

As 2022 draws to a close, I want to reflect on what an extraordinary year it's been for the City of Ridgeland. We are beyond blessed in so many ways:

- Our economy is strong and growing.
- We have a team of employees who care deeply about the City and they go above and beyond in their duties to ensure that critical services are provided to all citizens and visitors.
- Ridgeland's public safety departments, both fire and police, are second-to-none.
- With thanks to our public works department, we have the best streets, and our water and sewer systems are top of the line.
- Our community development department is succeeding in bringing in new development that enhances our economy.
- The code enforcement department is excelling in their efforts to oversee that businesses and residences stay up to city code.
- The Recreation and Parks Department strives to meet our citizens' love for exercise with safe and accessible park facilities and a diverse recreation program.
- And finally, our administrative department does an outstanding job ensuring Ridgeland remains a fiscally healthy city through their dutiful oversight of our budget.

We have recently welcomed Kim Cooper, a Mississippi native, as Director of Public Relations. Her duties include serving as the Editor of the Ridgeland Life Magazine and leading all communications – media relations, social media, and the City's website – to keep you informed. Kim comes to us with a tremendous history of public relations experience, and I am delighted to have her on our team.

As the Christmas season approaches, I hope each of you will consider shopping local. Our brick-and-mortar Ridgeland stores do so much to support our city – such as sponsoring youth activities like little league and soccer teams. Their investments in our City greatly enhance the quality of life for our citizens and your patronage of their businesses is a meaningful way to show your gratitude.

Finally, I encourage you to take time to be with your families and friends over the holidays. There's no greater gift than time with our loved ones. Best wishes for a joyful holiday season and a happy and healthy new year!

Here F. Mikes



EDITOR

Kim Cooper, City of Ridgeland

SPONSORSHIP

Rachel Collier, City of Ridgeland

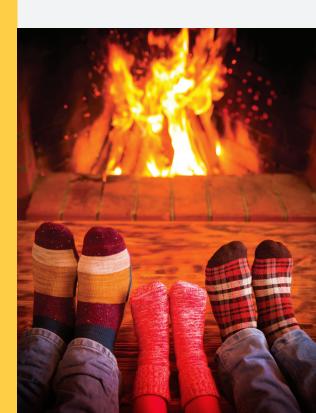
GRAPHIC DESIGN & PRINTING

Hederman Brothers

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

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

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Rachel Collier at Rachel.Collier@RidgelandMS.org.



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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIDGELAND

Telins Ridgeland's Story By Polly Hammet

NE OF TWO ART WORKS HANGING AT CITY HALL - CREATED BY LOCAL ARTIST, MARK MILLETT

N EVERY ISSUE OF RIDGELAND LIFE, WE ENDEAVOR TO TELL YOU A LITTLE OF RIDGELAND'S HISTORY - THE STORY OF HOW RIDGELAND CAME TO BE AND ITS PROGRESS AND GROWTH OVER THE PAST (ALMOST) 125 YEARS. INDEED, OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS TO IDENTIFY, GATHER AND PRESERVE HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS, SITES, ORAL HISTORIES, AND PHOTOGRAPHS, AS WELL AS TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY. WE HAVE TRIED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION IN SEVERAL WAYS.



Working with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Historical Society developed a Historical Marker that was placed adjacent to the railroad at West Jackson Street. This commemorates the area where the first families disembarked from the train to make their home in the newly chartered Village of Ridgeland.

The City realized the need for an authorized Historical Committee. Consisting of six members of the Historical Society, this committee works closely with City personnel and was instrumental in officially naming the area first incorporated as the Village of Ridgeland as "Old Town." It also spearheaded naming "Old Town Crossing" and "The Plaza at Old Town Crossing" in that area.

When preparing for the opening of the new City Hall, Mayor McGee contacted the Society about commissioning two art installations for the building. We called on the talented and well-known artist, Mark Millett, to create these works. One depicts the history of the Natchez Trace, while the other shows Ridgeland's path of growth from early times to the present era, and into the future.

With sponsorship from Ridgeland Tourism
Commission and support from the City, the Historical
Society is honored to be the primary presenter of the
Ridgeland Christmas Tree Lighting at the Plaza at Old
Town Crossing. This event kicks off a three-day celebration
in Ridgeland and showcases local talent, entertaining
children and parents alike. Along with a visit from Santa,
we also try to sneak a little history lesson into the program.

In October of 2019, we led a tour of Jessamine Cemetery. Several articles about the cemetery have appeared in this publication, along with stories of Ridgeland's early times and the people that played an important part in its growth. In previous meetings of the Society, we have hosted speakers giving accounts of life and events in the early years of the town.

The History Room, on the left as you enter City Hall, houses many artifacts from Ridgeland's past. There is

currently a display of items from the Fire Department and Police Department. Some of these items will remain on permanent display, joining photographs and other artifacts from Ridgeland's First Families. We constantly search for additional pieces to add to this permanent collection. If you have photographs, newspaper clippings or other items that you feel would add to this collection, we want to hear from you. Please contact Kim Cooper at City Hall and she will put you in touch with the Society. Please don't forget to sign the guestbook!

In the History Room, along with scrapbooks of photos and articles, you will find the second edition of "The History of Ridgeland, Mississippi." This brochure features a timeline of Ridgeland's history, a map depicting the growth of Ridgeland, locations of sites of interest and additional information on churches, city structures, markers, plantations, and cemeteries.

Another exciting project, which is still in development, is the Ridgeland History Trail. Taking advantage of existing recreational trails and sites identified in the Society's history brochure, the Ridgeland History Trail will consist of wayside interpretive signs highlighting our history from the prehistoric past to the growth of modern-day Ridgeland. The signs will particularly focus on the City's development as a town in the early 20th century, as well as other sites of interest, including the Choctaw Agency, Brashear's Stand, and local church history. A joint effort of the Historical Society of Ridgeland, the City of Ridgeland and the Ridgeland Tourism Commission, the project is slated to be completed in 2023.

We are grateful for support from the City and Tourism, proud of our past efforts, and excited about upcoming projects. It is our hope that you will take advantage of every opportunity to experience what is offered as we strive to continue... Telling Ridgeland's Story.



BRIAN MYERS TALKS ABOUT HIS PATH TO CHIEF AND HIS ACCOMPLISHED, EXPERIENCED COMMAND STAFF

By Kim Cooper

n July 1, 2022, Ridgeland experienced a changing of the guard when Brian Myers was sworn in as the City's new police chief. For Myers, a 24-year veteran of the department, it was a dream becoming a reality. Ever since he first put on his Ridgeland law officer uniform, his career goal was to one day be chief.

Now, after having held 8 positions over two decades - most recently as lieutenant and commander of the patrol and criminal investigations divisions on the command staff – Myers leads a team of 70 law officers.

The Ridgeland Police Department (RPD) has a very accomplished and experienced Command Staff with more than 118-years of collective service - all to the Ridgeland Police Department (RPD). Command Staff includes:

- Brian Myers, Chief of Police, joined RPD in July 1998
- Tony Willridge, Assistant Chief of Police; joined RPD in February 1996
- Lt. Eddy Addison, Commander of Patrol Division; joined RPD in May 2002
- Lt. Mark Penn, Commander of Support Services; joined RPD in October 1995
- Lt. Brett Bertucci, Commander of Criminal Investigations; joined RPD in September 2001 Chief Myers, Assistant Chief Willridge and Lts.

Addison, Penn and Bertucci all started their careers with RPD and even went through SWAT team training together. They have worked their way through the ranks - collectively holding nearly every position within the department - and remain dedicated to protecting the City of Ridgeland.

Myers, selected for his qualifications and deep experience with the RPD, received praise from Ridgeland Mayor Gene McGee, who said, "He has some great ideas that I believe our law officers will support, and I think he will make the police

department, as well as the City of Ridgeland, that much better."

RPD's priorities include:

- Seeking better pay for RPD officers
- Introducing the Street Crimes Unit, led by Lt. Penn, Officer Ben Johnson and includes a team of four officers, to patrol problematic areas such as hotels, shopping areas and apartments. Since starting in July 2022, the unit has already proved effective having made 201 arrests, including several felony arrests for narcotics, and given 282 citations.
- Implementing a body-worn camera policy set to begin in 2023
- Recruiting and hiring 10 new patrol officers with a goal to be fully staffed by spring 2023. These positions include a five-phase, year-long training program: orientation, day shift patrol, night shift patrol, shadow patrol and an evaluation period.

With the holiday season approaching, Chief Myers has some safety recommendations for Ridgeland citizens:

- Lock your doors.
- When shopping, strap your purse across your body.
- If out after dark, park in a well-lit area.
- If you have any concern about getting out of your car, then don't.
- Look under your car after shopping.
- Request an escort if you feel unsafe.
- Don't leave visible gifts and items in the car; lock them in your trunk.

The main mission of the RPD is to protect the community through citizen engagement. Chief Myers says Ridgeland residents can help the RPD better do their jobs by speaking up if they see something of concern and follow the "see something, say something" mantra. To contact the RPD, call (601) 856-2121.



WHERE DID YOU GROW UP AND ATTEND SCHOOL?

I grew up in Plainfield, Indiana and went to high school there. I attended college at Purdue University, where I studied engineering, and later transferred to Mississippi State University to study landscape architecture.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

I've been married to my wife Shannon for 21 years and we have three children ages 11 to 19. We currently live in Rankin County. A fun fact about me is that I have an identical twin brother who still lives in Indiana.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO **BECOME A LANDSCAPE** ARCHITECT?

I've always had a passion for golf and dreamed at a young age of designing golf courses.

THE CITY IS EXCITED TO HAVE YOU IN YOUR NEW ROLE, **ESPECIALLY WITH THE YEARS** YOU SPENT AS RIDGELAND'S CITY PLANNER, TELL ME ABOUT YOUR ROLE AS CITY PLANNER AND JOURNEY LEADING UP TO NOW.

Upon graduating with my degree in landscape architecture, my first job was with Hartley P. Fairchild and Associates. One of their main services was residential development planning. Our team worked on developments in central Mississippi, including several in Ridgeland.

In 2002, I accepted a job with Moore Planning Group in Louisiana. My work there was focused mostly on large scale master planning such as town, county and parish projects. I actually met Alan Hart, our Director of Public Works, while working there.

After more than four years in Louisiana, my wife and I decided we wanted to move back to Mississippi to be closer to family. I joined the team at IBHM Architecture and worked in the land planning division for a year.

In January 2007, I joined the City of Ridgeland as City Planner and continued in that role for more than 11 years. In 2018, I was offered the position of Community Development Director for the City of Brandon. Then flash forward to now, and I'm back home at City Hall in Ridgeland as the new city landscape architect. My first day back was October 3, 2022, and I'm so excited to be working with Ridgeland's team and be part of the exciting growth that's ahead for the City.

WHAT HAS DRAWN YOU TO **WORKING IN GOVERNMENT?**

At first, I never sought out to work in government. But I've found that one of the best reasons to work in public service is because of the opportunity to make a positive impact on residents' lives. I love knowing that I'm a part of the growth of this great City.

WHAT ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF NEW PROJECTS YOU ARE **WORKING ON?**

New projects that I'm working on include:

- Future multi-use trail projects
- Tree planting projects
- Working with the City Planner to upgrade the City's online GIS
- Beautification enhancement projects throughout the City.



I primarily work in the Public Works department, but my role also works cross-functionally with other areas of the city, such as the Recreation and Parks department.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I enjoy time with my family. Our kids are involved in youth sports, and we love getting out in nature to hike, kayak, and go camping. And of course, I still love a good game of golf!

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD?

Ridgeland has three licensed landscape architects on staff, which is rare. We take a lot of pride in the beautification of our City.

KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL Yara of the International Awards

SEPTEMBER



September Business Yard of the Month Bank Plus at 740 S. Pear Orchard Road, Ridgeland



September Residential Yard of the Month The Venejas Family at 140 Wheatley Place, Ridgeland

OCTOBER



October Business Yard of the Month CLUB4 Fitness at 511 Lake Harbour, Ridgeland



October Residential Yard of the Month Chad & Brandi Davis at 107 Trace Ridge, Ridgeland

recre8



Dog Obedience

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is a program partner with The Jackson Obedience Training Club (JOTC).

Registration for classes will be in February and March. Classes will start in March at the Ridgeland Recreational Center in Old Trace Park.

To find out more information about the 2023 spring classes, visit: www.jotc.org.



Mississippi Rush Spring Soccer

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is a sports program partner with Mississippi Rush Soccer providing sports leagues for the community.

To find out more information about the 2023 spring soccer season, visit: www.mfcsoccer.com.



Madison Ridgeland Youth Club Spring Baseball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is a sports program partner with Madison Ridgeland Youth Club providing sports leagues for the community.

To find out more information about the 2023 spring baseball season, visit: www.mryouthbaseball.com.

Leagues for Individuals with Disabilities



Hoops Basketball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks provides a basketball league for individuals with disabilities. Leagues are played at Old Town Middle School off Sunnybrook Road.

Registration opens in November and runs throughout December.

Registration forms can be found at www.ridgelandms.org (forms tab).

- Men and Women leagues are available
- Men's games are played on Tuesdays
- Women's games are played on Thursdays
- Season schedule: month of February



Miracle League Baseball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks provides a baseball league for individuals with disabilities. Leagues are played at Hite Wolcott on the Parker Miracle Field.

Registration opens in February and runs throughout March.

Registration forms can be found at www.ridgelandms.org (forms tab).

- Youth and Adult leagues are available
- Youth games are played on Monday
- Adult games are played on Wednesday
- The season runs from April through May



TOPSoccer

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is a sports program partner helping provide a soccer league for individuals with disabilities. For more information about the 2023 Spring TOPSoccer season, visit: www.topsoccerms.com.

Ridgeland Letters To Santa

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will have a dedicated mailbox for letters to the North Pole. Drop your letters off and receive a letter back from Santa!

- Include name and address for Santa's reply letter
- Only letters received from the mailbox will receive a reply letter.
- Duplicate letters will receive one reply letter
- Letters must be received by December 15
- There is no charge for letters to Santa

Date: December 1 - 15 Location: On the North Side of the Ridgeland Green in front of City Hall



Christmas in Ridgeland



Christmas Tree Lighting

Plaza @ Old Town Crossing December 1 @ 6:00 p.m.

Christmas at City Hall

Ridgeland City Hall December 2 5:30 p.m to 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Parade

Old Town Ridgeland December 3 @ 1:00 p.m.





Ridgeland Christmas Tree Lighting

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

- Christmas music
- Welcome Santa
- Make a holiday craft
- Count down to the lighting of the tree
- This evening is presented by The Historical Society of Ridgeland.
- There is no admission charge for this event.

Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022 @ 6 p.m. Location: Plaza at Old Town Crossing

Christmas At City Hall On The Ridgeland Green

Join us on the Ridgeland Green at Ridgeland City Hall for a festive evening of holiday cheer.

- Enjoy holiday snacks
- Make a holiday craft
- Play holiday games
- Get a photo with Santa
- Listen to live Christmas music
- Watch a Christmas movie
- The holiday theme is the Polar Express. Everyone is welcome to wear their pajamas!
- There is no admission charge for this event.

Date: Friday, December 2, 2022 Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Location: On the Ridgeland Green at City Hall

Ridgeland Christmas Parade

Ridgeland Mayor McGee and City Aldermen will lead bands, businesses, and other organizations with an old-fashioned Christmas parade through the Old Town neighborhood.

- Polar Express will be the parade theme.
- Parade begins and ends at Holmes Community College in Ridgeland
- Parade route will make a square and include Maple Street, Jackson Street, and Sunnybrook Road.
- There is no admission charge for this event.

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2022 @ 1 p.m. Location: Old Town Ridgeland

superstar seniors

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Exercise

\$15/month

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Instructors: Lisa Newman, Rita Latham,

and Lynda Assink

Certified instructors lead participants through a series of cardiovascular and strength training exercises specifically designed to improve flexibility and

health in senior adults.

Line Dance

\$10/class or \$40/month

Mondays 6:00 p.m.

Instructor: Darlene Epple

Learn a wide variety of line dances while exercising in a fun way, no

partner needed.

Martial Arts for Seniors

\$10/month

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Instructor: Andy Dillon

Learn age and physically appropriate traditional martial arts and practical

self-defense techniques.

Seated Yoga

\$5/class or \$30 for 6 (30 minute) classes Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Instructor: Lisa Newman

This class trains breathing and

focuses your mind.

Standing Yoga

\$5/class or \$30 for 6 (30 minute) classes Mondays and Fridays

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Instructor: Lisa Newman

Standing poses for strength and balance.

Senior Fit

\$15/month

Mondays and Wednesdays

12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Instructor: Sally Holly

Improve balance, flexibility, and strength through stretching and light weights for those recovering from recent illness, surgery, or neurological diseases.

The Complete Mix

\$15/month

Mondays and Wednesdays

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Instructor: Sally Holly

Intermediate circuit type exercise combining low impact cardio, balancing, stretching and strengthening exercises.

Tap Dancing

\$5/class

Wednesdays

2:30 p.m - 3:15 p.m. Instructor: Monica Russell

Beginning to intermediate tap dance instruction. This group performs at Ridgeland events and nursing homes.

Men's Bible Study

FREE

Tuesdays

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Men are welcome to join the group in person and everyone is invited to watch the recording on Facebook @RidgelandMensBible.

Men's Agape **Coffee Group**

FREE

Wednesdays

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

A group of men who meet together for coffee, friendship and good conversation.

Artmakers

FRFF

Tuesdays

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All mediums and artistic levels are welcome to join for friendship and encouragement. Come when you can, leave when you must. Bring your own supplies.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Ridgeland Garden Club

\$20/year

1st Tuesday of the month

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. A monthly meeting for those who love nature and gardening. Fun and educational programs served with a nice lunch. Please contact President Pam Stephens if interested in joining the waitlist at pstephens_jam1@comcast.net.

Bridge

Dates: 12/15, 1/19, 2/16 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A team trick taking game played with

a standard 52 playing card deck.

Ornish Group

FREE

Dates: 1/24, 2/28

11:30 a.m.

Participants all have a common goal of reversing their heart disease and improving their wellbeing.

Birthday Bingo

FREE

12/8, 1/26, 2/23

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to play bingo, win prizes and eat cake in celebrating all of the birthdays each month. Must sign up in advance, space is limited.

special senior events



Gun Safety Workshop

Thursday, January 12 8:00 a.m. – 12 NOON Ridgeland Recreational Center

Join Brad Harbour, owner of Action Firearms Training, in this fundamental class for gun safety and the laws of Mississippi.

- Coffee and refreshments will be provided
- Registration is required; please contact Neely Jones at (769) 235-9579 or at neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org
- Tickets are \$25 each











VALENTINE LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023, 12 NOON HIGHLANDS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Senior Adult Valentine Luncheon

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 12:00 p.m. Highlands Presbyterian Church 1160 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland

Enjoy this sweet event including:

- A delicious meal
- Delightful entertainment
- Door prizes

Don't wait too long to purchase your ticket, seating is limited. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at City Hall or Ridgeland Recreational Center.





To stay up-to-date on the latest from Ridgeland's Senior Adult Programs, sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by emailing neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org!

Neeley Jones

Senior Adult Coordinator

(601) 856-6876 neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org Facebook: facebook.com/ ridgelandsuperstarseniors Ridgeland Recreational Center 137 Old Park Trail Ridgeland, MS 39157



recreation & parks

senior adult programs

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Ridgeland Senior Adult Programs is to provide a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment where adults over 50 can come to participate in activities to enhance their physical, mental and emotional well-being.

About the Chamber

BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

By Linda Bynum, Executive Director of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce



THE RIDGELAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - 754 SOUTH PEAR ORCHARD ROAD

The Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce is keeping members and the community connected and making an impact through a variety of programs. For example, the Chamber's annual October Fall Golf Classic at Lake Caroline Golf Club provides Chamber members and guests with a fun day of golfing, networking, and good sportsmanship.

"Our Ridgeland Chamber Golf Classic has grown in popularity," said Linda Bynum, Executive Director of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce. "Over 100 golfers enjoy

a relaxing and fun day, delicious lunch, snacks and drinks, and an opportunity to win a two-year lease on a new Mercedes C300 Sedan sponsored by Mercedes-Benz of Jackson."

For 29 years, the mission of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce has been to encourage an environment conducive to the continuing development of new and existing businesses. With a membership of 900, the Chamber is composed of corporations, service businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals who share the Chamber's goal of promoting and

maintaining a healthy business environment for businesses to succeed. If it's important to business, it's important to the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce.

2022 was an exceptional year for the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce with ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings, grand openings, and well-attended Business After Hours socials. The Chamber continued its mission to enhance the economic vitality of Ridgeland by constantly setting new goals and offering fresh and innovative programs to Chamber members.

Chamber Programs

The Chamber's annual **CLAY SHOOT** – Held at Turcotte Shooting Facility, the Chamber's clay shoot brings Chamber members and guests together for a day of team building and great fun.

WOMEN TO WOMEN: A CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

features an inspirational and educational event designed for women of all ages. Held at the Country Club of Jackson, the event highlights prominent women who have achieved remarkable success and overcome many challenges and obstacles. Chamber members are encouraged to set up vendor booths to showcase fashion, accessories, and home décor.

RIDGELAND POLICE APPRECIATION WEEK celebrates

National Law Enforcement Week with the Ridgeland Chamber honoring our men and women in blue. The week-long list of events and activities include a memorial service honoring fallen officers nationwide. The Chamber distributes blue ribbons for the community to wear; provides 12 "Officer of the Month" gift cards and surprises all officers with fabulous goody bags containing items donated by Chamber member businesses. This year, Chamber members adopted

all 66 Ridgeland police officers, including Titus the canine officer with a life-saving Guardian Angel device, as well as a golf Guardian Angel lapel pin. A Guardian Angel clips onto the shoulder of an officer's uniform and provides super bright light which sends a warning signal to motorists that an officer is standing close to the roadway.

The Chamber's JUNIOR **DIPLOMAT LEADERSHIP**

PROGRAM is in its 21st year with 37 students representing area schools. "It is our hope that this program will instill in our young people the value of community service and the importance of making one's community the best it can be," Bynum said.

The Chamber's **NEW MEMBER BREAKFASTS** welcome new businesses and individual members while the Chamber's 40 Diplomats continue to represent the Chamber as goodwill ambassadors to the business community.

SHOP SMALL SATURDAY -

Celebrating Ridgeland's small businesses and the contributions they make to the City's economy, the Chamber partners with the City of Ridgeland and Visit Ridgeland to promote independently-owned

businesses by proclaiming the Saturday after Thanksgiving as Small Business Saturday.

The Chamber's annual SHOP **LOCAL - BUY LOCAL** is a pre-

holiday shopping extravaganza held in December which includes over 60 businesses showcasing their products and services. The Chamber partners with Visit Ridgeland and New South Radio, Inc. | Digio Strategies (Y101; MIX 98.7 and 93.5 The Legend) to promote Ridgeland as a premier shopping and dining destination through radio commercials and digital ads.

The Chamber's annual MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST, held at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, is a day of reflection and thanksgiving.

Open to the Ridgeland community, the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is one of the Chamber's most popular and well-attended events.

The Chamber's **ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET** drew

a sold-out crowd to hear The Luckenbach Willie Nelson Tribute Band as Chamber members and guests celebrated "On the Road Again!" after almost two years of limited socialization and networking opportunities.

CELEBRATING 29 YEARS

"It's an exciting time to live and work in Ridgeland," said 2022 Ridgeland Chamber President Ray Balentine, of the engineering firm Michael Baker International.

"As we celebrate our 29th anniversary, we will continue

to serve as a strong advocate for growth and development." Balentine said.

"With the fast growth in our City, our Chamber is taking a leadership role in helping to grow our economy and build a strong,

solid community for generations to come. The Ridgeland Chamber is all about making connections, fostering growth, and showcasing Ridgeland as a blueprint for success. If it's your business, it's our business, too!"

2022 Ridgeland Chamber Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Ray Balentine Michael Baker International

VICE-PRESIDENT

Kevin Rogers Wells Marble & Hurst, PLLC

TREASURER

Nathan Best First Commercial Bank

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

J. Chase Bryan
Christian & Small LLP

Dan Ambrosino Parkway Development, Inc.

Cecil Harper Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P.A.

Tim Magandy Robot Coupe USA, Inc.

Deonte Oscar Community Bank of Mississippi

Carla Palmer CPA Realty, LLC

Jay Reber CenterPoint Energy

Jeremy Rodden BankPlus

Tom Steadman
Tuxedo Junction

CHAMBER STAFF

Linda Bynum, Executive Director

Sandy Baas Administrative Assistant

City of Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce

present

Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Gene F. McGee, Mayor

Here We Go A Carolin' with



Colonial Heights Baptist Church

444 Northpark Drive Ridgeland, Mississippi Tuesday, December 6, 2022 7:00 a.m. ~ Continental Breakfast 7:30 a.m. ~ Profram

Tickets are \$15.00 and may be purchased at the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce 601-991-9996

Gold Sponsors

BankPlus • Cadence Insurance • CenterPoint Energy • Community Bank
Dean Architecture • Entergy Mississippi • Madison County Journal
John Dorsa—State Farm Insurance • Keesler Federal Credit Union • PriorityOne Bank
Michael Baker International • Neel-Schaffer, Inc. • Renasant Bank • Staffers, Inc.
Trustmark • Waggoner Engineering, Inc. • White Construction Company
Watkins Construction & Roofing • Wells Marble & Hurst, PLLC
The Township at Colony Park a Kerioth Corporation Development

THE RIDGELAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CELEBRATES SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENCOURAGES EVERYONE TO SHOP LOCAL.

Please support our wonderful Ridgeland business community this Holiday Season.



SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023
THE COUNTRY CLUB OF JACKSON





Ann Smith Elementary

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

By LaToria Washington, Art Director/Coordinator

Every Piece of the Puzzle Matters



There is no doubt that we serve many nationalities at Ann Smith Elementary. The demographics at our school are very diverse. To accommodate for our demographics, we chose the theme of "Every Piece of the Puzzle Matters," to represent our school.

Last school year, we hosted our first Annual Arts Cultural Field Day by choosing the country of Argentina. The students learned about Argentinian culture - including their food, music, and art. The artist we chose to study was Nicolas Romero Escalada. He was famous for the murals he painted on the walls of buildings in Argentina. We invited artist Brooks Evans to help with designing our mural, which represents our school and our diversity.

Students were eager to contribute to the mural. To represent every culture, all the students helped us

complete this project. After the mural was completed, students could remember which part of the mural they helped to complete by saying "I painted this block." Other students made comments stating, "That looks just like me." Their comments really demonstrated that this is one way we can show how "Every Piece of the Puzzle Matters." We all matter, no matter what our culture or differences may be.







Old Town Middle School

Grades 6-8 • 210 Sunnybrook Rd. • 601-898-8730 • www.madison-schools.com/otm

By Abbie Marbury, PTO Public Relations Chair

Old Town Middle School has already had a jam-packed school year! We bid a fond farewell to former principal, Crystal Chase, as she moved to Ridgeland High School. In turn, we welcomed new principal Levi Robinson, who comes to Old Town with twenty-six years in education, fifteen of which have been in administration. We are excited to see what the administrators have planned for our students!

This year's homecoming theme was "The Greatest Show on Turf," and our 6th, 7th, and 8th grades pulled out all the stops with their floats in the annual parade. The 6th grade's "Elephants" float won 1st place in the Community Division; 7th grade's "Acrobats" took 3rd place, and 8th grade's "Tigers" took 2nd place. Old Town's school spirit shined through, and we are so proud of the hard work and ingenuity shown by everyone who participated.

Old Town has a long-standing tradition of excellence in academics, arts, and athletics. This year is no different. The administrators. teachers, and students have been working tirelessly to "Move the Mark." As part of those efforts, Old Town has been utilizing a new online tutoring system called "Paper" that provides round-theclock live tutors for our students, and it provides those services in four different languages. The students



who made honor roll for the first quarter were given the opportunity to go to the movies on October 28th. We were impressed with how many students were able to attend. This year is already off to a great start! We can't wait to see what activities the Beta Club, Technology Student Association, Student Council, Band, Choir, Drama, and more have in store for 2022-2023!

Old Town's athletic teams have had quite a successful first quarter, too! Many of you may not know, but several of our teams are combined with and compete with the high school teams - girls' soccer, swimming, bowling, and crosscountry teams all have Old Town students on their team rosters. This year, Old Town had four students qualify for Regionals in crosscountry, and one of our swimmers

even qualified for North State! The 7th and 8th grade girls' volleyball teams made sure their hard work during summer camps and practices paid off for their winning season. Old Town's football team put up a good fight on the gridiron this year. We are certainly proud of them! Congratulations to all our athletes and coaches who have finished their seasons, and best of luck to the athletes and coaches who are starting their seasons - you make us proud to be Titans!

Lastly, Old Town has another long-standing tradition of service to the community. During the Jackson water crisis this September, Old Town students, faculty, and families rallied together to participate in Madison County School District's bottled water drive to provide safe drinking water to our friends and colleagues in Jackson Public Schools. As part of October breast cancer awareness, Old Town participated alongside Ridgeland High School's "Pink Out" events wearing pink on specified days. On October 27th, the school held a pep rally and fundraiser resulting in a donation of \$312.00 to the American Cancer Society. Old Town held a food drive in November to bless families in need over the Thanksgiving holidays. We are so proud of our Old Town families!

Ridgeland High School

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

By Jan Richardson

Quartet of Ridgeland High School Seniors Receive College Board and National Merit Commendations

Four Ridgeland High School seniors earned national honors for their PSAT scores; a College Board standardized test administered to students across the nation. Allen Richert was named a National Merit Semi-Finalist and Jayla Travis was named a National Merit Commended Scholar. The National African American Recognition Program, in conjunction with the College Board, recognized scholars Myles Moore and Unique Funchess. This is an honor for

academically exceptional African American students who have scored in the top 10 percent of the state on the PSAT.

All of these Titans are members of the Ridgeland High School band, and provide integral leadership and musicianship to the program. Drum major Katie Partridge also scored exceptionally well on the PSAT. "All members of the Ridgeland High School Band are in an environment to develop their leadership and interpersonal

skills," said Jill Wallace, Director of Bands at the high school. The student leaders are responsible for assisting with many tasks that go on behind the scenes to help a band program run successfully. These tasks help to develop time management, accountability, and the importance of working together to achieve a goal.

Arts education and academic excellence go hand-in-hand at Ridgeland High!



Ridgeland High Gridiron Star Ayden Williams Heads to the 2023 Under Armour All-America Nex+ Game.

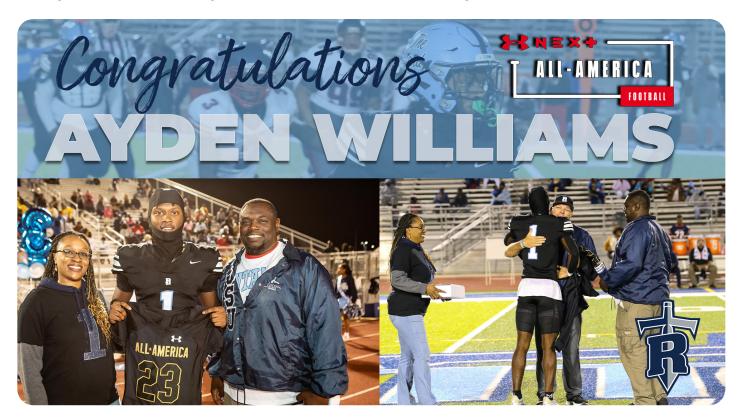
Accolades came almost weekly this season for senior 4-star Titan wide-receiver, Ayden Williams. The crown jewel of his season came with an invitation to the 2023 Under Armour All-American Nex+ Game. Ayden is the first Titan in the school's 20-year history to be selected for the Clarion Ledger first-team all-state. With stats like 69 catches for 1,256 yards, 15 touchdowns in 11 games his junior year and robust sophomore stats, he caught the attention of colleges

around the nation early.

Through his high school career Williams received offers from schools including Oregon, Florida State, Southern Miss, Louisiana-Monroe, Mississippi State, Jackson State, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, LSU, Mississippi State, and University of Mississippi. With much anticipation in August 2022, Williams committed to the University of Mississippi.

The wide-receiver also earned Blitz 16 Player of the Week, along

with Titan quarterback Garrison Davis. Williams was named a BankPlus Player of the Week. He was selected for Capitol Ortho's Mississippi Gridiron Team of the Week, along with Titan quarterback Garrison Davis, and will play in the All-Star Mississippi/ Alabama Game December 10, 2022 at the University of South Alabama. His teammate, widereceiver Ja'Braxton Boone, earned a spot on the Mississippi North/ South All-Star team.



SCHOOLS IN RIDGELAND

Williams wears #1 for the Titans and will be wearing #23 in the Under Armour All-American Game, which will broadcast on ESPN. More than 100 of the nation's best players are selected by Under Armour. Players spend a week in Orlando, Florida training and competing at the highest level.

Academics go hand-in-hand

with every sports program at the high school. "Ayden has grown so much as a person, student, and athlete," said Titan football Head Coach and Athletic Director, Teddy Dyess. "When report cards came out recently, he was so proud of making the honor roll."

"I believe his play speaks for itself on the field. He has brought a lot of positive publicity for our school and city. It's fun to watch him celebrate his teammates' success. This is a true sign of maturity," said Dyess.

Ayden Williams' Ridgeland community looks forward to following and supporting his career at Ole Miss and beyond.

Ridgeland High School senior band members

celebrate two decades of all-superior ratings, performed "For Everything there is a Season" for their fall marching program.



Holmes Community College

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

2022 Homecoming Court

Olasike Olagbegi, daughter of Miriam and Juwon Olagbegi, is a pre-med major who is active on campus. She is an Ambassador as well as a member of Student Government Association. Olagbegi and her family have a non-profit organization called Abraham's Table. "While on my path toward my goals, I plan to grow God's kingdom by drawing more people to Christ and by helping Abraham's Table prosper," Olagbegi said. Olagbegi was escorted by Jaylen Grays of Jackson.

Arian Felton, daughter of Monique Moore, Johnny Winston and Edwin Felton, is a business administration major. At Holmes, she is Student Government Association Secretary-Treasurer and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Upon graduation from Holmes, Felton plans to attend Jackson State University and major in business administration. She plans to become a realtor. Felton was escorted by Jordan Holly of Clinton.

Morghan McDonald, daughter of Mahalia McDonald and Larry Kennedy, Sr., is a criminal justice major. She is a member of the Student Government Association on campus. McDonald is also a member of Mt. Center Baptist Church where she participates in the youth department, youth choir and usher ministry. She is also the Sunday school secretary. McDonald was escorted by Jaylon Boarden of Ridgeland.

Kennedy Manning, daughter of Samantha and Mark Manning, is a pre-nursing major. Manning is a Holmes Ambassador and is employed as a personal assistant at an accounting firm in Flowood. Upon graduation from Holmes, Manning plans to apply to nursing school with the goal of becoming a travel nurse who travels/works across the country. Manning was escorted by Tommy Jacobs of Brandon.

Jamaiya Williams, daughter of Shameka Williams and Edward Williams, is a general studies major. Her long-term goal is to move out of state and open a medical clinic one day. Williams was escorted by Sean Jordan of Byram.



PICTURED ARE MEMBERS OF THE HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE RIDGELAND CAMPUS HOMECOMING COURT. THEY ARE (FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) ARIAN FELTON OF MADISON, MORGHAN MCDONALD O MADISON, STUDENT BODY MAID OLASIKE OLAGBEGI OF JACKSON, FRESHMAN MAID JAMAIYA WILLIAMS OF CANTON, FRESHMAN MAID KENNEDY MANNING OF BRANDON, (BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT]

JORDAN HOLLY OF CLINTON, JAYLON BOARDEN OF RIDGELAND, JAYLEN GRAYS OF JACKSON, SEAN JORDAN OF BYRAM AND TOMMY JACOBS OF BRANDON.



Knowledge • Community • Imagination

RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Madison County Library System 397 Highway 51 Ridgeland, MS 9157 601-856-4536 www.mclsms.org

HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday – Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Sunday

Study Hall

Monday - Friday 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Come do your homework, ask questions, and get connected with our Education databases, books, and more!

After School **Programs**

Ages 6 - 11 **Every Tuesday** 3:30 p.m. Come to the library after school and enjoy doing artwork, STEAM, games, and much more!

Coffee & Crawlers

Ages 0 - 3

Every Wednesday 10:30 a.m. Parents come have coffee and conversation with other parents. The little ones will have music, stories, and play.

Computer Hour for Adults

Every Wednesday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.; 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Come to Computer Hour at your library to get one-on-one assistance with basic computer use, wordprocessing, or Microsoft Office or Google

Preschool Story Time

Ages 3-5Every Thursday 10:30 a.m. Come enjoy stories, songs, and crafts with Ms. Summer!

Family Fun & Games All ages

Every Friday 4:00 p.m. Families come and play games together! Refreshments will be provided!

Lego Play Time All ages

4th Saturday of the month All day during regular library hours Come and make some fun things with legos!

Board Game Bonanza!

3rd Monday of the month All day during regular library hours Come by the children's department to play kid-friendly board games all day today!

Freedom Writers: Free Writing Group 3rd Tuesday of the month

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Free write all types of writing, from verse to a novel. The choice is yours, just love what you write!

Dewey Decimators: Non-Fiction Book Club (adults)

Last Tuesday of every month 11:00 a.m.

Do you like stories inspired by true events? Join us for a book club just for readers of non-fiction and (auto) biographies.

Presented by Madison County Library System

POPCORN FRIDAY!

Join us every Friday, at any of our branches for Popcorn Friday! Check out a DVD and receive a free bag of popcorn.

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



Computer Hour for Adults



EVERY WEDNESDAY 9:30-10:30AM 3:30-4:30PM **AGES 18+ COME GET ASSISTANCE FROM OUR STAFF WITH AN** ISSUE, A PROJECT, OR LEARN BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS.

Everyone

Individuality Embraced Here

events

DECEMBER

Christmas Tree Lighting Plaza at Old Town Crossing 6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Christmas at City Hall Ridgeland Green 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

2-3

Chimneyville Arts Festival Waller MS Craft Center 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Ridgeland Christmas Parade Old Town Ridgeland 1:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Colonial Heights Baptist Church 7 a.m. – Breakfast Buffet 7:30 a.m. – Program

DECEMBER

Pet Photos with Santa Northpark 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Pet Photos with Santa Northpark 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Crafters Holiday Market Ridgeland Public Library 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Noon Years Day Celebration Ridgeland Public Library 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

JANUARY

Ridgeland Chamber Annual Awards Banquet The Country Club of Jackson 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Senior Adult Program Valentine Lunch Highlands Presbyterian Church 12:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Ridgeland Chamber Business after Hours Wingate by Wyndham 5:00 p.m.





































Mix987







Rogers, Ainsworth & Williams, PLLC

















Ridgeland Departments



Public Works **ALAN HART** Director alan.hart@ridgelandms.org



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



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



Police Department **Brian Myers** Chief of Police brian.myers@ridgelandms.org



Recreation & Parks Department JOHN SIDNEY NORTH Director john.north@ridgelandms.org

CITY OF RIDGELAND

City Hall, 100 W. School St. • Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157 • 601-856-7113 • www.ridgelandms.org

Aldermen

D.I. Smith, Alderman-at-Large	601-940-2710
Ken Heard, Ward 1	601-201-7392
Chuck Gautier, Ward 2	601-506-5913
Kevin Holder, Ward 3	601-238-5361
Brian Ramsey, Ward 4	601-506-1979
Bill Lee, Ward 5	601-278-6256
Wesley Hamlin, Mayor Pro Tempore, Ward 6	601-454-0353

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City Directory
ANIMAL CONTROL animalcontrol@ridgelandms.org
ANONYMOUS TIP LINE (criminal investigations division)
CITY HALL/MAYOR'S OFFICE 601-856-7113
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (development, property maintenance, zoning, signs, permits)601-856-3877
COURT CLERK (traffic violations, misdemeanors and fines)
EMERGENCY (police and fire dispatch center)
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (business licenses, elections, meeting minutes, budget, public records) 601-856-7113
FIRE DEPARTMENT (non-emergency calls, safety education programs)
POLICE DEPARTMENT (non-emergency calls, public safety concerns)
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (roads, garbage, recycling, water, storm water)
RECREATION AND PARKS (special events, athletics and program registration, park information)601-853-2011

UTILITY BILLING DEPARTMENT (water, sewer, garbage, & recycling billing)

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), Connie Suber (Secretary), David Dunbar Randy Lynn, Robert Moore, Lynette Praytor Leigh Ann Sullivan

KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL

First Monday - 4 p.m.

Jan Richardson - Chairman

Rachel Bradley, Ginger Cocke, Polly Hammett, Claire Jackson, Phyllis Parker, Kenya Rachal, Lea Anne Stacy

COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE

Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.

Shelia Jackson - Ćhairman

Carla Palmer Allen, Ted Arich, Shirley Gill, Vicki Heath, Diane Jackson, Shelia Jackson, Lazaire Martin, Adams Yerger, Walter Young, Jr.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Every other month - TBA

Nancy Batson - Chairman

Robby Carr, Donna Dye, Polly Hammett, Mike Porter, Pat Truesdale, lim Woodrick

CONTRACTORS BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS

Quarterly meetings - 4 p.m.

Lantz Kuykendall - Chairman

Terry Evans, David Pursell, Steve Rimmer, Clay Sutherland, Keith West

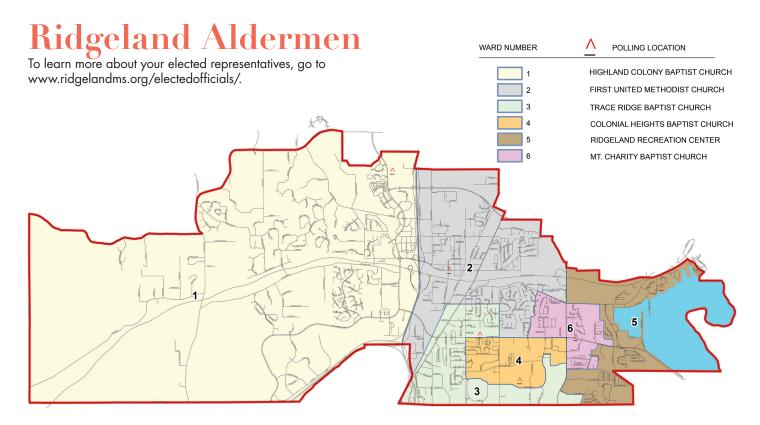
ZONING BOARD

Thursdays, the week of Mayor and

Board of Aldermen meeting - 6 p.m.

Bernie Giessner - Chairman

Michelle Caballero, Jim Collette, Walter Cox, Theresa G. Kennedy, Drew Malone, Larry Miller, Judy Rice





D.I. Smith Alderman At-Large 601-940-2710 DI.Smith@RidgelandMS.org



Ken Heard *Ward 1* 601-201-7392 Ken.Heard@RidgelandMS.org



Chuck Gautier
Ward 2
601-506-5913
Chuck.Gautier@RidgelandMS.org



Kevin Holder Ward 3 601-238-5361 Kevin.Holder@RidgelandMS.org



Brian Ramsey
Ward 4
601-506-1979
Brian.Ramsey@RidgelandMS.org



Bill Lee Ward 5 601-278-6256 Bill.Lee@RidgelandMS.org



Wesley Hamlin Ward 6 Mayor Pro Tempore 601-454-0353 Wesley.Hamlin@RidgelandMS.org



Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Events this Quarter

DEC

Christmas in Ridgeland

- Christmas Tree Lighting: First Thursday in December
- Christmas at City Hall: First Friday in December
- Christmas Parade: First Saturday in December

FEB

Senior Adult Valentine Luncheon

- Join friends for lunch and entertainment
- First Tuesday in February