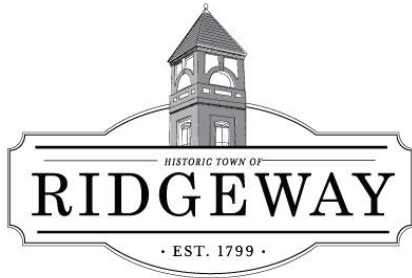


Ridge Notes

Ridgeway, South Carolina



Revitalization, Responsibility, Relationships

Happy New Year!

Reflect upon the Past and Ring in the New

If there was one word that could have described the holidays in Ridgeway, it would have been “magical”. Ridgeway downtown stores danced in holiday finery. Homes glistened with greenery, bows and lights. Church bells pealed the good news of our Savior’s birth. Streets echoed the laughter and joy of relationships and events that celebrated the season. And community gave from their hearts and with their time to make Home for Christmas in Ridgeway MAGICAL!!!!

Now as we begin this New Year of 2016, let us reflect upon some highlights of this magical place we call home, The Town of Ridgeway.

Highlights in 2015

Revitalization, Responsibility, Relationships

Revitalization

New Businesses: Emma and Lillie’s Cottage Goods, Palmer Street Market, the Ridgeway Station Café and Royal Greens opened their doors for business in Ridgeway. Old Town Hall Restaurant and Pub celebrated its first anniversary. Laura’s Tea Room received an award from a local television station as well as being featured in **Carolina Magazine**.

Old Ridgeway School Site: The Arch of the former Ridgeway School was stabilized using funds received from a Fairfield County Community Grant and citizens in the community. The site was determined to continue to be an area for community gatherings and events.

Responsibility

Town Council: Members participated in Basic and Advanced Training through the Municipal Association of South Carolina on governance, budgeting, and economic development.

Safety: Chris Culp was hired as Police Officer for the Town of Ridgeway.

Finances: The Town continues to maintain a sound operating budget as deemed by the accounting firm of Timothy C. Cornelison, CPA, LLC. The Town passed a Hospitality Tax for the purpose of increased funding to meet the needs of the merchants and citizens.

Strategic Planning: The community via committees was engaged in setting priorities for Ridgeway.

Capital Improvements: Major repairs to the water tank in town were approved. The Town of Ridgeway leased the Cotton Yard Area from Norfolk Southern to provide additional parking and safety for shoppers, diners, and tourists who reside in and visit our community.

Relationships

Citizen Recognitions: Entrepreneur of the Year – Nelson Funeral Home: Citizen of the Year – Dwight Robertson, Friends of the Arts Award – Tina Johnson: Fairfield County Chamber Chair, Tina Johnson.

Events: Pig on the Ridge, Arts on the Ridge, Holidays on the Ridge – Tree Lighting, Home for Christmas Tour and Parade, Unity Walk; Promenade on the Ridge; Veterans Day Tribute; Big Grab, Movies in the Yard, and the **volunteers** in the community, churches and schools who make all the events possible.

Town Council Election

April 5, 2016

The Town of Ridgeway expresses our gratitude for the service of Councilman Russ Brown, 2010-2015. While Mr. Brown retains his business Brown Realty in Ridgeway, he and his family moved to Winnsboro in November, 2015. According to State Law his seat on Council along with two others will be open for election on April 5, 2016. Persons who are citizens of Ridgeway and who are interested in running for election to Town Council should comply with the following qualifications per the Fairfield County Election Commission and State of South Carolina: at least 18 years of age, active registered voter, and resident of municipality for 30 days. Additional qualifications can be found in the candidates section of scvotes.org. Books open January 21, 2016 at 8:30 am and close February 5, 2016 at noon.

Ridgeway Acts of Kindness (RAK)

Thank you to the Arts on the Ridge Committee, Historical Cultural Committee, Public Relations Committee, Fairfield County Arts Council, Ridgeway Churches and Homes, and our Merchants for the Home for Christmas Tour in Ridgeway. Visitors from all over South Carolina as well as former residents returned to celebrate the season with us.

Thanks to our Parade Committee: Nelson Lacy, Linda Tucker, Sara Tucker, Tina Johnson, Jacki Norris, Heath Cookendorfer and volunteers; our sponsors: First Citizens, Magnolia Farms and a group of business men and women of Ridgeway and our float winners: Aimwell Presbyterian Church, White Oak #2 Baptist Church and the Merchants of Ridgeway for a wonderful Christmas Parade.

Ridgeway Reads

The Community is invited to join Ridgeway Reads on Sunday, January 17, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at the Century House to hear Columbia author and retired teacher Sandy Vassallo share her new book, Once in a Blue Moon. Refreshments will be provided by Laura's Tea Room. "The book, Once in a Blue Moon, tells the story of Maddy Hudson, a 63 year old woman who is content with her life. On most days she feels young at heart and grateful for her life in South Carolina. Although her husband is gone, she has her daughter, two precious grandchildren, and a close circle of friends. While reconnecting with both the carefree days of her childhood and the painful memory of personal loss, Maddy will make a few more discoveries along the way proving that once in a blue moon, good things come our way when we least expect them."

Calendar of Events

January 1, 2016	Happy New Year (office closed)	
January 5, 2016	Fairfield County Arts Council, 6:00 pm	Century House
January 6, 2016	Ridgeway Fire Department Meeting, 7:00 pm	
January 7, 2016	Ridgeway Town Council Work Session 6:30 pm	Century House
January 13, 2016	Merchants Meeting, 5:30 pm	Century House
January 14, 2016	Ridgeway Town Council Meeting, 6:30	Century House
January 17, 2016	Ridgeway Reads, 3:00 pm Author Sandy Vassallo	Century House
January 18, 2016	Unity Walk, Century House, Downtown Ridgeway, Lebanon Presbyterian Church 10:00 am	