

June – August 2018

RIDGELAND Life

Celebrate America Balloon Glow
Heatwave Classic Triathlon
Reservoir Independence Celebration
Eleventh USA-IBC Volunteer Opportunities
BMX Growing by Jumps in Ridgeland

the **SUMMER** issue

RIDGELAND
there's 
more!
here 

From the Mayor

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that summer is almost here! School is out and many families will be taking summer vacations. It's with much excitement that I share my pride about the many schools in the City and the tremendous accomplishments that they continue to achieve.

St. Andrews continues to excel both academically and athletically. Their Coding Program won second place in C Spire's C3 Statewide Coding Challenge and many of their athletic teams have been state champions this year. Ridgeland High School continues to be an award winning high school by excelling in its many athletic, academic and extra-curricular programs, especially their outstanding band program and State Championship Robotics Team. I am so proud of the students and faculties of all of our schools and wish to congratulate them for the tremendous job they are doing both in academics and other activities.

A big congratulations to Keep Ridgeland Beautiful and Ridgeland High School Recyclers for winning first place at Keep Mississippi Beautiful Annual Awards Meeting.

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful won first place for the beautiful wildflower display that is located at I-55 and Jackson. The Ridgeland High School Recyclers won first place for their tremendous recycling program. It's exciting to have these types of activities going on in Ridgeland as they enhance the quality of life.

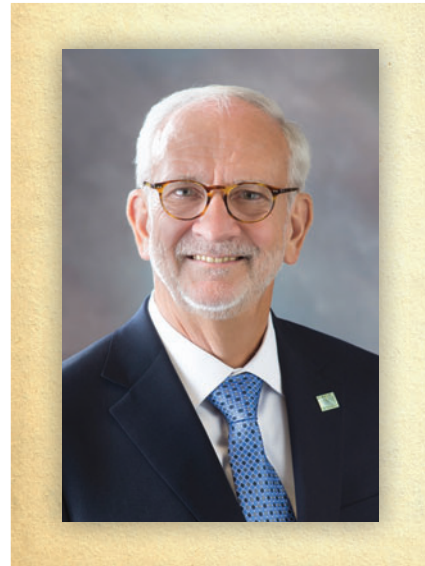
Our Police and Fire Departments recently honored The Ridgeland Police and Fire's 100 Club Officers of the year for 2018. The Police Department honoree is Officer Corey Clark. The Fire Department Honoree is Captain Willie Pop Jackson. Congratulations, men, on this honor!

I am excited to welcome two individuals that grew up in Ridgeland and graduated from Ridgeland High School. Jordan Lohman is joining the Community Development Department as our city planner. Kristen Beal is joining the City as Community Affairs director. We are very excited to have these Ridgeland natives and graduates of Ridgeland High School to come home and work for the City of Ridgeland.

Lastly, I would like to thank Matt Dodd, the City of Ridgeland planner and Sandra Monohan, the Community Affairs director on the great job they have done for Ridgeland over the years. Both of them have taken on new opportunities and we wish them well as they continue their careers in new locations.

It is my wish that each of you have a wonderful summer! We have many great events coming up this summer, from the Heatwave Triathlon and Father Child Fishing Tournament to the Celebrate America Balloon Glow. We hope you will join us!

Please remember that many people will be out on our multiuse trails both cycling and running so please be careful as more people enjoy the City of Ridgeland's great facilities.



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland

Gene F. McGee

RIDGELAND Life

TABLE OF CONTENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrate America Balloon Glow	4
Heatwave Classic Triathlon	5
Father-Child Fishing Tournament	5
Reservoir Independence Celebration	5
Fire Academy for Kids	6
Eleventh USA-IBC Volunteer Opportunities Available	7

NEWSWORTHY

Ridgeland Resident Kit Fields Named 2018 USA-IBC Official Artist	8
Colorful Zinnias Planted	8
Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Earns Statewide Awards	9
Common Backyard Mosquito Sources	9
BMX Growing by Jumps	10
School Resource Officers Unique to Ridgeland Schools	11

RECRE8

Recreational Facilities	12
Special Events	13
Athletics	13
Superstar Seniors	15
Tennis	17

SCHOOLS IN RIDGELAND

Ann Smith Elementary	18
Highland Elementary	20
Olde Towne Middle School	22
Ridgeland High School	24
Christ Covenant School	27
St. Andrew's Episcopal School	27
Holmes Community College	28

RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

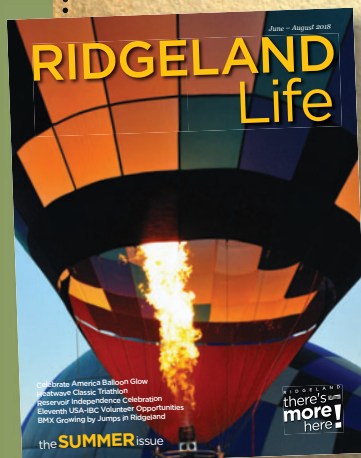
Adult Programs	29
Friends of the Library	30
Kids/Teens Programs	31

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Business After Hours & Events	32
Ridgeland Chamber Seeks Junior Diplomat Applicants	32

WHO & WHERE

Ridgeland Departments	34
City Meetings	34
City Directory	34
Ridgeland Aldermen	35



ON THE COVER: Celebrate America Balloon Glow, a family friendly tradition for 28 years!

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Ridgeland Life is a quarterly publication of the City of Ridgeland. For information about *Ridgeland Life*, contact Kristen Beal at Kristen.Beal@RidgelandMS.org. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Lauren Chamblee at Lauren.Chamblee@RidgelandMS.org.

Celebrate America Balloon Glow

Good music, beautiful hot air balloons and spectacular fireworks will provide an evening's entertainment for the entire family at this year's Celebrate America Balloon Glow. Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is proud to present this Independence Day tradition. The 28th annual celebration will take place on Friday, June 29 at Northpark Mall's balloon glow field, with plenty of parking around the mall.



The Celebrate America Balloon Glow, the opening event of the Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Race and Festival in Canton, provides the opportunity to witness approximately twenty hot air balloons of all colors twinkle and glow in the dusk of a summer evening.

There's much more to the Balloon Glow than balloons. The event actually begins on Tuesday, June 26 with a Karaoke Contest at Burgers and Blues restaurant, 1060 E. County Line Road. The winners of the preliminary rounds will advance to the finals on Thursday, June 28. The Karaoke Contest winner will open the evening's entertainment on June 29 from the main stage.

Our Master of Ceremonies will then guide our balloonists through a series of balloon glow sequences that will captivate the crowd. Be sure to have your cameras ready!

Following the balloon glow, fans will enjoy a performance by singer, Dylan Scott. Scott's vocal on his No. 1 single "My Girl" spans a vast range of expressions, from the intensity of the choruses to the spoken-word interlude, and plays out a true story that Dylan remarks was "ten years in the making". The song was written about Dylan's girlfriend at the time, and now wife.

As one of the most successful, recent developing artists' stories, Dylan Scott is riding a wave of momentum into the release of the deluxe version of his self-titled debut. Having been named one of Spotify's Spotlight on Country Artists, along with AT&T giving him the tremendous nod of adding him to their short-list of "About To Break" artists, fans have already consumed millions of plays of new music through his engagement across social media and streaming. Following the success of his debut single, "Makin' This Boy Go Crazy", "Crazy Over Me" debuted at #14 on the Billboard Sales Chart, "My Girl" has run away as a career-changing song for Dylan, and new single "Hooked" is sure to be the next.

Throughout the evening, vendors will be on hand to provide various types of food for attendees, including favorites such as barbecue, corn dogs, chicken-on-a-stick and funnel cakes. Children's activities are available throughout the evening at the Northpark Mall Carnival area. Activities include inflatable obstacle courses, jumps, face painting and other children's favorites.

Admission to the Celebrate America Balloon Glow is free. Come join the fun as we celebrate America!

Further details may be obtained by contacting the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department at 601-853-2011, or by visiting www.ridgelandsportsandevents.com and the Facebook pages of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks and the City of Ridgeland.



Following the balloon glow, fans will enjoy a performance by singer, Dylan Scott.

Schedule of Activities

- 6:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 6:05 Karaoke Contest Winner
- 6:30 Opening Act
- 7:45 Balloon Glow
- 8:15 Dylan Scott
- 9:30 Fireworks



Heatwave Classic Triathlon

On Saturday, June 2, Ridgeland Recreation & Parks will host the 33rd annual Heatwave Classic Triathlon. Some of the finest athletes from the Southeastern United States will converge on Ridgeland, Mississippi to compete in the triathlon, an event sanctioned by U.S.A. Triathlon. Participants return each year because they love the race course.

This year's race will consist of a 1/2-mile swim in the Ross Barnett Reservoir, a 27 1/2-mile bike ride along the scenic and historic Natchez Trace Parkway, and end with a 10K run along Ridgeland's heavily-shaded Multi-Purpose Trail. Participants may register online at www.ridgelandsportsandevents.com.

The Heatwave Classic Triathlon is one of many events produced by the City of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department. For more information about this event, please call 601-853-2011.

Father-Child Fishing Tournament



Fishing is the perfect way to slow down from life's hectic pace and enjoy your family. On Saturday, June 16, join the City of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department for the 22nd Annual Father-Child Fishing Tournament at Old Trace Park on the beautiful Ross Barnett Reservoir. There is no charge to participate in this tournament and prizes will be awarded for Biggest Fish, Most Fish and Smallest Fish. The fun begins at 8 a.m. with judging taking place at 10 a.m. This tournament is made possible by a joint partnership of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District and the City of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department. And, yes, moms are welcome!

Reservoir Independence Celebration

The Barnett Reservoir Foundation in conjunction with PRVWSD will hold the 7th annual Independence Celebration on Saturday, June 30 at both Lakeshore and Old Trace Parks.

The free event, one of the most popular in the metro area, concludes with a dual fireworks show shot from each side of the lake at 9 p.m. As always, the fireworks will be coordinated between the two parks and there will be a soundtrack of patriotic music to accompany the show via IHeartRadio's MISS103 FM.



Music stages are included at both parks, with Hairicane highlighting the sound at Old Trace Park and Acoustic Crossroads at Lakeshore Park. Both bands are scheduled to take the stages at 6 p.m.

Food and beverages will be available at both parks, and no outside coolers, drinks or food are allowed. Donations to the Foundation will be accepted at the gate, and those funds, along with revenue from concessions sales, will help fund the fireworks, music and other expenses.

Visit the Foundation's website at barnettreservoirfoundation.org to learn about other events related to the Independence Celebration as it nears.

FIRE ACADEMY FOR KIDS



Future firefighters ages 8-11 are invited to Fire Academy for Kids on first come, first serve basis. Fire Academy for Kids will be June 25th through the 29th from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. each day. Graduation will be at 11:00 a.m. on Friday.

Children learn fire safety, first aid, CPR, fire extinguisher use and what it's like to be a firefighter! Tours of emergency rescue vehicles will be included as well as the ever-popular Wet-n-Wild Wednesday. Fire Academy for Kids is free! But, only 20 spots are available. Email your child's name, age, parent's name, phone number and child's shirt size to Nathan.Bell@RidgelandMS.org.

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www.bcbsms.com

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Eleventh USA International Ballet Competition Comes to Jackson June 10-23

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Held every four years in Jackson, Mississippi since 1979 the upcoming USA International Ballet Competition is slated for June 10-23, 2018. USA IBC officials announced that 119 competitors from 19 nations have been invited to compete in the 2018 USA IBC, the official international ballet competition of the United States by a Joint Resolution of Congress.

“The USA IBC showcases artistic excellence and provides a platform for dancers to test their skills against the highest international standards,” said Mona Nicholas, USA IBC executive director. “We anticipate a thrilling competition that will be life-changing for participants and exciting for audiences. Jackson is respected as a prestigious competition that launches dance careers.”

For the 2018 event, 53 of the selected competitors are juniors, ages 14 to 18, and 66 are seniors, ages 19-28. The United States has the highest number of competitors invited (52), followed by Japan (23) and Korea (14). Other countries represented by the selected competitors are Armenia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Columbia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mexico, Mongolia, Peru, Philippines, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Ridgeland residents will be flocking to the competition. Art in its many forms has long been appreciated in Ridgeland and in Mississippi. Some residents may wish to get a little closer to the action than watching performances. A great way to do that is to volunteer.

Janet Shearer, one of the key volunteer coordinators and Ridgeland resident, says, “When you volunteer for the USA International Ballet Competition, you have the opportunity to show Mississippi hospitality to people from around the world,

especially the young ballet dancers who are here to advance their careers, to step onto the stage in Jackson and take the next step toward their dreams. What a joy it is to support them!”

Approximately 600 volunteers are needed for the USA IBC. There are two ways to register your interest in volunteering: Text “usaibc” to 22828 and reply with your email address, or visit www.usaibc.com/support/volunteers to sign up online. The website lists categories in which volunteer opportunities are available.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 601-355-9853, ext. 3, or visit usaibc.com.



Ridgeland Resident Kit Fields Named Official Artist for the 2018 USA International Ballet Competition

The USA International Ballet Competition has selected Kit Whitsett Fields as the official artist for the 2018 competition to be held June 10-23, 2018, in Jackson, Mississippi. As artist for the 11th USA IBC, Fields created a piece that will be featured on the commemorative poster, program and other promotional materials for the two-week festival.

Fields said she wants her USA IBC painting to convey “the energy and creativity that we witness when the dancers take the stage.”

Held every four years in Jackson since 1979, the USA IBC is an “Olympic-style” competition in which top dancers from around the world compete for prizes, cash awards, contracts and apprenticeships. The USA IBC is designated the official international ballet competition in the United States by a Joint Resolution of the U. S. Congress.

Commemorative posters are available for purchase. The original is being auctioned to benefit the USA IBC. An exhibition of Fields’ artwork will be held during the competition on the mezzanine of Thalia Mara Hall. BankPlus is the sponsor of the official poster, artists and art exhibition that will be held during the 2018 USA IBC. For more information, visit usaibc.com or call 601-355-9853.



IBC artist Artist Kit Whitsett Fields



Keep Ridgeland Beautiful members join with Ridgeland Chamber president Karen McKie in a zinnia planting project along Highway 51. Pictured from left, Barbara Hunter, Jan Richardson, Karen McKie, Rachel Bradley, Phyllis Parker, Lea Ann Stacey, and Polly Hammett.

Colorful Zinnias Planted Along City Property

This spring, the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce President Karen McKie presented an idea to Keep Ridgeland Beautiful. As owner of Green Oak Florist and Garden Center, McKie knows a thing or two about beautification with plants. She suggested scattering inexpensive zinnia seeds along the roadways in Ridgeland to add color and curb appeal to the city.

She shared photos of an experimental planting that was quite successful despite very little soil preparation or maintenance. Keep Ridgeland Beautiful shared her enthusiasm for the project and worked with the city to find suitable locations for zinnias.

A planting day was held on May 1 at the City Center site on Highway 51 at School Street. This site is where the City of Ridgeland will build a City Hall Complex. It is undeveloped at this time with plenty of land for seasonal plantings. A few spots at the Ridgeland Public Library also received some zinnia seeds. The planting project and the beautiful flowers to come symbolize the Ridgeland Chamber’s 2018 theme – Ridgeland...Rooted in Success! Be sure to look for these blooms in coming months and enjoy!



Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Earns Statewide Award for Wildflower Project



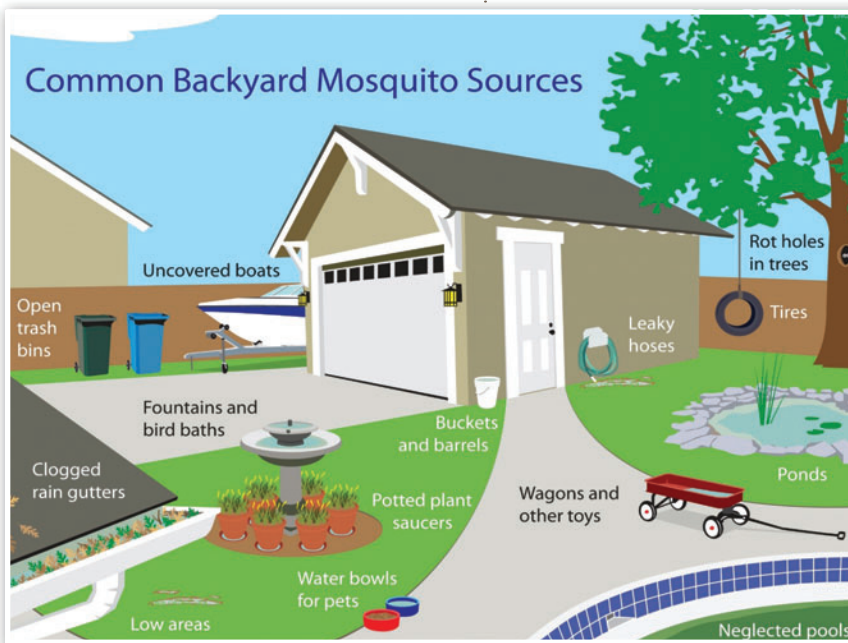
Pictured from left, Keep Mississippi Beautiful Board Chair Buford Clark, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful (KRB) Chair Jan Richardson, City of Ridgeland Public Works Director Mike McCollum, KRB Member Phyllis Parker, KRB Member Barbara Hunter, KRB Member Rachel Bradley, KRB Member Polly Hammett, KRB Member Rachel Collier, City of Ridgeland Mayor Gene McGee.

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful was awarded the Wildflower Trails of Mississippi Award at the 25th Annual Keep Mississippi Beautiful Awards Ceremony, held at the Country Club of Jackson. Keep Mississippi Beautiful initiated the Wildflowers Trails of Mississippi project after receiving a grant from the U.S.

Department of Agriculture to purchase wildflower seeds, working closely with the Mississippi State University Extension Service to develop a seed mix featuring a variety of colorful blooms and foliage. Keep Ridgeland Beautiful's wildflower field is located on W. Jackson Street, near I55 exit 105. Visitors are welcome.

Common Backyard Mosquito Sources

We all want to enjoy summer with fewer mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are more than pests. They can transmit diseases through their bites which can lead to serious health concerns. Protect your skin from exposure through the use of insect repellent and clothing, and seek to control the mosquitoes around you.



The best way to prevent mosquitoes around your home is by removing common backyard breeding sources, which is typically any source of standing water. The graphic here shows places in your yard that serve as sources. Please check your yard and work to manage these sources to keep the mosquito population down.

The City of Ridgeland sprays for mosquitoes during the hotter months when mosquitoes are most active. You will notice the spray trucks driving through each residential area. This year since it was cooler in April, the spray trucks started in May. They will spray through October or perhaps even longer, depending on the temperatures. If you have any

questions about the City of Ridgeland's mosquito spraying program, contact the Public Works Department at 601-853-2027.

BMX Growing by Jumps in Ridgeland

“When my son started 4 years ago, there were about 25 riders. Now we are up to 80 riders on any given night,” said Shane Adams, track operator for Magnolia Ridge BMX. “We average two new riders every time the gate is open.”



Photo credit: Justin Rives



LOCATION:

338 NE Madison Drive, Ridgeland

HOURS:

Tuesday and Thursday, practice and open rides, 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, practice, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m., racing, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Just like BMX, short for Bicycle Motocross, Magnolia Ridge BMX usually goes by the name, MagRidge BMX. You may have seen their float, with cyclists doing wheelies alongside, in the Ridgeland Christmas Parade. You may have been curious about their track that lights up on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings. Here’s your chance to learn a little more and maybe whet your appetite for dropping by to watch or join this growing sport.

A cursory review of the www.usabmx.com website reveals that BMX started back in the early 1970s with kids in southern California who modified their bicycles and tried to imitate their motorcycle riding idols. “Now,” Adams says, “it’s an Olympic sport, and colleges are giving scholarships for BMX racing.”

Adams shares that there are over 300 BMX tracks in the U.S. and when you join MagRidge BMX, you can race at any of those tracks.

One of the reasons Adams started his kids in BMX was the safety aspect of it. “You are riding bikes in a controlled area, and there are no cars.” Long sleeves and long pants are required to ride. Helmets are required.

BMX is for all ages, men, women, boys, girls, and even toddlers. “Our youngest rider is 18 months old!” shared Adams. Strider bikes are used for children four years and younger. For five years and up, they can race any type of bike. Most people do end up using a BMX race bike.

MagRidge has about 10 loaner bikes and the same number of helmets. Loaner bikes give those who want to try BMX a chance to try a BMX race bike without making the investment first. Once someone tries riding with a BMX bike, according to Adams, they can see what a difference it makes. The bikes are lighter and move along the track better.

MagRidge offers a first day free policy. “Your first day at the track, it’s 100% free,” said Adams. If you decide to join, membership is only \$60 for the year. Practice fees are \$5 and race fees are \$12.

BMX is obviously different from team sports and a great way to challenge yourself. Adams says, “It’s an individual sport. Whether you win is 100% up to you. A lot of kids love that aspect of it.”

Another attractive aspect of the sport is its flexibility. A BMX enthusiast is not tied down to a team and its practice schedule. “You can come and go as you want,” says Adams.

One of the greatest benefits of joining MagRidge BMX, however, is the friends you make. Adams says, “The kids make a lot of good friends from all over the metro area.”

For more information, call Shane Adams at 601-572-7716 and check out their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/magridgebmx/>.

School Resource Officers Unique to Ridgeland Schools

The Ridgeland Zone of Madison County Schools has provided trained School Resource Officers for almost 20 years. When Sergeant Gary Davis first became certified as a SRO, it was January 1999. He was based out of Olde Towne Middle School - before Ridgeland High School was even built.

Ridgeland's current school resource officers are Officer Ricky Bracey and Officer Scott Young. Bracey is based out of Ridgeland High School and Young out of Olde Towne Middle School. Both officers also work at Highland Elementary and Ann E. Smith Elementary. They serve as positive role models to the students and assist students, teachers and administrators, utilizing specialized skills and training.

The Ridgeland SROs are the *only* state-certified school resource officers in the Madison County School District. "Our officers have attended school resource officer training and are recertified every year," said Ridgeland Police Lieutenant Tony Willridge.

The week-long recertification can include training in subject matter such as suicide prevention, gangs, students with autism, de-escalation of students, anatomy of bomb threats, cyber crime, school crisis planning, school safety assessments, narcotics, mass casualty, and mentally ill students. Officers Young and Bracey also receive additional training through the Ridgeland Police Department in Active Shooter scenarios.

The school resource officers' tasks are many, as they provide security for the school during the school day as well as for sporting and other special events. You would be hard-pressed to find a student who doesn't know Bracey or Young.

Throughout the school day, they observe and interact with students. If needed, they handle situations that have potential for violence. Officer Young admits that is a very rare occurrence at the Ridgeland schools. Providing a police presence keeps kids in line, too. "The kids never know when one of us will show up," said Officer Bracey.

Officer Ricky Bracey has been a SRO since 2005. He joined the Ridgeland Police Department in 2000. Over the past 12+ years, he has seen students grow up from kindergarten through graduation.

Officer Scott Young started as a SRO five years ago after working as a detective and corporal in the Ridgeland Police Department. He has been around long enough to see students grow from 8th grade through graduation. "I like watching the kids mature," said Young. "You can see a shift when that happens. Next thing you know, they are old enough to drive, then graduate."

Both officers bring a lot of training and police experience to their positions as well as personalities and attitudes well suited to



Left to Right: Officer Bracey and Officer Young. Photo credit: Sissy Lynn

positive relationships with children of all ages.

Officer Bracey said, "A key to being successful as a school resource officer is having good relationships with the teachers and administration. You also need to be approachable and seek to interact with the students. It's important to be proactive instead of reactive."

"Some kids just want to be heard," said Bracey. "They want and need a positive role model. We can serve to fill that void."

Young added, "It helps to have a personality suitable for working with kids and their different maturity levels."

"One of the biggest problems is social media," said Officer Young who primarily works at Olde Towne Middle School. "When I was growing up, if a student was bullied at school, they could walk away. Today, with social media, a student cannot get away from it. The pressures of bullying are constant and students are publicly

embarrassed. I work with the students, the school administration and the parents to help the victims of bullying."

Both officers agree that the Ridgeland schools are safe. "The problems here in the Ridgeland zone are no worse than at any other school in the district," Young said.

The positive influence that school resource officers have had on Ridgeland's students can be seen today in the Ridgeland Police Department.

Officer Justin Crawford, a graduate of Ridgeland High School, remembers school resource officer Gary Davis. Sergeant Gary Davis was one of the reasons he became a police officer.

Officer Brice Berry said, "Davis was a great police officer. He created a very safe environment."

Officer Jason Haven shares that Davis left the impression of a very kind and caring officer. "I remember trusting him and feeling safe. He definitely made the uniform and profession look good. His professionalism had an influence on my decision to become an officer."

Students in the Ridgeland zone will look back on their school days and remember their school resource officers. Some will remember for the kind correction to behavior received, some for the protection felt while they stayed late on campus for a game, some for the help given if they were a victim, and some for the positive role model that they provided.

Perhaps the officers' influence will affect students' choices in life beyond high school. But for now, Bracey said, "It's great to hear from parents that they are glad we are here, watching over their child, and that they and their children feel safe."

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 area youth to participate in soccer. Visit www.mfcsoccer.com or call 601-898-1996 for more information.

Madison-Ridgeland Youth Club

MRYC is a community organization providing an opportunity for area youth to participate in baseball, softball, tackle football, cheerleading and basketball. Visit 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 and clean paper. Food contaminated trash and non-recyclable items should be placed in the garbage cans. Thank you for recycling!

Recreational Facilities

Freedom Ridge Park

235 West School Street - Freedom Ridge Park, a 50-acre athletic and recreation facility, is located on School Street just west of the Ridgeland Police Department. The park features four lighted adult regulation softball fields, four lighted regulation soccer fields, four picnic pavilions, three 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 practice areas for soccer and t-ball.

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 or \$25 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, recycling container and a fitness station located at the intersection of Rice Road and Harbor Drive.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Contact: Wendy Bourdin, special events coordinator
 Wendy.Bourdin@RidgelandMS.org 601-853-2011

“Celebrate America” Balloon Glow

Come out and show your patriotism and enjoy an evening of good food, fun, entertainment, and fireworks at Northpark Mall. The MS Championship Balloon Fest will hold its opening ceremonies at the Northpark Mall Balloon Glow Field; the balloons will inflate and provide an awesome view of the horizon as the sun sets.



Our featured entertainment for the 2018 Celebrate America/Balloon Glow will be Shenandoah. Opening Act will be Dylan Scott. The largest firework display in the metro-Jackson area will be the climax of the evening.

Program Price: Free
Event Date: June 29, 2018
Start Time: 6:00 p.m.
Day of Week: Friday
Location: Northpark Mall

Balloon Glow Karaoke Contest

The annual Balloon Glow Karaoke Contest will be held at Burgers and Blues on Monday, June 25 and Tuesday, June 26 at 7:00 pm. Finals will be held on June 27. All participants must be registered by 6:30 pm. The registration fee is \$20. Singers may pre-register by calling Angela at 601-566-0951 or e-mailing krazykaraokems@yahoo.com. The winner will open the show for Dylan Scott at the “Celebrate America” Balloon Glow on Friday, June 29.

Program Price: \$20
Registration: Pre-register at krazykaraokems@yahoo.com
Location: Burgers and Blues, 1060 E. County Line Road, #22, Ridgeland
Event Dates: June 25, 26 with finals on June 27
Start Time: 7:00 pm

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

ATHLETICS

Contact: John Sidney North, athletics coordinator
 John.North@ridgelandms.org 601-853-2011

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Flag Football

Come join the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department and NFL for its 22nd season of flag football. The program will build good hand-eye coordination and reflexes, as well as teamwork and the basic fundamentals of football. Flag football is also an excellent opportunity to experience physical exercise and social interaction. Players must be 6 years old by September 1, 2018. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011.

Price: \$80
Registration: July 23 - August 17
Ages: 6-9
Program Dates: September - November
Day of the Week: Tuesdays
Location: Freedom Ridge Park

SMCSO Fall Soccer Registration

The South Madison County Soccer Organization will be holding fall soccer registration in July for boys and girls ages 4 to 18. The season runs from September thru November. For more information, please visit: www.mfcsoccer.com. Dates for registration will be listed on their website.



Father and Child Fishing Tournament

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will be holding its 21st Annual Father and Child Fishing Tournament on Saturday, June 16. In partnership with the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, the tournament will be held on the beautiful Ross Barnett Reservoir. Come and enjoy a day with Dad! Bring your fishing pole or rod & reel and bait. Prizes will be awarded for Biggest Fish, Most Fish and Smallest Fish. This event is open to all ages. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011.

Price: Free
Event Date: Saturday, June 16
Event Time: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Adult Softball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will be offering men's commercial league and a men's church league. All games will be played at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland. The leagues will be open to the first 24 teams in each division. ASA-sanctioned rules will be in play for the leagues. We will offer 10 to 12 games for each league. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011. You may register at Ridgeland City Hall.

Price: \$550
Registration: July 30 - August 10

Skyhawks Sports Academy Summer Camps

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is proud to present summer camps by Skyhawks Sports Academy. Skyhawks provides a wide variety of fun, safe and positive programs that emphasize critical lessons in sports and life, such as teamwork, respect and sportsmanship.

Programs are designed to give each child a positive introduction into sports while fostering a lifelong love for an active, healthy lifestyle. Patient and knowledgeable staff use a variety of skill-building games and activities to give each athlete a complete understanding and overview of the sport.



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Since 1979 Skyhawks has taught over one million boys and girls life lessons through sports. View www.skyhawks.com for further information and to register. All Skyhawks programs in Ridgeland will be held at Freedom Ridge Park. Call Paul Van at 601-790-0868 with any questions!

MINI-HAWK (SOCCER, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL)

- **Boys and Girls ages 4 to 7**

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

Dates & Times: Monday, June 4 - Friday, June 8
 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Monday July 9 - Friday July 13
 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Registration: www.skyhawks.com
Price: \$140

FLAG FOOTBALL

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

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

Dates & Times: Monday, June 25 – Friday, June 29
 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Registration: www.skyhawks.com
Price: \$140

CHEERLEADING

- **Girls ages 5 to 10**

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

Dates & Times: Monday, July 16 – Friday, July 20
 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Registration: www.skyhawks.com
Price: \$140

GOLF SNAG (STARTING NEW AT GOLF)

- **Boys and Girls ages 5 to 9**

Skyhawks golf focuses on building the confidence of young athletes by teaching proper technique to refine essential skills of the game. Golf is a challenging and lifelong sport, so young athletes need proper focus on the fundamentals of form, swinging, putting, and body positioning. To assist in this training, Skyhawks has adopted the SNAG (Starting New at Golf) system to its curriculum.

SNAG utilizes a set of equipment designed for beginning golfers, including oversized plastic club heads and “mini tennis balls” to help build confidence and to have fun. Developed by PGA professionals, SNAG is specifically designed for the entry-level player. It simplifies instruction so that young players can make an easy and effective transition onto the golf course. No need to bring your own clubs—all equipment is provided. We keep the instructor-to-camper ratio low, resulting in limited availability.

Dates & Times: Monday, July 16 - Friday, July 20
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Registration: www.skyhawks.com

Price: \$140

MULTI-SPORT (SOCCER & FLAG FOOTBALL)

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

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

Dates & Times: Monday, July 23 - Friday, July 27
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Registration: www.skyhawks.com

Price: \$140

SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Contact: Lynda McMahan Assink, senior adult coordinator
lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org 601-856-6876

All Superstar Seniors Programs take place at the Ridgeland Recreational Center unless otherwise specified. Always consult with your physician before beginning any exercise program.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Agape Men’s Coffee Group

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

Program Price: No Charge

Start Date: Ongoing

Times: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Day of Week: Wednesdays

Ridgeland Horticultural Therapy

The garden plots at City Hall are still yours to work in, harvest from, and enjoy anytime you like. Donna and Nellie will be available for consultations and ongoing maintenance. The 6 Summer Sessions will be held indoors at the Lodge from 1:30-3:00 pm on Tuesdays. Each session focuses on a different way of growing plants and offers different opportunities to work towards personal goals using horticultural therapy.

- June 12 Growing on air – plants that need little or no soil. Mount plants on boards to take home.
- June 19 Just add water – nearly self-sufficient gardens. Make a bucket reservoir garden to take home.
- July 10 Self-contained ecosystems – tabletop environments. Make terrariums to take home.
- July 24 Water growing – perpetual soil-less gardens. Create a vase garden of live plants to take home.
- Aug 14 Tabletop edibles – sprouts and microgreens. Set up a starter kit to take home.
- Aug 28 Organic air cleaners – easy to grow, super air cleaning plants. Divide, repot, and share overgrown houseplants. Assemble planter cypress boxes to take home.

We would also like to plant pumpkins and more flowers in late June at City Hall and host a Harvest Party, too!

Registration & Costs: Each session is \$25. All six sessions if register by June 26 (first class) is \$120.

Reserve a Seat: You may reserve a seat in this program by calling, texting or email Donna Yowell at (601) 672-0755 or dyowell@aol.com. Lynda Assink, Ridgeland Recreation & Parks, Lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org; (601) 856-6876

Country Line Dancing

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

Darlene Epple is the instructor for the class. Darlene has been a member of MCWDA (Mississippi Country Western Dance Association) since 1995. She has taught at birthday parties, church socials, and office events. Darlene’s motto is “Line Dancers don’t make mistakes, they make variations!” As long as you are on the dance floor, having fun, with a smile on your face, that’s all that matters. Call or email Lynda for more information.



Program Price: \$40/month or \$10/weekly

Start Date: Ongoing

Times: Beginners Class, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Advanced Class, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Day of Week: Mondays

Men's Bible Study

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



Start Date: Ongoing
Times: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Day of Week: Tuesdays

Martial Arts for Senior Adults (It's never too late!)

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. Andy 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.

Program Price: \$10/month
Start Date: Ongoing
Times: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Days of Week: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Painting Pals

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

Program Price: No charge
Start Date: Ongoing
Times: 1:30 p.m. – 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.

Program Price: \$10/month
Start Date: Ongoing
Times: 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Days of Week: Mondays and Wednesdays

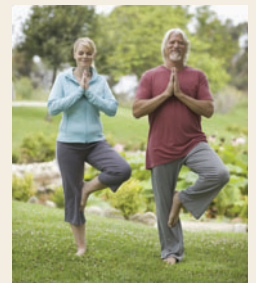
Tap Dancing for Senior Adults

Tap dancing is a fun way to make music, energize your body, and stimulate your brain! You will learn basic steps and easy routines. Anyone who enjoys camaraderie and upbeat music is welcome to come. Two classes are being offered. For more information, call or email Lynda.

Program Price: \$5/class
Times: 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Intermediate Beginner Class – Mondays)
 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Beginner Class – Thursdays)
Days of Week: Mondays and Thursdays

Restoration & Relaxation Gentle Yoga

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



Event Dates: Ongoing
Program Price: \$5/class
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Days of Week: Mondays and Fridays

Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness, & Fun!

Join us for this fun 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 yoga classes for only \$10: Restorative and Relaxation Yoga and Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness, and Fun! For more information, call or email Lynda.

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

Yogilates for Senior Adults

In this class, we combine Pilates and yoga for a total body workout, focusing on toning the glutes, thighs, and stomach. This low impact workout will increase your fitness level. Develop your core strength and stabilization through Pilates poses, and improve your flexibility, muscular strength, posture and alignment through yoga poses, breathing and relaxation. This class is taught by Jean Powers, certified instructor through Yoga Alliance. For more information, call or email Lynda.

Event Dates: Ongoing
Program Price: \$8/class or \$30/month
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Day of Week: Thursdays

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Bridge

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

Reservations are required 4 days in advance. Please call Lynda at 601-856-6876 or 601-853-2011 to reserve your chair. Please arrive at 12:45 p.m. to receive your nametag. Game starts promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Program Price: \$1.00 each for Prize (winner)
Dates: June 28, July 26, August 23
Times: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Day of Week: Thursday

Thread, Yarn, Crochet & Coffee

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

Program Price: No Charge
Dates: June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23, August 13 & 27
Times: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Day of Week: Monday

TENNIS

Ridgeland Tennis Center

201-A McClellan Drive 601-853-1115

Directors: Cheryl Harris and Susan Toler

Reserve a Court

Call the center to reserve a court. Cost is \$3 per person for 1 ½ hours.

Lessons

Teaching pros are available for private, semi-private and group lessons. Call the center to schedule lessons or for more information.

Tournaments

RTC Benefit Classic

Dates: July 27-29



Summer Camps

Tennis camps are held for five weeks in the summer. Camp weeks are Monday – Thursday with Friday as rain make-up day. Camps are divided into two age groups, 4-10 and 11-18. Cost is \$80 per child per week.

Dates: June 11-14, June 18-21, June 25-28, July 16-19, July 23-26
Times: 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. for ages 4-10
 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. for ages 11-18
Instructors: Ages 4-10 instructor is Cheryl Harris at 601-853-1115
 Ages 11-18 instructor is Robbie Creveling at 601-316-5364



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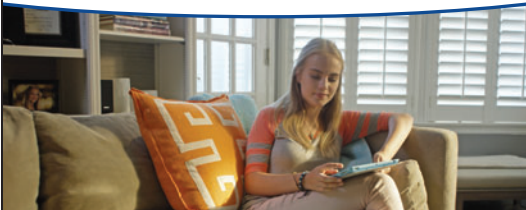
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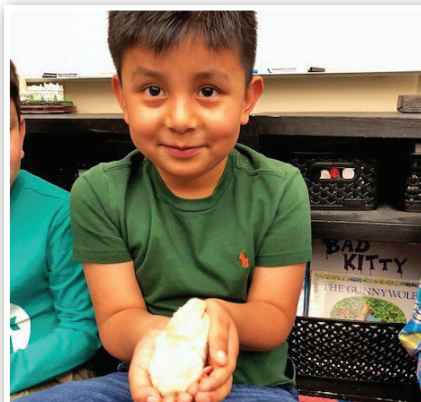


Chicks and Children

Kindergarten students were actively engaged in INQUIRY science learning at Ann Smith Elementary this spring! Mrs. Lutz's kindergarten class, after receiving a grant from Jackson State University, incubated and hatched real, live chickens. While watching and waiting for 21 days, students had many opportunities for exploring the Life Science content strand of the MS College and Career Readiness standards, as well as several other Math and Science standards.

The students observed the different colors and sizes of the eggs, as they correspond with different breeds of chickens. As the chicks hatched, the students created a suitable habitat for them, and called it "The Chick-U". The students prepared the bedding, and supplied food and water for the chicks. They also made scientific drawings, labeling the parts of the chick (egg tooth, beak, legs, eyes, down/feathers, as they grow.) The students got to hold/handle the chicks at least twice daily, making observations about their actions and their quickly changing physical attributes.

The curriculum was certainly enhanced by hands-on learning, and by the students actively participating in this lesson. The children became SO excited about seeing the eggs they've observed finally hatch! After actually seeing a chick hatch (it's hard work!) they became very attached to the baby chicks and wanted to learn even more about them. Then, we had the opportunity to teach about responsibility and respect for living creatures. The benefit to the student is immeasurable and life-changing. Our students have never had the opportunity to observe and to care for baby chicks. They will use this experience and apply this new knowledge and respect to all living animals.



Students from Mrs. Cathy Lutz's kindergarten class observe and care for baby chicks while learning about their needs, physical attributes, and habitat.

Arts Integration at ASE

Each year the second grade classes at ASE integrate art, music and drama as they create performances to showcase their knowledge. The second grade classes of Mrs. Bearden, Mrs. Benson, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Leber, and Ms. Nuzzo presented an Earth Day program, *The Great Kapok Tree*, during the month of April. The students learned the importance of respecting our home and exploring ways to utilize our resources. Students learned songs, dances, and instrumental pieces with a rainforest theme.

During February, the classes of Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Cole, Ms. Keen, Ms. Robbins, and Ms. Sims participated in the program, *House Mouse, Senate Mouse*. Students were able to apply their knowledge to illustrate how a bill becomes a law. Students created their own costumes and choreographed dances during many rehearsals. Their performances were a GREAT success! A special THANK YOU to Mrs. Emily Brandon, music teacher at ASE, for her leadership and guidance in these art filled adventures.



ASE second grade students wear the costumes they created for the play, *The Great Kapok Tree*, which they performed in April.

ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY *2018 Teacher of the Year*

Ann Smith Elementary School is blessed with many wonderful educators. One of those, Ms. Bernice Robbins, was honored this year as ASE Teacher of the Year. Ms. Robbins is a wonderful teacher who is devoted to her students and enjoys seeing their growth.



A graduate of Mississippi College and currently working toward National Board Certification, she has twenty years of experience in the classroom. Ms. Robbins has been a second grade teacher at ASE for 12 of those years. She has also taught ELL summer school with Madison County School District for the past six years.

"I love working with second graders. They are at such an important point in their education. It is a pleasure to watch them learn and grow," she said.

Robbins adds, "Our students are learning so much more at a much earlier age now. It is a wonderful time to be an educator and witness the tremendous amount of growth from the first day of school until the last."

"My students are such a huge part of my life," she said. "I can't imagine doing anything else."

The students, parents, and faculty of ASE salute Ms. Bernice Robbins for her hard work and dedication!



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HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

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Mentorship program to turn boys into gentlemen

Teaching assistant Paul Anders grew up without a father in his home and knows what it's like to be a boy without a good male role model. With the help of fellow teaching assistant Emmanuel Hines and assistant principal Derian Knox, Anders founded Gentlemen In Training (G.I.T.), a mentorship program for fifth grade boys, so that they may benefit from the experience of outstanding men on staff at Highland and in the community.

"I have always had a passion to uplift others," Anders says. "I know I had the capability to make a difference with these boys. They just want to be loved and they just want to know that they have someone in their corner."

Every Tuesday morning, 60 fifth grade boys, dressed in their sharpest clothes, met for their G.I.T. class where they'd discuss a variety of topics important to becoming a productive member of society. Guest speakers came in each week to share their expertise on the monthly topic. The lessons included the importance of exercise and nutrition, career preparation, and general etiquette. Toward the end of the school year, the boys put their new knowledge—and the manners lessons in particular—to the test at their formal banquet.

As the program progressed, the teachers at the school began noticing that the overall mood changed at the school on G.I.T. Tuesdays. Office referrals and "oops sheets" in particular declined on those days.

"We did see behavior issues decrease on Tuesdays and we believe a lot of it had to do with their behavior reflecting their attire," Anders says.

Anders says he would like to expand the G.I.T. program to all the Ridgeland schools, and a Ladies in Training program is just beginning for the girls.

"We have so many positive professional male role models at Highland, and we believe that education is more than reading, writing and math," says Paula Tharp, principal. "We want to make the most of our resources and do our best to educate the whole child. The G.I.T. Experience has done so much for the culture of high expectations at our school. We have seen these young men step up and be leaders in the building. We are so proud of them, and I know their families are as well."

PLANTING SEEDS, *Growing Minds*

Last spring, Highland students got a little dirt under their fingernails during the school day as they planted and cared for lettuce, broccoli, collard greens and other vegetables in the school's garden. The garden project was made possible through several grants, including the Nissan Highland Harvest grant written by assistant teacher Christy Westby-Gibson. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi and the City of Ridgeland also contributed to the project.

For many of the students, growing food was a brand new experience, as was eating it fresh from the garden. "The children didn't know they were eating the flower of the plants," says STEAM teacher Sue Bane who has been helping Westby-Gibson with the garden project. "So many of them were anxious to taste the vegetables they grew themselves."

Bane says this year is only the beginning. The school has planted several varieties of fruit trees as well, and intends to expand the garden so that in the future the cafeteria may be able to serve vegetables and fruits grown by the children right in the school's backyard.



Highland Singers Make All-State Choir

Congratulations to Highland students Zaria Bulley, Asiyah Jones and Jasmine Lane (pictured with their music teacher Alicia Domoney) who made All-State Honor Choir. They auditioned last fall, and traveled to Hattiesburg last spring to represent Highland Elementary School at the All-State Honor Choir Conference.

Join The Club! Extracurricular Activities Develop and Showcase Students' Talent

It's after school and fourth grader Ava Martin is sitting in the classroom with fellow students who are chattering to each other while they paint on the canvas in front of them. As Martin puts the finishing touches on her apple trees, she explains the inspiration for her painting. "In the summer, my dad and me plant a garden. We plant flowers and vegetables and fruit. I guess I just wanted to paint about that," Martin says.

Thanks to Highland clubs, students like Martin are learning about computer programming, musical scales, and color mixing and texture. To the kids, the clubs are creative outlets and structured playtime, but through the clubs, they are expanding their interests and talents beyond the traditional curriculum.

"The art club is showing the students just how creative they can be and they're amazed by what they can do. We have a lot of really talented kids at the school," says Christy Westby-Gibson, assistant teacher who is helping with the art club.

Music teacher Alicia Domoney says that the choir club, Highland Voices, is an extension of the music class all of the students take each week. "In Highland Voices, the students have a chance to expand their vocal technique," she says.

Highland Voices was the first of the after school clubs. Growing up in South Africa, Domoney has fond memories of staying after school for a variety of extracurricular activities. "After school clubs bring life to the school and builds a community with the students and teachers. I wanted to get the kids involved in something positive that would add to their overall experience at Highland," she says.

The art, choir, and robotics clubs meet once a week after school. These extracurricular opportunities are usually not

available to children at school until middle or high school, and are made possible through the dedication of many of the teachers at Highland who are willing to stay later for these clubs.

"The faculty and staff at Highland love working with and investing time in our children," explains Paula Tharp, principal. "They have really stepped up and volunteered to lead clubs and events for the students. Our staff sees teaching as a noble cause. We know that everyone desires to belong and offering a variety of productive groups to belong to is fulfilling, as well as another avenue for teaching collaboration, cooperation, and contribution to greater goals. We hope to increase extracurricular options for our students in the coming years."

Pathways teacher Ellen Litton says she helps with the robotics club after school because she believes that the activities the students do in robotics help them learn "21st Century skills."

"They are problem solving, collaborating, and using critical thinking skills. And it's time consuming to program the robots, but that's also something they need to learn—perseverance," Litton explains.

Fourth grader Jonas Williams didn't realize just how much perseverance was required. "I didn't know how hard it was to build a robot. It turns out it was just trial and error. If you did something wrong, you have to figure out what you did wrong, measure the parts and see if it's the right part, and then put the pieces where they're supposed to go." Despite all that work, Williams says, "It's really fun to work with my team."



Highland Voices members (from the left) Kamryn Shelton and Morgan Dunson gave out hugs last winter after caroling at an assisted living home.



Noah James (from the left), Ashwin Talwar, and Jonas Williams work together to build a robot.



Kayla Hargrove paints the "universe." She says she enjoys art club because she loves to draw and work with all the colors.



OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Student Spirit Awards

In its inaugural year, the Science Olympiad team won the Spirit Award at the state competition in Hattiesburg in April. The Spirit Award is given to the team that best exemplifies good sportsmanship, team collaboration, and school spirit. Team sponsors are Mr. Robinson and Ms. Page. We would also like to congratulate Olde Towne’s Chamber Ensemble and Treble Choir participated in the Orlando Heritage Festival over spring break, and both choirs earned gold ratings. Additionally, the judges, festival coordinators, restaurants, hotel, etc., chose one school they felt had the best attitudes, good sportsmanship, were polite, carried themselves well, had a willingness to learn, and were overall extremely pleasant while in Orlando. They chose Olde Towne to receive the Spirit of Orlando Award because of these impressive traits.

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

Teacher of the Year

English teacher Lisa Shaw accumulated quite a few special honors and recognitions during the 2017-18 school year. She was named Olde Towne’s Teacher of the Year and the Madison County School District’s Middle School Teacher of the Year. She also received the inaugural Mississippi Association of Educators’ Middle School Award for Excellence in Education at a red carpet event held at the Jackson Convention Center in front of 300 educators, education supporters, and family and friends.



Shaw has been teaching at Olde Towne since August 2012, and she has been a leader in the classroom and through extracurricular activities for students. Throughout her years at Olde Towne, Shaw has served as the Creative Writing Club sponsor, New Teacher Mentor, and the We Care Committee teacher representative. Currently, she serves as a Case 21 Expert Review Educator, spelling bee coordinator, PBIS Committee member and Student Council sponsor. One of her greatest accomplishments of the year was winning a grant to launch the S.A.V.E. Promise Club and coordinating Say Something Week, a series of events and activities to encourage students to say something in order to prevent school violence.

“I am thankful and so honored to be recognized for doing something I love, and that is teaching students everyday,” said Shaw.

After graduating from Belhaven with a Master of Arts in teaching, Shaw continued to learn as an educator by attending professional development conferences where she has been the co-presenter. She has also continued her education through online courses at Utah Valley University which focused on active engagement and motivating students to learn.

“Mrs. Shaw believes in learning something new each day and that we never grow too old to learn,” said Crystal Chase, OTMS principal. “I appreciate all of her hard work this year.”

When Shaw is not at Olde Towne, she enjoys spending time with her husband Fred, her son, and daughter.

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EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

Metro Area Teacher of the Year

Each year, the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership proudly honors teachers throughout Hinds, Rankin, and Madison counties for their outstanding achievements in the classroom. The program, now in its 23rd year, is designed to elevate the teaching profession by recognizing and awarding teachers in the Metro area for quality and excellence in education, thus demonstrating the business community's appreciation for the contribution that teachers bring to the workforce.

On April 12, OTMS math interventionist Rebecca Hurst was honored as one of 12 teachers to receive a spot in the Metro Teacher of the Year Recognition Program at a banquet at the Old Capitol Inn.

"I am honored to have Rebecca at OTMS," said Crystal Chase, OTMS principal. "She is a great math teacher and wants all students to excel."

During her past six years at Olde Towne, Hurst has taught eighth-grade mathematics and served as a summer school instructor for all middle school levels. She has just completed her first year as math interventionist, assisting students who need extra practice with various math standards. Last year, Hurst was appointed as a teacher leader for the College Preparatory Math Educational Program. She conducts workshops for teachers using the curriculum and advises the company about its program and management.

"Math has been my passion for as long as I can remember," said Hurst. "I encourage my students and let them know anything is possible."

Hurst has presented at conferences in Mississippi, California, and Texas and is a National Board Certified Teacher. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in educational leadership. When she is not teaching mathematics at OTMS, Hurst enjoys spending quality time with her husband, Matthew, and cat, Jack.



From Student...To Teacher

at Olde Towne

ELVIN CRISP

P.E. Teacher, Assistant Football Coach

Olde Towne is blessed to have three former students – Jamie Moore, Elvin Crisp, and Cameron Phillips – now teaching and serving as valuable role models for our students. For the fall 2017 issue of *Ridgeland Life*, we reached out to Ms. Phillips, asking her about her time as a student at OTMS, as well as what it's been like teaching at the school. In this issue, we feature Coach Crisp and his thoughts on coming full circle from being a student here to now serving as a P.E. teacher and coach.



For I know the thoughts I think toward you, said the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an unexpected end. Jeremiah 29:11.

My revelation of this scripture truly unveiled when I became a student at Olde Towne. The aspects of the culture and climate molded me in such a way that I felt competent in every area of education and its connections to real life.

I must admit that I was introduced to the value of a favorite teacher during this grade span. Ms. Williams (now Mrs. Chase) was her name at the time. She taught me to always "keep the main thing the main thing"! This motto has carried me through so many times of influences and making good decisions.

In reflecting on my passion, the importance of education has been instilled in me, although football is who I am! I have to be mindful not to boast, but I must humbly admit that my name will be pronounced as one of RHS's best receivers during my reign. I will forever cherish the Madison County School District in creating and modeling a balance of sports and academics. I am privileged and grateful for my foundation in education and how it aligns with the ethics and values of my family. As a result, I chose to begin my career at OTMS to continue what I refer to as "gifts to life." Although my ultimate goal is to be an athletic director, nothing makes me prouder than to be an active part of this outstanding legacy that OTMS has and still maintains with the utmost respect and dignity.



RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

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PARKER JACKSON, DEDICATED RIDGELAND HIGH TEACHER *Earns Trio of Teaching Awards*

Ridgeland High School honored Parker Jackson as their 2017-18 Teacher of the Year in October, and the awards kept on coming throughout the school year. From the four high schools in the Madison County School District, Jackson was also selected as the district's High School Teacher of the Year. The award "hat trick" was complete in April, when Parker was named an honoree in the Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce distinguished Metro Teacher Recognition Program.

Each year, the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership honors teachers throughout Hinds, Rankin, and Madison counties, for their outstanding achievements in the classroom. With just 12 teachers in the metro-area honored, Parker was delighted that Ridgeland's Olde Towne Middle School math teacher, Rebecca Hurst, joined her as a Metro Teacher of the Year; this makes Ridgeland the only zone in the metro-area to have two honorees this year.

Jackson is finishing her seventh year as a teacher. Currently she teaches biology and biomedical research; she enjoyed teaching human anatomy and physiology as well as Advanced Placement biology in prior years. A life-long Mississippi State fan, Parker earned a sports communication degree in Starkville and a Masters of Arts in Teaching from the Mississippi University of Women.

Jackson's involvement at Ridgeland High School goes beyond the classroom. "Being the student government association sponsor, I oversee the student-led homecoming festivities for the Ridgeland Zone. While it can be stressful, it is also such a fun time of the year. It allows me to get to know the students on a more personal level. We gather at homes and decorate floats for several nights, leading up to the homecoming parade. Through SGA, we also raise funds for Make-a-Wish each year."

In the spring, Jackson hits the courts as Ridgeland High head tennis coach, her second year in this position. During days off, Jackson enjoys playing tennis, and loves traveling and exploring historical sights and homes with her husband, Trey and spending time with her cat, Lilo.

Ridgeland High is very special place to her. "Being a teacher means the opportunity to impact so many lives," said Jackson, who embraces this aspect of teaching. Senior AnnDee Huskey, says, "Mrs. Jackson is one of my favorite teachers, because she invests so much of her time into her students, putting students before herself and pushing us to be the best we can be."

Junior Morgan McCray concurs. "I have not had Mrs. Jackson as a teacher since ninth grade, but it doesn't feel that way. Although I am not a current student of hers, she is always willing to help and talk with me whenever needed."

When asked what some of her favorite aspects of Ridgeland High are, Jackson had plenty to share, including loving the diversity and welcoming community at the high school. "The diversity at RHS is amazing. It is so great to see how well all of our students embrace each other and their differences. Additionally, being a graduate of Madison County School District (Madison Central High, 2004) myself, I take pride in keeping up the exceptional education practices that our district provides to the children of Madison County."

For families thinking about moving to Ridgeland, Jackson says, "The Ridgeland High community openly welcomes students who move here from other districts or private schools; when these students walk through our doors they feel welcomed. They are able to find a place to be themselves and to quickly become active in a multitude of extracurricular activities at the school. We are also very proud to be home to a national award-winning robotics team, as well as engineering and culinary arts career academy programs."

Long after they leave her class, students remain connected to Jackson. Senior scholar-athlete Leah Bishop states, "Mrs. Jackson is an amazing woman and role model because she puts students before herself. She teaches her students discipline, but continues to remind us to have fun and live in the moment. If you need something done you can depend on Mrs. Jackson."



Ridgeland High School biology and biomedical research teacher Parker Jackson was named the 2017-18 RHS Teacher of the Year. Jackson was also honored as the the Madison County School District High School Teacher of the Year, and a Metro Teacher of the Year by the Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce. Photo credit: Justin Rives

OLYMPIC GOLD-MEDALIST AND RHS ALUMNA BIANCA KNIGHT *Brings Golden Opportunity to Titan Track & Field Program*

Currently residing in southern California, Bianca Knight, 2012 Olympic track and field gold-medalist returned to her alma mater, Ridgeland High School, to host the inaugural Bianca Knight Track & Field invitational on March 24, 2018.

On a gusty Saturday, sixteen Mississippi high school teams traveled to Ridgeland High to compete in the Bianca Knight Track & Field Invitational and interact with an Olympic champion from their state. “The event was a huge success,” Ridgeland High athletic director Ryan Earnest said. “We had great participation and fantastic media coverage of the event.”



International track and field phenomenon and Ridgeland High alumna Bianca Knight (center, back row), 4 x 100 m 2012 Olympic Gold Medalist and world-record holder, returned to Ridgeland to host the Inaugural Bianca Knight Track & Field Invitational. Photo credit: Sissy Lynn

Let’s flashback to Knight’s 4 x 100 m race at the 2012 London Olympics, where a 27-year old world record was smashed. Knight provided insight into the day. “U.S. Olympic relay teams don’t have the benefit of training together, because track and field athletes qualify for the U.S. Olympic team from around the country. Our gold medal team ran together at the Penn Relays prior to the Olympics, and we had chemistry. We had confidence that we had a great chance to win the Olympic race.” The 40.82-second gold-medal race, run by the world’s fastest quartet of women is well-worth watching online.

Once an athlete has reached the pinnacle of success, what makes them return to their roots with a long-term commitment to help current students? Loyalty to Ridgeland High plays a significant part. While a student at Ridgeland High, former Principal Lee Boozer and

Bianca’s teachers accommodated the track schedule of this elite athlete. When she qualified to attend events like the World Youth Championships in Marrakesh, Morocco, she was able to go—and she won two gold medals and a silver medal there in 100 m and 200 m events. “The school always made sure I could pursue my dreams and I made sure I kept up with my school work,” Knight explained. Bianca was a four-time Mississippi Gatorade Track & Field athlete of the year and the 2005-2006 Gatorade National Track & Field athlete of the year, the first Mississippi athlete to win a Gatorade national title. She and her Ridgeland High teammates won the 5A Mississippi track and field championship two years in a row, under Coach Calvin Bolton. Knight attended the University of Texas after high school. She turned pro after her record-setting freshman indoor season. Adidas sponsored her and she trained in Austin, Texas with her coach, Darryl Wilson, while competing around the world.

What is impressive is that Knight didn’t just come to Ridgeland for the weekend of her Invitational: she devoted over three weeks this spring to initiate a long-term commitment to the Ridgeland High track and field program and programs throughout the state. She coached, and advised students on the sport, nutrition, hydration and commitment. “I see so much raw talent in Mississippi. I see an opportunity to advance track and field, so that it holds a place equal to sports like football or basketball in our high schools.”

Meeting Knight at the RHS track about a week after her invitational, it was evident, Knight, 29, had become integral to the team. Ridgeland students echoed one-another’s impressions of Bianca: “she is so down-to-earth”; “she is 100% committed to helping us become better”; and, “these are the hardest workouts we have ever had!”

Plans are in the works for next year’s Bianca Knight Invitational. “Each year the event will grow and become more competitive,” Knight said. “My goal is to eventually have athletes have to qualify to participate. We will bring in college recruiters and help guide talented students and their families towards college track & field opportunities.”

World-class athlete Bianca Knight is devoted to her family, whether it be by relation or because they are Titan family. Ridgeland High assistant athletic director LuCina Taylor sums it up. “Her commitment to our community and the sport of track and field are worthy of great honor! We cannot overstate how much we appreciate the time and knowledge Bianca has generously given to the student athletes of Ridgeland High School.”

Ridgeland High Students Excel Across the Board, Earning State and National Awards

It is exciting to live in our award-winning city and have such an incredible public high school for our citizens to attend. Spring brings lots of academic and extra-curricular competitions, and Ridgeland High School students and teachers brought in a swath of state awards and national invitations!

Ridgeland High students again found themselves earning state rankings, championships and awards in robotics, economics, math, speech and debate, art, indoor guard, language competitions, and band and choir. Teachers were right there, winning awards, and engaging in volunteer programs with the students and on their own.

Ridgeland High Recyclers, a student-led recycle program that collaborates with Keep Ridgeland Beautiful, won four awards this year. The team, mentored by teachers Ginger Joe and Kathy Evans, won a state-wide first-place Keep Mississippi Beautiful Education/School award. These students also won the Keep America Beautiful Mississippi Recycle Bowl Championship and a Mississippi Recycle Coalition grant.

Titan students earned five top-10 awards in the state-wide math honors competition, Mu Alpha Theta. Ridgeland High music programs involves several hundred students, with some students participating in both band and choir. All band and choirs earned superior markings in state evaluations this year, continuing a long tradition. And the RHS jazz band traveled to the prestigious 38th Annual Alcorn Jazz Fest in Vicksburg, where students learned from Jazz legend, Chick Corea, and freshman Taylor Wells won the Outstanding Student Soloist Award. Ridgeland Jazz band also swung at the Township Jazz Festival. In an exciting production, RHS choir and theater programs produced the musical, *Working*, accompanied by a live band, and powerful student performances, including two RHS siblings from the extraordinary “Four Washington” group, Carmen and Reggie. In the fine arts, Titan art students were selected to show their art at the Ridgeland Fine Arts Festival and at the annual RHS Art Show.

Bill Richardson’s state champion robotics program at Ridgeland High earned bids to Nationals and Worlds in VEX Robotics. Two of



STAR Ridgeland High School STAR 2018 student Brittany Ngo, and her STAR teacher, Leah Ellis. The Mississippi Economic Council and its M.B. Swayze Foundation sponsors the Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) Program in an effort to encourage scholastic achievement among the state’s high school students. The STAR Program emphasizes scholastic excellence and encourages greater scholastic effort among Mississippi students. It also recognizes excellence in the teaching profession. The STAR student is awarded to the senior who has achieved the highest ACT score in their school, accompanied by a 93 or greater average in selected classes. Among her many activities, Ngo is a member of the Ridgeland High School band, Mu Alpha Theta, and National Honors Society.

his engineering students, Maddy Berry and Claire Richert, formed the team “Titan Up Security” and won second place in Mississippi in the Girls Go Cyber Start state competition, sponsored through the Department of Homeland Security. Bonnie Ballard’s speech and debate team will send top-performers to Nationals again this summer. Ridgeland’s Indoor Winter Guard, coached by Craig Bane, earned a silver-medal at Mississippi Indoor Association State Championship, their third year to medal at the competition.

Teachers at Ridgeland High School earned three awards from PREPS —Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools, because of their students’ outstanding performance on English II, Biology, and U.S. History state tests.

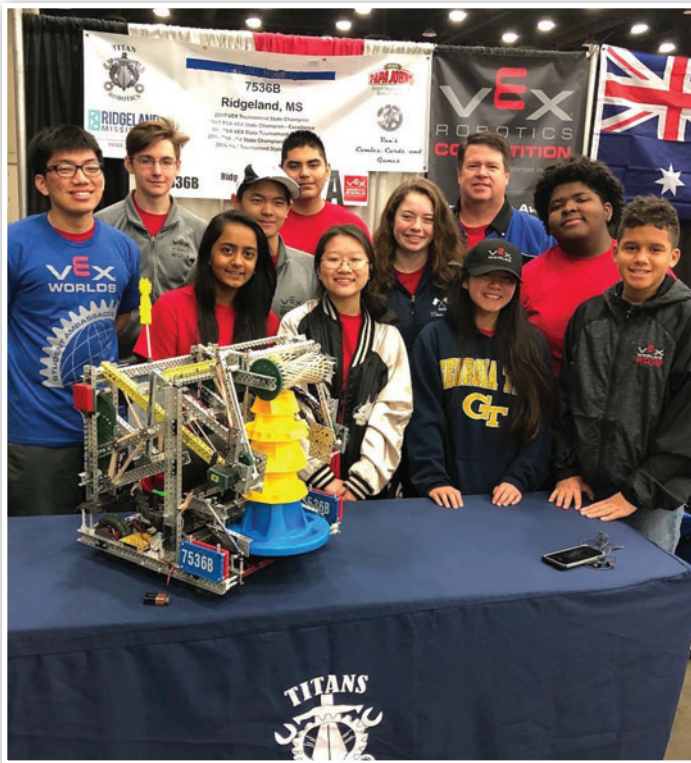
Britney Ngo was named the Mississippi Economic Council STAR student for Ridgeland High, and Leah Ellis was selected by Ngo as her STAR teacher. Faith Brock was awarded student of the year in the Madison County Career and Technical Center Health Sciences program and Jasmine Griffin earned a citizenship award from the Health Sciences program.

RHS team “To the Top,” Joseph Rachel, Daryl Jenkins, and Dwayne Stevens, mentored by Kathy Evans, placed first in our state at the Mississippi Council on Economic Education State Competition, each winning a scholarship. Joseph Rachel was honored at the council’s student of the year.

Our city’s extraordinary, gifted, and down-to-earth Titan community indisputably makes “It a great day to be a Titan.”



Ridgeland High School Recyclers accept the Keep Mississippi Beautiful first-place award for school program at the 25th annual awards ceremony.



Ridgeland High Robotics state-champion robotics team, 7537B “Rush Hour”, earned an invitation to the international 2018 VEX Robotics World Championship, April 26-29, 2018, in Louisville, Kentucky. Out of 600 teams at the event, the Ridgeland High robotics program was awarded the 2018 VEX Teamwork Award.

The Teamwork Award is presented to a group of teams from a single school, or organization, that demonstrate a season-long commitment to cooperation, unity and mutual respect. The teams from the school, or organization, have built a sustainable multi-team robotics program. This group of teams demonstrate the ability to field multiple independent robotics teams which also work and collaborate to enrich the experience of all students involved.

This award is reflective of the program built by RHS teacher Bill Richardson: leadership, mentoring, and competing at a national and international level are what it is all about. This year, not only did the four Ridgeland robotics teams mentor several metro-area teams, they also mentored a new team from Alexandria Senior High School (ASH), Louisiana that went on to win the Louisiana VEX state championship this year.

In addition, this spring at the Mississippi VEX state championship in Hattiesburg, Bill Richardson was awarded the teacher of the year; Team 7536B “Rush Hour” robotics captain, senior Melvin Nguyen, was awarded student mentor of the year; and the team won the Sportsmanship Award at the event.

Ridgeland High robotics program is extremely thankful for community sponsors Wasabi Sushi & Grill, Dr. Muscle, “Doc Ruti”, Quickstep #3, Mattiace Company, Interiors + Beyond, Levelhom.com, Dean and Dean/Associates, Papa John’s Pizza, Dr. Ray Grill, Van’s Comics, Cards and Games, and Kim’s Seafood.



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Author Richard Grant Shares His Experiences, Signs Books at Holmes

Author Richard Grant, who wrote *“Dispatches from Pluto: Lost and Found in the Mississippi Delta,”* discussed his New York Times Bestseller during a presentation at the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus on April 10. A reception and book signing followed his lecture.

“I came to Pluto to listen and learn,” Grant said. “I’d like to start out by addressing the question I am often asked: How does a guy from London, England end up in Mississippi? I usually say something like well I guess I must have taken a wrong turn somewhere.”

Grant is truly a citizen of the world: he was born in Malaysia, lived in Kuwait as a young child, then moved to London, where he spent his pre-teen through college years. Upon graduation from University College London with a degree in history, he worked odds and ends jobs before relocating to America in the early 1990s. He first moved to Tuscon, Arizona, where he met his wife Mariah while working on stories as a freelance journalist.

“One day I was driving through Tuscon when this song came on the radio by Junior Kimbrough from Chulahoma, Mississippi. It was this hill country blues that I’d never heard before and I really liked it, so I bought the album. I found out that two white college kids in Oxford, Mississippi, had managed to get a million dollars in debt recording hill country artists for their record label Fat Possum Records. I thought to myself, I could get a magazine story out of that!”

Grant convinced a British magazine to send him to Oxford to write his story. He made friends on that visit and continued visiting Oxford about twice a year to enjoy the music, food, storytelling and overall ambience.

“Fast forward to when I was living in New York City, where I was after Tuscon before I moved to Mississippi,” Grant said. “As a freelance journalist the kind of overriding theme of my life has been lack of funds. In 2011, however, I made a documentary for BBC and for the first time in my life, I had some money. I said



to my girlfriend, let’s move to New York City, just to do it. I had another documentary in the works, I had a commission from the New Yorker magazine and I had another book idea, so we bought an apartment and moved to the city.”

As soon as they moved, though, Grant’s projects began to fall through, one-by-one. His stream of bad luck turned around, however, when he received an invitation to the Mississippi Book Festival in Oxford. It was there that his friend Martha invited him to come to a picnic at her family farm in Pluto. While in the Delta, his friend Martha showed him a beautiful old farmhouse in Pluto that he instantly fell in love with.

“I thought, wow maybe this is what our life needs and I always kind of liked Mississippi,” Grant said.

It didn’t take nearly the convincing he thought it would to get Mariah to Pluto. She too fell in love with the house and they decided to take the plunge and move.

“Then began the incredible culture shock that produced the book,” Grant said.

During his presentation, he proceeded to share some stories from his first year and a half in the Mississippi Delta; some of the very stories that he elaborates on in *“Dispatches from Pluto.”*

Today, Grant and his wife live in Jackson with their daughter Isobel. He is working on another book about Mississippi, this time about Natchez, while his wife works as a librarian at Millsaps College.

The presentation, which was sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council, was the culmination of the “Exploring the Mississippi Delta” series that the Holmes Ridgeland Campus English Department hosted this spring. The series sought to celebrate the Delta’s rich heritage as English Composition II classes read and discussed *“Dispatches from Pluto.”*

To learn more about Grant, visit <http://www.richardgrant.us/>. He can be reached directly at richard@richardgrant.us.



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ADULT PROGRAMS

STANDING PROGRAMS

MCPG

The Madison County Professional Gamers (MCPG) is a group that brings together gamers of all types to socialize, network, and have a great time. MCPG meets every first and third Monday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The first Monday is dedicated to tabletop gaming and other fun activities. The third Monday is dedicated to teamed themed trivia! Snacks and drinks are provided by the library.

Summer Dates: June 4 and 18, July 2 and 16, August 6 and 20

Artist Corner and Design Club

Do you need a good way to relieve stress and unwind at the end of the day? The Ridgeland Public Library's Artist and Design Club meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Attendees may create art using their choice of medium! Come get inspired, unwind, and relax twice a month with light refreshments and fellowship. (Some art supplies are supplied, but please feel free to bring your own.)

Summer Dates: June 5 and 19, July 3 and 17, August 7 and 21

Gaming and Painting Days

Gaming and Painting Day is held the second Saturday of the month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Gaming and Painting Day is designed for adults 18 and older who want to discuss graphic novels and other fandoms of interest while playing games or painting miniatures! The library provides light snacks and some painting supplies.

Summer Dates: June 9, July 14, August 11



Tabletop Gaming and Movie Night

Our Tabletop and Movie Night program takes place on Monday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our goal is to show entertaining movies while you and your friends get together and play some of our awesome board games! The rules for the games will be House Rules and, of course, good sportsmanship! You will find new and surprising favorites to add to the top of your movie and gaming list! Light refreshments are provided.

Summer Dates: June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23, August 13 and 27

Mystery Readers

Mystery Readers will meet on the second Tuesday of the month. They meet from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and discuss the mystery books they have read the previous month. As one of our largest programs, Mystery Readers is filled with voracious readers eager to recommend your next favorite book!

Summer Dates: June 12, July 10, August 14

Star Wars X-Wing Night

Join us for a new gaming night! The Star Wars X-Wing Night will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. Gamers can learn the game, and fight on the side of the Rebels or the Empire!

Summer Dates: June 20, July 18, August 15



Get Graphic

Join us for our new book club! It's a Graphic Novel Book Club for adults. We will meet Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and discuss graphic novels and related topics! Light snacks will be provided.

Summer Dates: June 14 and June 28, July 12 and 19, August 2, 16 and 30

Chapter One Adventure Club

Have you ever wanted to learn a Role-Playing game but did not know where to start? Join the Ridgeland Public Library's Chapter One Adventure Club and learn how to play different Role-Playing Games (RPG's) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This program is perfect for experienced RPG players as well as those who have never role played before. Each month a different themed RPG system will be featured in a "one-shot" adventure. Players will use the universe and rules provided to solve a problem. Playing seats will be limited, but onlookers are welcome!

Summer Dates: July 31 (Harry Potter RPG); August 14 (Overwatch RPG)

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Along with the regular programs at the Ridgeland library, we have some special programs planned for June through August, including our Adult Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Libraries Rock!" so most special programming is music themed. Be sure to mark your calendar for these exciting and limited events!

Adult Summer Reading in General: When you register, you will be given a punch card. Opportunities to fill your punch card include: Read up to five books, come to the Summer Reading Programs, and attend our regular programs. You will receive a double punch just for attending our regular programming! Once you fill your card, you will sign the back of it and it will be dropped in our prize vault. You will receive another one to fill out. You may fill out as many punch cards as you'd like all the way up until our Wrap Up Party where prizes will be given out!

Registration for Summer Reading will start: May 29 with our kickoff party with Dual Saxophonist Tiger Rogers.

Music and Mind Series Part 1 – June 12 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Join us for the first part of the Music and Mind Series and learn how essential music is to tabletop gaming, video games, and more. Refreshments will be provided.

Music and Mind Series Part 2 – June 26 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Join us for the second part of the Music and Mind Series and learn how music is essential to movies. Refreshments will be provided.

Adult Summer Reading Wrap Up Party – July 10 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Cash in your punch cards and try your hand at some of our prizes! We will be showing "Score: A Film Music Documentary" after we pull for prizes. Refreshments will be provided. This concludes the Adult Summer Reading Programming.

Murder Mystery Dinner Party 3 – July 30 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Join us for a London mystery. We will

be sent back into time during the war to try to solve a mystery! Dinner will be served and people can sign up as guests or actors! Registration will be required as roles are limited.

Escape Room 4 – August 28 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Join us for our fourth Escape Room event! Dinner will be provided as you try to Escape the Library! This event is free and for adults. Registration is required.

As always, you can stay informed with the most up-to-date information about our programs by visiting our website www.mclsms.org.

FRIENDS OF THE RIDGELAND LIBRARY

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 to benefit the library through the book sales and various other events. They have raised money for new furnishings, supplies for the Summer Reading Program, provided funding for materials to host children, teen, and adult programs throughout the year, and so much more.

The Friends of the Library welcome all new and potential members. You may choose to be a member with little involvement or help with various volunteer opportunities during fundraising events. The Friends of the Library membership offers you an advantage by helping the heart of the Ridgeland community. It also provides professional development, committee opportunities, and fellowship!

We encourage everyone to inquire about the new committees recently formed to help promote a stronger and more active organization.

Join today! Individual membership is \$12, Family Membership is \$20, Corporate Membership is \$100, and Life Membership is \$250. *All donations and membership fees are tax deductible.*

KIDS/TEEN PROGRAMS

The Ridgeland Public Library's youth services team is excited for the upcoming Summer Reading Program, "Libraries Rock!" This year's theme will focus on excellent programs that promote literacy and our community with

a musical twist. We are excited for our kickoff event on Thursday, May 31, from 3 – 5 p.m. Some of this year's visiting performers include: Leonardo Music, Dorian LaChance, Dr. Wacky's Science Show, Mel & the Moodoggies, Stormin' Bob the Singing Meteorologist, and Tommy Terrific!

We are super excited for some of the new programs including the expansion of our Crazy Crafts program, the Open Playtime group, and LEGO® programs! The Summer Reading program will be June 1 through July 14 to submit reading logs for exciting reading prizes for three different age groups: birth to age 5, ages 6-11, and ages 12-18. Be sure to keep an eye on the MCLS website for upcoming programs, signup for e-mail reminders with Ms. Keke, or sign up for text reminders by texting YouthPrograms to 95577. We can't wait to hear from you!


Be sure to check back at the library at www.mclsms.org for more details about each of these events.




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CITY OF RIDGELAND
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

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

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AND EVENTS

Thursday, June 21

Trustmark National Bank

1029 Highland Colony
Parkway
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 19

Priority One Bank

201 Northlake Avenue,
Suite 101
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

**Hilton Jackson
Tailgate Party**

1001 E. County Line Road
(with all metro area Chambers)
5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Date: TBD

Thursday, August 23

**Women to Women:
A Celebration Luncheon**
Jackson Country Club
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, September 20
Ridgeland Under the Stars

Jackson Country Club
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Ridgeland Chamber Seeks Junior Diplomat Applicants

Area high school juniors and seniors are invited to apply to become part of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce's 2018-2019 Junior Diplomat Program.

Students residing in Ridgeland, who attend Ridgeland High School, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Jackson Academy, St. Joseph Catholic School, Madison Ridgeland Academy and Jackson Prep are invited to submit applications by the August 24, 2018 deadline.

"The purpose of the Junior Diplomat program is to instill in students a well-rounded appreciation of community service and introduce them to members of the business community," said Linda Bynum, Executive Director of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce.

Diplomats Allison DeWeese of Holmes Community College and Jim Lowery of Pear Orchard Business Center serve as Junior Diplomat co-advisors.

The Junior Diplomats meet the first Tuesday of every month at Chamber member businesses. This year, Abby May, a senior at Madison Ridgeland Academy and Daniel Hits and AnnDee Huskey, both seniors at Ridgeland High School, served as co-captains of the program.

Throughout the year the Junior Diplomats participate in many City and Chamber events, including the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, TOP Soccer, Trunk or Treat, Adopt a Child for Christmas, HOOPS Basketball, Mayor's Wellness Walk, Sr. Adult Valentine's Banquet, the Natchez Trace Century Ride, Easter Egg Hunt, KidFest! Ridgeland and the Ridgeland Art Fest!

This year, Victoria Jiang, a senior at Ridgeland High School, was named Junior Diplomat of the Year. She received a \$1,000 scholarship awarded by BankPlus and Regions Bank.

A \$500 Spirit of Junior Diplomat scholarship sponsored by Community Bank of Mississippi was awarded to Britney Ngo, a senior at Ridgeland High School. The scholarships are applied to the college or university of the student's choice.

"Students interested in the Junior Diplomat Program must complete an application and submit it to the Chamber office," Bynum said. "Every application is carefully read and reviewed. We want students in the program who have every potential of becoming tomorrow's leaders."

Each applicant must write a 100-word essay detailing why he/she would be a good candidate for the program. "Every application must include three letters of recommendation, and one of those letters must be from a teacher, principal or high school counselor," Bynum added.

Other criteria include a list of all extra curricular activities, awards received and offices held. And, all applicants must have a 3.0 grade average.

Junior Diplomat applications are available at the counselor's office of each participating school and the Chamber office located at 754 S. Pear Orchard Road.

"One of the greatest aspects about this program is that our Junior Diplomats have gotten to know others with the same interests and goals," Bynum said. "They have become better acquainted with their community and they are realizing the importance of giving back to the community."

"If we can instill one basic premise," she added, "it is the age-old adage, 'we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.'"

For more information on the Chamber's Junior Diplomat Program, call the Chamber office at 601-991-9996.



Britney Ngo, a senior at Ridgeland High School received the \$500 Spirit of Junior Diplomat award from Community Bank. Making the presentation is 2018 Ridgeland Chamber Vice President Bill Bethany of Community Bank.



Victoria Jiang, a senior at Ridgeland High School, was named Junior Diplomat of the Year and was awarded a \$1,000 Scholarship from Regions Bank and BankPlus. Making the presentation are from left, Junior Diplomat Co-Advisors Allison DeWeese, Holmes Community College and Jim Lowery, Pear Orchard Business Center; Victoria Jiang and Britt Dowell of Regions Bank.



Junior Diplomat Co-Captains, from left, Daniel Hits, Ridgeland High School; Abby May, Madison Ridgeland Academy and AnnDee Huskey, Ridgeland High School and Sharon Nettles of Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition of Madison, Yazoo and Holmes Counties.



Congratulations to Junior Diplomats with Perfect Attendance. From left, Michelle Weathersby, Victoria Jiang, Julienne Pilcher, Ashley Fowler and Noah Berl.

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RIDGELAND DEPARTMENTS



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



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



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



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



Police Department
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, David Dunbar, Randy Knouse, Randy Lynn, Lynette Praytor, Glenn Ray, Alex Ross, Connie Suber

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful

First Monday - 4 p.m.

Jan Richardson - Chairman

Barbara Brown, Rachel Bradley, Rachel Collier, Polly Hammett, Barbara Hunter, Phyllis Parker, Lea Anne Stacy

Community Awareness Committee

Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.

Drew Malone - Chairman

Carla Palmer Allen, Shirley Gill, Vicki Heath, Diane Jackson, Shelia Jackson, Lazaire Martin, Mike Smith, Debbie Upchurch, Ivy Williams

Historical Committee

Every other month - Thursday, July 12, 1 p.m.

Nancy Batson - Chairman

Robby Carr, Donna Dye, Polly Hammett, Mike Porter, Pat Truesdale

Contractors Board of

Adjustment and Appeals

Quarterly meeting - Tuesday, July 17, 4 p.m.

Lantz Kuykendall - Chairman

Terry Evans, 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

Tracy Bailey, Michelle Caballero, Jim Collette, Walter Cox, Drew Malone, Larry Miller, Judy Rice

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..... 601-201-7392

Chuck Gautier, Ward 2..... 601-856-1291

Kevin Holder, Mayor Pro Tempore, Ward 3..... 601-238-5361

Brian Ramsey, Ward 4..... 601-506-1979

Bill Lee, Ward 5..... 601-278-6256

Wesley Hamlin, Ward 6..... 601-454-0353

City Directory

Animal Control

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

Anonymous Tip Line

(criminal investigations division)..... 601-853-2006

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

Community Development Department

(development, property maintenance, zoning, signs, permits)..... 601-856-3877

Community Police Officers

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

Court Clerk

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

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

Finance and Administration

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

Fire Department

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

Police Department

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

Public Works Department

(roads, garbage, recycling, water, storm water)..... 601-853-2027

Recreation and Parks

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

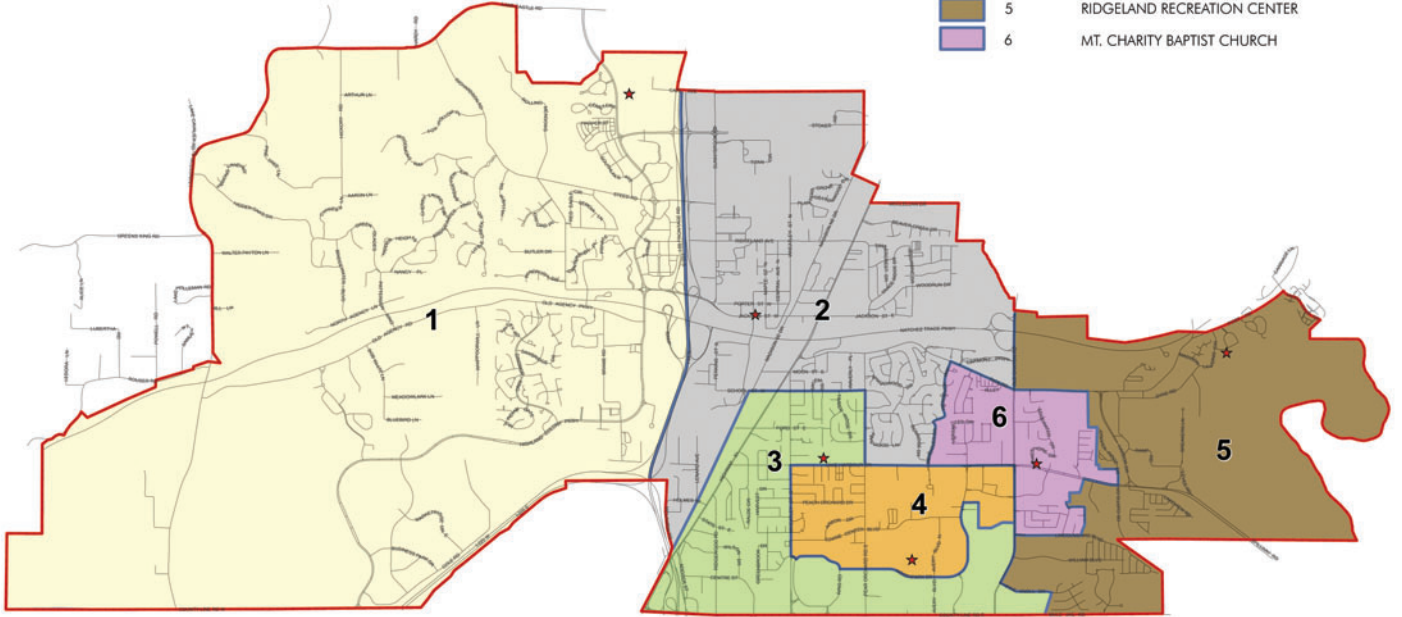
Utility Billing Department (water, sewer, garbage, and recycling billing)

utilitybilling@ridgelandms.org..... 601-856-3938

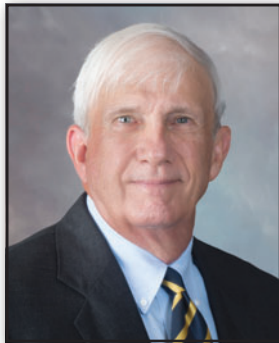
RIDGELAND ALDERMEN

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

WARD NUMBER	POLLING LOCATION
1	HIGHLAND COLONY BAPTIST CHURCH
2	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3	TRACE RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH
4	COLONIAL HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
5	RIDGELAND RECREATION CENTER
6	MT. CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH



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



Ken Heard
Ward 1
601-201-7392
Ken.Heard@RidgelandMS.org



Chuck Gautier
Ward 2
601-506-5913
Chuck.Gautier@RidgelandMS.org



Kevin Holder
Ward 3
Mayor Pro Tempore
601-238-5361
Kevin.Holder@RidgelandMS.org



Brian Ramsey
Ward 4
601-506-1979
Brian.Ramsey@RidgelandMS.org



Bill Lee
Ward 5
601-278-6256
Bill.Lee@RidgelandMS.org



Wesley Hamlin
Ward 6
601-454-0353
Wesley.Hamlin@RidgelandMS.org



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