

June 2020 – August 2020

# RIDGELAND Life

*Lifestyles of the  
Healthy and Eccentric*

*The Carr Family:  
Six Generations in Ridgeland*



*Also: Mosquito Spraying FAQs*

the **SUMMER** issue

RIDGELAND  
there's   
**more!**  
here 

## *From the Mayor*

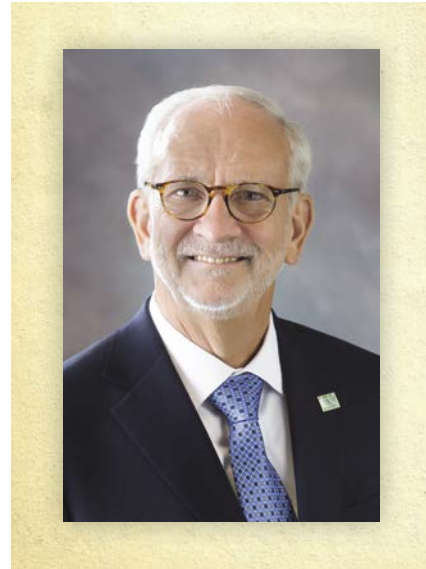
WOW! It doesn't seem possible that only a couple months ago we were all thinking about many spring activities such as group sports like soccer and baseball, or the many activities at school that take place in the spring. The high school athletes have seen their spring seasons come to an end before they could even begin, and those who are to graduate in 2020 are seeing the last part of their high school career in a totally different light. No one could anticipate that schools would be cancelled after spring break for the remainder of the year, as well as the cancellations or adjustments of the 2020 graduations. Compliments go out to the many educators who have worked hard to provide the online classes and to the students and parents who have made the tremendous adjustment to get their education in a very different way.

I would also like to compliment the many businesses in Ridgeland who have made tremendous adjustments to serve our citizens. Only time will tell what the economic impact will be on each business, but it has been very rewarding to see businesses make the necessary changes to keep our City safe and still serve our community.

As the corona virus subsides and the Governor lifts the stay at home order, I want to encourage each of you to do everything within your power to support our local businesses. As most of you know, the City of Ridgeland's economy is driven largely by the retail market. Therefore, it is critical that we support our local businesses so that we can continue to make Ridgeland the best place to live and work. In addition, I encourage everyone to complete their 2020 Census form. The results of the Census determine our congressional representation and how our City receives funding for our local schools, highways, healthcare, and many other programs over the next decade.

We in Ridgeland are very fortunate that we have the many multi-use trails that we can get out on as individuals and families and exercise and enjoy the outdoors. Let me encourage each of you to take advantage of this blessing and get out as often as possible.

Lastly, I would like to compliment the employees of the City of Ridgeland, whether it be fire, police, public works or other departments, the City's employees have stepped up to be sure that the citizens of Ridgeland, as well as our guests, are served in a safe way. If you see a City employee, please share with them your gratitude for the service they provide.



**Gene McGee**  
Mayor of Ridgeland

*Gene F. McGee*

# RIDGELAND Life

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**ON THE COVER:** *Allen Martinson's Garden*

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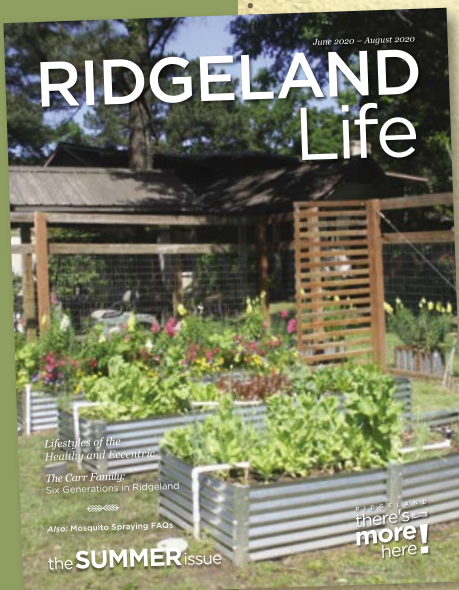
#### GRAPHIC DESIGN & PRINTING

Hederman Brothers

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

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# *Lifestyles of the Healthy and Eccentric*

*by Mary Beth McCullouch, Editor*

For the summer edition of the magazine, I decided several months ago to focus on living a healthy lifestyle. As you may know, Ridgeland boasts being one of the healthiest cities in Mississippi and received the Healthiest Hometown award twice - in 2013 and 2018. This award, which has a five-year waiting period for reapplication after winning, is given by the Mississippi Municipal League and comes with a hefty \$50,000.00 award from Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Mississippi.

Being healthy is a lifestyle. It's a state of mind. No one said it was easy, but no one said it couldn't be enjoyable - or even eccentric. On a cool April morning, I drove out to the "country side" of Ridgeland to the beautiful home of Mimi and Allen Martinson to catch a glimpse of the lifestyles of the healthy and eccentric. Mimi and Allen are expert gardeners, own a garden center and gift shop in Ridgeland, live in a teepee in their backyard several weeks out of the year (I'll delve more into that later), and drink Kombucha like the ordinary drink orange juice.

Kombucha - that's where I'll start. When I walked in the door of the Martinson's home, I was greeted by Allen, his daughter Mia, and their spectacular dogs Willow and Barney. An immediate impression was performed with John Prine's idiosyncratic tunes crooning from the surround sound, producing a whimsical vibe. Taking a moment to yield my undivided attention to the most important family members, Willow and Barney, Allen led us all into the kitchen where he offered me coffee. "Sure, sounds great! I could use another cup." Walking to the Keurig, he turned around, "Oh - I've got Kombucha!" My adventurous self could not dismiss the chance to fully embrace this opportunity. I've never had Kombucha.

Expecting something in a mug like hot tea, I was perplexed when Allen handed me a stemless wine glass filled with a liquid the color of Hawaiian Punch. Explaining the fermentation process of this sweet, tangy drink with hints of spice and carbonation (beer drinkers will love it!), I asked if it would make me drunk. (It was only 10 o'clock in the morning, of course!) Assuring me, "Oh, no, this one won't. I think it only has like .01% alcohol in it." Apparently recipes from ancient times had that capability, but whatever process is used today doesn't focus on the alcohol. Mia chimed in, "It has these great probiotics that are sooo good for you." Allen added that Mia has a recipe in the works for making her own Kombucha.

While the Martinson's partake in Kombucha as part of their healthy lifestyle, their passion lies in their backyard. Blood, sweat, and tears can't even describe the labor behind this utopia. The vegetable garden is chock full of lettuces, radishes, carrots, onions, celery, and so much more. The vegetables are planted and arranged amongst vibrant flower blossoms of the season, inviting everyone to delight in their allure. Of course you can imagine my excitement when he pulled out a fresh pair of orange-handled Fiskars proffering me the cuttings of lettuces and kale. I was shocked at the scissors - thinking most professional gardeners used expensive shears to cut from their bounty. He explained it doesn't matter as long as they are sharp.

The tour continued on to the rest of the property. The knock-out roses were in full bloom. Lights strung across the pond and the sound of blue grass playing in the background allowed the imagination to envision Memorial Day and Fourth of July. A teepee nestled close to the pond captivated Bohemian chic. It's not for decoration. Inside it houses a bed, Persian rugs, a heat source, and even a coffee pot. This time of year, Mimi and Allen end their day in here, slumbering to the sounds of God's Creation.

As the tour ended, we made our way back toward the gardens where Allen supplied me with fresh veggies and cut flowers to take home. With families like the Martinson's, it's no wonder the City of Ridgeland has twice received the Healthiest Hometown Award in Mississippi - and it probably won't be the last!

# VEGETABLE GARDENING

by Allen Martinson

This year, lots of people will be vegetable gardening more than ever – if not for the first time ever! Since we have all been at home so much, getting our hands into the soil is the reaction that many people were having. It's a great time to get the family involved with a garden project. Kids, up to a certain age, seem to love planting a vegetable garden. Then again, if your kids have passed that certain age, you can watch them scatter like roaches when they see you come home with a car full of garden supplies. It's a great way to get some alone time, if needed.

Grocery stores aren't much fun to go to anymore. Any produce you can grow at home prevents the worry about your safety and having to wash thoroughly before putting them away. Most people at this time are thinking about a healthier lifestyle and doing whatever it takes to stay away from the doctors and the hospitals. The way to start a healthy lifestyle is to consume fewer processed foods. There aren't many things that are better than having a salad or sides of the meal that you picked that day from your garden. There is no comparison to vegetables that ripened on the plant to those that were picked days before they ripen and gassed with something that gives them a longer shelf life at the grocery store.

I grew up in Madison County in the 70's when it was considered rural. My family had enough land to raise horses, cows, and all kinds of birds and pigs. We had an organic garden that was an acre of the most beautiful produce I ever saw. To keep that large of an area covered in organic matter rich in nutrients, we shoveled and turned a lot of poop. We had a compost pile that stank to high heaven from adding daily compostable matter from the kitchen and layering in grass cuttings and manure from any animal that would stand still long enough. My mother Rita Martinson would load all four of us up to go get manure from local stables and the zoo. One time we got the grand prize of the manure left by the circus when they came to town. To this day, Rita says our produce was bigger because we used the elephant manure from the zoo. I had never seen such gorgeous produce. I think she might be on to something.

There were times that it took all of us and any recruited friends several days in the country to pick beans and snap peas. With a garden our size we were able to do a lot of canning and pickling. My favorite was the strawberry fig preserves that we made from the giant fig trees growing on our property and the rows of beautiful strawberries. The process of canning is a kid-friendly, factory-like process with great return on the investment. We were getting a lot done and having fun. My mother and my Aunt Gloria were pretty smart cookies with all their free labor. I must admit we ate well no matter what month it was.

Gardening stuck with me and my siblings. I think we all still have



vegetable gardens of some kind. Even during college I continued growing my vegetables and never stopped having a garden wherever I wound up. Overtime I realized that the only vegetable crops I enjoyed growing were those that I enjoyed eating. I like all kinds of tomatoes, okra, asparagus, all greens, yellow squash, carrots, radishes and herbs. I stopped growing zucchinis, Brussels sprouts, and not many peppers. When I finally decided that I was growing some things just to grow them, I cut those vegetables off my list. It left a lot more room to grow what I really like to eat. Luckily, Mimi is on the same page as far as what she likes to cook with. The garden that we have now is just the right size for the two of us with enough left over to give plenty produce away to our friends.

I love our setup that we've grown into. At first when our two kids were younger, we built our raised beds from lumber. We built one together. We once we had the proto type and the kids built some of their own. They were simple boxes made of two by tens that were four feet wide and eight feet long. These boxes lasted eight years. That's a lot of produce! The raised beds that we recently

replaced those boxes with are little longer and made of corrugated aluminum kits. They look great, perfect height, and will last forever.

The reason I like raised beds is that it's easier to control the moisture, and in a wet weather year, the soil in a raised bed will drain sufficiently. I like them also because I like to make my own soil mix. I use mushroom compost, black cow composted manure, and soil grit, which is a sandy, barky mix that allows porosity and better drainage. Well drained soil is the key to good vegetable gardening. I get way less blights in my tomatoes and squash by making sure that my soil drains quickly after a big rain.

Another thing I like about our garden setup now is that each box is set up with drip irrigation. I run a spaghetti tube within an emitter at the end of each tube to the base of each plant so the roots get watered and not the foliage. Wet foliage on vegetable plants can lead to funguses and blights. That can be overcome by watering in the mornings so the water on the leaves will dry before nightfall. I just never know what time I will be able to water, so I like this method with the timer, and when summer sets in, I know they will get watered.

I have experimented with all kinds of gardening techniques – from going totally organic to somewhere in between. I have found what works for me is to have very good soil and use either mulch or low growing herbs for ground cover to keep weeds down. I don't let aphids bother me much. If they do begin to bother me, I will squirt water on them. When an aphid becomes dislodged, they die. I visit my garden frequently every day to see if there are insects causing problems. If they are causing problems, I pick them off the leaves and get rid of them.

One Christmas, my gift to the family was a pile of lumber, bags of Quikrete, and rolls of wire so that over the Christmas holidays we could build a fence around the garden area to keep deer out. It was fun and has done the job. You probably will need a fence around your garden depending on where you live and what kind of wildlife roams around.

Raised beds is not the only way to garden vegetables. You can grow great plants in large pots. Hay bales with holes cut into them make great vegetable planters. Anywhere in your yard that you get at least six hours of full sun and drains well is all you need to grow vegetables and herbs. As long as you amend the soil in the plot of ground, you can grow produce. Timing is pretty important. You can buy starter plants from the garden center, or if you want to start your plants from seed, this will lead to doing some homework on timing of the germination of seeds. Once they have sprouted, they need to be transplanted quickly, or they will begin to decline if you started them inside the house. The seeds need to germinate and be ready to transplant after the last frost date, or you'll have nowhere to go with your starter plants, so you don't want start that too early. Timing is also important in planting the right plants during the right season. Some plants will only be successful during

the cool months and others only in the warmer months.

If you are just starting to garden for vegetables, don't overthink it too much. You'll be surprised at how easy it is to begin. Over time you will begin to develop your own style of gardening. That's what makes it fun! You can grow a tomato plant that will produce tomatoes just by planting one anywhere sunny that receives enough water to keep it alive. Perfecting that is something you can do over time with lots of experimenting and fun. Let the family join in if you want, or let it be your hideout from everyone. Plant as many flowers in your vegetable garden as you do vegetable plants. It makes it that much more fun to show off your own little piece of the world. The point is to do it however you want to. You can study books and copy other peoples' models because it appeals to you, or just plant in pots around your deck. You will get great satisfaction just from trying.

*Allen and Mimi Martinson live in Ridgeland and own Martinson's Garden Works on Highway 51.*



# New City Hall Update

Located in the very center of Ridgeland at the intersection of School Street and Highway 51, the City Center acquired its name due to its location within the City. After years of planning and raising funds, the new City Hall, the City Center's first project, has finally become a reality.

Housing the offices for the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Finance and Administration, Community Development, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks, the new City Hall will be built on a drilled-pier foundation that is designed to last for many years

ahead and will be energy efficient. Seating at least 65 citizens, the board room will boast the latest technology and be more functional than our current board room.

Featuring a brick and stone façade, the estimated cost of the new City Hall is \$10,182,000. In addition to the two-story 30,775 square foot City Hall building, this phase of the project will feature a Public Green Space and a Veterans Memory Garden.

The new City Hall is coming along nicely and has an expected completion date of January 2021.



## Meet Titus!



Officer Ben Johnson and Titus

What has four legs, a tail, and sits on command? It's Ridgeland's favorite police officer, of course! K9 Titus is his name! Crime fighting is his game.

Titus is a 17-month-old Belgian Malinois with moves to instill jealousy in Mick Jagger and intellect to compel McGruff the Crime Dog to hang up his trench

coat! Specializing in narcotics detection and scent tracking, Titus has a bite grip comparable to an alligator. When not in "work mode," Titus has a kind and gentle temperament; however, you won't see his eyes stray far from his handler.

After months of training, Titus became Ridgeland Officer Ben Johnson's partner in January this year. "Titus' training is never-ending. We set aside time every day to practice scent detection, tracking, and even bite training," Johnson explained. "Before I brought Titus home, I spent five weeks with him at US K9 Unlimited in South Louisiana learning to handle and conduct training exercises for Titus to excel at being a great K9 officer."

It wasn't long after Titus was "sworn-in" as Ridgeland's only K9 that he was put to work. "Recently, Titus helped us catch a house burglar by tracking him across fields and creeks," Johnson said. "He tracked for over an hour, leading us to the fugitive. We would not have caught him without Titus' assistance."



Titus in action!

The City of Ridgeland is grateful to have Titus and Officer Ben Johnson on our police force. If you see them out and about, please thank them for their service.



The sawmill was just one of the businesses Jack Carr operated in the Village of Ridgeland.



Lena Rodgers met Jack Carr when shopping in his butcher shop. They married in the early 1900's

## The Carr Family SIX GENERATIONS IN RIDGELAND

Answering an advertisement for work opportunity placed by The Highland Colony Company, John Wesley and Martha Alice Carr traveled to newly chartered Ridgeland, Mississippi by train from the State of Washington. They brought their children, Ray, Jack and Ora.

Lena Rogers' family came to Ridgeland on October 7, 1899 - almost three months before the charter was established. Jack was quite the entrepreneur, operating a butcher shop, sawmill and small farm. He and Lena met when she came into the butcher shop. They married and had six children. Jack continued to invest in Ridgeland by purchasing available land. He also served on the Board of Aldermen in the 1950's.

Their second oldest child was Harvey. He and his siblings attended a two-room schoolhouse in Ridgeland. Along with two of his brothers, Harvey operated Carr Farms until around 2000. Wanting Ridgeland to have its own local schools, the Carr brothers sold property for the building of Ridgeland High School. Holmes Community College also sits on land that was formerly part of Carr Farms.

Harvey Carr, Jr. raised his family on Carr Farms. Always active in Ridgeland, he served four terms on the Board of Aldermen.

Robby Carr still lives on Carr Farms property. Active in banking, Robby is also a charter member of The Historical Society of Ridgeland and serves on the Historical Committee for the City.

Robby's sons, Jack and Sam, are the sixth generations of the Carr family to live in Ridgeland. Jack has signed to play football at Holmes Community College next year. He will be the third generation of the family to play for the Bulldogs. Before electrical service came to Ridgeland in 1928, Jack Carr lit the lanterns along Jackson Street each evening. This December his namesake will light the Ridgeland Christmas Tree.

### Historical Society Projects in the Works

- Updating and reprinting the Historical Society brochure for Ridgeland Tourism Commission
- Identifying and packing documents and artifacts to be moved to the new City Hall
- Mapping and scripting Historical Society tours for Ridgeland Tourism Commission
- Planning another tour of Jessamine Cemetery for Fall, 2020
- Working with other City committees and departments to present the Ridgeland Christmas Tree Lighting event in December, 2020.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our area was known as Yellowley's Crossing, then as Jessamine before being chartered as The Village of Ridgeland on December 29, 1899. Much of the original village was destroyed by fire in 1902.

### Meeting Information

The Historical Society of Ridgeland wants to learn about your family's part in the history of Ridgeland. When public meetings are reopened, we hope you will bring your stories, photos, and other documents. Join us as we strive to continue "Telling Ridgeland's Story."



# MOSQUITO SPRAYING FAQ'S



## WHY DON'T YOU SPRAY MY NEIGHBORHOOD MORE OFTEN?

**ANSWER:** VDCI's programs focus on controlling larval mosquitoes while they are still in their aquatic habitat whenever possible because that is the most environmentally friendly means of control. Ultra-Low Volume Spraying to control adult mosquitoes is done only when necessary, based on routine surveillance of mosquito populations and mosquito-borne diseases. Adult mosquito traps are set weekly and track local population levels over time. Within each program, thresholds for spraying are set, and when mosquito populations reach these thresholds targeted applications are made to these specific areas. In some programs, the threshold for spraying is based on the prevalence of diseases, such as West Nile virus, occurring within the local mosquito populations.

## WHAT PRODUCT DO YOU SPRAY IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

**ANSWER:** Ultra-Low Volume (ULV) spraying for adult mosquitoes is normally done with a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide, permethrin. Permethrin is in a group of insecticides which are man-made versions of a natural insecticide derived from a type of chrysanthemum. Permethrin is one of the "least-toxic" products registered with the U.S. EPA for adult mosquito fogging.

## WHAT EFFECT DOES SPRAYING HAVE ON OTHER "BENEFICIAL" INSECTS, PETS, AND HUMANS?

**ANSWER:** Extensive studies have shown little or no effect on beneficial insects from ULV spraying for adult mosquitoes.

We are able to minimize non-targets by:

- 1 Limiting applications to areas with documented high annoyance or threat of disease.
- 2 Utilizing specialized Ultra-Low Volume technology (applications at approximately 1.0 ounce per acre with specifically-sized microscopic droplets of a low toxicity product).
- 3 Timing applications only during the evening when mosquitoes are at their peak activity period and most other non-target insects are not active, we are able to minimize non-target effects.

As far as pets and humans are concerned, ULV technology again allows us to apply a very small amount of a very low toxicity product over a large area, which means the amount of product people are exposed to is minimal. Additionally, these products break down very rapidly in the environment and do not bio-accumulate.

## HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHEN AND WHERE TO SPRAY?

**ANSWER:** Ultra-Low volume (ULV) fogging for adult mosquitoes is based on surveillance data gathered from a network of traps that monitor adult mosquito population levels and the presence of mosquito-borne diseases. Calls from residents concerning mosquito annoyance problems also help us to pinpoint "hot-spot" areas.

## WHAT REPELLENTS WORK THE BEST?

**ANSWER:** Repellents containing 10%-30% DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) are widely regarded as the most effective against mosquitoes. Products containing DEET in concentrations greater than 30% provide no additional protection, although they may last longer. Other repellents considered effective contain Picaridin, IR3535 or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.

Whenever you use an insecticide or insect repellent, be sure to read and follow the manufacturer's DIRECTIONS FOR USE as printed on the product, especially when children are concerned. Note: Many products such as Vitamin B, ultrasonic devices, and others have not been proven effective in preventing mosquito bites.

## LAKE HARBOUR EXTENSION UPDATE

Lake Harbour Extension will be a five-lane boulevard that will extend Lake Harbour Drive from US Highway 51 to Highland Colony Parkway. It will include multi-use trails, an at-grade railroad crossing, and new traffic signals at Highway 51 and Highland Colony Parkway.

The City of Ridgeland contemplated this critical east/west corridor in the 2003 Transportation Plan. The road is currently under construction with an expected completion date in mid-September 2020.

The total cost for the project is \$31,193,703.00. This includes right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, preliminary and construction engineering, and construction. The City used \$17,000,000.00 in federal and Madison County funds, with the remainder funded by the City.



## RECREATION AND PARKS UPDATE

By John Sidney North, *Director Of Recreation And Parks, City Of Ridgeland*

Concerns about the coronavirus disease outbreak continues to grip our nation. If you are like me, these days feel like a “Twilight Zone” episode. Our department never could have predicted that instead of our parks being filled with families, tournaments and events, our staff would be operating on a modified schedule, practicing social distancing and rescheduling a full calendar. We are living in an unprecedented time in history. At Ridgeland Recreation and Parks, we took advantage of this crisis and used it to our benefit. We have used this time to improve our parks and get them in even better condition. We can't wait for you to be back out at our facilities! I think you will be impressed.

During these challenging times, the health and safety of our residents and staff have been our top priority. As we are navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department has been taking the necessary precautions and adhering to the recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to prevent the spread of the virus. We have rescheduled and pushed back events like KidsFest, the Heat Wave, and baseball tournaments.

Our maintenance staff has been hard at work. The beautiful weather has provided us the opportunity to recharge, reboot, and get our parks

in top condition. From cutting, weeding to spraying and aerating, our team has the facilities in pristine shape. We have increased the parks and facilities' cleanings and disinfection. You might notice our work on a new project on Jackson Street where we have planted new flower beds and put out new pine straw. We have trimmed trees, top dressed playing fields with sand, cleaned pavilions, and fertilized. We have the best facilities and the best team in the state. They have not missed a step and are truly top notch.

We recognize that we are the gatekeepers to the parks. These areas provide a connection to the outdoors and green space, and they fill a need for physical activity. This outlet reduces stress and improves the mental health of our citizens. We feel these spaces are more important than they have ever been.

We have used this time as an opportunity to get everything ready for the better days that lie ahead for all of us. We can't wait to see these spaces filled and being used for our citizens' enjoyment. Feel free to contact me with any concerns or suggestions.

Catch you at the parks!



# FREE Trial Program

## Martial Arts - Fitness - Fun!



**Voted BEST in Jackson!**

**Ages 4 Thru Adult**

**Register at [www.AcademyOfKungFu.com](http://www.AcademyOfKungFu.com)**

**Academy Of Kung Fu 626 Ridgewood Rd Ridgeland 601-856-5051**



## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

## Important Info

At this time, all classes are cancelled at the Recreation Center. Some classes are being videoed and posted on our Facebook page. Check our Facebook page and webpage often for updates on resuming classes at the Recreation Center. Once the Recreation Center reopens, the classes listed on the following pages will resume as scheduled.

## ▶ SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Contact: Lynda McMahan Assink, Senior Adult Coordinator  
601.856.6876 or e-mail: lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

All monthly programs will be held at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, 137 Old Trace Park, unless otherwise indicated below.

## BRIDGE

Bridge games are held the third Thursday of each month at the Ridgeland Recreational Center overlooking the Reservoir. It provides a beautiful setting for an afternoon game. The player with the highest score wins first prize. Please arrive at 12:45 p.m. to receive your nametag. Game starts promptly at 1 p.m. Please call Lynda at (601) 856-6876 to reserve your chair. Reservations are required four days in advance.



*Program Price:* \$1 each (for prize)  
*Event Dates:* June 18, July 16, August 20  
*Time:* 1–4 p.m.  
*Day of Week:* Thursday

## THREAD, YARN, CROCHET &amp; COFFEE GROUP

Bring your own needles, yarn, thread, and handmade project the second and fourth Mondays at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of fellowship, coffee, and working on your handmade project. It will be a great time of “show and tell” as you make your own masterpiece. Call or email Lynda for more information.

*Program Price:* Free  
*Event Dates:* June 8 & 22, July 13 & 27, August 10 & 24  
*Time:* 1:30–3 p.m.  
*Day of Week:* Monday

## OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP

Learn to paint “Alla Prima!” Complete a painting during the class! This class focuses on the beginner and intermediate student, using two different set-ups and instruction for each. Class begins with live demonstration. Our instructor is Lyn Isonhood. To see examples of Lyn’s work, visit [www.lynisonhood.com](http://www.lynisonhood.com). Bring your own lunch, canvases (9x12 and 11x14) and oil paints and brushes. Snacks will be provided.

*Program Price:* \$50  
*Event Dates:* TBA  
*Time:* 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
*Day of Week:* Thursday

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS

All weekly programs will be held at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, 137 Old Trace Park, unless otherwise indicated below.

## AGAPE MEN’S COFFEE GROUP

Begin your day by joining a group of men that meet every Wednesday morning at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Enjoy coffee, lively conversation, and the opportunity to meet new friends. Call Lynda at (601)-856-6876 or email [lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org](mailto:lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org) for more information.

*Time:* 9:30 a.m.  
*Day of Week:* Wednesday



## DAYTIME BEGINNERS' LINE DANCING CLASS (NEW CLASS!)

In this class we dance to a wide mix of music styles, including country, pop and big band. No advanced dances are done in this beginners' class. Come meet some great people and breathe new life into your soul! You will have fun learning a variety of line dances. It will keep your brain sharp by learning and memorizing the steps!

*Program Price:* \$10/class  
*Start Date:* On-going  
*Time:* 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
*Day of Week:* Wednesday

## FITNESS FOR EVERYONE

This is an exercise program designed to develop body strength, body awareness, and endurance for daily senior living. On Tuesdays, learn to exercise with correct positioning that will improve posture and spinal alignment, increase bone density, and strengthen your joints. On Thursdays, enjoy boosting your aerobic endurance. Each session is a flowing and challenging safe workout. Certified Instructor Sally Holly encourages each participant to work on his/her own unique physical needs and goals. Class will meet at the Ridgeland Recreational Center at 9:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost of the class is \$10/month. Sign-up by calling Lynda at (601)-856-6876 or email [lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org](mailto:lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org)

*Program Price:* \$10/month  
*Start Date:* On-going  
*Time:* 9:00 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
*Day of Week:* Tuesday and Thursday

## EVENING LINE DANCING

Learn the dance steps that are popular everywhere! In this class, you'll discover a variety of line dances. It's great fun, good exercise, and you don't need a partner. Darlene Epple is the instructor for the class. She has been a member of Mississippi Country Western Dance Association (MCWDA) since 1995. She has taught at birthday parties, church socials, and office events. Darlene's motto is "Line Dancers don't make mistakes. They make variations." As long as you are on the dance floor having fun with a smile on your face, that's all that matters. Call or email Lynda for more information.



*Program Price:* \$40/month or \$10/week  
*Times:* Beginners Class, 6-7 p.m.  
 Advanced Class, 5-6 p.m.  
*Day of Week:* Monday

## MARTIAL ARTS FOR SENIOR ADULTS

Learn age and physically appropriate traditional martial arts and practical self-defense techniques. This program is easy to perform and enjoyable for mature adults with slow, low-impact movements that are keyed to each individual's physical capabilities. Health benefits include: sharpening mental focus, better balance and body control, cardio-respiratory fitness, increased strength, enhanced flexibility, improved stamina/ endurance, and prevention of osteoporosis. Other benefits include increased confidence in potentially dangerous situations and enhanced awareness to avoid dangerous situations before they occur. Andy Dillon is the instructor. Andy has a Fourth Degree Black Belt with North America Tae Kwon Do and has practiced and instructed for 20 years. Sign-up by calling Lynda at (601) 856-6876 or email: [lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org](mailto:lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org). Newcomers are welcome!

*Price:* \$10/4 weeks  
*Start Date:* On-going  
*Time:* 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
*Day of Week:* Tuesday & Thursday



## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. Enjoy an in-depth, non-denominational study of God's Word and interesting discussion. Bob Shirley is the teacher. Call Lynda at (601)-856-6876 for more information.

*Time:* 9–10:30 a.m.  
*Day of Week:* Tuesday

## PAINTING PALS

Is it hard for you to paint or draw at home? Bring your own supplies and enjoy painting at our Ridgeland Recreational Center overlooking the Reservoir. It's an ideal setting to paint or draw! Call or email Lynda for more information.



*Program Price:* No cost  
*Time:* 1:30–3:30 p.m.  
*Day of Week:* Tuesday

## SENIOR FIT CLUB 1

On Monday and Wednesday afternoons at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, we offer an exercise class for senior adults called SENIOR FIT CLUB. This class offers low-impact exercises geared towards senior adults. Strengthen muscles and improve your movement for a healthier lifestyle. This is a great class for those recovering from recent illness or surgery. This class is also good for those with Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and other neurological diseases. The goal of this class is to improve balance, flexibility, and strength through stretching, light weights and light aerobic activity. Certified Fitness Instructor Sally Holly teaches this class. For more information, contact Lynda at (601)-856-6876 or [lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org](mailto:lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org).

*Program Price:* \$10/month  
*Start Date:* On-going  
*Times:* 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
*Day of Week:* Monday and Wednesday

## SENIOR FIT CLUB 2

We now have an additional Senior Fit Club Class. This class offers the same low-impact exercises geared towards senior adults. Strengthen muscles and improve your movement for a healthier lifestyle. This is a great class for those recovering from recent illness or surgery. This class is also good for those with Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and other neurological diseases. The goal of this class is to improve balance, flexibility, and strength through stretching, light weights and light aerobic activity. Certified Fitness Instructor Sally Holly teaches this class. For more information, contact Lynda at (601)-856-6876 or [lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org](mailto:lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org).

*Program Price:* \$10/month  
*Start Date:* On-going  
*Times:* 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
*Day of Week:* Tuesday and Thursday

## TAP DANCING

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks offers a tap dancing class for senior adults. Tap dancing is a fun way to make music, energize your body, and stimulate your brain! We will learn basic steps and easy routines. Anyone who enjoys camaraderie and upbeat music is welcome to come.

*Program Price:* \$5/class  
*Start Date:* On-going  
*Times:* 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Beginners Advanced)  
 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Beginners)  
*Cost:* \$5/class  
*Day of Week:* Monday

## RESTORATION & RELAXATION YOGA

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks offers a yoga class for beginners. This is a great class for those who are beginning an exercise class or rehabbing from an injury. Offered at a slower pace, this class will focus on the basics of yoga, breathe work, and movement. These gentle movements will not add stress to the joints. A sense of well-being will come from breathing and gentle yoga stretches. This class will help you let go of the everyday stresses of life. Always consult with your physician before beginning any exercise program. For more information and to register, call or email Lynda.

*Event Dates:* On-going  
*Program Price:* \$8/class or \$35 for 6 (30 minute classes)  
*Time:* 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
*Day of Week:* Monday and Friday

## YOGA FOR FLEXIBILITY, FITNESS, AND FUN

Join us for this class! Lisa Newman will guide you through gentle stretching and strengthening exercises for your whole body. This class is for those who have had some experience with yoga. Standing poses will be introduced, as well as strength poses. Participants may want to join both classes for only \$10 – Restorative and Relaxation Yoga and Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness and Fun! Always consult with your physician before beginning any exercise program. For more information, call or email Lynda.

*Event Dates:* Ongoing  
*Program Price:* \$8/class or \$35 for 6 (30 minute classes)  
*Time:* 11:30 a.m.–12 noon  
*Days of Weeks:* Monday and Friday

## YOGILATES

Ridgeland Recreation & Parks offers a Yogilates class for senior adults. This class meets every Thursday. In this class, we combine pilates and yoga for a total body workout, focusing on toning the glutes, thighs, and stomach. This low-impact workout will increase your fitness level; develop your core strength and stabilization through pilates poses; and improve your flexibility, muscular strength, posture and alignment through yoga poses, breathing, and relaxation. This class is taught by Jean Powers, certified through Yoga Alliance Registration. Always consult with your physician before beginning any exercise program.

*Program Price:* \$10/class and/or \$30/month  
*Time:* 4:00-5:00 p.m.  
*Day of the Week:* Thursday

## SEASONAL PROGRAMS

### BEGINNING SELF-DEFENSE

The goal of this six-hour class is to assist you in achieving personal safety. This course is light contact, practical, and easy to use. It will also help improve your strength, agility, flexibility, and endurance. When it comes to crime and violence, the old saying "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is not only true, but a potential life saver. The hardest part is doing your homework before you find yourself in a situation. The instructor for this class is Andrew Dillon. Andrew has a fourth degree Tae Kwon Do belt. Participants who have previously taken this course may attend at no charge. Class size is limited. Register now by calling or emailing Lynda at (601)-856-6876, lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org

<i>Program Price:</i>	\$40
<i>Event Date:</i>	TBA
<i>Time:</i>	1:30 – 3:30 (Thursday) 1:30-5:00 (Friday)
<i>Day of week:</i>	Thursday & Friday

### ACRYLIC POURING ART CLASS

Whether you want to call it fluid art, liquid art, or acrylic pouring, there's nothing more satisfying than creating abstract masterpieces by letting pigment run amok. This form of abstract art uses acrylics with a runny consistency to create endless possibilities. A great art form for all skill levels, getting started is not difficult. At its core, fluid art allows you to learn a great deal about materials and is great for experimenting with color and technique. Instructor Patti Betts will help you get started!



<i>Program Price:</i>	\$15
<i>Event Date:</i>	TBA (Contact Lynda Assink)
<i>Time:</i>	1:30-3:00 p.m.
<i>Day of the week:</i>	Thursday

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### DOG OBEDIENCE

The Jackson Obedience Training Club (JOTC) will offer puppy, beginner and advanced dog obedience classes. The six week class will teach obedience commands of heel, sit, down, stay, come and a few other commands that you will use in everyday life with your pet. The JOTC is a non-profit organization that was established in 1969 and is licensed by the American Kennel Club.



Puppies must be 3-6 months old. Dogs for the beginner class must be at least 6 months of age or older. In order to be in the advanced class your dog must have completed the beginner class. Proof of vaccination by a licensed vet is required. The fall session date is yet to be determined. Please check our website for updates or contact the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department at (601)-853-2011.

<i>Program Price:</i>	\$95
<i>Program Area:</i>	Adult
<i>Registration:</i>	August 1-August 30
<i>Start Date:</i>	Date to be determined
<i>Start Time:</i>	7:00 PM
<i>Day of Week:</i>	Tuesday
<i>Location:</i>	Ridgeland Recreational Center

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

As part of Ridgeland's effort to keep the city clean, we will sponsor a Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day. Residents in the area should bring items to Holmes Community College on Ridgeland Avenue Saturday, June 20, 2020 between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Items for collection include: old paint cans, automobile motor oil, batteries (dry cell, marine or automobile), tires, herbicides, pesticides, TV's, computers and old printers. Compressed gas cylinders, fire extinguishers, medical waste, explosives and white goods will **NOT** be accepted.

Chemicals should be brought to the site by private vehicles. Chemical containers may not be larger than 5 gallons or 50 pounds, and it is preferable that chemicals be in their original containers or clearly marked for identification purposes.

This cleanup is for residents only. No business waste will be accepted. Household Hazardous Waste Day is a collaboration between City of Ridgeland, City of Madison and Madison County.

## RIDGELAND RECREATION AND PARKS FLAG FOOTBALL

Come join the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department and NFL for its 24th season of flag football. The program will build good hand-eye coordination and reflexes, as well as teamwork and the basic fundamentals of football. Flag football is also an excellent opportunity to experience physical exercise and social interaction. Players must be 6 years old by September 1, 2020. For more information, Contact Brent Watson at 601-853-2011.

*Program Price:* \$80.00  
*Registration:* July 27 - August 14  
*Ages:* 6-9  
*Event Date:* September-November  
*Day of the Week:* Tuesdays  
*Location:* Freedom Ridge Park

## FATHER AND CHILD FISHING TOURNAMENT

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will be holding its 24th Annual Father and Child Fishing Tournament on Saturday, June 13. As part of a joint partnership with the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, the tournament will be held on the beautiful Ross Barnett Reservoir. Come and enjoy a day with Dad! Bring your fishing pole or rod & reel and bait. Prizes will be awarded for Biggest Fish, Most Fish and Smallest Fish. This event is open to all ages. For more information, contact Brent Watson at 601-853-2011.

*Program Price:* Free  
*Event Date:* Saturday, June 13  
*Event Time:* 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
*Location:* Old Trace Park



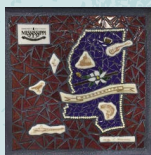
### SMCSO FALL SOCCER REGISTRATION

The South Madison County Soccer Organization will be holding Fall soccer registration in June for boys and girls ages 4 to 18. The season runs from September thru November. For more information, please visit: [www.mfcsoccer.com](http://www.mfcsoccer.com). Dates for registration will be listed on their website.

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## ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

Grades K-2 • 306 S. Pear Orchard Road  
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ASE teachers have gone to great measures to ensure they are reaching their students during this time of distance learning. Since the decision was made by the district to begin learning from afar, teachers jumped right on board and transitioned their way of teaching immediately to help reach their students. “Distance learning is allowing teachers to keep learning in motion! COVID-19 shelter in place forced teachers to be creative with providing instruction for the students. One thing I can say about ASE teachers is that they are resilient! They immediately stepped into action to make sure our students did not miss out on learning. We have also had fun along the way with our parade through the ASE communities and our staff ABC Song with lyrics written by our music teacher Mrs. Brandon,” stated Karen Harness, ASE Principal.

The teacher parade was just one of many ways the teachers have reached out during this time. Teachers have also made sweet videos and made picture messages to send out to students to let them know how much they miss them. Our music teacher Mrs. Emily Brandon rewrote the words to “ABC” by the Jackson 5 and asked staff members to record themselves singing the song. With the help of School Counselor Mrs. Bishop, they were able to share a heartfelt song through social media, which brought smiles to many of our students’ faces. “I thought having our faculty and staff perform “ABC” would be an awesome idea for our little Titans to connect through music! Billy Joel once said, “I think music in itself is healing. It’s an explosive expression of humanity. It’s something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we’re from, everyone loves music.” Music connects us all and inspires our hearts and minds to believe in better days. It’s a great day to be a Titan because we are Titan STRONG!!!” states Brandon.

Teachers have had to turn to very creative ways of reaching out to their students. For many, ZOOM calls were a whole new world for them. ZOOM has allowed teachers to see their students and connect in real time with their classes for both academic and social connections. Kindergarten teacher Caroline



Kindergarten teachers Mrs. Tiffanie Maisel and Ms. Laura Bivens preparing to visit their students’ neighborhoods during teacher parade.



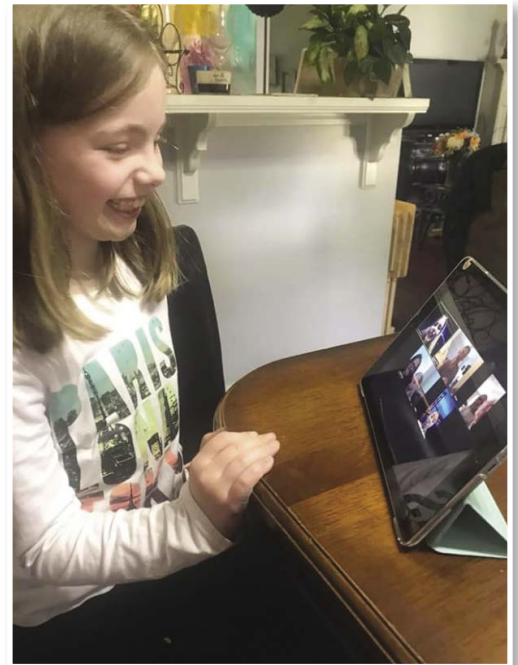
Kindergarten teachers sharing a special message for their Kinder students.

McMillin stated, "When we left on March 6th, I never thought they would not enter my classroom again as students. I understand it's necessary, but it doesn't make it any easier. I still struggle with the technology but have gotten much savvier. I have no idea what my 22 school babies are feeling. I know the abbreviated school year is necessary, but it is still so heartbreaking. These children are a huge part of my world, and I miss their faces."

Our EL (English as a Second Language) teachers have worked to translate work packets being sent home and are checking in weekly with parents via phone calls and Remind Texts. Some teachers even mailed their students little notes to let them know they are missing them. School Librarian Mrs.

Vance wanted to continue being able to read to her students and hosts a daily story time on her school library page. "For me spending that 10-15 minutes per day reading to my students makes me feel just a little more connected to our kiddos. It also brings a little sense of normalcy to our days." stated Vance.

While none of these methods can replace the regular classroom setting, ASE teachers are committed to doing whatever it takes to reach their students. They all look forward to seeing their students very soon and miss them immensely. "I miss seeing my students' smiling faces and can't wait to open the doors and welcome them back!" Principal Harness said.



Students participating in a ZOOM session with their class.

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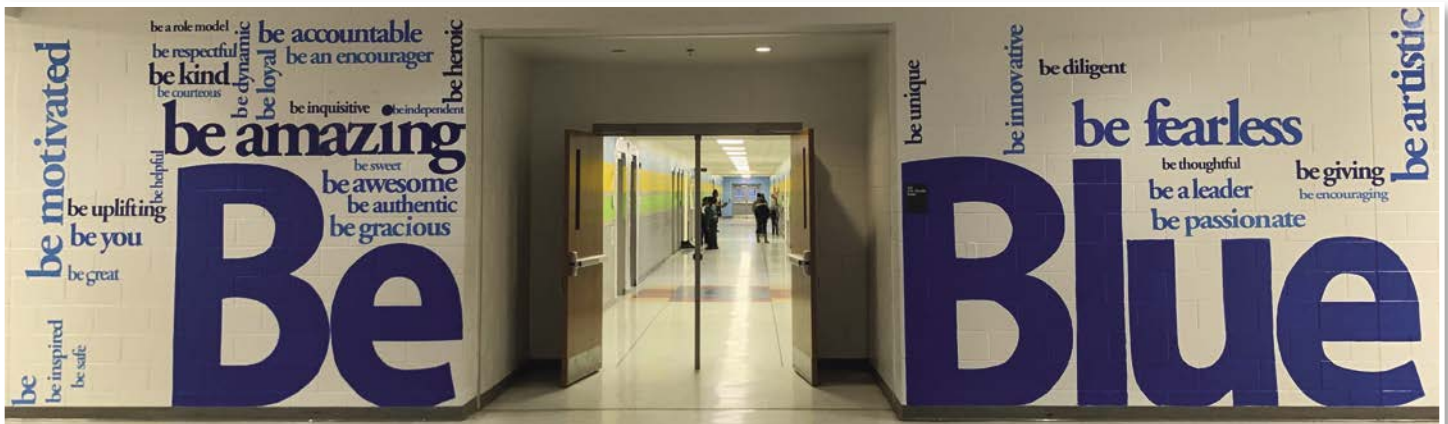




## HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grades 3-5 • 330 Brame Rd, Ridgeland, MS 39157  
(601) 853-8103 • www.madison-schools.com

### *Create, Collaborate, and Communicate*



#### **A MILLION DREAMS**

The 2019-20 school year began with teachers attending the Madison County School District (MCSD) convocation before students set foot in the building. Superintendent Charlotte Seals creatively encouraged MCSD employees and concluded the program by inspiring us through a picture book and then even joining the RHS choir in singing “A Million Dreams” from the musical film “The Greatest Showman.” District employees left the building with hearts overflowing with passion and love for what we do, and we were inspired to focus on three Cs – create, collaborate, and communicate.

The Highland school community began the year with everyone writing and declaring goals for success – our 2020 Vision. We moved through the year with our goals and progress toward those in sight. Teachers and students at Highland spent the first three quarters of the school year working harder than ever toward a goal that felt just within reach. We focused on growing as teachers and a team – collaborating and communicating and, most importantly, being creative in methods to help us achieve our goals. Being creative was something everyone had to practice come March 2020 when our entire school operation shifted online.

#### *“A Million Dreams”*

*(From the Musical Film  
“The Greatest Showman”)*

*‘Cause every night I lie in bed  
The brightest colors fill my head*

*A million dreams are keeping me awake*

*I think of what the world could be*

*A vision of the one I see*

*A million dreams is all it’s gonna take*

*A million dreams for the world we’re gonna make.*

#### **HIGHLAND ONLINE**

Transferring to online while maintaining the connections we built since August was something that everyone in our school community had to participate in, and even more than before, we had to become creative – just as our superintendent demonstrated in August – and practice the best collaboration and communication skills to ensure we served our students in the best way.

As we moved our school online, we maintained the momentum established in our February creative initiative to achieve our goals – to love ourselves, to love others, to love our school and community, and most importantly at Highland – to love learning!

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

While we will not have in-person closure to the end of the year as we usually do, we will continue to ride on the wave of love – love for our school and community and love for learning, and with that love we will return in the fall to continue our journey of learning and growing through creativity, collaboration, and communication so that we will realize our visions of achieving our goals and raising the mark of excellence.

We end the year the way we did in the beginning – with our hearts overflowing with passion and love for what we do. We look forward to coming together again and journey through another school year to create the “million dreams” that we have for our learning community.



## OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

### *OTMS Teacher of the Year: Peri Frazier*

Peri Frazier, OTMS's 2020 Teacher of the Year, always dreamed of being a teacher. As a young child, she would play teacher with her dolls, and the first day of kindergarten confirmed her love for learning and her desire to teach.

The eighth grade history teacher believes teaching is a calling, and she understands that being a teacher is not a 7:30 to 3:30 job and that it requires a commitment to spending countless hours working outside the classroom.

“So many teachers come in early or leave late, they come in on weekends, they take work home,” said Frazier. “Even if you get everything done, you still worry about your kids, or you think about how to help them, how you could have taught something better, or how to handle certain situations that come up throughout the day. People who have been truly called to teach don't mind all the extra time and energy because we love what we do.”

Frazier makes learning fun for her students by bringing history to life through what she calls “history labs.”

“In the fall, when we study the Thirteen Colonies, we have a ‘Witch Hunt’ with our Salem Witch Trials lesson,” said Frazier. “Usually, when we study Westward Expansion and the Oregon Trail, we go outside and pretend to go on the ‘Oregon Trail.’ I took the video game from the 90s and made it into a live game.”

In addition to teaching, Frazier coaches girls basketball, middle school and high school cross country, and high school track; co-sponsors OTMS's Student Government Association; and spearheads the school's Kids Closet, a program that helps students in need by providing them with school supplies, clothing, personal items, and toiletries. Through her efforts with Kids Closet, she helped launch the Weekend Backpack Program for students requiring additional support on weekends.

Every fall, Frazier organizes “Mix it Up at Lunch Day,” a national day where students are encouraged to sit with people outside of their usual friend group to end social isolation and bullying and to encourage students to make new friends. Throughout the year, she tries to attend at least one extracurricular activity for each of her students, like athletic events, band concerts, or choral



Peri and Adam Frazier

performances. “I like to be involved in the Titan Zone as much as I can, because it's outside the classroom that you really reach students,” she said.

Frazier met her husband Adam, an assistant principal at Ann Smith, in the lunch line at OTMS while Adam was serving as an administrative intern at OTMS. And that same lunch line was where the two got engaged a few years later, right in front of her students. The couple loves working in the Titan Zone, and you will find them both at high school football games on Friday nights.

“The fact that we're both so involved with this zone makes it easy to support each other's afterschool activities,” said Frazier. “We plan to stay here for as long as we can.”

## Teaching During a Pandemic

On the last day of school before spring break, OTMS Teacher of the Year Peri Frazier told her students, "Bye. I love you. Be safe and come back to me!" At the time, her students may have thought her words were a little silly, but for the past several years, Frazier has repeated these words to her students before each weekend, holiday, or major school break – and for good reason.

"A few years ago, maybe my second year of teaching, while we were gone for Easter break, one of my students was in a terrible accident that hospitalized him for weeks," explained Frazier. "We were all so worried, and I couldn't bear it."

While the student fully recovered and is now a strong, healthy young man, Frazier learned early on in her career that you can never take your students for granted.

On March 6, when Frazier and her students left for spring break, they had no idea that a global pandemic would change life – and learning – as they knew it. As the COVID-19 virus rapidly spread across the country, Madison County Schools made the decision to close schools before students returned from the break. And within a week's time, OTMS teachers – like teachers throughout the country – quickly scrambled to put a remote learning plan in place. For teachers like Frazier, not getting to "officially" say goodbye

to her students was hard. "I really felt that a big piece of my heart was missing, and I know other teachers felt the same way," said Frazier. "That's the biggest challenge I faced with distance learning – not having that teacher-student interaction. I like to have discussion in my class, and I want history to be fun and interesting. But I was limited in how I could teach."

The easy part for Frazier, though, was using the district's online learning platform. "We were trained a few years ago on how to use and incorporate the online teaching platform Canvas," said Frazier. "Madison County encouraged us and trained us all along with different online resources to use in our classrooms. As soon as we switched to distance learning, they quickly trained all teachers on how to safely use online video conferences."

Frazier appreciates her principals, who provided excellent communication, answered daily questions, and held department meetings online. And she's thankful for the technology that allowed her to continue teaching her students even during a pandemic. But she also realizes the situation was not ideal.

"Though we're trained for all these wonderful online programs, nothing beats being in my actual classroom with my kiddos," she said. "I miss them so much."

## Paraprofessional of the Year: Cindy Woodall



To make a school successful, it takes a village. While a school's success is most often attributed to its teachers, there are always people behind the scenes who tend to make the school run effectively. At OTMS, one such person is Cindy Woodall. This year, her coworkers took note of her many contributions, recognizing

her as Paraprofessional of the Year for her dedication and service to the school.

Woodall has served as bookkeeper at OTMS for more than 18 years and loves her Titan family. She once served as PTO president when her two sons attended OTMS, and she started working at the school the following year, after being a stay-at-home mom for 12 years while raising her three children and two stepchildren. Prior to that, she worked in an accounting department, so the bookkeeper position was a perfect fit for her.

Over the years, she's seen many changes at OTMS, particularly with the increase in enrollment numbers. "Since I have been here, the number of students has risen considerably, from about 600 to 760," said Woodall. "But the quality of teaching and learning has remained consistent."

Woodall jokes that students often think her position has something to do with the library. In reality, she has the important task of dealing with all the money that comes through the school. As bookkeeper, she also orders and purchases anything that staff, teachers, and

students need throughout the school year; she sets up field trips and bus permits; and she turns in timesheets for payroll each week. She is supportive of the teachers, staff, and administrators and helps out however she can, even if it means staying late to help with an after-school activity or event.

"No matter what you need, if you ask Mrs. Woodall, she will get it done or point you in the right direction," said Crystal Chase, OTMS principal. "She is an asset to our school, and OTMS could not function without her."

Woodall is a graduate of the University of Mississippi with a degree in home economics and a minor in business. When she's not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband, children, and grandchildren. She looks forward to many more years at OTMS.

## *PTO President Named Madison County Middle School Parent of the Year*

It's no secret that parental involvement plays a crucial role in a school's success. Research shows that students with involved parents perform better in school, have higher test scores, have fewer behavioral issues and are more likely to become productive citizens after graduation.

With that in mind, OTMS PTO President Tonia Buchanan decided to get involved in her daughters' schools to become more connected and to learn about what was going on. For Buchanan, it was a way to make a difference and help implement positive change. Last fall, when the board was looking for someone to become president, she stepped up and accepted the challenge.

A natural leader, Buchanan has a very professional, yet calming presence, which helps unite the board and encourages other parents to become involved. Her attention to detail, excellent communication skills, and her tireless efforts to support the school are just a few of the reasons she was named 2020 OTMS Parent of the Year. Not only was she recognized for this honor by OTMS teachers and staff, but she was also selected as Madison County Schools' Middle School Parent of the Year.

"Tonia is so deserving of this recognition because she desires to show love toward all of

our students as though they were her own," said Crystal Chase, OTMS Principal. "She is genuine in everything that she does, and her utmost desire is to see Olde Towne Middle School reach the highest level of success."

Through Buchanan's leadership this year, the OTMS PTO has been able to focus on supporting teachers and motivating students. "My goal as president was to show the teachers that parents appreciate and support them," said Buchanan. "I believe if teachers are happy and have the resources they need, they will, in turn, ensure that our students succeed."

Buchanan loves being a part of the Ridgeland Zone because members of the Titan community are always willing to help others. "During my tenure as PTO president, our OTMS families have endured tragic apartment fires, historic Reservoir-area flooding, and the Coronavirus epidemic," said Buchanan. "In all cases, OTMS and the Ridgeland community have come together to support each other through those hard times."

Buchanan earned a Bachelor of Science in business/accounting from William Carey University and a Master of Professional Accountancy from the University of Southern Mississippi. She currently serves as the chief financial officer of Hospice Ministries, Inc. and is a member of Mount Nebo Baptist



Church, the Junior League of Jackson, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Jackson (MS) Alumnae Chapter.

She and her husband Jimmy have been married for 20 years and have two daughters: Laci, an eighth-grader at OTMS, and Maegan, a third-grader at Highland. In her spare time, she enjoys playing tennis, spending time with family, attending football and basketball games, and participating in community service activities, especially those geared toward children and youth.



## RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

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

### *Harriet Carter named Ridgeland High Parent of the Year*

Ridgeland High Parent of the Year, Harriet Carter, sparks joy, whether working concessions with fellow band parents at football games or greeting students by name at school events. Carter has served on all four Ridgeland School Zone PTO Boards over the past 13 years. She works for Polo Ralph Lauren as a brand manager for the Mississippi region. Her husband Alfred is enjoying retirement, playing golf, and substitute teaching for Madison County Schools. They have two children, Kayla and Kyle.

As the RHS Teacher Appreciation co-chair on the Ridgeland High School PTO, Carter manages a budget and a team of volunteers to implement all aspects of teacher appreciation events. Events such as the Back to School Breakfast, quarterly-themed staff appreciation luncheons (favorite themes include tailgating, Mardi Gras, and the annual holiday luncheon), Teacher Appreciation Week, and a sit-down lunch on the last day of school for all staff and teachers. “This role has been very rewarding,” Carter explains. “Not only am I interacting with the staff and teachers, but I am also coming in contact with many Titan parents. Many of these parent contacts have flourished into great friendships!”

This year, Carter also helped provide a



Harriet Carter

lunch honoring the student winners of the Annual African-American History Month contests. “Being involved in my children’s school since they entered kindergarten is second nature to me,” Carter said. “It has a positive influence on my children, teaches them the importance of volunteering, and enriches the school and community. I am grateful to be a part of the Ridgeland High School Titan Family. I appreciate the educational opportunities of the Ridgeland Zone in the Madison County School District.”

These opportunities led her 2019 RHS graduate Kayla (top 10% graduate) to Mississippi State University, where she is majoring in microbiology and is on the Dean’s list. Kyle is a freshman honor roll student at Ridgeland High. A member of the talented Ridgeland Titan Band percussion line, Kyle also started on the ninth-grade RHS basketball team and plays on the RHS baseball team.

“I am honored to do all I can to support the teachers and staff,” Carter concludes, “and our wonderful Titan students.”

### *Charlyn Dean honored as Ridgeland High School’s Paraprofessional of the Year*

Charlyn Dean, Student Services administrative assistant, conveyed how she was taken by surprise by the announcement that she was selected as the Ridgeland High Paraprofessional of the Year. “I thought the group from Central Office had arrived to sing Christmas carols and spread holiday cheer. Prepared to enjoy some carols, I was caught completely off-guard when I learned why they were there. There are so many deserving employees of this title. I am truly grateful and thankful to have been recognized in such a special way.”

Dean is one of the “originals” at Ridgeland High School, which opened in 2002. “When Principal Boozer approached me about joining the new RHS team, I was humbled and excited about being included in such an important endeavor: the opening of a brand new high school! How could I say no? Eighteen years later, I’m still here!”

Mrs. Dean's ebullient nature means staff and students look forward to stopping by her office. "I'm one of the blessed ones who can honestly say that I love my job," Dean asserted. "My job gives me the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with people from all walks of life. Whether it's a Titan who needs someone to listen or a new family coming to register, I hope that when they walk out of my office they are better for it."

"Mrs. Dean is an asset and a joy to work with at Ridgeland High School, carrying her job duties out with excellence and assisting others whenever needed," said Shemeka Hawkins, counselor at Ridgeland High. "Her dedication to Ridgeland High School is evident in that she is usually the first person to arrive each day. Mrs. Dean greets everyone that enters our suite with a heartfelt welcome and takes the time to get to know each person that she encounters, leaving a lasting impression."

Ridgeland High School is a second family to Charlyn Dean. "I call them my family because I have spent more time with them than my own family. We laugh and cry together and celebrate milestones throughout the year. Administration, administrative assistants, maintenance, cafeteria workers and our awesome teachers—it just doesn't get any better! And I've saved the best for last – our students.



Charlyn Dean

I am privileged to have known a lot of our students from kindergarten through graduation. I see them out in the working world, in grocery stores, on college campuses, and catch up on what's going on in their life. It is humbling to be remembered as Mrs. Dean from RHS. I have had the opportunity to maybe make a difference in a student's life, whether it is just with a smile, a hug, help with a college application or academic advice. If I have accomplished this, I have done my job."

Between her "school" family and her biological family, Dean stays busy. She enjoys walking three miles almost every day,

and competing in 5K races. Grandchildren keep her entertained with sports, recitals and school programs. "I'm proud to say they all attend our excellent Madison County Schools," said Dean.

"I think anyone can be successful and find joy in what they do with the advice from Colossians 3:23," Dean concludes. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, and not unto men."

## Camille Magee Shines Brightly as Ridgeland High Teacher of the Year

Twenty-year veteran teacher Camille Magee, Ridgeland High Teacher of the Year, joined the Ridgeland High staff in 2015. "I've had the pleasure of doing what I absolutely love for the past 20 years," said Magee. "And in August 2015, I became a proud member of the Titan family."

This year, Magee teaches general and accelerated English II, as well as learning



Camille Magee



strategies. What drew her to the teaching field? Magee recognized early in life the power of words and good writing. “I’ve always loved and been interested in the power of words. Some of my favorite authors, Toni Morrison, Zora Neale Hurston, and Alice Walker are masters of the written word.”

Magee’s dedication and sincerity defines her teaching style. “It’s rewarding working with students at Ridgeland High School because of our rich diversity, our amazing

student body, and the family atmosphere,” Magee expressed. “We care about students’ academic success, and we want our students to feel safe, respected, and loved. RHS achieves that by fostering student learning through innovation, compassion, and creative concepts.”

Magee acknowledged her supportive family plays a key role in her rewarding career. “My wonderful husband Larry, a retired registered nurse, is a kind, thoughtful

lover of Christ who takes great delight in caring for his family. In 2014, my loving daughter, Helena Walker Brown, joined God’s angels in heaven. We have three adult children, Laurie, Larry, and Zipporah and seven beautiful grandchildren. Five of our grandchildren live in Mississippi and they love spending weekends and holidays with Grandma and Paw-Paw.”

## Ridgeland High Class of 2020 Looks to the Future

Nontraditional graduation ceremonies conclude senior year



The Future Looks Bright for the Ridgeland High School Class of 2020. Photo Credit: Jamie Parker, Panoramic Photomarketing, Inc.

Across the nation, substitutions for traditional cap and gown graduation ceremonies ranged from senior parades to contactless home diploma delivery. Senior spotlights and special yard signs showcasing graduates in their neighborhoods and in local media are especially meaningful this year. And even though events were canceled, Ridgeland High PTO hosted a virtual prom on what was supposed to be prom night. “It was something I hope seniors can look back on as a happy memory during a gloomy time,” said Titan parent, Bridgid Berry, who led the event. Senior Chloe Martin thought so. “I had a great time,” she said. “I think we made the best of the unfortunate situation.”

Senior traditions like walking the halls of

Ann Smith, Highland, and Olde Towne in cap and gown, Senior Class Day, and Senior Breakfast had to be taken off the calendar.

What can’t be cancelled is the bright future of our Ridgeland High seniors. Many finalized post-grad plans this spring. The Class of 2020 continues the RHS tradition of excellence by getting accepted to some of America’s most elite universities, including Stanford, Emory, Sewanee, Rice, and honors colleges at all state universities in Mississippi. Future engineers will decide between Mississippi State Bagley School of Engineering, University of Alabama, Huntsville, USM and Georgia Tech. Howard, Millsaps, and Mississippi College are options for others. Our students are also

taking advantage of our nation’s best-rated community college system, committing with band, academic and athletic scholarships, and accepting athletic scholarships at D1 schools.

Ridgeland High Teacher of the Year, Camille Magee, shared her sentiments to the senior class: “Although this year may not have ended on the note that you truly deserve, no single moment defines you. An amazing and resilient group of students, it has been an honor to teach you and learn from you. Don’t stop now, scholars. Follow your passions, dream as big as you dare, and know that we support you in all your lifelong goals, beloved class of 2020!”



## HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

A multi-campus institution, Holmes Community College offers the Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Applied Science degree, technical and career certificates and workforce training. The college now offers more than 50 academic majors, approximately 30 professional programs and a variety of student support services. Holmes is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

## *Holmes Ridgeland Campus Inducts 12 into 2020 Hall of Fame*

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Ridgeland Campus included: Ja'Laycia Roqueia Brown of Kosciusko; Macy C. Gordy of Canton; Bailee Grace Gregg of Florence; Jake Ham of Brandon; Caseigh

Hickman of Florence; David Blake Humphreys of Yazoo City; Luke Langford of Jackson; Peyton Montgomery of Coldwater; Addison Stevens of Madison; Alysia Terry of Byram; Jadyn A. Williams of Brandon; and Samantha Erin Williams of Brandon.



Pictured are the 2020 Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are *(front row, left to right)* Addison Stevens, Alysia Terry, Bailee Grace Gregg, Macy Gordy, Sam Williams. *(Back row, left to right)* Jake Ham, Luke Langford, Caseigh Hickman, Jadyn Williams and Blake Humphreys. *Not pictured:* Ja'Laycia Roqueia Brown and Peyton Montgomery.



# RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

## MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

397 Highway 51 • Ridgeland, MS 39157

601-856-4536 • [www.mclsms.org](http://www.mclsms.org)

**HOURS:** Mon. – Thurs. 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
 Fri – Sat. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Closed on Sunday

### WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

In accordance with direction from the CDC and the Mississippi Department of Health, the Board of Trustees of the Madison County Library System closed all branches on Monday, March 16. The decision was made to offer alternative library services to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

During the stay-at-home period of time, all library staff stayed busy exploring ways to continue to serve the community from a remote basis. We worked hard

to provide online programming and links to useful resources for information, education, and entertainment. The resources available on both the MCLS website and Facebook page are fun and enlightening for adults, teens, and children.

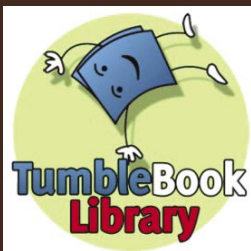
The spring edition of Ridgeland Life featured the many digital collections and services available to cardholders including e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines, Rocket Languages, Learning Express

Library, and many more. A number of new online resources were added to our website during the Covid-19 closing.

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 CLOSED LIBRARIES  
 SHARE INFORMATION,  
 NOT THE VIRUS.**

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TumbleBooks–Ebooks and EAudiobooks for all ages! TumbleBooks is providing FREE access to eBooks, audiobooks, and TumbleMath until August 31, 2020.



**Abdo Digital**  
 INTERACTIVE PRODUCTS

Abdo Digital Collection –Ebooks and read-to-me ebooks for Pre-K-grade 12. Abdo is providing FREE access to eBooks and databases through June 30, 2020.



Lerner Digital Collection – Ebooks and interactive ebooks for PreK – grade 12. FREE access is available through June 30, 2020.



Tutor.com - Live one-on-one help from professional tutors online for students of all ages. Any MCLS cardholder can access the new online service at the library or from home on any computer or mobile device connected to the Internet. Tutor.com provides live one-to-one tutoring, a real-time writing center, test preparation, practice quizzes, and 24/7 access to worksheets, videos, and tutorials in over 40 subjects.

**Don't have a library card?** Patrons interested in our **OverDrive** e-book and e-audiobook collection may obtain a "Digital Library Card" using your telephone number via our OverDrive website (<https://mcls.overdrive.com/>). Please note that the digital card works only for the OverDrive digital collection.

Patrons will need a regular library card to access **Hoopla**, **RBDigital** and **other online services**. To obtain a library card, send an email to [feedback@mcls.ms](mailto:feedback@mcls.ms) that contains the following information:

**Full Name** | **Mailing Address** | **Email Address** | **Home Phone** | **Work Phone**  
**Cell Phone** | **Place of Employment or School and Grade** | **Date of Birth**

We will create the library card account then email the library card number and PIN.

**If you already have a library card, but don't remember the PIN, please email your name and library card number to [feedback@mcls.ms](mailto:feedback@mcls.ms) and we will reset the PIN for you.**



If you haven't already visited our Facebook page, we invite you to follow us on a regular basis. Staff consistently share links to a world of information and entertainment. You may want to watch a free puppet show or learn the art of puppetry, take a cooking class or a drawing class with your child, learn some new magic tricks, or attend a music concert. There are also many links to authors and illustrators reading stories, arts and crafts projects, Lego challenges, boredom busters, and exercise and yoga classes. On the cultural side, take a virtual tour of libraries around the world, a national park, Buckingham Palace, or any of a number of aquariums and zoos. You can also take advantage of online storytime and teen book talk provided by the MCLS youth specialists. For parents in need of some help, we offer links to math skills, speech therapy, science experiments, and writing classes. Come join the fun with us at [facebook.com/MCLSLibraries](https://facebook.com/MCLSLibraries) or on our website at [www.mclsms.org](http://www.mclsms.org).

## A History Of The Friends Of The Ridgeland Library

A City Ordinance of the Town of Ridgeland created the Ridgeland Public Library in 1961. The library opened in 1962, sharing a building with City Hall.



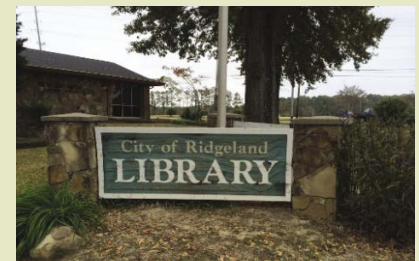
Old City Hall and Library

The library and City Hall moved to the current building in 1971. It was funded by a grant from the Mississippi Library Commission and a bond issue approved by the citizens of Ridgeland.



New City Hall and Library

The present building was renovated in 1991 and the library was renamed for Elsie E. Jurgens who passed away earlier that year. She had been the head librarian for 25 years.



The Friends of the Ridgeland Library (FORL), established in 1991, is a volunteer, not-for-profit, community organization dedicated and committed to providing support to the Ridgeland Library through the judicious use of the organization's membership and financial resources. FORL's main purposes are to:

- *Maintain an association of people interested in libraries*
- *Focus public attention on the library*
- *Stimulate use of library resources and services*
- *Encourage benefactions, gifts, endowments, fund-raising, and bequests to the library*

FORL funds library programs such as summer reading programs for children and adults, StorybookCon (mini convention for children), Mystery Readers, and guest speakers.

FORL funds library needs including office furniture, supplies and refreshments for activities, study desks and chairs, plants for the patio area, prizes for events, benches for the lobby, vacuum cleaner, refrigerator, camera, and entertainment fees.

FORL funds miscellaneous library related projects such as the Madison County bookmobile and providing relief to libraries in need following a major disaster. In addition, FORL volunteers help to meet community needs by taking books to retirement facilities and providing a “free” book shelf in the library lobby.

## FORL FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES:

### BOOK SALES

- FORL hosts two book sales each year.
- FORL also “sells” books in the library year-round.



### RIDCON

FORL sponsors the library’s comic convention for those interested in comic books, graphic novels, and all that goes along with it – costumes, role playing games, video and board games, etc.



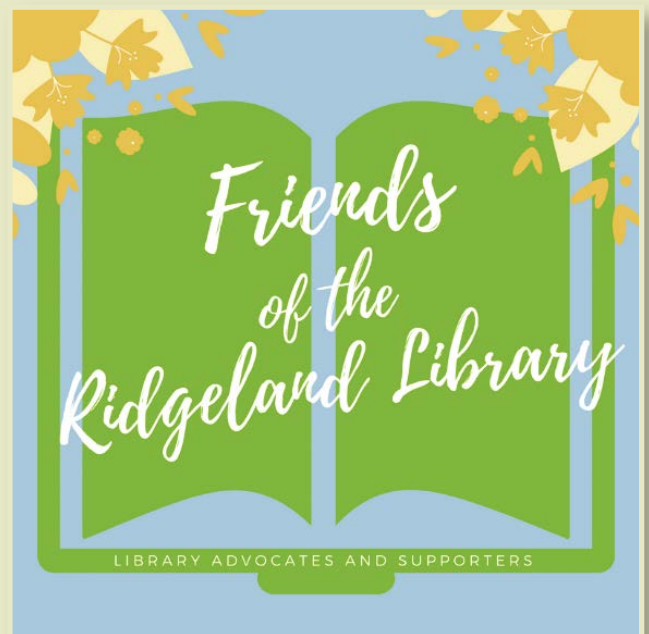
FORL offers a variety of volunteer activities. Volunteers can do as much or little as they want.

- Work at book sales
- Set up / take down book sales
- Sort and pack book donations
- Work at RidCon
- Provide refreshments for activities
- Deliver books to retirement facilities
- Serve on FORL Board

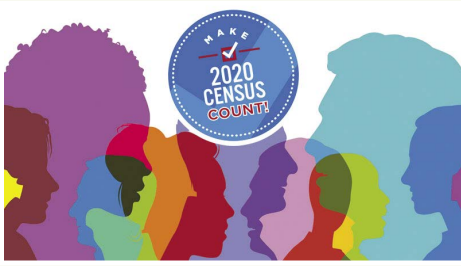
If you are interested in being a member of Friends of the Ridgeland Library and/or volunteering for various activities, membership forms are available at the library’s circulation desk. Each form has a place for you to indicate the volunteer activities that interest you.

- Individual - \$12/year
- Family - \$20/year
- Corporate - \$50/year
- Lifetime - \$250

To learn about FORL and library activities, follow us on Facebook at Friends of the Ridgeland Library. Friends of the Ridgeland Library is a 501(C)(3) organization.



## CENSUS 2020 NEWS



In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the U.S. Census Bureau temporarily suspended 2020 Census field data collection activities in March. This action was taken to protect the health and safety of the American public and Census Bureau employees. In order to ensure a complete and accurate count of all communities, the adjusted 2020 Census operational plan extends the

census response deadline to August 14, 2020 with a possible extension to October 31, 2020 (approval by Congress pending at the time of this writing).

The census results determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to more than 100 programs including schools and libraries, roads and highways, emergency management services, police and fire departments, Medicaid, community mental health services, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP.

Most households received an invitation and a Census ID in the mail to complete the census online. In addition, some households received a paper questionnaire

to return. You can complete your census form online, by phone, or by mail.

With only a few simple questions about everyone who is living in your household as of April 1, 2020, the Census only takes a few minutes to complete. Visit [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) to begin completing the census online. The site is safe, secure and confidential. To complete the questionnaire by phone you can call 844-330-2020. For the Spanish speaking call 844-468-2020 or for TDD call 844-467-2020. Do you need another language? Choose from nearly 50 languages at [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov).

Every person counts! Shape your future and respond to the 2020 Census today.



## *Help Us Welcome* PETER DEAN, BRANCH MANAGER

The Madison County Library System welcomed Peter Dean as the new branch manager for the Ridgeland Public Library in February.

After receiving his graduate degree at Simmons University in Boston, Peter moved to Mississippi 12 years ago to work at the University of Southern Mississippi, Long Beach campus. Most recently, he worked at Mississippi College for two years.

An avid reader, Peter reads a lot of non-fiction, including works on nutrition and psychology. Since working at the Ridgeland Public Library, he started reading some historical fiction, specifically, "Nisei Daughter" by Monica Sone.

When not working, he enjoys going to the gym for a workout. Peter loves meeting new people, so the next time you're at the library, stop by his office and introduce yourself!



## RIDGELAND CHAMBER MEMBERS ADAPT TO NEW REALITIES OF A PANDEMIC ECONOMY

In just a few weeks, the novel coronavirus outbreak has changed the way thousands of companies worldwide operate in an unprecedented manner.

The dramatic spread of COVID-19 has disrupted lives, livelihoods, communities and businesses across the country. The pain and uncertainty of the impact of the coronavirus on small business owners is staggering and likely to be substantial. Small businesses are already feeling the financial crunch from coronavirus restrictions.

The COVID-19 outbreak has delivered an indiscriminate blow to businesses as small restaurants to large companies have been forced to change how they operate amid a series of shutdown orders to help stem the tide of the virus.

Thankfully, federal, state and local governments are starting to come to the rescue of small businesses, and community efforts to Shop Local/Shop Small are helping too.

As business owners and employees navigate the new normal, Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce members have adopted safe, innovative, resourceful and creative policies and plans to keep their businesses afloat amid the global pandemic.

Ridgeland businesses have implemented massive organizational changes to attempt to stay solvent – with many shifting to full scale working-from-home plans and others going to curbside service and drop off delivery.

Here is how many Ridgeland Chamber members have adapted to the new realities of a pandemic economy.

### RONNIE TUBERTINI *President & CEO, SouthGroup*



“SouthGroup’s 21 offices around the state have continued regular business hours, though many team members are working remotely. At our Ridgeland office, we are working to minimize our risk of infection by maintaining social distancing and

following guidelines. SouthGroup has relied on the expertise of professionals to help us make the necessary risk assessment and determine our path. Every business needs to think critically about their exposures, concentrating on high risk areas like breakrooms and other areas where people congregate. Risk management is a continuous process, so we will be doing what we advise our clients to do.”

### JOHN DORSA *State Farm Insurance*



“What an unusual and unexpected challenge this Covid scare has been! Just when we were getting ready to enjoy our beautiful Mississippi springtime, this virus has unleashed havoc upon our country, our state, and our city. We can’t enjoy the beauty of Mother

Nature’s awakening because we have been ordered to shelter in place for the first time in our country’s history. For the first time in my life, I did not attend church on Easter Sunday. I am still upset about that! The governmental

actions to combat this virus have caused an unprecedented strain on all small businesses and will push many newly unemployed people into extreme financial hardship. The insurance industry is considered an ‘essential industry,’ so we are still working every day. But State Farm has come up with new and innovative strategies to serve our customers, such as deferring insurance premiums due and declaring an Auto Premium Dividend, which will be refunded to our customers in order to help them through this difficult time. God willing, I hope this virus scare ends as soon as possible, and we can all get back to life as normal...or at least a ‘new normal!’”

### BETH HENRY *President, Staffers, Inc.*



“I am handling the COVID-19 situation with caution and empathy for all who have been affected. Staffers provides employees to essential businesses; therefore, we have remained open throughout the pandemic.

As recommended, we are diligent in following the CDC Safety Guidelines for the safety of our employees and essential businesses. We have used this time to educate ourselves by listening to webinars and podcasts about COVID-19, as well as taking advantage of many industry webinars and resources provided by the American Staffing Association. We are staying connected with our customers and employees to see how we can be of service during this pandemic, and we are thankful to have the opportunity to provide essential employees across the state. I have taken this time to reconnect with family



**CITY OF RIDGELAND  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

754 S. Pear Orchard Rd.  
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www.ridgelandchamber.com

and friends by telephone, FaceTime, or Zoom meetings. Also, I have enjoyed longer walks, some solitude, and my home yoga practice. One of the biggest lessons I have learned from this life-altering event is to enjoy the moment more and not rush to do the next thing.”

### RAY BALENTINE *Vice President, Michael Baker International*



“Our office operations have transitioned to a mandatory work-from-home status. We are able to keep projects on schedule by conducting meetings by conference calls instead of face-to-face. Our construction services staff are working as normal on outdoor projects. For these projects, we have a prescribed set

of protocols for how they maintain social distancing. Where we had regular meetings in person in the past, we now do those meetings by teleconferences and video conferences. We continue to make important improvements to our highways and keep these projects on schedule. With fewer people traveling, the decrease in traffic allows construction staff to work in safer conditions. As we work through these times, we will undoubtedly look at how we do our business differently. There are opportunities to better accommodate our employees with young children by allowing flexibility to work more from home if their particular jobs will allow it. Today, we better understand that we can successfully execute our contracts and be productive under more diverse scenarios. Personally, it’s quite different to not see some family and friends, but we are getting adept at things like Zoom meetings for family visits as well!”

**CHRISTY PENDER**

*Marketing & Development Manager, Northpark*



"Personally, I am coping with the COVID-19 situation one day at a time. I'm staying in touch with family and friends and that helps tremendously, and I'm praying for the health and safety of literally everyone on the planet. From a

professional standpoint, Northpark is pivoting as needed with changes as they occur. From this life-altering event, I've learned to plan better for the unexpected, that our lives are both precious and fragile, and to love more and let my loved ones know it!"

**NATHAN CANTRELL**

*Account Executive, LOCALiQ*



"I'm mostly staying at home. We only venture out when we feel it's really necessary. We've gotten lots of projects done around the house. My wife and I have been working remotely from home the

past several weeks and I'm not sure when we will return to work at our jobs in Jackson. This pandemic has given me an even greater appreciation for things we enjoyed in the past - eating out, events like Broadway in Jackson and New Stage Theatre."

**ALLISON DEWEESE**

*Career Technical Counselor, Holmes Community College*



"Honestly, some days are better than others. As a family, we have adjusted to spending more quality time at home. We have always enjoyed attending sporting events and watching sports on TV, so we have found new activities to pass the

time. We, like so many others, are ready to get out and enjoy restaurants, shops, and sporting events. Holmes Community College quickly moved all courses to an online format and I have assisted students and instructors in making the transition from face-to-face learning to an online learning format. I am adjusting to working from home and our 14-year old son Thomas has transitioned to distance learning. Technology saved us! I do not know how we would have survived this pandemic without technology. Always be grateful for your family and friends. These are the people who will help you get through difficult times, even if it is socially distant."

**TRACY BAILEY**

*Vice President, White Construction Company*



"Our family is working together through this, and with God's Grace, we will prevail. My wife Susan is an absolute blessing. Her resilience and perseverance have always inspired me, and she is the leader in our approach to

this crisis. This is a very serious situation, and in every serious situation, I gather facts, not rumor and innuendo, to establish a course of action. The first fact I follow is the same action I follow each time I awake. I speak with God and confirm that I have zero control over the day's events, and would He please guide me through the day ahead as He promised? While we're all facing challenges in the middle of a global pandemic, we're also experiencing a season of great spiritual awakening. People are searching for answers and hope. During the past six weeks we've witnessed God moving in amazing ways. Why do we ask God for His help seemingly only in crisis times? I just wish it would happen when folks think that everything is fine! At White Construction we are following recommendations in our COVID-19 guidelines and have engaged several outside consultant partners for guidance. This commitment better assures a stable work environment for White Construction Company when this situation subsides. Productivity looks different now than it did three months ago, and most of the people you work with are dealing with issues very similar to yours. Be a living example of the things you hope to receive from others. Give grace to your co-workers, to your children, your spouse, your neighbors, and to yourself. We have never seen anything quite like this, and it has tested our operations, resiliency, and patience. Working together with our family, neighbors, customers and co-workers, we will all get through this together and be better as a result of it. Thanks to each of you for your diligence and dedication to taking care of one another. Thanks to all the healthcare professionals who are tirelessly working to take care of us. And thanks to God from whom all blessings flow!"

**SCOTT JONES**

*Owner, Safe Passage Driving Service*



"Uber business has taken a big hit, since there are no places to go. My driving service efforts have been mostly concentrated on delivering groceries to homes. The demand for this service exploded with the shutdown. Sometimes I feel like a 'food first responder' as

I am getting food to folks who don't want to get out right now. I have worked many 12-hour days doing deliveries. On a personal note, I miss gathering in person with my brothers and sisters at church. Online services are nice, but it is not the same. However, I put the many hours I am in my car to good use, as I listen to many encouraging podcasts and audio books that continue to educate and inspire me concerning my faith in Jesus. I know this current challenge will pass, and, hopefully, the lessons learned will prevent future occurrences."

**CHASE BRYAN**

*Shareholder, Young Wells Williams P.A.*



"At Young Wells Williams, we closed our offices after the shelter in place order was issued and had our team work from home. We have excellent technology in place, and we have been able to continue serving our clients in a safe way. We are looking forward to getting back in our offices when it is safe to do so."

**SISSY LLOYD**

*Marketing Coordinator, Professional Eyecare Associates*



"Professional Eyecare Associates has been proactive in guarding our patients' and employees' risk of exposure to the virus. We have resumed routine eye care, but in an effort to limit exposure concerns regarding COVID-19, our appointment times are restricted. Some of our safety protocols include, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worn by doctors and staff; continued thorough handwashing and disinfecting throughout the office; curbside dispensing of eyeglasses and other materials; free mail delivery of contact lens orders; requiring patients to wear a mask; and initial screening of patients before they are seen to reduce exposure risk."

**LYNETTE SUTTLAR**

*Owner/Entrepreneur, 1 Star Accounting & Consulting, LLC*



"As I reflect over my life during this time of uncertainty, I am reminded that if there is one thing certain about this life is that it will change. However, I did not see this enormous storm looming over the horizon. My family and I are staying in as much as possible,

practicing social distancing, and being very safe if we have to venture out. Personally, I have reconnected with my meditation and prayer life. I take time each morning to just breathe. Knowing that this too shall pass, my main goal is to stay physically, mentally and emotionally fit to emerge a better version of myself. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected by ability to network and gain business. Most of my business is gained through building relationships. Although I can still reach out electronically or via telephone, I still believe in the age-old art of seeing people face-to-face. I have learned that it doesn't matter how old you are, you haven't seen everything there is to be seen. This pandemic has taught me to be better prepared because we do not know what tomorrow may bring."



**PETER DEAN**

*Branch Manager,  
Ridgeland Public Library*



"Because of COVID-19, the Madison County Library System closed all its branches. We feel the best way for us to continue to serve our communities is to provide services online. Since mid-March, we've reached out to our patrons via our website

<http://www.mclsms.org/>, as well as our social media accounts. This pandemic has made me realize that Mississippians are truly resilient. I've also learned that there are no magic answers to getting through this. I've reached out to friends and family I haven't talked to recently - and not just by simply messaging them on Facebook, but rather trying to have meaningful conversations with the important people in my life. I want to strike a better balance between work and non-work. If you need a library card to use our electronic resources, you can go to <https://bit.ly/2VOx2HF> #MSLibrariesStrong."

**ENJOLI NOLEN**

*Business Relationship Manager,  
Luckett Land Title, Inc.*

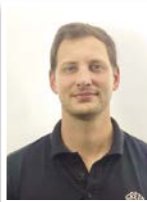


"With COVID-19 having such a tremendous impact on us all, I've taken this time to regroup, rebuild, and get even more creative. With my professional journey, the creativity comes with social media, Zoom meetings, and making continuous contact to ensure

that all of our clients know that we at Luckett Land Title are still very much here to provide answers to their questions. We are still able to conduct closings while adhering to COVID-19 guidelines. Actually, with this pandemic, our governor approved remote closings. We have been working very hard with the legislature on getting this passed for a while. This has been a huge advantage for our industry, as well as for our clients. As for my family life, this has definitely been a more challenging time. Being a parent of a 2020 high school graduate, we have had to take a different approach to help put together the pieces of so much that has been taken from our group of seniors. There have been many highs and lows, but overall keeping spirits up and pushing onward is key to the joys ahead. We are so thankful as a family, for our community, for the ongoing love, support, and encouragement that we are getting through this together."

**ERIC MCKIE**

*Operations Manager,  
Green Oak Florist & Garden Center*



"COVID-19 has undoubtedly impacted our business in the short term and will have far reaching impact on the way we service our clients in the future. Although there is much uncertainty surrounding the economic fallout from this pandemic, at Green Oak we will

continue to innovate and improve our service

to the community. We are lucky to have such a dedicated and hardworking staff on board who are willing to go above and beyond their normal duties to help us and our clients through this crisis. A few of the new retail services such as curbside pickup and garden center delivery have gained popularity very quickly, and we believe it will be a permanent service we will continue to offer into the future. We have increased focus on social media and web traffic to our website and have received great feedback from our clients who use that service to find plants and purchase online. In addition to the Garden Center and Flower Shops, our landscape and maintenance departments have done a phenomenal job of keeping our installation promises and have worked hard to accommodate the different needs of our clients. The greatest lesson learned from this event is the importance of a strong company culture. It is a strong culture that binds everyone together and keeps the focus on achieving more even during times of uncertainty."

**KELLY MOTT**

*Vice President Communications & Marketing, Visit Ridgeland*



"Our job during the pandemic has been supporting, marketing, and providing resources to our local restaurants, hotels, and retail venues as we navigate a new normal every day. It seems that all of us at work went from gearing up for our

annual Art, Wine & Wheels Weekend, which is our biggest event of the year, to completely shifting gears and figuring out quickly how to change our direction. With drastic cuts to our advertising, marketing, and sales budgets, we've relied solely on our social media outlets to get our message out. We have found the more authentic the message, the better it is received. During this time, I think both businesses and families alike have come to realize the importance of embracing change. For my family, we've made a pact to get together more often when this is all over since we're spread out across three states. For my work family, we've learned to broaden our horizons and perhaps challenge ourselves in new and different ways. For instance, Visit Ridgeland's Hannah Wilkins has honed her graphic design skills and came up with four outstanding infographics. They are so awesome that I want to share them with the residents of Ridgeland. Ridgeland residents are our hometown heroes. When you live in a great place, inviting friends and family from out of town is a requirement. As we come out of this crisis, our residents have the power to bring friends, family, and associates home, bringing big impact to our community."

**DAVID HOLLINGSWORTH**

*President, Goodwill Industries of MS, Inc.*



"At Goodwill, our employees come first, and in addition to the safety precautions exercised, we were able to secure a Paycheck Protection Program loan which has allowed all employees to remain fully paid in spite of our closing. We are grateful

to receive that financial assistance. While hoping for the best, we are planning for the worst case scenario. We are following the 4 R's Approach to manage through these extraordinary times: Respond, Reimagine, Rebound, and Recover. Personally, my lesson learned is how quickly events change, often by the hour. And how you respond is critical and impacts lives."

**LINDA BYNUM**

*Executive Director,  
Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce*



"As businesses close to help prevent transmission of COVID-19, financial concerns and job losses are one of the first human impacts of the virus. Not knowing how this pandemic will play out also affects our economic, physical and mental well-being. There is still

much about the virus, how it spreads and its fatality rate that scientists don't know. Ever-changing information has led to fear, apathy and everything in between. Our Ridgeland businesses have shown such great resiliency throughout the coronavirus uncertainty. And, our Ridgeland community has come together to support our small businesses, their owners and families. We are **Ridgeland Strong** and we will come through this crisis like we have come through other challenges - United Together!"

## RIDGELAND DEPARTMENTS



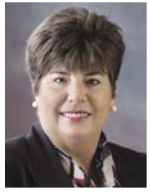
**Community Development**  
**ALAN HART**  
*Director*  
alan.hart@ridgelandms.org



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



**Public Works**  
**JOHN M. MCCOLLUM**  
*Director*  
mike.mccollum@ridgelandms.org



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



**Police Department**  
**JOHN NEAL**  
*Chief of Police*  
john.neal@ridgelandms.org



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

## CITY OF RIDGELAND

City Hall, 304 Highway 51, Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157  
601-856-7113, www.ridgelandms.org

### Aldermen

- D.I. Smith**, Alderman-at-Large ..... 601-940-2710
- Ken Heard**, Ward 1 ..... 601-201-7392
- Chuck Gautier**, Ward 2 ..... 601-856-1291
- Kevin Holder**, Mayor Pro Tempore, Ward 3 ..... 601-238-5361
- Brian Ramsey**, Ward 4 ..... 601-506-1979
- Bill Lee**, Ward 5 ..... 601-278-6256
- Wesley Hamlin**, Ward 6 ..... 601-454-0353

### City Directory

- ANIMAL CONTROL**  
animalcontrol@ridgelandms.org ..... 601-856-2121
- ANONYMOUS TIP LINE**  
(*criminal investigations division*) ..... 601-853-2006
- CITY HALL/MAYOR'S OFFICE** ..... 601-856-7113
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
(*development, property maintenance, zoning, signs, permits*) ..... 601-856-3877
- COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICERS**  
(*residential/neighborhood concerns and service*) .... 601-502-6040 & 601-940-9030
- COURT CLERK**  
(*traffic violations, misdemeanors and fines*) ..... 601-853-2001
- EMERGENCY** (*police and fire dispatch center*) ..... 9-1-1
- FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**  
(*business licenses, elections, meeting minutes, budget, public records*).. 601-856-7113
- FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
(*non-emergency calls, safety education programs*) ..... 601-856-7004
- POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
(*non-emergency calls, public safety concerns*) ..... 601-856-2121
- PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
(*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 p.m.

Work session is held on Mondays prior to Board Meeting - 6 p.m.

#### Architectural Review Board

2nd & 4th Tuesday - 6 p.m.

Bill Dicken - Chairman

Ron Blaylock, David Dunbar, Randy Knouse, Randy Lynn,  
Tay Morgan, Lynette Praytor, Alex Ross, Connie Suber

#### Keep Ridgeland Beautiful

First Monday - 4 p.m.

Jan Richardson - Chairman

Barbara Brown, Rachel Bradley, Rachel Collier, Polly Hammett,  
Barbara Hunter, Phyllis Parker, Lea Anne Stacy

#### Community Awareness Committee

Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.

Shelia Jackson - Chairman

Carla Palmer Allen, Shirley Gill, Vicki Heath,  
Diane Jackson, Shelia Jackson, Lazaire Martin, Mike Smith,  
Debbie Upchurch, Juan Gonzalez

#### Historical Committee

Every other month - Thursday, April 16th at 1 p.m.

Nancy Batson - Chairman

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

#### Contractors Board of

##### Adjustment and Appeals

Quarterly meeting - Thursday, March 19th at 4 p.m.

Lantz Kuykendall - Chairman

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

#### Zoning Board

Thursdays, the week of Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting - 6 p.m.

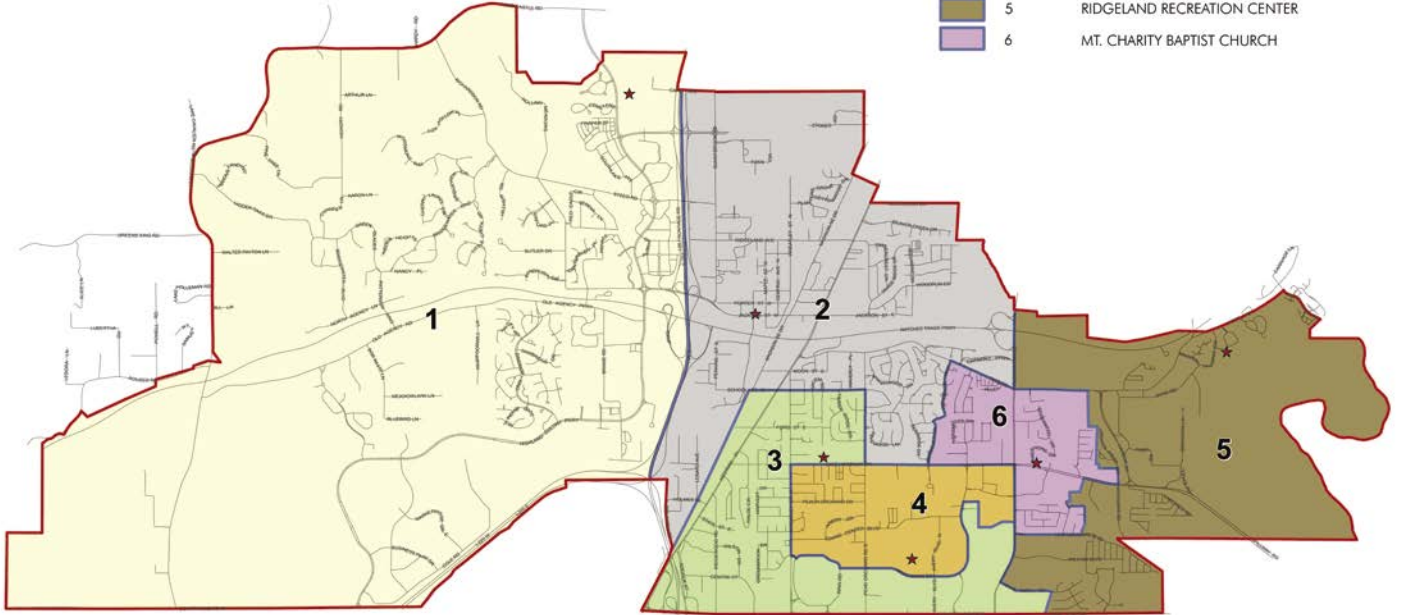
Bernie Giessner - Chairman

Tracy Bailey, Michelle Caballero, Jim Collette, Walter Cox,  
Drew Malone, Larry Miller, Judy Rice

# RIDGELAND ALDERMEN

To learn more about your elected representatives, go to [www.ridgelandms.org/electedofficials/](http://www.ridgelandms.org/electedofficials/).

WARD NUMBER	POLLING LOCATION
1	HIGHLAND COLONY BAPTIST CHURCH
2	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3	TRACE RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH
4	COLONIAL HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
5	RIDGELAND RECREATION CENTER
6	MT. CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH



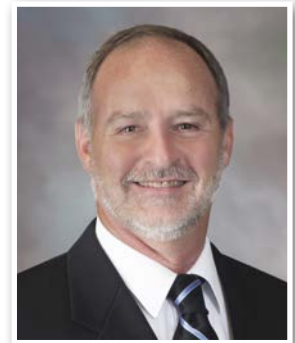
**D.I. Smith**  
Alderman At-Large  
601-940-2710  
DI.Smith@RidgelandMS.org



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



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



**Kevin Holder**  
Ward 3  
Mayor Pro Tempore  
601-238-5361  
Kevin.Holder@RidgelandMS.org



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



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



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

# NORTHPARK



Rogers, Ainsworth & Williams, PLLC

