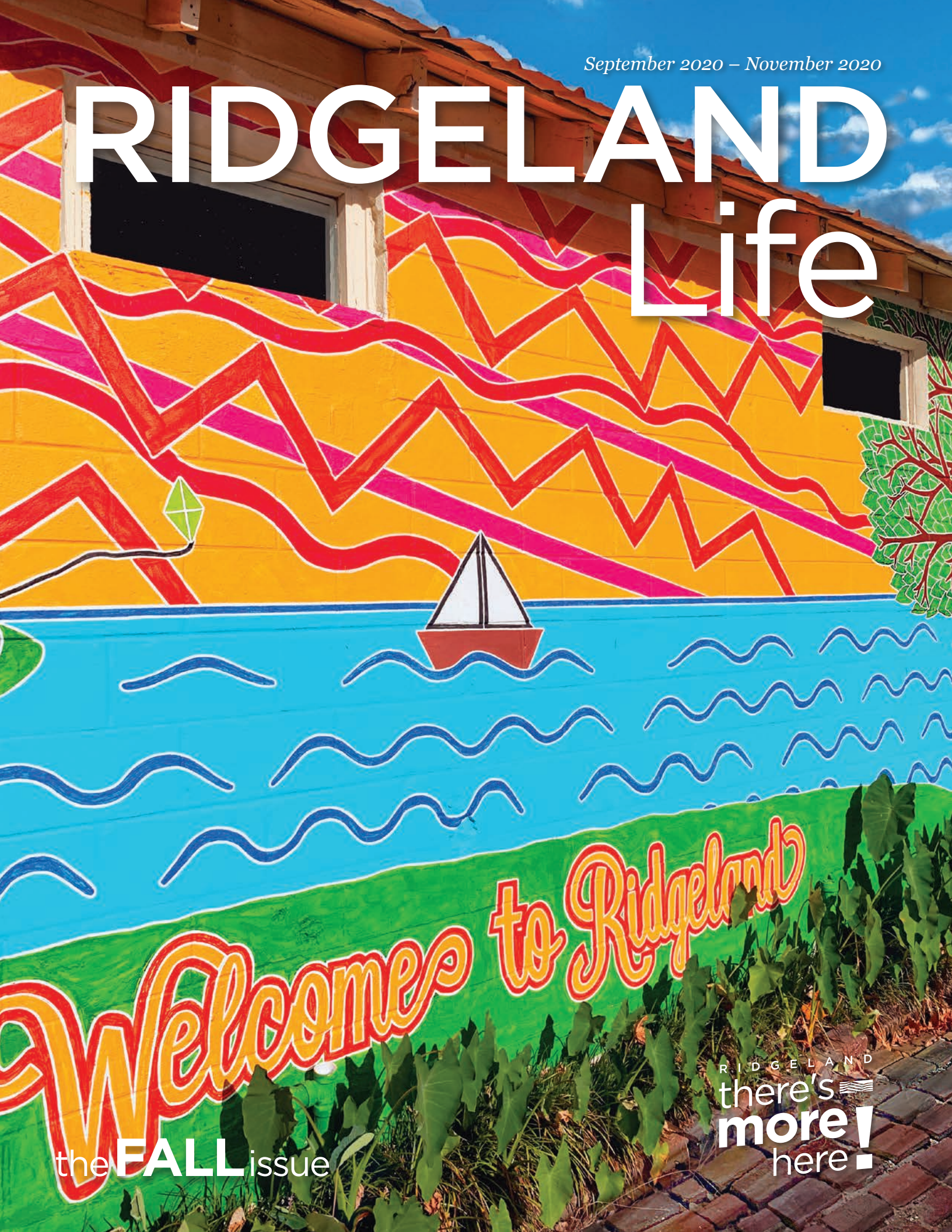


September 2020 – November 2020

RIDGELAND Life



the **FALL** issue

RIDGELAND
there's 
more!
here 

From the Mayor

It's hard to believe that we are getting towards the end of the summer and are still reeling from the effects of the coronavirus. We in Ridgeland are very blessed that in spite of the pandemic our economy continues to stay strong, and we are continuing to see growth. We are also blessed that we have many facilities that are outdoors that allow us, as citizens, to get out and exercise and continue to promote a healthy lifestyle, yet while social distancing and avoiding large gatherings.

My compliments go to the Keep Ridgeland Beautiful committee who again have outdone themselves with the beautiful zinnia field at the new city center and also the hard work they have done at the Wild Flower Field on Jackson Street. I would also like to compliment and thank Tim Taylor of the Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department for working very hard with this committee to make the Wild Flower Field a reality.

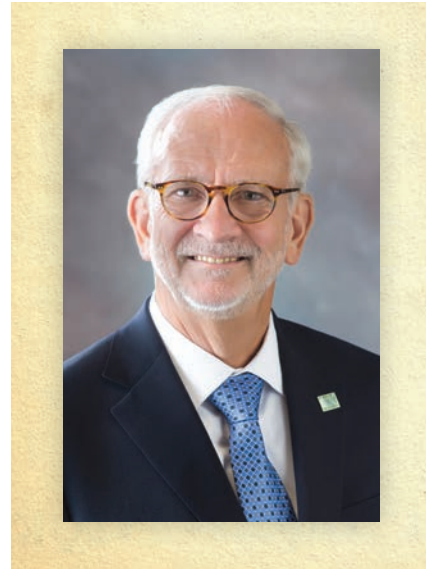
Progress continues to be made on the Lake Harbour Extension, and we believe that the contractor will be prepared to turn the project over to us in late August or early September. Once this construction project is completed, we will have a wonderful east-west connection from Highland Colony Parkway all the way into Rankin County. This, along with Colony Park Boulevard, will allow us to be able to make Jackson Street the downtown area that we have so desired.

It is also very exciting to see the new city hall continue to make construction progress. It is our belief we will be able to occupy the new facility late this year or early 2021. Once this building is finished, it will allow us to provide more efficient services to our citizens and the guests that come to the City of Ridgeland.

As always, I would like to encourage each of you to support our local businesses. As you know, the City of Ridgeland depends on the business community to help provide the services that are deserved and expected by our citizens. During these trying times, it is more important than ever that we support our local businesses and grow our local economy.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Ridgeland High School for the appointment of Sam Williams as the new Athletic Director and Football Coach. Sam brings a long history of successful coaching, and I believe that he will really move Ridgeland High School athletics forward. Congratulations, Sam, and please know that we at the city stand to assist you in any way we can.

Gene F. McGee



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland

RIDGELAND Life

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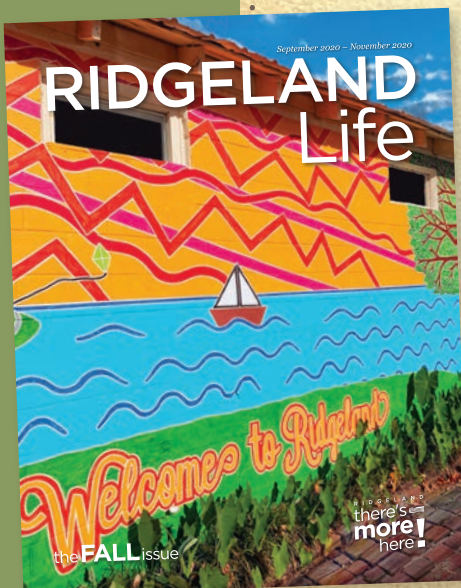
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ON THE COVER: Mural painted by artist and designer, William Milam.

EDITOR

Mary Beth McCullough,
City of Ridgeland

SPONSORSHIP

Lauren Chamblee,
City of Ridgeland

GRAPHIC DESIGN & PRINTING

Hederman Brothers

Ridgeland Life is a quarterly
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For information about Ridgeland Life,
contact Mary Beth McCullough at
MaryBeth@RidgelandMS.org.

For sponsorship opportunities,
contact Lauren Chamblee at
Lauren.Chamblee@RidgelandMS.org.

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful MAKES CITY BLOOM

Wildflower blooms, walking paths, and recycled metal sculptures delight the community at City gateway

By Jan Richardson



Keep Ridgeland Beautiful used the gift of time proffered by the pandemic to enhance their Wildflower Trails of Mississippi project at the West Jackson Street gateway to Ridgeland. Enjoy the flash of prolific color while driving by, or walk the trails cut through the field while observing pollinators fluttering through the still air in the three-acre meadow.

Keep Mississippi Beautiful began the Wildflower Trails of Mississippi program to enhance communities and natural areas across the state. Mississippi is home to many beautiful native wildflowers, but these days, they can be tough to find. The Wildflower Trails of Mississippi project is working to bring them back.

As an affiliate of Keep Mississippi Beautiful, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful joined the Wildflower Trails of Mississippi program four

years ago, planting wildflower seeds at the West Jackson Street site provided by the Wildflower Trails of Mississippi program. The first three years, trails were not cut, but people were welcome to visit and observe the natural area. With time, the wildflowers stopped reseeding themselves and the field needed enhancements. Keep Ridgeland Beautiful utilized their resources, donations, and the gift of time to make enhancements this spring.

“In February, Tim Taylor, a KRB representative from Recreation and Parks, drew a plan for the space, which we brought to life this spring. Tim’s connections helped source the recycled metal sculptures from artist Harry Day, the Ridgeland logo sign, as well as flower and bulb donations. Each statue represents

activities people enjoy in Ridgeland,” Jan Richardson, Chairperson of Keep Ridgeland Beautiful explained.

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful uses grants, donations, and a small budget held by the City of Ridgeland to do their work. For this project, wildflower seeds were donated by the Wildflower Trails of Mississippi and Keep Ridgeland Beautiful. In addition, many plants and bulbs were donated by citizens. An unused bench, old recycled birdhouses, and wooden fencing were moved there by volunteers and are staged in the back of the field.

Visiting judges from America in Bloom provided ideas and encouragement to enhance the wildflower field, noting that beautification is a fantastic economic driver in a community. Donated through an America in Bloom program, the field features a bed of All-American Selection flower seeds. The seeds were grown and planted by Ridgeland High School students and summer student workers.

Volunteers of all ages provided over 300 hours of labor on the project from March through July and continue working to maintain the field. Please take note of local sponsors supporting the wildflower field listed on signs throughout the field.

“The wildflower field has been a fun and interesting experience. I’ve learned a lot about plants, soil, water conditions, and the continuous hard work it takes to keep things growing,” KRB Committee Member Ginger Cocke said. “The most rewarding aspect has been the response of other people: some saw what we were doing and contributed; others are monitoring our work and sending words of encouragement; and many have visited and enjoyed the flowers.”

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful is looking for donations of daylilies, hydrangeas, and oak leaf hydrangeas for the wildflower field. Donors and volunteers may contact KRB Chairperson Jan Richardson at arichert@bellsouth.net for more information.

With assistance from Parks and Recreation and Public Works, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful plans to maintain this naturally beautiful area for our citizens and visitors to enjoy. Keep Ridgeland Beautiful hopes the wildflower field can be a place of education; a habitat for nature and pollinators; an example of a wonderful way to create art with recycled materials; a place for special occasion photos; or just a spot to journal. The field will be cut in the fall when flowers stop blooming. Walking trails will be maintained so visitors can enjoy the habitat year-round.

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful, a city committee, as well as an affiliate of Keep Mississippi Beautiful and Keep American Beautiful, is the lead organization on the Ridgeland Wildflower Trails of Mississippi project.



“The most rewarding aspect has been the response of other people: some saw what we were doing and contributed; others are monitoring our work and sending words of encouragement; and many have visited and enjoyed the flowers.”

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIDGELAND

Telling Ridgeland's Story



A unique headstone for a very unique man. His ashes are inside the stone!



This crepe myrtle is over 100 years old. It shades the grave of a child who died in 1911.

On a very hot afternoon in July, I set out to visit two of Ridgeland's cemeteries. I first went to Mt. Charity Baptist Church on Lake Harbour Drive. The church sits high on a hill and the cemetery wraps from the front of the property all the way around the north side of the church.

Not knowing anyone at the church, I set out on my own. Some headstones were impossible to read, due to the ravages of time. The graves were lovingly tended, many sporting fresh floral arrangements. There were many military veterans.

In my brief visit, I found two WWI veterans, thirteen from WWII, two from Korea and two from Viet Nam. There appeared to be two brothers who served in WWII. They probably followed a family member into military service, as I found another of the same family who served in WWI. While some markers had nicknames like Big Daddy, Sugar, and Dollar Bill, many simply read Father or Mother. One such was the marker of Mary Thompson. Etched in flowers, it read "Mother, age 96 years, Nov. 21, 1939." How I wished I could wake her and ask her to share her memories with me. She was born before the Civil War! Her grandchildren are members of the church and I hope to be able to meet with them and others to learn more about the people whose graves I visited that afternoon.

After a break for an iced Hazy-Baby at my favorite coffee shop, I visited Jessamine Cemetery. The names and stories of the people buried here are more familiar to me. My first home in Ridgeland was in Old Town, where I lived from 1988 until late 1996. On my morning walks I would pass the homes of families who have lived in Ridgeland for 60 to 90 years. As I walked through the

headstones at Jessamine, I greeted family, friends, and neighbors. There are former mayors and other civic leaders, a funny, talented man who built a house underground, my precious mother-in-law who rests between two of her sons, the sweet librarian after whom our library is named, and a radio personality with a headstone as unique as he was.

As in every cemetery, there are the graves of children. One such is the grave of Fred Henry Carr, who died in 1911 at the age of 4. Above his headstone stands a crepe myrtle tree that his grandmother had planted to shade him from the hot sun. It has shaded his grave for over 100 years.

In one section near the rear of the cemetery is an area that appears to be mostly empty. But it holds many unmarked graves. It is not clear how these people came to be buried here. There are also many military graves. Two from the Civil War (one from each side) as well as both World Wars, Korea, Viet Nam and the Gulf and Middle Eastern conflicts.

Jessamine was a family cemetery for the Yellowley and Perkins families. The earliest graves I found were for Anthony Perkins in 1852, Col. Jesse Perkins in 1872, and Mary Perkins in 1891. Jessamine Perkins Yellowley died in 1902 and James Brownlow Yellowley (a former mayor of Ridgeland) died in 1914. The cemetery was deeded to the City of Ridgeland in 1927 but had been open to those other than family for some time before that.

Some pointers to keep in mind when you take your tour of these and other cemeteries: Wear comfortable, sturdy shoes. Be careful and respectful of where you walk; take notes and photos;



Born before the Civil War, Mrs. Thompson lived 96 years.

and DON'T GO IN JULY!!! I went to the cemeteries looking for answers, but came away with more questions concerning the history of Ridgeland. If you have stories about families that make up our history, we want to hear from you. When public meetings can be held again, we hope you will attend and bring your photos and other documents with you. In the meantime, I hope you will take a day to visit these and other areas of interest in Ridgeland. Stop for lunch in a locally owned cafe or coffee shop. Get to know more of Ridgeland's Story.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROJECTS IN THE WORKS:

We are preparing exhibits and working with the artist creating artwork for our new City Hall. With many thanks to Ridgeland Tourism Commission, the updated Historical Society brochure is almost complete.

We continue to prepare for Historical Society tours for Ridgeland Tourism Commission and another tour of Jessamine Cemetery. We remain hopeful for the Ridgeland Christmas Tree Lighting Event in December.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ridgeland covered only **.7 square miles** when it was chartered in 1899.

One hundred years later, it covered 10.8 square miles.

At present, Ridgeland covers **21.4 square miles.**



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TUESDAY - SATURDAY

Tacos on Tuesday, Delicious Paninis
Wednesday - Saturday, Over 50 Beers,
Locally Brewed Coffee and Soft Drinks
Served All Day Monday - Saturday



RECYCLING RIGHT IN RIDGELAND!

Are you contaminating your recycle bin? Many Ridgeland citizens are guilty of a term called “wishcycling.” Defined by UrbanDictionary.com, wishcycling is “tossing questionable items in the recycle bin, hoping they can somehow be recycled.” Used pizza boxes are a common item that are often wishcycled. It’s important to remember that containers with food or grease on them are **NOT RECYCLABLE!** They contaminate your recycling cart, therefore contaminating the entire truckload.

As you may or may not know, most of our recycled materials are transported to China. A few years ago, China placed stricter regulations on contaminated recyclables. According to Waste Management, “Recycling contamination – or the percentage of trash mixed with recyclables – has increased and it’s jeopardizing the global recycling industry. Going forward, China will not purchase recyclables if there is just a fraction of trash mixed with the items.”

Consequently, if a facility in China rejects a shipment of contaminated recyclables, Waste Management carries the financial burden of related costs due to the rejection. Therefore, if it costs Waste Management to make arrangements for a returned shipment of contaminated recyclables, the ultimate burden will fall on the taxpayers.

The City of Ridgeland is one of few cities in Mississippi that offers curbside recycling. Recycling not only helps the environment by reducing waste sent to landfills, but it also conserves natural resources, saves energy, reduces the collection of raw materials, and even creates jobs in the community. Help us continue this service by recycling right in Ridgeland – not wishcycling!

HERE’S A FEW HELPFUL TIPS WHEN RECYCLING:



Keep food and liquids out of your recycling. Rinse all containers. If it can’t be rinsed, throw it away.

Always break down cardboard boxes.

Plastic bags, glass and styrofoam **CANNOT** be recycled.

Don’t place recyclables inside a plastic bag. Place each item directly into the bin.

YARD DEBRIS PICKUP IN RIDGELAND

Did you know?? **WASTE MANAGEMENT** collects **YARD DEBRIS** on your second collection day of the week. Waste Management **REQUIRES** that yard debris be bundled, bagged, and cut into lengths no longer than 5’x8” in diameter. The weight must be less than 60 pounds. Leaves must be bagged.

The **CITY** will collect **LARGE YARD DEBRIS** from your curb on your scheduled city collection day. You do not need to bundle, bag, or cut tree limbs a certain length.

IN ADDITION! **HIRED CONTRACTORS** for your yard work are **REQUIRED** to haul off the debris.

For more information or to verify your collection days, please contact Ridgeland Public Works at 601-853-2027



Waste Management **WILL NOT** pick this up. The City **WILL** pick this up on your scheduled city collection day.



Waste Management **WILL** pick this up on your second collection day of the week. Debris must be bundled, bagged, cut, and weigh less than 60 pounds



Most Common Contaminants

Keep these common contaminants OUT of your recycling bin.



NO Recyclables in Plastic Bags

Empty loose recyclables in bin but leave the plastic bag out.



NO Food & liquids

Compost instead! Otherwise, it belongs in the trash.



NO Electronics & Small Appliances

Donate if in good condition, or schedule a bulky item pickup, if available. Check earth911.com for a local drop off site.



NO Textiles, Bedding, Rugs & Carpet

Donate these items if they are in good condition. Large quantities may require special disposal.



NO Hoses, Holiday Lights, Hangers & Extension Cords

They wrap around equipment and can shut down an entire facility! They all go in the trash.



NO Plastic Bags, Film/Sheeting & Flexible Film Packaging

Take plastic bags back to a local grocer to keep bags clean and dry, and prevent them from shutting down recycling facilities. Visit plasticfilmrecycling.org to find a drop off location near you.



NO Paper Napkins, Plates, Cups & Tissues

Compost if possible, and remember to recycle the cardboard tube.



NO Polystyrene Foam

Foam and plastic to-go containers are not recyclable curbside. Find drop off programs for items like foam packing peanuts at earth911.com.



NO Tires, Auto Parts & Scrap Metal

(Not in recycling or trash) Can damage equipment & are safety hazards. Contact local scrap recyclers or retail tire stores for recycling options, or check earth911.com for a drop off center near you.



NO Concrete, Wood & Construction Debris

Can damage equipment & are safety hazards. You may be able to schedule a bulky item pickup - otherwise throw it in the trash or order a roll off bin by contacting Waste Management Customer Service.



NO Yard Waste & Wood

Compost or put in your yard waste cart, if available. Otherwise, it belongs in the trash.



NO Non-Recyclable Plastic

Not everything that is plastic is recyclable! Recycle only food & beverage bottles, jugs and tubs.

For more information on recycling, visit RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com

A CONVERSATION WITH...

Assistant Fire Chief Steve Wilson



Where are you from?

Grew up in North Jackson.

How did you come to be in Ridgeland?

I went to college at Ole Miss. I came home for summer break. My brother was living with my brother-in-law and sister-in-law. A job came open here at the fire department, so I thought I'd make some summer money.

Tell me about your family.

I have two sisters that both live in Madison. Both have children here. My mom and dad have both passed. My immediate family is here. I have aunts and uncles in Missouri. We're all from Missouri.

What brought you to Mississippi?

My dad brought us here. He actually got a job in New Orleans first, and then he got a job here selling insurance.

Where did you go to high school?

Manhattan Academy in Jackson.

How long have you been a firefighter?

40 years.

How old were you when you started?

I was about 19.

Did you finish college?

No. Whenever I came home in the summer, I left my stuff at the dorm. I left with the full intent to go back, but as far as I know, my stuff is still at Ole Miss.

Did you feel called for the job?

Yes. Some of my family was disappointed. But it was never a question. From the first day on the job, I was hooked.

What do you do in your spare time?

I have a couple part-time jobs. I've worked for Dillard's part time as a security guard for 20 years. I'm also a certified police officer. That's something that I also enjoy. I also work for Dive Rescue International out of Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Tell me more about that.

I teach classes, basically, all over the world. Mostly I go wherever they tell me to go. I'll teach approximately 8-12 classes a year.

How do you stay healthy?

It's this job. This department has a specific standard that they hold. That's part of the longevity for me. We have a mandatory fitness program here, and it keeps me in shape.

As a firefighter, tell me about your career and positions held over the last 40 years.

I've held pretty much every position you can hold. When I first started, there were three paid guys, one per shift.

The City has grown a lot since then!

Yes, it has. It was an all-volunteer fire department when I got hired. They hired one person per shift basically to be there for 24 hours to answer the phone, get the truck running before the volunteers got there. The intent for a short while was for the department to maintain its volunteer status. The paid guys were just an addition. As the City grew, that was no longer a viable option, so the volunteer program phased out.

What do you do for the fire department now? I'm assistant chief. In our department, I'm a shift commander. There are three shift commanders. We're on the combat side versus being on the administrative side, which is the chief and the inspector. From the beginning, though, I've always been in charge of a shift, whatever the title was. Originally, there was no title other than shift commander. Then they added a lieutenant, captain, and then the assistant chief. So I've held those titles because those were the titles of shift commanders. But the job has always been the same, no matter what the title was.

Are you still an active firefighter and EMT? Yes. That's what differentiates this division from the administrative staff. There are four stations. We make a determination whether they actually need us. If they do, then we go. If not, then we stay here. This is the hub of all four stations, and we operate out of here.

What is the scariest situation you've experienced as a firefighter? I don't have any scary moments I wish to share with my family. Those events are best left unsaid. As for challenges, keeping up with the generational changes in the workforce and modifying management styles to keep up with those changes.

Have you ever left the Ridgeland Fire Department for another department? Nope. Never even thought about it. For me and my career, the standard of this department was higher than any other department in the state, and specifically more than any other department around here. The fact that we were setting the bar higher and to be a part of something like that was always the driving force.

One thing I've never, ever looked at was the money aspect. Some people jump ship thinking they'll make an extra thousand dollars here, not worried about the initial conditions. They're just worried about the higher pay. Then they get there and come back here a month later begging for their jobs back.

Would you say you're proud to be a part of the Ridgeland Fire Department? I've always been proud of us and the City. I love my guys. I've got a good boss. I love coming to work every day. I cannot envision not coming to work.

Do you consider the department your family? The truth of the matter is, you spend the better part of the day with this group. If you're married and have a family, you see them when you get home from work and on the weekends. At this job, you're with this group for 24 hours. It's been my family for the majority of my life.

What does being a fire fighter mean to you? For me, it's just something I couldn't get out of my system. You either love it and you can't get rid of it, or you don't. And if you love it, it's not about the pay; it's not about anything other than you just love the job and you can't envision yourself doing something else. That's been me. I've had opportunities to do a lot of different things.

After 40 years, do you have any future retirement plans? It's one of those things where I don't have any plans personally. Other people may have plans for me to retire! But I'm going to do something because I'm still young enough that I want to work.



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CITY APPRECIATION LUNCH



Tauzin Wealth Management-Northwestern Mutual and CAET Honors City Employees with Appreciation Lunch!

Tauzin Wealth Management-Northwestern Mutual and CAET teamed up to show their appreciation to Ridgeland city employees during the COVID-19 outbreak. Todd Tauzin, Chef Derek Emerson, and their team rolled up their sleeves, put on their masks, and served boxed lunches in the sweltering July heat to approximately 200 employees.

“Tauzin Wealth Management along with Northwestern Mutual were looking for a group to honor that has been essential to our City during this crisis. The City of Ridgeland never shut down and did so much for our local businesses and citizens. It was a privilege to show our appreciation to the City of Ridgeland workers by partnering with Caet/Derek and Jennifer Emerson to provide box lunches to this amazing group.”

The City wishes to thank everyone involved for a delicious lunch! We equally appreciate you and grateful to have your business in Ridgeland!



Disc Golf By Mary Beth McCullouch, Editor

Imagine a pristine view of a lake, the scent of nature draped around you, 18 holes, and the fairway calling your name. You've been adjusting your grip, and you can't wait for your sweet spot on the green! I've foreshadowed the terms of the game of golf. But I'm actually referring to the game of disc golf!

If you didn't know, Ridgeland has its very own disc golf course. Located at Old Trace Park, the course is the result of Ridgeland being named the Healthiest Hometown in 2018, thus receiving a \$50,000 award from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation. When deciding how to spend the grant money, the Healthiest Hometown Committee was tasked with finding an activity that would best serve the most citizens of Ridgeland while keeping health and wellness a priority in the City. After much research, the committee found that one way to do that is disc golf. Disc golf is a popular and growing sport that the whole family can enjoy.

The Ridgeland Disc Golf Course was designed with Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) recommendations, which allows for multiple course configurations. The course features 18 holes, each with a single tee location, and the average distance for holes is approximately 330 feet, the longest being approximately 480 feet. A map is located at the start of the course, and the tee box and baskets have hole signage and number plates, respectively. Feel free to relax during your game on the benches found throughout the course.

The course is designed for all levels of skill – from the amateur to the pro. With cooler weather just around the corner, get out to Old Trace Park for an afternoon of fun with family or friends!

The course is designed for all levels of skill – from the amateur to the pro. With cooler weather just around the corner, get out to Old Trace Park for an afternoon of fun with family or friends!

RIDGELAND

Development Updates

COVID came, COVID saw, but Ridgeland conquered!

While the pandemic may have put a damper on summer activities, we are pleased to say our development progress hasn't slowed. These new projects are essential for our City's economic advancement and perseverance. We are thrilled to see these new ventures choose our great City, and we hope you are too!

Wendy's

- Renaissance Phase IV
- Full Building Permit is Filed
- Construction in Progress
- Tentative Completion Date is Early 2021

Walk-On's Bistreaux and Bar

- Renaissance Phase III
- Named ESPN's #1 Sports Bar in America
- Named No. 1 New Franchise Brand by Entrepreneur
- Co-owned by NFL Quarterback Drew Brees
- Construction in Progress
- Tentative Completion Date is Spring 2021

Comcast

- Renaissance Phase III
- Construction in Progress
- Tentative Completion Date is Late 2020

Old Cabot Lodge

- Renovating for Assisted Living Apartments
- Permitting in Process
- Tentative Completion Date is Spring 2021

StorageMax

- Construction in Progress
- Newpoint Drive
- Construction includes a segment of road that will ultimately be a Frontage Road

Central Mississippi Realtors Association

- Groundbreaking was July 28, 2020
- Located South of the Old Ridgeland High School on Sunnybrook Road

Holiday Inn Express

- Construction in Progress
- Located South of Holmes Community College Fitness Center (Old Fitness Lady)

The Commons

- Street Infrastructure Rehabilitation

Old Town Market

- Mixed-Use Building Adjacent to Capitol Body Shop
- Includes a Convenience Store, a Gas Station, a Second-Floor Office, Drive-Thru Restaurant Space, and Retail Space

Yard of the Month

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful announces the Residential and Business Yards of the Month for May, June, and July!
Thank you for keeping Ridgeland Beautiful!

MAY



The award for the May Business Yard of the Month was given to GoShine Express Car Wash at 101 Harbour Pointe Drive.



The award for the May Residential Yard of the Month was given to Mr. and Mrs. John Miksad in Ward 2

JUNE



The award for the June Business Yard of the Month was given to Porter and Malouf at 825 Ridgewood Rd.



The award for the June Residential Yard of the Month was given to Gustav and Linda Purviance Their neighbor Linda Wright nominated the Purviances because they are such wonderful neighbors. They care for their own yard, Ms. Wright's yard, and one more yard on the street as well!

JULY



The award for the July Business Yard of the Month was given to Hallmark Cleaners at 355 Hwy. 51 N.



The award for the July Residential Yard of the Month was given to Dianne and Ray Arnold in Ward 4.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN START YOUR ENGINES

THE 2020 RENAISSANCE EURO FEST IS A GO



Saturday, October 10, 2020
10:00am - 5:00pm
Renaissance at Colony Park



Entries will be considered beginning August 1.

Once again for the 12th year in a row, the great automobiles and motorcycles of Europe will be coming to Renaissance at Colony Park in Ridgeland, MS for the 12th annual Renaissance Euro Fest Classic European Auto and Motorcycle Show. Entries in the show must be twenty-five years or older (built in 1995 or before) except for a selection of newer special interest autos of rare and limited production or provenance accepted at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

For European auto enthusiasts, this is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beauty of British, Italian, German, and many other European vehicles. If brands such as Rolls-Royce, Volkswagen, Ferrari, Porsche, Land Rover, BMW, Alfa Romeo, Daimler, Jaguar, Norton, Ducati, Royal Enfield, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, (to name just a few) excite your senses, then you need to get all in!

It's a perfect time of year to be outside, strolling through the Renaissance, and viewing gorgeous autos and motorcycles. This year the event will be held on Saturday, October 10th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show is open to all European Marques with no registration fees and is free to the public as

well. Over 15,000 spectators are expected to view more than 150 entries, manufactured in five different countries, coming from ten different states.

If you are interested in entering an auto or motorcycle in the show, you may find an entry form **THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE FOR PARTICIPANTS**. Awards will be presented to Best In Class of 15 Different Classes, 15 Sponsor's Choice, Ridgeland Tourism "Inside + Out" award and Best of the Renaissance, both Vintage (1995 and older) and Nouveau (1996 and later). Additionally, the Mayor's Travel Award and the Governor's Travel Award will be presented to out of State entries.

This year's show will begin Friday, October 9 with optional drives departing Memphis and New Orleans, coming together at the show site for the combine and escorted, Renaissance Rally Drive, starting at 3:00 on Friday, October 9th from the Hyatt Hotel at the Renaissance. The police-escorted drive will travel on an enjoyable route to an equally enjoyable location and then back to the Renaissance for the "Pick Up Your Packet" Reception that evening.

Mike Marsh

Phone: 601-946-1950

E-mail: Mike_Marsh@bellsouth.net

Important Info

***Due to COVID-19 guidelines, classes/programs may or may not be cancelled. Masks may also be required. Please contact Lynda at 601-856-6876 or lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org for updates.**

▶ SUPERSTAR SENIORS

THE MAYOR'S FUN WALK

Step out with us for the Mayor's Fun Walk! This event is held outside at the Ridgeland Recreational Center located at Old Trace Park. Join Mayor Gene McGee as he leads us on an easy, light walk using the beautiful multi-purpose trail. You may walk as little or as much as you want or not at all.



We will return to the Ridgeland Recreational Center for refreshments, visiting of sponsor booths, door prizes, and entertainment. Our theme and entertainment this year is "So you want to be a Walk Star." We will feature some of our senior adults who participate in our various programs. **You must pre-register to reserve your event t-shirt. Visit www.ridgelandms.org to print a form or pick one up at Ridgeland City Hall or the Ridgeland Recreational Center.**

Program Price: No Charge
 Event Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2020
 Time: Late registration: 9:00 a.m.
 Event Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 Location: Ridgeland Recreational Center (Old Trace Park)

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

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

RIDGELAND CITY GARDEN CLUB

The objective of our club is to provide education and promote the love of gardening, landscape and floral design, and to encourage civic beautification and environmental responsibility. If you are interested in anything related to gardening, horticulture, or flower arranging, then we are the club for you! For more information on our meetings or becoming a member, please send an email to Joy Ellis at flowerlady243@gmail.com.

Program Price: \$20 (Yearly dues)
 Event Dates: September 1
 October 6
 November (TBA)
 Time: 11:30 a.m.
 Day of Week: Tuesday

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

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

AGAPE MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

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



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

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

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

DAYTIME BEGINNERS' LINE DANCING CLASS (NEW CLASS!)

In this class we dance to a wide mix of music styles, including country, pop and big band. No advanced dances are done in this beginners' class. Come meet some great people and breathe new life into your soul! You will have fun learning a variety of line dances. It will keep your brain sharp by learning and memorizing the steps!

Program Price: \$10/class
 Start Date: On-going
 Time: 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
 Day of Week: Wednesday

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY*



This Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Enjoy an in-depth, non-denominational study of God's Word and interesting discussion. Bob Shirley is the teacher. Call Lynda at (601)-856-6876 for more information.

***Due to COVID-19 State Guidelines, this class will meet only if the restrictions have been lifted.**

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

MARTIAL ARTS FOR SENIOR ADULTS

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

Price: \$10/4 weeks
 Start Date: On-going
 Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
 Day of Week: Tuesday and Thursday



PAINTING PALS

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



Program Price: No cost
 Start Date: On-going
 Time: 1:30–3:30 p.m.
 Day of Week: Tuesday

RISE & SHINE STRETCH, STRENGTH, & BALANCE (NEW CLASS!)

Rise and Shine Stretch, Strength, and Balance is a beautiful way to start your morning. This class will focus on weight bearing exercises with stretches and balance to give you a muscle building/stretching combination. Personal Trainer Sally Holly is the instructor. Using the chair for stability, she will guide you through a workout designed to improve strength, flexibility, and posture.

Program Price: \$15
 Start Date: On-going
 Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
 Days of Week: Tuesday and Thursday

SENIOR FIT CLUB 1

On Monday and Wednesday afternoons at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, we offer an exercise class for senior adults called SENIOR FIT CLUB. 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 a recent illness or surgery. This class is also good for those with Parkinson's, 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 teaches this class. For more information, contact Lynda at (601)-856-6876 or lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org.

Program Price: \$10/month
 Start Date: On-going
 Times: 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
 Days of Week: Monday and Wednesday

TAP DANCING

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks offers a tap dancing class for senior adults. Tap dancing is a fun way to make music, energize your body, and stimulate your brain! We will learn basic steps and easy routines. Anyone who enjoys camaraderie and upbeat music is welcome to come.

Program Price: \$5/class
Start Date: On-going
Times: Beginning Tap - 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Intermediate Tap - 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Cost: \$5/class
Day of Week: Monday

RESTORATION & RELAXATION YOGA

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

Event Dates: On-going
Program Price: \$8/class or \$35 for 6 (30 minute classes)
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Days of Week: Monday and Friday

YOGA FOR FLEXIBILITY, FITNESS, AND FUN

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

Event Dates: Ongoing
Program Price: \$8/class or \$35 for 6 (30 minute classes)
Time: 11:30 a.m.–12 noon
Days of Week: Monday and Friday

ZOOM EXERCISE & FITNESS CLASS BY LISA NEWMAN (NEW CLASS!)

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks' is offering a fun, safe, well-balanced, and effective exercise class to those who are quarantined during COVID-19. Lisa Newman, Personal Trainer and Fitness Expert, will guide you through a safe, fun, total-body workout. To join, you will need to download ZOOM on your iPad, iPhone, or computer. If you wish to join, email Lynda at lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org. Mail your monthly check to Ridgeland Recreation and Parks, P. O. Box 217, Ridgeland, MS 39158.

Event Dates: On-going
Program Price: \$15/month
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Days of Week: Monday and Friday

SPECIAL EVENTS

NATCHEZ TRACE CENTURY RIDE

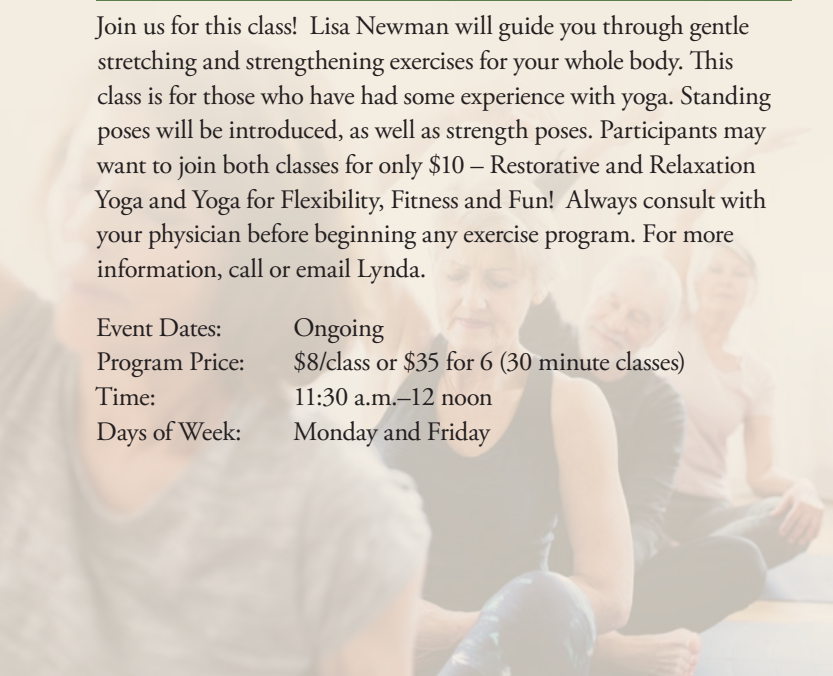
Get your Ride On!!!!

The Ridgeland Century Ride will take place on Saturday, October 10, 2020. Come out and enjoy this great bike ride! This recreational bike ride offers a scenic ride for participants of all levels. Distances offered for the Century Ride are 25 mile, 50 mile, 62 mile, and 100 mile.



In addition, we're offering a new 8-mile fun ride for those who may not want to ride the longer distances. The Century Ride will use the same routes as last year. Participants may register at www.ridgelandsportsandevents.com. For more information, please visit our website at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MS/Ridgeland/NatchezTraceCenturyRide>.

Registration: Now – September 14, 2020
Registration Fee: \$45
Event Date: October 10, 2020
Start Time: 7:00 a.m.
Day of Week: Saturday
Location: Ridgeland Recreational Center





TRUNK OR TREAT

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will hold Trunk or Treat at Freedom Ridge Park on October 29, 2020. Volunteers will fill their trunks with candy and prizes. The kids will trick or treat from car to car. Other activities will include games and face painting. Trunk or Treat is for ages 10 and under only.

Program Price: \$5.00 per child (Ages 10 and under only)
 Event Date: October 29, 2020
 Start Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 Day of Week: Thursday
 Location: Freedom Ridge Park

Volunteers Needed for Trunk or Treat: Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department need volunteers to provide vehicles, candy, and manpower to make our Trunk or Treat a success. If you are interested, please contact our office at 601-853-2011.

RIDGELAND CHRISTMAS PARADE

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Committee would like to invite all residents, businesses, and civic organizations to participate in the Ridgeland Christmas Parade. There is no cost to enter the parade, and it is a great way to show your holiday spirit as we kick off the Christmas season. The theme for this year's parade is "Christmas Lights, Winter Nights." The parade begins at Holmes Community College. It will travel through the historic Olde Towne Subdivision and end at the Christmas Tree Lighting on Jackson Street.



Registration: October 1, 2020 - December 3, 2020
 Start Time: 6:30 p.m.
 Event Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020
 Location: Olde Towne Ridgeland

RIDGELAND CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Come join us for our 3rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Plaza at Old Town Crossing. Light up your holidays with a stroll through the Railroad District, drink a cup of hot chocolate, enjoy local cuisine, and listen to songs of Christmas. In addition to the Christmas Tree Lighting, there will be children's crafts, photos with Santa, and shopping.

Start Time: Following the Christmas Parade
 Event Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020
 Location: Plaza at Old Town Crossing

CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

The Ridgeland Beautification Committee will be awarding prizes for the best Christmas decorations to Ridgeland homes and businesses for the Christmas season. We will judge businesses and award the top two winners. For homes, we will judge the following categories: Overall, Door and Porch, Judges' Choice, and Children's Choice.

To ensure the Ridgeland Beautification Committee looks at your home or business, call 601-853-2011. The judging date will be Monday, December 7, 2020.



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How to Support Students' Mental Health during a Pandemic

Being a middle-schooler can be a stressful time in a normal year. But during a global pandemic, students are overwhelmed with the uncertainties of returning to school and all the new procedures designed to keep them safe. In light of the challenges this year, OTMS and the Madison County School District have put a priority on students' mental health.

"Everyone reacts differently to stress, and teenagers are already experiencing so many developmental shifts at their age," OTMS counselor Michelle Borho explained. "Students' day-to-day routines, environments, and even many of their usual go-to coping mechanisms, such as athletic practices or music rehearsals, have been radically and unexpectedly altered."

For some students, this anxiety, fear, or hopelessness can be exacerbated over things such as a family member contracting COVID-19, nonstop pandemic news, and other factors. "Isolation from friends and teachers, missing milestones such as awards days or school dances, adjusting to online learning – it's a lot for anyone, but especially so for adolescents trying to wade through complex and complicated feelings when they're in the middle of many emotional and physical developmental changes already," Borho said.

While not all students develop depression or more severe forms of anxiety, they are all experiencing what's considered to be chronic stress. According to Borho, it's important to validate students' anxiety and then teach them the purpose of anxiety. Anxiety is one of the body's natural functions, and learning to navigate emotions instead of suppressing them or seeking unhealthy ways to cope is an integral key to socioemotional growth and development.

Borho offers this advice to parents and teachers alike: "If you see your student displaying unhealthy coping mechanisms, such as withdrawing, emotionally cutting others off, turning to nonstop cellphone scrolling, etc., it's important to not only have one of many ongoing conversations with them regarding their emotions and experiences but to also teach and appropriately model healthy coping mechanisms, as well as seek supplementary social/emotional support."



OTMS counselors Brittany Ellis (left) and Michelle Borho hold encouraging signs during "It Starts with Hello Week."



OTMS Principal Crystal Chase welcomes students to the inaugural New Beginnings ACT prep program held in the summer.

NEW BEGINNINGS: *Giving Middle-Schoolers a Chance to Soar*

When Crystal Chase became OTMS principal in 2016, one of her goals was to help raise ACT scores in the Titan Zone, and she knew this achievement had to start at OTMS. Since taking the helm, she has emphasized to students, teachers, and parents the importance of the ACT, as well as the benefits and possibilities that can come from doing well on the assessment.

For the past two years under her leadership, the school has implemented a pilot ACT prep session for seventh and eighth grade Duke Tip scholars leading up to the spring ACT. Seeing how well these students performed on the test inspired her to reach out to district personnel to come up with other avenues that can help students develop a strong ACT foundation in middle school so they will already be ahead of the game by the time they reach high school. And, thus, the New Beginnings program was born.

“One of our goals as administrators in the Ridgeland Zone is to put our students in the best position to excel in all that they do,”

“One of our goals as administrators in the Ridgeland Zone is to put our students in the best position to excel in all that they do.”

COPING TIPS

Throughout the pandemic, OTMS counselors and administrators are available to help, and they are focused on providing as much structure as possible in order to focus on students' mental health. Here are just a few ways they are supporting these efforts:

- *Provide social and emotional learning opportunities on digital platforms (Be sure to check out Madison County Schools' special Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) newsletter for more ways to help children understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.)*
- *Utilize videos to promote school connectivity*
- *Communicate with students weekly through calls/check-ins and email*
- *Create "Titan" videos posted on social media to improve the morale of staff and students*
- *Reinforce connection to trusted adults*
- *Support teachers in their endeavors to deliver effective instruction and promote social-emotional learning*

Chase explained. "The name 'New Beginnings' is our hope that our efforts in middle school will indeed create not only a new beginning for our zone as it relates to higher ACT scores but also opportunity for the brightest future possible for our students."

For the inaugural program, OTMS administrators chose the top 18 students in each grade. Because of CDC guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic, the school had to limit the number of participants in each class to no more than nine students. Since students had been out of school since spring break, the return to the classroom was full of excitement for both students and teachers.

The program provided a chance for several rising sixth-graders, like 11-year-old Breanna Washington, to become familiar with their new school. And for many of them, it was their first time to be on campus because the yearly spring tour for Highland fifth graders was canceled due to COVID-19.

"I feel way more comfortable starting school now since I know where everything is," Washington said. "I know some of the staff, and I know the janitor. I am familiar with the cafeteria and where the bathrooms and water fountains are."

Despite her young age, Washington has dreamed of taking the ACT for years, and her goal is to one day see her picture on a 30+ Club banner, hanging in the hall at Ridgeland High School. And she's off to a great start, thanks to New Beginnings.

"We've had so much support and positive feedback from the sessions that we have already begun working on plans to keep this going throughout the school year and to open this opportunity to other students," Chase said. "Regardless of what the 2020-2021 school year may bring, we're excited about the new traditions and new beginnings that we're putting in place for our students."

"We've had so much support and positive feedback from the sessions that we have already begun working on plans to keep this going throughout the school year and to open this opportunity to other students."

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Principal Gardner and Family work, live and play in Ridgeland

Grass doesn't grow under the Gardner family's feet

By Jan Richardson

Ridgeland School Zone welcomed the Gardner family to their community last summer when Dr. Jimmy Gardner joined the Ridgeland High faculty as an assistant principal, and his wife Deanna joined the Titan math department. Choosing a home in Ridgeland, the Gardners' two children, Emma and Allison entered Highland Elementary as fifth- and third-graders, led by the wonderful principal, Serenity Luckett.

The Gardners are proud to call Ridgeland their home. "For years I attended summer conferences with administrators from Madison County Schools, and I appreciated the camaraderie and support that they showed one another, as well as how the district encouraged administrators to further their education and obtain advanced degrees," Gardner said. "When researching the Madison County School District, RHS seemed like a great fit for me, and it has proved to be a great fit for my entire family. This year, I will be the senior class principal for the class of 2021, and Deanna will be teaching Algebra 3 and Algebra 1."

"Our daughters were together in 2019-20 at Highland Elementary. They participated in choir and did very well in their classes," Gardner said. "At the end of the day, they rode the bus to RHS where Deanna and I work. It was great for all of us to be together at the end of the day. Our oldest is moving up to Old Town Middle School this year, and we are excited about the opportunities that will come for her in the next few years with sports, band, and more!"

Deanna was raised in Vancleave, Miss. and graduated from Vancleave High School. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from William Carey University. Jimmy grew up in Brookhaven, Miss. and Niles, Ohio, graduating from Niles McKinley High School. He spent his first three college semesters at the United States Military Academy before transferring to Copiah-Lincoln Community College on a basketball scholarship. He obtained his bachelor's degree at Millsaps College, a master's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, and earned his Specialist and Doctor of Education degrees from William Carey University in 2018.



The Gardner family embraces life in the Titan zone

“This year will be Deanna’s 26th year teaching and my 18th year in education (eight years teaching and 10 years in administration). I served as assistant principal at South Jones High School and Oak Grove High School prior to coming to RHS,” said Gardner.

Principal Gardner is the type of principal liked and admired by students, teachers, and parents: a good listener and problem-solver, academically-focused, and well-connected to his community. He returns the compliments. “Our students have impressed me with the way that they treat one another,” Gardner states. “Students at RHS go out of their way to make others feel welcome and included. I was able to witness this many times last year, and it made me very proud to be a part of a school community with the desire and willingness to show compassion and kindness to others.”

The Ridgeland High experience is known for the plethora of opportunities offered students. “The students at RHS have such a variety of activities and interests. I don’t think I’ve seen a student body so involved in different aspects of student life as our students are. I am continually impressed with the large number of students who play multiple sports, while also being involved with band, choir, theater, ROTC, culinary arts, robotics, student government and other clubs.”

In addition to their careers, the Gardners enjoy a wonderful array of hobbies. “I have always been a collector of different sorts. I have a collection of about 5,000 comic books. I also collect vintage toys from my childhood in the 70s and 80s, such as original Star Wars trilogy items, Evel Knievel, King Kong, and Masters of the Universe. I also love movies of all genres, and I enjoy discussing movies with other people. I typically watch 175 movies a year!”

Deanna Gardner also immediately became a popular teacher: students were drawn to her teaching expertise. She is very artistic. Her hobbies involve all sorts of painting, lettering, and crafting and she is currently working on a Bible journaling project.

The family likes playing games together, spending time working on jigsaw puzzles, and the girls ride bikes and scooters. “Our family enjoys attending Mississippi State football games,” said Gardner, “and we also attended several New Orleans Pelicans games this year, something new for us to do together.

The Gardners enjoy attending school events as well. “Our family has always enjoyed attending school events together. I love attending as many away sporting events as possible, to have that opportunity to be a fan of our students and show them my appreciation for their talents and efforts. Last year, the Titan Homecoming Community Pep Rally was definitely a highlight for me. I loved seeing the students from multiple schools participate and having parents, alumni, and community members celebrating on campus together.”

Principal Gardner is the type of principal liked and admired by students, teachers, and parents: a good listener and problem-solver, academically-focused, and well-connected to his community.



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Sam Williams tapped to lead Titan Sports

It's a season like no other

By Jan Richardson

New Titan Athletic Director Sam Williams was introduced to the Ridgeland community in April, and he has spent his first months developing a playbook for this unusual time.

In July, MHSAA postponed the football season by several weeks, with plans for games to kick off in early September. Other fall sports, like cross-country and volleyball are slated to continue, with safety measures in place.

Williams came up with a plan to build connections with the Titan football team despite the trying circumstances caused by COVID-19. "The pandemic reduced in-person opportunities," Williams said. "Fortunately, most of the coaches from last year stayed in place. Their strong relationships with the team were something I built on. We used Microsoft Teams to hold meetings covering program philosophy/core values, offensive/defensive install, and virtual workouts. Overall, we conducted 20+ meetings by the time I actually met the kids!" Some familiar names to watch for on the Titan gridiron this season are fourth-year QB Zy McDonald, WR/OLB Richard Mays, WR/CB Chandler Williams, and OL/DL Zion Nason.

"Conditioning has been different than in the past, but I've managed to stay in shape by utilizing tire pulls, free weights, running hills, and running sprints," said Zy McDonald, who will start at quarterback, a position he has held since his ninth-grade year. "My teammates and I have stayed connected through Coach Williams' team meetings and worked out in small groups. We talk throughout the day to make sure everyone is being held accountable and to check on one another."

A 2013 MSU graduate and a 2009 Northwest Rankin High graduate, Coach Williams comes to "The Land" off a three-year stint at Pelahatchie, where he was head football coach and athletic director. "At Pelahatchie, I took over a program that was coming off a two-win season and built it back up. In my three years there, we won 27 games and back-to-back district championships." Prior to that, Williams spent four successful years at Northwest Rankin as an assistant football and assistant soccer coach and the head boys and girls track coach.

"An athletic department is a vital part of the overall academic experience. I strive to not only develop the athletes that we have actively participating, but to also help these athletes impact the entire student body in a positive way," Williams explained. "Not every athlete goes on to play college athletics, but high school athletics can shape young men and



Ridgeland High School Athletic Director Sam Williams, wife Rachel, and three children join the Ridgeland community.

"My teammates and I have stayed connected through Coach Williams' team meetings and worked out in small groups. We talk throughout the day to make sure everyone is being held accountable and to check on one another."

women through hard work, dedication, and a standard of excellence in ways that will stay with them long after the final whistle blows.”

Some will get the opportunity to play in college, and Williams will be there to support these athletes. Zy McDonald has committed to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he will major in kinesiology. “I am blessed to be able to continue playing at the collegiate level as a quarterback,” McDonald said. “This being my final season at Ridgeland, we are looking forward to achieving every goal we set for this year.”

Williams and his wife Rachel, also an MSU graduate, have three young children: Luke, one; Catherine, three; and Caroline, four. Involvement with student athletes and community is a family priority. “We will all be at football games, of course, as well as many other athletic events and school functions. We enjoy all aspects of school life.”

And what could be better than having Tiny Titan fans? “My girls love watching “daddy’s boys” on Friday nights, and they develop close bonds with certain kids. The girls make sure we go watch these athletes in whatever sport they are playing! Both of the girls aren’t much for losing either; they figured out that we try to avoid that at all costs!”

“Community is extremely important in bringing the schools and the City of Ridgeland together as a family. We want businesses in Ridgeland to feel a sense of ownership in Ridgeland High School and be a part of creating a great experience for our kids. I will be visible with my family in our local businesses and do my part in supporting them, especially during these difficult times.”

Zy McDonald, a brilliant athlete, represents the grace and heart of Ridgeland Titans, who welcome the Williams family to the community. “We want to say thank you to the community, our classmates, teachers, administrators, and staff of Ridgeland for the support that they provide to us. Most importantly, thank you to our parents, family, and coaches for all of their sacrifices to allow us to fulfill our dreams every Friday night under the lights.”

Williams’ and the team’s excitement and pride in the Titan zone and the local community will make you ask, “How can I get season tickets or become a sponsor?” Reach out to Coach Sam Williams at Ridgeland High School to learn more about supporting the home team.

“Community is extremely important in bringing the schools and the City of Ridgeland together as a family. We want businesses in Ridgeland to feel a sense of ownership in Ridgeland High School and be a part of creating a great experience for our kids. I will be visible with my family in our local businesses and do my part in supporting them, especially during these difficult times.”



Titan senior quarterback Zy McDonald
(Photo credit: Chris Todd)



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A multi-campus institution, Holmes Community College offers the Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Applied Science degree, technical and career certificates and workforce training. The college now offers more than 50 academic majors, approximately 30 professional programs and a variety of student support services. Holmes is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Holmes Ridgeland celebrates PN Class of 2020 with ceremony

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Practical Nursing (PN) Class of 2020 on June 24 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center Auditorium. Fifteen students were honored during the ceremony.

The Class of 2020 included: Morgan Allen of Columbia; Raven Carter of Vaughan; Erica Dotson of Clinton; Katherine Filippou of Madison; Danielle Floyd of Crystal Springs; Carmen Harper of Brandon; Karley Trim of Vicksburg; Melissa Keese of Pearl; Linda Knight-Naylor of Jackson; Brittany Little of Brandon; Diamond McCallum of Pearl; Jerissa O'Banner of Itta Bena; Maxen Othello of Miami, Florida; Christina Rushing of Ridgeland and Asia Sandifer of Jackson.

Each graduate entered the auditorium with their family members to receive their diploma cover, pin and candle. PN

Instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton read each graduate's name as Vice President of Career-Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington presented certificates and PN Instructor Heather Roberts presented the pins. The ceremony was filmed and will be added to a video that includes an invocation by Knight-Naylor, class treasurer; remarks by Little, class president; an address by Dr. Whittington, and a benediction by Filippou, class secretary.

In addition to the recognition of the class officers, Dotson was recognized as class valedictorian for having the highest GPA and Sandifer as salutatorian for having the second highest.

For more information about the Practical Nursing program on the Ridgeland Campus, contact Dr. Sutton at (601) 605.3321 or lsutton@holmescc.edu or Roberts at (601) 605.3334 or hroberts@holmescc.edu.



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured is the Holmes Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Class of 2020 with (front, left) Instructor **Heather Roberts** and (front, right) Instructor **Dr. Lakesia Sutton**. They are (second row, left to right) **Asia Sandifer, Linda Knight-Naylor, Brittany Little, Katherine Filippou**, (third row, left to right) **Maxen Othello, Erica Dotson, Karley Trim, Danielle Floyd, Carmen Harper**, (fourth row, left to right) **Morgan Allen, Jerissa O'Banner, Raven Carter, Diamond McCallum**, (back row, left to right) **Christina Rushing and Melissa Keese**.

Foundation for Surgical Technology Awards Two Holmes Students Scholarships

The Foundation for Surgical Technology (FFST) awarded Holmes Community College students Erin Bell of Ethel and Rebecca “Lauren” McDonald of Canton each \$1,000 scholarships. In addition to the scholarships, both students will be recognized in the August issue of *The Surgical Technologist*, the Foundation website and in an upcoming issue of *ASTSA News* and the *Instructors Newsletter*. Bell is a student on the Holmes Grenada Campus and McDonald is a student on the Ridgeland Campus.

Erin Bell

“Erin is an exemplary student, always willing to help others,” said Surgical Technology Program Director Jessica Elliot. “She is eager to learn something new every day.”

The daughter of Jennie Watkins and Josh Watkins, Bell was named Surgical Technology Student of the Year on the Grenada Campus. She enjoys fishing, playing with her dogs and spending time with her husband and friends. Bell is focused both on finding a job in the field and finishing building a house with her husband.

“I always knew I wanted to go into the medical field, but I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do,” Bell said. After a long talk with my sister-in-law, I decided to try the surgical technologist program. I really enjoy the environment and the task they accomplish.”

Lauren McDonald

McDonald, who earned a bachelor’s degree in business management from Mississippi State University in just three years prior to attending Holmes, will be working as a full-time surgical technologist at

University of Mississippi Medical Center. She is aspiring to work on the cardiothoracic and heart transplant teams at UMMC. McDonald said that one day she would love to ascend to become a first assistant, which is the next advancing position upward, demanding a more hands-on approach when scrubbing in the procedures.

“I am so proud of Lauren and all of her accomplishments in the surgical technology program,” Ridgeland Campus Surgical Technology Instructor Shea Coleman said. “She is the epitome of a hard worker and a studious student!”

Outside of work, McDonald enjoys boating on the Reservoir and doing anything outdoors with friends, traveling all over the South, listening to music, going to the gym/taking fitness classes and spending time with her huge family. She was named Holmes Surgical Tech Student of the Year for Ridgeland and was voted Class President.

“I want to be a surgical technologist because working in surgery is the most challenging, exciting experience,” McDonald said. “It is so satisfying knowing that I can be a vital part of life-saving procedures, and working on a team that is dedicated to bettering the health of our patients is the most rewarding occupation I could ask for. The world of surgery is constantly evolving more than ever before with more revolutionary techniques and devices and being a surgical technologist allows me to support that mission of surgeons and their teams everywhere.”

For more information about the Surgical Tech program, contact Elliot at jelliott@holmescc.edu or (662) 227-2310.



Pictured are **Erin Bell** of Ethel and **Rebecca Lauren McDonald** of Canton, both of whom received scholarships from the Foundation for Surgical Technology. Bell graduated from the Grenada Campus and Donald from the Ridgeland Campus.



RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

397 Highway 51 • Ridgeland, MS 39157

601-856-4536 • www.mclsms.org

HOURS: Mon. – Thurs. 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Fri – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed on Saturday & Sunday

Hello, everyone! I know that 2020 has been stranger than expected, but the library staff had a lot of fun coming up with fun ideas for your kiddos, even though they could not come into the library. This summer, we got to do take-home kits that were so much fun! Every week had a different theme, and there were tons of projects that were fun for all ages. These kits were available through our curbside services, and they flew out the door! It made me so happy to know that you missed us as much as we missed you. We had activities like “Make Your Own Boomerang,” “Ice Fishing,” and outdoor scavenger hunts. I loved getting to see how incredibly creative you and your children were with these activities. You did them in ways that I never even thought of! It definitely was not the same as having everyone in the library with us, but it was so nice to see how much fun you had with the activities.

In addition to our summer reading kits, we posted a ton of content on the Madison County Library System Facebook page. All of the Youth Specialists posted fun videos of us doing activities that you could do with us at home! My personal favorites were getting to make Bread in a Bag, doing Ms. Kayla’s Robotic Handcraft, learning to play Double Solitaire with Ms. Becky, and hearing all about new books with Ms. Erin. All of these videos were so fun to make and gave us some great ideas for programs to do when you can come back to the library! If you haven’t seen these videos yet, check out our Facebook page (Madison County Library System) to see all of the fun activities we came up with over the summer.

We’ve missed you so much, and we cannot wait to have you back here with us!

Until then, be kind, be helpful, and stay safe.

Ms. Jill Berry
Youth Services Librarian
Ridgeland Public Library



ROLL WITH US AT RIDGELAND!



Chapter One is the adventurous DND campaign at the Ridgeland Library. In this campaign, you'll experience high fantasy in one of its most timeless settings. Chapter One is open to

anyone interested in playing. Whether you prefer to play as a skilled elf fighter or a human wielding celestial magic, this campaign is for you. We go over character creation, role-playing elements, and other essential knowledge to play any type of character in the DND realms. So hop on board with Chapter One and join our game using the free online site Roll20 to play online with us every other Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Go online at <https://app.roll20.net/join/6596150/8vKncQ> and join in some fantasy fun!

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Sept. 3rd and 17th • Oct 1st and 15th • Nov. 5th and 19th • Dec. 3rd and 17th

WORD AFTER WORD WRITING GROUP

Word after Word, the online writing group at the Ridgeland Library, is an open group for all levels of writing and writing styles. It does not matter if you are a beginner writing poetry or a novel. The writing group welcomes new writers as well as those with experience. We work on short writing prompts, ideas about writing, criticism on personal writing skills, and how they are received.

We also provide an extensive amount of writing resources for members of the group. These include magazines as well as books and memoirs to give us insight into how well-known writers get inspiration and motivation to write. So take the first step and join Word after Word and get back into the habit of writing.

This group meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. For more information, call the Ridgeland Public Library at 601-856-4536.

Upcoming dates:

September 10th and 24th

October 8th and 22nd

November 12th

(2nd Thursday canceled due to Thanksgiving)

December 10th

(2nd Thursday canceled due to Christmas)

MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM PARTNERS WITH GROW WITH GOOGLE

The American Library Association (ALA) announced that Madison County Library System has been selected to participate in Libraries Lead with Digital Skills, an initiative of ALA and the Public Library Association (PLA). Sponsored by Grow with Google, the tech company's economic opportunity initiative, MCLS received \$2000.00 to reach our community through applied digital skills such as searching for jobs on Google and helping small businesses get adjusted to moving their business online. Since some individuals will need access to computer hardware and Wi-Fi while learning digital skills, we are working with local internet service providers and other tech companies about discounted Wi-Fi and ways to get laptops that can be loaned out to those committed.

For the latest updates regarding Grow with Google, please go to <http://www.mclsms.org/>.



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 2020-2021 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 September 4, 2020 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," Linda Bynum, Executive Director of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce said.

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 past year, four students were selected to serve as co-captains of the program, George Jones, IV, junior, Ridgeland High School; Claire Richert, senior, Ridgeland High School; Emerson Robinson, senior, St. Andrews Episcopal School and Justice Owah, senior, Ridgeland High School.

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

At the end of the school year, the Chamber awards a \$1,000 Junior Diplomat of the Year scholarship and a \$500 Spirit of Junior Diplomat award. Both scholarships are applied to the college or university of the recipients' 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



CITY OF RIDGELAND
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

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

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AND EVENTS

Thursday, October 8

*Ridgeland Chamber
Golf Classic*

Lake Caroline Golf Club
118 Caroline Club Circle
Registration/
Lunch - 11:30 a.m.
Shotgun start - 1:00 p.m.



Thursday, October 22

Ridgeland Monster Bash
Country Club of Jackson
345 St. Andrews Drive
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.



Saturday, November 28

Small Business Saturday



Thursday, December 8

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
7 a.m. - Breakfast Buffet
7:30 a.m. - Program

*Register for events by
calling the Chamber at
601-991-9996.*



Junior Diplomats at a First Tuesday meeting hosted by Elite Physical Therapy in Ridgeland. Photo credit: Sandy Baas.

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, the Chamber office located at 754 S. Pear Orchard Road, and online at www.ridgelandchamber.com. "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.

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RIDGELAND DEPARTMENTS



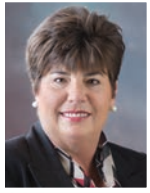
Community Development
ALAN HART
Director
alan.hart@ridgelandms.org



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
JOHN SIDNEY NORTH
Director
john.north@ridgelandms.org

CITY OF RIDGELAND

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

Aldermen

- D.I. Smith**, Alderman-at-Large 601-940-2710
- 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, & recycling billing*)
utilitybilling@ridgelandms.org 601-856-3938

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), Connie Suber (Secretary), David Dunbar
Randy Lynn, Robert Moore, Tay Morgan, Lynette Praytor
Leigh Ann Sullivan

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful

First Monday - 4 p.m.

Jan Richardson - Chairman
Rachel Bradley, Ginger Cocke, Rachel Collier, Polly Hammett, Claire
Jackson, Phyllis Parker, Lea Anne Stacy

Community Awareness Committee

Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.

Shelia Jackson - Chairman
Carla Palmer Allen, Shirley Gill, Vicki Heath,
Diane Jackson, Shelia Jackson, Lazaire Martin, Mike Smith,
Debbie Upchurch, Lynda Assink

Historical Committee

Every other month - Thursday, April 16th at 1 p.m.

Nancy Batson - Chairman
Robby Carr, Donna Dye, Polly Hammett, Mike Porter, Pat Triesdale

Contractors Board of

Adjustment and Appeals

Quarterly meeting - Thursday, March 19th at 4 p.m.

Lantz Kuykendall - Chairman
Terry Evans, David Pursell, Steve Rimmer, Clay Sutherland, Keith West

Zoning Board

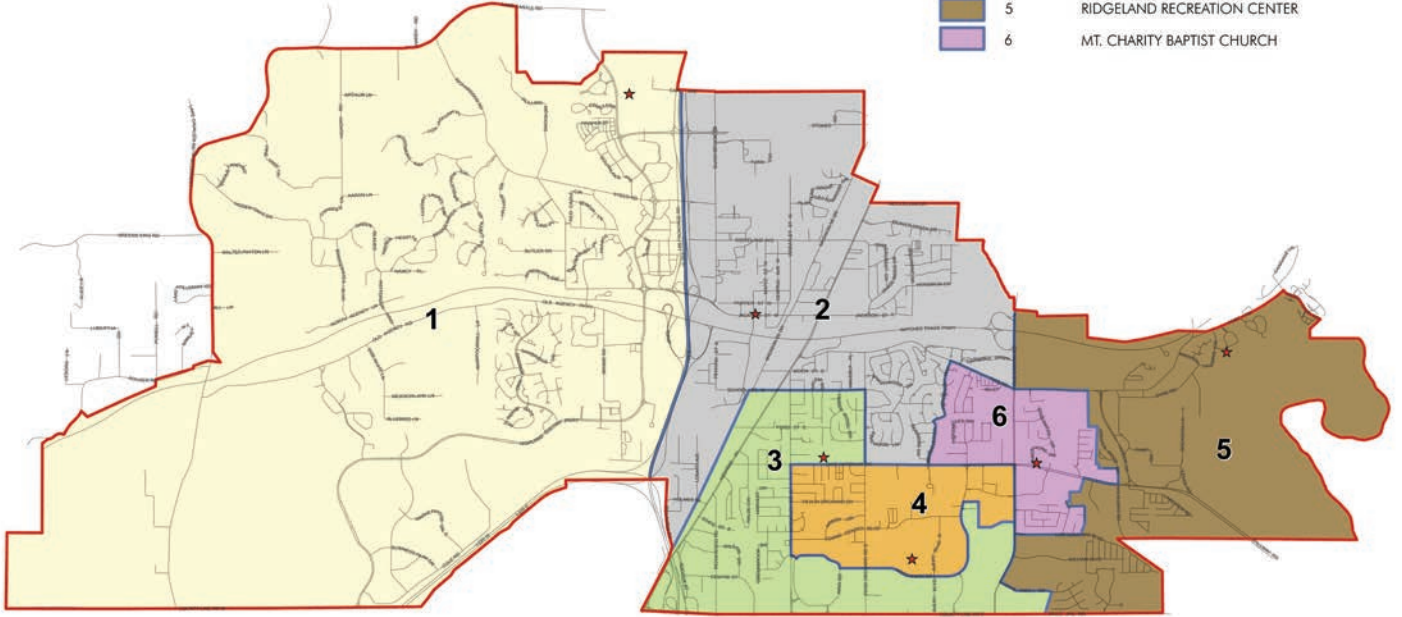
Thursdays, the week of Mayor and
Board of Aldermen meeting - 6 p.m.

Bernie Giessner - Chairman
Tracy Bailey, Michelle Caballero, Jim Collette, Walter Cox,
Drew Malone, Larry Miller, Judy Rice

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
601-940-2710
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

NORTHPARK



Rogers, Ainsworth & Williams, PLLC

