



# Mayor's Notes

## Ridgeway, South Carolina

June 2018

### ***Laura's Tea Room***

Where does one begin when speaking about the many accolades Carol Allen and Gramma have brought to our great town: Entrepreneur of the Year; a mention in a commercial campaign for Mutual of Omaha; USA Today. Carol is a beacon for our Town, bringing hundreds to experience High Tea. The May 7, 2018 issue of USA Today features Laura's Tea Room. Carol was part of a story that traveled the country for Mother's Day. One couple, British at that, visiting Atlanta, picked up the paper, read the article and that afternoon made reservations for the next day. Carol – Ridgeway says THANK YOU to both you and Gramma for putting our little town on the big map. If you have not had time to experience High Tea, invite friends and head to Laura's Tea Room for an afternoon of memories!

### ***ICC***

On Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, I was invited to attend a showcase of great local talent at First Baptist Church. The students of the Institute for Cultural Communicators, "ICC", displayed their talents of speaking and acting, showing such enthusiasm of their talents. All heard stories of young loss, wicked witches and funny limericks. The crowd cheered, laughed and cried. All who attended to support these young children had a good night. It was great to see one of Ridgeway's own, Doug Ruff, receive the First Servant Leader Award. This award, named after Chandler Hamby, is given to the person who sacrifices most to make all of the evenings events go off without a hitch. Doug stepped in at a minutes notice to assist where needed, to keep the show going. I turned to the person next to me and ask if he spoke that well at their age. He answered: "I still don't." Several children that preformed that evening were invited to speak and compete at the International Speech Championship Tournament at the end of June. If you are interested in volunteering or having one of your talented children join ICC for the upcoming school year, please reach out to Dede Ruff. She is the ICC Chair for the Ridgeway area. Great kids, great show! Keep up the good work and good luck in the championship.

### ***Sidney Squirewell Turns 100***

In May, Ridgeways' own Sidney Squirewell turned 100 years old becoming the only centurion in this area. Let me put that into some perspective so you can understand what a great celebration that is. The year that Mr. Squirewell was born the 28th President of the United States was Woodrow Wilson, the telephone was only 42 years old, the car was 32 years old and it would be another 9 years before the television would be invented. He remembers watching man travel on mule and buggy and outer space. Family and friends gathered at Laura's Tea Room to honor him and hear stories about the town he loves. The only time that Mr. Squirewell left Fairfield County was when he was deployed during WWII. He served in Saipan and Okinawa before returning to Ridgeway to his hometown wife of 70 years. When asked what is the secret to a long life, he stated, "don't die". If you see Mr. Squirewell around town, stop and say hello and celebrate this amazing man.

### ***Book Signing***

Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 2PM at the Century House, Ridgeway will host a celebration of a local published author. Lisa Anne Cullen will be here to read and sign her new book titled: "Little Orange Honey Hood A Carolina Folktale". The book features a story about an adventure of Blossom and the swamp-river of Congaree. Lots of alligator excitement. Please come hear Lisa and purchase a copy to read to your children and grandchildren.

***Cotton Yard***

Months of debate from old and new council, finally brought a resolution to the question, should we purchase the 0.65-acre lot we fondly refer to as the Cotton Yard? Moving forward on June 22, 2018, the town will close on the purchase and Ridgeway will own the Cotton Yard. This purchase will ensure years to come for Town events, Festivals and Celebrations. Thanks to the old and new council for listening to the citizens and making the best decision for the Town.

# June 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 Winnsboro Meeting	6	7	8	9 Book Signing
10	11 FC Meeting	12	13	14 Town Council Meeting 6:30pm	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 FC Meeting	26	27	28	29	30