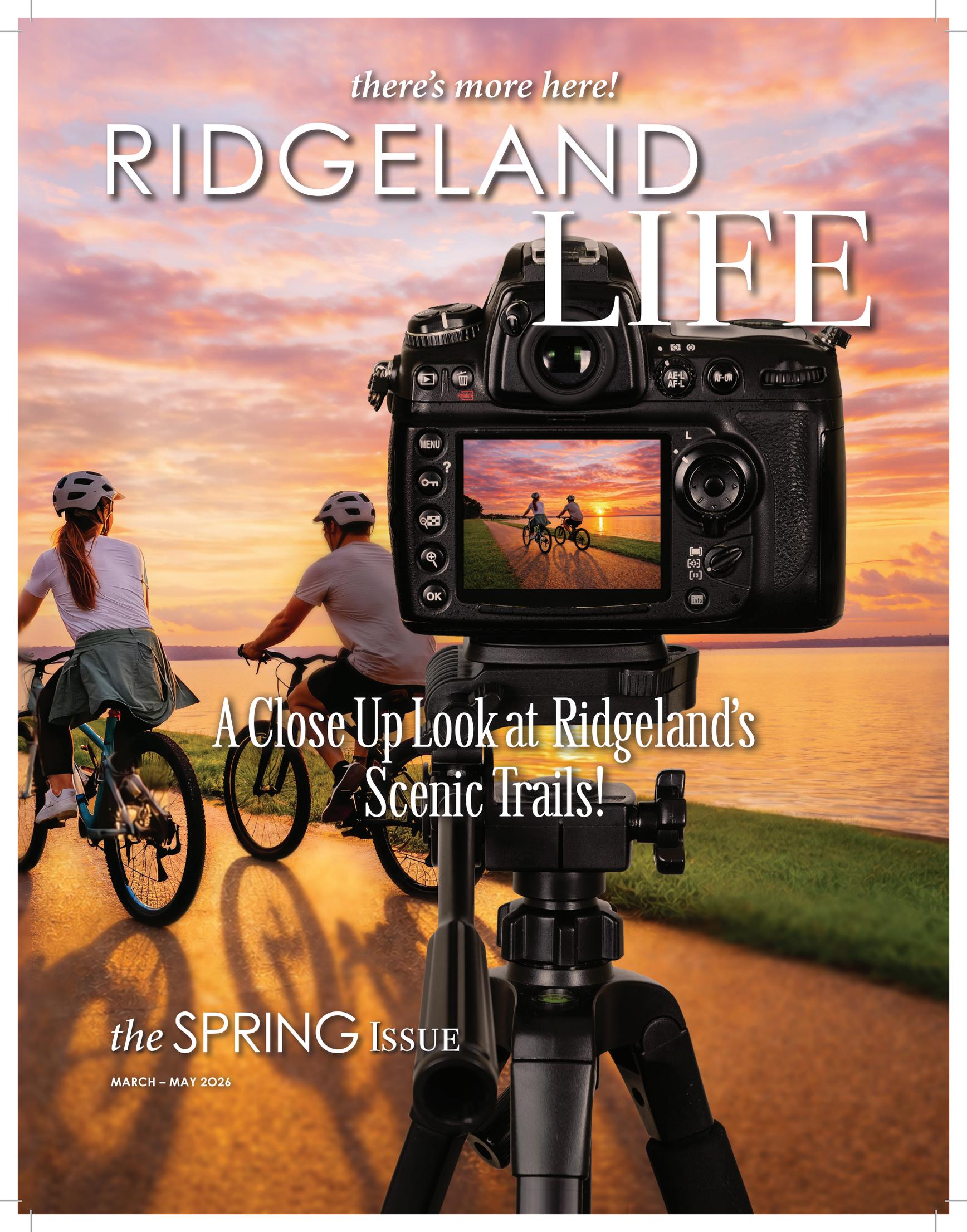


there's more here!

RIDGELAND LIFE



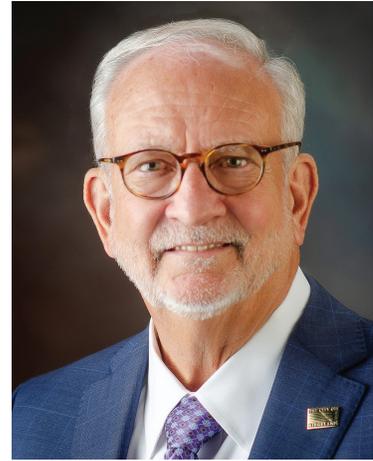
A Close Up Look at Ridgeland's
Scenic Trails!

the **SPRING** ISSUE

MARCH – MAY 2026

FROM THE MAYOR

Gene McGee



2025 was an exceptional year for the City of Ridgeland. Our economy maintained strong momentum, reflecting continued growth and progress across our community.

Retail development along Highland Colony Parkway near Costco has exceeded expectations, and the AWS facilities currently under construction at the south end of Highland Colony Parkway will be a tremendous asset—not only for Ridgeland, but for Madison County and the entire State of Mississippi.

Even with all of this progress, I truly believe that 2026 will be an even more exciting year for our local economy. The recent announcement of a grant of more than \$15 million to transform Jackson Street and the Railroad District into a true downtown is a significant game-changer. This vision began many years ago, and I am thrilled to see it becoming a reality. It is yet another example of the thoughtful development that continues to make Ridgeland one of the best places to live and work.

As I mentioned in my last letter, I am also excited about the complete renovation of Wheatley Street from Lake Harbour Drive to Town Center. This long-awaited project would not be possible without the tremendous assistance of Madison County, and I am very grateful for their partnership. Additionally, the milling and overlay of Lake Harbour Drive from Christine Drive to Northpark Drive will be a significant improvement. We are fortunate to have secured funding for this project, and I look forward to its completion in 2026.

I know I sometimes get on my “soapbox” about recycling, but I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for each of us to participate in our weekly recycling program. While many of our citizens are committed recyclers, it is discouraging to see recyclable materials placed in garbage bins on collection days.

I encourage everyone to review the list of eligible recycling items and to participate in recycling day each

Wednesday. Sending recyclable materials to the landfill increases the City’s costs and is environmentally unsuitable. Taking just a few minutes to separate recyclables can make a real difference—and, if you’re like me, it will significantly reduce the amount of waste going into your garbage bin.

Gene F. McGee

RIDGELAND LIFE

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

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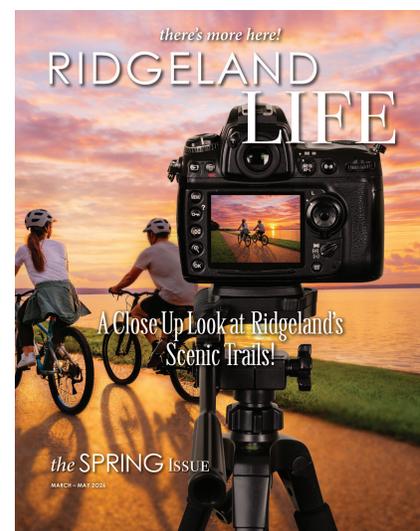
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“ One of the best ways to experience Ridgeland is at the trail level—where nature and everyday life intersect. In this issue, we’re excited to highlight the paths that make our City such a connected and welcoming place to explore. I’m also excited to launch in this issue a new cover series that features the wonderful talent of our local area photographers. ”

Kim

Kim Cooper,
Editor/Director of Public Relations



Trail photography by Ron Blaylock

TELLING RIDGELAND'S STORY: THE RAILROAD DISTRICT- ROOTED IN HISTORY



By Polly Hammett

One of those rare, glorious January days provided the perfect backdrop as members of Keep Ridgeland Beautiful joined ladies from the Ridgeland Garden Club and the City's Public Works team for an hour of weeding and daffodil planting at the clock tower on Jackson Street. As always, many hands made light work, and the area was looking great in no time.

The afternoon also gave me a chance to “go walk-about” through what is now known as the Railroad District. When I reached the Plaza, a young couple was enjoying lunch at one of the tables. I introduced myself and met the Hindts, newlyweds who shared that they try to have lunch at the Plaza at least once a week. It was a pleasure to see the space enjoyed exactly as it was intended.

Does your morning commute take you through Old Town? Are you too focused on traffic to actually look at the stores, businesses, and restaurants on Jackson Street? What do you know about the history of this area now known as The Railroad District?

Let me take you back to the turn of the century...1899 to 1900.

It snowed on New Year's Eve as the newly chartered Village of Ridgeland bravely faced a new century. Centered around what was then the Illinois Central Railroad, with little more than a depot and hotel, Mayor Pardon L. Porter and some 150 residents lived and worked in the area bordered by what is now Highway 51 on the east, Sunnybrook Road on the west, Ridgeland Avenue to the north, and School Street to the south. The village consisted of less than one square mile.

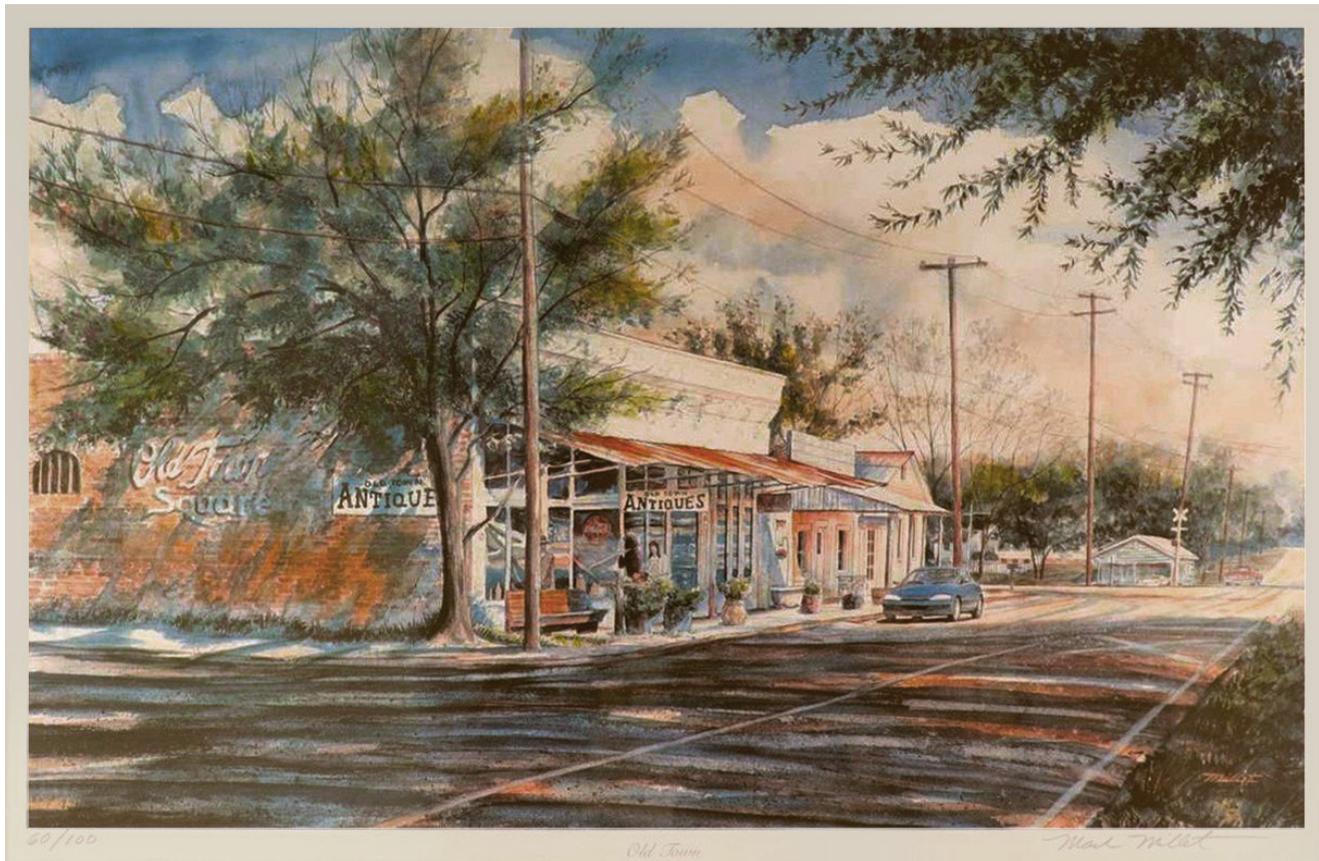
Early buildings included a town hall that was also used as a school.

Ridgeland Wagon Works and Devilling's Drug Store were also on Jackson Street. A fire destroyed almost every structure in the village in 1902. But the people were

determined! Ridgeland Gin was built in 1904, and Ridgeland Canning Company opened in 1908. A school was built in 1910, and a teacher, Annie Bethel of Kentucky, was hired. Adcock's Grocery and Grist Mill, Carr Butcher Shop, and a saw mill were built in the 1920s.



IN THIS PHOTO: Plaza at Old Town Crossing



IN THIS PHOTO: Old Town as seen from this painting by artist, Mark Millet.

Electricity came to Ridgeland in 1927.

Simon Hill Missionary Baptist Church was established in 1874 and was located on what is now Sunnybrook Road. Three more churches were established: Presbyterian (1899), Episcopal (1900), and Methodist (1901). The Baptist Church was established in 1947.

From 1950 to 1980, the town expanded by 1.5 square miles and grew to over 5,000 residents. There were several grocery stores along Jackson Street, with the Post Office located in the Pentecost Grocery. The water tower was located on the south side of town between Jackson Street and School Street. When this tower fell over (some said it was due to train vibrations), it caused quite a commotion.

Traveling to Ridgeland on I-55 in the early 70s, you would take the Tougaloo exit. At

that time, County Line Road was a rural two-lane road and did not merit an exit off the new interstate. Highway 51 and Jackson Street were also two-lane roads. The Reservoir was reached by taking County Line Road to Old Canton Road to Spillway Road. The most prominent business on Highway 51 was Henderson's Garage, built in 1936. There were no traffic lights and very few stop signs.

The Tucker, Adcock, Oakley, Battley, Horn, Speaks, Sharp, Jurgens, and Ross families lived on Jackson Street. On the streets north of Jackson Street, the Henderson, Hart, Sturdivant, Collins, Carr, Harris, Crawford, and many other families lived. When I moved to Old Town in 1988, I met many of these families. Some of them had lived in Ridgeland for more than 60 years! Where there were once pastures and wooded land, there are now streets lined with lovely homes. I am happy to see that

the residents still get out and walk in their neighborhood just as we did when I first moved there.

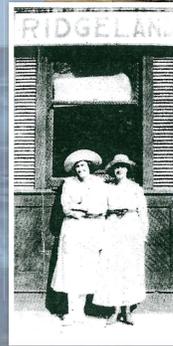
In the 1990s, an Overlay District was approved for Jackson Street. This led to what you see today. I remember when the first projects were presented to and approved by the Architectural Review Board. It was an exciting time for the City.

Since that time, with input from the Historical Society of Ridgeland and local business owners, the original village has been designated "Old Town," and the business district on Jackson Street has been designated "The Railroad District." Along with the stores, businesses, and restaurants along Jackson Street, a Plaza and parking spaces now surround the area on either side of the railroad. Spacious sidewalks line the street. A beautiful Christmas tree is lit each year at the Plaza,

RIDGELAND AND THE RAILROAD

Like many communities, Ridgeland's early growth was due in large part to the presence of the railroad. Access to an existing railroad greatly influenced Edward Treacle and Gorton Nichols of the Highland Colony Company to develop the fertile farmland that would become the Village of Ridgeland. Many of the "first families" of Ridgeland traveled here by passenger train, and freight trains shipped locally grown fruits and vegetables to markets as far away as Chicago. The Ridgeland train depot was located along West Jackson Street.

The first railroad built in Madison County, completed in 1858, was the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern RR. The railroad was of major strategic significance during the Civil War and was the object of several Union raids which left it in ruins. It was restored in 1866 as part of the Mississippi Central Railroad and merged with Illinois Central in 1878. In 1972 the Illinois Central merged with the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio, then with Canadian National in 1998.



Although passenger trains no longer pass through Ridgeland, the Panama Limited, an "all Pullman" train, was a regular through 1971. The famous City of New Orleans passenger train passed through Ridgeland until the late 1990's.

AMERICA'S FINEST NIGHT OR DAY

PANAMA LIMITED
Streamlined, luxurious all-Pullman overnight service. Travel the Panama way, start at the end of the business day.

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
Mid-America's most popular train. Swift, smart, thrifty all-couch Dayliner. All modern conveniences.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL
MAIN LINE OF MID-AMERICA

CHICAGO
ST. LOUIS
LOUISVILLE
MEMPHIS
NEW ORLEANS

explore
RIDGELAND

the city of
RIDGELAND



and the Ridgeland Christmas Parade makes its way from Holmes Community College through Old Town and back. In 2023, Walt Grayson's *Your Hometown* made a stop at the Plaza, and we heard the most memorable rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" ever sung!

My cellphone lit up when the old Pentecost Grocery was torn down. But a beautiful building with unique features is planned for that location. I urge you to take a walk through the Railroad District. There is wonderful shopping, good food, and so much more. Please read the History Trail signs and learn more about the early days of Ridgeland.

IN THIS PHOTO: Steven Bryant sings "The Star Spangled Banner" on Walt Grayson's "Your Hometown" from August, 2023.

In the early days this was the civic and business district of Ridgeland. Homes, stores and businesses, the town hall, school, library, and post office were located along Jackson Street. A special thank you goes out to Pat Butler Truesdale for sharing her memories of Old Town.

There are exciting changes ahead! Watch for further announcements from the City about upcoming enhancements to the Railroad District.

Meanwhile, we strive to gather stories, present programs, and offer other ways to educate all our residents about Ridgeland. Do you have stories, photographs, or memories to share? Please contact the Historical Society of Ridgeland through kim.cooper@ridgelandms.org.

RIDGELAND LIFE COVER SERIES: RON BLAYLOCK PHOTOGRAPHY

Ron Blaylock Photography
117 North Wheatley Street
Ridgeland, MS

By Kim Cooper

This year's *Ridgeland Life* cover series showcases the natural beauty and outdoor amenities that shape the lifestyle of our City.

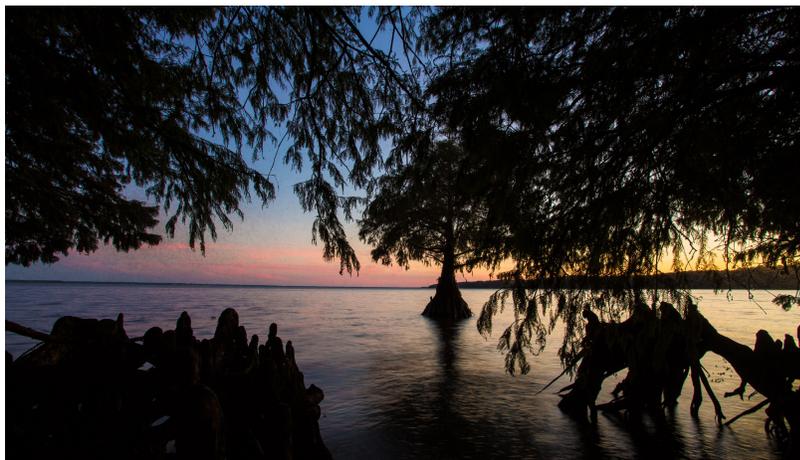
As part of this focus, we are showcasing local photographers' work and exploring, through their lens, a few of Ridgeland's special places in nature.

Ron Blaylock's cover photo captures one of the City's favorite outdoor pastimes – spending time on multi-use trails. Ron's photography studio is located in the heart of Ridgeland in Old Town. Thank you, Ron, for being a part of the 2026 cover series.

Ron Blaylock has been shooting professionally for over 25 years for editorial, commercial, and individual clients around the country. His art has been shown at the New Orleans Museum of Art and is in the permanent collection of the Mississippi Museum of Art.



ABOVE: Ron at the Studio. Photo courtesy of Chris Todd



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Three sample photographs from Ron's portfolio.

WHERE THE PATH LEADS: DISCOVERING RIDGELAND'S SCENIC TRAILS

By Kim Cooper

Ridgeland has long embraced outdoor living, and few things reflect that commitment more clearly than the City's extensive trail system. With miles of paved multi-use paths, wooded trails, and even a walk through history, Ridgeland offers residents and visitors countless ways to enjoy the outdoors while staying connected to the places that make the City special.

Connected by Multi-Use Trails:

Ridgeland's multi-use trail system includes more than 19 miles of paved pathways designed for walking, running, and biking. Thoughtfully planned and strategically placed, the trails connect neighborhoods, parks, schools, and popular destinations, making them a natural part of everyday life for many residents and visitors.

One of the most well-known routes is the Chisha Foka Trail, which runs east to west across the City and remains a favorite among nature lovers. Whether used for daily exercise, family bike rides, or simply a quiet walk outdoors, Ridgeland's multi-use trails provide safe, accessible routes for people of all ages and abilities.

The Chisha Foka Trail is also one of Ridgeland's most scenic experiences, running alongside the Natchez Trace Parkway. Winding through wooded areas and gentle terrain, the trail offers a peaceful retreat from the bustle of daily life. Its name comes from a historic Choctaw settlement and means "among the post oaks," a fitting description for a trail surrounded by mature trees and natural beauty.



IN THIS PHOTO: Chisha Foka Trail (courtesy of Explore Ridgeland)

Mountain Biking in the Woods:

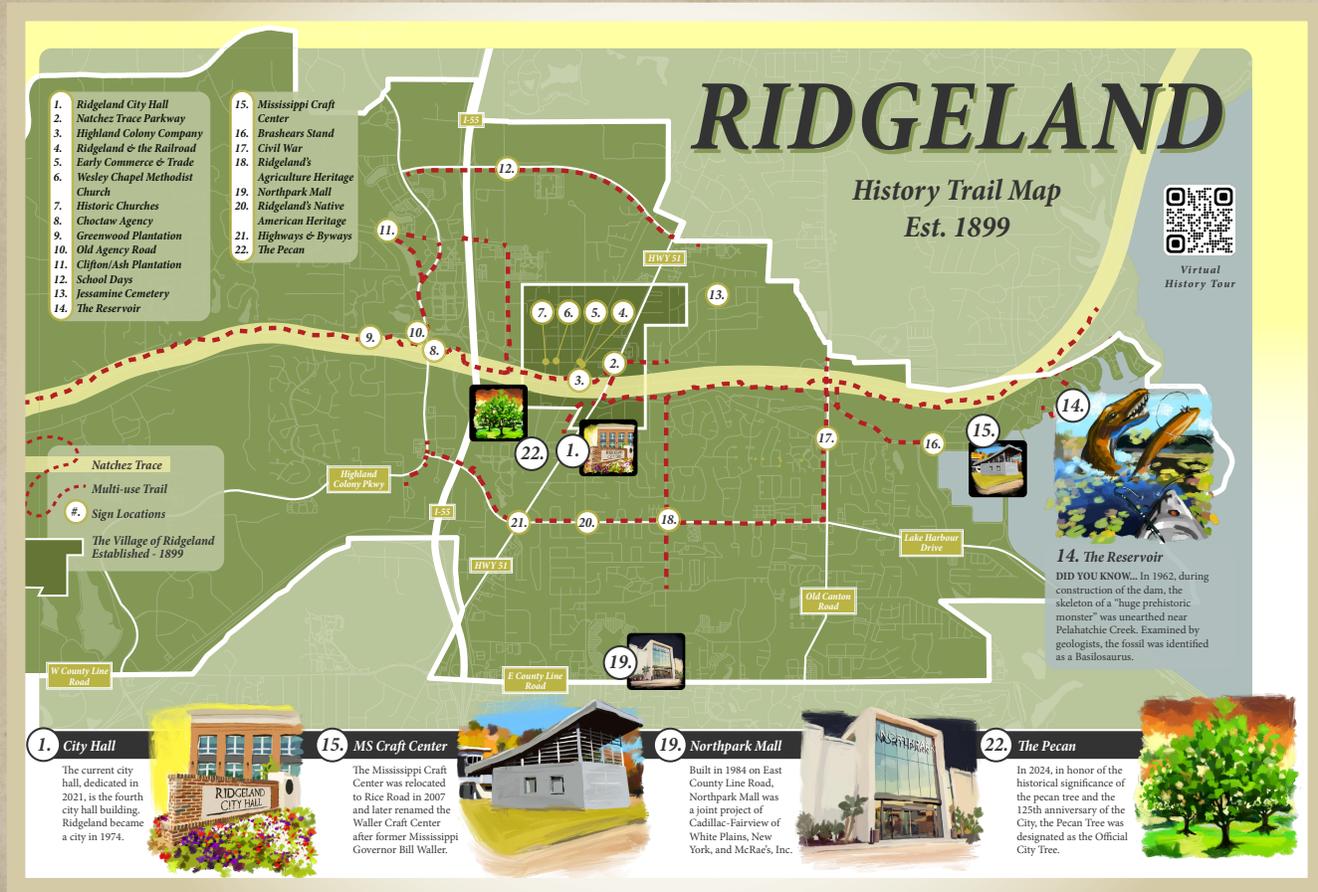
For those seeking a bit more adventure, Ridgeland's mountain bike trails offer miles of single-track through wooded areas. These trails provide a fun and challenging option for riders of various skill levels and add another dimension to the City's trail system. Maintained through strong community partnerships, the mountain bike trails are a testament to Ridgeland's active outdoor culture.

Walking Through History: Another unique trail unveiled during the City's 125th anniversary year is the Ridgeland History Trail. This trail brings the City's story to life through 22 interpretive markers. The History Trail highlights Ridgeland's early settlement, its railroad roots, and the people and places that helped shape the community.

The trail is easy to enjoy on its own or as part of a longer walk that connects to nearby sidewalks and multi-use paths. It offers a meaningful way to experience Ridgeland's past while enjoying the charm of its historic heart.

Looking Ahead: Ridgeland continues to invest in its trail system, recognizing the important role trails play in quality of life, wellness, and community connection. As the City grows, these pathways will remain an essential part of how residents experience Ridgeland—linking neighborhoods, parks, history, and nature.

An exciting new addition opening in the coming months is the trail around the Purple Creek Basin as part of the Freedom Ridge Purple Creek Basin Improvement Project. This new loop will include additional trail mileage and interpretive markers highlighting the area's ecosystem, creating



new recreational and educational opportunities for visitors to Freedom Ridge Park.

Additional future expansion of the trail system will include the East Lake Harbour Trail and the Steed Road Connector.

Together, Ridgeland's trails are more than routes from one place to another. They are places to gather, to reflect, and to enjoy the City at a comfortable pace—creating opportunities for connection every day.

For more information:

Chisa Foka Trails
www.nps.gov/natr/planyourvisit/chishafoka.htm

Ridgeland's Mountain Bike Trails
www.tricountymtb.org

Ridgeland History Trail
www.ridgelandms.org

IN THIS PHOTO: Tri-County Mountain Bike Association's Ridgeland Trails (courtesy of Explore Ridgeland)



CITY OF RIDGELAND RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

By Kim Cooper

The City of Ridgeland is proud to join communities across the nation in recognizing and celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States, also known as America250.



ABOUT THIS PHOTO: John Trumbull, Declaration of Independence, oil on canvas

In 2026, the nation will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This historic milestone honors the ideals of freedom and democracy upon which the United States was founded.

Ridgeland looks forward to being part of this national celebration by connecting America's story with the City's rich history.

The key event where Ridgeland will highlight America250 will be the 35th Annual Celebrate America Balloon Glow, scheduled for June 26. This long-standing community tradition offers a meaningful, patriotic setting to mark the nation's anniversary while bringing residents and visitors together in celebration.

Over the past few years, Ridgeland has launched several initiatives that highlight the City's history and origin stories, particularly

through the milestones surrounding its 125th anniversary. That work has created a natural and meaningful transition to celebrate the country's upcoming milestone, building on the City's commitment to honoring the past while looking toward the future.

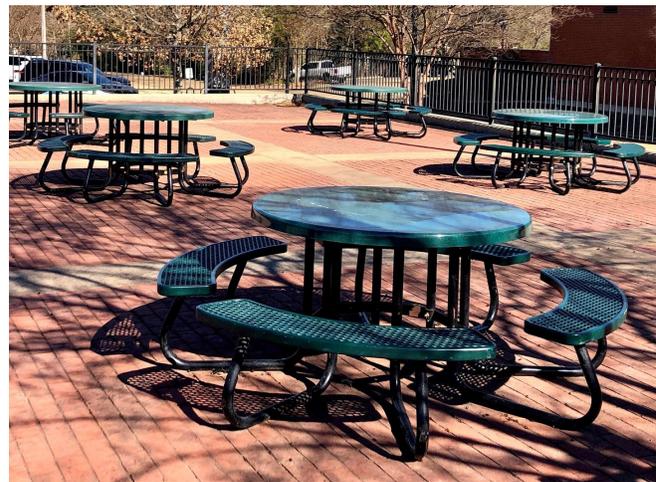
The Historical Society of Ridgeland is taking this opportunity to recognize members of families of Ridgeland and Madison County who served our nation in the fight for independence. If you have any pictures or stories of family members who served our country to gain independence from 1776 through WWI (1918), please contact Kim Cooper at kim.cooper@ridgelandms.org. The stories and pictures will be added to the Ridgeland Historical Society History Room in celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary. The Society would like to collect any memorabilia by April 1st.

“ America's 250th anniversary gives communities an opportunity to reflect on our shared history and the values that unite us. Ridgeland has been proud to tell its own story in recent years, and we look forward to continuing that tradition as we recognize this important moment in our nation's history. ”

Mayor Gene F. McGee

KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL: PARTNERSHIPS AND AMERICA250

By Jan Richardson



Be our Guest: Partnerships Grow Picnic Areas In Ridgeland

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful continues its mission to create welcoming places for residents and visitors to enjoy the outdoors.

Recently, three new commercial-grade picnic tables were added to the Plaza at Old Town Crossing on West Jackson Street, bringing the total to five. All of the picnic tables were donated to Keep Ridgeland Beautiful by MVP Sonic Group, headquartered in Ridgeland, through a partnership with Keep Mississippi Beautiful and one of their board members, Joni McClain. Located just a block from an access point to Ridgeland's multi-purpose trail, the Plaza has lots of seating to take a break from a bike ride or walk on the trail or to enjoy a picnic.

Additionally, a brand-new picnic spot was created at the Ridgeland Wildflower Field and Art Park. Nestled under trees, this inviting area now features a picnic table and waste receptacle. Visitors are encouraged to pack

out recyclables and use the waste receptacles to keep our park litter-free. This project was made possible through a partnership with the Ridgeland Parks and Recreation Department and Keep Ridgeland Beautiful.

Keep America Beautiful's Greatest American Cleanup promotes Community Engagement

The USA will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026. This entire year is filled with commemorations and celebrations. Some readers may have found memories of the Bicentennial in 1976, fifty years ago. In anticipation of the event, please join us in signing the Keep America Beautiful Greatest American Cleanup pledge to make your community cleaner, greener, and more beautiful for America's 250th celebration and beyond. Keep Ridgeland Beautiful's aim is to encourage individuals to take actions to keep their community clean and encourage others to do the same. Join people across the nation who are taking the Greatest American Cleanup pledge.

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful also encourages patriotic beautification projects with red, white, and blue plantings for America250 in conjunction with the National Garden Club and Keep America Beautiful. Blue flowers can be challenging to find, so consider bringing blue into your garden with a blue gazing ball or flower pots. Please share your patriotic gardens with us on our Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Facebook page.



Explore *Flavor* in Ridgeland

You've heard about Ridgeland's award-winning restaurants. Now experience them for yourself with Explore Ridgeland's Culinary & Cocktail Trails. These digital passports support our restaurant partners while creating an inviting experience for visitors and locals to explore, taste, and savor Ridgeland's dining scene.

STOPS ALONG THE CULINARY TRAIL

Ridgeland, Mississippi has quietly built one of the state's most exciting dining scenes, earning a reputation for award-winning restaurants, elevated flavors, and expertly crafted cocktails. From chef-driven favorites like CAET to iconic steakhouses such as MM Shapley's, the city offers a range of dining experiences that feel both refined and welcoming. Add in beloved spots like Amerigo, Ely's, Anjou, and Sombra Mexican Kitchen, and you'll find a culinary landscape shaped by global inspiration, thoughtful ingredients, and Southern hospitality.



Flame-Grilled Salmon Filet, Amerigo Italian Restaurant



STOPS ALONG THE COCKTAIL TRAIL

Ridgeland's Cocktail Trail showcases a dynamic mix of stylish lounges, classic bars, and chef-driven restaurants, each offering its own take on the art of the pour. Sip handcrafted cocktails in a sleek, modern setting at the AC Lounge, unwind with an expertly curated selection at CAET's Wine Bar, or enjoy inventive craft cocktails at Local 463, where bold flavors meet refined technique. Together, these stops create a well-rounded cocktail experience that blends sophistication, comfort, and Southern hospitality—inviting locals and visitors to raise a glass and explore Ridgeland one sip at a time.

YOUR TABLE IS WAITING...

Ready to taste what everyone's talking about? Start exploring Ridgeland's Culinary and Cocktail Trails & discover your next favorite restaurant.



For more information, scan the qr code or visit us at [exploreRidgeland.com](https://www.exploreRidgeland.com).

explore
RIDGELAND

explore events



32.4450,
-90.1519

Ridgeland,
Mississippi

spring events

Get ready to explore spring events in
Ridgeland! Mark your calendars and
start planning today.

For events, visit [exploreRidgeland.com](https://www.exploreRidgeland.com).



explore
RIDGELAND

RECRE8

CITY SPRING EVENTS!

As spring brings fresh green back to Ridgeland, we hope you take time to enjoy all the City has to offer.

From our popular recycling program—helping us build a reputation as a “green city”— to our parks, trails, and community events, Ridgeland invites residents and visitors to get outside and get involved. We hope you discover an event or activity in the pages ahead that speaks to you and adds to the quality of life we’re proud to share in Ridgeland. Join us this spring and experience the fun Ridgeland has in store!





Dog Obedience

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is a program partner with The Jackson Obedience Training Club (JOTC). JOTC offers puppy, beginner, and advanced dog obedience classes.

- Classes start on March 17, 2026
- Classes are located at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, Old Trace Park
- Proof of vaccination by a licensed vet is required
- There is a fee for this program.

To find out more information about the 2026 spring classes, visit: www.jotc.org.



Miracle League Baseball

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

- Youth and adult leagues are available
- Youth games are played on Mondays
- Adult games are played on Tuesdays
- Registration closes on March 6
- Season begins on March 30
- Registration forms can be found at www.ridgelandms.org (forms tab)



Easter Egg Hunt

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks presents the City-wide Easter Egg Hunt!

- Photos with the Easter Bunny
- Egg Hunts by age groups
- Children ages 10 and under only are welcome
- One parent allowed per child in the hunting area
- There is no charge for this event.

Ages	Hunt Times
2 and under	6:10 p.m.
3 - 4 year olds	6:20 p.m.
5 - 6 years old	6:30 p.m.
7 - 10 years old	6:40 p.m.

Date: March 26, 2026
Time: 5:45 to 7:00 p.m.
Location: Freedom Ridge Park



Ride of Silence

The Ride of Silence is a bike ride to honor those who have been injured or lost their life to a vehicle collision while riding their bicycle. Cyclists remain silent during the bike ride.

- All level cyclists are welcome
- Route is approximately 8 miles
- This ride is a slow pace
- There is no charge for this event.

Date: May 20, 2026
Time: Ride greeting at 6:50 p.m.
Wheels roll at 7:00 p.m.
Location: Northpark



Father Child Fishing Tournament

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks presents the Father Child Fishing Tournament!

- Bring your fishing pole or rod and reel and bait to catch your fish!
- Prize winners are for ages 12 years and under
- Prizes are biggest fish, smallest fish, and most fish
- There is no charge for this event.

Date: June 13, 2026
Time: 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Location: Old Trace Park

27TH ANNUAL NATCHEZ TRACE CENTURY RIDE

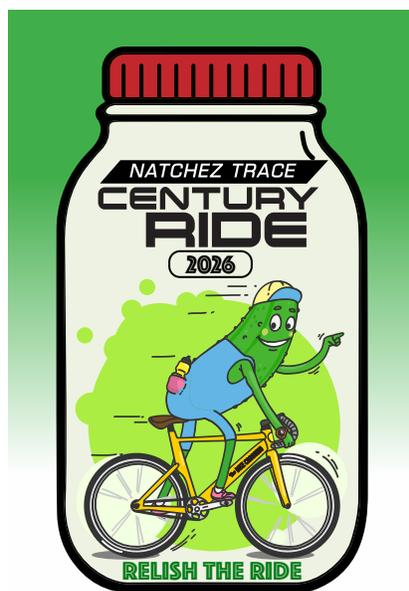
NATCHEZ TRACE
CENTURY RIDE 2026

SAT. MAY 2, 2026 · 7AM · OLD TRACE PARK
Presented in Partnership with Explore Ridgeland and The Bike Crossing

the city of **RIDGELAND** | **Recreation and Parks**

The Natchez Trace Century Ride—one of Mississippi’s premier spring cycling events—returns to Ridgeland on May 2, 2026. With nearly 1,000 participants expected, this popular ride begins and ends in the heart of the City and offers an unforgettable experience for cyclists of all skill levels.

Riders will enjoy an opportunity to travel along a scenic stretch of the Natchez Trace Parkway, taking in sweeping views of the Barnett Reservoir, riding beneath pine tree canopies, and passing tranquil cypress trees dotted with lily pads along the water’s edge.



Cyclists may choose from five route options—8, 25, 50, 62, or 100 miles—each featuring mild to moderate elevation to ensure an enjoyable and accessible ride for riders of all ages and abilities. Well-placed “energy” stops every 10 to 18 miles will provide food, refreshments, and restroom facilities, while SAG vehicles will be available throughout the day to offer support.

After crossing the finish line, riders can celebrate with friends and fellow cyclists. Participants will receive a commemorative medal, enjoy a post-ride meal, and unwind beneath the tent overlooking the scenic Barnett Reservoir.

For more information, please visit:
<https://runsignup.com/Race/MS/Ridgeland/NatchezTraceCenturyRide>.

SUPER SENIORS

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Exercise

Certified instructors lead participants through a series of cardiovascular and strength training exercises specifically designed to improve flexibility and health in senior adults.

\$15/month

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

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

Instructors: Martha Millsaps, Rita Latham, and Lynda Assink

Martial Arts for Seniors

Learn age and physically appropriate traditional martial arts and practical self-defense techniques.

\$10/month

Tuesdays and Thursdays

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

Instructor: Andy Dillon

Seated Yoga

Yoga practice connects the mind, body, and your breath. This class trains on breathing techniques and helps to focus your mind. Most of the class is done from your chair.

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

Mondays and Fridays

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Instructors: Martha Millsaps & Vickie White

Standing Yoga

Yoga practice connects the mind, body, and your breath. This class includes standing poses for balance and floor poses to improve overall strength.

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

Mondays and Fridays

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Instructors: Martha Millsaps & Vickie White

Senior Fit

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

\$15/month

Mondays and Wednesdays

12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Instructor: Sally Holly

The Complete Mix

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

\$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

Tap Dancing

Beginning to intermediate tap dance instruction. This group performs at Ridgeland events and nursing homes. Classes are \$5 each.

Mondays

Intermediate 2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Beginner 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Instructor: Monica Russell

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Move and Grove

Low impact, energizing movement combining dance, tai chi, yoga, and martial arts at your own pace. Enjoy rhythmic motions to stretch and invigorate. Wear comfortable clothing and "grippy socks" or barefoot - no shoes!

2nd and 4th Tuesdays

12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. - 30 Minute Sessions

Instructor: Sally Holly

Mah Jongg

Tile-based matching game for those who know how to play and complete the Charleston. Free sign-up, and registration is required.

Dates: 3/19, 4/16, and 5/21

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

Bridge

A team trick taking game played with a standard 52 playing card deck for experienced bridge players. Registration is \$1 per person.

Dates: 3/19, 4/16, and 5/21

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Breakfast Bingo

Play bingo and enjoy breakfast with friends. Registration is free but sign-up in advance, as space is limited.

Dates: 3/26, 4/23, and 5/28

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

SPRING WORKSHOPS

Spare Time Bowling Club

Join us for a fun afternoon of bowling—all levels welcome. Register by Monday, March 9 to 769-235-9579 or Neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org

\$8.25 fee
March 12, 2026
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fannin Lanes, 1145 Old Fannin Road

Golden Gamers: Mexican Train

Join us for laughter, friendly competition and classic games that you know and love! Whether you're a seasoned player or just looking for some good company, there's a seat at the table for you! Wound Management Specialists will be sponsoring this event.

April 2, 2026
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Ridgeland Recreational Center




DIY Fascinator Craft Workshop

SPONSORED BY SUMMERHOUSE BEAU RIDGE

APRIL 14, 2026
2:30 PM
RIDGELAND RECREATIONAL CENTER
FREE

Join us for a fun afternoon making unique fascinators in preparation of the Kentucky Derby!

No plans for the Derby?
Join Summerhouse Beau Ridge for their party on May 2nd at 5 pm - race will be live-streamed

RSVP TO NEELEY AT 769.235.9579 OR
NEELEY.JONES@RIDGELANDMS.ORG




senior adult programs

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

Neeley Jones
Senior Adult Coordinator

(769) 235-9579
neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org,
Facebook:
[facebook.com/ridgelandsuperstarseniors](https://www.facebook.com/ridgelandsuperstarseniors)

Ridgeland Recreational Center
137 Old Park Trail, Ridgeland, MS 39157



SPRINGTIME IN THE CITY

Ridgeland comes alive in the spring, inviting residents and visitors to get outdoors and explore.

From scenic trails that wind through natural landscapes to signature events like the upcoming annual Natchez Trace Century Ride, the season is perfect for fresh air and adventure.

Spring in Ridgeland also brings a full calendar of events that blend recreation, community, and celebration. From outdoor festivals and sporting events to peaceful moments along the trails, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

THIS SPRING

Household Hazardous Waste Day

Date: TBD

FIRST TUESDAYS

Ridgeland Garden Club

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Contact: joanhp19@gmail.com

MARCH 19

Ridgeland After 5

The Club at the Township

MARCH 26

Plant Swap

Ridgeland Public Library

1:00 p.m.

MARCH 26

City of Ridgeland Easter Egg Hunt

Freedom Ridge Park

5:45 - 7:00 p.m.

MARCH 28

Sheep To Shawl

Waller Craft Center

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



★ ★ ★

**MEMORIAL DAY
CEREMONY**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER
BRIGADIER GENERAL
JOE D. HARGETT**

Thursday, May 21 • 10 AM
Veterans Memory Park
Ridgeland City Hall



MARCH 28

First Ridgeland Baptist Church: Easter Eggstravaganza

Renaissance
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

APRIL 11

19th Annual Township Jazz Festival

The Township at Colony Park

APRIL 11

14th Annual Leap 4 The Lily Pad

Methodist Rehab Center Green Space

APRIL 11

Spring Silent Reading Party

Ridgeland Public Library
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 18

Dragon Boat Regatta

Old Trace Park
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

APRIL 28

Annual Chamber Awards Luncheon

The Country Club of Jackson
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MAY 2

Natchez Trace Century Ride

Old Trace Park
7:00 a.m.

MAY 8

45th Annual Pepsi Pops

Old Trace Park
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

MAY 9

Mother's Day Event

Renaissance
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

MAY 10 - 16

Ridgeland Police Appreciation Week

MAY 20

Ride of Silence

Northpark
7:00 p.m.

RIDGELAND... ALWAYS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Ridgeland
Chamber of
Commerce



By Linda Bynum,
Chamber Executive Director

The Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce is keeping members and the community connected and making an impact through a variety of programs. The Chamber's Annual Women to Women: A Celebration Luncheon is an inspirational and educational event designed for women of all ages. The event highlights prominent women who have achieved remarkable success and overcome many challenges and obstacles.



Ribbon cutting ceremony for Guaranty Bank & Trust Company, located at 405 West Parkway Place.

For 33 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 800, the Chamber is comprised of corporations, service businesses, and nonprofit organizations that

share the Chamber's goal of promoting and maintaining a healthy business environment that enables businesses to succeed. If it's important to business, it's important to the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce.

2025 was an exceptional year for the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce. With ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings, grand

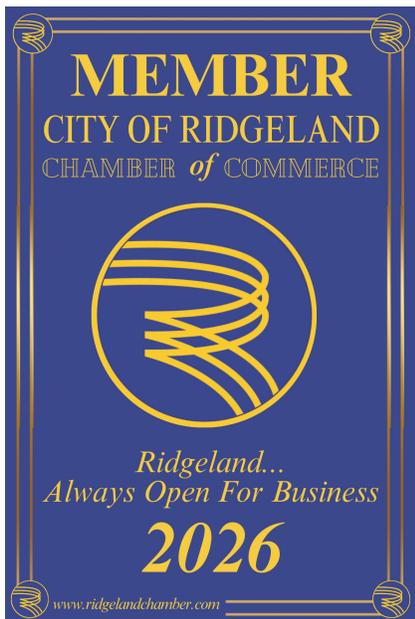
openings, and well-attended networking events, the Chamber continued its mission to enhance Ridgeland's economic vitality by continually setting new goals and offering fresh, innovative programs to Chamber members.

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS

“ It’s an exciting time to live and work in Ridgeland. As we celebrate our 33rd anniversary, we will continue to serve as a strong advocate for growth and development. 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 Always Open for Business. If it’s your business, it’s our business, too! ”

Nicky Cobb

2026 Ridgeland Chamber President
Guaranty Bank & Trust Company.



CHAMBER PROGRAMS

- **Women to Women: A Celebration Luncheon:** 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 After 5:** A quarterly business social held on the third Thursday of the month at a Chamber member location. The event, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., features delicious refreshments and fabulous door prizes.
- **Ridgeland Police Appreciation Week:** Celebrate National Law Enforcement Week with the Ridgeland Chamber honoring our men and women in blue. The week-long 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.

Become a Member of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce! Benefits for the Ridgeland Chamber include networking opportunities tailor-made for our members, increased business visibility on our website, ribbon cuttings, ribbon tyings, grand openings and ground breakings, social media support and promotion opportunities, referrals to your business by the Chamber office, and keeping you and your business in the loop on Chamber and City-wide projects and programs.

- **Diplomats’ First Friday:** The Chamber’s 30-member Diplomat Council meets for lunch at member restaurants the first Friday of every month. The Diplomats review upcoming events, share news concerning their business, and represent the Chamber as goodwill ambassadors to the business community. A Diplomat of the Month is recognized.
- **Scarecrow Shop Hop:** Held in October, Scarecrow Shop Hop celebrates Ridgeland’s small businesses and the contributions they make to the City’s economy. The Chamber partners with Explore Ridgeland to promote independently-owned businesses by encouraging residents and visitors to shop local.
- **Small Business Saturday:** Held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, as Small Business Saturday, the Chamber publicizes its members through social media, promoting their goods and services.
- **The Chamber’s Annual Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast:** This event is held at Colonial Heights Baptist Church and 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 Luncheon:** The luncheon always draws a sold-out crowd! Awards are given to the year’s Business of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Diplomat of the Year, and the recipient of the Community Service Award is named. The awards ceremony also includes naming the City Maker and the Economic Developer of the Year.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Awards Luncheon

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 Country Club of Jackson
 345 St. Andrews Drive, Jackson, MS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ridgeland After 5

Thursday, March 19, 2026
 The Club at the Township
 340 Township Avenue

Ridgeland Police Appreciation Week

Sunday, May 10 -
 Saturday, May 16, 2026

**Women To Women:
 A Celebration Luncheon**

Tuesday, August 25, 2026
 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 Country Club of Jackson
 345 St. Andrews Drive, Jackson, MS

Chamber Fall Golf Classic

Thursday, September 24, 2026
 Shot Gun Start – 1:00 p.m.
 Lake Caroline Golf Club
 118 Caroline Golf Club Circle, Madison, MS

Scarecrow Shop Hop

The Month of October
 In partnership with Explore Ridgeland

Shop Small Saturday

Saturday, November 28, 2026

Mayor's Annual Prayer Breakfast

Tuesday, December 8, 2026
 7:00 a.m.
 Colonial Heights Baptist Church
 444 Northpark Drive, Ridgeland, MS

**2026 Ridgeland Chamber
 Board of Directors**

President
Nicky Cobb
Guaranty Bank & Trust Company

Vice-President
Blake Mendrop
Mendrop Engineering Resources, LLC

Treasurer
Paul Koury
Huntington Bank

Immediate Past President
Cecil Harper
Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P.A.

Kevin Brown
Southern Ag Credit, ACA

Jake Clarke
NuWay Realty MS

John Dorsa
State Farm Insurance

Alan Grant
Dean Architecture

Tim Magandy
Robot Coupe USA, Inc.

Roy Moss
Atmos Energy

Daniel Pender
Community Bank

Kevin Rogers
Wells Marble & Hurst, PLLC

Chamber Staff

Linda Bynum, Executive Director

Peyton Torrence, Administrative Assistant



A young girl with long blonde hair, wearing a black cap, a white t-shirt, and a red and blue plaid shirt, holds a large map. A young boy wearing a tan bucket hat, a green t-shirt, and blue shorts, with a backpack, is taking a photo with a camera. They are in a forest with tall trees and sunlight filtering through.

School Highlights

RIDGELAND
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OLD TOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL



By Dr. Natasha May

Excellence in Every Season at Old Town Middle School



The Old Town Middle School Titans are champions in every sense of the word. Fresh off their Little Six Championship victory, these outstanding young women continue to shine far beyond the court. With an impressive team GPA of 3.5, the Titans exemplify what it truly means to be student-athletes—demonstrating that dedication, discipline, and perseverance lead to success both academically and athletically.

Each day, these young ladies model leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship, proudly representing Old Town Middle School with class and integrity. Their commitment to excellence in

the classroom and on the field sets a powerful example for their peers. Special recognition is extended to Coach Collier, whose guidance and mentorship have played a vital role in helping these scholars succeed both on and off the court.

As the winter sports season comes to a close, our school community celebrates these achievements while eagerly embracing the opportunities of spring. With track season now in full swing and state testing approaching, our scholars continue to rise to the challenge—balancing athletic commitment with academic focus, determination, and resilience.



“ At Old Town Middle School, excellence is evident in every season. Whether on the court, on the track, at the chessboard, in the robotics arena, or in the classroom, our students continue to grow as leaders and learners—proving that success is built through hard work, creativity, and a shared commitment to achievement. ”

Levi Robinson

Principal, Old Town Middle School

Academic enrichment and innovation are also thriving at Old Town Middle School. Our Pathways students recently demonstrated outstanding strategic thinking and sportsmanship at a chess tournament, earning top honors among their peers. Congratulations to Fernando Lira Aguilar, who captured 1st place; Jasper Edwards, who earned 2nd place; and Nathan Elleson Diaz, who secured 3rd place. Noah Ervin and Khilyn Owens tied for 4th place, rounding out an impressive showing for OTMS.

Innovation was also on full display as Old Town Middle School hosted a VEX IQ Robotics Competition for middle schools across the area. Featuring a creative Robo-Circus theme, the event celebrated collaboration, problem-solving, and technical skill. The OTMS Tech-Titans team stood out for their creativity and school spirit, earning the Best Decorations award.

Learning continues beyond competition as well. This semester, Mrs. McKenzie's and Mrs. Gibens' sixth-grade science classes partnered to engage students in hands-on learning centered on healthy eating habits and sustainability. Students



are working to plant a school garden and connect science instruction to real-world applications that promote lifelong wellness.

Enhancing this experience, Mr. Corey Ray of Mississippi State University's Extension Services visited the sixth-grade science classrooms to guide students in making

healthy food choices. He also provided seeds and plants to support the garden project. We are grateful for his continued partnership and commitment to enriching student learning.

RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

By Keshia Williams



Faculty and Staff Highlights: Ridgeland High School is proud to recognize two outstanding faculty and staff members whose dedication, leadership, and heart for students exemplify the excellence of the Ridgeland High School family. These women go above and beyond their roles each day, making a lasting impact on our school community through their commitment, passion, and service to others.

Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Fitzgerald. A veteran algebra teacher and department head, Mrs. Fitzgerald has dedicated years to helping students succeed, consistently fostering remarkable growth in her classroom.

This year, she led an inspiring Math Department initiative focused on increasing ACT math scores—an effort that reflects her strong work ethic, leadership, and deep passion for student achievement.



IN THIS PHOTO: Teresa Hughes

Thank you, Mrs. Fitzgerald, for your unwavering commitment to education and for the impact you make every day. You are truly an inspiration.

We are also proud to announce that Madison County Schools' Overall Paraprofessional of the Year is Teresa Hughes from Ridgeland High School. Ms. Hughes will represent our district for state recognition, an honor well deserved for her dedication and service.

RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

MS. FRITZ

*Thank You
For Your*

ESSENTIAL DAILY CONTRIBUTIONS!



HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Mary Margaret Busby



Holmes Holds Associate Degree Nursing Pinning Ceremony for Ridgeland Campus Evening Program



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus ADN Class of 2025, evening and weekend track students. They are (first row, left to right) Yasheaka Bell, Teresa Seymour, Yesenia Rivera, Jennifer Armitage, (second row, left to right) Diamond McCallum, Shelby Green, Madison Carpenter, Ruobing Alford, (third row, left to right) Kiara Williams, Cassidy Scott, Justin Warren, Ashley Ragan, (fourth row, left to right) Danielle Robinson, Mylia Engle, (fifth row, left to right) Jeremiah Allen, Wade Altobelli and (back row) Alexis Haynes. Not pictured: Destiny Rogers

Holmes Community College held its Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Pinning Ceremony for the Ridgeland Campus Class of 2025 (evening program) on December 10 at the Ridgeland High School Auditorium.

The ceremony marked the transition of nursing students into the professional field, symbolizing their readiness to enter patient care with skill, compassion, and integrity. Families, faculty, and friends gathered to honor the graduates for their dedication and perseverance throughout the rigorous program.

Dr. Bronwyn Martin, vice president of the Ridgeland Campus, welcomed attendees before Jennifer Armitage offered the opening prayer. Instructor Danette Tannehill

presented the traditional pin and candle symbolism, highlighting nursing's legacy of service and the significance of the Florence Nightingale lamp.

Instructor Dr. Tiffany Cox served as the announcer for the pinning portion of the ceremony, with instructors Virginia Applewhite and Coretta Carter presenting pins to each graduate. The Class of 2025 honorees included: Ruobing Alford, Jeremiah Allen, Wade Altobelli, Armitage, Yasheaka Bell, Sara Carpenter, Mylia Engle, Ashley Gaines, Shelby Green, Alexis Haynes, Tressie Johnson, Diamond McCallum, Ashley Ragan, Yesenia Rivera, Danielle Robinson, Destiny Rogers, Asia Sandifer, Cassidy Scott, Teresa Seymour, Justin Warren, and Kiara Williams.

Following the pinning presentation, instructor Cindy Bridges led the graduates in reciting the Florence Nightingale Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to ethical practice and compassionate care. Allen delivered the closing prayer.

The ceremony also recognized the ADN faculty of the Ridgeland Campus, including Program Chair and Assistant Director Dr. Alice Austin and instructors Virginia Applewhite, Dr. Jennifer Bertucci, Cindy Bridges, Coretta Carter, Dr. Tiffany Cox, Lakiesha McGowan, Danette Tannehill, Dr. Alicia Turner, and Niki Walker.

Holmes congratulates the Associate Degree Nursing Class of 2025 and commends them for their achievements and dedication as they enter the nursing profession.



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured is the Ridgeland Evening Program Practical Nursing Class of 2025. (front row, left to right) Instructor Mary Clayton Belk, Alishia Harmon, Koality Naylor, Jamonika Bacon, Ariel James, Latavia Pendleton, Instructor Candice Buchanan, (back row, left to right) Anasia Williams, Jasmine Edwards, Jessica Smith, Leah Miller, Cabrini Cooper, Cornesha McDonald, Donnisha Jackson, Alura Mack, Cherica Bouldin, and Melissa Patten.

Holmes Ridgeland Campus Celebrates Practical Nursing Class of 2025

Fifteen students officially entered the nursing profession when the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Evening and Weekend Program held its pinning ceremony Thursday, December 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the McGowan Workforce Training Center.

The Ridgeland Evening Program Practical Nursing Class of 2025 included Alishia Harmon of Crystal Springs, class secretary; Koality Naylor of Jackson; Jamonika O. Bacon of Jackson; Ariel R. James of Jackson; Latavia Pendleton of Hazlehurst; Anasia Williams of Jackson; Jasmine D. Edwards of Madison, class treasurer;

Jessica L. Smith of Coffeeville; Leah M. Miller of Madison; Cabrini C. Cooper of Jackson, class vice president; Corneisha A. McDonald of Brandon; Donnisha A. Jackson of McComb; Alura C. Mack of Florence, class president; Cherica L. Bouldin of Madison; and Melissa D. Patten of Pearl. Harmon also gave remarks on behalf of the graduating class. Miller was recognized as class salutatorian, while Edwards was named class valedictorian and received the Achievement Award. Williams and Naylor were also recognized for graduating with honors, earning a 90 or above average.

The ceremony marked the successful completion of the demanding program, preparing the graduates for the next steps in their medical careers. The class was guided by instructors Mary Clayton Belk, Dr. Christi Blair, and Candice Buchanan.



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured with the refinished Madison County fire truck are (left to right) Madison County Mega Site Alliance Fire District Board Members Bo Jordan and Calvin Garrett; Holmes Vice President and current Board of Trustees member Joe Adams; Holmes alumnus and Madison County Fire Coordinator Minor Norman, Madison County Board of Supervisors President Gerald Steen; Holmes Vice President Dr. Bronwyn Martin; Holmes Vice President for Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington and Holmes Collision Repair Instructor Casey Caldwell.

Holmes Collision Repair Program Recognized by Madison County for Fire Truck Refinish

During their monthly meeting, the Madison County Board of Supervisors recognized Holmes Community College's Collision Repair Technology Program on November 17 for its outstanding work in refinishing a heavy rescue fire truck for the Madison County Fire Department. The project, completed this fall, was designed to match the department's 9/11 Commemorative Fire Truck and has been praised as a significant contribution to both the county and local first responders.

Madison County Fire Coordinator Minor Norman, a proud Holmes alumnus with deep ties to the college, led the recognition. Norman not only completed the Industrial Maintenance program on the Goodman Campus, but also played base-

ball for the Bulldogs during his time at Holmes. His history as a student-athlete and his continued involvement with the college have made him a strong supporter of Holmes' career-technical programs and their role in preparing the local workforce.

During the Board meeting, Norman presented the finished rescue truck and commended the collision repair students for their professionalism, craftsmanship, and dedication to the project. He emphasized that the partnership with Holmes enabled students to gain real-world experience while enhancing the fire department's fleet.

Collision repair students Conner Campbell, Toba Ghazi, Timothy Pate, Everette Smith, Kendall Williamson, and Antonio

Wilson completed the painting and refinishing work under the guidance of instructor Casey Caldwell.

The recognition also highlighted the longstanding relationship between Madison County and Holmes Community College—a connection Norman has publicly championed, including earlier this year at a Grip N' Grin event, where he shared the students' progress on the truck.

Holmes' Collision Repair Technology Program provides hands-on training in automotive painting, refinishing, and structural repair, preparing students for careers in the automotive repair industry through rigorous, industry-aligned coursework.

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS



By Evanne Flanders

Join us for fun and exciting programs and events this Spring!

The Seed Library reopens on March 26. All seeds are free and come with planting and growing instructions. The seeds can be found in the repurposed card catalog located in the library lobby. Also, on March 26, we will have a plant swap at 1:00 p.m. There is no cost to attend.

We will have our **Spring Silent Reading Party** on April 11 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. This fun after-hours program is a great way to meet fellow readers and enjoy some quiet time reading. This program is for ages 18 and up. April 29 - May 4, we will have our annual Friends of the Ridgeland Library Spring Book Sale.

For Youth

For our youth, we have our new **Chess Club** led by Johnny Han and fellow members of the St. Andrew's Chess Team. This monthly program is an excellent way for kids ages 5 and up to learn how to play chess or brush up on their chess skills. There is no cost to attend, and chess sets are provided. To register, email Evanne Flanders at evflanders@mcls.ms.

For ages 13-18

We have a few new programs for ages 13-18. Our **Manga & Graphic Novel Book Club** is a bimonthly book club for teens who want to discuss their current reads with others. Each meeting will feature a themed craft or activity along with snacks and refreshments.

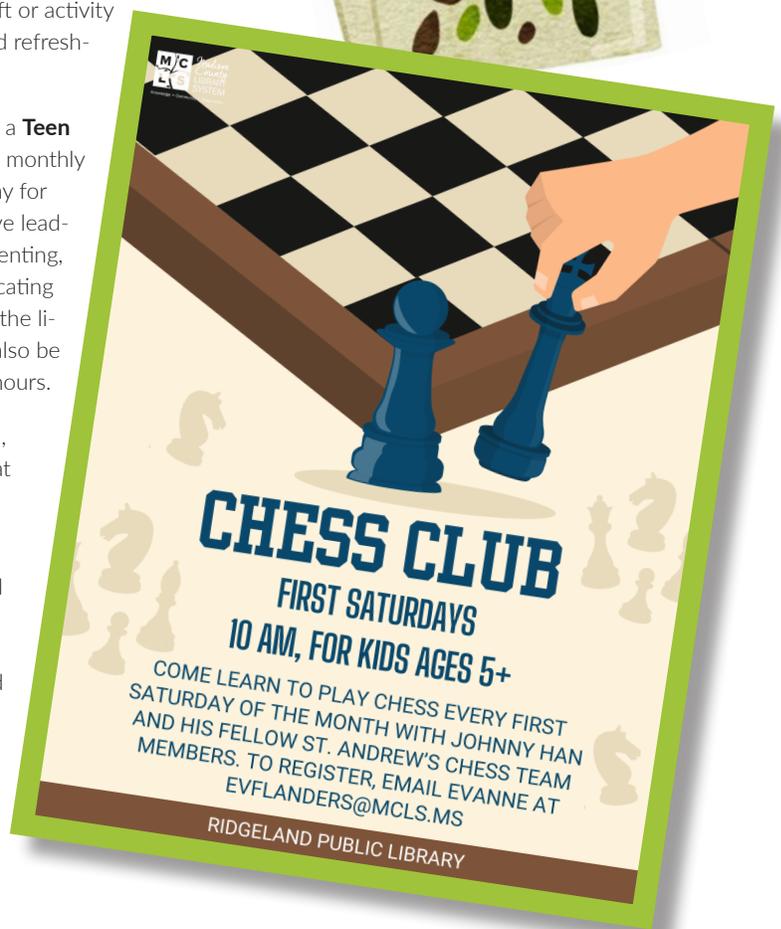
We have also started a **Teen Advisory Board**. This monthly program is a great way for teens to take an active leadership role in implementing, promoting, and advocating for teen programs at the library. Members will also be able to earn service hours.

For more information, email Summer Hays at shays@mcls.ms.

For more information on programs and upcoming events, visit us at mcls.ms.org, on Facebook and Instagram, or call the Ridgeland Library at 601-856-4536.

Page Turners

RIDGELAND
PUBLIC LIBRARY



VOLUNTEER CHAPLIN ADDED TO RANKS OF **RIDGELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT**

By Kim Cooper



The Ridgeland Police Department has added a meaningful new role to its ranks with the appointment of Dr. Mark Byrd as Volunteer Chaplain—an initiative rooted in service, connection, and care for those who serve the community every day.



IN THIS PHOTO: Ridgeland Police Department and Dr. Mark Byrd.

Dr. Byrd's involvement grew organically with the City of Ridgeland through his church's annual ministry themes and his long-standing commitment to the community.

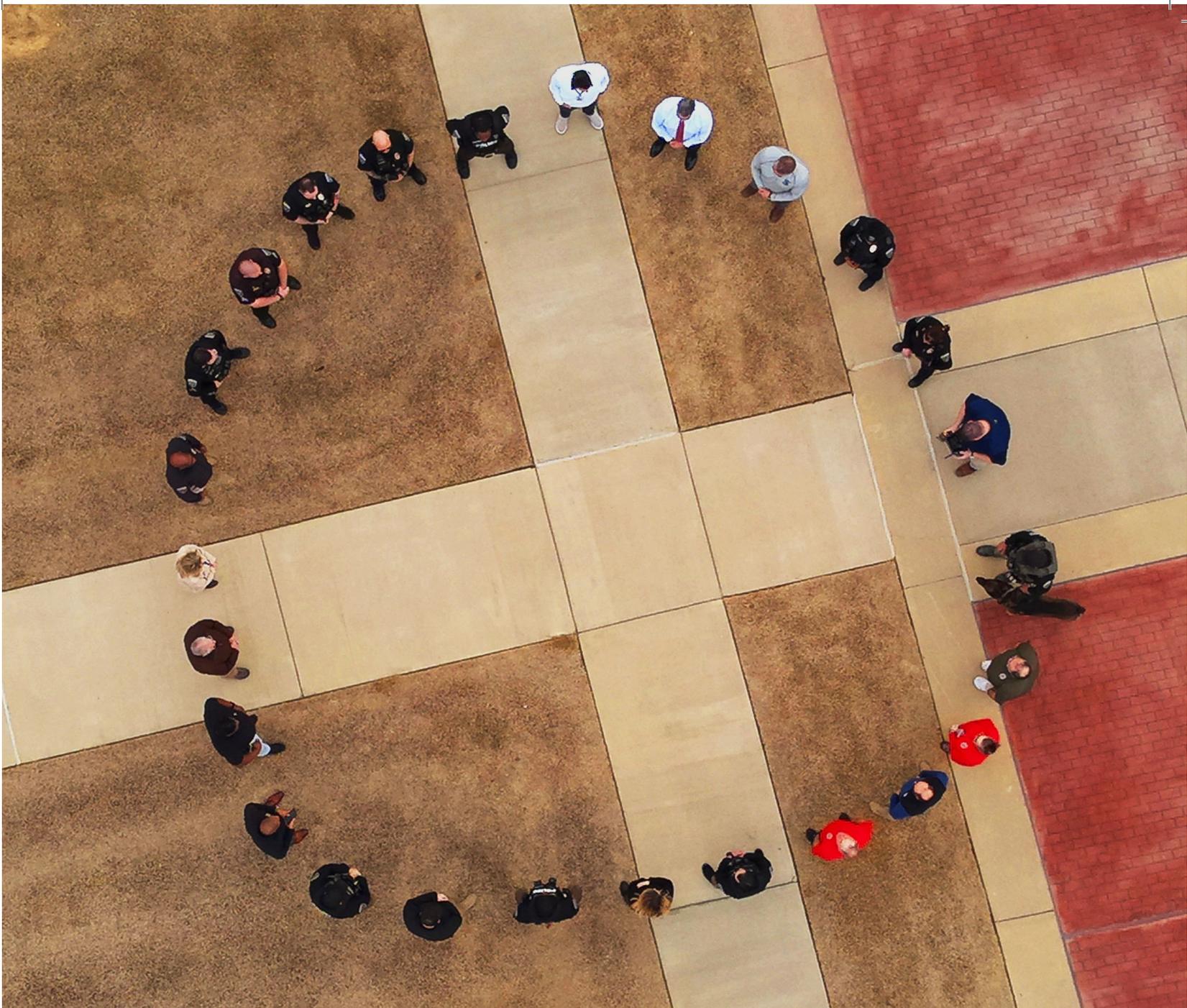
"I absolutely love living and investing in the City of Ridgeland," Byrd shared. "Each year I ask God for a new way to live out our ministry theme in our community." That desire led him to approach Mayor McGee several years ago about starting a Leadership Bible Study for City leaders, now entering its fourth year. Through that study, Byrd developed a friendship with Ridgeland Police Chief Brian Myers—one that soon evolved into a deeper opportunity for ser-

vice. "When I asked him how I could invest in the Ridgeland Police Department, it did not take long for us to figure out how I could volunteer as the chaplain of RPD," Byrd said. Together, they outlined the department's needs and got to work.

As Volunteer Chaplain, Byrd regularly attends roll calls, where he shares a "word of the month" with officers—complete with scripture and practical action steps. The messages have resonated within the department, with one command sergeant even posting the monthly word on a bulletin board for all officers to see. Byrd also participates in weekly ride-alongs,

makes himself available for one-on-one conversations, and meets with officers for lunch when they need time to talk through personal or professional challenges. "It is an honor to invest in the men and women who risk their lives to protect our City," Byrd said. "I look forward to continuing to invest in the men and women of RPD."

For Chief Myers, the addition of a chaplain has been both timely and essential. "Long before I became the Chief of Police in Ridgeland, there was discussion of adding a Chaplain," Myers said. "First Responders deal with many critical incidents over the



IN THIS PHOTO: Prayer circle at Ridgeland City Hall

span of their career. Divorce, alcoholism, and suicide plague law enforcement."

Those realities came into sharp focus shortly after Myers became Chief in July 2022, when the department suffered the tragic loss of a sergeant, followed by the line-of-duty death of former Ridgeland Police Chief and mentor Randy Tyler in June 2023. "Having a Chaplain to lead in times of tragedy is of utmost importance," Myers said.

Dr. Byrd now meets with every sworn officer in the department at least once a month during roll calls. "Mark will have a quick lesson, I will normally listen and add a real-life application of Mark's supplied scripture, and then we will open the floor for discussion from our officers," Myers explained. "Mark always closes for us in prayer." The brief but meaningful interactions ensure officers receive encouragement and support before returning to serve the community.

"I am so very thankful that God put Dr. Mark Byrd in my path," Myers said. "We have been so blessed to have him with us in the RPD family for a little over a year now."

Through his service, presence, and compassion, Dr. Byrd has become an integral part of the Ridgeland Police Department—offering support not only in moments of crisis, but in the everyday challenges faced by those sworn to protect and serve.

FREE RESOURCE TO MANAGE WATER USAGE & LEAK ALERTS

Monitor your household's water use and detect leaks with the EyeOnWater app, available for no cost in the Apple App Store and on Google Play.

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve services to our customers, we offer direct and secure access to your water usage data. The City of Ridgeland has partnered with EyeOnWater to make it easy for you to review and analyze your household's water usage through a secure website portal or smartphone app.

It's best feature is leak detection. You can set customized leak notifications, potentially saving you hundreds to thousands of dollars.

With these tools, you can view your hourly water usage activity and gain greater understanding and control of the amount of water you use. The EyeOnWater website and app provide easy-to-understand graphs and the ability to set customized leak alerts.

For questions, please contact Water Billing at 601-856-3938 or utilitybilling@ridgelandms.org.

EyeOnWater



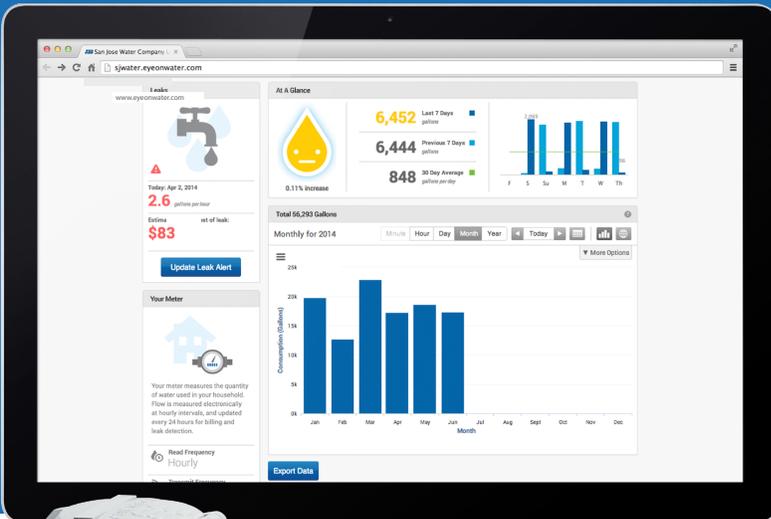
Access your hourly water usage information at www.eyeonwater.com or download the EyeOnWater app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Scan the QR Code with your smartphone to get started.



You will need the following information to create your Eye on Water account:

- ✓ Account Number from your water bill (including dashes)
- ✓ Zip Code
- ✓ E-mail Address

Powered By  Badger Meter



SIGN UP FOR CITY ALERTS: BE INFORMED WHEN IT MATTERS MOST!

Ridgeland Alerts is a free communication tool for all important City updates!

One
CLICK
Away!

SIGN UP TODAY!
Scan this code or visit www.RidgelandMS.org

Choose how you receive alerts—by email, phone, or text—making it easy to stay informed.

For emergency notifications only, residents may also sign up to receive SMS alerts by texting their zip code.

- Severe Weather
- Emergencies
- Road Closures - Detours
- City Events and other important updates!

BUILDING A **CLEANER RIDGELAND** THROUGH RECYCLING

Recycling is a simple way Ridgeland residents can make a difference in keeping our community clean, beautiful, and sustainable.

The City of Ridgeland is partnered with Waste Management to provide curbside collection service once a week to residents.

The City provides a rolling recycling cart that is geotagged to your address and records the amount that you recycle. On your designated collection day, place it at your curb by 7:00 a.m. To find your designated collection day, please visit: www.ridgelandms.org/city-departments/public-works/environmental-services/garbage-and-recycling.

By recycling, you help reduce waste sent to landfills, conserve natural resources, and protect our local environment for future generations. Just as important, recycling supports Ridgeland's long-standing commitment to responsible growth and stewardship of our natural surroundings. Every bottle, can, and box placed in the recycling cart is a small action that adds up to a significant impact—helping preserve the high quality of life we all enjoy in Ridgeland.

For questions about the recycling collection service, please call Waste Management at 800.284.2451 or the Public Works Department at 601.853.2027.

There will be no recycling collection on the following holidays: Christmas, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Thanksgiving.



NEVER RECYCLE



Most Common Contaminants

Keep these common contaminants OUT of your recycling bin.



No Recyclables In Plastic Bags

Empty recyclables directly into your bin.



No Food or Liquids

Compost instead! Otherwise it belongs in the trash.



No Batteries, Power Tools, Flammables or Hazardous Waste*

(Not in recycling or trash.)
Batteries, propane tanks, and similar items can be a fire or explosion hazard.



No Loose Plastic Bags or Film

Take plastic bags back to local retailers where available.



No Electronics or Small Appliances

Donate if in good condition, or schedule a bulky item pickup, if available.



No Textiles, Bedding, Rugs or Carpet

Donate these items if they are in good condition. Rugs and carpets can be placed in a Bagster® bag. Visit thebagster.com to learn more.



No Tanglers, Holiday Lights, Hangers or Extension Cords

They wrap around equipment and can shut down an entire facility! They all go in the trash.



No Paper Towels, Napkins, Plates or Tissues

Compost if possible, and remember to recycle the cardboard tube.



No Foam Cups, Containers or Straws

Foam is not accepted in single stream recycling.



No Tires, Auto Parts or Scrap Metal

(Not in recycling or trash.)
Can damage equipment and are safety hazards. Contact your local scrap recyclers or retail tire stores for recycling options.



No Concrete, Wood or Construction Debris

Can damage equipment. Consider ordering a roll of container on wm.com or a Bagster® bag by visiting thebagster.com.



No Yard Waste

Compost or put in your yard waste cart, if available. Otherwise it belongs in the trash.

WHO AND WHERE

RIDGELAND ALDERMEN



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



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



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



Kevin Holder
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Brian Ramsey
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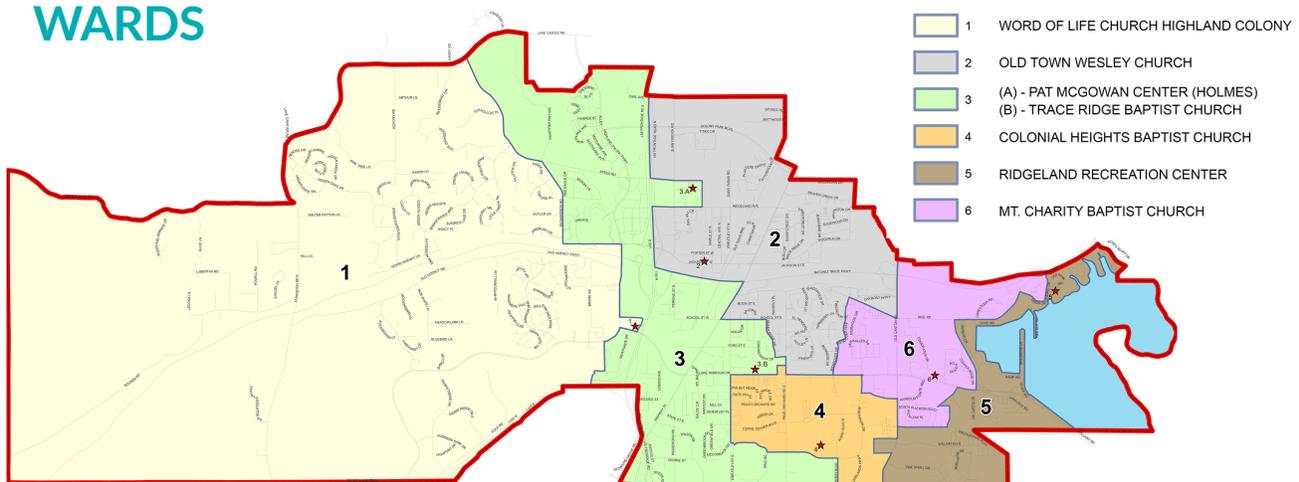


Bill Lee
Ward 5
 601-278-6256
Bill.Lee@RidgelandMS.org



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

WARDS



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
- COURT CLERK**
(traffic violations, misdemeanors and fines)..... 601-853-2001
- EMERGENCY**
(police and re 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**
(roads, 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, & recycling billing) utilitybilling@ridgelandms.org*..... 601-856-3938

CITY MEETINGS

- MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING**
1st & 3rd Tuesday - 6:00 p.m.
Work sessions are Mondays prior to Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
- ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**
2nd & 4th Tuesday - 6:00 p.m.
Randy Lynn - Chair, Connie Suber (Secretary), Robert Moore, Rick Eades, Jim Woodrick, Leigh Ann Sullivan, Jim Powell
City Liaison: Jordan Lohman
- KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL**
First Monday - 4:00 p.m.
Jan Richardson - Chair, Ginger Cocke, Polly Hammett, Claire Jackson, Phyllis Parker, Kenya Rachal, Lea Anne Stacy
City Liaisons: Tally Berry, Kim Cooper, Matt Dodd, James Mathews, Ben McDonald
- HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**
Every other month - TBA
Nancy Batson - Chair, Robby Carr, Donna Dye, Polly Hammett, Mike Porter, Pat Truesdale, Jim Woodrick
City Liaisons: Kim Cooper, Matt Dodd
- CONTRACTORS BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS**
Quarterly meetings - 4:00 p.m.
Lantz Kuykendall - Chair, Terry Evans, David Pursell, Steve Rimmer, Clay Sutherland, Keith West
City Liaison: Leslie Thomas
- ZONING BOARD**
Thursdays, the week of Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting - 6:00 p.m.
Bernie Giessner - Chair, Michelle Caballero, Kim Lovato, Theresa G. Kennedy, Drew Malone, Judy Rice, David Dunbar, Don Roberts
City Liaison: Jordan Lohman

DEPARTMENT HEADS



Public Works
Alan Hart
Director
alan.hart@ridgelandms.org



Fire Department
Johnathan Posey
Fire Chief
johnathan.posey@ridgelandms.org



Finance And Administration
Angela Richburg
City Clerk/CFO
angela.richburg@ridgelandms.org



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



Recreation & Parks Department
John Sidney North
Director
john.north@ridgelandms.org



Recreation and Parks

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

The sponsor logos are arranged in approximately 7 rows and 8 columns. The logos include:

- GREEN OAK design • nurture • grow
- Chick-fil-A
- BankPlus
- Keesler Federal CREDIT UNION
- BIKE CROSSING
- BUFRIN MECHANICAL INC.
- Gene McGee MAYOR • RIDGELAND
- Sullivan Electric
- explore RIDGELAND
- RENASANT BANK
- Johnny's Pizza House
- FLEET FEET JACKSON
- WAGGONER
- HYDROWASH MADISON & RIDGELAND MISSISSIPPI
- wellcare
- Staffers
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- Trey Craike's ACADEMY OF KUNG FU
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- MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL
- ST. CATHERINE'S VILLAGE
- WLBT3 ON YOUR SIDE
- GoShine Express Car Wash
- CenterWell Senior Primary Care
- PAFFORD EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
- SUMMER HOUSE REAL RIDGE
- PROFESSIONAL EYECARE ASSOCIATES
- holiday by ARIA SENIOR LIVING
- THE CHATEAU RIDGELAND
- WATKINS
- GuarantyBank
- Members Exchange CREDIT UNION
- PriorityOne MEMBER FDIC
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