

December 2020 – February 2021

# RIDGELAND Life

RIDGELAND  
there's   
**more!**  
here ■

the **WINTER** issue



## *From the Mayor*

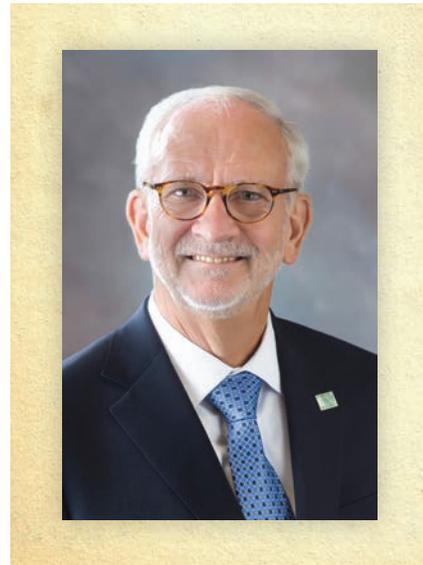
I heard someone say they were not going to set their clocks back this year to Central Standard Time because they did not want to extend 2020 any longer than necessary. Of course, he was being facetious, but I think a lot of us feel the same way. The year 2020 has been a very unusual one. Who would have ever thought a virus would cause us to quarantine, utilize cardboard fans at athletic events, and close school for such an extended period of time? Masks have become a fashion statement, and Webster's Dictionary now gives new meaning to social distancing and Zoom meetings. It is obvious that a lot of lifestyle changes will occur because of this horrible virus.

Nonetheless, I have been fortunate to witness innovative adjustments in our community. I would like to compliment the business community in the City of Ridgeland. Our local restaurants, retail stores, and businesses have done a wonderful job keeping Ridgeland's economy moving. We are very fortunate to have such a strong business community that continues to find creative and safe ways to serve the public.

Finally, I would like to compliment the City of Ridgeland department heads for really stepping up to the plate and continuing to take care of the city's business while having to deal with the consequences of this virus. Each department head and their employees have worked extremely hard to continue to serve our citizens at the highest level while following all the necessary safety precautions.

I wish each of you a blessed holiday season, and let's pray for a prosperous and favorable 2021!

*Gene F. McGee*



**Gene McGee**  
Mayor of Ridgeland



# RIDGELAND Life

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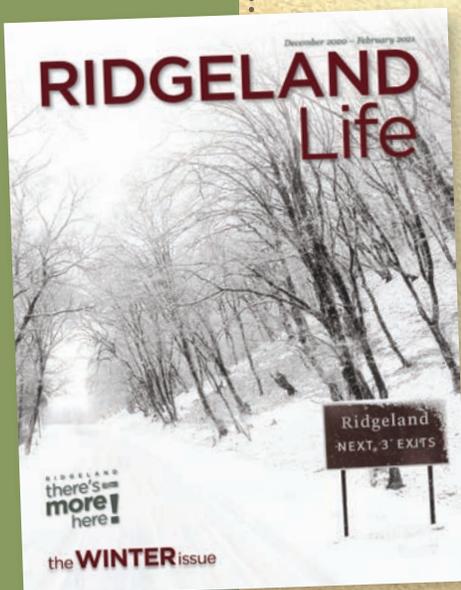
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*Jackson Street was once a dirt road lit by lanterns every night.*

## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIDGELAND *Telling Ridgeland's Story*

*By Polly Hammett*

What better way to spend a beautiful fall day than shopping, having a delicious lunch, and relaxing on a sun-dappled plaza! So I went to Old Town for some early shopping for Christmas and a perfect shower gift. After placing my purchases and the remnants of my generous gyro in my car, I walk over to the Plaza at Old Town Crossing. I stop to read the marker that tells of how Ridgeland was chartered over 120 years ago. Soon I will join other volunteers from The Historical Society of Ridgeland, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful, and Ridgeland Garden Club to decorate the Plaza for the Ridgeland Christmas Tree Lighting. Along with employees of the Recreation and Parks Department, we will transform the area into a Christmas wonderland of lights!

While resting on one of the benches, I hear the horn blast of an oncoming train. The signal bells ring, the crossing arms go down, and traffic comes

*A gravel "highway" ran parallel to the railroad, but it was well-known that the first "road" in the area was a trail that was beaten out by the Native American people as they traveled to the Agency and beyond.*

to a stop. The clackety-clack of the train wheels on the track lulls me into a daydream. I am taken back to the Village of Ridgeland in the 1920's.

Built along the railroad, the village was home to workers of the Highland Colony Company who came to the area from Illinois, Indiana, and many other places, looking for a good life for their families. Mills, stores, and a school were established. A gravel "highway" ran parallel to the railroad, but it was well-known that the first "road" in the area was a trail that was beaten out by the Native American people as they traveled to the Agency and beyond.

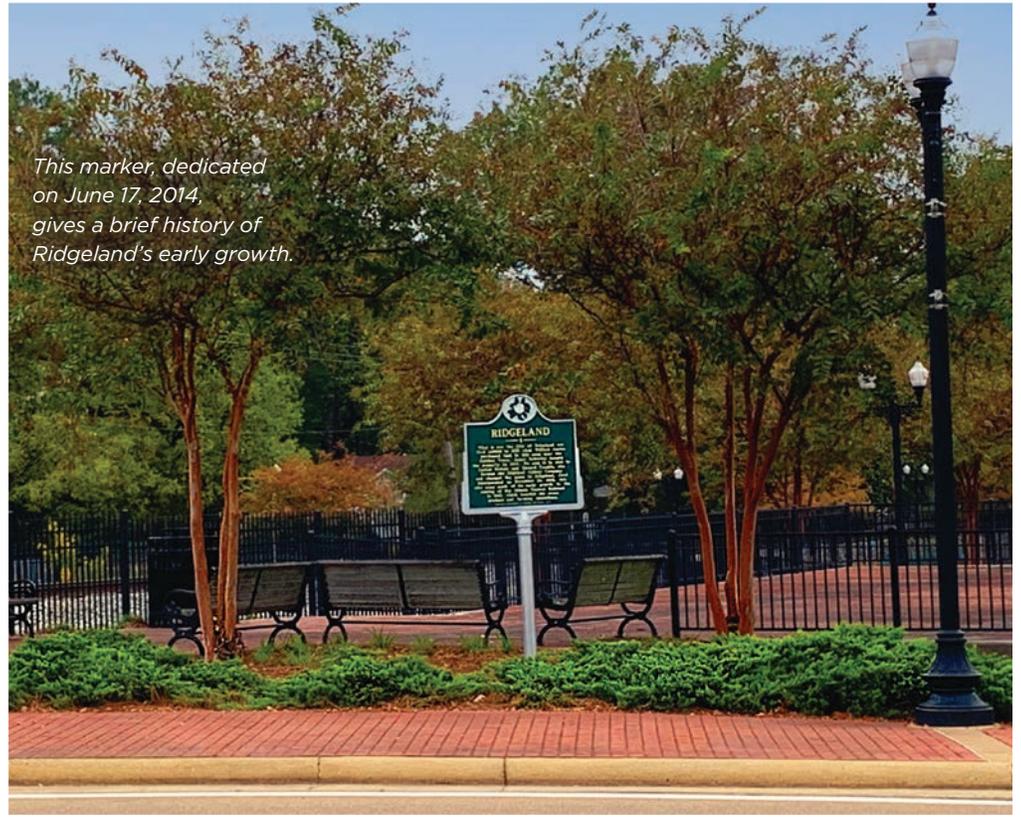
This trail was a favorite place for young boys to explore. They had heard the stories of the people that used the trail to carry goods to and from the Mississippi River at Natchez. There were tales of highwaymen who rode the trail, looking to relieve the travelers of their money and possessions. The boys spent many hours here, letting their imaginations run wild, finding items that had been left behind years ago. When the shadows grew long, they headed home. Seeing Mr. Carr lighting the lanterns on Jackson Street, they knew it was suppertime.

The imaginations of these boys could not stretch far enough to see what was to come in this small village. In a few years, electricity would light homes and businesses; the gravel highway would be paved; a World War would break out, and they would serve their country in places they had only read about in school.

After the war, the National Park Service would start construction on the Natchez Trace Parkway. This smooth paved road would one day run from Nashville to Natchez, following the trail where they had spent many happy hours in their youth.

Signal bells bring me out of my reverie. The crossing arms go up and traffic starts to move again. Refreshed and ready to go again, I look up and down the street. What to do next? Maybe a cup of coffee...more shopping...a new hair color? There are many more great stores to check out. You know...I really wish somebody would open an ice cream shop on this street!

Do you have pictures, stories or documents of Ridgeland's early years? Please join us when the Historical Society of Ridgeland meets January 21, 2021 at 1 p.m. in the boardroom of City Hall! We have been going through historical records and charts to prepare displays for the new City Hall. We are also looking forward to our participation in the Ridgeland Christmas Tree Lighting and hope to see all of you on December 3 at the event to be held in conjunction with the Ridgeland Christmas Parade – Christmas Lights and Winter Nights!



*This marker, dedicated on June 17, 2014, gives a brief history of Ridgeland's early growth.*

*The boys spent many hours here, letting their imaginations run wild, finding items that had been left behind years ago. When the shadows grew long, they headed home. Seeing Mr. Carr lighting the lanterns on Jackson Street, they knew it was suppertime.*



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND SEASONS GREETINGS

..... FROM YOUR .....

## *Ridgeland Police Department*

*By John R. Neal, Chief of Police*

The holiday season is upon us and we are beginning to experience the joys, happiness and fellowship with those we love. During the upcoming weeks, the City of Ridgeland will have an increased amount of traffic with holiday shoppers searching for that perfect gift in our retail shopping areas. While the officers of the Ridgeland Police Department strive to maintain high visibility year round, the holiday season brings heightened awareness from our officers as our shopping numbers increase. When you travel about during the season, we are offering several safety tips which I hope you remember as you are out enjoying this time.

- First and Foremost...**LOCK YOUR VEHICLE.** We have seen increases in thefts from unlocked vehicles.
- Remember to park in a well-lit area and where other shoppers are present.
- If possible, shop with a group of friends or family.
- Do not keep all your cash in one location while you are shopping.
- Record all credit/debit card numbers in a safe location – **NOT ON YOUR CELL PHONE.**
- Never leave a purse unattended in a shopping cart.
- While walking in a parking lot, keep your keys in your hand.
- If you are approached by a stranger, press your panic alarm on your key fob to alert others.
- Keep purchases and valuables out of view in your vehicle (purses, cellphones, packages).
- Remain attentive to your surroundings and call 911 with any suspicious activity.

This brings me to mention the **RELAY App.** The Ridgeland Police Department began using a non-emergency notification service in 2019 with a company called **RELAY Neighborhood Safety.** This is a downloadable app for your mobile device (smartphone, tablet, or through a web browser) where you can report non-emergency information directly to an officer's patrol vehicle. This platform continues to develop with more ways

*While the officers of the Ridgeland Police Department strive to maintain high visibility year round, the holiday season brings heightened awareness from our officers as our shopping numbers increase.*

for you to communicate with our officers. The basic platform allows you to observe an incident of concern, take a photo, upload it to a “call” and provide a brief description. From there, it is sent directly to an officer’s in-car computer where he receives the call and responds to it. The officer will be able to communicate directly with you on any updates or changes and at the end, provide you with the outcome. Please download the app and familiarize yourself with the few simple steps to report incidents to our department. The QR code shown below can be used to download the app.



residence be placed on the House Watch list for extra patrol. In addition to this, residents can also do things to protect their property while they are away, such as:

- Stop/Suspend all mail and newspaper deliveries.
- Have a neighbor use your driveway for parking during your absence.
- Remove your garage door opener from vehicles left at home.
- Make sure gates to the rear of the house are secured and locked.
- Set timers for interior/exterior lights, if available.
- Do not leave garbage containers by the street.
- Be aware of social media activity/posting and “advertising” you are out of town.
- Leave your blinds and shades in their normal position.

If you will be traveling during the holiday season, the Ridgeland Police Department offers a **House Watch Program** where we will provide frequent patrols and physical checks of your residence while you are out of town. Residents are asked to contact RPD Communications Division at 601-856-2121 and request your

We wish each and every one of you a safe and happy holiday season. As you enjoy spending time with your family and friends, please remember those loved ones who have gone before us. Additionally, keep the men and women of this department in your prayers as we go about our duties and responsibilities to protect our community.



In partnership with  
**RIDGELAND POLICE**

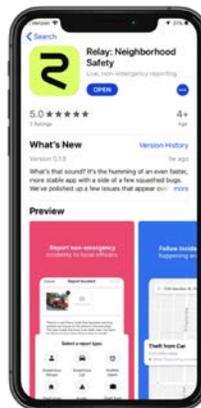


**Direct reporting to law enforcement is the key to a safe community.**

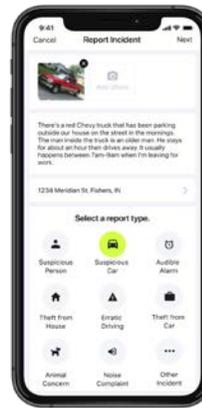
Visit [www.RelayApp.com](http://www.RelayApp.com) on your mobile phone or search ‘Relay Safety’ in your app store for a FREE download.

Relay allows you to report non-emergency incidents directly to law enforcement and receive real-time alerts from officers through the app.

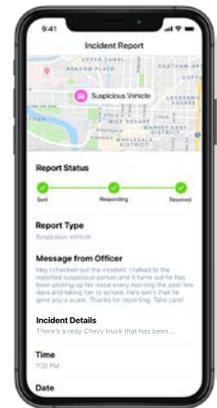
**Help stop crime before it starts.**



1. Download the app



2. Submit an incident



3. Follow incident updates

**Download the Relay App at [relayapp.com](http://relayapp.com)**

# DRAINAGE AND FLOOD MITIGATION IN THE CITY OF RIDGELAND

By Mike McCollum, Ridgeland Public Works Director

The City of Ridgeland Public Works Department is always working on projects to improve and protect the quality of life for its residents. The City is experiencing a weather pattern that has produced 100-year-rain events almost every year for the past five years. As our drainage infrastructure ages, we are challenged to provide adequate capacity to keep up with increasing storm water flows. In addition, much of our drainage is owned by private property owners that have a maintenance responsibility of which they may or may not be aware. To inquire about maintenance responsibility of a ditch that adjoins your property, you may call the Ridgeland Public Works Department. The following is a list of drainage infrastructure projects repaired, currently being repaired, or impending repairs:

**WILSON DRIVE** The City recently completed repairs on a failed storm drain pipe along Wilson Drive that was flooding the road to the point of creating road closures. We expect the new repairs to fix this problem, enabling businesses to stay open and prevent traffic delays in the area. The cost of this project was \$240,000.00.

**RIDGEWOOD ROAD** As a temporary effort, the City has cleaned out ditches and made repairs to culverts at the Wilson Drive/ Ridgewood Road intersections. Multiple businesses have experienced flooding because of this problem. We also have experienced road closures during heavy rain events. Our city drainage engineer has completed preliminary plans to install large box culverts along Ridgewood Road, as well as upstream ditch improvements to fix this problem. We have entered into an agreement with Madison County for them to fund the project with the City managing the engineering and construction. The estimated cost of this project is \$500,000.00. We expect construction to begin in March of 2021.

**FREEDOM RIDGE RETENTION POND** This structure is located on the Freedom Ridge Park property that was designed to slow down the flow of storm water in the Purple Creek Basin. The pond has silted in overtime and now has lost some of its capacity to retain storm water and must be cleaned out to restore that capacity. The City has installed a drain pipe and ditch to drain the pond. We are awaiting on funding to remove the silt. We estimate the cost for silt removal at \$300,000.00 and expect funding approval in early 2021.

**COPPER COVE STORM DRAIN PIPE AND CONCRETE DITCH** As a result of age and multiple heavy rain events, this structure is on the verge of failure, and repairs are necessary to prevent flooding in the Copper Cove area. Our drainage engineer has completed the design, and the project was funded in our 2021 operating budget. We estimate the cost to repair this pipe and concrete ditch to be \$125,000.00. The work for this project started on October 27, 2020, and we expect completion by January 15, 2021.

I hope this has provided you with important information for flood mitigation in your area. Our priority is to prevent flood water from entering homes and businesses and causing road closures. If you have a drainage problem on your property, we are happy to have our engineer come out and give you an assessment and recommendation on what can be done to solve the problem. As always, feel free to contact the Public Works Department about your drainage and flooding concerns at 601-853-2027.



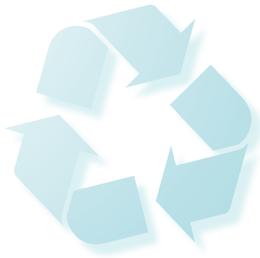
## NEIGHBORHOOD STORM DRAIN REPLACEMENT

The Public Works Department will replace or repair failing storm pipes that sometime run between houses. A homeowner that is experiencing sink holes on their property should report this to Public Works for an assessment of what repairs are necessary to fix the problem. The City has funding to repair or replace up to 10 of these on an annual basis and are on a first come, first serve basis.



## SAND BAG DELIVERY

If you are experiencing potential flooding at your home, contact the Public Works Department (after hours Ridgeland Police Department) for sandbags. The Public Works Department will deliver a limited amount of sandbags to your home at no additional cost. The homeowner is responsible for placement of sandbags.



# RECYCLEBANK REWARDS CITIZENS FOR RECYCLING

We all know recycling is good for our environment, conserves natural resources, and even benefits our economy by creating jobs. But did you know you can get rewarded for recycling? The City of Ridgeland has teamed up with Waste Management and Recyclebank to reward citizens for doing just that!

According to their website, "RecycleBank began in 2004 with a vision to create waste-free communities by partnering with cities and brands to reward residents for helping to make their communities cleaner, greener places." Recyclebank incentives include discounts and deals from more than 3,000 local and national businesses. On average, Recyclebank members can earn up to \$165 in reward value through their annual recycling efforts!

Some local retailers participating in the rewards program include: Smokin'South BBQ, Lost Pizza Co., The College Corner, and Fleet Feet. You can even shop with your rewards through Recyclebank.com to purchase other goods and services! To learn more about Recyclebank and to start earning your own rewards, go to Recyclebank.com.

Recyclebank®

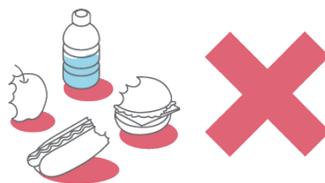


## LET'S GET BACK TO THE BASICS OF RECYCLING.

Remember these three simple rules each time you recycle:



Recycle clean bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard.



Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.



No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.

To learn more, visit [wm.com/recycleright](http://wm.com/recycleright)



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## A CONVERSATION WITH... *Renée Buckner*

By Mary Beth McCullough, Editor

### Where are you from?

I was born in Hampton, Virginia. When I was three, we moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina. From there my Dad's job moved us to Ocala, Florida. I was ten at the time, so that's pretty much where I was raised. To me and my sisters, that was awesome because we were only a little over an hour from Disney World. Who doesn't love Mickey Mouse!

### Tell me more about your family.

I have two older sisters. They both still live in Ocala, as does my mom. My dad passed away in 2013. My husband and I have two children, Christopher and Kellie. Kellie is 31 and Christopher is 33. Kelly lives in Shreveport, and Christopher lives in Ridgeland. I have a grandson, Aiden, who is 11. I also have two step-grandchildren, Zoe and Tanner.

### How did you get to Mississippi?

My husband's job with JCPenney. That's actually where we met. We both had jobs there, and he worked in the catalog department. We were both engaged to other people at the time, but he remembers telling his boss he was going to marry me one day! Obviously, our other relationships didn't work out!

### How long have you been married?

36 years.

### And his job eventually brought you here?

He later got a promotion with JCPenney. That moved us here to Mississippi in June of '94. We settled in Madison. Back then, there wasn't much there except the Popeye's and McDonald's, so we've been around to watch it really grow.



*I've seen a lot of growth in Ridgeland and couldn't think of a better job to have when we were new to town and new to the surroundings. Through my job I have met so many people from contractors to builders and public officials that I now call friends.*

**Is this around the time you started working for the City of Ridgeland?**

Yes. I decided I needed a temporary job to do when the kids were in school. I came here in August of '94 as a temp through a temp agency. While I was here in the temporary position, I was setting up interviews with others to fill my temporary position as a full-time position. Sam Vinson was the Public Works Director then, and he interviewed others all the way through October. He was unsuccessful in finding someone, so he finally asked me to take the job. I've been here ever since!

**How many years would that be?**

26 years.

**What have you done for the past 26 years for the City?**

I've been in the same position the entire time. I started out as a Secretary and was later promoted to Administrative Assistant, and I've been one ever since. I'm Mike McCollum's assistant. He's the current Public Works Director.

**You wear many hats in your position. Describe some of your job duties.**

I'm in charge of taking bids for major purchases such as equipment, trucks, and services like recycling and solid waste. Likewise, I take smaller bids on Public Works supplies such as asphalt, pipe, and signs. I have been a member of the Mississippi Association of Governmental Purchasing and Property Agents (MAGPPA) since 2002, and I also received my certification as a Certified Deputy Municipal Clerk-Collector in 1999.

I organize and collect all the financial and managerial documents for our yearly Mississippi Department of Health Inspection for our water system, and I prepare the Water Quality Report that we send out yearly to our residents. I assist the Public Works Director and City Engineer with our agenda items for the Mayor and Board of Aldermen meetings, and I prepare the quarterly safety meeting packets for the Safety Committee for the City. I also assist in preparing three budgets for the Public Works Department every year, and I am responsible for payroll for our department, which consists of approximately 50 people.

**You really enjoy your job, don't you?**

I've seen a lot of growth in Ridgeland and couldn't think of a better job to have when we were new to town and new to the surroundings. My husband and I say it was all "God" because we were one of the first ones to build a house in our neighborhood, and the elementary school was new, so our kids weren't the new kids on the block. I was thankful for things like not having to get on the interstate to get to a job in downtown Jackson. I only had to get on Highway 51, which was only three lanes back then, to get to work. I didn't have any experience in city government, but I learned quickly. Through my job I have met so many people from contractors to builders and public officials that I now call friends.

**I've noticed you share office space with an assortment of cheerful companions!**

If you ever drop by my office, you will notice a large collection of Pillsbury Doughboys. I always say I love being surrounded by his smiling face. Can't you just hear him giggling! I have been collecting the Doughboys for about 20 years. People are always fascinated by them, and I always love sharing my story about them. It all started from my dear friend and co-worker Danny Whitehead. He has since passed away. Danny found out that I liked the Pillsbury Doughboy, and he bought me my very first doll. Little did I know that it would become a collection of hundreds of items that I now own. He would buy one for me, and he would buy one for his wife, and so there were two sets of a Pillsbury Doughboy collection. I get more comments and compliments when people come into my office.

**How many Doughboys do you own?**

Between my office and my house, I own almost 200 Pillsbury Doughboy items.

**Do you have any retirement plans?**

I'm hoping that in a couple of years that my husband and I can both retire. I love my Public Works family, and when I think of retiring, it is bitter sweet. I want to retire and travel and spend time with my husband, but since I don't have any family here, my co-workers are my family, and it will be sad not to see them every day.



**PROPOSED UPS FACILITY LOCATION**  
**MARKETRIDGE DRIVE, RIDGELAND, MS**

*UPS Opening New Facility*  
 ..... IN RIDGELAND .....

*By Mary Beth McCullough, Editor*

The City of Ridgeland is excited to announce that United Parcel Services, Inc. (UPS) is building a new package distribution facility in our city! Bringing 161 jobs with an average annual wage of \$57,000.00, this \$28.6 million corporate investment will be located off Marketridge Drive.

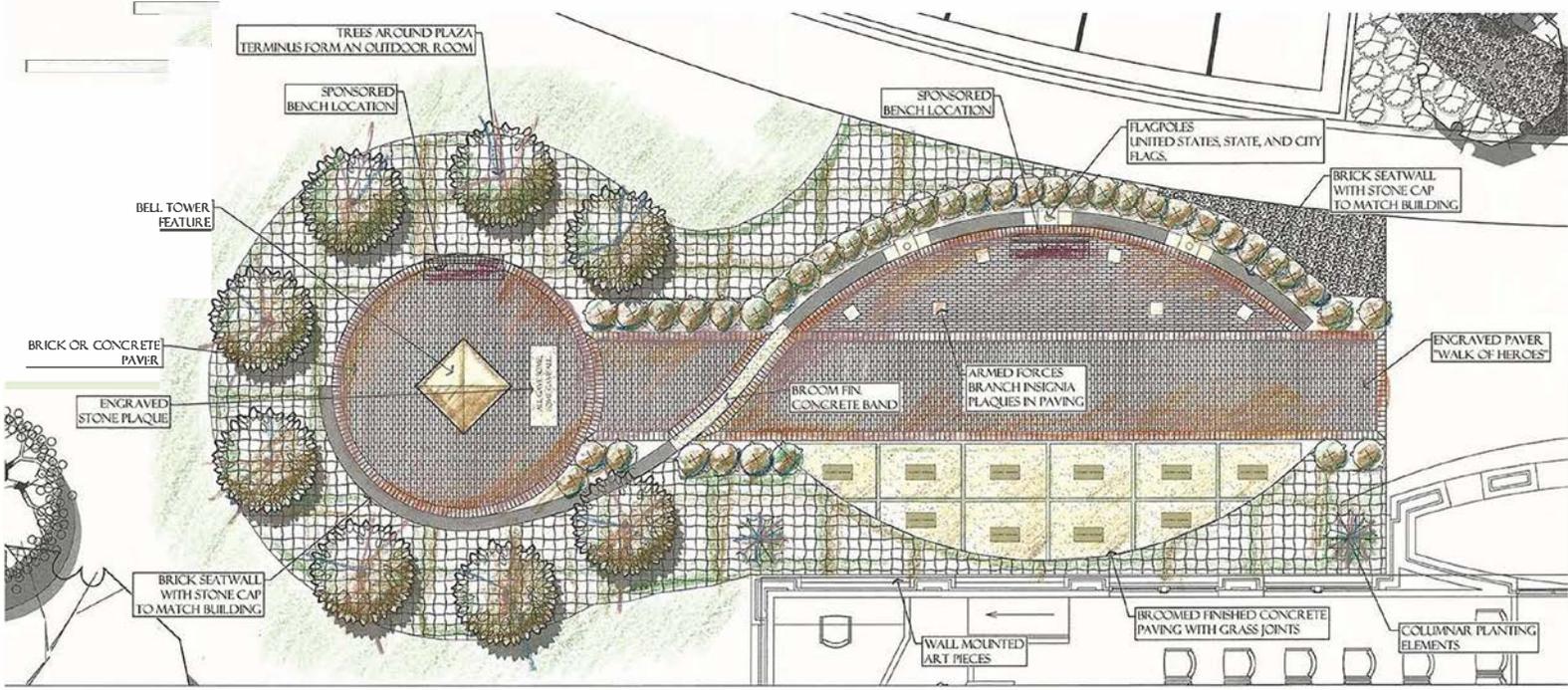
“We welcome UPS to the City of Ridgeland,” said Gene McGee, Mayor of Ridgeland. “We are glad that UPS made the strategic decision to locate in our Highland Colony 220 Business Park, which provides them ease of transporting goods from their Jackson Distribution Center to their final destination.” Expected to maintain 105 package delivery vehicles in dispatch, the Ridgeland facility will be a last-mile package distribution center.

Community Development Director Alan Hart believes the

new facility will be a great addition for Ridgeland. “I’m excited for UPS, Madison County, and Ridgeland that this project will add local good-paying jobs to our economy. This project is consistent with the goals established by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for growing our city.”

Founded in 1907 on a \$100 loan, UPS has grown to be a multi-billion-dollar enterprise. As one of the largest package delivery services, UPS employs more than 495,000 employees and delivers to more than 220 nations.

Currently in design, the Ridgeland UPS facility will be 87,500 square feet, and construction is expected to begin the first half of 2021. For employment information, please visit [www.upsjobs.com](http://www.upsjobs.com).



# Veterans Memory Park in Ridgeland SEEKS DONATIONS THROUGH BRICK SALES

By Mary Beth McCullough, Editor

Construction is now underway for Veterans Memory Park located at the new Ridgeland City Center! The park will include benches and plaques commemorating the six branches of military services. In addition, a central walkway, the Walk of Heroes, a flagpole, and a seven-foot tall centerpiece bell will be featured.

The committee for the park is currently seeking donations through engraved brick sales. Available brick sizes are 4” x 8” (located along the “Walk of Heroes”) and 8” x 8” (located around the bell tower). Donations for bricks are \$200 and \$500, respectively. All bricks must recognize the name of a Veteran.

The idea of the park was launched by the late Dr. Tom Logue of Ridgeland. “It was Dr. Logue’s vision that the bell tower be a working one where family members and friends could ring the bell and pay tribute to a veteran,” explained Park Chairman Mike McCollum.

To order a brick in honor of a veteran, you may visit the park website at [www.veteransmemoryparkinridgeland.com](http://www.veteransmemoryparkinridgeland.com). You may also call 601-853-2027 for more information.



*To order a brick in honor of a veteran, you may visit the park website at [www.veteransmemoryparkinridgeland.com](http://www.veteransmemoryparkinridgeland.com). You may also call 601-853-2027 for more information.*



## *Ridgeland adds Pickleball* TO ITS REPERTOIRE OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

*By Mary Beth McCullouch, Editor*

Pickleball courts are now available at the Ridgeland Tennis Center! According to Wikipedia, “Pickleball is a paddleball sport (similar to a racquet sport) that combines elements of badminton, table tennis, and tennis. Two or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, much like a wiffle ball.”

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Director John Sidney North is happy about Ridgeland’s new addition. “We are so excited to finally have pickleball courts at the Ridgeland Tennis center. Pickleball is one of the country’s fastest-growing sports and its popularity is soaring. We are offering yet another activity that people of all ages can enjoy. With our four new courts, the Ridgeland residents can play this growing game locally without traveling to other places.”

*Pickleball is one of the country’s fastest-growing sports and its popularity is soaring. We are offering yet another activity that people of all ages can enjoy.*

Wikipedia also sheds light on the history of the game, “The game started during the summer of 1965 on Bainbridge Island, Washington, at the home of Joel Pritchard, who later served in Congress and as lieutenant governor. He and two of his friends, Bill Bell and Barney McCallum, returned from golf and found their families bored one Saturday afternoon. They attempted to set up badminton, but no one could find the shuttlecock. They improvised with a perforated plastic ball, lowered the badminton net, and fabricated paddles of plywood from a nearby shed.”

The center has four available courts, and players can reserve a court up to four days in advance. Cost is \$3/person for 1.5 hours of play time. Check-in at the pro shop is required to play! For more information or to reserve a court, please call the Ridgeland Tennis Center at (601) 853-1115.



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# Yard of the Month

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful announces the Residential and Business Yards of the Month for August, September, October, and November! Thank you for Keeping Ridgeland Beautiful!

## AUGUST



**BUSINESS:** The award for the August Business Yard of the Month was given to Yia Yia's Greek Kitchen at 587 Hwy. 51 N., Suite J.



**RESIDENTIAL:** The award for the August Residential Yard of the Month was given to Ms. Debbie Trussell on Hawthorn Vale.

## SEPTEMBER



**BUSINESS:** The award for the September Business Yard of the Month was given to BankPlus at 1010 Highland Colony Parkway.



**RESIDENTIAL:** The award for the September Residential Yard of the Month was given to Mr. Jimmy Hathcock on Steeple Ridge.



KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

## OCTOBER



**BUSINESS:** The award for the October Business Yard of the Month was given to Lakeshore Landing Apartments at 2144 Lakeshore Drive.



**RESIDENTIAL:** The award for the October Residential Yard of the Month was given to Mr. and Mrs. Milton Holcumbe on Sawpine Lane.

## NOVEMBER



**BUSINESS:** The award for the November Business Yard of the Month was given to Interstate Battery at 243 Hwy. 51 S.



**RESIDENTIAL:** The award for the November Residential Yard of the Month was given to Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Johnson on Leonard Avenue.

## Important Info

**\*Due to COVID-19 Guidelines, classes/programs may or may not be cancelled. Masks may also be required. Please call or contact Lynda at 601.856.6876 or lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org for an update on classes/programs.**

## ▶ SUPERSTAR SENIORS

### SENIOR ADULT VALENTINE'S BANQUET

Join us for a special Valentine's event for all area senior adults. A meal and entertainment will be provided. Help us celebrate the sweetest day of the year! Seating is limited.



Program Price: \$10  
*(Tickets go on sale, Monday, January 4, 2021)*  
 Event Date: TBA  
 Time: TBA  
 Location: Highlands Presbyterian Church  
 1160 Highland Colony Parkway  
 Ridgeland, MS 39157

## 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 for more information.



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

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

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

### RIDGELAND CITY GARDEN CLUB

The objective of our club is to provide education and to promote the love of gardening, landscape and floral design and to encourage civic beautification and environmental responsibility. If you are interested in anything relating to gardening, horticulture, flower arranging, the environment and more, then we are the club for you! If you are interested in attending any of our meetings or becoming a member, please send an email to: Joy Ellis flowerlady243@gmail.com

Program Price: \$20 (Yearly dues)  
 Event Dates: December 1  
 January 5  
 February 2  
 Time: 11:30 a.m.  
 Day of Week: Tuesdays



### 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 the 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, 7-8 p.m.  
 Day of Week: Monday

### DAYTIME BEGINNERS' LINE DANCING CLASS

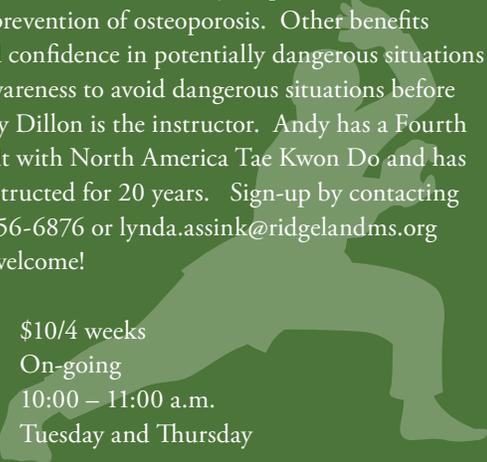
In this class we dance to a wide mix of music styles, including country, pop and big band. No advanced dances are done in this beginners' class. Come meet some great people and breathe new life into your soul! You will have fun learning a variety of line dances. It will keep your brain sharp by learning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

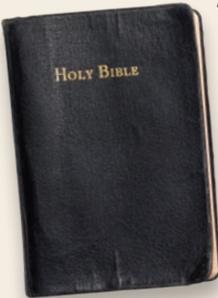
### MARTIAL ARTS FOR SENIOR ADULTS

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 contacting Lynda at (601)-856-6876 or [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 and 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.

**\*Due to COVID-19 State Guidelines, this class will meet only if the restrictions have been lifted.**

Time: 9 a.m. – 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  
 Start Date: On-going  
 Time: 1:30–3:30 p.m.  
 Day of Week: Tuesday

### SENIOR FIT CLUB 1

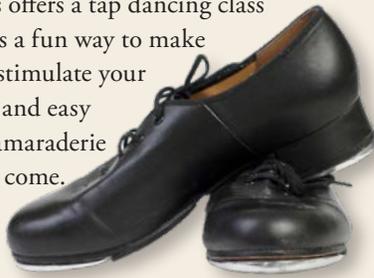
On Monday and Wednesday afternoons at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, we offer an exercise class for senior adults called SENIOR FIT CLUB. This class offers low-impact exercises geared towards senior adults. Strengthen muscles and improve your movement for a healthier lifestyle. This is a great class for those recovering from a 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

## TAP DANCING

Ridgeland Recreation and 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.

This is an INTERMEDIATE Tap Dancing class! For more information, please contact Lynda at 601-856-6876 or [lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org](mailto:lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org)



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

## RESTORATION & RELAXATION YOGA

Ridgeland Recreation and 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  
 Day of Week: Monday and Friday

## ZOOM EXERCISE & FITNESS CLASS BY LISA NEWMAN (NEW CLASS!)

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is offering a fun, safe, well-balanced, and effective exercise class to those who are quarantined during COVID-19. Lisa Newman, Personal Trainer and Fitness Expert, will guide you through a safe, fun, total-body workout. To join, you will need to download ZOOM on your iPad, iPhone, or computer. If you wish to join, email Lynda at [lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org](mailto:lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org). Mail your monthly check to Ridgeland Recreation and Parks, P. O. Box 217, Ridgeland, MS 39158.



Event Dates: On-going  
 Program Price: \$20/month  
 Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
 Day of Week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### RIDGELAND CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



Come join us for our 3rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Plaza at Old Town Crossing. Light up your holidays with a stroll through the Railroad District, drink a cup of hot chocolate, enjoy local cuisine, and listen to songs of Christmas. There will be children's crafts, photos with Santa, shopping and, of course, the lighting of the Christmas tree.

Start Time: Following the  
Ridgeland Christmas Parade  
Event Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020  
Location: The Plaza at Old Town Crossing

### RIDGELAND CHRISTMAS PARADE

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Committee would like to invite all residents, businesses, and civic organizations to participate in the Ridgeland Christmas Parade. There is no cost to enter the parade, and it is a great way to show your holiday spirit as we kick off the Christmas season. The theme for this year's parade is "Christmas Lights, Winter Nights." The parade begins at Holmes Community College and will travel through the historic Old Town Subdivision.

**Registration forms are available. Registration is open until Monday, November 30, 2020.**

Start Time: 6:30 pm  
Event Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020  
Location: Old Town Ridgeland



### CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

The Ridgeland Beautification Committee will be awarding prizes for the best Christmas decorations to Ridgeland homes and businesses for the Christmas season. We will judge businesses and award the top two winners. For homes, we will judge the following categories: Overall, Door and Porch, Judges' Choice, and Children's Choice.



**To ensure the Ridgeland Beautification Committee looks at your home or business, call 601-853-2011. The judging date will be Monday, December 7, 2020.**

### 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 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 (AKC).



Two sessions will be offered in the spring. Registration will begin February 1, 2021, and classes will begin in March (exact dates to be determined). 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.

Program Price: \$95  
Program Area: Adult  
Registration: February-March  
Start Date: March TBD  
Start Time: 7:00 PM  
Day of Week: Tuesday  
Location: Ridgeland Recreational Center



## ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

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

## Some virtual, some classroom, all a team!

By Delila Vance

Entering Ann Smith Elementary School the first week of 2020 looked as it always had. Students had returned from winter break, and everyone was back on schedule. In no time, the third nine-weeks was wrapping up, and spring break was on the horizon. The kindergarten team was ready for a little break but were already focusing on the fourth nine-weeks' agenda and finishing school strong. The tasks ahead included not only mastering the new term's academic skills but also organizing countless end-of-the-year plans, including the last field trip, the kindergarten music program, and kindergarten 2021 registration.

No one could predict what was in store for the last part of the school year. Soon the announcement came that school had been delayed and the effects of COVID-19 began to be felt everywhere. Watching administrators make decisions as things unfolded daily kept the K team on their feet. Suddenly, how instruction was delivered had totally changed.

Collaboration and commitment amped up as a school. The kindergarten team began to work on how to best serve students. Texts and phone calls were sent out. Virtual meetings, videos, online lessons, and paper packets were utilized as the team strived to communicate and teach with school families.

The 2019-2020 school year came to a close, and Ann Smith celebrated with a fun drive-through parade. This gave teachers a chance to safely see their students and families and send them into summer with some treats and a smile.

Fast forward into mid-summer, and plans were underway as the K team began preparing for a new group of kindergarteners. There were no guarantees the new school year would begin normally or even on time. Soon the opportunity for parents to choose virtual learning became available. As the numbers for virtual learning began to grow, it became necessary for some of the K team to be utilized for virtual learning. When the school year began, half of the team spent their day in the classroom with students attending in person, and the other half spent their day in the classroom with students attending through teams online. Although the structure of how the kindergarten team began the first day's routines and traditions had changed, the challenges were met head-on. There is still the ability to exchange a smile and an encouraging word, even if it's not until the end of the "virtual" or "classroom" day. That's the best part of being a team. These are still uncertain times, but that makes us say even louder,

"It's a great day to be a TITAN, especially at Ann Smith Elementary!"



Classroom and Virtual ASE Team

*The kindergarten team began to work on how to best serve students. Texts and phone calls were sent out. Virtual meetings, videos, online lessons, and paper packets were utilized as the team strived to communicate and teach with school families.*



## HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

### *Growth Mindset* By Alicia Bell

The unprecedented times that we all find ourselves in has not stopped the momentum that Highland has been building, and Principal Serenity Lockett is leading the staff in seeing this time as an opportunity to “build our students into lifelong readers and writers, mathematicians, scientists, and historians using technology as our tool.”

This year, Highland’s motto is #YouAreAWESOME!, and on the very first day of school, classes began reading the book *You are AWESOME* by Matthew Syed, which launched their focus for the year on growth mindset.

The goal of this motto is for students to believe that they can grow, and instilling this mindset in our school community creates an environment where everyone sees potential for growth when met with challenges or obstacles. One area Highland is excited to grow in is our languages, and this year students have Spanish as an enrichment class to ensure they are even better prepared for the 21st Century.

Highland instructor Katherine Rash joined the Specials Team this fall, and the students have been eager to go to Spanish class weekly to learn more vocabulary words, phrases, have conversations with their peers, and be creative in the language arts – incorporating all that they learn about the language.

Mrs. Rash shared that her goal for the 2020/21 school year is simply for students to create a love for learning a new language. It is evident that the students are doing just that in this new addition to their enrichment classes.

It certainly takes a community to ensure that our children are fully enriched and equipped with all the necessary skills and tools to be AWESOME! Highland has a team ready to welcome and collaborate with the community on their mission to educate and prepare every student to be a productive citizen and enrich our students learning experience. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact the school office at 601-853-8103.



Ms. McAlexander, Mrs. DeJong, Mrs. Fulton, Ms. Terry



Mrs. Fortenberry



Mrs. Lyall, Ms. Claire, and Dr. May



Mrs. Edwards with Mrs. Killebrew

### GROWING OUR TEAM NEW TO HIGHLAND

Highland is growing and delighted to welcome new staff members to the team:

- Lauren Fortenberry • 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- Anna Grace Fulton • 3<sup>rd</sup> Virtual ELA
- Meredith McMullen • 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- Courtney McAlexander • 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Virtual Math and Science
- Jennifer Edwards • 5<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA
- Carie Lyall • ELA Instructional Specialist
- Denice McHarris • Front Office

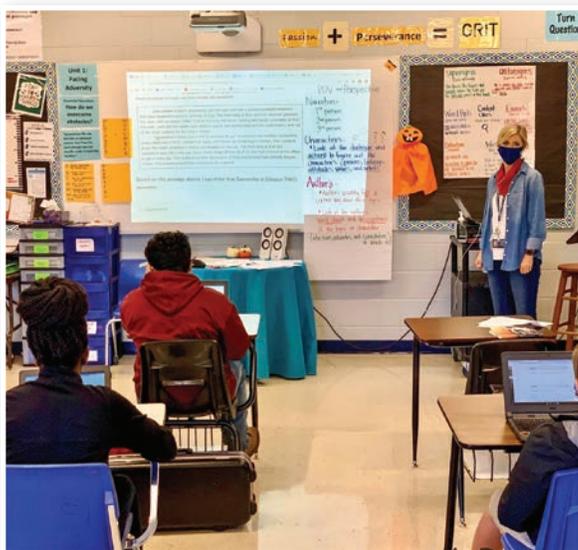


## OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

# THE YEAR OF VIRTUAL AND TRADITIONAL LEARNING *Year of Changes, Year of Challenges, Year of Character* SAME EXPECTATIONS OF EXCELLENCE

*By Crystal Chase, Principal*



*Seventh grade ELA Teacher Lori Wilson is determined to do whatever it takes in order for her students to be successful!*



*The Show Must Go On! Band Director Steven Culpepper is not discouraged by the number of students not on campus for band. He is determined to continue the tradition of excellence for which the OTMS Band Program is known!*

The 2020–2021 school year will be remembered for various reasons. In spite of the obstacles, the faculty and staff at Old Towne are doing their best to make positive memories for students. In addition to making sure that safety guidelines such as wearing masks and being mindful of social distancing were in place, teachers were determined to maintain certain components of normalcy.

Dress up days for Homecoming and Red Ribbon Week occurred to allow students and teachers the chance to show their creativity. The most important components still in place are quality teaching and learning. Our teachers are determined to continue to take care of our students holistically.

Students returned after being away from school for six months. My number one challenge to our faculty was to make sure that students knew that they were loved and that we were excited to have them back in the building. We have also made it a point to reach out to and make this same point known to our virtual students.

*My number one challenge to our faculty was to make sure that students knew that they were loved and that we were excited to have them back in the building.*



## RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

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

# Ridgeland High Soccer Teams “Assist” Togolese Youth Soccer Team with “Goals” *Both teams are winners!*

*By Jan Richardson*

The world’s most popular sport connected Ridgeland High School boys’ and girls’ soccer teams with Football Club Renaissance, a youth soccer group located in the country of Togo, in Africa. Togo, a West African nation on the Gulf of Guinea, is home to 7.8 million people, thousands of miles away from Ridgeland.

The teams’ coaches formed a friendship that launched a meaningful project that enhanced the lives of both teams.

It began several months ago when Ridgeland High School head soccer coach Trey Butts met Coach Tsigbo, a Togolese coach for teenage students, through a soccer Facebook page. Tsigbo has spent the last 15 years running a youth soccer program. Tsigbo speaks four languages – French, Togo’s national language; German; English; and a Togolese indigenous language. Tsigbo learned English in school, so the coaches were able to communicate.

“His team plays friendly games and competes in a couple of tournaments each year,” said Coach Butts. “Unlike the United States, Coach Tsigbo told us schools don’t often have sports programs. They often don’t have a formal schedule of competitors and play casual but competitive games with their local groups.”

The two coaches had a running dialog about their teams and families and the effects COVID-19 has had on their lives. Coach Tsigbo and his wife have two children. Butts and his wife Nikki are also proud parents of two children, Josh and Ava. Josh, a freshman at RHS, plays soccer and baseball, and is enrolled in the RHS Engineering Academy, as well as the highly-regarded robotics program. Their daughter Ava is a third-grader, a gymnast, plays soccer, and loves learning at her school, Highland Elementary.

When Coach Tsigbo shared team videos, Coach Butts noticed some team members played without shoes and equipment his teams consider basic necessities for playing the



*Coach Tsigbo’s team celebrated the arrival of soccer equipment donations collected by Ridgeland High soccer players.*

*“I asked my team and their parents what they thought about setting a goal to donate needed equipment to Coach Tsigbo’s team. They were all in. Both the boys’ and girls’ soccer teams sprang into action, emptying closets of slightly-worn items and purchasing new equipment.”*

## SCHOOLS IN RIDGELAND



*Ridgeland High School girls' senior soccer players. The girls and boys soccer teams help Togolese youth soccer team with equipment donations.*



*Ridgeland High School boys' senior soccer players give it their all for the community project.*

sport. Although they were lacking cleats, shin guards, socks and even a soccer net, Coach Butts noted, “the kids were really enjoying what they were doing — playing soccer!”

Coach Butts mulled over the situation, pondering whether his Titan soccer teams could help their new friends. “I asked my team and their parents what they thought about setting a goal to donate needed equipment to Coach Tsigbo’s team. They were all in. Both the boys’ and girls’ soccer teams sprang into action, emptying closets of slightly-worn items and purchasing new equipment.”

“Parents and kids donated a lot of equipment: lightly used cleats, balls, soccer shorts, shin guards, and cones. We even sent a net since they didn’t have one. I included a whistle for the coach. We filled up a gigantic shipping box with soccer gear,” said Coach Butts.

When the donations arrived in Togo, Coach Tsigbo shared a video and photos of the ecstatic team decked out in their soccer gear.

“Coach Tsigbo is such a genuine person,” Coach Butts said. “We exchange messages several times a week; and we have a new goal. Coach Tsigbo and I are researching student exchange programs with the hope that his son might come to Ridgeland High School for a year.”

On the Titan pitch, the Ridgeland High and Old Town soccer teams feel exuberant that they can play soccer this season. Assistant coaches Tucker Italiano, a Ridgeland High alumnus, and Brady Hoda, round out the staff. Fans are encouraged to support Ridgeland soccer. Games continue through January with playoffs scheduled at the end of that month and into February. Tickets are available through a link on the Ridgeland High School website.



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## Daniel Lynn, Ridgeland High School junior, Advocates as a member of the State Superintendent Student Advisory Council for STEM programs and Education Equity across Mississippi

The Mississippi State Board of Education Youth Council program was established in 2019 with the purpose of providing a forum for Mississippi's students to offer diverse perspectives to the State Superintendent of Education. Ridgeland High School junior, Daniel Lynn, feels honored to be selected to the Council this year.

Daniel, a lifelong Ridgeland resident, has attended the city's public schools since kindergarten at Ann Smith Elementary. He is the son of Randy and Sissy Lynn, both active supporters of the Ridgeland Zone public schools. In fact, Sissy was named the Mississippi Parent of the Year in 2015.

"I've attended Ridgeland's public schools since kindergarten, and when I saw this opportunity to provide ideas and suggestions to improve public schools all over the state, I immediately applied," said Daniel. "It's also a great way for me to incorporate leadership skills while giving back to my community."

Students from different backgrounds, school sizes, and regions in Mississippi will share their opinions and offer advice about educational opportunities and policy in Mississippi. Council meetings will be held twice a year (fall and spring) during the school year.

Daniel's interests, like many Titan students, are multifaceted. He has been a part of Ridgeland High School's prestigious engineering academy for the past two years. For four years, he participated in the Titan robotics program, competing in local, state and national competitions, and he is a member of the inaugural drone program.

Additionally, Daniel is a percussionist in Ridgeland High School's band, which placed second in the state 5A band competition last fall. As a member of Mu Alpha Theta, Daniel has competed in elite math competitions and has served as a math tutor for high school and middle school students. Last year, he was inducted into the National Honor Society. Daniel also serves the community as a Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce Junior Diplomat. He is currently ranked first in his class of 214 students.

Daniel's interest in STEM education deepened at Old Town Middle School through his participation in the Technology Student Association, earning state titles and top 10 national finishes. He was Old Town's Geography Bee champion for all three years, placing in the top 10 at the State Geography Bee twice. In the Verizon App Challenge, his team's app won the state title earning \$5000 for the school.

"Daniel is the first RHS student to serve on the Council," explained RHS Principal Keith Fennell. "We are proud to have his experience and contribution represent Ridgeland High School and the TeamTitan Zone, as well."

"The main thing I want to stress is the importance of advancing technology in Mississippi's public schools, especially in areas of the state that don't have the same advantages we do in Madison County," Daniel said. "I want there to be equal educational opportunities for all students, no matter where they live or attend school."

Daniel is eager to get started. "I'm looking forward to being a voice for students in Ridgeland to make sure the zone's interests are represented. I also want to hear ideas from other Mississippi students who have diverse perspectives on important issues within their schools and communities."



*Newly appointed State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council member Daniel Lynn, a Ridgeland High junior, will advocate for closing the digital divide in schools across the state.*





## 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 Offering Massage Therapy Program*

*By Mary Margaret Busby*

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus now offers a one-year Massage Therapy program taught by Dr. Marquita Webster, LMT, MMP, DPT.

“If you thought that massage therapy was only a feel-good way to pamper yourself, then think again!” said Holmes Massage Therapy Program Director Dr. Webster. “In contrast, massage therapy can be used as a powerful treatment tool to assist with taking charge of your health and well-being, whether you have a certain health condition or are looking for stress relief.”

Massage therapy is a form of treatment that involves a trained and certified medical professional to provide soft tissue manipulation to the body using different degrees of pressure and movement. It is considered a special treatment of complementary and integrative medicine.

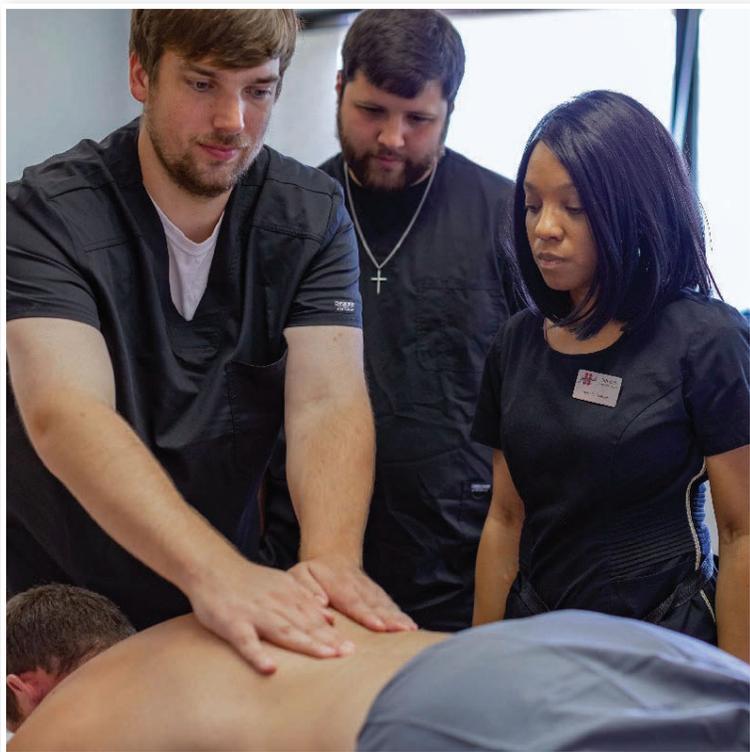
“We are so very excited about the new Massage Therapy Program at Holmes,” said Vice-President for Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington. “Dr. Webster brings years of experience in the field and in the classroom, and this program meets the need of a growing industry in our Holmes district.”

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that between 2018 and 2028, the field is expected to grow by 22 percent. In 2019, the median salary for a massage therapist was \$42,820.00, and therapists could earn upwards of \$20/hour.

“At Holmes Community College, our Massage Therapy Program is designed to prepare students for careers as Professional Massage Therapists,” Dr. Webster said. “During the one-year program, students will learn about various modalities including Swedish massage, deep tissue and neuromuscular massage, prenatal massage, sports massage, reflexology, shiatsu, and hydrotherapy.

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to work in a variety of settings such as: spas, cruise ships, resorts, chiropractic and medical offices, sports and fitness facilities, private offices, airports, nursing homes and orthopedic rehabilitation facilities.”

The Massage Therapy Program commenced this past September. Individuals interested in becoming a Licensed Massage Therapist can get started by visiting [https://hccapp.holmescc.edu/ruready\\_orientation/index.cfm](https://hccapp.holmescc.edu/ruready_orientation/index.cfm). There is no fee to submit an application.





## 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. – 6 p.m.

Fri – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed on Saturday & Sunday

### FRIENDS OF THE RIDGELAND LIBRARY



Friends of the Ridgeland Library (FORL), established in 1991, is a volunteer, nonprofit, community organization dedicated and committed to providing support to the Ridgeland Library. FORL's main purpose is to maintain an association of people interested in libraries, focus public attention on the library, stimulate use of library resources and services, encourage gifts, and fundraising for library needs.

FORL supports summer reading programs for children and adults, Storybook MiniCon, Mystery Readers, and guest speakers. Furthermore, FORL provides the library with study desks and chairs, supplies for activities, plants for the patio area, prizes for events, benches for the lobby, a vacuum cleaner, refrigerator, and camera.

FORL funds miscellaneous library projects such as the MCLS bookmobile. In addition, FORL helps to meet community needs by supplying volunteers with books for retirement facilities, providing a “free” bookshelf in the library lobby, and sponsoring Toys for Tots during the holiday season.

FORL fund-raising activities include two book sales each year, year-round book sales in the library, membership dues, and RidCon (a comic convention for those interested in comic books, graphic novels, costumes, role-playing games, video and board games).

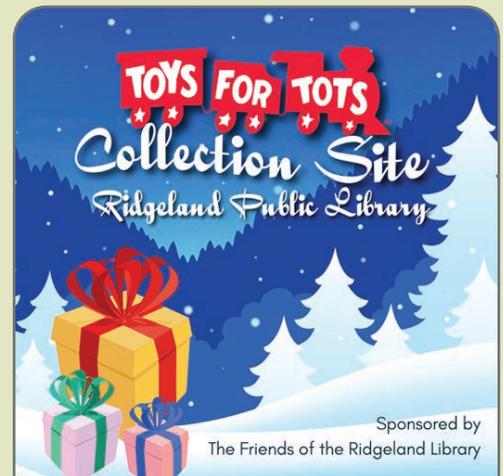
FORL has a variety of volunteer activities available. Volunteers can do as much or as little as they like. Volunteer activities include:

- Work book sales and/or RidCon
- Sort and pack book donations
- Provide refreshments for activities
- Deliver books to retirement facilities
- Serve on the 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. 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.

#### Membership fees are:

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



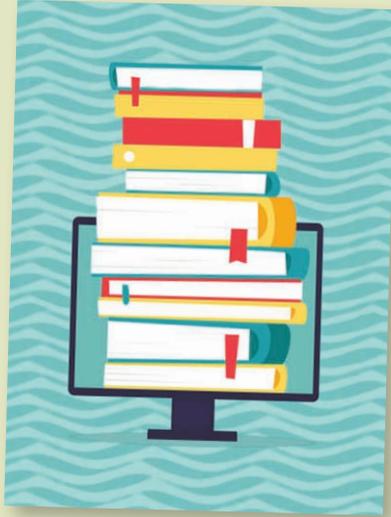
### TOYS FOR TOTS

The Ridgeland Library is pleased to be a drop-off location for Toys for Tots through December 10, 2020. The Friends of the Ridgeland Library are sponsoring the drive again this year. Founded in 1947, Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve with the help of dedicated community volunteers. During the 2019 holiday season, the Marine Toys for Tots Program distributed 18.6 million toys to 7.3 million children in need. To learn more about the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, you may visit their website at [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).

Please consider making a donation of a new, unwrapped toy or book for this worthwhile community campaign. Donations may be made anytime during library hours by closing on Friday, December 11, 2020. You may alert the staff using the front door intercom or by calling the library at 601-856-4536. Please help bring the joy of Christmas to less-fortunate children.

## EXPANDED IN-LIBRARY SERVICES

The Ridgeland Library staff thanks you for your support and cooperation as we continue to restore library services in a safe manner. On October 5, 2020, the Madison County Library System expanded in-library services for patrons. Ridgeland Public Library now offers study tables and **limited browsing** for materials. You must make an appointment to enter the library.



**Appointments are limited for social distancing purposes. "Walk-ins" accommodated based on computer availability.**

### Patrons must follow specific health guidelines during the appointment:

- All patrons (age 2 and up) and library staff are **REQUIRED** to wear face coverings over the mouth and nose while inside the library.
- Please **DO NOT COME TO THE APPOINTMENT** if you have had fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste/smell, vomiting or diarrhea within 48 hours prior to your appointment or exposure to someone with COVID-19 within 14 days prior to appointment.
- Practice social distancing by staying 6 feet away from others.
- Sanitize hands before and after computer use. Hand sanitizer stations are provided. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Ridgeland Public Library continues to offer curbside services. Copy and fax services remain curbside **ONLY**.

Ridgeland Public Library (and all Madison County Library System branches) continue to offer and encourage safe use of digital resources.

**Call the Ridgeland Public Library for details and to make an appointment before visiting. 601-856-4536**

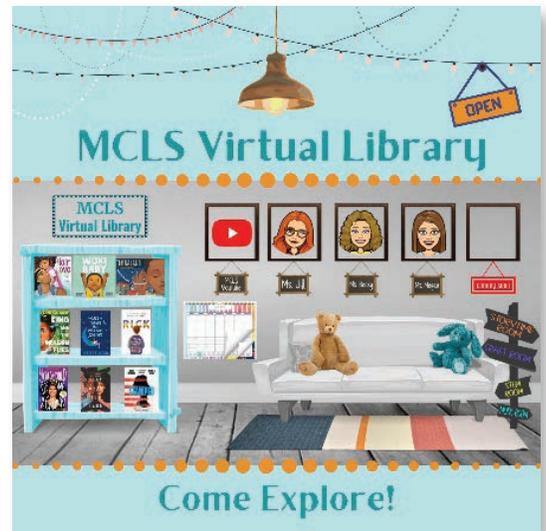
We have TWO new friends working in the library system that I know you'll love. Ms. Megan is at our Canton branch, and Ms. Jessica is at our Flora branch. They are so much fun, and I know you'll adore them!

We are still doing our Zoom programs that include Storytimes, STEMtastic!, and Teen Night. All of these are fun, age-appropriate, virtual programs. Feel free to email me at [jberry@mcls.ms](mailto:jberry@mcls.ms) to get the link. You can also check out our Facebook page ([facebook.com/mclslibraries](https://facebook.com/mclslibraries)) for lots of content made just for you. Storytimes with Ms. Becky and Ms. Megan, and STEM with Ms. Jill are available on our Facebook page weekly, along with so many more fun things to check out!

Speaking of our Facebook page, have you seen our virtual library? The Madison County Virtual Library has something for everyone. There are so many hidden things to click on that there's always something around every corner. There are multiple rooms to check out, so start clicking!

I hope to see you very soon, and I hope you are all staying safe and enjoying your new school year!

*Ms. Jill Berry*  
Youth Services Librarian  
Ridgeland Public Library



Check out our Facebook page!  /MCLSLibraries

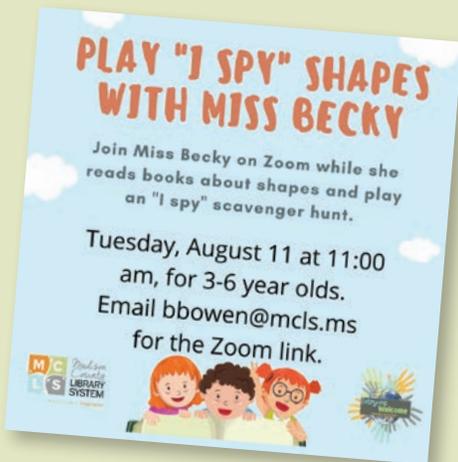


**WORD AFTER WORD WRITING GROUP**

Word after Word, the writing group at the Ridgeland Library, is an open group for all levels of writing and writing styles. It does not matter if you are a beginner writing poetry or an experienced novelist, the writing group welcomes writers at all levels of experience. We work on short writing prompts, ideas about writing, criticism on personal writing skills and how they are received.

We also provide an extensive amount of writing resources for members of the group. These include magazines, as well as books and memoirs to give us insight about how well known writers get inspiration and motivation to write. So take the first step and join Word after Word and get back into the habit of writing! This group meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the Ridgeland Public Library at 601-856-4536.

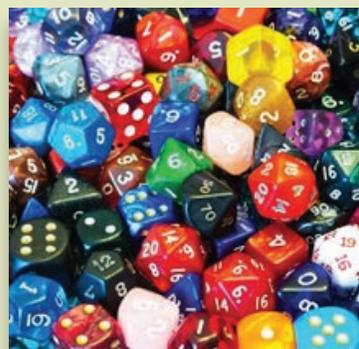
- Upcoming dates:** December 10th  
 (2nd Thursday cancelled due to Christmas)
- January 14th and 28th
- February 11th and 25th
- March 11th and 25th



**NEWS FROM YOUTH SERVICES**

Hello, everyone! So much is happening at the Ridgeland Public Library this fall! We miss you so much and we hope that you are staying safe. We are now open for limited, in person browsing, so call your local branch to make an appointment to come in. We've got some really great new books that I am dying to share with you, so come take a look, check them out, and let me see your smiles!

**ROLL WITH US AT RIDGELAND!**



Chapter One is the adventurous DND campaign at the Ridgeland Library. In this campaign, you'll experience high fantasy in one of its most timeless settings. Chapter One is open to anyone interested in playing. Whether you prefer to play as a skilled elf fighter or a human wielding celestial magic, this campaign is for you. We go over character creation, role-playing elements, and other essential knowledge to play any type of character in the DND realms. So hop on board with Chapter One and join our game using the free online site Roll20 to play online with us every other Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Go online at <https://app.roll20.net/join/6596150/8vKncQ>, and join in some fantasy fun!

- Mark your calendars for the following dates:**  
 December 3rd and 17th • January 7th and 21st  
 February 4th and 18th • March 4th and 18th



# RIDGELAND CHAMBER FALL GOLF CLASSIC

## THANK YOU! TO OUR PRIME SPONSORS

### MERCEDES-BENZ OF JACKSON CHICK-FIL-A COUNTY LINE & MADISON

Another Broken Egg Café • E.A.T.S. Diner • Southern Beverage • Madison County Journal  
Mac's Fresh Market • C Spire • Trustmark National Bank • Professional Eyecare Associates  
Lake Caroline Golf Club • Kyle Sisk and Drew Simmons

### THANKS TO OUR RAFFLE PRIZE SPONSORS

Mercedes-Benz of Jackson  
Amerigo ~ Deerfield Golf Club • Lake Caroline Golf Club  
Old Capitol Inn • Safe Passage Driving Service • Marty McCullough, Madison

### THANKS TO OUR TEE SIGN SPONSORS AND BEVERAGE CART SPONSORS

Pear Orchard Business Center • Young Wells Williams, P.A.

### AND, THANK YOU TO OUR TEAMS FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TOURNAMENT!

BankPlus • C Spire • CenterPoint Energy • City of Ridgeland • Community Bank  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car • First Commercial Bank • Guaranty Bank & Trust Company  
Independent Roofing Systems • Michael Baker International Team 1  
Michael Baker International Team 2 • PriorityOne Bank ~ Renasant Bank  
Robot Coupe USA • Southern Beverage • Trustmark National Bank • Two Men and A Truck  
VetGuard Medical / SaniDis • Waggoner Engineering, Inc. • Young Wells Williams P.A.

## WINNERS

### 1ST PLACE

#### Young Wells Williams, P.A.

Chase Bryan; John Henson;  
Paul Loyacano; Chino Gutierrez

### 2ND PLACE

#### Community Bank

Bill Bethany; Chance Carter;  
Marc Hearst; Bryan DeWeese

### 3RD PLACE

#### First Commercial Bank

Nathan Best; Hank Waterer;  
John Howie; Brian Rippee

# JUNIOR DIPLOMAT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Twenty high school juniors and seniors representing Ridgeland High School, St. Joseph Catholic School, Madison Ridgeland Academy, Jackson Academy and Jackson Prep have been selected for the Ridgeland Chamber's 2020-2021 Junior Diplomat Leadership program.

## WELCOME 2020-2021 JUNIOR DIPLOMATS

- Jeff Alexander, IV, *Ridgeland High*
- Ann Parker Baldwin, *Jackson Prep*
- Jahari Bell, *Ridgeland High*
- Wils Davis, *St. Joseph Catholic School*
- Blair Elam, *Ridgeland High*
- Anthony Fairley, *Ridgeland High*
- Isabella Hicks, *Jackson Prep*
- Kiara Hill, *Ridgeland High*
- Tyler Jackson, *Ridgeland High*
- Nadya Johnson, *Madison Ridgeland Academy*
- George Jones, IV, *Ridgeland High*
- Daniel Lynn, *Ridgeland High*
- Mika Maehata, *Ridgeland High*
- Ewing Milam, *Jackson Prep*
- Sarah Nash, *Ridgeland High*
- Taylor Penner, *Ridgeland High*
- Ashton Shelton, *Ridgeland High*
- Julia Stradinger, *Jackson Prep*
- Maggie Sims, *Ridgeland High*
- Annalee Willson, *Jackson Academy*



CITY OF RIDGELAND  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

754 S. Pear Orchard Rd.  
Phone: 601-991-9996  
[www.ridgelandchamber.com](http://www.ridgelandchamber.com)

*Register for events by  
calling the Chamber at  
601-991-9996.*

## JUNIOR DIPLOMATS CELEBRATE COMMUNITY SPIRIT



*Assisting at the Natchez Trace Century Ride, from left, Co-Advisor Jim Lowery, Pear Orchard Business Center and Junior Diplomats Kiara Hill, AJ Fairley, Jeff Alexander, Daniel Lynn and Maggie Sims, all students at Ridgeland High School and Ewing Milam, from Jackson Prep.*



*The Mayor's Fun Walk was held at Northpark Mall. Volunteering for the special event, from left, Jahari Bell, Ridgeland High; Wils Davis, St. Joseph Catholic School; Sarah Nash, Ridgeland High; Julia Stradinger, Jackson Prep; Kiara Hill, Daniel Lynn and Mika Maehata, all from Ridgeland High.*

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

#### Keep Ridgeland Beautiful

First Monday - 4 p.m.

Jan Richardson - Chairman  
Rachel Bradley, Ginger Cocke, Rachel Collier, Polly Hammett, Claire  
Jackson, 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, Lynda Assink

#### Historical Committee

Every other month - Thursday, January 21st 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 - TBA

Lantz Kuykendall - Chairman  
Terry Evans, David Pursell, Steve Rimmer, Clay Sutherland, Keith West

#### Zoning Board

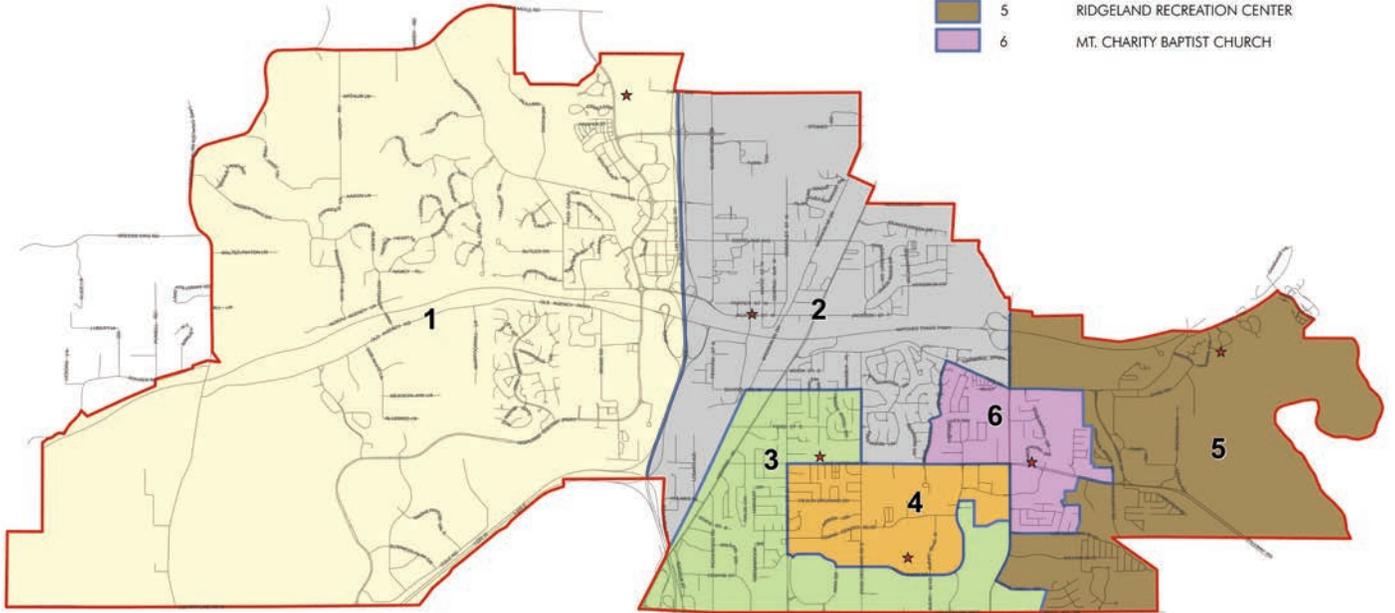
Thursdays, the week of Mayor and  
Board of Aldermen meeting - 6 p.m.

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

