

there's more here!

RIDGELAND LIFE



The Story of Our Official City Tree

the FALL ISSUE

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2024

FROM THE MAYOR

Gene McGee



We all love a celebration. Whether for a wedding, anniversary, Christmas, Thanksgiving, the Fourth of July, we honor victories and holidays as a way of communing and recognizing our shared history.

For me, celebrating friends' and family members' birthdays brings a particular joy. One of my favorite moments is that split second before a child finishes unwrapping a present: the moment when the suspense of what might be gives way to the surprise of what is! I love to see the joyful expressions on their faces as they enjoy the fun with their friends.

And so it is with much excitement that I have the honor of celebrating our City's 125th birthday with you. 125 years of growth has turned Ridgeland into a premier City in the state of Mississippi. From our railroad beginnings to the award-winning parks of today, from our forefathers who laid down the foundations for this City and saw what could be, to our leaders of tomorrow who will continue to build on the strengths of our collective gain. We have so much of which we can be proud.

Civic-mindedness, economic development opportunities and business growth have made Ridgeland a place that others seek to emulate, and with good

reason! We have become a mecca for technology, a financial center, and of course, we are recognized in the South for our premier retail destinations.

Our fire and police departments provide superior safety and security; our public works teams consistently offer excellent services; and we have a bevy of options for fun and recreation, with Freedom Ridge Park looking forward to potential expansion that will include more pickleball courts, tennis courts, soccer and baseball fields, and maybe even more walking trails. The quality of life truly is second to none!

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over and that we are looking forward to another school year. Whether attending Ridgeland High School, one of our elementary or middle schools, or St. Andrews and Christ Covenant, we have great opportunities for obtaining an outstanding education. We are also very fortunate to have Holmes Community College here, which has become a mainstay in our City.

As we move into the autumn of our 125th anniversary, let's reflect on all we have and look forward to our City's future growth. As always, we look forward to celebrating with you, listening to you, and working for you to make the City of Ridgeland the best that it can be.

RIDGELAND LIFE

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

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

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWSWORTHY

- 4 TELLING RIDGELAND'S STORY
The Evolution of the Historical Society of Ridgeland
- 6 THE STORY OF OUR OFFICIAL TREE
- 9 RIDGELAND'S VIRTUAL HISTORY ROOM
- 10 FALL IS FILLED WITH SO MUCH TO DO IN RIDGELAND
- 13 KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL
Go Green and Clean with Keep Ridgeland Beautiful

Yard of the Month Awards

EXPLORE RIDGELAND

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- 16 RECRE8
- 19 SUPERSTAR SENIORS
- 21 EVENT LISTING

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- 23 RIDGELAND'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO GROW

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- 27 HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY
Highland Elementary School Teachers Face Their Fears While Teambuilding and Preparing for Students to Return
- 28 OLD TOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL
Old Town Middle School Competes at TSA National Conference
- 28 RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL
Ridgeland High School Summer Highlights
- 30 HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Holmes Ridgeland Campus given National Weather Service StormReady Designation

Surgical Technology Class of 2024

Holmes Ridgeland holds Practical Nursing Pinning Ceremony

PAGE TURNERS

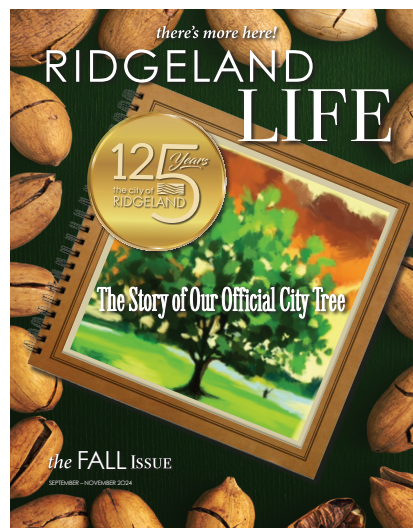
- 32 RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY IS RAMPING UP FOR FALL PROGRAMS

YOUR CITY AT WORK

- 33 CITY NOTIFICATIONS & TIPS
- 42 WHO & WHERE

“ This fall, we continue celebrating the 125th anniversary and the season of change. Fall invites us to savor the beauty of transitions and embrace the warmth of togetherness during the upcoming months and holiday season. These pages capture the season’s essence—filled with tradition, creativity, and new adventures. Please stay tuned for details on the next anniversary event, where we’ll unveil the official Ridgeland History Trail. ”

Kim Cooper,
Editor/Director of Public Relations



TELLING RIDGELAND'S STORY: THE EVOLUTION OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIDGELAND

When planning and designing a flower bed, I was told that plants, especially shrubs, go through three stages. First, they crawl. Next, they walk. Finally, they run! The Historical Society of Ridgeland has evolved in much the same way.

The Historical Society of Ridgeland was established fifteen years ago this month. On September 24, 2009, a group of twelve residents met at the invitation of Sandra Monohan. Public Affairs Coordinator for the City at the time, she was also the first editor of Ridgeland Life. After hearing a presentation by Presley Posey, former branch manager of Flora Library and local history coordinator for the Madison County



Library System, it was decided to form the Historical Society of Ridgeland. In November, committees were appointed to propose a slate of officers and establish by-laws for the Society. Banners that read "Historical Society

of Ridgeland...Telling Ridgeland's Story" were printed and placed on a car in the Christmas Parade. We were on our way!

Membership has fluctuated over the years, and several of our charter members have passed away. But we "crawled" through the first years, gathering information, photos, and artifacts on the "First Families" of Ridgeland. We led a tour of Jessamine Cemetery and held public meetings where presentations were made by the Sturdivant family, descendants of Patience Harris, and Binford Watkins, the first Police Chief of Ridgeland.

When the Historical Committee was formed, we started "walking" toward our

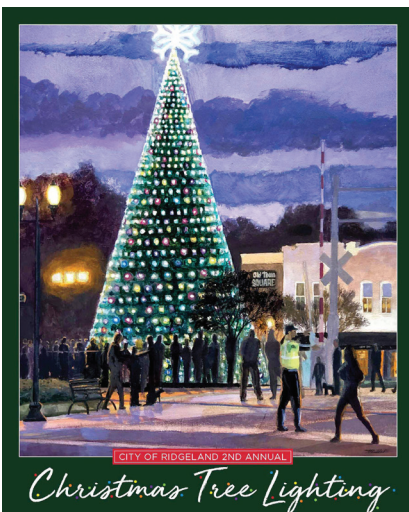


Formation meeting of the Historical Society of Ridgeland, 2009

mission of gathering historical data and educating the residents of Ridgeland. The original “Village” was designated as Old Town, Northeast Madison Street was renamed “Old Town Crossing,” and a historical marker was erected at the Plaza to commemorate the chartering of The Village of Ridgeland. The Society was also given a significant role in the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting event. The northern part of Wheatley Drive was renamed “Carr Farms Road,” and “Telling Ridgeland’s Story” became a regular feature in Ridgeland Life.

When the newly constructed City Hall was completed in 2021, a dedicated space was provided for the City’s official History Room. We started “running” to get everything sorted and documented. Displays had to be designed. This room houses archived photos, newspaper clippings, maps, and other important artifacts. Last fall, the “First Families” display was opened to the public at a press event. It can be viewed anytime City Hall is open.

But we are not done yet! City Director of Public Relations Kim Cooper suggested that we set up a “virtual tour” of the History Room that could be accessed through the City webpage. Working with Think Webstore, Kim led the launch



Artwork by Mark Millet, 2019



Nancy Batson and Mayor McGee, 2014

of the virtual space. This effort was also made possible by Nancy Batson, Curator and Chair of the Historical Committee, from the numerous years of collecting and cataloging our historical archives. The Virtual History Room is now available on the homepage of the City’s website. You are invited to visit the History Room, and we hope you will share this information with your family and friends.

For two years, we have been telling you about another special project in the works. With support from Ridgeland

Tourism and several talented City staffers, the Historical Committee has completed twenty-two interpretive signs for the Ridgeland History Trail that will run through the City. These markers will be fully installed by early fall.

We continue to look for “stories” about our City’s history. If you have an item for us or would like to join the Society, please contact Kim Cooper at Kim.Cooper@RidgelandMS.org, and she will put you in touch with us.

By Polly Hammett

“ I grew up on the outskirts of Ridgeland and my old home is now encompassed by its city limits. Ridgeland has expanded and grown from small family farming residences to large, spacious dwellings. I love Ridgeland and invite you to let us capture your family story. ”

Pat Truesdale,
President, Historical Society of Ridgeland



Pecan Grove, Freedom Ridge Park

THE STORY OF OUR OFFICIAL CITY TREE



The City of Ridgeland has recently designated the pecan as the Official Tree of Ridgeland in honor of the 125th anniversary. On Tuesday, July 16, during the Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting, the 125th Anniversary Planning Committee joined for photos to commemorate the occasion, which included the reading and signing of the Resolution.

The pecan tree is one of the first documented crops planted in the Highland Colony of Ridgeland. By 1898, nearly 1,400 pecan trees had been planted, 100 acres of which

were planted by Gorton Nichols and R.H. Thompson, two of the owners of the Highland Colony Company. The Nichols & Thompson's Grafted Stock Pecan, as they named it, was a large, fancy, paper-shelled pecan that they believed to be the beginnings of a lucrative industry.

The Highland Colony area was settled in the late 19th century for its agricultural promise, and quickly became one of Mississippi's principal areas for truck farming. Known for its adaptable soil, which was perfect for producing a wide variety of fruits and

vegetables, the area was especially noted for its strawberry fields and peach, pear, and pecan orchards.

Today, the majestic remnants of the old pecan groves and orchards planted by the first settlers of Ridgeland and the Highland Colony are scattered throughout the City. Notably, one such orchard can be found at Freedom Ridge Park. Many pecan trees would have been planted circa 1896, making them over 125 years old today.

Trees are considered important community resources because of

unique or noteworthy characteristics or values. Such trees have been described as heritage, historic, landmark, legacy, special interest, significant, and official.

The City of Ridgeland Tree Ordinance regulates protection and removal of trees in the City of Ridgeland. The Historical Society of Ridgeland is committed to preserving the heritage and historic nature of area trees. In the City of Ridgeland trees remain as documentation of a historic past and continue to mark the future.

If you'd like to plant your own pecan tree, contact Karen McKie at karen@greenoak.com or Martinson's Garden Works at (601) 856-3078.

Historical Note: pī-kān - The name of the pecan tree (*Carya illinoensis*) comes from the Native American word 'pacane,' which was used to describe "nuts requiring a stone to crack." European explorers encountered the pecan as early as 1541 when Hernando De Soto arrived in the Mississippi Valley region and the pecan was popular in French-occupied Louisiana. Among the Founding Fathers, Thomas Jefferson admired the pecan enough to plant trees at Monticello and sent George Washington seeds, which he used to plant pecans in his nursery at Mount Vernon. _ Special Collections, USDA National Agricultural Library



“The planting of a tree shows faith in the future.”

- Lucy from the March 3, 1963, Peanuts comic strip

CITY OF RIDGELAND LAUNCHES VIRTUAL HISTORY ROOM IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

The City of Ridgeland is excited to announce the launch of its Virtual History Room, now available on the City's official website. This innovative online space mirrors the physical History Room located at City Hall, offering a rich and immersive experience for residents and history enthusiasts alike.

The Virtual History Room features an extensive collection of historical archives that chronicle the stories of Ridgeland's first families, providing invaluable insights into the City's origins and development. In addition to these archives, the virtual space includes a "Share Your Story" component, inviting community members to contribute their narratives and memories, thereby enriching the collective history of Ridgeland.

"We are thrilled to offer this new feature that allows greater access to the narratives that have helped to shape

the City," said Kim Cooper, Director of Public Relations & Chair of the 125th Anniversary Planning Committee. *"The Virtual History Room is a testament to the Historical Society and History Committee's commitment to preserving our history. This virtual space will allow everyone access to these archives, regardless of location."*

Think Creative Intelligence, also located in Ridgeland, worked with Ms. Cooper on the concept and created the virtual tour. Think has partnered with the City on many projects throughout the years. *"The City of Ridgeland has done amazing things for the community. Recognizing its rich history in the new city hall is just one of the many ways it is celebrating its 125th anniversary. It is a good time to be in Ridgeland,"* says Bryan Carter, CEO of Think.

Visitors to the Virtual History Room can explore a variety of digital exhibits,



including photographs, documents, and oral histories, all curated to provide a broad view of Ridgeland's history. This virtual space will help preserve the past and foster a deeper connection to Ridgeland's rich heritage. The City of Ridgeland invites everyone to visit the Virtual History Room at www.ridgelandms.org and discover the stories that helped shape our great City.

"It's so exciting to take a virtual tour of the City of Ridgeland's history right from your computer. This is an excellent opportunity for all of us to learn about the City's origins," stated Mayor McGee.

City of Ridgeland History Committee:

Nancy Batson, Chair & History Room Curator, Robby Carr, Jim Woodrick, Pat Truesdale, Mike Porter, and Polly Hammett (City Liaisons: Matt Dodd & Kim Cooper)

125th Anniversary Planning Committee:

Kim Cooper, Nancy Batson, Robby Carr, Pat Truesdale, Jim Woodrick, Polly Hammett, Mike Porter, Donna Dye, Jane McGee, Lisa Walters, Carol Fitzgerald, Karen McKie, Bill Lee, D.I. Smith, Kenya Rachal, Bryan Johnson, Matt Dodd, William Gilbert, Ben McDonald, Explore Ridgeland, and Linda Bynum



FALL IS FILLED WITH SO MUCH TO DO IN RIDGELAND!

The fall season brings many colorful adventures to enjoy, especially in Ridgeland! We've rounded up some of Ridgeland's best things to do so you and your family can connect during this glorious time of year.

WALLER CRAFT CENTER

For the 48th year, the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi will present the Chimneyville Arts Festival, celebrating the finest artisans and craftsmen from across the state and beyond. The festival will be held December 6 and 7 at the Waller Craft Center, located at 950 Rice Road in Ridgeland.

The popular Preview Party will kick off the event on Thursday, December 5, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ticket holders will have a chance to preview and purchase crafts presented by

exhibitors and enjoy food, beverages, and live music.

Demonstrations by members of the Craftsmen's Guild will take place on Friday and Saturday, and work will be available for sale following the demonstrations. There will also be demos in the metal workshop and woodworking shop. Another popular feature will be the Young Artists show, where selected students from area high schools will have their work displayed. "This is an important program for us," says Craftsmen's Guild president Debby

DeLashmet. "These students could potentially be future members of the Craftsmen's Guild."

The Craft Center's doors open at 10:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7. The show runs through 4:00 p.m. each day. Food and beverages will be available to purchase on-site.

"We are looking forward to this year's festival," says DeLashmet. "Why give ordinary, mass-produced gifts when amazing, original crafts are right here? We hope everyone will join us at the Waller Craft Center in Ridgeland for this exciting annual festival celebrating our talented craftsmen."

For more information on the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, visit www.mscrefts.org.

- **December 5: Preview Party**
- **December 6 – 7: Chimneyville Arts Festival**





RIDGELAND SCARECROW CONTEST AT RIDGELAND WILDFLOWER FIELD & ART PARK

Join the fun at the Ridgeland Scarecrow Trail! It's that time of year again! Get ready to unleash your creativity and join us for the Ridgeland Scarecrow Trail. Whether you're a seasoned scarecrow artist or just looking for festive fun, this is your chance to shine!

The winner will receive a \$100 gift card to any local restaurant of your choice. Enjoy a delicious meal on us as a reward for your creativity and participation.

- Create a Scarecrow: Gather your team, family, or friends and build the most imaginative scarecrow you can.
- Decorate a Pumpkin: Short on time? No worries! You can also participate by submitting a decorated pumpkin. It's a great way to have fun during the fall season.

October 1 – November 30

Register at: the Ridgeland Visitor Center - 1000 Highland Colony Parkway Suite #3002 or online at exploreridgeland.com/events/ridgeland-scarecrow-trail/

TURKEY DAY 8K

If you're one of those families that gets up early to run on holidays, this one is for you! Make a Thanksgiving tradition with your loved ones by registering for Turkey Day 8k. The run will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, and begin at 7:00 a.m. at Fleet Feet of Ridgeland.

RENAISSANCE AT COLONY PARK

MISSISSIPPI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WITH THE BTJ TRIO

September 12

7:00 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of bluegrass music with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, featuring Bill Ellison, Temperance Babcock-Steiskal, and Jeff Perkins. All ages will enjoy this FREE outdoor concert by presenter Renaissance at Colony Park!



EURO FEST CLASSIC EUROPEAN AUTO & MOTORCYCLE SHOW

October 5

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity for European auto enthusiasts to enjoy the beauty of British, Italian, German, and many other European vehicles. It's a perfect time of year to be outside, strolling the grounds of Renaissance, with live music, and viewing gorgeous automobiles and motorcycles. The event is free to the public.

COMMUNITY ANIMAL RESCUE & ADOPTION (CARA) WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER

October 5

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

You'll want to remain after Euro Fest for the Wine Tasting Event benefiting Community Animal Rescue & Adoption (CARA)! The event will take place in the green space by the Show Fountain.

There will be an assortment of fabulous wines from local wine distributors and a pairing of charcuterie and sweets. Come enjoy and support the animals! This is a ticketed event - you must be 21 to purchase a ticket.

CARA is a nonprofit, no-kill rescue group that cares for hundreds of abused, unwanted, and stray animals. It is supported solely by private donations from individuals, businesses, and fundraising events.



Reduce · Reuse · Recycle · Restore

NEXTECH RECYCLING EVENT

October 11

7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

In recognition of International E-Waste Day, Renaissance at Colony Park and NexTech, a local IT disposal services company, will host an E-Waste Collection Event to be held at Renaissance at Colony Park in Ridgeland (on the I-55 side of the Barnes & Noble parking lot) and will offer a place for residents and small businesses to dispose of their end-of-life/discarded electronics such as laptops/personal computers, monitors, televisions, cell phones, printers, scanners and cords.



NOGGINFEAST PRESENTED BY THE BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

October 14

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

NogginFeast, benefitting the Brain Injury Association of Mississippi, returns to Renaissance at Colony Park! Enjoy savory dishes, decadent desserts, delightful drinks from local restaurants and vendors, and live music. NogginFeast raises awareness about brain and spinal cord injury and provides a special night for survivors and their families. Get your tickets and come out to enjoy a great cause!



FIRST RIDGELAND'S GREAT PUMPKIN HUNT

October 27

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

First Ridgeland Baptist Church brings the Great Pumpkin Hunt to Renaissance at Colony Park! You and your family are invited for an afternoon of fun with pumpkins galore, fairytale photos, loads of candy, and so much more! Start planning those costumes!

RENAISSANCE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS OPEN HOUSE, WITH THE SALVATION ARMY OPERATION ANGEL TREE

November 24

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Renaissance at Colony Park will be spreading a little pre-Thanksgiving and Christmas cheer! Enjoy live performances, Selfies with SANTA, and other fun festivities, and be sure to register to win fabulous prizes. Take a stroll around Renaissance to shop event specials, where you'll be sure to find the finishing touches for your Thanksgiving gatherings, the perfect attire for all your holiday celebrations, and the gifts you know they'll love!

NORTHPARK



NORTHPARK'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY BASH

- Historical Marker Ribbon Tying and Reception:
September 12
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Gayfer Girl Reunion
September 13
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Decades Day & Fashion Show
September 14
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

FALL FEST MALL-O-WEEN

October 26

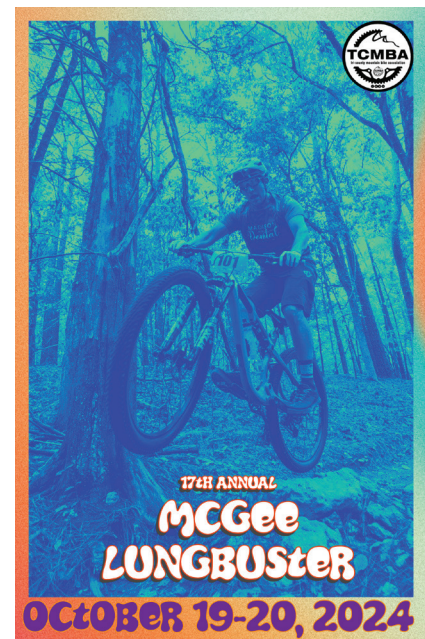
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Indoor trick or treating, costume contests, music, and games

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Fall is the time of year to be outside and enjoy the cooler weather.

- Enjoy being by the water without dipping into the cold temperature: rent a kayak from Pearl River Kayaks or check out Main Harbor Marina Store for a pontoon boat, jet ski, or paddleboard rentals.
- Hop on a bike or take a brisk walk along the Chisha Foka Multi-use Trail, a historic 10-mile paved path along the Natchez Trace Parkway. End at the entrance near the Reservoir Overlook and set up a family picnic!
- Head over to Old Trace Park for a little family-friendly competition in a round of disc golf. This area overlooks the Barnett Reservoir and has an available pavilion and picnic shelters. There's even a playground for the kiddos!



TRI-COUNTY MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION

Fat Tire Festival & McGee Lungbuster

October 19 - 20

For information: www.tricountymtb.org

GO GREEN AND CLEAN WITH KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL

By Jan Richardson

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful wants to share a few ideas about getting involved and making a difference in Ridgeland this fall.

- 1. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.** Choose a reusable water bottle instead of single-use plastic. Even though plastic bottles can be recycled, it is much better for the environment to use reusable containers whenever possible! Bring a thermal cup to your favorite coffee shop and skip the single-use cup there! Some coffee shops even offer a small discount for using your own cup. Bringing your own bags to the grocery store is another easy way to reduce!
- 2. Cleanups are fun!** Take part in one of our fun events, like the Pearl River Clean Sweep, or contact Keep Ridgeland Beautiful if you would like supplies to host a litter cleanup in your neighborhood. If your school, civic, or church group wants to do a community project, we will help you plan one!
- 3. Pearl River Clean Sweep.** Keep Ridgeland Beautiful has served as a site leader for the Pearl River Clean Sweep since its inception in 2018. Abby Braman of Pearl Riverkeeper initiated the program and led the annual



Pearl River Clean Sweep event. River cleanup teams are deployed along the entire length of the Pearl River. Keep Ridgeland Beautiful serves as the site leader at Old Trace Park. Learn more

and sign up to participate at the Pearl Riverkeepers website at <https://www.pearlriverkeeper.com/2024-pearl-river-clean-sweep.html>. **Join us this year on September 28, 2024.**

In the past 7 years, this event has engaged more than 4,200 volunteers and removed over 163,700 pounds of trash from the Pearl River watershed! Please join us for this epic event celebrating a clean drinkable, swimmable, fishable Pearl River watershed!

KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL YARD OF THE MONTH AWARDS

Through the Yard of the Month Program, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful recognizes residents and businesses who demonstrate exemplary efforts in maintaining and beautifying their homes and outdoor spaces.



JUNE Residential Yard of the Month
The Criswell Home
166 North Maple



JULY Residential Yard of the Month
The Hatchcock Home
311 Steeple Ridge



AUGUST Residential Yard of the Month
The Sledge Home
772 Old Agency Road



JUNE Business Yard of the Month
McDonald's
349 Hwy 51



JULY Business Yard of the Month
Craft Croswell
118 Ridgeland Plaza



AUGUST Business Yard of the Month
Shapley's Restaurant
868 Centre Street

explore shopping



32.42904,
-90.13157

Fischer Galleries

curated culture

Get ready to spend! Need advice to find what you're looking for? We can help at [exploreRidgeland.com](https://www.exploreRidgeland.com).

explore
RIDGELAND



RECRE8

CITY FALL EVENTS!

The City of Ridgeland's Recreation and Parks Department looks forward to a fun fall!

As temperatures gradually fall, excitement continues to rise in the City of Ridgeland. We have long been known as a bicycling destination and that trend has continued in 2024. The Cycle Out

Kids Cancer bike ride, partnering with Batson Children's Hospital, will take place on Saturday, October 12, where riders will pedal with purpose. Other fun events this fall include the Senior Adult Mayor's

Fun Walk at Northpark on October 2, and the TOPSoccer Jamboree at Freedom Ridge Park on October 16. The bustling month of October concludes with the sweet and festive Trunk or Treat event on October 24.



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.

- Classes start on September 10, 2024
- 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 2024 fall classes, visit www.jotc.org.



TOPSoccer

This soccer program is provided for special needs participants. For more information, please contact Cameron Arcemont at topsoccerms.com.



MRYC Basketball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks partners with Madison Ridgeland Youth Club providing sports leagues for the community.

To find out more information about the 2024 basketball season, visit:

<https://www.mryouthbasketball.com/>



Cycle Out Kids Cancer

A fall fundraiser bike ride through west Madison County with donations going to Children's of Mississippi Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders.

- All level riders are welcome
- Distance options are available
- Rest stops and bike support provided
- Complimentary tailgate meal and music

- Registration is required to participate
- Register at: Cycle Out Kids Cancer (bikesignup.com)

Don't miss this important opportunity to put your pedals to purpose and cycle out kids' cancer!

Date: Saturday, October 12, 2024

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Location: The North End of the Renaissance at Colony Park



Trunk or Treat

Dress up in costume and bring a bag to collect your candy!

- Trunk or Treat is for Ages 10 & under
- Kids trick or treat from car trunk to car trunk
- Admission is \$5 per child
- VOLUNTEER at Trunk or Treat

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department welcomes local businesses, organizations and volunteers to provide vehicles, candy and manpower to make our Trunk or Treat a success. If you are interested, please contact our office at (601) 853-2011.

Date: Thursday, October 24, 2024

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Freedom Ridge Park



RIDGELAND CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Come join us for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and start your holiday season!

- Enjoy Christmas music & dance performances
- Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus
- Count down to the lighting of the tree
- This evening is presented by The Historical Society of Ridgeland.
- There is no admission charge for this event.

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2024
 Time: 6:00 p.m.
 Location: Plaza at Old Town Crossing

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Ridgeland Mayor McGee, City Aldermen and Santa will lead bands, businesses, and other organizations with an old-fashioned Christmas parade!

- The parade route will begin and end at Holmes Community College.
- Please join us this year and help us light up the evening with your Christmas floats and participation!

Date: Friday, December 6, 2024
 Time: 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS ON THE GREEN

Join us at Ridgeland City Hall after the parade for a festive evening of holiday cheer.

- Enjoy holiday treats
- Play holiday games
- Get a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus
- Listen to live Christmas music
- There is no admission charge for this event.

Date: Friday, December 6, 2024
 Time: 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.



Ridgeland Letters to Santa

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will have a dedicated mailbox for letters 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
- Duplicate letters will receive one reply
- Letters must be received by December 14
- There is no charge for letters to Santa

Date: November 29 - December 14, 2024

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

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks wishes you a very happy holiday season!

SUPER SENIORS

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Exercise

\$15/month

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m., 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 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

Yoga practice connects the mind, body, and your breath. This class trains you on breathing techniques and helps to focus your mind. Most of the 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

Yoga practice connects the mind, body, and your breath. This class includes standing poses for balance and floor poses to improve overall strength.

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.

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 Trace Park, Ridgeland, MS 39157

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. - 3:15 p.m. - Intermediate
3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. - Beginner
Instructor: Monica Russell

Beginner 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.



senior adult
programs

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: 9/19, 10/17, 11/21
 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: 9/26, 10/24, 11/14
 NEW TIME: 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 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 & Parks presents

MAYOR'S FUN WALK

2024

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2ND
9:00 AM
NORTHPARK'S CENTERCOURT

Schedule:

- 9:00 AM Program Begins
- 9:30 AM Walk with Mayor Gene McGee
- 9:40 AM Visit Sponsor Booths
- 9:50 AM Entertainment, Food, Door Prizes

*Special Event for our Senior Adult Program for those 50+
 *Registration required to participate
 *No cost to register
 *First 150 registrants receive a free t-shirt
 *Contact Neeley to register, neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org



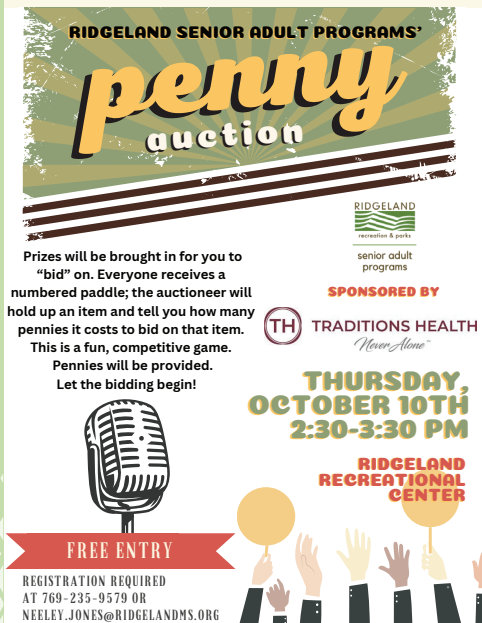
HALLOWEEN CRAFT

door hanger workshop

Thursday, September 12th
 9:00 AM
 Ridgeland Recreational Center

Only \$20 to make this adorable door hanger. Register to Neeley at 769.235.9579 or neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org. Limited spots available

RIDGELAND senior adult programs | SUMMERHOUSE SENIOR CENTER



RIDGELAND SENIOR ADULT PROGRAMS' penny auction

Prizes will be brought in for you to "bid" on. Everyone receives a numbered paddle; the auctioneer will hold up an item and tell you how many pennies it costs to bid on that item. This is a fun, competitive game. Pennies will be provided. Let the bidding begin!

SPONSORED BY TH TRADITIONS HEALTH "Never Alone"

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH
2:30-3:30 PM

RIDGELAND RECREATIONAL CENTER

FREE ENTRY

REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT 769-235-9579 OR NEELEY.JONES@RIDGELANDMS.ORG

EVENTS

Whether you're interested in family fun events, sporting activities, or simply enjoying nature, there's something for everyone. Here are a few suggestions for making the most of the fall in Ridgeland!

SEPTEMBER 12

Outdoor Concert

Renaissance
7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 12 - 14

Northpark 40th Anniversary Events

SEPTEMBER 26

Chamber - Fall Golf Classic

Lake Caroline
Lunch & Registration - 11:30 a.m.
Tee off - 1:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 2

Mayor's Fun Walk

Northpark
9:00 a.m.



OCTOBER 5

Annual Renaissance Euro Fest Classic

Renaissance at Colony Park
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 5

CARA Fundraiser

Renaissance at Colony Park
5:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 12

Cycle Out Kid's Cancer

Renaissance at Colony Park
7:30 a.m.

OCTOBER 8, 15 & 22

Beginner Mah Jongg Workshop

Ridgeland Rec Center

OCTOBER 14

Nogginfeast

Renaissance at Colony Park

OCTOBER 19

Craft Demonstration Day

Waller Craft Center

OCTOBER 19 - 20

Fat Tire Festival & McGee Lungbuster

OCTOBER 24

Trunk or Treat

Freedom Ridge Park
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 27

First Ridgeland's Great Pumpkin Hunt

Renaissance at Colony Park
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Ceremony

Ridgeland City Hall
Veterans Memory Park
11:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 15

2nd NexTech Recycling Event

Renaissance
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 24

Renaissance Holiday Open House

Renaissance at Colony Park
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 28

Turkey Day 8k

Thanksgiving Day - Fleet Feet
7:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 5

Chimneyville Arts Festival Preview Party

Waller Craft Center
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 6 - 7

Chimneyville Festival Days

Bill Waller Craft Center
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 5

Ridgeland Christmas Tree Lighting

Plaza at Old Town Crossing
6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 6

Ridgeland Christmas Parade

Old Town
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 6

Christmas on the Green

Ridgeland City Hall
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

RIDGELAND... TURNING VISION INTO REALITY

Ridgeland's Business Community Continues to Grow



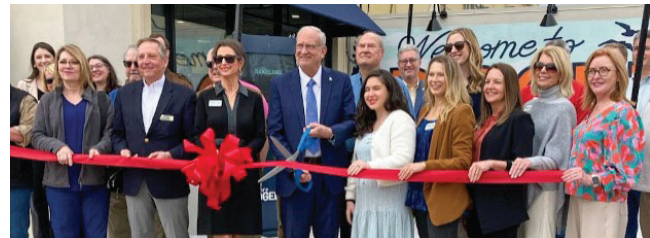
ReBourne Aesthetics and Wellness
Dr. Larona Searcy, Owner
357 Town Center Boulevard, Suite 204
601-503-0335
berebourne@gmail.com



Beanstalk Pediatrics PLLC
Dr. Constance Barnes-Woods,
Owner/Physician
320 West Jackson Street
769-567-1527
drconstance@beanstalkpediatrics.org; beanstalkpediatrics.org



Mosley Realty Co. LLC
Jameikia Mosley, Broker and Owner
196 Charmant Place, Suite 3
601-497-2315
jmosley@mosleyrealtyco.com



Ridgeland Tourism Commission & Visitors Center
Chris Chapman, President & CEO
1000 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 3002
601-605-5252
info@exploreridgeland.com; exploreridgeland.com



Killebrew Psychological Services
Dr. Alyssa Killebrew, Owner/Physician
214 Sunnybrook Rd
769-231-9414
alyssakillebrew1@gmail.com; killebrewpsychological.com



Zoopendous
Gene Moore, Owner
Northpark Center Court, lower level
601-954-4363
animalrides@zoopendous.net; www.zoopendous.net



Buenos Aires Bakery
Evelyn Aviles, Owner
500 Highway 51, Suite F
769-300-2698
Buenosairesbakery1@gmail.com



Landrum Piano Gallery
Joshua Landrum, Owner
731 South Pear Orchard Road, Suite 34
601-447-2061
landrumpianotuning@gmail.com; landrumpianotuning.com



Holiday Inn Express Ridgeland
Chico Patel, Co-CEO, Wealth Hospitality Group
and Allen Boykin, General Manager
555 West Ridgeland Avenue
601-812-2030
allen@wealthhg.com



Watkins Construction, Inc.
Michael Dier, Owner
218 North Wheatley Street, Suite C
601-966-8233
whutchins@watkinsconstructioninc.com
watkinsconstructioninc.com



Lou's Southern Sandwich Co.
Louis LaRose, Chef/Owner
1067 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite B
601-952-4494
louis@loussouthernsandwich.com; loussouthernsandwich.com



Chicken Salad Chick
Blake and Shae Fuller, Proprietors
and Daniel Alston, General Manager
1000 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 13002
769-567-1795
ridgeland@chickensaladchick.com; chickensaladchick.com



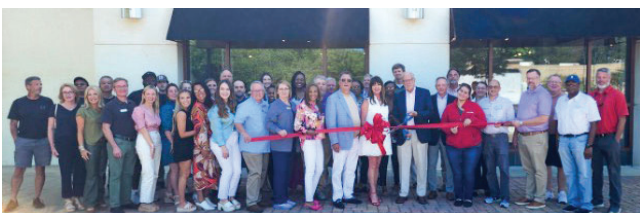
Goldman Fine Jewelers
 Tahir (Zack) Mehmood, Store Manager
 1200 East County Line Road, Suite 223
 601-956-6550
info@goldmanus.com; goldmanus.com



Appliances 4 Less
 Rafeq Mohamed and Ryan Vhing, Franchise Co-Owners
 900 East County Line Road, Suite 140
 769-235-8915
rafiqmo001@gmail.com



Jackson Heart Clinic, P.A.
 Dr. Russell Young, Dr. Guynes and team
 326 Commerce Center Drive, Suite 2000
 601-982-7850
info@jacksonheart.com; jacksonheart.com



Interior Spaces
 Rachel Ravenstein, Owner
 1000 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 2007
 601-956-4199
rachel@interiorspacesms.com; interiorspacesms.com



MedTech Health Academy
 Jennifer Robinson, Program Director
 595 Northpark Drive, Suite B
 769-218-2357
medtechcareers@outlook.com; medtechhealthacademy.com



Le Beau Nail Spa
 Johnny and Denise Le, Owners
 1051 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite B
 769-300-3115
destinytran80@hotmail.com



Johnny's Pizza House
 Warren Hanks, Vice President and Kalli Bounds, Gen. Manager
 670 Highway 51, Suite H
 601-790-7333
marketing@johnnysph.com; johnnysph.com



Harmony Dental Care
 Dr. Kalil Abide, Owner
 401 West Jackson Street
 601-713-1923
hdc1@harmonydentalcare.com; harmonydentalcare.com



HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

School Highlights

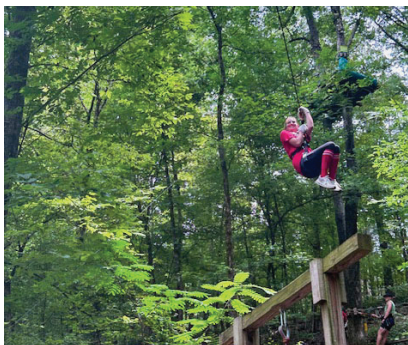
RIDGELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Highland Elementary School Teachers Face Their Fears While Teambuilding and Preparing for Students to Return

By Serenity Luckett



During summer professional development, teachers and staff from Highland Elementary visited the Old Mountain Adventure Park in Winona, Mississippi. The day was filled with games, a ropes course with a zipline high among the trees, and an opportunity to revisit the mission and vision of the school. This year's Highland Elementary motto is 'Believe,' and teachers experienced first-hand that if you push yourself to believe you can do something, you can do it! Teachers could be heard cheering for and encouraging each other all day. The Highland faculty and staff will spend time teaching students about growth mindset and the power of 'Yet,' hoping that students will reach their potential and BELIEVE in themselves!



OLD TOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Old Town Middle School Competes at TSA National Conference

| By Dr. Natasha May

Old Town Middle School TSA students competed in June at the TSA National Conference in Orlando, Florida. Fourteen students competed in events ranging from Tech Bowl, Forensics Science, Career Prep, Inventions and Innovations, Stem Animation, Dragster, Biotechnology, Medical Technology, and Problem Solving. Advisor Makesha Russell led the Medical Technology team. Sophie Dansereau and Monica Marbury made the semi-finalists, finishing seventh in the nation. The Tech Bowl team of Evan Thomas, Emmett Laird, and Oliver Thompson finished in the top sixteen. The Biotechnology team of Andre Wafo So, Allison Castillo Garcia, and Taylor Morrow finished in the top twelve. Advisor Tammy King received the Middle School Advisor of the Year award for Mississippi. Congratulations to Old Town on their accomplishments.



RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

Ridgeland High School Summer Highlights

| By ToShunda Washington

School is back in session for the 2024 - 2025 academic year after a summer break, but you may be surprised to learn how busy some Ridgeland High School administrators, faculty, and students are during that break.

There have been a few changes to the administration and faculty over the summer. Mr. Spencer Gatlin joins the Titan family as its new assistant principal. With 24 years in education, and over 7 of them as an assistant principal, we look forward to seeing what Mr. Gatlin brings to the faculty and students this year. Additionally, RHS welcomes two new professional school counselors, Mrs. Brittany Young, and Ms. Keisha Davis, who bring years of valuable experience to RHS. The last change to the administration involves a new position and a well-known face in the Titan Zone. Mrs. A.K. Horlock serves the RHS in the new position of curriculum specialist. Congratulations, and welcome to the RHS administration!


Summer is a busy time for many high school sports, and this summer was no different. Titan Boys' Soccer got a new head coach. Micah Williams, a familiar face on campus and the soccer pitch will lead the team in the upcoming season. Titan Baseball also welcomes its new head coach, Chandler Dillard, and its new assistant coach, Quade Smith. Coach Dillard and Coach Smith were busy putting on another successful Titan Summer Baseball Camp this summer. A well-deserved congratulations go out to both the 9th grade/J.V. Lady Titans Basketball team, who went undefeated for their entire summer schedule, and to the RHS Titan Cheerleaders, who took home 1st place for Band Chant/Sideline, 2nd place for Camp Routine, and earned an ALL-Superior Team Award at UCA camp this summer. Way to go, ladies!

Academic endeavors aren't halted over the summer, either. A big thank you to those teachers who taught over the summer,


whether it be summer school classes or the PSAT boot camp held during the first week of June. RHS' Technology Student Association traveled to Orlando, Florida, to compete against teams from all over the U.S., as well as a few other countries, in the National TSA Conference in the last week of June. And let's not forget RHS' Music Departments. RHS Singers held a two-day boot camp to prepare for their performance at the Madison County School District's Convocation on July 29th. The RHS Band welcomes its new assistant band director, Ms. Jenny Kerry, to the Titan Zone! The band always gets an early start to the year with summer band camp and practices to get ready for football season.

While the school's administrators, teachers, and students had a busy summer, it's time to tackle 2024 - 2025. Great things are bound to happen at Ridgeland High School!

RIDGELAND
CHEERLEADING



1st Place - Band Chant/Sideline
2nd Place - Camp Routine
ALL-Superior Team Award



WELCOME TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM AS
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
MR. SPENCER GATLIN
WE ARE SO EXCITED TO HAVE YOU




WELCOME TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM AS
CURRICULUM SPECIALIST
MRS. AK HORLOCK
WE ARE SO EXCITED TO HAVE YOU IN THIS NEW ROLE




WELCOME TO THE TITAN FAMILY
IN YOUR NEW ROLE
MICAH WILLIAMS
BOYS HEAD SOCCER COACH




WELCOME TO THE TITAN FAMILY
IN YOUR NEW ROLE
CHANDLER DILLARD
HEAD BASEBALL COACH




WELCOME TO THE TITAN FAMILY
IN YOUR NEW ROLE
QUADE SMITH
ASSISTANT BASEBALL COACH




RIDGELAND TITAN
Baseball Camp
2024





9TH / J.V. LADY TITAN BASKETBALL
UNDEFEATED



ALL SUMMER LONG!!!




HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Holmes Ridgeland Campus given National Weather Service StormReady Designation



By Mary Margaret Busby



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured is (left to right) Michael J. Hill, the warning coordination meteorologist for the NWS in Jackson, with Holmes police officers Gary Cooper, Sgt. Michael Jones, Sgt. Carzell Cavett and Chief of Police Deveesha Magee. Hill presented the StormReady designation recognition on July 31.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus proudly announces its recent designation as a National Weather Service (NWS) StormReady University. This prestigious recognition highlights the institution's commitment to the safety and preparedness of its students, staff, and the surrounding community in the face of severe weather events.

Established by the NWS in 1999, the StormReady program assists communities across the country with the safety and communication skills required to save lives and property during a weather-related event. By earning this designation, Holmes has demonstrated excellence in emergency planning, communication, and community outreach.

"The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus administration and police, and everyone else involved in the compliance process, have every reason to be proud of this accomplishment," said Michael J. Hill, the warning coordination meteorologist for the NWS in Jackson. "Earning your StormReady recognition indicates that Holmes has shown a strong commitment to improving emergency first responder and student preparedness in the event of a natural disaster. Your improved communications infrastructure and increased level of severe weather awareness will no doubt minimize the loss of life and/or property in the future."

Both the NWS Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and the NWS Southern Region Headquarters have been notified of Holmes' accomplishment. In recognition of the college's accomplishments, Hill presented Holmes' police department with a StormReady sign to hang on campus. "Today is just the first of many steps that we are taking to ensure the safety of our campus community," said Holmes Ridgeland Chief of Police Deveesha Magee. "I'm extremely proud of our team and the fact that they were able to accomplish this feat."

Surgical Technology Class of 2024



The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a pinning ceremony for the Surgical Technology Class of 2024 on June 26 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center. Nine students were honored. The graduating class included leacha Bridges of Jackson, Janylah Brown of Canton, Reagan Cole of Canton, Kara Dozier of Pearl, Kenya Johnson of Jackson, Jordan Jones of French Camp, Caleb Matthews of Jackson, Patresa Myles of Madison and Anna Pickel of Ridgeland.

IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Surgical Technology Class of 2024. They are (front row, left to right) Patresa Myles, Kara Dozier, Instructor Shea Coleman, Jordan Jones, leacha Bridges, (back row, left to right) Janylah Brown, Kenya Johnson, Caleb Matthews, Reagan Cole and Anna Pickel.

Holmes Ridgeland holds Practical Nursing Pinning Ceremony

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the Practical Nursing Class of 2024 on June 27 at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison. Thirteen students were honored. The graduating class included Cortlyn Norris Bardwell of Vicksburg, Alexandria Dominique Cyrus of Madison, Alicia Goldman of Canton, l'Leyah Janae Green of Fayette, Anastasia Kelly Ingram of Madison, Shafreta "Shae" Kelly of Canton, Destiny Janae Malone of Brandon, Kavondra McCauley of Meridian, Megan Brittany Middleton of Florence, Jessica Quarles of Jackson, Hannah Alexis Rigby of Vicksburg, Nikeya Rogers of Byram and Sara Kathryn Self of Madison.



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured is the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Class of 2024 with their instructors. Pictured are (front row, left to right) PN Instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton, Hannah Alexis Rigby, Jessica Quarles, Sara Kathryn Self, Cortlyn Norris Bardwell, Shae Kelly, Alicia Goldman, Alexandria Cyrus, PN Instructor Heather Roberts, (back row, left to right) Nikeya Rogers, Megan Brittany Middleton, Kavondra McCauley, Anastasia Kelly, Destiny Janae Malone, l'Leyah Janae Green and PN Instructor Caley Stogner.

FALL AT THE RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ridgeland Public Library is Ramping Up for Fall Programs

Page Turners

RIDGELAND
PUBLIC LIBRARY



Summer Reading 2024: Adventure Begins at Your Library was fun and busy! We were excited to have kids, adults, and families participate in our programs and reading challenges. Kids received prizes for completing reading logs. The heavily requested weekly book bundle giveaways returned for the summer, too. We cannot wait to do it all again next summer! We are keeping the fun going at the library with new and returning programs for all ages.

For kids, we are starting a new program on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. called Sensory Play for Littles. This program is for ages 0 - 2, during which the parent/caregiver and child will have fun meeting new friends and developing their child's physical, sensory, and emotional learning skills. We



will have a ball pit, musical instruments, soft books, puppets, sensory materials, and more. On the fourth Saturday at 2:00 p.m., we will have our monthly LEGO Challenge. Kids can take part in fun challenges and show off their block-building skills. We will showcase finished challenges in our display case. Be sure to stop by and see the finished creations!

If you missed our Adventures in STEM program this summer or enjoyed it so much, we have a new program called STEAM Hour on the 1st and 4th Friday of the month at 4:00 p.m. During STEAM Hour, kids will be able to take part in fun experiments and other STEAM-related activities. Another new program in our lineup is Storybook Artwork. This all-ages program will meet on the third Friday of every month at 4:00 p.m. Kids will listen to a story and re-create the artwork from the book using different art methods. We cannot wait to see all the creative work!

For tweens and teens, we still have our crowd favorite Otaku Club on the last

Thursday of every month at 4:00 p.m. Otaku Club is an anime club where tweens and teens can come and watch anime, talk about manga, try Asian snacks, and do cultural crafts and activities. Due to the presence of food allergens in the snacks provided, parents do have to sign a waiver before their tween/teen can join.

For adults, join us for Crafting Circle on the first and third Mondays at 2:00 p.m. This program is for ages 18+ of all skill levels. Bring your latest project to work on while you enjoy the company of fellow crafters.

We have two wonderful clubs to join if you are looking for a book club. Madison County Mystery Readers meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the books we read from the monthly list. Books & Beverages meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. Each month, we talk about our latest reads. For the Madison County Mystery Readers monthly lists or Books & Beverages Zoom link, stop by the library or email Evanne Flanders at eflanders@mcls.ms.

Be sure to check our online calendar of events by visiting mclsms.org. You can check out 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.

By Evanne Flanders, Branch Librarian

CITY NOTIFICATIONS & TIPS

NOTIFICATION: REFERENDUM VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5TH

ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024, THE CITIZENS OF RIDGELAND CAN VOTE ON A REFERENDUM THAT WILL ALLOW A 1% TAX INCREASE ON RESTAURANTS AND A 2% TAX INCREASE ON HOTELS OR MOTELS LOCATED WITHIN RIDGELAND CITY LIMITS.

THIS INCREASE WILL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE EXPANSION OF FREEDOM RIDGE PARK. EXPANSION PLANS WILL INCLUDE:

- Pickleball courts
- New regulation baseball/softball fields; the increase in the number of fields would accommodate 100 teams per weekend
- New batting cages with artificial turf
- Recreation & Parks/ Tournament Headquarter offices
- Full-size artificial turf soccer fields (ages 6 - adult)
- Festival/special events area
- Multi-use trails throughout connecting with Ridgeland's Trail system



CITY OF RIDGELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

DOWNLOAD ON
THE APP STORE &
GOOGLE PLAY



**RIDGELAND
RECYCLING
Rewards**

RidgelandRecycleRewards.com **Recycle, Report, Get Rewarded!**



HELP SPONSOR VETERANS MEMORY PARK

- \$200 • BUY A BRICK
- \$5,000 • BRASS PLAQUE ON PAVER
- \$10,000 • BRASS PLAQUE ON BENCH
- \$15,000 • ENGRAVED PLAQUE AT BELL TOWER

TO HONOR A VETERAN CONTACT:

ALAN HART: 601-853-2027
KIM COOPER: 601-856-7113



3 WAYS TO SIGN UP GET NOTICES & ALERTS



- 1: www.RidgelandMS.org
- 2: www.Ridgeland-MS.MyFreeAlerts.com
- 3: Text your zip code to 38276 for emergency alerts via SMS only



REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR RIDGELAND ALERTS!



THE DEDICATED LEADERS OF RIDGELAND

Thank you to Ridgeland's Board of Aldermen for your outstanding leadership and dedication! Your efforts have guided the City of Ridgeland through significant growth and are truly appreciated! Thank you for your commitment and years of service!

- Ken Heard, Ward 1, serving Ridgeland since 2001
- Chuck Gautier, Ward 2, serving Ridgeland since 2001
- Kevin Holder, Ward 3, serving Ridgeland since 2005
- Brian Ramsey, Ward 4, serving Ridgeland since 2009
- Bill Lee, Ward 5, serving Ridgeland since 2017
- Wesley Hamlin, Ward 6, serving Ridgeland since 2009
- D.I. Smith, Aldermen-at-Large, serving Ridgeland since 2012

“ We've faced challenges and celebrated successes, all in the spirit of making our City a better place for everyone. Your insights, collaboration, and tireless efforts have played an essential role in the progress we've achieved. Thank you for your continued support and being such an integral part of our City's leadership. ”

Mayor Gene McGee

CITY OF RIDGELAND HELD GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR NEW WATER TANK



The City of Ridgeland held the groundbreaking ceremony in July for the South Highland Colony tank and well project. Representatives from Waggoner Engineering, Hemphill Construction, Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Gene McGee, the Board of Aldermen, Alan Hart, Director of Public Works, Pastor Justin Graves of First Ridgeland Baptist Church, City staff, and the media were all in attendance.

“This project demonstrates the City’s continued focus on quality water. The new water tank and well are a vital addition to our City’s infrastructure and will help us meet the growth demands

in the area. Ridgeland has always been proud of its highly-rated water system, and water quality is one of our top priorities,” stated Mayor McGee.

The need for the new tank and well was identified in the 2020 Water Master Plan that the Mayor and Board adopted. Soon after, the Mayor and Board began seeking possible funding sources. As growth continued, the need only grew more. “Thank you to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for their vision and expectation to have the best water system in the State. These leaders truly understand and respect the importance of water quality and what it means to the success of a community,” stated Alan Hart.

The 1,000,000-gallon Water Storage Tank will increase our storage capacity by 30%. This increased capacity will allow Ridgeland to continue to pursue growth in commercial businesses, new neighborhoods, and other economic development opportunities. This tank and well project is designed to improve water quality by delivering even fresher water than we are already delivering to this area. This well is planned to increase the pumping capacity in Ridgeland by 20%.

Waggoner Engineering and Hemphill Construction have partnered with the City on this project.

“Mayor McGee successfully got a Congressional Spending Request



through the State and Tribal Assistance Grant program in 2023. A special thanks goes out to Senator Roger Wicker, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, and Congressman Michael Guest for their support of the funding request. As time went on, costs continued to escalate faster than ever before, but we were able to introduce ARPA Funds into the funding strategy. Thanks to the State of Mississippi and our local delegation, we received an MCWI Grant to match the ARPA Funds we pledged to the project. There are very few local dollars going toward the completion of this project," stated Alan Hart.

This is one of many efforts the City is working on to enhance the long term sustainability of our water system.





RIDGELAND TENNIS CENTER UPGRADES ARE COMPLETE

The City of Ridgeland announced in June the completion of several upgrades at the Ridgeland Tennis Center, one of Mississippi's largest public tennis facilities.

LED Lighting Installation: The first major project completed was the installation of new LED lighting on all of the tennis courts. This project involved replacing the old lighting system, which had been in place for 30 years, with state-of-the-art LED lights. The upgrade was made possible through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Project Number 28-00701. The City received a grant in the amount of \$100,000, which helped to fund the lighting project.

Court Resurfacing: In February 2024, we successfully resurfaced Courts 1 – 6. The total cost for this project was \$44,000. The resurfacing work will significantly enhance the playing experience by providing improved court conditions.

Current Court Configuration: As a result of our continued efforts to improve and enhance our facilities, we have fifteen tennis courts in excellent condition. Additionally, two of our tennis courts have been converted into four pickleball courts to meet the growing demand for this sport.

These updates highlight our commitment to providing top-notch facilities for our community and ensuring the Ridgeland Tennis Center remains a destination for tennis and pickleball enthusiasts.





Automated Recycling Cart Collection for a Cleaner and Greener Ridgeland

Starting October 1, WM will transition to automated recycling collection. This new recycling collection method is a collaborative effort to enhance the overall efficiency of the collection process for our community. By minimizing the manual handling of materials, which can be hazardous, we are all contributing to a safer and more efficient recycling system.

With automated collection, all recyclables must fit inside your cart with the lid firmly closed. Material left outside the cart cannot be collected.

Recycle Right at Home

Recycling at home is one of the best ways to help reduce waste, save resources and create a sustainable tomorrow. By following these three simple rules each time you recycle, you may be giving that item a second life to serve a different purpose as something new - sneakers, backpacks, purses, jeans and more.



Recycle bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.



Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.



No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.

RECENT CITY AWARDS

Building Department of the Year



The City of Ridgeland received the Building Department of the Year Award from the Board of Directors of Building Officials Association of Mississippi (BOAM) at the Summer BOAM Conference in June. This award recognizes the extraordinary performance of the entire department and is based on several factors, including, but not limited to, the number of permits issued, the monetary amount of permits issued, and the efficiency of the inspectors. The award also recognizes leadership in the profession and is chosen by a group of peers in the association.

“This award is representative of a team effort,” said Bryan Johnson, “We all work to support one another.” Alan Hart added, “I’m grateful for the commitment this team has to fulfilling the mission of the Department as established by the Mayor and Board. This Department is a major component of Economic Development, which has supported the growth we have enjoyed for many years.” The City of Ridgeland proudly managed more than \$102 Million in building permits between June 2023 and May 2024.

Drew Smith serves as the Ridgeland Building Official and is supported by a team including Scott Swinny,

Tally Berry, Robert Ray, Steven Ramsey, Jordan Lohman, Karen Knight, Leslie Thomas, Bayleigh Sears, and Ava Murphy. The Building Department operates in the Community Development Division and is led by Bryan Johnson under the direction of the Public Works Director, Alan Hart.

Mayor Gene McGee said, “I am very proud of the men and women in the Building Department and what they do to make Ridgeland a place where people want to be. This team works hard to provide the safety of our residents and visitors and protect property values by enforcing the Building Codes and Ordinances.”

Mississippi Municipal League Excellence Award



The Mississippi Municipal League (MML) honored the 2024 Municipal Excellence Awards Winners at the 93rd Annual MML Conference Award Luncheon held in Biloxi, Mississippi at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center on June 26. The Excellence Awards program, which began in 1993, recognizes cities that utilize innovative problem solving, excellence in management, citizen participation and community partnerships

to provide increased services and a better quality of life for its local citizenry. The competition is divided into two population categories: under 10,000 and over 10,000. Within each population category, cities can vie for awards in City Spirit, Planning and Economic Development, Public Safety and Public Works. Judges also select one application as the Best Overall.

Public Works - Over 10,000 City of Ridgeland “South Highland Colony Parkway Improvements”

To land the single largest economic development project in the state’s history, among other important economic development projects in the vicinity, the City of Ridgeland planned and made significant infrastructure investments to the southern end of Highland Colony Parkway. As a result, the City of Ridgeland landed Southern Beverage and Amazon Web Services. The planning of this project called for an innovative way to rehabilitate the street infrastructure. A team of engineers planned a solution to make point repairs to the street base using geotextile fabrics and limestone to quickly stabilize each failed area. Profile milling was performed to create a level surface to lay new asphalt on top of the old road and repaired base, increasing the structural capacity of the road to support 80,000 lb. loads, which was necessary to support the truck traffic associated with Southern Beverage, a \$30,000,000 investment in Ridgeland. During the same time, the City of Ridgeland set out to improve the water quality and capacity for that area of the city. The unique innovation of this public works project is the complex funding strategy that includes federal, state, and local funding and the speed in which the permit and plans were prepared. The water tank and well project bid has been awarded and will be built prior to the opening of the first phase of the AWS data center. As a result of the innovative strategy to deliver the project, AWS plans to invest \$4 billion in what is likely to be the first of several phases that will span multiple years. The Phase 1 Ridgeland location will be home to 200 new jobs with an average annual wage of \$80,000.

WHO AND WHERE

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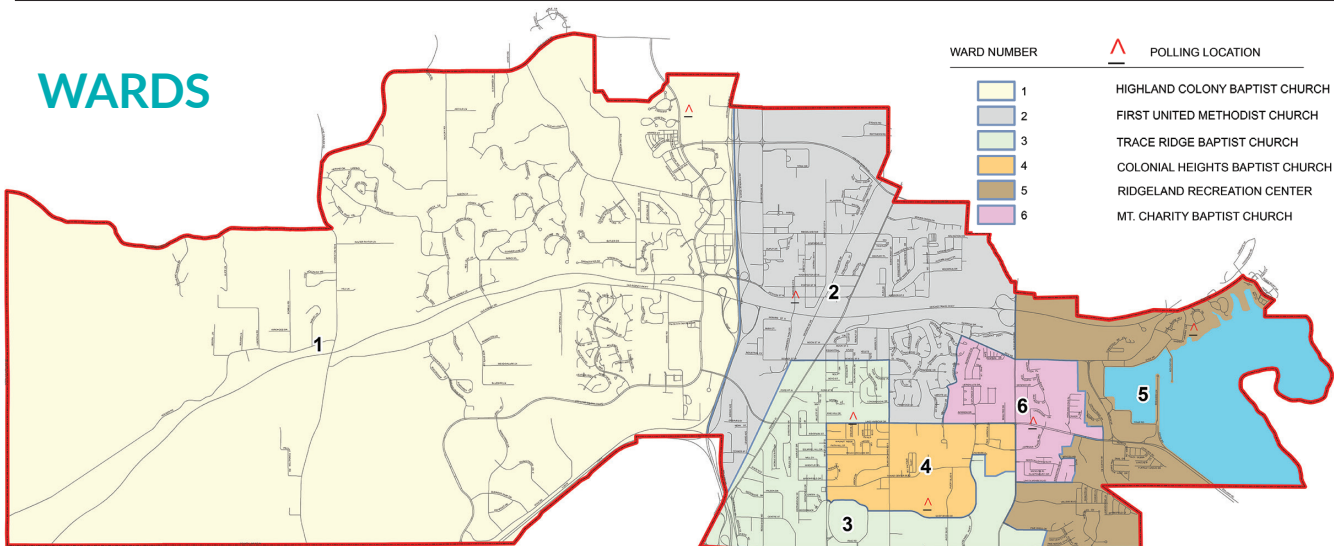


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Wesley Hamlin
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Mayor Pro Tempore
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WARDS



CITY DIRECTORY

ANIMAL CONTROL <i>animalcontrol@ridgelandms.org</i>	601-856-2121
ANONYMOUS TIP LINE <i>(criminal investigations division)</i>	601-853-2006
CITY HALL/MAYOR'S OFFICE	601-856-7113
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT <i>(development, property maintenance, zoning, signs, permits)</i> ...	601-856-3877
COURT CLERK <i>(traffic violations, misdemeanors and fines)</i>	601-853-2001
EMERGENCY <i>(police and re dispatch center)</i>	9-1-1
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION <i>(business licenses, elections, meeting minutes, budget, public records)</i>	601-856-7113
FIRE DEPARTMENT <i>(non-emergency calls, safety education programs)</i>	601-856-7004
POLICE DEPARTMENT <i>(non-emergency calls, public safety concerns)</i>	601-856-2121
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT <i>(roads, garbage, recycling, water, storm water)</i>	601-853-2027
RECREATION AND PARKS <i>(special events, athletics and program registration, park information)</i>	601-853-2011
UTILITY BILLING DEPARTMENT <i>(water, sewer, garbage, & recycling billing)</i> <i>utilitybilling@ridgelandms.org</i>	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. Randy Lynn (Chairman), Connie Suber (Secretary), Robert Moore, Jim Powell, 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, Theresa G. Kennedy, Kim Lovato, Drew Malone, Judy Rice, David Dunbar, Don Roberts

DEPARTMENT HEADS



Public Works
Alan Hart
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Fire Department
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Fire Chief
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Finance And Administration
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City Clerk/Human Resources Director
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Police Department
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Recreation & Parks Department
John Sidney North
Director
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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



A large, light-colored rectangular area containing a grid of various sponsor logos. The logos are arranged in approximately 5 rows and 6 columns. The logos include: Green Oak (design • nurture • grow), Chick-fil-A, BankPlus, Buikin Mechanical Inc (1883 Main Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157, 601.898.8100), Gene McGee (Mayor of Ridgeland), Sullivan Electric (800.331.7669), explore RIDGELAND, RENASANT BANK, FLEET FEET JACKSON, WAGGONER, HYDROWASH (MADISON & RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI, www.hydrowashMS.com), A COMPLETE FLAG SOURCE (FLAG POLES INSTALLATION), Keesler Federal CREDIT UNION, Johnny's Pizza House, mars marketing, BULLDOG (CONSTRUCTION COMPANY), Trey Crake's ACADEMY OF KUNG FU, YOUR COUNTRY US96, V101, Mix 98.7, 93.5 LEGEND, 102.1 The Box, THE BLUES TO COOK, ORCHARD, Staffers, apac (A CRH COMPANY), MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL, ST. CATHERINE'S VILLAGE, MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, GoShine Express Car Wash, SUMMER HOUSE (BEAU RIDGE), PROFESSIONAL EYECARE ASSOCIATES (OPTICAL 2000), Raising Cane's (CHICKEN FINGERS), WATKINS (FRESH BUILT THIN & CRISP), Members Exchange CREDIT UNION, and PriorityOne (MEMBER FDIC).