

City of Ridgeland

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Claims James Farrell ASA Award of Excellence and Softball National Championship for 2008

November 13, 2006, Ridgeland, Miss. – Ridgeland Recreation and Parks received the *James Farrell ASA Award of Excellence* for conducting two of the highest rated ASA National Championships in 2006. The Amateur Softball Association is the national governing body of softball in the United States. Ridgeland received a 99.2 rating out of a possible 100, making them two of the highest rated of the more than one hundred national championships held by the ASA in 2006. This marked the fourth consecutive year that Ridgeland was the recipient of the award.

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Director Chris Chance and Athletic Director John Sidney North were in Colorado Springs, Colorado last week at the Annual ASA Conference to receive the award. Chance credits the entire community for the award. “We’re certainly proud to have been selected for the James Farrell Award, and even more proud that every national tournament held in Ridgeland, seven in the past four years, has received the award. It’s certainly a credit to the city’s commitment to excellence and the hard work of the Recreation and Parks staff. We’ve seen the community’s commitment to hosting national championships increase, from the hard work of the Madison-Ridgeland Youth Club and the Ridgeland Tourism Commission to the assistance of our area hotels and restaurants making visitors to our city feel welcome. We all enjoy the economic impact these events bring to Ridgeland, and we look forward each year to welcoming teams from all over the country to play softball and show them what “Living Right in Ridgeland” is all about.”

Over 70 cities from around the United States attended the ASA Conference last week to make their presentations in hopes of being a host site for one of the 90 national championships to be held around the country. Ridgeland claimed the ASA Girls’ 18 – Under, A Southern Fast Pitch Championship which will be held July 25 – 30, 2008. All four fields located at Freedom Ridge Park will be utilized during this 4 – 6 day event.

“We’re certainly honored to have been selected as a host site for another national championship. One of our goals each year is to host such an event, to show the rest of the country that Ridgeland is an excellent sports destination. We are fortunate to have beautiful sports facilities, excellent hotels, restaurants, and shopping, plus a very supportive community,” said Chance. “The Mayor and Board of Aldermen have been tremendously supportive of our efforts. It’s nice to have that effort recognized in the terms of award and future opportunities.”

Ridgeland is also scheduled to host the 2007 ASA Girls 10 & Under A Southern Fast Pitch National Championship, a tournament which was awarded during last year’s ASA Conference. It is safe to say Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department is among the city’s busiest and most vital. It seeks to enrich the quality of life for the citizens of Ridgeland by offering safe and accessible park facilities and a diverse recreational and activities program.