

June – August 2016

RIDGELAND Life

Celebrate America Balloon Glow
Father-Child Fishing Tournament
Safety Priority Award
Skyhawks Sports Camps
Dog Park Coming to the Rez

the **SUMMER** issue



Blue Cross & Blue Shield of
Mississippi Foundation

From the Mayor

By the time you read this letter, school will be out, and most families will be focused on summer vacation. I would personally like to congratulate all of the 2016 graduating seniors. I know that each of you have worked very hard to get to this point, and I also know that each of you are looking forward to the next chapter in your life whether it be starting a career, entering college, or some may have chosen to join the armed forces. Again, congratulations and best wishes to you and your families for your great accomplishments.

It is with much excitement that I share with you the many awards earned at the annual Keep America Beautiful conference and the awards received at the annual Keep Mississippi Beautiful celebration.

Keep America Beautiful Awards

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful local affiliate - William (Bill) Nash Award

Olde Towne Middle School Technology Student Association Construction Challenge Team - Youth Award

Keep Mississippi Beautiful Awards

Tim Taylor, Recreation and Parks - Pat Fordice Award

City of Ridgeland Public Works Department - First Place Local Government

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful - Second Place for affiliate of the year for the Midway Park Project

Olde Towne Middle School Technology Student Association - Second Place youth award

Colonial Heights Baptist Church - Community Partner Award

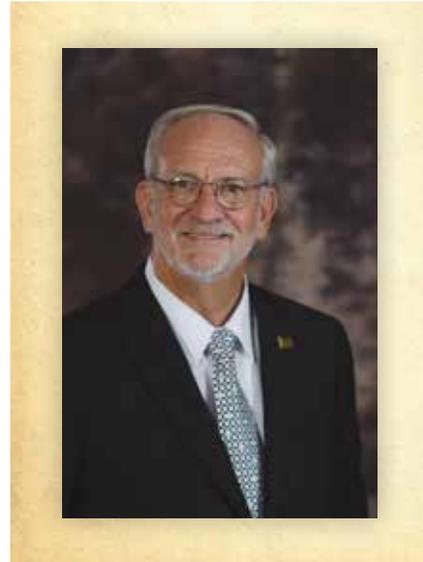
Congratulations to each individual involved who is striving to make Ridgeland the best that it can be.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the newest citizens to the City of Ridgeland that became a part of our city through the most recent annexation. I hope that each of you will take advantage of all the benefits of being a Ridgeland citizen. Also, contact us at City Hall if we can help you.

The City of Ridgeland will have a very busy summer with many activities going on at our parks and a signature event, Celebrate America Balloon Glow and concert. It will be held on Friday evening, July 1st at Northpark Mall. This is a free celebration and I encourage each of you to come out and celebrate the freedoms we enjoy in this great country.

I hope that each of you have a wonderful, safe summer whether you are on a trip or enjoying the amenities here at home!

Gene F. McGee



Gene McGee
Mayor of Ridgeland

RIDGELAND Life

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ON THE COVER: Celebrate Independence Day in Ridgeland with the annual hot air balloon glow, performances by Shenandoah and William Michael Morgan, and a spectacular fireworks show. This free event will be held at Northpark Mall's balloon glow field on Friday, July 1.

Editor and Publisher
Sandra Rives Monohan,
City of Ridgeland

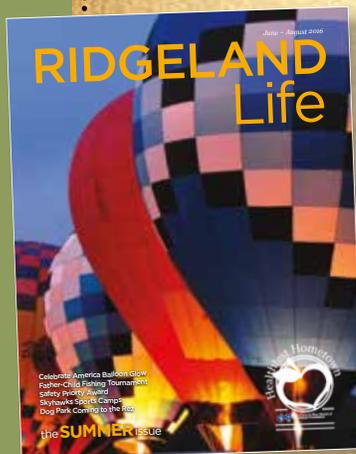
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For sponsorship opportunities, contact Julie Cox at Julie.Cox@RidgelandMS.org.

For information about *Ridgeland Life*, contact Sandra Rives Monohan at Sandra.Monohan@RidgelandMS.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Father-Child Fishing Tournament

Fishing is the perfect way to slow down from life's hectic pace and enjoy your family. On Saturday, June 11, join the City of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department for the 20th Annual Father-Child Fishing Tournament at Old Trace Park on the beautiful Ross Barnett Reservoir. There is no charge to participate in this tournament and prizes will be awarded for Biggest Fish, Most Fish, and Smallest Fish. The fun begins at 8 a.m. with judging taking place at 10 a.m. This tournament is a joint partnership with the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District and the City of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department. And, yes, moms are welcome!



Morris Hammond and Morris Hammond, Jr. won the prize for biggest and most fish in 2015.



Tied for the smallest fish prize is Josh and Parker Keen (left) and Glen and Sophie Swan (right).

Heatwave Classic TRIATHLON

On Saturday, June 4, Ridgeland Recreation & Parks will host the 31st annual Heatwave Classic Triathlon. Some of the finest athletes from the Southeastern United States will converge on Ridgeland, Mississippi to compete in the triathlon, an event sanctioned by U.S.A. Triathlon. Participants return each year because they love the race course.

This year's race will consist of a 1/2 mile swim in the Ross Barnett Reservoir, a 24 1/2 mile bike ride along the scenic and historic Natchez Trace Parkway, and ending with a 10K run along Ridgeland's heavily shaded Multi-Purpose Trail. Participants may register online at www.active.com.



The Heatwave Classic Triathlon is one of many events produced by City of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department. For more information on this event, please call 601-853-2011.



Independence Celebration at the Rez

Make a weekend of celebrating Independence Day in Ridgeland! After the Balloon Glow on Friday night, come out to Old Trace Park on Saturday, July 2 for the Independence Day Celebration at the Rez. Fun, food, music, kids' activities, and fireworks await you at Old Trace Park in Ridgeland. A complementary celebration will be taking place at Lakeshore Park on the Rankin County side of the reservoir. Fireworks will be launched from both sides of the lake. This event is free to the public and begins at 4 p.m. Visit www.barnettreservoirfoundation.org for more information.



Celebrate America Balloon Glow

Presented by



"People you trust, Automobiles you love!"

Good music, beautiful hot air balloons, and spectacular fireworks will again provide an evening's entertainment for the entire family at this year's Celebrate America Balloon Glow. Barksdale Cadillac and Ridgeland Recreation & Parks are proud to present this Independence Day tradition. The 26th annual celebration will take place on Friday, July 1 at Northpark Mall's balloon glow field, with plenty of parking around the mall for the thousands who gather each year.

The Celebrate America Balloon Glow, the opening event of the Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Race and Festival in Canton, provides the opportunity to witness approximately 20 hot air balloons of all colors twinkle and glow in the dusk of a summer evening.

There's much more to the Balloon Glow than just balloons. The event actually begins on Monday, June 27 and Tuesday, June 28 with a Karaoke Contest at Burgers & Blues. The winners of those preliminary rounds will advance to the finals on Wednesday, June 29. The winner then has the opportunity to open the evening's entertainment on July 1 from the main stage.

The entertainment continues with William Michael Morgan, a tall, easygoing, unfailingly polite 22-year old singer/songwriter from Vicksburg, Mississippi. Country fans will get their introduction to Morgan with "I Met a Girl," his sweetly romantic debut single. Old and new, fast and slow, steel and piano, the song will give fans exact GPS coordinates of where Morgan is coming from.



Our Master of Ceremonies will then guide our balloonists through a series of balloon glow sequences that will captivate the crowd. Be sure to have your cameras ready!

Following the balloon glow, fans will enjoy a performance by Shenandoah. Original members, Marty Raybon and Mike McGuire have reunited to launch a new chapter in Shenandoah's

storied career. After spending 17 years apart, they are back on the stage like they never stopped. The band inked a deal with Columbia Records and established a national fan base with their self-titled debut in 1987. However, it was the band's sophomore effort, *The Road Not Taken* that spawned their first top 10 hits – "She Doesn't Cry Anymore" and "Mama Knows." Shenandoah followed with three consecutive No. 1 hits – "Church on Cumberland Road," "Sunday in the South" and "Two Dozen Roses." Shenandoah became known for delivering songs that celebrated the importance of faith and family while reveling in the joys of small town life. In 1991, Shenandoah won Academy of Country Music's Vocal Group of the Year.



Throughout the evening, vendors will be on hand to provide various types of food for attendees, including favorites such as barbecue, corn dogs, chicken-on-a-stick, and funnel cakes. Children's activities are available throughout the evening at the Simon Kidgits Carnival area, free to Northpark Kidgits Club members. Activities include inflatable obstacle courses, jumps, face painting and other children's favorites. For more information about the Kidgits Club, go to www.simon.com.



Schedule of Activities

- 6:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 6:05 Karaoke Contest Winner
- 6:30 William Michael Morgan
- 7:45 Balloon Glow
- 8:15 Shenandoah
- 9:30 Fireworks

Admission to the Celebrate America Balloon Glow, as always, is free. Come join the fun as we celebrate America!

Further details may be obtained by contacting the Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Department at 601-853-2011, or by visiting the Facebook pages of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks and the City of Ridgeland.

Keep America Beautiful Presents Awards to Local Organizations

Two local organizations, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful and Olde Towne Middle School Technology Student Association, brought home national awards from the Keep America Beautiful National Conference held in Orlando in February.

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful was awarded the prestigious William Nash Award that recognizes one new affiliate for outstanding achievement in implementing the Keep America Beautiful System. Organized in 2014, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful moved quickly into action, engaging the local community to restore two parks, launched a successful campaign to combat cigarette litter, and took community recycling efforts to the next level.

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful hosted Keep Mississippi Beautiful's 2015 Great American Cleanup State Kickoff, where volunteers transformed Midway Park into a community jewel. After witnessing the success of that project, they used a Keep America Beautiful/Lowe's Community Partners Grant to revitalize Friendship Park, a 40-year-old park in the community hub.

To combat cigarette litter, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful launched the "Don't Flick it or You'll Get a Ticket" campaign. Volunteers also planted daffodils and lilies along the city's bike trails as part of Keep Mississippi Beautiful's flowering bulbs effort. Keep Ridgeland Beautiful also has been active in Ridgeland schools, including working with Ridgeland High School to launch a recycling program with the help of a Keep America Beautiful/Coca-Cola Bin Grant.

"Keep Ridgeland Beautiful is leveraging resources from local volunteer groups, partnering with its state affiliate's programs, and getting great support from the private sector," said Keep America Beautiful

President and CEO Jennifer Jehn. "This is a model new affiliate, and one that is very deserving of receiving this year's Bill Nash Award."

Keep Mississippi Beautiful Executive Director Sarah Kountouris added, "In less than two years, this affiliate has made remarkable investments in litter cleanup, recycling promotion and community greening. From rehabilitating forgotten parks to organizing successful campaigns, this group is doing an excellent job of representing the Keep America Beautiful network in Mississippi."

Olde Towne Middle School Technology Student Association received the 2016 Keep America Beautiful Youth Recognition Award by distinguishing itself for its outstanding community work on the Midway Park Renovation, a project of the Great American Cleanup State Kickoff. The Association designed and built a pergola to enhance Midway Park. This construction project also resulted in a national Technology Student Association award.

Led by Olde Towne Middle School teacher Bill Richardson and parent advisers, these middle school students are already showing themselves to be dedicated leaders.

Utilizing knowledge and skills developed through their STEM classes and the Technology Student Association, they are also learning how they can inspire others and enhance their community.

Keep America Beautiful President and CEO, Jennifer Jehn said, "It's my privilege to honor Olde Towne Middle School Technology Student Association and celebrate its dedication to making their community become more socially connected, environmentally healthy and economically sound through their efforts for the Midway Park Renovation."

Both organizations are to be greatly commended for their efforts. As Keep Ridgeland Beautiful states on its Facebook page, "We're in the business of inspiring, educating and leading residents to beautify and improve the City of Ridgeland." Keep Ridgeland Beautiful is doing just that as well as serving as a model for other Keep America Beautiful affiliates. Olde Towne Middle School Technology Student Association inspires students and the community through the implementation of math, engineering and technology concepts in ways that enhance the world around them.



Keep America Beautiful President and CEO Jennifer Jehn poses with Olde Towne Middle School Technology Student Association members, from left, Jarrett Huddleston, Claire Richert, Jehn, and Madeleine Berry, after being presented with the National Youth Award.

SMOKIN' SOUTH BBQ JOINS RECYCLEBANK



If you like barbecue and you recycle, you're in luck. The latest local business to join the Recyclebank Rewards Program is Smokin' South BBQ. Bourbon-smoked meats and smoked potatoes are specialties of the house at this sports-themed restaurant. Located on Pear Orchard in the former Abner's location, it's a convenient place to fill your plate and relax with a game.

What's different about this barbecue restaurant? You'll have to taste it to find out! But, here's a little hint. The bourbon in the smoke makes for exceptionally flavored meats. The choices are extensive but here's some to try - sliced chicken breast, ribs, hand-pulled pork, brisket, ham, and steaks. The potatoes are two-pounders, and they are smoked, not baked, for seven hours. We don't know any other restaurant that offers something that unique. The creamy barbecue salad dressing is perfect for their salads, fries, and a lot more. Serving wings, wraps, nachos, and salads in addition to the barbecue plates, sandwiches, and platters, there's something to please every appetite at this local gem.

Smokin' South BBQ is available for dine in, take out, or catering. The reward available through Recyclebank is 10 percent off the total bill with a minimum purchase of \$20. Go to Recyclebank.com and shop for local rewards by ZIP code 39157. Show your offer at the counter.

Keep on recycling and use your reward points at Smokin' South BBQ and other local recycling reward partners.

Smokin' South BBQ

681 S. Pear Orchard Rd. • www.smokingsouthbbqms.com
facebook.com/smokingsouthbbq • 769-300-2500

Local Recyclebank Reward Partners

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| The College Corner | Lost Pizza |
| Fin's Fish House | Signa's Grille |
| Fleet Feet Sports | Smokin' South BBQ |
| Indian Cycle | |

If your business is interested in joining Recyclebank as a local rewards partner, please contact the Public Works Department at 601-853-2027.

Utility Department News



KEEP UPDATED CONTACT INFO WITH US

Please keep your contact information current with the Utility Department. It's especially important for customers who receive bill payment notifications via text messages and phone calls to provide any changes in phone numbers. Also, please update your email address if it changes.



PAY YOUR BILL THROUGH THE CITY APP

Do you enjoy the convenience of paying bills through your smartphone or tablet? You can easily pay your city utility bill with the City of Ridgeland Mobile App! One tap will take you straight to the utility billing website where you can use Quick Pay without even having to log in or use the Account Management system to do more than just pay your bill.

Use this QR Code to download the new city mobile app! Whether you are an iPhone or an Android user, this code will direct you to the correct app store when scanned with a QR App Scanner.



If you do not have a QR Code Scanner, go to the link below for your phone:

iTunes (App Store): <http://bit.ly/CityOfRidgeland-Apple>

Android (Google Play): <http://bit.ly/CityOfRidgeland-Android>

BEYOND THE NEIGHBORHOOD: *Cycling with Children in Ridgeland*

By Michelle Williams

Ridgeland truly is a bicycle friendly city for all cyclists, including children of all ages! Many kids learn to ride a bike right outside their house in their neighborhood. Ridgeland provides parents additional places to take their son or daughter to ride that is safe and convenient. Great for grandparents, too!

1. The multi-use path that snakes its way through Ridgeland is perfect for families. The main trail is 10 miles long from the Overlook on the Natchez Trace on the east side of the trail system to the end of the trail on the west end section. The section on the west side of I-55 has very few road crossings and can be accessed from Sunnybrook Road, Highland Colony Parkway, Greenwood Crossing or Patterson's Crossing. Portions of the trail system include several hills that may be difficult for some younger children on standard non-g geared bikes.
2. Ridgeland, in conjunction with the Colony Park Public Improvement District recently completed a new section of the multi-use trail that runs north along Highland Colony Parkway



Photo by Philip Humberg

Ridgeland is home to the state's only BMX track, MagRidge BMX, located at 338 NE Madison Drive.

and travels along the Purple Creek near St. Andrews. This section of trail is relatively flat and perfect for the youngest cyclists.

3. The multi-use trail over at Old Trace Park is also a fantastic place to ride with young children. The trail is flat and meanders through the park and along the Ross Barnett Reservoir.
4. One of my favorite places to take my grandchildren is the Ridgeland Mountain Bike Trails maintained by the Tri-County Mountain Bike Association. Maps of the trails can be found at the kiosk near the parking lot, but the jewel of the trails is the pump track located behind the kiosk area. The pump track is a continuous loop of dirt berms and smooth dirt mounds or "rollers." Children of all ages enjoy riding endless loops around the track. In my opinion, the pump track is the best outdoor fun you can have with your child! The Ridgeland Mountain Bike Trails are located at 521 Giles Lane in Ridgeland. A day pass to ride the trails is \$3.
5. If your child really enjoys the pump track, then head over to the Magnolia Ridge BMX track located at 338 Northeast Madison Drive, Ridgeland. BMX stands for Bicycle Moto Cross. It is bike racing on a dirt track for "kids" of all ages. Practice is held on Tuesday nights from 6-8 p.m. and races are held on Saturdays beginning at 11 a.m. Cost is \$7 per rider. Striders are \$5 and all first time riders are free. Bikes are available to rent at the track on a first come-first served basis. Helmets, long pants, sleeves, or pads are required.

Crooked Letter
MISSISSIPPI'S
CYCLING RESOURCE

crookedlettercycling.com

Don't miss out on any cycling event
or community bike ride in the
Crooked Letter Humpback State!





Wildflowers for Ridgeland

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful, the City of Ridgeland, and Keep Mississippi Beautiful are partnering on a beautification project for one of the gateways of Ridgeland. As part of the Wildflower Trails of Mississippi project, a three-acre tract at the southeast corner of I-55 Exit 105 (Old Agency Road/Jackson Street) will be planted this fall with wildflower seeds provided by Keep Mississippi Beautiful. Keep Ridgeland Beautiful, our local Keep America Beautiful affiliate, joins other affiliates across the state in creating wildflower areas that will make up this trail.

“We are excited about being part of the Wildflower Trails of Mississippi and planting wildflowers at this highly visible entrance into Ridgeland,” said Jan Richardson, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful board member. “The project area will be transformed into a breathtaking field of colorful native flowers.” Keep Ridgeland Beautiful members hope to provide an attraction for visitors and inspire residents to beautify and improve our community.

Native plants are used in the wildflower seed mix that includes: Little Bluestem, Plains Coreopsis, Sideoats Grama, Lance-Leaved Coreopsis, Splitbeard Bluestem, Cosmos, Blackeyed Susan, Partridge Pea, Illinois Bundleflower, Corn Poppy, Purple Coneflower, Purple Prairie Clover, Mexican Hat, and White Prairie Clover. A special thanks is extended to Dr. Brett Rushing with the Mississippi State University Extension Service Coastal Plains office, who has helped develop the seed mix and provide technical advice to affiliates.



According to Keep Mississippi Beautiful, this project ties closely with the initiative that First Lady Michelle Obama is supporting, the National Pollinator Garden Challenge. Wildflower trails in Mississippi will help our state with beautification, conservation, and ecotourism, and it will help restore pollinators as well as the Monarch butterfly, whose population is in precipitous decline. Money is being designated by Keep Mississippi Beautiful for the purchase of seeds and the City is helping prepare the planting areas.



“The Mississippi Department of Transportation granted permission for the project located in the I-55 right of way,” said Mike McCollum, Ridgeland Director of Public Works. “Our crews are prepping the ground now (in the spring), eliminating weeds, tilling the soil, and improving drainage at the planting site.”

Neely Norman, Keep Mississippi Beautiful assistant director, said, “We hope to have our wildflowers blooming across the state by Mississippi’s bicentennial in 2017.”

In Ridgeland, by next spring and summer, you should see an attractive three-acre field of wildflowers at the Old Agency Road/Jackson Street exit.

For more information about the Wildflower Trails of Mississippi, visit mswildflowers.org.

Partners in the Wildflower Trails of Mississippi Project include USDA, NRCS, Keep Mississippi Beautiful, Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts, Inc., Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi Soil & Water Conservation Commission, and Mississippi Department of Transportation.

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FIND US ON :



Dog Park Coming to the Rez

The Barnett Reservoir is going to the dogs - playing, running, romping, furry-friend dogs! If you have dreamed of a place where your four-legged companion could run off-leash and play with other dogs, then get on board the fundraising train for this free resource for dogs and their owners!

A group of committed dog owners are working with the Barnett Reservoir Foundation and donors to build a public park at Old Trace Park in Ridgeland. A shaded parcel of just under 1 acre, with room to grow, is being reserved for furry friends by the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District. There will be separate areas for large and small dogs. Fencing, water stations, pet waste stations, benches, signage, and a donors' walk will be included in this new facility. The plans for the Dog Park at The REZ may be viewed online at www.dogparkattherez.org.

"This will be a wonderful amenity for Ridgeland and surrounding areas. The site has everything you could ask for in a dog park," said Debbie Waggener. Waggener who owns a lot in Overlook Pointe adjacent to the reservoir started reaching out to local citizens and organizations about starting a dog park after visiting dog parks in Gulf Shores.

A couple of years ago, she and her husband adopted Dexter, a collie, and brought him to the dog parks when on vacation. "We couldn't believe how much he loved it; he played and ran and had such a good time." She also noticed how local residents seemed to enjoy the evenings there after work, meeting other people who have dogs. She would like to see the Dog Park at the Rez become a dog-lovers' community too.

"We are so lucky that the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District has decided to allow us to use the designated area," said Waggener. This would be the first *public* dog park in the metro area.



Debbie Waggener and Dexter walk through a portion of the planned dog park at Old Trace Park in Ridgeland.

When will the park be built? According to Waggener, it all depends on funding, and \$31,000 is needed. Their website shows the progress made toward reaching that goal. All of the money has to come from donations.

There are multiple ways to give. So, if you could potentially be a park user, the dog park committee requests that you please consider making a donation, no matter how large or small. For certain amounts, you can donate memorial bricks which are half price through June 30; bench that will include signage; fence section; or choose a level of donation that includes a sign at the park. Any amount of money is being accepted through their GoFundMe campaign at www.gofundme.com/RezDogPark. Contact the dog park committee at Park4dogs@aol.com with any questions about ways to help.

SAFETY PRIORITY AWARD

The Ridgeland Public Works Department was recently presented with a Safety Priority Award by Atmos Energy Corporation and the Mississippi Damage Prevention Council in recognition of keeping the public safe by calling 811 before excavating on private and public property. The City of Ridgeland is one of the Top 10 Cities for 2016 in the MS 811 National Safe Digging campaign.



Pictured left to right: Linda Waters, Public Affairs Specialist, Atmos Energy; LuWanda Morris, Executive Secretary, Public Works; Mike McCollum, Director, Public Works; Gene McGee, Mayor; Renee Buckner, Administrative Assistant, Public Works; Chris Bryson, Engineer, Public Works; Miriam Grammar, Financial Administrator, Mississippi 811, Inc.

Recreation and Parks Directory

Office
601-853-2011

Fax
601-853-2015

E-mail
recre8@ridgelandms.org

Recreational Center
601-856-6876

Freedom Ridge Park
601-853-2023

Rental Information
601-853-2011

Hotline
601-853-2039

Youth Organizations

Mississippi Rush

Mississippi Rush is a nonprofit organization providing an opportunity for the youth of our area to participate in soccer. Visit www.mfcsoccer.com or call 601-898-1996 for more information.

Madison-Ridgeland Youth Club

MRYC is a community organization providing an opportunity for youth in our area to participate in baseball, softball, tackle football, cheerleading and basketball. Visit www.mryouthclub.com for more information.

Recycling at Ridgeland's Parks

Solar-powered recycling compactors are provided at each park in Ridgeland. Please recycle by using these receptacles for the following: empty aluminum cans, clean plastic containers but not plastic bags, and clean paper. Food contaminated trash and non-recyclable items should go in the garbage cans. Thank you for recycling!

Recreational Facilities

Freedom Ridge Park

235 West School Street - Freedom Ridge Park, a 50-acre athletic facility, is located on School Street just behind the Ridgeland Police Department. The park features four lighted adult regulation softball fields, four lighted regulation soccer fields, four picnic pavilions, two playgrounds including a universal playground for use by individuals with physical disabilities or limitations, two concession/restroom buildings, a lighted walking trail and a maintenance facility. Each of the four pavilions at Freedom Ridge Park is available at an hourly rate of \$15 for residents, and \$25 for non-residents. The security deposit, our "clean-up insurance," is \$100.

Ridgeland Tennis Center

201 McClellan Drive - The Ridgeland Tennis Center, a full-service public facility operated by tennis pros, is located at 201 McClellan Drive, off Highway 51. The center is home to 17 lighted, hard tennis courts, men's and women's locker rooms, a 2,000-square-foot covered porch for viewing, and a fully stocked tennis pro shop.

City Hall

304 Highway 51 - Ridgeland City Hall is home to four soccer fields during the soccer season. During baseball season, this property converts to three T-ball fields.

Ridgeland Recreational Center

137 Old Trace Park - The Ridgeland Recreational Center is housed in a two-story rustic lodge overlooking the Ross Barnett Reservoir. Daily activities for Superstar Seniors as well as nightly classes for all ages take place during the week in this facility.

Friendship Park

475 Lake Harbour Drive - Friendship Park is a multi-purpose neighborhood park facility. With a large lighted pavilion, a one-mile lighted walking/jogging trail, a fitness court, playground equipment, and restroom facilities, the park accommodates many and varying needs.

The pavilion is available for rental at an hourly rate of \$15 for residents, \$25 per hour for non-residents, with a security deposit of \$100. Park hours are 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Wolcott Park

349 McClellan Drive - Wolcott Park, a 40-acre athletic facility, is located on McClellan Drive, off Highway 51. It features seven lighted baseball/softball fields, a playground, 14 batting cages, two bull pens, two concession/restroom buildings and a maintenance facility.

Ridgeland Multiuse Trail

More than 14 miles of trails are available for public use in Ridgeland. Several miles of the trail travel through National Park Service property along the Natchez Trace Parkway. Parking for the trail is available at the intersection of Rice Road and Harbor Drive, at the Parkway Information Cabin, and on N.E. Madison Drive off W. Jackson Street. Water fountains, benches, and trash cans can be found along the trail. Please enjoy the trailhead facility that includes a covered pavilion with picnic tables, restrooms, bike repair station, and recycling container. A fitness station is conveniently located adjacent to the pavilion at the intersection of Rice Road and Harbor Drive.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Contact: Wendy Bourdin, special events coordinator
wendy.bourdin@ridgelandms.org 601-853-2011

Heatwave Classic Triathlon

The 31st annual Heatwave Classic will take place on Saturday, June 4, 2016. This triathlon is a race favorite among tri-athletes in the Southeast. Over 300 participants from across the country are expected to descend on Ridgeland to compete for the top prize in the various age groups.



Participants will take to the water at 7 a.m. at Madison Landing and swim .5 miles. Next, participants will ride 24.5 miles along the scenic and historic Natchez Trace Parkway. The final section is a 10K run on the shaded Ridgeland Multi-Use Trail. For more information call the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks office at 601-853-2011 or visit the Heatwave Classic website www.heatwavetri.racesonline.com.

Program Price: **Individual** - \$75. Beginning May 6, \$85. **Relay Team** - \$170. Beginning May 6, \$190.
 \$12 single event USAT Insurance per participant

Registration: Now - June 4

On-site Registration: June 3 - 4

On-site Price: Individual - \$100
 Relay - \$190

Event Date: Saturday, June 4

Start Time: 7 a.m.

Location: Old Trace Park

Celebrate America Balloon Glow

Come out and show your patriotism and enjoy an evening of good food, fun, entertainment, and fireworks at Northpark Mall. The Mississippi Championship Balloon Fest will hold its opening ceremonies at the Northpark Mall Balloon Glow Field. The balloons will inflate and glow during sunset.

Featured entertainment for the 2016 Celebrate America/ Balloon Glow will be Shenandoah. Opening Act will be William Michael Morgan. The largest fireworks display in the metro-Jackson area will be the climax of the evening.

For more information contact the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department at 601-853-2011.

Program Price: Free

Event Date: Friday, July 1

Start Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Northpark Mall



Balloon Glow Karaoke Contest

A karaoke contest will be held for the chance to kick-off the live entertainment at Celebrate America Balloon Glow in front of thousands of people! The competition is hosted by Burgers and Blues restaurant in Ridgeland, located at Centre Park Shopping Center, 1060 E. County Line Road, on Monday, June 27 and Tuesday, June 28 at 7 p.m. Finals will be held on June 29. All participants must be registered by 6:30 p.m.

The registration fee is \$20. Singers may pre-register by calling Angela at 601-566-0951 or e-mailing krazykaraokems@yahoo.com. The winner will open the show for Shenandoah at the Celebrate America Balloon Glow on Friday, July 1.

Program Price: \$20

Registration: Pre-register @ krazykaraokems@yahoo.com

Location: Burger and Blues

Event Date: June 27, 28, with finals June 29

Start Time: 6:30 p.m.

ATHLETICS

Contact: John Sidney North, athletics coordinator
John.North@Ridgelandms.org 601-853-2011

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Flag Football

Come join the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department and the NFL for its 20th season of flag football. This program has been growing for the past 19 years with more than 300 boys and girls participating. Flag football builds good hand-eye coordination and reflexes, as well as teamwork and the basic fundamentals of football. It is also an excellent opportunity to experience physical exercise and social interaction. Players must be 6 years old by Sept. 1, 2016. New this year we are offering a 10 - 11 year old age group. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011.

Program Price: \$70

Registration: July 25 - August 12

Ages: 6 - 11

Event Date: September - November

Day of the Week: Tuesdays

Location: Freedom Ridge Park

SMCSO Fall Soccer Registration

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

Father and Child Fishing Tournament

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will be holding its 20th-annual Father and Child Fishing Tournament on Saturday, June 11. 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 and reel and bait. Prizes will be awarded for Biggest Fish, Most Fish and Smallest Fish. This event is free and open to all ages. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011.



Program Price: Free
Event Date: Saturday, June 11
Event Time: 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Adult Softball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will be offering a men's open league (6-homerun limit), a men's commercial league (3-homerun limit,) and a men's church league. All games will be played at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland. The leagues will be open to the first 24 teams in each division. ASA-sanctioned rules will be in play for the leagues. We will offer 10 to 12 games for each league. For more information, contact John Sidney North at 601-853-2011. You may register at Ridgeland City Hall.

Program Price: \$500
Registration: August 1- 12

NFL Punt Pass and Kick

The City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department, in conjunction with the NFL, will be hosting the annual punt, pass and kick competition on Saturday, Sept. 10 at Freedom Ridge Park. Registration will be held from 9 to 9:30 a.m. The competition will be for boys and girls ages 6-15. There will be five age groups: 6/7, 8/9, 10/11, 12/13 and 14/15. The top scorer in each age division will advance to the sectional meet to be held in Jackson. This is a free event. The winners at the sectionals will advance to the Team Championship in New Orleans.

Event Date: Saturday, Sept. 10
Start Time: 9 a.m.
Location: Freedom Ridge Park



SUMMER CAMPS BY SKYHAWKS SPORTS ACADEMY

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks is proud to present summer camps by Skyhawks Sports Academy. Skyhawks provides a wide variety of fun, safe, and positive programs that emphasize critical lessons in sports and life, such as teamwork, respect, and sportsmanship. Programs are designed to give each child a positive introduction into sports while fostering a lifelong love for an active, healthy lifestyle. Patient and knowledgeable staff use a variety of skill-building games and activities to give each athlete a complete understanding and overview of the sport. Since 1979 Skyhawks has taught more than 1 million boys and girls life lessons through sports. View www.skyhawks.com for further information and to register. All Skyhawks programs in Ridgeland will be held at Freedom Ridge Park. Call Paul Van at 601-790-0868 with any questions.

MINI-HAWK (soccer, basketball, baseball) Boys and Girls ages 4 to 7

This multi-sport program was developed to give children a positive first step into athletics. The essentials of baseball, basketball, and soccer are taught in a safe, structured environment with lots of encouragement and a big focus on fun. Our Mini-Hawk games and activities were designed to allow campers to explore balance, movement, hand/eye coordination, and skill development at their own pace. Skyhawks staff are trained to handle the specific needs of young athletes.

Dates and Times: Monday, June 6 – Friday, June 10
 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Monday, July 11 – Friday, July 15
 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Online Registration: www.skyhawks.com
Program Price: \$130

Golf (SNAG-Starting New At Golf) *Boys and Girls ages 5 to 9*

Skyhawks golf focuses on building the confidence of young athletes by teaching proper technique to refine essential skills of the game. Golf is a challenging and lifelong sport, so young athletes need proper focus on the fundamentals of form, swinging, putting, and body positioning. To assist in this training, Skyhawks has adopted the SNAG (Starting New At Golf) system to its curriculum. SNAG utilizes a set of equipment designed for beginning golfers, including oversized plastic club heads and “mini tennis balls” to help build confidence and to have fun. Developed by PGA professionals, SNAG is specifically designed for the entry-level player. It simplifies instruction so that young players can make an easy and effective transition onto the golf course. No need to bring your own clubs; all equipment is provided. We keep the instructor-to-camper ratio low, resulting in limited availability.

Dates and Times: Monday, June 13 – Friday, June 17
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Monday, July 25 – Friday, July 29
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Online Registration: www.skyhawks.com

Program Price: \$130

Cheerleading Girls ages 5 to 10

Skyhawks Cheerleading teaches young athletes the essential skills to lead crowds and support the home team! This entry-level cheer program ensures that each camper learns cheers, proper hand and body movements, and jumping techniques. There is no stunting—just a big focus on fun while each cheerleader learns important life skills such as teambuilding and leadership. The week concludes with a choreographed performance.

Dates and Times: Monday, June 13 – Friday, June 17
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Online Registration: www.skyhawks.com

Program Price: \$130

Multi-Sport (soccer and flag football) *Boys and Girls ages 5 to 8* *Boys and Girls ages 8 to 12*

Our multi-sport camp is designed to introduce young athletes to a variety of different sports in one setting. For this program we combine soccer and flag football into one fun-filled week. Athletes will learn the rules and essentials of each sport through skill-based games and scrimmages. By the end of the week, your child will walk away with knowledge of two sports along with vital life lessons such as respect, teamwork, and self-discipline.

Dates and Times: Monday, June 20 – Friday, June 24
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Monday, July 18 – Friday, July 22
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Online Registration: www.skyhawks.com

Program Price: \$130

Flag Football *Boys and Girls ages 7 to 9* *Boys and Girls ages 9 to 12*

Skyhawks Flag Football is the perfect program for young athletes who want a complete introduction to “America’s Game” or for those who simply want to brush up on their skills in preparation for league play. Through our “skill of the day” activities, campers will learn skills on both sides of the ball including the core components of passing, catching, and de-flagging or defensive positioning – all presented in a fun and positive environment. Skyhawks Flag Football is recommended for beginning to intermediate athletes.

Dates and Times: Monday, June 27 – Friday, July 1
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Online Registration: www.skyhawks.com

Program Price: \$130

SUPERSTAR SENIORS

Contact: Lynda McMahan Assink, senior adult coordinator
lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org 601-856-6876

All Superstar Seniors Programs take place at the Ridgeland Recreational Center unless otherwise specified.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Martial Arts Class for Senior Adults *(It’s Never Too Late!)*

Learn traditional martial arts and practical self-defense techniques that are appropriate for mature adults. The techniques are easy to perform with slow, low-impact movements, adjustable to each individual’s physical capabilities. Health benefits include sharpened 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 4th 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.

Price: \$10/month

Start Date: June 2

Times: 10 – 11 a.m.

Day of Week: Thursday

AARP Safety Driving Program

AARP will present its Driver Safety Program for mature drivers. This course is a classroom refresher especially designed to meet the needs of older drivers. It covers age-related physical changes, declining perceptual skills, rules of the road, local driving problems, and license renewal requirements.



Participants will be eligible for discounts on their automobile insurance rates. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Lynda at 601-856-6876 or email lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org. Please bring your AARP card and driver's license.

<i>Program Price:</i>	\$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members
<i>Registration:</i>	Now till August
<i>Start Date:</i>	TBA
<i>Start Time:</i>	TBA

Technology 101: The Basics of the Internet, Computers, Smartphones & Tablets

Humana is offering a free presentation on the basics of internet usage, computers, smartphones, and tablets. Learn answers to questions such as: What is Wi-Fi? How do I use the Internet to look up websites and go shopping online? This presentation will be easy to understand for the person who has little or no experience using the Internet or smartphone.



<i>Program Price:</i>	Free
<i>Registration:</i>	Now until June 23
<i>Start Date:</i>	June 23
<i>Times:</i>	10 – 11 a.m.
<i>Day:</i>	Thursday

TRIPS

Arkansas Trip - Bentonville, Eureka Springs, Ft. Smith

We are going with St. Catherine's Village to tour beautiful Arkansas in the fall. Some of our stops include Garvan Gardens, lodging and eating at Mount Magazine State Park Lodge, tour Subiaco Academy, Fort Smith, eating at Talianos, seeing sites such as "Miss Laura's Social Club, Fort Smith National Historic Site, Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, Pea Ridge National Military Park, War Eagle Mill, Thorncrown Chapel, dinner and entertainment at the Crescent Hotel, and Clinton Library. Call or email for a brochure.

<i>Price:</i>	\$675 (Double Occupancy)
<i>Deposit:</i>	\$150 due by June 30; \$50 is non-

refundable if cancellation is made. Final payment is due on or before Aug. 1. Tuesday, October 25 – Friday, October 28

Dates:

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Agape Men's Coffee Group

All men are welcome at 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday for a men's coffee group. Enjoy fellowship, storytelling, jokes, and coffee at the Ridgeland Recreational Center.

<i>Program Price:</i>	No Charge
<i>Start Date:</i>	On-going
<i>Times:</i>	9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
<i>Day of Week:</i>	Wednesday

Country 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, and she has been a member of MCWDA (Mississippi Country Western Dance Association) 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.



<i>Program Price:</i>	\$40/month or \$10/weekly
<i>Start Date:</i>	On-going
<i>Times:</i>	Beginners Class, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. Advanced Class, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
<i>Day of Week:</i>	Monday

Men's Bible Study

A Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday morning at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. It is a non-denominational, in-depth study of God's Word. Call Earl Beck at 601-668-2332 for more information.

<i>Start Date:</i>	On-going
<i>Times:</i>	9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
<i>Day of Week:</i>	Tuesday

Painting Pals

Is it hard for you to paint and/or draw at home? Bring your own supplies and enjoy painting at our Ridgeland Recreational Center, located at Old Trace Park, overlooking the reservoir. It's an ideal setting to paint or draw!

<i>Program Price:</i>	No cost
<i>Start Date:</i>	On-going

Times: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Day of Week: Tuesdays

Senior Fit Club

We are offering an exercise class for senior adults called SENIOR FIT CLUB, every Monday and Wednesday afternoon at the Ridgeland Recreational Center. This class offers low-impact exercises geared toward 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, 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, will be teaching this class. For more information, please call or email Lynda at 601-856-6876 or lynda.assink@ridgelandms.org.

Program Price: \$10/month
Start Date: On-going
Times: 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Days: Mondays and Wednesdays

Restoration & Relaxation Gentle Yoga

This yoga class is suitable for beginners as well as individuals who are rehabbing from an injury. Offered at a slower pace, this class will focus on the basics of yoga, breath work and gentle movement that will not stress 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: Ongoing
Program Price: \$5/class
Time: 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Days: Mondays and Fridays

Yoga for Flexibility, Fitness, & Fun!

Instructor Lisa Newman will guide you through gentle stretching and strengthening exercises for your whole body. This class is suitable 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 yoga classes for only \$10! Always consult with your physician before beginning any exercise program. For more information, call or email Lynda.

Event Dates: Ongoing
Program Price: \$5/class
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Days: Mondays and Fridays

Zumba Gold

ZUMBA GOLD is an easy dance workout with a party-like atmosphere. It is designed for seniors, beginners, or others needing modifications in their exercise routine. ZUMBA GOLD builds cardiovascular health by challenging the heart and working the muscles of the hips, legs and arms with dance moves. Licensed instructors Kathy and Lisa will be leading the class. Classes will meet on Tuesday – except for the first Tuesday of the month.

Program Price: \$5/month
Dates: Meets every Tuesday, except for the 1st Tuesday of the month
Times: 10:15 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Day: Tuesdays

MONTHLY PROGRAMS Bridge

Bridge games are held the fourth 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 for the month receives a prize. Reservations are required four days in advance. Please call Lynda at 601-856-6876 or 601-853-2011 to reserve your chair. Please arrive at 12:45 p.m. to receive your nametag. Game starts promptly at 1 p.m.

Program Price: \$1.00 each for Prize (winner)
Dates: June 23, July 28, August 25
Times: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Day of Week: Thursday

TITLE VI POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Ridgeland, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, ensures that no persons in the City of Ridgeland shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any programs or activity it administers. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should contact:

Paula W. Tierce, Title VI Coordinator
 City of Ridgeland
 304 Highway 51 • P.O. Box 217
 Ridgeland, MS 39158
 Phone: 601-856-7113 • Fax: 601-856-7819
paula.tierce@ridgelandms.org

Popcorn & Movie Matinee

Join us once a month for popcorn and a movie matinee. Movie, popcorn, snacks, soft drinks, and coffee will all provided (St. Catherine's Village will provide the delicious popcorn!) Movie will be posted in our monthly newsletter.



Program Price: Free
Dates: June 30, July 28, August 11
Times: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Day of Week: Thursday

Thread, Yarn, Crochet & Coffee

Bring your own needle work (needlepoint, cross-stitch, crochet, knitting, etc.) the second and fourth Monday of each month. Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of needlework and meeting new friends.

Program Price: No Charge
Dates: June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22
Times: 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Day of Week: Monday

TENNIS

Ridgeland Tennis Center
201-A McClellan Drive 601-853-1115
Directors: Cheryl Harris and Susan Toler

The public is invited to watch tennis tournaments or games, register for private or group lessons, join a tennis league, or just come out and play a game!

Tournaments

Ridgeland Tennis Center Benefit Tournament
August 29-31

Summer Camps

Weekly camps run Monday through Thursday, beginning June 6 and ending July 28. Groups are divided by ages: 4-6, 7-10, and 11-18.

Children 10 and under are instructed by Cheryl Harris.

Time: 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Price: \$80 per child

The 11-18 year old group is instructed by Robbie Creveling

Time: Junior Drills 9 – 10:30 a.m.
Match Play 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Price: \$80 per 1/week
\$140 both/week

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Entering kindergarteners and new students need to bring proof of residency such as a lease, mortgage deed or homestead exemption in addition to a certified birth certificate, Social Security card and Mississippi immunization form 121. Please bring original documents. Photocopies will not be accepted. All students, both returning and new, will need to bring two June or July utility bills to the school between June 22 and July 31.



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Positive Reinforcement
Part of ASE Culture

It's a great day to be a Titan, especially at Ann Smith Elementary where positive behavior is reinforced with fun rewards. REACH MS recently recognized Ann Smith as a model school for its Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, or PBIS program. REACH MS (Realizing Excellence for All Children in Mississippi) is run through a grant operated by the University of Southern Mississippi's Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education. It provides high quality professional development opportunities for educators and other providers of children and family services in the state. However, ASE principal Melissa Philley said PBIS is much more of a schoolwide culture and attitude of addressing the needs of students in a proactive, positive way than it is a program.

"Ask any child here, 'What are the rules that help you to be successful, every day,' and you'll quickly hear an eager response, 'Be respectful, be responsible, and be safe!'" she said.

Setting the expectation, teaching students *how* to meet that expectation, and recognizing and rewarding students in a way that reinforces positive choices is the basic premise behind PBIS. ASE's PBIS team regularly looks at various data sources to make decisions that will help students strive for excellence both



Students who exhibit positive behavior at Ann Smith are invited to PBIS activities such as this carnival-themed event that included face painting, sack races, hula hooping, a bounce house and more.

academically and behaviorally. ASE also incorporates conscious discipline strategies, and focuses on the "power" of love, unity, acceptance, and free will to influence behavior, said Harvey Williams, assistant principal. "We are excited about the success we have seen in our students. Office discipline referrals have decreased by more than 35 percent and bus referrals are down by nearly 80 percent," he said.

PBIS has been made possible with the help of a grant from Nissan and community partners such as Mugshots, Chick-fil-a, Pizza Inn, Applebee's, McAlister's, Gateway Tires - Store #6504 Ridgeland, MS, and Bops. "School success truly takes a team effort. We are grateful to have parents and community supporters to share our vision and celebrate the positives in our students and staff," added Leona Bishop, school counselor. "We are proud of our PBIS Model School status and look forward to welcoming schools across the state to learn more about making their school a place where teachers love to teach and students volunteer to learn."

ASE Kids Celebrate Fitness

The fourth annual Titan Tone Up got Ann Smith kids moving. The Titan Tone Up program is designed to encourage students to get the recommended 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day. The four-week program kicked off with a pep rally lead by Rochelle Culp from the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition, included a fun family field day hosted by First Ridgeland Weekday Ministries, and concluded with a field trip to the Bounce Palace. The Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition, First Ridgeland and the Bounce Palace have been supporters of the Titan Tone Up every year since the beginning and Ann Smith couldn't do the program without them.

"The Titan Tone Up is a great way to encourage the children to get the exercise they need, and the Bounce Palace has been happy to host the Ridgeland students for the past four years," said owner Bob Schroeder. "Our business is all about fun and fitness. Kids come to the Bounce Palace for the fun, not even realizing they're doing something healthy."

"First Ridgeland wants our local school children and parents to know we care about them," said Debbie Upchurch, children's minister. "One way we show this is through community outreach like our Titan Tone Up Day."

Other invaluable sponsors included the City of Ridgeland, St. Dominic Hospital, and McAlister's Deli, each contributing weekly prizes for the students who participated in the program.



Kristopher Thompson hops his way to the finish at the Titan Tone Up Day hosted by First Ridgeland Weekday Ministries.

Ann Smith to Host Art, Sports Camps

Get creative: Ann Smith is still taking enrollments for their art camp lead by art teacher Rhonda Green. The camp is June 13-17, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the art room. Students will be painting, doing papier-mâché, fabric and wood crafts, nature study and more. The cost is \$60. For more information, call Ann Smith or e-mail Rhonda Green at rpgreen5319@aol.com.

Play ball! Join Coach Paul Tate for sports camp. He'll be leading the students in different sports skills and fun fitness drills. The camp is June 6 -10 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$50. Call the school for more information, or e-mail Coach Tate at ptate@madison-schools.com.

Pathways Students Hold Robotics Competition

After spending the year constructing, programming and learning to control VEX robots, the second grade Pathways students held their very own robotics competition in the Ann Smith auditorium. The students programmed the VEX robots to maneuver through a series of commands. "The robotics curriculum gave the students the opportunity to explore and solve exciting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) challenges," said Pathways teacher Lynda Flynn. "Students also experienced the art of teamwork to accomplish a specific goal."



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Titan Teachers Run the Trot



Ann Smith teachers add color wherever they go, but at the Titan Trot Color Run it was more than their bright personalities adding a splash of life to the event.

'The Great Kapok Tree' a Grand Production



The envelope please... And the Tony for Best Costume Design goes to... The entire second grade! As if their acting, singing, and recorder playing weren't enough, the second-graders performed "The Great Kapok Tree" in brightly colored costumes they made themselves. Students and teachers also constructed the "Tony-worthy" jungle-themed set themselves.




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CYCLE Kids: Putting Kids on the Road to Better Health

Fourth-grader Marrion “Rashad” Longino always wanted to learn how to ride a bike, but he didn’t expect to learn at school. Thanks to CYCLE Kids, an eight-week fitness and nutrition program funded by a generous grant from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, Rashad learned to ride for the first time during his weekly P.E. class and, in the process, discovered a new healthy hobby.

CYCLE Kids teaches fourth- and fifth-graders bike skills and safety lessons. The program includes a curriculum that focuses on nutrition and healthy habits and incorporates daily jump-rope sessions that provide “brain breaks” for students throughout the day. Highland is the first and only school in Mississippi to implement CYCLE Kids. The inaugural eight-week session kicked off in January and concluded before spring break.

The program has proved to be a huge success, providing a safe, encouraging environment for students to learn how to ride or improve on fundamentals. “CYCLE Kids strengthens our students’ physical and emotional health by giving them the skills to lead active, healthy lifestyles,” said Jeff Cole, Highland’s physical education teacher. “In our first year of the program, we learned that there were quite a few students who didn’t already know how to ride a bike. It’s been very rewarding for me to teach these students a skill that will impact them throughout their lives and to watch as their confidence grows.”

Cole, with the help of Ridgeland police officers and firefighters, worked individually with students who needed extra help. Captain Nathan Bell of the Ridgeland Fire Department volunteered at the school the day Rashad learned to ride for the first time.

“Rashad was a little shaky in the beginning, but something just clicked that morning,” said Bell. “The next thing we knew, he was riding circles around the gym. You could tell it was a huge accomplishment for him because he had the biggest smile on his face. The thing that impressed me the most was how he was encouraging another girl in his class who was also learning to ride.”

According to his mom, Angel Shenice Longino, Rashad was very excited about the program and would come home each day and tell her about what he had learned. She’s seen a difference in his attitude, skill level and safety-consciousness.



“I really saw an increase in self-awareness,” she said. “Rashad is very mindful to pay close attention to his surroundings, so his level of awareness has increased as a result of CYCLE Kids.”

Rashad now rides his bike at least an hour each day, and he even encourages his three-year-old brother, who rides a tricycle, to keep pedaling.

“CYCLE Kids is something I’d like to see expanded to other schools in the Madison County School District,” says Longino. “I believe the program would tremendously help promote health and fitness while fighting childhood obesity.”

Parent of the Year: Harriet Carter



Harriet Carter (right), HES Parent of the Year, is pictured with her son Kyle.

Volunteering regularly at your children's schools may not seem feasible for many working parents, but for Harriet Carter, it's second nature. The longtime PTO volunteer was selected as Highland's 2016 Parent of the Year by the school's faculty and staff.

Carter has served on the PTO boards at all four of Ridgeland's public schools over the years, and she currently serves as Highland's co-VP of hospitality, where she's responsible for spearheading teacher appreciation activities. She also serves on the Ridgeland High School PTO board in the area of staff appreciation. She's spent countless hours at both schools volunteering at events, organizing luncheons, and making sure teachers and staff feel appreciated.

"I've had the privilege of teaching both of Mrs. Carter's children, and she's always provided me with needed supplies, helped me in the classroom and has been an excellent room mother," said Marla Freeman, fifth-grade language arts teacher at Highland. "Mrs. Carter's cheerful smile and warm heart have made her a particular favorite here at Highland, and she will certainly be missed next year."

Research shows that parental involvement has a positive influence on student attitude and behavior. "Being involved not only benefits your kids, but will enrich the classroom, the whole school and the entire community by providing students with positive interaction, support and encouragement," said Carter. "The more intensively involved I am in my children's education, the greater the positive impact on their academic achievement."

For parents who work full time and are hesitant to volunteer, Carter offers this advice: "Even if you have only an hour to give here and there, that hour is just as precious as the hundreds given by the parents who work at all of the school events. Not only will the school reap the benefits of your involvement, you will, too."

Carter and her husband Alfred have two children: Kyle, a fifth-grader, and Kayla, a ninth-grader at RHS. She's a brand manager with Polo Ralph Lauren Corporation, where she services Belk Stores across the state.

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TEACHER OF THE YEAR: *Neomi Green*

For Neomi Green, creating a safe, secure environment is part of the fourth-grade language arts teacher's secret to success. Named Highland's 2016 Teacher of the Year by her peers, Green is known for her warm, friendly smile, as well as her patient demeanor.

"Ms. Green works diligently to ensure that all of her students enjoy learning and do their best every day," said Paula Tharp, Highland's principal. "She is a kind and caring teacher who challenges herself daily to meet the students' needs and to continue to grow as a professional."

Green has taught at Highland for the past four years and has more than 14 years of teaching experience. She began her career in an elementary school in Columbus, Mississippi – in the very same class where she once was a student. Before coming to Highland, she taught fifth-grade reading in Jackson Public Schools.

"I became a teacher because of my desire to make a difference in the lives of others," said Green. "Teaching provides an opportunity for continual learning and growth. One of my hopes as an educator is to instill a love of learning in my students, as I share my own passion for learning with them."

One of Green's strengths is getting to know her students for the unique individuals they are, and she strives to be sensitive to each child's specific needs. Her dedication, coupled with her desire to be the best teacher she can be, inspires students to work hard to achieve their goals. "I really try to make my students feel successful," she said. "They may not remember everything that I taught them, but they will always remember how I made them feel."

Green received her undergraduate degree from Jackson State University, where she was a Dean's List Scholar, and a master's degree from Mississippi University for Women. She's a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and, in her spare time, enjoys reading, traveling and learning new ideas.



Pictured are (from left) Taylor Mason, Jordan Erves, Neomi Green, Patrick Thomas, Mackenzie Porter.

Lunchroom Hero



While eating lunch in the cafeteria, fourth-grader Ashton Hobbs saw a classmate choking. Ashton quickly jumped out of his seat, started performing the Heimlich maneuver and helped dislodge the obstruction. Kudos to Ashton!

New York Times Bestselling Author Visits HES



Several Highland fourth-grade classes got to take part in a presentation by New York Times bestselling author Peter Brown, who discussed the process he went through to write and illustrate his first novel, *The Wild Robot*, which was released in April. Brown also signed copies of his book, talked to students and answered questions. The event was sponsored by Lemuria Books. Pictured are (from left) Catherine Schneider, Brown, Mason Spratlan, Kourtneigh Dixon, Kameron Brooks and Preethika Lakshminarayanan.



OLDE TOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

OTMS STEM Teacher Named Madison County Middle School Teacher of the Year

Bill Richardson, Olde Towne Middle's STEM Department Chair and Ridgeland High Engineering Career Academy instructor was named the Madison County School District Middle School Teacher of the Year. He was also chosen as the Olde Towne Middle School Teacher of the Year. Richardson is a National Board Certified teacher and a recipient of many grants which help support the STEM programs for Titan students.

OTMS and Ridgeland High School are well known for their award-winning robotics and Technology Student association teams. Richardson began to get students involved in TSA and VEX Robotics four years ago. This year, the Titans journey to TSA Nationals again; 18 Titan students qualified at the state TSA conference to compete in Nashville this summer.

And what takes place on the road to nationals for these students? Several afternoons each week and many weekends the Tech Hall at Olde Towne Middle School is buzzing with activity. Two robotics labs are an ad hoc clubhouse where engineering projects are developed and groups of students banter about upcoming competitions or strategies to meet a deadline. Even with all these extra hours at the school, Richardson is having as much fun as the students.

Ridgeland High junior, Kelvin So, who has been involved in TSA and robotics since it began in the Titan Zone, explains, "Mr. Richardson is someone who challenged me to work, and work to be the best. He shows me character does matter in the world and that having good character and a kind heart truly can make a difference in one's life. Because of him, I am a better student and a better man."

Additionally, Titan 7536 B Vex Robotics Team qualified to participate at both VEX Nationals and VEX World Championships in 2016. Richardson crisscrossed the country with the team, traveling to Des Moines, IA and Louisville, Kentucky. "Not only do these students compete against the nation's best, and the world's best, the travel opportunities these competitions provide enrich the students' experience." Bill explains. While students often have to pay for their expenses to attend a national convention, the team



VEX Team 7536 B, Counter Logic Mechanics, with Bill Richardson at the VEX Worlds 2016 competition in Louisville, KY. Team members, left to right, Jarrett Huddleston, Philip Tran, Isabella Lacourrege, Vlad Green, Melvin Nguyen, Bill Richardson.

was extremely grateful that area sponsors helped support the trip to VEX Worlds. Sponsors include the City of Ridgeland; Patty Peck Honda; EMC, English Motoring Club; Cosmich, Simmons & Brown; Ridgeland Tourism; and Ridgeland High School PTO.

Richardson is married to Jennifer Richardson, also a National Board Certified teacher and named the Madison County Career and Technical Center Teacher of the Year. She is the leader of a VEX IQ Robot team for an elementary aged group that competes at the national level, too. This dynamic duo has two children who excel in TSA and VEX, and the family enjoys traveling to competitions together.

OTMS Parent of the Year Dedicated to the Ridgeland Community

Jan Richardson has been volunteering in Ridgeland's public schools since her oldest daughter Juliette started first grade at Ann Smith. During the past 12 years, Richardson has worked tirelessly to support the schools her three children have attended. She's written multiple grants totaling more than \$30,000 for the schools, spearheaded health and wellness programs and technology initiatives, and served on multiple PTO boards in the Ridgeland zone – all because she believes that strong public schools are the cornerstone of thriving communities.



To recognize Richardson for her years of hard work and dedication, Olde Towne Middle School named her the 2016 parent of the year, and Madison County Schools later selected her as the district's 2016 parent of the year. The Mississippi Department of Education also selected her as the Congressional District 3 finalist for the state.

Richardson currently serves as Olde Towne Middle School PTO's vice president of public affairs. In this role, she takes hundreds of photos at school events and activities, writes captions and submits photos to local newspapers, writes and distributes press releases to media outlets, writes articles for Ridgeland Life, is an administrator to all four Ridgeland schools' Facebook pages, and serves on a four-school volunteer public relations committee she organized, which spreads positive publicity about schools in the Ridgeland zone. She also worked with the OTMS Verizon App Challenge Team this year. The team was the state champion for Mississippi and went on to become a national finalist in the middle school division. As part of this program, the students won \$5,000 for their STEM program.

"Jan is one of the most supportive, involved and caring parents I've had the pleasure of working with," said Tim Dowdy, OTMS principal. "I've worked with many great parents over the years, and the thing that stands out about Jan is her dedication. Not only is she dedicated to her children, but her dedication extends past her own family and to the other students in our school, as well as the other families in our city."

Richardson also serves as co-PTO president at Ridgeland High School, where she's developed a mini-grant program for the staff, applied for and received additional funding through C Spire Foundation and BankPlus, developed a school calendar and budget, and helped organize and plan countless school events.

When Richardson is not at one of the Ridgeland schools volunteering, you'll more than likely find her at Ridgeland City Hall serving on the Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Committee, a program she helped launch. Her conviction that our youth can make a difference in their community, coupled with her involvement in Keep Ridgeland Beautiful, sparked an idea for a student-led community project to revitalize Midway Park. This project was later entered into the Keep America Beautiful national awards competition and won a 2016 Youth and Education Award. Through her fundraising efforts, OTMS students were able to travel to receive this award in person and represent their school, community and the state of Mississippi with great pride. Additionally, Keep Mississippi Beautiful presented Keep Ridgeland Beautiful with several awards, including a second-place award for the OTMS Construction Challenge Team in the youth division.

To honor Richardson for her exceptional service, commitment and dedication to the City of Ridgeland, Mayor Gene McGee presented her with the 2013 City Maker Award, the highest honor the City of Ridgeland can bestow upon an individual.

"Jan is a shining example to others," said Dowdy. "She's also a very humble person; she wants all the rewards and successes to go to others. She will never brag on herself; therefore, we have to do that for her. We're very lucky to have her as a parent in our school district, and we're extremely happy to have her in the Titan zone."

And Richardson feels just as lucky to be a part of the Ridgeland community. "There are so many benefits to living in the City of Ridgeland, with superb vision and leadership and the excellence of the Ridgeland zone schools in the Madison County School District," she said. "My family is so fortunate to be a part of this vibrant, talented and diverse group of families. It's a GREAT day to be a Titan."

Richardson and her husband, Allen Richert, have three children: Juliette, a senior at RHS; Claire, an OTMS eighth-grader; and Allen, a Highland Elementary fifth-grader.

An advertisement for Bullseye Entertainment. The background shows people playing laser tag in a dark room with red laser beams. The text "BULLSEYE Entertainment" is prominently displayed in a stylized, colorful font. Below it, the text reads "Laser Tag • Karaoke • 601-460-4323" and "www.BullseyeEnt.com". A tagline says "We bring the party to you!". At the bottom, it lists "KIDS, ADULTS, YOUTH GROUPS, BUSINESSES, SUMMER CAMPS, FUNDRAISERS, REUNIONS, BLOCK PARTIES, SPORTS TEAMS, SKILL BUILDING....WE DO IT ALL!" and includes a Facebook logo.

TITAN LIGHTS SHINE BRIGHTLY

Our talented Titans at Olde Towne and Ridgeland High stepped out in competitions this spring, winning or placing in a fascinating array of activities. Sixth grader Shreenithi Lakshminarayanan placed third in the state spelling bee. Shreenthi speaks and reads two languages fluently and can speak several others. She spelled keest, kirtle, and tokamak effortlessly. With an electric performance, we plan to see her working to qualify for the Scripps National Spelling Bee next year. Her classmate, Daniel Lynn, spends some of his free time studying geography. After winning the Olde Towne Geography Bee, Lynn traveled to Jackson to compete in the state competition, placing 7th in the state.

Three Ridgeland High students will join the Mississippi Lions Band this summer, Lauren Slay, clarinet; Natalene Vonkchalee, bass clarinet; and Andre Vincent, trumpet. RHS Choir continues to strike gold wherever they perform; and Ridgeland High art students showed their work at the Renaissance Fine Arts Festival.

At RHS, Caleb Salers placed first in Mississippi, his second consecutive year to earn this honor, in the Sons of the American Revolution Oratory Competition. He travels to nationals, held in Boston in July, where last year he placed fourth in the nation. And the cerebral Amber Horton, placed third place in the Madison County District chess tournament.



Titan Darius Kent won the boys 5A single tennis championship.

The three top places in the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District Essay Contest went to RHS students: Dionne Williams, first place; Sarah King, second place; and Caleb Salers, third place.

Boys 5A Power Lifting State Runner Up is a powerful accomplishment, missing the state championship by just a few points. Ridgeland High School baseball won districts. Ridgeland Titan Darius Kent won the boys 5A single tennis championship.

The Business Fundamentals team "RHS FLYING EAGLES" composed of Jordan Lamb, Devon Jefferson and Karrington Harris qualified for the State Championship Economics Challenge for the David Ricardo Division in April at Millsaps College. Only ten teams statewide have qualified for the David Ricardo state competition.

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RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

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Ridgeland High Teachers “Embrace” Innovation

Ridgeland teachers and their students participated in an exciting classroom development program this year, called EMBRACE. EMBRACE began several years ago with a Madison Central student named Mark Dawson. When Mark was in high school, he noticed an ongoing situation.

“Students knew what strategies worked best for them,” Dawson says, “but didn’t have a way to express it. Teachers were working their hardest to create effective classes but didn’t always know what worked best for students.”

In the spring of 2013, Dawson, then a senior in high school, joined a group of students that met once a week with teachers to explore ways of improving this. “During discussions with students and teachers, we created a framework that students could use to give their feedback and teachers could use to incorporate that feedback,” Dawson says. He found that students benefited from having a voice in their education and that teachers not only appreciated the input but were glad to try out alternative approaches to their classrooms.

This teacher-led and student feedback driven approach led Dawson to get together with some friends and a former teacher to build EMBRACE, a comprehensive professional development program built with a belief in student feedback and creative implementation.

In the beginning, EMBRACE provides teachers with short surveys for their students to fill out after the first few weeks to help target areas that could be improved in the classroom. Using this feedback, EMBRACE helps teachers draft action plans to address specific areas based on student survey data. Then we break teachers into teams or professional learning communities that meet throughout the semester to help support each other in implementing the changes that they and their students want to see. At the end of the semester, students fill out a final survey to let teachers know to what degree their action plan was successful.

While plenty of programs offer parts, the EMBRACE program’s comprehensive approach works with teachers throughout the semester to support their personal journey to a better classroom.

After a trial run in select classrooms in the Spring of 2014, the program was offered to Ridgeland High teachers. Six Ridgeland High teachers enrolled in the program, along with other teachers from around the school district. English teacher Vanessa Piel extols, “The best part of the program was meeting with other teachers, discussing our struggles, and finding solutions together. Everyone benefits, from the first year teacher to the veteran. The program also helps identify problems that teachers may not realize are present. For example, my students expressed a desire to correlate more of our lessons to real world experiences. While I thought I



Ridgeland High School teachers attended their final EMBRACE meeting. Some of the teachers who participated were Vanessa Piel, Dominic Veiga, and Susan Krichbaum, pictured with EMBRACE Founder, Mark Dawson (second from right).

was already doing that, I made an effort to explicitly plan project based units related to their interests. When they took their exit surveys, more people felt that our lessons were relevant. This program builds on tools teachers have used for years, but it makes the data review so much simpler. We no longer have to take time to analyze the results and determine outcomes (which is a life-saver for this English teacher).”

Dawson is currently an economics/computer science student at UNC-Chapel Hill. He was also selected for the Robertson Scholars Leadership Program, a partnership between UNC and Duke University. The other college students who make up the EMBRACE team are Brett Mayfield, Avery Jordan, and Miller Richmond.

Ridgeland High PTO provided a small gift to the teachers who participated. Elizabeth Bowen, PTO co-president explains, “In so many instances, students are not encouraged to speak up about ideas that would help them learn more efficiently in the classroom. With EMBRACE they are able to provide direct feedback to their teachers and together they can implement a plan that fosters a very productive learning environment. The professionalism the EMBRACE team brought to the program is impressive. The program is extremely well designed and utilizes technology optimally, such as google docs, to get results that can be used and shared to advance the program.”

Bowen concludes, “Our PTO was so honored to be able to recognize our teachers who participated in the EMBRACE program this year. It is wonderful to see a program that encourages active listening and feedback between teachers and students.”

PTO Mini-Grant Program Spurs Innovation

Ridgeland High School PTO rebooted their mini-grant program this year, offering staff the opportunity to apply for funds to pay for student projects, programs, and experiences. Grants and donations from the CSpire Foundation and BankPlus, as well as PTO funds support the program. Mini-grants that were funded this spring include calligraphy supplies so an art teacher could implement a calligraphy project in her classes; the journalism class bought a green screen and lighting for their video news program, Titan Talk; funds helped provide Titan t-shirts for a student group traveling to Washington D.C. to learn about how our government works; and helped engineering students represent RHS at the World VEX Robotics competition. With this generous community support, our PTO is excited to offer these innovative opportunities for Titan students.

Congratulations to Leah Ellis, who was named Ridgeland High School's Teacher of the Year and to Junita Simmons, who was named 2016 RHS Parent of the Year.

RHS 2016 STAR Student

Ridgeland High School's STAR student is Juliette Richert. She selected her AP History teacher, Jennifer Coate, as her STAR teacher. Richert, who is the valedictorian of RHS Class of 2016, received a 35 on the ACT, qualifying her for this honor from the Mississippi Economic Council. She plans to attend Rice University this fall.

Richert selected Jennifer Coate as her STAR teacher after taking three history classes with her over the last two years. "I picked Mrs. Coate to be my STAR teacher because she never tires when it comes to her performance in the class room. She is passionate about teaching, and it shows through the thought and planning that goes into each class to ensure that every student is absorbing as much as is possible. The exposure to the minute details of the justice system and its history in her law-related education class catalyzed my interest in government and laws. Her enthusiasm for teaching inspires me to discover my passions and pursue them."

Coate said, "Juliette Richert is one of those students that a teacher is lucky to get once in their career...and I have the pleasure, in my fifteen years of teaching, to have had her in three classes over two years. Her smile lights up the classroom and will light up the world," says Coate.

Coate loves to assign historical dress-up days; this year students have enjoyed dressing up as Presidential candidates and their favorite Supreme Court justice. Needless to say, students learn a lot while coming up with creative outfits for these assignments. Both Richert and Coate are fans of the opportunities offered at Ridgeland High and are proud to represent the school as STAR student and teacher.



Ridgeland High School 2016 STAR student, senior Juliette Richert (left), with her STAR teacher, Jenn Coate.



Ridgeland High School Indoor Percussion and Color Guard teams had an outstanding season. Color Guard (blue and silver outfits) won a silver medal in the Scholastic Regional A division at Mississippi Indoor Association State Championships, with their show, Make it Rain. This is only their second year to compete in indoor color guard. Indoor percussion (red outfits), had an outstanding season, performing their show "Fade", and earning a seventh place finish in the Scholastic A division. Participating in indoor programs provides students with rigorous instruction in skills which transition to their fall marching season. Be sure to come to a Titan football game this fall to support the team and see the exciting band show at half-time.



HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Holmes Ridgeland Campus Recognizes Student Achievements

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus recognized its students' achievements and honors during the 2016 Honors Day Program held April 12 in the McGowan Center.

The evening began with a welcome from Amy Whittington, director of Career and Technical Education for the Ridgeland Campus.

Award presentations began with Dr. Andrew Kelly, English instructor, recognizing the 2016 Holmes Literary Contest Winners. Those students included Jade Dalton, first place in Poetry and second place in Short Story; Joshua Dilmore, first and second place in the Literary Essay category; Joshua Gibbons, second place in Personal Essay; Christina O'Cain, first place in Drama; Karishma Patel, first place in Personal Essay; Fredrica Sandifer, second place in Poetry, and Hannah Wingard, first place in Short Story.

Next, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Erin Renfroe, congratulated the All-Mississippi Academic Team recipients, which included Mallory Corley of Pelahatchie and Amina Jatoi of Ridgeland. Both were named Second-Team All-Mississippi and were recognized at the All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team Recognition Luncheon at the Jackson Convention Center on March 22. Renfroe also recognized Ashlynn Banks, who was voted Division II International Vice President for the 2016-2017 year during NerdNation, Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention which was held in Washington D.C., April 7-9.

Next, a representative from each academic and career-technical program presented an award to a student who has shown excellence in their given major or program. Alice Austin presented Antoinette Walker with the Associate Degree Nursing Award; Dr. Joe David White presented Luke LeBlanc with the Biological Science Award and Bailey Turbville with the Physical Science Award. Eamonn Cottrell, received the Engineering Award. The Business Administration Award went to Amina Jatoi, presented by Michelle Dancy; the Business and Office Technology Award went to Sara Fitts, presented by Katrina B. Myricks; the Computer Information Systems Technology Award went to Andrew Yaul, presented by Michael Pawlik, and Jimmy Houston presented the Criminal Justice Award to Anna Williams and the Criminal Justice Administration Technology Award to Kymbriana Christmas.

The Educational Programs Award went to Katelyn Murphy, presented by Rachel Bickerstaff; the Emergency Medical Sciences Award to Karl Korb, presented by Mark Galtelli, and the Engineering Technology Award to Rakiam Allen, presented by Heather Mooney. The English Composition Award went to Bailey Madigan, presented by Dr. Stacey Coulter; the Fine Arts Award, Evelyn Spencer, presented by Kristopher Wilson; the Human Performance and Recreation Award to Leonard Swilley by Ryan Beggs, and the Journalism Award to Joshua Dilmore, presented by Mary Margaret Turner. Azhia Watkins received the Literature Award, presented by Mary Brantley, and Madison Rademacher received the Spanish Award from Ana Davenport.

The Funeral Service Technology Award was given to Valencia Moses, presented by Allison DeWeese; the History and Political Science Award to Jesse Brown, presented by J.R. Hall; the Industrial Maintenance Technology Award, Major Sheard, presented by Daniel Blount, and the Mathematics Award, Tatiana Kuriger, presented by Julie Muse.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology Awards went to Hannah Moore and Cassidy Sasser, presented by Kana Williams; the Paralegal Technology Award, Jacob Holder, presented by Darleen Dozier; and the Public Speaking Award, Olivia Meeks, presented by Dr. Amy Wolgamott. Breanna Burns was given the Social and Behavioral Science Award, presented by Laura McMahon; Victoria Deel, the Surgical Technology Award, presented by Travia "Shea" Coleman, and Keith Miller, the Welding Award, presented by Nathan Hutchinson.

The program concluded with a recognition of the 2016 Hall of Fame inductees and closing remarks by Dr. Don Burnham, vice president of the Ridgeland Campus. The Hall of Fame inductees included Rakiam Allen, Dominique Butler, Joshua Dilmore, Alexis Gaytan, Jaylon George, Christopher Henry, Amina Jatoi, Joshua King, Katelyn Murphy, Rene Saenz, Jr., and Evelyn Spencer.

A reception for award recipients, friends, and family immediately followed the ceremony in the McGowan Lobby.

For more information on Holmes Community College, visit www.holmescc.edu.

Something for Everyone!

The library is a growing and active public community. This year we are making it our mission to reach every age group we can with services that matter to all of our patrons. We have terrific children, teen, and adult programs, and we have recently implemented passive programs for those that can only come and go in the library. We continue to provide outreach programs to assisted living homes, schools, and day care centers to reach the patrons beyond our walls. Computerized services such as Ancestry, Rocket Languages, Magnolia, and downloadable eBooks and Audiobooks help us stay virtually connected. Stay informed with what your library can do for you and what exciting programs are happening by visiting mcls.ms or stopping by the library and getting our information handouts! Our librarians are always happy to help!

Rid-Mad Adult Writers' Group

This summer the Ridgeland and Madison Public Libraries will be hosting a new adult group! Adults 18 and up can join us at either branch through the summer and get assistance for writer's block and learn different writing techniques used by other writers. The program will run from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- June 2 at Madison
- June 16 at Ridgeland
- July 7 at Madison
- July 21 at Ridgeland

There are plans to continue this program through the fall!



RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Madison County Library System
397 Highway 51 • Ridgeland, MS 39157 • 601-856-4536 • www.mcls.ms

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

Rid-Mad Transform Yourself @ the Library Event

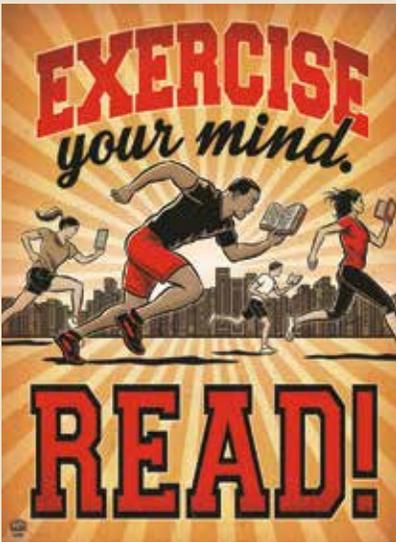


On April 11, 2016 for National Library Week the library had a family event called Rid-Mad Transform Yourself @the Library. At this program we had the wonderful cosplay team, MoodHair Cosplay, as a guest speaker and a costume contest for kids, teens, and adults! We had a terrific turn out with amazing costumes and learned a lot about the art of cosplay!

Adult Coloring Club

The Ridgeland Public Library is paired with the Madison Public Library in hosting an adult coloring club for patrons 18 and up! The coloring club will meet every first Tuesday of the month from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Ridgeland Library and every third Tuesday of the month at the Madison branch. Join us as we listen to relaxing music, have a light snack, and color the stress away!





Adult Summer Reading Program

The Ridgeland Public Library is proud to announce its Summer Reading Program for ADULTS! Over the summer we will offer four events to promote literacy, health, and wellness. The first 50 people to register for summer reading will receive a prize pack and be entered for a chance to win more prizes. The prizes will include gift certificates from local restaurants and businesses and two grand prize winners will receive a FitBit Charge HR! To participate, library users must register at the Ridgeland Public Library before June 10, 2015. After you are registered there are many ways to increase your chance at winning prizes! The library staff will be happy to explain these at the time of registration. For more information, call 601-856-4536.

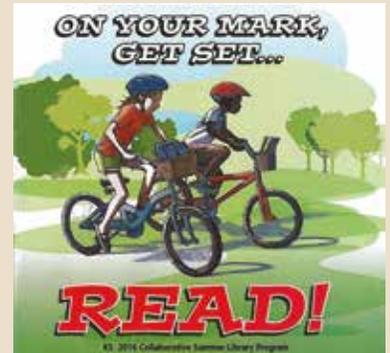
- Know Your Numbers Kickoff with Walgreens **June 9 from 4 - 6 p.m.**
- Brain Heath lecture with Alzheimer's Mississippi **June 23 from 5 - 6 p.m.**
- Healthy Eating with Whole Foods Jackson **July 14 from 6 - 7 p.m.**
- Finale Party and prize drawing **July 28 from 6 - 7 p.m.**

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

On Your Mark, Get Set, READ! SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Readers of all ages will explore exercise, sports, and fitness this summer at the library. This year's theme is "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!" and we will be having performers, as well as fun relays, races, and challenges for babies through young adult. Like every summer, all programs are free of charge, and there are lots of great prizes for those who meet their reading goal!

Below are some of our June and July programs. For more information, check out our online calendar at www.mcls.ms or visit our library.



Performers:

Magician Tommy Terrific

Monday, June 6 - 4:30 p.m. • Ages 3 & up
Wacky magic all the way from Little Rock, Arkansas!

Magician Dorian LaChance

Tuesday, June 21 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 3 & up
Local magic man presents his brand new magic show!

Animal Tales

Friday, July 8 - 2 p.m. • Ages 3 & up
Live animals visit the library! Meet a baby red kangaroo and other animal athletes that compete for survival in the wild.

Storyteller Lizzie Turner

Tuesday, July 12 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 3 & up
Miss Lizzie is back to tell some tall tales! This will be a storytime fun for the whole family.



There will be no children's programs in August as we prepare for fall programming. Please check our online calendar at www.mcls.ms for updates and special events.

Early Literacy Programs:

Baby Yoga Storytime • Ages 0 - 2

Thursday, June 23 - 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 7 - 10:30 a.m.

Songs, stories, and special yoga activities for babies.

Relays and Races

Monday, July 11 - 3:30 p.m. • Ages 3 & up

This event will feature a variety of exciting and active contests that focus on safety and fun.

Programs for Older Children and Teens:

Yoga for Tweens and Teens • Ages 10 & up

Monday, June 27 - 3:30 p.m.

Stretch, bend, and balance with a certified yoga instructor from M Theory Yoga. Please wear loose fitting clothes and bring a yoga mat. While supplies last, mats will be provided for those who do not have one.

Legos at the Library

Thursday, July 14 - 10 a.m. • Grades 1-5

On your mark, get set, BUILD! Exercise your mind and complete our Lego challenge! Come to this end-of-summer program to flex your mental muscles!



CITY OF RIDGELAND
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COMMERCE

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**BUSINESS
AFTER HOURS
AND EVENTS**

Thursday, June 16

Business After Hours
Trustmark National Bank
752 Lake Harbour Drive

Thursday, July 14

Business After Hours
First Commercial Bank
1076 Highland Colony
Parkway
600 Concourse Building,
Suite 150

Tuesday, August 9

**Hilton Jackson
Tailgate Party**
1001 E. County Line Road
(With all metro area
Chambers)

Thursday, Sept. 29
**Ridgeland Under
the Stars**

Jackson Country Club

*Business After Hours are
held 5 - 7 p.m.*

Ridgeland Chamber Seeks Junior Diplomat Applicants

Area high school juniors and seniors are invited to apply to become part of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce's 2016-2017 Junior Diplomat Program.

Students residing in Ridgeland, who attend Ridgeland High School, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Jackson Academy, St. Joseph Catholic School, Madison Ridgeland Academy and Jackson Prep are invited to submit applications by the August 19, 2016 deadline.

"The purpose of the Junior Diplomat program is to instill in students a well-rounded appreciation of community service and introduce them to members of the business community," said Linda Bynum, Executive Director of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce.

Diplomats Julie Cox of the City of Ridgeland and Jim Lowery of Pear Orchard Business Center serve as Junior Diplomat co-advisors.

The Junior Diplomats meet the first Tuesday of every month at Chamber member businesses. This year, Hannah McGowan, a senior at Jackson Academy and Ahmed Hassan and Juliette Richert, both seniors at Ridgeland High School, served as co-captains of the program.

Throughout the year the Junior Diplomats participate in many City and Chamber events, including the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Make A Difference Day, TOP Soccer, Mayor's Wellness Walk, Sr. Adult Valentine's Banquet, the Natchez Trace Century Ride, Easter Egg Hunt, KidFest! Ridgeland, the Ridgeland Art Fest and Trunk or Treat!

This year, Natalene Vonchalee, a senior at Ridgeland High School, was named Junior Diplomat of the Year. She received a \$1,000 scholarship awarded by Cline Tours, Regions Bank and Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Ann Prewitt Realty.

Also, this year, two \$500 Spirit of Junior Diplomat scholarships were awarded. Juliette Richert, a senior at Ridgeland High School, received a \$500 Spirit of Junior Diplomat scholarship sponsored by BankPlus and Julius Wells, a senior at Ridgeland High School, received a \$500 scholarship sponsored by Community Bank. The scholarships are applied to the college or university of the student's choice.

"Students interested in the Junior Diplomat Program must complete an application and submit it to the Chamber office," Bynum said. "Every application is carefully read and reviewed. We want students in the program who have every potential of becoming tomorrow's leaders."

Each applicant must write a 100-word essay detailing why he/she would be a good candidate for the program. "Every application must include three letters of recommendation, and one of those letters must be from a teacher, principal or high school counselor," Bynum added.

Other criteria include a list of all extra curricular activities, awards received and offices held. And, all applicants must have a 3.0 grade average.

Junior Diplomat applications are available at the counselor's office of each participating school and the Chamber office located at 754 S. Pear Orchard Road.

"One of the greatest aspects about this program is that our Junior Diplomats have gotten to know others with the same interests and goals," Bynum said. "They have become better acquainted with their community and they are realizing the importance of giving back to the community."

"If we can instill one basic premise," she added, "it is the age-old adage, 'we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.'"

For more information on the Chamber's Junior Diplomat Program, call the Chamber office at 601-991-9996.



TOPSoccer Jamboree is always a rewarding time of service for the Junior Diplomats.



The Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce congratulates the graduating seniors who served as Junior Diplomats 2015-2016. Best wishes for much success to a dynamic group of future leaders.



Junior Diplomats find fun in serving at the Senior Adult Valentine Banquet.



Natalene Vonkchalee, a senior at Ridgeland High School, left, receives the \$1,000 Junior Diplomat of the Year Scholarship sponsored by Cline Tours, Regions Bank and Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Ann Prewitt Realty. With Natalene is Kristy Daniels of Regions Bank and Co-Captain of the Ridgeland Chamber's Diplomat Council.



Julius Wells, a senior at Ridgeland High School, right, receives a \$500 Spirit of Junior Diplomat Award sponsored by Community Bank. With Julius is Ridgeland Chamber Diplomat Bill Bethany of Community Bank.



Juliette Richert, a senior at Ridgeland High School, right, receives a \$500 Spirit of Junior Diplomat Award sponsored by BankPlus. With Juliette is 2016 Ridgeland Chamber President John Dorsa of State Farm Insurance.



Natchez Trace Century Ride is one of many special events that involve the Junior Diplomats.



Orientation Day for the 2015-2016 Junior Diplomats. These students are ready to get started!

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
CHRISTOPHER CHANCE
Director
chris.chance@ridgelandms.org

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, Tom Bobbitt, Randy Knouse, Donald Pendergrast, Glenn Ray, Alex Ross, Connie Suber

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful
First Monday - 4:30 p.m.
Lea Anne Stacy - Chairman
Lynda Assink, Wendy Bourdin, Barbara Brown, Pat Busby, Rachel Collier, Polly Hammett, Claire Jackson, Phyllis Parker, Jan Richardson

Community Awareness Committee
Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.
Drew Malone - Chairman
Carla Palmer Allen, Shirley Gill, Vicki Heath, Scott Higginbotham, Lee Hutchings, Diane Jackson, Shelia Jackson, Mike Smith

Contractors Board of Adjustment and Appeals
Quarterly meeting - Tuesday, April 19, 4 p.m.
Lantz Kuykendall - Chairman
Terry Evans, Ronnie Hales, David Pursell, Steve Rimmer, Ricky Skeen, Clay Sutherland, Leroy Tubbs, Keith West

Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee
3rd Tuesday - 6:30 p.m.
Larry Anderson, Gabe Coker, John Evans, James Freeman, Jay Harris, Wayne Jimenez, Jerry Neill

Zoning Board
Thursdays, the week of Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting - 6 p.m.
Bernie Giessner - Chairman
Michelle Caballero, Walter Cox, Mark Irby, Drew Malone, Larry Miller, Julius Murray, Rhett Stubblefield

City of Ridgeland

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

Aldermen

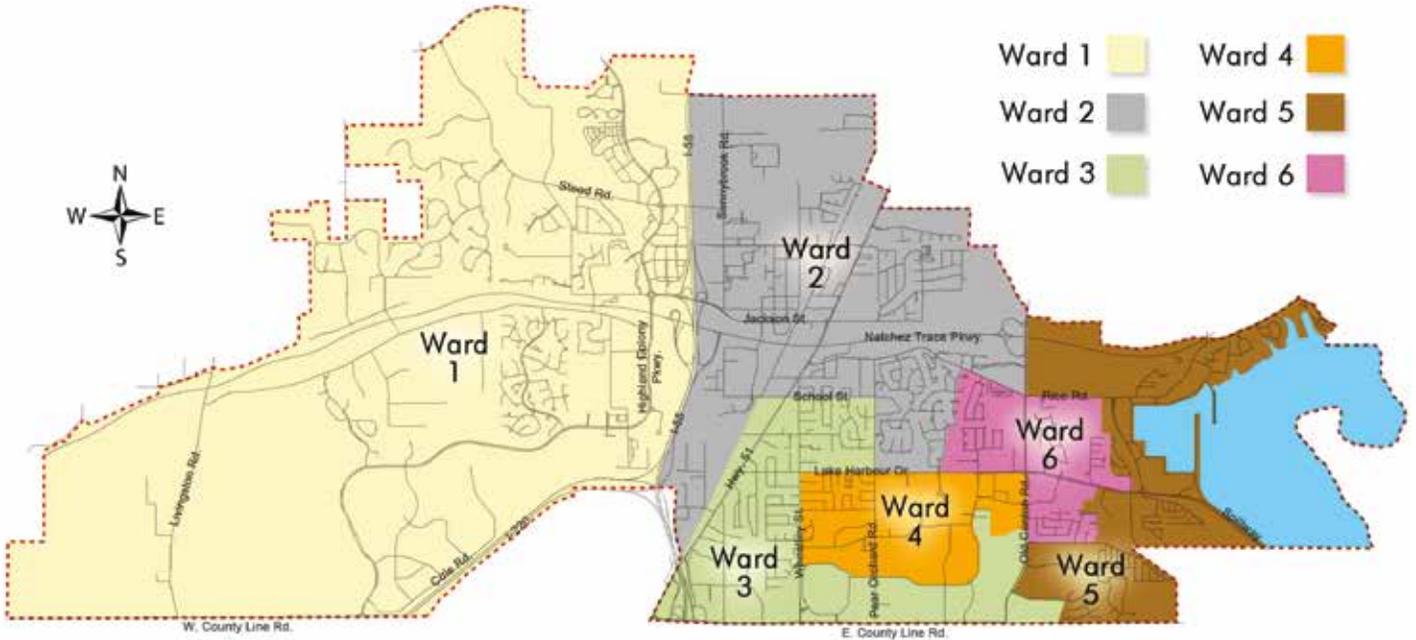
- D.I. Smith**, Alderman-at-Large..... 601-707-8845
- Ken Heard**, Ward 1..... 601-856-7727
- Chuck Gautier**, Mayor Pro Tempore, Ward 2..... 601-856-1291
- Kevin Holder**, Ward 3..... 601-856-1950
- Brian Ramsey**, Ward 4..... 601-506-1979
- Scott Jones**, Ward 5..... 601-856-6861
- Wesley Hamlin**, 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**
(*road, 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, and recycling billing*)
utilitybilling@ridgelandms.org..... 601-856-3938

RIDGELAND ALDERMEN

To learn more about your elected representatives, go to www.ridgelandms.org/electedofficials/.



D.I. Smith
Alderman At-Large
601-707-8845
DI.Smith@RidgelandMS.org



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



Chuck Gautier
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Mayor Pro Tempore
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Chuck.Gautier@RidgelandMS.org



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Wesley Hamlin
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