

*there's more here!*

# RIDGELAND LIFE

Summer In Ridgeland  
Is One Big Adventure.  
Let's Roll!

*the* SUMMER ISSUE

June 2023 - August 2023

# FROM THE **MAYOR**

Gene McGee



I hope this message finds you in the spirit of bloom: azaleas and irises, zinnias and wildflowers, and roses all vie for our attention in the garden beds, reminding us of summer awakenings and the promise of new opportunities.

The trees stand sentinel with fresh shoots, watching over our beautiful City. Even with the harsh winter this year, plants are rebounding and showing off by being so resilient. I feel incredibly proud to serve a City that takes such pride in its beauty; by doing so, it not only delights the spirits but also protects and increases property values.

Amidst all the beauty, however, it is concerning when I note the amount of roadside litter our employees are required to pick up on a weekly basis. The Public Works Department conservatively estimates that costs in keeping Ridgeland's streets clean reach upwards of \$45,000 per year. This is an expense that could and should be avoided, and the funds could be put to use in so many more productive ways: the City of Ridgeland Police Department could purchase a patrol car; the Public Works Department could hire needed additional employees; or the Recreation and Parks Department could offer students part-time jobs in the summer that would further help keep our parks the best they can be and keep our recreation and parks programs running smoothly.

I could go on about how this money could be used, but I want instead for each of you to ask yourself what the funds might be used for and to ask each of you, as citizens, to do everything you can to help keep our City clean. First – and I know most of our citizens are highly responsible – you can do this by not littering. Second, you can let our police department know if you see someone littering by taking down their license plate number and sending it to the police department so they can write these individuals a letter encouraging them not to litter. Third, join us on one of our park volunteer clean-up days: they are fun, sociable, and make a positive difference to the community. If we work together, I am convinced that we can keep Ridgeland litter free and continue to promote the beautification of the city, and protect property values.

On the topic of beautification, congratulations to Keep Ridgeland Beautiful for receiving three awards at the 30th Annual Keep Mississippi Beautiful Awards Luncheon. The awards include First Place in the Wild Flowers Trails of Mississippi category, Second Place in the Civic Partnership category for the City's partnership with First Ridgeland Baptist Church, and a Circle of Excellence award from Keep Mississippi Beautiful. Keep Ridgeland Beautiful is also a proud member of the Keep America Beautiful President's Circle.

This spring, it has been particularly exciting to see all the great activities taking place in Ridgeland's schools. Not only are students excelling in academics and sports, but our schools continue to raise the bar. It is fantastic to have such outstanding schools in the City of Ridgeland, led by tremendously talented faculty and administrative leadership.

I hope each of you has a wonderful summer. I know many of you will be traveling, taking vacations to the beach, mountains, and other countries. Please be safe and enjoy this season with family and friends.

*Gene F. McGee*

# RIDGELAND LIFE

June 2023 - August 2023

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City of Ridgeland

## SPONSORSHIP

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City of Ridgeland

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Ridgeland Life is a quarterly publication  
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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIDGELAND

# Telling Ridgeland's Story

By Polly Hammett



Old City Hall and Library



**J**UST WHEN YOU THOUGHT SCHOOL WAS OVER... HERE'S A POP QUIZ!  
LET'S TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF RIDGELAND PEOPLE, PLACES, AND EVENTS.

Dating back to the Woodland and early Mississippi periods, there are six Native American burial areas located along the Natchez Trace in Ridgeland. This site is known as (1) \_\_\_\_\_.

U. S. Agent, (2) \_\_\_\_\_, served at the Choctaw Agency in the early 1800s.  
*(Hint: There is a beautiful residential development on Old Agency Road named for him, although the spelling of his last name was altered.)*

OK. This one is easy. The Village of Ridgeland was chartered on (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

The original village was less than one-mile square. It was established on land purchased from the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ family in 1896 by (5) \_\_\_\_\_.  
*(Bonus points if you know the names of the two men who headed up this company)*

Many of the buildings in the Village were destroyed by fire in (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The oldest chartered church in Ridgeland is (7) \_\_\_\_\_.

Built in 1896, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ was dismantled, numbered, loaded onto a wagon and moved to Ridgeland, and rebuilt in the early 1900s. It now sits in Old Town.  
*(Bonus points if you know the church and its current location.)*

There have been (9) \_\_\_\_\_ men to serve as mayor of Ridgeland. The first was (10) \_\_\_\_\_, who celebrated his 80th birthday by walking nine miles from Ridgeland to Jackson. For most of this journey, he walked on the railroad line. If this journey was attempted today, it would only take ONE STEP!

The first man to serve as Police Chief in Ridgeland was (11) \_\_\_\_\_. *(Bonus points if you can name the current Chief of Police)*

There are two former governors buried in Ridgeland. (12) \_\_\_\_\_ is buried at Jessamine Cemetery, and (13) \_\_\_\_\_ is buried at Parkway Cemetery.

Construction began on the Natchez Trace in 1947. The stretch between Ridgeland and Kosciusko was opened to traffic in (14) \_\_\_\_\_.

*(Each blank is worth 3 points, and bonus points are worth 5 points. Check the answers on page 22 and see how well you know your City.)*

Local business, (15) \_\_\_\_\_, was opened in 1936 on Hwy 51 and probably benefitted from traffic from The Trace. *(Bonus points if you know the year Hwy 51 was paved)*

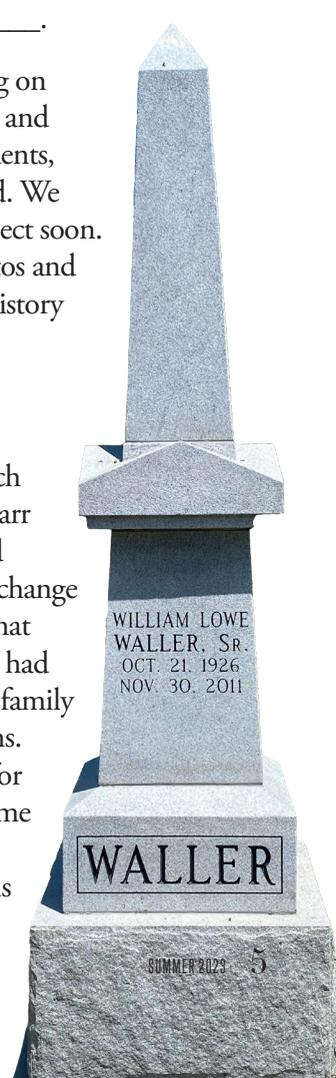
The Green Hotel was located in Old Town near Porter and Central Streets. It was a central gathering place for picnics, dances, parties, and photo opportunities. All that remains of the original building is the (16) \_\_\_\_\_. The rest was destroyed by fire. Spearheading a retail construction boom in the area, Northpark Mall was opened in (17) \_\_\_\_\_. Ten years later (18) \_\_\_\_\_ opened and greatly enhanced the development of the City on the west side of the interstate.

Ridgeland High School was opened in 2002. A 2006 graduate and track star, (19) \_\_\_\_\_ won a gold medal at the Summer Olympic Games in 2012.

After at least three prior locations (Old Town, School Street, and Hwy 51 at Lake Harbour), City Hall moved into the present location in (20) \_\_\_\_\_.

The Historical Society has been working on an exciting project to enhance our trails and sidewalks while educating walkers, residents, and visitors about the City of Ridgeland. We will have more information on this project soon. Meanwhile, we continue to gather photos and artifacts for permanent exhibit in the History Room at City Hall.

In the March 21, 2023, meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, it was announced that the northernmost stretch of Wheatley Street will now be called Carr Farms Road. The Historical Society and Historical Committee made this name change recommendation when it was learned that this area was being developed and work had begun on several new homes. The Carr family has lived in Ridgeland for six generations. They owned and farmed this property for many years. This is the second street name change we have proposed, and we hope to honor the history of Ridgeland in this manner in the future.



# Ridgeland is a True

## CYCLING DESTINATION

**R**idgeland offers locals and visitors alike a cycling experience like none other. Enjoy mountain biking, a National Scenic Byway and Park, and biking events for families and competitors.

Serious cyclists and casual cruisers share the Natchez Trace Parkway and the Multi-Use Trails in Ridgeland. Some trails even lead to cafes and specialty shops! Ridgeland's BMX and mountain biking will thrill adrenaline seekers. Somehow, all that high-performance fun is even better, knowing that Southern hospitality and fine food await at the end of the day.



**RIDGELAND**  
**MISSISSIPPI**  
VISITRIDGELAND.COM

INSIDE + OUT

the city of RIDGELAND



Ridgeland boasts annual cycling events for all ages and abilities. A few popular events include the Natchez Trace Century Ride with 25, 50, 62, or 100-mile distance options held during Ridgeland’s Art, Wine & Wheels Weekend in May. On May 4, 2024, we are excited to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Natchez Trace Century Ride, which now brings in over 1,000 participants. In September, Jackson Metro Cyclists will hold a Labor Day Ride in Old Trace Park. October brings the two-day Fat Tire Festival and Cycle Out Kid’s Cancer. The Ridgeland Cyclocross Series offers events in September, October, and November and hosts the Mississippi Cyclocross Kid’s Project. No wonder Ridgeland is the Cycling Capitol of Mississippi!

The City was honored to receive the Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community Award from the League of American Bicyclists. *“Being a Bicycle Friendly Community takes more than hosting a yearly event or building a few bike lanes,”* said Bill Nesper, executive director of the League of American Bicyclists. *“The best communities for people who bike are places where efforts to build connected bike networks are complemented by ensuring equal access to bike education and hosting inclusive community rides and events for all types of riders. They are places where embedding equity and accessibility into bicycling efforts is the rule, not the exception, making them truly better for everyone.”*

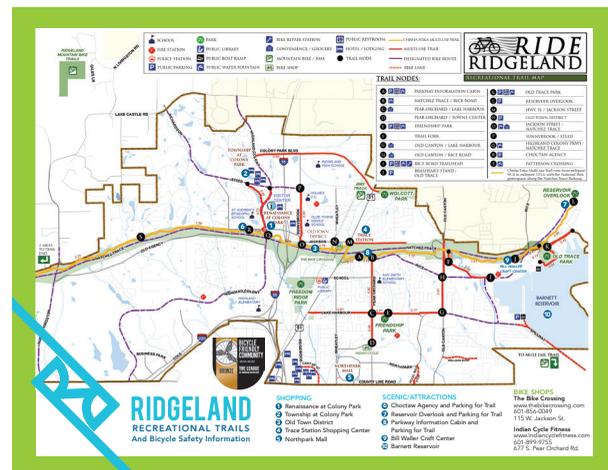
### THE CHISHA FOKA MULTI-USE TRAIL

Discover the 10-mile paved path that runs through historic Choctaw homelands. Today, trail users can enjoy recreational opportunities and the trees, wildflowers, and wildlife of this protected green space. There are eight ways to access the trail in Ridgeland from milepost 95.8 to the Reservoir Overlook at milepost 105.6 on the Natchez Trace Parkway.

### TRAIL MAP

Scan QR Code for Ride Ridgeland Trail Map

SCAN ME →





**SAFETY IS KEY**

The City of Ridgeland proclaims Bicycle Safety Month during the month of May. We take pride in providing our citizens and visitors with accessible and safe areas for cycling.

We urge all residents, as motorists or bicyclists, to respect cycling and encourage safety throughout our community. Bicycling has a wide range of benefits for cyclists as well as the community at large, including saving money and time, reducing traffic, and improving health and fitness.

**BICYCLE SAFETY MONTH PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the bicycle is a viable and environmentally sound form of transportation and an excellent form of recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, millions of Americans will experience the joys of bicycling during the month of May through individual and group rides and commuting events; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans, in record numbers, are turning to bicycling for transportation, recreation, and exercise; and

**WHEREAS**, bicycling will enhance your physical health, improve your mental outlook and overall quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the keys to bicycle safety are the education and cooperative understanding of properly sharing the road with motorists and vehicles, traffic handling skills, communication between cyclists and motorists, obeying traffic laws and the rules of the road; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ridgeland has joined with Bicycle Revolution, Bike Walk Mississippi, Tri-County Mountain Bike Association, Jackson Metro Cyclists, Indian Cycle, and Magnolia Ridge in declaring May to be Bicycle Safety Month; and

**WHEREAS**, bicyclists of all ages throughout the City of Ridgeland, the State of Mississippi, and the nation will promote bicycling as an environmentally-friendly alternative to the automobile and a wholesome leisurely activity during the month of May.



BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MICHELLE WILLIAMS, MISSISSIPPI BLUES COMPOSITE MOUNTAIN BIKE; MAYOR GENE MCGEE; MONTY CLARK, JACKSON METRO CYCLISTS

TOP ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: BERNIE BRENNEMAN, MAGNOLIA RIDGE; TOM MARTIN, INDIAN CYCLE; JAYCE POWELL, BICYCLE REVOLUTION; CHRIS WISE, TRI-COUNTY MOUNTAIN BIKE; AND BEN MCDONALD, BIKE WALK MISSISSIPPI

**NOW, therefore,  
I, Gene F. McGee,  
Mayor of the City of Ridgeland,  
do hereby proclaim May as  
BICYCLE SAFETY MONTH.**



# Mississippi NICA League

## Launches First Program in Ridgeland

By League Staff

**D**id you know that the Mississippi NICA League, a new state-wide youth development organization, has its birth and headquarters in Ridgeland?

The Mississippi NICA League is a 501(c)(3) and is the 31st league in the National Interscholastic Cycling Association. It is our goal to get more Ridgeland and

Mississippi kids on bikes! NICA is guided by the values of fun, inclusivity, equity, respect, and community. We build strong bodies, minds, character, and community through cycling.

The first NICA team in Mississippi, the Mississippi Blues Composite Mountain Bike Team, was started by Selena Swartzfager and her son Greyson in 2016 to spend more time together



outdoors. This team had ten student-athletes and three coaches who practiced primarily at the Ridgeland Mountain Bike Trails in Madison County. The young team



participated with the Alabama NICA League, driving 4-6 hours for their races each spring.

Michelle Williams, the newly hired Mississippi NICA League Director, and her grandson Aidan started riding the Ridgeland multi-use trails when he was just four years old. As he got older and more experienced, he wanted to start riding on the road. Michelle was too nervous to let him ride on the more trafficked streets, and when they learned of the Mississippi Blues, they were both ready to start mountain biking. Immediately after riding his first ride with the team, Aidan was so excited. His skills improved exponentially, riding with other kids his age.

Fast forward to today, the Mississippi Blues Composite Mountain Bike Team has grown to thirty students, most from Madison County, with eight athletes living in Ridgeland. The Blues have helped start teams in Oxford and Meridian. The team enjoyed competing in Alabama over the years, but the parents, coaches, and supporters all

believed it was time to bring the fun to Mississippi. Selena and Michelle started the Mississippi Interscholastic Cycling League on January 17, 2023.

In the Mississippi NICA League, every youth in the 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade is empowered to be part of a thriving and engaged cycling community. This is not an amateur sports league, as the programs are more focused on developing the whole student-athlete and their families. This League is more than just racing, as the adventure rides and bike games promote a time to “just play” outdoors with friends. This program is proud that there are no tryouts; everyone makes the

team. There are no benchwarmers and everyone participates at their level. Stewardship is emphasized by teaching the students respect for the trails they ride through trail maintenance. Additionally, students and their parents are encouraged to become bike advocates by meeting with local community leaders to discuss bike advocacy and the need for additional safe spaces for kids to ride their bikes.

Students and families have all loved participating in a community mountain bike program. Many times a student will join a team and will be the only one in her family who rides a bike. Before the season is over, Mom, Dad, and siblings are all having fun enjoying the benefits of riding a bike in the woods.

The Mississippi NICA Board is excited to bring a great national organization to Mississippi to get more kids on bikes, playing, and having fun outside. For more information about participating with the Mississippi NICA League, please visit our website at [www.mississippimtb.org](http://www.mississippimtb.org) or email Michelle Williams at [michelle@mississippimtb.org](mailto:michelle@mississippimtb.org)



# Grant Funding Enhances Highland Colony Parkway

By Jordan Lohman, City Planner

**I**n 2018, the City of Ridgeland received a grant from the “CN Ecoconnexions from the Ground Up” program in partnership with America in Bloom to plant approximately 300 trees within the median of Highland Colony Parkway. The City of Ridgeland matched the funds provided by this grant from the city’s Tree Ordinance “In-lieu Fund.”

The project aimed to help promote and foster a healthy community while visually enhancing the parkway. The native shade trees along the parkway include Willow Oaks, Shumard Red Oaks, and Nuttall Oaks. Crape Myrtles were also included in the narrow portions of the median to provide spring color and interest.

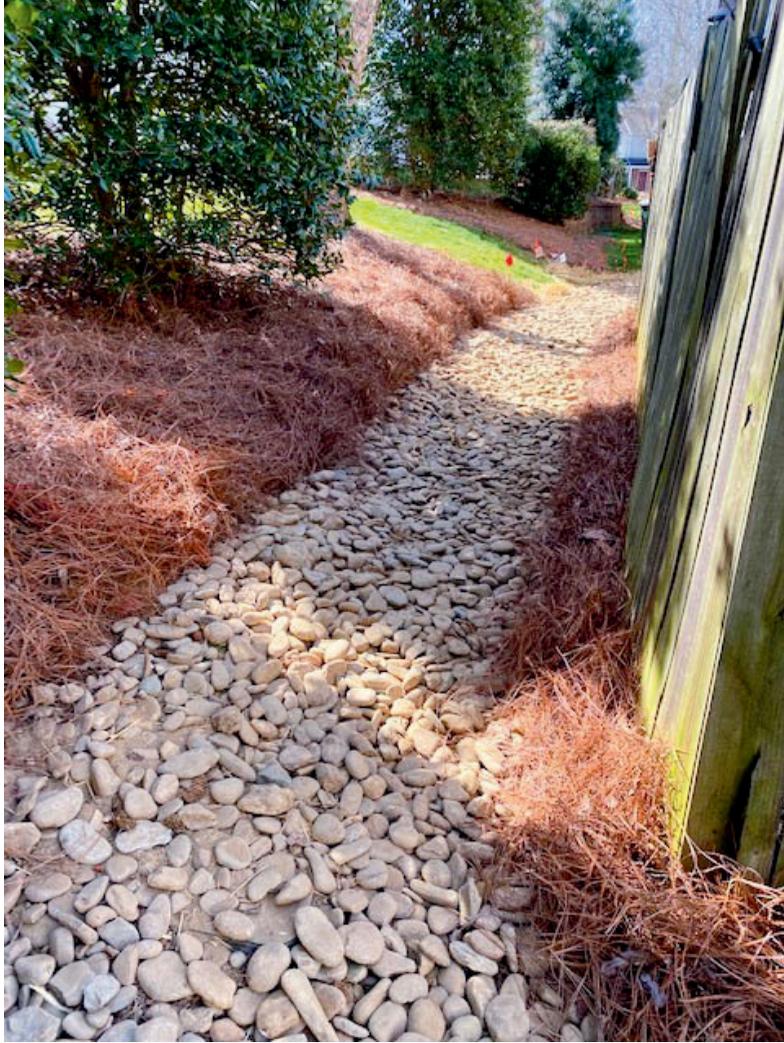


The trees help to lower the surface temperatures within the area by providing shade to the parkway pavement. The trees at maturity will also have the ability to absorb as much as 7 tons of CO2 annually, helping offset the vehicular traffic's environmental impact along the parkway. The tree species selected are long-living trees and will receive continued maintenance from the city. This project supports the tree and canopy coverage goals (40%) of the City of Ridgeland Tree Ordinance.

The project, since its completion in 2019, has drastically changed the aesthetics and views along the parkway. While the canopy of the trees is now reaching the tops of adjacent light poles, the shade, and visual impact will only continue to improve the experience of Highland Colony Parkway for years to come.

*Adopted in 2006, The City of Ridgeland Tree Ordinance aims to protect and enhance the existing tree canopy within the City by requiring developers to mitigate the removal of tree canopy within the limits of a proposed development. When developments are unable to plant the total required trees on-site, they have the option to pay into the "In-lieu Fund." This option goes toward funding city-initiated tree planting projects such as this along Highland Colony Parkway.*





# What You Need to Know About

# French Drains

*By Cynthia James, Public Works & Paul Lanning,  
Allen Engineering and Science*

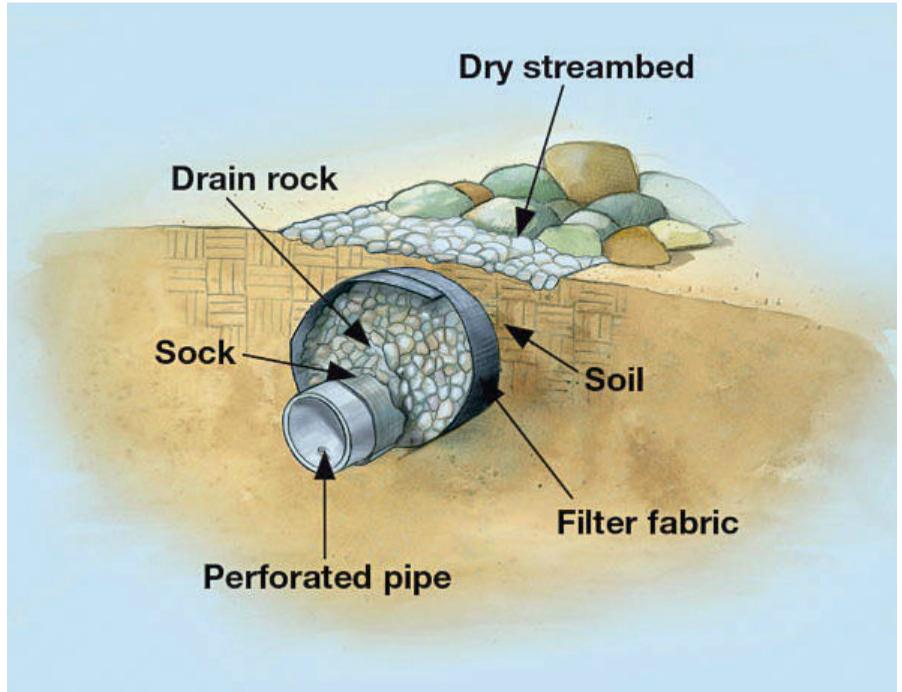
**A** French drain is a trench filled with gravel or rock, with or without a perforated pipe, used to redirect surface water and groundwater. This practice is a common means of diverting water from one location (ex. near a foundation or a wet area on a property) to another location (ex. municipal (City) storm drain or a nearby swale). A French drain diverts excess rainwater in order to dry soil that is excessively waterlogged.

## **WHAT IS A FRENCH DRAIN?**

An exterior French drain is a trench 6 inches to a few feet in diameter dug along a declined slope on a property. It is covered over with gravel to prevent excess mud and debris from entering the trench and to prevent soil erosion on the inside. Perforated piping may be laid underneath the gravel to accelerate the movement of water through the trench. Gutter downspouts from a home's roof may empty directly into a French drain system to alleviate flooding due to excess rainfall.

## ADVANTAGES OF FRENCH DRAINS

- French drains provide an effective way to channel water away from a home to prevent water damage.
- Waterlogged lawns can be transformed and rendered useful for gardens or children’s play areas.
- French drains are relatively inexpensive to install, particularly if they do not require excavation of exterior structures, such as walkways and decks.
- Installing a French drain does not necessarily require special tools or heavy equipment.



## DISADVANTAGES OF FRENCH DRAINS

- Installing a French drain can be dangerous if there are utilities buried in the vicinity. Always call 811 before you dig!
- Digging may disturb natural water flows and can lead to the pooling of water. It is important to understand the water flow on your site.
- Installing a French drain may require the removal of existing structures, such as decks and walkways, especially if using a backhoe to dig the trench.
- Clogged French drains may overflow without warning and cause damage to yards and basements.
- Exterior French drains installed without a sump pump rely on gravity to direct water flow. An adequate slope for gravity drainage may be difficult to establish for properties located at the bottom of a steep slope.

When deciding whether a French drain is the right solution for your water issues, it is important to consider where the water will ultimately end up. The system should drain into a waste area, a street, a municipal drain, or a suitable area of the landscape (such as near a tree or a rain garden). It should NOT drain into your neighbor’s yard. If there is no suitable place to drain the water, consider a different option.



# Keep Ridgeland Beautiful

CONTINUES TO BLOSSOM

By Kim Cooper and Ginger Cocke

**G**inger Cocke and Jan Richardson with Keep Ridgeland Beautiful traveled to D.C. in late February to the Keep America Beautiful national conference. Keep Ridgeland Beautiful has recently won innovation awards at the state and national levels for their Never Forget Garden project.

Ms. Cocke co-presented with Richard Azzaro, co-founder of the Tomb Guard Society and creator of the Never Forget Garden program. Keep Ridgeland Beautiful photos and award entries of the Never Forget Garden were also included in the inaugural issue of the journal for the program.

Throughout the years, Keep America Beautiful has placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown



Soldier at the beginning of the annual meeting. It was a great honor that Keep Ridgeland Beautiful received approval from the Society to place a wreath during the ceremony.

Keep America Beautiful, organized in 1953, is celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year with the theme – Clean, Green, and Beautiful. The City of Ridgeland created a beautification committee in 1989 and became an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful in 2013. Like Keep America Beautiful, our affiliate goal this year and every year is to keep our City clean, green, and beautiful so everyone can be proud to live here.

Thank you to all of our members of Keep Ridgeland Beautiful for your hard work and dedication!



# 30 Years of Financial Reporting Achievement

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Ridgeland for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the program's high standards, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to communicate its

financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The City of Ridgeland has received this honor for 30 years.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices,

professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.





**The City of Ridgeland is excited to announce the continued partnership with VDCI Mosquito Management!**

VDCI's Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) programs focus on surveillance-based control strategies, public awareness, and the use of adulticide applications only when mosquito population levels or the threat of disease deems necessary. The VDCI team includes entomologists, mosquito control specialists, certified pesticide applicators, wetland scientists, and GIS specialists to meet all of your program needs.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, REQUESTS, AND TO VIEW SPRAY SCHEDULES: PLEASE VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.VDCI.NET/RIDGELAND-MISSISSIPPI-MOSQUITO-MANAGEMENT/](https://www.vdci.net/ridgeland-mississippi-mosquito-management/)**



866-419-4716

# recre8

The Ridgeland Recreation and Parks team is gearing up for the summer season! We are excited to announce that the Natchez Trace Century Ride on May 6 was a great success in its 24th year. Thank you to all the riders, volunteers, and sponsors!

We hope you can join us for the exciting upcoming summer events!



## 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 old and under
- Prizes: biggest fish, smallest fish, and most fish
- There is no charge for this event.

**Date:** Saturday, June 10, 2023

**Time:** 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** Old Trace Park, Ross Barnett Reservoir



## Celebrate America Balloon Glow

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks and the Mississippi Championship Balloon Fest present an evening of patriotism and celebration!

- Bring your chair or blanket to enjoy this FREE event
- For more details, visit the City of Ridgeland's Recreation and Parks Department Facebook page: @RidgelandRecreationandParks

**Date:** Friday, June 30, 2023

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Northpark



## 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 ends on July 1 (visit [mfcsoccer.com](http://mfcsoccer.com))
- **MRYC Fall Baseball:** registration ends on August 1 (visit [mryouthbaseball.com](http://mryouthbaseball.com))
- **MRYC Fall Softball:** registration ends on August 1 (visit [mrycsoftball.com](http://mrycsoftball.com))
- **Flag Football:** registration ends on August 25 (scan QR Code)

Flag Football registration





## SkyHawks 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

**Location:** Freedom Ridge Park / Sand Volleyball is at Hite Wolcott

**Date:** June & July



## Freedom Ridge Park Mural

Tim Taylor, our Recreation and Parks Assistant Superintendent, and Keep Ridgeland Beautiful joined together to enhance Freedom Ridge Park with a fun and interactive way to explore nature! Bright colors and game activities can be enjoyed by all ages. Please visit this new mural near pavilion #4.



## 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 2023 Fall classes, visit [www.jotc.org](http://www.jotc.org).



## Fond Farewell, Wendy Bourdin!

The Recreation and Parks team, Mayor McGee, and City staff would like to thank Wendy for her 28 years with the City of Ridgeland! She has been a great asset to the City of Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department. Her tireless work ethic and passion

for everything she does will be greatly missed.

*“Hope you enjoy your retirement “Sister” Wendy. It won’t be the same without you. You better come back to the Christmas party every year.”*

– John Sidney North,  
Director of Recreation and Parks



# Celebrate America

## ★ BALLOON GLOW ★

**Friday, June 30, 2023**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**at Northpark**



# 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 DJ Trix, Mustache the Band, and the Molly Ringwalds. Temperance Babcock will share patriotic music during the impressive fireworks show.

For more information, visit Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Facebook page or the City of Ridgeland's website at [ridgelandms.org](http://ridgelandms.org).

### CELEBRATE AMERICA BALLOON GLOW

**Join us for this family-friendly event:**

- Enjoy Hot Air Balloons that will inflate and light up the night sky
- Enjoy food vendors, a Kid's Corner, and live music
- Enjoy Fireworks

**Entertainment this year:**

- DJ Trix, Mustache the Band, and the Molly Ringwalds
- Temperance Babcock will share patriotic music
- There is no admission cost, and parking is free

**Date: June 30, 2023**

**Times:**

- Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m.
- Kid's Corner is open from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. and requires a \$5 wristband to enter
- Fireworks show starts at 9:15 p.m.
- Patriotic musical performance by Temperance Babcock starts at 9:30 p.m.

**Location: Northpark**



mustache the band



# superstar 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: Lisa Newman, 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.

### Line Dance

\$10/class or \$40/month

Mondays  
6:00 p.m.

Instructor: Darlene Epple

Learn a wide variety of line dances while exercising in a fun way, no partner needed.

### 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, Wednesdays, and Fridays  
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Instructor: Lisa Newman

This class trains breathing and focuses your mind. Most of this class is done from your chair.

### Standing Yoga

\$5/class or \$30 for 6 (30 minute) classes

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays  
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Instructor: Lisa Newman

Standing poses for balance; floor poses to improve 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

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Instructor: Monica Russell

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

### Men's Bible Study

FREE

Tuesdays

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Men are welcome to join the group in person and everyone is invited to watch the recording on Facebook @RidgelandMensBible.

### Artmakers

FREE

Tuesdays

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All mediums and artistic levels are welcome to join for friendship and encouragement. Come when you can, leave when you must. Bring your own supplies.

## 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 President Pam Stephens if interested in joining the waitlist at [pstephens\\_jam1@comcast.net](mailto:pstephens_jam1@comcast.net).

### Bridge

\$1

Dates: 6/15, 7/20, 8/17

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A team trick taking game played with a standard 52 playing card deck.

### Birthday Bingo

FREE

Dates: 6/22, 7/27, 8/24

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to play bingo, win prizes and eat cake in celebrating all of the birthdays each month. Must sign up in advance, space is limited.

# special events



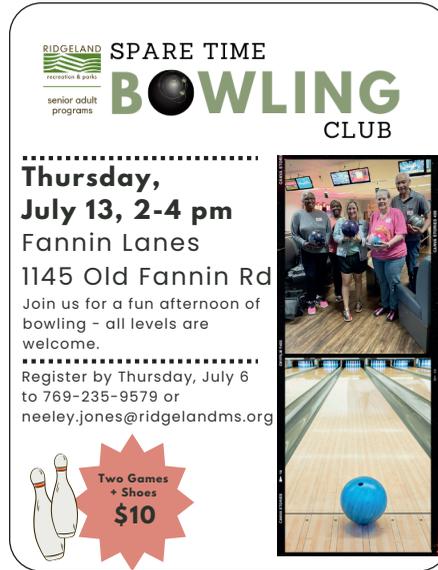
**Patriotic Painting Workshop**

Friday, June 23rd from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Ridgeland Recreational Center  
No charge; registration is required

Join us as Nathalie Tolar, Activities and Engagement Director with Landmark Lifestyles, leads a step-by-step painting class of an American flag. **Sponsored by Landmark Lifestyles.**  
Must register to Neeley at 769-235-9579 or neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org.

## Patriotic Painting Workshop

**Patriotic Painting Workshop**  
Date: Friday, June 23, 2023  
Time: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Cost: No charge for the class; registration is required due to limited space



**SPARE TIME BOWLING CLUB**

**Thursday, July 13, 2-4 pm**  
Fannin Lanes  
1145 Old Fannin Rd

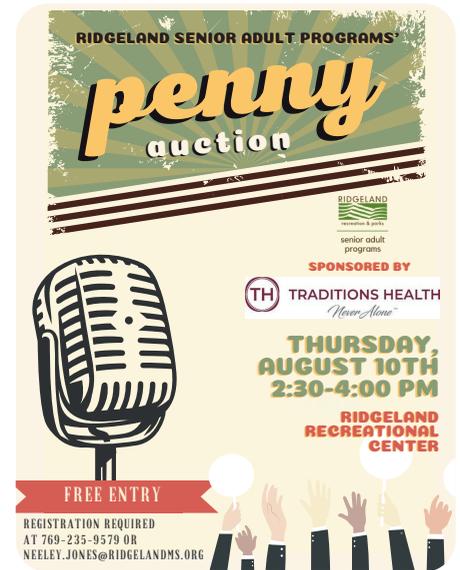
Join us for a fun afternoon of bowling - all levels are welcome.

Register by Thursday, July 6 to 769-235-9579 or neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org

**Two Games + Shoes \$10**

## “Spare Time” Bowling Club

Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023  
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Fannin Lanes Bowling Alley  
1145 Old Fannin Road., Brandon  
Cost: \$10 – includes shoe rental – cash only



**RIDGELAND SENIOR ADULT PROGRAMS**

**penny auction**

**SPONSORED BY TRADITIONS HEALTH**  
“Never Alone”

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 10TH 2:30-4:00 PM**

**RIDGELAND RECREATIONAL CENTER**

**FREE ENTRY**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT 769-235-9579 OR NEELEY.JONES@RIDGELANDMS.ORG

## Penny Auction Game

Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023  
Time: 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
Cost: No charge; registration is required due to limited space  
Prizes will be brought in for you to “bid” on. Everyone receives a numbered paddle; the auctioneer will hold up an item and tell you how many pennies it costs to bid on that item. This is a fun and competitive game. Let the bidding begin!  
Sponsored by Traditions Health.

*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](mailto:neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org)!*

## Neeley Jones

Senior Adult Coordinator

(601) 856-6876  
[neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org](mailto:neeley.jones@ridgelandms.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/ridgelandsuperstarseniors](https://www.facebook.com/ridgelandsuperstarseniors)  
Ridgeland Recreational Center  
137 Old Park Trail  
Ridgeland, MS 39157



senior adult programs

### MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF RIDGELAND SENIOR ADULT PROGRAMS IS TO PROVIDE A SAFE, COMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT WHERE ADULTS OVER 50 CAN COME TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THEIR PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING.

Answers: (1) Boyd Mounds, (2) Silas Dimsmoor, (3) December 29, 1899, (4) Yellowley, (5) Highland Colony Company, (6) 1902, (7) Simon Hill Church, (8) Wesley Chapel, (9) seventeen, (10) Pardon L. Porter, (11) Benford Watkins, (12) William Waller, (13) Kirk Fordice, (14) 1951, (15) Henderson’s Garage, (16) kitchen, (17) 1984, (18) Highland Colony Parkway, (19) Blanca Knight, (20) 2021  
Bonus answers: Gorton W. Nichols and Edward M. Treakle | Ridgeland United Methodist Church | Brian Myers | 1933

# Ridgeland Chamber Awards Banquet

HONORS VOLUNTEERS AND CITY LEADERS *By Linda Bynum*

Some 300 business leaders and City Officials recently filled the Country Club of Jackson, celebrating Ridgeland's economic growth and development during 2022 and honoring volunteers

for their dedicated service to the Chamber and City.

"America's Got Talent" finalist and Golden Buzzer award recipient Sal Valentinetti from New York City performed "Rat Pack" favorites. He presented

2023 Ridgeland Chamber President Ray Balentine of Michael Baker International with the golden buzzer as 100 gold balloons dropped from the ceiling. Chamber Board members and Diplomats gathered onstage to congratulate Ray.



## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

“Our 2023 theme is *Celebrating 30 Years of Success • 1993 – 2023*, and this year we will continue helping our businesses succeed with promotional opportunities like *SHOP SMALL SATURDAY* and *Shop Local / Buy Local*,” said 2023 Ridgeland Chamber President Ray Balentine.

“We will offer networking events that encourage our businesses to do business with each other and our citizens to shop local. And, we will continue to promote Ridgeland's business community as Mississippi's Business Destination by showcasing all the products and services our various business members have to offer,” he added.

The Awards Banquet also honored Ridgeland Chamber volunteers for their contributions to the Chamber and the City of Ridgeland.

# 2022 AWARD WINNERS



RIDGELAND MAYOR GENE MCGEE, RIGHT, PRESENTS THE 2022 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD TO SOUTHERN AGCREDIT. ACCEPTING THE AWARD ON THE COMPANY'S BEHALF IS CEO PHILLIP MORGAN.



DAVID BROADWAY OF MEMBERS EXCHANGE CREDIT UNION WAS NAMED 2022 DIPLOMAT OF THE YEAR. PRESENTING THE AWARD IS 2021, DIPLOMAT OF THE YEAR, SISSY LLOYD OF PROFESSIONAL EYECARE ASSOCIATES.



ALLISON DEWEESE OF HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE WAS NAMED 2022 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR. PRESENTING THE AWARD IS 2019 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR LINDA CARVER OF TRUSTMARK.



WHITE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY RECEIVED THE 2021 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD. PRESENTING THE 2022 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD TO DIANE JACKSON OF THE CITY'S COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE IS ROB MAYO, WHITE CONSTRUCTION'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER.

RIDGELAND CHAMBER PRESIDENT RAY VALENTINE WITH MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL, WELCOMES CHAMBER MEMBERS AND GUESTS.



STATE FARM INSURANCE JOHN DORSA WAS NAMED 2022 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR. PRESENTING THE AWARD TO JOHN DORSA IS ASHLEY SMITH, REPRESENTING THE 2021 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, ST. DOMINIC HEALTH SERVICES.



RAY VALENTINE HONORS OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER AND 2021 RIDGELAND CHAMBER VICE PRESIDENT KEVIN ROGERS.

# Remembering Ann Smith



By Delila Vance  
Library Media Specialist, Ann Smith Elementary

**T**he Ann Smith Elementary (ASE) community would like to pay tribute to the late Ann Smith. Miss Smith served as a third-grade and lead teacher at the former Ridgeland Elementary School and was shortly after promoted to school principal. It was there that she found her calling. She dedicated her life to serving the staff, students, and school community.

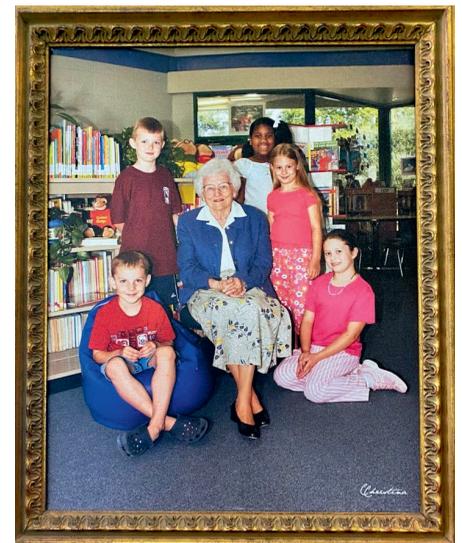
Mrs. Fortenberry, a former ASE Computer teacher, was the last staff member to be hired by Ms. Smith. She describes her as "Small in stature, very tall in all things ASE." Fortenberry said one of the things that stood out the most about Ms. Smith was her dedication to the school. She knew all 800 students by name. She was

the first to arrive at the school and the last to leave at the end of the day. She added that ASE continued to excel as an A-rated school under her leadership.

Literacy Specialist Miriam Carman stated that she feels honored to work at the school where Ms. Smith poured out her heart for many years. She always remembered a student who went through her school. Mrs. Carman added that she loves to see the looks on her student's faces when she tells them she was a student at ASE under the actual Ann Smith!

Katie Holden, Technology Specialist, said that what stands out to her is that Ms. Smith still remembered her and her family 20 years later. "She was one of the kindest people I have ever met," stated Holden.

Ann Smith will always be remembered as a dedicated, passionate educator and leader who ensured no student was left behind. Upon her retirement in 1991, the Madison County School Board voted to change the school's name to Ann E. Smith Elementary in her honor.



THIS PICTURE CURRENTLY HANGS IN THE FRONT OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL.

# BEYOND Black History MONTH

By Cynthia Groya



At Highland Elementary School this year, students learned about artist Nick Cave's most famous art form, his Sound Suits. As a young Black man in the 1990s, Cave was strongly affected by the beatings of young Black men and felt his life was endangered. To bring attention to his creativity instead of the color of his skin, Cave created Sound Suits to camouflage his identity - his race, gender, and ethnicity.

Every student at Highland created their own Sound Suit design based on Cave's examples and their creativity. Each class then voted on their favorite designs. From almost 700 drawings, students democratically chose 7 Sound Suit designs to create life-size Sound Suits collaboratively.

Once the students chose the Sound Suit designs, every class put their math and analytical skills to work

collaboratively - designing, measuring, and fabricating each part of the 7 Sound Suits. As each Sound Suit reached completion, students were excited to see them come to life and took turns trying on the Sound Suits.

Nick Cave's Sound Suits are often meant to be performative. Students watched films of Cave's Sound Suits in motion and were very fortunate to have choreographer Tobias Griffin from New Orleans give students two weeks of collaborative dance lessons.

Needless to say, the dance sessions were a big success. Some students, who were apprehensive initially, seemed liberated by the process. Mr. Griffin choreographed distinct dances for each grade level.

The Highland Elementary School Sound Suit Project will culminate in a film. Each class will perform and be filmed independently. The final product will be a montage of all the performances.



# Old Town Middle School

Grades 6–8 • 210 Sunnybrook Rd. • 601-898-8730 • [www.madison-schools.com/otm](http://www.madison-schools.com/otm)

By Abbie Marbury, PTO Public Relations Chair



Old Town Middle School has had a busy second semester. Students, teachers, and faculty have had a challenging schedule of classes, tests, sports, field trips, and competitions, and even managed to have some fun along the way. For three of Old Town's groups, this year has provided opportunities to compete and show everyone their Titan pride!

The Robotics Club, led by Mrs. Jatoria Kirksey, is comprised of 6th - 8th graders that made up five teams this season. The Club competed in five competitions and

won awards at each one. Team Leviathan received the Judges Award at the Madison County Robotics VEX IQ Tournament, and Team Electro Eclipse won the Jackson Prep Santa Slapshot VEX IQ Tournament and received the Teamwork Champion Award. During the MCS Robotics VEX IQ Invitational in January 2023, Team Modern Minds won the Excellence Award, Team Rockets won the Teamwork Champion Award, and Team Chargers won the Robot Skills Champion Award. All five Old Town teams were invited to compete at the VEX IQ

Mississippi State Championship in Biloxi! The Robotics Club never fails to impress us with its critical thinking, creativity, and ingenuity.

On March 21, 2023, Old Town's Chamber Ensemble and Treble Select Ensemble competed at the annual MMEA State Adjudication for Middle School Choir in Pearl. These two groups put in long hours of practice during the week and on weekends. At the competition, both ensembles performed two selections. Their efforts paid off, and both choirs walked away with ratings of

“Excellent” in sight reading and performance. Congratulations to the Chamber Ensemble, Treble Select Ensemble, and their director, Ms. Marti Stoulig. Old Town's choir students performed in the annual Spring Concert on May 4 at the Ridgeland High School Auditorium.

This past semester, Old Town's Technology Students Association was hard at work. Led by Old Town's Cyber Foundations, STEM, Science, and Gifted teachers, this organization of students develops skills in various technology-based fields of study, including Biotechnology, Coding, Data Analytics,

Structural Engineering, and many more. Following a busy season and much preparation, the team competed at the district level and qualified for the March 22, 2023, state competition. The TSA was successful at state and placed in the categories of Leadership Strategies, Dragster, Tech Design,

Forensics, Medical Technology, and Cyber Security. They will travel to Louisville, KY, from June 28 - July 2 to compete at nationals. Old Town's Technology Students Association is one more reason why it's always a great day to be a Titan!



# Ridgeland High School

Grades 9-12 • 586 Sunnybrook Road • 601.898.5023 • [www.madison-schools.com/rhs](http://www.madison-schools.com/rhs)

By Jan Richardson

## McDaniel, 2022 Coach of the Year, Joins “The Land”



TODD MCDANIEL

New Ridgeland High School Athletic Director and head football coach Todd McDaniel joined Ridgeland High School’s program in April after a trio of successful years as head football coach at Vicksburg High. McDaniel was named MHSAA State Coach of the Year in 2022. Ridgeland High will move to 6A this year as MHSAA expanded its divisions through 7A for the 2023 school year.

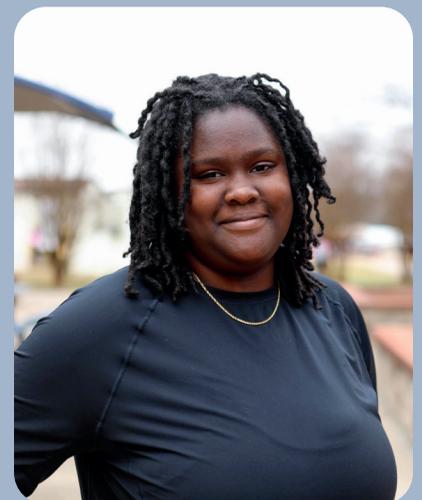
Titans invite fans to purchase season tickets. An all-sports pass is available, as well as individual sport passes. The all-sports pass is the best value. Support your hometown team!

## Titan Writers Earn “Key” Awards

Students in Mrs. Christine Davidson's accelerated English class at Ridgeland High were encouraged to submit entries into the Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition. Two students won awards: Jonathan Lewis won a Silver Key for his poem "Uncle's Plan," and Geda Brewster won a Gold Key for her short story "Murder She Wrote." As a Gold Key winner, Brewster's short story will be entered into the National Scholastic Arts and Writing Contest.



SILVER KEY WINNER, JONATHAN LEWIS



GOLD KEY WINNER, GEDA BREWSTER



## Ridgeland High Robotics earns berth at VEX Robotics World Championship

Ridgeland High VEX Robotics' streak of earning a spot at VEX Robotics World Championship continues. It got down to some tense moments at the VEX Mississippi State Championship, where three RHS teams competed. When it was announced that RHS Team 7536R won the Design Award, cheers ensued: we were heading to VEX World Championship in Dallas!

What do these robots do? Each VEX Robotics launches a new game, and student teams must start from scratch, designing a robot to perform tasks while competing against other teams. This year's game was called "Spin Up." It's a take on disc golf and requires

defensive and offensive strategies. Mr. Michael Broome, in his rookie year as the robotics program leader, supported the team in so many ways this season, including spending hours after school and weekends at tournaments and the robotics lab so that the students could code, design, build, and, yes, rebuild their robots. At Worlds, the 2023-24 game will be announced.

RHS Robotics program gets tremendous support from the Madison County School District and sponsors, including the City of Ridgeland, Mayor McGee, Fusion Coffeehouse, Halcyon Spa, Half Shell Oyster House, Keep Mississippi Beautiful, and Northpark.

# Holmes Community College

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

## Holmes Ridgeland Campus Holds 2023 Honors Day



IN THIS PHOTO: PICTURED ARE THE 2023 RIDGELAND CAMPUS AWARDS & HONORS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS. THEY ARE (FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) DARIAN BLACKBURN, CALLIE MCKINNEY, HOLLYN OSWALT, ELIJAH MANGUM, MAKYRA MILLER, MIKALA MCDONALD, COOPER HERRINGTON, (SECOND ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) SEAN JORDAN, SARAH HAMMONS, WILLIAMS BARKSDALE, ANDREA BONNER, ZOE LEWIS, CLARA CHAPOL, TIERRA LONIE, LAURA BOX, JADEN GONZALEZ, OLASIKE OLAGBEGI, (THIRD ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) ANGELICA MEJIA GONZALEZ, MARGIE MARTIN, DIAMOND BOYD, JODI PERRON, JESSICA GIBBONS, LAURA COLLIER, RACHEL MALLORD, ADDY HUDDLESTON, (BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) CONNOR LOFTON, JUAN CHACON, MICHAEL WALTMAN, KENDELL WILLIAMS, LARRY KUHN, AND ALEX ABRAMOVICH. NOT PICTURED: JAYLEN GRAYS, ERIN HILL, CHARLOTTE LAMAR, DANIEL O'DELL, JARED SNYDER, MICHELLE STALLINGS, AND GARRETT VIATOR.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus recognized its students' achievements and honors during the 2023 Honors Day Program held on April 19 in the Pat McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus. Representatives from each academic and career-technical program presented awards to students who have shown excellence in their given major, program, or extracurricular activity. Other special awards were given in various categories.

The evening began with a welcome from Ridgeland Campus Career and Technical Coordinator Allison DeWeese and an invocation from Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham. Award presentations began with recognizing the 2023 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 2023 Hall of Fame inductees included: Darian Alexandra Blackburn of Vestavia Hills, Alabama; Jaylen Grays of Jackson; Cooper Herrington of Brandon; Charlotte Lamar of Jackson; Elijah Dustin Mangum of Florence; Mikala Alayne McDonald of Byram; Callie Kurth McKinney of Flowood; Makyra Miller of Brandon; Daniel Patrick O'Dell of Madison; Hollyn Grace Oswalt of Clinton; Derrick Lashun Taylor II of Clinton and Garrett Michael Viator of New Iberia, Louisiana. A few of the Hall of Fame inductees also received other awards. Grays received the Social & Behavioral Science Award, Lamar the Literature Award, Mangum the Journalism Award, and McDonald the Educational Programs Award.

For academic awards, the Biological Science Award went to Jaden Gonzalez of Brandon, the Physical Science Award to Andrea Bonner of Madison, and the Engineering Award to Clara Chapol of Ridgeland. Alex Abramovich of Flowood took home the Mathematics Award, Zoe Lewis of Madison the Computer Science Award, and Tierra Lonie of Jackson the Business Administration Award. Jessica Gibbons of Flora also received the English Composition

Award and Rachel Mallord of Brandon the Spanish Award.

The Public Speaking Award went to Sarah Hammons of Clinton, the Ambassador Award, to Olasike Olagbegiof Jackson, and the History & Political Science Award, to William Barksdale of Madison. Jared Snyder of Madison took home the Criminal Justice Award, Laura Collier of Ridgeland received the Fine Arts Award, and Larry Kuhn of Pelahatchie received the Health, Physical Education, & Recreation Award.

For career-technology and workforce programs, Connor Lofton of Canton received the Heating, Ventilation, AC & Refrigeration (HVAC) Technology Award; Juan Chacon of Ridgeland,

the Welding & Cutting Technology Award; Margie Martin of Bentonina, the Engineering Technology Award and Michael Waltman of Canton, the Electro-Mechanical Technology Award.

The Paralegal Technology Award went to Michelle Stallings of Canton; the Culinary Arts Technology Award to Angelica Mejia Gonzalez of Madison; the Business & Office Technology Award to Jodi Perron of Carthage, and the Information Systems Technology Award to Kendell Williams of Jackson. Erin Hill of Ridgeland received the Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology Award, Christopher Sullivan of Brandon received the Emergency Medical Science Award, and Diamond Boyd of Jackson the

Associate Degree Nursing Award. Winners of the Literary Contest were also recognized. In the Short Story Category, Emma Christy of Madison won first for “Fossil Finds,” and Peyton DeLaune of Madison placed second for “Rental Cars, Stray Cats, and Storms.” In the Poetry Category, Addy Huddleston of Madison had two of her poems tied for first place: “Your Skeleton” and “Tomb for a Bird.” DeLaune came in second place for her poem “Proverbs of Our Love.” In the Literary Essay division, Sean Jordan of Byram won first place for “The Influence of Christianity in the Works of Phillis Wheatley.” Finally, in the Personal Essay Category, Laura Box of Jackson won first place for “Blame Shifting.”



## Holmes Ridgeland Campus Announces 2023 Who's Who

IN THIS PHOTO: PICTURED ARE THE HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE RIDGELAND CAMPUS 2023 WHO'S WHO RECIPIENTS. THEY ARE (FRONT, LEFT TO RIGHT) HOLLYN OSWALT OF CLINTON; MR. HOLMES JAYLEN GRAYS OF JACKSON; MISS HOLMES OLASIKE OLAGBEGI OF JACKSON; ANALISE MARIE JOHNSON OF SANDHILL; (BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) SEAN JORDAN OF BYRAM; CHARLOTTE LAMAR OF JACKSON; DERRICK LASHUN TAYLOR II OF CLINTON; GARRETT VIATOR OF NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA; JESSICA BROWN OF CANTON AND ARIAN FELTON OF MADISON.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus announced the 2023 Who's Who recipients, which include Mr. and Miss Holmes and Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Ridgeland Campus are Jaylen Grays and Olasike Olagbegi, both of Jackson.

Grays, son of Rose and J.Z. Grays, is a psychology major. He is also a President's List scholar,

vice president of public relations for Phi Theta Kappa, and a Student Government Association representative who assisted in founding intramural sports on the Ridgeland Campus.

Olagbegi, daughter of Miriam and Juwon Olagbegi, is a biology/pre-med major. She is Student Government Association president, STEM Club president, an Ambassador for the college, and

active in intramural sports. Olagbegi was also selected as the Student Body Maid for Homecoming 2022.

Class Favorites include Jessica Brown of Canton, Arian Cordelia Felton of Madison, Analise Marie Johnson of Canton, Sean Justin Jordan of Byram, Charlotte Lamar of Jackson, Hollyn Oswalt of Clinton, Derrick Lashun Taylor II of Clinton and Garrett Viator of New Iberia, Louisiana.



Knowledge • Community • Imagination

**RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Madison County Library System  
397 Highway 51  
Ridgeland, MS 9157  
601-856-4536  
www.mclsms.org

**HOURS**

Monday – Thursday  
9 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday – Saturday  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed on Sunday

# Ridgeland Public Library Summer Programs

By Kristen Hillman, Ridgeland Library Branch Manager



This June, be sure to stop by your Ridgeland Public Library for a whole summer of fun things to do that the entire family will enjoy. Sign-up for our summer reading contests and giveaways while you're here, and never miss out on all the awesome prizes your library wants to share with you! Starting June 1, prizes and giveaways will include a Kindle Fire eBook reader, a tablet, gift cards, and library swag. We are all about sharing the love with our community this June and July.

Our *Summer of Reading* kicks off on June 7 at 2:00 p.m. for families of all sizes with the phenomenal Crescent City Circus straight out of NOLA. The Crescent City Circus is a husband-wife duo from New Orleans fusing magic and circus arts. The show

is great for parents and kids of all ages. Audience members will get to have the magic happen in their own hands. Hula hoops and juggling balls will swirl through the air, and performers will balance atop rolling tubes and even each other. Come one, come all, for a fantastic start to our calendar full of events this summer!

The fun continues that week with a special program for adults and seniors honoring World Oceans Day. Join us on Thursday, June 8 at 4:30 p.m. (ages 18+) for *Upcycle Chic*, a fun program that shows you how to make treasure from trash. Keep plastic containers, like laundry pod containers, small bottles, and sanitizing wipe containers out of our oceans and make something useful.



### 2022 Natchez Trace Bandits plane display at the Renaissance will be on display at the Ridgeland Library

Have you ever wanted to be a pilot? Come see why the Natchez Trace Bandits R.C. Club is so excited about radio-controlled flying. The club will also display its collection of airplanes, including homemade and 3D Printed helicopters and drones. You can also do some flying practice yourself using their simulator! Don't miss this special Saturday event on June 10 at 11:00 a.m.

Do you know a teen who may be a prospective babysitter this summer? If so, bring them to the library's *Babysitting Bootcamp* on June 1 at 2:00 p.m., where prospective or veteran babysitters can learn or freshen up on techniques such as lifesaving and emergency CPR on infants and children as well as practical first aid and safety tips. This program is limited to 12 participants, so call the library at 601-856-4536 to register in advance. We want to thank Jessica Ridgeway of Vital Hearts, LLC, for providing hands-on training to our participants. Afterward, learn some easy crafts

from youth librarian Ms. Summer using common household items and fun things to do with kids of all ages.

*Juneteenth* is June 19, and the Ridgeland Library is proud to partner with Mississippi Djembe drummer, Baba Asante, to celebrate this day of freedom and proud African heritage. Join us for traditional African drumming and drum circle with the members of Mississippi Djembe for an unforgettable Juneteenth experience on June 19, starting at 3:30 p.m.

### Mississippi Djembe



Calling all artists! Starting June 1, we will begin accepting submissions at the library for our first-ever *Summer Library Art Contest*, open to all ages. This year's theme is "All Together Now," and we want to see your best art representing peace, unity, love, and respect for all. All artistic mediums accepted - painting, sketch/drawing, sculpture, photography, and digital or mixed medium. Please follow the rules and guidelines for size and

subject. Art must be no more than 11x17 on canvas and 18 inches for sculpture or mixed medium. Entries will be accepted until June 26. There will be a reception and awards ceremony on June 29. Art will be on display from June 29 – July 28, after which time artists can recollect entries. One winner will be selected per age category: Ages 0-4, Ages 5-11, Ages 12-13, Ages 14-18, and Adults 18+. Join us for our awards reception and open gallery on Thursday, June 29, starting at 4:30 p.m.

July continues our *Summer of Reading* program with two fun events for all ages. The family will not want to miss *Freedom Ranch Wildlife Center* on

July 19 at 3:30 p.m. The ladies of Freedom Ranch will introduce us to some animal friends and have demonstrations of what some of these amazing birds of prey are capable of. This is an informative and fun event you do not

want to miss. Dorian LaChance, magician, and comedian, closes our Summer Library Program on July 27 at 2:00 p.m. Dorian is a staple in libraries and other venues across the state. His shows always have something to keep the whole family laughing. Laughter brings us all together, so laugh it up this summer and put a smile on your face at the Ridgeland Public Library!

## EVENTS

## events

JUNE

10

Father Child  
Fishing Tournament  
Old Trace Park  
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

JUNE

23

Superstar Seniors:  
Patriotic Painting  
Workshop  
Ridgeland Recreational Center  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

JULY

18-21

Creative Craft Camp  
Bill Waller Craft Center

JUNE

13-16

Young Artisan  
Mosaic Camp  
Bill Waller Craft Center

JUNE

30

Celebrate America  
Balloon Glow  
Northpark  
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

AUGUST

10

Superstar Seniors: Penny  
Auction Game  
Ridgeland Recreational Center  
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

JUNE

13-16

Multi Media Class  
with Roz Roy  
Bill Waller Craft Center

JULY

11-14

Young Artisan Mosaic  
Camp  
Bill Waller Craft Center

AUGUST

24

Chamber – Women to  
Women: A Celebration  
Luncheon  
The Country Club of Jackson

JUNE

20-23

Young Artisan Stained  
Glass Camp  
Bill Waller Craft Center

JULY

13

Superstar Seniors: “Spare  
Time” Bowling Club  
Fannin Lanes Bowling Alley  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

AUGUST

25-27

Mississippi Sales Tax  
Holiday

# Ridgeland Alerts

EVENTS

EVENTS



The CivicReady solution will allow the City of Ridgeland to issue emergency alerts and city notifications to subscribed citizens via email, text message and voice alert, to keep citizens safe and informed.



## 3 EASY WAYS TO SIGN-UP

- **RIDGELAND-MS.MYFREEALERTS.COM**
- **VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND SIGN-UP BY CLICKING RIDGELAND ALERT ON THE HOMEPAGE**
- **TEXT YOUR ZIP CODE TO 38276 TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY ALERTS VIA SMS ONLY**



# Ridgeland Departments



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

brian.myers@ridgelandms.org



Recreation & Parks Department  
**JOHN SIDNEY NORTH**

Director

john.north@ridgelandms.org

## CITY OF RIDGELAND

City Hall, 100 W. School St. • Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157 • 601-856-7113 • www.ridgelandms.org

## Aldermen

- D.I. Smith**, Alderman-at-Large..... 601-940-2710
- Ken Heard**, Ward 1 ..... 601-201-7392
- Chuck Gautier**, Ward 2 ..... 601-506-5913
- Kevin Holder**, Ward 3 ..... 601-238-5361
- Brian Ramsey**, Ward 4 ..... 601-506-1979
- Bill Lee**, Ward 5 ..... 601-278-6256
- Wesley Hamlin**, Mayor Pro Tempore, 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
- COURT CLERK**  
(traffic violations, misdemeanors and fines)..... 601-853-2001
- EMERGENCY** (police and fire dispatch center)..... 9-1-1
- FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**  
(business licenses, elections, meeting minutes, budget, public records)..... 601-856-7113
- FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
(non-emergency calls, safety education programs)..... 601-856-7004
- POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
(non-emergency calls, public safety concerns) ..... 601-856-2121
- PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
(roads, garbage, recycling, water, storm water)..... 601-853-2027
- RECREATION AND PARKS**  
(special events, athletics and program registration, park information).... 601-853-2011
- UTILITY BILLING DEPARTMENT** (water, sewer, garbage, & recycling billing)  
utilitybilling@ridgelandms.org ..... 601-856-3938

## City Meetings

### MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

1st & 3rd Tuesday - 6 p.m.  
Work session is held on Mondays prior to Board Meeting - 6 p.m.

### ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

2nd & 4th Tuesday - 6 p.m.  
Bill Dicken (Chairman), Connie Suber (Secretary), David Dunbar  
Randy Lynn, Robert Moore, Lynette Praytor  
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

### COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE

Fourth Monday - 5:30 p.m.  
Shirley Gill - Chairman  
Carla Palmer Allen, Ted Arich, Lazaire Martin, Adams Yerger, Walter  
Young, Jr., Bethany Dooley, Becky Tilton, and Loden Snell

### 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, Tabitha Baum, Walter Cox, Theresa G. Kennedy,  
Drew Malone, Larry Miller, Judy Rice

# Ridgeland Aldermen

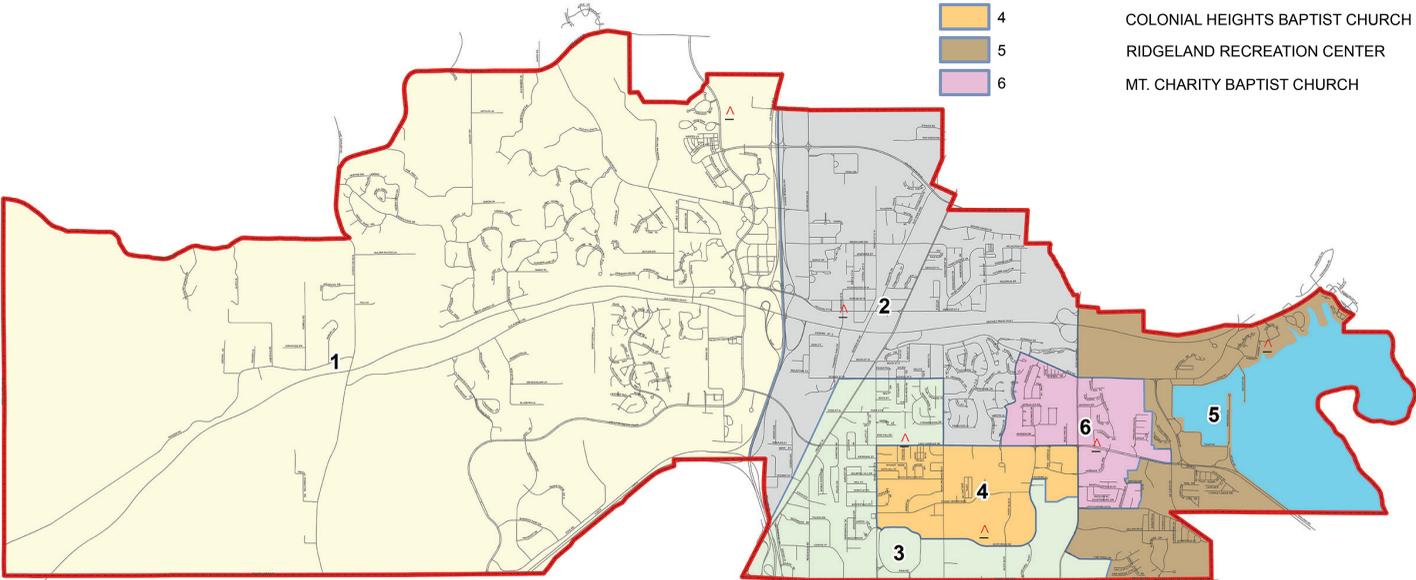
To learn more about your elected representatives, go to [www.ridgelandms.org/electedofficials/](http://www.ridgelandms.org/electedofficials/).

WARD NUMBER

 POLLING LOCATION

-  1
-  2
-  3
-  4
-  5
-  6

- HIGHLAND COLONY BAPTIST CHURCH
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
- TRACE RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH
- COLONIAL HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
- RIDGELAND RECREATION CENTER
- MT. CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH



**D.I. Smith**  
*Alderman At-Large*  
 601-940-2710  
[DI.Smith@RidgelandMS.org](mailto:DI.Smith@RidgelandMS.org)



**Ken Heard**  
*Ward 1*  
 601-201-7392  
[Ken.Heard@RidgelandMS.org](mailto:Ken.Heard@RidgelandMS.org)



**Chuck Gautier**  
*Ward 2*  
 601-506-5913  
[Chuck.Gautier@RidgelandMS.org](mailto:Chuck.Gautier@RidgelandMS.org)



**Kevin Holder**  
*Ward 3*  
 601-238-5361  
[Kevin.Holder@RidgelandMS.org](mailto:Kevin.Holder@RidgelandMS.org)



**Brian Ramsey**  
*Ward 4*  
 601-506-1979  
[Brian.Ramsey@RidgelandMS.org](mailto:Brian.Ramsey@RidgelandMS.org)



**Bill Lee**  
*Ward 5*  
 601-278-6256  
[Bill.Lee@RidgelandMS.org](mailto:Bill.Lee@RidgelandMS.org)



**Wesley Hamlin**  
*Ward 6*  
*Mayor Pro Tempore*  
 601-454-0353  
[Wesley.Hamlin@RidgelandMS.org](mailto:Wesley.Hamlin@RidgelandMS.org)



### Ridgeland Recreation & Parks Events for Summer



#### **JUNE** Father Child Fishing Tournament

- Saturday, June 10, 2023
- Old Trace Park shoreline
- 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
- Free event

#### **Celebrate America Balloon Glow**

- Friday, June 30, 2023
- Northpark
- Starts at 5:00 p.m.
- Free event