

June – August 2015

RIDGELAND Life

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FINISH



Heatwave Classic Triathlon
Celebrate America Balloon Glow
Fiber to the Home Neighborhoods
Riding Around Ridgeland
RECRE8 summer programs



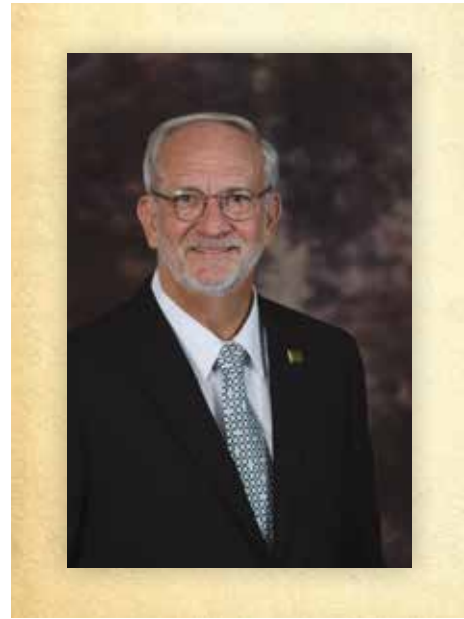
the **SUMMER** issue

From the Mayor

Congratulations to Keep Ridgeland Beautiful for being selected by Keep Mississippi Beautiful to conduct the kick-off event for the Great American Cleanup in our state. The Midway Park project is an outstanding example of what a creative, busy and caring committee can do.

Thank you, Chairman Jan Richardson and members Phyllis Parker, Lea Anne Stacy, Pat Busby, Claire Jackson and Barbara Brown. Also, staff members who worked very hard with Keep Ridgeland Beautiful are to be commended such as Mike McCollum, Director of Public Works; Drew Smith, Code Enforcement Officer with Community Development; and Wendy Bourdin, Lynda Assink, and Tim Taylor with Recreation and Parks.

Being selected as the host city for the statewide 2015 Great American Cleanup is quite an honor and is a testament to the hard work of the members of Keep Ridgeland Beautiful. I would also like to thank Keep Mississippi Beautiful, Bulldog Construction, Adcamp, Brown Bottling, Southwest Distributors, Inc. , Yelverton Consulting, Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Ridgeland Garden Club, Audobon HOA, Troybilt and Waste Management for their support of this event. The Ridgeland High School Ambassadors provided assistance during the project and the RHS band and ROTC did a great job for us during the program. The restoration and beautification of Midway Park will have long-lasting, positive benefits to our city in the neighborhood it serves.



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland



As each of you know, Ridgeland has been named the “Recycler of the Year” for several years. I would like to thank each of you who participate in our program, and I hope you are taking advantage of the Recyclebank rewards. I would also like to give a special shoutout to the citizens who live on Creston Court who consistently recycle a high percentage and set an example of how a subdivision can be environmentally conscious.

Now that the weather is becoming consistently nice, I hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities we have here in Ridgeland for outside activities. Whether it be walking, jogging cycling on our multi-use trails, enjoying our parks or wetting a hook in the Reservoir. Now is the time to take advantage of the many quality of life opportunities here in our great city. Here is wishing each of you a wonderful, safe summer!

Gene F. McGee

RIDGELAND Life

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ON THE COVER: Heatwave Classic Triathlon is a race favorite! Starting at 7 a.m. at Madison Landing, you will swim, bike and ride your way to fitness! It's a great triathlon for first-timers, and repeat triathletes can strive to top their record time. Enjoy a hearty lunch at the end of the race. You may register as an individual or a relay team up until the day before the event. Call Rec and Parks for details at 601-853-2011 and visit www.heatwavetri.racesonline.com.

Editor and Publisher
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25th Annual “Celebrate America” Balloon Glow to feature Mark Chestnutt and Mo Pitney

PRESENTED BY



Good music, beautiful hot air balloons, and spectacular fireworks will provide an evening’s entertainment for the entire family at this year’s Celebrate America Balloon Glow. Presenting Sponsor Barksdale Cadillac and Ridgeland Recreation & Parks are proud to present this Independence Day tradition. The 25th annual celebration will take place on Friday, July 3 at Northpark Mall’s balloon glow field, with plenty of parking around the mall for the thousands who are expected to gather.

The Celebrate America Balloon Glow, the opening event of the Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Race and Festival in Canton, provides the opportunity to witness approximately 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 on Monday, June 15 with a Karaoke Contest at Burgers & Blues. A second Karaoke Contest will be held Monday, June 22 also at Burgers and Blues. The winners of these preliminary rounds will advance to the finals on Monday, June 29. The winner then has the opportunity to open the evening’s entertainment on July 3rd from the main stage.

After that, the entertainment continues with rising country music star, Mo Pitney. In his debut single, “Country,” Mo provides vocal delivery, storytelling, musicianship and reflections of his outdoor lifestyle as well as faith, family and patriotism. Early fans will recognize “Clean Up On Aisle Five” as well as “Come Do A Little Life,” which carves an unmistakably country yet completely fresh groove for the genre.

Following the balloon glow, fans will enjoy a performance by one of country music’s true musical treasures, Mark Chestnutt. Critics have hailed him as a classic country singer of the first order, and some of country music’s most elite entertainers, from George Jones to George Strait, echo the sentiment. Fans, Mark confides, “are the reason for my success.” His fans helped his records to climb the charts one right after the other making him one of Billboard’s Ten Most-Played Radio Artists of the ‘90’s. Mark’s singles were some of the decade’s most memorable, from the fun tempo “Bubba Shot The Jukebox” to emotional ballad “I’ll Think Of Something.” Mark is easily identified for his string of hits including “Brother Jukebox,” “Blame It On Texas,” “Old Flames Have New Names,” “Old Country,” “It Sure Is Monday,” “Almost Goodbye,” “I Just Wanted You To Know,” “Going Through The Big D,” “It’s A Little Too Late,” “Gonna Get A Life,” and one of his biggest, “I Don’t Want To Miss A Thing;” a song that held its position at the top of the charts for four consecutive weeks.



Throughout the evening, vendors will be on hand to provide food favorites such as barbecue, corn dogs, chicken-on-a-stick and funnel cakes. Children’s activities are available 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! The event kicks off at 6 p.m. Mo Pitney performs at 6:30 p.m. Balloon Glow will begin around 7:45 p.m. Mark Chestnutt 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.



Schedule of Activities for Friday, July 3

6:00	Welcome and Introductions
6:05	Karaoke Contest Winner
6:30	Mo Pitney
7:45	Balloon Glow
8:15	Mark Chestnutt
9:30	Fireworks

HEATWAVE CLASSIC TRIATHLON COMING JUNE 6



On Saturday, June 6, Indian Cycle, The Bike Rack and Ridgeland Recreation & Parks will host the 30th annual Heatwave Classic Triathlon. Some of the finest athletes from the Southeastern United States will converge on Ridgeland, Mississippi to compete in the triathlon, an event sanctioned by the U.S.A. Triathlon. Participants return each year because they love the race course.

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 Multiuse Trail. Participants may register online at www.heatwavetri.racesonline.com.

The Heatwave Classic Triathlon is one of many events produced by the City of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department. For more information, please call 601-853-2011.

Father-Child Fishing Tournament

Fishing is the perfect way to slow down from life's hectic pace and enjoy your family. On Saturday, June 13, join the City of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department for the 19th Annual Father-Child Fishing Tournament at Old Trace Park on the beautiful Ross Barnett Reservoir. There is no charge to participate in this tournament and prizes will be awarded for Biggest Fish, Most Fish and Smallest Fish. The fun begins at 8 a.m. with judging taking place at 10 a.m. 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!



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Fire Academy for Kids

Fire Academy for Kids is a fun, educational, action-oriented program with two goals: to give children 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. 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, and Having Fun" is our motto. Fire Academy for Kids will be held Monday through Friday, 8:30-11:30 a.m., July 20-24 at Central Fire Station.

A graduation ceremony and luncheon reception will be held at Central Fire Station on Friday, July 24. Parents and guardians are invited to attend and share in their child's accomplishment. Call Nathan Bell at 601-856-3760 or email Nathan.Bell@RidgelandMS.org to sign up for Fire Academy for Kids. Space is limited, so be sure to get signed up before it's too late!

Turn On The Possibilities

Your neighbors are ordering Fiber To The Home service.

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Independence Day Celebration Highlights the 50th Anniversary of the Barnett Reservoir

An Independence Day Celebration awaits you at the Barnett Reservoir in Ridgeland on Saturday, June 27. Come out and enjoy the holiday at the Rez with entertainment, displays and games for all ages.

This year's event will be part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Ross Barnett Reservoir, which was first impounded in 1965. In addition to providing the major source of the City of Jackson's water needs, the "Rez" is one of Mississippi's major tourist attractions, generating over \$100 million a year to the local economy just from its recreational aspect alone.



Spillway at the newly impounded Ross Barnett Reservoir in 1965.

Here is what you can expect for Independence Day Celebration 2015 at the "Rez".

The day starts early with the Brain Association of Mississippi's "Race for Brain Injury Splash and Dash" fun run at 8 a.m. at Old Trace Park in Ridgeland.

Static military displays can be viewed at both Old Trace Park in Ridgeland and Lakeshore Park in Rankin County, including the hourly firing of cannon, throughout the day.

The 9th annual Waterfest, sponsored by Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, begins at 4 p.m. and ends at 7 p.m. Waterfest features interactive displays, inflatables and waterslides, face painting, children's crafts, games, balloon artist, free photo booth, educational exhibits, clown, caricature

artist and food vendors. WaterFest is an annual event that spotlights the importance of protecting, restoring and improving the water quality of the Ross Barnett Reservoir. This will be its 5th year at Old Trace Park, and the 3rd year that it will be held in conjunction with the Independence Day Celebration.

Live music from some of the Metro area's top performing acts will be on stage at both Old Trace Park in Ridgeland and Lakeshore Park in Rankin County, starting at 4 p.m. The headline act will perform at Old Trace Park.



Enjoyed by patrons at both Lakeshore and Old Trace Parks, a lighted boat parade at sunset will be led by the National Guard, members of the Wounded Warrior Project and the Brain Injury Association of Mississippi.

A coordinated double fireworks show, located on both sides of the lower Main Lake within easy view of the two main sites at Old Trace Park in Ridgeland and Lakeshore Park in Rankin County, will be set to accompanying music broadcast on IHeartRadio's MISS 103 FM radio. Fireworks will begin at 9:30 p.m.

Partnering together to create an exceptional event, the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, the Barnett Reservoir Foundation, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality invite the public to learn and have fun! More information about Rezonate and WaterFest is available at www.rezonate-ms.org.

Parking for WaterFest and the Independence Day Celebration at Old Trace Park will be available at Madison Landing and surrounding fields and lots, but no event parking is allowed at local restaurants. For pricing information and further details about the Independence Day Celebration, visit www.barnettreservoirfoundation.org.



RIDING AROUND RIDGELAND

By Michelle Williams

Riding a bike has changed my life.

Fifteen years ago I could not have dreamed of all the things I would accomplish by bike. Since 2000 I have met hundreds of other cyclists, many who are now close friends. I have participated in bike rides all over the United States, including a cross-country tour in 2010. I am part of a very active cycling group – the Jackson Metro Cyclists – as well as co-leader of a monthly women’s bike ride. I am honored to say that I recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to discuss cycling with our Mississippi congressmen.



My name is Michelle Williams, and I am publisher of the Crooked Letter Cycling website. Welcome to *Ridgeland Life's* Riding Around Ridgeland biking column.

I started cycling on Ridgeland’s first section of multi-use trails when they were under construction. The city’s engineer from 1997 to 2013, David Williams, introduced me to the trails one day during the summer of 2000. At the time, only 2 miles of the trail had been completed. By the end of our 4-mile round trip, I thought I had won the Tour de France. David had already won my heart – we married in 1997.

Those first 2 miles are now part of more than 16 miles of multi-use trail in the City of Ridgeland today, and they’re the first of my 55,000 miles on a bicycle.

Now I’m making fond memories on the Ridgeland multi-use trails with my grandchildren. My oldest grandson is 7, and he would rather ride his bike than anything. We started riding the multi-use trails together on a tag-along when he was 4, and recently he completed his first 15-mile ride on his own bike. His 2-year-old brother has started learning how to ride on a balance bike. We’re looking forward to the summer.

With warmer weather already here, I would like to share a few tips about riding on – and driving near – the multi-use trails.

For People Riding Bikes:

Follow trail etiquette!

Always give an audible signal to people you’ll pass on your bike. Most people are not aware of cyclists coming up behind them. It is common for folks to be enjoying their time on the trail to the point that they are startled when you pass – so be prepared to react to their sudden movement when you do signal. I like to just call out, “Passing!” or even sound a hardy “Good morning!.” Be prepared to react to their movements when you do signal.

I cannot stress enough how important it is to give an audible signal when you pass walkers, runners and other cyclists on the trail.

Be aware that families love to walk and ride the trails – please use caution when passing younger cyclists.

If you are riding in a group, call out how many are in your group to those you are passing: “Two of us passing,” or “There are four of us.” This helps those you are passing know not to be tempted to stray back toward the middle of the trail.

Always wear a helmet when you ride your bike! Doing so is a Ridgeland ordinance. If you will be riding your bike on public streets at any time, make sure you have a working blinkie on the back of your bike.

For People Running and Walking:

Follow trail etiquette!

Please, use ear buds in one ear only. When I pass many runners and walkers on the trail, I can hear their music from my bike! I know how important music can be for the workout, but ensuring you can hear those coming up behind you is crucial for the safety of everyone on the trail.

When walking your dogs, please keep them on a short leash and on the same side of the trail that you are walking!

For People Driving Cars:

Yes, 99 percent of those of us who walk, run and bike the multi-use trails are also drivers. With the warm weather, there will be more pedestrians and cyclists crossing the roads along the multi-use trails.

So please be careful, and do not drive into the crosswalk at a stop sign or traffic light. Be particularly careful when turning right on red along the trail. If you pull out distractedly without looking for people in the crosswalk, tragedy can strike.

I know most of us are always in a hurry, but please do not try to outrace a rider who’s on the trail and attempt a turn in the rider’s path. Many drivers are not able to adequately judge the rate of speed a fast runner or cyclist is moving. Remember, the people walking, running or cycling on the multi-use trail are teachers, mayors, coaches, plumbers, doctors, blog writers, wives, husbands, sisters, sons – all beloved by someone and all members of our community.

Have any biking questions or story ideas? Feel free to email me at michelle@crookedlettercycling.com.



Adam Page Turning a New Page in His Life

A mainstay at Ridgeland City Hall has left the building. Adam Page, Maintenance Supervisor since 1993 and Maintenance Worker for more than 30 years with the City of Ridgeland retired in April. Adam began work for the City in 1978 when he worked for 3 ½ years. He left to work for a construction company for a few years and returned in March 1985. He has stayed with his job since then for 30 straight years!

Adam will be greatly missed by everyone at City Hall. He is our Jack-of-All-Trades and a Master of many! Adam does whatever needs to be done, and he does it quickly and well. He maintains a positive attitude and a can-do approach. Always smiling and friendly, it seems he never has a bad day.

He is one of the busiest but most joyous people you will ever meet, full of love for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His people. He has a wife, Bobbie, and 10 children and now 15 grandchildren. He works nights and weekends in lawn service and serves as Pastor at his home church in Camden. He even maintains the church yard and has cleaned and maintained the property over the years too. He has strived to include his children in his lawn and church work. It allowed them to spend time with a busy father and learn from his work ethic.

His city work experience is quite broad from general maintenance at City Hall which has included construction, painting, plumbing, electrical work, lighting, cleaning, errands—you just name it, he has done it. You may have seen him on his runs to the bank, the post office, the library or delivering *Ridgeland Life* magazine. He has assisted all departments and worked at all city properties including the library and the Chamber of Commerce. He has set up for all city elections and all county elections held in the city. He sets up for many Chamber of Commerce and city events.

When asked to share highlights from his long career with the City of Ridgeland, Adam says, “I saw the city go through major growth. I was able to assist the Chamber of Commerce with events and help set up for other city events. As time progressed, I experienced more groundbreaking, ribbon cuttings and major events.”

When City Hall moved into its current location in 1988, not only was city administration and the mayor’s office located within the building, but it also housed the Madison County Tax Assessor’s office, Ridgeland Court Services, the City of Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce, City of Ridgeland Public Works and Recreation and Parks. He has seen the need for more employees and more space over the years and watched each area expand to fulfill the needs of a growing population of citizens and businesses.



Adam Page, left, retired in April after 33 ½ years of service to the City of Ridgeland. Mayor McGee, right, congratulates him on his service and presents him with a plaque.

Adam Page said, “I have enjoyed my work for the city the entire time. I have enjoyed doing my job. It has been a blessing. I would have continued working (for the city), but it’s time to move on and do something different.”

Mayor Gene McGee has worked with Page since 1989. McGee said, “Adam has truly been an inspiration for many in the City of Ridgeland. He is one of the hardest working men I know and he does not leave a job until it is done and done right. Any company or city would be proud to say that Adam has worked for them. We in the City of Ridgeland are better off because of Adam. He is a true friend and he will be missed.”

Cathie Reece, purchasing agent, City of Ridgeland, has worked with Adam for more than 20 years. She said, “Core values such as his love for God, family and his community just about sum up our Adam Page. He is always dependable, confident and willing to help wherever needed no matter the task.”

Nan Crosby, Ridgeland Library Branch Manager, said, “Adam is one of the most “hard working” individuals I’ve ever known. His commitment to getting the job done and positive attitude are greatly admired. He has always been here to help the library staff with everything from fixing clogged plumbing, to repairing leaky pipes, to helping the Friends with book sale signs and much more. The Ridgeland Staff and Friends of the Ridgeland Library thank Adam for his years of dedication and enthusiasm. We will miss you and wish you the best!”

“I’m so appreciative of the life God has me in,” said Page. “It’s all joy. I could have gone another way, but knowing that I want to be a productive citizen, and with God guiding, I try to be a good citizen.”

Page adds, “I have tried to give it my best. I just tried to do a good job.”

You certainly have, Adam. You’ve left your mark and will never be forgotten by the City of Ridgeland.

FIBER NEIGHBORHOODS WILL PROVE TO BE MOST DESIRABLE PLACES TO LIVE



Fiber to the Home is the latest in technology for residential areas, providing ultrafast 1 Gbps Internet to enhance your quality of life. Fiber infrastructure is constructed in qualifying residential areas. Homeowners may sign up for this Internet service through C Spire. Fiber optic connections allow average speeds of 100 times faster than most Broadband services.

Fiber to the Home boosts opportunities for education, small business, telecommuting or working from home, and entertainment capabilities. This service can improve your home value. Fiber homes are more marketable, boosting resell potential.

“In the real estate industry we are starting to see just how much technology is changing houses,” said Stephanie Cummins, Broker Associate/Owner of Front Gate Realty. “The number of buyers wanting a smarter home is increasing on a daily basis. This is great, but the speed of the Internet has to be fast enough to keep up with the number of devices pulling from it in a home. Computers, tablets, and phones are obvious, but you can now buy a Wi-Fi enabled device for almost any system or appliance in a home. *C Spire Fiber to the Home* is fast enough to keep up with as many devices as you could ever have running in a home at one time.”

When buyers search for a new home, neighborhoods that are fiber-ready are becoming more desirable places to live.

Cummins adds, “The access to an Internet service this fast is going to be a huge selling point for a community. It will soon be a must have on many buyer’s want list, especially the millennial generation which will purchase more homes than any other age group in the next decade.”

Listed below are the neighborhoods that are currently connected to, under construction or have qualified for *Fiber to the Home*. This service is available for residents to purchase in these neighborhoods. To sign up for service, go to www.cspire.com/home-services/.

.....
“Access to an Internet service

this fast is going to be a huge selling point for a community. It will soon be a must have on many buyer’s want list,” said Stephanie Cummins, Broker Associate/Owner Front Gate Realty.



Stephanie Cummins

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Audubon Woods | 12. Muirwood |
| 2. Bridgewater | 13. Oakmont |
| 3. Camden Park | 14. Old Agency Village |
| 4. Canterbury | 15. Pinehurst |
| 5. Carlton Park | 16. Rolling Meadows |
| 6. Dinsmor | 17. Shadowood |
| 7. Fox Hollow | 18. Stillwood |
| 8. Gallaghers Pass | 19. Township Residential |
| 9. Greenwood Plantation | 20. Wendover |
| 10. Heatherstone | 21. Windrush |
| 11. Montrachet | 22. Wrenfield |

What if your neighborhood is not listed? Some neighborhoods still need to become qualified to receive fiber infrastructure by meeting pre-registration requirements. In order to pre-register, residents may go to www.cspire.com/home-services/ and follow the instructions including the \$10 refundable deposit. Once a critical mass of citizens pre-register, C Spire will begin the installation process for that area.

Ridgeland officials encourage those individuals who want this service to sign up as well as talk to their neighbors about signing up, in order to reach the area’s pre-registration requirements. If you have questions about Fiber to the Home, please contact Bryan Johnson in Community Development at 601-853-2027 or Bryan.Johnson@RidgelandMS.org.



Think Safety First This Summer

The return of warm temperatures in the summer brings fun in the sun and more time exploring the great outdoors. Whether you're enjoying the multi-use trail or parks, swimming pools, boating or skiing on the Barnett Reservoir, or just relaxing in the backyard, safety should be at the top of everyone's list. The Ridgeland Fire Department offers some ways to help keep you and your family happy and safe this summer.

FIREWORKS

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.

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. Please enjoy the holiday without the use of fireworks within city limits.

SUN

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 outside, 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.

WATER

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 be sure that you and your family are strong swimmers, and always supervise small children around the water. Alternatively, avoid entering water greater than waist high depth. When in waters of limited visibility, it is important to not only wear a life preserver, but to also stay within a group.

Operators of all boats are required under federal law to have at least one wearable life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD) for each person aboard. In addition, Mississippi has the following requirements for wearing a PFD: 1) 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. 2) 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.

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 located in a well-ventilated and open outside area, and no additional fuels are used to aid in the lighting of the grill.

INSECTS AND WILDLIFE

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 insects in our area so be sure to consult your doctor for medication and prevention methods appropriate for you and your family.

While we use the Barnett Reservoir for seasonal recreation, many forms of wildlife call this waterway home. Be sure to respect wildlife and keep your distance.

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.

Disconnect Notices Replaced with Phone Call

The Utility Department has routinely mailed disconnect notices to customers who are 60 days late in paying their bill. Effective June 1, customers will no longer receive notices through the mail. Disconnect notices will be replaced with an automated phone call informing the customer that water services will be disconnected for non-payment. This new process applies to residential and commercial customers.

If a customer's service is disconnected for non-payment, their deposit will be applied to the balance. They will be required to pay the outstanding balance and apply for new service, which will require a new deposit. Current residential customer deposits, for example, cost \$100 for a ¾" meter or \$150 for a 1" meter.

Both residential and commercial customers need to make sure that their current phone numbers and other contact information is updated with the Utility Department. Please call 601-856-3938 or email the department at utilitybilling@ridgelandms.org to update your information. When you call or email, please include your account number or your physical address.

Customers may opt to use bank draft to pay their utility bill. Bank draft helps customers maintain a current standing and there is no fee for the service. Download a bank draft authorization form from the city's website at www.ridgelandms.org or pick up a form in the Utility Billing office at Ridgeland City Hall, 304 Highway 51.

Other payment options include paying online through the city's website (There is a \$3.95 transaction fee for this service, required by state law.), paying in person, paying at the drive-thru window which is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or U.S. Mail. You may receive your bill by email by completing an electronic billing form, available in the Utility Billing office or online at www.ridgelandms.org.

How to Avoid Mosquitoes in your Backyard

Mosquito season starts slowly in the spring, peaks in the summer and tapers off into fall when the temperatures drop. These pests do not leave us for good until the first freeze. To combat mosquitoes and the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, the City of Ridgeland sprays regularly, especially throughout the summer. Spraying may help manage the size of the mosquito population; however, it does not completely eliminate mosquitoes from your backyard.



One of the best ways to prevent mosquitoes from breeding on your property is to remove standing water, such as in clogged gutters.

Prevent your exposure to mosquitoes by staying indoors at sunrise, sunset and early in the evening when mosquitoes are most active. Apply topical mosquito repellent when necessary and follow label directions closely. Wear long-sleeved, long-legged clothing with socks and shoes if needed. Replace your outdoor lights with yellow “bug” lights which tend to attract

fewer mosquitoes than ordinary lights. Make sure window and door screens are tight-fitting.

To control mosquitoes around your home, make sure that mosquitoes do not have the standing water needed for three out of four stages of their life cycle. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suggests the following control measures:

- Get rid of standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys or any other container where mosquitoes can breed.
- Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels and potted plant trays at least once a week to eliminate potential mosquito habitats.
- Drain temporary pools of water or fill with dirt.
- Keep swimming pool water treated and circulating.

Mike McCollum, Director of Public Works, gives some advice to homeowners, “Clogged gutters are a common source of mosquito breeding grounds in Ridgeland. Residents who clear their gutters of old leaves are more likely to have fewer mosquitoes on their property.”

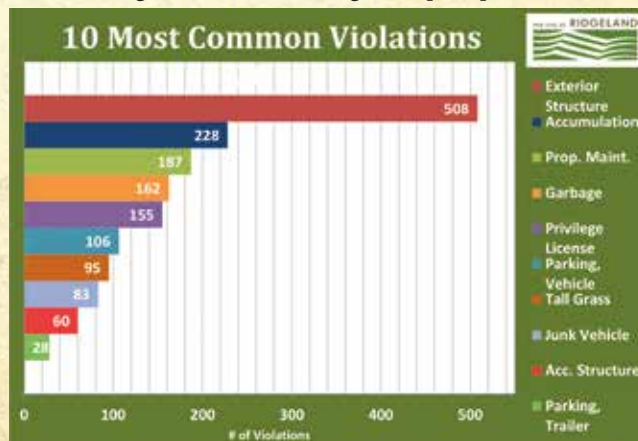
If you have any questions about mosquito spraying in Ridgeland, please contact the Public Works Department at 601-853-2027. For more information about preventing mosquitoes, you may wish to visit <http://www2.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol>.

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. Every day, officers educate citizens about city codes and work with them to correct code violations.

The graph below shows the top 10 most common code violations in 2014. Exterior Structure was the highest violation type. Exterior Structure violations occur when the following structural items are not being maintained and in good repair: paint, wood, siding and masonry joints, structural members, foundation walls, exterior walls, roofs and drainage, chimneys and towers, windows, sky lights and door frames. Accumulation was the second 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. Property Maintenance was third highest and those violations involve maintenance of property such as structures, equipment and exterior property. Garbage was the fourth highest violation.

For more information about Code Enforcement, to report a possible violation, or speak with a code enforcement officer, please call 601-856-3877. You may also wish to use the Online Action Center at www.RidgelandMS.org to report and track action on a code violation.



Lynn Named 2015 Mississippi Parent of the Year

Ridgeland parent Sissy Lynn has been named the 2015 Mississippi parent of the year by the Mississippi Department of Education. She also was honored as the 2015 parent of the year for the entire Madison County School system for the second time. A leader and advocate for strong public schools, she's been named Ann Smith's parent of the year twice and is Highland's 2015 parent of the year. In addition, at the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce awards banquet in January, Sissy and her husband Randy were named 2014 City Makers of the Year, the City of Ridgeland's top award, for their service and dedication to Ridgeland's public schools.

From health and wellness to technology, Lynn brings her innovation and organizational skills into play. Highland Principal Paula Tharp states, "Sissy serves as a partner in our continual quest for improvement. She also serves as a link to community businesses and local city officials and frequently coordinates joint improvement ventures." In 2013, Sissy and her husband Randy launched a coding initiative at Highland to promote computer programming to elementary students. Of the schools in Mississippi that engaged all of their students in Hour of Code, Highland was chosen to win \$10,000 of computer equipment from Code.org, which was used to purchase computer tablets to encourage coding in the classroom.

Parents, students and staff know Sissy because of her photography and public relations skills. "Sissy always arrives with camera in hand," said Madison County School Board Member Philip Huskey. "The pictures Sissy takes and shares memorialize precious memories for parents and children. In addition, these photographs are often the public face of our school district seen by prospective parents making the decision to move to or attend Madison County Schools."

Tharp concludes, "Sissy represents the true spirit of a parent who believes in the power of the public school system and works actively to extend and strengthen its reach and services."



Ridgeland's Sissy Lynn, Mississippi's 2015 parent of the year, is pictured with her children, Daniel (left) and Julia.

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Titan Trot Brings Community Together for Health and Wellness

On Saturday, March 28, Ridgeland Titans took to the streets for the Titan Trot 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run at Ridgeland High School. The race was a collaboration of the Parent Teacher Organizations of Ann Smith Elementary, Highland Elementary, Olde Towne Middle School and Ridgeland High School and brought together students, teachers, parents and community members in a spirit of health and wellness. Sponsors of the race included C Spire, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi, Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition, J Ward Design, Rod's Racers, BankPlus, First Ridgeland Baptist Church and One Church.



And they're off... Ridgeland Titans start out strong in the Titan Trot fun run. Many of these same participants also ran the 5K immediately following.



Highland students Daniel Lynn, a fifth-grader, and Kyle Carter, a fourth-grader, were the top finishers of the fun run, crossing the line neck and neck.



Max Smith, a first-grader at Ann Smith, celebrates as he crosses the finish line of the fun run.



Titans of all ages and skill levels take off in the 5K run/walk held at Ridgeland High School.



Alex Sterling, a senior at Ridgeland High School, was the first-place finisher of the 5K with a time of 21:55.

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.

Recycling at Ridgeland's Parks

Provided at Ridgeland's parks are recycling compactors powered by solar energy. These special receptacles are not designed to handle garbage. Only place recyclable materials such as empty cans, clean plastic and paper into the compactors.

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
wendy.bourdin@ridgelandms.org • 601-853-2011

Heatwave Classic Triathlon

The 30th annual Heatwave Classic will take place on Saturday, June 6, 2015. 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 www.heatwavetri.racesonline.com.



- Program Price:* Individual: \$85; Relay Team: \$150
 \$12 Single Event USAT Insurance per participant
- Registration:* Now - June 6
- Onsite Registration:* June 5 - 6
- Onsite Price:* Individual: \$100; Relay: \$165
- Event Date & Time:* 7 a.m., Saturday, June 6
- Location:* Old Trace Park

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Celebrate America Balloon Glow

Come out and show your patriotism and enjoy an evening of food, fun, entertainment, and fireworks at Northpark Mall. The Mississippi Championship Balloon Festival will hold its opening ceremonies at the Northpark Mall Balloon Glow Field; the balloons will inflate and provide an awesome view of the horizon as the sun sets. Our featured entertainment for the 2015 Celebrate America/ Balloon Glow will be Mark Chestnutt. Our opening act will be Mo Pitney. 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.



- Price:* Free
- Event Date:* Friday, July 3, 2015
- Start Time:* 6 p.m.
- Location:* Northpark Mall

Balloon Glow Karaoke Contest

The annual karaoke contest will be held at Burgers and Blues on June 15 and 22. The top five contestants will advance to the finals on Monday, June 29. The registration fee is \$25. Singers can pre-register by calling Angela at 601-566-0951 or by e-mailing krazykaraokems@yahoo.com. The winner will open the show for Mark Chestnutt at the "Celebrate America" Balloon Glow on Friday, July 3.

- Price:* \$25
- Registration:* Pre-register at krazykaraokems@yahoo.com
- Location:* Burgers and Blues, 1060 E. County Line Road (at corner of County Line Road and Centre Street), Ridgeland
- Event Dates:* June 15, June 22 with finals on June 29
- Start Time:* 6:30 p.m.

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ATHLETICS

Athletics Coordinator, John Sidney North
John.North@RidgelandMS.org • 601-853-2011

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Flag Football

Come join the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department and NFL for its 19th season of flag football. This program has been growing for the past 18 years with more than 300 boys and girls, ages 6-9, participating. Flag football builds good hand-eye coordination and reflexes and promotes 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 Sept. 1, 2015. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011.

Program Price: \$70
Registration: July 27 - August 14
Program Dates: September-November
Day: Tuesdays
Location: Freedom Ridge Park

SMCSO Fall Soccer Registration

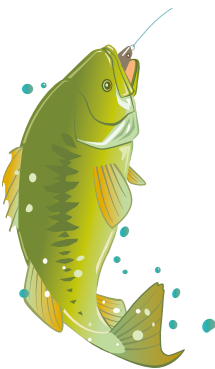
The South Madison County Soccer Organization will be holding fall soccer registration in July for boys and girls ages 4 to 18. The season runs from September thru November. For more information, please visit www.smcso.com. Dates for registration will be listed on their website.



Father and Child Fishing Tournament

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department will be holding its 19th-annual Father and Child Fishing Tournament on Saturday, June 13. 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 and reel and bait. Prizes will be awarded for Biggest Fish, Most Fish and Smallest Fish. This event is free and open to all ages. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011.

Price: Free
Event Time: 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Date: Saturday, June 13



Adult Softball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will be offering a men's open league (6-homerun limit), a men's commercial league (3-homerun limit) and a men's church league. All games will be played at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland. The leagues will be open to the first 24 teams in each division. ASA-sanctioned rules will be in play for the leagues. We will offer 10 to 12 games for each league. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011. You may register at Ridgeland City Hall.

Program Price: \$500
Registration: August 3- 14

NFL Punt Pass and Kick

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department, in conjunction with the NFL, will be hosting the annual punt, pass and kick competition on Saturday, Sept. 12 at Freedom Ridge Park. Registration will be held from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The competition will be for boys and girls ages 6-15. There will be five age groups: 6/7, 8/9, 10/11, 12/13 and 14/15. The top scorer in each age division will advance to the sectional meet to be held in Jackson. This is a free event. The winners at the sectionals will advance to the Team Championship in New Orleans.

Event Date: Saturday, Sept. 12
Location: Freedom Ridge Park



Summer Camps by Skyhawks Sports Academy

Skyhawks provides a wide variety of fun, safe and positive programs that emphasize critical lessons in sports and life, such as teamwork, respect and sportsmanship. Programs are designed to give each child a positive introduction into sports while fostering a lifelong love for an active, healthy lifestyle. Patient and knowledgeable staff use a variety of skill-building games and activities to give each athlete a complete understanding and overview of the sport. Since 1979 Skyhawks has taught over 1 million boys and girls life lessons through sports.

Register online at www.skyhawks.com/jackson. Registration is accepted until the day before camp begins. A \$10 late registration fee will apply if registration occurs within two weeks of the camp start date. For more information, call 601-790-0868.

CHEERLEADING

- Girls ages 5 to 10

Skyhawks Cheerleading teaches young athletes the essential skills to lead crowds and support the home team! This entry-level cheer program ensures that each camper learns cheers, proper hand and body movements, and jumping techniques. The week concludes with a choreographed performance

Dates and Times: Monday, June 15 - Friday, June 19
9 am to 12 pm

Location: Freedom Ridge Park

Program Price: \$125

FLAG FOOTBALL

- Boys and Girls ages 7 to 9
- Boys and Girls ages 9 to 12

Boys and girls learn skills on both sides of the football including the core components of passing, catching and defense – all in a fun and positive environment.

Dates and Times: Monday, June 8 - Friday, June 12
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: Freedom Ridge Park

Program Price: \$125

GOLF

- Boys and Girls ages 5 to 9

Boys and girls will learn the fundamentals of swinging, putting and body positioning. We have simplified instruction so that young players can make an effective transition onto the golf course. All equipment provided.

Dates and Times: Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Event Location: Freedom Ridge Park

Program Price: \$125

MINI-HAWK (soccer, basketball, baseball)

- Boys and Girls ages 4 to 7

Skyhawks Mini-Hawk programs are tailored to your child's age and skill level while teaching life lessons such as respect and teamwork. Mini-Hawks programs give children age 4-7 years a fun and positive first step into athletics.

Dates and Times: Monday, June 22 - Friday, June 26
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Monday, July 6 - Friday, July 10
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: Freedom Ridge Park

Program Price: \$125

MULTI-SPORT (soccer and flag football)

- Boys and Girls ages 5 to 8
- Boys and Girls ages 8 to 12

Skyhawks multi-sport programs are tailored to your child's age and skill level while teaching life lessons such as respect and teamwork. Boys and girls will learn the rules and essential skills of soccer and flag football.

Dates and Times: Monday, June 1 - Friday June 5
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Monday, July 13 – Friday, July 17
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: Freedom Ridge Park

Program Price: \$125

SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Senior Adult Coordinator, Lynda Assink
lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org • 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 welcome to join 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

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Day: 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. Darlene Epple is the instructor for the class. Darlene has been a member of MCWDA (Mississippi Country Western Dance Association) since 1995. She has taught at birthday parties, church socials, and office events. Darlene's motto is "Line Dancers don't make mistakes, they make variations." As long as you are on the dance floor, and having fun with a smile on your face, that's all that matters. Call or email Lynda for more information.



Program Price: \$40/month or \$10/weekly

Times: Beginners Class, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Advanced Class, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Day: Monday

Men's Bible Study

A Men's Bible Study group 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.

Time: 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Day: 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 charge
Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Day: Tuesday

Fitness for Everyone

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. All exercises are done without the use of heavy weights or machines. A certified instructor, Sally Holly, encourages each participant to work on his/her own unique physical needs and goals. Come to this groundbreaking and effective class!

Always consult your physician before beginning any exercise program.

Program Price: \$10/month
Time: 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays

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

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 slower 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.



Program Price: \$5/class
Time: 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Days: Mondays and Fridays

Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness, & Fun!

Join us for this fun class! Lisa Newman is the instructor, and 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. Always consult with your physician before beginning any exercise program. For more information, call or email Lynda.

Participants may want to join both yoga classes for only \$10: Restorative and Relaxation Yoga and Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness, and Fun!

Program Price: \$5/class
Time: 11:30 a.m.–12 noon
Days: 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 each for prize (winner)
Dates: June 25, July 23, August 27
Times: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Day: Thursday

Thread, Yarn, Crochet & Coffee

Bring your own needlework (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.

<i>Program Price:</i>	No Charge
<i>Dates:</i>	June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27, August 10, August 24
<i>Time:</i>	1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
<i>Day:</i>	Monday

TRIPS

Columbia/Hattiesburg Trip on Monday, June 1

Enjoy a visit to Mississippi's Little Grand Canyon and see if you can discern the 16 different colors of clay. Only two such novelties such as this exist in North America. Included is a tour of the Pioneer Aerospace Plant, a visit to the historic downtown with its 100+ year old Hill Hardware Store, antique shops, art galleries, Farmer's Market, lunch at the Broad Street Restaurant, tour of the USM campus in Hattiesburg, coffee break at the Purple parrot (on your own) and transportation. Contact Lynda at 601-856-6876 or lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org.

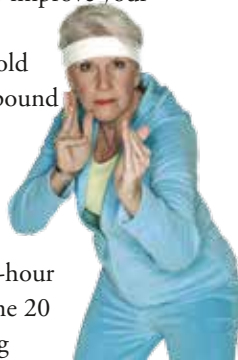
<i>Cost:</i>	\$60
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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Beginning Self-Defense Class

The goal of this course is to assist you in achieving personal safety. This course includes light contact and provides practical and easy to use instruction. It will also help improve your strength, agility, flexibility, and endurance.

When it comes to crime and violence, the old saying "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is not only true, but a potential life saver. The hardest part is doing your homework before you find yourself in a situation. Instructor Andrew Dillon has a 3rd degree Tae Kwon Do Belt. This is an 8-hour course that will meet on two Saturdays, June 20 and June 27. Register by calling or emailing Lynda. (Participants who have previously taken this course may attend at no charge.) Register now by contacting Lynda at 601-856-6876 or lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org



<i>Program Price:</i>	\$40
<i>Dates:</i>	June 20 and June 27
<i>Time:</i>	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
<i>Day:</i>	Saturday

AARP Safety Driver 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 contacting Lynda at 601-856-6876 or lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org. Please bring your AARP card and driver's license.

<i>Program Price:</i>	\$14 (\$2 discount if you are an AARP member)
<i>Registration:</i>	Now until August
<i>Start Date:</i>	TBA
<i>Start Time:</i>	TBA

TENNIS

Ridgeland Tennis Center
201-A McClellan Drive • 601-853-1115

Directors: Cheryl Harris and Susan Toler

The public is invited to watch tennis tournaments or games, register for private or group lessons, join a tennis league, or just come out and play a game. Call the center to reserve a court. Cost is \$3 per person for 1 1/2 hours. Tournament schedule and lesson information is below.



Tournaments

MS Junior Qualifying	May 30 – June 2
RTC Benefit Classic	July 31 – August 2
RTC Junior Novice	August 7 – 9

Summer Camps

Dates for summer camps are as follows: June 8-11, June 15-17, June 22-25, June 29-July 2, July 13-16, July 20-23 and July 27-30.

Summer camp for ages 4-6 and for ages 7-10 will be held 9 - 10:30 a.m. on the dates above. Cost is \$80 per child/week. A minimum of 6 participants is needed for a class. Call Cheryl Harris at 601-853-1115 to register.

Camp for ages 11-18 will have Junior Drills 9 – 10:30 a.m. with Match Play 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. on the dates above. Cost is \$80 for either drills or match play/week or \$140 for both drills and match play/week. The instructor for 11-18 year olds is Robbie Creveling at 601-316-5364.

Lessons

Six teaching pros are available for private and semi-private lessons at the Ridgeland Tennis Center. Call 601-853-1115 to schedule lessons.

A FOND FAREWELL TO *Mrs. Fonville*

When Mary Fonville first started teaching kindergarten, the focus was simply letters and sounds, but now her students who are getting ready to enter first grade this year can read, write, and compose their own stories. Though the kindergarten curriculum has changed significantly over the last 20 years since Fonville's first day at Ann Smith Elementary, she says the patience and love required to teach 5 and 6-year-olds hasn't. Fonville retired from Ann Smith at the end of the school year. To the new kindergarten teachers just beginning their careers, she recommends, "Have lots of energy and patience and just love the children for who they are and for their unique qualities."

Fonville says the decision to retire was difficult. She enjoys watching how much the kindergarteners grow and change from the first day of school until the last, and she is also going to miss the daily interaction with her teaching peers, but she is also looking forward to having the flexibility to travel to Columbus, Miss., to spend time with her two grandsons, ages 1 and 4. "I want to be more available to be a part of their activities," said she says. "And I won't miss starting my day at 5:30 a.m. I am looking forward to a more leisurely-paced life."



Retiring this year after 20 years at Ann Smith was a difficult decision for kindergarten teacher Mary Fonville. She says she is going to miss the kindergarten children and all of their unique personalities.



ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

Grades K-2

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Back to school before you know it

Entering kindergarteners and new students need to bring proof of residency such as a lease, mortgage deed or homestead exemption in addition to a certified birth certificate, social security card and Mississippi immunization form 121. Please bring original documents. Photocopies will not be accepted. All students, both returning and new, will need to bring two June or July utility bills to the school between June 22 and July 31.

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I would read it in a boat; I would read it with a goat

Students, teachers and families celebrated the great Dr. Seuss' birthday at the 4th Annual Family Reading night. Mayor Gene McGee joined ASE librarian David Schommer in a reading of *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*, a 1949 Dr. Seuss classic. Children and families then participated in a variety of language games and activities with a Dr. Seuss theme.



David Schommer, left, and Mayor Gene McGee, right, read a Dr. Seuss classic during ASE's 4th Annual Family Reading Night.



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Students take 'field trip' through human body

Educational tours have been field trip staples for elementary school children for decades, but Ann Smith students were recently treated to a slightly different kind of "tour" on their recent "field trip" through the human body. The Mississippi State Body Walk, a 40-foot by 40-foot walk-through traveling exhibit, made a stop at the Ann Smith gym on March 24 and 25, taking the kindergarten through second grade students on a journey through the human body while teaching them about making healthy choices.

"I love these children, but if they're coming to see me, it's because they aren't feeling good," said Renee Robinson, Ann Smith's nurse. "I contacted the local Mississippi State Extension office and scheduled the Body Walk exhibit so the students could learn all they could about taking good care of their bodies so that they won't end up in my office very often, and more importantly, so that they learn good habits now and prevent even more serious conditions as they grow older."

Students walked through 10 stations—the brain, mouth, stomach, small intestine, heart, lungs, bones, muscles, skin and the pathway for life—during the one-hour tour. The interactive stations manned by parent volunteers taught the students about the importance of the respective body parts, how the body parts work and what the students can do to make sure that the body parts stays healthy.

First grader Allison Grogan liked learning about the skin and how easily germs can be passed from person to person. "The lady put baby powder on my hand and then I touched my friend's hand and she got baby powder on her, too," she said.

The Mississippi State Body Walk exhibit is free thanks to the generosity of their sponsors. More information about the Body Walk exhibit is available online at <http://msucares.com/bodywalk/>.



Sia Patel, Kwajaleon Thomas and Brayden Jones listen as parent volunteer Decoda Ray talks to them about the stomach.



HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

Grades 3 - 5 • 330 Brame Road

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Highland Sisters Express Inner Beauty

For sisters Natalie and Danielle Brethem, competing in a local beauty pageant was a dream come true, but what they didn't realize was what a positive impact it would have on them.

Natalie, a rising fifth-grader at HES, currently holds the title of Miss Junior High Metro Jackson, while her sister Danielle, a rising third-grader, was crowned Young Miss Central Mississippi in January. On August 8, both girls will compete for state titles in their age groups in the Miss Mississippi High School America (MMHSA) Scholarship Pageant in Hattiesburg. The Brethem sisters are the only Ridgeland public school students who've ever been regional titleholders for MMHSA.

"I never saw myself as a pageant mom," said Shelly Brethem, the girls' mother. "What I realize now is that pageants are not as much about beauty as they are about personality and poise. I want to make sure my girls know that it's not about winning; it's about having fun."

Both sisters, especially Danielle, have always been quiet and shy. Competing in pageants has given the girls the chance to come out of their shells. "The fact that Danielle now has the self-confidence to get on stage by herself is just huge," said Shelly. "Winning a crown has also given the girls an opportunity to serve in the community and meet new friends."

As regional titleholders, Natalie and Danielle are often seen volunteering in the area. They've assisted at 5K races, made appearances at local events, and they speak on behalf of the MMHSA platform, BRAVE, an anti-bullying campaign. "BRAVE" stands for "Building Respect and Value for Everyone" and promotes a bully-free, safe environment.

The girls love all the opportunities they've had through MMHSA, but their favorite part is, as Natalie puts it, "being able to express inner beauty."



HES students Natalie (right) and Danielle Brethem will be competing for state titles in the Miss Mississippi High School America Scholarship Pageant in Hattiesburg on August 8. Photo by Lance Bowe.

Mena Burnett, Highland's Teacher of the Year

It's rare for students to beg to go to school on holidays or dread the end of the school year. But that's exactly what third-graders in Mena Burnett's class do each year. Burnett's youthful personality and enthusiasm are just part of the reason her students love being in her class.

Known for her fun, creative and outside-the-box approach to teaching, Burnett engages her students, motivates them to do their best and captures their attention through humor – all while maintaining complete control of the classroom.

"Mrs. Burnett sets a high standard for classroom instruction," said Paula Tharp, Highland's principal. "She manages just the right balance of excitement and focus. With her own unique style, she keeps her students engaged and thinking deeply about each and every standard in third grade and then some. She's loved by her students and respected by her fellow Titan teachers."

Burnett has been teaching at Highland for 13 years. As the third-grade team leader, she serves as a mentor to new teachers, spearheads third-grade group projects and frequently meets with team leaders from other grade levels.

"Mrs. Burnett and I have similar teaching strategies, so having her as my mentor this year has been a blessing," said third-grade teacher Mary Grace Jimenez. "I aspire to be just like her in the years to come. She's not just a fellow teacher with me, she's a role model, a friend and the best encourager at this school. I don't know where I would've been my first year without her."

Ask any of Burnett's students what they like most about their teacher, and they'll tell you, "Mrs. Burnett just makes learning fun." Her students enjoy helping her take care of her class pets, which include two ball pythons named Ricky and Lucille and a hermit crab named Giant Joe.



Pictured are (from left) Zachary Vardaman, Jennifer Chen, Mena Burnett, Charlie Grogan and Kennedy Brooks.

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Tragic Death of Third-Grader Brings Titan Community Together

The Titan community lost one of its own on March 23. Trinity Norman, a third-grader at Highland, passed away after battling diffuse intrinsic pontiac glioma, a rare, aggressive brain tumor.

On her first day of school, Trinity fell asleep on the bus and missed her stop on the way home. Out of concern, the bus driver called Felicia Lane, Trinity's mother, to let her know. Trinity also started limping and having issues with her right arm, so Lane took her to UMC, where she received her life-changing diagnosis. A couple of days later, she began treatment at St. Jude.



In memory of Trinity Norman,
12/15/05-03/23/15

Although she wasn't able to attend school much during the year, Trinity made a mark on students, faculty and staff in her short time at Highland – just as she did at Ann Smith. Trinity was a sweet, strong and courageous little girl, and she was a true fighter until the end.

Following Trinity's untimely death, the Titan community rallied together in support of her family. Each school held fundraisers to help offset Trinity's funeral expenses. HES students wrote letters to Trinity and her mother during Trinity's illness and following her death. And two of Trinity's teachers – Susan Barlow, third-grade teacher at HES, and Leah Murphy, second-grade teacher at ASE – gave heartfelt eulogies during the funeral.

"The third-grade team, led by Trinity's teacher, Mrs. Barlow, has plans to establish a Trinity Norman recognition to be awarded annually to a third-grader who exhibits the characteristics of a true Titan as displayed by Trinity," said Paula Tharp, HES principal. "The award will be a fitting recognition of the love and affection our students and staff held for Trinity. Plans are also in the works to establish Trinity's Garden to be tended by third-grade classes each school year in loving memory of our special friend."

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Olde Towne Middle School Students Attempt Transcontinental Flight Record

The annual near-space balloon launch at Olde Towne Middle School (OTMS) took place on Saturday, May 2, 2015. Whether from the Apollo, Skylab or space shuttle generation, each year the OTMS near-space mission unleashes a sense of wonder among all ages of participants and observers.



Photograph of Planet Earth taken by a camera on the Olde Towne Middle School's Titan-1 Near-Space Balloon Mission.

Always looking for new ways to chart territories where middle-school students have not gone before, the OTMS Amateur Radio & Technology and Science Clubs 2015 joint mission was an attempt at a transcontinental balloon launch.

“Due to the nature of the launch, it’s a one-way ticket,” Bobby Robinson, Science Club advisor explains. “There is no recovery after the launch.”

Unlike most space exploration, OTMS produced an economical launch. Mylar and standard helium balloons from a local store were the sole means of flight. Students assisted in the construction of a battery/solar hybrid to fuel the monitoring equipment so it would continue to capture information and send back data packets to the middle school engineers and scientists as long as possible. Students and other interested parties were able to monitor the launch progression using apps for the entire duration of the flight.



OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Olde Towne Announces 2014-15 Teacher of the Year

Ridgeland’s Olde Towne Middle School (OTMS) eighth grade math teacher, Rebecca May, was named Teacher of the Year for the 2014-15 school year, an award selected by her peers. A graduate of Mississippi College, she is certified to teach middle and high school math and social studies. May also earned a master’s degree in elementary education in May 2014.

Additionally, May serves as a coach for the award-winning OTMS cheerleading team along with last year’s OTMS Teacher of the Year, Angie Autrey. “As a coach, her organization is paramount. She keeps us all on track! Her structure and high expectations help the cheerleading squad acquire skills that most middle school squads cannot achieve. In addition, she is persistent yet always kind,” said Autrey. “As a teacher, Rebecca is the most methodical, organized teacher I have ever known. She knows how to teach a strategy or skill in multiple ways, and the students know exactly what is expected.” These outstanding qualifications earned May this high honor early in her career and the Titan community is proud to call her one of their own.

Olde Towne Middle and Ridgeland High qualify for TSA National



Olde Towne and Ridgeland High students qualified for the National Technology Student Association Conference in 18 categories at the State TSA Convention this spring. In June Ridgeland students will join other qualifiers from Madison County School District to travel to nationals in Dallas, Texas. There they will compete against students from all over the country. Titan students will compete in categories as varied as Geospatial Technology, VEX Robotics to digital photography and system control technology. Ridgeland is fortunate to have one of the premier TSA programs in the state.



RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 9-12 • 586 Sunnybrook Road • 601.898.5023 • www.madison-schools.com/rhs

RIDGELAND HIGH STAR STUDENT

Martin McCandless, son of Li Lee and Phil McCandless, is Ridgeland High School's 2015 STAR Student. The Mississippi Economic Council and its M.B. Swayze Foundation sponsors the Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) Program "to emphasize scholastic excellence among Mississippi students while recognizing outstanding teachers that inspire these students." He was selected based on his ACT score in conjunction with his grade point average.

McCandless chose Olde Towne Middle School teacher Bill Richardson as his STAR teacher. Richardson states "Martin is possibly the best student I have had in my 18 years of teaching. I first met him when he was in sixth grade; he became interested in our school Radio and Technology Club where he worked on robots, launched near-space balloons, and flew RC airplanes. When he moved on to Ridgeland High I coached him in archery, flew RC airplanes with him and helped with his VEX robot team. He is an amazing young man and will remain a great friend in the future."

Olde Towne Middle School is also where McCandless began playing the trumpet, a talent that has led to three international tours with the Mississippi Lion's Band, numerous metro-area



"Renaissance man" Martin McCandless was named Ridgeland High School's 2015 STAR student.

honor bands, a stellar four years in the Ridgeland High School band, as well as membership in the RHS Jazz Band.

Martin plans to attend MSU next year. He is a Presidential Scholars Finalist, with plans to major in engineering with the goal of pursuing a career in medicine or biomedical engineering.

Ridgeland Get2College Scholarship Winners



The Ridgeland High School Get2College scholarship winners were surprised with their win on Senior Toga Day. Winners (from left) Martin McCandless, Fatima Bracamonte, Lindsey Metcalf, Oscar Olguin, and Ariel Craft are grateful to their English teacher, Mrs. Deborah Lightsey (center), who required all of her students to submit an essay. The results were extraordinary. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship to the college of choice. Get2College is Mississippi's nonprofit resource for free assistance with planning and paying for college.

Ridgeland student represents Mississippi in national honor band

Lauren Slay, a junior at Ridgeland High School, was the sole Mississippian selected to participate in Music for All's 2015 Honor Band of America, held at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Honor Band of America participants are selected by recorded audition and evaluated by leading music educators. "To be selected for membership in this elite national ensemble is a great achievement and honor," says Eric Martin, Music for All President and CEO, who also is a native of Greenville, Mississippi. "The 2015 Honor Band of America members are ambassadors of America's music programs, as well as their states, schools and communities."

The Honor Band of America, presented by Yamaha, was under the direction of Kevin Sedatole, Professor of Music, Director of Bands and Chair of the Conducting Area of Michigan State University. Music students from 23 states representing 65 high schools, began rehearsal on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 and performed a concert Saturday, March 14, at Butler University.

Slay is the daughter of Ridgeland residents Ken and Vicki Slay. She is a member of the Ridgeland High School Titan Band, under the direction of Keith Moffat, and was a featured soloist in the fall half-time show. Slay was also selected to be a

member of the 2014 and 2015 Mississippi Lions All State Bands. Lauren's clarinet teacher, Ken Graves, who is the Principal Clarinet for the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, encouraged her audition. Mr. Graves attended this very event as a junior in high school.

Slay encourages other high school musicians in Mississippi to audition for the Honor Band of America next year. "This was an invaluable experience and I enjoyed meeting and comparing band stories with students from all over the U.S."



Ridgeland High junior Lauren Slay represented Mississippi in the national Music for All 2015 Honor Band of America.

RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR PLACES FIRST IN NATIONAL FESTIVAL

Members of the Ridgeland High School Concert Choir, under the direction of Rachel Upton, received the Gold Award at Heritage Chicago Performance Festival in March. The choir placed first in their division and received an invitation to Carnegie Hall for The National Invitational Festival of Gold in 2016-2017. Senior Aviya Castilla received the Ovation Award for her outstanding dedication to music.

At the festival, the choir was rated, ranked against other choirs from across the nation, and participated in master class with a festival juror. The students also enjoyed the sights of the Windy City including Field Museum of Natural History, Art Institute of Chicago and Navy Pier. The awards ceremony for the festival was held at Medieval Times where the Ridgeland choir cheered on the Green Knight.



The award-winning Ridgeland High School Concert Choir, led by Rachel Upton, warms up at Heritage Festival Chicago.



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Holmes CC Ridgeland Campus recognizes student achievements with awards ceremony

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus recognized its students' achievements and honors during the 2015 Honors Day Program held April 17 in the McGowan Center.

The evening began with a welcome from Tonya Lawrence, academic dean for the Ridgeland Campus.

"Tonight is a special event to honor the students who put in the time and effort to be the most outstanding in their chosen areas," Lawrence said.

Award presentations began with Dr. Andrew Kelly, English instructor, recognizing the 2015 Holmes Literary Contest Winners. Those students included Breia Armstrong, Connor Brown, Gleneasha Brown, Dominique Butler, Briana Hearn, Dee Wayne Jolly III, Alice Krombholz, Erin Palmer, Rachael Packer, and Hannah Wingard. He also recognized those students whose pieces placed at the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association (MCCCWA) 2015 Conference on April 10. Those students included Erin Palmer, first place in the Non Fiction Prose/General Essay category for "An Unexpected Friendship;" Rachael Parker, Honorable Mention in the Short Fiction category for "Fight or Flight;" Hannah Wingard, Honorable Mention in the Short Fiction category for "Gone Fishing;" Briana Hearn, Honorable Mention in the Literary Essay Category for "Katniss Everdeen and George Taylor;" Connor Brown, Honorable Mention in the Literary Essay Category for "The Ebb and Flow of Poe;" Gleneasha Brown, second place in the Poetry Category for "The Jagged Edges of Her Fragmented Mind," and Dee Wayne Jolly, Honorable Mention in the Poetry Category for "Empty Bottles."

Next, Dr. Amy Wolgamott, speech instructor and Phi Theta Kappa adviser, congratulated the All-Mississippi Academic Team recipients, which included Leyna Hendley, First-Team All-Mississippi, and Shanequa Alexander, Second-Team All-Mississippi. These students were recognized at the State Capitol on March 25.

Following Dr. Wolgamott's presentation, Heather Mooney, interior design instructor/SkillsUSA adviser, recognized the students who placed at the SkillsUSA regional conference. Those students included Jasmine Holmes, James Mooney, Arnisa Wilson, and Karen Curtis. Ridgeland Campus Awards at the SkillsUSA conference included first Place in Technical Drafting; first place in Prepared Speech; second place in First Aid/CPR; second place in Medical Terminology; third in Extemporaneous Speaking, and third in the Quiz Bowl.

Next, a representative from each academic and career-technical program presented an award to a student who has shown excellence in their given major or program. Alice Austin presented Robin Wilbourn with the Associate Degree

Nursing Award; Dr. Joe David White presented Shannon McElroy with the Biological Science Award and Ashley Weaver with the Physical Science Award, and Dr. Santosh Parakkal presented Peyton Pinson with the Engineering Award. The Business Administration Award went to Rachel Agnew, presented by Donna Josey; the Business and Office Technology Award went to Tonya Love, presented by NaTunya D. Johnson; the Computer Information Systems Technology Award went to Cedric Fry, presented by Michael Pawlik, and Jimmy Houston presented the Criminal Justice Award to Christian Pitre.

The Educational Programs Award went to Ericka West, presented by Rachel Bickerstaff; the Emergency Medical Sciences Award to Austin Roberson, presented by Mark Galtelli, and the Engineering Technology Award, Jasmine Holmes, presented by Lynn Boykin. The English Composition Award went to Briana Hearn, presented by Dr. Andrew Kelly; the Journalism Award, Glenneasha Brown, presented by Mary Margaret Turner; the Literature Award, Erin Palmer, presented by Steve Deaton, and the Spanish Award, Chelsea Blocker, presented by Ana Davenport. The Funeral Service Technology Award was given to Lori Banes, presented by Allison DeWeese; the History and Political Science Award to Rachel Packer, presented by J.R. Hall; the Industrial Maintenance Technology Award, Benjamin Marascalco, presented by Daniel Blount, and the Mathematics Award, Eamonn Cottrell, presented by Julie Muse.

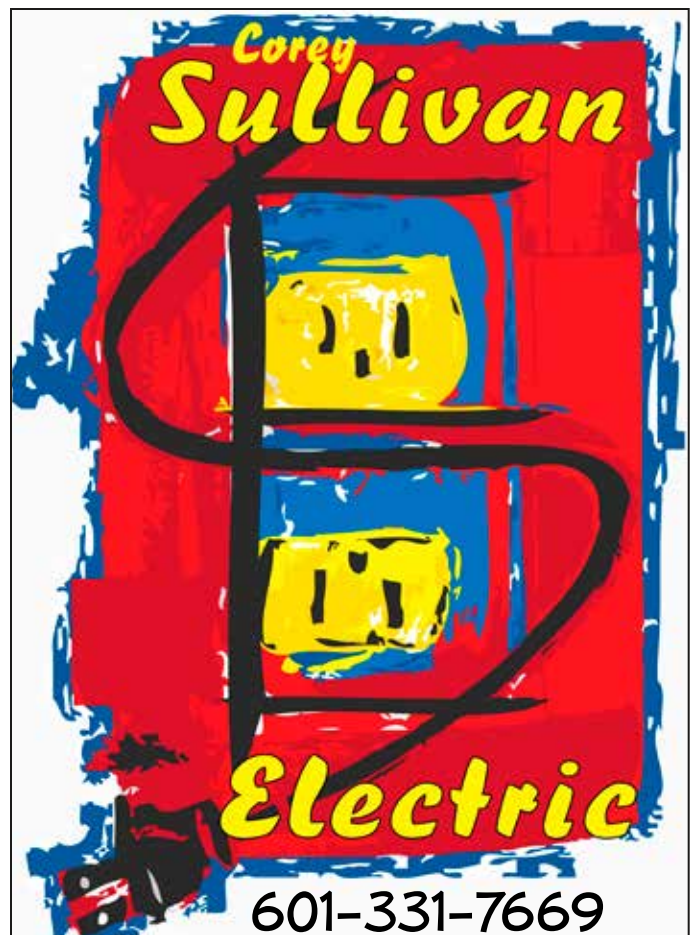
The Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology Award went to Christopher Bruce, presented by Kana Williams; the Outstanding Online Student Award to Are'Anna Stevens, presented by Tish Stewart; the Paralegal Technology Award, Terri Spurk, presented by Darleen Dozier; the Public Speaking Award, Terry "TJ" Temple, presented by Jean Powers, and the Social and Behavioral Science Award, Vickie Robinson, presented by Cynthia McCoy. Finally, Travia "Shea" Coleman presented the Surgical Technology Award to Arnisa Wilson, and Amy Whittington presented the Welding Award to Dantrevious Garner.

The program concluded with a recognition of the 2015 Hall of Fame inductees and closing remarks by Dr. Don Burnham, vice president of the Ridgeland Campus. The Hall of Fame inductees included Shanequa Alexander, Kolbe Alsobrooks, Aija Baker, Mara Baker, Macala Boxx, Christina Bracey, Taronecia Graves, Jimmy Le, Maya Lewis, James Stuart, Paulette Vargas, and Emma Warren.

A reception for award recipients, friends, and family immediately followed the ceremony in the McGowan Lobby.



Pictured are the inductees to the 2015 Hall of Fame; one of the highest honors a student can receive at Holmes Community College. They are (front row, left to right) Shan Alexander, Paulette Vargas, Taronecia Graves, Maya Lewis, Christina Bracey, (back row, left to right) Jimmy Le, Macala Boxx, Emma Warren, Mara Baker, Aija Baker, and James Stuart.



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NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE RIDGELAND LIBRARY

Submitted by Nan Crosby, Branch Manager

Madison County Mystery Readers Host Best Selling Author Linda Castillo

The Madison County Mystery Readers invite you to join them for a visit to Amish Country by way of a Skype session with author Linda Castillo. Come find out about the captivating, spine-tingling mystery series about Police



Author Linda Castillo

Chief Kate Burkholder set in the Amish community of Painters Mill, Ohio. The first book, *Sworn to Silence*, was recently adapted into a 2-hour Lifetime Original movie for television titled *An Amish Murder* starring Neve Campbell as Police Chief Burkholder.

Growing up in Ohio, Linda Castillo knew she wanted to become a writer when she was very young, and completed her first novel at the age of 13. Having written 27 novels, Ms. Castillo has received many prestigious awards, including the Daphne du Maurier Award of Excellence. Her Amish thrillers appear on The New York Times bestseller list on a regular basis.

Please join the Mystery Readers at the Ridgeland Library for what should be an enlightening and entertaining conversation with a well-known author on Tuesday, August 11 at 10:30 a.m.

MINING YOUR MEMORIES *Writing Family Stories*

Personal and family memories are inherently private. Inspiration to safeguard one's memories comes from many sources and the recollections need only to be written. *Mining Your Memories – Writing Family Stories* teaches the process of putting memories and stories together in a way that they may be enjoyed by others for many generations. An informal hands-on approach to writing personal memoirs and family stories for non-publication, the class will combine discussion, examples and practical exercises. The first session will begin Thursday, Sept. 3, 1 – 2:30 p.m. The remaining sessions will meet on the second Thursday of each month, October, November and December.



Facilitator, Andy Oldham

Andy Oldham will be the facilitator for the workshop and he has a BA in Religious Studies and Education from Anderson University. For the past five years he has written numerous articles for the Northside Sun newspaper. He has studied memoir writing under the guidance of Vivian Newkirk as well as Tulane University (Madison). Andy has conducted workshops at the *Celebrate Literacy Conference* in Jackson and has written his personal memoirs for over five years. He has also completed his first novel, *Everlasting Cronies*. We invite you to join this new workshop on "Mining Your Memories."

Artist Corner Featuring Dr. John Gibson

Dr. John Gibson is a self-taught artist and has been involved in some form of art since childhood. When he retired from a medical career in 1977, he became a full time artist. For many years, pen and ink has been the technique most satisfying for his creative works. Sharing his art with others has always been a pleasure. The public is invited to view Dr. John Gibson's artistic pen and ink drawings that will be on exhibit in the Ridgeland Library meeting room during August and September.



Into the woods

Fall Book Sale

Sponsored by the Friends of the Ridgeland Library

Book Sale Dates: Sept. 11 – 16, 2015

Members' Preview Party: Thursday, Sept. 10, 4 – 6:30 p.m.

Friends of the Ridgeland Library Memberships: Individual \$12 and Family \$20 are available at the door.



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NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Cindy Graves, Children's Specialist • cgraves@mcls.ms

Every Hero Has a Story! Summer Reading Program

It's summertime again! The library has been hard at work preparing to make this Summer Library Program an incredible event for all ages. This year's theme is "Every Hero Has a Story." We will be having super performers, as well as fun activities with LEGO® bricks and awesome crafts. Like every summer, children and teens can win great prizes for reading!

Below are a few of our June and July programs. For a complete listing, check out our online calendar at www.mcls.ms or visit our library.



FAMILY PROGRAMS (ages 3 and up)

Storyteller Sherry Norfolk

- Tuesday, June 2 at 3:30 p.m.



Join us for this special storytelling event with Sherry Norfolk, who will capture the imagination of all ages. This project is supported in part by funding from the

Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part, from the National Endowment of the Arts, a federal agency.

Magic Mr. Nick

- Tuesday, June 16 at 3:30 p.m.

Memphis' favorite magician is bringing superhero magic to your library!

Hampstead Stage Company

- Monday, June 29 at 3:30 p.m.

Come watch this live performance of the legendary English folk tale *Robin Hood*. This play is an action-packed hour made up of brave heroes, hilarious villains and bungling henchmen.

Magician Dorian LaChance

- Tuesday, July 14 at 3:30 p.m.

Mississippi magic man and family entertainer Dorian LaChance will present his brand new magic show: *Not Every Hero Wears a Cape!*

Ridgeland Readers Storytime (ages 3 – 7)

This is a fun storytime program that includes stories, songs, flannel board activities, and movement.

Ridgeland Readers meets on the following Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. this summer:

- June 9 and 23 (with special guests The Little Gym!) and July 7

Baby Bookends (ages 0 – 2)

This is an interactive program between children and their caregivers. We sing Mother Goose rhymes, play musical instruments, read stories, and do flannel board and movement activities.

Baby Bookends meets on the following Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. this summer:

- June 4, 11, 18 and 25 and July 9 and 16

Children's and Teen Workshops



LEGO® Challenge (grades 1 – 5)

Come see what superstructure you can build out of our LEGO® bricks. These workshops meet on the following Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. this summer: June 3 and 17.

BristleBots (ages 8 and up)

Build a tiny super-robot! Please pre-register in advance, as space is limited for this program. To sign up, contact Mrs. Cindy



at the Ridgeland Library. Once you sign up, you must be present at program start time to secure your spot. This program will meet Wednesday, June 10 at 10:30 a.m.

Button Making (grades 6 – 12)

Design and make your very own 1 ½" buttons! This program will meet Wednesday, June 24 at 3:30 p.m.

For More Information: This year's programming would not be possible without the help of our many community sponsors, one of which is the Ridgeland Friends of the Library. A complete list of our sponsors is posted at the library as well as our website.

The Summer Reading Program will end July 18. In August, the staff takes a break from children's programming to prepare for our fun-filled Fall programs. We look forward to seeing you at the library this summer! If you have any questions, contact Cindy Graves at (601) 856-4536 or email her at cgraves@mcls.ms.



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Phone: 601-991-9996
www.ridgelandchamber.com

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AND EVENTS

Thursday, June 18

Springhill Suites

121 Southtowne Avenue
5 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 16

Mad Genius, Inc.

279 A South Perkins Street
5 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 20

Hilton Jackson

Tailgate Party

1001 E. County Line Road
5 - 7 p.m.

Ridgeland Chamber Seeks Junior Diplomat Applicants

Area high school juniors and seniors are invited to apply to become part of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce's 2015-2016 Junior Diplomat Program.

Students residing in Ridgeland, who attend Ridgeland High School, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Jackson Academy, St. Joseph Catholic School, Madison Ridgeland Academy and Jackson Prep are invited to submit applications by the August 20, 2015 deadline.



Junior Diplomats at Orientation.

"The purpose of the Junior

Diplomat program is to instill in students a well-rounded appreciation of community service and introduce them to members of the business community," said Linda Bynum, Executive Director of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce.

Diplomats Julie Cox of the City of Ridgeland and Jim Lowery of Pear Orchard Business Center serve as Junior Diplomat co-advisors.

The Junior Diplomats meet the first Tuesday of every month at Chamber member businesses. This year, Caroline Burford, a senior at Jackson Academy and Heather Van Horn and Martin McCandless, both seniors at Ridgeland High School, served as co-captains of the program.

Throughout the year the Junior Diplomats participate in many City and Chamber events, including the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Make A Difference Day, TOP Soccer, Sr. Adult Valentine's Banquet, the Natchez Trace Century Ride, Easter Egg Hunt, KidFest! Ridgeland, the Ridgeland Art Fest and Trunk or Treat!

Each year, the law firm of Butler Snow LLP awards a \$1,000 scholarship to the Junior Diplomat of the Year and a \$500 Spirit of Junior Diplomat scholarship. These scholarships are applied to the college or university of the student's choice.

"Students interested in the Junior Diplomat Program must complete an application and submit it to the Chamber office," Bynum said. "Every application is carefully read and reviewed. We want students in the program who have every potential of becoming tomorrow's leaders."

Each applicant must write a 100-word essay detailing why he/she would be a good candidate for the program. "Every application must include three letters of recommendation, and one of those letter must be from a teacher, principal or high school counselor," Bynum added.

Other criteria include a list of all extra curricular activities, awards received and offices held. And, all applicants must have a 3.0 grade average.

Junior Diplomat applications are available at the counselor's office of each participating school and the Chamber office located at 754 S. Pear Orchard Road.

"One of the greatest aspects about this program is that our Junior Diplomats have gotten to know others with the same interests and goals," Bynum said. "They have become better acquainted with their community and they are realizing the importance of giving back to the community."

"If we can instill one basic premise," she added, "it is the age-old adage, 'we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.'"

For more information on the Chamber's Junior Diplomat Program, call the Chamber office at 601-991-9996.



Junior Diplomats meet at City Hall.



Junior Diplomats tour Terracon Consulting.



Junior Diplomats volunteer at TOPSoccer jamboree.

UNDERSTANDING YOU



Ridgeland

732 Lake Harbour Drive
601.853.3814

renasantbank.com



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FDIC



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Don't miss out on any cycling event
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Crooked Letter Humpback State!



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
RANDY TYLER
Chief of Police
randy.tyler@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

Ron Blaylock, Tom Bobbitt, Randy Knouse, Donald Pendergrast, Glenn Ray, Alex Ross, Connie Suber

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful

First Monday - 4:30 p.m.

Jan Richardson - Chairman

JoAnn Alford, Lynda Assink, Wendy Bourdin, Barbra Brown, Pat Busby, Jamie Hanry, Claire Jackson, Phyllis Parker, Lea Anne Stacy

Community Awareness Committee

Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.

Drew Malone - Chairman

Carla Palmer Allen, Shirley Gill, Dawn Hall, Vicki Heath, Scott Higginbotham, Lee Hutchings, 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, Mark Irby, Drew Malone, 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

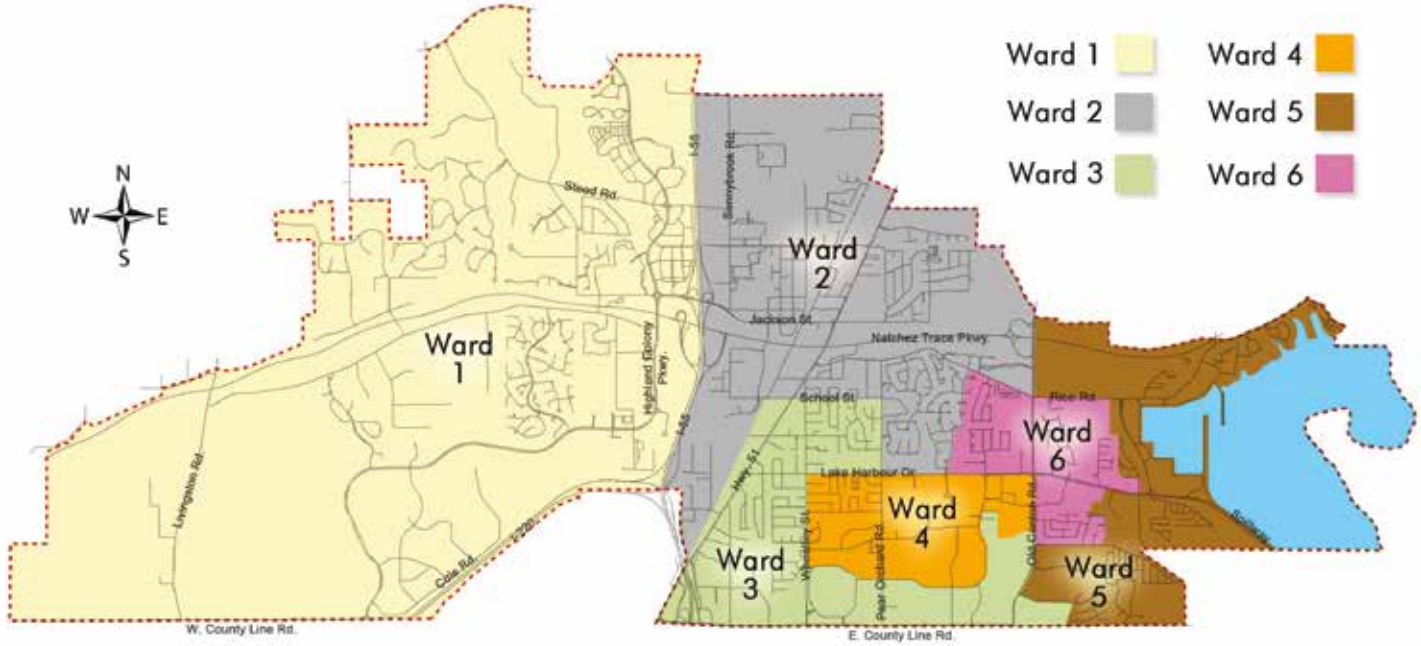
Public Works Department
(*road, garbage, recycling, water, storm water*) 601-853-2027

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
DISmithJ@gmail.com



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