

there's more here!

RIDGELAND



LIFE

It's Spring. Run. Walk. Ride.
Dig. Dream. Sip. Shop.
Nature Is Throwing a Party
and You're Invited!

the SPRING ISSUE

March - May 2023



FROM THE MAYOR

Gene McGee



If any of you are like me, you've been waiting for spring to arrive so we can engage in more outside activities. It's been a harsh winter, and for many of us it has been difficult to get out outdoors to exercise. With the daffodils beginning to make their annual debut, let me encourage each of you to start heading out and having some fun with friends and family in our parks and on our multi-use trails. Ridgeland is well known for its many outdoor offerings that promote good health, and we were honored to be awarded as a "Healthy Hometown", and, I'm proud to say, with good reason.

It is with great excitement that I can report that the Ridgeland Board of Aldermen have adopted a new plan for the Railroad District around Jackson Street. After numerous meetings with key stakeholders in this area, working with our consultant team and other interested groups, we can confirm that a tremendous position transition is going to take place in the area. As you know, Ridgeland has never had a downtown, and the strategic plan for the Railroad District is going to allow us to have an area in our City that is more citizen and visitor friendly, whilst also promoting a positive business climate. The transformation of this area will be environmentally, pedestrian, and business friendly. It is very important to our City and its future.

We are also making great strides in the planning of Ridgeland's first state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center (PAC). This opportunity to build a PAC will inspire innovative artistic endeavors, enable unprecedented artistic collaboration and educational outreach, and serve as a host for world-class performance and community events. Our community and friends from near and far will be able to enjoy performances spanning the spoken word, dance, theatre, music and much more. This vision is part of the Ridgeland Area Master Plan developed and approved in 2008. It's truly a dream come true to see these plans taking shape for the betterment of our community.

Ridgeland continues to see positive economic growth, and we are blessed that we continue to have a strong economy, particularly in the wake of the last few challenging years. As you know, our robust economy helps provide quality of life for each of you while keeping taxes low. Each of our city departments strives to keep administrative and service costs low while continuing to provide the best possible services to our citizens, and that shall always remain our aim: to serve the City's immediate needs while also looking to the possibilities of the future.

Again, I'm so excited that spring is almost here, as we transition from the cold winter season to sunshine and better temperatures. Let's all leap into spring and take advantage of the many opportunities Ridgeland offers. I wish each of you a happy and healthy spring season.

Gene F. McGee

RIDGELAND LIFE

March - May 2023

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Ridgeland Life is a quarterly publication
of the City of Ridgeland.

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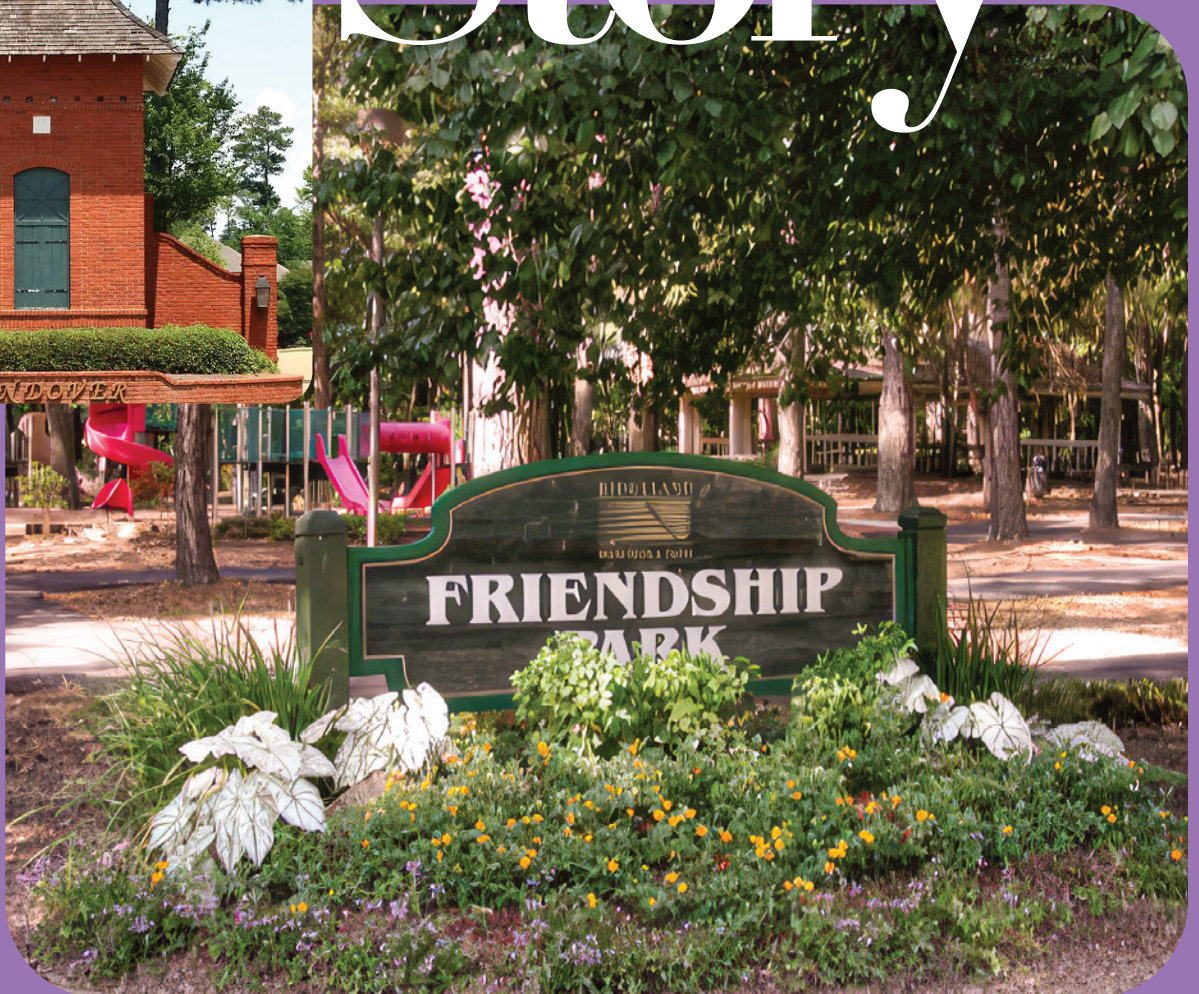
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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIDGELAND

Telling Ridgeland's Story

By Polly Hammett



PICTURE IT . . . RIDGELAND, MS 1978. NO, THIS ISN'T AN OLD EPISODE OF GOLDEN GIRLS, BUT RIDGELAND WAS VERY DIFFERENT BACK THEN. THE EASTERN TOWN LIMIT ONLY WENT TO PEAR ORCHARD ROAD. SOME OF YOU MAY EVEN REMEMBER WHEN LAKE HARBOUR WAS A TWO-LANE ROAD AND DID NOT EVEN REACH SPILLWAY ROAD, AND THE ONLY WAY TO ACCESS THE RESERVOIR WAS BY TAKING COUNTY LINE ROAD TO OLD CANTON ROAD.



As reported in the October 1, 1978, issue of the *Clarion Ledger's* Northeast edition, a developer came before the Madison County Board of Supervisors to ask that a nine-acre plot of land just east of the intersection of Pear Orchard and Lake Harbour be rezoned to allow for commercial property. He wanted to build warehouses, fronted by an office complex. Knowing that this area was slated for annexation by the Town of Ridgeland, the supervisors were reluctant to grant the request. They set up a meeting with the Ridgeland Planning and Zoning Commission. Commission Chairman Bill Sturdivant knew that most of that land was owned by residential developers and would be developed accordingly.

Working with Ridgeland's mayor and board of aldermen, Sturdivant was able to get \$5000 allocated from the Ridgeland General Fund to commission a more current zoning map that would include aerial photographs of the area. The outdated and somewhat contradictory zoning map was replaced. Policies were then set up that would update the maps as the town annexed new areas, and the area in question was annexed in the early 1980s.

So . . . Picture Ridgeland with warehouses on Lake Harbour Drive, between Pear Orchard and Old Canton . . . With no Friendship Park or Primo's . . . No Wendover or Charmant. Do you think they would have been placed next to warehouses? Thank you, Bill Sturdivant!

A Navy veteran, Bill moved to Ridgeland with his wife after WWII ended in 1945. He worked for the Finton and Hagan Foundry near the railroad tracks in Old Town. He served as an alderman in the 1950s before serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission. In his "real job" Bill designed the tires for the Lunar Rover so that it could travel on the surface of the moon.

His company, Mercury Maps, received an official commendation from the U.S. Department of the Air

Force for a successful series of negatives used by NASA that were made into the Spacecraft Recovery Chart. He also built models of ships, ranging from tow boats to container ships, which were tested at the Army Corp of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station to see how they would handle various water and weather situations. Sometimes the models were "tested" on Carr's Pond by his daughters and other children in the neighborhood! Long-time residents of Old Town will remember the "earth sheltered" house Bill built on Maple Street. He wanted to build an electric car, but decided it would be cheaper to build the house. The 1200+ square foot home was built for about \$55,000.

Ridgeland's quiet, unassuming public servant received many awards from his adopted home. In 1992, Bill was called a "gem in the Ridgeland crown" in the *Madison County Herald* when he received a Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding service to Ridgeland. In 1997, the Chamber of Commerce presented him with the City Maker Award. And on December 4, 1999, he was named a "Home Town Hero" for his dedication and extraordinary contributions to Ridgeland and its citizens.

We were fortunate to have a full display devoted to the life of Bill Sturdivant in the History Room at City Hall last year. A scrapbook of his accomplishments will be on permanent display in the near future.

Please take some time to see this and other items from some of Ridgeland's "First Families" when our permanent display is completed. We are making progress on the Ridgeland History Trail project, and will have more information for you in the next issue of *Ridgeland Life*.

As always, we welcome your stories and memories of our city and its people. If you have information for the Society, please contact Kim Cooper (Editor of *Ridgeland Life*) at Kim.Cooper@RidgelandMS.org, and she will put you in touch with us.

Celebrating 25 Years

WITH THE CITY OF RIDGELAND

By Dean Architecture

As we just celebrated the 25th anniversary of the ribbon cutting for Ridgeland City Hall, we at Dean Architecture can't help but reflect on our 25 year history with the City of Ridgeland. Dean began working with Ridgeland in 1998, starting with preliminary design for the renovation of the old City Hall. Since then, we are proud to say we have completed several key projects, helping to enhance an already thriving community. Take a trip down memory lane with us as we recount some of our most important projects within the City of Ridgeland.

1. RENAISSANCE AT COLONY PARK

Renaissance is an open-air center that brings the finest in fashion, retail, and restaurants to the metro area. What started as master planning quickly turned into executing phase I and II of the center. Dean then began master planning and execution of phase III of Renaissance, expanding the center's offerings and bringing in more restaurants and stores.

This has become a one stop shop for people all around the southeast and is a staple for those who live nearby. With main street concepts, an elaborate Italian fountain, and a beautiful clock tower, the environment is second to none.

2. THE TOWNSHIP AT COLONY PARK

The Township may be home to several retail stores and restaurants, but it has also become a wonderful neighborhood community. We are proud to have worked on several projects within the Township, bringing together a well-planned, new urbanist neighborhood in the heart of Ridgeland.

3. THE HORNE BUILDING

The Horne building is home to several businesses including its namesake, Horne LLP, that help Ridgeland continue to thrive. Other key tenants include Smith Shellnut Wilson, The Cress Group, Priority One Bank, and Capital Staffing. Dean Architecture is also proud to call this building home to our new office, where we relocated in 2022!



DEAN
ARCHITECTURE



4. ST. ANDREW'S SCIENCE CENTER

The McRae Science Center at St. Andrew's Episcopal School hosts several events for the community and programs for students where they can learn about many scientific fields in a unique setting. These events and programs help to create educational opportunities that promote literacy and engagement throughout the year for the Jackson metro area.

5. RIDGELAND CITY HALL

And of course, we certainly cannot forget Ridgeland City Hall. Coming up on two years since the ribbon cutting, Dean Architecture could not be happier to celebrate this milestone. Situated on the community requested City Center, the new City Hall is the outcome

of many years of planning and the foresight of a mayor and board that puts the needs of its city first. This community is known for its fine dining, great shopping, vibrant entertainment, and enthusiasm for art and culture. Ridgeland would not be what it is without the energetic city government and actively involved citizens. We could not be more proud than to have designed the new City Hall with growth, expansion, and support for this city in mind.

Following the success of City Hall, the next step forward in developing City Center is the design and development of the Ridgeland Performing Arts Center. Dean Architecture is excited to see this project move forward.

Other projects we have worked on for the City of Ridgeland include renovations to the Streets Department Building, re-roofing of the library, and renovations to Court Services, among others. Dean Architecture could not be more proud to continue our partnership with the city and serve our community, as there is no end in sight for the growth of Ridgeland.

Bricks for Veterans Memory Park

By Olivia Mars, Northside Sun

The Veterans Memory Park in Ridgeland was completed in February of 2021 – at the same time as city hall. When Ridgeland hired Dean Architecture for the city hall, the Veterans Memory Park was an integral part of the planning. The late Dr. Tom Logue, longtime advocate for veterans and Ridgeland resident, served a number of years as the Madison County Veterans Officer. He approached Mayor Gene McGee years ago with the idea for Veterans Memory Park in Ridgeland.

“We at the City of Ridgeland feel it is very important to honor our veterans,” McGee said. “Without these brave men and women, we would not be able to enjoy the freedom we have in this country. We must always be thankful for their service.”

Chairman of the Veterans Memory Park in Ridgeland Committee Mike McCollum said the purpose of the bricks is to help raise funds to pay for the construction of the park, but



it also provides an avenue for friends and families of veterans to honor them. Currently, the park contains one plaque on the Bell Tower, one bench plaque, six ground plaques and approximately 175 bricks that have already been sold.

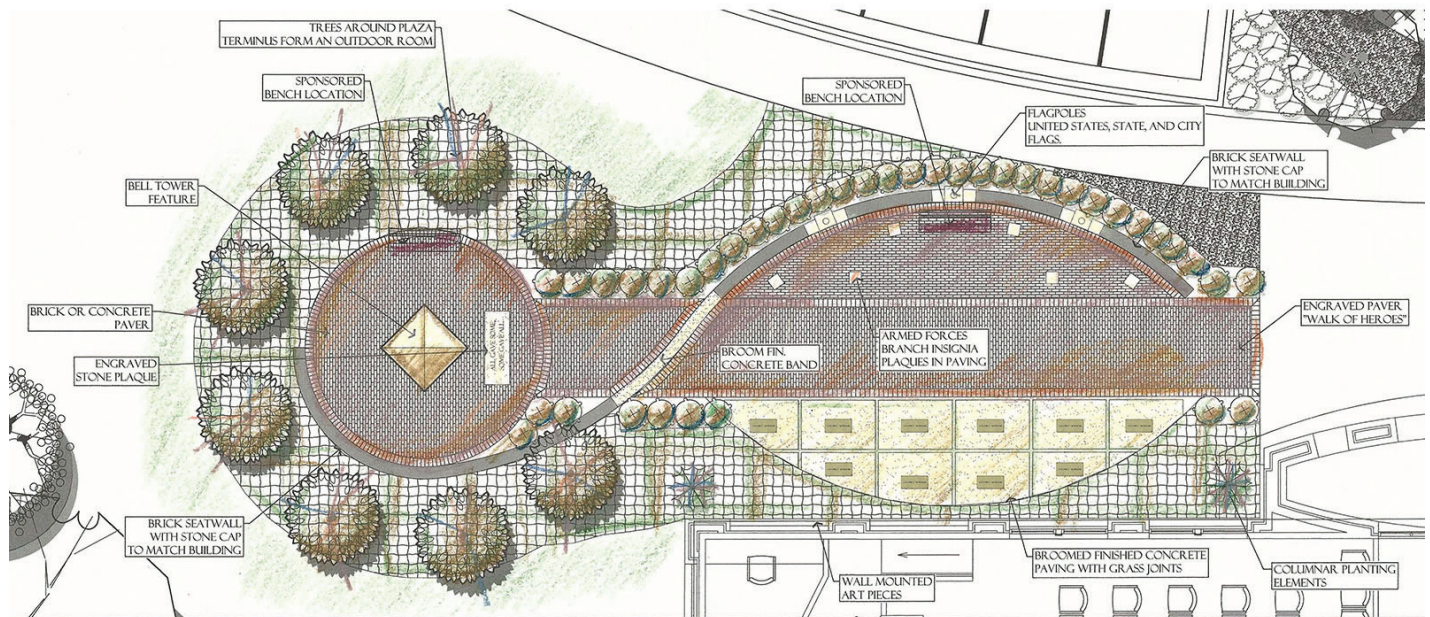
“We have ample room to sell (more) bricks,” McCollum said. “Our fundraising goal is \$150,000.00. The cost of the Veterans Memory Park is \$144,000.00, and we have paid \$100,000.00 toward the cost.”

There are two sizes of bricks for purchase. 8”x8” bricks are \$500 and provide room for six lines of text. 8”x4” bricks are \$200 and provide room for three lines of text.

“The Veterans Memory Park in Ridgeland is there solely to honor our veterans of the armed services,” McCollum said. “It is a venue for Veterans and Memorial Day Ceremonies and if an individual just wants to come and remember their veteran. As a veteran myself, it brings me a sense of caring by the community for serving the country and, for one, I am proud to be a part of this worthwhile project.”

To purchase a brick or for more information, contact McCollum at 601-953-2828 or Treasurer Greg Starnes at 601-672-7265. You can also visit their website at veteransmemoryparkinridgeland.com.

VETERANS MEMORY PARK IN RIDGELAND, MS



MILITARY BRANCH PLAQUES

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$200 - 4" x 8" Engraved Brick Paver (Located along the "Walk of Heroes")

\$500 - 8" x 8" Engraved Brick Paver (Located around the Bell Tower)

(1) \$5,000 - Brass Plaque mounted on Concrete Paver

(1) \$10,000 - Brass Plaque mounted on Bench

(3) \$15,000 - Engraved Plaque at the Bell Tower

*All Engraved Bricks and Plaques must include the name(s) of Veteran(s)



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
VETERANS MEMORY PARK IN RIDGELAND COMMITTEE:**

Mike McCollum, Chairman - (601) 953-2828

Greg Starnes, Treasurer - (601) 672-7265

WWW.VETERANSMEMORYPARKINRIDGELAND.COM

A Vision for Jackson Street

By Jordan Lohman & Cameron Cooper

The City of Ridgeland recently approved the West Jackson Street Master Plan during a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Over the last 9 months, the City has worked with key stakeholders and Kimley-Horn to devise a strategic plan to make our beloved Jackson Street Ridgeland's official downtown.

"The potential of West Jackson Street as a true destination is enormous. This Master Plan establishes a framework to realize that potential by reimagining the existing space within the right-of-way with the pedestrian in mind. By being intentional in creating active, flexible streetscapes and public spaces in the heart of the community we can begin to foster an authentic 'sense of place' that people and businesses are really attracted to. This plan is a great step forward in the growth of West Jackson Street and the Railroad District," said Cameron

Cooper with Kimley-Horn.

The Master Plan aims to enhance the existing character of the West Jackson Street corridor. The plan includes improvements within the right-of-way and City owned property to create a cohesive, contemporary-traditional aesthetic that further strengthens the identity and sense of place for the Railroad District. A key component throughout the plan is the implementation of traffic calming measures to foster a safe, pedestrian-oriented streetscape environment. The Master Plan seeks to enhance the pedestrian experience, while striking a balance with vehicular traffic, to further activate the corridor and promote increased economic development.

The recommendations in the Master Plan were developed based on stakeholder input sessions and City staff feedback. The design team

consisted of Landscape Architects, Traffic Planners, and Roadway Engineers working together to ensure a feasible, safe, aesthetic, and pedestrian focused streetscape Master Plan. It is important to note that this is a planning level design, and further detailed construction documentation will be necessary to implement the proposed improvements.

The study area for this plan was created through an understanding of the major streets, properties, and land uses that would influence how people arrive, experience, and ultimately depart from the Railroad District. The study area begins west of Sunnybrook Road at the Ridgeland Wildflower Field and extends east to Highway 51. It also includes improvements in the 'Core' of the Railroad District on N Wheatley Street and Old Town Crossing. The improvements proposed are within public rights-



of-way and City owned parcels.

Through intentional landscape and material design recommendations, this plan will create a unique, contemporary, yet, historic aesthetic and design character that will carry throughout the limits of the Railroad District, creating sense of place and arrival at all edges.

Goals and Objectives of the Plan

IMPROVE THE PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE

This plan will put safety and the pedestrian experience at the forefront of design. Safe, defined, walkable areas are critical for the activation of any streetscape corridor. This

plan will look to improve existing pedestrian activity nodes and offers design recommendations to enhance the overall pedestrian experience.

ENHANCE DISTRICT IDENTITY

Through intentional landscape and material design recommendations, this plan will create a unique, contemporary-traditional aesthetic



and design character that will carry throughout the limits of the Railroad District. Overall, this will create an enhanced sense of place throughout the corridor and a sense of arrival at both gateways.

IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

Traffic calming measures are a key objective in the Master Plan and are intended to reduce traffic speeds, and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. The tangible effects of traffic calming measures will create a much friendlier and inviting pedestrian experience. This will directly correlate with increased activation of the District.

CREATE FLEXIBLE SPACES

Flexible spaces are essential in ensuring that this plan remains relevant over time. As businesses, land uses, and human behaviors change, the spaces within the streetscape & civic spaces will need to adapt to the most current needs of the businesses and community. With a focus on flexibility, the plan should create many opportunities for programmable space of various sizes within the streetscape and adjacent civic spaces.

OPTIMIZE DISTRICT PARKING

Although a major goal of the Master Plan is to create walkable streetscapes, most visitors will arrive to the district via automobile. This plan looks to optimize public parking while balancing programmable pedestrian spaces to provide a total net gain in available parking spaces and parking distribution.



PROMOTE MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION

Multi-modal connectivity is a key component in activating a corridor. A focus on multi-modal connectivity, in this case the integration of bicycle and pedestrian networks, ensures that the improvements made are equitable and provides transportation options for users of all ages and abilities.

WAYFINDING AND BRANDING

A major objective of this plan is to create a cohesive design that is easily discernible as a distinct place. Doing this will require a comprehensive marketing strategy that includes both branding of the district itself and wayfinding within the district.

INCREASE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Through the implementation of the objectives listed in the Master Plan document, it is the overall goal that the plan will increase economic development in the Railroad District.

The District has seen steady development over the years; however, undeveloped and under-utilized lots remain. With the increased activation of the corridor, development will continue to gain momentum. This plan will serve as a tool to help support design and guide the development of the West Jackson corridor to meet the established vision of the Railroad District.

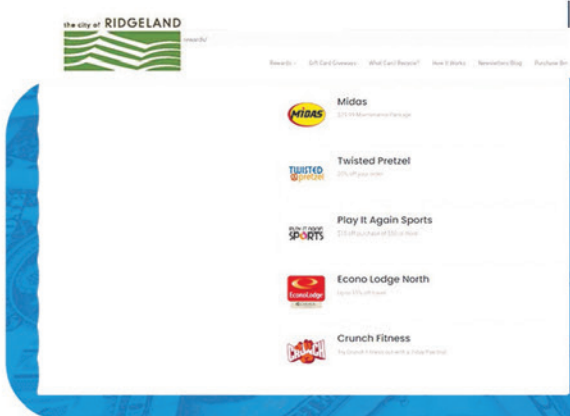


Welcome to
Ridgeland
Recycle
Rewards!



Now Active in Ridgeland, Activate your Free Account Today!

How It Works: It's easy to activate your account! Simply go to RidgelandRecycleRewards.com, select Ridgeland from the community list and follow the simple instructions to get started. Ridgeland Recycling Rewards provides faster access to hundreds of great money saving offers! Get started today... Go to RidgelandRecycleRewards.com.



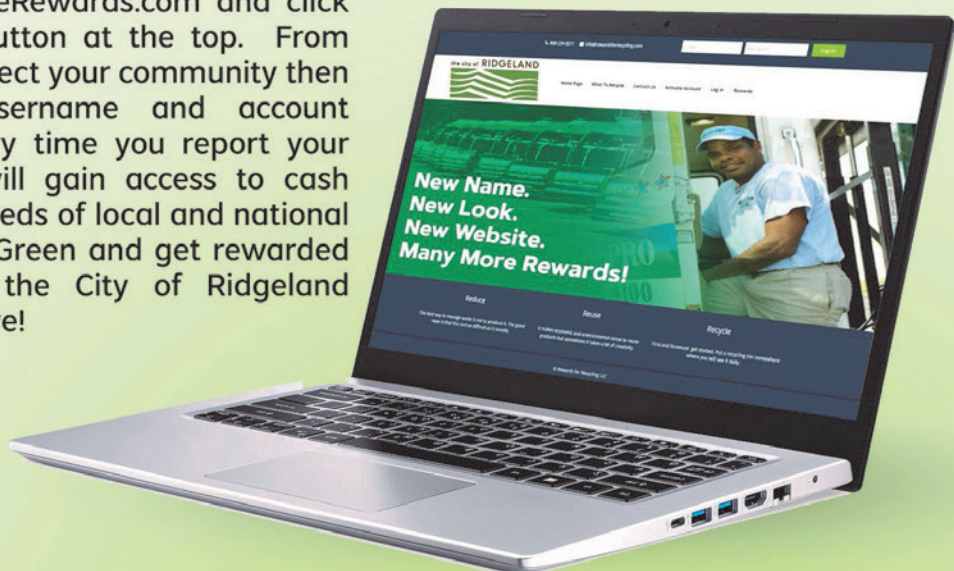
- Save money on everyday purchases!
- Over a thousand offers available!

Many great offers such as these are currently available for active recycling reward members!

Activate your account and get rewarded today!



How To Get Started: To activate your free privacy protected account, go to RidgelandRecycleRewards.com and click the "Sign Up" button at the top. From there you will select your community then create your username and account password. Every time you report your recycling you will gain access to cash savings at hundreds of local and national businesses! Go Green and get rewarded for supporting the City of Ridgeland recycling initiative!



Residential Rental Inspection Code

On November 15, 2022, the Residential Rental Inspection Code of the City of Ridgeland (RRIC) was adopted and went into effect January 1, 2023. The City of this new Ordinance requires owners of Residential Rental Property to obtain a Rental License by completing a Rental Application annually with the following information:

- Property Address;
- Property Owner Information;
- Owner's Agent, if the Owner does not resident in the Tri-County area;
- Name of the individuals permitted to reside at the residence;
- Proof of a \$15,000 Surety Bond (Separate Bond per Residential rental unit); and
- \$50 Application fee

Owners of residential rental property have until June 30, 2023 to complete this year's Rental Application for a Rental License. All Licenses expire at the end of the calendar year. Applications must be filed between December 1st and December 31st in order to remain in compliance. Renewal reminders will be sent in November 2023 for next year's registration requirement, but it remains the responsibility of the owner to apply for the Rental License.

The Ordinance includes some additional regulations that I want to call to you attention:

- A Checklist for Inspection of a Residential Rental Property (Appendix 'A' of the RRIC) is now included in the Ordinance to assist owners in the inspection process.

In accordance with Section 113.2, persons or companies that own Residential Rental Property in the City of Ridgeland shall cause each unit to PASS inspection every time the unit is vacated and prior to re-occupancy by another Tenant. The City of Ridgeland Inspectors will only perform unoccupied inspections.

If there is a circumstance where the tenant has been unlawfully permitted to occupy the rental unit, charges may be filed against the owner or owner's agent for violation of the Ordinance.

- In some instances, the City of Ridgeland may permit the owner to pay for an occupied inspection by the city's 3rd party inspector per the regulations of Section 113.6 of the RRIC. The fee for the occupied inspection is \$650 per inspection per unit payable to the City of Ridgeland who will pay the 3rd party inspector. The owner must pay \$450 for a re-inspection prior to each re-inspection.
- The new Ordinance has a provision in Section 113.4 for transferring a rental unit to a roommate without an inspection. The roommate must have been on the Application for Rental License on file for the same unit with the City of Ridgeland for more than 6 months prior to the updated Application in order to avoid the inspection requirement.
- Short-term Rental of property in Ridgeland is prohibited. Section 114.2 of the RRIC establishes minimum rental terms of 30 days,

but requires a license from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for anything less than 90 days.

- Section 114.4 of the RRIC requires owners to demonstrate financial assurance in the form of a Bond to show that the owner can satisfy any violation of the Code, including costs and penalties. The City of Ridgeland requires a \$15,000 Surety Bond for single family homes, duplex units, townhome units, and other rental types, excluding multi-family units, which have a bond calculated at a different rate. The City of Ridgeland has a Bond Form that must be completed and remain on file with the City of Ridgeland.
- If the owner of a dwelling unit, excluding multi-family units, is not a resident of the tri-County area, they must be represented by a Commercial Real Estate Broker located in Madison, Hinds, or Rankin County.
- Water and Sewer Utilities shall remain in the tenant's name while the property is occupied by the tenant. Past due water bills will remain responsibility of the owner if not paid by the tenant.

Copies of the Application for Rental License, Bond Form, and the Residential Rental Inspection Code are provided on our website.

If you need additional information or clarifications, please feel free to contact Bryan Johnson at bryan.johnson@ridgelandms.org.

Madison County Household Hazardous Waste Day

NORTHPARK MALL
RING ROAD • RIDGELAND, MS 39157

APRIL 1, 2023
7:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Please visit the City of Ridgeland website for additional details. We will provide a list of acceptable and non-acceptable items to better prepare you for your drop off! Volunteer opportunities will also be available.

VENDORS ON SITE WILL CONSIST OF

- **SHRED-IT**
- **INTERSTATE BATTERY**
- **MAGNOLIA DATA SOLUTIONS**
- **WASTE MANAGEMENT, CARE ENVIRONMENTAL**
- **SOUTHERN TIRE RECYCLING**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.RIDGELANDMS.ORG



Spring Tips from the Ridgeland Fire Department



By Nathan Bell

BBQ Tips

- All barbecue grills must only be used outdoors — using grills indoors or in enclosed spaces is not only a fire hazard, but it exposes occupants to toxic gasses and potential asphyxiation.
- Always position the grill well away from combustible objects — buildings, fences, deck railings and landscaping can easily and quickly ignite.
- Get your grill cleaned and serviced. Check all propane tanks and lines for leaks and damage.
- Never leave a lit grill unattended.
- Always use long handled grilling utensils and heat resistant oven mitts to avoid exposure burns from heat and flames.
- Periodically remove grease build-up in catch trays to prevent it from igniting.
- Keep a garden hose nearby, connected and ready for use in case of a fire.

NFPA Data

- In 2014-2018, an average of 19,700 patients per year went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills.** Nearly half (9,500 or 48%) of the injuries were thermal burns, including both burns from fire and from contact with hot objects; 5,200 thermal burns, per year, were caused by such contact or other non-fire events.
- Children under five accounted for an average of 2,000 or 39%, of the contact-type burns per year. These burns typically occurred when someone, often a child, bumped into, touched or fell on the grill, grill part or hot coals.
- Gas grills were involved in an average of 8,900 home fires per year, including 3,900 structure fires and 4,900 outdoor fires annually. Leaks or breaks were primarily a problem with gas grills. Ten percent of gas grill structure fires and 22% of outside gas grill fires were caused by leaks or breaks.
- Charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in 1,300 home fires per year, including 600 structure fires and 600 outside fires annually.

Source: NFPA's Applied Research

* *Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association (HPBA)*

** *Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, queried in April 2016*



RIVER OF PEARLS CHAPTER DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION Sponsors Junior American Citizen Club

by Kim Cooper & River of Pearls Chapter

On January 31, the City of Ridgeland hosted the first annual pinning program for the River of Pearls Chapter Junior American Citizens (JAC) Club. The JAC program promotes civics education, American heritage and history, love of country and service for children from preschool through 12th grade.

Members of the River of Pearls Chapter have adopted The Buddy Center in Ridgeland as one of their committee outreach service areas. The Buddy Center is under the auspices of the Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society (CMDSS) and serves as a home for free programming for people with Down Syndrome. Their programs include educational events, as well as exercise and creative programs. The Buddy Center opened in August 2022.

Under the direction of chapter member and JAC Chair Sarah Clark,



the members of the chapter have been meeting at the Buddy Center weekly to teach the children how to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, how to fold the flag, and to conduct the annual art contest held by their national organization.

During the ceremony, we celebrated the accomplishments of a few young men who recently completed their program focusing on 200th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. It was recently announced that the banner the graduates painted depicting the history of the Santa Fe Trail won the Southeastern Division level contest and is now

being forwarded to the National Contest. The Southeastern Division comprises of seven states, so we are extremely proud of these young men in winning this award in the inaugural year of the club. Members will be recognized at the Mississippi State Society DAR annual Conference in February.

The City was honored to host the ceremony at City Hall, with Mayor Gene McGee presenting certificates to the club members. Supporting those with disabilities has been an important focus for the City and we are thrilled that the Buddy Center has come to Ridgeland to help those in need.

recre8

The Ridgeland Recreation and Parks team is gearing up for the Spring season! We're excited about all the fun activities we have planned over the next few months. Come out and join us for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, our premiere cycling event – the Natchez Trace Century Ride, sporting events and much more!



Dog Obedience

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is a program partner with The Jackson Obedience Training Club (JOTC). JOTC offers puppy, beginner, and advanced dog obedience classes.

- Class registration is in February and March
- Classes start in March
- Classes are located at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, Old Trace Park
- Proof of vaccination by a licensed vet is required
- There is a fee for this program.

To find out more information about the 2023 spring classes, visit: www.jotc.org



Skyhawks

Flag Football

- Ages 6 – 9
- Tuesdays from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- March 21 through May 9
- Cost: \$120

Beginner Golf

- Ages 5 – 8
- Thursdays from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- March 23 through May 11
- Cost: \$120

Soccer Tots

- Ages 3 – 5
- Fridays from 9:15 – 10:00 a.m.
- March 24 through May 12
- Cost \$100

Summer Camps

For information on upcoming summer camps, please visit www.skyhawks.com.



Miracle League Baseball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks provides a baseball league for individuals with disabilities. Games are played at Hite Wolcott Park on the Parker Miracle Field.

- Youth and adult leagues are available
- Youth games are played on Mondays
- Adult games are played on Tuesday
- The season runs from April through May
- Registration is open and ends on March 25
- Registration forms can be found at www.ridgelandms.org - forms tab



Easter Egg Hunt

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks presents the City-wide Easter Egg Hunt!

- Photos with the Easter Bunny
- Egg Hunts by age groups
- Children ages 10 and under only are welcome
- One parent allowed per child in the hunting area
- There is no charge for this event.

Ages	Hunt Times
2 and under	6:10 p.m.
3 - 4 year olds	6:20 p.m.
5 - 6 years old	6:30 p.m.
7 - 10 years old	6:40 p.m.

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2023
 Time: 5:45 to 7:00 p.m.
 Location: Freedom Ridge Park



Natchez Trace Century Ride

Get your Ride On!!!!

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks are excited to host our annual premiere cycling event!

- All level riders are welcome
- Various distances are offered
- Registration is required to participate; visit runsignup.com
- Registration is open and ends on Friday, May 5, 2023
- Bike ride begins and ends at Ridgeland Recreational Center

Date: Saturday, May 6, 2023
 Time: 7:00 a.m.
 Location: Ridgeland Recreational Center,
 Old Trace Park



Father Child Fishing Tournament

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks presents the Father Child Fishing Tournament!

- Bring your fishing pole or rod and reel and bait to catch your fish!
- Prize winners are for ages 12 years and under
- Prizes are biggest fish, smallest fish, and most fish
- There is no charge for this event.

Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023
 Time: 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
 Location: Old Trace Park, Ross Barnett Reservoir



Ride of Silence

The Ride of Silence is a bike ride to honor those who have been injured or lost their life to a vehicle collision while riding their bicycle. Cyclists remain silent during the bike ride.

- All level cyclists are welcome
- Route is approximately 8 miles

- This ride is a slow pace
- There is no charge for this event.

Date: May 17, 2023
 Time: Ride greeting at 6:50 p.m.;
 Wheels roll at 7:00 p.m.
 Location: Northpark Mall

superstar seniors

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Exercise

\$15/month

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.,
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Instructors: Lisa Newman, Rita Latham,
and Lynda Assink

Certified instructors lead participants through a series of cardiovascular and strength training exercises specifically designed to improve flexibility and health in senior adults.

Line Dance

\$10/class or \$40/month

Mondays
6:00 p.m.

Instructor: Darlene Epple

Learn a wide variety of line dances while exercising in a fun way, no partner needed.

Martial Arts for Seniors

\$10/month

Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Instructor: Andy Dillon

Learn age and physically appropriate traditional martial arts and practical self-defense techniques.

Seated Yoga

\$5/class or \$30 for 6 (30 minute) classes

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Instructor: Lisa Newman

This class trains breathing and focuses your mind.

Standing Yoga

\$5/class or \$30 for 6 (30 minute) classes

Mondays and Fridays
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Instructor: Lisa Newman

Standing poses for strength and balance.

Senior Fit

\$15/month

Mondays and Wednesdays

12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Instructor: Sally Holly

Improve balance, flexibility, and strength through stretching and light weights for those recovering from recent illness, surgery, or neurological diseases.

The Complete Mix

\$15/month

Mondays and Wednesdays

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Instructor: Sally Holly

Intermediate circuit type exercise combining low impact cardio, balancing, stretching and strengthening exercises.

Tap Dancing

\$5/class

Mondays

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Instructor: Monica Russell

Beginning to intermediate tap dance instruction. This group performs at Ridgeland events and nursing homes.

Men's Bible Study

FREE

Tuesdays

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Men are welcome to join the group in person and everyone is invited to watch the recording on Facebook @RidgelandMensBible.

Artmakers

FREE

Tuesdays

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All mediums and artistic levels are welcome to join for friendship and encouragement. Come when you can, leave when you must. Bring your own supplies.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Ridgeland Garden Club

\$20/year

1st Tuesday of the month

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

A monthly meeting for those who love nature and gardening. Fun and educational programs served with a nice lunch. Please contact President Pam Stephens if interested in joining the waitlist at pstephens_jam1@comcast.net.

Bridge

\$1

Dates: 3/16, 4/20, 5/18

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A team trick taking game played with a standard 52 playing card deck.

Ornish Group

FREE

Dates: 3/28, 4/25, 5/23

11:30 a.m.

Participants all have a common goal of reversing their heart disease and improving their wellbeing.

Birthday Bingo

FREE

Dates: 3/23, 4/27, 5/25

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to play bingo, win prizes and eat cake in celebrating all of the birthdays each month. Must sign up in advance, space is limited.

Neeley Jones

Senior Adult Coordinator

(601) 856-6876

neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org

Facebook: facebook.com/

ridgelandsuperstarseniors

Ridgeland Recreational Center

137 Old Park Trail

Ridgeland, MS 39157

JOIN US FOR *Pickleball*



**WEDNESDAYS IN MAY
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
RIDGELAND TENNIS CENTER
201 MCCLELLAN DRIVE, RIDGELAND**

Pickleball: Fastest growing sport - especially for those over 50!

Have you been curious about the latest craze called Pickleball? Join Cheryl Truong, Central MS Pickleball and USA Pickleball Ambassador for a 5 week clinic. Pickleball is a hybrid of tennis, ping-pong and badminton that's played on a court roughly half the size of a singles tennis court. The whiffle-type ball used is lighter than a tennis ball, and players are armed with a shorter, lighter paddle that's only slightly bigger than one used for ping-pong. It's easy to learn and has a friendly group of people following the sport.

PICKLEBALL CLINIC REQUIREMENTS:

For ages 50+

\$5 per class

Pickleball paddle

Tennis shoes, towel & water



senior adult
programs

****The clinic will be cancelled on inclement weather days****

REGISTER FOR OUR "PICCADILLIES" PICKLEBALL CLINIC:

Neeley Jones
Ridgeland Sr. Adult Programs
769.235.9579
neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org

or

LeAnn Henderson
Vintage Travelers
601.331.8478
vintagetravelers23@gmail.com



The Mississippi Bike Ride

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

For over 23 years, the Natchez Trace Century Ride is quickly becoming the largest spring cycling event in Mississippi. Wheels will roll again this year on May 6, 2023 in Ridgeland, Mississippi. With approximately 1,000 riders, the bike ride starts and ends in Ridgeland.

The Natchez Trace Century Ride has something to offer for all types of cyclists and provides riders the unique opportunity to ride a portion of the Natchez Trace Parkway. A few of the beautiful scenery opportunities on the ride include riding around the Ross Barnett Reservoir, under a canopy of pine trees, and along-side cypress trees and lily pads.

With a choice of distances from 8, 25, 50, 62 and 100 miles with mild to moderate elevation, this is a nice ride for all ages and abilities. There will be plenty of support with "energy" stops providing food, restrooms, and refreshments every 10 – 18 miles. SAG vehicles are located on the course throughout the day to assist or provide service to riders.

Celebrate with friends and fellow riders as you cross the finish line. Receive a medal, enjoy a post ride meal, and relax under the tent with a view of the Ross Barnett Reservoir.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MS/Ridgeland/NatchezTraceCenturyRide>.





MAY
05-07
2023

RIDGELAND FINE ARTS FESTIVAL
NATCHEZ TRACE CENTURY RIDE
THE MIND CENTER SANTE' SOUTH
FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

renaissance at colony park
ridgeland, mississippi



Enjoy three of Ridgeland's
signature events in one epic weekend!

artwineandwheels.com + facebook.com/artwineandwheels

Celebrating 30 Years of Success 1993 – 2023

By Linda Bynum, Executive Director of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce

BENEFITS OF BEING A RIDGELAND CHAMBER MEMBER

- Greater business visibility
 - Wide variety of networking opportunities, tailor-made for our members
 - Referrals to your business by the Chamber office
 - Social media support and promotion
 - Become a part of an active, dynamic Chamber with a growing membership of 850! We're a Chamber on the move and provide our members with tools for success
 - Always keeping you and your business in the loop on Chamber and city-wide events, projects and programs
 - Fabulous events all year round
 - Come join the Ridgeland Chamber and watch your connections and business dollars grow!
- Our Chamber Diplomats are our ambassadors of goodwill: they go above and beyond in supporting our businesses by attending ribbon

cuttings, ground breakings and grand openings, and by welcoming new businesses to Ridgeland.

Diplomats meet the first Friday of every month at a Chamber member restaurant for lunch and networking. The close knit group also volunteers to assist Chamber staff at all Chamber events.

Our Diplomats are the heart and soul of the Ridgeland Chamber. Why do they want to be a part of this dynamic and prestigious group?

HERE'S WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY:



“Being a Ridgeland Diplomat is such a rewarding experience, and it’s given me the unique opportunity to reach out in the community and make a real impact. The lasting connections have been invaluable.”

Sumer Barakat, *Manager*
StorageMax Ridgeland



“Being a part of the Ridgeland Chamber provides me fantastic opportunities to meet new people and grow my business. The Chamber is very active, with important community events,

and gives me the chance to serve the Ridgeland community. I love that the Mayor finds time to attend every ribbon cutting and truly loves the businesses and citizens who choose to call Ridgeland home!”

Casey Bridges, *Realtor*
Hopper Properties



“As a banker, making connections in the community is invaluable. I joined the Chamber Diplomats because the group is very active in Ridgeland. This turned out to be a very good decision because not only have I made business connections, I have also developed many friendships.”

David Broadway, *VP Business & Specialized Lending*
Members Exchange Credit Union



“Chamber membership is important to my company because it generates business contacts and provides resources. I enjoy being a Diplomat because I am able to build relationships and professional development.”

Shelia Cheeks, *Branch Supervisor*
Trustmark Bank – Lake Harbour



“Knowing your community is so important when running or working for a company. Being able to network and building relationships with other members is beneficial in so many ways. I have enjoyed getting to know fellow Diplomats and being able to help out.”

Amber Davis, *Director of Sales*
AC Hotel by Marriott



“I have served the Ridgeland community as a Chamber Diplomat since 2015. During that time, I have served as Diplomat Co-Captain and Co-Advisor of the Junior Diplomat Leadership Program. The most rewarding part of volunteering with the Chamber is the relationships and friendships I have formed throughout the years. As a Diplomat and Co-Advisor to the Junior Diplomats, I have the privilege of representing Holmes Community College throughout our community.”

Allison DeWeese, *Career Technical Coordinator*
Holmes Community College, Ridgeland Campus



“Membership in the Ridgeland Chamber is important to me and to Embassy Suites because it shows our commitment to this business community, and our willingness to work together to promote each other’s goods and services. The pride we have in Ridgeland is reflected in the support provided by the Ridgeland Chamber. I enjoy serving as a Chamber Diplomat, where I have been able to cultivate new business relationships with fellow Diplomats, with whom I have been able to work to promote and advance the Ridgeland business community.”

Gray Jackson, *Senior Sales Manager*
Embassy Suites



“I love Ridgeland, my hometown, so I love being a vital part of the good things that happen here because of the support of our great businesses. The best businesses are a part of the Ridgeland Chamber, and I am proud to be among them as a member! I also serve as a Diplomat with the Chamber and enjoy getting to know other Diplomats and their businesses, as well as making great friends. Attending all the groundbreaking, ribbon cuttings and other special events of the Chamber enables me to know about local businesses so I can support them, and they can support my business, too.”

Scott Jones, *owner*
Safe Passage Driving Service



“As a member of the Ridgeland Chamber, I have been able to promote my company and at the same time, get to know the local businesses and people of the City of Ridgeland. Being a member of the Diplomats has been very rewarding and has allowed me to renew old friendships and make many new ones that I will always cherish.”

Sissy Lloyd, *Marketing Coordinator*
Professional Eyecare Associates



“It’s exciting to volunteer in my community and to help inspire and lift up others with disabilities and barriers. I love that my fellow Diplomats feel the same way. It takes all of us to make this world a better place.”

Tammy Louvier, *Digital Skills Instructor*
Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, Inc.



“Being a member of the Ridgeland Chamber has been a great privilege. The Diplomats are a diverse group of great individuals who support each other and our business community. It has been a pleasure getting to build new relationships and support our local businesses.”

Wilson Nichols, *Financial Advisor*
Raymond James



“I enjoy being a Diplomat with the Ridgeland Chamber because it provides numerous networking opportunities as well as providing exposure for the company I work for. Also, I enjoy having the opportunity to just engage with my community and help out whenever and wherever I can.”

Iesha Odoms, *Assistant Banking Center Manager*
Origin Bank – County Line Banking Center



“What a privilege it is to be part of the Ridgeland Chamber. Not only has my involvement allowed my business to expand, but more importantly, I’ve developed so many new friendships. I am looking forward to continuing to be a part of this exciting continued growth.”

Scott Stricklin, *Vice President*
Fisher Brown Bottrell Insurance, Inc.



“The Ridgeland Chamber means so much to me in many ways. Let me name just a few!

- Relationship Building
- Professional and Personal Growth
- Engagement
- Support

I owe so much of my all-around growth and company growth to the affiliation of being a part of this dynamic organization, and for that I am forever grateful. The best is yet to come!”

Enjoli Nolen, *Business Relationship Manager*
Luckett Land Title, Inc.



“Being a part of the Ridgeland Chamber is important because of the networking you are able to do with other businesses around the City of Ridgeland. Being a part of such a large and active chamber also lends credibility to your business within the community. Most importantly, the connections you make with people you meet is the biggest advantage to being a part of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce.”

Jared Rogers, *Branch Manager*
Keesler Federal Credit Union



“Being a member of the Chamber allows me to be part of an integrated business network that is working toward the common interest of growing and supporting other businesses. Being a member gives our company credibility, support and visibility, and keeps us connected to the community. Being a Diplomat has allowed me to share in fellowship with business-focused individuals who share many common interests and concerns. I enjoy being able to go to ribbon cuttings and community events, supporting the amazing business growth and the community of Ridgeland.”

Candace Vincent, *Business Development Manager*
Wise Staffing Group



**City of Ridgeland
Chamber of Commerce**

Ann Smith Elementary

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

By LaToria Washington, Art Director/Coordinator

Ann Smith Elementary Teacher, Assistant Teacher and Parent OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

MRS. JENNIFER HANKS: TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Jennifer Hanks is a kindergarten teacher at Ann Smith Elementary and has worked in education for 20 years. She chose to become a teacher because her entire family was filled with educators. “I saw the impact that they had on children, and I loved it. When I was a little girl, I always enjoyed playing school,” Hanks stated. Hanks enjoys spending time with family, shopping and enjoys listening to music outside of school.

MRS. CASSANDRA BASS: ASSISTANT TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Cassandra Bass is a second-grade assistant teacher at Ann Smith Elementary and is in her seventh year. She chose education because of the love that she has for children. “I get to see the world through them. I grow with them, and not only do I get to teach them new things, but they are also teaching me new things,” stated Bass. Outside of work she enjoys reading, writing and spending time with family and friends, as well as traveling. Her love language is taking care of others.

MRS. TIFFANY FREEMAN: PARENT OF THE YEAR



Tiffany Freeman is the mother of three Ann Smith Elementary students: Joshua (2nd grade), Ethan (1st grade), and Bethany (Pre-K). She demonstrates the importance of serving and giving back to the community by serving as an ASE PTO board member, a pre-school and kindergarten room leader in church and in other volunteer roles. Mrs. Freeman is also a lifelong educator with over 20 years of experience supporting district and school administrators, teachers and students throughout the state of Mississippi and across the country.

Old Town Middle School

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

By Abbie Marbury, PTO Public Relations Chair



FRONT ROW L-R: BELLA JONES, SHARMANIE STEVENS, SUMMER GREEN, ASHLEY ARENAS, CARLOS VARGAS-LOPEZ, KATHERINE CARTER, VICTORA PETROSYAN, JORDYN MCNAIR, AND SHANE EDWARDS
TOP ROW L-R: ALLEN MARC BOYD, KENNETH WILLIAMS, ASHANTI TAYLOR, KENNEDI COOPER, BENNETT LOWERY, VIKRANT SAINI, GURWARISDEEP (WARIS) SINGH, KAMRYN SHELTON, BREANNA WASHINGTON,
MELODEE HOOKS, ANTWANE COLE, AND NYA BRANDON.
NOT PICTURED: RYAN ROBBINS

Every October Old Town Middle School 8th graders take the Pre-ACT, allowing students, parents and school administrators to evaluate the needs and progress of the 8th grade class. This year we are excited to announce the latest members of the Pre-ACT 20+ Club – those students who scored a 20 or higher on the test.

Old Town Middle School is

extremely proud of the students, and we look forward to watching their bright futures unfold. So many exciting things are happening at Old Town this second semester: follow us on social media for updates on student spotlights, athletics, student organization activities and more. It's always a great day to be a Titan at Old Town Middle School!

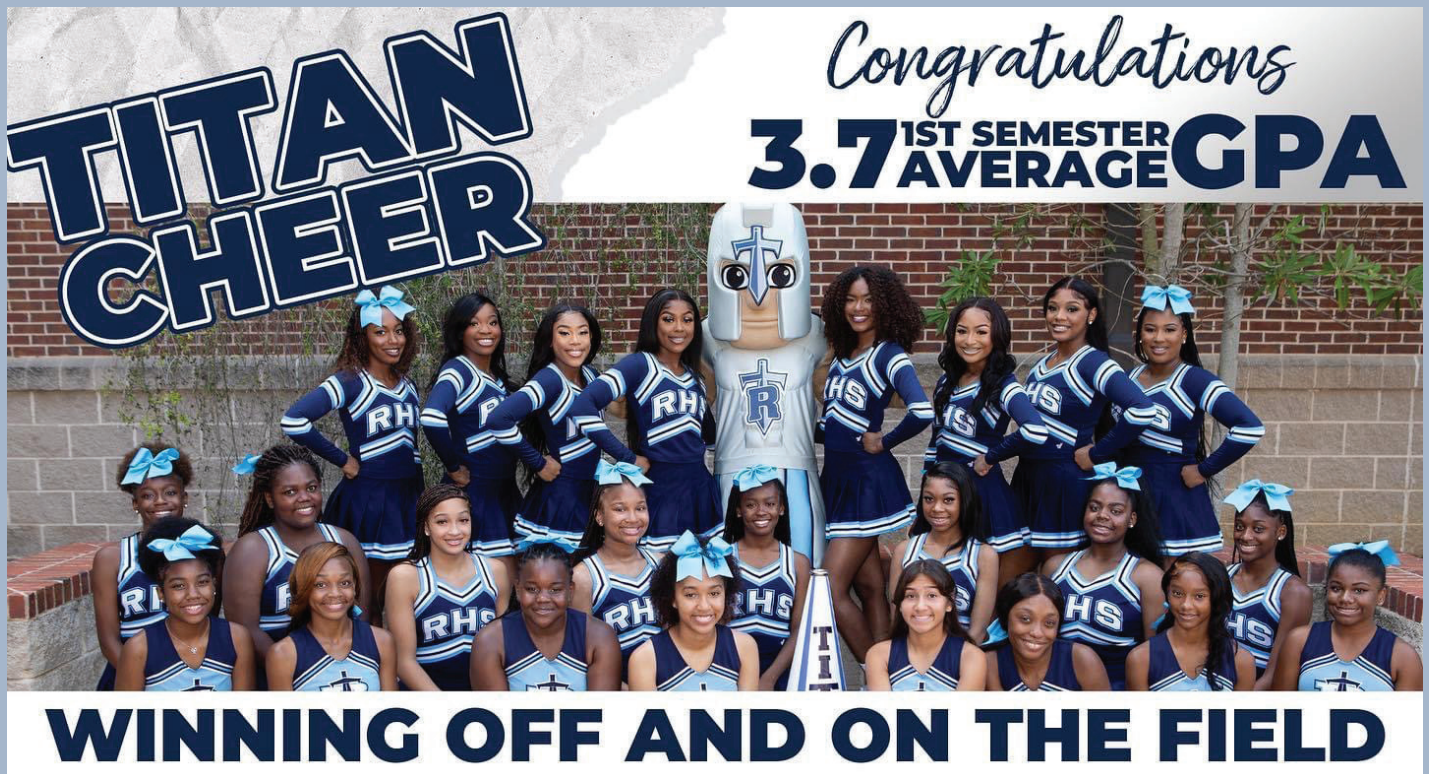


Ridgeland High School

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

By Jan Richardson

Titan Cheerleaders: *A model for School Spirit and Scholastic Success*



WINNING OFF AND ON THE FIELD

Teacher and Coach Sahara Wilson's 25-person cheerleading squad reached new heights and skill levels this year, dazzling fans at pep rallies and sporting events.

Student leadership includes seniors Sa'Riyah Johnson, 3-year Cheerleader and UCA All-American Cheerleader, Genesis Wimbley, 3-year cheerleader and UCA All-American, and 2022 UCA pin it forward recipient, Tori Lindsey, 3-year cheerleader and All-American Cheerleader. Junior Kortneigh Dixon is co-captain.

Carys McCoy also is a UCA All-American Cheerleader.

Reaching new heights is more than figurative for our team. Captain Genesis Wimbley, an award-winning jumper herself, explained, "When we first started many could not do a toe touch; however, we have practiced hard on them, and we do them often and now all of us have beautiful jumps."

"Our team has grown a lot," said Co-captain Kortneigh Dixon. "We are very disciplined. Even though many don't see what goes

on behind the scenes, we put in a lot of work to become what we have become so far."

A glimpse into the training regime that pays dividends includes 6:00 a.m. practices every other school day, a cheerleading block and after-school practices. Months of weightlifting and cardio conditioning laid the foundations for the team to increase their skill level to the competitive level.

"My favorite moment this year was our first performance in front of the community. They were not

expecting the skill level of the girls and were blown away. I started with four solid tumblers and have increased these skills across the team. We go to tumbling classes once a week at JAM athletics and have 3 tumbling coaches there. Ridgeland Cheer has never competed on this level before,” said Coach Wilson.

“One of our teams’ biggest accomplishments is transitioning to a higher skill-level cheer style,” said Captain Sa’Riyah Johnson. “We open our fans up to something bigger and better and it keeps them

on their toes to see what RHS Cheer will do next.”

“I preach to the girls that it is bigger than cheerleading. I want my girls to be prepared to accomplish all their goals,” said Coach Wilson. “The expectation is that all seniors had to apply to three schools by the end of November. If a cheerleader is a junior, sophomore or freshman, they must research three schools of interest. For each school they must write down the admissions criteria, if they have the major of interest, in and out of state tuition, as well as if they are interested in doing

cheerleading or any other sport. The academic team expectation was to have 3.75 team GPA by the end of each semester, and we met that goal.”

Coach Wilson teaches Biology I and Human Anatomy and Physiology. She also serves as the assistant softball coach. “I have the same expectations in my classroom. I strive for college and career readiness and excellence. I want all students to be prepared for whatever they would like to do with their lives and have confidence to be successful,” said Coach Wilson.

Titan Parent and Staff Earn Special Accolades



Ridgeland High School and the Madison County School District surprised three members of the Titan community, bestowing Teacher, Paraprofessional and Parent of the Year honors.

PARAPROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Amy Zarzour, selected as Paraprofessional of the Year, joined the Titan community in July 2019, and is the school’s bookkeeper. Amy and her husband Ben are proud parents of two daughters, ages 8 and 12. The Zarzours moved to Mississippi in 2018 from Alabaster, Alabama. Amy enjoys gardening, time with family on the water and supporting her daughters’ activities. “I was completely surprised to be presented with this award and I felt so honored,” said Zarzour. “RHS has been so good to me since the day I started.”



PARENT OF THE YEAR

Parent of the Year and Ridgeland High PTO board member Walter Young was equally surprised about receiving the honor. “When I got the phone call from Principal Chase, I was surprised and humbled. I have been involved with my daughter’s education since she was a baby. I joined the Ridgeland High School PTO because I wanted to be part of the solution to ensure that Ridgeland High School gets the needed resources to graduate young men and women with a mind set to be the best at whatever they do in life.”

“I want to be that voice to reach out to parents and the community to rally behind the only public high school in the city. As a member of the PTO, I enjoy seeing the true dedication and commitment of the PTO members, teachers and administration to put the kids in the best position to succeed academically and in the game of life,” said Young.

Young’s daughter Evan is a member of the varsity archery team and part of the JROTC program.

“The leadership skills that she is learning in those programs as well as school has transferred to her leadership abilities in church and family life.”

“My favorite part of being a member of the PTO is the annual Teacher’s breakfast. I was told that I make the best cheese grits,” said Young.

As the Senior Commercial Claims Adjuster with EMC Insurance, Walter’s schedule allows him to participate and attend his daughters after school activities, as well as PTO events.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Kate Bowman, a math teacher at RHS, earned Teacher of the Year accolades at Ridgeland High. In her 33rd year of teaching high school, Bowman has taught algebra courses and geometry over the course of her career. She currently teaches Algebra I and Foundations of Algebra and sponsors the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society. “After 29 years, I took a few years off to care for my mother,” said Kate. “When Covid hit, I was given the opportunity to get back in the classroom as a teacher at RHS.”

Ridgeland Principal Dr. Jimmy Gardner, a certified math teacher himself, said, “Mrs. Bowman piloted a new class for us last year in which students came to math every day in a double block.” As a part of this class, students were able to complete two full courses (Foundations of Algebra and Algebra I). Kate Bowman’s students have excelled on state tests in pass rate, growth and proficiency.”

“The support and camaraderie of the faculty and staff at RHS is phenomenal,” said Bowman. “The math department is a close-knit group that is supportive and encouraging of each other. It has been a joy to teach and get to know the students at RHS. It is rewarding to watch them learn and grow each year.”

Kate’s husband, David, is a civil engineer and Senior Vice President at Neel-Schaffer, Inc. David also has contributed to the Titan community, providing an engineering internship opportunity for a Titan student. The Bowmans have three wonderful daughters, Christine, Sarah Allen and Lizzie. They also have two grandchildren.



Holmes Community College

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

Holmes graduates six from Massage Therapy Program

Holmes Community College held a graduation ceremony for the Massage Therapy program on Dec. 8, 2022, in the McGowan Workforce Training Building on the Ridgeland Campus. Six students were honored.

The graduates included Ayanna Jake of Hinds County, Joshua Quincy Moore of Hinds County, Maggie Neal of Madison County, Terri Michelle Pittman of Madison County, Brandy Gail Rutherford of Rankin County and Kobie Singleton

of Rankin County.

Career-Technical Coordinator Allison DeWeese welcomed everyone to the ceremony before Singleton made remarks on behalf of the Massage Therapy Class of 2022.

Following his remarks, instructor Liz McLain addressed the graduates before handing out certificates. She presented Singleton with the Student of the Year Award for his outstanding academic success, leadership among his peers and excellence in clinicals.

Vice President of Career-Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington concluded the ceremony with closing remarks and a reception catered by the Culinary Arts Technology Program followed the ceremony.

For more information about the Massage Therapy program, contact Career-Tech Counselor Jovonna Parker at jparker@holmescc.edu.



IN THIS PHOTO: THE 2022 MASSAGE THERAPY GRADUATES AND (FAR RIGHT) INSTRUCTOR LIZ MCLAIN POSE FOR A PHOTO FOLLOWING THE GRADUATION CEREMONY. THE GRADUATES ARE (LEFT TO RIGHT) JOSHUA QUINCY MOORE, AYANNA JAKE, JILL NORMAN ('23 GRADUATE), KOBIE SINGLETON, MAGGIE NEAL, TERRI MICHELLE PITTMAN AND BRANDY GAIL RUTHERFORD.

Holmes' Dr. Bronwyn Martin selected as Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished College Administrator



Holmes Community College's Director of Marketing and Recruiting Dr. Bronwyn Martin was selected as a Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished College

Administrator. This award recognizes college leaders for their outstanding support of student success. She will be recognized at Phi Theta Kappa's Annual Catalyst Convention, held April 20-22 in Columbus Ohio.

"News of this honor has left me speechless," Dr. Martin said. "I feel so unworthy, but my heart is filled with joy knowing I have been recognized in such an unbelievable manner. Working with our future Mississippi leaders is invigorating, and their passion ignites my positive energy."

Dr. Martin holds a Doctor of Education in Professional Studies from Delta State University (2022), as well as a master's

and bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi. She was part of the Leadership Madison County Class of 2023, and the capstone project was about aiding in financial literacy for underrepresented Mississippi citizens. She was also part of the Community College Policy Fellows Program (CPFP) 2021-22 cohort, which is a one-year leadership development program focusing on public policy and advocacy for Mississippi community colleges. Her capstone project was advocating for broadband internet in rural Mississippi. Additionally, she graduated from Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA) in 2016.

Deveesha Magee joins Holmes Ridgeland as New Police Chief

Deveesha Magee recently joined the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus as the new police chief.

Chief Magee began her career in law enforcement in 2001 with the Jackson State University Department of Public Safety. While employed at JSU, she served at the rank of sergeant, lieutenant, captain and assistant chief. In 2015, Chief Magee joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center Campus Police Department where she served as assistant chief of police until 2019. She has also worked for the City of Byram and City of Terry police departments.

Chief Magee graduated from

Provine High School in Jackson prior to attending Jackson State University. Upon earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from JSU, she continued her education at Northcentral University. In August of 2022, Chief Magee completed her master's in organizational leadership with a specialization in project management from Northcentral.

She is a member of Holy Temple Baptist Church located in Jackson, under the leadership of Dr. Audrey L. Hall.

"I serve in many capacities at my church," Chief Magee said. "However, I most enjoy being the adult Sunday school teacher."



IN THIS PHOTO: PICTURED IS THE HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE RIDGELAND CAMPUS' NEWEST STAFF MEMBER, CHIEF OF POLICE DEVEESHA MAGEE.



Knowledge • Community • Imagination

RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Madison County Library System
 397 Highway 51
 Ridgeland, MS 9157
 601-856-4536
 www.mclsms.org

HOURS

Monday – Thursday
 9 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday – Saturday
 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Sunday

This March-May “spring” into a season of wonderful programs at your Ridgeland Public Library. The library is proud to offer programs and events for all ages, no matter what your interests may be!

Enjoy documentaries or non-fiction stories, join us for a new monthly program, Doc and Discussion, where we watch one feature-length documentary, enjoy popcorn and sodas, and discuss the documentary as a small group. March 7th at 11:00am join us for a special screening of the Academy Award winning documentary *This Changes Everything* (2018) in recognition of International Women’s Day this month. Delve into how actresses, such as Meryl Streep and Tiffany Haddish to name a few, had to overcome various obstacles in the male-dominated movie and entertainment industry to become the successes that they are. Small group discussion will follow. Stay tuned for our Doc and Discussion offerings for April and May 2023!

Springtime is full of wonderfully peculiar holidays, such as Pi Day, St. Patrick’s Day, and World of Poetry Day. The Ridgeland Library is your one-stop for all sorts of fun, free things to do for the entire family! March 16th at 5:00pm, don’t miss a special karaoke at the library program just in time for St. Patrick’s Day. Refreshments will be served and songs (no matter if the singing is good or...not so good) will be sung! National Library Week also occurs in the spring, April 24th-29th, and our Friends of the Ridgeland Library are hosting their Spring Book Sale just in time for this festive week of programs. Join the Friends of the Ridgeland Library, membership fee for the year is only \$12, to get access to the Preview Day of the sale. This is the day where the best books are available, so be sure to join the Friends so you won’t miss a thing! Book sale for non-members runs from April 27th to May 1st, which is our donation day. Bring a monetary donation for the Friends, no matter how big or small, and fill-up as much as a box of books at no cost on donation day.

Remember, Summer Library Programs start in June 2023 and run until the end of July, so be sure to visit your library this summer for tons of fun in the sun!



Ridgeland Alerts

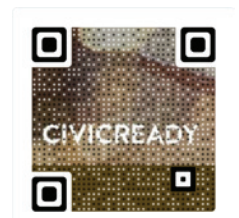
SIGN-UP TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY ALERTS AND CITY NOTIFICATIONS!

CIVICREADY®

The CivicReady solution will allow the City of Ridgeland to issue emergency alert and city notification to subscribed citizens via email, text message and voice alert, to keep citizens safe and informed.

3 EASY WAYS TO SIGN-UP

- **RIDGELAND-MS.MYFREEALERTS.COM**
- **VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND SIGN-UP BY CLICKING RIDGELAND ALERT ON THE HOMEPAGE**
- **TEXT YOUR ZIP CODE TO 38276 TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY ALERTS VIA SMS ONLY**



events

MARCH

16

St. Patrick's Day Karaoke
Ridgeland Library
5:00 p.m.

MARCH

30

Easter Egg Hunt
Freedom Ridge Park
5:45 – 7:00 p.m.

APRIL

1

16th Annual Township
Jazz Festival
The Township

APRIL

1

Demo Day
The Bill Waller Crafts Center
10:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.

APRIL

13

Chamber - Spring Fling
Golf Tournament
Deerfield Golf Club

APRIL

15

11th Annual Leap 4 the
Lily Pad
Methodist Rehab Center
Green Space

APRIL

24-28

National Library Week

MAY

5-7

Art, Wine & Wheels
Weekend

Ridgeland Fine Arts Festival
(May 5 – 7 at Renaissance)

*Santé South Food &
Wine Festival*
(May 6 at St. Andrew's Episcopal
School)

Natchez Trace Century Ride
(May 6 at Old Trace Park)

MAY

6

Natchez Trace Century
Ride
Ridgeland Recreational Center,
Old Trace Park
7:00 a.m.

MAY

12

42nd Annual Pepsi Pops
Old Trace Park
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

MAY

15-19

Law Enforcement
Appreciation Week
Ridgeland Public Library
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MAY

17

Ride of Silence
Northpark Mall
7:00 p.m.

MAY 18-21

Snappy Sync –
Synchronized Fireflies
The Bill Waller Craft Center

MAY 25

Memorial Day Ceremony
Veterans Memory Park in
Ridgeland – City Hall
10:00 a.m.

MAY 20-21

Renaissance Marathon
Festival

MAY 25-26

Summer Reading Kick-off
Ridgeland Library



Ridgeland Departments



Public Works
ALAN HART
Director
alan.hart@ridgelandms.org



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



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



Police Department
Brian Myers
Chief of Police
brian.myers@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..... 601-506-5913
- Kevin Holder**, Ward 3..... 601-238-5361
- Brian Ramsey**, Ward 4..... 601-506-1979
- Bill Lee**, Ward 5..... 601-278-6256
- Wesley Hamlin**, Mayor Pro Tempore, 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
- 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, Lynette Praytor
Leigh Ann Sullivan

KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL

First Monday - 4 p.m.
Jan Richardson - Chairman
Rachel Bradley, Ginger Cocke, Polly Hammett, Claire Jackson,
Phyllis Parker, Kenya Rachal, Lea Anne Stacy

COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE

Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.
Shelia Jackson - Chairman
Carla Palmer Allen, Ted Arich, Shirley Gill, Diane Jackson, Shelia
Jackson, Lazaire Martin, Adams Yerger, Walter Young, Jr., Bethany
Dooley, Becky Tilton, and Loden Snell

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Every other month - TBA
Nancy Batson - Chairman
Robby Carr, Donna Dye, Polly Hammett, Mike Porter, Pat Truesdale,
Jim Woodrick

CONTRACTORS BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS

Quarterly meetings - 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, Tabitha Baum, Walter Cox, Theresa G. Kennedy,
Drew Malone, Larry Miller, Judy Rice

Ridgeland Aldermen

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

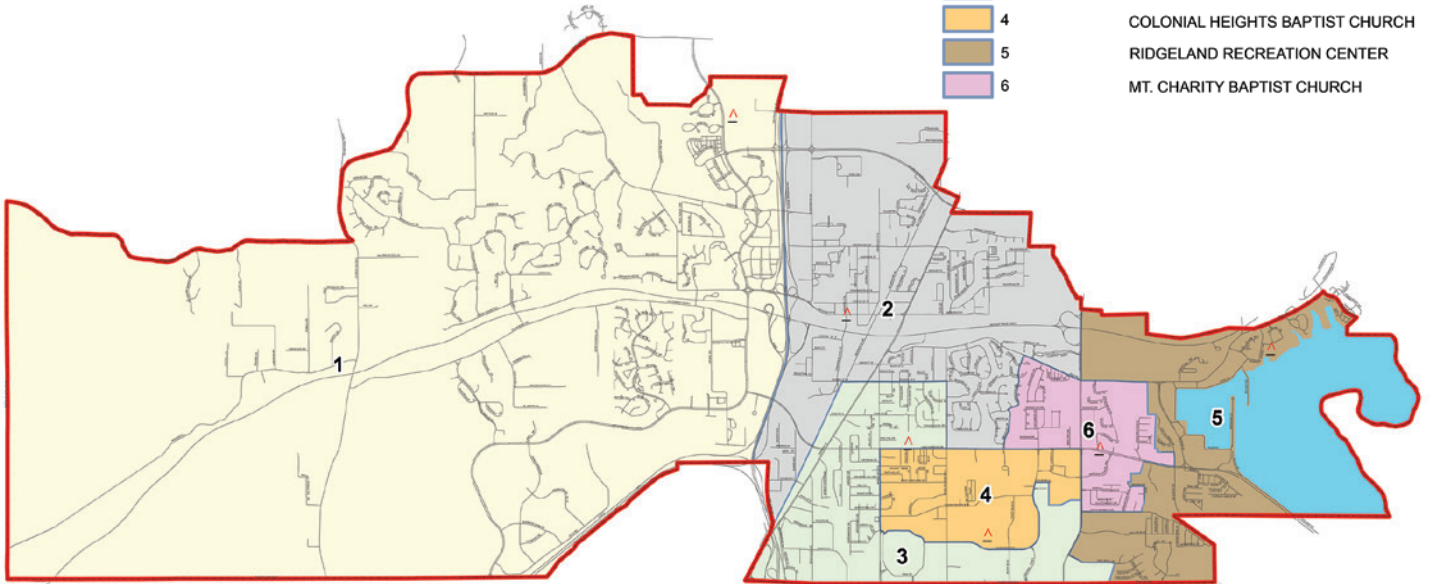
WARD NUMBER



POLLING LOCATION



- HIGHLAND COLONY BAPTIST CHURCH
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
- TRACE RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH
- COLONIAL HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
- RIDGELAND RECREATION CENTER
- MT. CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH



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



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



RIDGELAND
recreation & parks
2023

**Ridgeland Recreation & Parks
Events for Spring**
●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

MAR Easter Egg Hunt

- Thursday, March 30, 2023
- Hunts start 5:45 p.m.
- Freedom Ridge Park
- Free event for children ages 10 and under

MAY Natchez Trace Century Ride

- Saturday, May 6, 2023
- Bicycle ride starts 7 a.m.
- Old Trace Park
- Bicycle ride for all levels
- Must register to participate

**see inside magazine for more details on events*