



there's more here!

RIDGELAND LIFE

A Season to Savor.
It's Summer, Stop and Smell the Flowers!

the SUMMER ISSUE

JUNE – AUGUST 2025

FROM THE MAYOR

Gene McGee



With great excitement, I announce the graduation of the inaugural Mayor's Youth Council class. This journey began with 45 outstanding students applying to join the council, and an independent panel selected 28 members. Representing five schools across the metro area, these students came from junior and senior classes and showed tremendous dedication and promise.

Throughout the year, the Youth Council spent many hours learning about city government, gaining firsthand knowledge of how departments operate, and discovering how they might one day play a role in municipal leadership. One of the year's highlights was a special session with a federal judge, who generously shared valuable insights and encouragement.

The students also completed a special project of which I am particularly proud. They organized a kick-off party for our Miracle League Baseball team on Sunday, April 13, at Hite Wolcott Park on the Miracle Field. It was a wonderful event, bringing smiles and excitement to those participating in the league.

To close out the year, the Youth Council toured the new—and still

under construction—Amazon Web Services site. This was a unique opportunity to learn about a major development in our community, and I am thrilled these students could see it up close.

I want to encourage all Ridgeland students who will be juniors and seniors to apply for the Mayor's Youth Council for 2025! It is an incredible chance to grow as a leader, get involved in your City, and make your voice heard. I assure you that you won't regret being part of something this meaningful.

As we look ahead to summer, I'm filled with joy at the beauty blooming throughout our City. I encourage everyone to stroll through the Wildflower Field & Art Park at the corner of Jackson Street and Sunnybrook Road and stop by City Hall to enjoy the vibrant zinnias. You're even welcome to cut a few and take them home—or give them to someone who could use a little cheer.

Summer is a time for adventure, relaxation, and family. Whether you're traveling across our state or the country, please take time to soak in the moments—and travel safely.

Finally, I'd like to extend my heartfelt

congratulations to all the high school graduates. Reaching this milestone is a tremendous achievement, and I wish you all the best as you take your next steps—whether heading to a four-year college, pursuing trade school, or entering the workforce.

I believe in your future and your ability to do great things.

Gene F. McGee

RIDGELAND LIFE

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GRAPHIC DESIGN

Imaginary Company, Inc.

PRINTING

Hederman Brothers

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWSWORTHY

4 TELLING RIDGELAND'S STORY
E.C. Yellowley: Ridgeland's 'G-man'

6 125TH ANNIVERSARY
INITIATIVES GARNER
PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

8 KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL
Yards of the Month

*Ridgeland Wildflower Field and
Art Park Unveils New Wildflower
Pavilion*

*Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Honored
with Multiple Awards at Statewide
Ceremony*

EXPLORE RIDGELAND

12 CELEBRATING TOURISM IN OUR
HOMETOWN

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

14 RECRE8

17 SUPERSTAR SENIORS

19 EVENT LISTING

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

21 RIDGELAND CHAMBER AWARDS
LUNCHEON

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

25 ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY
Ann Smith Elementary Highlights

26 OLD TOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL
Old Town Middle School Highlights

27 RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL
*Getting Ready for the New School
Year*

29 HOLMES COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
*Holmes Ridgeland Campus holds 2025
Honors Day*

*Two Holmes Students Chosen for
Prestigious Internship*

PAGE TURNERS

31 RIDGELAND LIBRARY IS FILLED
WITH SUMMER ACTIVITIES

YOUR CITY AT WORK

32 CITY NOTIFICATIONS & TIPS

38 WHO & WHERE

“ Summer brings a fresh wave of energy, color, and change. In this issue, we're sharing stories that reflect the season—celebrating recent achievements and offering a handy guide to events and activities for a great summer in Ridgeland. Please follow us on social, sign up for Ridgeland Alerts, and visit the City of Ridgeland's website at ridgelandms.org. ”

Kim

Kim Cooper,

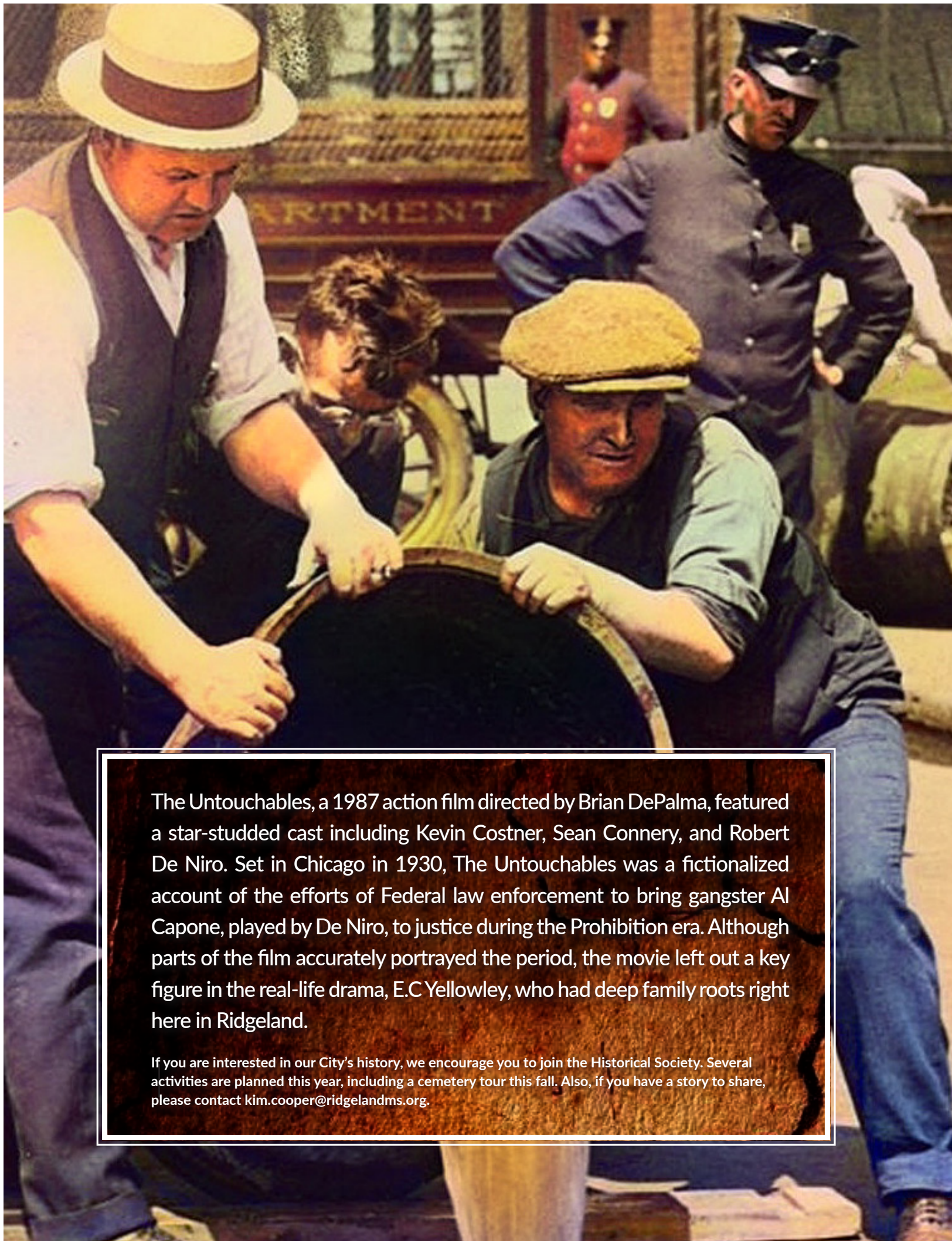
Editor/Director of Public Relations



TELLING RIDGELAND'S STORY

E.C. YELLOWLEY: RIDGELAND'S 'G-MAN'

By Jim Woodrick



The Untouchables, a 1987 action film directed by Brian DePalma, featured a star-studded cast including Kevin Costner, Sean Connery, and Robert De Niro. Set in Chicago in 1930, The Untouchables was a fictionalized account of the efforts of Federal law enforcement to bring gangster Al Capone, played by De Niro, to justice during the Prohibition era. Although parts of the film accurately portrayed the period, the movie left out a key figure in the real-life drama, E.C. Yellowley, who had deep family roots right here in Ridgeland.

If you are interested in our City's history, we encourage you to join the Historical Society. Several activities are planned this year, including a cemetery tour this fall. Also, if you have a story to share, please contact kim.cooper@ridgelandms.org.



Born in Madison County in 1873, Edward Clements Yellowley's grandfather was James Burroughs Yellowley (1797-1854), who moved to Mississippi from North Carolina and established roots in the area destined to become Ridgeland. Edward's father was James Brownlow Yellowley (1848-1914), who was Ridgeland's first postmaster and the town's second mayor. In 1909, he became a U.S. Marshall in Jackson; six years later, his son joined him in law enforcement and received his training by working along the Mexican border to prevent the smuggling of narcotics into the United States.

In 1925, Edward C. Yellowley was promoted to oversee the Prohibition Office in Chicago. Prohibition began in 1920 after the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment, which prohibited the production, transportation, or sale of alcoholic beverages. With the advent of prohibition, of course, criminal elements sold beer and whiskey on the black market, and it was up to Federal agents like Yellowley to stop them. Upon his arrival, the soft-spoken Southerner promised to make a "Sahara" out of the

Windy City. Yellowley faced significant resistance from organized crime in Chicago, especially from Capone, who had infiltrated local law enforcement and had numerous public officials on his payroll. Yellowley realized that he needed help to combat the bootleggers and requested a squad of men unknown to the Chicago gangsters.

This special unit, led by twenty-six-year-old Eliot Ness, used unorthodox methods to break up the bootleggers' operation. Known as "The Untouchables," their success made them national heroes, so much so that cartoonist Chester Gould started a new



comic strip based on their crime-fighting abilities. In fact, his main character, Dick Tracy, was based on Eliot Ness. In the end, Al Capone was tried and sent to prison, though his conviction wasn't based on bootlegging per se. Instead, he was found guilty of tax evasion, and much of the information used by the Internal Revenue Service to convict Capone was supplied by none other than E.C. Yellowley. After prohibition ended in 1933 with the passage of the Twenty-First Amendment, Yellowley continued serving as a Federal agent in

Washington, New York, and other cities. By the time he retired in 1947, he had worked in more than forty states.

While his career as a crime fighter was a success, Yellowley's private life was somewhat tragic. His first wife, Mary Laura Helm, died in 1900 "despite skilled medical attention and the kind of solicitous care of family and friends." Her death came just one month after the couple lost their only child. Edward married again, this time to Callie Hays from New Orleans. On March 22, 1927, the second Mrs. Yellowley also died; two days later, her body arrived in Jackson by train from Chicago. Her funeral, held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Jackson, was attended by "a wide circle of friends" from Louisiana and Mississippi. After the death of his second wife, E.C. Yellowley did not remarry.

Following his retirement, Yellowley resided in Chicago's posh, lakeside Congress Hotel. Ironically, the grand hotel (which still exists) was frequented by none other than Al Capone during the height of his reign. Yellowley also returned often to Jackson, where he rented a room at the King Edward Hotel. Edward Clements Yellowley died in Chicago in 1962. He was 88 years old. His funeral service was held at the Wright & Ferguson Chapel in downtown Jackson, and he was buried in nearby Greenwood Cemetery alongside both his wives and his infant son.

During his forty-eight-year career in law enforcement, Yellowley never sought the limelight. As a result, he wasn't featured in the Hollywood version of "The Untouchables." However, E.C. Yellowley's story deserves to be remembered for his role in our nation's history and as another part of Ridgeland's colorful past.

125TH ANNIVERSARY INITIATIVES

GARNER PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

By Kim Cooper



The 125th Anniversary Pecan Project

In celebration of Ridgeland's anniversary year, the pecan tree was officially designated as the City's tree—honoring the community's deep agricultural roots and long-standing connection to the natural landscape.

Following the designation, the pecan tree quickly became a source of inspiration. The Ridgeland History Trail team commemorated its agricultural significance with a new marker along the trail, while the City's anniversary planning committee incorporated it into milestone celebrations. Ridgeland's First Lady, Jane McGee, proposed a beautification project that brought the pecan tree to life across the cityscape—44 traffic signal boxes were transformed with custom artwork depicting the tree, created by Think Creative Intelligence. The signal boxes were wrapped in vibrant, pecan tree-themed artwork, adding color and character to street corners throughout the City.

This project was made possible thanks to the generous support of local sponsors, including Michael Baker International, Costco, American Family Clinic, Butler Snow, C Spire, Guaranty Bank, Harper Raines Knight & Company, State Farm - John Dorsa, Barnett's Body Shop, Mills Scanlon Dye & Pittman, Amerigo, Fleet Feet, Martinson's Garden Works, Venable Glass Services, Speed Commercial Real Estate, Morris Oil - Sprint Mart, Exell, Community Bank, Watkins Construction, Bank Plus, Dean Architecture, Horne, Patty Peck Honda, MS Federal Credit Union, Trustmark, Harmony Dental, Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc., Mercedes, Killebrew Psychological Services, Kathryn's



125TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE: Kim Cooper, Chair, Nancy Batson, Jim Woodrick, Pat Truesdale, Donna Dye, Polly Hammett, Robby Carr, Matt Dodd, Jane McGee, Lisa Walters, Bill Lee, D.I. Smith, Kenya Rachal, Bryan Johnson, Karen McKie, Chris Chapman, Kelly Durrett, Amelia Dalton, Chrystal Pham, Carol Fitzgerald, Linda Bynum, Ben McDonald, Mike Porter, and William Gilbert.

Steakhouse, Keesler Federal Credit Union, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Entergy, Northpark, Skeen Plumbing & Gas Wells, Marble & Hurst, Two Men & A Truck, Walmart, and Citizens Bank.

Special thanks to Jane McGee, Lisa Walters, Think Creative Intelligence, and Hederman Printing for leading and executing this project. The effort was recently recognized at the Keep Mississippi Beautiful Award Luncheon for contributing to the City's visual appeal and community pride.



“We are honored to receive this esteemed award from the Society for the Ridgeland History Trail. This recognition reflects our dedication to preserving and celebrating the rich history of our community, and we are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such meaningful work.”

Mayor Gene McGee

Ridgeland History Trail Recognized by the Mississippi Historical Society

The City of Ridgeland is proud to announce that it has received an Award of Merit from the Mississippi Historical Society for the Ridgeland History Trail. The award was presented on Friday, March 7, recognizing the trail's contribution to preserving and showcasing local history. The History Trail was officially unveiled on October 1, 2024, as part of Ridgeland's 125th anniversary celebration.

The Ridgeland History Trail features 22 interpretive wayside exhibits that highlight the area's rich past, from its early days to the thriving community it is today. Designed to blend history with the City's natural landscape, the trail provides an interactive and educational experience for visitors of all ages. It is located along Ridgeland's extensive multi-use trails, with additional sites off the main path.

Pat Truesdale, President of the Historical Society of Ridgeland, confirmed that the history trail was in the making for three years, and she was excited when Jim Woodrick brought his concept to the group and helped to lead the effort. “Our history is about the first families who settled here and made a home for themselves; it's about those with the vision to establish schools and churches; and it's about folks who persevered through wars and economic downturns to create the prosperity we enjoy today,” said Woodrick. The History Trail's development team included Jim Woodrick, Matt Dodd, Nancy Batson, Kim Cooper, and Polly Hammett. Explore Ridgeland sponsored the project.



KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL YARD OF THE MONTH AWARDS

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



APRIL Residential Yard of the Month
The Dordon Home at 409 Autumn Creek



APRIL Business Yard of the Month
Arbors at Natchez Trace at 715 Rice Road



MAY Residential Yard of the Month
The Criswell Home at 166 Maple Street

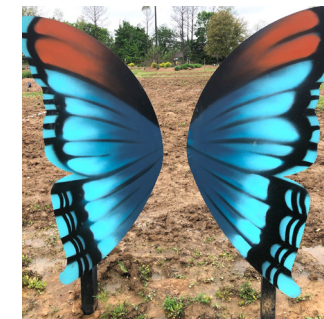


MAY Business Yard of the Month
Barber & Mann, Inc. at 453 Northpark Drive

KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL

RIDGELAND WILDFLOWER FIELD AND ART PARK UNVEILS NEW WILDFLOWER PAVILION

By Jan Richardson



Thanks to the generous support of Explore Ridgeland, the Ridgeland Wildflower Field and Art Park, on 411 West Jackson St., has added a charming new feature for visitors—the Wildflower Pavilion.

This one-of-a-kind metalwork structure was designed with assistance from Copper Sculptures. Be sure to check out the back wall, which is an interactive photo spot. New benches offer a place to relax after walking the trails and view birds and pollinators in their natural habitat.

“The Ridgeland Wildflower Field and Art Park is a nature sanctuary for families and children who love walking out in the fresh air among unique art and beautiful wildflowers,” said Chris Chapman, President/CEO of Explore Ridgeland. “We saw the potential of this park as a place for visitors to enjoy, especially weary travelers looking to stretch their legs. The new Wildflower Pavilion is designed to be a cool respite out of the sun, with seating and wall art depicting the Ridgeland pecan tree, butterfly, firefly, and wildflowers perfectly arranged for selfie photos. Travelers can also use the QR codes in the shelter to download information on the Wildflower Field and the Explore Ridgeland Visitors Guide—with even more reasons to eat, stay, and play.”

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful recently added two interactive butterfly wing photo stops to the park. Take a photo with the Monarch and the Red Spotted Purple Butterfly, both native to our area! And don't forget about our Letterbox (letterboxing.org) located here, which combines elements of orienteering and clues to find the hidden box. Most Tuesday mornings, our team is out caring for the Wildflower Field. We welcome volunteers to join us.

“As a volunteer with Keep Ridgeland Beautiful, I am excited about the Wildflower Pavilion. It provides a beautiful and welcoming place for visitors and a spot where volunteers can sit for breaks while taking care of the field.”

Kenya Rachal



From top to bottom: A Red Spotted Purple Butterfly photo stop is a new feature at the park. The Wildflower Pavilion is the newest landmark at Ridgeland's Wildflower Field and Art Park, a collaborative project with Explore Ridgeland.

KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL HONORED WITH MULTIPLE AWARDS AT STATEWIDE CEREMONY

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful received numerous honors at the Keep Mississippi Beautiful Annual Awards Luncheon on April 22 at the Country Club of Jackson. The organization's members walked away with three prestigious awards recognizing outstanding contributions to beautification, environmental stewardship, and community.



Keep Ridgeland Beautiful member and attorney Kenya Rachal was honored with the Ron Aldridge Volunteer Award, a testament to her dedication, leadership, and hands-on commitment to making Ridgeland and our state a cleaner, greener place to live. Kenya is also a gallery host and educator for the Mississippi Museum of Art and volunteers in the native gardens at the museum and at the Eudora Welty House gardens. In addition to the Keep Ridgeland Beautiful outdoor projects and cleanups, Kenya has stayed involved with the Ridgeland High School garden and works with Recycle Ranger at city and library events. She also developed the

Ridgeland Wildflower Field Letterbox, a fun visitor activity. An avid photographer, Kenya's beautiful photos catalog Keep Ridgeland Beautiful activities and projects. Her environmental stewardship and community engagement shine through in everything she does, making a meaningful impact on people and places.

Long-time Keep Ridgeland Beautiful member Lea Anne Stacy received the Louise Godwin Award, which honors individuals who go above and beyond to serve the Keep Mississippi Beautiful mission. With decades of involvement, Stacy has been a driving force behind many of Keep

Ridgeland Beautiful's most creative projects. Her vision for Ridgeland's Wildflower Field to be a year-round destination led to the development of the Wildflower Field Scarecrow Trail. Collaborating with Explore Ridgeland, the fall display has quickly grown into a cherished community tradition with increased participation each year.

In addition to her artistic touch, Stacy is known for her hands-on approach to beautification. She frequently relocates native plants donated from area friends or local stores to enhance public spaces. Her leadership in the Keep America Beautiful Cigarette Litter Program brought cigarette receptacles and educational outreach to local businesses. Litter abatement is also a passion of Lea Anne's; she is a leader in community cleanups and KRB's annual litter index. Stacy's dedication continues to make a lasting impact on the Ridgeland community.

The Ridgeland Wildflower Field and Art Park earned first place in the Wildflower Trails of Mississippi category and is the longest-running participant and success of the Keep Mississippi Beautiful Wildflower Trails program.

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful is an affiliate of Keep Mississippi Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful and works year-round to promote litter prevention, recycling, environmental education, and beautification projects throughout the City.

explore events



32.4244,
-90.0886

Mississippi
Craft Center

demo days

Summer days are right around the corner, and Ridgeland is buzzing with excitement! From the beauty of our wildflower fields to the vibrant energy of local events, this season is all about celebrating the heart of our community—let's make the most of it together! Learn more at exploreRidgeland.com.



explore
RIDGELAND

CELEBRATING TOURISM IN OUR HOMETOWN

By Explore Ridgeland staff

Each May, National Travel and Tourism Week reminds us that travel is more than a getaway—it's a powerful force for community growth, economic vitality, and quality of life. In Ridgeland, tourism is woven into the fabric of everyday life. What draws visitors to our city—our natural beauty, cultural events, vibrant shopping, and dining scenes—are the very things that make Ridgeland an exceptional place to live.



Ridgeland is proud to be a destination city, but we're even prouder to call it home. From our beautiful outdoor spaces to world-class shopping, Ridgeland offers experiences you won't find anywhere else in Mississippi—like the state's only Apple Store, Costco, Topgolf, and AC Marriott Hotel. We're also Mississippi's only destination marketing organization (DMO) with a citywide bike share program.

Summer is when our hometown truly comes alive. Out on The Rez, you'll find boaters cruising under blue skies, kayakers gliding past cypress trees, and anglers dropping lines in one of the most accessible and productive fisheries in the

region—thanks to Ridgeland's no-pole limit and high creel limit. Trails buzz with cyclists and runners, and families gather under shady pecan trees for concerts, festivals, and sunny afternoons that turn into golden evenings

We also celebrated National Bike Week in May! Ridgeland is proud to be a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community, and we've earned that title with intention. In Ridgeland, biking isn't just a hobby—it's a way of life. Our multi-use trails wind through scenic landscapes and connect neighborhoods, parks, and shopping districts. The Explore Ridgeland Bikeshare program makes it easy for anyone—resident or visitor—to hop on a

bike and see the City at their own pace. The Natchez Trace Parkway, a national treasure, offers a dream ride for cyclists of all levels and is the backdrop for one of our signature events: the Natchez Trace Century Ride, which draws riders from across the country to experience Ridgeland on two wheels. Hidden away in the trees, Ridgeland Mountain Bike Trails give off-road adventurers the thrill they crave, and the Mag Ridge BMX track adds high-energy excitement and community spirit to our growing cycling culture. And now is as good a time as ever to remind residents to be mindful of more cyclists out on the road as the days grow warmer. Let's help keep each other safe!

When it's time to refuel, Ridgeland's culinary scene is nothing short of exceptional. As the Steakhouse Capital of Mississippi, we know how to bring the sizzle, but we're more than prime cuts. Health-conscious menus, global flavors, farm-fresh ingredients, and good ol' Southern comfort are all on the table. Word is also getting out about our cozier culinary corners—tea rooms tucked around fun boutiques, board game taverns serving up bites and banter, and hidden gems that locals have long known and loved.

Our shopping scene is just as dynamic, offering multiple districts that cater to every taste and style. From upscale brands and national retailers at Renaissance at Colony Park and Northpark to the locally owned shops and boutiques that give our city its charm, Ridgeland is a shopper's dream. Add in the Waller Craft Center, where handmade art from members of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi fills the halls with beauty and meaning, and you've got more than a retail experience—you've got a cultural one.

And speaking of culture, Ridgeland shines with one-of-a-kind events that keep



the community connected and inspire visitors to return again and again. This spring, Snappy Sync at the Craft Center brought whimsy and wonder to life through immersive experiences with



fireflies. At the same time, Pepsi Pops at Old Trace Park let us hear the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra under an open sky—an unforgettable Ridgeland tradition. From jazz festivals to family-friendly events out on the green, there's always something happening and a reason to gather.

We're also a community that moves—literally. Ridgeland is home to active running clubs, group fitness programs, and everyday residents who choose the outdoors as their playground. Our trails, parks, and outdoor events promote healthy living year-round, and they're designed for everyone—from seasoned athletes to families pushing strollers.

At Explore Ridgeland, our mission is about more than tourism—it's about community. Every event, trail, and visitor touchpoint is designed with Ridgeland's residents in mind. Tourism strengthens our economy, supports local jobs, and brings in new opportunities, but it also fuels pride in

our hometown. It's not about choosing between being a place people visit and a place people live—it's about being a place people love.

During National Travel and Tourism Week, we invited our local partners, neighbors, and friends to celebrate all that makes Ridgeland remarkable. Be a Brand Ambassador. Share your pride. Invite someone to your favorite restaurant, take a friend on a trail, or post a photo from one of our summer events. You don't have to leave home to be part of something extraordinary—you just have to look around. The magic of Ridgeland is right here, and the future is bright.

Learn more about tourism and all things Ridgeland at exploreRidgeland.com.

RECRE8

CITY SUMMER EVENTS!

The City of Ridgeland's Recreation and Parks Department looks forward to a fun summer!

The summer of 2025 kicks off with a bang, boom, and sparkle as the annual Celebrate America Balloon Glow will again light up the night sky at Northpark on Friday, June 27th. This yearly event is a family favorite for residents and visitors alike. This year's edition will again partner with the City of Canton Hot Air Balloon Festival. DJ Trix, The Bridge Band, and the Temperance Babcock Trio, with headlining musician and Mississippi native Steve Azar, will provide live entertainment. Enjoy the Kids Zone, which has a great selection of eats from the many food trucks. The night ends on a high note with a spectacular fireworks show.



Father Child Fishing Tournament

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks presents the Father Child Fishing Tournament!

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

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2025
Time: 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Location: Old Trace Park, Barnett Reservoir

SkyHawk Summer Camp

SkyHawks summer camps offer a variety of sports camps for kids ages 12 and under. Each week is different!

- Camp sports: Golf, Flag Football, Soccer and more
- Ages vary by sports camp
- Visit Skyhawks.com for more information

Date: June & July
Location: Freedom Ridge Park/ Sand Volleyball is at Hite Wolcott



Fall Sports Registration Dates

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks partners with Madison Ridgeland Youth Club and Mississippi Futbol Club to provide fall league sports. Registration deadlines are as follows:

- MFC Fall Soccer: registration from June 1 – July 12 (visit mfc soccer.com)
- Flag Football: registration from June 2 – July 30
- MRYC Fall Baseball: please visit mryouthbaseball.com
- MRYC Fall Softball: registration from August 1 – September 15 (visit mrycsoftball.com)



Dog Obedience

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

- Class registration is in July & August
- Classes start in September
- Classes are located at Old Trace Park
- Proof of vaccination by a licensed vet is required
- There is a fee for this program.

To find out more information about the 2025 fall classes, visit: www.jotc.org.





Enjoy an Evening of Patriotism and Celebration

The City of Ridgeland is proud to present the CELEBRATE AMERICA BALLOON GLOW! There is no admission cost for this family-friendly event. You'll enjoy seeing all the balloons here for the Mississippi Championship Balloon Festival inflate and light up the night sky. While you're there, enjoy food vendors, a kid's corner, and live music. You'll get down to the sounds of The Bridge Band and Steve Azar.

Temperance Babcock will share patriotic music during the impressive fireworks show.

- Friday, June 27, 2025 at Northpark
- Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m.
- Musical Guests: DJ Trix, The Bridge Band, and Steve Azar
- Fireworks show starts at 9:15 p.m.
- Patriotic musical performance by Temperance Babcock starts at 9:30 p.m.

- Bring your chair or blanket to enjoy this FREE event
- Kid's Corner is open from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- For more details, visit the City of Ridgeland's Recreation and Parks Department Facebook page: @RidgelandRecreationandParks or the City of Ridgeland's website at ridgelandms.org



Recreation
and Parks

SUPER SENIORS

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Exercise

\$15/month
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Instructors: Martha Millsaps, Rita Latham, and Lynda Assink

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

Martial Arts for Seniors

\$10/month
Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Instructor: Andy Dillon

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

Seated Yoga

\$5/class or \$30 for 6 (30 minute) classes
Mondays and Fridays
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Instructors: Martha Millsaps & Vickie White

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

Standing Yoga

\$5/class or \$30 for 6 (30 minute) classes
Mondays and Fridays
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Instructors: Martha Millsaps & Vickie White

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

Senior Fit

\$15/month
Mondays and Wednesdays
12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
Instructor: Sally Holly

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

The Complete Mix

\$15/month
Mondays and Wednesdays
1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays
1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Instructor: Sally Holly

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

Tap Dancing

\$5/class
Mondays
Intermediate - 2:30-3:15 p.m.
Beginner - 3:30-4:15 p.m.
Instructor: Monica Russell

Beginning to intermediate tap dance instruction. This group performs at Ridgeland events and nursing homes.

Men's Community Coffee & Bible Time

FREE
Tuesdays, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Lead by Randy Assink
Gather together to grow in faith, deepen our friendships and support one another.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Ridgeland Garden Club

\$20/year
1st Tuesday of the month, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
A monthly meeting for those who love nature and gardening. Fun and educational programs served with a nice lunch. Please contact Joanne Pearson if interest in joining the waitlist at joanhp19@gmail.com.

Mah Jongg

FREE
Dates are 6/19, 7/17, and 8/21
3rd Thursday 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Tile-based matching game. Registration required

Bridge

\$1
Dates: 6/19, 7/17, 8/21, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
A team trick taking game played with a standard 52 playing card deck.

Breakfast Bingo

FREE
Dates: 6/26, 7/24, 8/28, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Everyone is invited to play bingo and enjoy breakfast with friends. Please sign up in advance, space is limited.

Ridgeland Senior Adult Programs
& P.E.O Chapter Y present

Intermediate
Mah Jongg
Workshop

Tuesday, June 24th, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Ridgeland Rec Center

\$25 for the class

Mah Jongg 201: Next-Level Strategies & Play

For those that already know how to play Mah Jongg

- Advanced Strategies: Learn how to refine your gameplay and think several moves ahead.
- Master the Blind Pass: Understand when and how to use this important tactic to your advantage.
- Stopping the Charleston: Discover techniques for managing or halting the Charleston phase of the game.
- Playing with 2 Players
- Playing with 3 Players

Registration required to Neeley
at 769.235.9579 or
neelejones@ridgelandms.org

RIDGELAND SENIOR ADULT PROGRAMS*

DESSERT
PICNIC

FRIDAY, JULY 18TH, 1 PM
RIDGELAND REC CENTER

Berry
Sponge
Cake

SWEET
PAULOWA

CHOCO
PANDORO

JOIN US FOR A SWEET GATHERING WHERE EVERYONE BRINGS THEIR
FAVORITE DESSERT! EACH TREAT NEEDS TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SIGN TO
SHARE WHAT IT IS AND A SERVING UTENSIL. A BOX WILL BE PROVIDED SO
YOU CAN TAKE HOME A DELICIOUS SAMPLING. TO REGISTER, CONTACT
NEELEY AT 769.235.9579 OR EMAIL AT NEELEY.JONES@RIDGELANDMS.ORG.



senior adult
programs

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

Neeley Jones
Senior Adult Coordinator
(601) 856-6876, neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org,
Facebook: facebook.com/ridgelandsuperstarseniors
Ridgeland Recreational Center,
137 Old Park Trail, Ridgeland, MS 39157

RIDGELAND
recreation & parks
senior adult
programs

TH TRADITIONS HEALTH
"Never Alone"

Brunch & Learn

Hospice Evaluation
Reenactment with
Traditions Health

Tuesday, July 22nd
10:30-11:30 AM
Ridgeland Rec Center

Are you curious about how hospice care can support patients and families in their time of need? Tradition's Health invites you to a special Brunch and Learn session where we'll dive into real-world hospice evaluation scenarios.

Role-Playing Scenarios

Experience real-life situations where hospice care decisions are made. Our team will reenact different scenarios to illustrate how we assess patient needs and guide families through the process.

Interactive Discussions

Participate in Q&A sessions with hospice experts. Bring your questions and concerns about hospice care.

Complimentary Brunch

Enjoy a delicious brunch while learning more about hospice care and its impact.

At this engaging event, Tradition's Health team will role-play different hospice evaluation scenarios offering valuable insights into:

Identifying Hospice Needs

Navigating Family Conversations

Personalized Care Planning

What to Expect

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to learn from experts in the field to deepen your understanding of hospice care!

To Register:
769.235.9579
neelejones@ridgelandms.org

SUMMERTIME
IN THE CITY

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

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

EVENTS

JUNE 4
The Big Run Hosted by Fleet Feet
The Township at Colony Park
6:30 p.m.

JUNE 4
Magician Dorian LaChance
Ridgeland Library
10:00 a.m.

JUNE 5
Glow in the Dark Art Party
Ridgeland Library
1:00 p.m.

JUNE 7
Father Child Fishing Tournament
Old Trace Park
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

JUNE 14
Northpark Rangers Kids Club

Northpark
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

JUNE 17 - 20
Stained Glass Workshops

Waller Craft Center

JUNE 21
Silent Reading Party

Ridgeland Library
5:30 p.m.

JUNE 24
Senior Adult Workshop: Intermediate Mah Jongg

Ridgeland Recreational Center
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

JUNE 23 - 27
Creative Craft Camp

Waller Craft Center

JUNE 27
Celebrate America Balloon Glow

Northpark
5:00 – 9:30 p.m.

JUNE 28
Dash ‘N Splash Run, Walk, and Roll

Old Trace Park
8:00 a.m.

JULY 12
Northpark Rangers Kids Club

Northpark
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

JULY 11 - 13
Christmas in July

Renaissance

JULY 17
Natural Science Museum Visit

Ridgeland Library
10:00 a.m.

JULY 18
Senior Adults: Dessert Picnic

Ridgeland Recreational Center
1:00 p.m.

JULY 22
Crescent Circus

Ridgeland Library
11:00 a.m.

JULY 21 - 25
Creative Craft Camp

Waller Craft Center

AUGUST 9
Northpark Rangers Kids Club

Northpark
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

AUGUST 9
KixCon

Northpark
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

RIDGELAND CHAMBER AWARDS LUNCHEON

By Linda Bynum



Some 300 business leaders and City officials filled the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson, celebrating Ridgeland’s economic growth and development during 2024 and honoring volunteers for their dedicated service to the Chamber and City.



2024-2025 Ridgeland Chamber President Cecil Harper, Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P.A., welcomes Ridgeland Chamber members and guests to the 2024 Annual Awards Luncheon at the Old Capitol Inn.



United States Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith “Mississippi... Leading the Way”



Mississippi’s Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann introduces Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith

“ This year, we celebrate our 32nd anniversary. Thirty-two years of serving our business community. With our 2025 theme ‘Ridgeland... A Vision For Success,’ we will continue our mission of not only helping businesses to succeed, but helping businesses turn their visions and dreams to reality. By working together, friendship and cooperation grow. Ideas grow. And goals grow. Simply getting started and keeping at it are the keys to making a difference and the most valuable key to bringing it all together. ”

Cecil Harper, 2024 - 2025 Ridgeland Chamber President
Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P.A.

The awards luncheon also honored Ridgeland Chamber volunteers for their contributions to the Chamber and the City of Ridgeland.

Thank you to the Chamber's Awards Luncheon Prime Sponsors!

Diamond Sponsors:

- Atmost Energy
- BankPlus
- City of Ridgeland
- Embassy Suites - Ridgeland
- Explore Ridgeland
- Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P.A.
- Madison County Business League & Foundation
- Mendrop Engineering Resources
- Michael Baker International
- Mississippi Ladies
- Northpark
- SouthernAg Credit

Gold Sponsors:

- C Spire Business
- Community Bank of Mississippi
- Dean Architecture

Silver Sponsors:

- Keesler Federal Credit Union
- Trustmark

Bronze Sponsors:

- BMSS, LLC Advisors & CPAs
- Cadence Bank
- Guaranty Bank & Trust Company
- Mattiace Properties – Renaissance at Colony Park
- Members Exchange Federal Credit Union
- PriorityOne Bank
- Staffers, Inc.
- John Dorsa – State Farm Insurance



Ridgeland Mayor Gene McGee, left, presents the 2024 Gene F. McGee Economic Development Award to Gariel Prado, PraCon Global Investment Group, for dedicated economic development leadership enhancing the quality of life for Ridgeland residents and for making Ridgeland a premier community and one of Mississippi's brightest economic stars.



Gray Jackson of Embassy Suites-Ridgeland, right, was named 2024 Diplomat of the Year. Presenting the award is 2023 Diplomat of the Year Scott Stricklin of Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC.

Copper Sponsors:

- Alzheimer's Association
- Goodwill Industries of Mississippi
- Green Oak Florist & Garden Center
- Holmes Community College
- Origin Bank
- SERVPRO of Jackson and Madison County
- StorageMax – Ridgeland
- Robot Coupe USA
- Wells Marble & Hurst

Special appreciation to:

- United States Senator
Cindy Hyde-Smith
- Raphael Semmes
& the Raphael Semmes Quartet
- Green Oak Florist and Garden Center
- Simply Balloons
- Amiel Wilson, Photographer
- Old Capitol Inn



Shawn Cochran of Northpark, right, was named 2024 Volunteer of the Year. Presenting the award is 2023 Volunteer of the Year Sissy Lloyd of Professional Eyecare Associates.



StorageMax – Ridgeland received the 2023 Community Service award. Presenting the 2024 Community Service award to Lesley Holleman of Fleet Feet, left, is Alexis Perkins of StorageMax – Ridgeland.



United States Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith and 2024 and 2025 Ridgeland Chamber President Cecil Harper, Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P.A.



Michael Baker International was named 2024 Business of the Year. Presenting the award to Ray Balentine of Michael Baker International, right, is Kelly Ann Coleman representing the 2023 Business of the Year Staffers, Inc.



Retiring Ridgeland Chamber Board Members are Ray Balentine, Michael Baker International, who served as Chamber President 2022 and 2023, left, and Deonte Oscar, Community Bank of Mississippi.



Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Linda Bynum, right, and Administrative Assistant Peyton Torrence.

COMING EVENTS

2025 Spring Fling C Spire Ridgeland Chamber Golf Tournament
Thursday, June 19, 2025
Deerfield Golf Club
264 Deerfield Club Drive, Madison, MS
Shot Gun Start 1:00 p.m.

Women To Women:
A Celebration Luncheon
Thursday, August 21, 2025
Country Club of Jackson
345 St. Andrews Drive, Jackson, MS
10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m

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



ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

By Delila Vance

Ann Smith Elementary Highlights

School Highlights

RIDGELAND
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Stomping Into Kindergarten

We had a dino-mite time welcoming our future kindergarteners to campus in April. They stomped, roared, and explored as they got a sneak peek into all the fun and learning that awaits them next year! We can't wait to see these little explorers back in the fall!

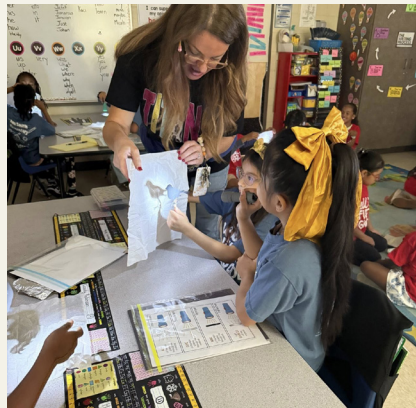
Congratulations, Yugadya!

Congratulations to second grader Yugadya Malviya, who placed second place in The Mississippi Wildlife Forever Art of Conservation Contest! Way to go. We are so proud of your amazing artistic talents.

First Grade Annual Science Day Fun

Our first graders celebrated their annual Science Day Fun in April. Students got up close with slithery snakes, raced through a Parts of a Plant Relay, created a beautiful flower craft, discovered the magic of trees, experimented with light and shadows, and explored sound waves and vibrations.

Thanks to the Mississippi Forestry Association, the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, our amazing specials team, and our fabulous first-grade team for a wonderful day of hands-on science fun!



OLD TOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Dr. Natasha May

Old Town Middle School Highlights

Old Town Middle School Boys Place 3rd in State Track & Field 4x400 Relay

The Old Town Middle School boys' track and field team made a strong showing at the state championship meet, earning 3rd place in the highly competitive 4x400 meter relay. The team demonstrated outstanding teamwork, speed, and determination, proudly representing their school on the state stage. Congratulations to the athletes and coaches on this impressive achievement!

A Night to Remember: Spring Band Concert Showcases Talent and Teamwork

Our Spring Band Concert was a beautiful celebration of talent, teamwork, and the power of music. From powerful performances to heartfelt moments, our students truly shined on stage, demonstrating the incredible results of their hard work and dedication.

We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and deeply grateful to everyone who came out to support them. A heartfelt thank you to our outstanding band directors—Steven Culpepper, Jeremy Donald, John Morgan, and Jennifer Kerry—for their passion, leadership, and commitment to excellence.

We also appreciate the dedicated families and every student who brought the music to life. It was an unforgettable evening that reminded us of the joy and unity music can inspire.



Farewell for Now – Wishing Everyone a Safe and Sunny Summer!

As the school year comes to a close, we want to take a moment to celebrate all the hard work, growth, and achievements of our students, staff, and families. This year has been full of learning, laughter, and unforgettable memories—and we are so proud of everything our school community has accomplished together.

While we say goodbye for the summer, we encourage everyone to stay curious, creative, and connected by diving into a good book! Summer reading is a wonderful way to keep young minds active and inspired. Whether it's a thrilling adventure, a heartwarming story, or a fascinating

nonfiction book, reading can take you anywhere—even from the comfort of your backyard or a beach chair.

Need ideas? Visit your local library or check out our school's recommended summer reading list for fun and age-appropriate suggestions.

To all our students: thank you for a fantastic year. Keep reading, keep exploring, and most importantly—have fun and stay safe. We can't wait to see you back in the fall, refreshed and ready for a brand new adventure!

Happy summer!

RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

By Abbie Marbury

Ridgeland High School Highlights



To the incoming Class of 2029: You're about to make another significant life transition from middle school to high school. To some it may seem overwhelming, and others of you can't wait. You're not just going to a different school down the road from Old Town; you're taking on new responsibilities and challenges. There will be new classes, teachers, activities, and friends. There are more students at RHS, and you're likely to find yourself in a class with upper classmen. It will take a little time to get into the rhythm of high school life. Just know that you're headed to a school where the teachers and administration genuinely want the best for you both academically and socially. But you need to do the work. You need to take an active role in the next four years – what you put in is what you'll get in return.

Success at RHS requires daily attendance in class, showing up on time for school, good consistent study habits, integrity, and being prepared (MacBook charged and homework done). There's more to it than that - there's finding your place. AP and dual enrollment classes? Got them. Classes at MCTC? Got that, too. Sports, JROTC, band, choir, theater, technology, leadership, culinary, etc.? It's all there. Get involved, go to events, mingle, meet new people. Join the student community and participate in what interests you, even if it's entirely new for you. It's worth the time and effort.

To the parents of the Class of 2029: Welcome! We need you. And by "we," I mean the teachers, administration, your student(s), and the community of parents

who'll still be at RHS next school year. Countless studies show that students who have parents who take an active role in their child's education have children who perform better academically. Please remember to join the Remind for your student's classes, log in to Active Parent, and log in to Canvas for parents. These tools allow you to know when your student has a test, hasn't turned in an assignment, is struggling, or is doing great. Where can you find that community of active parents? PTO and Booster Clubs, mainly. No, this isn't a shameless plug for those organizations, but both organizations keep you clued into what's going on, whether it's the school in general, sports, or another specific area of the school. And there is ALWAYS something going on at RHS. These tools

2024-2025 6A BOYS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPS



HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Mary Margaret Busby



Holmes Ridgeland Campus holds 2025 Honors Day



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are the 2025 Ridgeland Campus Awards & Honors Program recipients. They are (very front) Quincy Boles of Canton, (seated row, left to right) Isabella Saborio of Brandon, Geraldine Coleman of Ridgeland, Jessica Gibbons of Flora, Macey Bowman of Pelahatchie, Anniston Lyles of Brandon, Mary Lane Ray of Madison, Swayze Brewer of Brandon, Morgan Kendrick of Richland, (first standing row, left to right) Ethan Hudspeth of Madison, Jonathan Evans of Starkville, Caroline Newman of Jackson, A'Brielle Boyd of Ridgeland, Amani Willis of Brandon, Avery Hallman of Brandon, Jordyn Hanible of Madison, Lauren Wright of Madison, Lynn Washington of Ridgeland, Amyya Garland of Canton (back row, left to right) Micheal Jarju of Gluckstadt, Cason Mikell of Flora, Easton McAdory of Brandon, Logan McAdory of Brandon, Keagan Hamilton of Madison, William Cooper Canard of Madison, Johnathan Thompson of Camden, Keaton Rogers of Canton and Jeremy Heflin of Florence. Not pictured: Warren Ammons of Canton and Elijah Brunson of Jackson.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus recognized its students' achievements and honors during the 2025 Honors Day Program, held on April 8 in the Pat McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus. Representatives from each academic and career-technical program presented awards to students who excelled in their given major, program, or extracurricular activity. Other notable awards were also given in various categories.

The evening began with a welcome from Ridgeland Campus Dean of Academics Dr. Tonya Lawrence and an invocation from Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Bronwyn Martin. Award presentations started with recognizing the 2025 Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame inductees. Hall of Fame is the highest honor a student can receive, and recipients were voted on by faculty and staff based on academic achievement, campus involvement, and community service.

The 2025 Hall of Fame inductees included Macey Bowman of Pelahatchie, Swayze Brewer of Brandon, William "Cooper" Canard of Madison, Jessica Gibbons of Flora, Christina Guzman of Florence, Jeremy Heflin of Florence, Micheal Jarju of Gluckstadt, Morgan Kendrick of Richland, Anniston Lyles of Brandon, Logan McAdory of Brandon, Mary Lane Ray of Madison, Johnathan Thompson of Camden and Amani Willis of Brandon. A few of the Hall of Fame inductees



also provide an opportunity for you to share your talents and all the skills you need.

To the graduating Class of 2025: Congratulations! You, too, are about to embark on another life transition, whether it be the military, the workforce, or college. Know that your Titan family is proud of you and wishes you all the best in life! No matter where you go or what next school mascot you may adopt, remember that you were a Titan first. Remember the values taught at RHS and keep showing that Titan pride. Good luck!

A few moments to celebrate from the 2024-25 year!



also received other awards. Lyles received the Ambassador Award, Gibbons received the Biological Science Award, Canard received the Engineering Award, and Thompson was the Mathematics Award recipient.

Following the Hall of Fame recognition, English Instructor Dr. Stacey Coulter recognized another special award: Holmes' Literary Contest winners. This year, the winners included Keaton Rogers and Amyya Garland, both of Canton. Rogers won first place in the Short Story Category for "The Boy and His Bird," and Garland won second place in the Short Story for "Painting the World in the Moonlight." Garland was also recognized during the Honors Program for receiving the English Composition Award.

For other academic awards, the Physical Science Award went to Easton McAduory of

Brandon, the Business Administration Award went to Marterius Brooks Jackson, and Isabella Saborio of Brandon took home the Criminal Justice Award. Caroline Newman of Jackson received the Fine Arts Award, Keagan Hamilton of Madison the Health, Physical Education, & Recreation Award, and Lynn Washington of Ridgeland's Journalism Award. Additionally, Jordyn Hanible of Madison took home the Literature Award; Lauren Wright of Madison the Spanish Award; Ethan Hudspeth of Madison the History & Political Science Award; Avery Hallman of Brandon the Public Speaking Award; and A'Brielle Boyd of Ridgeland the Social & Behavioral Science Award.

Geraldine Coleman of Ridgeland received the Business & Office Technology Award for career technology and workforce programs, Quincy Boles of Canton the Culinary Arts

Award, and Warren Ammons of Canton the Drafting & Design Technology Award.

Lindsay C. Cuba of Vaughan received the Electro-Mechanical Technology Award, Cason Mikell of Flora the Heating, Ventilation, AC & Refrigeration (HVAC) Technology Award, and Jordan M. Johnson of Brandon the Information Systems Technology Award. In addition, Jonathan Evans of Starkville received the Paralegal Technology Award, and Elijah Brunson of Jackson received the Welding & Cutting Technology Award. Health Science career-tech programs will honor their students at individual pinning ceremonies held in May and throughout the summer.

The ceremony concluded with closing remarks by Director of Health Science Programs, Allison DeWeese.

Two Holmes Students Chosen for Prestigious Internship



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are (left to right) Elisha Spann, SPICE Representative Jennifer Johnson and Mercedes Warren.

Two Holmes Community College students have been awarded the prestigious opportunity to participate in the S.P.I.C.E. internship with the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C. This competitive program provides students with hands-on experience in research and development, offering them valuable insights into their future careers.

One of the selected students is Elisha Spann, a pre-physical therapy major from Flowood. The daughter of Eddie and Audrey Youngblood, her ultimate career goal is to become a traveling physical therapist, allowing her to provide care to diverse populations across different regions.

"I applied for this internship because I am passionate about improving individuals' health, performance, and rehabilitation in high-demand environments. The opportunity to meet new people, create meaningful connections, and work alongside talented professionals is a plus. I am very excited for this opportunity that I was presented with, she added. I will make sure to represent my school well," Spann stated."

Mercedes Warren, a pre-physician assistant major from Canton, was also selected for the prestigious internship. The daughter of Alisha Warren and Laquintic Rivers, she aspires to work in a clinic as a physician assistant or join the military in the same role.

"I applied for this internship to strengthen my skills through practical experience, build meaningful connections with professionals and mentors, and gain hands-on learning opportunities. The internship offers challenges and experiences that will help me develop confidence, teamwork, and professional maturity. It could also open doors for future employment, either with the same company or within the industry," Warren stated.

Holmes congratulates Spann and Warren on this outstanding accomplishment. Their selection for the S.P.I.C.E. internship highlights their dedication, passion, and commitment to their respective fields. The hands-on experience gained through this opportunity will serve as a strong foundation for their future careers in healthcare.

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS
THIS SUMMER



Page
Turners

RIDGELAND
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ridgeland Library is Filled with Summer Activities.

By Evanne Flanders



It has been a busy and event-filled time at the Ridgeland Library. In March, we had the ribbon cutting for the Storybook Garden. We are excited to have this green space with play equipment for the children, picnic tables and benches for everyone, and two raised garden beds.

We cannot wait to host outdoor programs in this space and see our community enjoy it. In April, we had an after-hours egg hunt in the library! Kids had fun finding eggs filled with candy. Some eggs even had small prizes, too.

Join us this June and July for another fun-filled Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Color Our World." We are so excited to offer a full schedule of creative

programs for all ages. There will be chances to earn small prizes throughout the summer, and we will also have a chance to win a big prize!

We look forward to the return of local magician Dorian LaChance, Crescent Circus, and the Hattiesburg Zoo this summer. For the kids, we will have a variety of artistic programs such as pottery making, quilting, stencil art, watercolor painting, and more! For adults, Cricut classes are back! In June and July, we will have classes that will teach people how to use the design software for our Cricut machine in the maker space. We will also have our Journaling and Artist Salon programs where participants can show off their artistic abilities and enjoy having a space to create.

This summer, we will also have another after-hours Silent Reading Party! The first one was held in February and was so much fun that we knew we had to have another one. This program for ages 18+ is a great way to meet other readers and enjoy a quiet reading atmosphere. Refreshments will also be provided.

In addition to our summer reading programs, we will continue having regular programs, such as weekly story times, book clubs, and more. For more information regarding programs and upcoming events, please visit mclsms.org, Facebook, or call the Ridgeland Library at 601-856-4536.

CITY NOTIFICATIONS & TIPS



The City of Ridgeland is pleased to announce that we have completed the advanced water meter improvement project.

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

CREATE AN ACCOUNT TODAY BY VISITING

www.Eyeonwater.Com/signup or downloading the app.

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



CITY OF RIDGELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

DOWNLOAD ON THE APP STORE & GOOGLE PLAY





RIDGELAND
RECYCLING
Rewards



RidgelandRecycleRewards.com **Recycle, Report, Get Rewarded!**

THOMAS LOGUE
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KOREAN WAR

JOHN A DECELL
CAPTAIN
US AIR FORCE

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VETERANS MEMORY PARK

\$200 • BUY A BRICK
\$5,000 • BRASS PLAQUE ON PAVER
\$10,000 • BRASS PLAQUE ON BENCH
\$15,000 • ENGRAVED PLAQUE AT BELL TOWER

TO HONOR A VETERAN CONTACT:
ALAN HART: 601-853-2027
KIM COOPER: 601-856-7113



3 WAYS TO SIGN UP
GET NOTICES & ALERTS

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



REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR RIDGELAND ALERTS!

SHREDDING DAY

AT RIDGELAND CITY HALL



SATURDAY • JUNE 7, 2025
8 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Ridgeland Residents Only • No Businesses

the city of **RIDGELAND**





GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION



ELECTION DAY JUNE 3RD

Polling Locations

Ward 1: Word of Life Church Highland Colony

Ward 2: Old Town Wesley Church

Ward 3: (A) Pat McGowen Center (Holmes)
(B) Trace Ridge Baptist Church

Ward 4: Colonial Heights Baptist Church

Ward 5: Ridgeland Recreation Center

Ward 6: Mt. Charity Baptist Church

**Please remember to check your voter registration card to
determine your Ward 3 location.**

**Please remember to check your polling locations, as they may
have changed since the last General Election. For questions,
call City Hall at 601-856-7113.**



Your Park. Your Choice.

Plans include:

- Pickleball courts
- New regulation baseball & softball fields
- New batting cages with artificial turf
- Officials' headquarters & meeting space
- Full-size soccer fields with artificial turf for ages 6 & up
- A festival & special events area
- Multi-use trails

All of this for a **temporary** 2% tax on
Ridgeland hotels, and a **temporary** 1%
tax on Ridgeland restaurants!

(Ridgeland already boasts one of the
lowest tourism taxes in Mississippi.)

VOTE JUNE 3!

Paid for by citizens of Ridgeland.

A JOYFUL DAY OF SERVICE FOR THE MAYOR’S YOUTH COUNCIL

By Lisa Walters

For their capstone service project, the Mayor’s Youth Council chose to host the first-ever Miracle League Kick-off Party on April 13th. The Miracle League is a baseball league created for youth with disabilities, and the City of Ridgeland is proud to be home to the first Miracle League Field in Central Mississippi.



The Kick-off Party was a heartwarming and joyous event filled with games, laughter, and unforgettable moments. Council members played soccer and bowling with the Miracle League players, led face painting and a cakewalk with prizes, organized an Easter Egg Hunt, and served pizza to all attendees. It was a special day of connection, compassion, and community.

LOOKING AHEAD: Mentoring and working alongside these exceptional young leaders has been an absolute privilege. Their curiosity, dedication, and enthusiasm have been inspiring, and their commitment to learning about local government and serving their community sets a strong foundation for the future.

We are confident that these students will continue to be forces for good in Ridgeland and beyond. The Mayor’s Youth Council has truly made its mark—and this is only the beginning.



CITY OF RIDGELAND CODE ENFORCEMENT

The City of Ridgeland’s Code Enforcement Program provides the requirements to ensure public health, safety, and welfare of its residents. The program is designed to help residents identify and correct violations which detract from the appearance of their home, neighborhood, and community. A clean, well-kept City increases property values and enhances community pride.

WHEN REPORTING A VIOLATION:

Please provide the exact location of the property in violation. Reporting the exact location of the property is very important. If the property is vacant or you’re not sure of the address, please provide the block number or the direction from a known address. Please provide an exact description of the violation: For example, “inoperable vehicle in the driveway,” or “junk stored on the front porch.”

In order to provide proper follow-up, it is important to leave your name, address, and telephone number. The Code Enforcement Officer may need to contact you for additional information.

COMPLAINTS REMAIN ANONYMOUS:

If you have any questions, concerns and/or would like to report a possible violation please call 601-856-7113 or e-mail Tally Berry, Code Enforcement Manager, at Tally.Berry@ridgelandms.org.

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR STARTS WITH...

- Keeping your lawn mowed. This not only looks nice, but helps keep out unwanted bugs, and keeps weed seeds from spreading.
- Keeping your property clear of debris and garbage. This helps keep it out of other yards.
- Making sure your garbage receptacles and recycling containers are stored out of sight when not in use.



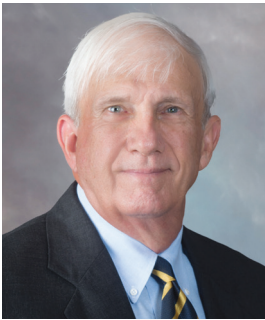
- Working on limited vehicle repair in appropriate areas. Major vehicle repair is not allowed in residential areas.
- Making sure your vehicles are parked on a paved surface. Parking on your lawn is prohibited in Ridgeland.
- Keeping vehicles operable, registered, and licensed. Junk cars are an eyesore to your neighbors.
- Making sure your mailbox is structurally sound and in good repair, to include the box, post, and all attachments.
- Keeping open containers and receptacles free from standing water in order to prevent mosquito infestation. Items should be covered and regularly emptied.
- Keeping your fence looking good. Fences and walls shall be free from loose, missing, broken, or rotting materials and be attached properly.
- Removing any fallen or cut trees, and limbs from your property. Removing brush piles helps deter unwanted rodents and pests, and lessens the risk of fires.
- Obtaining a permit to conduct a garage sale on your property. Residents are allowed two garage sales within a twelve month period. Signs for such sales are not allowed to be posted on any other property other than the property where the sale is being held or by written permission of your neighbors.
- Contacting the Building Department before starting any construction, remodeling, and installation of pools or sheds to verify whether a permit is needed.
- Making sure your pets are not causing disturbing noises by repeatedly barking, howling, or whining. (these type of complaints are handled by the Animal Control officer through the Ridgeland Police Dept., 601-856-2121)
- Cleaning up after your dog. This helps avoid noxious odors and unwanted pests.

WHO AND WHERE

RIDGELAND ALDERMEN



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



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



Chuck Gautier
Ward 2
601-506-5913
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Kevin Holder
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Brian Ramsey
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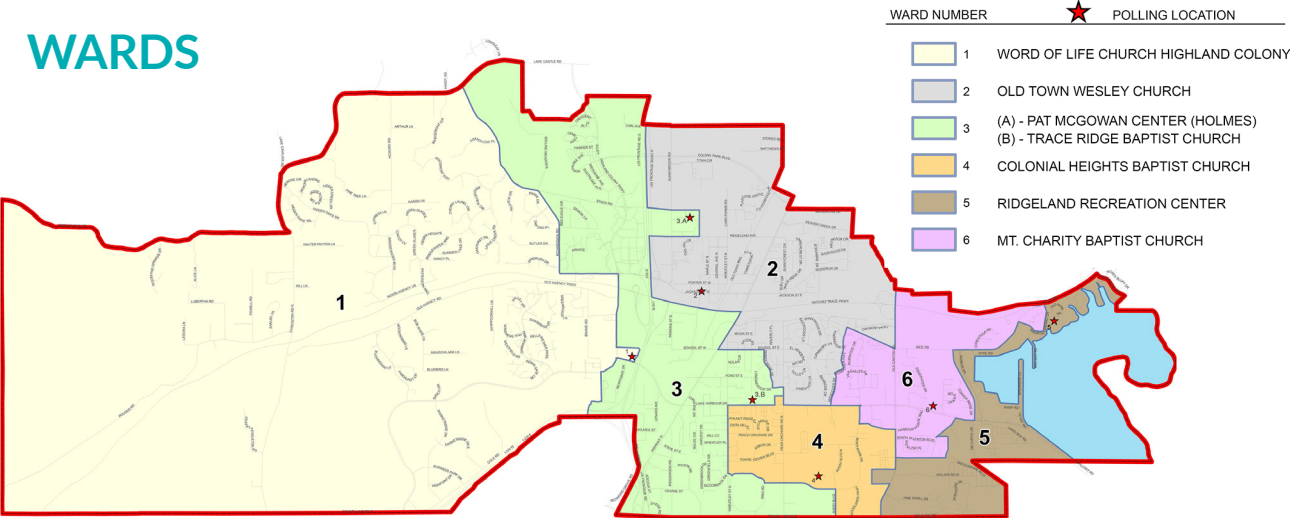


Bill Lee
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Bill.Lee@RidgelandMS.org



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

WARDS



CITY DIRECTORY

ANIMAL CONTROL <i>animalcontrol@ridgelandms.org</i>	601-856-2121
ANONYMOUS TIP LINE <i>(criminal investigations division)</i>	601-853-2006
CITY HALL/MAYOR'S OFFICE.....	601-856-7113
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT <i>(development, property maintenance, zoning, signs, permits) ...</i>	601-856-3877
COURT CLERK <i>(traffic violations, misdemeanors and fines)</i>	601-853-2001
EMERGENCY <i>(police and re dispatch center)</i>	9-1-1
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION <i>(business licenses, elections, meeting minutes, budget, public records)</i>	601-856-7113
FIRE DEPARTMENT <i>(non-emergency calls, safety education programs)</i>	601-856-7004
POLICE DEPARTMENT <i>(non-emergency calls, public safety concerns)</i>	601-856-2121
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT <i>(roads, garbage, recycling, water, storm water)</i>	601-853-2027
RECREATION AND PARKS <i>(special events, athletics and program registration, park information)</i>	601-853-2011
UTILITY BILLING DEPARTMENT <i>(water, sewer, garbage, & recycling billing)</i> <i>utilitybilling@ridgelandms.org</i>	601-856-3938

CITY MEETINGS

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

DEPARTMENT HEADS



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



Fire Department
Matt Bailey
Fire Chief
matt.bailey@ridgelandms.org



Finance And Administration
Paula Tierce
City Clerk/Human Resources Director
paula.tierce@ridgelandms.org



Police Department
Brian Myers
Chief of Police
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Recreation & Parks Department
John Sidney North
Director
john.north@ridgelandms.org



Recreation and Parks

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