

September – November 2015

RIDGELAND Life



Mayor's Fun Walk
Fall Hazardous Waste Collection Event
Friendship Park Renovations
National TSA Awards
Local Cycling Community

the **FALL** issue



From the Mayor

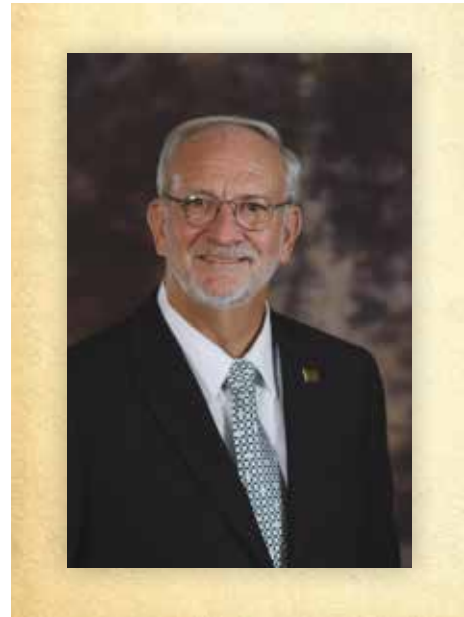
Each year the Ridgeland Police Department along with many neighborhoods celebrate a night out against crime, modeled after National Night Out. Our local version is called Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out and we choose to hold it in the fall instead of the summer. This year is no different, and on Thursday, October 15 we again will be celebrating this very important event.

Not only does this event provide an opportunity for neighbors to get together and have fellowship, but it is also an opportunity for citizens to get to know policemen on a first name basis and learn valuable lessons on how to keep our neighborhoods safe. Ridgeland firefighters and EMT's also make visits to the neighborhoods, so that they can meet residents under welcome circumstances. We have very good police and fire departments and involvement with neighborhoods and the citizens help to make Ridgeland a safe place to live and work.

I would like to thank those who have volunteered to coordinate block parties in their neighborhoods in the past and would encourage them to do so again this year. I also hope that if there are neighborhoods that have not hosted Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out that you would consider doing that this year. It is so important that neighbors work together to keep their neighborhoods and subdivisions safe.

Now that school has started I would like to encourage everyone to please drive carefully in school zones. We want to keep all our students safe and also to be sure that they have a great school year. I encourage each of you to support our local athletic programs. We have some of the finest in the State of Mississippi and brilliant students at all our schools.

Gene F. McGee



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland

*Ridgeland Neighbors
Night Out
Thursday, October 15*

RIDGELAND Life

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ON THE COVER: Liz Green (left) and Linda Loper (right) enjoy a walk along the Ridgeland Multiuse Trail during the Mayor's Fun Walk 2014. Join in the fun this year on Wednesday, October 21. Meet at the Ridgeland Recreational Center located at Old Trace Park on the reservoir at 9 a.m. For details, read about it in RECRE8 of this issue of Ridgeland Life.

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TOPSoccer Jamboree



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

This year's TOPSoccer Jamboree will be held on Wednesday, October 21 at Freedom Ridge Park. Stations will be set up with various activities and skill levels of participation. All participants will receive a medal, a soccer ball and a T-shirt. More than 300 volunteers from Ridgeland High School, Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce and Northwest Rankin High School will host games, face painting and fun activities.

Treat Street at the Township

Come join in the fun one week before Halloween for Township's Second Annual Treat Street at The Township! This is a fun trick-or-treating experience for children to enjoy as they dress in costume and trick-or-treat around The Township. Many Township businesses participate and hand out treats of all kinds! Treat Street will be held October 24, 4-6 p.m. at the Township at Colony Park, located at 1107 Highland Colony Parkway. Come take a walk down Treat Street this year at The Township!

Renaissance Euro Fest 2015 FREE, FUN, FAMILY EVENT

The great automobiles and motorcycles of Europe will be coming to Renaissance at Colony Park in Ridgeland for the seventh annual Renaissance Euro Fest Classic European Auto and Motorcycle Show. Entries in the show must be 25 years or older (built prior to 1991) except for a selection of newer special interest autos. For European auto enthusiasts, this is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beauty of British, Italian, German, Swedish and many other European vehicles. If makes such as Rolls-Royce, Volkswagen, Ferrari, Porsche, Land Rover, BMW, Alfa Romeo, Daimler, Jaguar, Norton, Ducati, Royal Enfield, BMW, Bugatti, Talbot Lago, Mercedes-Benz, Marcos, and Henson (to name just a few) excite your senses, then get all in!

It's a perfect time of year to be outside, strolling around the Renaissance and viewing gorgeous autos and motorcycles. This year the event will be



held on Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The show is open and free to the public. Over 15,000 spectators are expected to view 150 entries manufactured in five different countries, coming from nine different states.

For entry and more information, www.euro-fest.net or call Mike Marsh, 601-946-1950.

Trunk or Treat

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department will hold their annual Trunk or Treat fall event at Freedom Ridge Park on Thursday, October 29 from 6 -8 p.m. The kids can go trick or treating from car to car where



volunteers have filled their trunks with candy and prizes. There will also be games, face painting and much more. Admission is \$3 per child (10 and under). Volunteers are needed to provide vehicles, candy, and manpower to make this event a success. If you are interested, contact the Rec and Parks office at 601-853-2011. Be sure to check out the Recre8 section for complete event details.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Added to Fall Schedule

Many citizens have become accustomed to gathering hazardous waste from their homes and taking it to the annual Household Hazardous Waste Day event in May. Now, Ridgelanders and any resident of Madison County may benefit from a second Household Hazardous Waste Day this year. Ridgeland is hosting its first fall household hazardous waste collection day on Saturday, Sept. 12 at Holmes Community College thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

“We have had many requests for more events like Household Hazardous Waste Day in Ridgeland,” said Mike McCollum, Director of Public Works. “We are pleased to have been awarded this grant from MDEQ and now are able to offer this service to our citizens and small businesses in Ridgeland as well as Madison County residents.”

At the fall event, you may bring tires, batteries, old paint, and yard and household chemicals. Electronics will not be collected at the fall event. Just like the spring event, Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on a Saturday morning, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., Sept. 12 in the Ridgeland Avenue parking lot of Holmes Community College. The City of Ridgeland wishes to thank Holmes for partnering in this event and also expresses thanks to the volunteers from Keep Ridgeland Beautiful and the community.



Pictured here are Shred-It employees at the annual spring Household Hazardous Waste Day held at Holmes Community College.

MAYOR'S FUN WALK



Let's go walking, Ridgeland...at the 2015 Mayor's Fun Walk! This year's walk will be held on Wednesday, October 21 at 9 a.m. and will begin at the Ridgeland Recreational Center with a stroll on the beautiful multi-purpose trail. There are no set distances, so you can walk as little or as much as you want. Walkers will return to the Recreational Center to a morning of refreshments, door prizes and entertainment. You don't want to miss this fun, fit event! Be sure to check out the Recre8 section for complete event details.

FRIENDSHIP PARK RENOVATED

Thanks to Lowe's Grant

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep Mississippi Beautiful, received a \$10,000 grant from Lowe's and Keep America Beautiful to support Keep Ridgeland Beautiful's mission to help make Ridgeland, Mississippi a clean, green and a more beautiful place to live.

The grant provided funding for renovation of Friendship Park, a multi-purpose neighborhood park facility in Ridgeland. Several improvements were completed on project workday, July 22. More improvements in landscaping will follow this fall, after temperatures cool down for new plantings.

The renovation project included painting the existing pavilion as well as handrails and light poles, installing a new roof for the restroom facilities, installing three new grills and three picnic pads, and providing new landscaping materials. Volunteers will install playground mulch and provide some weeding, pruning and landscaping.

"We were thrilled to receive this generous grant from Lowe's. Working with City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks staff, Keep



Many renovations have taken place at Friendship Park. Pictured here are before and after photos of one of the picnic areas.

Ridgeland Beautiful was able to identify specific needs that made the most use of the funding while helping make Ridgeland even more beautiful," said Jan Richardson, chairman, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful.

The Keep Ridgeland Beautiful grant is one of 50 merit-based grants awarded nationally by Lowe's to community-based affiliates of Keep America Beautiful in support of grassroots service projects ranging from restoring neighborhood parks and planting community gardens to leading disaster restoration initiatives and large-scale cleanups.

Keep America Beautiful affiliates and partnering organizations received nearly 245 Lowe's grants the past three years. Through this partnership, nearly 1 million flowers and bulbs have been planted; more than 225 playgrounds and recreational areas have been built or revitalized; and more than 1,000 community gardens have been planted.

Turn On The Possibilities

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Olde Towne Middle and Ridgeland High Bring Home National Technology Student Association Awards

Excitement filled the air as thousands of technology students from around the nation and as far away as Germany and Turkey, convened at the Gaylord Texan Hotel in Grapevine, Texas for the national conference of the Technology Student Association (TSA). The national competition of technology student team projects was about to begin. Held June 28 – July 2, it was an intense week of competitions, intermixed with fun events like pin trading and swimming. Olde Towne Middle School and Ridgeland High School sent over 30 students, accompanied by advisors and families, to the national conference.

The Technology Student Association teams from the Ridgeland schools spent long hours developing projects that resulted in national awards for the teams. Most of the students had competed at district and state level to qualify for nationals. Madison County schools in Ridgeland have become known for their high quality technology education. The education these fortunate students are gaining will serve them well after graduation from high school. However, it is especially rewarding for the students, parents and advisors to experience some immediate results of that education through national recognition at the conference.

“Participating and competing in TSA has been a wonderful program with many learning experiences for my son, Jarrett,” said Missy Huddleston, parent. “He has learned so much from the events he has competed in (Robotics, Jr. Solar Sprint Car, and Construction Challenge). All are hands-on and require and

allow him to be moving and problem-solving constantly. For Jarrett, he just enjoys this type of learning more than sitting and writing.”

“The Construction Challenge project was special because not only did it involve the typical project notes, models, etc., it also involved helping others and improving our community. And Jarrett’s team was one of the top 10 in the nation! Obviously, for him to get to compete on a national level was a huge boost of self-esteem while having a lot of fun, too. Jarrett had a great time, made new friends and being able to celebrate his teams’ accomplishments as well as other teams from our school was a magnificent experience.”

Below are the national rankings of the local TSA teams from Olde Towne Middle and Ridgeland High.

Community Service Video - National Champion

An incredible and noteworthy accomplishment was the National Championship earned by Olde Towne Middle School for their Community Service Video, highlighting their work with Relay for Life and the American Cancer Association. The students recognized for their success with this project are Juliet Buckholt, Amber Halliday and Isabella Lacourrege. Teacher adviser was Mrs. Tammy King. Congratulations to this team for earning first place in the nation.

Geospatial Technology – National Finalist

Olde Towne Middle School students who earned 9th place, making the top ten national finalists for geospatial technology included Maddy Berry and Claire Richert. They researched the



Technology Student Association students from Ridgeland High and Olde Towne Middle Schools and teachers are pictured at the national competition.

possibility of utilizing solar technology at the proposed City Center in Ridgeland.

Construction Challenge – National Finalist

Maddy Berry, Jarrett Huddleston and Claire Richert earned 9th Place in the Construction Challenge. This team designed and built a pergola at Midway Park in Ridgeland.

TEAMS (Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science) – National Finalist

Students who collaborated and wrote a winning essay on biofuel were Jarvis Armstrong, Juliet Beckhold, Maddy Berry, John Michael Graves, Mackenzie Holloway, Alliee Ishee, and Claire Richert of Olde Towne Middle School. They secured 10th place.

TEAMS – Finalist for Presentation

Ridgeland High School students, Victoria Green, Anshul Anugu, Randy Townsend, Kelvin So, Ashley Milner, and Victoria Jiang earned a finalist position for their presentation on the redevelopment of a fictional coastal town after a disaster.

Extemporaneous Speech – National Finalist

Jayce Matthews won 7th place for his extemporaneous speech, titled, “What has TSA done for you?”

Other categories that Olde Towne Middle and Ridgeland High participated in were the Solar Sprint, Problem Solving, Vex Robotics, Dragster, Video-on-demand and Inventions and Innovations. OTMS and RHS 9th/10th grade were the only schools in Mississippi with a TEAMS team.

Parents are finding many benefits of the TSA team experience for their children such as learning how to work well



Olde Towne Middle School TSA National Award winners in Community Service Video, left to right, Amber Halliday, Isabella Lacourgege, and Juliet Buckholt are pictured immediately after receiving their award at the national convention. Not pictured, adviser Tammy King.

as a team, perseverance and never giving up on your project, handling disappointment when things don't go as they should, and plenty of problem-solving in an active environment.

Huddleston said, “I can say so many good things about this club, but wouldn't be able to do that without giving credit to adviser, Mr. Bill Richardson, who has put so much time, energy and effort in this club and the lives of the students that are a part of it. He is an awesome mentor, teacher and adviser with a passion for our kids and this program that is taking Ridgeland to the top. With Mr. Richardson, and the team of advisors, Ridgeland has and will continue to have one of the top contending programs in Mississippi and in the U.S.”

SPONSORSHIP 2016



Displaying sponsor's business logos at city events is one of the benefits of partnering with Ridgeland Recreation and Parks.

Now is the time to think about sponsorship for 2016! You can become a Ridgeland Recreation & Parks partner for as little as \$500, and that includes an ad in this magazine! Our sponsorship program gives you an opportunity to promote your business and provides an avenue for you to become involved in the community. Please give me a call or send me an e-mail and give me an opportunity to stop by your office to discuss our program with you. You can reach me at 601-853-2011 or Julie.Cox@ridgelandms.org. Partner with us and get your company name in front of THOUSANDS of people!

Get Involved in Your Local Cycling Community

By Michelle Williams

Now that you have been riding the trails for a little while, it is time to become involved in the local cycling community.

Here are several resources to get you connected with others who enjoy riding a bike:

1. I encourage you to check out the Jackson Metro Cyclists bike club (<http://jmc.clubexpress.com/>). This bike club is the recreational cycling club that serves the tri-county area. The club typically hosts 5 supported bike rides throughout the year as well as 2 non-cycling social events.

2. Join several of the Cycling Facebook pages for our area.

I know many readers may not like or be members of Facebook. However, the vast majority of communications concerning impromptu weekly bike rides happen in Facebook groups. Many bike riders only post information about their upcoming ride on Facebook.

There are two main groups in the Ridgeland area that post information about upcoming impromptu road bike rides:

- Madison/Ridgeland Cycling (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/100147183409808/>)
- Germantown Cycling (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/412145618924397/>).

Both of these groups post rides almost daily and will definitely have rides posted for the weekends. These rides are typically not supported, meaning you will need to provide your own water and snacks on the bike. However most of the rides are routed near convenience stores so the cyclists can hydrate properly during the ride.

The Madison/Ridgeland Cycling group frequently move their rides around the tri-county area; whereas, the Germantown group starts their rides from Germantown High School in Gluckstadt.

For those of you who enjoy riding in the dirt at the

Ridgeland Mountain Bike Trails, this group is for you: Tri-County Mountain Bike Association (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/58615096210/>)

Riding the Ridgeland Trails requires the cyclist to pay a \$3 daily user fee and sign a waiver before you ride. An annual pass may also be obtained.

A final Facebook group some of our local women will want to be a member of would be the Women Bike Central Mississippi Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/182798288567781/>). Women's beginner rides and other cycling information can be found on this Facebook page.

With each group, one would need to check the Facebook posts to find out the exact location and time a ride starts.

3. Sign up for emails from Crooked Letter Cycling (<http://crookedlettercycling.com/>)

Crooked Letter Cycling is a statewide cycling resource. The twice weekly blog posts keep beginner and experienced cyclists abreast of all of the local cycling news, tips and best places to ride. The Event Calendar is the most comprehensive cycling event calendar in the state. All known events are posted with details including a map to the event start. Triathletes, racers, mountain bikers and recreational riders use the calendar to plan all of the rides they intend to participate in throughout the year.

4. Host your own ride! Do you have a particular route you enjoy, but would like to find someone to ride with? Post your ride on one of the Facebook groups mentioned above. There are many others looking for people to ride the trails with. Not a Facebook user? Stop by Indian Cycle or The Bike Crossing and let them know you are looking for a ride partner. If you are willing to lead a ride, email me at michelle@crookedlettercycling.com and I will put you in touch with others that would like to ride with you.



MORE REWARD PARTNERS JOIN RECYCLEBANK

Recycling in Ridgeland earns Recyclebank Reward Points for each participating household. Points are redeemable for discounts at retailers. Several local businesses have joined with Recyclebank to offer discounts at their businesses, making it easy and convenient for Ridgelanders to redeem points at some favorite local establishments.

Here's how it works - go to www.recyclebank.com and register, if you have not already. Go to "Get Rewards" and shop by zipcode 39157. Scroll through the options or enter your favorite business. Bring the offer to one of the reward partners in Ridgeland. In addition to the new partners below, other local participating reward partners include The College Corner, Fleet Feet Sports, Indian Cycle and Lost Pizza.



Fin's Fish House

Fin's Fish House opened this past spring in Ridgeland at 610-B Highway 51. Soon after opening, they joined the City as a Recyclebank local reward partner. Owner Cedric Triplett understood that becoming a partner would allow him to participate in a community initiative and make an impact while increasing sales and marketing.

Triplett uses farm-raised catfish from the Mississippi Delta and cooks up a catfish dinner with two sides. You can also order your catfish in a sandwich. His sides include coleslaw, French fries, fried okra or potato salad, all prepared fresh daily. He also serves pantrout, fishburgers, chicken wings, cheeseburgers and a house specialty, Fin's Slawdog. What's a slawdog, you might ask? Well, at Fin's you get grilled smoked sausage with barbecue sauce and homemade coleslaw on top.

Fin's Recyclebank Reward offer is \$1 off a \$10 purchase. They are open 6 days a week; Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.



Signa's Grille

Signa's Grille recently joined with the City of Ridgeland as a Recyclebank Rewards Partner, offering \$10 off purchases of \$25 or more. Frank Signa welcomed the opportunity to participate - he likes the idea of paying it forward.

If you haven't discovered Signa's yet, your Recyclebank reward presents a great opportunity. Located at 680 Highway 51, at the intersection with McClellan Drive, Signa's is a family-friendly, casual dining restaurant where you see the kitchen staff in action the moment you enter. Frank says of the dining experience, "You get to be a part of what we're doing here. You're looking into our kitchen and seeing what we do from start to finish."

Regularly rated 4 ½ or 5 stars, Signa's offers poboyos, sandwiches, burgers, and salads that will please most appetites. At Signa's, you will be treated like family.

If you would like more information about Ridgeland's recycling program or if your business is interested in joining Recyclebank as a local rewards partner, please contact the Public Works Department at 601-853-2027.

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

Mississippi Rush

Mississippi Rush is a nonprofit organization providing an opportunity for the youth of our area to participate in soccer. Visit www.mfcsoccer.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.

Recycling at Ridgeland's Parks

Provided at Ridgeland's parks are recycling compactors powered by solar energy. These special receptacles are not designed to handle garbage. Only place recyclable materials such as empty cans, clean plastic and paper into the compactors.

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 buildings 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

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

Trunk or Treat

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will hold Trunk or Treat at Freedom Ridge Park on October 29, 2015. Volunteers will fill their trunks with candy and prizes. The kids will go trick or treating from car to car. Other activities will include games and face painting. There is an entrance fee of \$3 per child for Trunk or Treat. This event is open to children ages 10 & under only.

Program Price: \$3 per child 10 and under
Event Date: Thursday, October 29
Start Time: 6 - 8 p.m.
Location: Freedom Ridge Park

Volunteers Needed for Trunk or Treat

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



Ridgeland Christmas Parade

All residents, businesses, and civic organizations are invited to participate in the Ridgeland Christmas Parade. There is no entry cost, and it is a great way to show your holiday spirit as we kick off the Christmas season. The parade begins and ends at the Homes Community College Campus on Ridgeland Avenue. The parade travels through the historic Olde Towne Subdivision and W. Jackson Street before turning onto Sunnybrook Road and finishing back at Holmes Community College.

Registration forms will be available October 1. Registration is open until December 2.

Start Time: 2 p.m.
Event Date: Saturday, December 5
Location: Olde Town Ridgeland

Christmas Decorating Contest

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful will be awarding prizes to the top Ridgeland residents and businesses that decorate their homes or businesses for the Christmas season. We will judge residences in the following categories: Overall, Door and Porch, Business, Judges' Choice and Children's Choice. We will judge business and award the top two winners.



To nominate yours or a neighbor's home or business, call 601-853-2011. The judge date will be Monday, December 7.

ATHLETICS

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

MRYC Basketball

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



Registration: October-November
Fee: TBA
Location: TBA

NFL Punt Pass and Kick

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks, in conjunction with the NFL, will be hosting the annual punt, pass and kick competition Saturday, September 12 at Freedom Ridge Park. Registration will be held 9- 9:30 a.m. The competition will be for boys and girls ages 6-15. There will be five age groups: 6/7, 8/9, 10/11, 12/13 and 14/15. The top scorer in each age division will advance to the sectional meet to be held in Jackson. This is a free event and it is open to all boys and girls ages 6-15. The winners at the sectionals will advance to the Team Championship in New Orleans.

Event Date: Saturday, September 12
Start Time: 9 a.m.
Location: Freedom Ridge Park

Skyhawks Sports Academy SNAG – Starting New at Golf

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS, AGES 6 TO 9

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. Our 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. Since 1979, Skyhawks has taught over one million boys and girls life lessons through sports. Please view www.skyhawks.com for further information.

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. SNAG is for boys and girls ages 6 to 9.

Event Dates: Mondays, Sept. 21 to Oct. 26
Time: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Event Location: Freedom Ridge Park
Registration: open online now www.skyhawks.com
Program Price: \$90

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

SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Senior Adult Coordinator, Lynda Assink
lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org 601-856-6876

SPECIAL EVENTS

First Aid and CPR Course

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks is offering a First Aid and CPR Course. The purpose of this course is to provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to assess an emergency situation, to call for help, to administer mouth to mouth resuscitation, or CPR, perform correct choking procedures for conscious and unconscious victims, and to minimize the consequences of injury or sudden illness until advance emergency medical help arrives. Lisa Garforth, Life Safety and Education Officer, from Madison Fire and Rescue will be your instructor. For more information, please call Lynda at 601-856-6876 or email lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org.



Program Price: No Charge
Event Date: Thursday, September 17
Time: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Mayor's FUN Walk

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

We will return to the Ridgeland Recreational Center for brunch, visiting of sponsor booths, door prizes, and special musical entertainment. The musical trio, “Sally, Tim, and Mike” will be our entertainment this year. They will perform a medley of classic rock, Motown, blues, and folk music - music for everyone to enjoy!

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

Program Price: No Charge
Event Date: Wednesday, October 21
Time: 9 – 10:30 a.m.
Location: Ridgeland Recreational Center



Beginning Self-Defense

The goal of this 8-hour course is to assist you in achieving personal safety. This course uses light contact and teaches practical and easy to use techniques. 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 also a potential life saver. The hardest part is doing your homework before finding yourself in a situation.



Andrew Dillon, your instructor, has a 4th degree Tae Kwon Do Belt. Participants who have previously taken this course may attend at no charge. Class size is limited. Register by calling or emailing Lynda at 601-856-6876, lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org.

Program Price: \$40
Event Dates: September 21-24, October 19-22
Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Days of week: Monday - Thursday

Superstar Seniors’ Turkey Feast

Mark your calendar to attend Ridgeland’s Superstar Seniors’ Turkey Feast! We will have a delicious Thanksgiving lunch and great entertainment. Seating is limited. Tickets must be purchased before the event at Ridgeland City Hall or the Ridgeland Recreational Center.



Program Price: \$5 (Tickets sold in advance.)
Event Date: Thursday, November 12
Time: 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Location: Highlands Presbyterian Church

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MONTHLY PROGRAMS

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

Ridgeland City Garden Club

The objective of the garden 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! If you are interested in attending any of our meetings or becoming a member, please contact Delores Nader by emailing ddnader@aol.com or calling 601-956-5405.

Program Price: \$20 (Yearly dues)
Event Dates: Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 5
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Day of Week: Tuesdays except for Thursday, Nov. 5

Bridge

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

Program Price: \$1 each (for prize)
Event Dates: September 24, October 22
Time: 1– 4 p.m.
Day of Week: Thursday

Thread, Yarn, Crochet & Coffee

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



Program Price: Free
Event Dates: September 14 and 28, October 12 and 26, November 9 and 23
Time: 1:30 – 3 p.m.
Day of Week: Monday

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

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

Agape Men's Coffee Group

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

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

Line Dancing

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



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

Men's Bible Study

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

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

Painting Pals

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

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

The Complete Mix


AN EXERCISE CLASS FOR SENIOR ADULTS

This class provides the perfect exercise mix. It is a combination of stretching, balancing, strengthening, toning, and low impact cardio all in one class. Improve your cardiovascular system, flexibility, and strength with this class. Certified instructor, Sally Holly, will be your teacher. Sally has over 30 years of experience in the fitness industry. She will teach you proper technique and alignment as well as variations in all exercises. This is a challenging and safe workout for all fitness levels.



Registration: Now until September 14
Event Dates: Begins on Monday, September 14
Program Price: \$10/month
Time: 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Days of Week: Monday and Wednesday



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Restoration and Relaxation Yoga

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks is offering a yoga class for beginners. This is a great class for those who are beginning to exercise or rehabbing from an injury. Offered at a slower pace, this class will focus on the basics of yoga, breath work and 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.

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

Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness and Fun

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

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

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

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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SEASONAL PROGRAMS

Balance and Fall-Proof Your Life

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

- Registration:* Now until October 6
- Event Dates:* October 6 – November 18
- Program Price:* \$30 for six week course/or \$8/class
- Time:* 11 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
- Day of Week:* Wednesday

Tai-Chi Fusion on the Reservoir

Tai-Chi is an ancient practice proven to reduce pain and improve your mental and physical well-being. Tai-Chi is safe, easy to learn, and suitable for every fitness level. A few of the benefits are: increased flexibility and reduced risk of injury, focused breathing and concentration, improvement of mind-body connection, greater strength and stamina, better balance and stability, improved posture, stress reduction and much more. Always consult your physician before beginning any exercise program. Pre-registration is required by calling or emailing Lynda.



- Registration:* Now until October 6
- Event Dates:* October 6 – November 18
- Program Price:* \$30 for six week course or \$8/class
- Time:* 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Day of Week:* Wednesday

TENNIS

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

The public is invited to watch tennis tournaments or games, register for private or group lessons, join a tennis league, or just

come out and play a game. Call the center to reserve a court. Cost is \$3 person for 1 1/2 hours. Tournament schedule and lesson information is below.



Tournaments

Chick-Fil-A Junior Tournament (Level 3)
October 31 – November 1

Fall Season

Junior Team Tennis Fall Season

September 13 – November 8

Contact Angie Deleon at angied@mstennis.com or call 601-981-4421.

Lessons

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

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ASE Kids Think ‘Outside the Lines’ Grant brings integrated art curriculum to Ann Smith

Scissors? Check. Glue? Check? Watercolors? Check. Time to start art class? No, actually it's time to learn math.

Each week, students at Ann Smith Elementary unleash their imagination in art class, but this year, thanks to the Mississippi Arts Commission Whole Schools Initiative (WSI) Art Grant, the children's creativity will be a key component in math, as well. Through Ann Smith's new integrated art program, teachers will incorporate art, music, and drama into their math lessons. According to the Mississippi Arts Commission, this hands-on approach has increased standardized test scores, improved teacher morale, and increased student engagement in the schools that have adopted it.

“If we see math as a left brain activity and art as a right brain activity, integrating the two allows both sides of the brain to be activated simultaneously,” explained ASE principal, Dr. Melissa Philley. “Incorporating the hands-on nature of art into the math curriculum allows abstract mathematical concepts such as division to become concrete. For example, having the children actually draw a circle and then cut it into halves brings fractions to life in ways worksheets can't.”

Second-grade teacher Ashley Young has experienced the integrated art curriculum at other schools and wanted to bring it to Ann Smith. She wrote the grant with counselor, Leona Bishop.

“It's a great opportunity to be chosen for this grant,” Young said. “This is a very hands-on, very creative curriculum. The children are really in charge of what they make and unlike a coloring sheet, they are encouraged to ‘think outside the lines.’”

With the (WSI) Grant, the Mississippi Arts Commission matches funds that Ann Smith has set aside for the integrated arts curriculum. The funds pay for ongoing professional development, as well as bring teaching artists to the school. In the first year of the program, Ann Smith has decided to focus on incorporating art into the math curriculum, but the plan is to expand the program with each new school year.

“The artist (Wassily) Kadinsky uses circles and geometric patterns in his art. So, for example, we can incorporate his style of art into geometry lessons,” Young explained. “It'll be a way for the children to learn about shapes without relying on flash cards or worksheets. We can really teach math through any form of art.”

Bishop is excited about helping teachers implement the arts in their classroom because, “It's less about adding one more thing and more about enhancing what we're already doing in our classrooms. It is about looking at things at different angles and discovering new and creative ways to find solutions.” Bishop is serving as the project manager for the grant and is helping to train the staff and coordinate the resources.

Of course, arts integration isn't completely new to the school. Even before receiving the grant, Ann Smith named an artist and composer for each month, and then introduced the children to their works in art and music classes. Grade level teachers would then weave the famous works, pieces and concepts from the month's selected artist and composer into the core subjects.

Parent and community involvement is a critical aspect of the curriculum. If you are interested in sharing your talent or experience in the arts with the students at Ann Smith, please e-mail Dr. Philley at mphilley@madison-schools.com.



Second-grade teacher Ashley Young learns strategies for using art to teach math concepts.



ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

Grades K-2

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**'FANCY FEET' FINALLY
COMING TO FRUITION**
*ASE counselor publishes book
inspired by daughter*

When Ridgeland High School sophomore Leah Bishop was little, she would change into a new outfit on the hour. The shoes were the most important—the fancier, the better. Inspired by her daughter's passion for fashion, Ann Smith's counselor, Leona Bishop, self-published the children's book, *Prissy Lee's Fancy Feet*.



Bishop's nephew, Tracarris Wince, illustrated her story about a little girl's quest to find the perfect pair of shoes. Bishop's book is available on Amazon.

Ann Smith counselor, Leona Bishop, reads her book, Prissy Lee's Fancy Feet, at her hometown bookstore in Cleveland.

com, as well as from Bishop herself. E-mail her at countjoy@ymail.com for details.

Titans Walk for Safety
*ASE plans 5th annual Walk to
School Day event*

Health, fitness and fun have become a Titan tradition each year during the Walk to School Day event. You're invited to help Ann Smith Elementary promote pedestrian safety and environmentally-friendly forms of transportation at the fifth annual Walk to School Day event on Wednesday, October 7. Join Ann Smith students, parents and community leaders on the parade walk up Pear Orchard. Ann Smith will be one of thousands of schools in more than 40 countries celebrating International Walk to School Day.

The parade will begin around 7 a.m. More details will be announced as the event comes nearer.



HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

Grades 3 - 5 • 330 Brame Road
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Highland's New Assistant Principal is All Business About Education

Derian Knox always knew he wanted to be an educator, but it wasn't until he reached the age of 30 that his dream became a reality.

Knox, whose father was a businessman, began his career by following in his father's footsteps: pursuing a business career and receiving a marketing degree and Master of Business Administration. After graduation, he began working in the insurance industry, where he dealt with auto, casualty, injury and death claims. He eventually began working at his father's independent car dealership. However, he was never fully satisfied in the business world and knew it was time to switch career paths to what he really loved doing – working with children.

"One reason I really wanted to go into education is, around that time, I had my first child," said Knox. "I saw the world differently, and I really felt like education was the key to changing the world."

Just a few years later – after earning a Master of Arts in Teaching from Belhaven University and serving as a math and science teacher at Camden Elementary for five years – he's excited to be taking on a new role as assistant principal at Highland.

In his new position, his responsibilities include assisting with several Highland initiatives including a focus on strategies to enhance the school's culture of community, a continued focus on expanding students' skills as writers, working alongside teachers to improve math and science offerings, managing daily routines and data analysis for continual improvement. But Knox doesn't limit himself to a specific role – he's willing to do whatever is needed at the school each day.

There's no doubt Knox's background in business has prepared him for his new position. But it's his experience at Camden that's paved the way. In addition to teaching fourth grade, Knox served on the school's leadership and instructional teams, was the lead math teacher, served as an adviser for National Elementary Honors Society, and was the site coordinator for the STARS Saturday Academy and summer school programs.

Knox's belief that all children can be successful is what drives him. "I don't believe that socioeconomic status or family makeup hinders a child from learning," he said. "If children can walk into this building, they can be taught and they can learn. Once children understand and truly feel you believe in them, the things they can accomplish can blow your mind."



Fun facts about Derian Knox, Highland's new assistant principal

- While at Jackson State University, Knox played football and was a middle linebacker.
- Knox has volunteered quite a bit over the years. He's been involved in Junior Achievement, Big Brothers & Big Sisters and the Masonic Lodge. He's served as a volunteer basketball coach in Jackson and has tutored students after school.
- Knox has been married for 10 years to Dr. Micca Knox, a principal at Isable Elementary in Jackson. The couple have three sons: Aiden (7), Ethan (5) and Jaxon (8 months).
- While in his first year of teaching at Camden, Knox was able to increase the fourth-grade MCT2 math score by 26 points from the previous school year.
- He served as an assistant coach for Velma Jackson High School's football, track and powerlifting teams. His girls powerlifting team won two straight state championships (2014, 2015) – the first girls state championships in any sport in the history of Velma Jackson.
- Knox and his family love to travel, and they have a goal of visiting every state.
- Among his hobbies are reading, working out, spending time with his family and hanging out with friends.
- His academic degrees include: Bachelor of Business Administration from Jackson State University, Master of Business Administration from Belhaven University, Master of Arts in Teaching from Belhaven University and Education Specialist from Mississippi College.
- Knox is currently pursuing a doctorate from Mississippi College in K-12 leadership.

Highland Students Selling Cookbooks

Highland students are selling a very special cookbook just in time for the fall, with the proceeds benefiting the school's PTO.

The cookbook, entitled *Titanic Recipes from Titan Nation*, features more than 600 tasty recipes compiled by the school's parents, students, faculty and staff. The hardback, three-ring cookbook is divided into eight categories: appetizers & beverages, soups & salads, vegetables & side dishes, main dishes, breads & rolls, desserts, cookies & candies, and "this & that."

The cookbook includes everything from simple, easy-to-prepare family favorites to recipes that take on more of a multicultural feel. "One of Highland's greatest qualities is its diversity," said Kristy Tubb, co-president of Highland's PTO. "This diversity can clearly be seen in the collection of recipes in this cookbook. From Asian, Indian, Cajun, Spanish and Tex-Mex, to American and soul comfort foods, this cookbook is easily one that everyone who loves food or cooking needs to have."

Money raised from cookbook sales will be used to help support and augment educational opportunities at the school. "Parents sometimes have so many fundraisers going on when they have children who attend multiple schools," said Tubb. "We wanted to come up with a fundraiser that could help raise a substantial amount of money to help with technology improvements, while also creating a lasting keepsake for our Titan families."

Cookbooks are \$15 and can be purchased at Highland during school hours or by contacting Kristy Tubb at 601-985-8489 or krtubb@gmail.com.



Pictured are (from left) Tori Lindsey, Hunter Westby-Gibson, Ximena Obispo, Marrion Longino and Elijah Tubb.

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TECHNOLOGY COURSES EXPAND IN THE RIDGELAND ZONE

Olde Towne Middle School (OTMS) continues to enhance its cutting-edge technology education program with the opening of the OTMS Technology Wing this fall. STEM education is part of every student's curriculum at Olde Towne Middle. Technology classrooms are now consolidated on one hallway, increasing prospects for faculty collaboration.

Department chair Bill Richardson, who also mentors the award winning VEX robotics teams at OTMS and Ridgeland High, now has a robotics lab that will be accessible by all interested students. An upgraded science lab also opened on the hall, allowing students even greater access to research and lab-based learning.

Along with the new labs, Olde Towne is offering a new course, robotics. "The robotics course offered at Olde Towne is the only one in Madison County," Richardson said. "To have a dedicated robotics class in middle school...it may be the only one in the state."

Olde Towne was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Mississippi Department of Education to supplement robotics education and STEM classes. The grant has allowed for the purchase of 16 robotic kits and programming software. Richardson is excited about the software now available to Ridgeland zone students including industry-standard CAD (computer-aided design) software, the same kind used by architects, engineers, and designers.

A second new course is now being offered at Olde Towne in the technology wing, but this one is for Ridgeland High School students - an introduction to engineering. Richardson said, "The high school students will do circuit board design, structural bridge design, electronic projects and some civil engineering." The high school students will get hands-on experience in design, building and testing. Richardson said the students will go through the engineering process of theory to production. This new engineering class for Ridgeland High School students is part of a new engineering career academy.

"Most students do not get to try engineering before college," states Richardson. "Ridgeland's program gives the students here a very special opportunity."

The Ridgeland Zone has had many firsts in technology education, including Hour of Code, Technology Student



Ridgeland High School student and Technology Student Association (TSA) member, Kelvin So, is pictured here in the new robotics lab at Olde Towne Middle School with a robot designed and made by TSA students.

Association and near-space balloon missions. The OTMS Tech Hall will provide the launch pad for continued extraordinary opportunities for Titan students.

New Food Service Provider for Madison County Schools

Jambalaya, stir fry, and tilapia might be choices made at lunch in a favorite restaurant. This year, Madison County school system launched a partnership with food service provider, Chartwells, so Ridgeland students will enjoy wonderful entrees like these each day. Other delicious options like made-to-order sandwiches, homemade pizza, healthy drinks, salads, vegetarian options and smoothies will round out the daily menu.

The partnership will give Madison County Schools' food service staff access to dieticians and chefs, and a free app will keep students and parents updated about menus as well as nutritional information. Because of Chartwells' strong buying power, these menu upgrades don't come with a price increase. Meal prices remain the same as last year. On the horizon is a food truck that could serve at special events, and potentially be stationed at the high school as a means for students to get a healthy snack before athletic practice or afterschool activities.

Elementary students are always delighted to have a parent eat lunch with them. With the delectable new menu, middle and high school students may be seeing a lot more of their parents at lunch time, too.

Olde Towne Middle Staff Highlight Brendon Bell

"It's a great day to be a Titan," exclaims Brendon Bell, who has joined the Olde Towne Middle School staff as an Assistant Principal (intern). Bell will also serve as the assistant OTMS football and boys basketball coach and teach physical education. Bell comes to Ridgeland from Northwest Rankin High, where he taught P.E. and was an assistant football and basketball coach.

Entering his sixth year in education, when asked to relay a special career highlight, Bell replied, "In 2012 as a social studies teacher at Cardozo Middle I also served as the head football coach, assistant boys basketball coach, and the head girls track coach. Under my direction, the football team garnered an overall 12-1 record and the school's first city championship in football."

Education is a second career for Bell, who served as a law enforcement officer with the Jackson Police Department and the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics. He served as a patrolman, narcotics detective, and spokesman for the Jackson Police Department during a nine-year career. Bell is poised, smart and articulate; the Olde Towne community feels fortunate to add Bell's leadership and teaching skills to the school roster.



SUPPORT THE TITANS

Ridgeland's Olde Towne Middle School students are poised for the 2015-16 school year to begin. Seated in the comfortable chair-backs at Ridgeland High's Titan Stadium, they urge the community to join them in supporting the Titans this year. Titan sporting events are fun for all ages. Front row, left to right, Ford Sterling, Jeb Bailey. Second row, Array Huskey, Ashley Milner, Camille Kelly, Mia Robbins, Zoe Cole and Claire Richert.





RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

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

Titan Marching Band Welcomes New Director

Ridgeland High School band welcomes Jill Wallace to the helm of the 2015-16 Titan Band. Wallace joined the Titan community last year, as head of the Olde Towne Middle School band. Upon the retirement of director Keith Moffatt, Wallace was appointed to Director of Ridgeland bands.

After thoughtful research and consultation, Ridgeland Principal Eric Brooks selected Wallace, stating, "We were looking for someone who knew and could appreciate the rich history of the Titan Marching Band. The fact that Mrs. Wallace was already on staff at Olde Towne Middle School made our search a little easier. We wanted someone the kids could relate to and respect. She has been with us long enough to have a clear understanding of what our band needs, to continue our rich tradition."

Ridgeland High School/Olde Towne band staff, who work as a team with the high school marching band, includes Josh Craft, high school assistant and percussion instructor, and longtime director Marvin Milner, middle school assistant director. Stuart Neal joins the staff as the new Olde Towne Middle School director after five successful years at Loyd Star. The RHS Marching Band's 2015 show will be a tribute to fallen heroes, featuring patriotic themes and hymns.

One hundred and twenty-five students are in the high school band this year. Wallace states, "Being involved in the band program throughout my middle and high school years changed my life, and I wanted to create the same positive experience and love for music in my students as I experienced."

Wallace continues, "I enjoyed not only the performance aspect



of being in band in high school and in college, but I also learned many important values such as responsibility, determination, time management, and a strong work ethic. I was a drum major throughout my time in high school, community college, and at

Mississippi State, so I experienced many leadership opportunities."

Wallace is married to Justin Wallace, a band director at Forest High School and states, "It is beneficial to be married to someone who understands the demands of this position." Free time means cheering for all Mississippi State Bulldog teams, baking and reading, and spending time with friends and family.

Principal Brooks concludes, "We are very excited to have Mrs. Wallace on board. I know she will do a great job and we are eager to experience the beginning of her legacy with the Titan Band."



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ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

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

Just for Kicks

Ridgeland High School football team will be one of the few high school teams in the country with a female kicker on their squad this season. In true Titan spirit, Senior Britain Welzien decided to add one more sport to her extensive roster.

"I tried out for the position of the kicker on the football team because I've played soccer all my life. Kicking just comes naturally. I love being the kicker. I play a defensive position in soccer and that has very little scoring opportunities. So it's nice to be able to score goals as the kicker on the football team," Britain explained. Welzien is very accurate from the extra point placement, which is 20 yards. Her range is approximately 35 yards.

An honor student and flute player, Welzien balances cheer, soccer, band, golf, and football thanks to the "split time" that Ridgeland offers its athletes. "Split-time allows me to go to half the practices when I'm involved in multiple sports. I consider myself very lucky to have supportive coaches who are willing to work with me, so I can do the things I love. All my friends are supportive of me, especially the boys and coaches on the football team. I'm looking forward to a great season with them."

RHS Athletic Director and head football coach Kenny Burton expounds about what sets Ridgeland apart from many schools - he, along with school administrators, are true believers in Titans experiencing as many activities as feasible during their school career. "We are proud to have Britain as a member of the Titan Football Team. I expect to see her get the chance to kick a lot this season."

Burton recalls, "The first day she came to talk to me, it was during practice, so I told her to go to the other end of the field and kick a few footballs. There is a certain sound you will hear when a ball is hit well off a kicker's foot. My back was turned and I heard the sound of a well-hit ball; I turned to see that it was Britain. She has what we call a "lively foot," meaning that there is a thump sound and good ball rotation. The rest is Titan history."

In many schools, three-sports would be the ultimate number for an athlete; however, at Ridgeland High School, a wonderful philosophy was set forth when the school opened. Burton explains the school's philosophy, "I tell people often that it is great for young people to experience and join many teams. We should never, 'put all our eggs in one basket.' God gives us many talents and it is up to us to take the step of faith to utilize them. Britain has done that by joining what is normally known as a male sport. She is a great example of someone who enjoys doing multiple activities and performs well in all."



Ridgeland High School five-sport athlete, Britain Welzien, will kick for the Titan football team this season, one of the few female kickers in the nation.

The RHS campus is filled with students who balance sports teams, music programs and leadership positions. The net effect is students are open to trying new things and the student-body is a tight-knit community.

Whether you buy season football tickets, or just attend one game, come out to see Britain kicking for the Titans ... and marching with the Titan band at halftime.

Holmes Community College Celebrates 90 Years of Excellence

Holmes Community College has a lot to be proud of. As one of the fastest-growing community colleges in the state, the two-year college is celebrating 90 years of excellence. Holmes will celebrate its 90th birthday over the next several months, with special emphasis on the anniversary during the 2015 Homecoming festivities on Saturday, Oct. 24 in Goodman.

As a school that grew out of humble beginnings, Holmes seeks to never forget the values of hard work and determination that led the institution to where it is today. The goal of the college is to instill a strong work ethic in its students as they are prepared for university transfer, productive employment, and lifelong learning. Holmes is committed to serving not only its students, but all citizens throughout its nine-county district.

In just 90 years, more than 20,000 alumni have received an education and/or trained for the workforce at Holmes Community College. Holmes has grown from an agricultural junior college in Goodman into a multi-campus institution that offers the Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Applied Science degree, technical and career certificates, and workforce training. The college now offers more than 50 academic majors, approximately 30 professional programs, over 50 extracurricular activities, 10 athletic sports, and a variety of student support services.

Holmes Community College. 90 Years Strong. Solid Foundation. Bright Future.



Pictured is McDaniel Hall, one of the original buildings at Holmes in 1925. Originally the administration building, McDaniel is now the auditorium.



The Ridgeland Campus of Holmes Community College held a Pinning Ceremony for the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) Class of 2015 on June 19 at First Baptist Church of Ridgeland. Pictured are (left to right) LPN Instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton, Me'Chael Banks, Brooke Jones, Summer Smith, Myisha Bass, Kelli Parker, Brandi Barwick, Mary Traweek, Taylor Bieker, Crista Lovette, Brandi Stampley, Annie Collier, and LPN Instructor Heather Roberts.



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>.



Dr. Amy Wolgamott was named Holmes Community College Speech and Theatre Department Chair in spring of 2015. She is also an instructor of speech on the Ridgeland Campus.

RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Hours:

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



FREE PUBLIC COMPUTER CLASSES

Need computer help? Bimonthly instructional classes are offered in computer and Internet basics, Email, and Microsoft Office Word. Classes are open to 8 participants with reservations. For additional information please call 601-856-4536.



Left to right: Estelunda Walters; Ke'aura Lawson, Staff Instructor; Melvina Whitehead; Sue Stewart

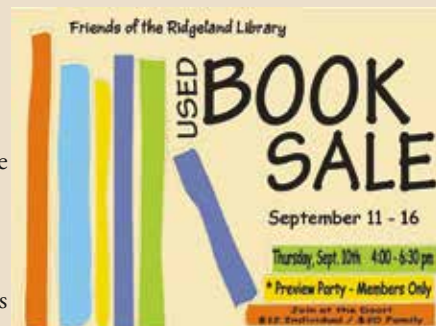
Mining Your Memories – Writing Family Stories

Andy Oldham will lead the fall session of this popular group beginning on Thursday, September 3. The remaining classes will meet on the second Thursday of each month in October, November, and December. All sessions will meet from 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Fall Book Sale

Sponsored by the Friends of the Ridgeland Library

Support the Friends of the Ridgeland Library – join today! This is a volunteer support organization that supplements funding for special projects. The fall book sale features hardback and paperback books in every category of fiction and nonfiction, and lots of children's books. Treat yourself to some great BARGAIN books while supporting your local library.



- **Book Sale dates: September 11 – 16**
- Members' Preview Party: Thursday, September 10, 4 – 6:30 p.m.
- Individual memberships \$12; Family Memberships, \$20

Navigate Ancestry database @ the Ridgeland Library

- Tuesday, September 23 and Tuesday, September 30, 9 – 10 a.m.

Back by popular demand, Mrs. Jacobs will teach a two-part Ancestry session on September 23 and 30. She will discuss navigational skills to locate information using the Ancestry database. Participants will search for military history, marriage and death records, tax and census information, Revolutionary War Bounty Grants, and more. Call the Ridgeland staff to reserve your space at the workshop.



Judy Jacobs, Instructor

WYATT WATERS

Thursday, October 15, 6 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Ridgeland Library

Mississippi watercolor artist Wyatt Waters will be our special guest on Thursday, October 15 at 6 p.m. Wyatt will discuss his life as an artist and demonstrate his techniques.

Using watercolor as a medium, Wyatt Waters paints a variety of subjects “en plein air,” allowing him to capture natural light and color. His paintings are held in private and corporate collections, and have been featured in *Art & Antiques*, *American Artist*, *Watercolor Magazine*, *Mississippi Magazine*, and *Delta Magazine*. Waters’ paintings have been exhibited in solo shows at the Mississippi Museum of Art, the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, the Meridian Museum of Art, and the Jackson Municipal Art Gallery. He has published several books featuring his watercolors, including *An Italian Palate*, his most recent collaboration with noted chef and restaurateur Robert St. John.

Wyatt received the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters award for *An Oxford Sketchbook* and the Mississippi Library Association Special Award for *Art for A Southern Palate*. In 2010 he received the Mississippi Arts Commission Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts. He owns and operates the Wyatt Waters Gallery in Clinton, Mississippi.



Madison County Mystery Readers Host Award Winning Author Hilary Davidson

Thursday, October 13,
10:30 a.m.



If you love to read travel books before taking your trip, you should join us for the special SKYPE event with award-winning mystery writer, Hilary Davidson. Hilary wrote 17 nonfiction books for Frommer’s Travel Guides before turning her hand to mysteries. It isn’t surprising that her debut novel, *The Damage Done*, began a series whose main character, Lily Moore, is a travel writer. Hilary won both the Anthony Award and the Crimespre Award for Best First Novel. In April 2014, Hilary wrote her first standalone novel, *Blood Always Tells*. Ms. Davidson has also received several awards for her short fiction works.

The public is invited to join the Mystery Readers at the Ridgeland Public Library on Tuesday, October 13, at 10:30 a.m. for what will be a delightful conversation with this award-winning author.

Book Talk with Janet Taylor-Perry

Thursday, November 19, 5:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Ridgeland Library

Janet Taylor-Perry has completed *The Raiford Chronicles*, a four-book romantic suspense series that includes *Lucky Thirteen*, *Heartless*, *Broken*, and *Whatever It Takes*. The series follows Detective Ray Reynolds as she unravels a serial killing involving 12 women, a murder of a U.S. Senator, and an encounter with a brutal maniacal revenge killer. Recently released, *Whatever It Takes* makes a detour from tracking a crazed killer. The residents of Eau Boueuse, Louisiana deal with an organization of neo-Nazis who will do whatever it takes to advance their warped agenda. *Whatever It Takes* is filled with intrigue heightened by forbidden romance.



Janet Taylor-Perry, local author, shows her four-book series.

A Ridgeland resident, Janet Taylor-Perry currently teaches life skills in a variety of areas with Goodwill Industries of Mississippi. As an educator, she is actively involved in promoting literacy and has participated in "The Magic of Books" in both the Jackson Metro Area and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Janet has been acknowledged for short pieces that appeared in the *Magnolia Quarterly* and *Mississippi Profiles* and was also selected as a finalist for the Pirates' Alley Faulkner Wisdom competition.

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Cindy Graves • cgraves@mcls.ms

Fall Programs

We look forward to seeing you at the library! Children's programs resume in September after a break for most of August. Please check our online calendar at www.mcls.ms for the complete Fall schedule. If you have any questions, contact Cindy Graves at 601-856-4536 or email her at cgraves@mcls.ms.

Ridgeland Readers Storytime (ages 3 – 7)

This is a fun storytime program that includes stories, songs, flannel board activities, and movement. Ridgeland Readers meets on the following Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.:

- September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- October 6, 13, 20, 27
- November 3, 10, 17

No storytime Tuesday, November 24

Baby Bookends (ages 0 – 2)

This is an interactive program between children and their caregivers. We sing Mother Goose rhymes, play musical instruments, read stories, and do flannel board and movement activities. Baby Bookends meets on the following Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.:

- September 3, 10, 17, 24
- October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- November 5, 12, 19

No storytime Thursday, November 26

JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

Buy 1 Boxed Lunch Get 1 FREE
(of equal or lesser value)

Boxed Lunches include a Sandwich, side & cookie



HONEYBAKED Ridgeland • 940 E. County Line Road
(601) 956-0052 • Fax: (601) 956-0000

Offer Expires 12/31/2015. Valid only at the Ridgeland location. Must present coupon at time of purchase to receive offer. May not be combined with any other offer. One coupon per person per visit. Valid only at participating retail store location. While supplies last.



Gene

McGee ★★★★★

MAYOR ★ RIDGELAND

EVERY HERO HAS A STORY

A 2015 Summer Reading SUCCESS!

Cindy Graves, Children's Specialist

This year's programming would not have been possible without the help of our sponsors as follows:

Friends of the Ridgeland Public Library
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 Friends of the Madison Public Library
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 Japan America Society of Mississippi
 Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau
 The City of Ridgeland
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 The Little Gym
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 Cups Espresso Café
 Krilakis Greek Gyros and Salads
 Malco Theatres
 Mazzio's Pizza
 Mississippi Braves Baseball
 Mississippi Children's Museum
 Mississippi Museum of Art
 Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
 Foundation
 Whataburger
 WMGO

The library has been a SUPER place to be this summer. There were magicians, storytellers, children's authors, stage performers and lots of enthusiastic readers! Approximately 300 children and teens participated in the Ridgeland Summer Reading Challenge. We recognized local heroes for their service to the community. The Mayor of Ridgeland, Gene McGee, Officer Justin Lancaster, Ridgeland Police, and Officer Erin Bond and paramedic (American Medical Response) were honored guests at the Children's Superhero Day. We thank them for their community leadership and encouragement to our young readers. To view photos from this summer's events, visit the Madison County Library System's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MCLSLibraries>.



Mayor McGee assists reading of 'Hooray for Heroes'.



Volunteer assists with marshmallow archery.



Paramedic Erin Boyd gives ambulance tours.



Kathy & 'Roo' of Gallant Hearts Guide Dog Center.

Student volunteers are especially helpful during our Summer Reading Program. They help us finish big projects as well as assist at our children's programs. Don't worry – there are lots of volunteer opportunities throughout the school year. See Mrs. Cindy if you have a student in grades 7-12 in need of service hours.



CITY OF RIDGELAND
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

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

**BUSINESS
AFTER HOURS
AND EVENTS**

Thursday, September 17
Ridgeland
Under the Stars
Country Club of Jackson
6 - 9 P.M.

Thursday, October 15
Seafood R'evolution
1000 Highland Colony Pkwy
5 - 7 P.M.

Thursday, November 19
Fitness Lady
Health Club
331 Sunnybrook Road
5 - 7 P.M.

Tuesday, December 8
Mayor's Prayer
Breakfast
Colonial Heights
Baptist Church
444 Northpark Drive
7 A.M. Breakfast Buffet
7:30 A.M. Program

The Bouffants to Headline Ridgeland Under the Stars



The Bouffants from Memphis, TN, billed as the South's favorite party band, will headline Ridgeland Under the Stars, the Ridgeland Chamber's annual "night out" for couples and singles, Thursday, September 17 at the Country Club of Jackson.

The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a reception, silent auction and heavy hors d'oeuvres followed by entertainment beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 each; \$70 per couple. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce office at 601-991-9996.

Now into its second year, Ridgeland Under the Stars combines the Chamber's ladies night out – Denim & Diamonds and Men's Night Out into one exciting evening for metro area residents.

"The debut of Ridgeland Under the Stars last year was a huge success," said Ridgeland Chamber Executive Director Linda Bynum. "Our silent auction is one of the best in the entire metro area. There's spa packages, weekend get-aways, home accessories, art, golf outings, dinners at our finest restaurants, jewelry, fashion accessories – just about everything you can imagine."



From Minneapolis to New Orleans, Chicago to Atlanta, The Bouffants have thrilled audiences with classic songs from groups like The Jackson Five, Aretha Franklin, Tina Turner and Sly & The Family Stone.

"Our committee, co-chaired by China Donnell of The Waterford and Randy Keng of John Hancock-Southeastern Financial, has worked very hard to make this year's event extra special," Bynum added. "With the wonderful Bouffants and their wide range of 60's and 70's music, delicious hors d'oeuvres and fabulous silent auction, this will be a night to remember."

A review in Memphis Dateline states: "The Bouffants are about as entertaining an ensemble as you could ever hope to see. Their hype is well-deserved praise, because they really put on a professional, high energy show. The four female singers are outstanding vocally, and just a real blast to watch."

THE CITY OF RIDGELAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PRESENTS

Ridgeland

Under the Stars

THE



Featuring

ENTERTAINMENT BY:
The Bouffants

the South's premier party band

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

COUNTRY CLUB OF JACKSON

345 St. Andrews Drive • Jackson, MS

From 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres • Silent Auction • Entertainment by *The Bouffants*

Tickets \$40 each • \$70 per couple

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

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

RIDGELAND DEPARTMENTS



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



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



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



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



Police Department
JOHN NEAL
Chief of Police
john.neal@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, Ward 1 601-856-7727

Chuck Gautier, Mayor Pro Tempore, 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

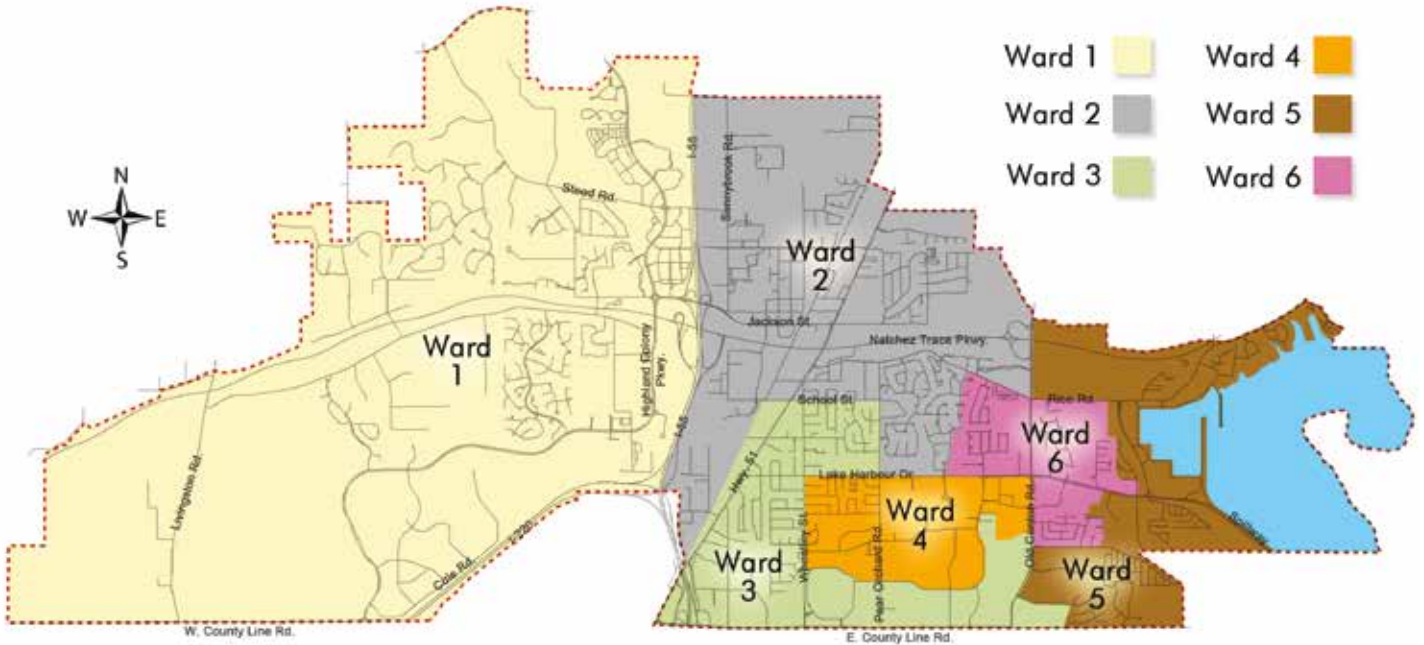
Public Works Department
(*road, garbage, recycling, water, storm water*) 601-853-2027

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/.



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Alderman At-Large
601-707-8845
DI.Smith@RidgelandMS.org



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Mayor Pro Tempore
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Wesley.Hamlin @RidgelandMS.org



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