VEX are vehicular robotics designed and built by students to perform the TSA challenge, which changes each year. Driving their wheeled VEX with remote controls, students build towers, and move and stack objects in the competition ring to earn points, with the winner advancing through the tournament.

Sometimes competitors, at time collaborators, the VEX Robotics team from Ridgeland's Olde Towne Middle School (OTMS) joined forces with the Ridgeland High School team, to compete in Newton High School's TSA VEX Robotics Competition November 21, beating all 19 high school entries and finishing in first place. OTMS students topped the VEX IQ Division, which is made up of elementary and middle school students. These wins qualify all OTMS and Ridgeland High School VEX teams for the state

competition, which is a remarkable accomplishment so early in the year.

"The win was fantastic," said Bill Richardson, OTMS STEM teacher and TSA sponsor. "Our students are so excited about their accomplishments!"

"Our TSA members have diverse backgrounds and interests, but what brings them together is a shared passion for technology," said Richardson. "I'm extremely proud of our students for their hard work and dedication. I also want to commend our strong team of TSA advisors from the OTMS science and STEM departments and from Ridgeland High, who provide the leadership to allow our students to excel."

Olde Towne Middle School hosted 28 VEX teams and three VEX IQ teams from schools throughout the state in its first-ever VEX Robotics Competition, called "Titan Skyrise – Rise of the Machines", on January 24, 2015. While Richardson hosted the tournament action, the competitors went head-to-head in an intense full-day event. Richardson's teams ended up competing against one another in the semi-finals. OTMS finished the competition in second place, and RHS placed third. Before the next competition, the young engineers will reconfigure their robots and hone their driving skills based on the performance at tournaments, always looking to improve in their quest for state and national success.



RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

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



CHRIST COVENANT SCHOOL

752 Pear Orchard Road
601-978-2272
www.christcovenantschool.net



ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

North Campus—Grades 5–12
370 Old Agency Road
601-853-6000 • www.gosaints.org



THE VERITAS SCHOOL

A Christ-Centered and Classical Education
1200 Highland Colony Parkway
601-713-1555 • www.theveritasschool.org

RHS Teacher of the Year



Ridgeland High School 2014-15 Teacher of the Year, Rachel Upton (center, front) surrounded by students from her guitar class. Guitar is offered as part of the superb music curriculum at RHS.

Rachel Upton, music educator at Ridgeland High, was awarded the prestigious RHS Teacher of the Year award for 2014-15.

In her second year at RHS, Upton set strong goals for the students from the outset. “My goal as a music educator is for each student to become a knowledgeable and involved musician. I want all of my students to be able to contemplate and decode a musical passage and to create a beautiful sound, so together they will produce a work of art that is meaningful and poignant for an audience.”

A University of Southern Mississippi graduate in music education with a choral emphasis, Upton also pursued her Masters of Music Education there and taught middle and high school students while an undergrad and graduate student at USM.

When asked what makes Ridgeland High students special, Upton replied,

“The students at Ridgeland love being involved in extra-curricular activities and have a passion for creating beautiful music together. These students receive quality musical instruction in the Ridgeland elementary and middle schools, so in high school, we can pursue a difficult repertoire that involves intricate musical nuances. The students are hungry for meaningful musical experiences.”

Upton directs three vocal ensembles and teaches guitar. The vocal ensembles participate in district and state festivals and competitions. Last year, all three ensembles brought home sweepstakes awards, meaning that all judges in all areas of adjudication gave the choirs all superiors. On March 26, RHS Choir will travel to Chicago with 48 students to participate in a national choral competition hosted by Heritage Performances Groups.

“It is always nice to bring home superior scores from a festival or competition, and I want that to continue at Ridgeland High School, but it is more important to me that my students are developing into strong musicians. It is my honor to provide them with musical training and performance opportunities.”

Andre Vincent, a junior who also serves as the student government president and a drum major for the Titan band, remarks, “Ms. Upton makes choir fun and the music relevant, even with songs over 200 years old. It’s a great feeling to be working under a teacher who makes it evident that she cares about what she does.”

On April 30, the public is invited to attend the music program’s spring concert, which includes a *Hairspray* showcase, held in the Ridgeland High School auditorium. There is no cost to attend, but you will feel like you bought a Broadway Ticket.

Browder named National Achievement Finalist

It's always a great day to be a Titan, but it was one of the best to date for RHS

senior Erriona Browder, when she was named a class of 2016 National Achievement Finalist. Erriona is the daughter of Mrs. Kristi Haynes-Browder and Mr. Erron Browder. The family moved to Mississippi



Rideland High School senior Erriona Browder qualified as a National Achievement Finalist.

in sixth-grade, and she cultivated a rich school experience in Ridgeland. Serving as the president of the Speech and Debate Team, Browder also participates in National Honor Society, school volunteer organizations, RHS Singers, the Thespian Society, and Future Business Leaders of America; just some examples of the breadth and depth of her interests.

RHS Counselor and teacher James Berry considers himself fortunate that Erriona was a student in both his Latin and PSAT prep classes. "Erriona is a truly diligent and incredibly bright student. In my classes, she always worked hard and asked questions, showing her inquisitive approach to learning. She has been active in our school community during her four years at Ridgeland High School and I have NEVER seen her without a smile. She is a great example of the wonderful students that we have at RHS. I would expect her to continue this level of excellence during college and beyond."

Erriona plans to attend either Mississippi State or the University of Mississippi.

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>.

Holmes CC Ridgeland Campus dedicates Joe A. Adams Student Center

There was no shortage of faculty, staff, students, friends, and family members present to wish the honoree well during the dedication ceremony for the Joe A. Adams Student Center on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Feb. 6. Not surprising, considering the impact Adams has had on Holmes; both the people he worked with and the students whose lives he touched.

Holmes CC President Dr. Jim Haffey said, "You have given your heart and soul to this institution...you helped build this campus and shape what it has become. It's appropriate that this building is named for you, as students have always been your first priority."

Adams, who resides in Madison, has served his beloved Holmes CC for 42 years. His journey as a bulldog began as a student, and through the years he has served in various positions and roles. His tenure began in 1972 as an industrial education instructor on the Goodman Campus. In 1984, he was named vocational-technical assistant director; a position he held until 1987, when he became of the Ridgeland Campus.

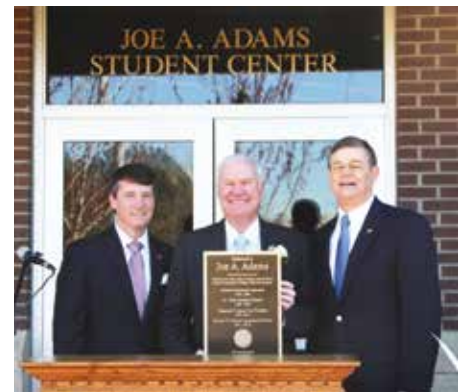
Adams explained that during his time as and in other roles at Holmes, he considered two factors when making a decision: how the decision would affect the college, and how the decision would affect the students. As one of the founding members of the Ridgeland Campus, established in 1985, he took whatever measures necessary to boost enrollment and nourish growth of the college.

Retired as in 2011, Adams continued to serve his as the alumni association director until 2014. He now serves as past-president of the association and never misses alumni events.

The honoree thanked the Ridgeland community, and specifically Mayor Gene McGee, for the outpouring of support shown to the college. He also thanked multiple others for their support of him during his career at Holmes CC, including Betty Sue, his wife of 47 years. Betty Sue, like Adams, is a bulldog alumnus, and also a former Holmes CC mathematics instructor.

Adams said, "Getting to work for Holmes Community College and having a building named after you...it just doesn't get any better."

Adams was presented a plaque that will go on the outside of the Student Center and engraved on it was the catchphrase he made popular, "There's no place like Holmes."



Pictured are (right to left) Dr. Jim Haffey, president of Holmes Community College; Joe A. Adams, former vice-president of the Ridgeland Campus, and Dr. Don Burnham, current vice-president of the Ridgeland Campus, following the dedication ceremony for the Joe A. Adams Student Center Feb. 6.

RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY



Madison County Library System
397 Highway 51 • Ridgeland, MS 39157
Telephone: 601-856-4536
Web address: www.mcls.ms

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

THE FRIENDS OF THE RIDGELAND LIBRARY

Submitted by Nan Crosby, Branch Manager

SPRING BOOK SALE

Join us for the Spring Book Sale, scheduled for Feb. 27 through March 4. Donations feature fiction best sellers, children's books, cooking, parenting, reference, history, and more. If you would like an opportunity to shop the collection early, please join the Friends of the Library and attend the Preview Party on Thursday evening, Feb. 26, 4 – 6:30 p.m. Volunteers are a vital part of support for the Ridgeland Public Library. If you would like to sort books or be a cashier during the book sale, members can sign up for shift work at the circulation area before the sale.

New Study Desks and Chairs

The Friends of the Library recently purchased five new study desks, chairs, and reading lamps for the Ridgeland Branch. The desks provide a private area for studying and include power outlets that are available for charging laptops, cell phones, etc.

The Friends of the Library are committed to raising the standard of excellence of our library by funding programs and services beyond what is allocated in the operating budget. Public support of the book sales as well as monetary and book donations are greatly appreciated and make it possible for the Friends to provide continued improvements at the Ridgeland branch.



Ridgeland resident, Adam Holmes, makes good use of the new study desk purchased by the Friends of the Ridgeland Library.



A VISIT WITH RICK CLEVELAND

Friday, April 17, 1:00 p.m.

In honor of National Library Week, the Friends of the Ridgeland Library are honored to sponsor Rick Cleveland, Sports Journalist and Executive Director for the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame & Museum.

Having recently published his fourth book, *Mississippi's Greatest Athletes* with foreword by Archie Manning, Rick will share stories about the legendary athletes and coaches that have put the Magnolia State's sports on the map.

We look forward to his visit and hope you can join us.

News From The Ridgeland Public Library

Submitted by Nan Crosby, Branch Manager

AARP Income Tax Assistance

Are you frustrated with doing your own taxes? AARP Tax-Aide is a free, confidential service which prepares tax returns and answers tax questions. AARP Tax-Aide will be at the Ridgeland Library on Mondays, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., beginning February 2 and ending April 13, 2015 to help low & middle-income taxpayers (with special attention to those ages 60 and older). This past year, the Mississippi AARP Tax-Aide consultants filed 221 returns at the Ridgeland Library site, producing \$182,546 in customer refunds. Please bring last year's tax returns, W2s, and pertinent information.



Richard Givan, Tax Assistant prepares taxes for Ella Mason of Ridgeland.

Ancestry Workshop

Would you like to learn valuable skills to help you discover information about your ancestors? The Ridgeland Library is pleased to announce a 2-session workshop conducted by Judy Jacobs of Madison. Having spent many years piecing together her family's history, Judy is excited to share her knowledge and search tips during the hands-on training using *Ancestry*, an online genealogy database, which can be accessed from the Madison County Library System web site. Learn how to locate recorded births, marriages, death certificates, and much more. *Ancestry* also includes Census records, Military Service & Pension information, and Immigrant Passenger Lists.

Join us on Wednesday, March 18 and March 25, 9 -10 a.m. Please call the Ridgeland Branch at 601-856-4536 to make a reservation to attend these informative classes. Space will be limited so give us a call today!

Madison County Mystery Readers



Madison County Mystery Readers listening to a book review.

NEWS FROM THE MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Zinio Digital Magazines

Zinio is a digital magazine subscription service that allows patrons of the Madison County Library System access to full digital copies of magazines anytime, anywhere on PCs, Macs, or mobile devices. The subscriptions include popular magazines such as *Bicycling*;

Boating; *Food Network*; *Motor Trend*; *O, The Oprah Magazine*; *Popular Photography*; *Seventeen*; *Working Mother* and many more. Best of all, titles do not have to be returned and do not expire or accumulate late fees. To access Zinio, visit www.mcls.ms and click on "Books and More." Start enjoying this free service today.



10 Mystery Reads for 2014

The Madison County Mystery Readers offer their suggestions for the top mystery books of 2014.

- *Alex* by Pierre Lemaitre
- *Sandrine's Case* by Thomas H. Cook
- *Don't Talk to Strangers* by Amanda Kyle Williams
- *Mr. Mercedes* by Stephen King
- *Those Who Wish Me Dead* by Michael Koryta
- *Natchez Burning* by Greg Iles
- *That Night* by Chevy Stevens
- *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt
- *Special Circumstances* by Sheldon Siegel
- *A Better World* by Marcus Sakey

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Contact: Cindy Graves, Children's Specialist

email: cgraves@mcls.ms



Family fun at the library.



Girls love their craft time!



Table talk after story time.



Western smiles at story time.

SPRING PROGRAMMING

Ridgeland Readers (ages 3-7 year olds)

Tuesdays: 4 - 5 p.m.

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

- March: 3, 17, 24, 31; No program on Tuesday, March 10.
- April 7, 14, 21, 28

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.

- March: 4, 18, 25; No program on Wednesday, March 11.
- April: 1, 15, 22, 29; No program on Wednesday, April 8.

Bristle Bots (students age 8+)

Thursday, March 5: 4 - 5 p.m.

Build your very own tiny robot! Registration is required, as space is limited.

Crazy 8's Math Club

- Thursday, March 26: grades K-2 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 23: grades 3-5 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Join us for this after-school club that helps kids appreciate the math that is all around them. It's nothing like your usual math club! Registration is required.

March 9-13 (Spring Break Week)

No events this week, but check with Mrs. Cindy about extra crafts available in the children's room.

FamFun: "Summer Preview Craft Party" (For the whole family)

Thursday, April 30: 4 - 5 p.m.

Sign Mrs. Cindy's cape & be a Reading Hero! Create fun crafts to show your friends after meeting a local hero!

Summer Reading Program

This year's Summer Reading theme is "Every Hero Has a Story!" The program will run from June 1 - July 18. To prepare for our Summer Reading Program, story times will be cancelled for the month of May. Registration will begin in May. Please check with the Children's Specialist about extra registration requirements as some events may be limited. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, please check the library's online calendar at www.mcls.ms, or contact Cindy Graves by phone at 601-856-4536 or by email at cgraves@mcls.ms





CITY OF RIDGELAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
754 S. Pear Orchard Rd.
Phone: 601-991-9996 • www.ridgelandchamber.com

LIVE FROM NEW YORK *It's The Unexpected Boys*

2014 Annual Awards Banquet Features Tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons

Some 300 business leaders and city officials filled the Hilton Jackson's ballroom, celebrating Ridgeland's economic growth and development during 2014 and honoring volunteers for their dedicated service to the Chamber and City.

Broadway stars "The Unexpected Boys" traveled from New York City to perform a tribute to Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Award-winning musician Raphael Semmes and his *Live From Ridgeland* combo entertained guests during the awards segment of the banquet.

2014 Ridgeland Chamber President Marc Petro of Community Bank said the Chamber topped off a strong period of growth in 2014. He noted the Chamber's 900 plus membership, more than 85 ribbon cuttings and community service activities such as Make A Difference Day which brought in thousands of canned goods and non-perishable food items as well as turkeys and hams to feed 200 Madison County families Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

2014 also marked the launch of Ridgeland Under the Stars, an evening of fabulous entertainment, buffet dinner and a silent auction featuring 300 items.

"2014 marked the 21st anniversary of our Chamber," Petro said. "We have reached many milestones over the last 21 years. Today, we are recognized across the metro area as an organization with momentum, constantly setting new goals and offering fresh, innovative programs."

Outgoing Chamber President Petro passed the gavel to 2015 President Sam Keyes of Butler Snow LLP.

"Our 2015 theme is "Ridgeland...Mississippi's Business Destination," and this year we will place renewed emphasis on helping businesses succeed by offering networking opportunities that encourage our businesses to do business with each other," Keyes said.

"We will also focus on ways to better help our smaller businesses promote their products and services and spread their message throughout Madison County and beyond," Keyes said, adding, "we know we will be met with new challenges in 2015, but we stand ready to meet those challenges head-on together."

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



Ridgeland Chamber Executive Director Linda Bynum with The Unexpected Boys from New York City. Photo by Elwin Williams.

2014 Awards

Award of Appreciation
Trizell Hardin
Trustmark National Bank

2014 Diplomat of the Year
Shana Robertson
Community Bank

2014 Volunteer of the Year
China Donnell
The Waterford

2014 Community Service Award
Colonial Heights
Baptist Church

2014 Business of the Year
Signa's Grille

2014 Gene McGee Economic Development Award
C Spire

City Makers 2014
Randy and Sissy Lynn

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AND EVENTS

Thursday, March 19
Community Bank
751 Lake Harbour Drive
5 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 16
Cool Water
Catering & Events
1011 Lake Harbour Drive
5 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 14
Golf Tournament
Lake Caroline Golf Club
1 p.m.

2014 Prime Sponsors

STATUE OF LIBERTY

Adcamp, Inc. ~ BancorpSouth ~ BankPlus ~ Butler Snow ~ C Spire ~ CenterPoint Energy ~ City of Ridgeland ~ Community Bank ~ Hilton Jackson ~ Madison County Journal ~ Mattiace Properties, Inc. ~ The Orchard ~ St. Dominic Health Services ~ Trustmark National Bank ~ Waggoner Engineering, Inc.

THE BIG APPLE

Neel-Schaffer, Inc. ~ Ridgeland Tourism Commission

WALL STREET

Citizens National Bank ~ Kerioth Corporation ~ Regions Bank

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

BankFirst Financial Services ~ Capital Oil, Inc. / Cappy's Valero ~ Community Trust Bank ~ First Commercial Bank ~ Holmes Community College ~ HUB International Gulf South ~ Renasant Bank

CENTRAL PARK

Baptist Health Systems ~ Colonial Heights Baptist Church ~ Entergy ~ Enterprise Rent-A-Car ~ Hederman Brothers ~ John Hancock ~ Southeastern Financial ~ Papa John's Pizza ~ Pear Orchard Business Center ~ Pepsi ~ Brown Bottling Group ~ Repeat Street ~ Roundtree Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram ~ State Farm Insurance ~ John Dorsa ~ The Church Triumphant ~ Wells Marble & Hurst, PLLC ~ Woodlands Realty Group, LLC

Special Appreciation to Lisa Walls, Hub International Gulf South; Kayla Walls, Trustmark National Bank; John Matthews, ClearPoint Productions; Ridgeland Alderman Scott Jones and Kathryn Dawkins of Madison.



Retiring Board Directors – From left, Russell Wilcox, Woodlands Realty Group; Greg Starnes, Trustmark National Bank; Carla Palmer Allen, CPA Realty, LLC and 2014 Ridgeland Chamber President Marc Petro, Community Bank. *Photo by Greg Campbell.*



2014 Volunteer of the Year – China Donnell of The Waterford, center, was named 2014 Volunteer of the Year. Presenting her with the award are 2014 Ridgeland Chamber President Marc Petro of Community Bank and Lisa Walls of HUB International – Gulf South and 2013 recipient. *Photo by Greg Campbell.*



2014 Diplomat of the Year – Shana Robertson of Community Bank, center, was named 2014 Diplomat of the Year. Presenting her with the award are 2014 Ridgeland Chamber President Marc Petro of Community Bank and Kristy Daniels of Regions Bank and 2013 recipient. *Photo by Greg Campbell.*



2014 Ridgeland Chamber President Marc Petro, right, gives an award of appreciation to Trizell Hardin of Trustmark National Bank for his years of service as Diplomat Co-Chairman. *Photo by Greg Campbell.*



2014 Business of the Year - Signa's Grille was named 2014 Business of the Year. Accepting the award is Proprietor Frank Signa, center. Presenting the award are 2014 Ridgeland Chamber President Marc Petro of Community Bank and 2013 recipient Judy Gaddy of Cool Water Catering & Events. *Photo by Greg Campbell.*



2014 Ridgeland Chamber President Marc Petro of Community Bank, left, passes the gavel to 2014 Ridgeland Chamber President Sam Keyes of Butler Snow LLP. *Photo by Greg Campbell.*



Wesley Goings of C Spire accepts the 2014 Gene F. McGee Economic Development Award from Mayor Gene McGee. The award was presented for the first time to a company for its role in enhancing economic development in the City of Ridgeland.



2014 Ridgeland Chamber President Marc Petro of Community Bank, left, receives the President's Award from 2015 Ridgeland Chamber President Sam Keyes of Butler Snow LLP. *Photo by Greg Campbell.*



City Makers 2014 - Sissy and Randy Lynn of Ridgeland were named City Makers 2014, receiving the City of Ridgeland's highest award. Presenting the award is Ridgeland Mayor Gene McGee. *Photo by Greg Campbell.*



2014 Community Service Award - Colonial Heights Baptist Church was the recipient of the 2014 Community Service Award. Accepting the award for Colonial Heights is Pastor Geno Lucas, center. Charles Breunig of Papa John's Pizza-Ridgeland and 2013 recipient, left, and 2014 Ridgeland Chamber President Marc Petro of Community Bank, right, present the award. *Photo by Greg Campbell.*

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

Ron Blaylock, Tom Bobbitt, Randy Knouse, 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, Barbra Brown, Pat Busby, Jamie Hanry, Claire Jackson, Phyllis Parker, Lea Anne Stacy

Community Awareness Committee

Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.

Drew Malone - Chairman

Carla Palmer Allen, Shirley Gill, Dawn Hall, Vicki Heath, Scott Higginbotham, Lee Hutchings, 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, Mark Irby, Drew Malone, 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

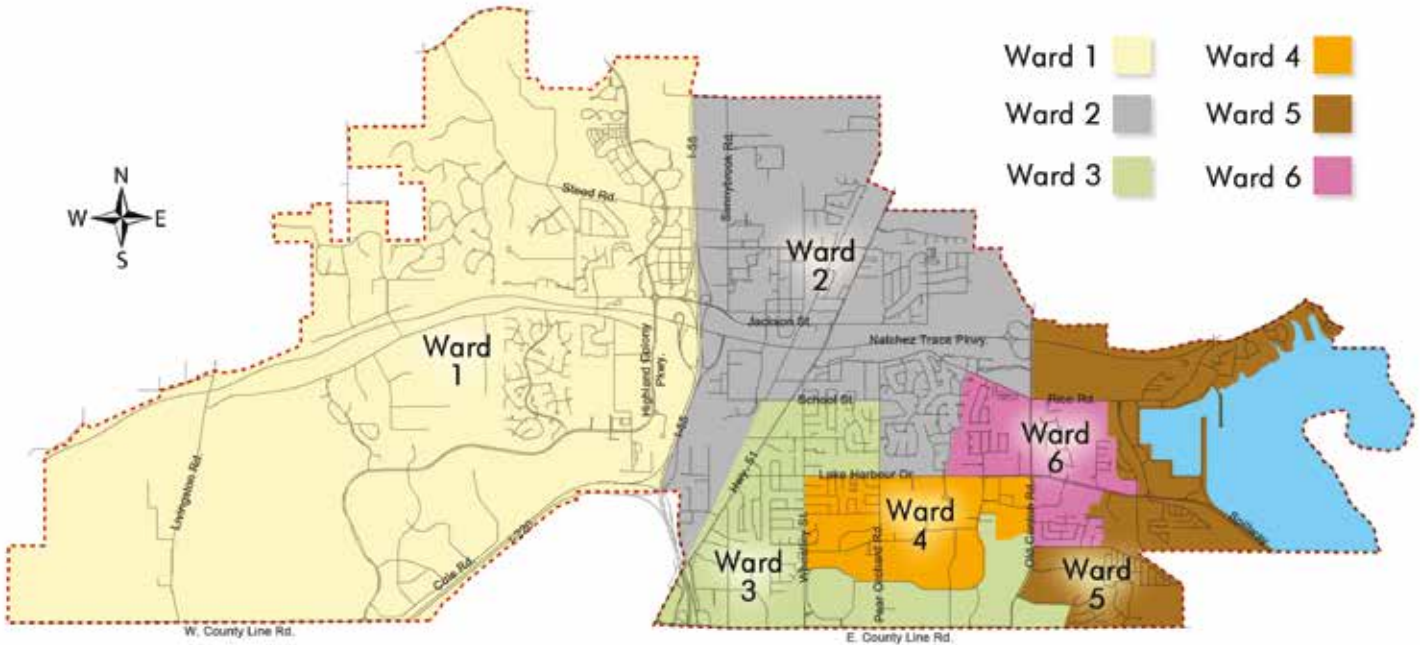
Public Works Department
(*road, garbage, recycling, water, storm water*) 601-853-2027

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
DISmithJ@gmail.com



Ken Heard
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601-201-7392
Ken.Heard@RidgelandMS.org



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Chuck.Gautier@RidgelandMS.org



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Scott.Jones @RidgelandMS.org



Wesley Hamlin
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601-454-0353
Wesley.Hamlin @RidgelandMS.org



☆ *The* BIKE CROSSING ☆



NORTH PARK MALL



COOL WATER
CATERING & EVENTS

