

FROM THE MAYOR

Gene McGee



I hope you all have enjoyed a summer filled with family, fun, and relaxation. It's been a busy season here in Ridgeland! At the Mississippi Municipal League Convention in July, the City of Ridgeland proudly received the Overall Award of Excellence for our yearlong 125th Anniversary Celebration. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and collaboration of our employees, committees, and citizens who came together to make our City's 125th birthday truly memorable. We are so very honored to have received this award!

We also welcomed two new department heads this summer. Jonathan Posey has been appointed our new Fire Chief, and Angela Richburg has joined us as City Clerk. Both bring a wealth of experience and strategic vision to their roles, and we are confident that the City will significantly benefit from their leadership.

Additionally, congratulations to Shane Aldridge, who has been named the new CEO of Explore Ridgeland. Shane has previously served on the Board of Directors for Explore Ridgeland, and we're excited to see him step into this new leadership role. We look forward to his continued efforts to promote tourism and showcase all Ridgeland offers.

I'm thrilled to welcome the new Mayor's Youth Council members. This year is the second group since we launched the Council last year. The Mayor's Youth Council gives high school students who reside in Ridgeland an opportunity to develop their leadership and citizenship skills while learning about municipal government. Our goal is that through their profound understanding of all the City of Ridgeland departments, they will strengthen their community through volunteer service and increase engaging communication with municipal leaders to enhance the quality of life in the community.

These outstanding students represent several high schools, and of course, all live in Ridgeland. Each met very strict requirements and will benefit greatly from this experience. Any 11th – 12th grade student who resides in the City of Ridgeland and has a minimum of a 3.0 GPA is eligible. Applicants must complete an application with two letters of recommendation, be able to attend at least 80% of all monthly meetings, and fulfill the volunteer requirements.

As we head into the fall season, we welcome our students back to school for a year full of learning and growth. I encourage everyone to be mindful of school zones and to prioritize safety for the well-being of our students, teachers, and school staff.

Wishing you all a safe and happy fall!

Here F. Mikes

RIDGELAND LIFE

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For information about Ridgeland Life, contact Kim Cooper at Kim.Cooper@RidgelandMS.org.

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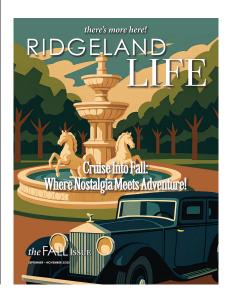
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is already here! I'm deeply grateful for the wonderful recognition our 125th anniversary celebrations have received, and I'm looking forward to the exciting activities planned for the months ahead. I hope everyone takes the opportunity to get out and enjoy all the fun and community spirit that Ridgeland offers this season.



Kim Cooper,

Editor/Director of Public Relations /Chair, 125th Anniversary Planning Committee & Ridgeland Pecan Festival



TELLING RIDGELAND'S STORY:

RIDGELAND'S OUTDOOR **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

By Polly Hammett



Who doesn't love a great deal—like buy one, get one free? That always catches my eye. Now, what if you could learn Ridgeland's rich history and enjoy some fresh air and exercise at the same time? Even better—what if you had three different ways to do it?

Love a Good Deal? How About Three!

1. Jessamine Cemetery Tour – Thursday, September 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Join the Ridgeland Historical Society for a special guided tour of the historic Jessamine Cemetery. This nearly 200-year-old site is the final resting place of early settlers, First Families of Ridgeland, military veterans, and local leaders who helped shape our city, county, and state.

The tour will be led by local residents and First Family members who bring these stories to life. The grounds are walkable, but sturdy shoes are recommended. Light refreshments will be served. Bring a friend and experience a fascinating walk through the past.

2. Ridgeland's First Pecan Festival – Saturday, October 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars! Ridgeland's inaugural Pecan Festival is coming to Freedom Ridge Park. The Historical Society played a key role in officially designating the pecan as Ridgeland's City tree last year, and this festival is a celebration of that proud symbol.

You'll find more details about the event in this publication. It promises to be a fun-filled day for the whole family!

3. Ridgeland History Trail - Open Daily

If you prefer to explore on your own schedule, the Ridgeland History
Trail is available year-round. With
22 interpretive signs (and counting) scattered throughout the City, the trail makes it easy and engaging to learn about our local history—from prehistoric times to modern development.

Pick up a Trail Map at City Hall, Ridgeland Library, or Explore Ridgeland during business hours. The signs are grouped for easy planning:

- 6 signs in Old Town
- 5 along Highland Colony Parkway and Colony Boulevard



JESSAMINE CEMETERY

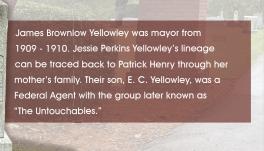


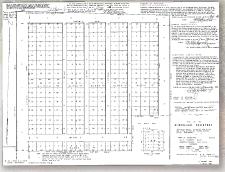
Once part of the original Yellowley Plantation, this was the burial ground for the Yellowley and Perkins families. The family graves face west, toward the old homesite. Named for Jessamine "Jessie" Perkins Yellowley, wife of James Brownlow Yellowley, the cemetery was deeded to Ridgeland by the family in 1927.

The original cemetery consisted of two acres, but the city has expanded it over time as needed. The oldest part is the southern section, where many of the early settlers and founders of Ridgeland are buried. In the far eastern section, there is a large area that appears to be empty. However, this section holds many unmarked and unrecorded graves.



Governor Bill Waller





Among the notable persons buried here are former Mississippi governor Bill Waller, several mayors of Ridgeland and other local officials. Veterans of every war waged since the Civil War are also buried here, including several Union soldiers who were early settlers in Ridgeland.







- 3 near the Reservoir
- Others are spread across sidewalks and streets throughout Ridgeland.

Each sign shares not just what happened, but where it happened. Make it a family outing—give each child a map and let them check off signs as you go. Stop for a snack at a local café, enjoy a picnic in Old Trace Park, or take a break at a

playground along the way.

While you're at City Hall, don't miss the History Room—a beautifully arranged display that offers a deeper dive into Ridgeland's story. There's also a History Trail sign right outside, and another nearby at Freedom Ridge Park.

Can't make it in person? No problem! Both the History Trail and the

History Room are available online at ridgelandms.org.

Bonus: Artfully Wrapped Signal Boxes

Have you noticed the colorful, wrapped signal boxes at intersections? Each of the 44 boxes features a local business sponsor. Next time you visit one of these businesses, let them know you saw their name on the box! (And remember-read only when you're safely stopped.)

Our goal is to make Ridgeland's history accessible, engaging, and fun for everyone. We're planning even more tours and programs in the future—and we'd love to hear your stories too. You can help us keep Ridgeland's story alive. If you have a local story to share, email kim.cooper@ridgelandms.org, and Kim will connect you with the Historical Society.

Now...Get out there and have some fun. But watch out! You'll definitely learn something along the way.



CITY OF RIDGELAND RECEIVED TOP HONOR

DURING THE MISSISSIPPI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Mississippi Municipal League (MML) honored the 2025 Municipal Excellence Awards Winners at the 94th Annual MML Conference Award Luncheon held in Biloxi, Mississippi, at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center on Wednesday, July 23, 2025.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Shane Aldridge, Ashley Daniel, Bill Lee, Lisa Walters, Shari Veazey, Mayor Gene McGee, Patti Pettit, Alan Hart, D.I. Smith, Ben McDonald, Kevin Holder, Jonathan Posey, Kim Cooper, Nancy Batson, Angela Richburg, and Sarah Hart.

The Excellence Awards program, which began in 1993, recognizes cities that utilize innovative problem-solving, excellence in management, citizen participation, and community partnership to provide increased services and a better quality of life for their local citizenry. The competition is divided into two population categories: under 10,000 and over 10,000. Within each population category, cities can vie for awards in City Spirit, Community Health, Economic

Development & Infrastructure, Public Safety, and Youth in Action. This year, the League added two new categories, Community Health and Youth in Action. It also changed an existing category, Planning and Economic Development, to what is now Economic Development and Infrastructure to encompass the Public Works category that was eliminated. Judges also select one application as the Best Overall.

125TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE:

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





LEFT TO RIGHT: Crystal Pham, Bill Lee, Kenya Rachal, Jim Woodrick, Polly Hammett, Pat Truesdale, Mayor Gene McGee, William Gilbert, Kim Cooper, Nancy Batson, Jane McGee, Linda Bynum, D.I. Smith, Amelia Dalton, and Lisa Walters

What an incredible year of joy the 125th Anniversary Planning Committee brought to the City of Ridgeland in 2024. With the superb leadership of Kim Cooper, our public relations master, our committee came together with excitement and commitment to build a platform that the History Committee and Historical Society had begun with their research and discoveries. Every member contributed to making it a year to remember! Thanks and congratulations to everyone and every business in the City for participating. 17

Jane McGee, First Lady

Best Overall: City of Ridgeland - "125th Anniversary Year Celebration"

Ridgeland wrapped up its 125th anniversary on December 29, 2024, with a finale at the Waller Craft Center, exactly 125 years after its founding in 1899. The year-long celebration honored the City's history, growth, and spirit through a series of community-driven events and projects. The anniversary was recognized at all levels of government, including a City proclamation, state resolutions, and inclusion in the Congressional Record. Businesses embraced the celebration with window decals, banners, and branded displays, while four special editions of Ridgeland Life magazine highlighted the City's journey and progress. Notable initiatives included the official designation of the pecan as Ridgeland's city tree and the launch of the Virtual History Room, preserving stories, archives, and rare photos. The City also unveiled a History Trail—both physical and virtual—allowing residents and visitors to explore Ridgeland's historic sites. The Ridgeland Historical Society created a kid-friendly version of the trail, and local schools joined in with student art and essay contests regarding Ridgeland's past, present, and future. A public art project beautified 44 traffic signal boxes across the City, sponsored by dozens of businesses and partners.

A video series titled History Minutes featured reflections from community members, including Mayor McGee and descendants of Ridgeland's first families. The celebration culminated with a festive final event with live music and Ridgeland's first drone show. Led by a dedicated planning committee, the 125th anniversary brought the community together, honoring its legacy while looking confidently to the future.

The mission of the Mississippi Municipal League is helping cities and towns excel. MML is a non-partisan association established in 1931, representing 290 city, town and village governments in Mississippi. MML is also affiliated with the National League of Cities, a lobbying, legislative and legal arm representing municipalities before the U.S. Congress. For more information about the Mississippi Municipal League, visit www.mmlonline.com.



FALL IS FILLED WITH SO MUCH TO DO IN RIDGELAND!

By Kim Cooper

The fall season brings many colorful adventures to enjoy, especially in Ridgeland! We've rounded up some of Ridgeland's best things to do so you and your family can connect during this glorious time of year.



WALLER CRAFT CENTER

November 13, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.: Preview Party

November 14, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00p.m.: Chimneyville Crafts Festival; Sip and Shop begins at 5:00 p.m.

November 15, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Chimneyville Crafts Festival For the 49th year, the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi will present the Chimneyville Crafts Festival, celebrating the finest artisans and craftsmen from across the state and beyond. The festival will be held November 13 – 15, 2025 at the Waller Craft Center, located at 950 Rice Road in Ridgeland.

The popular Preview Party will kick off the event on Thursday, November 13, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ticket holders will have a chance to preview and purchase crafts presented by exhibitors and enjoy food, beverages, and live music.

"We're excited to announce a new date for this year's Chimneyville Arts Festival! Our hope is that this change gives shoppers even more time to discover the one-of-a-kind, handmade works created by our talented artisans. Mississippi is fortunate to have such a beautiful venue to showcase the incredible craftsmanship

of our guild members. We warmly invite you and your family to join us and experience the creativity and community spirit that make Chimneyville so special," stated Jenny Berryhill, Event Chair.

For more information on the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, visit www.mscrafts.org.

RIDGELAND SCARECROW CONTEST AT RIDGELAND WILDFLOWER FIELD & ART PARK

October 15 - November 29

Ridgeland Wildflower Field & Art Park, 411 West Jackson Street

It's that time of year again! Get ready to unleash your creativity and join us for the Ridgeland Scarecrow Trail. Whether you're a seasoned scarecrow artist or just looking for festive fun, this is your chance to shine. The winner will receive a \$100 gift card to any local restaurant of your choice! Enjoy a delicious meal on us as a reward for your creativity and effort.

- Create a Scarecrow: Gather your team, family, or friends and build the most imaginative scarecrow you can.
- Decorate a Pumpkin: Short on time? No worries! You can also participate by submitting a decorated pumpkin. It's a great way to have fun without a big commitment.

Register at: the Ridgeland Visitor Center - 1000 Highland Colony Parkway Suite #3002 or online at exploreridgeland. com/events/ridgeland-scarecrow-trail/

RENAISSANCE AT COLONY PARK

MISSISSIPPI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

September 18 • 7:00 - 9:00p.m.

Enjoy an evening with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. This FREE outdoor concert by presenter





Renaissance at Colony Park will be enjoyed by all ages!

MAGNOLIA GARDEN FESTIVAL

September 20 • 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This free, fun, family-friendly event celebrates all things gardening, flowers, and outdoor living. Stroll through booths featuring local nurseries, florists, garden artists, outdoor furniture makers, pottery, and more. Enjoy informative talks and live demonstrations throughout the day from knowledgeable guests in the gardening community. Don't miss the crowd-favorite Decorated Garden Hat Contest — everyone is invited to participate!





EURO FEST CLASSIC EUROPEAN AUTO AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW

October 4 • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For European auto enthusiasts, this is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beauty of British, Italian, German, and many other European vehicles. It's a perfect time of year to be outside, strolling the grounds of Renaissance, with live music and European beer, and viewing gorgeous automobiles and motorcycles. The event is free to the public.

COMMUNITY ANIMAL RESCUE (CARA) WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER

October 4 • 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

You'll want to remain after Euro Fest for the Wine Tasting Event benefiting Community Animal Rescue & Adoption (CARA)!



The event will take place on the green space by the Show Fountain. There will be an assortment of fabulous wines from local wine distributors along with a pairing of charcuterie and sweets. Come enjoy and support the animals! This is a ticketed event - Must be 21 to purchase a ticket.

CARA is a nonprofit "no-kill" rescue group that cares for hundreds of abused, unwanted and stray animals, supported solely by private donations from individuals, businesses and fundraising events.

NOGGINFEAST PRESENTED BY THE BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

October 13 • 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Benefiting the Brain Injury Association of Mississippi, returns to Renaissance at Colony Park! Enjoy savory dishes, decadent desserts, and delightful drinks from local restaurants and vendors, and live music.

NogginFeast creates awareness about brain and spinal cord injury and provides a special night for survivors and their families. Festivities will begin at 6:00 pm and go to 9:00 pm. Get your tickets and come out to enjoy a great cause!

FIRST RIDGELAND'S GREAT PUMPKIN HUNT

October 26 • 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

First Ridgeland Church brings the Great Pumpkin Hunt to Renaissance at Colony Park! You and your family are invited for an afternoon of fun with pumpkins galore, fairytale photos, loads of candy, and so much more! Start planning those costumes!

RENAISSANCE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS OPEN HOUSE, WITH THE SALVATION ARMY OPERATION ANGEL TREE

November 23 • 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Renaissance at Colony Park will be spreading a little pre-Thanksgiving







and Christmas cheer! Enjoy live performances, Selfies with SANTA, and other fun festivities, and be sure to register to win fabulous prizes!

Take a stroll around Renaissance to shop event specials, where you'll be sure to find the finishing touches for your Thanksgiving gatherings, the perfect attire for all of your holiday celebrations, and the gifts you know they'll love!

TRI-COUNTY MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION McGee Lungbuster

October 18 - 19 • 1:00 p.m.

For information: www.tricountymtb.org

TURKEY DAY 8K

THANKSGIVING DAY

November 27 • 7:00 a.m.

If you're one of those families that gets up early to run on the holidays, this one is for you! Make a Thanksgiving tradition with your loved ones by registering for the Turkey Day 8k run. The run will be held at Fleet Feet of Ridgeland.



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Fall is the time of year to be outside and enjoy the cooler weather.

- Enjoy being by the water without dipping into the cold temperature: rent a kayak from Pearl River Kayaks or check out Main Harbor Store for a pontoon boat, jet ski, or paddleboard rentals.
- Hop on a bike or take a brisk walk along the Chisha Foka Multi-use Trail, a historic 10-mile paved path along the Natchez Trace Parkway. End at the entrance near the Reservoir Overlook and set up a family picnic!
- Head over to Old Trace Park for a little family-friendly competition in a round of disc golf. This area overlooks the Barnett Reservoir and has an available pavilion and picnic shelters. There's even a playground for the kiddos!



OFF THE SCREENS AND ONTO THE TRAILS: **MEET THE MISSISSIPPI BLUES**



Founded in 2016, the Blues started as the state's only youth mountain bike team. They practiced at the Ridgeland Trails with just eight riders and traveled to Alabama for races. In 2023, the Mississippi Interscholastic Cycling Association (MS NICA) was established, and the Blues became one of eight teams across the state, helping to grow a passionate cycling community right here in Mississippi.

According to Michelle Williams, MS, NICA League Director, the Blues' success isn't just about racing—it's about creating a welcoming, all-inclusive environment for every student. The six-month program redefines youth sports: no tryouts, benches, or cuts. Every student gets to ride. Practices are packed with energy and fun; many kids stay afterward to keep riding with friends.

MS NICA offers Adventure, Teen Trail Corps, and GRiT (Girls Riding Together) for students less interested in competition.

The Adventure program includes bike games and outdoor activities that challenge students at their own pace while fostering personal growth and a love of exploration.



Teen Trail Corps focuses on advocacy and community service. Riders give back through trail maintenance, event volunteering, and even speaking to local officials about the benefits of trail access.

GRiT provides a supportive space for female athletes to connect—through girls-only rides, social activities, and peer mentorship. "Watching our older girls mentor younger riders has been incredibly rewarding," says Williams.

Another highlight of MS NICA is how it brings families together. Many parents

start riding simply to help out—and soon, the whole family is biking together.

The Mississippi Blues Mountain Bike Team kicks off the 2025 – 2026 season this October and is always looking for new student-athletes to join.

Want to see what it's all about? Come check out a practice or reach out to learn how to get involved. No experience needed! Visit www.mississippimtb.org or follow the Mississippi Blues on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates. Join the ride - your adventure starts here!







Whether you want to roll up your sleeves for a cleanup, collect wildflower seeds, or increase your recycling efforts, Keep Ridgeland Beautiful has ideas for this fall. Read below! Here are Easy Environmental Actions from Keep Ridgeland Beautiful!



Get Involved: Pearl River Clean Sweep 2025

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Keep Ridgeland Beautiful is a proud long-term participant in the annual Pearl River Clean Sweep, a massive volunteer cleanup effort covering the entire Pearl River Basin. Each year, this event removes tons of debris and raises awareness about the importance of taking better care of this extensive waterway. Locals can choose land or water-based sites in Madison, Hinds, and Rankin counties. Keep Ridgeland Beautiful will be the site leader at Old Trace Park.

Sign up to volunteer and choose your site: www.pearlriverkeeper.com

Fall Harvest: Wildflower Seeds and Bouquets

Zinnia Fields Forever at City Hall

Enjoy the vibrant blooms in Ridgeland's Zinnia Fields Forever, the area's first public cutting garden. This colorful project began in 2018, thanks to Karen McKie, then Chamber of Commerce Board President, and has inspired similar efforts in neighboring communities. The public is welcome to cut a bouquet. Please cut above a set of leaves to encourage additional blooms.

More Fun Ideas

- Check out Ridgeland Library's seed catalog
- The seeds can be collected once flowers go to seed at the Ridgeland Wildflower Field on West Jackson Street. Store seeds indoors in labeled paper envelopes until spring. Look for various cosmos, blanket flower, coreopsis, partridge pea, and zinnia in the field.
- The Mississippi State Extension Service website offers an abundance of information on gardening and offers programming for all ages.

Recycle Plastic Film: There is a Place for That

Curbside recycling in Ridgeland diverts accepted items from landfills, but plastic film (like grocery bags and bubble wrap) doesn't belong in curbside bins. In Ridgeland. a sticker is affixed to the recycle carts that shows what is accepted in our recycle stream. Anything else interferes with the recycler's sorting and processing systems.

Consumers discard a lot of plastic film, but there is an easy way to recycle this waste. Instead of trashing plastic film, which can take generations to break down, collect the items on the list and drop them off at a convenient location. When possible, choose less wrapping and packaging. Grab those reusable bags for all your shopping! Plastic film can be made into items like benches, pipes, and playgrounds.

Where to Recycle Plastic Film:

- Visit https://plasticfilmrecycling.org to find local drop-off sites.
- Most grocery stores and big-box retailers (Kroger, Walmart, Target) have bins near entrances.
- Accepted items often include: Grocery bags, Produce bags, Zip-top bags (clean/dry), Drycleaning bags, Bubble wrap, Drink case overwraps, and Empty cereal liners
- •NO chip and candy wrappers.

KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL YARD OF THE MONTH AWARDS

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





JUNE Residential Yard of the Month
The Simpkins Home at 120 Canterbury Place



JULY Residential Yard of the Month
The Richard Home at 704 Esplanade Drive



AUGUST Residential Yard of the Month The Lynn Home at 132 Trace Ridge Drive



JUNE Business Yard of the Month
Delta Technical College at 113 Marketridge Drive



JULY Business Yard of the Month
The Lily Pad at 111 North Wheatley Street



AUGUST Business Yard of the Month Embassy Suites by Hilton at 200 Township Avenue

—

explore events Readers' Choice **USA TODAY** 10BEST 2025 Awards 32.4364, -90.1465 Rev up your weekend plans for Euro Fest, recently ranked #6 Best Auto Event in the Nation by USA Today! See rare and exotic European cars on display right here in Ridgeland, Mississippi. Start planning today at exploreRidgeland.com.

explore RIDGELAND.

EURO FEST: A WORLD-CLASS CAR SHOW WITH RIDGELAND ROOTS

By Explore Ridgeland staff

Mark your calendars for October 3–4, because one of Ridgeland's most iconic events is rolling back into town—Euro Fest, the Southeast's premier celebration of European automobiles. Now in its 18th year, this free outdoor event transforms Renaissance at Colony Park into a dazzling display of automotive artistry, attracting thousands of visitors and showcasing some of the most exquisite European cars and motorcycles you'll find anywhere.

Over the years, the Euro Fest Classic European Auto & Motorcycle Show has welcomed more than 200,000 attendees and displayed over 1,600 stunning entries nationwide. That kind of turnout doesn't just happen—it speaks to the reputation and quality of the event, as well as the deep passion so many share for European craftsmanship, design, and culture. In fact, Euro Fest was recently voted the #6 Car Show in the nation by USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards—right here in Ridgeland.





With an expected crowd of 15,000 visitors this year, Euro Fest is more than just a car show—it's a perfect opportunity for Ridgeland to roll out the red carpet and show the world what true Southern hospitality looks like.

At the heart of Euro Fest is an impressive showcase of European automobiles and motorcycles, featuring a curated selection of marques like Rolls-Royce, Volkswagen, Ferrari, Porsche, Land Rover, BMW, Alfa Romeo, Daimler, Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz, Aston Martin, and Citroën. Motorcycle enthusiasts can also admire classic models from Norton, Ducati, and Royal Enfield. The show welcomes both vintage vehicles (built in 2000 or earlier) and newer models of special interest, offering a mix of oldworld charm and modern luxury. Each entry is chosen with care and proudly presented by its owner, many of whom

EXPLORE

are eager to share their stories and love for these extraordinary machines. Euro Fest celebrates the craftsmanship, culture, and engineering that define European motoring history from elegant convertibles to precision sports cars and timeless touring bikes.

But Euro Fest is about more than just beautiful vehicles. On-site, you'll find local food trucks dishing out hometown favorites, a laid-back green space for gathering, and a plethora of shopping it doesn't. It happens here because of our City's welcoming spirit, beautiful setting, and reputation for Southern hospitality. Tourism-driven events like Euro Fest are essential in supporting our local economy, bringing new faces into our shops, restaurants, and hotels—and showcasing why Ridgeland is such a remarkable place to live. Founder and Director Mike Marsh shared his excitement about the upcoming event. "The 18th Annual Euro Fest at Renaissance will be our biggest and best yet.

upscale bistro or a sleek Ferrari glinting in front of Mississippi's only Apple Store—but at Euro Fest, it's all part of the charm. As the gracious host of this beloved event, Renaissance elevates the atmosphere with its blend of elegance, walkability, and Southern style, making every guest feel like they've been transported somewhere extraordinary—without ever leaving Ridgeland.

Whether you're a business owner, a volunteer, or simply someone grabbing coffee near Renaissance, each friendly smile, warm welcome, and helpful gesture adds to the experience and helps guests feel right at home.

Locals and tourism partners play a key role in creating an atmosphere that's as inviting as impressive. From offering travel tips and restaurant recommendations to sharing a little hometown history, every interaction counts. Events like Euro Fest shine a national spotlight on Ridgeland—and together, we can make sure that spotlight reflects the pride, warmth, and excellence that define our community.

Let's show them why Ridgeland doesn't just host great events—we make people want to come back year after year. So, this October, take pride in your City and experience the show that puts Ridgeland on the map and reminds us all how lucky we are to call this community home.



and dining options that keep the atmosphere festive and fun. Spectators can catch a glimpse of the vintage cars and motorcycles in action during the Renaissance Road Rally Drive on Friday, October 3, before the big event on Saturday, October 4. Whether you're a lifelong gearhead or just out for a relaxing afternoon, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Families, friends, and neighbors gather here year after year—not just to admire the cars, but to make memories.

Perhaps what makes Euro Fest truly special is that it's unique to Ridgeland. This event could happen anywhere—but

Considerable interest has been generated by the entry of a 1935 Jaguar SS1 Coupe. An absolute work of rolling art that seems to be attracting new, first-time entries."

Speaking of Renaissance at Colony Park, it's not just the setting for Euro Fest—it's part of what makes the experience unforgettable. Renaissance creates the perfect backdrop for showcasing classic and luxury European vehicles with its cobblestone walkways, old-world European architecture, lush landscaping, and beautifully curated boutiques and restaurants. It's not every day you see a vintage Porsche parked beside an





RECRE8 CITY FALL EVENTS!

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

As temperatures are falling, there's no better time to experience all that Ridgeland's Recreation and Parks Department has to offer! October brings a season full of excitement, with something for everyone to enjoy—whether you're into bike rides, fall festivities, or family-friendly fun. And with Christmas right around the corner, don't forget to get those letters to Santa ready!



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 run from September 9 October 14, 2025; Tuesday nights
- Classes are located at the Ridgeland Recreational Center, Old Trace Park
- Proof of vaccination by a licensed vet is required
- Deadline to register is September 8, 2025
- There is a fee for this program.

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





TOPSoccer

This soccer program is provided for special needs participants. For more information, please contact Cameron Arcemont at topsoccerms.com.



MRYC Basketball

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks partners with Madison Ridgeland Youth Club providing sports leagues for the community.

To find out more information about the 2025 basketball season, visit:

https://www.mryouthbasketball.com/



Cycle Out Kids Cancer

A fall fundraiser bike ride through west Madison County with donations going to Children's of Mississippi Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders.

- All level riders are welcome
- Distance options are available
- Rest stops and bike support provided
- Complimentary tailgate meal and music

- Registration is required to participate
- Register at: Cycle Out Kids Cancer (bikesignup.com)

Don't miss this important opportunity to put your pedals to purpose and cycle out kids' cancer!

Date: Saturday, October 11, 2025

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Location: The North End of the Renaissance at Colony Park



Trunk or Treat

Dress up in costume and bring a bag to collect your candy!

- Trunk or Treat is for Ages 10 & under
- Kids trick or treat from car trunk to car trunk
- Admission is \$5 per child
- VOLUNTEER at Trunk or Treat

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department welcomes local businesses, organizations and volunteers to provide vehicles, candy and manpower to make our Trunk or Treat a success. If you are interested, please contact our office at (601) 853-2011.

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Freedom Ridge Park





Come join us for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and start your holiday season!

- Enjoy Christmas music & dance performances
 - Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus
 - Count down to the lighting of the tree
- Presented by The Historical Society of Ridgeland.
 - There is no admission charge for this event.

Thursday, December 4 ● 6:00 p.m.
Plaza at Old Town Crossing

Ridgeland Mayor McGee, City Aldermen and Santa will lead bands, businesses, and other organizations with an old-fashioned Christmas parade!

- The parade route will begin and end at Holmes Community College.
- Please join us this year and help us light up the evening with your Christmas floats and participation!

Friday, December 5 • 6:00 p.m.



Ridgeland Letters to Santa

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks will have a dedicated mailbox for letters to the North Pole. Drop your letters off and receive a letter back from Santa!

- Include name and address for Santa's reply letter
- Only letters received from the mailbox will receive a reply
- Duplicate letters will receive one reply
- Letters must be received by December 14
- There is no charge for letters to Santa

Date: December 1 - 14, 2025

Location: On the North Side of the Ridgeland Green in front of City Hall

Ridgeland Recreation and Parks wishes you a very happy holiday season!

SUPER **SENIORS**

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Line Dancing

\$5

Wednesdays 2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Instructor: Darlene Epple

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

Exercise

\$15/month

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Instructors: Martha Millsaps,

Rita Latham, and Lynda Assink

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

Martial Arts for Seniors

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

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

Seated Yoga

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

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Instructors: Martha Millsaps & Vickie White

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

Standing Yoga

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

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Instructors: Martha Millsaps & Vickie White

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

Senior Fit

\$15/month

Mondays and Wednesdays

12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Instructor: Sally Holly

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

The Complete Mix

\$15/month

Mondays and Wednesdays

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Instructor: Sally Holly

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

Tap Dancing

\$5/class

Mondays

Intermediate - 2:30-3:15 p.m. Beginner - 3:30-4:15 p.m. Instructor: Monica Russell

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

Men's Community Coffee & Bible Time

FRFF

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

Lead by Randy Assink

Gather together to grow in faith, deepen our friendships and support one another.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Ridgeland Garden Club

\$20/year

1st Tuesday of the month, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. A monthly meeting for those who love nature and gardening. Fun and educational programs served with a nice lunch.

Please contact Joanne Pearson if interest in joining the wait list at joanhp19@gmail.com.

Mah Jongg

FREE

Dates are 9/18, 10/16, and 11/20 3rd Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Tile-based matching game. Registration required

Bridge

\$1

Dates: 9/18, 10/16, 11/20 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Y**

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

Breakfast Bingo

FREE

Dates: 9/25, 10/23, 11/13 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited to play bingo and enjoy breakfast with friends. Please sign up in advance, space is limited.

Hearing Screening with Home Hearing Healthcare

FREE

Dates: 10/28

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Join us for a free, quick hearing screening designed especially for senior adults. Whether you've noticed changing in your hearing or just want to stay on top of your health, this is a great opportunity to get checked by licensed professionals..









FALL HAPPENINGS

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

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

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 18

Jessamine Cemetery Tour

Jessamine Cemetery 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 20

Magnolia Garden Festival

Renaissance 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 25

Chamber -Fall Golf Classic

Lake Caroline Lunch & Registration - 11:30 a.m. Tee off - 1:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 1

Mayor's Fun Walk

Northpark 9:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 4

Annual Renaissance Euro Fest Classic

Renaissance at Colony Park 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 4 CARA Fundraiser

Renaissance at Colony Park 5:00 – 7:00 p.m

OCTOBER 11

Cycle Out Kid's Cancer

Renaissance at Colony Park 7:30 a.m.

OCTOBER 13

Nogginfeast

Renaissance at Colony Park 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 18

Pecan Festival

Freedom Ridge Park 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 18 - 19

Fat Tire Festival & McGee Lungbuster

OCTOBER 23

Trunk or Treat

Freedom Ridge Park 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 25

Mall-o-Ween

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

OCTOBER 26

First Ridgeland's Great Pumpkin Hunt

Renaissance at Colony Park 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Ceremony

Ridgeland City Hall Veterans Memory Park 11:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 13

Chimneyville Arts Festival Preview Party

Waller Craft Center 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 14 - 15

Chimneyville Festival Days

Waller Craft Center 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 23

Renaissance Holiday Open House

Renaissance at Colony Park 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 27

Turkey Day 8k

Thanksgiving Day – Fleet Feet 7:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 4

Ridgeland Christmas Tree Lighting

Plaza at Old Town Crossing 6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 5

Ridgeland Christmas Parade

Old Town 6:00 p.m.



MEET THE RIDGELAND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Fall is always a busy and exciting season for the Ridgeland Chamber! We're looking forward to several upcoming events, including the Golf Classic, Shop Small Saturday, and the always well-attended Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.





COMING EVENTS

2025 Ridgeland Chamber Golf Classic

Thursday, September 25, 2025 Lake Caroline Golf Club 118 Caroline Club Circle Madison Shot Gun Start 1:00 p.m.

Ridgeland After 5

Thursday, October 16, 2025 Luminate Bank 207 West Jackson Street, Suite 200, Ridgeland 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Shop Small Saturday
Saturday, November 29, 2025

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 Colonial Heights Baptist Church 444 Northpark Drive, Ridgeland Breakfast Buffet Program begins at 7:30 a.m.

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



Cecil Harper Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P.A. 2025 President

I am honored to have Alan, Blake, Paul, and Roy as our new board members. These men are proven leaders in our community and their organizations. They bring tremendous expertise to our board. "

Cecil Harper Harper, Rains, Knight & Company, P.A. 2025 President



Nicky Cobb Guaranty Bank & Trust Company 2025 Vice President



Chris Hemphill C Spire Business





Paul Koury

Treasurer

Tuxedo Junction



John Dorsa

State Farm Insurance

Tim Magandy Robot Coupe USA, Inc.



Alan Grant Dean Architecture



Shawn Cochran Northpark



Carla Palmer CPA Realty, LLC



Roy Moss Atmos Energy



Blake Mendrop Mendrop Engineering Resources

Chamber Staff



Linda Bynum **Executive Director**



Peyton Torrence Administrative Assistant

2025 New Members: Realizing Their Vision for Success

Advance America

Constance Erving 920 East County Line Road Ridgeland, MS 39157 601-957-2928 cerving@advanceamerica.net https://www.advanceamerica.net Financial Services

Bakerette Beauty, LLC

Lauren Baker 707 Beau Pre, Suite F Ridgeland, MS 39157-4150 614-330-4911 bakerettebeauty@gmail.com www.bakerettebeauty.com Beauty Consultants

Ballroom Mississippi, LLC

Cassandra Walter 707 Beau Pre, Suite F Ridgeland, MS 39157-4150 601-624-0369 cbw@ballroommississippi.com www.ballroommississippi.com Dance Studios

Benchmark Engineering & Surveying, LLC

Greg Bonds 660 Katherine Drive, Suite 302 Flowood, MS 39232 601-627-7780 gbonds@benchmarkms.net www.benchmarkms.net Engineers

Bo's Bake Shop

Laura Brown 655 Lake Harbour Drive, Suite 400 Ridgeland, MS 39157 769-300-3014 bosbakeshop@gmail.com www.bosbakeshop.com

Circle of Care Family Health Clinic, LLC

Alicia Barnes 297 U.S. 51, Suite D Ridgeland, MS 39157 601-454-1760 aliciabbarnes@gmail.com Health Care Providers

Ginger Kroeze

601-316-0030 gkroeze8@gmail.com Business Development & Management Consultants

Ignite Digital Marketing

Katie Kronk
200 West Hamilton Street
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-832-2902
info@ignitedigitalmarketing.us ignitedigitalmarketing.us
Marketing/Media

La Morena

Lizbeth Garcia 829 Wilson Drive Ridgeland, MS 39157 601-487-6844 lamorena829@icloud.com Restaurants & Catering

Michael Carter, D.M.D.

607 Crescent Boulevard Ridgeland, MS 39157 769-933-5678 mikecarterdmd@gmail.com michaelcarterdentistry.com Dentists

Mosal Dental

Seth Mosal 607 Crescent Blvd Ridgeland, MS 39157 601-956-9595 shmosal@outlook.com https://mosaldentalcare.com/ Dentists

Old Capitol Inn

Mende Alford 226 North State Street Jackson, MS 39201 601-359-9000 mende@oldcapitolinn.com oldcapitolinn.com Hotels/Motels

Prado Hotel

Emily Taylor 610 East County Line Road Ridgeland, MS 39157 769-209-4838 assistantmanager@pradohotelinternational.com www.pradohotelinternational.com Hotels/Motels

Purely Polished Nails and Spa

Kristen Bridges Stephanie Davis 720 Harbour Pointe Crossing, Suite 107 Ridgeland, MS 39157 Purelypolishedspa@gmail.com Nail Salons

Refine Plastic and Hand Surgery PLLC

Carolyn Cushing
281 Trace Colony Park Drive, Suite A
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-345-1090
ccushing@msrefine.com
www.msrefine.com
Physicians & Surgeons

Republic Services

David Greene 1035 Old Brandon Road, Flowood, MS 39232 601-420-8242 dgreene2@republicservices.com RepublicServices.com Garbage Collection Services

Roberson Construction

Mike Roberson 185 Country Place Parkway, Suite 730 Pearl, MS 39208 601-937-2069 mike@robersonconst.com www.robersonconstruct.com/ Construction Companies - General Contractors

Schopmeyer Medicare, Health & Life

Chris Schopmeyer 937 Madison Avenue, Suite C Madison, MS 39110 601-572-2220 info@schopmedicare.com SchopMedicare.com Insurance Companies

Simply Balloons

Sarah Horvath 503 Avalon Way Suite A Brandon, MS 39047 769-261-3912 SimplySarah@SimplyBalloons.shop www.SimplyBalloons.shop Party Supplies

Sky Frequency, Inc.

Brad Earnhart 953 Highway 51, Suite 2C, Madison, MS 39110 601-427-9281 brad.earnhart@skyfreq.com www.skyfreq.com Information Technology

South Breeze, LLC

Barry Watts
721 Liberty Road
Flowood, MS 39232
601-749-6449
flowood@southbreezellc-flowood-ms-cim.com
https://southbreezellc.com/
Roofing Services

Tauzin Wealth Management

Todd Tauzin 210 Draperton Grove Ridgeland, MS 39157 601-914-2106 todd.tauzin@nm.com www.tauzinwealthmanagement.com Financial Services

VXV Events, LLC

Jay Long 119 Marketridge Drive, Suite B Ridgeland, MS 39157 601-941-8517 JayLong.VXV@gmail.com www.vxvevents.com Organizers

Wings of Hope Outreach Center, Inc.

Ella Lewis 624 Berridge Drive Ridgeland, MS 39157 769-284-1888 ellalewis@yahoo.com Non-profit Organizations



ANN SMITH FLEMENTARY

By Karen Harness, Principal

School Highlights

RIDGELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

New Year, New You: 2025 Back-to-School Reset for Parents and Students

As the carefree days of summer fade into memory, the back-to-school season brings a fresh opportunity for families to reset, refocus, and reenergize. Whether your child is starting kindergarten or entering their final year of high school, the new academic year is a chance to create better routines, set meaningful goals, and foster a positive mindset.

1. Start with a Clean Slate

A new school year is like the first page of a fresh notebook—full of possibilities. Take time as a family to reflect on the past year. What worked? What didn't? What habits can you carry forward and which ones should you leave behind? Encourage children to set personal goals, not just academic ones, such as making new friends, staying organized, or joining a club.

2. Build Strong Routines Early

Consistency is key to school success. A week or two before school starts, begin resetting bedtimes, limiting screen time, and re-establishing healthy morning and evening routines. Students thrive when they know what to expect, and parents benefit from fewer last-minute scrambles.

3. Create a Success-Ready Environment

Set up a dedicated learning space at home that's free from distractions. Stock up on supplies, label folders, and organize materials



together. For younger students, make it fun with stickers or colorful bins. Older students may appreciate being involved in designing their workspace to reflect their style and needs.

4. Stay Connected and Informed

Communication between parents, teachers, and schools is more important than ever. Attend open houses, such as Meet the Teacher and Back to School Night, follow your school's social media pages, and read newsletters. Knowing key dates, policies, and classroom expectations helps your child stay on track and shows them you're part of their support system.

5. Model a Growth Mindset

Your attitude is contagious. Talk about mistakes as learning opportunities and praise effort, not just outcomes. Help your child view challenges as stepping stones rather than roadblocks. This mindset builds resilience and confidence—essential tools for both school and life.

6. Prioritize Wellness

A healthy body supports a healthy mind. Ensure students sleep well, eat nutritious meals, stay active, and take mental health breaks. For parents, self-care matters too. A calmer, more present you helps the whole family thrive.

7. Make Time for Joy

Balance is everything. Celebrate small wins, plan fun weekend outings, or take time each evening to talk about the best part of the day. Building connection and joy into your routine keeps motivation high and stress low.

The start of a new school year is more than just a return to homework and bus schedules—it's a chance to reset intentions, refresh routines, and renew your family's commitment to growth and success. Here's to a confident, calm, and connected 2025—new year, new you!



OLD TOWNMIDDLE SCHOOL

By Dr. Natasha May

Old Town Middle School Athletes Make Summer Count



While summer is often a time to relax, recharge, and enjoy a well-earned break, many OTMS student-athletes spent their vacation months putting in serious work. From sunrise workouts to basketball and soccer camps—and most recently, cheer camp—our Titans showed what dedication truly looks like.

The OTMS football team has been training hard all summer, gearing up for an exciting and competitive season. Their commitment to excellence sets the tone for the entire student body.

Meanwhile, our talented cheerleaders brought the heat at the UCA Cheer

Camp held at the University of Southern Mississippi in July. Their passion and hard work paid off in a big way: they earned 1st place in the Cheer competition and 2nd place in the Dance competition. Even more impressively, two OTMS cheerleaders, Aubrey Coleman (Captain) and Emmerson Manogin, were selected as UCA All-Star cheerleaders, a tremendous individual honor and reflection of their exceptional skill.

Now that the school year is officially underway, our students are ready to bring that same energy and drive into the classroom. We're excited to welcome new faces to the Titan family and look forward to a year filled with growth, achievement, and school spirit.

Here's to an incredible year ahead—let's go, Titans!



RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

By Keshia Williams

A New Chapter in Leadership at Ridgeland High

Nailor and Horlock Step into New Roles to Lead the Titans Forward

The Ridgeland community is celebrating a new season of leadership at Ridgeland High School as Mr. Preston Nailor begins his tenure as Principal and Mrs. AK Horlock steps into the role of Assistant Principal. Both bring with them a wealth of experience, a deep passion for student success, and an unwavering belief in the power of public education.

They join a strong and dedicated team of three existing principals who have helped guide Ridgeland High with heart and vision. Together, this dynamic leadership team is ready to carry the school forward with unity, excellence, and Titan pride.

Welcome Home, Principal Nalor

Mr. Preston Nailor is no stranger to Ridgeland High School. A former coach, teacher, and administrator, he brings over 20 years of educational leadership to his new role—along with a history of winning both in and out of the classroom. In 2010, he led the Ridgeland boys' soccer team to the MHSAA 5A State Championship,



earning him honors for MHSAA Soccer Coach of the Year.

Since then, his career has been marked with continued impact:

- 2014 Teacher of the Year, Florence High School
- 2016 Administrator of the Year, Vicksburg -Warren School District
- 2022 Mississippi Athletic Administrator of the Year

He has also served on the MHSAA Legislative Council and as President of District 6, demonstrating a deep commitment to student-athletes and statewide school leadership. Nailor holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry from Delta State University, a Master of Arts in Teaching, and an Educational Specialist degree from Mississippi College. "It's an honor to return to Ridgeland High," said Nailor. "I believe in this school and look forward to building on its legacy with a team passionate about every student's potential."

Assistant Principal Horlock: Growing From Within

Also joining the administrative team is Mrs. AK Horlock, who officially steps into her new role after serving last year as the school's Curriculum Specialist. She worked closely with the leadership team throughout the year and will now fill the position vacated by Mrs. Felisha Burton, whose service left a meaningful mark on the Titan community.

Mrs. Horlock was born and raised outside Houston, Texas. She graduated with honors from the University of Mississippi Delta, where she wore many hats—teaching Spanish, English, and speech courses and coaching volleyball, cross-country, and track. She describes her team's Mississippi North State Championship win as one of the proudest moments of her career.

In 2019, she earned her Master's in Educational Leadership and Administration. She returned to Houston to serve as a Literacy Specialist and later Dean of Students at YES Prep North Forest High School. Her work there focused on supporting students with learning differences and establishing strong academic support systems. Horlock returned to Mississippi and has spent the last four years serving in Titan Zone. She is pursuing her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Delta State University and is a two-time Teach For America Graduate Fellow. "Ridgeland High is home," said Horlock. "I'm honored to join a leadership team that puts students first, and I look forward to serving a school that means so much to me and my family."

When she's not on campus, Horlock enjoys gardening, fitness, and family time with her husband Greg, their son Jake, and a baby girl expected in September.



Unified Leadership, Inspired Vision

The 2025–26 school year at Ridgeland High begins with gratitude and excitement. With a blend of returning strength and new energy, the administrative team - now led by Principal Nailor and joined by Mrs. Horlock - stands united in its mission: championing learning, cultivating character, and celebrating every student's journey.

Please join us in giving a warm Ridgeland welcome to Principal Preston Nailor and Assistant Principal AK Horlock.

Titan Up. Defend The Land. The Future is Bright.

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Mary Margaret Busby



Holmes Ridgeland Campus celebrates Practical Nursing Class of 2025



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured is the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Class of 2025 with their instructors. Pictured are (front row, left to right) PN Instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton, Jasmine Williamson, Tyakia Allen, Gabriela Flores, Alexis Guth, Natalie Butler, PN Instructor Heather Roberts, (middle row, left to right) Camryn Lofton, Patricia Marinelli, Akia Destiny Brown, Kassidy Irby, Deana Grossley, (back row, left to right) Riana Scott, Lucy Reeves, Helen Hancock, Ian Burnette and Lexie Davis.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a pinning ceremony on June 26 at Olde Towne Community Church to honor the Practical Nursing Class of 2025. The event recognized 15 graduates: Tyakia Allen of Jackson, Akia Destiny Brown of Vicksburg, Ian Burnette of Madison, Natalie Butler of Raymond, Lexie Cole Davis of Pearl, Gabriela Flores of Ridgeland, Deana Grossley of Jackson, Alexis Guth of Madison, Helen Hancock of Bentonia, Kassidy Irby of Pearl, Camryn Lofton of Jackson, Patricia Marinelli of Madison, Shakahai "Lucy" Reeves of Goodman, Riana Scott of Jackson and Jasmine Jayonna Williamson of Camden.

"Becoming a nurse is never an easy journey," Dr. Martin said. "It tests your endurance, patience, and empathy every step of the way. Becoming a nurse is more than a career – it's a calling. Every person you will care for has a unique story, and your compassionate experience will leave a lasting impact. Continue to let your light shine bright and let others see God's good works in and through you. Congratulations and may God bless you as you begin this new chapter."

Davis, the class president, then offered remarks on behalf of the Practical Nursing Class of 2025. "I want to thank our friends and family for supporting us in this journey one way or another." Davis said. "I also want to thank

our instructors for always opening their office doors when we needed reassurance. God has a plan for every one of us in this room. Whether you continue your education, go straight to work, or want to take some time off and say, have a baby, God will always be there to walk with you. God has a purpose for every one of us. Congratulations to my fellow classmates!"

For more information about the Holmes Practical Nursing program, contact Career Technical Counselor Jovonna Parker at 601-605-3355 or jparker@holmescc.edu.

Holmes Ridgeland Campus celebrates Surgical Technology Class of 2025

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a pinning ceremony on June 25 at the McGowan Workforce Training Center to honor the Surgical Technology Class of 2025. Nine students were recognized during the event: Jasmine Johnson of Tchula, Jasmine Luckett of Carthage, Maisie McCoy of Brandon, Madison McGee of Jackson, Madalynne McKnatt of Madison, Jayla Palmer of Clinton, Amanda Qaqish of Madison, Tailynn Remmel of Clinton, and Jalencia Young of Pearl.



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Surgical Technology Class of 2025 graduates alongside their instructors. They are (left to right) Instructor Shea Coleman, Maisie McCoy, Jalencia Young, Jayla Palmer, Jasmine Luckett, Madison McGee, Madalynne Mcknatt, Jasmine Johnson, Amanda Qaqish, Tailynn Remmel and Instructor Christin Boyette.

The ceremony opened with a graduate processional, followed by an invocation led by McKnatt. Career Technical Counselor Jovonna Parker then welcomed attendees, and Young stepped forward to present a couple of awards and introduce the guest speaker, Surgical Technology Instructor Christin Boyette. "It is truly an honor to stand here, not only as a first-time instructor, but more importantly, as someone who has had the privilege of walking alongside these amazing students through this transformative chapter of their lives," Boyette said. "It is also a privilege to graduate from the Holmes Surgical Technology program. I have sat where you are right now, with mixed emotions:

pride, some relief, and maybe a little nervous excitement about what will come next. When I returned to this program, it was personal. I knew how this program had changed my life, and I wanted to guide others through that same journey. I did not not fully anticipate how much I would learn in return from each of you. You are the future of surgical technology, and that future looks bright. Congratulations to the Class of 2025!"

After the awards presentation, the students came up to the stage individually to receive their certificates and pins. Parker and Director of Health Sciences Allison DeWeese

presented certificates before Coleman pinned each student. Following the pinning, DeWeese addressed the graduates one final time. "I'm so proud of y'all," DeWeese said. "I know how hard you all have worked, and I'm very excited for y'all. I know that y'all have put in many early mornings going to your clinical sites and have had many long days of lecture and labs – all of that is being recognized today. You are now an alumna of Holmes Community College!"

For more information about the Surgical Technology program on the Ridgeland Campus, contact Coleman at 601-605-3396 or tcoleman@holmescc.edu.





LIBRARY ACTIVITIES THIS FALL

M/C Madison

By Evanne Flanders

We had a fun and busy year with the Summer Reading Program. This summer saw the return of magician Dorian LaChance, Crescent Circus, and the Hattiesburg Zoo. We had multiple art programs consistent with this year's theme: Color Our World. For kids and teens, we had programs on pottery, relief painting, stamp making, soap carving, quilting, jewelry making, sewing, and more. For adults, we had art programs focused on using our Cricut craft machine, pressed flower artwork, and watercolor painting. We can't wait for next year's Summer Reading Program!

September is Library Card Sign-up Month. An MCLS library card has a lot to offer. Madison County residents and Madison County property owners can check out ebooks, audiobooks, and digital magazines online through Libby and Hoopla. Come check out our DVD collection for patrons who love TV shows and movies. If you prefer a physical book, come check out our collection! For more information on how to apply for a library card, visit the library's website at mclsms.org or call the Ridgeland Library at 601-856-4536.

October is a busy month full of fall celebrations and other fun events. We had a blast last year at Ridgeland's Trunk or Treat event. Look for us again this year! We will have our annual Friends of the Ridgeland

Page Turners

RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

SPANISH
Conversation
Circle

SECOND & FOURTH MONDAYS

Have you ever wanted to learn spanish or learning or are a fluent speaker, come joint us!

Library Book Sale this fall. Check the Friends of the Ridgeland Library Facebook page and MCLS social media, or visit the library for more information and sale dates. This fall, we will also have another Silent Reading Party for adults. This after-hours program is a fun time for adults to be around other book lovers and enjoy some quiet reading time.

Join us for some new programs for kids and adults this fall. We have two creative writing programs for kids on the fourth Saturday

of each month. Ages 9 – 12 will meet at 10:30 a.m., and ages 13 – 18 will meet at 3 p.m. For adults wanting to learn Spanish or improve their Spanish speaking skills, join us on the second and fourth Mondays at 1:30 p.m. For more information on programs and upcoming events, visit us at mclsms.org, Facebook, or the Ridgeland Library at 601-856-4536.

CITY NOTIFICATIONS & TIPS



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

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

CREATE AN ACCOUNT TODAY BY VISITING

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

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



CITY OF RIDGELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

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ALAN HART: 601-853-2027
KIM COOPER: 601-856-7113



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2: www.Ridgeland-MS.MyFreeAlerts.com
3: Text your zip code to 38276

for emergency alerts via SMS only

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CITY OF RIDGELAND

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

By Alan Hart



Intersection Upgrades Ease Congestion at Highway 51 and Lake Harbour Drive

The City of Ridgeland is proud to announce the completion of a key infrastructure upgrade at the

intersection of Highway 51 and Lake Harbour Drive. This heavily traveled iunction serves as a critical connector for residents, businesses, and visitors and now, it's operating more smoothly than ever.

The project focused on widening and enhancing Lake Harbor Drive's eastbound and westbound left-turn lanes, improving safety and traffic flow. Thanks to the streamlined design, motorists are already experiencing less congestion and shorter wait times.



This vital improvement was made possible through a successful partnership with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which awarded \$1,035,000 in grant funding toward the total project cost of \$1,483,054. The City of Ridgeland provided the remaining funds as a local match — a wise investment in our transportation network.

An aerial photo with this announcement highlights the scope and impact of the upgrades. Ridgeland remains committed to planning and executing infrastructure improvements that make travel safer and more efficient.

New Retail Arrivals Coming to Ridgeland This Fall

Ridgeland's shopping scene is growing! A new retail development next to Costco is nearing completion and will soon welcome a mix of popular national brands: ALDI, TJ Maxx, Old Navy, PetSmart, and La-Z-Boy Furniture.

With opening dates just around the corner — ALDI in late August and the remaining stores by late October —

shoppers will enjoy expanded options and convenience just in time for the holiday season.

This development strengthens Ridgeland's position as a regional retail destination and reflects the City's strong economic appeal. A rendering accompanying this update provides a sneak peek at the new storefronts.

We look forward to celebrating these grand openings and invite everyone to experience the latest additions to Ridgeland's vibrant retail landscape.

Lighting and Safety Enhancements Coming to I-55

The City of Ridgeland is set to begin a major lighting and safety improvement project along I-55 between Old Agency Road and Colony Park Boulevard.

As part of the City's commitment to maintaining and improving its infrastructure, high-mast lighting along this corridor will be converted from outdated incandescent fixtures to modern, energy-efficient LED lights — greatly enhancing nighttime visibility and safety.

This initiative is backed by an 80/20 MPO grant, with funding up to \$575,000. In addition to high-mast upgrades, low-mast lighting around the roundabout will be upgraded to LED.

The project includes plans to install pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) cameras on select poles to enhance traffic monitoring and safety further. These elevated cameras will provide real-time traffic data and alert officials to potential issues such as stalled vehicles or congestion — allowing for faster, more efficient responses.

The City is seeking bids for the project, and construction is expected to begin this fall. These improvements reflect Ridgeland's proactive approach to public safety, energy efficiency, and smart technology, which will better serve its residents and visitors.

THIS CITY IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE NEW HIRES AND HONOR LONG-TIME EMPLOYEES

By Kim Cooper





IN LEFT PHOTO: Matt Bailey and Paula Tierce IN RIGHT PHOTO: Chief Jonathan Posey and Angela Richburg

City of Ridgeland announces new **City Clerk and honors Paula Tierce** for her years of service:

The City of Ridgeland is pleased to announce that Angela Richburg assumed the role of City Clerk on July 1. Richburg brings a wealth of experience in municipal finance and administration, having most recently served as City Clerk and CFO for the City of Byram. Before that, she was Deputy City Clerk of Finance and Controller for the City of Clinton.

With over 25 years of expertise in accounting, financial planning, and reporting, Richburg is a proven leader in public service. The City is excited to welcome her to the team.

Ridgeland also celebrated Paula Tierce's retirement, recognizing her 20 years of dedicated service. Tierce began her tenure with the City in 2005 as Director of Human Resources and took on the additional role of City Clerk in 2012. She most recently served as President of the Mississippi Municipal Clerks Association.

During her time as City Clerk, Tierce played a key role in maintaining the City's longstanding recognition for financial excellence. Under her leadership, Ridgeland continued to receive the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and has now celebrated this honor for 32 years.

"Thank you, Paula, for your outstanding commitment and countless contributions over the years," said Mayor Gene McGee.

City of Ridgeland announces new fire chief and honors chief Matt Bailey for his years of service

The City of Ridgeland is proud to welcome Jonathan Posey as the new Fire Chief of the Ridgeland Fire Department. Posey has been with the department since 2015, serving in key roles as a firefighter, sergeant, lieutenant, and training officer. His years of hands-on experience and leadership have prepared him well for this next step.

In addition to his fire service career, Posey also served in the Mississippi Army National Guard. He held positions with the 1st of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat team and served as Sergeant Medic, EVAC NCOIC.

Posey succeeds Fire Chief Matt Bailey, who recently retired after an outstanding 37-year career in fire service. Chief Bailey began his journey with the Ellisville Fire Department, serving three years before being appointed Chief in 1989. He later spent 10 years as an Instructor and Senior Instructor at the Mississippi State Fire Academy, helping train the next generation of firefighters across the state.

In 2001, Chief Bailey took the helm at the Ridgeland Fire Department, leading it with integrity and vision for 24 years. Under his leadership, the department advanced in professionalism, training, and community involvement. His legacy of mentorship and innovation leaves a lasting impact on Ridgeland and the broader fire service community.

Welcoming Paul Forster, Ridgeland's new City Engineer

The City of Ridgeland is excited to welcome Paul Forster as our new City Engineer. He will play a key role as we continue to plan for the city's growth and success. Paul brings a strong foundation in both civil engineering and public service, with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Jackson State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Mississippi, where he graduated magna cum laude.

Paul comes to Ridgeland following distinguished service as City Engineer and Director of Engineering and Utilities for the City of Flowood. There, he managed a broad range of responsibilities, including utility management, capital planning, personnel oversight, construction management, budgeting, and regulatory compliance—experience that will serve our community well as Ridgeland grows and develops.

Looking ahead, we are eager for Paul to contribute his expertise as he works closely with our team. He will support Ridgeland's transportation, water and sewer, environmental, and community development divisions, helping ensure that our infrastructure keeps pace with our vision for the future.



IN THIS PHOTO: Paul Forster

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE COUNTY

By Kim Cooper

The City of Ridgeland sincerely appreciates President Gerald Steen and the entire Madison County Board of Supervisors for their continued support and partnership.



Most recently, we have been especially grateful for the County's funding contributions, which are helping us maintain and improve our roadways and public infrastructure.

This support has benefited several key projects, including improvements on Rice Road, Pear Orchard Road, McClellan Drive, Post Road, Centre Street, and Old Agency Road. Additional enhancements include striping and signage along Livingston Road, infrastructure upgrades on Wheatley Street, and water and sewer improvements at Highland Colony Park.

One significant project we would like to highlight is the ongoing work in the Purple Creek Basin, which is scheduled for completion by April 2026. This major initiative includes drainage improvements to

enhance flood control and water quality throughout the area. Key components of the project include:

- Installation of a new box culvert across Ridgewood Road
- Rehabilitation of the existing detention pond at Freedom Ridge Park
- Construction of a new detention area west of the existing pond
- Stream bank stabilization
- Development of a 4,000-foot nature trail

These improvements will create over 280,000 cubic feet of additional stormwater storage in the Purple Creek drainage basin. This will help mitigate flooding and improve water quality, not only for Ridgeland residents but also for downstream communities.

The new nature trail will also provide a valuable recreational amenity and offer educational opportunities about native plants, wildlife, stormwater management, and preserving natural resources.

We are thankful for the County's investment in our City's well-being and sustainability and look forward to continued collaboration on projects that benefit the entire community.

"As always, I am deeply grateful to President Steen and the Board of Supervisors for their support of projects that enhance our City's exceptional quality of life. Together, we are making lasting improvements that will benefit our community for years to come," stated Mayor McGee.



Automated Recycling Cart Collection for a Cleaner and Greener Ridgeland

Last fall, the City of Ridgeland transitioned to automated recycling collection. This recycling collection method is a collaborative effort to enhance the overall efficiency of the collection process for our community. By minimizing the manual handing materials, which can be hazardous, we are all contributing to a safer and more efficient recycling system.

With automated collection, all recyclables must fit inside your cart with the lid firmly closed. Material left outside the cart cannot be collected.

Recycle Right at Home

Recycling at home is one of the best ways to help reduce waste, save resources and create a sustainable tomorrow. By following these three simple rules each time you recycle, you may be giving that item a second life to serve a different purpose as something new - sneakers, backpacks, purses, jeans and more.



Recycle bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.



Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.



No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.

WHO AND WHERE

RIDGELAND ALDERMEN



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



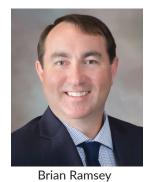
Ken Heard Ward 1 601-201-7392 Ken.Heard@RidgelandMS.org



Chuck Gautier Ward 2 601-506-5913 Chuck.Gautier@RidgelandMS.org



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



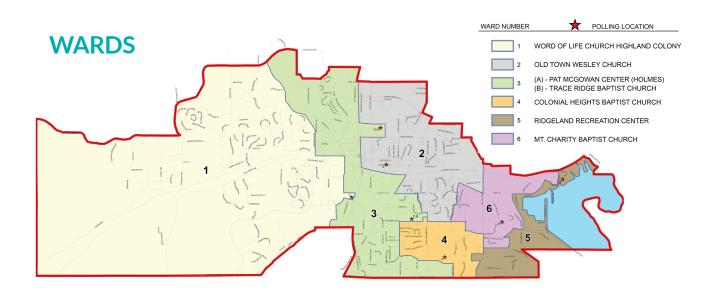
Ward 4 601-506-1979 Brian.Ramsey@RidgelandMS.org



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



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



CITY DIRECTORY

ANIMAL CONTROL animalcontrol@ridgelandms.org
ANONYMOUS TIP LINE (criminal investigations division)
CITY HALL/MAYOR'S OFFICE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (development, property maintenance, zoning, signs, permits) 601-856-3877
COURT CLERK (traffic violations, misdemeanors and fines)
EMERGENCY (police and re dispatch center)
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (business licenses, elections, meeting minutes, budget, public records)
FIRE DEPARTMENT (non-emergency calls, safety education programs)
POLICE DEPARTMENT (non-emergency calls, public safety concerns)
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (roads, garbage, recycling, water, storm water)
RECREATION AND PARKS (special events, athletics and program registration, park information)
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 sessions are Mondays prior to Board Meeting - 6 p.m.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

2nd & 4th Tuesday - 6 p.m.

Randy Lynn - Chair, Connie Suber (Secretary), Robert Moore, Rick Eades, Jim Woodrick, Leigh Ann Sullivan, Jim Powell

KEEP RIDGELAND BEAUTIFUL

First Monday - 4 p.m.

Jan Richardson - Chair, Rachel Bradley, Ginger Cocke, Polly Hammett, Claire Jackson, Phyllis Parker, Kenya Rachal, Lea Anne Stacy

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Every other month - TBA

Nancy Batson - Chair, 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 - Chair, 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 - Chair, Michelle Caballero, Kim Lovato, Theresa G. Kennedy, Drew Malone, Judy Rice, David Dunbar, Don Roberts

DEPARTMENT HEADS



Public Works Alan Hart Director



Fire Department Johnathan Posey Fire Chief alan.hart@ridgelandms.org johnathan.posey@ridgelandms.org



Finance And Administration Angela Richburg City Clerk/CFO angela.richburg@ridgelandms.org



Police Department Brian Myers Chief of Police brian.myers@ridgelandms.org



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



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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

