

September – November 2016

# RIDGELAND Life



Mayor's Fun Walk  
 Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out  
 Find Your National Park  
 RECRE8  
 Ridgeland Under the Stars



the **FALL** issue

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation

## *From the Mayor*

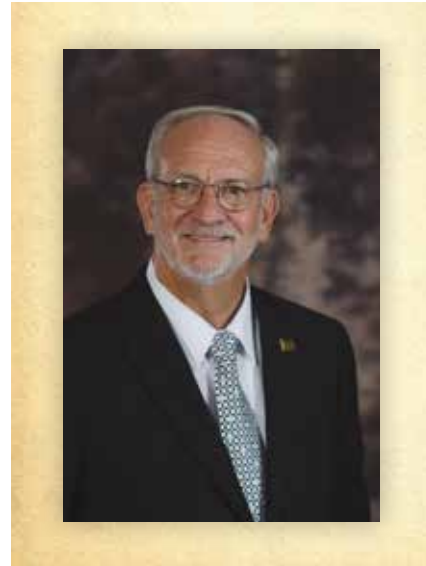
I feel compelled to use this page to honor the men and women who work in the Ridgeland Police Department. With so many tragedies going on across America against policemen today it is so important to thank our officers every day.

Ridgeland is blessed to have some of the finest officers anywhere. They are professional and dedicated to the safety of our city.

Each day that they put on the uniform and take to the streets they know that their lives are in danger. With that in mind, I say thank you to each one and also thank you to their families who support them from home.

Each officer works to keep us safe, making Ridgeland a special place to live.

*Gene F. McGee*



**Gene McGee**  
Mayor of Ridgeland



The Ridgeland Police Department was honored during Madison County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week in May 2016.

# RIDGELAND Life

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**ON THE COVER:** *Ridgeland High School* quarterbacks and running backs are shown here sporting new jerseys for the 2016 season. Catch that Titan Spirit! Back row, from left: Ja'kel Haymon, D'Marius Jones, Dwan Wakefield, Israel Williams. Front row, from left: Jeb Bailey, Cameron Murphy, Bennie Sanders.

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*Ridgeland Life* is a quarterly publication of the City of Ridgeland. For information about *Ridgeland Life*, contact Sandra Rives Monohan at [Sandra.Monohan@RidgelandMS.org](mailto:Sandra.Monohan@RidgelandMS.org).

## Mayor's Fun Walk October 19



Let's go walking Ridgeland...at the 2016 Mayor's Fun Walk! This year's walk will be held on Wednesday, October 19 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.

## TOPSOCCER JAMBOREE October 19



TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for youth athletes with special needs. The emphasis of the program is on development, training, and meaningful participation through the game of soccer, rather than on competition. This year's TOPSoccer Jamboree will be held on Wednesday, October 19 at Freedom Ridge Park. Stations will be set up with various activities and for different skill levels. All participants will receive a medal, a soccer ball and a T-shirt. Over 300 volunteers from Ridgeland High School, Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce and Northwest Rankin High School will host games, face painting, and fun activities.

## Trunk or Treat – October 27

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department will hold their annual Trunk or Treat fall event at Freedom Ridge Park on Thursday, October 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. Children may trick or treat 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 \$5 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.



## Treat Street and Movie in the Park at Township October 29

Trick or treaters are invited to the Township at Colony Park on Saturday, October 29 for the annual Township Treat Street. Participating stores give out candy and goodies to costumed children from 4 to 6 p.m. As if this was not fun enough, the Township then shows a Movie in the Park at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit [thetownship.com](http://thetownship.com).



# Renaissance Euro Fest 2016

By Paige McKay

The eighth annual Renaissance Euro Fest will be held on October 1 this year. Euro Fest is an event where the great automobiles and motorcycles of Europe will be on display for the Euro Fest Classic European Auto and Motorcycle Show.

For European auto enthusiasts, this is a great opportunity to enjoy the work of British, Italian, German, Swedish, and many other European vehicles. If you love Rolls-Royce, Volkswagen, Ferrari, Porsche, BMW, Bugatti, Mercedes-Benz, and Talbot Lago (just to name a few!), then this is the perfect event for you.


The October weather will provide a great atmosphere to stroll around Renaissance and look at all of the beautiful cars and motorcycles. This year's event will be on Saturday, October 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

If you would like to enter your vehicle in Euro Fest, entries must have been built prior to 1992, except for a selection of newer special interest autos. For entry and more information, visit [www.euro-fest.net](http://www.euro-fest.net), or call Mike Marsh at 601-946-1950.



## BARBECUE AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Smokin' on the Rez, the signature barbecue and music festival on the Barnett Reservoir, will be held at Old Trace Park on October 21 and 22. Entrance on Friday night is free! This event offers attendees a chance to visit with some of the best teams in the world of BBQ. Live music starts at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. Admission on Saturday is \$10 and includes a plate of barbecue and sides. Plates will be served from 12:30 p.m. until the BBQ is gone. Live music starts at 11 a.m. with the main act starting at 5:30 p.m. A kid's zone will be available. This event is made possible by a grant through Visit Mississippi. For more information, go to [barnettreservoirfoundation.org](http://barnettreservoirfoundation.org).




## Sponsorship 2017

Now is the time to think about sponsorship for 2017. 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 Julie Cox, sponsorship coordinator, a call or an email and give her an opportunity to stop by your office to discuss our program with you. You can reach Julie at 601-853-2011 or [Julie.Cox@ridgelandms.org](mailto:Julie.Cox@ridgelandms.org). Partner with us and get your company name in front of THOUSANDS of people!

# SIXTH ANNUAL *Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out*

*By Paige McKay*

This year, the City of Ridgeland will hold its sixth annual Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out on Thursday, October 20.

Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out is a way for neighborhoods in the community to come together and get to know each other. This is also a time where residents get to meet local law enforcement officers and firemen, as well as their aldermen. Not only is this a great event to meet and greet with neighbors, but it is also an opportunity to come together to send a message to criminals that we will not tolerate crime in Ridgeland.

Traditionally, neighbors get together in front yards and visit, and some neighbors even have covered-dish block parties. Some neighborhoods have large gatherings and cookouts, and some have the event catered. The children of the neighborhoods get to enjoy time playing together, and they even have the opportunity to tour a firetruck and meet a police dog. While the children get to experience these things, the parents are able to speak with Mayor McGee, the aldermen, firefighters, and police officers about any concerns that they may have.

Any Ridgeland neighborhood can participate however they want, whether it's a cookout or just a simple gathering. If you would like to participate in this year's Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out, or if you would like more information, contact Mike Raffield with the City of Ridgeland Police Department at 601-856-2121 or [mike.raffield@ridgelandms.org](mailto:mike.raffield@ridgelandms.org).



Residents of Montrachet enjoy winning potted plants as prizes during Montrachet's Ridgeland Neighbors Night Out 2015.



## *New Boardwalk Connects Mississippi Craft Center and Natchez Trace Parkway*

A raised pedestrian boardwalk has been constructed that connects the Mississippi Craft Center to the Natchez Trace Parkway at the Old Trace/Brashears Stand turnabout. The Dan Overly Boardwalk, named in honor of the Guild's first executive director, gives direct access to the Craft Center for the millions of people who travel the Natchez Trace each year. It also provides access from the multiuse recreational trails.



**This boardwalk was completed over the summer to connect the Mississippi Craft Center to the Natchez Trace Parkway, making the center directly accessible to the millions of travelers on the Trace.**

The Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi was granted a construction permit from the National Park Service for this project, following the completion of an environmental assessment conducted gratis by Mike Goff of Headwaters, Inc. The Mississippi Department of Parks, Wildlife and Fisheries provided the grant to construct the boardwalk. C-Spire Foundation and the Natchez Trace Association contributed to the grant's local match. It was completed in June.

### **What's Next for this Project**

The Craftsmen's Guild will be finalizing construction of a new entrance. Two picnic tables will be installed on the Craft Center grounds. Look for the grand opening of the boardwalk and other improvements in early October.

You are invited to come out and enjoy the boardwalk and the park, explore the Mississippi Craft Center, and see what's new. And, there's a lot that's new!

### **More Exciting New Things at the Mississippi Craft Center**

By the time of publication, you should be able to park in two new lots at the Mississippi Craft Center. These lots were constructed over the summer.

The Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, which is housed at the Mississippi Craft Center, recently upgraded the permanent collection wall of traditional craft and expanded the Choctaw Exhibit. The Guild has made improvements to the pottery studio, added an outside classroom/demonstration area, and constructed a new wood studio. They have also added a new contemporary craft collection wall!

In our own backyard, we truly have a treasure. Did you know that the Mississippi Craft Center is home to one of the oldest and best juried craft guilds in the country? Don't wait until you have guests in from out of town to visit. The Guild offers demonstrations, exhibits, festivals, and most of what they do is free! If you are interested in classes, be sure to check their website or Facebook page for updates.

### **Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi headquarters**

#### **Mississippi Craft Center**

950 Rice Road • Ridgeland, MS 39157

601-856-7546 • [mcrafts.org](http://mcrafts.org)

Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 12 p.m.- 5 p.m.

## **Historical Discovery in Ridgeland**

The Historical Society of Ridgeland seeks to interest visitors and residents in Ridgeland's history through a new brochure, *Travel in Time*. The society partnered with Ridgeland Tourism Commission and the City of Ridgeland to produce this brochure which serves as a historical record and guidebook to Ridgeland's history. With a map revealing historical sites, the brochure will add to any visitor's knowledge about our area. The brochure's timeline shares events from 1804 to the present. Churches, city structures, historical markers, plantations, and cemeteries are listed within the brochure.

The society initiated this project in order to further the goals of the organization. "We are committed to educate the community as to the benefits of historical preservation and to promote a respect for the past by keeping Ridgeland's heritage alive and protecting the integrity of all historic areas," stated Nancy Batson, Vice-President and Past President, Historical Society of Ridgeland.

You are invited to pick up a copy and read, enjoy, and explore! Brochures are available at Ridgeland Tourism Commission located at the Renaissance at Colony Park, 1000 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 606, Ridgeland Public Library, 397 Highway 51, and Ridgeland City Hall, 304 Highway 51.

The Historical Society of Ridgeland hosts several public meetings during the year at the Ridgeland Public Library. The next meeting will be held on September 15 at 11 a.m. Please attend and bring a friend!



# RIDGELAND: *Home to Three Local Bike Shops*

By Michelle Williams

From the Natchez Trace Parkway to the Ridgeland Multiuse Trail, there is always a place for cyclists to get out and do what they love in Ridgeland. To serve cyclists in our community and beyond, three wonderful bike shops are located in Ridgeland for every cycling need.

Indian Cycle, located on Pear Orchard, is the oldest bike shop and The Bike Crossing, located on Jackson Street, is the newest. Both are accessible from the Ridgeland multi-purpose trail. The third bike shop is Revolution Mobile Bike Service and as its name suggests, the shop is mobile; owners Jeremy and Paula Polk can pick up your bike directly from your driveway or office.

I will be the first to admit I have purchased cycling-related items from Internet companies. Sometimes, the Internet is the only place to get discontinued items or specialty items only sold online. It is very tempting to purchase items from the Internet - heck, you can find just about anything cheaper there. However, Ridgeland residents can and should buy local when possible.

Why should a cyclist support a local bike shop?

## Relationships

Cue the music for the theme from *Cheers*. Most of you are familiar with the old sitcom featuring a local bar and its patrons. Cheers is the bar "where everybody knows your name." A regular patron walks in and everyone shouts his name - "Norm!"

This is the type of relationship a cyclist should have with his or her local bike shop. When you have taken time to develop a relationship with the staff, you should feel at home. As the staff learns your riding style, likes, and goals, they can make personal recommendations. It was with staff from Indian Cycle that I first discussed long-distance cycling and the goal to ride across the United States. Want to become a triathlete? Staff members from the local shops can point you in the right direction. The same is true for mountain biking, racing, and touring.

## Local Economy

Supporting your local bike shop supports the Ridgeland economy. Each shop hires staff and pumps tax dollars back into our city. The staff members tuning up your bike and selling equipment and clothing are cycling advocates and enthusiasts themselves. They promote cycling in the community.

## Bike Fit

You won't ride your new bike if it doesn't fit you correctly. Many new bike riders decide they would rather purchase a bike from Wal-Mart or another discount store. These bikes are heavier and are typically not assembled properly.

Bikes come in many different sizes and styles. Knowledgeable staff members at our Ridgeland bike shops can get you on the right bike for your size and riding style. Make the wrong choice on size and you just wasted all of the money you "saved". Spend just a little more and get the expertise to keep you riding your bike far more often and with less issues with discomfort!

## Local Events

We are very fortunate to have bike shops that are active in the community. These shops provide monetary assistance to the local



bike club, Jackson Metro Cyclists, as well as the organizers of other community rides like the Natchez Trace Century Ride, MS150, and the Heatwave Triathlon. The shops organize many of their own rides - large supported annual rides like the Bike Crossing's 100 Miles of Mayhem and Revolution's McGee Lungbuster Mountain Bike Race. Let's not forget the smaller weekly rides held virtually every weekend.

## Community Support

We cannot forget the support the local bike shops provide for community rides. Many of the shops provide a bike mechanic and a SAG vehicle for community rides. Several shops contribute bikes to be auctioned off for charitable purposes. They can't keep up this support if we don't support them.

## Education

Want to know how to fix your bike? Yes, you can find a YouTube video and struggle your way through it. But why do that when a trip to a local bike shop will not only help teach you to fix your bike but supply the tools necessary to do so? Additionally, all of the bike shops in town offer maintenance clinics throughout the year.

Take time to visit our local bike shops. Each shop has its own personality. Hang out, attend their workshops, and get to know their staff. One shop may be able to meet all of your needs, but visit them all. It won't be long before they are calling out your name when you enter.

The next time you start to purchase a cycling-related product from the Internet, think back to your last community ride. Whose names and logos are on the back of your cool-max T-shirt? I can guarantee Amazon, Wal-Mart, and Academy will not be among them. But you will see at least one of these:

- **The Bike Crossing**, 601-856-0049 • [thebikecrossing.com](http://thebikecrossing.com)
- **Indian Cycle**, 601-956-8383 • [indiancyclefitness.com](http://indiancyclefitness.com)
- **Revolution Mobile Bike Service**, 601-400-4448 • [startarevolution.net](http://startarevolution.net)

Each bike shop has its own Facebook page where you can keep up with local events, sales, and other news.



# MDEQ AWARDS SOLID WASTE ASSISTANCE GRANT TO RIDGELAND

The City of Ridgeland has been awarded a solid waste assistance grant of \$15,400 by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. The grant will be used by the city for the purchase of two solar-powered recycling compactors and one water bottle filling station.

"The purpose for these purchases is to provide additional opportunities for residents to recycle and to encourage the use of refillable water bottles rather than using disposable ones," said John M. McCollum, City of Ridgeland Public Works Director.

The new solar-powered compactors will be placed at Hite Wolcott Park to encourage more recycling at that facility. Four compactors are already installed at Freedom Ridge Park, one at the Multiuse Trailhead Facility, and four at Wolcott Park.

The water bottle filling station will be installed at Friendship Park. While the City of Ridgeland has several water fountains along the multi-use trail, this will be the first dedicated water bottle-filler in the city.

City officials are enthusiastic about what the grant is allowing the city to do, not only for environmental stewardship but also for environmental awareness. The city has long been a leader in recycling but the water bottle-filler is a new way for Ridgeland to



expand on its efforts to conserve resources.

Disposable plastic water bottles are known for polluting the environment. They also require the use of fossil fuels to make, and the plastic may be leaching chemicals into drinking water. A more environmentally-friendly and healthier choice is to reuse non-disposable water bottles such as those made of steel.

"We want to encourage all visitors to our parks to make use of the recycling compactors and the new water bottle-filler. If we all do our part, we can help to conserve our natural resources. It's just the right thing to do," said Mayor Gene McGee.

McCollum adds, "A large part of our success is due to the grants that we have received from MDEQ. We want to thank them for supporting our programs and helping to make our efforts possible." Information about the MDEQ grant program and other initiatives is available at [www.deq.state.ms.us/solidwaste](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/solidwaste).

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# Find Your Park on the Chisha Foka Multi-Use Trail

by the National Park Service

Nestled behind a thin veil of green foliage along the Natchez Trace Parkway are over 10 miles of paved trail to experience and enjoy. Portions of this trail are administered by the Natchez Trace Parkway, one of 412 units of the National Park System. To honor the Choctaw heritage of the region, the sections of Multi-Use Trail managed by the National Park Service will soon be renamed the “Chisha Foka Multi-Use Trail”. Named for the Choctaw town that stood where Jackson is today, Chisha Foka (chee-sha foe-ka) translates to “among the post oaks.”

Prior to the forced removal of most southeastern American Indians in the 1800s, what is now the greater Jackson Metropolitan Area was part of the Choctaw homeland. Adjacent and connected to the City of Ridgeland’s Trail System, the National Park Service’s Chisha Foka Multi-Use Trail is a great way to experience your local national park, get fit, and commemorate the National Park Service Centennial in 2016. Trail users with a variety of skill levels, speeds, and even modes of transportation are able to enjoy the trees, wildflowers, and wildlife of this protected greenspace.

With multiple access points along the Natchez Trace Parkway and the surrounding community, the convenience of the trail makes it a popular spot for bicyclists, walkers, joggers, and families. Regular trail users may come across groups of students visiting the trail with a park ranger, and the trail might also be the site of special events (events require a permit through the National Park Service). The variety and number of trail users can create the potential for conflict; by treating others with courtesy and respect, however, the trail experience can be enjoyable for everyone, regardless of skill level. These trail recommendations will enhance the trail experience for all users:



Photo courtesy NPS

- Be predictable and travel in a consistent manner.
- Keep to the right of the trail, except when passing another user.
- Pass on the left, yielding to oncoming users. Give an audible warning before you pass, to give the person time to respond. This signal could be your voice, a bell, or horn.
- All trail users should maintain awareness of their surroundings and listen and look for overtaking traffic. Be prepared to yield to other trail users as needed for safety.
- When traveling in a group, use no more than half of the trail so other users can get by.
- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid unnecessary distractions.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you plan on returning.
- Carry adequate water, especially during the hot, humid days of the summer.
- Wear comfortable shoes, sunscreen, and insect repellent.
- Stay on the trail to protect yourself from poison ivy, ticks, or venomous snakes.

- Carry a charged cell phone in case of an emergency.
- Dogs are permitted on a leash no longer than six feet; owners are responsible for picking up and disposing of pet waste.
- Call the Natchez Trace Parkway at 662-680-4014 prior to planning an event on the Chisha Foka Multi-Use Trail. All special events, including organized walks, runs, or rides, require a permit as a special use of a public space.

Even if visitors follow all of the precautions, accidents could happen. If you witness or are involved in any type of accident or medical event along the trail, call 911. If you notice suspicious activity along the Chisha Foka Multi-Use Trail, please call 1-800-300-PARK (1-800-300-7275).

You can access the Multi-Use Trail from multiple spots along the Natchez Trace Parkway including Choctaw Agency (milepost 100.7), the Parkway Information Cabin (milepost 102.4), Old Trace (milepost 104.5), and Reservoir Overlook (milepost 105.6). While the trail does not close after dark, many of the parking lots along the trail do. The Reservoir Overlook is open from sunrise until 10:00 pm., while all other parking areas along the trail are open from sunrise to sunset.

Grab your comfortable shoes, drinking water, and sunscreen, and enjoy the greenspace that the Chisha Foka Multi-Use Trail along the Natchez Trace Parkway has to offer. For more information about the Natchez Trace Parkway, including rules and regulations, special use permit information, upcoming events, and trip planning information, visit the park’s website at: [www.nps.gov/natr](http://www.nps.gov/natr), or Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/NatchezTraceParkwayNPS](http://www.facebook.com/NatchezTraceParkwayNPS). To learn more about national park experiences that are close to home, visit [www.findyourpark.com](http://www.findyourpark.com).

## *Students Encouraged to be COOL*

Students from Olde Towne Middle and Highland Elementary are invited to partake in an after-school program that not only keeps their minds at work, but also prepares them for their later school years. With COOL (Community Oriented Opportunities for Learning) these middle school and elementary school students are able to expand their knowledge outside of the classroom as well as gain exposure to different colleges and universities.

“The year-round, non-school hour based program is designed to assist students with developing skills that are necessary for academic success, character-building, and dropout prevention through innovative tutoring, mentoring, and enrichment activities,” state representatives of the program. To help students reach their full potential, COOL utilizes small group tutoring, STEM programs, Soccer for Success, and other methods of enriching a student’s knowledge and abilities. New learning experiences and skill development are geared to help prepare students for college.

COOL is offered by SR1 (Scientific Research), a nonprofit organization located in Ridgeland that is committed to educating and improving the quality of life for all people through innovative methods. A holistic approach for students is utilized that focuses on improving academic skills as well as social skills. According to SR1, both are vital in creating a successful student.

Students often need additional support in order to stay on the college-bound track. COOL aims to provide that support and help families bridge the gap between the student’s desire to attend college and the reality of getting there.

Programs are offered for free, being made possible through grants, partners, and donations. SR1 currently serves Hinds, Madison and Scott Counties. Parents of third – eighth graders in the Ridgeland Zone are encouraged to assist their child become a part of the program.

If a student is interested, their parent or guardian must contact the school counselor and request a recommendation form to become a COOL scholar, which will be completed by the counselor. After SR1 receives the recommendation form, the parent/guardian will be contacted for an interview. The SR1 team then reviews interview notes as well as the recommendation form, along with the student’s most recent report card. Once a student is accepted, that child can begin participating in the after-school program that meets three days per week at Holmes Community College, Tuesday – Thursday, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

SR1 never doubts the potential of students for academic and lifelong success. If you would like to know more about SR1’s COOL program, contact them at 601-206-4544.



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## Recreation and Parks Directory

Office  
601-853-2011

Fax  
601-853-2015

E-mail  
recre8@ridgelandms.org

Recreational Center  
601-856-6876

Freedom Ridge Park  
601-853-2023

Rental Information  
601-853-2011

Hotline  
601-853-2039

## Youth Organizations

### 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](http://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](http://www.mryouthclub.com) for more information.

## Recycling at Ridgeland's Parks

Solar-powered recycling compactors are provided at each park in Ridgeland. Please recycle by using these receptacles for the following: empty aluminum cans, clean plastic containers but not plastic bags, and clean paper. Food contaminated trash and non-recyclable items should go in the garbage cans. Thank you for recycling!

## 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

Contact: Wendy Bourdin, special events coordinator  
[wendy.bourdin@ridgelandms.org](mailto: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 27. Volunteers will fill their trunks with candy and prizes, and kids will go trick-or-treating from car to car. Other activities will include games and face painting. This event is for ages 10 and under.

Volunteers are needed to provide vehicles, candy, and manpower to make Trunk or Treat a success. If you are interested, please contact our office at 601-853-2011.

*Program Price:* \$5 per child 10 and under  
*Event Date:* October 27  
*Start Time:* 6-8 p.m.  
*Day of Week:* Thursday  
*Location:* Freedom Ridge Park

### Ridgeland Christmas Parade

The City of Ridgeland and Keep Ridgeland Beautiful would like to invite all residents, businesses, and civic organizations to participate in the Ridgeland Christmas Parade. There is no cost to enter the parade and it is a great way to show your holiday spirit as we kick off the Christmas season. This year's theme is "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." The parade will start and end at Holmes Community College Campus on Ridgeland Avenue. It will travel through the historic Olde Towne Subdivision and then to Jackson Street before turning on to Sunnybrook Road and finishing back at Holmes Community College. Registration will be open from October 1 until December 3.

*Event Date:* Saturday, December 3  
*Start Time:* 2 p.m.  
*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 businesses and award the top two winners. We will judge residences in the following categories: Overall, Door and Porch, Judges' Choice, and Children's Choice.

To ensure that your home or business is viewed by judges, call 601-853-2011. The judge date will be Monday, December 12.

*Event Date:* Monday, December 12



## ATHLETICS

Contact: John Sidney North, athletics coordinator  
[john.north@ridgelandms.org](mailto:john.north@ridgelandms.org) 601-853-2011

### MRYC Basketball

The Madison Ridgeland Youth Club will have fall basketball registration for the upcoming season for boys and girls grades K5-12. Games and practices will be held at area-wide Madison County schools. The participant will receive a jersey with their registration fee. Please visit [www.mryouthclub.com](http://www.mryouthclub.com) for the most current information.

*Registration:* October-November  
*Fee:* 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 17 at Freedom Ridge Park. Registration will be held 9 - 9:30 a.m. This is a free event and open to all boys and girls ages 6 to 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, and the winners at the sectionals will advance to the Team Championship in New Orleans.

*Event Date:* Saturday, September 17  
*Start Time:* 9 a.m.  
*Location:* Freedom Ridge Park



## SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Contact: Lynda McMahan Assink, senior adult coordinator  
[lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org](mailto:lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org) 601-856-6876

All Superstar Seniors Programs take place at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, 137 Old Trace Park, unless otherwise indicated below.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### St. Catherine's Bingo and Prizes

Please join us for a fun time of Bingo and Prizes at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, located in Old Trace Park. Cynthia Armstrong from St. Catherine's Village will be there to call our Bingo game and give away prizes. Light snacks and coffee will be provided. Call or email Lynda at 601-856-6876, [lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org](mailto:lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org) so that we know you are coming.

*Program Price:* No Charge  
*Event Date:* Thursday, September 8  
*Time:* 10 - 11 a.m.  
*Location:* Ridgeland Recreational Center

## 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.

You must pre-register to reserve your event t-shirt. Visit [www.ridgelandms.org](http://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 19  
*Time:* 9 – 10 a.m.  
*Location:* Ridgeland Recreational Center

## 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, so tickets must be purchased before the event. You may buy your tickets at Ridgeland City Hall or the Ridgeland Recreational Center.



*Program Price:* \$5 (Tickets sold in advance)  
*Event Date:* Thursday, November 10  
*Time:* 12 – 1:30 p.m.  
*Location:* TBA

## 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](mailto:paula.tierce@ridgelandms.org)

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS Ridgeland City Garden Club

The objective of our club is to provide education, to promote the love of gardening, landscape, and floral design, and to encourage civic beautification and environmental responsibility. If you are interested in anything related to gardening, horticulture, flower arranging, the environment and more, then this is the club for you! If you are interested in attending any of our meetings or becoming a member, please call Jane Ready at 601-856-5780.

*Program Price:* \$20 (Yearly dues)  
*Event Dates:* **September 6** – Margaret Gratz – Known as the “The Earth Lady” in her hometown of Tupelo. She is the author and/or illustrator of five books that she hopes will inspire and encourage others to share her appreciation for Mississippi’s “natural outdoor treasures” as much as she does.

**October 4** – Madison Yard & Garden Center

**November 1** – Billy Martin, Green Oak, table-scapes for the holidays

*Time:* 11:30 a.m.  
*Day of Week:* Tuesdays

## Bridge

Bridge games are held the third and 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 15 & 22,  
 October 20 & 27, November 17

*Time:* 1–4 p.m.  
*Day of Week:* Thursdays

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## Thread, Yarn, Crochet, and Coffee Group

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



*Program Price:* Free  
*Event Dates:* September 12 & 26, October 10 & 24, November 14 & 28  
*Time:* 1:30–3 p.m.  
*Day of Week:* Mondays

## 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.

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

### Line Dancing

Learn the dance steps that are popular everywhere! In this class, you'll discover a variety of line dances. It's great fun, good exercise, and you don't need a partner. Darlene Epple is the instructor for the class, and she 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.

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



## Martial Arts for Senior Adults

Learn age- and physically-appropriate traditional martial arts and practical self-defense techniques. This program is easy to perform and enjoyable for mature adults with slow, low-impact movements that are keyed to each individual's physical capabilities. Health benefits include: sharpening mental focus, better balance and body control, cardio-respiratory fitness, increased strength, enhanced flexibility, improved stamina/endurance, and prevention of osteoporosis. Other benefits include increased confidence in potentially dangerous situations and enhanced awareness to avoid dangerous situations before they occur. Andy Dillon is the instructor, and he has a 4th Degree Black Belt with North America Tae Kwon Do and has practiced and instructed for 20 years. Sign-up by calling Lynda at 601-856-6876 or email: [lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org](mailto:lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org)



*Price:* \$10/4 weeks  
*Start Date:* Thursdays, beginning September 8  
*Times:* 10 – 11 a.m.  
*Day of Week:* Thursday

### 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 will be the teacher. Call Earl Beck at 601-856-4252 or 601-668-2322 for more information.

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

### 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!

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



## Senior Fit Club

We are offering an exercise class for senior adults called SENIOR FIT CLUB, every Monday and Wednesday afternoon at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. This class offers low-impact exercises geared towards senior adults. Strengthen muscles and improve your movement for a healthier lifestyle. This is a great class for those recovering from recent illness or surgery. This class is also good for those with Parkinson, multiple sclerosis, and other neurological diseases. The goal of this class is to improve balance, flexibility, and strength through stretching, light weights and light aerobic activity. Certified fitness instructor, Sally Holly, will be teaching this class. For more information, please call or email Lynda at 601-856-6876 or lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org.

*Program Price:* \$10/month

*Time:* 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

*Days of Week:* Mondays and Wednesdays

## Restoration and Relax Yoga

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



*Program Price:* \$5/class

*Time:* 11 – 11:30 a.m.

*Days of Week:* Mondays and Fridays

## Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness, and Fun

Join us for this class! Instructor Lisa Newman will guide you through gentle stretching and strengthening exercises for your whole body. This class is for those who have had some experience with yoga. Standing poses will be introduced as well as strength poses. Participants may want to join both classes for only \$10: Restorative and Relaxation Yoga and Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness and Fun! Always consult with your physician before beginning any exercise program.

*Event Dates:* Ongoing

*Program Price:* \$5/class

*Time:* 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

*Days of Weeks:* Mondays and Fridays

## Zumba Gold

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is offering a ZUMBA GOLD Exercise Class for senior adults. Zumba Gold is an easy dance workout with a party-like atmosphere. It is designed for seniors, beginners, or others needing modifications in their exercise routine. Zumba Gold builds cardiovascular health by challenging the heart and working the muscles of the hips, legs, and arms with dance moves. Kathy and Lisa (licensed instructors) will be leading the class.



*Program Price:* \$5/month

*Dates:* Meets the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of each month

*Time:* 10:15 – 11 a.m.

*Day of Week:* Tuesdays

## SEASONAL PROGRAMS

### Balance and Fall-Proof Your Life Tai-Chi Classes

This is a four week beginner's exercise program that progresses through a set of balance and training activities. This class will teach the latest in fall-prevention, balance exercises, and total body strengthening. Tai-Chi is an ancient practice proven to help with balance, reduce pain, and improve your mental and physical well-being. It is safe, easy, and suitable for every fitness level. This combination, hour-long class will keep you one step ahead and improving your life!

*Registration:* now until September 21

*Event Dates:* September 21-October 12, October 19-November 9

*Program Price:* \$40 for four weeks

*Time:* 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

*Day of Week:* Wednesdays

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## Beginning, Basic, and Intermediate Oil Painting Class

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is offering a four week class on Beginning, Basic, and Intermediate Oil Painting Class. Instruction will be given on painting still life from a live set-up. Your instructor is Lyn Isonhood. As a classically trained artist, Lyn has been painting professionally for 15 years. To see examples of Lyn's work, visit [www.lynisonhood.com](http://www.lynisonhood.com). Call or email Lynda 601-856-6876 or [lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org](mailto:lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org) to register and receive a list of supplies needed to take the class.



- Registration:* Now until September 15
- Event Dates:* Thursday, September 15 – Thursday, October 6
- Program Price:* \$65
- Time:* 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Day of Week:* Thursday

## 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 and 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 a person for an hour and a half.



### Tournaments

**Chick-Fil-A Junior Tournament**      October 29-30



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## ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

Grades K-2nd • 306 S. Pear Orchard Road  
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### Ann Smith Elementary Summer Fitness Fun

Ask any student at Ann Smith Elementary and you'll quickly find a fondness for Coach Paul Tate and the physical education program. This summer, a group of 40 students had the opportunity to experience an extended session of P.E. in the form of ASE's summer sports camp. Campers participated in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, including sports skills practice, a 1 mile fun run, and ultimate Frisbee. There were activities with fluff balls, parachutes, beanbags, juggling, and even cup stacking.

"You name it, we did it," Coach Tate said. "We played lots of fun games to get the kids moving and active. There were also activities to promote general fitness and exercise. The campers rotated stations every 30 minutes to participate in a different game of skill. It was certainly a big hit. The kids had a lot of fun and benefited physically as well. We will definitely make this an annual event."



## Ann Smith Welcomes Second Counselor

When Ann Smith Elementary principal Dr. Melissa Philley had the opportunity to add a second counselor to the staff, she looked no further than the first grade team. Mrs. Anna Abraham has been a first-grade teacher at ASE for the past three years. Mrs. Abraham had been working on a Masters of School Counseling degree for the past few years. During the 2015-16 school year, she completed an internship at ASE, working closely with the ASE counselor, Mrs. Leona Bishop, the school administrators, staff, and students.

"A second counselor was added to help ensure our students will be prepared for their future. Students can face many personal and developmental challenges in their early years of school, and Mrs. Abraham can ensure that we are supporting students and their unique needs so that they are able to succeed socially and academically. The mission at ASE is to build for the future by moving each student to the next level. Mrs. Abraham will team up with our current counselor, our school staff, our parents, and the community to ensure that we fulfill our mission," Dr. Philley said.

Mrs. Abraham was a natural choice for the position. Her love for children and concern for their well-being is evident in her interaction with the students. Anna's love for teaching developed early as she grew up in a family of educators.

"I always looked up to my mom and Maw Maw. Both are very well respected educators in my hometown and have impacted so many lives. They have pretty much taught the whole town," Anna said with a smile. "I wanted to follow in their footsteps even as a child. Playing school was always one of my favorite things to do."

When asked what she enjoyed about being in the classroom, she smiled and said, "Everything!" She added, "I really enjoyed building relationships with parents and students who were a part of my class each year."

Mrs. Abraham's teaching career includes not only first grade, but also second and fourth grades. She feels that her experience in the classroom will benefit her work as counselor, giving her a different perspective. She also served on a special committee to implement strategies, procedures, incentives, and special programs to assist ASE in achieving the status of PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) Model School.

Mrs. Abraham earned her Bachelor's degree in education from Mississippi State and obtained her Masters of School Counseling from Mississippi College.

"It's never too early for students to set goals with college in mind," she said. She plans to begin a program to promote area colleges and state universities. "One college or university will be promoted each month. College and career readiness begins as early as preschool. We want our students to feel going to college is a natural extension of their education and know that there are many options, some of which are very close to home," Mrs. Abraham said with a smile. At the end of each month, students will be invited to wear clothing with the featured school's colors or logos.



Counselor Anna Abraham

## Summer Art at Ann Smith

Creativity and love for art did not end with the final bell of the 2015-16 school year at Ann E. Smith. Just ask Mrs. Rhonda Green, art teacher at ASE. You can hear the excitement in her voice as she describes the summer art camp of 20 students.

“As art teacher here at ASE, I use the summer camp to expand on ideas that have been introduced during the school year, as well as introduce new ideas and concepts,” Mrs. Green said. “The students created an American Flag folk art piece from sticks, twine, and acrylic paint,” she said as she proudly lifted up one of the pieces of art.

Also on display was an acrylic still life on wood made by campers using knowledge of foreground and background perspective, along with what they had learned about color, pattern, and texture. During the camp, students also designed a sculpture in which they used cardboard paper towel rolls and tempera paint, designed and planted a flower garden around the school’s art facility, and created a “pass it forward” art display to welcome students as they return for the new school year.

Call the school or email Mrs. Green at [rgreen@madison-schools.com](mailto:rgreen@madison-schools.com) to find out how your child can be involved in the after school art program at ASE.



Art teacher Rhonda Green



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## HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

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# Highland Elementary to Participate in MDE Pilot Computer Science Program

Highland Elementary School will be one of three schools in Madison County to participate in the Computer Science for Mississippi (CS4MS) pilot program. As part of this program, Highland teachers have committed to an extensive training and professional development program. Through CS4MS, Highland teachers will incorporate computer science into their daily curriculum, including coding, digital literacy, keyboarding, and robotics.

“We are very excited and optimistic about participation in the CS4MS program. The students are so engaged by technology, and learning to code will provide them with worthwhile practice in applying technology to problem-solving,” said Principal Paula Tharp. “One of the things I am most excited about is the collaboration and teamwork required of the children for coding projects. Students will be involved in early lessons of teamwork for solving problems—a skill necessary for success in school, career, and life.”

Third grade teacher Delila Vance has been participating in the training for this pilot program. She said the curriculum goes beyond teaching the children how to code and use computers.

“CS4MS helps us use computer science to develop critical thinking and logic skills in the students,” Vance explained. “I plan on spending time every day on coding and including it as one of the morning centers.”

Vance also said the pilot program will be particularly beneficial for girls, who traditionally have been steered away from the computer science field. “I was initially timid about coding myself. I never had any exposure to it when I was in school, however, if we can introduce girls to computer science at this young age, they will not be intimidated by it later and may be more likely to choose it for their career.”

The ultimate goal of CS4MS is to have a continuous K-12 computer science pipeline in place for all Mississippi public schools by the year 2024. Jean Massey, associate state superintendent, said in an MDE press release that computers and software impact every profession, including medicine, energy, entertainment, transportation, and agriculture. She said every student should have the opportunity to learn vital skills for a productive career.



Highland teachers prepare to incorporate pilot curriculum CS4MS into their classrooms this school year. Top row, from the left: Ellen Litton, Monica James, Beverly Duncan and Sibyl Ross. Front row, from the left: Latoya Lewis, Elyane Pickett, Delila Vance, and Paula Tharp.

“Computer science is now a part of the necessary foundational knowledge for students, and we need to include it in our schools.”

The CS4MS pilot program was created to address an urgent economic need. According to Code.org, there are currently 607,708 open computing jobs nationwide, but America only graduated 42,969 computer science students into the workforce last year. The CS4MS pilot program aims to address this computer science knowledge gap so that Mississippi’s students can compete for jobs alongside candidates from any other state or country. Vance’s former school in Louisiana had a robotics club and she hopes to eventually bring something similar to Highland. The Ridgeland zone is already known for its stellar and award-winning science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) extracurricular programs through the Technology Student Associations (TSA) of Olde Towne Middle and Ridgeland High Schools.

# Thanks to CYCLE Kids, HES Students Enjoy Summer on Two Wheels

This past summer was unlike any other for many Highland students. After participating in the eight-week CYCLE Kids program, students who couldn't ride a bike before were now able to enjoy a childhood rite of passage—feeling free and balancing beautifully on two wheels.

“Now every child can learn to ride safely and use it as not only as a form of exercise, but also an enjoyable way to get outside, something these kids can do for the rest of their lives,” said Nanci Sanders, whose daughter participated in the program last school year. “My daughter tried for years to ride, and she was embarrassed that she still wasn't steady. She thought everyone was a perfect rider. Well, she found out that most of her classmates struggled, too. She has come to love biking, and she now rides every day.”

Sander's story is just one of many successes achieved through CYCLE Kids by Highland students. In addition to learning how to ride a bike, CYCLE Kids taught students about bike safety, nutrition, and overall wellness.

CYCLE Kids is an independent, nonprofit organization with a mission to encourage overall wellness and teach the practical skill of riding a bike.

Highland was able to bring the CYCLE Kids program to the fourth and fifth grades thanks to a generous grant from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, and support from community partners such as the Ridgeland Police and Fire Departments, Indian Cycle, Barnett's Body Shop, and Highland Elementary School parent Sissy Lynn, who not only invested countless hours into the grant writing and program coordination, but was also at the school every day during the eight-week



School Resource Officer Scott Young works one-on-one with then fifth-grader Rachel Claire Sanders. Rachel Claire struggled to ride a bike before the CYCLE Kids program, but after a few weeks, she was balancing with no problem. Now Rachel Claire rides her bike for 30 minutes each day.

program helping deliver the curriculum to the students.

CYCLE Kids will continue at Highland for fourth and fifth graders in the spring. Fifth graders will be returning for their second year, while the program will be brand new to the fourth graders.





## OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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### *Administration Changes*

#### **BRENDON BELL**

Brendon Bell has been named an assistant principal at Olde Towne and is responsible for overseeing seventh and eighth grades. Bell returns to OTMS after having served as an assistant principal intern last year.

After an eight-year career in law enforcement, he began his career in education in 2010 as a social studies teacher at Cardozo Middle School in Jackson, where he also taught physical education and served as the head football coach, assistant boys basketball coach, and head girls track coach. Before coming to Olde Towne, Bell taught physical education at Northwest Rankin High School, where he also served as a varsity assistant football and varsity assistant boys basketball coach.

Bell received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Jackson State University and a master's degree in educational leadership at Mississippi College. He is married, has three sons, and enjoys sports and traveling.



#### **SERENITY LUCKETT**

Serenity Luckett has joined Olde Towne as an assistant principal overseeing sixth grade. She most recently served as principal of Brown Elementary in Jackson for the past six years and is very excited about joining the OTMS team.

Luckett is no stranger to the Madison County School District. She taught at Madison Station Elementary and Madison Crossing Middle a decade ago before she left the classroom to work for a public education advocacy group called The Parents' Campaign. Through her advocacy work, she was inspired to return to graduate school through The Principal Corps program at the University of Mississippi, spent one year as an administrative intern in Rankin County and then began as the leader of Brown Elementary.

Luckett believes that parents and the community are a vital part of educating children, and looks forward to meeting and working with you.



### **New Principal Sets Expectations of Excellence**

After spending her entire career in education at Olde Towne Middle School, Crystal Chase has taken the reigns as lead principal at the school. And, like any new principal, Chase has a vision for Olde Towne – “Expectations of Excellence” in every aspect, from the administration, faculty and staff, on down to the students.

“I’m honored to have the opportunity to take on the role of principal at Olde Towne Middle School,” said Chase. “All 13 of my years in education have been spent at Olde Towne, so I have a vested interest in this school and the Ridgeland zone. I’ve been in training mode as assistant principal for the past eight years, so I’m ready for the challenges that lie ahead as we begin our journey toward ‘Expectations of Excellence.’”

Her goal is to provide teachers with the tools they need to help students gain the knowledge, skills and values to become successful both now and in the future. And to carry out her vision of excellence, she plans to provide her teachers and staff the necessary guidance and instruction to meet expectations.

“Our top priority is providing quality instruction to all students at all times,” explained Chase. “I want to lead by example and be more than just a leader in word only.”

Chase believes that one of Olde Towne’s strengths is its diversity, a characteristic she’d like to see the school continue to embrace.

“One of the many things that we pride ourselves on at Olde Towne is our diversity,” said Chase. “My desire is for every student, parent and teacher to take pride in what it means to be an Olde Towne Titan, and for others to want to be a part of all of the good that we have to offer.”

Chase received a Bachelor of Arts in English education from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master of Education from Mississippi College. She received her National Institute of School Leadership certification in April of 2014.

Chase is married and has three sons. She’s an active member of her church, where she serves as youth choir musician and a Sunday school teacher.



## *Officer Scott Young Encourages Students to Show their Mettle*

When a school resource officer position opened at Olde Towne Middle School three years ago, Scott Young jumped at the chance to fulfill his dream: making a difference in the lives of today's youth.

Young, who graduated from Mississippi College, began his career in the Ridgeland Police Department as a patrol officer in 2002. From there, he's held a variety of positions including corporal supervisor, a detective in Investigations, and a member of the SWAT team. No matter what his role has been on the police force, his goal has always been to help people – even those who've broken the law. That's why becoming a school resource officer was like a dream come true for him.

"For me, it wasn't all about locking people up," said Young. "It was about helping people. You have to enforce the law; that just goes with the territory. But I also saw, when I arrested people, there was an opportunity to teach them something to help them – to guide them in a better direction than the path they were going down. I jumped at the chance to get the school resource officer position at Olde Towne just because of being able to build a relationship with kids. I felt like I could have a better influence with them at this age than when they're 19 or 20 and out of school."

Young believes that building relationships and having a positive influence on students will make it easier for them should they ever have an encounter with an officer in the future.

"When a kid later sees a police officer who doesn't have as approachable of a personality as I have, instead of saying he's a bad cop, I can help educate them on what a cop does and what their day's like," said Young. "I can't tell them the ins and outs of the department, but I can share my experiences with them and why I would have acted in a certain way."



Scott Young works with high school students during the Mettle Sports Combine, a fundraiser held in May. During the event, athletes were tested in five different strength and agility drills. Three other OTMS staff members volunteered during the combine, including Mr. Bell, Coach Dennis, and Coach Hatchett.

Young's commitment to mentoring youth extends beyond just the students in Ridgeland. As a certified strength and conditioning specialist and a former college football player, Young saw an opportunity to use his fitness background to help inner-city athletes whose families don't have the financial resources to pay for personal training. Thus, Mettle Sports was born.

The mission of Mettle Sports is to provide a training environment for young athletes to prepare their bodies for the physical demands of their sport and to use strength and conditioning as a vehicle to obtain an athletic college scholarship. At the same time, the strength coach serves as a mentor to the athletes, striving to also instill core values of honor, integrity, accountability, teamwork, discipline, dedication and inspiration with a goal of achieving success in their sport and

becoming leaders in their community.

"Mettle means 'strength of character, the ability to overcome adversity,'" said Young. "That's what we want to instill in these kids."

While Mettle Sports is only in its third year, Young has dreams to expand the nonprofit by finding a permanent facility in the area where events and activities can be held. His goal is to add mental health therapy and tutoring as part of the organization's services.

"There are so many great athletes out there, and so many of them are good kids trapped in bad circumstances," said Young. "There's a void there. I just feel like, in my heart, this is what I'm led to do – help young athletes, encourage them through life and create a cycle of giving."

For more information, visit [mettlesports.org](http://mettlesports.org).

## TITAN TSA TEAMS COMPETE AT NATIONALS

During the summer, most middle school and high school students get to enjoy lazy days watching TV, playing video games or relaxing by the pool. But that wasn't the case for the members of the Olde Towne Middle School and Ridgeland High School Technology Student Association (TSA), who worked diligently to perfect their projects, write portfolios, and fine-tune their presentations to get ready for the TSA National Convention. OTMS's 16 TSA members along with RHS's 22 members traveled by bus to Nashville to compete against the best and brightest students in the nation June 28 through July 2.

In preparation of the competition, students often worked all day when school was out, anywhere from three to six days a week. TSA advisor Bill Richardson opened his lab almost every day during the summer until the team left for the trip. On any given day, both Richardson's computer lab and robot lab were buzzing with hard work, frustration, learning and excitement leading up to TSA Nationals.

"The students worked extremely hard throughout the year and early summer," said Richardson. "I've never seen students who were willing to give up their free time like these TSA kids did. They're very driven to win and learn."

Approximately 7,000 students and 1,000 staff attended the TSA National Convention, which was held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. The first night of the convention, students attended the TSA kick-off/meet-and-greet, a social event where students from around the country exchange and collect state pins – a hot commodity in the TSA world.

"At this event, I saw students who were shy open up and trade pins with the other thousands of TSA members in the room," said Richardson. "Students learned to negotiate through crowds and ask people to trade pins from their state. The students can only get these pins by attending Nationals, and they get to wear them with pride at future TSA events."

And, of course, the experience these students gained from working on their projects and presenting them to the judges is



Members of the OTMS TSA team pose one morning after the general session at the TSA National Convention. Not pictured are the TEAMS members, who were competing at the time.



RHS TSA members (from left) Keelan Horne, Anshul Anugu, Melvin Nguyen, Randy Townsend and Kelvin So show off their medals at the TSA State Convention at the Marriott Hotel in Jackson.

invaluable – something the students will be able to take with them into their college and professional careers.

Rising senior Kelvin So, a member of RHS TSA and the RHS Robotics team captain, headed up a project for blind members of society to better their lives. "I advised and helped them with the problem and solutions," explained Richardson. "They started with wanting to make a radar cane. But after talking with a blind person, they eventually theorized and developed a working avoidance hat for blind people."

While their project did not win, Kelvin and his teammate, Randy Townsend, would like to take the project further and develop it for the blind.

"These are the type of things that build future leaders, engineers and society's best citizens," said Richardson.

OTMS's Medical Technology team, spearheaded by Shreenithi Lakshminarayanan, placed seventh in the nation. Shreenithi and her teammates, Daniel Lynn and Nakiya Anderson, created a project and display using nanobots to cure diseases from inside the body.

"These students, who had just completed sixth grade, were amazing," said Richardson. "I got to see students, who'd never done anything like this before, grow, work and see the benefits of their hard work."

The OTMS VEX IQ team, made up of eighth-graders Maheel Luqman, Vedanth Buddala, Selenie Escamilla and Alex Jiang, placed fourth in the nation in the tournament portion of the robotics competition.

"I love seeing my students learn from their mistakes and have the desire to improve for next year," said Richardson. "Participating in TSA pushes students to learn things such as coding, engineering design, leadership and many other life lessons. I've seen my students mature and become leaders, using these competition skills to get prepped for college and beyond."



## Titans “Dig” Volleyball

Ridgeland High senior, Madelyn Abbott, received a top honor recently, as she was selected to be a member of the 2016 Mississippi All-Star Volleyball Team by the Mississippi Coaches Association. She will be part of the talented RHS volleyball team again this year, coming off a busy and successful summer on the courts.

At the 2016 State Games this summer, Abbott’s team won the gold medal in Youth Division/Four-person team. Madelyn and her sister, Katy Grace, teamed up with two others to earn the bronze medal in the Men’s Division/Four-person team (which are permitted to be co-ed). Katy Grace, an RHS 2016 graduate, is currently playing volleyball for the Belhaven Blazers. Katy Grace also has the honor of being the first Ridgeland High student to be awarded a volleyball scholarship to a four-year college. She and RHS 2016 classmate, JP Elkins, brought home the bronze medal in the Men’s Division/Doubles at the 2016 State Games.

The Abbott family moved to Ridgeland schools four years ago, and they are huge fans of Ridgeland High and the Titan Zone. Both Abbott sisters are honors students as well. Their mom, Hilda Abbott exclaims, “We love this school; everything about it. Ridgeland High School is Madison County’s crown jewel.”



Madelyn Abbott tips the volleyball over the net in the annual North/South All-Star game at Millsaps College. As the only athlete selected from Madison County, she represented her school, the district, and the South All-Star Team as well.



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## Ridgeland High School Fall Highlights

Building on the success and popularity of the inaugural year of the RHS Culinary Arts program, a new commercial kitchen has opened in the school, and an additional culinary arts teacher was hired.

The Engineering Career Academy enters its second year in the Ridgeland Zone. Bill Richardson leads the program and has set up new engineering and robotics labs at RHS. RHS and Olde Towne robotics teams look forward to entering state, national and international VEX robotics competitions again this year.

Titan sports fans are enjoying the new video scoreboard, recently installed in the football stadium.

Tim Dowdy was appointed as principal of Ridgeland High School for the 2016-17 school year. Karen Harness, and Cody Zumbro, join Jonathan Anderson as assistant principals.

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## Titan Up for a Cure

Last year, Titan stadium “turned pink” when staff and families sported Titan Up For a Cure pink t-shirts, due to the generous sponsorship of Titan parent, Dr. Christina Dial. Cancer strikes close to home in every community; and almost every family has been touched personally by it.

These are the stories of two Titan families who are currently fighting cancer — one is a parent, and one a Ridgeland High sophomore— who convey how the Ridgeland Titan community is supporting them and their families during their treatments and road to recovery.

Merry Lunsford is a mom of four girls, three of whom are currently in the Titan schools. Lunsford, a hair stylist, was diagnosed with breast cancer in the fall of 2014. A picture of health and an avid tennis player, the diagnosis was a shock to both Merry, as well as her twin sister, who happened to be working in the radiology department where her initial mammogram was performed.

Even after her treatments began, Merry continued working hard as a committed volunteer, serving on the Highland Elementary PTO and Ridgeland Athletic Booster Club boards. Her Titan friends helped with grocery trips, meals, fundraisers, carpooling, and prayers.

Merry’s path has been documented in a recent Mississippi Public Broadcasting special, *Southern Remedy — A Plan to Survive*, <http://www.mpbonline.org/aplantosurvive/>, a lovely, graceful, and informative 30-minute special, through which Merry’s journey is explored and viewers learn about breast cancer treatments and patient advocacy. In the film, facing herself in the mirror for the first time after losing her hair, Merry proclaims steadfastly, “These are happy tears. I am embracing my new look. I feel beautiful.” Please take 30 minutes to watch this incredible story of determination, set right here in our city.

Titan mom Taffany Mannie is the Ridgeland High Band Booster president, a PTO volunteer, and mom to three current RHS students, sophomore twins, Jasmine and Yasmine, and senior Jalen. As all are in the band, the family was looking forward to another exciting fall season of band shows and Jalen’s cross-country meets. In



Merry Lunsford (center) and her four daughters, Reagan, Sarah Madeleine, Brooke, and Anne Avery.

early July, Jasmine was, shockingly, diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

When Jasmine was admitted to Batson Children’s Hospital, before 24-hours had passed, all four Titan band directors had visited Jasmine, as well as a host of family and friends. “Being a part of the Ridgeland Titan School Zone is special to us,” Taffany explains. “The Titan family has been my heart since my oldest, Sierra, (RHS Class of 2011, University of Mississippi, 2015) began kindergarten at Ann Smith, or shall I say, Ridgeland Elementary, at that time. This community has always made us feel welcome and has shown that they can come together for any and everything.” For example, with three hungry teens in the house, friends jumped on board to provide meals, using an online meal sign-up program to organize the meals.

Jasmine, who plays tuba in the RHS band, was disappointed when she found out she couldn’t physically attend school first semester, due to risk of infection during her treatments. Everyone is hopeful that by January, she will be back at school, just in time for concert season. Visits take Jasmine’s mind off things, and the family also enjoys game nights together.

“I am back at work between Jasmine’s treatments and doctor visits; the Family Medical Leave Act provides some time off for hospital and doctor visits, but it is a balancing act,” Mannie explains. “Family support is a must and if we have that, we will get through this. My mom is able to take care of Jasmine when I am at work, and my other family members help in many ways. The community has rallied around us with help of all kinds and suggestions, like holding a blood drive for Jasmine. I don’t think I could have made it through this first phase without the community support and our family.”

“I would like to add that our family really wants to thank the entire Titan community for all they have done for us. We are so overjoyed with the support and could not have picked a better place to live! And yes, we are Titan Strong!”

**Blood donations are being accepted at Mississippi Blood Services for RHS Sophomore, Jasmine Griffin. Mention her name and Code DM20, for her to receive credit for your donation.**



Jasmine Griffin, left, with her family, Sierra, mom Taffany, Jalen, and Yasmine, at the April 2016 Titan Trot, held at Ridgeland High School.



## HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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# HOLMES PROGRAMS RANKED MOST AFFORDABLE ONLINE DEGREES

Holmes Community College was recently ranked first place in three programs and third place in one on the 2016 Most Affordable Online Colleges and Degrees listing. Holmes ranked number one in Accounting, number one in Criminal Justice, number one in Healthcare, and number three in Medical Billing and Coding.

"I was so thrilled to see four of our programs earn a spot on the SR Education ranking," Holmes President, Dr. Jim Haffey, said. "At Holmes, we are so proud to offer quality programs at an affordable price. I think one of the highest honors an institution can receive is to be recognized for the vast opportunities we provide to help students receive an education. We work to serve everyone and don't want to leave anyone behind. Our tuition is low, and enrollment is on the rise, so we are grateful to the SR Education Group for this recognition."

Launched in 2004, SR Education Group is an online education publisher responsible for OnlineU.org, a website with a mission to hold educational institutions accountable for making degrees affordable and accessible. It was one of the first websites to release rankings of colleges based purely on annual tuition rates. In order to be considered, the colleges have to offer at least 10 online degrees.

Holmes Community College is part of the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC), and offers classes via the Internet platform Canvas. Courses are offered both by Holmes instructors and through other instructors in the MSVCC. Although a number of options are offered, the eLearning department offers to customize schedules for interested students if they do not see a class they need.



Shiquita Haralson, a recent graduate of the Holmes eLearning program and current administrative assistant on the Ridgeland Campus.

Holmes is 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 sports, and a variety of student support services. The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

For more information on Holmes Community College, visit [www.holmescc.edu](http://www.holmescc.edu), and for more information on the eLearning department and online offerings, call 662-472-9162.

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



## ADULT/FAMILY PROGRAMS

### *Cos-ween*

**Thursday, October 27**  
**6 – 7:30 p.m.**

Cos-ween is a Cosplay/Halloween event that will be geared toward adults, and parents can bring their children if they would like. There will be a costume prize for best female, male, group, and couple costume. Activities will be set up, there will be a photo booth wall for photographs, music for dancing, and other fun happenings as well.

### Library Card Sign-Up Month

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, so swing by the Ridgeland Public Library for special events and have your membership updated or register for a new card. Cards for all Madison County residents are free with a valid picture id and proof of residence.

### *Beating the Heat*

The Adult Summer Reading Program was a success thanks to Ke'Aura Lawson. Over 50 people participated in the health-conscious programs with fun brain teasers, in which they earned great prizes! The programs were sponsored by The Friends of the Ridgeland Public Library, Fresh Market in Ridgeland, Alzheimer's Mississippi, Walgreens in Ridgeland, and Whole Foods. We would like to publicly thank them for their support!



### Book Talk with Jane Nickerson *Thursday, October 13, 6 p.m.*

Join us for a book talk with Mississippi author and former children's librarian, Jane Nickerson. Her two books, *Strands of Bronze and Gold* and *The Mirk and Midnight Hour*, appeal to young adults and adults in the historical, supernatural genre. Her latest book, *A Place of Stone and Shadow*, will be available soon.

At this program, Nickerson will discuss her writing style, the journey into her new lifestyle as a writer, and patrons will be able to preview her new book. We hope to see you there for this event and light refreshments.





## KIDS/TEENS PROGRAMS

## Recap of the Summer Reading Program On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!



This summer, around 300 student readers exercised their bodies and their minds through sports, relays, manipulative play with the piano and pottery wheel, active tumbling, and gentle yoga instruction. Our readers also exercised their minds through reading and tracked books for a chance at some amazing prizes. They also exercised their bodies by tracking their fitness efforts on our “Fit Reader Track” at the library. We had some amazing performers who engaged the audiences with fun presentations that worked their mental and physical skills all while incorporating literacy into their presentations! We are so thankful for our sponsors, volunteers, staff, and our patrons for making “On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!” an amazing success!

## FALL PROGRAMMING

Regular programming will resume September 14, following our annual August break and bi-annual Friends of the Library Book Sale. For more information, see our calendars located on our website at [www.mcls.ms](http://www.mcls.ms), or visit with the Children’s Specialist, Ms. Cindy, at the library. You can also follow MCLS libraries on Facebook for updates on all of our programs.

### Early Literacy Programs

#### Baby Bookends (ages 0 – 2)

This is an interactive program between children and their caregivers. We use songs, fingerplays, stories, and special activities from Mother Goose on the Loose curriculum to introduce stories and early literacy. Baby Bookends meets on the following Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.:

- September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- October 6, 13, 20, 27 (costumes are welcome on the 27th)
- November 4, 10, 17
- No storytime on November 24.

#### Ridgeland Readers (ages 3 – 7)

This is a fun storytime program that includes plays, rhymes, and movement, while sharing books for young readers. Ridgeland Readers meets on the following Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.:

- September 6, 13, 20, 27
- October 4, 11, 18, 25 (costumes are welcome on the 25th)
- November 1, 8, 15, 29
- No storytime on November 22

### Amazing Events for students

#### Legos at the Library (grades 1st – 5th)

Group and individual challenges will be presented to guide students as they explore and build with Legos at the Ridgeland Library. Idea books will be displayed and available for inspiration. We can’t wait to see what these students can build! Legos at the library is held the first Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m., with the first meeting being on September 14.

### Special Events

#### “Teacher Tea” Time

- Wednesday, September 28, 3 – 5 p.m.
- Teacher Tea Time is a come-and-go chat opportunity for any parents, homeschoolers, PTO/administration, and teaching staff in our community to let our Children’s Specialist know how we can help and best serve you during this upcoming school year. Light refreshments will be provided in our meeting room, and we will also have a listening center, books, and play items available for any children who will be attending with you. You will also be able to let us know what you and your children need and would like to see at the library this year. We can’t wait to hear your opinions and suggestions!

#### Thrilling “Paint Pals” Event

- Saturday, October 22, 3 p.m.

This is a special event this fall, and it is a family event, so there are no age limits. You can paint as a group or by yourself to learn and experiment with painting elements and techniques. Take home your own unique, fall family “thriller” painting. Reserve your spot by October 15 as space is limited. Painting smocks and extra shirts are encouraged for this messy, fun event.

# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

## Book Sale

RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FRIENDS' FALL BOOK SALE

# Book SALE

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It's that time of year again! It's the Friends' of the Ridgeland Library Fall Book Sale! The sale will start on Friday, September 9 and will be held during regular business hours through Wednesday, September 14.

Want to get in on the good deals early on? On September 8 at 4:30p.m., we will be having our Preview Party for members only. If you are not a member but would like to be, you can sign up at the party and get first pick of all of the good books, DVDs, and other items we have for sale.

All donations and membership fees are tax deductible.

## THE FRIENDS WANT YOU

Did you know that the Friends of the Ridgeland Public Library is a 503(c) organization? This non-profit group raises money through the book sale and other various events for the library itself. They have raised money for new furnishings, supplies for the Summer Reading Program, teen program, and adult programs throughout the year, and so much more. They would love for you to be part of their great organization. You can be just a member or pitch in in various volunteer opportunities during fundraising. When you become a member, you not only get extra membership perks, but you also help the heart of the Ridgeland community.

Join today—Individual membership is \$12, Family Membership is \$20, Corporate Membership is \$100, and Life Membership is \$250

Be sure to swing into the library on October 17 through the 21 during regular library hours for special membership information!

All donations and membership fees are tax deductible.

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## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AND EVENTS

**Thursday, September 29**  
**Ridgeland Under  
the Stars**  
Country Club of Jackson  
6 - 9 p.m.

**Thursday, October 20**  
**Business After Hours**  
MS Tobacco-Free Coalition  
of Madison, Yazoo &  
Holmes Counties  
TownePlace Suites  
310 Southlake Avenue

**Tuesday, November 17**  
**Business After Hours**  
Hyatt Place - Ridgeland  
1016 Highland Colony Pkwy  
Renaissance at Colony Park

*Business After Hours are  
held 5 - 7 p.m.*

**Tuesday, December 6**  
**Mayor's Prayer  
Breakfast**  
Colonial Heights  
Baptist Church  
444 Northpark Drive  
7 a.m. - Breakfast Buffet;  
7:30 a.m. - Program

# It's a Sassy Jones Reunion at Ridgeland Under the Stars

Dateline: Jackson, MS...1975

County Line Road was a two-lane developer's dream; the hit film *Jaws* was on its way to becoming the highest grossing film of all time; WZZQ-FM was the station to turn to for top 40 hits; *The OZ* and *Second Hand Rose* were the go to boutiques for trendy threads and the blues rocker outfit *Sassy Jones* was splashing onto the Ross Barnett Reservoir making musical waves Jacksonians had never heard before.

Now, after 20 years since their last reunion, the legendary band will reunite Thursday, September 29 when the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce presents its third Ridgeland Under the Stars at the Country Club of Jackson.

Billed as the Ridgeland Chamber's "night out for couples and singles," Ridgeland Under the Stars is designed as a networking social, beginning at 6 p.m. with a reception, silent auction and heavy hors d'oeuvres followed by entertainment at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$70 per couple.

"*Sassy Jones* was as much a part of the 1975 Jackson scene as bell-bottom jeans, disco shirts, platform shoes and incense," said Linda Bynum, Executive Director of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce. "The *Sassy Jones* phenomenon engulfed the Jackson music scene in the mid to late 1970s. We're thrilled they are headlining our Ridgeland Under the Stars."

The music of *Sassy Jones* shows would last until dawn, said Sergio Fernandez, former WZZQ disc jockey and keyboard player with a number of groups. "They were and are still the best musicians, I don't care where you go," he added.

Two of the original five members will play at the reunion gig, their third since 1991: Johnny Crocker (guitar, vocals) and Bill Boutwell (vocals). Second generation *Sassy Jones* bass guitar player Raphael Semmes and drummer Daniel Gilbert along with keyboard player Tony Santangelo, who jammed countless times with the band, will reunite with the group for the September 29 event.

"The reunion gig at Ridgeland Under the Stars is a big deal because they were such a big deal when they were kickin'," said Fernandez, owner of Fernandez Creative, a local audio production studio. "It's a real treat for everybody to hear that caliber of musicians get together and kick it out again."

Johnny Crocker, a local recording artist and songwriter, said the band's popularity wasn't based on musical skill. They played four nights a week, Thursday through Sunday, for more than seven years at two Reservoir night clubs.

"I think that's what got us so tight," said Crocker. "We'd spend a year playing Main Harbor, then the next year, we'd go across the street and play C. W. Goodnights."

Sharing the stage with other musicians is a *Sassy Jones* tradition. Because the clubs in Jackson closed at midnight, many late nighters would head out to the Reservoir, also known as the Last Resort, to continue their night out. Musicians finishing up gigs in town would head to the *Sassy Jones* show for late night jamming, Crocker said.

"If you were a musician, and you went out to hear *Sassy*, you were going to play," said Fernandez, who sat in with *Sassy Jones* on keyboard many nights.

"It was wonderful. *Sassy* was such a great sounding band that you'd love to get up there and work with those guys."

Ridgeland Under the Stars co-chairs this year are Randy Keng of John Hancock-Southeastern Financial and Brooke Howard of BankPlus.

Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling the Ridgeland Chamber office at 601-991-9996.



THE CITY OF RIDGELAND  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
PRESENTS



# It's a **Sassy Jones** Reunion

FEATURING FOUNDING MEMBERS

*Johnny Crocker & Bill Boutwell*

Ridgeland  
*Under THE Stars*

## Thursday, September 29, 2016

**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 *Sassy Jones*

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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. A portion of the 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.*

Lea Anne Stacy - Chairman

Wendy Bourdin, Barbara Brown, Pat Busby, Rachel Collier, Polly Hammett, Phyllis Parker, Jan Richardson

**Community Awareness Committee**

*Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.*

Drew Malone - Chairman

Carla Palmer Allen, Shirley Gill, Vicki Heath, Scott Higginbotham, Lee Hutchings, Diane Jackson, Shelia Jackson, Mike Smith

**Contractors Board of**

**Adjustment and Appeals**

*Quarterly meeting - Tuesday, Oct. 18, 4 p.m.*

Lantz Kuykendall - Chairman

Terry Evans, Ronnie Hales, David Pursell, Steve Rimmer, Clay Sutherland, Keith West

**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

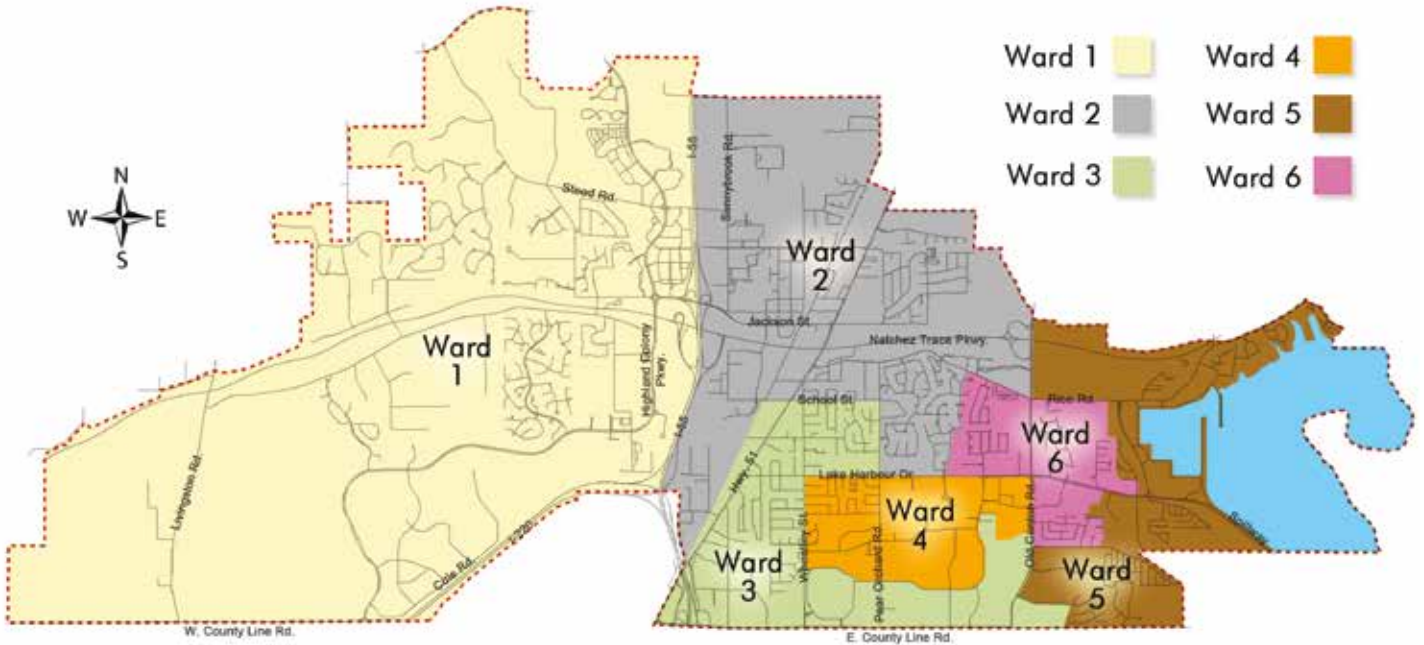
- D.I. Smith**, Alderman-at-Large..... 601-707-8845
- Ken Heard**, Ward 1..... 601-856-7727
- Chuck Gautier**, Mayor Pro Tempore, Ward 2..... 601-856-1291
- Kevin Holder**, Ward 3..... 601-856-1950
- Brian Ramsey**, Ward 4..... 601-506-1979
- Scott Jones**, Ward 5..... 601-856-6861
- Wesley Hamlin**, 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/](http://www.ridgelandms.org/electedofficials/).



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



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



**Chuck Gautier**  
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Mayor Pro Tempore  
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**Kevin Holder**  
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**Scott Jones**  
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Scott.Jones @RidgelandMS.org



**Wesley Hamlin**  
Ward 6  
601-454-0353  
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