

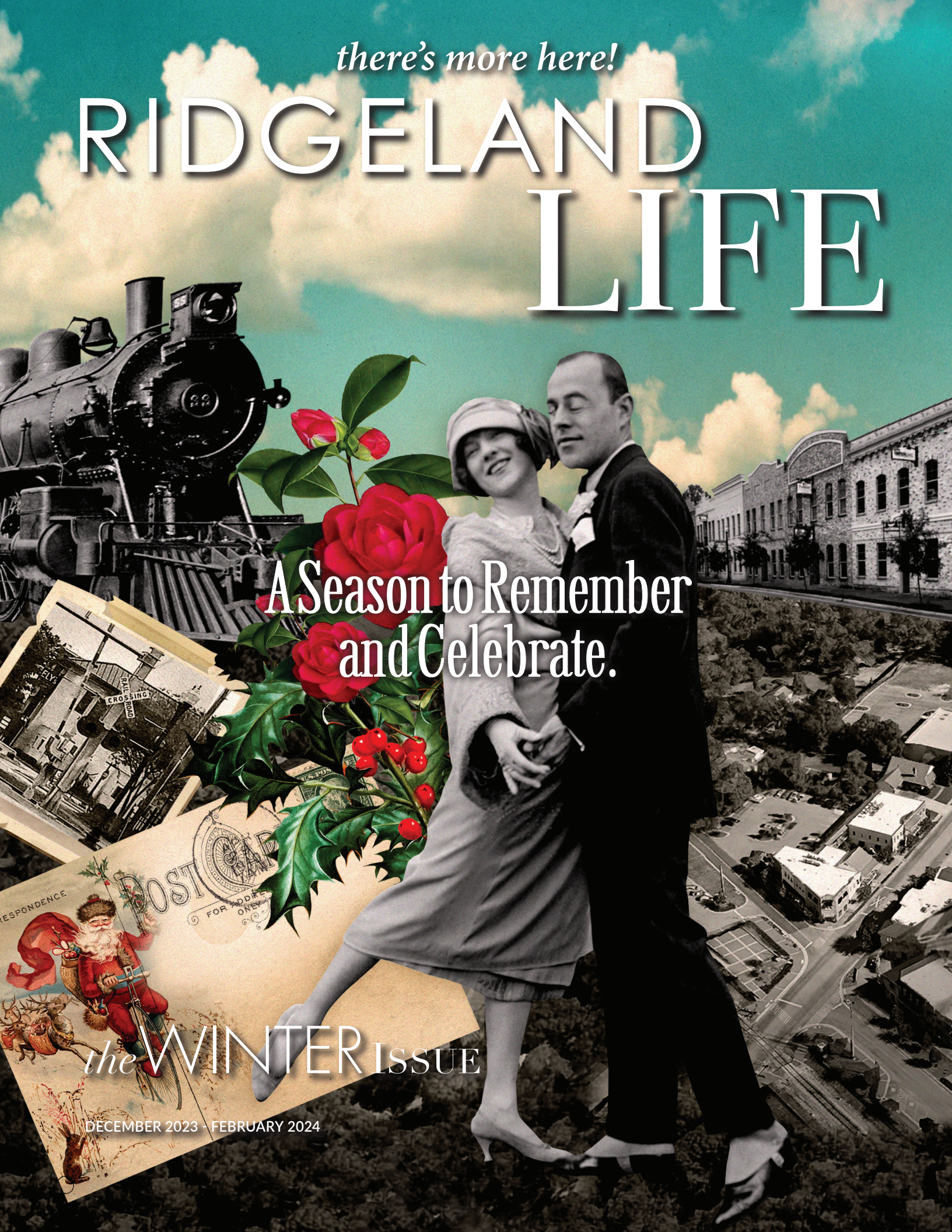
there's more here!

RIDGELAND LIFE

A Season to Remember
and Celebrate.

the WINTER ISSUE

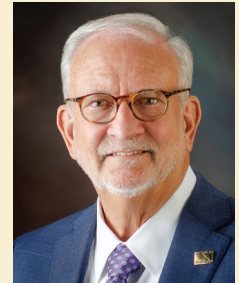
DECEMBER 2023 · FEBRUARY 2024



FROM THE MAYOR

Gene McGee

As we prepare for the holiday season, I can't help but think how blessed we are here in the City of Ridgeland. Our economy continues to be robust, and we have so many new and positive developments coming in the new year.



The City of Ridgeland employees continue to exemplify the very best of what our City offers, and I am so proud of what they do. To point out just a few of their contributions:

- Our Police and Fire Departments are second to none, and because of their tremendous skill and dedication, Ridgeland remains one of the safest cities in Mississippi, if not in America.
- Our Public Works Department has been hard at work ensuring that we have the best water in our public water system and that our sewer system runs safely and efficiently, and has made a tremendous effort in recent years to upgrade our streets to allow for safe traffic movement.
- Our Recreation and Parks Department always does a great job organizing our annual events. They also provide many opportunities to those who want to participate in sports, with programs for kids, senior adults, and those with disabilities.
- Our Administrative team is recognized nationally for excellence in financial reporting. The team works hard to manage the City's

budget to ensure we provide the services needed to deliver for our residents while keeping taxes as low as possible.

- Our Public Relations Department continues to promote our thriving City, and we are fortunate to have so many positive things to share and celebrate.

I also want to thank the Ridgeland Historical Society and Committee for their excellent work as keepers of our City's rich history. The information they showcase in our History Room assures that those who came before us and helped mold Ridgeland into what it is today will always be remembered. I encourage each of you to take the time to stop by City Hall to view the History Room exhibits. It is truly fascinating to learn more about who came before us – those pioneering families and individuals who provided a path forward for Ridgeland.

I am also very excited about the new Ridgeland History Trail currently being developed and funded through Ridgeland Tourism. The first trail marker was unveiled at City Hall on October 25th, and the Historical Committee will continue to work with our staff to

provide the markers in other strategic locations that will highlight the cultural heritage of Ridgeland. When the History Trail is complete, it will not only provide information for us as citizens, but it will also be a great draw for tourism by enhancing visitors' overall experience and creating additional economic development opportunities.

As we end the year, I want to wish everyone a blessed holiday season. I hope 2024 is the best year yet for you and your families.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene F. McGee". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

RIDGELAND LIFE

EDITOR

Kim Cooper, City of Ridgeland

SPONSORSHIP

Carly Brandon, City of Ridgeland

GRAPHIC DESIGN & PRINTING

Hederman Brothers

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

For information about Ridgeland Life, contact Kim Cooper at Kim.Cooper@RidgelandMS.org.

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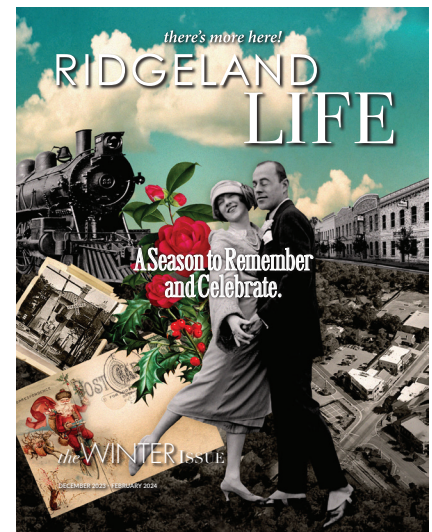
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“ We are excited to feature the history of Ridgeland in this issue, and we invite you to join us in celebrating the holiday season. This is a special time for the City of Ridgeland as we take a moment to reflect on the past and look forward to the new year. ”

Kim

Kim Cooper,
Editor/Director of Public Relations



TELLING RIDGELAND'S STORY:

A CELEBRATION OF RIDGELAND'S HISTORY

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIDGELAND

What started out to be a dedication and celebration of new exhibits by The Historical Society of Ridgeland was more like a family reunion!

On October 25, the Ridgeland Historical Society, the Historical Committee, City officials, and staff hosted a special event to highlight and celebrate Ridgeland's history. During the early years, Ridgeland was a headquarters in war, a haven in peace, and a center for trade and travel with a long and rich history of those who first settled in the area. Telling Ridgeland's Story was the event's theme as the team honored several of Ridgeland's first families and unveiled the first of many History Trail markers.

Pastor Dean Williams opened the event with prayer, and special guest, Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann, shared his memories of Ridgeland. Mayor Gene McGee welcomed everyone and introduced those who had worked hard to assemble these exhibits. We were joined by personnel from Ridgeland Tourism, and Director Chris Chapman spoke to the group, reminding us that tourism is the fourth largest industry in Mississippi.

The Historical Society has gathered photos, letters, and artifacts from the First Families for several years. Nancy Batson gave some

background on the permanent exhibit now on display in the History Room.

FIRST FAMILIES NOW ON EXHIBIT ARE:

THE HARRIS, CUMMINGS, AND GILBERT FAMILIES: Descendants of Patience Harris, a slave child of James Burroughs Yellowley, was brought to what is now Ridgeland in 1848.

THE BLOUGH AND JENKINS FAMILIES: Samuel Blough took what money he had, went to the train station in Indiana, bought a ticket for "as far as this money will take me," and ended up in Ridgeland.

THE MURRELL, CLIFTON, ASH, TUCKER, VAUGHN, AND RICHARDSON FAMILIES: Now known as Hillview, many Ridgeland families lived and worked on what was known as the Ash Plantation.

THE CARR FAMILY: Six generations of this family, starting with John Wesley Carr, have called Ridgeland home.

THE RIDGEWAY AND BUTLER FAMILIES: The Butlers operated Moolight Dairy, and M. B. Ridgeway was Mayor of Ridgeland.

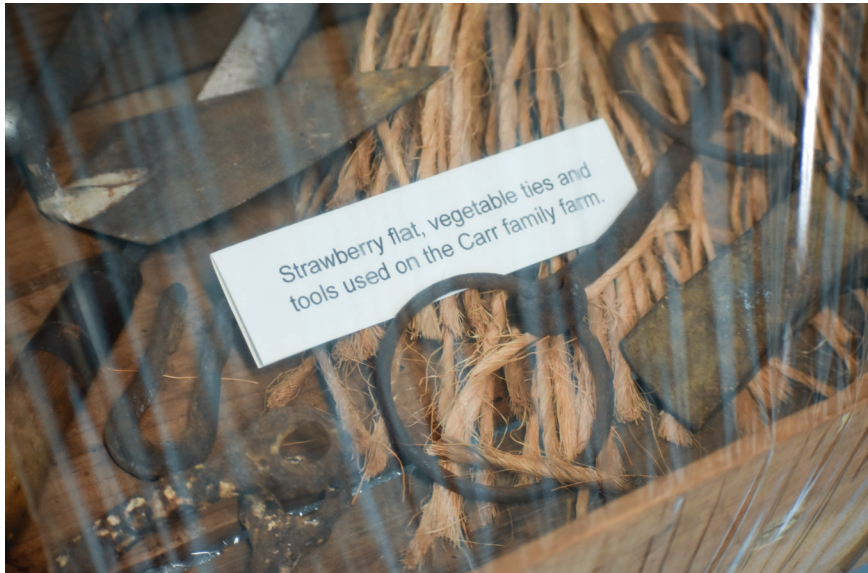
THE COZIAR FAMILY: They built a home on Wheatley Drive and have lived in Ridgeland for 75 years.

THE STURDIVANT FAMILY: They moved to Ridgeland after WWII. Bill was very active in Ridgeland.

Some of these families were here when Ridgeland was chartered on December 29, 1899, and others came soon after. Still others came in the 1940s and early 1960s.

“ It was a true journey in genealogy to work on this project. Collecting information from the descendants of our first families and discovering more about our City’s history inspired us all. ”

Nancy Batson
Chair, Historical Committee





There were representatives from all of the families. They enjoyed viewing the exhibit, visiting with other families, and telling stories about “way back when” and who lived where.

Whether a long-time resident or new to the area, you will learn something from this exhibit. Kenya Rachal moved here in the 1990s and was interested in the history of the area of Old Town Middle School. The Harris family owned the land in the late 1800s. Then, it was sold to the Carr family, who planted it with strawberries. The Carr family sold this land to the City. Bill Sturdivant tested some of his models of riverboats and tug boats in the pond on the property. The Butler family built a home on part of this land, not far from the pond. Pat Butler Truesdale says that

strawberry plants still come up in her yard from time to time! When I first moved to Ridgeland, I lived across from this property and remember a red fox that used to cross my yard to get a drink at the pond.

Retired from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jim Woodrick is now a member of the Ridgeland Historical Committee. He has worked tirelessly with Matt Dodd on the History Trail Project.

When completed, we will have a system of 25 interpretive signs throughout the City. They will utilize the existing trails, sidewalks, and additional off-trail sites. A History Trail Map and Guide will be made available at a later date. We believe the Trail will be of interest to residents and tourists alike.

The first sign was installed at City Hall. Others will highlight the development and construction of I-55, Greenwood Plantation, The Choctaw Agency, Highland Colony Company, Carr Family Farm, Simon Hill Church, Jessamine Cemetery, Old Town Commerce, Ridgeland Historic Churches, and other places (and people) of interest.

The History Trail was made possible through a grant from Ridgeland Tourism. The Society is grateful to Tourism for investing in our community and helping us to educate the public about the rich history of Ridgeland. The Public Works Department Staff has also taken an active part in the development of the Trail.



We urge you to come to City Hall to see the First Families Exhibit and the first sign for the History Trail. Looking through the photos and artifacts in the History Room will bring back memories to those who have lived in Ridgeland for a long time. It will give those who moved here more recently a good idea of where our city started and how far we have come in just under 125 years. Many will remember when kids could ride their bikes on Jackson Street - going to Pentecost Grocery and getting a nickel soft drink from Mr. Penny's old-fashioned drink box - what a treat! Some will remember when roads were two-lane or gravel - when there were only stop signs and when the first traffic lights were installed.

Please contact Kim Cooper at City Hall if you have stories to add to our collection. She has been so helpful in putting everything together. City personnel, from the Mayor to the custodial staff, have made it possible for us to keep on "Telling Ridgeland's Story," and we are eternally grateful.

By Polly Hammett



THE CRAFTSMEN'S GUILD OF MISSISSIPPI CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

2023 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi. We celebrated with our craftsmen on October 28th at the Waller Craft Center on Rice Road. We were fortunate to celebrate with original members and members who recently accepted membership invitations.



By Betsy Ross

Our mission at the Craftsmen's Guild is a simple one. We work to preserve, promote, market, educate, and encourage excellence in regional crafts. We believe these crafts enhance the patrons' lives who seek out and appreciate unique objects. We also believe that contact with the patrons enhances the lives of the artisans who express themselves through their craft.

It is through our work at the Craftsmen's Guild over the past five decades that artisans and patrons have been connected. We have helped members make a living from their craft while encouraging the highest standards.

We are proud of the efforts that have helped the Guild grow and become one of the most respected crafts guilds in the country. Membership is open to all whose work reflects a high degree of competence, professional standards, and artistry in their medium and category. Eligibility is determined by a jury review process, which takes place twice each year.

Passing along craft skills and fostering an appreciation of the craft for future

generations is something that happens in the most special of places. The Guild is headquartered at the 20,000 square-foot Waller Craft Center in Ridgeland. The Waller Craft Center has many functions - a spacious retail gallery that provides a place for artisans to sell their work, classrooms and studios, a special events venue, and a visitors' center.

Classrooms and studios provide space for classes, which helps to strengthen a craftsman's skill or teach someone a new skill, along with giving them a greater understanding and appreciation of a particular craft. Each December, the Chimneyville Arts Festival celebrates our artisans while providing patrons a central place to procure new pieces for their collections and purchase meaningful gifts.

For five decades, the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi has helped craftsmen make a living from their craft, enforced high standards, and provided educational programs to pass along craft skills and an appreciation for them to future generations. We are excited about what the future holds here at the crafts center as we continue to support and foster Mississippi artists.

KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful is the recipient of the Keep America Beautiful President's Circle and Keep Mississippi Beautiful Circle of Excellence awards. The team is comprised of eight members appointed by our Mayor and Board of Aldermen and supported by representatives from City departments.



Working to make visitors and residents aware of the importance of recycling right, eliminating litter, and beautifying our city are the keystones of our mission.

Partnerships with volunteers make this possible. For example, scout troops and volunteers from two engineering firms,

Sue Smith from Keep American Beautiful, and community members joined us for the annual Pearl River Clean Sweep at Old Trace Park in September.

For the past 18 months, First Ridgeland Baptist Church's partnership with Keep Ridgeland Beautiful has brought enthusiastic volunteers during their quarterly LifeServe WKNDs (weekends)

of service in the community. Teams work throughout the community. Primarily, their work with us has been centered at Friendship Park, where volunteers of all ages help by trimming hedges, piling up limbs, and cleaning hardscape structures in the park. A LifeServe WKND team also worked in the Ridgeland Wildflower Field and Art Park on West Jackson Street.

Each volunteer event leaves us with new friends and that special sense of accomplishment from a team effort, where much is accomplished in a few hours. Let us know if you or your group wants to volunteer by emailing KeepRidgelandBeautiful@gmail.com.

*By Keep Ridgeland Beautiful
Committee Members*



KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL YARD OF THE MONTH AWARDS

Through the Yard of the Month Program, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful recognizes residents who demonstrate exemplary efforts in maintaining and beautifying their homes and yards. These efforts play a vital role in keeping our city beautiful.



SEPTEMBER Residential Yard of the Month
Tehitia Poston at 309 Kelly's Glen



SEPTEMBER Business Yard of the Month
McDonald's at 349 US-51



OCTOBER Residential Yard of the Month
Henry Shotts at 200 Highland Garrison



OCTOBER Business Yard of the Month
Krilakis at 207 West Jackson Street, Suite D



This holiday season, tackle all of your gift shopping locally. Save the date for the 47th annual Chimneyville Arts Festival, November 30 – December 2, 2023!

Find event information and more at www.visitridgeland.com/wrapit



BE A HOMETOWN HOST IN RIDGELAND

Be a hometown host and plan your seasonal corporate and family gatherings in Ridgeland. Choose from 16 hotels, 150+ restaurants, and an array of caterers and special event services for every group.

Take advantage of group services at www.visitridgeland.com/groups



RECRE8

CITY CHRISTMAS EVENTS!



The Ridgeland Recreation and Parks team wishes you a wonderful holiday season! We hope you can join us for our annual City Christmas events. This fall, the Historical Society of Ridgeland honored the first families of Ridgeland, and with that, the City came together to celebrate our beginnings. So there couldn't be a better time for our theme of Old Time Christmas in Ridgeland. And of course, please don't forget your letters to Santa!

Please see detailed information regarding registration for our many Recre8 spring programs and senior adult activities.

OLD TIME CHRISTMAS

IN RIDGELAND

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
Plaza at Old Town Crossing
NOVEMBER 30 - 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS ON THE GREEN
Ridgeland City Hall
DECEMBER 1 - 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PARADE
Old Town Ridgeland
DECEMBER 2 - 1:00 p.m.





Dog Obedience

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is a program partner with The Jackson Obedience Training Club (JOTC).

- To find out more information about the 2024 spring classes, visit www.jotc.org.
- Registration for classes: February / March; Classes start in March at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, Old Trace Park



Mississippi Rush Spring Soccer

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is a sports program partner with Mississippi Rush Soccer, providing sports leagues for the community.

- To find out more information about the 2024 spring soccer season, visit www.mfcsoccer.com.



Madison Ridgeland Youth Club Spring Baseball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is a sports program partner with Madison Ridgeland Youth Club, providing sports leagues for the community.

- To find out more information about the 2024 spring baseball season, visit www.mryouthbaseball.com.



Hoops Basketball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks provides a basketball league for individuals with disabilities. Leagues are played at Old Town Middle School off Sunnybrook Road.

- Men's and Women's leagues are available
- Men's games are played on Tuesdays
- Women's games are played on Thursdays
- Season schedule: months of February/ March

Registration opens in November and runs throughout December

Registration forms can be found at www.ridgelandms.org (forms tab)



Miracle League Baseball

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

- Youth and Adult leagues are available
- Youth games are played on Monday
- Adult games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- The season runs from April through May

Registration opens February 1 and runs through early March

Registration forms can be found at www.ridgelandms.org (forms tab)



TOPSoccer

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is a sports program partner helping provide a soccer league for individuals with disabilities. To find out more information about the 2024 spring TOPSoccer season, visit www.topsoccerms.com.



RIDGELAND LETTERS TO SANTA

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will have a mailbox to the North Pole. Drop your letters off and receive a letter back from Santa!

- Include name and address for Santa’s reply letter
- Only letters received from the mailbox will receive a reply letter
- Duplicate letters will receive one reply letter
- There is no charge for letters to Santa

Dates: November 30 - December 14

Location: On the North Side of the Ridgeland Green in front of City Hall

SUPER 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: Martha Millsaps, 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 and Fridays
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Instructor: Martha Millsaps

This class trains breathing and focuses your mind. Most of this class is done from your chair.

Standing Yoga

\$5/class or \$30 for 6 (30 minute) classes
Mondays and Fridays
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Instructor: Martha Millsaps

Standing poses for balance; floor poses to improve strength

Mat Pilates

Fridays 12:00 - 12:30
\$5/class
Instructor: Martha Millsaps

Pilates is popularly known as a core-focused workout, but it’s actually a whole-body exercise. Floor exercises will be involved.

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.

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 Peggy Peterson if interested in joining the waitlist at Peggybpeterson@gmail.com.

Bridge

\$1

Dates: 12/21, 1/18, 2/15

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

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

Birthday Bingo

FREE

Dates: 12/14, 1/25, 2/22

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.

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks presents

2024 SENIOR ADULT VALENTINE LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

12 NOON

COLONIAL HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

444 NORTHPARK DRIVE, RIDGELAND



with entertainment by

ANDREW ISHEE



senior adult programs

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Ridgeland City Hall. Limited tickets available.

For more information call 601.853.2011.

To stay up-to-date on the latest from Ridgeland's Senior Adult Programs, sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by emailing neeley,jones@ridgelandms.org!

Neeley Jones

Senior Adult Coordinator

(601) 856-6876, neeley,jones@ridgelandms.org, Facebook: [facebook.com/ridgelandsuperstarseniors](https://www.facebook.com/ridgelandsuperstarseniors)
Ridgeland Recreational Center, 137 Old Park Trail, Ridgeland, MS 39157



HOLIDAY FUN IN THE CITY

Are you looking for festive activities this holiday season? Ridgeland has a variety of family fun adventures around the corner!

EVENTS

DECEMBER 1

Christmas on the Green

Ridgeland City Hall
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 1 - 2

Chimneyville Arts Festival

Waller Craft Center
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 1 – 24

Daily Holiday Photos with Santa

Northpark
Hours may vary

DECEMBER 2

Ridgeland Christmas Parade

Old Town Ridgeland
1:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 7 & 9*Pet Photos with Santa*

Northpark
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 9*8th Annual Christmas
for the Troops**Presented by Cub Scouts
Pack 164*

Renaissance
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 12*Mayor's Prayer Breakfast*

Colonial Heights Baptist Church
7 a.m. – Breakfast Buffet
7:30 a.m. – Program

DECEMBER 12*Mystery Reader's Book
Club*

Ridgeland Public Library
10:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 12*Mississippi Swing
Big Band Holiday
Performance*

Northpark
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 15*Christmas on the Green*

Presented by Colonial Heights Baptist
Church
Renaissance
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 16*Santa's Pajama Jam*

Northpark
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

JANUARY 9*Mystery Reader's Book
Club*

Ridgeland Public Library
10:30 a.m.

JANUARY 25*Ridgeland Chamber
Annual Awards Banquet*

The Country Club of Jackson
6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 11*Galentine's Day:
Bestie Bash*

Northpark
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 13*Ridgeland Recreation
& Parks Senior Adult
Program**Valentine Lunch*

Colonial Heights Baptist Church
12:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 13*Mystery Reader's Book
Club*

Ridgeland Public Library
10:30 a.m.

RIDGELAND CHAMBER LAUNCHES CANON'S CLOSET

The Ridgeland Police Department is now the home of Canon's Closet, a fully stocked, large pantry containing items for abandoned children and pets.

Ridgeland
Chamber of
Commerce



The Closet is named in honor of K-9 Officer Canon and in memory of his handler, Sergeant Ray Daniels, who passed away in July 2022.

“Our officers are often called to hotels, motels, apartments, abandoned houses, and cars to find little children, often with their pets, alone, cold, dirty, and hungry,” said Linda Bynum, Ridgeland Chamber Executive Director.

“Our officers take these children to the Ridgeland Police Department and inform Child Protective Services. Pets are placed with the Mississippi Animal Rescue League. While the children and pets wait at the station, our officers go to local stores to purchase necessities for them. They pay for these items with their own money and are not reimbursed,” she said.

Canon's Closet, located in the Roll Call room at the Ridgeland Police Department, is filled with diapers, clothing, pull-ups, baby wipes, non-perishable food and drink items, blankets, hygiene items, coloring books and crayons, toys and stuffed cuddly animals, as well as dog and cat food.

Ridgeland Police Chief Brian Myers said the stocked Closet is something good coming from a very sad situation. “I am reminded of a situation we had here where there were three or four children who had been abandoned and left in a hotel room. We were called to the hotel and couldn't believe what we saw. They had nothing.

Canon's Closet stocked with everything children and pets need

They were hungry and filthy. The parents were nowhere around,” Myers said.

“Our officers spent their own money buying needed items like food, clean clothes, and coloring books. These children were here for six or seven hours, and our officers provided them with everything they needed,” Myers added.

Contributions to Canon’s Closet may be dropped off at the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce, 754 S. Pear Orchard Road. Monetary donations may be mailed to the Ridgeland Chamber, P. O. Box 194, Ridgeland, MS 39158. All monetary donations should be earmarked for Canon’s Closet.

“We are grateful to the hundreds of Chamber members and residents of Ridgeland and beyond who answered our call for donations. The outpouring of love and support for this project was overwhelming,” Bynum said.

“This is such a special and very needed project,” Bynum added. “It is our hope, that with each donation, Canon’s Closet will bring our donors many blessings.”

By Linda Bynum,
Chamber Executive Director



Plaque on the outside of Canon's Closet



Ribbon cutting for Canon’s Closet, from left, Ridgeland Chamber Past President John Dorsa, State Farm Insurance; Patrol Commander Lt. Eddy Addison; CID Commander Lt. Brett Bertucci; Ridgeland Mayor Gene McGee; Ridgeland Chamber Vice President Cecil Harper, Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P.A.; Police Chief Brian Myers; Officer Scott Young, Officer Stephen Webb and Assistant Chief Tony Willridge

2023 Ridgeland Chamber Board of Directors

President

Ray Balentine

Michael Baker International

Vice-President

Cecil Harper

Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P.A.

Treasurer

Nathan Best

First Commercial Bank

Dan Ambrosino

Parkway Development, Inc.

Shawn Cochran

Northpark

Chris Hemphill

C Spire

Deonte Oscar

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Tim Magandy

Robot Coupe USA, Inc.

Carla Palmer

CPA Realty, LLC

Jay Reber

CenterPoint Energy

Jeremy Rodden

BankPlus

Tom Steadman

Tuxedo Junction

Chamber Staff

Linda Bynum, Executive Director

Sandy Baas, Administrative Assistant



THE GOODNESS OF GOD

RIDGELAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

MAYOR GENE F. MCGEE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023

Colonial Heights Baptist Church
444 Northpark Drive, Ridgeland

7:00 a.m.: Breakfast buffet opens
7:30 a.m.: Program begins

Tickets are \$15.00 and may be purchased at the
Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce - 601-991-9996

Diamond Sponsor: Priority One Bank
Gold Sponsors: BankPlus, Cadence Insurance, Center Point Energy,
Community Bank, Dean Architecture, Entergy Mississippi,
Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P. A., Guaranty Bank & Trust Company,
John Dorsa - State Farm Insurance, Staffers, Inc., Keesler Federal Credit Union,
Christian Author Tina Lakey, Madison, Renasant Bank, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.,
Michael Baker International, Trustmark, Waggoner Engineering, Inc.,
White Construction Company, Watkins Construction & Roofing,
Wells Marble & Hurst, PLLC, Madison County Journal,
The Township at Colony Park a Kerioth Corporation Development



City of Ridgeland
Chamber of Commerce

THE RIDGELAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CELEBRATES SMALL
BUSINESSES AND ENCOURAGES EVERYONE TO SHOP LOCAL.

Please support our wonderful Ridgeland business community this Holiday Season.



HAVE A HOLLY JOLLY

Christmas
in Ridgeland

Shop Local, Buy Local!

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Awards Banquet • Thursday, January 25, 2024
The Country Club of Jackson





School Time

RIDGELAND
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

Highland Elementary Students Win 2nd Place at C Spire Coding Challenge

By Angela Mitchell,
Mississippi Children's Museum

On September 14, teams from across the state participated in C Spire's C3 Jr Coding Challenge at the Mississippi Children's Museum in Jackson and Meridian.

C3 Jr is a coding challenge uniquely designed for elementary-age students to learn 21st-century technology skills. Teams comprised of four fourth-grade students were guided through coding challenges by a C Spire Mentor, treated to lunch compliments of C Spire, and participated in an awards ceremony at the conclusion of the challenge.

During the challenge, teams used critical thinking and problem-solving skills to design an obstacle course and code a robot to complete the course. Awards were

given to team members who showed an awesome attitude, team spirit, creative thinking, and problem-solving skills during the challenge. The top three teams received trophies and tech-related prizes.

Schools who participated at MCM-Jackson: Northwest Rankin Elementary, St. Andrews Lower School, Madison Crossing Elementary, Spann Elementary, Barak H. Obama Magnet School, First Presbyterian Day School, Highland Elementary, McWillie Elementary, Lake Elementary, and McLeod Elementary.

The mission of Mississippi Science Fest is to showcase STEAM subjects and engage students and educators across the state in a fun, interactive learning environment that promotes science education and workforce development.





ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

Hop on the Learning Bus with ASE

By Delila Vance

In October, Ann Smith Elementary teachers and staff hosted a Family Night that focused on building literacy and math skills using hands-on games and activities. This event was focused on “The Energy Bus” by Jon Gordon since our school theme this year is “Positive Energy Leads to Positive Results.” Families all hopped on the learning bus together as they moved from station to station, exploring various ELA and math activities. This event aimed to promote family engagement, strengthen relationships, and help foster a sense of community while reviewing important skills.

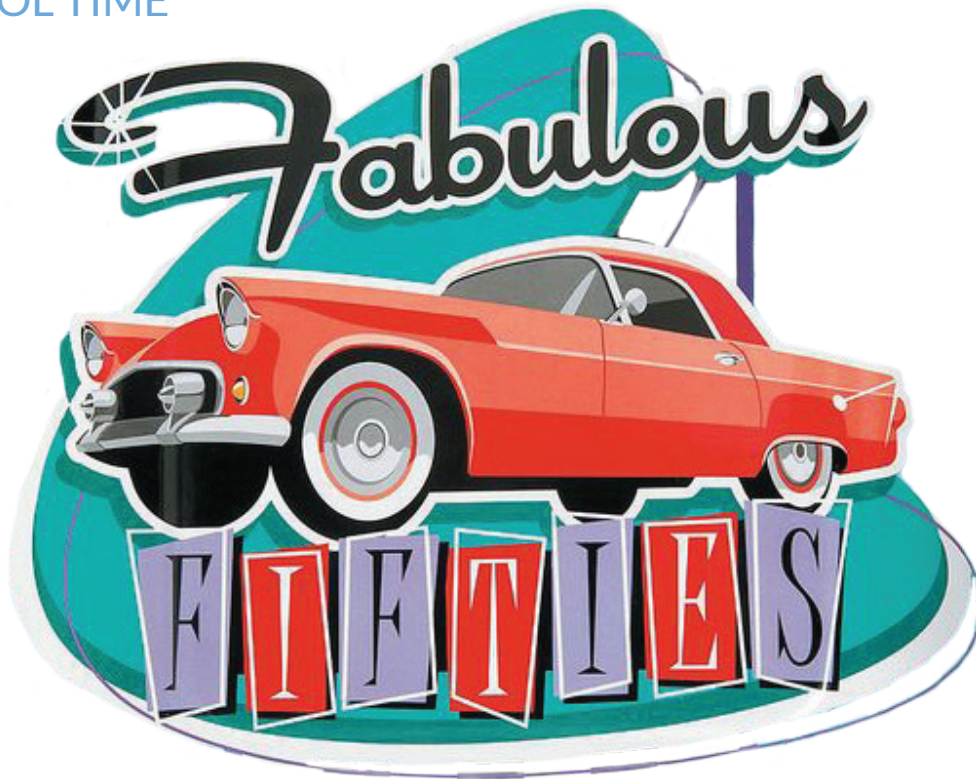
Amy James, our Instructional Specialist, headed this event. James was excited to see the smiles and excitement that filled the gym and cafeteria as families rotated through the activities. She said that all families were also given tote bags to collect various materials to take home for continued practice.

The ELA stations consisted of comprehension, phonics, and fluency practice.

The math stations focused primarily on logic and number sense. A technology station also gave families tips on what apps to use at home. Math was a clear favorite for the students.

This event was very successful, with over 70 families in attendance. The most significant success was the lasting memories families made. Ann Smith Elementary plans to host this event again next year!





RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

Fifties Night at Ridgeland High

By Toshunda Washington

The Ridgeland High School Choir and Culinary Arts Departments presented the Fabulous 50's Dinner Theatre on Thursday, October 5. Nearly 100 students participated in the evening, with approximately 200 people in the audience. Ridgeland High School Choir is under the direction of Jayne Doolittle and Tommy Creel. The Ridgeland High School Culinary Arts Academy is under the leadership of Asya Love-Wynn and James Durham.

The menu for the evening was 50's-styled hamburger sliders, hot dogs, fries, mac and cheese, and ice cream for dessert.

The Choir presented songs from the musicals *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Grease*, and *The Wiz*. Eight students presented featured solos that they chose, practiced, and performed on their own.

Included in the repertoire were:

"I Will Survive"

"Stupid Cupid"

"Put Your Head on My Shoulder"

"I Got a Woman"

"There Are Worse Thing I Could Do"

"Johnny B. Goode"

"Can't Help Falling in Love with You"

"Teach Me Tonight"





HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Aspen Institute names Holmes Community College in the Top 150 U.S. Community Colleges



By Mary Margaret Busby

The Aspen Institute listed Holmes Community College as one of the 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges. Holmes was selected from nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success and equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

Specifically, this honor is bestowed upon colleges with outstanding achievement in six areas: teaching and learning, certificate

and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, equitable access to the college, and equitable outcomes for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds.

The Aspen Prize spotlights exemplary community colleges to drive attention to colleges achieving post-graduate success for all students. It is a central way Aspen researches highly effective student success strategies that are shared with the field. The 150 eligible colleges have been invited to submit student success data and narratives about strategies to achieve better and more equitable student outcomes as the next step in an intensive review process that culminates in the naming of the Aspen Prize winner in spring 2025. The

eligible colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector. Located in urban, rural, and suburban areas across 30 states, these colleges serve as few as 169 students and as many as 49,619.

“The Aspen Prize is rooted first and foremost in an assessment of whether colleges are walking the walk,” said Josh Wyner, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program.

“As community colleges face enrollment variations, enroll students with pandemic-related learning loss, and graduate students into a rapidly changing labor market, it is easy to lose track of what matters most. The best community colleges continue to focus on advancing the core mission: making sure as many students as possible graduate with credentials that lead to fulfilling careers and reflect the development of diverse talent that communities, states, and our nation need.”

While community colleges are essential to our nation’s success, student outcomes vary substantially among institutions. Aspen measures those variances using multiple data sources and honors colleges with outstanding achievement in six critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor’s attainment, workforce success, equitable access to the college, and equitable outcomes for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds.

“These 150 colleges have achieved high and improving levels of student success for all students, including those who are often failed by our institutions,” Wyner said. “We’re excited to learn over the coming months how they achieved that success so we can share the most impressive practices with others in the field.”

Gregory Holloway named Holmes’ Young Alumnus of the Year

Mary Margaret Busby



IN THIS PHOTO: (left to right) Holmes Community College President Dr. Jim Haffey recognizes Gregory Holloway of Madison as Holmes’ Young Alumnus of the Year 2023 during the college’s Homecoming festivities on October 26.

Gregory Neal Holloway of Madison was named Holmes Community College’s Young Alumnus of the Year. He was recognized, along with the other Alumni Honorees, during the college’s Homecoming festivities on October 26.

A graduate of Terry High School, he played soccer on the Ridgeland Campus under Coach Matt Convertino during the 2002 - 2003 season.

“The entire experience at Holmes was memorable,” Holloway said. “Being able to be part of a community of like-minded people who enjoyed the same thing, who were all having fun together, competing together, and desiring to win together was a great experience.”

When Holloway played at Holmes, the soccer program was very young; it was only in its seventh year. The team only had two sophomores, and one of them was Holloway. The team finished the year with more wins than the last four seasons combined.

After Holmes, Holloway transferred to Mississippi College to earn a bachelor’s

degree in accounting. His first job after MC was with Harrold Contracting, a general contracting firm in Florida, on their estimate and bidding team. Later, he moved to their program management team, building high-rise condominiums.

After working with Harrold Contracting Group, he became a partner with a company called Tenax Aerospace, LLC. Tenax was a special mission leasing company for aircrafts that leased aircrafts to different government entities. In January 2018, Tenax Aerospace was sold to another investment firm in Connecticut.

While a principal at Tenax Aerospace, Holloway shaped the company’s strategic direction and growth, which gave him the foundation of where he is today with investment groups, to actively be involved in investment opportunities across multiple markets such as real estate, veterinary medicine, healthcare, oil and gas industries.

“Holmes prepared me to take on a challenge,” said Holloway. Holloway and his family now live in Madison County.

WINTER WONDERS AT RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Ridgeland Public Library has so much to offer our community.

Page Turners

RIDGELAND
PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE FRIENDS OF THE RIDGELAND LIBRARY

Mystery Reader's Book Club

Grab your favorite mystery read and join us for insightful discussion about the genre and mystery authors.

Tuesday, Dec 12th at 10:30 a.m.



We have books, movies, programs, public computers, free Wi-Fi, and a meeting space that can be rented for local groups and organizations to meet. We now offer passport services by appointment. If you or a family member needs a new passport, please call to schedule an appointment.

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) is a newer addition to our collection. All Madison County Library System branches have a Learning Resource Center. The LRC contains individually packaged kits on various subjects, such as learning the alphabet, dinosaurs, and numbers, to name a few. These educational kits make learning fun, and we have loved the feedback from parents, teachers, and kids who have already used these kits. Be on the lookout for more additions in the future.

Have you checked out all the programs we offer? We have a little something for everyone. Come see Ms. Summer for Coffee and Crawlers Storytime for ages 0 - 2 on Wednesdays from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. and on Thursdays for Preschool Storytime for ages 3 - 5 on Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. We sing songs, listen to fun stories, and make fun crafts. It is a fun time for everyone. Ms. Summer has programs weekly for kids, tweens, teens, and families to enjoy!

We have programs for our adults, too! A crowd favorite is the Mystery Readers Book Club. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the meeting room. Our selections have a little something for everyone. Monthly book selection lists can be picked up at the library. We hope you will join us. If joining a book club in person does not work, we offer an online book club that

meets on Zoom. The Books & Beverages Book Club started during the pandemic to stay connected with our patrons and talk about books. Everyone has had so much fun with this program that, when given the choice, we opted to stay online. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Zoom and discuss our latest reads. For the Zoom link or more information, email Evanne Flanders at eflanders@mcls.ms or call 601-856-4536.

Be sure to check our online calendar of events by visiting mclsms.org. You can check out the full schedule of what is happening at Ridgeland Library and all of our Madison County Library System branches (Bookmobile, Camden, Canton, Flora, and Madison) on our website, Facebook, or by picking up a print calendar at your local library.

A few on-going library activities:

Computer Basics Classes

1st and 3rd Friday of each month
2:00 p.m.

Coffee and Crawlers

Every Wednesday
10:30 a.m.
Ages 0 - 2

Preschool Storytime

Every Thursday

By Evanne Flanders,
Branch Librarian

CITY NOTIFICATIONS & TIPS

Residential Rental Inspection Code:

As many of you may know, the Residential Rental Inspection Code of the City of Ridgeland was implemented on January 1, 2023. This code was implemented to assure potential renters have a nice and well-maintained place to call home. Our rental inspectors inspect every rental home before a tenant moves in to ensure that the house is safe and meets all life and safety codes. We appreciate our rental property owner's efforts to comply with the ordinance and provide a nice home for future Ridgeland residents. We have made much progress this year and are excited and hopeful to see what the next year brings.

Reminders for registration renewal of all rental properties were sent out on November 15, 2023. All payments will be due on January 1, 2024. Currently, we only accept cash, checks, or money orders. All checks and money orders should be made payable to the City of Ridgeland. If you have not yet registered your rental home, please contact the City of Ridgeland's Rental Program Manager, Bayleigh Sears (bayleigh.sears@ridgelandms.org), or call 601-856-3877 to begin the process. All documents for Rental Property Registration are available on our website and can be found at the QR codes below:

3 Simple ways to report a street light power outage:

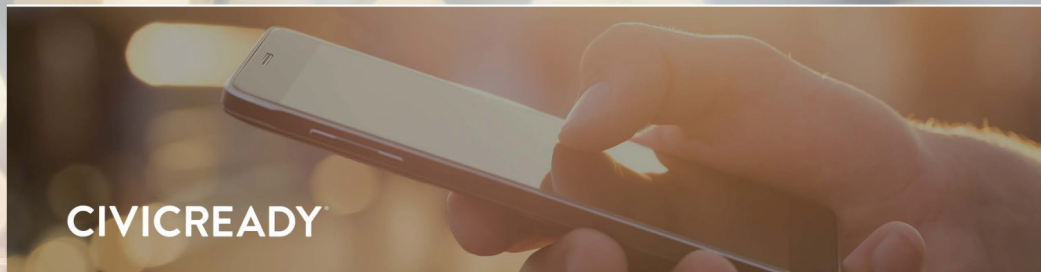
1. Entergy App: download the free Entergy app that provides a touch-of-a-button option to report an outage
2. Go to the Entergy website to notify via a simple submittal form
3. Call Public Works at 601-853-2027 to report the outage



RIDGELAND ALERTS

Sign-up to receive emergency alerts and city notifications! 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



CIVICREADY

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

RIDGELAND RECYCLING Rewards

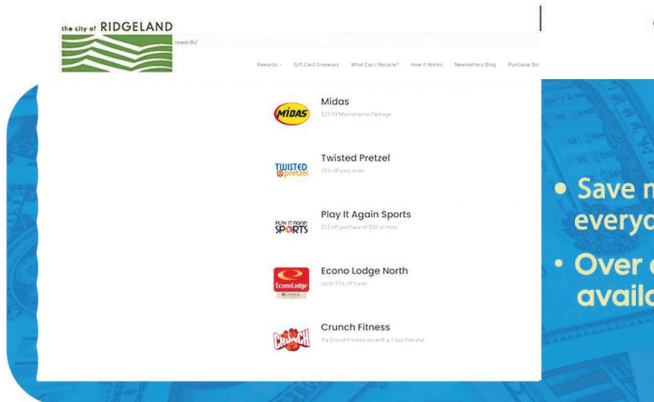


Welcome to
Ridgeland
Recycle
Rewards!



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.



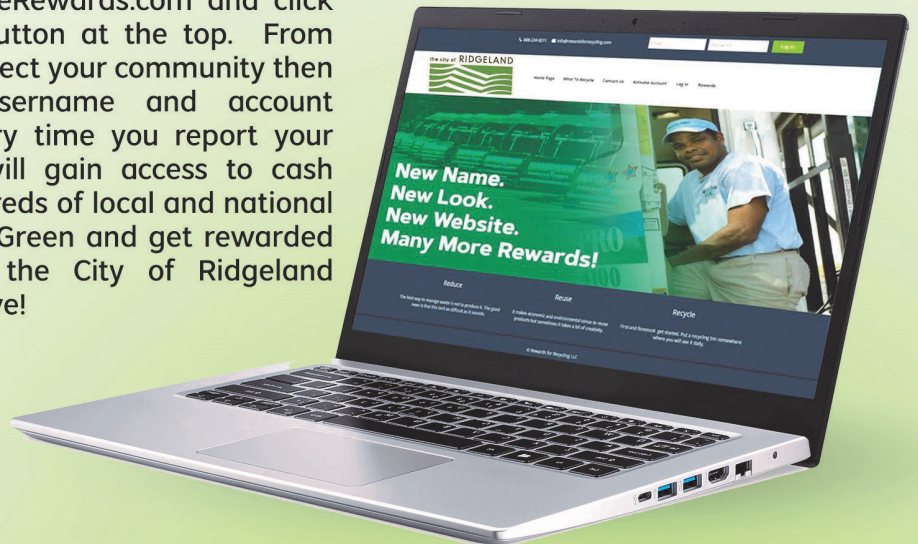
- Save money on everyday purchases!
- Over a thousand offers available!

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!



WHO AND WHERE

RIDGELAND ALDERMEN



D.I. Smith
Alderman At-Large
601-940-2710
DI.Smith@RidgelandMS.org



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Kevin Holder
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Brian Ramsey
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Brian.Ramsey@RidgelandMS.org

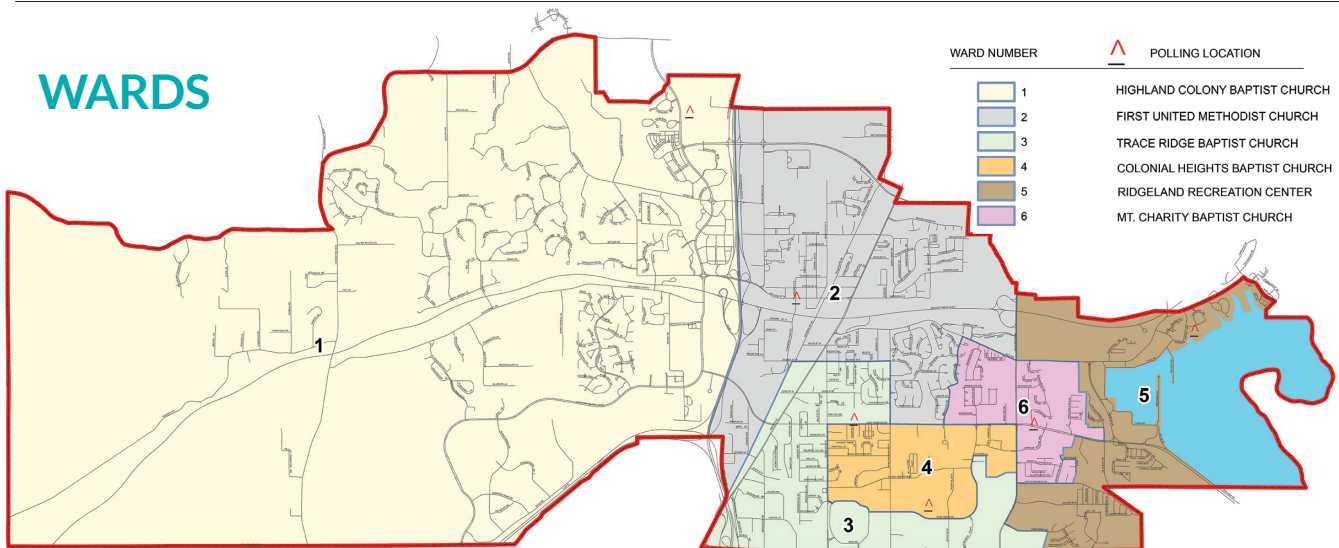


Bill Lee
Ward 5
601-278-6256
Bill.Lee@RidgelandMS.org



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

WARDS



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 re 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.org601-856-3938

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), Randy Lynn, Robert Moore, Lynette Praytor, Rick Eades, Jim Woodrick, 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
- 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, Theresa G. Kennedy, Drew Malone, Judy Rice, David Dunbar, Don Roberts

DEPARTMENT HEADS



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

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!





**OLD TIME
CHRISTMAS
IN RIDGELAND**

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
 Plaza at Old Town Crossing
 NOVEMBER 30 • 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS ON THE GREEN
 Ridgeland City Hall
 DECEMBER 1 • 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PARADE
 Old Town Ridgeland
 DECEMBER 2 • 1:00 p.m.

SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY!