

City of Ridgeland

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Mayor

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Director of Finance &
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Linda Davis, Ward 6

Gerald Steen, At-Large



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOCCER STADIUM AT FREEDOM RIDGE PARK TO BE NAMED M&F BANK STADIUM

**Ridgeland Recreation and Parks and M&F Bank are
teaming up to improve the quality of recreational
programs and sporting events provided to the citizens of
Ridgeland**

February 22, 2007, Ridgeland, Miss. – The City of Ridgeland and the Recreation and Parks Department are proud to announce that M&F Bank will become the official sponsor of the soccer stadium located at Freedom Ridge Park. For their generous support, the stadium will be named “M&F Bank Stadium.” This is a joint effort to improve the quality of services provided to the citizens of Ridgeland through recreational and sporting activities.

Freedom Ridge Park, a 50-acre state-of-the-art facility, was constructed in 2003. The 2,500 seat soccer stadium was added in 2006, and is currently used for amateur as well as professional preseason soccer games. The park also features four lighted regulation softball fields, four lighted regulation soccer fields, four picnic pavilions, two playgrounds, two concession/restroom buildings, a lighted walking trail, and a maintenance facility.

M&F Bank has been delivering financial products and services to the citizens of Mississippi since 1890. According to bank officials, stewardship is the means and the end of their mission. “M&F Bank has always strived to be a community-minded financial institution,” says Renee Rice, Madison County President of M&F Bank. “So, when we were approached about being a part of this great opportunity, we knew it would be a place that families

and children could come together to enjoy the sport of soccer while giving Ridgeland the chance to prove its appeal to the people from all over. We look forward to the future activities planned for the stadium and what it will mean to the city of Ridgeland. It is our privilege to be a part of this historic event and even more so to have it named the M&F Bank Stadium.”

Recreation and Parks Director Chris Chance sees this as an answer to many prayers. “It has long been the intentions of the recreation and parks department to add additional activities to the stadium not necessarily related to athletics and improve the functionality and aesthetics of the existing facility. This sponsorship will give us the additional financial resources needed to improve the stadium and the activities held there, without adding any additional burden to the taxpayers of Ridgeland,” says Chance.

The Board of Aldermen and Mayor Gene McGee accepted the generous support from M&F Bank and approved the naming of the soccer stadium during the regular session held Tuesday night. “We are pleased to establish the partnership with M&F Bank,” says McGee. “This is one more example of the City’s commitment to providing the best recreation opportunities in the state without adding tax burdens on our citizens.”

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will host the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi, Major League Soccer preseason game between Chicago Fire and Chivas USA in M&F Bank Stadium on March 31, kickoff at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$16 advance purchase or \$20 on game day. You may purchase your tickets by calling Ridgeland Recreation and Parks at (601)853-2011, at McAllister’s Deli and M&F Bank locations, or by visiting www.ridgelandms.org, www.smcso.org, or www.active.com beginning February 26.