

June 2021 August 2021

RIDGELAND Life

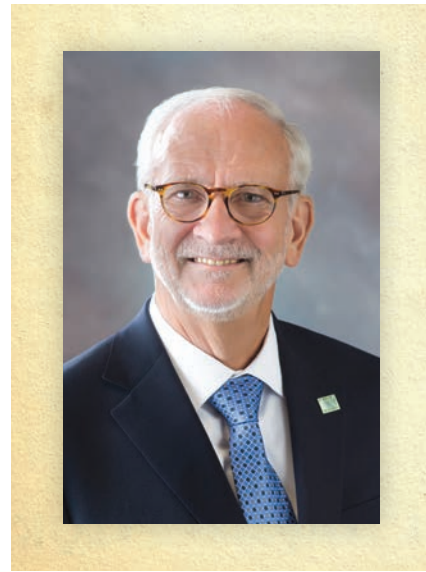


RIDGELAND
there's 
more!
here ■

the **SUMMER** issue

From the Mayor

When I was much younger, I remember the Keep America Beautiful advertisement on television showing an elderly, wise Native American with a tear in his eye. He was filled with sadness because our rivers and streams across America were being polluted on a daily basis. I'm reminded of that advertisement each day when I ride down the streets of Ridgeland, and it also puts a tear in my eye noticing the amount of litter that is thrown out daily. Our Public Works Department does an admirable job attempting to keep our streets clean, but we still have those who seem to be uncaring and continue to litter. Not only does this make our city unattractive, but it also costs each of us thousands of dollars to keep the litter picked up, and it ultimately affects our property values. For the majority, our citizens are caring enough not to litter, but there are a few who don't seem to mind and continue throwing their trash on the streets. I'm asking each of you to do your part to keep Ridgeland streets clean. If you see someone littering, please write down their tag number and report it to my office. We will pass your information along to the Ridgeland Police Department, and they can send a letter politely asking them to stop littering on our streets. Together, we can help Ridgeland be litter free.



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland

On a positive note, I'd like to congratulate the Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Committee for their most recent awards, Keep Mississippi Beautiful Affiliate Award for 2020 and the Wildflower Trails of Mississippi 2021 Award. I'm especially proud of Mrs. Phyllis Parker for winning the 2021 Ron Aldridge Volunteer of the Year Award! Congratulations! I would likewise add a big thank you to the committee for what they do every day to make our city better.

Congratulations to Colonel Mike McCollum and the Veterans' Memory Park Committee for putting on a marvelous and meaningful dedication ceremony on Memorial Day. What a wonderful way to honor our veterans and emphasize the importance of this monumental addition to our city. I hope that each of you are proud of this Veterans' Memory Park and will consider purchasing a brick honoring a special veteran in your family.

Each of you are invited to the swearing-in ceremony of the new administration for the City of Ridgeland on July 1st at 6:00 p.m. in the new City Hall's board room. The next day, July 2, the City and Northpark will be sponsoring the Celebrate America Balloon Glow. There will be talented local entertainment, as well as beautiful balloons and a patriotic fireworks display to end the night. I encourage you and your family to join us for this free event as we celebrate our freedom in America.

In closing, I hope each of you have an enjoyable, restful summer. Ridgeland has many recreational facilities and opportunities, and I hope you and your families take advantage of them. Be safe and have a wonderful summer.

Gene F. McGee

RIDGELAND Life

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NEWSWORTHY

- 2021 Natchez Trace Century Ride:
Like No Other! 4
- The Historical
Society of Ridgeland. 6
- A Conversation with
Lynda Assink. 8
- Keep Mississippi Beautiful Award . 10

RECRE8

- Recreation and Parks. 11
- Superstar Seniors. 12
- Special Events. 14

SCHOOLS IN RIDGELAND

- Ann Smith Elementary 16
- Highland Elementary School 18
- Old Town Middle School 19
- Ridgeland High School 20
- Holmes Community College. 23

RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Yes, Our Libraries are Open! 26

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- Spotlight on
Chamber Businesses. 28

WHO & WHERE

- Ridgeland Departments 30
- City Meetings 30
- City Directory 30
- Ridgeland Aldermen 31



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City of Ridgeland

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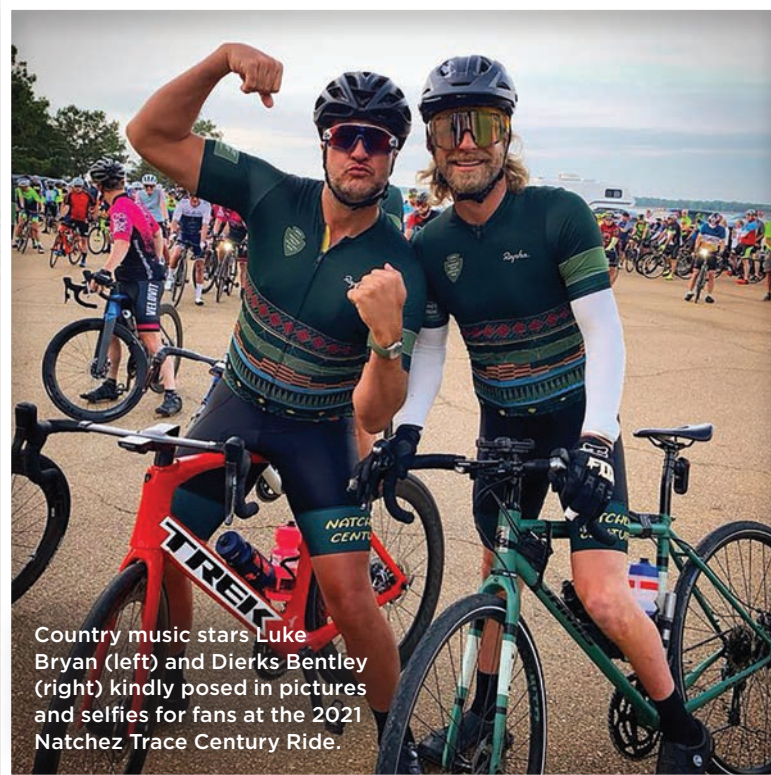
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Country music stars Luke Bryan (left) and Dierks Bentley (right) kindly posed in pictures and selfies for fans at the 2021 Natchez Trace Century Ride.

2021 NATCHEZ TRACE CENTURY RIDE *Like No Other!*

By Rachel Collier and Mary Beth McCullouch

The 2021 Natchez Trace Century Ride could possibly be the most memorable race in Ridgeland's history. Within a few weeks of registration opening to the public, over 800 riders had signed up for the race, and for the first time ever, registration closed at a record-breaking 1,000 riders.

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Special Events Coordinator Wendy Bourdin explained why she closed registration before the deadline. "I was receiving calls daily about the Natchez Trace Century Ride registration. Due to Covid, we had to delay last year's May ride to October, and many people opted to defer to this year's May ride. In years past, our average ride had between 700 and 800 participants, and we were approaching 1,000 registrants for this year. With numbers rising fast, I was already over my supply of swag bags, so I decided to close registration at 1,000 participants."

After registration had closed, Wendy received a call from Robbie Ventura. A former professional racer and owner/founder of Vision

*Within a few weeks of registration opening to the public, over 800 riders had signed up for the race, and for the first time ever, registration closed at a **RECORD-BREAKING 1,000 RIDERS.***

Quest Coaching, Robbie inquired if one more person in his cycling group could register. He explained everyone else in his group had already registered, including celebrities and another professional cyclist. Wendy laughed as she recalled, "I thought to myself, 'Is this guy pulling my leg?'"

Continuing the conversation and checking the list of registrants in Robbie's group, Wendy realized he wasn't joking! In addition to professional cyclist Christian Vande Velde, country music star Luke Bryan had registered for the race, and the extra person Robbie wanted registered in his group was country music star Dierks Bentley! Still a little skeptical, Wendy asked Robbie why they had picked the Natchez Trace Century Ride. "Robbie explained that they were looking for a century ride. Robbie had ridden the entire Natchez Trace a while back and thought it was a great ride, so he told Luke and Dierks to clear their schedules for the Natchez Trace Century Ride."

A nervous wreck and wanting Luke and Dierks to have a great visit to Ridgeland, Wendy said, "We did everything we could to accommodate them to attend the ride as cyclists. However, many riders recognized the celebrities, and they kindly posed for pictures and selfies."

Luke and Dierks rode an impressive ride, keeping the pace at 23 miles per hour for 100 miles. An Instagram post from Dierks Bentley about his Natchez Trace Century Ride said, "not sure what was harder...doing 100 miles in 4 hours and 30 minutes or going out in public without my shorts on ha. Spent most of the time behind @LukeBryanOnline wondering where his were too."

We hope all bike riders will make the Natchez Trace Century Ride one they can't miss! We have distances for all level of riders, and you never know whom you may see!

In addition to professional cyclist Christian Vande Velde, country music star Luke Bryan had registered for the race, and the extra person Robbie wanted registered in his group was country music star Dierks Bentley!



INSURIFY

FITTEST CITIES

2021 WINNER

Once again, Ridgeland has been recognized for its commitment to provide recreational facilities and promote healthier lifestyles for our citizens. Our commitment to encourage health and fitness in Ridgeland is never ending. From children's activities to senior adult programs, the City strives to accommodate all ages!"

- Gene McGee, Mayor of Ridgeland



Ridgeland's history and growth are closely tied to the Natchez Trace as is depicted in this mesmerizing Mark Millet painting.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIDGELAND *Telling Ridgeland's Story*

By Polly Hammett

When the City of Ridgeland prepared for the opening of the new City Hall, they knew that the art work would need to be just as remarkable as the building. The pieces needed to exemplify Ridgeland's past, present and future. And they didn't have to look far for the perfect artists for the task. Andrew Young and Mark Millet were asked to create paintings and glass pieces to enhance the decor of the lobby and public spaces.

Their names are well known in the art world. Many churches, homes and businesses have glass pieces ranging from bowls to stained glass windows that were designed and created by Pearl River Glass artist, Andrew Young. Posters for special events, sports venues and festivals are treasured as keepsakes due to the creative talent of Mark Millet. He also specializes in paintings that reflect days past. Many of us display his work in our homes and businesses.

As you enter the lobby of City Hall, your eye is drawn up to a vibrant work of glass and metal art. It consists of five pieces of fused glass miraculously mounted to a steel form. The colorful leaves and flower petals represent the City's commitment to beautification. Made from a special dichroic glass, they sparkle and change colors as you



The focal point of the boardroom, Pearl River Glass artist, Andrew Young, dramatically portrays Ridgeland's close identity with the trees of the Trace and its efforts to protect and promote trees throughout the City.

move around the lobby. The abstract grid system represents growth and the ever-changing map of the City. The metal structure, based on the frame of a bicycle, represents infrastructure (seen and unseen) and honors the multi-use and bike trails that connect our City. What you see from the lobby floor is the “corporate view,” but if you take the elevator to the second floor balcony, the “nature view” of this piece is pronounced. From that perspective, you see the sparkling colors framed by the sky and trees as they are viewed through the windows of the second-floor entranceway.

Stepping off the elevator on the first floor, look directly across to the painting depicting the evolution of the Natchez Trace, “From Pathway to Parkway.” Etched in the Early Trace, you will see the Native Americans as they first made the trail, walking or on horseback. Then you see the wagons as goods and crops were hauled to and from the Mississippi River at Natchez. After World War II, construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway began. It has developed into the scenic motorway we know today, attracting travelers from all over the world by car and bicycle. A majestic buck looks down from the hill, reminding us of the abundant wildlife along the Trace. As you are drawn into this scene, you can hear the wind in the trees. The sky glows above. Is it sunrise or sunset? Decide for yourself.

Now step inside the boardroom to view the unique glass art that hangs behind the rostrum. Fired in five panels of varying size and mounted over mirror that captures any available light, the piece comes to life and glows. The trees glimmer with leaves made of gold leaf, white gold leaf and silver leaf. The silver leaf was tinted with sulfur by mixing silver leaf and egg whites in a Tupperware container! The panels were cast in a ceramic fiber mold and fired in a kiln so large that a building had to be purchased to contain it. The city seal hangs in the center. Made of green glass, it gets its color from the sulfur content.

The letters are backed with white gold. The whole piece is etched with a special cream to give it a matte finish. The ending effect is stunning.

As you exit the boardroom and look across the hallway you will see another painting, “The Road from our History to our Future” depicts the founding of the Village of Ridgeland and its growth through almost 125 years. The orchards of pecan, peach and pear trees and strawberry fields stretch across the top of the painting. Grids crisscross, reminiscent of fields seen from the air. Early developers saw the benefit of the railroad to help transport crops and goods to markets. The railroad runs down one side of the painting, while Highway 51, constructed many years later, runs down the other side. The Choctaw Tribe is honored, as is Henderson’s Garage. Recreational opportunities from sailing on the Reservoir to walking and biking the many trails are portrayed. Representing our present and pointing to our future, the new City Hall is at the bottom of the painting. With flags flying in the Veterans’ Memory Garden out front, we are reminded of how far we have come and of those who made it possible. This is a very uplifting painting. Every time you look at it you will find something new.

Please forgive my inadequate attempt to describe the work of these two extremely talented artists. As Andy Young said to me “...(A)rt is meant to be experienced in person.” I hope you will take time to visit City Hall to view the art for yourself.

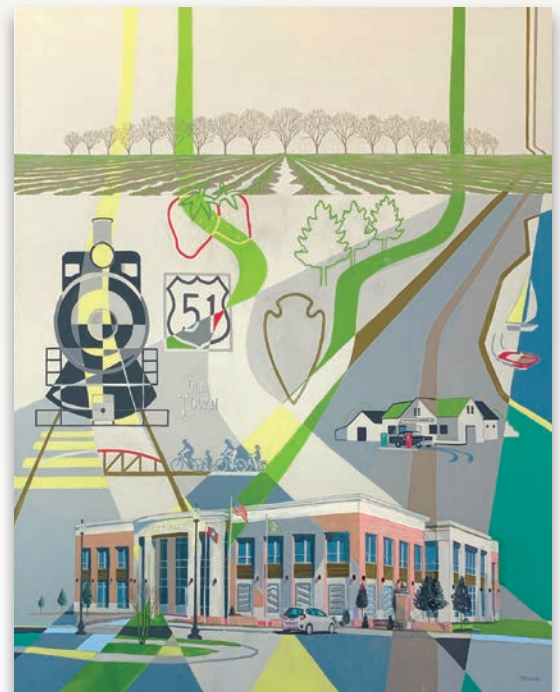
Before you leave, please visit the History Room adjacent to the lobby. The Historical Society of Ridgeland has an interesting display of charts, photos and artifacts such as the original seal of The Village of Ridgeland, a book about Greenwood Plantation and woven artistry from the Choctaw Tribe. Don’t forget to sign the Guest Book!



Because of the way this glass art is installed, those working or having business on the second floor get a unique perspective of the piece.



Everyone who enters City Hall receives a colorful welcome! Compliments of this vibrant glass art by Andrew Young.



In this painting, Mark Millet takes us from Ridgeland’s early years to the present time and gives us a glimpse into an exciting future.

A CONVERSATION WITH...

Lynda Assink

By Mary Beth McCullouch, Editor

What's your position for the City?

Senior Adult Coordinator.

How many years have you been with the City?

22 years.

Where are you from? Memphis, TN.

How long did you live there? I moved to Ridgeland from Memphis when I was 21 after I got married. I was married to Rick McMahan for almost 25 years, and we had two children together – Brad and Carrie.

What brought you to Ridgeland? Rick's job. He was the Sunkist Swim Team coach and helped build the covered swimming pool at the Courthouse in Jackson.

What other jobs have you held? I worked at Baptist Hospital as an administrative assistant, and after I had children, I worked as a pre-school teacher at Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church for about 15-20 years. It worked out great with my children's schedule.

How did you come to work for the City? The summer of 1999, I started teaching exercise classes at the Rec Center. I have a BS in physical education, and I've always enjoyed teaching aerobics. I grew to love the senior citizens, and the previous director was leaving to go to another job. This was also about the same time my first husband was diagnosed with cancer, and even knowing my current situation, the City still hired me to take the place of the previous director. Rick passed away not long after I was hired as the director. The City, and especially the Mayor, were so nice to me during this time. The Mayor came by my house and to the funeral. Rick's dad even mentioned to me how impressed he was with the Mayor and the City of Ridgeland taking care of me after Rick's death.

Would you say this job came into your life at the perfect time? This job was a Godsend! It was great to be around senior adults who had been through some losses. They were a great encouragement, and I felt like this was where I was meant to be. At first, I didn't know I'd be here this long, but it's great having a job that you look forward to going to every day.



Do you still teach classes at the Rec Center? Yes. I don't teach as much now as I would like to, but during Covid, I taught a lot! I was just planning what we are going to do tomorrow. I've found if I don't plan it out, we end up doing the same exercises over and over. That's never good for anybody because you don't see any changes that way. I love planning a fun workout and have something positive prepared for the seniors. I love that part of my job!

Tell me more about your current family. Five years after Rick passed away, I got remarried to Randy Assink. We both lost our spouses the same year, and we met at a grief share group at church. We were friends for a long time, but since we had each lost our spouses, that commonality brought us together.

What is something interesting about yourself that no one else would know? We have a Tae Kwon Do class at the Rec Center, and I'm currently working on my black belt! I'm not a fighter by any chance, but I love Tae Kwon Do, and I find it really fascinating!

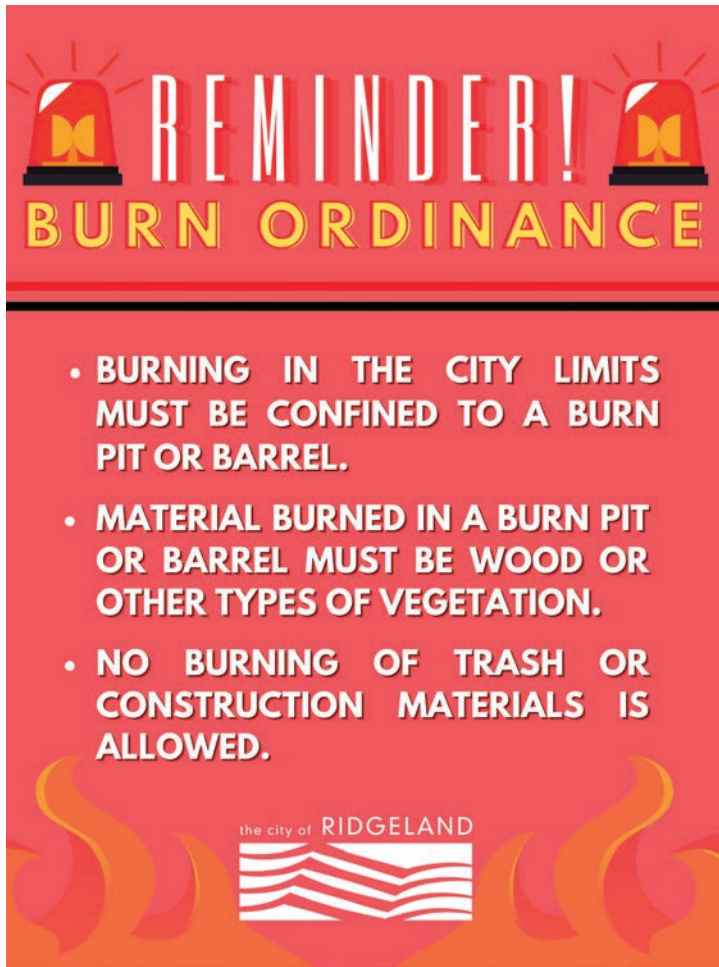
How long has it taken you to get your black belt? Five or six years. We go at a slower pace here, and Covid held us a little back.

How many in your group at the Rec Center will be receiving black belts? Four of us!

What do you like to do in your spare time? Well, there's a lot of things I like to do, but I don't always have time for it. I love to needlepoint. I would love to start gardening. I really enjoy our garden club that meets here. I like taking drives with my husband and ending up in spontaneous places. I enjoy my church, and I teach third and fourth graders on Wednesday nights. I really love that! It's really fun going from senior adults to children. Things move a little bit faster with them. I think it's great having different age groups as friends because you can always learn something different from someone younger or older.

It seems you may have a gift for teaching. I don't know if it's a gift. But I do like making someone feel good about themselves, and I can do that, I believe, through teaching. I want them to understand that everyone has a gift that they can offer someone else.


What's the best part about your job? I love meeting someone in a group and getting to introduce them to someone I believe they might would connect with. We've had some to move here because of health reasons or to be closer to their kids. For them to meet someone and feel they're going to be ok here, that's the best part. I feel it's important that they know they have a purpose. And it's encouraging to see those who have been away with physical problems and come back here and become even stronger. It lets me know to keep on keeping on and not give up. The resilience of senior citizens is amazing to me.



REMINDER!
BURN ORDINANCE

- BURNING IN THE CITY LIMITS MUST BE CONFINED TO A BURN PIT OR BARREL.
- MATERIAL BURNED IN A BURN PIT OR BARREL MUST BE WOOD OR OTHER TYPES OF VEGETATION.
- NO BURNING OF TRASH OR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS IS ALLOWED.

the city of RIDGELAND




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KEEP MISSISSIPPI *BEAUTIFUL Award*



Keep Ridgeland Beautiful receives awards from First Lady Elee Reeves

Keep Mississippi Beautiful, the state's leading organization for community improvement, has awarded Keep Ridgeland Beautiful the 2020 Affiliate Award and the 2021 Wildflower Trails of Mississippi Award.

In addition to the group awards received, a special volunteer from Keep Ridgeland Beautiful won the Ron Aldridge Volunteer of the Year Award. We are so proud of Mrs. Phyllis Parker and the contribution she gives to Keep Ridgeland Beautiful and the City of Ridgeland!

Sarah Kountouris, Executive Director of Keep Mississippi Beautiful explained "these award winners tell a story of commitment, dedication and timeless service that these individuals give to their communities. Keep Mississippi Beautiful awards are given to true leaders across our state that make a difference every day."

Keep Mississippi Beautiful's annual awards program recognizes the best of the best among a network of community-based affiliates, leading corporate partners and individuals across Mississippi who have committed to delivering cleaner, greener and more beautiful communities.

Thank you, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful, for your continued service to the City!



Phyllis Parker was awarded the prestigious Ron Aldridge Volunteer of the Year Award at the Keep Ridgeland Beautiful awards ceremony.

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.

Sports

Baseball www.mryouthbaseball.siplay.com

Softball www.mrycsoftball.com

Tackle Football
www.mryctacklefootball.siplay.com

Basketball
www.madisonridgelandyouthclubbasketball.siplay.com

RIDGELAND MULTIUSE TRAIL

More than 20 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 Old Town Crossing 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.

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.

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.

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!

Important Info

***Due to COVID-19 Guidelines, classes/programs may or may not be cancelled. Masks may also be required. Please call or contact Lynda at 601.856.6876 or lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org for an update on classes/programs.**

▶ SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Contact: Lynda McMahan Assink,
Senior Adult Coordinator
(601)-856-6876
lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

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

THREAD, YARN, CROCHET, & COFFEE

Bring your own needle work (needlepoint, cross-stitch, crochet, knitting) 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 7 & 21, July 19, August 2 & 16
Times: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Day of Week: Monday

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

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

AGAPE MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

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



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

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, 5-6 p.m.
Day of Week: Monday

MARTIAL ARTS FOR SENIOR ADULTS

Learn age and physically appropriate traditional martial arts and practical self-defense techniques. This program is easy to perform and enjoyable for mature adults with slow, low-impact movements that are keyed to each individual's physical capabilities. Health benefits include: sharpening mental focus, better balance and body control, cardio-respiratory fitness, increased strength, enhanced flexibility, improved stamina/ endurance, and prevention of osteoporosis. Other benefits include increased confidence in potentially dangerous situations and enhanced awareness to avoid dangerous situations before they occur. Andy Dillon is the instructor. 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 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 Day of Week: Tuesday and Thursday

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: 6 classes for \$30 or \$5/per class (30 minute class)
 Time: 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 Day of Week: Monday and Friday

YOGA FOR FLEXIBILITY, FITNESS, AND FUN

Join us for this class! Lisa Newman is the instructor, and she will guide you through gentle stretching and strengthening exercises for your whole body. This class is for those who have had some experience with yoga. Standing poses will be introduced, as well as strength poses. **Participants may want to join both classes: 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: 6 classes for \$60 or \$10/class (1 hour class)
 Time: 11:00 a.m.–12 noon
 Day of Weeks: Monday and Friday



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.

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
 Day of Week: Tuesday

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
 Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 Day of Week: Tuesday



THE COMPLETE MIX (An Exercise Class for Senior Adults)

This class provides the perfect exercise mix. It is a combination of stretching, balancing, strengthening, toning, and low-impact cardio workout all in one class. Improve your cardiovascular system, flexibility, and strength with this class. A certified and experienced instructor will teach you proper technique and alignment, as well as variations in all exercises. This is a challenging and safe workout for all fitness levels. For more information and to register, call or email Lynda.

Event Dates: On-going
 Program Price: \$15/month
 Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
 Day of Week: Monday and Wednesday

SPECIAL EVENTS

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Come enjoy movies in the park outdoors under the stars with family and friends. Movies will be held on June 17 and July 15 at Freedom Ridge Park. Bring a blanket or comfortable chair. Picnic dinners and snacks are welcome. Snacks will be available for purchase. Movies will begin at dusk.



Program Price: Free
 Event Date: June 17
 July 15
 Movie: TBD
 Start Time: Dusk
 Day Week: Thursday
 Location: Freedom Ridge Park

CELEBRATE AMERICA/ BALLOON GLOW

Come out and show your patriotism and enjoy an evening of good food, fun, entertainment, and fireworks at Northpark. The Mississippi Championship Balloon Fest will hold its opening ceremonies at the Northpark Balloon Glow Field. The balloons will inflate and provide an awesome view of the horizon as the sun sets. Our entertainment for the 2021 Celebrate America/Balloon Glow will be determined at a later date. The largest firework display in the metro-Jackson area will be the climax of the evening. For more information contact the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department at 853-2011.



Program Price: Free
 Event Date: July 2, 2021
 Start Time: 5:00 p.m.
 Day of Week: Friday
 Location: Northpark

DOG OBEDIENCE

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

Puppies must be 3-6 months old. Dogs for the beginner class must be at least 6 months of age or older. In order to be in the advanced class your dog must have completed the beginner class. Proof of vaccination by a licensed vet is required. The fall session date is yet to be determined. Please check our website for updates or contact the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department at (601)-853-2011.



Program Price: \$95
 Program Area: Adult
 Registration: August 1-August 30
 Start Date: Date to be Determined
 Start Time: 7:00 PM
 Day of Week: Tuesday
 Location: Ridgeland Recreational Center

RIDGELAND RECREATION AND PARKS FLAG FOOTBALL

Come join the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department and NFL for its 25th 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, 2021. For more information, Contact Brent Watson at 601-853-2011.



- Program Price: \$80.00
- Registration: July 19 - August 16
- Ages: 6-11
- Event Date: September 21st – October 26th
- 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 June for boys and girls ages 4 - 18. The season runs from September through November. For more information, please visit: www.mfcsoccer.com. Dates for registration will be listed on the website.

FATHER AND CHILD FISHING TOURNAMENT

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will be holding its 25th Annual Father and Child Fishing Tournament on Saturday, June 13. As part of a joint 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 and 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 Brent Watson at 601-853-2011.

- Program Price: Free
- Event Date: Saturday, June 12
- Event Time: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

RIDGELAND RECREATION AND PARKS IS PROUD TO PRESENT SKYHAWKS SPORTS ACADEMY SUMMER CAMPS

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

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks
All camps are Monday through Friday 9 am to 12 pm.
All camps are \$155 per week.

MINI-HAWK
(multi-sport camp: soccer, basketball, t-ball)
June 21-25 • boys and girls ages 4-7
Freedom Ridge Park

FLAG FOOTBALL FUELED BY USA FOOTBALL
June 28- July 2 • boys and girls ages 6-9 and boys and girls ages 9-12
Freedom Ridge Park

CHEERLEADING: June 28 - July 2
boys and girls ages 6-12, Freedom Ridge Park

SAND VOLLEYBALL: July 5-9
boys and girls ages 6-12, Hite Wolcott Park

BEGINNING GOLF: July 19-23
boys and girls ages 5-10

St. Andrew's Episcopal Lower School
all camps are Monday through Thursday 8:30 to 11:30 am

MINI-HAWK
(multi-sport: flag football, basketball, t-ball)
June 14-17
boys and girls ages 4-7

FLAG FOOTBALL FUELED BY USA FOOTBALL
June 21-24
boys and girls ages 6-10

BEGINNING GOLF
July 12-15
boys and girls ages 5-10

DON'T MISS OUT. REGISTER TODAY!



Owner/Operator Paul Van Hooydonk (Coach Van) has been teaching and coaching for over 30 years. The former Millsaps College Soccer Coach has a Masters Degree in Education and is certified to teach in Mississippi. He also holds both a National Youth Diploma and an Advanced National Diploma from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. In addition, Coach Van is a certified "Double Goal Coach" thru the Positive Coaching Alliance and certified by USA Football as a Youth Coach.



ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

Grades K-2 • 306 S. Pear Orchard Road
601-856-6621 • www.madison-schools.com/ase



ASE Celebrates Mathematics

By Catherine Lutz

Students and staff at Ann Smith Elementary have been “Full STEAM Ahead” this year! Kindergarten teacher Ms. Laura Bivins recently won the esteemed title of State finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Her work in this field has been submitted to the National Science Foundation and she could soon be selected as a National Awardee. This is the nation’s highest award for science and math teachers.

Ms. Bivins went through a rigorous application process and submitted videos of her teaching, as well as student work samples and written commentary. She demonstrated mastery of content, as well as excellence in teaching mathematics. When asked about this most prestigious award, Ms. Bivins said, “This is all about the children. We have such a diverse student population here at Ann Smith Elementary. I also have Special Ed students in my class and English Language Learners. This makes me especially proud of the growth they’ve shown and of the amount of content they have mastered! I love teaching mathematics and it is very nice to be honored in this way.”

This award is well deserved, and Ms. Bivins continues to be a leader among her peers when it comes to teaching strategies.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching



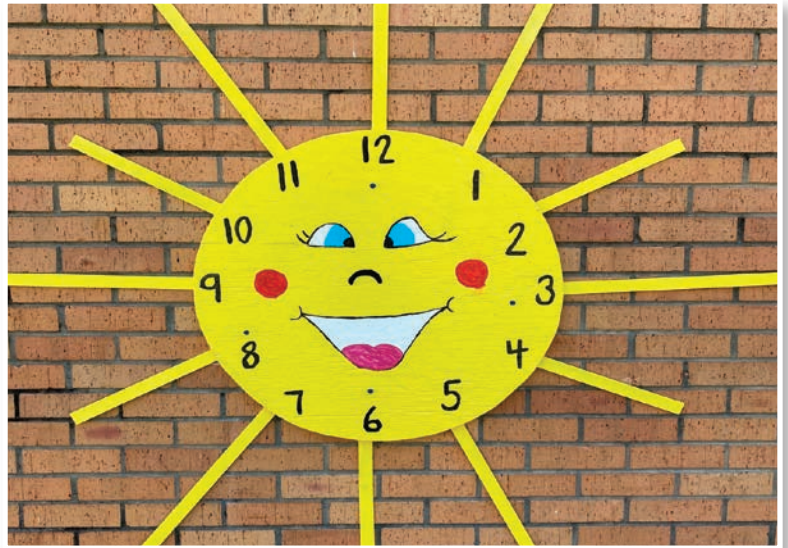
Laura Bivins
Ann Smith Elementary School

Another reason to celebrate at ASE is because of the newly installed Marvelous Mosaic Measurement Garden. ASE is a part of Whole Schools under the direction of the Mississippi Arts Commission. As we are an Arts Integrated school, we were charged with the task of creating a permanent installment in which students could actively use in-learning academic content. Mrs. Harness, principal of ASE, wanted this project to be heavily involved with STEM activities. Students and teachers have worked together this year to create an outdoor hands-on measurement garden. Each class, whether in person or virtual, designed and created a mosaic paver. Our art teacher, Mrs. Yerra, was instrumental in helping teachers with materials and creating an original paver. She had previously worked with students to create a beautiful Mosaic piece named “The World is Waiting for Us” that is on display near the office.

Grade levels worked together to create the measurement pieces. We focused on height, weight, length, time and temperature. Then, much to our gratitude, Boy Scout and student alumni Pranay Yerra chose the installation of our garden pieces to be his Eagle Scout project. He presented plans, created designs, and secured materials and volunteers to help with the installation. Scott Melichar of Southern Oaks Landscape Design and Maintenance donated his time, talents, materials, trees and shrubs.

Pranay, his family, and volunteers worked tirelessly towards completion and even added benches and decorative pieces to make the Measurement Garden more appealing to young children. Asked how he felt about this contribution, Pranay said, “When I got the opportunity to give back to my school and teachers of Ann Smith Elementary, I was honored. I am glad my community project, (Measurement Garden), was of some help to the next generation of students. Also, I thank Mrs. Lutz, Project Director of Arts Integration, and Mrs. Yerra - my mom - who gave me direction to successfully finish this project towards my Eagle Scout rank.”

Mrs. Yerra says, “I am proud of my son, Pranay, for being a part of ASE’s Measurement Garden. He put a lot of effort into managing this project, including budgeting, purchasing materials, scheduling resources and fundraising. We all had fun working on this with him.” And we know students for years to come will enjoy this Marvelous Mosaic Measurement Garden.



“I am proud of my son, Pranay, for being a part of ASE’s Measurement Garden. He put a lot of effort into managing this project, including budgeting, purchasing materials, scheduling resources and fundraising. We all had fun working on this with him.”



HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grades 3-5 • 330 Brame Rd, Ridgeland, MS 39157
(601) 853-8103 • www.madison-schools.com

Gifts from the Gifted By Alicia Bell

With a very different start to the school year, it was important to Mrs. Sibyl Ross, Pathways Teacher at Highland Elementary, to start with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and the social-emotional needs for gifted students. Learning to understand their abilities, what it means to be gifted, and how it affects their behaviors and feelings were a few topics covered in the Pathways classes. The purpose of Mrs. Ross's focus on SEL is for students to be prepared to use the knowledge of themselves to identify their strengths and weaknesses and set goals for the year.

In conjunction with the focus of The Growth Mindset at Highland Elementary, Pathways students studied a unit about the brain – learning how the brain works, strengthening their brains, and better learning approaches. Another vital aspect of SEL is feeling and showing empathy for others. After learning about the Kids to Kids program organized by the Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles, Highland's Pathways students were eager to establish and grow their empathy and share their gifts with other children in need. "It is our belief that helping children to experience the joy that comes from doing for others will foster altruistic instincts that will become a part of who they are," Mrs. Ross explained.

Students learned about the Dolls for Africa project and how children in a nutrition clinic near Cape Town, South Africa, had only one broken doll to share among them. All of the Pathways students enthusiastically embraced the idea of helping to make sweet, simple cloth dolls to send to children in need. Projects such as Dolls for Africa touch the hearts and minds of children, sparking the growth of compassion, awareness, and understanding. By involving children in international initiatives, the Kids to Kids program creates bonds of global friendship and gives physical and emotional support to children in times of need.

Maegan Buchanan, a Fourth Grade Pathways student, learned a lesson in service to others through this project. "Doing something for people who don't have much makes me feel really good. It also makes me feel like I can help anyone from any country."



Chess

Pathways students continue to work on logic problems and play various games that require them to use their thinking skills in a fun, nonthreatening situation. Chess is always an essential component of the Pathways program. Students learn about the history of the game, the pieces and how they move, and eventually strategies that help them improve their game.

Pictured: Mrs. Sibyl Ross coaches students during an intense game of chess.



OLD TOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 6–8 • 210 Sunnybrook Rd.
601-898-8730 | www.madison-schools.com/otm

OLD TOWN HONORS PARENT OF THE YEAR AND TEACHER OF THE YEAR

By Crystal Chase, Principal, OTMS

MRS. ANITRA BENDER MAKES POSITIVE MEMORIES AS PARENT OF THE YEAR



It is a great honor for Old Town Middle School to announce that Mrs. Anita Bender has been named 2020-2021 Parent of the Year!

Mrs. Bender accepted the responsibility of being PTO President in the spring of 2020. Despite many changes from the time she accepted the position until now, Mrs. Bender has made it a point to fulfill her duties. With all of the limitations brought on by COVID-19, it was said that there

was probably very little that could be done as it relates to PTO. Mrs. Bender obviously took this as a challenge because she has made it a point to create positive memories for this school year for our teachers and students. Even though Mrs. Bender's child participated in virtual learning this year, she still provided every face-to-face student with as many activities, treats, and memorable moments as possible and proved she was in a position to serve all students of Old Town.

2020 has been a year of memories. Educators will forever look back on this year and be able to recall many of the obstacles they were able to overcome with the help and support of their colleagues.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR MRS. LORI WILSON OVERCOMES 2020 OBSTACLES



When it comes to being B.L.U.E. (BE Prepared, LEARN Actively, UPHOLD Excellence, EARN and Give Respect), Mrs. Wilson is a phenomenal example of this for educators. Professionalism, high-caliber character, and commitment to her commission as an educator are some of the hallmark traits that describe Mrs. Wilson as a teammate and educator. She is prompt and ready each day by having materials

ready for her students when they enter class. Her love for reading and learning is infused into everything that is done within her classroom! Even with the challenges of this year, she has been successful at upholding excellence by choosing to eagerly assist colleagues and help virtual students with their concerns. She gains respect by treating students fairly, setting high expectations, being consistent, and creating a fun, inclusive classroom “family.”

2020 has been a year of memories. Educators will forever look back on this year and be able to recall many of the obstacles they were able to overcome with the help and support of their colleagues. Her eagerness to help, her positive attitude, and her caring heart are some of her attributes many of our faculty members expressed that helped them through one of the toughest years educators have faced. It is because of her work ethic, involvement, authenticity, reliability, and simply being the epitome of excellence that we proudly announce Mrs. Wilson has been chosen as Old Town Middle School's 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year!



RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

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

Ridgeland High Recognizes Parent of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and Paraprofessional of the Year

By Jan Richardson

KAREN BAKER HONORED AS RIDGELAND HIGH PARENT OF THE YEAR

Dedicated volunteer, loving mom, and Titan zone supporter, Karen Baker was selected as the Ridgeland High School parent of the year.

A long-serving RHS PTO board member, Baker served as a band parent volunteer for the last six years, volunteered at football games, homecoming activities, band competitions, and teacher appreciation festivities.

“Karen has a heart of gold,” said Candice Green, a teacher at Ridgeland High. “I first met Karen at a student’s house during homecoming where I was assigned “float duty.” Karen arrived carrying many types of decorations and worked diligently with the students. During this time, I observed her caring and patient nature.”

Karen grew up in Madison County. She works in Ridgeland at Morgan White Group and loves all that our City has to offer. She also enjoys cooking, reading, and traveling. “I am a product of the Madison County School System. I attended Ann Smith (formally Ridgeland Elementary), Rosa Scott and Madison-Ridgeland High. I take pride in being part of the Ridgeland zone.”

All four of Karen’s daughters graduated from Ridgeland High. Her eldest daughter, Amanda Hart (Class of 2004), started as a Jag when Madison and Ridgeland shared a school zone and joined Ridgeland High School when it opened in 2002. Kristen Baker (Class of 2012), Alyson Baker (Class of 2019), Kyndel Baker (Class of 2021) attended Ridgeland schools from kindergarten through graduation.

Karen’s three grandkids also attend Ridgeland schools. Khristian Ware will be a fourth grader at Highland Elementary this year; Lauryn Oyefesobi will be a second-grader at Ann Smith Elementary; and Karter Ware will start kindergarten at Ann Smith this year.

Karen enjoys her position as RHS PTO Co-Chair of Staff Appreciation. Teachers look forward to visiting with her at PTO-sponsored appreciation events. Teacher Candice Green summarizes, “I look forward to seeing Karen whenever the PTO is serving lunch or hosting a special event. She always has a smile and provides encouraging words to us.”

“We take pride in our schools, faculty and students,” said this year’s Ridgeland High Parent of the Year. “Our community is family and we encourage students to be their best selves. We have made friendships that will last a lifetime. It’s always a great day to be a Titan!”



Karen Baker, an outstanding and involved volunteer, earned the Ridgeland High School 2020-21 Parent of the Year award.

“We take pride in our schools, faculty and students. Our community is family and we encourage students to be their best selves. We have made friendships that will last a lifetime. It’s always a great day to be a Titan!”

TITAN RENEE TUPPER EARNS DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR ACCOLADES



Outstanding Ridgeland High teacher Renee Tupper earned teacher of the year awards from Ridgeland High School and the Madison County School District this year.

Madison County School District recognized Renee Tupper, a special education teacher at Ridgeland High School, as the 2020-21 Madison County School District Teacher of the Year. Tupper was also awarded Teacher of the Year at Ridgeland High School.

Tupper has worked at RHS for eight years. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from State University of New York at Oswego, and a master's degree in teaching from Le Moyne College.

"I absolutely love my job and the opportunity to work with my students. When I found out about the award, my immediate reaction was to question if I was really doing all that I could for my students," recalled Tupper. "It inspired me to re-evaluate my efforts, to try to focus more on my students' individual needs and make an effort to become more involved in the school community. I always think that there is room to grow."

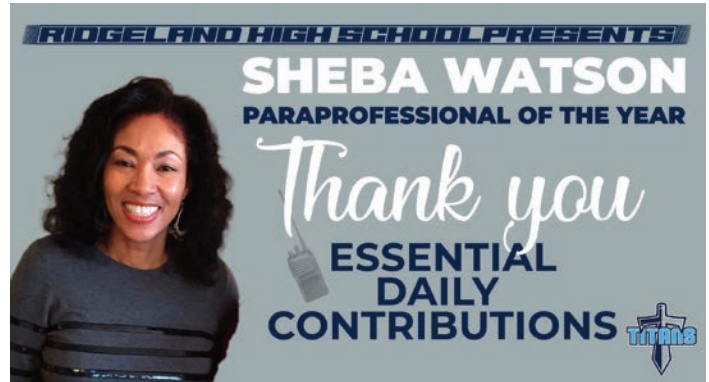
"Some of the favorite aspects of my job is that there is always something new," said Tupper. "I work with exceptional students who present new challenges every day. I could not ask for a better school community."

Renee and her husband Chris of 26 years have two daughters. Grace, 20 years old, serves in the Air National Guard and attends Ole Miss. Maddie is 17 years old and attends Germantown High School. "I spend as much time with them as possible," Tupper said. "We also have two Great Danes and a cat. Our house is thankfully full of love!"

Tupper is also an entrepreneur. "I spend my time outside of school building a life coaching business, and plan to continue with that effort as well," Tupper explained. (www.lifecoach-inspired.com)

"Since I have been honored in this way, I want to make sure that I continue to earn it," Tupper concludes. "I get so much back personally from my engagement with my students. My hope is that when they look back they feel that I sincerely cared about them, and that they were inspired to appreciate the gifts that they have been given in life."

SHEBA WATSON RECOGNIZED AS PARAPROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Sheba Watson, devoted to the Titan community, was honored as the Ridgeland High Paraprofessional of the Year.

In her eighth year at Ridgeland High, Sheba Watson is described as "the heart and soul of Ridgeland High." She is the caring person one first encounters in the high school front office. Watson also serves as the school attendance clerk.

"Mrs. Watson is a tremendous asset to Ridgeland High School," Principal Keith Fennell said. "She is very deserving of this honor. Mrs. Watson is a kind, caring professional who listens to parent and student concerns, providing the highest level of customer service in return."

Watson is very grateful to earn this recognition. "I was so surprised and honored when Principal Fennell announced my name at a staff meeting! I have been called the "Face of Ridgeland High" because I am the first person people see when they enter the building," Watson said, "and my co-worker Nancy Rawls is "the Voice of Ridgeland High" because she makes announcements and is the voice on recorded calls made to parents. Our office makes a great team."

"Mrs. Watson is definitely a team player who is experienced and knowledgeable," Fennell said. "She is always willing to do whatever is needed to go above and beyond for RHS."

"My favorite aspect of my job is meeting so many people," Watson said. "I get to know so many parents and students. A significant part of my position entails making an effort to be available for whatever they need when they walk in the door. I just hope and pray to assist in any way possible."

When out in the community, Watson said she is often greeted by parents and former students. "I love having this connection with the community," she said.

Sheba Watson and her husband Orien are the proud parents of three children, Nadia, Jarrett, and Gabriel, and have a beautiful granddaughter Kirsten.

TITANS WELCOME COACH DYESS



AS OUR NEW HEAD FOOTBALL COACH & ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



TITANS HIRE DYNAMO TEDDY DYESS TO LEAD SPORTS PROGRAMS

By Jan Richardson

Ridgeland High School announced Teddy Dyess was hired as athletic director and head football coach of the Ridgeland Titans. Dyess comes to RHS with 29 years of coaching experience and an incredible 83% winning percentage. Dyess, his wife Chantay, and son, Thomas, who will play for the Titans, moved here from Magee, Mississippi. During the 2020 pandemic, Dyess coached his Magee High School football team to a perfect season and won the 3A state championship last year.

“We want to win the 5A all-sports award,” said Dyess. “We have every reason to be successful here with the resources we have in the Madison County Schools. Our goal is to create great neighbors and great athletes. You do that by developing character, attitude, pride, and discipline. That’s our job today as educators.”

Welcome to Ridgeland, Coach Dyess and family. You can follow Coach Dyess on Twitter (@coachTDyess) #TPW (Tough People Win) and get to know this champion supporter of our school and community.

Coach Dyess and his family were welcomed to Ridgeland High School at a media event. Dyess comes to “The Land” off a perfect season and a state championship.

“We want to win the 5A all-sports award. We have every reason to be successful here with the resources we have in the Madison County Schools. Our goal is to create great neighbors and great athletes. You do that by developing character, attitude, pride, and discipline. That’s our job today as educators.”



HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

412 W. Ridgeland Avenue
601-856-5400 | www.holmescc.edu

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 CAMPUS ANNOUNCES *2021 Hall of Fame*

By Mary Margaret Busby

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Ridgeland Campus included: Emily Anne Carr of Madison, Addie Fetcko of Madison, Darrell Cameron Grantham of Pearl, Mary Grace Kelley of Madison, Colby A. Mozee of Brandon, Briana Reaser of Byram, Deja A. Sloan of Madison, Laney Smith of Vicksburg, Carly E. Williams of Flowood and Ravynne Wilson of Meridian.

Emily Anne Carr

Carr is a pre-nursing major who plans to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing after Holmes. On campus, she is a President's List Scholar, member of Phi Theta Kappa, writing tutor in the Holmes writing lab and has completed Student Leadership University 101. Off campus, she is employed as a gymnastics instructor at Courthouse Gymnastics, on Student Leadership Team at Colonial Heights Baptist Church and serves as a small group leader for 8th grade girls/discipleship mentor for 7th grade girls at Colonial Heights.

Carr also enjoys volunteering for Hearts of Compassion Orphan Care Ministry and Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital, although she has been unable to volunteer at Batson this year due to COVID-19. A heart for service, she has participated in mission trips to Santa Marta, Colombia and Las Vegas, Nevada, as well.

Addie Fetcko

Fetcko is a President's List Scholar who serves as vice president of fundraising and campus activities for Phi Theta Kappa. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to attend Mississippi University for Women and apply to the Speech and Language Pathology program. Fetcko also plans to pursue a master's degree and reach her goal of becoming a speech pathologist.

She is employed by Gifts by KPEP and worked for Kendall Poole Event Planning her freshman year. In her spare time, Fetcko enjoys tutoring first and third graders and volunteering with Little Light House of Central Mississippi and Sunnybrook Children's Home.

Darrell Cameron Grantham

Grantham is a President's List Scholar, Phi Theta Kappa member and president of the Bulldog Soccer Team. As a freshman, he was a starter for the soccer team and voted Most Valuable Midfielder.

After graduating from Holmes, Grantham plans to attend University of Alabama at Birmingham and earn a degree in forensic science and criminal justice. He hopes to make the UAB Men's Soccer Team and join the Air Force ROTC to continue his ROTC work from Brandon High School. After completing his degree from UAB, Grantham plans to join the U.S. Air Force and pursue work in the intelligence field.

Mary Grace Kelley

Kelley is active on campus as a Student Ambassador, President's List Scholar, Phi Theta Kappa member and Horizons yearbook staff member. Upon graduating from Holmes, she plans to transfer to the University of Mobile on an academic scholarship where she will pursue a degree in nursing. After graduating from nursing school, her dream is to become a travel nurse and eventually become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

Colby A. Mozee

Mozee, a history major, is Student Government Association vice president, a Student Ambassador and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. A President's List Scholar, he was also named a Freshman Favorite and is the current Mr. Holmes Community College for the Ridgeland Campus.

Mozee plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and pursue a bachelor's degree in history. He would like to become a history teacher for high school students and serve as a coach for the football team as well.



Pictured are the 2021 Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are (front row, left to right) Emily Anne Carr, Deja Sloan, Addie Fetcko, Laney Smith, Carly E. Williams, (back row, left to right) Colby A. Mozee, Briana Reaser, Mary Grace Kelley, Ravynne Wilson and Darrell Cameron Grantham.

Briana Reaser

Reaser, a pre-med major, is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a President's List Scholar and plays forward for the Lady Bulldog's Soccer Team. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi and study biology on a pre-medical track. Her intentions are to attend medical school and serve in the Jackson area

Deja A. Sloan

Sloan is active on campus as a Phi Theta Kappa officer (student recruitment and activities), a student worker for the Career Technical Office and as a Student Ambassador. She was also voted Student Body Homecoming Maid and Miss Holmes Community College for the Ridgeland Campus. As a freshman, she was Student Government Association vice president, a President's List Scholar, Horizons yearbook editor, recipient of the Journalism Award and Freshman Class Favorite.

Upon graduating from Holmes, Sloan is moving to Orlando, Florida, to attend the University of Central Florida. She plans to major in broadcast reporting with the goal of becoming an entertainment reporter. She has plans to grow her social media accounts (YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram) and create content part-time, as well.

Laney Smith

Smith is a President's List Scholar, Phi Theta Kappa member and captain of the Lady Bulldog's Soccer Team. As a freshman,

she was named Most Improved Player for soccer and began attending Bovina Baptist Church. Off campus she is employed at College Corner and volunteers with BFC Tots and Skills teaching young children soccer skills.

Carly E. Williams

Williams is an exercise science/kinesiology major, President's List Scholar and Phi Theta Kappa member. In 2019, she completed Holmes' EMS program. She is also a member of the Lady Bulldogs Soccer Team and was named All State Women's Soccer, NJCAA Goalkeeper of the Week and MACJC Goalkeeper of the Week three times. She also served as a Sunday school teacher and summer camp counselor at Pine Cove in Texas. Williams enjoys playing on the church league kickball team and volunteering with Crossgates Baptist Student Ministry.

Upon graduating from Holmes, she will transfer to the University of South Alabama where she will play soccer and pursue a bachelor's degree. Her goal is to become a prosthetist.

Ravynne Wilson

Wilson, a pre-physical therapy major, is a President's List Scholar, Phi Theta Kappa member and a member of the Lady Bulldogs Soccer Team. After Holmes she plans to further her education in physical therapy and play college soccer at a four-year university.

For more information on Holmes Community College, visit www.holmescc.edu.

HOLMES RIDGELAND CAMPUS ANNOUNCES LITERARY CONTEST WINNERS

By Mary Margaret Busby



Pictured are (left to right) Holmes Ridgeland Campus Literary Contest winners Emily Sanders, Elisabeth Bailey, Piper Patterson and Ashtin Crawford. Not pictured: Kaija Hayne and Rigoberto Leon.

English instructor Dr. Andrew Kelly recently announced the winners of the 2021 Literary Contest for the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus.

Winners of the Literary Essay Category included first place Kaija Hayne of Madison for “A Stuttering Flow” and second place Rigoberto Leon of Canton for “June Jordan’s World in 1960.”

In the Poetry Category, Ashtin Crawford of Jackson won first for “Brown Girl” and “First Kiss,” and Piper Patterson of Madison took second place for “Makeup.”

Finally, Elisabeth Bailey of Madison took home first in Short Story for “The Journals of Lydia Kath” and Emily Sanders of Clinton won first in Personal Essay for “A Completely Different Woman.”

The competition was open to all students on the Ridgeland Campus of Holmes, regardless of their major, and entries were judged by the English faculty members. First and second place winners in each category will appear in Reflections, the campus literary magazine, and are sent to the statewide contest. State-level winners receive monetary prizes and publication in the literary magazine of the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association.

For more information on the Literary Contest, contact English instructor Dr. Andrew Kelly at akelly@holmescc.edu or (601) 605-3382.

State-level winners receive monetary prizes and publication in the literary magazine of the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association.



RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

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601-856-4536 • www.mclsms.org

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Fri – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed on Saturday & Sunday

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- Public Computers & Study Tables
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Please contact your local branch for details

Mask & Social Distancing Required
Building Capacity is Limited - Please limit visit to 1 hour

Camden 662-468-0309

Mon-Thurs 9-6, Fri 12-4

Sat 9-12

Canton 601-859-3202

Mon-Thurs 9-6, Fri 9-5

Sat 9-5

Flora 601-879-8835

Mon-Thurs 9-6, Fri 9-5

Sat 9-1

Madison 601-856-2749

Mon-Thurs 9-6, Fri 9-5

Sat 9-5

Ridgeland 601-856-4536

Mon-Thurs 9-6, Fri 9-5

Sat Closed

Luke is demonstrating correct mask usage.





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353 Highway 51
(601) 956-1474 • www.mostlymarthasflorist.com

Mostly Martha's, a family owned and operated business, has served the Ridgeland and Madison County area since 1975. Committed to offering the finest floral arrangements and gifts, Mostly Martha's is backed by service which is friendly and prompt. Now after 38 years, Mostly Martha's has become one of Mississippi's best-known flower shops.



TICO'S STEAK HOUSE

1536 East County Line Road
(601) 956-1030 • www.ticossteakhousems.com

For over 30 years, longtime restaurateur Tico Hoffman has delighted customers from the metro area and abroad with his unique blend of mouth-watering steaks; sumptuous seafood dishes and other local favorites. Tico's friendly atmosphere and attention to every detail has made the Ridgeland landmark a favorite for all who love exceptional food and drink. Chops, poultry dishes and salads round out the menu along with an extensive wine and cocktail list.



LEE MICHAELS FINE JEWELRY

940 Highland Colony Parkway
(601) 957-6100 • www.lmfj.com

At Lee Michaels, customers will find a wide variety of innovative designs and products carefully curated from around the world. In addition to helping customers celebrate a variety of momentous occasions with a fine selection of gems, timepieces and giftware from brands

such as Rolex, David Yurman, Mikimoto and many more, associates earnestly and enthusiastically provide direct personal attention and professional recommendations. Lee Michaels in-store jeweler can help with all customer needs for custom jewelry or on-site repairs. Complimentarily jewelry cleaning and inspections are also provided.

MONKEE'S OF RIDGELAND

1000 Highland Colony Parkway
(601) 499-1716
www.monkeesofridgeland.com

Designer shoppers will feel at home at Monkee's, an upscale boutique that offers the finest in ladies clothing, shoes and accessories at its location in the Renaissance at Colony Park. The independently and locally owned franchise is the first Monkee's to open in Mississippi and has built a strong following of ladies of all age groups.



MAJESTIC KITCHEN

1067 Highland Colony Parkway
(601) 707-0093 • makelifemajestic.com

Majestic Kitchen is known for their delicious burgers made fresh daily with premium toppings. The restaurant's expansive menu also includes wraps, sandwiches, salads, po'boys, fish tacos, pasta and a variety of entrees from catfish to hamburger steak. Located in The Township at Colony Park, Majestic Kitchen boasts a full-service bar and patio seating.



J. OLIVE CO.

141 Township Avenue
(601) 850-3860 • www.joliveco.com

Locally owned and operated by the James family, J. Olive Co. is an olive oil specialty shop, which provides the freshest and healthiest olive oils and vinegars available to shoppers. All oils are 100 percent natural, non-GMO, and gluten free. J. Olive features extra virgin olive oils from California, Europe, South Africa, South America and Australia. Shoppers will also find an impressive selection of balsamic vinegars from Modena, Italy, as well as gifts for the kitchen and home.



MAGNOLIA LIGHTING

314 New Pointe Drive
 (601) 499-0693 • s.magnolialighting.com

Magnolia Lighting’s large, beautiful showroom features a wide variety of lighting, including ceiling and wall lights, outdoor lighting and fans as well as lovely home accents. A family owned business since 1984, Magnolia Lighting offers customers one of the largest selections of lighting, door hardware and home accessories in the mid-South through their four Mississippi showrooms.

THE PINE CONE

500 Highway 51 North
 (601) 713-1421 • www.facebook.com/pineconejackson/



Known for selling Peter’s Pottery and Etta B Pottery, The Pine Cone also features jewelry galore, including Ronaldo bracelets; Tyler, Swan Creek and Capri Blue candles; Corkcicle canteens; tumblers and stemless wine glasses in pretty colors; small gifts for children and home décor such as candlesticks, picture frames, lamps, vases and wooden bowls to freshen any décor.



JOE T’S WINES & SPIRITS

286 Highway 51
 (601) 605-7602 • www.joets.net

Established in 2001, Joe T’s Wines & Spirits features a large selection of premium wines, liquor and cordials. Joe T’s stocks over 25,000 different bottles in house with 4,100 unique items available at The MS ABC Warehouse. Whether it’s an everyday Australian white wine, a bold Napa Valley zinfandel or a decade old French Bordeaux, customers will find their favorites at Joe T’s. Constantly ranked in the top 10 package stores in the state, Joe T’s can special order specialty items and their customer service is second to none.



MARTINSON’S GARDEN WORKS

650 Highway 51
 (601) 856-3078
www.gardenworksms.com

A second generation, family owned and operated garden center and landscape company, Martinson’s Garden Works has been beautifying the homes and businesses of Madison County for over 30 years. Martinson’s is a go-to nursery for all plant needs including a great selection of houseplants, trees, shrubs, herbs and veggies and their own renowned locally grown bedding plants. Martinson’s also features the states’ largest and finest selection of outdoor pottery as well as bulk and bagged soils, mulches, pine straw and organics. Martinson’s also creates beautiful and sustainable residential and commercial landscapes transforming outdoor spaces into outdoor experiences.



CITY OF RIDGELAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

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

RIDGELAND DEPARTMENTS



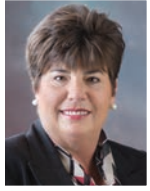
Community Development
ALAN HART
Director
alan.hart@ridgelandms.org



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, 100 W. School St., 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, Adams Yerger,
Debbie Upchurch, Lynda Assink,
Drew Malone, Dr. Phelton Cortez Moss

Historical Committee

Every other month - TBA

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

Contractors Board of

Adjustment and Appeals

Quarterly meeting - Thursday, March 18 at 4 p.m.

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

Zoning Board

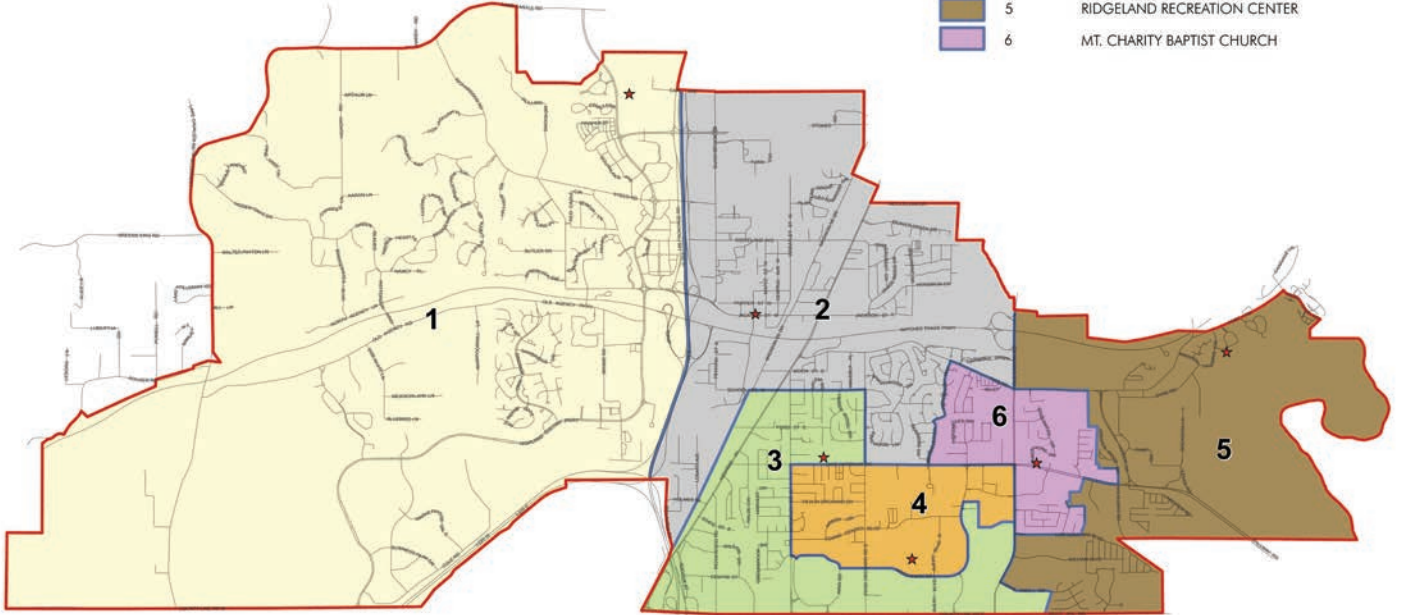
Thursdays, the week of Mayor and
Board of Aldermen meeting - 6 p.m.

Bernie Giessner - Chairman
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

