

*there's more here!*

# RIDGELAND LIFE

125 *Years*  
the city of   
RIDGELAND

1899-2024



Celebrating the Foundation  
of Our Future!

*the* SPRING ISSUE

MARCH - MAY 2024

# FROM THE MAYOR

Gene McGee

*It is hard to believe that it has been 25 years since the City of Ridgeland celebrated its 100th anniversary. As we begin the celebrations of our 125th anniversary, our challenge has been and remains to ensure that our city continues to be a vibrant place to live.*



**The World Economic Forum scores city liveability on six factors: affordability, amenities, connectivity, culture, safety, and sustainability. We are incredibly proud of how Ridgeland actively addresses all of these factors and to see our governmental bodies, our businesses, and our citizens working together to make Ridgeland a truly great place to live, continuing a legacy that started with our founding in 1899.**

As exciting as it is to imagine what our City is to become, let us not forget those who came along in the beginning, established our City, and ably assisted in making it what it is today. Without their foresight, Ridgeland would not be the dynamic place it is and an economic and civic leader in the State of Mississippi.

You will see many activities this year emphasizing the celebration of our 125th anniversary. I hope you will join the celebrations as our History Committee, Historical Society, planning team, and City staff promote all the great things in Ridgeland.

I am also enthusiastic about the historical markers our History Committee and Tourism Commission will install this year around our City. These will allow our citizens and guests to more readily understand

what Ridgeland is about and where Ridgeland came from. Did you know, for instance, that Ridgeland is named because of its location as the highest point along the Illinois Central Railroad between Memphis and New Orleans? Or that our City first got electricity in 1928?

Another exciting history project underway, which will come to fruition this year, is a new feature on our city website. Ridgeland's Director of Public Relations, Kim Cooper, and our web team, Think Webstore, are teaming up to create a virtual history room. This will allow anyone to access documentation in the Ridgeland History Room at City Hall from their computer or mobile device. It will also include a Share Your Story component to allow people to add to our City's history in a meaningful, permanent way.

One of the ways that the City of Ridgeland shares information about important happenings in our City is the Ridgeland Alert system. I would encourage each of you to sign up, not only to get information about the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations but also because it provides valuable practical information, such as changes to garbage and recycling collection days, details about major water line

breaks and road closures, and other vital information. It is very easy to sign up; for full details, please see page 40 of this publication.

As spring approaches, I encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities that Ridgeland offers at our parks and on our trails. Whether it be baseball, soccer, tennis, walking the Chisa Foka trail, kayaking in the Barnett Reservoir, or cycling on the Natchez Trace Parkway trails, there are a myriad of wonderful opportunities to be outside to enjoy the fantastic spring weather.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gene F. McGee". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

## **RIDGELAND LIFE** EDITOR

Kim Cooper, City of Ridgeland

## **SPONSORSHIP**

Carly Brandon, City of Ridgeland

## **GRAPHIC DESIGN & PRINTING**

Hederman Brothers

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

For information about Ridgeland Life, contact Kim Cooper at [Kim.Cooper@RidgelandMS.org](mailto:Kim.Cooper@RidgelandMS.org).

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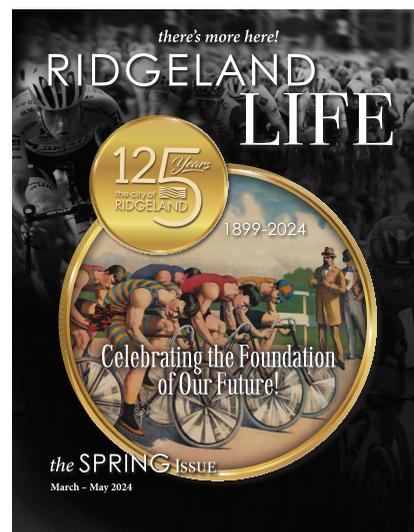
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“ This is a special year for Ridgeland as we celebrate our 125th anniversary! In 2023, we focused a lot on our City’s history and what a perfect way to transition into this milestone year. I hope our readers enjoy the spring issue as we highlight many exciting events and activities that will take place over the next few months. ”

*Kim*

Kim Cooper,  
Editor/Director of Public Relations





## TELLING RIDGELAND'S STORY: OUR ROAD RUNS FROM OUR HISTORY STRAIGHT THROUGH TO OUR FUTURE

**In 1896, James Brownlow Yellowley sold land that had been in his family's possession since his father, James Burroughs Yellowley of North Carolina, purchased it from William J. Austin in 1853. Austin had obtained**

**the property through a land grant from the government.**

The new owners, Gorton Nichols and Edward M. Treacle of Illinois, saw promise in the fertile, rolling hills

with railroad access. They formed The Highland Company and surveyed and mapped the land into 10-acre tracts. The tracts were advertised for sale in markets up north. Hoping to make a better life for themselves and their families, people

came from Illinois, Indiana, Washington, Kentucky, and Tennessee by what was then the Illinois Central Railroad. They could plant pecan, pear and peach trees, strawberries, and vegetables here. The products could be shipped to markets all over the country by railroad.

On December 29, 1899, the State of Mississippi chartered the Village of Ridgeland. At that time, 150 people lived in the village, which encompassed less than one square mile.

Despite a devastating fire in 1902, the first fifty years saw growth in the Village. A one-room schoolhouse was built, electric service was obtained, Highway 51 was paved, and construction was begun on the Natchez Trace Parkway. The population grew to over 500 people even though the size of the Village had stayed the same.

The next fifty years saw exponential growth when the population grew to over 20,000 residents living and working in almost 17 square miles. Growing from a Village, then a Town, Ridgeland

was designated a City in 1975. With the proximity of the Barnett Reservoir, the development of County Line Road, the building of elementary and middle schools and Holmes Community College, and the opening of Highland Colony Parkway, more people and businesses were drawn to Ridgeland.

Since the turn of the century, the City expanded to over 21 square miles. A Master Plan was developed, and improvements in east/west connections were completed. A new City Hall was built. Enticed by increased residential and business development, good schools, and a variety of recreational facilities, more than 5000 more people moved into Ridgeland.

The future that Ridgeland's founders envisioned is now our history. Our present times would have been unimaginable to them. But our future is limitless. Resolve and determination have brought Ridgeland further in 125 years than our founders could have ever hoped. But hold on to your hats...The best is yet to come!

“ We are excited about this year’s 125th anniversary celebrations. A special planning committee has been appointed to work closely with the City’s History Committee to organize a number of activities highlighting Ridgeland’s community spirit and history throughout the year. ”

Kim Cooper,  
Editor/Director of Public Relations



**WHERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RIDGELAND'S HISTORY:**

In anticipation of the 125th anniversary of the Charter of Ridgeland, the Historical Society has prepared an exhibit in the History Room at City Hall honoring the First Families of Ridgeland. It can be viewed anytime City Hall is open. Later this year, the History Room will also be available virtually on the City's website.

With support from Ridgeland Tourism and the City, the Society has mapped out a History Trail that will utilize existing sidewalks and trails and some off-trail sites. Over 20 trail markers will tell the history of people, places, and events in Ridgeland's history. The first sign has been erected at City Hall, and the rest will be installed later this year.



By Polly Hammett



MISSISSIPPI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

# PEPSI POPS

MAY 10, 2024



# SPRING IS FILLED WITH SO MUCH TO DO IN RIDGELAND

*It's a beautiful time of year in Ridgeland! Spring is indeed the season for enjoying outdoor activities and events, and Ridgeland offers a wonderful environment for getting out with family and friends. Whether you're interested in festivals, sporting events, or simply enjoying nature, there's likely something for everyone.*

By Kim Cooper and Explore  
Ridgeland Staff

## WALLER CRAFT CENTER

Passing along craft skills and fostering appreciation of the craft for future generations is something that happens in the most special of places.

### DEMO DAY

April 13

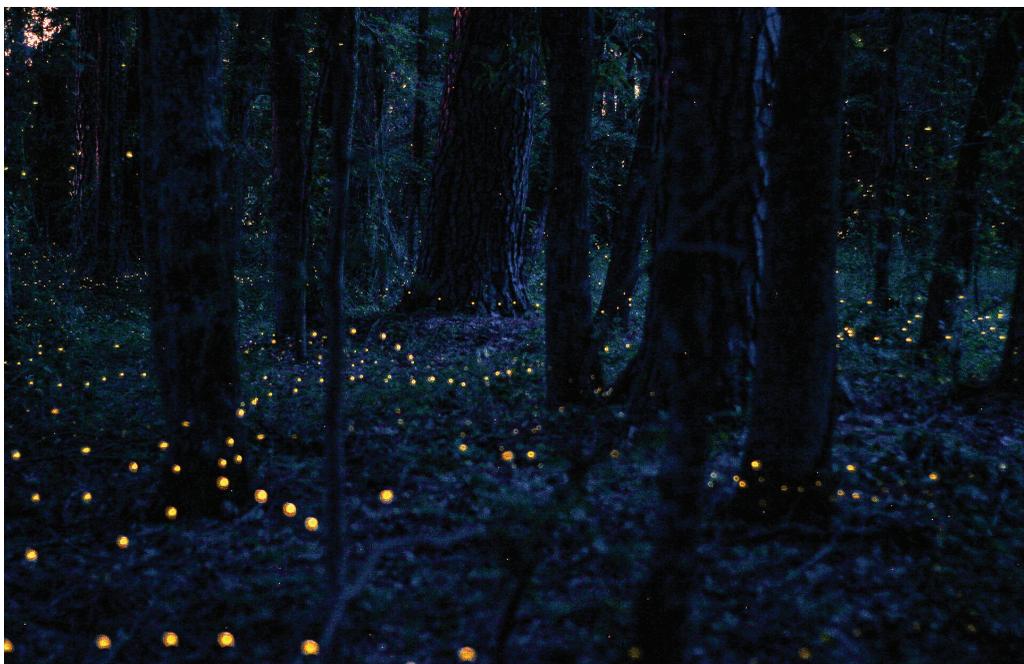
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Join the Guild for a fun day of demonstrations by their Craftsmen! Adults and children will both enjoy watching the Craftsmen create their beautiful work.

### SNAPPY SYNC

May 16 – 19

Witness the magic of thousands of twinkling Snappy Sync fireflies flashing together during a special, 20-minute guided tour near the historic Old Trace. These tiny creatures are a BIG deal as they only perform this breathtaking show for a short period of time, and we are so lucky to have them right here



in Ridgeland. Each tour will be led by a Mississippi Master Naturalist ready to guide you in wonder as these rare fireflies illuminate the night like a forest full of fairies. This rare and absolutely beautiful event you will not want to miss!

photo courtesy of  
Louisa Simmons

## THE TOWNSHIP AT COLONY PARK

The Township at Colony Park is a planned masterpiece that mixes shops, restaurants, hotels, and residences in gorgeous New Urbanist style. Discover vibrant shopping, dining, nightlife, beauty and well-being in this unique neighborhood environment.

### TOWNSHIP JAZZ FESTIVAL

April 6

11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Township Jazz Festival returns once again this spring. This event has gained a reputation as one of the best family-friendly music events in the state. A full spectrum of jazz artists from national recording artists to local up-and-coming professionals and students held on the concert green at Township at Colony Park.



## RENAISSANCE AT COLONY PARK

Renaissance at Colony Park has an elegant, old-world design that sets architectural artistry against luxuriant landscaping with an inviting village center. A venue for shopping, dining, and entertainment, Renaissance is home to local boutiques, specialty stores, and renowned national stores including the only Apple store in the state.

### FIRST RIDGELAND BAPTIST CHURCH EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

April 6

11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

### RENAISSANCE MOTHER'S DAY EVENT

May 11

11 a.m – 1:00 p.m.





## ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

### SANTÉ SOUTH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL ST. ANDREW'S ATHLETIC RECREATION CENTER

May 4

7:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Benefitting The MIND Center at UMMC, the largest wine and culinary extravaganza in the state showcases domestic and international wines and fine food samplings from Mississippi's top restaurants. The MIND Center at UMMC is a national leader in Alzheimer's research and clinical care. Tickets are available at [santesouth.org](http://santesouth.org).

## NORTH PARK

Mississippi's premier indoor shopping destination, Northpark, is home to more than 120 in-demand stores and specialty shops. A vital part of Ridgeland's economy, Northpark completed a multi-million dollar redevelopment in 2018.

### PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY IN CENTER COURT

March 16 - 30

### WIGGLE WEDNESDAY KIDS CLUB IN CENTER COURT

March 20 at 11:00 a.m.

April 17 at 11:00 a.m.

May 15 at 11:00 a.m.

### PET PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

March 23

All day

### HOP-N-SHOP KIDS CLUB

March 23 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

## BARNETT RESERVOIR

### DRAGON BOAT REGATTA

May 11

Old Trace Park

Watch the races from Old Trace Park as teams compete along the shores of the Barnett Reservoir.

### PEPSI POPS

May 10 from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Old Trace Park

A concert under the stars by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra at Old Trace Park overlooking the Barnett Reservoir.

Enjoy the water on the Reservoir: The Barnett Reservoir offers a variety of

water activities, including boating, fishing, and kayaking. It's a perfect spot for a picnic or a leisurely day by the water.

## MORE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

### MAGRIDGE BMX OPEN HOUSE

March 2 at 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

344 Old Town Crossing

### MAGRIDGE BMX EASTER EGG RACE AND HUNT

March 30 at 2:00 p.m.

344 Old Town Crossing

### 12TH ANNUAL LEAP 4 THE LILY PAD

April 13 from 2:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Methodist Rehabilitation  
Center Green Space

Proceeds of this fun run and 5k run/walk benefit The Lily Pad Café, where young adults with disabilities are equipped with the training to make a leap of their own towards local employment.

### EXPLORE THE NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY

Take advantage of the mild weather to bike, hike, or drive along the Natchez Trace Parkway. The scenery is especially beautiful in spring when the wildflowers are blooming.

Spring in Ridgeland offers many recreational and leisure activities suitable for everyone, making it a great time to explore and enjoy the City.

See pages 17 - 23 for information regarding City of Ridgeland events and activities.

# THE MUSTARD SEED CELEBRATES 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN RIDGELAND

*What began as an idea, a dream by a group of families who saw a need for a ministry to serve special adults with developmental disabilities, has blossomed, bearing fruit, now serving over 40 special individuals that we affectionately call “Seedsters.”*



**The Mustard Seed was founded in 1981, and our mission has been to serve the Lord by meeting the needs of the Seedsters by giving them a loving, safe, compassionate, and Christian environment where they are nurtured, encouraged, challenged, taught independence, and taught new skills - all while having fun!**

Executive Director Wayne Nunnelee states, “The Seedsters bring joy and

enrich the lives of everyone they encounter. They teach us how to love unconditionally, how to appreciate the simple things in life, how to endure life’s challenges with dignity, and how to have joy and laugh often. They teach us wisdom, kindness, gratitude, forgiveness, and humility, along with loyalty, empathy, compassion, creativity, passion, and hope. It is an honor and blessing to serve these special individuals.”

In 2022, The Mustard Seed started exploring the possibility of expanding its reach into the Madison County area. The intent was to open a retail shop where we could highlight the beautiful ceramic and canvas art that our Seedsters produce while bringing community awareness to our mission and celebrating the special needs community as a whole.

When the 115 North Wheatly Street property presented itself as



“ Working at the Mustard Seed has truly been life-changing for me. I am blessed to work with the wonderfully talented Seedsters and appreciate how they tackle life. Things that I would normally see as a difficult challenge, the Seedsters, turn into a new and fun task with a huge smile - and that smile is extremely contagious! It is all about your attitude and perspective. These experiences have propelled me to study social work at college next year so that I can help others who face difficulties. I am very thankful for my coworkers, the Seedsters, and all who work at the Mustard Seed. It has taught me many valuable life lessons I could not have learned elsewhere. ”

Betsy Walters,  
Mustard Seed employee

a possible location, we prayed, did research, had meetings, and then eagerly secured the property. Renovations began immediately, and just six short months later, the doors were opened to Mustard Seed Ridgeland.

After a year in operation, we are truly humbled by the support we have received from Ridgeland. The City of Ridgeland and the local business community welcomed us into the Ridgeland family with open arms. It has been an absolute JOY to meet new families, spread our mission, bring awareness to the special needs community, and plant a Mustard Seed right in the heart of downtown Ridgeland.

We are excited about our future and all the new people we will meet and serve. If you haven't stopped by and shopped at The Mustard Seed Ridgeland yet, we hope you do soon! The Mustard Seed Ridgeland is located at 115 North Wheatly Street. We are open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and the first Saturday every month from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Thank you for helping us move mountains!

By Jayme Whittington and  
Wayne Nunnelee



**Your Hometown with Walt Grayson:  
Meeting the Needs**

# A CITY'S VISION

## FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

*The City of Ridgeland's plan to establish a Performing Arts Center (PAC) is a significant cultural and community development project.*

**The City of Ridgeland's plan to establish a Performing Arts Center (PAC) is a significant cultural and community development project. The facility will include a 1,000 to 1,200-seat auditorium, a black box theater, meeting space, a multipurpose room, and administrative offices that will provide a versatile venue capable of hosting a wide range of performances, community events, and meeting space. The plans for this 60,000-square-foot facility are strategically designed to be located across from the Ridgeland City Hall on West School Street, emphasizing the City's dedication to creating a vibrant city center.**

Dean Architecture's involvement in the project, given their broad history with Ridgeland's development, adds a layer of connection and expertise to the project. Dean's prior work in Ridgeland

includes the new Ridgeland City Hall, the Township at Colony Park, Renaissance at Colony Park, the Horne building, and St. Andrew's Science Center, to name a few, indicates that the PAC will be designed with a profound appreciation of the local context and growth.

The idea for the facility first came out of the 2008 Ridgeland-Area Master Plan, which addressed the city's long-term needs. The PAC is not just a standalone development but is part of a larger vision and strategy for the City's future growth. The vision of a "city center focus area" will provide our residents and visitors with a sense of community, making the PAC a potentially transformational development for Ridgeland.

As the City moves into the fundraising phase, the success of the Capital Campaign and support from the

community will be of great importance. Developments of this scale involve a substantial financial investment but also the support of the community to ensure their relevance and impact. The PAC represents a vision for enhancing Ridgeland's cultural future and will provide a center for community engagement and creativity.

*"This opportunity to build a PAC will inspire innovative new art-making, enable unprecedented artistic collaboration, and serve as a host for world-class performance and community events,"* stated Mayor Gene McGee. The arts are increasingly recognized for their ability to promote community engagement. This state-of-the-art performing arts center will allow Ridgeland to attract performances, audiences, and events that might not otherwise have a venue in the City.



# KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL

## MEMBER HONORED WITH NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

By Keep Ridgeland Beautiful Committee



“Working with the Keep Ridgeland Beautiful team as part of the Keep Mississippi Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful® network is a joy. Many thanks to Sarah Kountouris, Keep Mississippi Beautiful Executive Director, and Keep Ridgeland Beautiful, for the honor of the nomination.”

Jan Richardson,  
Chair, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful

**The Sue Smith Professional Leadership Award is named in honor of Sue Smith, the former Director of Education & Training and former Director of Keep America Beautiful®- Chicago, who currently serves as the Interim Director. This award goes to an Executive Director of an affiliate (for at least five years) who has exhibited outstanding support of the Keep America Beautiful® mission and Model for Change methodology. They inspire other affiliate directors, implement innovative Keep America Beautiful® programs and initiatives in all impact areas, and provide leadership at the national level. The 2023 recipients are Jan Richardson of Keep Ridgeland Beautiful (MS) and Kimberly White of Keep Cobb Beautiful (GA).**

“This year’s winners exemplify the best of our work at Keep America Beautiful®,” said Sue Smith. “When you think you’ve heard it all, you read the applications for the Professional Leadership Award. I am humbled to have my name associated with Keep America Beautiful® and honored to present this award again this year.”

Jan Richardson is the Chairperson of the City’s Keep Ridgeland Beautiful affiliate, and the Assistant Director of the non-profit Keep Mississippi Beautiful. She and her husband Allen have lived in Ridgeland for 26 years and raised three children who love their hometown.

“This award is a testimony of Jan’s talent, passion, and dedication toward her work for Keep Ridgeland Beautiful and Keep

Mississippi Beautiful; no one deserves it more,” stated Sarah Kountouris, a past Sue Smith Professional Leadership Award winner.

Thanks to City officials and partners across City departments and our local community, the affiliate’s ongoing commitments include maintaining our award-winning Wildflower Field and Art Park on West Jackson Street, designed by Tim Taylor; park workdays; conducting an annual litter survey for the City; planting flower bulbs; and fostering business and community partners in the areas of litter prevention, recycling education/efforts, and beautification.

Love your City and engage in our mission simply by keeping your street litter-free and beautiful.

# explore dining



32.44807,  
-90.15037

Township at  
Colony Park

Lou's Southern  
Sandwich Co.

Better come hungry! Need some tips  
finding that perfect plate? We can  
help at [exploreRidgeland.com](https://www.exploreRidgeland.com).

explore  
**RIDGELAND**

# explore RIDGELAND

## Bikeshare

### Explore Ridgeland on Two Wheels

As Mississippi's premier cycling destination, we are delighted to launch the first locations of the Ridgeland Bikeshare program. Locals and visitors are invited to experience on-demand bike sharing, powered by Explore Ridgeland and Koloni Fleets!

The fleet is split between The Bike Crossing for easy access to the Chisha Foka Multi-Use Trail and the Ridgeland Visitors Center near popular outdoor shopping districts Renaissance at Colony Park and Township at Colony Park.

Ridgeland Bikeshare at The Bike Crossing  
192 Old Town Crossing, Ridgeland MS 39157

Ridgeland Bikeshare at Ridgeland Visitors Center  
1000 Highland Colony Pkwy, Suite 3002, Ridgeland MS 39157

#### How it Works:

##### 1. Set up the Koloni App

Follow the QR code or visit the Google Play Store or Apple Store to download the app. Follow the in-app instructions to create a free account.



##### 2. Select Your Bike

Unlock a bike inside the app by scanning a QR code or inputting a bike ID.



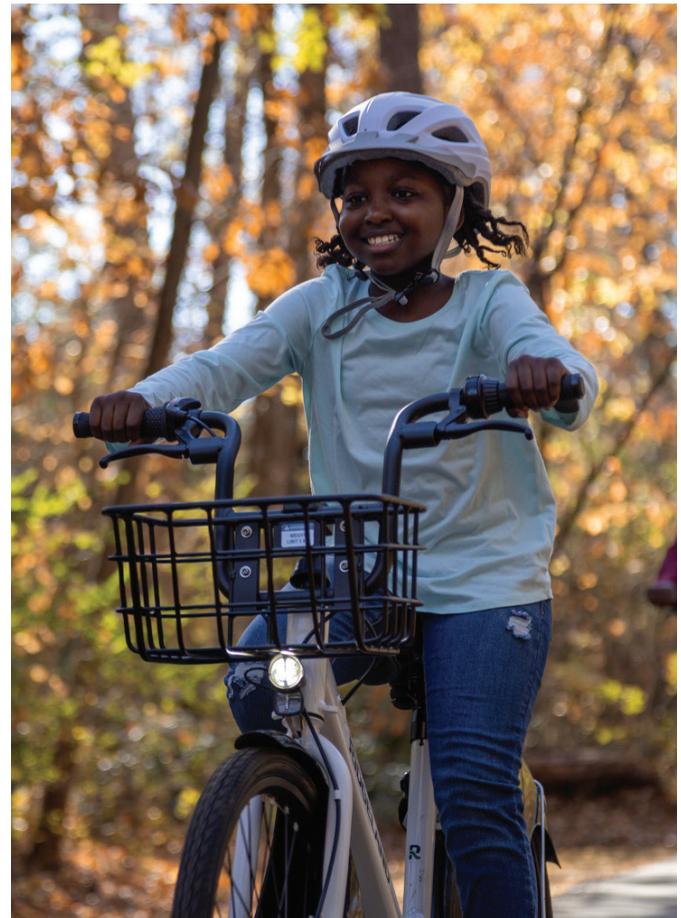
##### 3. Enjoy Your Ride

Explore Ridgeland on two wheels. Don't forget your helmet!



*City of Ridgeland ordinance requires all persons to wear protective helmets when riding a bicycle. Ride at your own risk.*

Visit our website for suggested routes and more information:



#### Things to Know:

- Hours of Operation: Daily from Sunrise to Sunset
- You may not ride a bicycle if you are under 18 years of age. A minor who is 18 years of age or older may only use the services if the minor's membership is subscribed for by, and the minor is under the responsibility of, the minor's parent or legal guardian.
- Users must review and approve the terms and conditions inside the app.
- Ride at your own risk and be sure to follow the rules of the road.

# RECRE8

## CITY SPRING EVENTS!

*The City of Ridgeland's Recreation and Parks Department is looking forward to a historic spring season.*

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Natchez Trace Century Ride, which attracts over 1,000 cyclists from across the county. This event underscores Ridgeland's reputation as a great location for cycling and is a Mississippi bike ride you don't want to

miss! The Natchez Trace Century Ride is named for its route along the historic and scenic Natchez Trace Parkway, and this premiere cycling event offers participants a unique opportunity to experience the area's beauty and has something to offer cyclists at any level.

This milestone event, scheduled during a season filled with activities that promote outdoor recreation, aligns with the City's commitment as a Healthy Hometown. With a variety of events planned for the spring, Ridgeland has something for everyone.





### 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.

- Classes start on March 26, 2024
- Classes are located at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, 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 2024 spring classes, visit: [www.jotc.org](http://www.jotc.org).



### Miracle League Baseball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks provides a baseball league for individuals with

disabilities. Games are played at Hite Wolcott Park on the Parker Miracle Field.

- Youth and adult leagues are available
- Youth games are played on Mondays
- Adult games are played on Tuesdays
- The season runs from April through May
- Registration ends on March 15.
- Registration forms can be found at [www.ridgelandms.org](http://www.ridgelandms.org) (forms tab)



### Easter Egg Hunt

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks presents the City-wide Easter Egg Hunt!

- Photos with the Easter Bunny
- Egg Hunts by age groups
- Children ages 10 and under only are welcome
- One parent allowed per child in the hunting area
- There is no charge for this event.

Ages	Hunt Times
2 and under	6:10 p.m.
3 - 4 year olds	6:20 p.m.
5 - 6 years old	6:30 p.m.
7 - 10 years old	6:40 p.m.

**Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024**  
**Time: 5:45 to 7:00 p.m.**  
**Location: Freedom Ridge Park**



### Ride of Silence

The Ride of Silence is a bike ride to honor those who have been injured or lost their life to a vehicle collision while riding their bicycle. Cyclists remain silent during the bike ride.

- All level cyclists are welcome
- Route is approximately 8 miles
- This ride is a slow pace
- There is no charge for this event.

**Date: May 15, 2024**  
**Time: Ride greeting at 6:50 p.m.**  
**Wheels roll at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Location: Northpark**



### 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 are for ages 12 years and under
- Prizes are biggest fish, smallest fish, and most fish
- There is no charge for this event.

**Date: Saturday, June 8, 2024**  
**Time: 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.**  
**Location: Old Trace Park**  
**Ross Barnett Reservoir**



**25<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

**NATCHEZ TRACE**

**CENTURY RIDE**  
2024 *GET YOUR RIDE ON...*

**THIS IS THE RIDE  
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!**

**SAT. MAY 4, 2024 • 7 AM • OLD TRACE PARK**  
Presented in Partnership with Explore Ridgeland and The Bike Crossing



Recreation  
and Parks

# NATCHEZ TRACE CENTURY RIDE CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

**The Natchez Trace Century Ride is one of the largest spring cycling events in Mississippi. Wheels will roll again this year on May 4, 2024 in Ridgeland, Mississippi. With approximately 1,000 riders, the bike ride starts and ends in Ridgeland.**

The Natchez Trace Century Ride has something to offer for all types of cyclists and provides riders the unique opportunity to ride a portion of the Natchez Trace Parkway. A few of the beautiful scenery opportunities on the

ride include riding around the Ross Barnett Reservoir, under a canopy of pine trees, and along-side cypress trees and lily pads.

With a choice of distances from 8, 25, 50, 62 and 100 miles with mild to moderate elevation, this is a nice ride for all ages and abilities. There will be plenty of support with “energy” stops providing food, restrooms, and refreshments every 10 – 18 miles. SAG vehicles are located on the course throughout the day to assist or provide service to riders.

Celebrate with friends and fellow riders as you cross the finish line. Receive a medal, enjoy a post ride meal, and relax under the tent with a view of the Barnett Reservoir.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MS/Ridgeland/NatchezTraceCenturyRide>.

# 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.

### *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 and Fridays  
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Instructor: Martha Millsaps

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 and Fridays  
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Instructor: Martha Millsaps

Standing poses for balance; floor poses to improve strength

### *Mat Pilates*

Fridays 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
\$5/class  
Instructor: Martha Millsaps

Pilates is popularly known as a core-focused workout, but it's actually a whole-body exercise. Floor exercises will be involved.

### *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.

## 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 Peggy Peterson if interested in joining the waitlist at [Peggybpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:Peggybpeterson@gmail.com).

### Bridge

\$1  
 Dates: 3/21, 4/18, 5/16  
 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: 3/28, 4/25, 5/23  
 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.



senior adult programs

**RIDGELAND SENIOR ADULT PROGRAMS'**

# penny auction

**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, competitive game. Pennies will be provided. Let the bidding begin!**

senior adult programs

**SPONSORED BY**

**TRADITIONS HEALTH**  
*Never Alone™*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH**  
**2:00-3:00 PM**

FREE **RIDGELAND RECREATIONAL CENTER**

**FREE ENTRY**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
 AT 769-235-9579 OR  
[NEELEY.JONES@RIDGELANDMS.ORG](mailto:NEELEY.JONES@RIDGELANDMS.ORG)

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



# SPRINGTIME IN THE CITY

Whether you're interested in festivals, sporting events, or simply enjoying nature, there's something for everyone. Here are a few suggestions for making the most of the spring in Ridgeland!

## EVENTS

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**MARCH 16 - 30**

*Photos with the Easter Bunny*

Northpark, Center Court

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**MARCH 21**

*City of Ridgeland Easter Egg Hunt*

Freedom Ridge Park  
5:45 - 7:00 p.m.

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**MARCH 23**

*Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny*

Northpark, Center Court  
All day

---

**MARCH 23**

*First Ridgeland Baptist Church: Easter Eggstravaganza*

Renaissance  
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**MARCH 30***MagRidge BMX Easter Egg Race & Hunt*

344 Old Town Crossing  
2:00 p.m.

**APRIL 6***17th Annual Township Jazz Festival*

The Township at Colony Park  
11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**APRIL 13***12th Annual Leap 4 the Lily Pad*

Methodist Rehab Center Green Space  
2:30 – 5:15 p.m.

**APRIL 16***Annual Chamber Awards Banquet*

The Country Club of Jackson  
6:30 p.m.

**MAY 4***Natchez Trace Century Ride*

Old Trace Park  
7:00 a.m.

**MAY 4***Sante South Wine & Food Festival*

St. Andrew's Episcopal School  
7:30 – 10:00 p.m.

**MAY 10***43rd Annual Pepsi Pops*

Old Trace Park  
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

**MAY 11***Dragon Boat Regatta*

Old Trace Park

**MAY 11***Mother's Day Event*

Renaissance  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**MAY 12 - 18***Law Enforcement Appreciation Week***MAY 15***Ride of Silence*

Northpark Mall  
7:00 p.m.

**MAY 16 - 19***Snappy Sync – Synchronized Fireflies*

The Waller Craft Center

**MAY 27***Memorial Day Ceremony*

Veterans Memory Park  
in Ridgeland – City Hall  
10:00 a.m.

# RIDGELAND... TURNING VISION INTO REALITY

Ridgeland  
Chamber of  
Commerce



Ribbon cutting ceremony for TrustCare Health Primary Care located at 1067 Highland Colony Parkway

The Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce is keeping members and the community connected and making an impact through a variety of programs. For example, the Chamber's annual September Fall Golf Classic at Lake Caroline Golf Club provides Chamber members and guests with a fun day of golfing, networking, and good sportsmanship.

"Our Ridgeland Chamber Golf Classic has grown in popularity," said Linda Bynum, Executive Director of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce. "Over 100 golfers enjoy a relaxing and fun day,

delicious lunch, snacks and drinks, and an opportunity to win a two-year lease on a new Mercedes C300 Sedan sponsored by Mercedes-Benz of Jackson."

For 31 years, the mission of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce has been to encourage an environment conducive to the continuing development of new and existing businesses. With a membership of 900, the Chamber is composed of corporations, service businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals who share the Chamber's goal of promoting and maintaining a healthy

business environment for businesses to succeed. If it's important to a business, it's important to the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce.

2023 was an exceptional year for the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce, with ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings, grand openings, and well-attended networking events. The Chamber continued its mission to enhance the economic vitality of Ridgeland by constantly setting new goals and offering fresh and innovative programs to Chamber members.

## CELEBRATING 31 YEARS

“It’s an exciting time to live and work in Ridgeland. As we celebrate the Chamber’s 31st anniversary, we will continue to serve as a strong advocate for growth and development. With the fast growth in our City, our Chamber is taking a leadership role in helping to grow our economy and build a strong, solid community for generations to come. The Ridgeland Chamber is all about making connections, fostering growth, and showcasing Ridgeland as a city Turning Vision into Reality. If it’s your business, it’s our business, too.”

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

## CHAMBER PROGRAMS

- **The Chamber’s Annual Spring Fling Golf Tournament:** Held at Deerfield, brings Chamber members and guests together for a day of team building and great fun.
- **Women to Women: A Celebration Luncheon:** Features an inspirational and educational event designed for women of all ages. Held at the Country Club of Jackson, the event highlights prominent women who have achieved remarkable success and overcome many challenges and obstacles. Chamber members are encouraged to set up vendor booths to showcase fashion, accessories, and home décor.
- **Ridgeland Police Appreciation Week:** Celebrates National Law Enforcement Week with the Ridgeland Chamber honoring our men and women in blue. The week-long list of events and activities includes a memorial service honoring fallen officers nationwide. The Chamber distributes blue ribbons for the community to wear, provides 12 “Officer of the Month” gift cards, and surprises all officers

with fabulous goody bags containing items donated by Chamber member businesses. This year, Chamber members created Canon’s Closet, a fully stocked, large pantry containing items for abandoned children and pets located inside the Roll Call room at the Ridgeland Police Department. The pantry is filled with diapers, clothing, pull-ups, baby wipes, non-perishable food and drink items, blankets, hygiene items, coloring books and crayons, toys and stuffed cuddly animals, as well as dog and cat food.

- **The Chamber’s Junior Diplomat Leadership Program** is in its 22nd year with 35 students representing area schools. “It is our hope that this program will instill in our young people the value of community service and the importance of making one’s community the best it can be,” Bynum said.
- **The Chamber’s New Member Breakfasts** welcome new businesses and individual members while the Chamber’s 40 Diplomats continue to represent the Chamber as goodwill ambassadors to the business community.
- **Shop Small Saturday:** Celebrating Ridgeland’s small businesses and the contributions they make to the City’s economy, the Chamber partners with the City of Ridgeland and Explore Ridgeland to promote independently-owned businesses by proclaiming the Saturday after Thanksgiving as Small Business Saturday.
- **The Chamber’s annual “Shop Local – Buy Local** is a pre-holiday shopping extravaganza held in December, which includes over 60 businesses showcasing their products and services. The Chamber partners with Explore Ridgeland and the Madison County Journal to



We’re painting the town blue and gold with our 2024 membership plaques! Thank you, Ridgeland Chamber members for renewing your 2024 membership. Please take advantage of all our many benefits designed to help your business succeed!

promote Ridgeland as a premier shopping and dining destination through print advertising.

- **The Chamber's Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast:** Held at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, is a day of reflection and thanksgiving. Open to the Ridgeland community, the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is one of the Chamber's most popular and well-attended events.
- **The Chamber's Annual Awards Banquet** always draws a sold-out crowd and is a night of festivities and celebration. Awards are given to the year's Business of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Diplomat of the Year, and the recipient of the Community Service Award is named. The awards ceremony also includes naming the City Maker and the Economic Developer of the Year.

By Linda Bynum,  
Chamber Executive Director

## NEWS FLASH!

Coming soon!  
**2024 - 2025**

**Community Profile & Membership Directory**



### 2024 Ridgeland Chamber Board of Directors

President

**Cecil Harper**

*Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P.A.*

Vice-President

**Tim Magandy**

*Robot Coupe USA, Inc.*

Treasurer

**Nicky Cobb**

*Guaranty Bank & Trust Company*

Immediate Past President

**Ray Balentine**

*Michael Baker International*

**Shawn Cochran**

*Northpark*

**John Dorsa**

*State Farm Insurance*

**Chris Hemphill**

*C Spire Business*

**Deonte Oscar**

*Community Bank of Mississippi*

**Carla Palmer**

*CPA Realty, LLC*

**Jay Reber**

*CenterPoint Energy*

**Jeremy Rodden**

*BankPlus*

**Tom Steadman**

*Tuxedo Junction*

### Chamber Staff

**Linda Bynum**, Executive Director

**Sandy Baas**, Administrative Assistant

*Save the Date*

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

April 16, 2024  
6:30 PM  
The Country Club of Jackson



# ANN SMITH ELEMENTARY

## School Highlights

RIDGELAND  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### *Ann Smith Elementary Recognizes a Few Special Individuals*

By Ann Smith  
Elementary Staff



Our 2023 - 24 Parent of the Year is Mrs. Sarah Torres. Sarah currently serves as our PTO President. She is always willing to step up and help with any need that may arise at the school. Sarah has two students at Ann Smith Elementary. We are grateful for her hard work and dedication!



Our Assistant Teacher for the 2023 - 24 School Year is Mrs. Jetaun Cotton. Not only does Mrs. Cotton work tirelessly every day as a Kindergarten assistant teacher with Mrs. Leonard's class, but she also serves on the PTO Board. She has a son in kindergarten at Ann Smith as well. She has a heart of gold and always wears a smile. Her positivity is contagious. Thanks for always going the extra mile, Mrs. Cotton!



Ann Smith Elementary Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Delila Vance. Mrs. Vance is our Librarian & Media Specialist, testing coordinator, and fearless faculty book study leader. She also serves as a member of our PTO board, leads the new teacher mentor program, and leads the 2nd-grade library club. She goes above and beyond to serve our school, teachers, and students. Mrs. Vance is truly the heart of our school, and she excels in each role she is given! Vance has served at Ann Smith for five years but has been in education for twenty years.

# OLD TOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## *Recognizes Three Outstanding Leaders*

By Abbie Marbury

**They say it takes a village to raise children, and it takes a pretty big village to run a middle school. Old Town Middle School (OTMS) has an outstanding team of administrators, staff, teachers, and parents who spend countless hours behind the scenes to bring our students a top-notch education and make a lasting positive impression on their lives. We are excited to spotlight this year's top contributors to the school.**



### **Teacher of the Year 2023 - 2024: Mrs. Peri Frazier**

Mrs. Frazier has several roles at OTMS, including teaching 8th grade U.S. History, chairing the history department, sponsoring the yearbook staff, sponsoring student council, coaching the RHS cross country team, running the Kid's Closet, co-chairing the PBIS

committee, and participating in both the leadership team and the Library Advocacy Committee at OTMS. Don't forget her continuous efforts to find creative ways to include tech in the classroom. Mrs. Frazier does it all, and she does it well. Old Town is grateful to have Mrs. Frazier on its team.



### **Paraprofessional of the Year 2023 - 2024:**

#### **Mrs. LaTonia Buchanan**

This year is the first year Mrs. Buchanan has worked on the OTMS staff, and she has certainly proven herself to be a valuable asset to the school. Previously, she was an active member of the OTMS PTO Board, serving as Treasurer. Mrs. Buchanan gives it her all in everything she does, and OTMS is proud to have her on staff.



### **Parent of the Year 2023 - 2024: Mrs. Charcina Glasper-Harper**

Mrs. Glasper-Harper is well-known to everyone at OTMS, having served on the PTO Board and participating in almost every activity the PTO has held in the last few years. This year, Mrs. Glasper-Harper serves as the PTO President and oversees everything from meetings, fundraisers, lunches for teachers and staff, sports concessions, dances, open houses, and more. OTMS truly appreciates everything that Mrs. Glasper-Harper and the members of the PTO do for our school every day.

Congratulations to these three outstanding women!

# RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

## Another Exciting Year for Baseball at Ridgeland High

By Toshunda Washington

In the enchanting embrace of spring, America's favorite pastime comes into view. Alongside the sound of mowers and the smell of fresh-cut grass, coaches and students head to the practice field to prepare a display of showmanship and athletic prowess. The baseball field is being striped and concession-filled to prepare for the excitement of devoted fans and the rhythmic symphony of bats meeting balls.

The 2024 Ridgeland Titans Baseball Team emerged from a historic 2023 season, punctuated by a District Championship and a gallant run to the North State Championship, where they faced the formidable opponent in the Saltillo Tigers. The Titans finished their season at 28 - 7, including an awe-inspiring streak of twenty consecutive wins with six consecutive no-hitters. Seven of last year's starters and seven pitchers return to help the Titans in the charge toward another North State Championship run. Jarvis Woody, who had a 7 - 2 record last year, will lead the charge from the mound. Parker Ishee, a Copiah-Lincoln (Co-Lin) signee, is also expected to have another good year for the Titans.

**RIDGELAND TITANS BASEBALL**

**2024 SCHEDULE**

FEB 10 VS. HATTIESBURG / RMS JAMBOREE / 4:00	MAR 5 @ BRANDON / 5&7	★ APR 2 VS. NESHODA CENTRAL / 5&7
FEB 10 VS. TERRY / RMS JAMBOREE / 6:00	MAR 6 VS. NORTHWEST RANKIN / 5&7	★ APR 5 @ NESHODA CENTRAL / 5&7
FEB 13 @ WAZOO COUNTY / 5&7	MAR 9 PEARL RIVER CENTRAL @ PREC	★ APR 5 VS. WAZOO CITY / 15/2
FEB 16 VS. HATTIESBURG / 5&7	MAR 13 @ PURVIS / 1&3	★ APR 9 VS. WARREN CENTRAL / 5&7
FEB 20 @ TERRY / 6	★ MAR 19 @ VICKSBURG / 5&7	★ APR 12 @ WARREN CENTRAL / 5&7
FEB 22 VS. WEST MARION / 7:00	MAR 22 VS. VICKSBURG / 5&7	★ APR 13 @ NEWTON COUNTY / 3&5
FEB 23 VS. NORTH BIKE / 7:00	MAR 23 VS. MADISON CENTRAL / 1&3	★ APR 20 VS. EARL / 1&3
FEB 24 VS. STARKVILLE / 4:00	★ MAR 26 VS. COLING (CA) / 5&7	★ APR 25 ROUND 1 PLAYOFFS
FEB 27 @ MADISON CENTRAL / 5&7	MAR 30 @ WEST JONES / 12&2	MAY 3-6 ROUND 2 PLAYOFFS
FEB 28 VS. WAYNE COUNTY / 5&7		MAY 10-12 NORTHSTATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
MAR 2 MERIDIAN @ HATTIESBURG / 1:30		MAY 21-25 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

HEAD COACH - EDDIE EASLEY / HOME GAME AWAY GAME ★ DISTRICT GAME / ASSISTANT COACHES - TANNER MOULDER, ELTON REED, & MAKEBA CROWLEY

The starting nine are Dakarai Wallace, Parker Ishee, Jarvis Woody, Daniel Salter, Chase Maldonado, and Isaiah Mcclenty, with newcomers J.R. Brown, Tyler Alford, and Camden Armon predicted to add more power to this year's lineup.

Be on the lookout, as the Titans are expected to play an exciting brand of baseball this season. Our team's yearly goal is to be one of the elite teams in 6A. This year's team is no exception. "We are working hard daily to bring another Baseball State Championship to The

Land", says Head Coach Eddie Easley. The team and coaches' hard work and dedication are recognized and echoed by others, including Athletic Director Todd McDaniels, who envisions another North Half showdown and a determined push for the State Championship. Principal Crystal Chase commends Coaches Easley and Moulder for their remarkable work in shaping the team instilling accountability both on and off the field. The Ridgeland Titans look forward to a season filled with triumphs and lasting memories.



“ We have a great group of young men that have worked hard in the off-season... So please come out and help us cheer on our Titan baseball. ”

Roderick Davidson,  
Assistant Athletic Director

# HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*Intelligent.com Honors Holmes Community College with 3 Top Awards*

By Mary Margaret Busby



**Holmes Community College recently received three top-ranked awards for 2024 from Intelligent.com, a resource for program rankings and higher education planning. Specifically, Holmes was ranked #6 in Best Community Colleges in Mississippi, #8 in Cheapest Online Associate Degree Programs, and #11 in Best Online Paralegal Associate Degree Programs.**

According to the website, Intelligent.com's institutional rankings, which are set apart from other conventional ratings, are deemed the benchmark of academic evaluations for online and hybrid programs. An exclusive methodology ranks each institution on a scale from 0 to 100 across six categories. Evaluations

are based on quantitative measures such as academic quality, graduation rate, cost and ROI, and student resources. With top picks that are highly regarded and affordable and offer the tools and resources students need to successfully graduate and excel in their fields.

Holmes, a comprehensive public institution located in Central Mississippi, provides innovative educational and cultural opportunities to its constituents through campus-based and distance education programs. The college seeks to prepare its students for university transfer, productive employment, and lifelong learning by offering an Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Applied Science

degree, technical certificates and career certificates, and workforce training.

Holmes, whose primary commitment is to excellence in all areas, offers affordable, equal access to higher education in an attractive, secure, multi-campus environment. The college serves nine counties, including Attala, Carroll, Choctaw, Grenada, Holmes, Madison, Montgomery, Webster, and Yazoo counties.

Intelligent.com provides unbiased research to help students make informed decisions about higher education programs. The website offers curated guides that include the best degree programs and information about financial aid, internships, and even study strategies. Intelligent.com is a trusted source among students and prospective students, with comprehensive, user-friendly guides and hundreds of program rankings. To learn more, visit <https://www.intelligent.com/>.

## **Holmes Community College holds a Pinning Ceremony**

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Massage Therapy program and the Practical Nursing Evening/Weekend program on December 7, 2023, in the McGowan Workforce Training Center.

The Massage Therapy Class of 2023 included Kourtknée AmilliDreem of Hinds County, Ashley Dumas of Lowndes County, Felicia Davis of Rankin County, Merideth Gregg of Webster County,



**IN THIS PHOTO:** Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Massage Therapy Class of 2023. They are (left to right) Felicia Davis, Fiesha Travis, Merideth Gregg, William Wilson, Instructor Liz McLain, Ashley Dumas, Davaunte Richardson, Markeeta Nelson, Kourtknie AmilliDreem, and Damara Mason.



**IN THIS PHOTO:** Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Class of 2023. This is the first Ridgeland Evening/Weekend PN program. They are (front row, left to right) Instructor Caley Stogner, Ruthie Moorehead, Diandria Scott, Marquisha Hodges, Instructor Leslie Griffin, (second row, left to right) Erica Cooper, Alaina Huskey, Baylee Etheridge, (third row, left to right) Linda Combs, Shaylia Williams Powell, Alaina Hubbard, (fourth row, left to right) TyYona Mister, D'Anjunita Blackmon, Darnika Smith, (fifth row, left to right) BreAnna Griffin, Madison Franklin, Bonita Williamson, (back row, left to right) Kierra Shears, Carvontae Minor, Anna Beth Bowman and Laquinchia Bethany.

Damara Mason of Rankin County, Markeeta Nelson of Yazoo County, Fiesha Travis of Yazoo County, Davaunte Richardson of Warren County and William Wilson of Madison County. Instructor Liz McLain leads the program. Meredith Gregg also received the honor of Massage Student of the Year.

The Practical Nursing Class of 2023 included Laquinchia Bethany of Hinds County, D'Anjunita Blackmon of Madison County, Anna Beth Bowman of Rankin County, Linda Combs of Lincoln

County, Erica Cooper of Leflore County, Baylee Etheridge of Warren County, Madison Franklin of Grenada County, BreAnna Griffin of Madison County, Marquisha Hodges of Madison County, Alaina Hubbard of Warren County, Alaina Huskey of Warren County, Carvontae Minor of Adams County, TyYona Mister of Madison County, Ruthie Moorehead of Yazoo County, La'Terria Pendleton of Covich County, Diandria Scott of Holmes County, Kierra Shears of Warren County, Darnika Smith of Washington County, Shaylia Williams Powell of Holmes County and Bonita Williamson of Madison County. The program is led by instructors Leslie Griffin and Caley Stogner.

Practical nursing instructors Griffin and Stogner pinned the graduates and presented several awards. The Top Five in the class received gifts and were recognized on stage. Those included Alaina Hubbard, D'Anjunita Blackmon, Darnika Smith, Anna Beth Bowman, and Marquisha Hodges. Bowman was also named salutatorian for having the second-highest GPA in the class, and Hodges was named valedictorian for having the highest. Additionally, Linda Combs was named Practical Nursing Student of the Year.

### **Holmes Ridgeland Celebrates 19 Graduates from Associate Degree Nursing Program**

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Class of 2023 on December 6, 2023, in the McGowan Workforce Training Center.

The Class of 2023 included Donna Ammons of Brandon, Lasynthia Lashay Chapman of Byram, Erica Clark of Jackson, Jakyraunah Dean of Madison, Helen Roshan Ellzey-Robinson of Jackson, Briana Gibbs of Clinton, Cecily Griffin of Madison, Jayla Hanible of Madison, Evelyn Henderson of Jackson,

Erin Marie Hopkins of Richland, Tiffany Leverett of Bentonina, Patrick McCoy of Madison, Lamiya Ousley of Camden, Shaneika Parker of Brandon, Kara Usry of Florence, Stephanie Walker of Flora, Carrie Ann White of Yazoo City, Markesa Williams of Brandon, and Sullivan Windham of Brandon.

The program began with a processional of the Class of 2023 followed by a welcome from Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham and ADN Program Chair/Assistant Director Dr. Alice Austin. Class President Lasynthia Chapman followed Dr. Austin with the opening prayer. Next, ADN instructor Alicia Turner explained the symbolism behind the nurse pin and candle before the graduates came forward.



**IN THIS PHOTO:** Pictured is the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus ADN Class of 2023, evening and weekend track students. They are (first row, left to right) Helen Ellzey-Robinson of Jackson, Jayla Hanible of Madison, Evelyn Henderson of Jackson, Carrie Ann White of Yazoo City, Sullivan Windham of Brandon, (second row, left to right) Erin Hopkins of Richland, Jakyraunah Dean of Madison, Markesa Williams of Brandon, (third row, left to right) Erica Clark of Jackson, Briana Gibbs of Clinton, Lamiya Ousley of Camden, Cecily Griffin of Madison, (fourth row, left to right) Kara Usry of Florence, Patrick McCoy of Madison, Lasynthia Chapman, of Byram, (back row, left to right) Shaneika Parker of Brandon, Stephanie Walker of Flora, Tiffany Leverett of Bentonina and Donna Ammons of Brandon.

# NEW AND EXCITING EVENTS AT THE RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

*The Ridgeland Public Library has so much to offer our community.*

## Page Turners

RIDGELAND  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

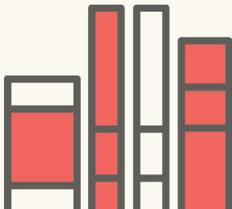
RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY / 397 HWY 51 / (601) 856-4536

### DEWEY DECIMATORS

NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

Fourth Saturday of the month  
@2pm

Join us for Dewey Decimators, a book club for readers of non-fiction and other stories based on truth.



M C L S Madison County LIBRARY SYSTEM



In October, the library gave away glasses and viewers for our patrons to use during the solar eclipse. We are so excited to give more away this spring. There will be a total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. This time, we will get to see even more of the solar eclipse than we did in October! Come get your solar eclipse glasses or viewers soon while supplies last!

We have a new program for teens called Otaku Club. This monthly program is for ages 12 - 18 and will meet on the last Thursday of the month from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Otaku Club members will get to watch anime, talk about manga, try snacks from Japan and its neighboring countries, and make fun crafts. Please do not forget to check out our manga and anime collections while you are here.

Dewey Decimators, a non-fiction book club for ages 18+, took a brief hiatus this winter. We are back with a new day and time. Come join us on the fourth Saturday of each month from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. for a lively discussion on your latest non-fiction reads.

For our patrons who prefer to file their taxes through the mail, we have got you covered! Come by the branch to pick up federal and state income tax forms. Don't see the form you are looking for? No problem. Please stop by the circulation desk and tell us the form(s) you need. If it is available online, we will print it for you.

Please be sure to check our online Calendar of Events by visiting [mclms.org](http://mclms.org). You can check out what is happening at Ridgeland Public Library and all of our Madison County Library System branches (Bookmobile, Camden, Canton, Flora, and Madison) on our website, Facebook, or by picking up a print calendar at your local library.

By *Evanne Flanders*,  
Branch Librarian

# CITY NOTIFICATIONS & TIPS

## Residential Rental Inspection Code

As many of you may know, the Residential Rental Inspection Code of the City of Ridgeland was implemented on January 1, 2023. This code was implemented to assure potential renters have a nice and well-maintained place to call home. Our rental inspectors inspect every rental home before a tenant moves in to ensure that the house is safe and meets all life and safety codes. We appreciate our rental property owner's efforts to comply with the ordinance and provide a nice home for future Ridgeland residents. We have made much progress this year and are excited and hopeful to see what the next year brings.

Reminders for registration renewal of all rental properties were sent out on November 15, 2023. All payments were due on January 1, 2024. If you have not yet registered your rental home, please contact the City of Ridgeland's Rental Program Manager, Bayleigh Sears ([bayleigh.sears@ridgelandms.org](mailto:bayleigh.sears@ridgelandms.org)), or call 601-856-3877 to begin the process. All documents for Rental Property Registration are available on our website and can be found at the links on the right:



City of Ridgeland  
Application for  
Rental License



Residential Rental  
Property Bond Form



Residential Rental  
Inspection Code

## EyeOnWater

The City of Ridgeland has been working to upgrade water meters throughout the City. We have attempted to do this with the least disruption possible. The project is approximately 95% complete. It is important that your community invests in the proper maintenance of the water system for its long-term sustainability. Providing quality water is a top priority of the City of Ridgeland. Ridgeland's water and sewer systems are entirely funded by ratepayers who pay water bills. Maintaining water meters is paramount to ensure customers receive accurate water bills. Grants offset some improvement costs. The water meter improvement project is being funded in part with some water and sewer funds, but the most significant expenses are covered by ARPA and MCWI funds. With these improvements come advancements in technology for users to enjoy. Our new system allows you to connect to

your water meter through an app called EyeOnWater. This app will enable you to monitor your usage, which helps lead to a better understanding of the usage to make decisions about water conservation and lowering your water bill. Its best feature is the leak detection. You can set customized notifications for your water meter to alert you of a leak, saving you hundreds to thousands of dollars. A leak as simple as a leaking toilet valve can cost you hundreds of dollars. The leak

detection can be set to inform you of as little as a leak that produces 1 Gallon/hour for 24 hours.

- **Download the app today, create an account, and enter your account number to take advantage of its features. If you need assistance signing up, please contact the Water Department.**
- **Visit <https://eyeonwater.com/signup> to create your online account.**



*Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 31 Years*



The Government Finance Officers Association (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, 2022. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly 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 the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.



## CITY OF RIDGELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

DOWNLOAD ON  
THE APP STORE &  
GOOGLE PLAY



## HELP SPONSOR 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**



### *Drought's Toll on Pine Trees*

The recent drought from late summer through fall has taken its toll on many of our local plants and trees. As you drive around Ridgeland and other parts of central Mississippi, the devastation to the pine tree forest is evident. What may not be obvious is what killed the trees. Our conversations with local foresters have revealed that most of the tree deaths resulted from the engraver beetle (Ips Beetle). Long periods of drought conditions will stress pine trees, decreasing their ability to fight off insects and disease. Engraver beetles mostly attack pines in the late summer and during fall droughts as compared to the southern pine beetle,

which more commonly attacks healthy pine trees earlier in the year. For more information on the engraver beetle, contact the Mississippi State University Extension Center or the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

The City has begun removing dead trees from public property and rights-of-way, and we are now asking homeowners to inspect their personal property(s) for any dead or dying trees. Dead and dying trees pose a significant risk of damage to property during storm events and, in the worst case, loss of life. If a tree or trees on your property are 'hazard trees,' it is your responsibility to have

them removed promptly. The City recommends contacting a local licensed, bonded, and insured tree professional to remove any dead trees. Large groups of dead trees can also increase the fire risk, and these areas should also be considered for removal.

**Please make the City aware of a hazard tree. Contact Public Works at 601-853-2027 for a public tree. Contact Code Enforcement at 601-856-3877 for privately owned trees.**



# Madison County Household Hazardous Waste Day

MADISON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
1417 Highland Colony Pkwy • Madison MS 39110

March 23, 2024

8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

**SERVICES ON SITE WILL CONSIST OF:**

- DOCUMENT SHREDDING
- BATTERY DISPOSAL
- TIRE RECYCLING
- ELECTRONICS
- PAINT AND HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL DISPOSAL

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY OF MADISON.



# 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  
Chuck.Gautier@RidgelandMS.org



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



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

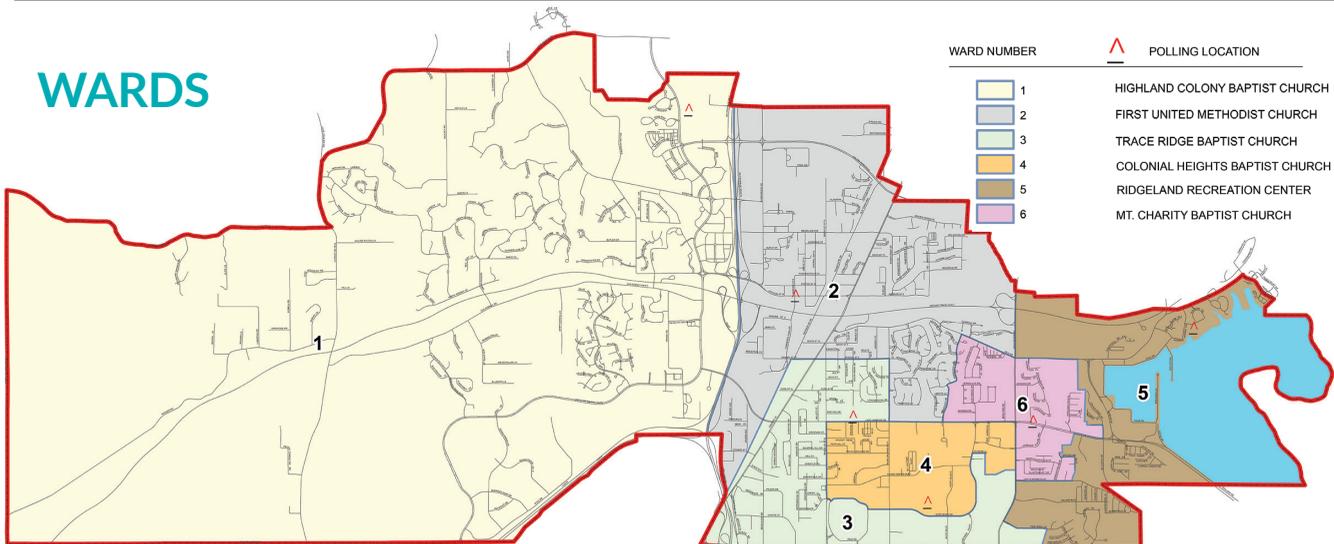


**Bill Lee**  
Ward 5  
601-278-6256  
Bill.Lee@RidgelandMS.org



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

## WARDS



## 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 re 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), Randy Lynn, Robert Moore, Lynette Praytor, 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, Tabitha Baum, 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  
brian.myers@ridgelandms.org



**Recreation & Parks Department**  
John Sidney North  
Director  
john.north@ridgelandms.org

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



## 3 WAYS TO SIGN UP GET NOTICES & ALERTS



- 1: [www.RidgelandMS.org](http://www.RidgelandMS.org)
- 2: [www.Ridgeland-MS.MyFreeAlerts.com](http://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!**