

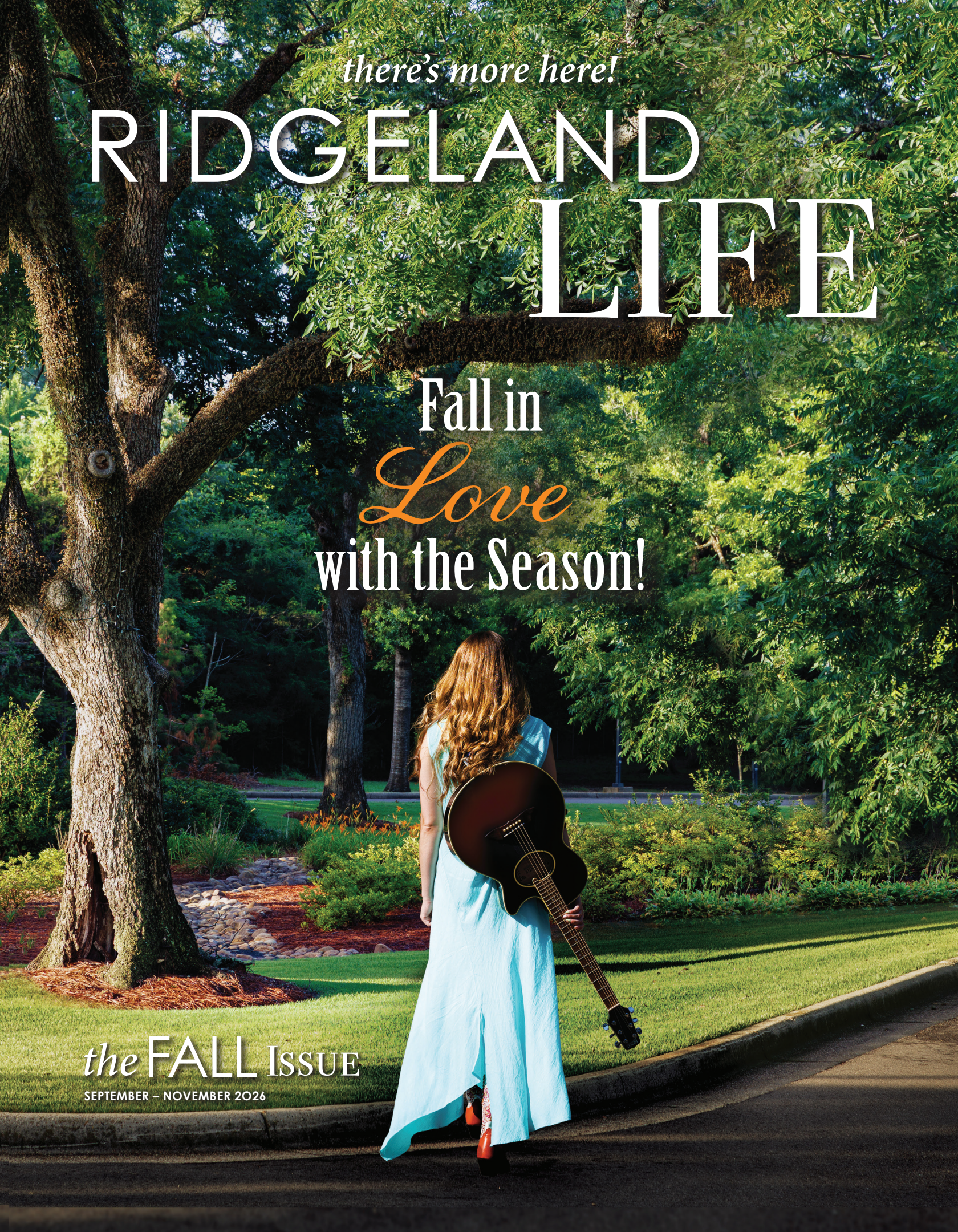
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RIDGELAND LIFE

Fall in
Love
with the Season!

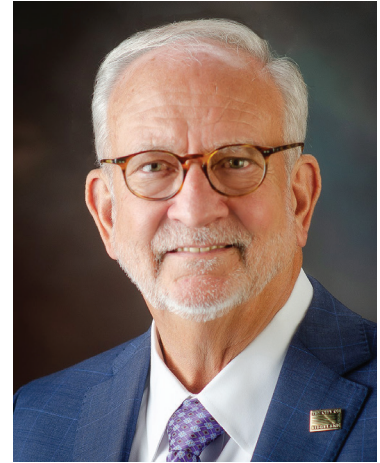
the FALL ISSUE

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2026



FROM THE MAYOR

Gene McGee



2026 is shaping up to be an exciting year for the City of Ridgeland. We have celebrated several milestones that continue to enhance the quality of life for our residents and make Ridgeland an even more attractive destination for visitors.

One of the highlights this year was the recent event at the beautiful Wildflower Field and Art Park located off Jackson Street. This unique park has quickly become a favorite destination, showcasing colorful native wildflowers while providing an inviting habitat for butterflies, pollinators, and other wildlife. It is truly a wonderful example of preserving and celebrating Mississippi's natural beauty.

Special thanks go to the Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Committee; Public Relations Director Kim Cooper; Landscape Architect Matt Dodd; community volunteers; and John Sidney North and James Mathews of the Recreation and Parks team for their commitment, countless hours of work, and efforts to make this public space special for everyone to enjoy.

Ridgeland's economy also continues to grow and thrive. The Amazon Web Services (AWS) data centers in the southwestern part of our city have proven to be a tremendous asset, not only for Ridgeland and Madison County, but for the entire State of Mississippi. Their continued investment reflects the confidence major companies have in our community and its future.

We are also excited to welcome Dave & Buster's to Ridgeland. The Board of Aldermen and I have approved the site's development plans, and this exciting addition near Topgolf will provide another outstanding entertainment destination for residents and visitors.

Another project that has long been needed in Ridgeland and Madison County is becoming a reality: a new 1,500-seat conference center accompanied by a boutique hotel. Located northwest of Topgolf, this development will provide a first-class venue for conferences, meetings, and special events while bringing additional visitors who will support our local restaurants, hotels, and businesses.

I want to thank the Madison County Board of Supervisors, especially Board President Gerald Steen, for partnering with the City of Ridgeland to help make this vision possible. Their leadership and cooperation have been instrumental in moving this project forward.

We are also pleased to announce that the Renaissance at Colony Park will soon welcome Mississippi's first LEGO® Store. As part of this exciting expansion, Apple has relocated to a larger space across the green from the movie theater, featuring one of the company's newest prototype store designs.

Finally, I am proud to share that the Mississippi Municipal League has honored the City of Ridgeland with the prestigious City Spirit Award for our inaugural Pecan Festival held last fall. Ridgeland received the top award in the category for cities with populations of 10,000 or more.

Congratulations and thank you to our Public Relations Director, Kim Cooper, whose outstanding leadership helped make the festival such a tremendous success. We are excited that the Pecan Festival will return as an annual tradition, with this year's event scheduled for October 10. It is a wonderful way to celebrate Ridgeland's rich heritage

and recognize the important role pecan orchards played in our City's early history.

As we wind down another wonderful summer and begin looking toward the fall, I want to thank each of you for helping make Ridgeland such a special place to live, work, and raise a family. Few cities in Mississippi are blessed with citizens who care so deeply about their community, and for that, I am truly grateful.

Together, we will continue building an even brighter future for the City of Ridgeland.

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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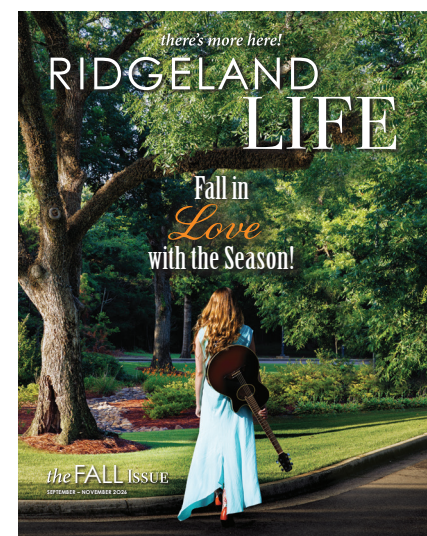
“ Fall is a wonderful time to experience all that the City has to offer. It's the perfect season to fall in love with Ridgeland as our community comes alive with exciting events, new businesses, and opportunities to explore. In this issue, you'll find everything from the return of our 2nd Annual Ridgeland Pecan Festival to a calendar filled with unforgettable activities.

I'm also excited to showcase the incredible work of local photographer Harold Head in this issue's cover series. ”

Kim

Kim Cooper,

Editor/Director of Public Relations
Event Chair, Ridgeland Pecan Festival



Cover photography by Harold Head

TELLING RIDGELAND'S STORY

RIDGELAND COMMEMORATES 250TH ANNIVERSARY

By Polly Hammett



With the placement of the official America250 Mississippi logo on the City's website homepage, Ridgeland joined communities across the nation to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of our Declaration of Independence.

Explore Ridgeland and the City's communications team partnered on the Ridgeland History Trail social media campaign. Along the Trail, various markers were highlighted, sharing stories of people, places, and events that helped to shape both our community and our nation. "Telling Ridgeland's Story" also highlighted a few Ridgelanders who have made an impact on our City and beyond.

During the Memorial Day Ceremony at City Hall, a special exhibit, curated by Nancy Batson, Chair of the Ridgeland History Committee, committee members, and City staff, was unveiled in the lobby. The exhibit honors America's journey from the Colonial Wars and the Revolution through key moments in history from 1776 to the present day. This display has since been moved into the History Room and can be viewed there for the next couple of months. It reflects on America's enduring pursuit of Freedom and Democracy – highlighting the ideals established by our Founding Fathers and paying tribute to the brave men and women who sacrificed in defense of our country. Displays of Memorial Day and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier give visitors a greater appreciation for the cost of the



ABOVE: Jane McGee, Mayor Gene McGee and Nancy Batson. RIGHT: The America250 Exhibit





liberties we enjoy and the importance of remembering and honoring the efforts made for them. The individuals featured in the exhibit are connected to Ridgeland as residents or through family ties. We appreciate everyone who shared experiences, photos, memorabilia, and memories in the building of this exhibit.

America's Birthday was celebrated in style at the annual Celebrate America Balloon Glow event. Families came together from across the region to enjoy music, food, and a spectacular fireworks display. This event showcases Ridgeland's strong sense of community and patriotism, and the City was proud to make it a part of the America250 Celebration. Events like this, while giving us an opportunity to celebrate our heritage, also bring us closer together as a community.

Through partnerships, educational programming, community events and historical storytelling, Ridgeland was honored to take part in this historic national milestone while celebrating the people and stories that make our own community unique.

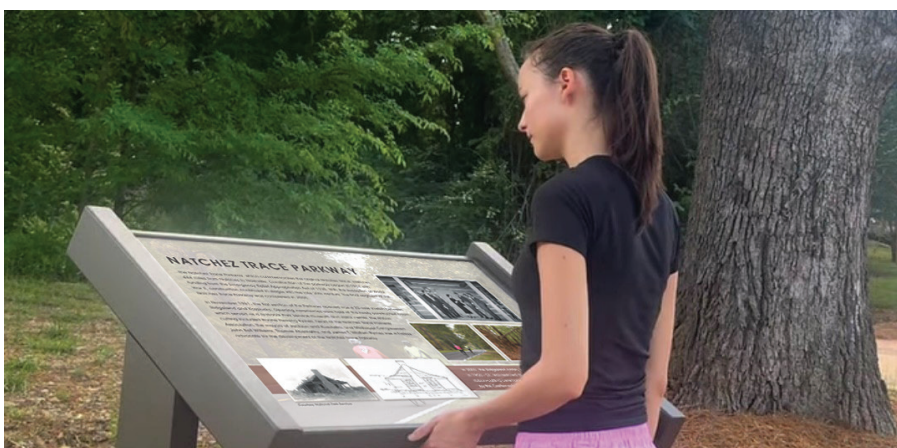
But the year is not over! Please join us on October 10 at Freedom Ridge Park for the 2nd Annual Pecan Festival. An estimated 2,000 visitors enjoyed last year's (Award-Winning!) event, and more are expected this year. You will find more information on this event starting on page 8 of this publication.

The Historical Society will have a table at the Pecan Festival. Please stop by and visit with us. We love to hear your stories, answer your questions (if we can), and share our history with fellow Ridgelanders.

A beautiful and meaningful display is planned for the History Room for the Holiday Season. Visit City Hall as part of your holiday plans. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Tree Lighting and the Christmas Parade.

Stay tuned for more information on a couple of special events for 2027 as we continue to partner with the City of Ridgeland and Explore Ridgeland to present interesting and informative programs.

Have a great Fall, Y'all!



ABOVE: Blair Smith with Explore Ridgeland viewing one of the markers on the History Trail

50TH ANNIVERSARY: CRAFTSMEN'S GUILD OF MS PRESENTS ANNUAL CHIMNEYVILLE ARTS FESTIVAL

By Susan Marquez



The Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi will present its 50th annual Chimneyville Arts Festival on November 12 through 14 at the Waller Craft Center, located at 950 Rice Road in Ridgeland. All exhibitors in the festival are juried members of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi and represent the finest artisans and craftsmen from across the state and beyond.

The event kicks off with the popular Preview Party at the Waller Craft Center on Thursday, November 12, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. One of the most anticipated events of the season, the annual Preview Party will allow ticket holders to preview the crafts presented by exhibitors and enjoy food, beverages, and live music by Bill Ellison.

Elizabeth Montambault, who serves as the president of the Craftsmen's Guild Board of Directors, states, "We are excited to celebrate 50 years of Chimneyville this year, and we expect this year's festival to be even larger than last year's show."

Craftsmen's Guild member Nicolas Neese will present a glass blowing demonstration during Chimneyville, with other craft demos to be determined.

The doors to the Craft Center open at 10:00 a.m. on both Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14. "We are bringing back our popular 'Sip and Shop' event from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Friday," says Montambault. There will be live music, and food and beverages will be available for purchase on site. On Saturday, the

festival will wrap up at 5:00 p.m.

"The Craftsmen's Guild is as relevant now as it has ever been," says Montambault. "We are blessed with a wealth of talented people who create beautiful works of art. Hand-crafted items make a home feel richer. Giving a gift that someone has made by hand shows that you care enough to choose something made with love. Having access to so many fine crafts in one place is a wonderful opportunity to add to your collection or to start a new one. We welcome everyone to join us at Chimneyville."

For more information on the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, visit their website at www.ms crafts.org.

The logo is a circular emblem with a brown border. Inside the border, the words "RIDGELAND" are written in a brown, serif font at the top, and "PECAN FESTIVAL" is written in a green, serif font at the bottom. The center of the logo features a vibrant illustration of a large, leafy green tree standing on a green lawn. In the background of the tree, there is a warm, orange and yellow sky. Two clusters of pecans with green leaves are positioned on either side of the tree. The entire logo is set against a dark green background that is densely populated with various pecans, some whole and some cracked open.

RIDGELAND

PECAN FESTIVAL

Join us Saturday, October 10
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Freedom Ridge Park

- Craftsmen Booths • Live Artist Demos • Food Trucks
- Farmers' Market • Kids' Zone • Live Music
- Pecan Dessert Showcase and much more • Free Admission

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RIDGELAND

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CONSTRUCTION
CORPORATION

RIDGELAND PECAN FESTIVAL: INAUGURAL EVENT HONORED WITH STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

By City Staff

The Mississippi Municipal League (MML) honored the 2026 Municipal Excellence Award winners at the 95th Annual MML Conference Award Luncheon held in Biloxi, Mississippi, at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center on July 1, 2026.

The Excellence Awards program, which began in 1993, recognizes cities that utilize innovative problem-solving, excellence in management, citizen participation, and community partnerships to provide increased services and a better quality of life for residents. The competition is divided into two population categories: under 10,000 and over 10,000. Within each population category, cities can vie for awards in City Spirit, Community Health, Economic Development & Infrastructure, Public Safety and Youth in Action. Judges also select one application as the Best Overall.

Communities from across Mississippi were recognized for innovative projects that strengthened public safety, expanded recreational opportunities, supported workforce development, improved infrastructure, promoted healthy living and empowered youth to become active community leaders.

The City of Ridgeland was honored to receive recognition for the inaugural Ridgeland Pecan Festival by bringing home the City Spirit Award!

The inaugural festival welcomed nearly 2,000 residents and visitors to Freedom



Ridge Park for a day of community, heritage, and family fun. Guests enjoyed live music, artisan booths, craftsmen demonstrations, a farmers' market, food trucks, children's activities, and a pecan dessert showcase.

Inspired by the City's 125th Anniversary and the designation of the pecan as Ridgeland's City Tree, the festival was created to honor the community's agricultural roots while bringing people together in a meaningful way. From artisans to old-time musicians, community organizations, and dedicated volunteers, the festival showcased the people whose talents and traditions help to make Ridgeland unique.

Festival Chair Kim Cooper said, "This event was created to honor Ridgeland's history while providing old-fashioned family fun in the park. Seeing so many families, friends, and visitors come together to celebrate our community

made the day truly special. I'm excited to announce that planning is underway for the second annual festival, which will be held on October 10, 2026, at Freedom Ridge Park."

Mayor Gene McGee said, "The festival captured the heart of Ridgeland, a community that values its history, its people, and its future." With beautiful weather, enthusiastic participation, and overwhelming community support, the first-year event exceeded expectations. The Ridgeland Pecan Festival has planted seeds for a new community tradition that will continue to grow for years to come.

A special thank you to the planning committee!

Inaugural Ridgeland Pecan Festival Planning Committee (2025): Kim Cooper (Chair), Jane McGee, John Sidney North, Nancy Batson, Lisa Walters, Matt Dodd, Ben McDonald, Karen McKie, Betsy Ross, Dr. Catherine Sledge, Carly Brandon, Jim Woodrick, Jan Richardson, Matthew Magee, Amelia Dalton, Crystal Pham, and Krystal Watson

MORE THAN A STORE: GOODWILL OPENS NEW RIDGELAND SUPERCENTER

By Roy Johns

On July 23, Goodwill Industries of Mississippi proudly opened its new 51,000-square-foot Ridgeland Supercenter at 379 Highway 51, marking one of the most significant investments in the organization's nearly 70-year history of serving Central Mississippi.

When most people think of Goodwill, they think of great deals and the thrill of discovering something unexpected. While that's certainly part of the experience, every purchase and every donation supports something much bigger.

The new Supercenter is Goodwill of Mississippi's largest facility, bringing together a retail store, donation center, Career Center, and administrative offices under one roof, creating a centralized hub that will expand services, improve accessibility, and strengthen the organization's ability to serve the community.

The excitement surrounding the grand opening reflected the community's enthusiasm. Nearly 400 people were waiting when the doors opened, and more than 1,000 shoppers visited the new store on opening day. But for Goodwill, success isn't measured only by the number of customers who walk through the doors.

Every donated item and every purchase helps fund programs that empower individuals to build brighter futures through life-long learning and meaningful work.

"Our retail stores are the engine that powers our mission," said Brad Steffani, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Mississippi. "When someone donates a bag of

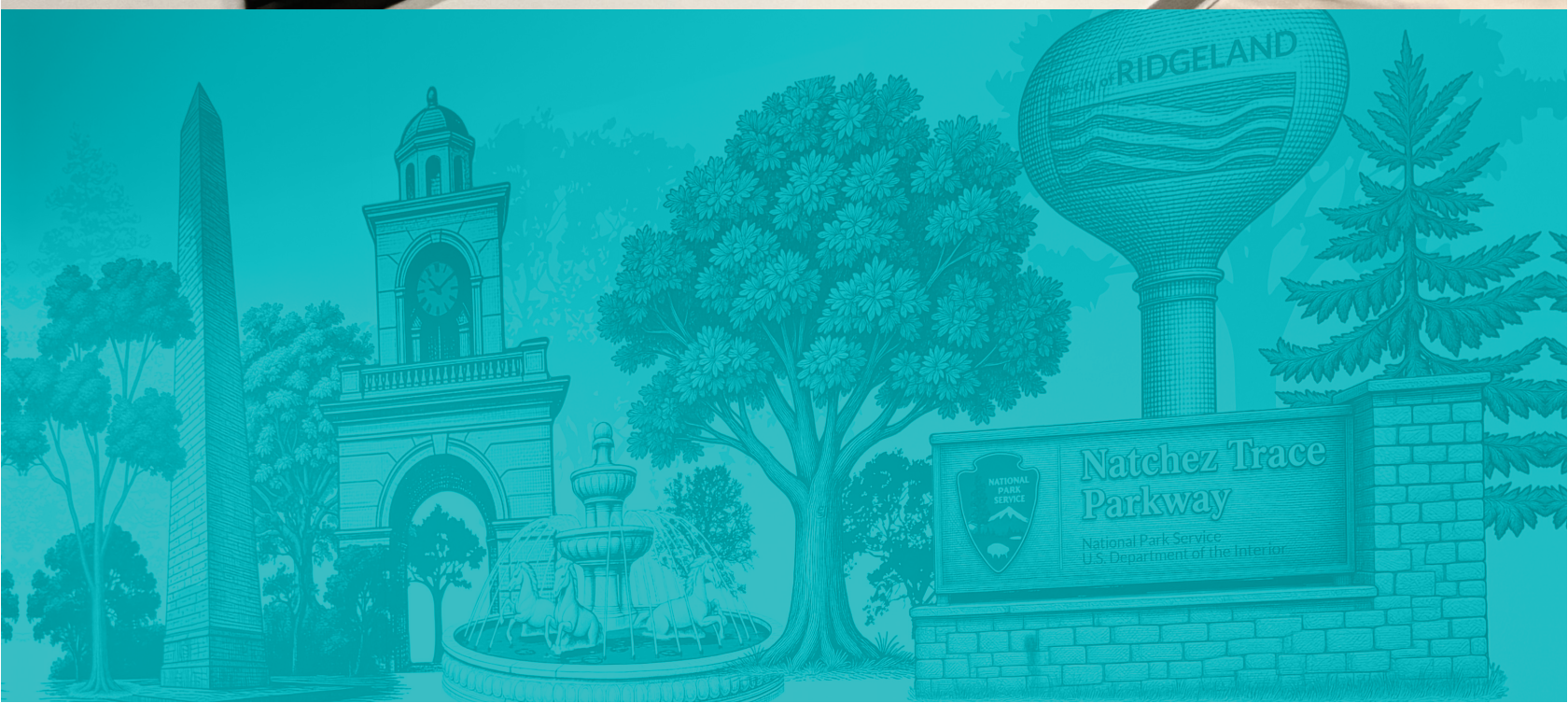


“What I love most about Goodwill is that it helps people help themselves. Every donation and every purchase creates opportunities for someone to gain the skills, confidence, and support they need to become self-sufficient. That’s a mission I’m incredibly proud to support, and I am thrilled to welcome Goodwill’s newest Supercenter to Ridgeland.”

Lisa Walters

*Board Member of Goodwill Industries of Mississippi
Chief of Staff to Mayor McGee*

A CHANGE
CHANGES
EVERYTHING





clothing or shops in one of our stores, they're helping create opportunities for people in our community to gain the skills, confidence, and support they need to succeed."

Goodwill's Career Centers provide no-cost employment services, including career coaching, résumé assistance, interview preparation, job search support, digital skills training, and connections to employers. The organization also partners with local schools, businesses, and community agencies to offer workforce development programs, work-based learning opportunities for students, financial literacy education, and specialized employment services for individuals facing barriers to employment.

In 2025 alone, Goodwill Industries of Mississippi served more than 5,400 individu-

als through workforce development, education, and employment programs, while also diverting millions of pounds of usable goods from local landfills through the power of donation and resale.

The Ridgeland Supercenter was designed with the customer experience in mind. Shoppers will find a bright, spacious sales floor filled with clothing, furniture, home décor, books, electronics, and unique treasures arriving daily. A convenient drive-through donation center makes giving back easier than ever, while the on-site Career Center provides a welcoming place for individuals seeking employment assistance and career advancement.

For Goodwill, the new facility represents more than a new location; it represents a long-term

investment in the people and communities of Central Mississippi.

Whether you're shopping for a hidden treasure, donating items you no longer need, or visiting the Career Center to take the next step in your career, every visit helps transform lives.

The building may be new, but the mission remains the same: creating opportunities, strengthening communities, and transforming lives through lifelong learning and meaningful work.

explore events



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Euro Fest

Ridgeland,
Mississippi

See why Renaissance Euro Fest was ranked #4 Best Car Show in the nation by USA Today. From timeless European classics to exotic performance cars, this award-winning event delivers an unforgettable weekend in Ridgeland.

Mark your calendars and start planning today at exploreRidgeland.com.



explore
RIDGELAND

RIDGELAND LIFE COVER SERIES: HAROLD HEAD PHOTOGRAPHY

By Kim Cooper

Harold Head Photography
120 West Jackson Street
Ridgeland, MS
haroldhead.com

I've loved this cover series and the opportunity it has given us to celebrate the work of Ridgeland's talented photographers. Through their lenses, we've experienced some of our community's most beautiful outdoor spaces from a fresh perspective. For this issue, we're pleased to feature the stunning photography of Harold Head.

Harold enjoyed a long and successful career as a commercial and advertising photographer before turning his lens toward the natural world. His passion for landscape photography was sparked during a memorable trip to New Zealand, and today he spends much of his time capturing the beauty of nature. His remarkable images remind us that some of the most breathtaking scenery can be found right here in Ridgeland.

During that trip, *"it was there, while being alone, on the other side of the world, far from everything that I was familiar with, that I experienced God looking back at me,"* said Harold. *"I experienced all of this overwhelming beauty around me; I couldn't help but create images of what I was experiencing. It wasn't like the work of creating commercial and advertising images that I had been doing for all of those years. It wasn't work at all. Then it came to me. Whether I was shooting a tiny grain of sand or a vast mountain range, I was experiencing God's creation on both sides of the lens."*

BELOW: Two panoramic photos of New Zealand





ABOVE: Harold Head with his camera

Images from Harold's portfolio; Top Right - Spanish Moss amid the fog in Southern Louisiana;
Bottom Right - Pecan Orchard at Freedom Ridge Park; Model - Amelia Dalton



Welcome to our Wildflower Field and Art Park

Established in 2020. Designed and maintained by Keep Ridgeland Beautiful.

Connect with nature, wildlife, and learn about pollinators' vital ecosystem role in our vibrant park!

Flowers in the Field

Each year, wildflowers burst into dazzling color and sustain pollinators throughout the growing season. Look for the...

Coreopsis, our State Wildflower • Zinnias
Black-eyed Susans • Cosmos • Blanket Flowers

Native Birds

A favorite stop for birdwatchers. Some of the feathered visitors you may spot include:

Eastern Bluebird • Northern Cardinal • American Robin
Blue Jay • Cedar Waxwing • Northern Mockingbird
Carolina Chickadee • Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Carolina Wren • American Crow

Butterflies of Mississippi

We are home to 150+ butterfly species. Here you may spot monarchs, swallowtails, Gulf fritillaries, cloudless sulphurs, and many others in our field!

Role of Essential Pollinators

Pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds transfer pollen between flowers, helping plants reproduce and sustain our field's biodiverse ecosystem, which makes this field special.

Spotlight on Art

Art is always in bloom, bringing vibrant energy and creativity to the park.

For more info on Keep Ridgeland Beautiful and the wildflower field... Scan Here! >



WILDFLOWER FIELD & ART PARK: CITY CELEBRATES EDUCATIONAL MARKER UNVEILING & KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL DIGITAL LAUNCH

By Jan Richardson and City Staff

The City of Ridgeland and the Keep Ridgeland Beautiful (KRB) Committee gathered with residents, the media, and community partners on July 10 to celebrate one of the City's most scenic public spaces and to recognize the importance of conservation and environmental education.

The event marked the unveiling of a permanent educational marker that shares the story of the Ridgeland Wildflower Field & Art Park, its ecosystem, and the pollinators that depend on it. Located at 411 West Jackson Street, the habitat features native wildflowers and plants that support birds, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife as visitors explore the park.

The City also launched vibrant new Keep Ridgeland Beautiful pages on its website during the event. The pages showcase the committee's projects, community partnerships, volunteer opportunities, and ongoing beautification efforts. It is worth a look, as visitors are welcomed into the page with a dynamic animated scene.

At the educational marker unveiling, Mayor Gene McGee welcomed attendees. He thanked the members of Keep Ridgeland Beautiful, City staff, volunteers, and community partners for the work that continues to make projects like the Wildflower Field & Art Park possible. *"The Wildflower Field & Art Park has become a place where people can enjoy nature while learning about the environment around them,"* said Mayor McGee.

Jan Richardson, Chair of the Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Committee, shared remarks about the field and the digital launch, and recognized the importance of support from Keep Mississippi Beautiful's Wildflower Trails program to the project's success, as well as

the dedication of the KRB team. *"We want to recognize Entergy Mississippi for providing grant funds which helped support the educational marker project,"* Richardson shared.

Hollidae Morrison, Garden Coordinator at Mississippi Museum of Art (MMA), gave special remarks about native landscapes, recognizing the diverse species of wildflowers in the field and the dynamic habitat. She invited the community to visit the museum's native gardens, which she manages, and shared environmentally friendly mosquito control tips.

The morning included live music by Bridgid Ferguson and Tim Avalon, refreshments, Explore Ridgeland's wildflower planting station and an information area, a digital animation of pollinators, and several children dressed in bee and butterfly wings.

The Wildflower Field & Art Park is one of several projects that reflect Ridgeland's commitment to conservation and outdoor experiences. Earlier this year, the City opened the Eco Park at Freedom Ridge, expanding opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the area's natural beauty while learning about local ecosystems.

"Keep Ridgeland Beautiful would like to recognize Kim Cooper, Director of Public Relations, who conceived of and spearheaded both the event and the new Keep Ridgeland Beautiful webpages. In addition to planning and coor-



dinating the event, Kim led the content development for the new wildflower field marker and was the force behind the website project, working with Think Webstore to showcase a decade of Keep Ridgeland Beautiful projects and achievements,” stated Jan Richardson.

Special thanks to the Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Committee members, City staff Matt Dodd, James Mathews, John Sidney North, the dedicated volunteers from Entergy and First Ridgeland Baptist Church, and the many community volunteers who help throughout the year, keeping the field maintained.

Additional thanks go to our partner, Explore Ridgeland, for hosting special activities during the event and for always helping to promote the field to visitors; Think Webstore for partnering with us on launching the web pages, Imaginary Company for graphic design work on the marker, and KRB member Phyllis Parker for years of collecting photographs and archiving the committee’s work.

For more information regarding Keep Ridgeland Beautiful and the Wildflower Field, please visit the City website at ridgelandms.org.

“ It was a beautiful day in the park at our Experience the Bloom event! Thanks to everyone who joined us to celebrate the unveiling of our new educational marker and learn more about the park’s unique ecosystem, wildflowers, and the important pollinators that call it home. ”

Kim Cooper
City of Ridgeland
Director of Public Relations



Experience the Bloom!



KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL GRANTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful earned President's Circle honors from Keep America Beautiful in August, a national honor that recognizes certified KAB affiliates for exemplary performance in litter reduction, waste reduction, and beautification. Keep Mississippi Beautiful also announced Keep Ridgeland Beautiful's Circle of Excellence award, which includes support to help Keep Ridgeland Beautiful continue its mission. Keep America Beautiful also awarded a \$500 Go Green grant to Keep Ridgeland Beautiful to support a committee beautification project in the City this fall.

KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL YARD OF THE MONTH AWARDS

Through the Yard of the Month Program, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful recognizes residents and businesses who demonstrate exemplary efforts in maintaining and beautifying their homes and outdoor spaces.



JUNE Residential Yard of the Month
The Jackson Home at 229 Woodrun Drive



JUNE Business Yard of the Month
The Blake at Township at 608 Steed Road



JULY Residential Yard of the Month
The Nelsen & Meibaum Home at 632 Kensington Court



JULY Business Yard of the Month
Elle James Bridal at 116 West Jackson Street

RECRE8

CITY FALL EVENTS!

Fall is packed with excitement for all ages here in Ridgeland!

It's the perfect time, as colors change and temperatures drop, to move into Recreation and Parks fall activities. We are proud to partner again with Northpark for our annual Mayor's Fun Walk for our senior adults and excited about this year's charity bike ride at the Renaissance. Local businesses will be filling Halloween bags at Freedom Ridge Park during our Trunk or Treat event. We're excited to see you this fall!





Dog Obedience

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks partners with the Jackson Obedience Training Club (JOTC). JOTC offers puppy, beginner, and advanced dog obedience classes.

- Classes: September - November 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 fall classes, visit www.jotc.org.



TOPSoccer

This soccer program is provided for special needs participants. For more information, please contact Cameron Arcemont at topsoccerms.com.

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Location: Freedom Ridge Park



MRYC Basketball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks partners with Madison Ridgeland Youth Club to provide sports leagues for the community.

To find out more information about the 2026 basketball season, visit:

<https://www.mryouthbasketball.com/>



Trunk or Treat

Dress up in costume and bring a bag to collect your candy!

- Trunk or Treat is for ages 10 and under
- Kids trick-or-treat from car trunk to car trunk
- Admission is \$5 per child
- VOLUNTEER at Trunk or Treat

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department welcomes local businesses, organizations and volunteers to provide vehicles, candy and manpower to make our Trunk or Treat a success. If you are interested, please contact our office at (601) 853-2011.

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Location: Freedom Ridge Park

Cycle Out Kids Cancer



A fall fundraiser bike ride through west Madison County with donations going to Children's of Mississippi Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders.

- Riders of all levels are welcome
- Distance options are available
- Rest stops and bike support provided
- Complimentary tailgate meal and music
- Registration is required to participate
- Register at: Cycle Out Kids Cancer (bikesignup.com)

Don't miss this important opportunity to put your pedals to purpose and cycle out kids' cancer!

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026
Time: 7:30 a.m.
Location: The North End of the Renaissance at Colony Park

SUPER SENIORS

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Strong and Steady

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

Instructors: Martha Millsaps and Rita Latham

Martial Arts for Seniors

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

\$10/month

Tuesdays and Thursdays

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Instructor: Andy Dillon

Seated Yoga

Improve flexibility, mobility, and relaxation with gentle yoga movements performed entirely from a chair. Perfect for beginners or those who prefer a seated workout, this class focuses on stretching, breathing, and light strengthening in a safe and supportive environment.

\$5/class

Mondays and Fridays

11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Instructors: Martha Millsaps & Vickie White

Standing Yoga

An extension of the Seated Yoga class, some stay for both. The gentle yoga class incorporates standing poses and floor work to build strength, balance, and flexibility. Movements are slow and accessible, with modifications offered to help all ability levels stay active and improve wellness.

\$5/class

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 - 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 - 2:15 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

1:30 - 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 - 3:15 p.m.

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

Instructor: Monica Russell

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Mah Jongg

Tile-based matching game for those who know how to play and complete the Charleston. No cost to sign up & registration is required.

Dates: 9/17, 10/15, and 11/19

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Bridge

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

Dates: 9/17, 10/15, and 11/19

1:00 - 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: 9/24, 10/22, and 11/12

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

FALL WORKSHOPS

Mayor's Fun Walk

A special event for Senior Adults, presented by Ridgeland Recreation and Parks. Registration is required; the first 150 to register receive a free t-shirt. Register by scanning the QR Code or go to <https://tools.signupgenius.com/c/2026mfw/forms>.

Free! Sponsored by Summerhouse Beau Ridge
September 30, 2026

8:30 a.m. - Late Registration

9:00 a.m. - Program begins

9:30 a.m. - Walk with Mayor McGee

9:45 a.m. - Visit Sponsor Booths

10:00 a.m. - Entertainment, Treats, Door Prizes
Northpark's Centercourt



Boo-tiful Door Hanger Workshop

Enjoy an afternoon of painting, decorating and spending time with friends. All supplies are provided. Seating is limited. Register by calling 769-235-9579 or emailing Neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org.

Free! Hosted and Sponsored by
Summerhouse Beau Ridge
October 8, 2026
1:30 p.m.
650 Highland Colony Pkwy, Ridgeland



senior adult
programs

Neeley Jones

Senior Adult Coordinator

(769) 235-9579

neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org,

Facebook:

facebook.com/ridgelandsuperstarseniors

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



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!



Christmas IN TOYLAND

RIDGELAND, MS

2026 Holiday Happenings

RIDGELAND CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

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

- Enjoy holiday music & dance performances.
- Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.
- Count down to the lighting of the tree.
- Presented by The Historical Society of Ridgeland.
- There is no admission charge for this event.

Thursday, December 3 • 6:00 p.m.
Plaza at Old Town Crossing

RIDGELAND CHRISTMAS PARADE

Ridgeland Mayor McGee, City Aldermen and Santa will lead bands, businesses, and other organizations with an old-fashioned Christmas parade!

- The parade route will begin and end at Holmes Community College.
- Please join us this year and help us light up the evening with your Christmas floats and participation!
- This event is free and open to the public.

Friday, December 4 • 6:00 p.m.



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
- Duplicate letters will receive one reply only
- Letters must be received by December 14
- There is no charge for letters to Santa

Date: December 1 - 14, 2026

Location: On the North Side of the Ridgeland Green in front of City Hall



FALL FUN AWAITS YOU!

*Whether you're interested in family fun events, sporting activities,
or simply enjoying nature, there's something for everyone.*

*Here are a few suggestions for making the most
of the fall in Ridgeland!*

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 24

Chamber - Fall Golf Classic

Lake Caroline
Lunch & Registration - 11:30 a.m.
Tee off - 1:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 30

Mayor's Fun Walk

Northpark
9:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 3

Annual Renaissance Euro Fest Classic

Renaissance at Colony Park
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 3

CARA Fundraiser

Renaissance at Colony Park
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



OCTOBER 3***Household Hazardous Waste Day***

Madison Central High School
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 7***College & Career Expo***

Northpark
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 10***Pecan Festival***

Freedom Ridge Park
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 12***Nogginfeast***

Renaissance at Colony Park
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 17 - 18***Fat Tire Festival & McGee Lungbuster***

The Ridgeland Trails

OCTOBER 29***Trunk or Treat***

Freedom Ridge Park
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 30***Mall-o-Ween***

Northpark
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 7***Cycle Out Kids Cancer***

Renaissance at Colony Park
7:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER 11***Veterans Day Ceremony***

Ridgeland City Hall
Veterans Memory Park
11:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 12***Chimneyville Arts Festival Preview Party***

Waller Craft Center
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 13 - 14***Chimneyville Arts Festival***

Waller Craft Center
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 22***Renaissance Holiday Open House***

Renaissance at Colony Park
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 26***Turkey Day 8k***

Thanksgiving Day – Fleet Feet
7:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 3***Ridgeland Christmas Tree Lighting***

Plaza at Old Town Crossing
6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 4***Ridgeland Christmas Parade***

Old Town
6:00 p.m.

The poster features a background of a waving American flag. The top left corner shows the stars and stripes, while the rest of the background is a dark blue field with white stars of varying sizes. The text is centered and framed by a thin white border.

VETERANS DAY

CEREMONY

Wednesday, November 11 • 11:00 a.m.

Veterans Memory Park
Ridgeland City Hall

Honoring All Who Served

MEET THE RIDGELAND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ridgeland
Chamber of
Commerce



Fall is always a busy and exciting season for the Ridgeland Chamber! We're looking forward to several upcoming events, including the Ridgeland Chamber Golf Classic, Scarecrow Shop-Hop, Shop Small Saturday, and the always well-attended Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.



COMING EVENTS

2026 Ridgeland Chamber Golf Classic

Thursday, September 24, 2026
Lake Caroline Golf Club
118 Caroline Club Cir., Madison
Shotgun Start 1:00 p.m.



Scarecrow Shop-Hop Challenge

November 1-28, 2026



Shop Small Saturday

Saturday, November 28, 2026



Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Tuesday, December 8, 2026
Colonial Heights Baptist Church
444 Northpark Drive, Ridgeland
Buffet opens at 7:30 a.m.
Program begins at 8:00 a.m.

*For more information, please call the
Chamber at 601-991-9996.*

“2026 marks our 33rd anniversary! Thirty-three years of serving our business community. With our 2026 theme “Always Open for Business,” we will continue our mission of not only helping businesses to succeed, but helping businesses turn their visions and dreams into reality. I am honored to serve alongside such a dynamic group of business and community leaders. Whether you’re a new business or looking to make an impact, Ridgeland Chamber membership opens doors to greater visibility, connection, and growth. We invite you to join us!”

Nicky Cobb
Guaranty Bank & Trust Company.
2026 President



Nicky Cobb
Guaranty Bank & Trust Company
2026 President



Blake Mendrop
Mendrop Engineering Resources
2026 Vice President



Paul Koury
Citizens National Bank
2026 Treasurer



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



Kevin Brown
Southern AgCredit, ACA



Jake Clarke
NuWay Realty MS



Linda Bynum
Executive Director



John Dorsa
State Farm Insurance



Alan Grant
Dean Architecture



Tim Magandy
Robot Coupe USA, Inc.



Roy Moss
Atmos Energy



Daniel Pender
Community Bank of Mississippi



Kevin Rogers
Wells Marble & Hurst, PLLC

Welcome to the Ridgeland Chamber 2026 New Members Making Connections and Fostering Growth

Aire Serv of Northeast Jackson-Madison

Lee Smith
795 Woodlands Parkway, Suite 102
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-265-3102
lee.smith@aireserv.com
Heating & Air Conditioning

Dale Partners Architects

Brandy Turnage
188 E Capitol Street
Suite 250 Jackson, MS 39201
614-320-1069
brandyturnage@dalepartners.com
dalepartners.com
Architects

Dream Home Properties

Elizabeth Brunson
513 Cobblestone Court
Madison, MS 39110
769-444-6700
elizabeth_brunson@icloud.com
elizabethbrunson.realtor
Real Estate

Earth Walk, Inc.

Tammy Wellington
588 Century Pl, Suite G
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-981-1975
earthwalkshoes@gmail.com
earthwalkshoes.com
Shoes

Ellie Mental Health

Erin Stevens
599 Highland Colony Pkwy, Suite 110
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-202-5980
EllieMS06801@elliementalhealth.com
elliementalhealth.com/locations
Mental Health Services

Embassy Home Care

Lawanda Kirkland
740 S. Pear Orchard Road
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-790-1260
lkirkland@embassyhomecare.com
embassyhomecare.com
Assisted Living Facilities

Executive Home Care of Jackson

Kenneth Austin
317 E Capitol Street, Suite 200
Jackson, MS 39201
601-906-2926
kaustin@executivehomecare.com
executivehomecare.com/jackson-ms
Caregivers

Fuel Time Ridgeland

Satvinder Bedi
1250 Colony Park Blvd.
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-573-2568
fueltime@hotmail.com
Gas Stations

Gifts by ROKA

Robin Davis
1000 Highland Colony Pkwy, Suite
9017 Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-529-6801
giftsbyroka@gmail.com
Gifts & Specialty Items

Homewood Suites Jackson/Ridgeland

853 Centre Street
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-899-8611
shannon.mayesl@hilton.com
jackson.homewoodsuites.com
Hotels

Left Bank Gallery

Courtney Yancey
637 HWY 51, Suite AA
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-790-9040
leftbankgalleryms@gmail.com
leftbankgalleryms.com
Artists

Legacy League Baseball

Timothy Bennett
1200 Lakeland Drive
Jackson, MS 39216
601-212-7267
laveca@hankaaronsports.com
legacyleaguebaseball.com
Sports Organizations

Liberty Federal Credit Union Mortgage Office

Mesia Crews
875 Northpark Drive
Building 1, Suite A
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-750-0611
mcrews@libertyfcu.org
libertyfcu.org/location/madison
Banks/Credit Unions

McAfee Safety Analysis

O'Neal McAfee
875 Northpark Drive, Suite 200
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-812-6252
info@mcafeesafetyanalysis.com
mcafeesafetyanalysis.com
Environmental Products & Controls

Mo' Betta Dessert Bar

Bryant and Monique Anderson
7157 Old Canton Rd., Suite C
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-862-5930
mobettadessertbar@gmail.com
mobettadessertbar.com
Specialty Food & Drink

Oh, Meredith

Meredith Morris
103 W Washington Street, Suite B2
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-790-0047
hello@ohmeredith.co
ohmeredith.co
Retail/Shopping Centers

Old South Brick and Supply

Christopher Harless
P.O. Box 9484
Jackson, MS 39286
601-573-5672
chris@oldsb.com
oldsouthbrickandsupply.com
Contractors

Porsche Jackson

Angel Cortes
7034 I-55 East Frontage Road
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-326-7677
angel.cortes@carlockcars.com
porschejackson.com
Automobile Dealers

Southern Bath and Kitchen

Clay Taylor
141 Township Avenue, Suite 101
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-982-7176
clay.taylor@southernpipe.com
southernbathandkitchen.com
Appliances

Swag4Brands

Ray Jost
601-383-2128
Ray@Swag4Brands.com
swag4brands.com
Advertising

TayTay's Sweets

Taylor Wells
610 US 51, Suite B
Ridgeland, MS 39157
769-226-2250
taytayssweets04@gmail.com
taytayssweets.com
Bakeries

Thee Herbal Blessing

Eric Collins
655 Lake Harbour Drive, Suite 1300
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-517-5740
customerservice@theeherbalblessing.com
theeherbalblessing.com
Natural Wellness Solutions

Tru by Hilton

Cynthia Boykin
6934 I 55 North Frontage Rd
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-769-1782
truridgelandfd@yahoo.com
hilton.com
Hotels

Zaxbys

Kristian Barclay
6330 Ridgewood Court Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
601-952-0663
jackson@1788chicken.com
zaxbys.com
Restaurants

A group of students are boarding a yellow school bus. In the foreground, a boy with a blue backpack and a girl with a black backpack are walking towards the bus. Other students are visible inside the bus, including one with a pink and yellow backpack. The bus is yellow with black trim and has a large black tire visible on the right side.

School Highlights

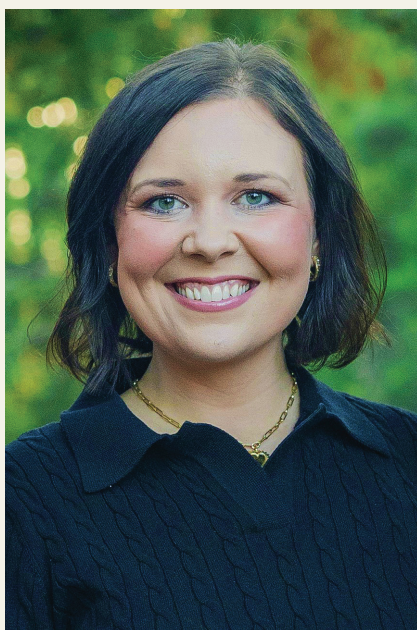
RIDGELAND
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

By Dr. Natasha May



One Story. One Purpose. One Family. One Highland.



Ms. Martin, Assistant Principal

The moment you walk through the doors of Highland Elementary School, you can feel it - a sense of pride, belonging, and community that defines who we are. This year, Highland continues to embrace its guiding motto: **One Story. One Purpose. One Family. One Highland.** More than a slogan, these words represent the values that unite our students, staff, and families every day.

One Story celebrates the rich diversity that makes Highland unique. Our school is home to students representing more than 30 countries, creating a vibrant learning community where every culture, language, and experience is valued. Students have the opportunity to learn from one another, broaden their perspectives, and develop an appreciation for the traditions and stories that make each class a reflection of our global community. At Highland, every student's story adds to the collective story of our school.

One Purpose reflects our commitment to fostering a positive, supportive learning environment through our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework. We intentionally teach and reinforce positive behaviors while providing encouragement and support to help every student succeed. Each month, students who consistently demonstrate our school expectations are recognized during PBIS celebrations, where their positive choices and leadership are celebrated. By focusing on encouragement rather than punishment, we are building a school culture where respect, responsibility, and kindness thrive.

One Family comes to life through our Ron Clark House System, where every student is welcomed into one of four houses: Altruismo, Amistad, Isibindi, or Rêveur. At the beginning of the school year, students eagerly spin the House Wheel to discover their house affiliation before learning their house chants, traditions, and values. Guided by the motto, "Four Houses, One Family," the house system encourages friendships across grade levels, strengthens relationships with teachers and staff, and creates meaningful opportunities for leadership, teamwork, and school spirit. Every student belongs, every student contributes, and every student has a place within the Highland family.

Together, these three pillars create One Highland, a school where diversity is celebrated, positive character is cultivated, and every child is connected through a shared sense of belonging.

As Highland begins another exciting school year, we are also pleased to welcome several new members to our school family. Among them is our new Assistant Principal, Ms. Martin, whose leadership and dedication to student success will further strengthen the supportive culture that makes Highland such a special place to learn and grow.

At Highland Elementary, every story matters, every student has a purpose, and every member of our community belongs. Together, we are proud to be One Highland.

OLD TOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Dr. Natasha May



Old Town Middle School Titans Make Every Moment Count

As the 2026–2027 school year began, Old Town Middle School embraced its theme, “Make It Count,” with purpose, pride, and Titan determination. From national competitions to athletic preparation and leadership development, students and staff demonstrated that every opportunity to learn, compete, and grow truly matters.

One of the school's greatest accomplishments this summer came from the Technology Student Association (TSA). Representing Old Town Middle School on the national stage, TSA members traveled to Washington, D.C., where they competed against some of the nation's brightest students during the National TSA Conference. Their participation reflected months of dedication, creativity, and problem-solving while showcasing the innovation and academic excellence that define the Titan community. Students returned home with valuable experiences, strengthened leadership skills, and unforgettable memories that will inspire future competitors for years to come.

Athletics also entered the new school year with excitement and optimism. The Titans football team dedicated countless hours to conditioning, strength training, and teamwork as players prepared for another competitive season. Their commitment to discipline, perseverance, and excellence set the tone for what promises to be an exciting year on the gridiron.

The Lady Titans volleyball team also spent the summer sharpening their skills through practices and team-building activities. Focused on communication, determination, and collaboration, the team developed a strong foundation as they prepared to compete with confidence throughout the season.

School spirit reached new heights as the OTMS Cheer Team attended the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) Camp at the University of Southern Mississippi. During camp, the squad learned new routines, refined cheer and stunt techniques, strengthened leadership skills, and built lasting bonds as teammates. They returned energized and ready to lead the student body with enthusiasm while supporting the Titans at every game and school event.

These accomplishments represent much more than individual successes. They reflect a school culture where students are encouraged to challenge themselves, pursue excellence, and proudly represent Old Town Middle School with integrity. Whether competing on a national stage, preparing for athletic competition, or developing leadership skills, students embodied the school's commitment to making every opportunity count.

As the year unfolds, Old Town Middle School continues to build a culture of excellence where academics, athletics, leadership, and extracurricular opportunities prepare



students for future success. Guided by this year's theme, “Make It Count,” the Titans are proving that every practice, every lesson, every competition, and every act of service contributes to something greater. Together, the Titan family is making every moment count and laying the foundation for another outstanding school year.

RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

By Dr. Natasha May



Ridgeland High School: Competing with Purpose

As students and staff returned for the new school year, Ridgeland High School embraced its 2026 - 2027 theme, "Competing with Purpose." More than a slogan, the theme has become a guiding principle that inspires students to pursue excellence with intention - in the classroom, in athletics, in leadership, and throughout the community.

The start of the school year was marked by the opening of Ridgeland High School's new academic addition, a significant milestone for the campus. The expansion features eight new classrooms, providing modern instructional spaces designed to support innovative teaching practices while accommodating the school's continued growth. This investment reflects the district's commitment to creating learning environments that foster collaboration, engagement, creativity, and academic excellence.

At Ridgeland High School, academic success is more than a goal - it is a shared commitment. Faculty and staff continue to create rigorous, engaging learning experiences while ensuring students receive the encouragement, resources, and individualized support needed to thrive. By cultivating high expectations and meaningful relationships, the school empowers every Titan to become a confident learner, critical thinker, and responsible leader prepared for success beyond graduation.

The spirit of Competing with Purpose has also been evident across Ridgeland's athletic programs. Throughout the summer, the Titan Football and Titan Volleyball teams prepared for the season through strength and conditioning, team camps,

skill development, and leadership training. Their dedication and work ethic laid a strong foundation for the year ahead and demonstrated the perseverance and teamwork that define Titan athletics.

The Ridgeland High School Cheer Program also celebrated an outstanding summer at the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) Camp held at Mississippi State University. The Varsity Cheer Team earned Best Cheer, was named Camp Champion for Camp Routine, placed Second in the Spirit Routine, and received the prestigious Camp Leadership Award. The Junior Varsity Cheer Team captured Best Dance, First Place Spirit Routine, First Place Camp Routine, Best Sideline, and Best Cheer honors. In addition, 10 varsity cheerleaders and three junior varsity cheerleaders were selected as UCA All-Americans, recognizing their exceptional technical skills, leadership, and performance.

These accomplishments have helped shape a positive culture at Ridgeland High School - one where excellence is celebrated, teamwork is valued, and every student is encouraged to pursue success with integrity and purpose. As students witness their classmates excelling academically, athletically, and as leaders, they are inspired to raise their own expectations and contribute to a school community built on encouragement, accountability, and Titan pride.

The opening of the new academic addition, the achievements of our student-athletes, and the unwavering commitment of our faculty and staff reflect more than individual accomplishments - they demonstrate what is possible when a common purpose unites an entire school community. As the year continues, Ridgeland High School remains committed to fostering a culture where every Titan is challenged to learn, lead, serve, and Compete with Purpose.



IN THIS PHOTO: The 2026 - 2027 Ridgeland High School Junior Varsity Cheer Team



LEFT: Ridgeland High School Junior Varsity and Varsity Cheer Squads with their coach, Sahara Haralson Wilson

BELOW: The 2026–2027 Ridgeland High School Varsity Cheer Team

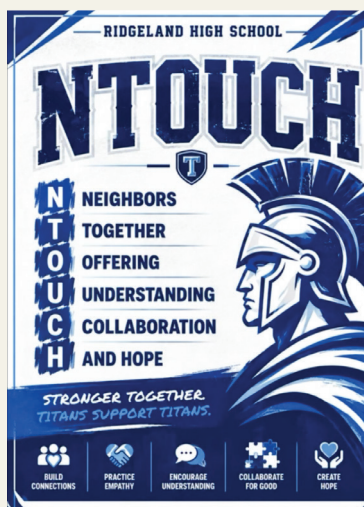
“ The only limit to your impact is your imagination and commitment. ”

Principal Preston Nailor



NTouch Community Outreach Unites Ridgeland Community in Service to Ridgeland High School

By Dr. Myesha Holmes, PMP



On July 9, the NTouch Community Outreach brought members of the Ridgeland community together for a day of service in support of Ridgeland High School. Orchestrated by Principal Nailor, the initiative united volunteers around a common purpose - to invest in the school, its students, and the future of the community.

The outreach highlighted the strength of community collaboration as volunteers came together to serve with enthusiasm and purpose. Their collective efforts demonstrated that meaningful partnerships between schools and the community can create a lasting impact, fostering an environment where students and educators feel supported and valued.

The event served as a powerful reminder that education extends beyond the classroom. When community members, leaders, and volunteers join together in service, they help create opportunities that inspire student success while strengthening the bonds that make Ridgeland a vibrant place to live, learn, and grow.

The NTouch Community Outreach continues to exemplify the spirit of service and community engagement by bringing people together to make a difference where it matters most. The July 9 initiative at Ridgeland High School reflects a shared commitment to investing in the next generation and building a stronger community through volunteerism, partnership, and compassion.

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Mary Margaret Busby



Holmes Ridgeland Campus Celebrates Surgical Technology Class of 2026



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are the 2026 Ridgeland Campus Surgical Technology graduates with instructors (far left) Shea Coleman and (far right) Christin Boyette. They are (left to right) Abigail Lampard, Reilly Kate Lack, Quyn-ton Davis, Emily Hardwick, and Makenzie Evans.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus celebrated the Surgical Technology Class of 2026 during a pinning ceremony on June 24 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center.

Five students were recognized during the event:

- Quyn-ton Davis of Leflore County
- Makenzie Evans of Simpson County
- Emily Hardwick of Rankin County
- Reilly Kate Lack of Rankin County
- Abigail Lampard of Webster County

The ceremony opened with a graduate processional, followed by an invocation led by Abigail Lampard. Career-Technical Education Counselor Jovonna Parker then welcomed attendees before Reilly Kate Lack introduced guest speaker Jared Davis, MD.

Following Dr. Davis' address, Surgical Tech Director Shea Coleman presented special awards. She presented Quyn-ton Davis with the Clinical Student of the Year Award and Abigail Lampard with the Surgical Technology Student of the Year Award. Additionally, Coleman

recognized Lampard as the valedictorian for having the highest GPA and Makenzie Evans as the salutatorian for having the second highest. She also announced that the students had a 100% pass rate on the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) exam.

For more information about the Surgical Technology program on the Ridgeland Campus, contact Shea Coleman at 601-605-3396 or tcoleman@holmescc.edu.



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are the 2026 graduates of the AWS Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship (I2PA) program: They are (front row, left to right) Devin Hawkins, Avian Berry, Charisse Curtis, Jacob Schmelzer, Jordan Broadway, Kevan Johnson, (second row, left to right) Joshua Dunson, Dylan Prater, Kelly Burris, Zechariah Young, Charles Brown, III, Lovdai Poindexter, (third row, left to right) Gregory Williams, Lawrence Brantley, Connor Green, (back row, left to right) Austin Boarden, James Turner and Tyrin Williams

Holmes Community College Celebrates Graduation of 3rd AWS Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship Cohort

Holmes Community College celebrated the graduation of its third cohort of the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship (I2PA) program on Friday, June 26, recognizing 18 graduates who completed the intensive workforce training program.

The third cohort completed the program from June 1–26, gaining foundational knowledge and hands-on experience in information infrastructure, cloud technology concepts, and career opportunities within the technology industry.

The graduates included Avian Berry, Austin Boarden, Lawrence Brantley, Jordan Broadway, Charles “Trey” Brown, Kelly Burris, Charisse Curtis, Joshua

Dunson, Connor Green, Devin Hawkins, Kevan Johnson, Lovdai Poindexter, Dylan Prater, Jacob Schmelzer, James Turner, Gregory Williams, Tyrin Williams, and Zechariah “Zack” Young.

The AWS I2PA program is designed to provide participants with skills and experiences that prepare them for careers in the growing information technology field. Through the program, students explore industry-recognized technology concepts, develop workforce skills, and gain insight into potential career pathways.

Holmes launched the AWS I2PA program to help meet workforce demands by providing students with access to high-quality technology training and

opportunities for career advancement. The program continues to connect students with skills needed for success in today’s evolving workforce.

Following the graduation ceremony, graduates participated in a networking event where they had the opportunity to connect with industry professionals, celebrate their accomplishments, and explore future opportunities in the technology sector.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES THIS FALL



Page Turners

RIDGELAND
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fall Fun at the Ridgeland Library

We had another fun and busy time with this year's Summer Reading Program! This summer brought back magician Dorian LaChance, Crescent Circus, and the Hattiesburg Zoo. This year, we even had dinosaurs in the library. We enjoyed having patrons of all ages attend our programs and celebrate Summer Reading with us. We can't wait for next year's Summer Reading Program!

The library continues to offer fun programs for all ages. For youth, we have Sensory Play for ages 0 - 2, Little Adventures Storytime for ages 3 - 5, Afterschool Fun for ages 6 - 11, and programs for our tweens and teens. On the second and fourth Fridays of the month, we have programming for our homeschooling families. Now that the school year has started back, Chess Club, ages 5 - 18, will resume on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

For adults, we have a new tech assistance program every Wednesday starting at 12:00 p.m. This one-on-one time is a great way to learn how to use the computer, a smartphone, email, etc. For more information or to register, email Tamra Bates at tbates@mcls.ms. We also continue to offer our Madison County Mystery Readers and Books & Beverages (on Zoom) book clubs and Spanish language programs for adults as well.

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

By Evanne Flanders

SENSORY PLAY FOR LITTLES
Wednesdays at 10:30 AM
For ages 0-2
Ridgeland Public Library

You and your child will have fun meeting new friends and developing your child's physical, sensory, and emotional learning skills. We'll have a ball pit, musical instruments, soft books, sensory materials, and much more!

CHESS CLUB
First Saturdays
10 AM
Ages 5+

Come learn to play chess every first Saturday of the month with Johnny Han and his fellow St. Andrew's chess team members. To register, email Evanne at evflanders@mcls.ms

**1 ON 1
TECH SUPPORT**
WEDNESDAYS
FROM 12-330 PM
AT THE RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

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RIDGELAND CONTINUES TO ATTRACT NATIONAL COMPANIES

By Alan Hart & Kim Cooper

Growth doesn't happen by accident. It takes vision, long-term planning, and strong partnerships to provide a place where businesses want to invest and people want to spend their time. Those qualities continue to set Ridgeland apart.



Over the years, Ridgeland has established itself as one of Mississippi's leading destinations for shopping, dining, entertainment, and an exceptional quality of life. The City's business community continues to grow, bringing new opportunities for residents while attracting more visitors to the area.

That momentum has helped Ridgeland welcome some of the nation's most recognizable brands. From Costco and Topgolf to Apple and LEGO®, businesses continue to choose Ridgeland because of its thriving commercial environment, strategic location, and commitment to quality development.

This year marks another exciting milestone as LEGO® opens its doors and Dave & Buster's announces plans to bring its first Mississippi

location to the City. Apple has also expanded into a larger space at Renaissance at Colony Park, reflecting the continued success of one of the region's premier shopping destinations.

The newest addition is expected to become another major attraction for Ridgeland. The Board of Aldermen recently approved the proposed site plans for Dave & Buster's, a nearly 24,000-square-foot entertainment venue planned for the Prado Vista development on Colony Park Boulevard next to Topgolf.

Known for combining a full-service restaurant with arcade games, sports viewing, and interactive entertainment, Dave & Buster's operates more than 230 locations across North America. Its arrival will

add another exciting entertainment option for residents while strengthening Ridgeland's position as a regional destination for families and visitors.

Mayor Gene McGee said the announcement is the result of years of strategic planning and continued investment in the City's future.

"Our goal has always been to make Ridgeland a community where people want to live, work, visit, and invest," McGee said.

LEFT: An architectural rendering of the first Dave & Buster's location in the State of Mississippi, which will be located next to Topgolf.

BELOW: The new location of the Apple Store at Renaissance; the shop moved to a different spot and opened on July 24, 2026. The new LEGO store will open in Apple's old location, near Barnes & Noble.



TOPGOLF®

COSTCO®
WHOLESALE



RIDGELAND POLICE HONORS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By City Staff



The City of Ridgeland proudly recognizes several members of the Ridgeland Police Department for outstanding service, leadership, and contributions to public safety. From distinguished awards and statewide training accomplishments to decades of dedicated service, these officers exemplify the professionalism and commitment that define the department.



IN THIS PHOTO (Left to Right): Chief Brian Myers, Detective Sgt. Mike McGahey, Officer Anthony Thompson, Sgt. Kelly Chapin, Officer Stephen Webb

BRIAN MYERS

2026 Top Cop for the Madison County District Attorney's Office

Chief Brian Myers has dedicated 28 years of service to the citizens of Ridgeland, rising through the ranks from patrol officer to become the department's eighth chief of police. Throughout his career, he has led with integrity, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Under his leadership, the Ridgeland Police Department has earned a reputation for producing some of the highest-quality criminal investigations and prosecutions in Mississippi. He has built a culture of accountability, thoroughness, and service that extends throughout every division of the department.

Chief Myers' legacy is measured not only by arrests or convictions, but also by the officers he has mentored, the standards he has established and the trust he has built within the community.

His leadership has made a lasting impact on the Ridgeland Police Department and Madison County.

For his distinguished career, exceptional leadership and dedication to public safety, Chief Myers was selected as the Madison County District Attorney's Office 2026 Top Cop.

ANTHONY THOMPSON

Ridgeland Police Department Top Cop

With 11 years of law enforcement experience, including the past four years with the Ridgeland Police Department, Officer Anthony Thompson has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism and dedication to public safety.

His proactive policing, keen investigative instincts and extensive law enforcement network have contributed to the identification and apprehension of numerous suspects involved in property and violent crimes.

Beyond his patrol duties, Officer Thompson

routinely assists the Criminal Investigations Division by providing valuable intelligence and helping identify suspects, often while off duty. He also serves as a field training officer, helping develop the next generation of Ridgeland officers through mentorship and example.

Officer Thompson is one of the department's most dependable and respected officers. His work ethic, initiative and commitment to excellence make him highly deserving of the Ridgeland Police Department's Top Cop Award.

MIKE MCGAHEY

John Dorsa Officer of the Year Award

Sgt. Mike McGahey has been a dedicated member of the Ridgeland Police Department since 1999, following four years of honorable service in the United States Coast Guard.

During his 27-year career, he has served in numerous leadership roles, including field training officer, corporal, patrol sergeant, and detective.

He currently serves as the sergeant overseeing the Criminal Investigations Division.

Since joining CID in 2016, Sgt. McGahey has investigated and successfully solved numerous felony and violent-crime cases. His thorough investigations, attention to detail, and professionalism have consistently contributed to successful prosecutions and convictions.

Detectives and officers regularly seek his experience and expertise throughout the department. He also continues to mentor younger investigators while providing steady leadership within the division.

Sgt. McGahey's dedication, investigative skill and leadership have made him an invaluable asset to the Ridgeland Police Department and the City of Ridgeland, earning him the John Dorsa Officer of the Year Award.

STEPHEN WEBB

Tyler Technologies Product Efficiency Award

When the Ridgeland Police Department's outdated records system became noncompliant, inefficient and unreliable, the department partnered with Tyler Technologies to implement Enterprise Public Safety and Enforcement Mobile.

The result was a modern, integrated solution that streamlined operations, improved reporting

accuracy and increased officer productivity.

Within three months of implementation, report completion times decreased by more than 50%, from as long as one hour to less than 30 minutes. The resulting increase in officer availability contributed to emergency response times improving from approximately 10 minutes to fewer than five minutes.

Proactive enforcement also increased significantly, with traffic citations rising from 183 in December 2024 to 862 in December 2025.

A key factor in the project's success was Training Officer Stephen Webb, who oversaw the transition and worked tirelessly beyond his regular duties to keep the implementation on schedule and ensure it exceeded expectations.

Through his leadership and the outstanding support of Tyler Technologies, the department achieved its go-live date in just 10 months, well ahead of the projected 12- to 15-month timeline.

Tyler Technologies and Training Officer Webb transformed a complex software transition into a measurable operational success, improving efficiency, compliance, officer productivity and public safety throughout the department. Their efforts were recognized with the Tyler Technologies Product Efficiency Award.

KELLY CHAPIN

Top Cop Trainer of the Year Award

Sgt. Kelly Chapin has devoted more than 21 years of service to the Ridgeland Police Department, dedicating much of his career to developing and mentoring law enforcement officers.

He has been a member of the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Association for more than 12 years and has served on its board since 2021. In 2024, Sgt. Chapin became a certified Harley-Davidson police motor instructor.

Since earning that certification, he has instructed or assisted with five motor schools and numerous conference training sessions, helping train more than 250 officers from across Mississippi.

Beyond the classroom, Sgt. Chapin is a committed mentor who actively supports the growth of young officers and the advancement of the law enforcement profession.

His leadership, dedication to training, and positive impact on officers throughout Mississippi make him highly deserving of the Top Cop Trainer of the Year Award.

THANK YOU, WILLIE AND RICKY!

The Ridgeland Police Department also celebrates two longtime officers who recently retired after more than a quarter-century of service to the community.

Warrants Officer Willie Robinson joined the Ridgeland Police Department on July 6, 1998. He has served as a warrants officer for many years and is known as an employee who can always be trusted to handle his responsibilities with professionalism and care.

Willie has consistently been responsible, dependable, and trustworthy. He is also known throughout the department for his positive attitude, warm smile, and cordial nature.

He has retired after 28 years of dedicated service to the Ridgeland Police Department.

School Resource Officer Ricky Bracey joined the Ridgeland Police Department on October 10, 2000. He has served as

a school resource officer for many years, touching countless lives through his work with students at Ridgeland High School.

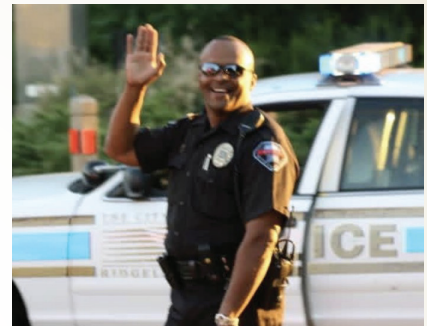
Ricky was recently honored by the Madison County School District when a street on the Ridgeland High School campus was named Officer Ricky Bracey Boulevard.

His loyalty and devotion to the students, faculty, and families of Ridgeland High School have made a lasting impact on the school community.

Ricky retired after more than 25 years of dedicated service to the Ridgeland Police Department.

The City of Ridgeland has been fortunate to have Willie Robinson and Ricky Bracey protecting and serving the community for more than a quarter-century. Although it is difficult to see them leave, the department is grateful to call them brothers in blue.

The City of Ridgeland wishes Willie and Ricky many fulfilling years in retirement.



School Resource Officer Ricky Bracey



Warrants Officer Willie Robinson

SOUTH HIGHLAND COLONY WATER TANK & WELL PROJECT TO BE COMPLETE IN LATE FALL/EARLY WINTER

By Alan Hart

The City of Ridgeland is preparing to complete the South Highland Colony Water Tank and Well Project, marking the culmination of years of planning and investment in the City's water infrastructure.

Identified as a future need in Ridgeland's 2020 Water Master Plan, the project was designed to ensure the City continues to provide reliable, high-quality drinking water while supporting future growth and economic development.

"This project reflects our commitment to planning," said Mayor Gene McGee. "Reliable infrastructure is the foundation of a strong community, and this investment ensures Ridgeland is prepared to meet the needs of our residents and businesses for many years to come. We remain committed to providing one of the highest-quality water systems in Mississippi."

The project includes a new 1,000,000-gallon elevated water storage tank and a new deep groundwater well completed in the Sparta Aquifer approximately 1,300 feet below the surface. During drilling, crews encountered an exceptionally productive sand formation, resulting in a well that produces excellent water quantity and quality and exceeds the City's expectations for performance.

Upon completion, the new facilities will increase Ridgeland's water storage capacity by 30 percent and increase the City's pumping capacity by approximately 20 percent. Together, these improvements will provide additional capacity to serve future residential and commercial development while helping deliver even fresher water



IN THIS PHOTO: A rendering of the soon-to-be-completed Water Tank

throughout the distribution system.

The elevated storage tank stands approximately 150 feet tall and is connected to Ridgeland's network of 12-inch water mains. The completed project includes more than four million pounds of concrete and a storage capacity of one million gallons of water, which weighs more than eight million pounds when the tank is full.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen recognized this need years before additional capacity became critical. Their vision allowed us to plan, secure outside funding, and deliver this project before growth outpaced our infrastructure. That's exactly how good infrastructure planning should work.

Funding for the approximately \$9.6 million project was made possible through a combination of federal and state funding sources, including Congressional Community Project Funding through the State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and a Mississippi Municipality and County Water Infrastructure (MCWI) Grant. The City appreciates the support of Senator Roger Wicker, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Congressman Michael Guest, the State of Mississippi, and the local legislative delegation for helping make this project possible while minimizing the use of local tax dollars.

The City also recognizes the outstanding partnership of Waggoner Engineering, Hemphill Construction, and the dedicated employees of the Public Works Department whose efforts have helped bring this important project from planning to the finish line.

With completion anticipated in late Fall/early Winter 2026, the South Highland Colony Water Tank and Well Project represents another important investment in Ridgeland's future, ensuring the City's water infrastructure remains dependable, resilient, and ready to serve generations to come.

CITY NOTIFICATIONS & TIPS



THE CITY OF RIDGELAND ADVANCED WATER METER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- The improvements enable access to EyeOnWater, a FREE tool for you to monitor water usage and provide leak detection. It is accessible via browser or app.
- A better understanding of your usage can help you make decisions that could lower your water bill.
- Its quick and customizable leak alerts could save you hundreds to thousands of dollars.
- We will no longer mail courtesy leak letters, and leak alerts must come from EyeOnWater.

**CREATE AN ACCOUNT
TODAY BY VISITING**

www.eyeonwater.com/signup

or
downloading the app.

You will need your
account number (with dashes)
and zip code.



CITY OF RIDGELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

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3 WAYS TO SIGN UP GET NOTICES & ALERTS



- 1: www.RidgelandMS.org
- 2: www.Ridgeland-MS.MyFreeAlerts.com
- 3: Text your zip code to 38276 for emergency alerts via SMS only



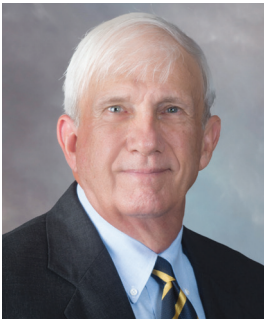
REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR RIDGELAND ALERTS!

WHO AND WHERE

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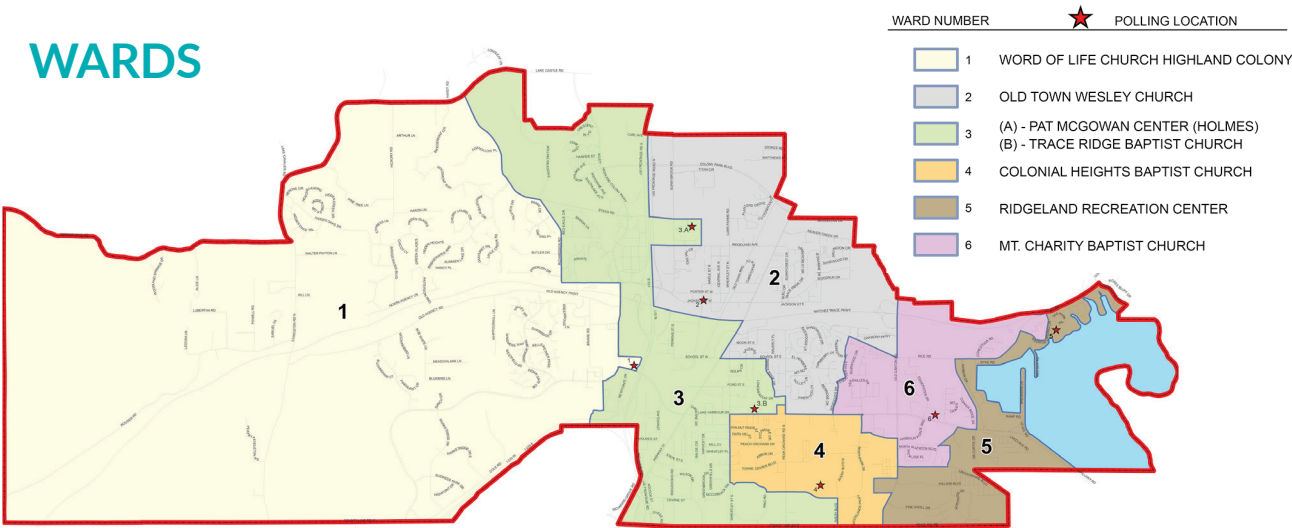


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ANONYMOUS TIP LINE

(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 fire dispatch center)..... 9-1-1

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION *(business licenses, elections, meeting minutes, budget, public records)* 601-856-7113

FIRE DEPARTMENT

(non-emergency calls, safety education programs)..... 601-856-7004

POLICE DEPARTMENT

(non-emergency calls, public safety concerns) 601-856-2121

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

(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, Allison Guynes,

Polly Hammett, Claire Jackson, Kenya Rachal,

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

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Parks Department
John Sidney North

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Recreation and Parks

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