

June – August 2014

RIDGELAND Life



Rec & Parks - A Day in the Life
Heatwave Classic Triathlon
Father-Child Fishing Tournament
Celebrate America Balloon Glow
Fiber for Every Home

the **SUMMER** issue



From the Mayor

By the time you read this, construction will be well under way in several areas of Ridgeland that have qualified for Fiber to the Home. This is exciting as we anticipate the tremendous economic impact a gigabit per second Internet will have on the City of Ridgeland. Imagine downloading a full movie in seconds and using several devices at once with no buffering and no interruption of service.

This technology is sure to increase the value of these homes, as well as offer homeowners a tremendous opportunity to use the Internet in ways that we can't even imagine. Congratulations to those of you who have qualified for fiber. You have seen the vision and will benefit tremendously in the years to come.

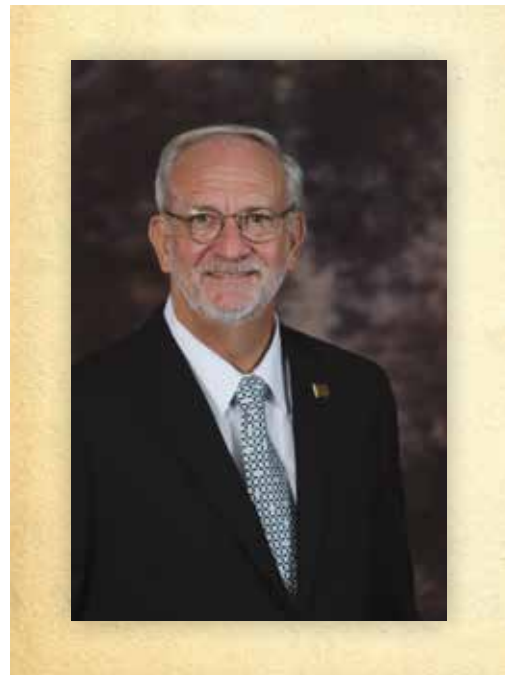
This technology is setting Ridgeland apart, as our city is one of the few cities in America that can boast Fiber to the Home. I believe that by providing this service, we will drive down the cost of fiber to businesses and also offer a tremendous opportunity to schools as they connect to fiber and utilize it in tremendous ways for education. I encourage those of you who have not looked into Fiber to the Home yet to go to the City of Ridgeland's web page to learn how you can take advantage of this tremendous service.

Congratulations goes to one of our outstanding employees, Ina Byrd, Deputy Director of Finance and Information Systems at Ridgeland City Hall. She and the Accounting Department of the City of Ridgeland were listed in the Wall Street Journal for receiving the 2014 Tyler's Public Sector Excellence Award for Incode (and Eagle Local Government Software Solutions). By using this Tyler Content Management System, the City was able to replace paper-based processes and provide savings of approximately \$50,000 in personnel costs while freeing up storage space by digitizing three years of paper records. This is another example of our City Staff working to become more efficient.

I'm also excited to announce that the City of Ridgeland has again earned the Bronze Award for Bicycle Friendly Community by The League of American Bicyclists. This is the second time that the City has received this outstanding award. This shows that we are promoting safe cycling in our community.

Congratulations to all the seniors that have graduated this year. We're proud of you and look forward to watching you grow as you enter this new chapter in your life.

Gene F. McGee



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland

RIDGELAND Life

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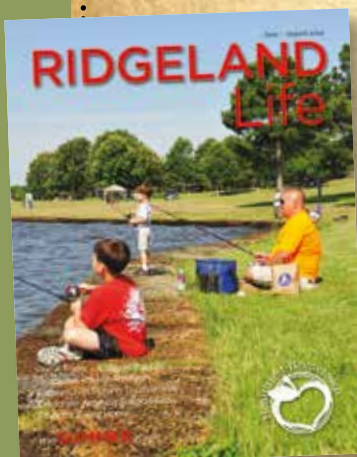
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ON THE COVER: *What says summertime more than fishing with Dad? Celebrate Father's Day during the Father-Child Fishing Tournament at Old Trace Park on the Ross Barnett Reservoir. This annual free event is scheduled for 8 a.m., Saturday, June 14. Prizes awarded at 10 a.m.*

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A Day in the Life – Recreation & Parks

By Chris Chance, Director of Recreation and Parks

If you've spent any time in Ridgeland parks or at an event or program, you probably have an idea of some of the things that Recreation & Parks employees are responsible for making happen. However, there may be some things that you've never thought of as being a Recreation & Parks responsibility. In this article, we'll take a closer look.

Property Checks

Every day in Recreation & Parks begins with property checks and cleaning from the previous day's activity. On a typical day, the previous evening's "closer" is responsible for removing all loose trash, emptying all garbage cans, and cleaning all restrooms in addition to being on site (or sites) throughout the evening's activities in case any needs arise during league baseball, softball, soccer, or flag football games.

When the full staff arrives the next day, a crew is sent out to do a more thorough cleaning of all facilities at Wolcott, Freedom Ridge, and Friendship parks, as well as the restroom facility at the Ridgeland Multi-Purpose Trail. A second group will then begin preparing fields for the evening's play. Field preparation may be as simple as dragging, chalking, and checking that bases and mounds are in proper working order, as well as checking each field for holes or worn areas; however, if we are moving from youth play to adult play at Freedom Ridge Park, tasks may include putting up or taking down temporary fencing or pitching mounds. Yet another individual or group will be involved in mowing baseball, softball and soccer game and practice fields. At the height of the growing season, ball fields are typically mowed three times per week.

Seasonal Maintenance

In addition to daily property checks, there are weekly, monthly, and seasonal maintenance items that have to be handled. Each week, the Ridgeland Multi-Purpose Trail is cleared of any debris that may have accumulated due to storms, wind, or use. Roadside City of Ridgeland banners are checked weekly, and changed seasonally by Recreation & Parks staff. Also, each day brings a different maintenance specialty task or tasks, such as changing annuals in decorative flower beds; removing lips (the built-up area where grass and dirt meet on baseball and softball fields) from ball fields; checking and repairing irrigation as needed; aerating and top dressing ball fields and common areas several times each year; replacing clay or other dirt areas on baseball and softball fields; painting grass areas on ball fields with lines and/or logos; fertilizing and spraying ball fields to remove weeds and stimulate grass growth; and even placing new sod in areas that have become too worn and where play is taking place.



Playground Maintenance

Playground maintenance is ongoing, as well, with staff checking that playground surfacing is the proper depth for use, that equipment doesn't need repair, and that no safety hazards exist. Several times each year, the playground mulch has to be replaced. Each day, maintenance staff members check all playing areas and common areas for safety and aesthetics to make certain that park areas look inviting and are safe for participants and spectators. Additionally, each restroom, concession facility, and the Ridgeland Recreational Center are cleaned daily or more often if the demand calls for it. Throughout the year, lights and scoreboards have to be checked and repaired as necessary, and fences have to be repaired or replaced if they become worn or unsafe.

Special Events and Tournaments

If there is a special event or tournament scheduled for the weekend (approximately 35 weekends each year), additional tasks need to be performed. For tournaments, fences again have to be put in place or taken down; pitching mounds placed and base distances changed if necessary; tournament specific logos painted and signage placed; tarpaulins placed on the field and removed if rain is a threat, and a host of other activities.

If the event is one of our larger special events, such as the Heatwave Classic Triathlon, KidFest! Ridgeland, the Natchez Trace Century Ride, the Celebrate America Balloon Glow, or the Ridgeland Christmas Parade, then event-specific tasks are conducted in the week or weeks leading up to the event. These may include specific mowing, fencing, sponsor signage placement, directional signage placement, and other preparations in anticipation of each event.

For most tournaments and events, the entire Recreation

& Parks staff is present for all or part of each event. During tournaments, staff members are on-hand to conduct the event, to work maintenance on ball fields before and after each game on each field, keep water available to participants, and keep trash picked up and restrooms clean throughout the event. For special events, Recreation & Parks employees are present to conduct the event and make certain that everything happens as planned for the enjoyment of the event participants and spectators. Again, there is an emphasis on keeping the event area clean of trash and the facilities inviting. For events such as the Natchez Trace Century Ride and the Heatwave Classic Triathlon, employees may also serve at rest stops alongside volunteers, or patrol the race route to assist Ridgeland Police with making certain that participants are safe.

Programming

While the maintenance division of the Recreation & Parks Department is coordinating maintenance of all facilities, the programming division is involved in performing all of the tasks necessary to make certain that the events are successful. This includes planning and marketing each event and program, working with outside entities, and coordinating with everyone involved, including sponsors, user groups, our target audience, contract personnel, other city departments, and other public and private entities. Planning for each event begins the day the previous year's event ends and is an ongoing process. Often, preparations for multiple events are taking place at the same time, sometimes months and even years in advance. Programming personnel are also responsible for bidding for and attracting new events and tournaments to Ridgeland, and for developing new programs and events and enhancing existing offerings to meet the ever-changing demands of our citizens and prospective visitors.

Partners

Recreation & Parks is tasked with making certain that all of these facilities are safe and inviting and that events and programs are successful, but we certainly don't do it alone. Many of our sports activities involve local youth organizations such as the Madison-Ridgeland Youth Club and the South Madison County Soccer Organization. Community organizations and volunteer groups assist with many of our special events and programs, and we partner with many sponsors who provide event and program support as well as sponsorship dollars that make these events possible.

Every other City of Ridgeland department plays a role, either directly or indirectly, in the production of these events as well. Ridgeland Police provide event support in many ways, from ensuring the safety of all to helping with traffic flow. Ridgeland Fire Department personnel are present for many of our activities to have emergency response on-site if needed. Public Works provides personnel and equipment to assist in



many of our needs as we prepare for events and programs, both daily and in anticipation of larger events. The Administration and Community Development departments provide financial and logistical support, assist in marketing to our target audience, and help in countless other ways. Finally, all departments have employees who volunteer their time to assist wherever and whenever needed.

The Ridgeland Tourism Commission also plays a vital role in all that we do, particularly with regard to tournaments and special events. They serve as a partner to provide financial support, assist in planning and also play a major role in marketing our events to attract visitors to Ridgeland to participate in these events.

Why we do what we do

Why spend time, effort and money on large special events and attracting local, state, regional and national sports competition to Ridgeland? Ridgeland Recreation & Parks hopes to accomplish several things through these offerings. First, we endeavor to provide the highest possible quality of life for our residents by providing quality programs, events and facilities for our citizens to enjoy. Beyond that, we hope to attract new residents and businesses to our city based on these quality of life factors. Finally, we hope to attract visitors to the city to enjoy all that we have to offer in the way of programs and events, while also helping the local economy by having these visitors enjoy our restaurants, hotels and retail centers while in town for each event. In order to accomplish these goals, we attempt to provide our citizens and visitors with the best possible experience in terms of facilities and organization for each event and program we produce. We believe our reputation is that of a place where good things happen, and our hope is to continue to build on that reputation for years to come.

Heatwave Classic Triathlon

29th annual event scheduled for Saturday, June 7

Triathletes are one of the fastest-growing sports communities with more than 1 million people each year participating in some type of physical endurance competition. And each year, since 1985, nearly 500 athletes have been making the journey to Ridgeland to participate in the Heatwave Classic Triathlon. When asked why participants return to Ridgeland, they say that they love the course, the pottery and the southern hospitality!

The Heatwave Classic Triathlon is sanctioned by U.S.A. Triathlon. Our race staff carefully maps our swim, bike and run courses to insure maximum participant safety. This year's race will consist of a ½ mile swim in the Ross Barnett Reservoir, a 24 ½ mile bike ride along the scenic and historic Natchez Trace Parkway, and ending with a 10K run along Ridgeland's heavily shaded Purpose Trail.

The 29th annual Heatwave Classic is presented by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi and will take place , June 7. Participants may register online at www.heatwavetri.racesonline.com.

Many other local businesses also sponsor this event, including C Spire, Omega Electric, Northpark Mall, The Radio People – US 96.3, Mix 98.7, Y101, 100.9 The Legend, Renasant Bank, Barksdale Cadillac, The Bike Crossing, BankPlus, Cool Water Catering & Events, Fleet Feet Sports, Indian Cycle, The Bike Rack, Madison County Journal, St. Dominic's, The Soccer Center, Rex Team Sports, U.S. Lawns, Southern Beverage, SuperTalk Radio Mississippi, University Orthopedics and Mars Marketing.

It also takes a team of experienced HAM radio operators to keep track of each and every participant on the courses, special thanks to Jackson Amateur Radio Club. The course location is available through a partnership with Pearl River Valley Water Supply District and the Natchez Trace Parkway.

The Heatwave Classic Triathlon is one of many events produced by City of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department. For more information on this event, please visit www.heatwavetri.racesonline.com or call 601-853-2011.



Father-Child Fishing Tournament

Fun. Fish. Fathers. That's what our annual Father-Child Fishing Tournament is all about. It is the perfect way to take a break from hectic work schedules and organized activities to just relax and reel in the fun. This year's event will take place , June 14, beginning at 8 a.m. Judging will take place at 10 a.m.

Prizes will be awarded for Biggest Fish, Most Fish and Smallest Fish. There is no charge to participate in this event. All the fun will take place in Old Trace Park on the beautiful Ross Barnett Reservoir. This tournament is a joint partnership with the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District and the City of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department. And, yes, moms are welcome!

Many local businesses sponsor this event, including Omega Electric, Northpark Mall, The Radio People – US 96.3, Mix 98.7, Y101, 100.9 The Legend, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, Renasant Bank, Barksdale Cadillac, The Bike Crossing, BankPlus, Cool Water Catering & Events, Fleet Feet Sports, Indian Cycle, The Bike Rack, Madison County Journal, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Rezonate, St. Dominic's, Tellus Operating Group, LLC, The Soccer Center, Rex Team Sports, U.S. Lawns, WLBT, Corey Sullivan Electric, Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, Newk's Eatery, SuperTalk Radio Mississippi, Trustmark National Bank, Waggoner Engineering, Inc., Love Irrigation and McClain Lodge.



Annual Father-Child Fishing Tournament will be held at Old Trace Park on the Ross Barnett Reservoir at 8 a.m., Saturday, June 14.

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks and Barksdale Cadillac present Celebrate America Balloon Glow featuring Sawyer Brown and Samantha Landrum

Good music, beautiful hot air balloons, and spectacular fireworks will again provide an evening's entertainment for the entire family at this year's Celebrate America Balloon Glow. Our newest Presenting Sponsor, Barksdale Cadillac and Ridgeland Recreation & Parks are proud to present this annual Independence Day tradition. The 24th annual celebration will take place on Friday, July 4 at Northpark Mall's balloon glow field, with plenty of parking around the mall for the thousands who gather each year.

The Celebrate America Balloon Glow, the opening event of the Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Race and Festival in



Come join the fun as we celebrate America on Friday, July 4 at Northpark Mall's field.

Canton, provides the opportunity to witness 20 hot air balloons of all colors twinkle and glow in the dusk of a summer evening.

There's much more to the Balloon Glow than just balloons. The event actually begins Tuesday, July 1 and Wednesday, July 2 with the Karaoke Contest in Center Court of Northpark Mall. The winners of those preliminary rounds will advance to the finals Thursday, July 3. The winner then has the opportunity to open the evening's entertainment on the 4th from the main stage. After that, the entertainment continues with Laurel, Mississippi native, Samantha Landrum. From the first notes of the title track of *Hometown*, Samantha's warmth shines through the 18-year-old's creamy soprano. Following her performance, the balloons will light up the sky for a balloon glow that will delight people of all ages.

Following the balloon glow, fans will enjoy a performance by American country music band, Sawyer Brown. This group has been singing our life back to us now over the course of 23 albums, the latest of which is *Travelin' Band*. Lead singer, Mark Miller, explains, "What we try to do – what we've always tried to do, I think – is capture those moments that matter, and capture them in a song." Miller says, "It seems to me that it's really the small moments in life that are the big ones anyway." The group's newest album includes hits "The Walk," "Travelin' Band," "Some Girls Do" and "Smokin' Hot Wife."

Throughout the evening, vendors will be on hand to provide various types of food for attendees, including favorites such as barbecue, corn dogs, chicken-on-a-stick, and funnel cakes. Children's activities are available throughout the evening at the Simon Kidgits Carnival area, free to Northpark Kidgits Club members. Activities include inflatable obstacle courses, jumps, face painting and other children's favorites. For more information about the Kidgits Club, go to www.simon.com.

Admission to the Celebrate America Balloon Glow, as always, is free. Come join the fun as we celebrate America! Event kicks off at 6 p.m. Samantha Landrum performs at 6:30 p.m. Balloon Glow will begin around 7:45 p.m. Sawyer Brown takes the stage at 8:15 p.m. Fireworks close out the night at 9:30 p.m.

Further details may be obtained by contacting the Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department at 601-853-2011, or by visiting the Facebook pages of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks and the City of Ridgeland.

Fiber for Every Home

Stop! This is worth reading if you have not signed up for Fiber to the Home! There is no single easier and cheaper thing you can do to improve the value of your property than signing up for Fiber to the Home Service. Pre-registration only costs \$10 and is refundable if you ultimately get the service.

This service includes a fiber optic line installed to your house that delivers the fastest Internet service, crystal clear HD television, and digital home phone services. C Spire, headquartered in Ridgeland, has graciously agreed to offer these services in a bundle or you can opt out of the television and phone services. However, C Spire will only offer this service if residents meet pre-registration requirements.

This ultra-fast Internet service is 100 times faster than the average Internet connection, which will expand your capability to stream movies without interruption even on multiple devices at the same time. Internet bandwidth has become more important than ever before with so many people using Wi-Fi and Internet for their cell phones, tablets, computers, televisions, and house phones. All of these devices get sluggish during peak demand times, but Fiber to the Home will erase the delays and buffering!

The City of Ridgeland encourages you to pre-register because this service will make Ridgeland even more attractive

to newcomers, new businesses, and many new opportunities. Having this service in your neighborhood will result in improving competition among all carriers of similar services offered by AT&T and Comcast. Improving competition will result in lower prices and better service.

We urge you to go online and pre-register at www.cspire.com/ridgeland where you can also get answers to most of your questions about channel lineup and cost. It takes 3 minutes to complete the form to pre-register. As part of the signup process, residents are required to pay \$10 on the secure website. This \$10 is refundable on your first bill if you choose to sign up when C Spire offers the service in your neighborhood.

If residents do not pre-register soon, you will lose the opportunity. This \$10 only declares your interest; it does not obligate you to a contract. The City of Ridgeland begs you not to miss this opportunity and sign up immediately. Several neighborhoods in Ridgeland have already met the requirements and will get the service this summer. If you need assistance signing up or have questions, please contact the Community Development Department at 601-856-3877.



the city of **RIDGELAND**

Let's Get Fiber to Every Home, Ridgeland!

Pre-register for ultra-fast 1 Gbps Internet today

Learn more about this economic development project at RidgelandMS.org

Ridgeland Adopts New Zoning Ordinance

The City of Ridgeland adopted a new Zoning Ordinance and Map in February 2014 along with a new Future Land Use and Transportation Plan. The Zoning Ordinance includes big changes from the previous version including several new district types as well as an improved approach to eliminate nonconforming uses and structures.

The Mixed Use Zoning District was created to improve the opportunities for development along the Interstate 55 corridor, Southeast Ridgeland, the Jackson Street Downtown area, and an area along Rice Road. The basic uses allowed are very similar to a general commercial category, but other uses can be granted as conditional by following the public hearing process prescribed in the Zoning Ordinance.

Alan Hart, Ridgeland Community Development Director, commented, “The best example of a Mixed Use District is the Township, which has been extremely successful continuing to develop even during the toughest economic times. There is a wide variety of commercial and residential uses within the development.”

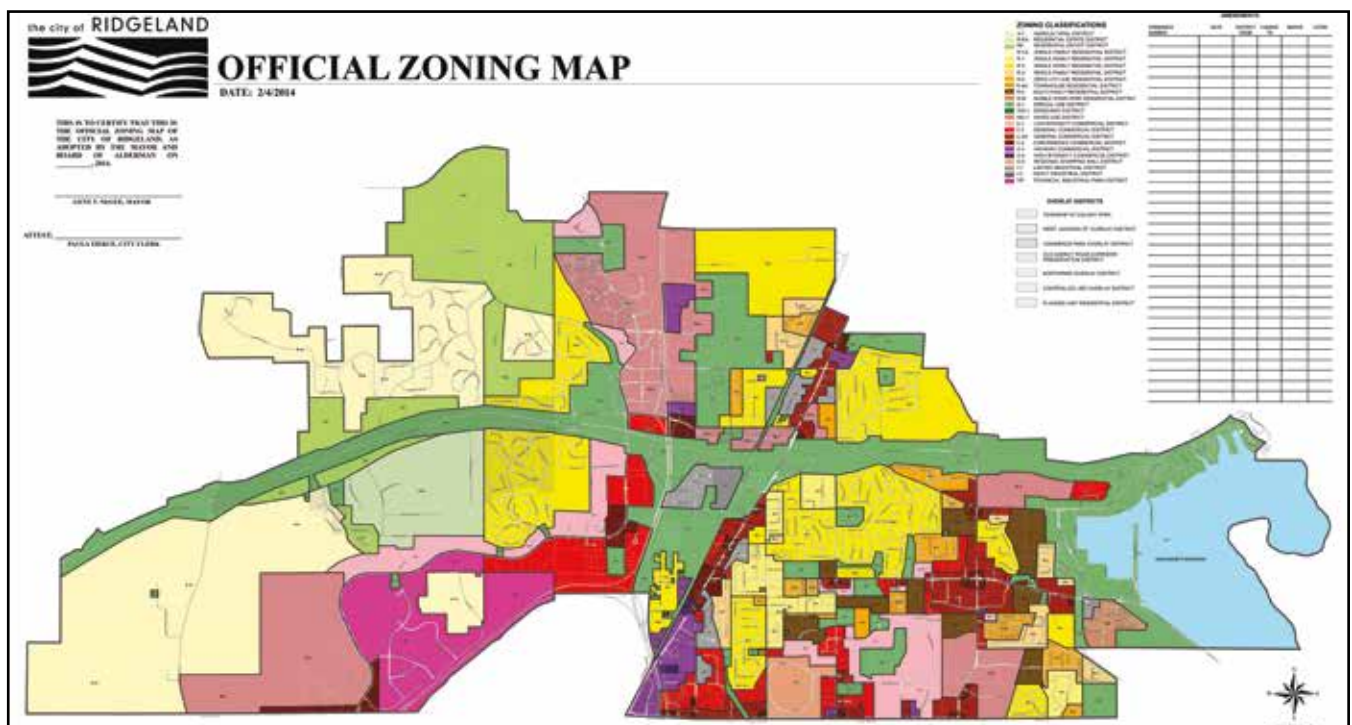
The Amendments to the nonconforming regulations were developed by a team of attorneys from Butler Snow as well as the city’s general counsel. This revised section includes an amortization clause for nonconforming uses and structures. Examples of nonconforming uses include an improperly zoned apartment complex, an improperly zoned commercial use, an improperly zoned mobile home use, and an apartment use that does not comply with density requirements. The attorneys developed a formula to amortize the value of the unrecoverable costs over a prescribed period of time.

Mayor Gene McGee commented, “We have not yet obtained the data required to be filed by each nonconforming use, so it is impossible for us to calculate exactly how long these nonconforming uses will remain in the city. What we do know is that this formula should identify a definitive end date for uses that do not comply with our zoning regulations.”

What this means to you as a citizen

As a result of the implementation of this new zoning ordinance, you will see the elimination of nonconforming properties in Ridgeland if the use of the property is not granted zoning relief. This ordinance will serve as a tool to eliminate unsafe, densely populated dwelling units, which are identified as one of the city’s greatest problems for its citizens. The city’s enforcement efforts will be a strong forward step in shaping our city to be consistent with the Ridgeland Area Master Plan, which is based on a solid foundation of the vision of the citizens of Ridgeland. Another result will be to eliminate and prevent urban blight and to preserve and enhance property values.

A complete version of the Zoning Ordinance and Map is available at www.RidgelandMS.org.



Ridgeland’s Official Zoning Map was updated to reflect the land use plan that was adopted as a part of the Ridgeland Area Master Plan. The new Zoning Map will guide elected officials when considering new and old property uses.

What's Next For Ridgeland?

Colony Park Blvd

Colony Park Boulevard is a proposed five-lane boulevard roadway to be constructed by the Mississippi Department of Transportation that will extend from Highland Colony Parkway to Highway 51. This route will provide a much needed east-west corridor across Interstate 55 and the Canadian National Illinois Central Railroad. This additional east-west connection will improve emergency services as well as provide for more development opportunities. The Colony Park Boulevard project estimated cost is \$33.5 million, but the City of Ridgeland will only be responsible for \$13 million. Construction is projected to begin in June 2016 and be completed by September 2017.



The proposed Colony Park Boulevard's western access location can be seen here from the corner of Highland Colony Parkway and Northlake Avenue.

City Center

The Ridgeland Area Master Plan, adopted in 2008 by the Mayor and Board of Alderman, includes a City Center project which was selected by the Master Plan Steering Committee as the #1 priority project. This development will serve as the "heart" of Ridgeland. The Committee selected the City Center project as a way to develop a central location for city services along with a goal of improving the image of the city.



A proposed vision of what a new city hall could look like for Ridgeland, as designed by Dean and Dean Architects. A new city hall is planned for the City Center project.

The City Center site will ultimately include a new City Hall, a Performing Arts Center, a Civic Center, a potential Museum, a mixed-use private commercial area, and other opportunities. School Street will be realigned to create focal points and integrate existing adjacent facilities into the campus-like feel of the city service buildings and grounds. Rice Road will be extended across Highway 51 at a signalized intersection to create an additional safe point of access. School Street, Rice Road, and the City Hall projects are estimated to cost approximately \$13 million. The anticipated length of construction time is 18 months, and construction could begin as early as spring 2015!

Shortly after the 2008 adoption of the Plan, city leaders moved forward with the acquisition of the old concrete bridge beam construction site on Highway 51. Redevelopment of this site will eliminate the eyesore of the former industrial use as well as turn this 25-acre site into a high quality environment that is literally located in the center of the city. The site is conveniently located between School Street and the Natchez Trace and is adjacent to the Police Station, Court Services, Public Works and the Ridgeland Library.

LAKE HARBOUR DRIVE PROJECTS IMPROVE TRAVEL AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

The widening of Lake Harbour Drive from Highway 51 to Northpark Drive is almost complete! This project cost \$17.2 million, with 50 percent funded by federal funds. The City of Ridgeland funded 34 percent of the project, with the remaining 16 percent funded by Madison County and the State of Mississippi.

Lake Harbour Drive as a five-lane roadway from Highway 51 to Northpark Drive will certainly make travel easier for our residents and visitors. We expect traffic will be much smoother during peak times of the day and especially during the holiday shopping season. The traffic will move smoother, making shopping and living in Ridgeland even more appealing while at the same time allowing Ridgeland's businesses to prosper more than ever. Prosperous businesses ultimately equal better police protection, better roads, longer trails, bigger parks, and so many other quality of life improvements that make Ridgeland the best place to live.

The widening of Lake Harbour Drive is great, but the best is yet to come! The City of Ridgeland is about to begin the next phase of the project. Lake Harbour Drive will soon connect to Highland Colony Parkway.

The extension of Lake Harbour Drive will provide a major east-west corridor through the City of Ridgeland. Not only will this project provide the connection of Madison and Rankin Counties, it will make for safer and more efficient travel across the city, enhance economic development, and improve commercial activity.

The City of Ridgeland strives daily to improve the quality of life for its residents as well as build an environment that makes businesses and residents want to locate to Ridgeland. Completing Lake Harbour Drive is one of the major puzzle pieces that improve traveling east and west in our City.



This rendering of the Lake Harbour Drive Extension project shows what the roadway will look like once completed. This east-west connector will provide an efficient route across the city.

Fire Academy for Kids

Fire Academy for Kids is a fun, educational, action-oriented program with two goals: to give children more life safety skills in fire safety, first aid, and injury prevention and to introduce them up close and personal to firefighters, the equipment they use, and the jobs they perform. The first skill will lead to increased life safety behaviors by preparing the children to be able to prevent a fire or injury, and by preparing them to be able to react correctly should a fire or medical emergency occur. The second skill will give them a better appreciation of firefighters and their often dangerous job, and it will provide information to those who may be thinking about a future career in the fire/rescue service.

Children will participate in classroom learning activities and will perform hands-on training in fire safety, first aid, and firefighter skills such as rescuing a "victim" from a simulated "smoke-filled" room while wearing an air mask, using fire hoses (and getting wet!), using extrication tools (Jaws of Life) on a crushed car, etc. Four homework assignments will be given and are intended to involve the whole family. After all, life-safety knowledge and skills are important for everyone. A parent's signature will be required on each completed assignment for their child to be eligible to receive an awesome homework reward each day.

All activities will be carefully monitored for safety by fire department personnel. No one will be made to perform an activity with which he or she may feel uncomfortable. "Learning Safety, Being Safe Having Fun" is our motto. A graduation ceremony and luncheon reception will be held at Central Fire Station on Friday, July 25, 2014. Parents and guardians are invited to attend and share in their child's accomplishment. Call 601-856-7004 to sign up for Fire Academy for Kids. It will be held Monday through Friday, 8:30-11:30 a.m., July 21-25 at Central Fire Station.



Fire Academy for Kids class of 2013 show off their certificates of completion on graduation day with Fire Chief Matt Bailey (back, left) and Mayor Gene McGee (back, right).

NORTHPARK OFFERS NEW RETAILERS, NEW EVENTS, AND NEW MANAGEMENT

When Northpark Mall was built in 1984, it reigned as the premier shopping destination for the metro-Jackson area. But as the years passed, newer shopping centers opened their doors and attracted a growing number of shoppers, leaving many to question—what does the future look like for Northpark Mall?

And as recent visitors to the mall can attest, the future looks very bright indeed. As the property turns 30 this year, new retailers, engaging marketing events, and a vibrant management team have revitalized Northpark Mall, giving a community favorite a new lease on life, and offering shoppers an improved mall experience.



Michael Huesser, mall manager, and Megan Bailey, marketing and business development director, joined the Northpark Mall team in 2013 and have already made significant changes to the mall experience. Code of conduct is strictly enforced, family-friendly activities are frequent, and incredibly popular retailers are joining or expanding. Space soon to be occupied by H&M can be seen in the background.

One of the most exciting developments at Northpark Mall is this year's announcement that H&M will open its doors in the mall this summer. The two-story, 24,000 square-foot store will offer men's, women's and children's fashions. The mega-popular Swedish retailer is sought after by shoppers around the world due to its affordable, up-to-the-minute fashions and accessories. Northpark Mall was selected as the location for the first—and only—Mississippi store.

"H&M recognized the incredible potential of opening this pivotal store in Northpark Mall," said Michael Huesser, mall manager at Northpark Mall, who joined the team last spring. "We are very proud and excited to offer our shoppers this exciting new store."

Elsewhere in the mall Dillard's recently remodeled the Polo

Ralph Lauren and Michael Kors shop-in-shops, while Belk debuted a new look for its MAC counter. These changes come on the heels of a remodel of The Children's Place last year, plus the opening of P.S. by Aeropostale.

"The momentum is building here at Northpark, and we are looking forward to continually bringing our guests new and exciting retail options," said Huesser.

In addition to bringing shoppers some of the area's most sought-after retailers, Northpark Mall is the social center of the greater Jackson metro

area. Since joining the management team last summer, marketing and business development director Megan Bailey has created a strategic annual marketing approach that invites the community to take part in engaging, family friendly activities year-round.

One of the more notable grassroots events is the Northpark Nights Concert Series, which takes place in Center Court. The free, monthly concert series treats mall patrons to local and regional acts, and provides an attractive ambiance to enhance their shopping experience. Guests have included Amber Carrington, a finalist on the hit NBC show *The Voice*, King Edwards Blues Band, and The Fondren Guitars Student Rock Band.

Additionally, local mothers are encouraged to join together for a night of fun on May 8th when the mall hosts Indulge: A Stylish Treat for Mothers. The event will include cooking demonstrations, beauty tips and coupons to some of the mall's most popular retailers. And this summer, more than 24,000 community members will come to Northpark Mall for the annual Fourth of July Celebrate America Balloon Glow.

"Northpark Mall is an integral member of the Ridgeland community," said Bailey. "Events such as Northpark Nights and Balloon Glow give us an opportunity to thank the community for its continued support."

Equally important to the management team as retailers and marketing events is the overall experience a shopper has

Alan Hart, community development director for the City of Ridgeland, commented, "Every week I cross paths with another person who asks me, 'What changed at Northpark Mall? I went there this past Friday night and found it to be a very good experience!' These encounters tell me that NorthPark's management team has really turned things around for the better."

when they enter Northpark Mall. From repaving the center's parking lots (coming this summer) to consistently enforcing the mall's Code of Conduct, Huesser, Bailey, and the rest of the management team strive to ensure that all shoppers feel welcomed at Northpark, and have a comfortable visit during their time there.

Alan Hart, community development director for the City of Ridgeland, commented, "Every week I cross paths with another person who asks me, 'What changed at Northpark Mall? I went there this past Friday night and found it to be a very good experience!' These encounters tell me that NorthPark's

management team has really turned things around for the better."

"We've worked hard to offer our guests a premier shopping experience here at Northpark Mall, but our work is far from done," said Huesser. "We are steadfastly committed to continually bettering all aspects of the Northpark experience for the Jackson metro area."

For a complete list of all the events that are taking place at Northpark Mall, please socialize with us on Facebook: NorthparkMallMS, Twitter: @northparkms, Instagram: @northparkms

Crime Prevention Tips For Auto Burglary

A crime consists of three elements: opportunity, desire and ability. When either of these elements is missing, the crime cannot occur. Even though we may not be able to stop someone's desire to commit a crime, we can take away their ability and/or their opportunity to commit the crime.

Auto Burglary is a common crime of opportunity where in most cases the property was easily accessible to the thief. Thieves are naturally deterred by police presence; however, we cannot be everywhere at all times. Therefore, you continue to be a first line of defense against these crimes of opportunity. Do not make it easy for criminals to take advantage of you, your family, or your property.

To help reduce the risk of you becoming a victim of an Auto Burglary, follow these easy tips:

- Always close your vehicle windows and lock the doors. An unlocked door or open window is an invitation to a thief. (simplest prevention technique)
- Park in well-lit areas close to the building. Parking in this area increases the likelihood that others will view your vehicle with the greatest frequency. Thieves do not like to commit their acts in plain view of many people; they like seclusion. (natural surveillance)
- Remove and/or secure loose valuables from your vehicle. This includes purses, wallets, cellular phones, computers, GPS systems, briefcases, and backpacks or gym bags. Keep in mind that if you leave valuables in plain sight, a thief may target your car even knowing it is locked or alarmed. Without a clear prize in sight, a locked/alarmed car will likely be bypassed for an easier "target of opportunity."
- Do not leave any "sign" that there might be valuables "out of sight" in your vehicle. These signs could be connector cables, docking stations, chargers, or items covered on the floorboard or seat. This often broadcasts that there is something of value hidden in your car.
- Securing your items in the trunk is a good option but do not hide them in your trunk in the same parking lot as you leave your car. Prior to your destination, stop in a safe area, place the items in your trunk, and then go to the parking lot of your destination. Should a would-be thief see you place the items in your trunk; they can many times defeat the lock and gain entry.
- If parking your vehicle at home, it is best, of course, to park in your garage. If this is not possible, follow the same rules as if you were in a public parking area. Also, it is highly recommended that if you must park outside of your garage to be sure and secure your garage door opener. Doing this will prevent would-be thieves from possibly gaining entry into your home.

These tips should help you reduce the risk of becoming a victim of an Auto Burglary. If not, as soon as you notice something missing or that your car has been broken into, do not touch/adjust anything in, on or around your vehicle. As soon as possible, call the police to report it and let the responding officer determine if evidence is present. Be ready to provide the officer with serial numbers of your missing items; this will aid police in trying to locate and recover the stolen items for you.



Don't let this happen to you. Read the tips provided by Assistant Chief Randy Tyler of the Ridgeland Police Department to prevent auto burglary.

FROM THE DESK OF... *The City Clerk*

The City Clerk takes a few moments to respond to some frequently asked questions at City Hall. Got a question? You just might find your easy answer here!

Street Overlay

How much does the City of Ridgeland budget for street overlay?

The City of Ridgeland typically budgets approximately \$500,000 per budget year for street overlay. However, for Fiscal Year 2014, the City budgeted \$1 Million for street overlay.

What is the selection process for street overlay?

The City of Ridgeland performs a condition assessment on each street in the city every five years using the road surface management system, which accounts for pavement factors such as cracking, potholes, roughness, rutting and drainage. This assessment is used in the development of the 5-Year Street Overlay Program.

What streets are scheduled for overlay during the Fiscal Year 2014 budget?

Shadowood Subdivision

- Idlewood Lane, Pine Brake Circle, Autumn Creek Drive, Elderburry Court, Forrest Lane, Ashridge Place, Harwood Place, Ashstead Court, Shadowood Drive (Pear Orchard to Idlewood), Camelia Lane, Chestnut Place

Village Glen Subdivision

- Glastonbury Circle, Banbury Crossing, Wicklow Place, Keltingham Court, Avery Blvd, Blanch Lowe Drive, Ford Street

Highland Cove Subdivision

- Craigs Circle, Elms Cove, Campbell Cove, Bayview Cove, Highland Cove and Place

Olde Towne

- East Porter Street, Madison Drive, N. Wheatley Street, West Porter Street, Washington Street, North Perkins Street, Magnolia Street

Old Agency Village

- Semoia Lane, Tecumseh Cove, Mesquaki Drive, Red Eagle Circle, Old Agency Blvd

Miscellaneous Streets

- Remaining of Holmes Street, Greaves Street, Midway Avenue, Mallett Street, Simmons Street

***The streets listed in "red" are completed! The remaining streets should be complete by September 30, 2014.*

More FAQ

Why should citizens avoid disposing of grass clippings and other items in storm drains?

Grass clippings, leaves and other items will cause the storm drains to become clogged. Clogged storm drains create unnecessary flooding, which creates unnecessary expenditures for the City. Also, disposal of materials through the storm drainage system creates other issues such as odor and unsightliness for other residents and pollution in our water retention ponds.

Does it cost the City of Ridgeland money when events are hosted in Ridgeland by outsiders?

No, any additional expenditures incurred by a special event are the responsibility of the event host. Special event sponsors are required to submit an application with a \$100 application fee. All special events must be approved by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Event sponsors are required to post a cash bond in the amount of \$1,000 in addition to reimbursing the City for any out-of-pocket expenditure incurred by the City for the event. The cash bond is refunded provided the City does not incur any expenses for cleanup.

Is the sales tax for Ridgeland growing?

The City of Ridgeland has seen a 4.4 percent growth in sales tax for the period Oct. 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014. This is outstanding for the City of Ridgeland. Please spend your money locally and encourage your friends and neighbors to do likewise. The City of Ridgeland is full of great shopping and dining!

Does the City of Ridgeland accept credit cards for utility payments?

The City of Ridgeland does accept credit cards for utility payments. There is a convenience fee that is assessed. Mississippi State Law prohibits local governments from paying fees associated with credit card payments. The convenience fee for online payments is \$3.95 per transaction. The convenience fee for a credit card payment made in person is 3 percent of the transaction amount.

Can I receive my utility bill electronically?

The City of Ridgeland is proud to announce that electronic billing is now available. If you are interested in receiving your utility bill electronically, please enroll by visiting www.ridgelandms.org.

If you have a question that you would like answered in the next edition of Ridgeland Life, please email your question to paula.tierce@ridgelandms.org.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM MOSQUITOES

The City of Ridgeland sprays for mosquitoes regularly throughout the mosquito-breeding season. This helps to manage the size of the mosquito population in our area. It does not completely eliminate mosquitoes nor prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases including West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, LaCrosse encephalitis and Eastern Equine encephalitis.

To protect yourself from mosquito bites, avoid mosquitoes especially during the evenings and early mornings, which are peak mosquito biting times. You may choose to apply a topical mosquito repellent. Wear long-sleeved, long-legged clothing with socks and shoes when practical.

Property owners need to do their part to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes on their property. In order to protect you, your family and other residents from mosquito bites around your home, you can do the following as suggested by the Mississippi Department of Health:

- Remove or empty cans, containers, ceramic pots, old tires or other water-holding containers.
- Remove all leaf debris that can hold water.
- Cover trash containers to keep out rainwater.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of all recycling containers that are kept outdoors.
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly, and clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Change the water in birdbaths every 2 to 3 days.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs.
- Drain water from pool covers.
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.
- Repair leaky water pipes and outside faucets.

Thank you for helping to minimize the impact of mosquitoes on our community. For more information about mosquito control, you may wish to visit <http://www2.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol>. If you have any questions about mosquito spraying in Ridgeland, please contact the Public Works Department at 601-853-2027.



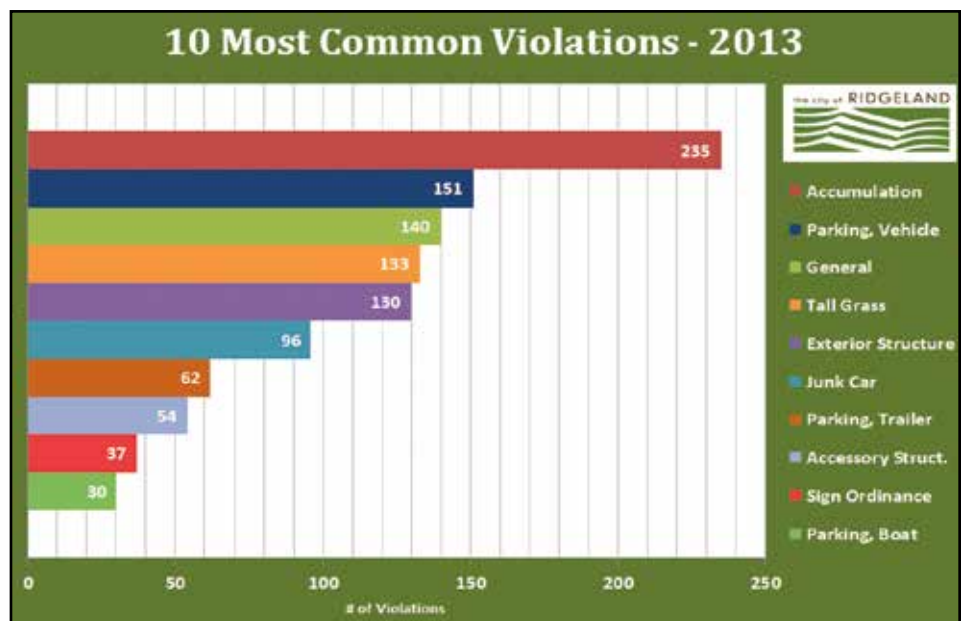
One of the best ways to prevent mosquitoes from breeding on your property is to empty any containers of standing water.

Code Enforcement at Work

The City of Ridgeland Code Enforcement Officers work every day to enforce the Property Maintenance Code which is designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens. Enforcement of the Code is important to every property owner who has an interest in maintaining/improving property values and aesthetics in our community. Officers work with citizens to educate about city codes and to correct code violations.

The graph below shows the top 10 most common code violations in 2013. "Accumulation" (235) was the highest violation type. Accumulations are typically described as excessive clutter, debris, or other potentially hazardous material that accumulates outside of the house and is viewable from a street. The "Off-street Parking of Vehicles" violation category (151) was the second highest violation type. Officers no longer provide warning for this violation type; they simply issue a citation. Officers encourage you to not park in the grass. The general "Property Maintenance Code" violation category (140) was the third highest violation type.

For more information about Code Enforcement, to report a possible violation, or speak with a code enforcement officer, please call 601-856-3877.



Summertime Safety Tips

There's nothing like summertime in Ridgeland, Mississippi. The return of warmer temperatures brings fun in the sun, running, walking and cycling on the multi-use trails, and swimming, boating, and sailing on the Ross Barnett Reservoir. While the thought of relaxation and being closer to nature can be the reward to a cold winter and a long day, safety should always be at the top of everyone's list. Whether you're relaxing in the backyard, sprucing up your garden, enjoying the pool or the reservoir, or exploring the great outdoors, here are some ways to help keep you and your family happy and safe this summer.

Grilling

Close to 20,000 people are sent to the emergency room each year for grill-related accidents. Most grilling accidents occur in the summer months with people taking advantage of family time outdoors. Most typically, these accidents occur while lighting the grill. Please make sure that only adults are operating fire starters, no one is within 5 feet of the grill while lighting, you are on a well-ventilated and open outside area, and no additional fuels are used to aid in the lighting of the grill.



Wildlife

Summer weather is not only enjoyed by humans but our local wildlife as well. Make sure that you and your family are properly covered with mosquito repellent while outdoors. Mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas are some of the most prevalent nuisance bugs in our area so be sure to consult your doctor for medication and prevention methods appropriate for you and your family. Many of us will take to the Reservoir. While we use the Reservoir for seasonal recreation, some wildlife call this home. Be sure to respect wildlife, not just to preserve their habitat but to assure your safety. Obey the laws of the water and keep the maximum possible distance from animals that may not care to be cuddled up to.

Water

Each year, we watch thousands of people swim in the pools and lakes that we are fortunate to have in Ridgeland and each year, we respond to a multitude of preventable accidents. First and foremost, please assure that you and your family are strong swimmers and always supervise small children around the water. If not, avoid entering water greater than waist high depth. When entering water of limited visibility, it is important to not only have a life preserver on but to stay within a group so that someone has accountability of all party members.



Boaters, it is your responsibility as a boat captain to have a life preserver for every person on your vessel and to also have a

currently certified fire extinguisher readily available onboard your vessel at all times. A Federal Regulation went into effect May 1, 1995 which requires operators of all boats to have at least one wearable life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD) for each person aboard. Under the new regulation a throwable PFD (Type IV) will no longer qualify as a life jacket on boats less than 16 feet. PFD requirements remain unchanged on boats 16 feet and over.

In addition to the Federal PFD carriage requirements, Mississippi has the following requirements for wearing a PFD:

- Children 12 years of age and younger are required to wear a Type I, II or III U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD whenever underway in a vessel under 26 feet in length. Children's PFDs must be securely fastened and be size-appropriate for the wearer.
- Every person on board a personal watercraft (PWC) or being towed behind a PWC must wear a Coast Guard-approved PFD. Inflatable PFDs are not intended for use while participating in tow sports or other high impact sports.

Sun

Wear sunscreen! The most commonly treated burn at emergency rooms each year is sunburn. It is utterly important that you not only apply sunscreen each time you go out in the great outdoors, but that you apply regularly throughout the day. Avoid using sunscreen with an SPF rating less than 15. Wear hats, glasses, and clothing appropriate to avoid direct sun contact.

Fireworks

The following facts and figures are provided by the National Fire Protection Association.

- In 2011, fireworks caused an estimated 17,800 reported fires, including 1,200 total structure fires, 400 vehicle fires 16,300 outside and other fires. These fires resulted in an estimated eight reported civilian deaths, 40 civilian injuries and \$32 million in direct property damage.
- In 2011, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,600 people for fireworks-related injuries; 60% of 2010 fireworks-related injuries were to the extremities and 34% were to the head.
- The risk of fireworks injury was highest for children ages 5-19, and adults 25-44, in an atypical year of a very comparable risk across much of the population.
- On Independence Day in a typical year, far more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for two out of five of those fires, more than any other cause of fires.

Due to these overwhelming statistics, the City of Ridgeland does not allow fireworks to be sold or used within the city limits. The only exception is with a special permit and those seeking the permit must provide proper licenses and insurance.

The above information was provided by the Ridgeland Fire Department. For more information on these and other tips, please visit the following websites: www.cdc.gov, www.mid.ms.gov/default.aspx, and www.mdwfp.com.

Recreation and Parks Directory

Office
601-853-2011

Fax
601-853-2015

E-mail
recre8@ridgelandms.org

Recreational Center
601-856-6876

Freedom Ridge Park
601-853-2023

Rental Information
601-853-2011

Hotline
601-853-2039

Youth Organizations

South Madison County Soccer Organization

SMCSO is a non-profit organization providing an opportunity for the youth of our area to participate in soccer. Visit www.smcso.com or call 601-898-1996 for more information.

Madison-Ridgeland Youth Club

MRYC is a community organization providing an opportunity for youth in our area to participate in baseball, softball, tackle football, cheerleading and basketball. Visit www.mryouthclub.com for more information.

Recreational Facilities

Freedom Ridge Park

235 West School Street - Freedom Ridge Park, a 50-acre athletic facility, is located on School Street just behind the Ridgeland Police Department. The park features four lighted adult regulation softball fields, four lighted regulation soccer fields, four picnic pavilions two playgrounds including a universal playground for use by individuals with physical disabilities or limitations, two concession/restroom buildings, a lighted walking trail and a maintenance facility.

Each of the four pavilions at Freedom Ridge Park is available at an hourly rate of \$15 for residents, and \$25 for non-residents. The security deposit, our "clean-up insurance," is \$100.

Ridgeland Tennis Center

201 McClellan Drive - The Ridgeland Tennis Center, a full-service public facility operated by tennis pros, is located at 201 McClellan Drive, off Highway 51. The center is home to 17 lighted, hard tennis courts, men's and women's locker rooms, a 2,000-square-foot covered porch for viewing, and a fully stocked tennis pro shop.

City Hall

304 Highway 51 - Ridgeland City Hall is home to four soccer fields during the soccer season. During baseball season, this property converts to three T-ball fields.

Ridgeland Recreational Center

137 Old Trace Park - The Ridgeland Recreational Center is housed in a two-story rustic lodge overlooking the Ross Barnett Reservoir. Daily activities for Superstar Seniors as well as nightly classes for all ages take place during the week in this facility.

Friendship Park

475 Lake Harbour Drive - Friendship Park is a multi-purpose neighborhood park facility. With a large lighted pavilion, a one-mile lighted walking/jogging trail, a fitness court, playground equipment, and restroom facilities, the park accommodates many and varying needs.

The pavilion is available for rental at an hourly rate of \$15 for residents, \$25 per hour for non-residents, with a security deposit of \$100. Park hours are 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Wolcott Park

349 McClellan Drive - Wolcott Park, a 40-acre athletic facility, is located on McClellan Drive, off Highway 51. It features seven lighted baseball/softball fields, a playground, 14 batting cages, two bull pens, two concession/restroom building and a maintenance facility.

Ridgeland Multiuse Trail

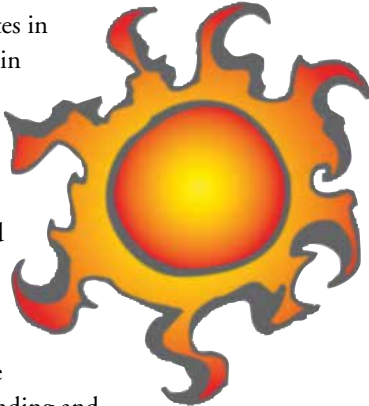
More than 14 miles of trails are available for public use in Ridgeland. Several miles of the trail travel through National Park Service property along the Natchez Trace Parkway. Parking for the trail is available at the intersection of Rice Road and Harbor Drive, at the Parkway Information Cabin, and on N.E. Madison Drive off W. Jackson Street. Water fountains, benches, and trash cans can be found along the trail. Please enjoy the trailhead facility that includes a covered pavilion with picnic tables, restrooms, bike repair station, and recycling container. A fitness station is conveniently located adjacent to the pavilion at the intersection of Rice Road and Harbor Drive.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events Coordinator, Wendy Bourdin
 Phone: 601-853-2011
 Email: wendy.bourdin@ridgelandms.org

Heatwave Classic Triathlon

The annual Heatwave Classic will take place on Saturday, June 7, 2014. This triathlon has become a race favorite among tri-athletes in the Southeast. In its 29th year in Ridgeland, the Heatwave Classic is sure to surpass last year's participation number. Over 400 participants from across the country are expected to descend on Ridgeland to compete for the top prize in the various age groups.



Participants will take to the water at 7 a.m. at Madison Landing and swim .5 miles. After completing the swim, participants will ride 24.5 miles along the scenic and historic Natchez Trace Parkway. After the ride is complete, participants will embark on a 10K run on the heavily shaded Ridgeland Multi-Purpose Trail.

For more information, call the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks office at 601-853-2011 or visit the Heatwave Classic website at www.heatwavetri.racesonline.com.

Program Price:	Individual - \$75 After May 1 - \$85 Relay Team - \$140 After May 2 - \$150 \$12 Single event USAT Insurance per participant
Registration:	Now - June 5
Onsite Registration:	June 6-7
Onsite Price:	Individual - \$100 Relay - \$165
Event Date:	Saturday, June 7, 2014
Start Time:	7 a.m.
Location:	Old Trace Park

Celebrate America Balloon Glow

Come out and show your patriotism and enjoy an evening of good food, fun, entertainment, and fireworks at Northpark Mall. The Mississippi Championship Balloon Fest will hold its opening ceremonies at the Northpark Mall Balloon Glow Field. The balloons will inflate and provide an awesome spectacle as the sun sets. Our featured entertainment for the 2013 Celebrate America/Balloon Glow will be Sawyer Brown. The largest firework display in the metro-Jackson area will be the climax of the evening. For more information, contact the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department at 601-853-2011.



Program Price:	Free
Event Date:	Friday, July 4, 2014
Start Time:	6 p.m.
Location:	Northpark Mall

Balloon Glow Karaoke Contest

The annual karaoke contest will be held at Center Court inside Northpark Mall on Tuesday and Wednesday evening, 6:30-9 p.m., July 1 and 2. The top five finalists from each night will advance to the finals on Thursday night, July 3, at 6:30 p.m. The registration fee is \$25. Singers can pre-register by calling Angela at 601-566-0951 or e-mailing krazykaraokems@yahoo.com. The winner will open the show for Sawyer Brown at the Celebrate America Balloon Glow on Friday, July 4.

Program Price:	\$25
Registration:	Pre-register at krazykaraokems@yahoo.com
Location:	Northpark Mall Center Court
Event Date:	July 1-2
Start Time:	6:30 pm

Title VI Policy Statement

The City of Ridgeland, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, ensures that no persons in the City of Ridgeland shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any programs or activity it administers. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should contact:

Paula W. Tierce, Title VI Coordinator
 City of Ridgeland
 304 Highway 51 • P.O. Box 217
 Ridgeland, MS 39158
 Phone: 601-856-7113 • Fax: 601-856-7819
paula.tierce@ridgelandms.org

ATHLETICS

Athletics Coordinator, John Sidney North
 Phone: 601-853-2011
 Email: john.north@ridgelandms.org

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Flag Football

Come join the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department and NFL for its 18th season of flag football. This program has been growing for the past 17 years with more than 300 boys and girls, ages 6-9, participating. The program will build good hand-eye coordination and reflexes, as well as teamwork and the basic fundamentals of football. Flag football is also an excellent opportunity to experience physical exercise and social interaction. Players must be 6 years old by September 1, 2014. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011.

Program Price: \$70
 Registration: July 28 - August 15
 Program Months: September-November
 Day of the Week: Tuesdays
 Location: Freedom Ridge Park

SMCSO Fall Soccer Registration

The South Madison County Soccer Organization will be holding fall soccer registration in July for boys and girls ages 4 to 18. The season runs from September through November. For more information, please visit: www.smcsoc.com. Dates for registration will be listed on their website.



Father and Child Fishing Tournament

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will be holding its 18th-annual Father and Child Fishing Tournament on Saturday, June 14. As part of a joint partnership with the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, the tournament will be held on the beautiful Ross Barnett Reservoir. Come and enjoy a day with Dad! Bring your fishing pole or rod & reel and bait. Prizes will be awarded for Biggest Fish, Most Fish and Smallest Fish. This event is open to all ages. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011.



Program Price: Free

SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Senior Adult Coordinator, Lynda Assink
 Email: lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org
 Phone: 601-856-6876

All Superstar Seniors Programs take place at the Ridgeland Recreational Center unless otherwise specified.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Agape Men's Coffee Group

All men are welcomed to every Wednesday morning, beginning at 9:30 a.m. for a men's coffee group. Enjoy fellowship, storytelling, jokes, and coffee at the Ridgeland Recreational Center.



Program Price: No Charge
 Start Date: On-going
 Times: 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
 Day of Week: Wednesday

Country Line Dancing

Learn the dance steps that are popular everywhere! In this class you'll discover a variety of line dances. It's great fun, good exercise, and you don't need a partner. Classes will be held at the Ridgeland Recreational Center located at Old Trace Park. Darlene Epple is the instructor.

Program Price: \$40/month or \$10/weekly
 Start Date: On-going
 Times: Beginners Class, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 Advanced Class, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 Day of Week: Monday



Men's Bible Study

A Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. It is a non-denominational, in-depth study of God's Word. Call Earl Beck at 601-668-2332 for more information.

Start Date: On-going
 Times: 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
 Day of Week: Tuesday

Painting Pals

Is it hard for you to paint and/or draw at home? Bring your own supplies and enjoy painting at our Ridgeland Recreational Center, located at Old Trace Park, overlooking the reservoir. It's an ideal setting to paint or draw!



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

Working Your Body Naturally: A Strength Class for Senior Adults

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks is offering a program designed to develop body strength, body awareness, and endurance for daily senior living. Learn to exercise with correct positioning, that will improve posture and spinal alignment, increase bone density, and strengthen your joints. Each session is a flowing and challenging safe workout. Certified instructor Jacy Miller encourages each participant to work on his/her own unique physical needs and goals. Come to this groundbreaking and effective class!

Program Price: \$10/month
 Start Date: On-going
 Times: 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
 Day of Week: Tuesdays and Thursdays

BANKFIRST

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FDIC

www.bankfirstfs.com



Restoration & Relaxation Gentle Yoga

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

Event Dates: Ongoing
 Program Price: \$5/class
 Time: 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 Day of Week: Mondays and Fridays

Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness, & Fun!

Join us for this class led by Lisa Newman. She will guide you through gentle stretching and strengthening exercises for your whole body. This class is for those who have had some experience with yoga. Standing poses will be introduced as well as strength poses.

Participants may want to join both yoga classes for only \$10: Restorative and Relaxation Yoga and Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness, and Fun! Always consult with your physician before beginning any exercise program. For more information, call or email Lynda.

Event Dates: Ongoing
 Program Price: \$5/class
 Time: 11:30 a.m.–12 noon
 Days of Weeks: Mondays and Fridays

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Bridge

Bridge games are held the fourth Thursday of each month at the Ridgeland Recreational Center overlooking the reservoir. It provides a beautiful setting for an afternoon game. The player with the highest score for the month receives a prize. Reservations are required 4 days in advance. Please call Lynda at 601-856-6876 or 601-853-2011 to reserve your chair. Please arrive at 12:45 p.m. to receive your nametag. Game starts promptly at 1 p.m.



Program Price: \$1.00 each for prize (winner)
 Dates: June 26, July 24, August 28
 Times: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 Day of Week: Thursday

Thread, Yarn, Crochet & Coffee

Bring your own needle work (needlepoint, cross-stitch, crochet, knitting, etc.) the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of needlework and meeting new friends.

Program Price: No Charge
 Dates: June 9 and 23, July 14 and 28, August 11 and 25
 Times: 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
 Day of Week: Monday

TRIPS

Meridian, Mississippi

Thursday, September 11, Cost \$79, due by August 8.

Visit the Dentzel Carousel, Jimmie Rodgers Museum, Victorian Merrehope House, and Temple Theater for Performing Arts, and enjoy a delicious lunch at Weidmann's Restaurant. We are going with Broadmoor Baptist Church tour group.

Discover "Big D" and Texas Surprise

September 25-27, Cost \$452 (Double), \$50 deposit due by August 8.

This trip includes a small Texas town restored to 1800's/early 1900's appearance, the newly opened George Bush Presidential Library, Southfork Ranch of TV's Dallas fame, new Federal Reserve Exhibit—The American Economy In Action, Cowboy Stadium, and the General Claire Chennault's Aviation Museum.

Savannah and Jekyll Island, Georgia, and Beaufort, South Carolina

October 19-25, Cost \$590 (Double), \$75 deposit due by June 13.

This is a 7-day, 6-night tour that includes 4 nights in the Savannah area, 6 continental breakfasts, and 4 dinners. Tours of Jekyll Island, St. Simon Island, the beauty of Beaufort, SC, a visit to Parris Island Marine Base, and tour of historic Savannah. We are going with Broadmoor Baptist Church tour group.



Magical Christmas Night At Bellingrath Gardens

December 5-6, \$268 (Double), \$50 deposit due by October 16.

Tour includes the gardens with millions of twinkling lights, 15 dazzling scenes, entertainment, and a holiday tour of the Bellingrath Home. We will also visit Orange Beach, Foley Outlet Mall Oakleigh Christmas tour.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

AARP Driver Safety Program

AARP will present its Driver Safety Program for mature drivers. This course is a classroom refresher especially designed to meet the needs of older drivers. It covers age-related physical changes, declining perceptual skills, rules of the road, local driving problems, and license renewal requirements. Participants will be eligible for discounts on their automobile insurance rates.

Reservations are required and may be made by calling Lynda at 601-856-6876 or 601-853-2011. Please bring your AARP card and driver's license.

Program Price: \$14 (\$2 discount for AARP members)
 Registration: Now till August
 Date: TBA
 Time: 12:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.
 Day of Week: TBA
 Location: TBA



TENNIS



Ridgeland Tennis center
 201-A McClellan Drive
 Phone: 601-853-1115
 Directors: Cheryl Harris and Susan Toler

The Ridgeland Tennis Center is the largest public tennis facility in Mississippi.

Junior Tournaments

May 31 – June 3	Jr. Qualifying
August 1-3	RTC Benefit Classic
August 15-17	RTC Jr. Novice

Camps

Ridgeland Tennis Center Camps will be held during the following dates:

June 9 – July 24

Ages 4-6

Time: 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
 Cost: \$80 per child/per week
 Instructor: Cheryl Harris and assistant

Ages 7-10

Time: 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
 Cost: \$80 per child/per week
 Instructor: Cheryl Harris and assistant

Ages 11-18

JR Drills 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
 Match Play 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Cost \$80 per child/per week
 \$140 for two children/per week
 Instructor: Robbie Creveling
 Phone: 601-316-5364



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ASE librarian retires after 26 years

When one of Sheila Perkins' former kindergarten students became her coworker, her career came full circle. Perkins retired at the end of the school year, after working 26 years at Ann Smith Elementary.

Perkins began life at Ann Smith as a parent when her daughter started first grade in 1985. Three years later her son started kindergarten and Perkins began her career as a kindergarten teacher. After 11 years of teaching kindergarten, Perkins moved over to the library where she has been ever since.

"As a kindergarten teacher, I always loved children's literature and reading to my classes, so when I had the opportunity to become librarian, I thought I would give it a try and I loved it," Perkins said. "What a joy it is to watch children learn to read!"

Although Perkins is going to miss her coworkers and the students and their excitement for reading, she is looking forward to retirement and spending a lot of time with her three grandchildren.

"Ann Smith holds many special memories for me and my family," Perkins said. Those memories include teaching Ashley Box, now a first grade teacher at Ann Smith, and introducing her son to an Ann Smith teaching assistant who later became his wife.



Librarian Sheila Perkins helps Dakera Holmes with a reading program on a laptop in the library. Perkins retired from Ann Smith after 26 years.

REGISTRATION OPENS IN JULY

Registration for the 2014-15 school year begins June 16. Ann Smith Elementary School's office will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. New students will need to bring a birth certificate, immunization record proof of residency, such as a lease agreement, homestead exemption or house deed. New and returning students will need to provide two current utility bills. Children must be 5 years old on or before , 2014, to be eligible for kindergarten for the 2014-15 year. Questions? Contact the school at 601-856-6621.



ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

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

Titans of all ages celebrate fitness and fun

There were tiny Titans from Ann Smith Elementary and almost grown up Titans from Ridgeland High School—and all-aged Titans in between—participating in the Titan Trot 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run last March. This four-school event was a huge success thanks to the generosity of the sponsors and the hard work of the volunteers. More than 300 students, faculty and community members ran, walked, jogged or volunteered at this race that celebrated fitness and built camaraderie among the four public schools. Thank you, C Spire, our platinum sponsor, as well as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi, BankPlus, TrustCare Express Medical Clinics, The One Church, Clif Bar & Company, Oak Brook Apartments, Primos, The Beagle Bagel, Macs Fresh Market, Kroger, Fresh Market, Peak Solutions, J Ward Design, The City of Ridgeland and the Ridgeland Police Department.



And they're off! The Titan Trot 1-Mile Fun Run starts with a bang!

HIGHLAND CELEBRATES CAREER OF RETIRING PRINCIPAL MARILYN NARON

By Sissy Lynn

During her leadership at Highland Elementary, Marilyn Naron has had a positive impact on a number of areas at the school, including innovation, community service and after-school enrichment. And throughout her career, she's made it her mission to ensure that all her students reach their full potential. Her retirement at the end of the 2014 school year comes after serving as principal for four years at Ridgeland's upper elementary school.

Naron began her career as a language arts teacher in Pearl Public Schools after receiving her elementary education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. She went on to complete her master's degree at Mississippi College and later earned an education specialist degree while she was living in Florida. She has been principal in three different states, serving students from a variety of backgrounds including gifted, ELL (English language learners), Title 1, special education and regular education. But regardless of the makeup of her students, she's successfully achieved a high-performing status at all of the schools where she's been principal.

"It's always bittersweet when a veteran educator such as Marilyn Naron retires," said Dr. Ronnie McGehee, Madison County Schools Superintendent. "On the one hand, we're excited for her as she begins a new chapter in her life, but on the other hand, we know that she will be a hard act to follow! During her years with Madison County Schools, Mrs. Naron served as principal of Luther Branson Elementary before taking the position at Highland. Under her leadership, Luther Branson achieved a 'High Performing' accreditation rating for the first time."

Her turnaround at Luther Branson, a rural elementary school in north Madison County, was a schoolwide effort where the staff identified struggling students and provided intense interventions to bring every student up to a higher level. Because of her success, Madison County Schools named Naron the Administrator of the Year for 2009.

"The parents, teachers and students of Highland Elementary School are certainly losing an excellent principal with the retirement of Mrs. Naron," said Philip Huskey, a Madison County School Board Member and Ridgeland public school parent. "Mrs. Naron brought her years of experience to Highland and embraced the faculty and students, which showed immediate results in Highland's classification as a 'High Performing' school after her first year at the helm."

During her tenure in Ridgeland, Highland has received quite a few accolades and has implemented programs that support the arts and after-school enrichment.

"As principal, Mrs. Naron has been a strong supporter of community outreach in the Ridgeland area," explained McGehee. "She was instrumental in forming Madison-Ridgeland Young Singers, a choral group composed of youth from the community, but mostly from Highland. She also started after-school clubs, which provide opportunities for students to be involved in various activities, such as art, science and drama, after the school day ends. Her enthusiasm and commitment to get involved resulted in Highland Elementary receiving the 2012 PREPS Governor's Award for Community Service."

Perhaps Naron's greatest gift to the school has been her willingness to listen. This past fall, she listened when parents asked the school to offer a computer programming, or coding, club. Not only did she launch a club, but she also made sure that every student had the opportunity to learn to code.

"I think Mrs. Naron's lasting contribution will be her support and advocacy of a parent-led initiative, the Hour of Code, that allowed Highland students to have crucial hands-on experience in computer programming," said Huskey. "This experience will be invaluable to Highland students as they progress to Olde Towne Middle School and the STEM/ICT coursework offered in our middle schools in Madison County. The scope of that initiative would have intimidated most administrators, but was embraced at Highland and resulted in Highland's winning \$10,000 of computer equipment."

Naron and her husband Charlie have two grown daughters and two grandchildren. During her retirement, she's looking forward to traveling and spending more time with her family.



Principal Marilyn Naron (right) is pictured with third-grade teacher Lori Flood, who taught at Highland for more than 10 years. Both Naron and Flood retired at the end of the 2014 school year.

Teacher of the Year Provides Inspiration for Students and Peers

By Sissy Lynn

In her 19 years of teaching Ridgeland students, Marla Freeman has earned the reputation of being an expert in her field. This year, the fifth-grade teacher was named Highland Elementary's Teacher of the Year, a coveted honor voted on by her peers.

"All of the teachers here at Highland are so awesome," said Freeman. "They go above and beyond to not only teach what the students need academically, but also what it takes for them to become great people. They invest their time, money, sweat and tears to get each and every child ready for the next grade. I'm proud to teach with them and am truly honored that they selected me as Teacher of the Year."

Freeman earned her Bachelor of Science degree in K-8 elementary education with a minor in English and a special education endorsement from Mississippi State University. She began her career as a special education teacher at Ridgeland Elementary. She later moved to Olde Towne and began teaching at Highland when the school first opened.

"I've been with Ridgeland schools going on 20 years, and I continue to love the challenges and joy that my students bring to me every day," said Freeman. "I consider Highland my home because I have found so much happiness here with my friends and in teaching fifth grade."

During her career, Freeman has been a member of many educational committees, attended teacher workshops on implementing MCT2 and, more recently, Common Core State Standards, and has served on an expert review panel for CASE 21 benchmark assessments. But more importantly, she's served as a mentor to teacher interns, as well as new teachers at Highland, providing knowledge and experience to guide them along the way.

Freeman believes that every child learns at a different pace, and she strives to meet each student's needs. Because she has made such an impact in her classroom, The Clarion-Ledger featured her in an article last year describing how she provided encouragement and inspiration to a struggling student.

"It is an honor to work with and know Marla Freeman," said Marilyn Naron, retired principal. "She's one of the first teachers in the building every morning getting her room ready. She has great lessons that are very interesting and entertaining for the kids. She also has a great sense of humor, which a teacher really needs. It's very obvious why her peers chose her as Teacher of the Year. She exemplifies what we all strive to be – a great teacher!"

Freeman and her husband Lance have been married for 33 years and have two grown daughters, Erin and Morgan.



Pictured are (from left) Elizabeth Rodriguez, Tyler Anderson, Sydni Stevens, Marla Freeman, Acadia Little and Marqui Sparks.



HIGHLAND
ELEMENTARY

Grades 3 - 5
330 Brame Road
601-853-8103
www.madison-schools.com/hes

PARENT OF THE YEAR HAS SPECIAL GIFT FOR SERVING OTHERS

By Sissy Lynn

Thoughtful, kind and compassionate are just a few of the words that describe Margaret Corcoran, Highland Elementary's 2013-14 Parent of the Year. As an involved parent who's served as room mom in her son Richard's special needs class for the past three years, Corcoran has gone above and beyond. From sending goody bags for parties to providing school supplies and items for the students' treat boxes to running errands for her son's teachers, Corcoran does anything that's needed.

"We never have to ask her for anything," said Teresa Logan, Richard's teacher. "She's always a step ahead and makes sure we have everything we need."

What may be most remarkable about Corcoran, though, is how she's chosen to embrace Richard's autism. She accepts her son for who he is and focuses on his strengths instead of his weaknesses. "Mrs. Corcoran doesn't see Richard as 'disabled,' but rather as 'differently abled,' and she looks at the aspects of his autism as his special gifts," said Logan. "She doesn't spend time trying to make Richard fit into a certain mold or be like everyone else. She loves him unconditionally and knows it's his differences that make him who he is, and she's happy with that person. As a result, Richard has blossomed into a bright, happy young man with great potential for the future."

Having a servant heart is what led Corcoran to volunteering at Highland. And being involved in Richard's class is a priority for her. "It gives me joy to know I have helped, if even in a small way," said Corcoran. "I have no doubt that it takes a special person to be a teacher, and an even extra-special person to work with special needs children. The best part of being room mom is when I get to deliver something to the class, and I get to sneak a peek at the kids."

Logan believes Corcoran is deserving of the Parent of the Year award for many reasons, but one in particular stands out. "In Richard's eyes, she's 'the best mom in the world,' and if you ask her, that's the award she's most proud of."

Corcoran has lived in Ridgeland for about 10 years and co-owns a computer networking company called The Computer Guys. She and her husband Sean have three children, two of whom are in college. In addition to serving as room mom at Highland, Corcoran volunteers at Sunnybrook Children's Home during the holidays.



Margaret Corcoran, Highland's 2013-14 Parent of the Year, is pictured with her son Richard.

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National Technology Conference Invitational

After winning the Middle School Technology Student Association (TSA) State Championship, 30 Olde Towne teammates are heading to the National TSA Conference in June, held outside of Washington D.C., in Maryland. These champions are ready to compete with students from around the country. Students qualified in 20 of the 23 featured at the National TSA Convention, including agriculture and biotechnology design, technology essays, Go Green manufacturing, and water infrastructure. Next time you pass Olde Towne Middle School, take a second look; the next great technology trailblazer may be walking the halls. Community donors, including platinum sponsor Cspire, Venture Technologies, BankPlus, lead TSA teachers Bill Richardson and Bobby Robinson, parents from the school, and community and student fundraisers help support the trip.



Olde Towne Middle School State Championship Technology Team

Olde Towne Middle School Parent of the Year

Debbie Best, PTO president has been named the 2013-14 Parent of the Year at Olde Towne Middle School. Debbie has been active in the Ridgeland schools' PTOs for many years. Debbie spends countless volunteer hours at the middle school helping to serve the students and staff. She and her husband, Jim, have three school-aged children. They enjoy supporting their talented children's undertakings in the schools, which range from music to academics to sports.



(Left to right) Olde Towne Middle School Parent of the Year, Debbie Best, Allen Lawrence, principal; Crystal Williams, assistant principal.

DUKE TIP

The Duke TIP seventh-grade Talent Search helps to identify students' academic abilities by inviting select seventh-grade students to take the ACT. Eight Olde Towne students received state recognition by earning a 21 or greater in at least one subject area of the ACT. Sam Shearer and Ahmed Moumad received Grand Recognition, scoring in the high 20s in at least one of the four subject areas.



Olde Towne Middle School Duke TIP participants earning Duke TIP recognition are Gabe Cohen, Ahmed Moumad, Nia Wade, Oriana Carpenter, Olivia Perkins, Sam Shearer, John Michael Graves, and Jumari Dennis.

Music to our Ears

Superior music education opportunities are a vital part of The Olde Towne Middle School experience. Olde Towne's band achieved superior ratings from every judge at the Central Mississippi Band Festival. Since the school opened almost 20 years ago, this streak has been unbroken. The eighth grade band also performed at the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta.

The Olde Towne Choir, was equally successful, receiving all-superior ratings in each event and category they participated in this year, including District and State Festivals, as well as Riverland Choral Festival. Six students also received invitations to join the All-State Honor Choir.



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Grades 6-8
210 Sunnybrook Rd.
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PARTNERSHIP IS OUT OF THIS WORLD

OTMS Radio and Technology Club and Science Club, The City of Ridgeland and Olde Towne Middle PTO partnered with area ham radio operators and Vincent Webb, WLBT Meteorologist and veteran storm chaser, to launch the fourth near-space balloon. Cameras secured to the balloon document the flight. A payload of student-designed science experiments trailed below the balloon like a kite tail. 200 students attended the launch, joined by city officials and other spectators. After reaching 65,000 feet and traveling over 70 miles, the balloon burst and parachuted back to earth, landing 100 feet up in a tree. After an adventurous and arduous recovery in the deep woods by the chase team, students are now analyzing the scientific data collected.



Photo taken during Olde Towne Middle School's Near Space Balloon Launch 2014. The photo was taken during the balloon's ascent by one of the on-board cameras.



Olde Towne Middle School's Near-Space Balloon Team readying for the launch.

RHS Senior Receives U.S. Air Force Scholarship to Yale

By Holli Gill



Sitting at Barnes and Noble Cafe with friends, Ridgeland High School Student Sean Bland opened a monumental e-mail. "I thought it was a mistake at first. I had to check it five times to make sure it was real," Bland said. This e-mail was, indeed, real.

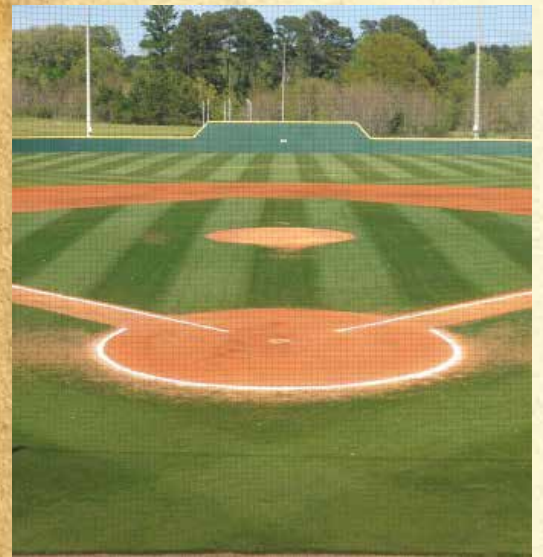
Bland had been accepted to Yale. In the fall, Bland will be off to New Haven, Connecticut to pursue a major in either Chemistry or Cellular and Molecular Biochemistry. After graduating from Yale, Bland plans to serve in the United States Air Force. His ultimate career goal, however, is to become the Surgeon General for the U.S. Air Force.

Being accepted into Yale isn't Bland's only accomplishment, though. He also received a full scholarship from the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force Technical Type One Scholarship, to be exact. To be in the top five percent of high school seniors that qualify for this scholarship, Bland had to meet several requirements. He met and exceeded these requirements with an ACT score of 34 and a class rank of six. He also had to pass a physical evaluation. Bland did this by running one and a half miles in ten minutes, doing 60 push-ups in one minute, and doing 50 sit-ups in one minute. He then had an interview with Colonel in Command at Jackson State University. After meeting and passing these requirements and evaluations, Bland was then selected by a board of officials to receive the scholarship.

Congratulations, Sean, on your accomplishments, and we wish you the best of luck with your exciting plans for the future!

Ridgeland High School to offer Summer Baseball Camp

The Titan baseball team will be offering an all skills baseball camp for ages 7 – 14. Skills covered include: defense, offense, base running, pitching, and catching. Camp will be held Monday, June 9 – Wednesday, June 11 from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. each day at Titan Park. Cost is \$80 and includes a T-shirt. Application forms are available at Ridgeland High School.



RIDGELAND
HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 9-12

586 Sunnybrook Road

601.898.5023

www.madison-schools.com/rhs

Holmes Community College Now Offering Critical Care Paramedic and Interior Design Programs

In an effort to expand career opportunities for Ridgeland and Madison County residents, Holmes Community College is offering two new programs for the fall 2014 term.

CRITICAL CARE PARAMEDIC

A pilot program on the Ridgeland campus of Holmes Community College is defining the enhanced level of care that the state's first critical care paramedics will need to do their jobs and save more lives.

The 2013 Mississippi Legislature passed a law allowing for the licensure of critical care paramedics, and the first class began in January in the semester-long program. The hours these paramedics spend in classrooms now will allow critically ill patients to receive more advanced care as they are rushed to the hospital.

"Holmes is laying the groundwork for the state so there will be a good quality course for other colleges in the state to follow," said Mark Galtelli, the college's program director of emergency medical science technology. "We are honing a written curriculum to put it into practice in the field."

The inaugural class of 14 is comprised primarily of paramedics who currently fly on medical helicopters across the state. Students have come from Sardis, Eupora, Vicksburg, Meadville and cities close to the Ridgeland campus. "These paramedics are already actively taking care of sick patients and this course will only enhance their capabilities," Galtelli said. "They will treat the sickest of the sick." Galtelli said certain procedures, like the insertion of chest tubes that can now only be done in a hospital, can be started in route by certified critical care paramedics, to save precious minutes for patients.

Galtelli said there is a demand for training for critical care paramedics in the state "and having trained personnel will transfer into more demand. There will be a demand for this course for a long time to come."

INTERIOR DESIGN

Starting in the fall, the Ridgeland campus will offer a program in interior design, a field that takes students well beyond what colors or styles look good together.

Students accepted into the interior design program can receive a one-year certificate that will take them directly into the workforce or take additional coursework to earn a two-year Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. The program's design affords the graduates of the one-year certificate the opportunity to work while completing their AAS online.



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and designers has been quite impressive, and we expect such partnerships to both strengthen and expand."

For more information please contact Rose Canterbury at rcanterbury@holmescc.edu or (601) 605-3302.



Critical Care Paramedic students, Stephen Houck, Don Moore, James Walters, Kevin King, and William Bassett practice placing advanced surgical airways in the simulation lab. Once the class is complete, the critical care students will be the first Critical Care Licensed Paramedics in Mississippi.



Congratulations to Gabe Jones on his appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Congressman Harper came to RHS to present Gabe with this wonderful accomplishment.

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

Holmes Community College offers workforce training at the McGowan Center located at the Ridgeland campus. Courses include human resource management, supervisory/leadership, communication, writing, customer service and a wide variety of computer classes. For a listing of current classes, go to <http://www.holmescc.edu/workforce/classes/index.aspx>.



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 Fri – Sat. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Closed on Sunday

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMMING

FIZZ, BOOM, READ!! Summer Reading 2014 - This year's science-based Reading theme promises to be a blast! Registration is required. You can register in person at the library or online. Exciting experiments, a little mess, a few special guests, prizes, and a lot of fun for all - join us as often as you can! Please note we will not be having our regularly scheduled tot and preschool programs from May through August. These programs will begin again in September.

Family programs (ages 3 and up)

June 3	3 p.m.	Rose Anne St. Romain (Storyteller)
June 16	4:30 p.m.	Tommy Terrific (Magician)

Children's workshops (Rising first – fifth graders)

*Please note: Pre-registration is required for these programs, as space is limited.

June 11	2 p.m.	Squishy Circuits
June 17	10:30 a.m.	Lava Lamps
June 26	10:30 a.m.	Candy Lab
July 7	2 p.m.	Drama Kids
July 14	10:30 a.m.	Lego Robot Challenge
July 22	10:30 a.m.	DIY Worm Farms

Teen workshops (Rising 6th – 12th graders)

*Please note: Pre-registration is required for these programs, as space is limited.

June 5	10:30 a.m.	Watermelon Explosion!
June 13	10:30 a.m.	Teen Challenge
June 20	2 p.m.	Art Bots
June 27	2 p.m.	DIY Root Beer and Ice Cream
July 11	2 p.m.	Tie-Dye T-Shirts
July 18	2 p.m.	Bristlebots
July 25	10:30 a.m.	Bubblegum Beauty

For More Information

Check the official summer reading calendar at www.mcls.ms for updated dates and times, or contact Cindy Graves at (601) 856-4536 or cgraves@mcls.ms.





Family masquerade after Ridgeland Readers craft time.



Moms and tots alike tick-tock to the steady beat of a rhyme.

NEW STORY TIMES A GREAT SUCCESS

Now scheduling for fall groups



Story time attendees place puzzle letters on the alphabet tree during "Walk thru the ABCs of Children's Authors."

The Ridgeland staff is pleased to have strong community response in support of the new morning story times that began in January. Six area child care facilities brought students for lively stories, tours browsing in the library. Story time for children ages 3 – 7 meets the second and fourth Thursday each month at 10:30 a.m. Program schedules are available on the website calendar. We look forward to working with your children.



Thanks to Carol Rives Stockett, Ridgeland Readers learned all about baby birds, how nests are built, and even how to make baby bird food.

Welcome New Ridgeland Chamber Members!

We are pleased to announce that the following businesses and individuals have joined the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce since January 2014. When shopping for business and personal needs, please consider Ridgeland Chamber member businesses.

Aerotek ~ 201 Northlake Avenue, Suite 207. Located in The Township at Colony Park, Aerotek is a leading provider of technical, professional and industrial staffing services. Established in 1983, Aerotek is an operating company of Allegis Group, the largest provider of staffing services in the U.S. Aerotek operates a network of more than 200 non-franchised offices throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. 601-790-2323 www.aerotek.com



Bath Planet of Mississippi, LLC ~ 115 Ridgeland Plaza. Bath Planet of Mississippi continues to set new standards of both quality and affordability within the bathroom remodeling industry. With a wide selection of acrylic bath system solutions, along with cutting edge accessible options, homeowners can have a beautiful yet accommodating bathroom in as little as two days. 601-790-2352 www.facebook.com/bathplanetms

Bomgar Corporation ~ 578 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 140. Bomgar Corporation is the #1 enterprise remote support software company and one of the fastest growing private companies in North America with offices in Ridgeland, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., the United Kingdom, Paris and Singapore. Bomgar clients include some of the world's leading IT outsourcers, systems integrators, software vendors, hospitals and healthcare organizations, government institutions, colleges and universities, legal and accounting firms and insurance and financial institutions. 601.607.8269 www.bomgar.com

Lisa Bowman ~ 714 Versailles Drive. Ridgeland resident Lisa Bowman who joined the Chamber as an *Individual Member*. 601.281.8799

Caring Transitions ~ 116 Village Boulevard, Suite A, Madison, MS. Caring Transitions provides senior relocation, household liquidation and estate sale services with exceptional care and compassion. While the majority of seniors would prefer to age in place, this is not always possible and they need help with the transition to a senior living facility, such as assisted living communities, skilled nursing centers or a family member's home. Contact Elizabeth Brassard at 601.874.0297 www.caringtransitions.net



Elite Quality Painting ~ 1624 Devine Street, Jackson, MS. Elite Quality Painting offers interior/exterior painting, remodeling & interior design. With over twenty years experience in residential and commercial settings, Elite Quality Painting also offers house washing services, sheetrock repair and wood repair/replacement. 601.473.6732 E-mail: elitequalitypainting1@gmail.com for a free quote.



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BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AND EVENTS

Thursday, June 19
TownePlace Suites and
MS Tobacco-Free Coalition
of Madison, Yazoo &
Holmes Counties
310 Southlake Avenue

Thursday, July 17
Joyflow Yoga
7048 Old Canton Road, 2F

Thursday, August 21
Hilton Jackson
Tailgate Party
1001 E. County Line Road
(with all metro area Chambers)

Thursday, September 18
Ridgeland Under The Stars
Country Club of Jackson
345 St. Andrew's Drive
Jackson

*Business After Hours events
are held from 5 - 7 p.m.*

Gateway Rescue Mission – Ridgeland Bargain Center ~ 749 Ridgewood Road. Gateway Rescue Mission has opened a new thrift store in Ridgeland. With approximately 23,000 square feet, the store is filled with clothes and shoes for men, women and children, plus furniture, electronics, toys and much more. The store is open Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 601.957.8838 www.gatewaymission.org



Jackson Autism Center ~ 6712 Old Canton Road, Suite 5. Jackson Autism Center is designed to meet the developmental needs of children, including educational, social, communication, language, behavioral and self-help skills. The focus of Jackson Autism Center begins with the child, followed by the family and ultimately the school and community environments. 769.218.9596 www.jacksonautismcenter.com

Jaco's Tacos ~ 7049 Old Canton Road. Jaco's Tacos is more of a Southwest Grill than Mexican, with fresh, high-end ingredients, made from scratch meals and all home-grown recipes. Their tortillas are soft, made from flour and rolled out by hand. 601.898.3242 www.jacostacos.net

Kismar Computer Services and Web Design

~ 6712 Old Canton Road, Suite 10. Established in 2007, Kismar Computer Services and Web Design provides comprehensive laptop, PC and tablet repair services throughout the metro Jackson area. Kismar is a leader in expert, cost-efficient, and fast computer repair. They value honesty, and provide warranties on all of their services. 601.977.1008 www.kismar.com



Lost Pizza Co. ~ 500 Hwy. 51 North, Suite E. Located in Trace Station Shopping Center, Lost Pizza Co. specializes in pizzas and wings, but also has a wide variety of salads, subs, pastas and desserts to choose from. With six Lost Pizza locations in the state, the Ridgeland restaurant marks their seventh location. 769.300.3116 www.lostpizza.com



Modern Woodmen of America ~ Modern Woodmen of America is a member-owned fraternal financial services organization providing financial guidance and products. Financial Representative Lea Thibodeaux of Madison will be happy to help you. 601.842.6815 www.modern-woodmen.org

Old Canton Road Investments ~ The company owns Harbor Village and Trace Trails, two retail shopping centers located in Ridgeland. 601.946.6289 www.fsb-companies.com

Omega Electric, LLC ~ 115 Ridgeland Plaza, just off Hwy. 51 North. Omega Electric is a residential and commercial company providing electrical services. Contact Kevin Holder, Omega Electric at 601.898.0899 www.omegaelectric.net

OmniBank ~ 236 E. Capitol Street, Jackson, MS. OmniBank is a full-service bank headquartered in Bay Springs, MS. The bank is expanding its commercial loan portfolio. Contact Bailey Chandler at 601.355.1000 or 601.949.5510.

David Overby ~ Ridgeland resident David Overby who is running for the office of Madison County Chancery Clerk. Election is Tuesday, June 3, 2014. 601.940.0052 www.electoverby.com



MADISON ACE HARDWARE
Commercial & Industrial Supply
Purina Feeds BWI Products

Priority One Bank ~ 1111 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite B, The Township at Colony Park. Priority One Bank is a \$535 million dollar Community Bank that has been doing business in central and south Mississippi for over 100 years. Their newest, full-service branch is headed by Eddie Woodard, President, Madison County Division. 601.414.2100 www.priorityonebank.com

RG Technology Solutions ~ RG Technology Solutions is a full-service web development and design company with special emphasis on network installation and set-up; software and hardware installation; data recovery and transfer; new computer set-up and installation; security monitoring and set-up; computer crash recovery; full service repair and spyware and virus removal. RG Technology Solutions also provides effective, visually appealing and easy-to-use phone, I pad, android and HTML mobile app solutions for all types and sizes of businesses. 855.372.3254 www.rgtsolutions.net

The REAL Credit Doctor ~ 1058 Ridgewood Road, Site D-1, Jackson, MS. The REAL Credit Doctor uses proven techniques and strategies to improve your credit score. 769.218.0696 www.theREALcreditdoctor.com

Rogers, Ainsworth & Williams, PLLC ~ 567 Hwy. 51, Suite B. Rogers, Ainsworth & Williams is a full-service,

general practice law firm which opened its doors in Jackson in 1999 and moved their offices to Ridgeland in 2014. With four attorneys and over 60 years of combined experience, Rogers, Ainsworth & Williams serves the needs of individuals and small businesses located across the metro area. 601.969.7777 www.rogersawlaw.com

Southern Lumber Company ~ 214 Draperton Drive. Southern Lumber Co. is one of the few remaining independent lumber manufacturers in the state. Southern Lumber specializes in manufacturing grade mark, superior quality Southern yellow pine lumber. Founded in 1983, the Sulser and Dearman families still take an active role in the day-to-day operations of the company. 601.605.0575 www.southernlumber.net

T. C. Marketing, LLC ~ 624 – C Highway 51 North. T.C. Marketing has been in the specialty marketing industry for over eight years and offers a full-line of marketing products and promotional items including pens, stress items, desk accessories, cups, sports and fun merchandise, all personalized. They offer an inexpensive way to promote your business or event. T. C. Marketing also provides leisure, work and safety apparel embroidered with your logo or theme. 601.940.1911 www.tc-marketing.com



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RIDGELAND DEPARTMENTS



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



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



Public Works
JOHN M. MCCOLLUM
Director
mike.mccollum@ridgelandms.org



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



Police Department
JIMMY HOUSTON
Chief of Police
jimmy.houston@ridgelandms.org



Recreation & Parks Department
CHRISTOPHER CHANCE
Director
chris.chance@ridgelandms.org

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

Karen Bishop, Ron Blaylock, Tom Bobbitt, Donald Pendergrast, Glenn Ray, Alex Ross, Connie Suber

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful

First Monday - 4:30 p.m.

JoAnn Alford, Lynda Assink, Wendy Bourdin, Pat Busby, Claire Jackson, Phyllis Parker, Jan Richardson, Lea Anne Stacy

Community Awareness Committee

Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.

Drew Malone - Chairperson

Peggy Gauthier, Shirley Gill, Dawn Hall, Vicki Heath, Scott Higginbotham, Lee Hutchings, Ann Knight, Mike Smith, Deborah Thomas, Darlene Turner

Contractors Board of

Adjustment and Appeals

Lantz Kuykendall - Chairman

Terry Evans, Ronnie Hales, David Pursell, Steve Rimmer, Ricky Skeen, Clay Sutherland, Leroy Tubbs, Keith West

Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee

3rd Tuesday - 6:30 p.m.

Larry Anderson, Gabe Coker, John Evans, James Freeman, Jay Harris, Wayne Jimenez, Jerry Neill

Zoning Board

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

Bernie Giessner - Chairman

Michelle Caballero, Walter Cox, Philip Huskey, Mark Irby, Larry Miller, Julius Murray, Rhett Stubblefield

City of Ridgeland

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

Aldermen

D.I. Smith, Alderman-at-Large 601-707-8845

Ken Heard, Mayor Pro Tempore, Ward 1 601-856-7727

Chuck Gautier, Ward 2 601-856-1291

Kevin Holder, Ward 3 601-856-1950

Brian Ramsey, Ward 4 601-506-1979

Scott Jones, Ward 5 601-856-6861

Wesley Hamlin, Ward 6 601-454-0353

City Directory

Animal Control
animalcontrol@ridgelandms.org 601-856-2121

Anonymous Tip Line
(criminal investigations division) 601-853-2006

City Hall/Mayor's Office 601-856-7113

Community Development Department
(development, property maintenance, zoning, signs, permits) 601-856-3877

Community Police Officers
(residential/neighborhood concerns and service) 601-502-6040 & 601-940-9030

Court Clerk
(traffic violations, misdemeanors and fines) 601-853-2001

Emergency (police and fire dispatch center) 9-1-1

Finance and Administration
(business licenses, elections, meeting minutes, budget, public records) 601-856-7113

Fire Department
(non-emergency calls, safety education programs) 601-856-7004

Police Department
(non-emergency calls, public safety concerns) 601-856-2121

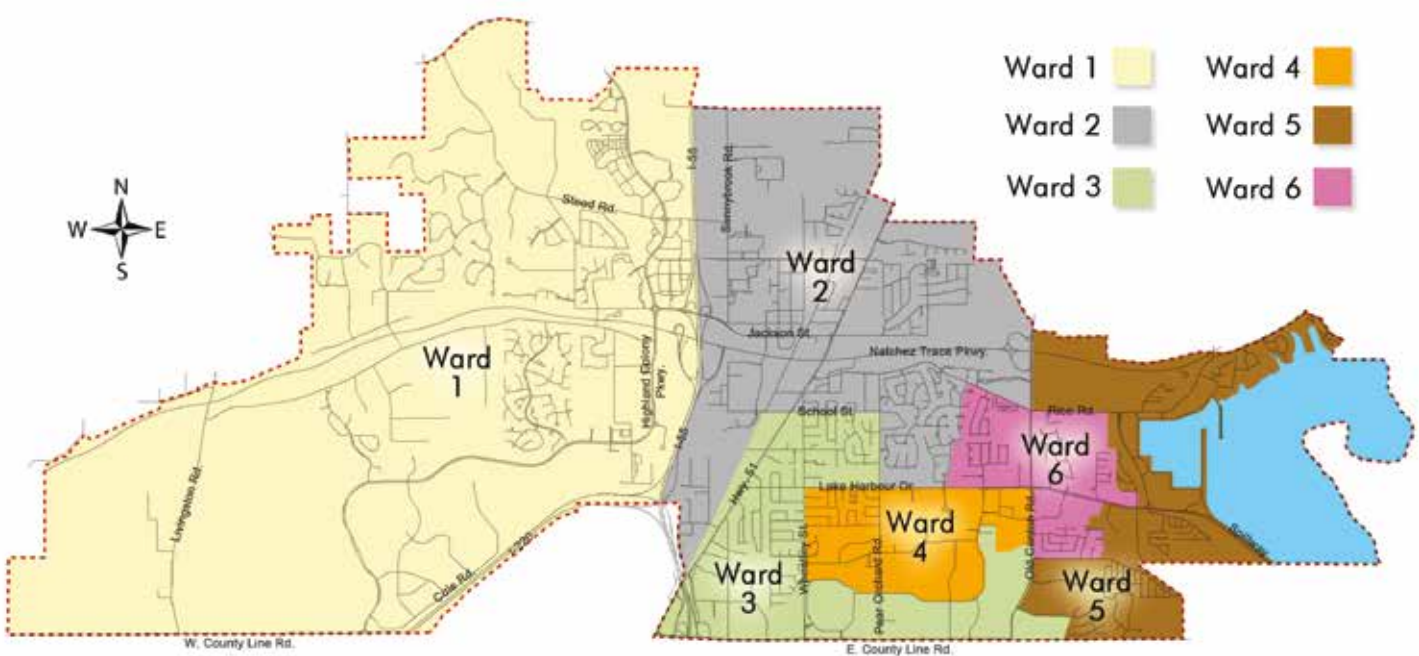
Public Works Department
(road, garbage, recycling, water, storm water) 601-853-2027

Recreation and Parks
(special events, athletics and program registration, park information) 601-853-2011

Utility Billing Department (water, sewer, garbage, and recycling billing)
utilitybilling@ridgelandms.org 601-856-3938

RIDGELAND ALDERMEN

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



D.I. Smith
Alderman At-Large
601-707-8845



Ken Heard
Ward 1
Mayor Pro Tempore
601-856-7727



Chuck Gautier
Ward 2
601-856-1291



Kevin Holder
Ward 3
601-238-5361



Brian Ramsey
Ward 4
601-506-1979



Scott Jones
Ward 5
601-206-5416



Wesley Hamlin
Ward 6
601-454-0353



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