

Ridge Notes

Ridgeway, South Carolina



Revitalization, Responsibility, Relationships

Highlights of 2013 Town of Ridgeway

Community Members

- Entrepreneurs of the Year, Denise Jones and Jennie Price of The Cotton Yard Market
- Citizen of the Year, Phyllis Gutierrez
- Chair of the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Board, Denise Jones of The Cotton Yard Market
- Fairfield County Business of the Year, Tina Johnson of Over the Top
- Friend of the Arts Award and creator of Arts on the Ridge, Liz Henry
- Chair of the Fairfield Arts Council, Virginia Lacy
- Doug Ruff, Rev. Eddie Woods, Mamie Peanut Johnson and Richard Miles, featured in the book Legendary Locals of Fairfield County by Virginia Schafer
- Church volunteers gave thousands of hours of community service to repair homes and host uplifting events for the community

Events

- Pig on the Ridge, Largest and Best Bar-be-cue Cook off in the State
- Arts on the Ridge, featured in an ed op piece in the State Newspaper as well as Cities Mean Business, An Artist's Touch and creation of a PR poster piece, "Opening Doors to the Arts in Ridgeway"
- Ridgeway Merchants hosted First Fridays each month and the Second Big Grab, 43 Mile Yard Sale
- A seasonal and safe Christmas Parade, directed by Nelson Lacy and Sara Tucker with assistance from Judy Miller, Andrea Harrison, and Tina Johnson
- The first Christmas on the Ridge was held with concerts in local churches, Santa at the Old Station, carriage rides and great dining and shopping provided by the Ridgeway Merchants.

Economic Development

- Three new businesses opened in Ridgeway, Ridgeway Old Town Hall Restaurant, Antiques and Oddities and The Station.

Operations

- Again, CPA Howard Nichols declared the Town of Ridgeway to have a good audit report and to be in excellence financial standing.
- Additional Police Officers were hired to insure the safety of our citizens as well as sessions on Crime Watch and Gang Awareness were held.
- Streetscape Improvements, funded by Arts on the Ridge, Pig on the Ridge, and Town of Ridgeway
- A Tree Grant from Palmetto Pride was received.
- The adoption of a slogan for the Town of Ridgeway, "Ridgeway: Where History Still Lives!"

Priorities for Ridgeway in 2014
Strategic Plan Priorities

- **Visionary Leadership:** Participation in training sessions offered by the Municipal Association of South Carolina to provide stronger council leadership
- **Community Involvement:** Creation of additional opportunities for citizens to enjoy the quality of life in Ridgeway
- **Improvements in Technology:** Reinvention of the Town Web Site to include more social media interaction, upgrades in technology equipment for Town Hall and the Police Department
- **Economic Development:** Support for new businesses opening in the area
- **Pursuit of Grants:** RIA-Water improvements for the Ridgeway community, TODS- Additional signage to attract potential Ridgeway tourists and shoppers and PARD- Improvements to the old Ridgeway School Site, and a Police Officer Grant
- **Capital Improvements:** Upgrades to Town Buildings

Ridgeway Acts of Kindness (R.A.K.)

- Kudos to our Christmas Events committees, churches, and volunteers regarding the Christmas Parade, Christmas on the Ridge, and making the holidays brighter for everyone. Thanks for sharing the true meaning of the season.
- Thanks and congratulations to a group of businessmen who funded the Palmetto Pipes and Drum Band for the Ridgeway Christmas Parade and to our float winners: First Place – White Oak Baptist Church #2 and Second Place – Aimwell Presbyterian Church.

Safety Reminders for the New Year

- Parking on sidewalks is prohibited per Town Ordinance. Please leave sidewalks clear for our pedestrians to enjoy their walk about Town. (Ordinance #5-1001)
- Increased traffic in town has deemed enforcement of the ordinance pertaining to parking on the correct side on the streets. (Ordinance #5-1001)
- “No Littering” signs will be erected on various streets in Town to remind us to keep our Town clean. (Ordinance #8-1007)

S.C. State Department of Highways Project – Highway #21

I am sure citizens have noticed some stakes being placed by the State Department of Highways at the intersection of Highway 21 and Coleman outside of town limits. After several calls to the County and State, the following information was received. The S.C. State Highway Department has been working on this project to widen the road in the area for over 10 years to provide greater safety in the area. The project was not initiated by the Town nor was the Town’s approval sought as it is a county/state initiative. The Town did express its concern several years ago about the potential loss of a business and land to community residents. Further questions can be addressed to the S. C State Highway Department at 803-635-4222.

Calendar of Events:

January 1, 2014	New Year’s Day (office closed)	
January 1, 2014	Ridgeway Fire Dept Meeting	7:00 p.m.
January 7, 2014	Fairfield Arts Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.
January 9, 2014	Ridgeway Town Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
January 15, 2014	Merchants Meeting	5:30 p.m.
January 18, 2014	Ridgeway Reads	10:30 a.m.
January , 2014	Community Crime Watch Meeting	(TBA)