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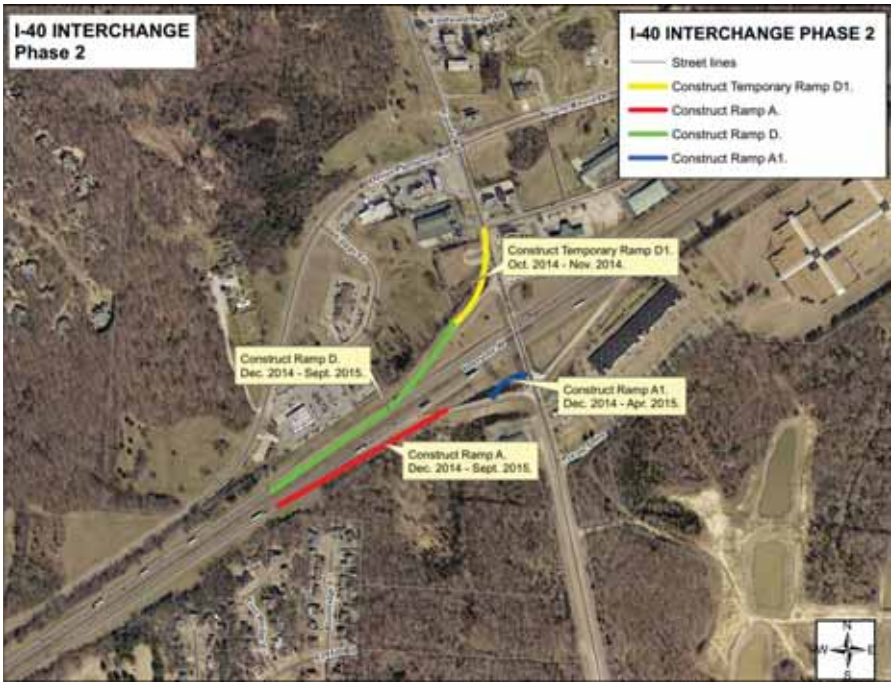

Status of I-40/ Canada Road construction

Construction on the interstate is progressing according to schedule. This rendering is phase 2 showing ramps to be built through September 2015.

Cover: The home of Holly and Kevin Mount, 10201 Gillespie Oak Dr., is bedecked for fall. Kevin is president of Oakwood Subdivision Homeowners Association. Holly, a realtor, enjoys decorating their home for all seasons. *Photo by Jim Willis*

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Burning Desire Cigar Emporium

Ribbon-cutting was Sept. 17 for the new Lakeland business at 8968 Highway 64. Pictured is Keith Campbell, manager, center, with Sherri Gallick, Lakeland commissioner. Keith said the store carries the largest selection of premium cigars in the area. Customers can select from a variety of cigars from $5 to $38 on a cash and carry basis or enjoy the lounge. There are premium memberships for the members' lounge which offers humidified lockers and an outdoor deck. The Emporium is open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, until 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 9 p.m. on Sundays.

LAKELAND CURRENTS

Published bimonthly by The Council of Lakeland Associations (COLA)
City of Lakeland, Cool Springs, Creekside Manor, East Shores, Garner Lake, Herons Ridge, Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, Lakeland Estates, Lakeland Lions Club, Lakeshore Ladies Club, Oakwood, Winstead Farms, Windward Slopes, Woodbridge, Woodland Park, The Grove at Lakeland.

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LA Fitness under construction on Highway 64 in Lakeland.

Business, Interstate Activity in Lakeland

The phase 2 map of I-40 construction on page 2 shows progress is on schedule, according to Jim Atkinson, director of city planning and administration. The connector to Huff N Puff from Beverle Rivera Drive should be complete early next year. The phase 2 rendering shows ramp work through September 2015.

Jim said the LA Fitness building on Highway 64 is evolving and should be open the end of this year. The Irvine, California-based fitness center is to be 40,000 square feet with an indoor pool for lap swimming and classes. The business started in 1984 and today has state-of-the-art clubs across the continent. It is visible from both I-40 and Highway 64.

Sprouts Farmers Market was announced to fill 60 percent of the former Kroger Store in Lakeland in the Country Bridge Shopping Center. Target opening date is spring 2015. Another tenant is under consideration for the remainder of the store space. Kroger was shuttered after Schnucks moved from Memphis in September 2011 and Kroger bought its grocery stores. The re-development of this shopping center will provide much-needed tax revenue since Kroger left Lakeland creating a $300,000 sales-tax deficit, according to Chris Thomas, city manager. Conservative sales tax estimates for the new Sprouts store are expected to be $300,000 a year.

At the former Factory Outlet Mall, the name of the shopping area will be "Lake District" instead of "Grand Outlets," according to Jim. Details forthcoming.

Delta Blues Winery and Vineyard, 6495 Stewart Rd, is to open later this fall according to Dianne Day, one of the partners in the business. The new Lakeland business is on 15 acres at Paul Barrett Parkway.

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Happening In Lakeland

Halloween/Fall Fest - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 24 IH Clubhouse Carnival games, candy and prizes for ages 3-12! Come out for the fun, fun, fun!!! Sponsored by the City and Lakeland Lions Club. Parking spill-over at First Baptist Church across the street. Shelby County Sheriff's Office will direct traffic and assist participants across the road.

The **Lakeland Chamber** will host a luncheon Oct. 29 at Club Windward in Lakeland. Chairman of the Shelby County Chamber Alliance, Cary Vaughn, will be the guest speaker. To register visit http://mylakelandchamber.org/lakeland-chamber-luncheon .

Special Census - starts Nov. 1

Chris Thomas, city manager, announced there will be a special census for Lakeland. It is estimated there are 750 more residents than during the 2010 census. That equates to $110 per resident or an additional $82,000 per year in revenue for the City. Snail mail letters are to be sent to residents Nov. 1 with follow up door-to-door canvassing in January. The next full census is in 2020.

Community Clean Up Day 8 a.m. to noon Nov. 8 Windward Slopes Park 9822 Beverle Rivera Dr.

Lakeland residents can dispose of hard to get rid of items this fall. You must be a City resident to participate and provide a drivers license or current MLGW bill. No exceptions.

The following will be accepted:

Bulky trash, e-waste (TVs, monitors, computers, printers, cell phones, and cell phone batteries), white goods (washers, dryers, small household appliances), tires (limit four, no rims), scrap metals, construction debris (residential) and yard waste.

Republic Services and Cyber Yard will provide dumpsters and receptacles for your discards to be recycled and properly disposed.

We will not be accepting household garbage or these hazardous wastes: Oils, paints, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, chemicals, railroad ties, fluorescent bulbs, light bulbs, alkaline batteries or refrigerants (A/Cs or refrigerators).

These items can be taken to the Memphis and Shelby County Hazardous Waste Facility at Shelby Farms, 576-6851.

Due to EPA rules, we cannot accept any appliances with refrigerant in them.

Before disposing any items in the trash, please consider donating useable items to the Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries, Disabled Veterans or other charitable organizations.

Windward Slopes Park is located at Beverle Rivera Drive just east of the Fire Station #1. If you have any questions please call City Hall 867-2717, ext. 409.

Leaf Collection Program

The City will begin collecting loose leaves from each resident's curb by a vacuum truck Nov. 17. Leaves must be on a resident's property, no more than five feet from the street. Never rake leaves into the street, as they can be washed into the storm sewer. Do not pile leaves around mailboxes and signposts. Place in an open area. The crew will not pick up leaves under, between or around parked cars. If the vehicle is not moved, the leaves will remain until the next pick up time. Contractors/lawn care professionals must haul away their own waste. Do not put grass, tree branches or brush with leaves. NO BAGS ALLOWED. Household trash, yard waste and recycling will stay as scheduled. www.lakelandtn.gov for more information.

Christmas Tree Lighting 6:30 p.m. Dec. 2 Lakeland Elementary School Activities include local choirs singing, a visit with Santa, crafts and the lighting of a Christmas tree! Hot chocolate provided. Information available at www.LakelandTN.gov recreation page.

LEF Awards
First Teacher Grants

On October 16 the Lakeland Education Foundation launched its first annual LES Teachers Grant Awards night at Lakeland Elementary School. "This was a follow through on our commitment to our teachers and parents to provide as much money as possible to programs that will enhance the curriculum," said Cecil Tompkins, Foundation president.

Twenty-seven teachers applied for the grants. To be considered, each teacher who applied was required to submit a detailed application describing the reason for the grant money, the details of the program or project they wanted funded, and the expected impact on LES students. Some of the grants that were awarded covered more than single classrooms and, in some cases, covered several hundred students. A special grant was given to the school for some computer lab upgrades. The total value of the grants exceeded $17,000.

Teachers receiving grants: kindergarten - Lorna Miller, Gail Stephens, Lori Welch, Jill Baker, Michelle Filsinger, Krista Bruce and Beth Bagley; second grade - Sandra Norvell; third grade - Arzu Booth, Christy Papson, Christy Estes, Teri Hoffman, Kim Hallum and Renee Pirkey; fourth grade - Stacey Hume and Allie Garza; fifth grade - Joanne Switzer; K-1 Lisa McDaniel; K-2 Johnna Herbison and Brandy Ortiz.

Teacher grants have been the primary focus of Foundation Board members this school year, as they continue to build community and corporate support for the Lakeland School System.

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Inside the BOC Meetings

In a historic vote this month, the BOC approved a tax ordinance that will increase the current property tax by 55 cents and be used for a grades 6-12 school facility.

The original ordinance was amended to note the special property tax will "assist in funding the construction of additional school buildings," according to the official document. It further reads that the new tax is established solely for the retirement of the anticipated school bond debt, shall take effect July 1, 2015 and be collected for the year 2015. The 55-cent tax will terminate when the school bond debt is retired.

The move was controversial with Lakeland residents spending the summer and early fall voicing their opinions on social media about the need for a tax increase, a proposed $50 million bond issue and ultimately a new school building.

During a lengthy public hearing Oct. 14, sixteen citizens spoke to commissioners. Equal numbers (eight) were in favor of the tax and proposed bond issue and eight against. Some proponents arrived with signs, "Yes to Prep and Prosperity" and wore yellow T-shirts that said, "We believe in the children and our future." Applause was abundant for both sides. Those critical of the move cited arguments heard over the past few months: "Why the rush? How can Lakeland afford such a big debt? It will be devastating to seniors on fixed incomes." Those in favor of building a school building sooner than later cited the impact on property values and the need for families to know where their children will attend school K-12.

Commissioner Randy Nicholson squelched internet rumors that he is selling his Lakeland house to avoid paying a tax increase. "I was appalled that Facebook had assumed that," he said. "It has nothing to do with that. I made the decision at Thanksgiving last year to put my house on the market because my wife wants to move closer to our two baby grandchildren." He said he has served Lakeland 19 years and public officials do the best they can with what they have. "This Board tries to follow the will of the citizens."

The Lakeland School Board will now get to work, according to City Attorney Chris Patterson. "They will hire a consultant and project manager to oversee and assist with site selection," he said. The new $1.40 tax rate will be in the budget for the 2015 year, he added. After that, the City will begin the bond process with a consultant and counsel.

In an effort to be transparent about the proposed "Lakeland Prep" 6-12 school and its funding, both the BOC and Lakeland School Board offered nine public meetings plus regular BOC and LSB sessions for citizen discussion. In addition to complaints about the higher tax rate, some voiced concern that Lakeland effectively has a higher rate because of fire and ambulance fees currently on the Memphis Light, Gas and Water bill. Mayor Wyatt Bunker addressed that concern by noting there is work underway to bring fire service either "in house" or share with Arlington.

In other news at the October regular meeting, four new members were named to the newly formed Lakeland Development Corporation: Jeremy Clark, Abed "Victor" Ghosheh, Joseph Laster and Ronald Purifoy. They join three founding members, Terri Smith-Anderson, Paul Criss and Josh Roman, who will have six-year terms. Jeremy and Ronald will serve four years; Victor and Joseph, two years.

The City established an industrial development board to replace the Economic Development Commission. The LDC promotes and actively pursues economic development activity within the city. The LDC has a series of tools including the ability to create tax increment financing districts (TIF), tax abatements, and other methods of spurring re-development of existing areas and bringing new, high-quality commercial development to Lakeland.

In other BOC business this summer and fall:

➤ Ginny Dunn, economic development coordinator for the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, proposed a Lakeland Shop Local Holiday Program from Dec. 1 to Jan. 5, 2015. To promote local shopping during the holiday season and create a festive atmosphere, businesses can display additional signage, displays, and decorations beyond the current the city ordinances. Best displays will win an award and free waiver of one permit fee for the following year. The overall best winner will receive an award, free waiver of one permit fee for the following year and a cash prize.

➤ Andy Reynolds with A2H addressed the plantings on the medians on Canada Road. He said the plan was created in 2007 as a naturalistic area, not traditional, with a natural look of perennials, wildflowers, trees and shrubs. It featured drip irrigation. There was a lot of negative talk about the area and eventually it was neglected. Sherri asked what it might cost to fix the sprinklers and upgrade the area? $10,000? He said he didn't know but would check on a price. At a later meeting, commissioners were given a new design of the medians but there was still confusion on what work would be done at what cost. The majority of commissioners seem inclined to repair sprinklers on the end caps of the medians and cap off other sprinkler lines for repair at a later date.

➤ The first ever Christmas tree lighting at Lakeland Elementary School will be Dec. 2. Brenda Lockhart, interim parks director, is coordinating with Commissioner Clark Plunk.

➤ Complaints have decreased about trash service and recycling although residents continue to have issues with the service, particularly limb and leaf pickup. Several commissioners said they didn't realize when voting on the new contract with Republic that services would be compromised. There is a two-bag limit on trash or yard waste along with the containers and anything over those amounts are charged at $2 per bag. In the first three weeks of the new contract, there were 270 complaints, which dropped to 150 complaints in the four-week period of August. Wyatt said the contract cost this year is $16 per resident versus $23 on the old contract. "We are going to ride it out for a year, " he said. "We knew there would be a spike of complaints. But this is a substantial discount and we will build up money in that account. Maybe we will reduce the cost to residents next year." Republic representatives said this month they are visiting Lakeland neighborhoods, knocking on doors and educating citizens on the new program. Residents are encouraged to bag trash and recycling, particularly glass, as there is less tendency for it to blow or scatter when transferred from the can to the truck.

➤ David Lenoir, Shelby County Trustee, gave his state of Lakeland report to the commissioners. For the 2013 tax year, 97.7% of Lakeland residents paid their property taxes, a higher percentage than the county average; there are 180 delinquent parcels to be collected and Lakeland has a 99% collection rate. In August of 2014 there were 21 existing home sales compared to 18 a year ago; no new home sales compared to two a year ago; and the median sales price was $210,000 compared to $234,000 a year ago.

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➤ There are two new developments planned: Evergreen residential area with 139 lots at Evergreen and Old Brownsville Road; and Evergreen Square, at Evergreen and Highway 70, combined retail, assisted living, office, dementia care and possibly senior homes. These projects could be on the drawing board in a year according to Jim Atkinson, director of city planning and administration. Two ongoing subdivision developments were discussed. Kensington Manor amendments were approved with 20% maximum siding, elimination of a community pool and closing Evergreen Road at Highway 70. The additional development at Heron's Ridge was approved. In Kensington there is an impasse regarding a sewer line across Highway 70 via commercial property. The owner has not agreed to a price for the easement and Jim recommended the City pass a resolution allowing for an appraisal of the potential easement. This sewer issue involves not only the Kensington neighborhood, but others south of Memphis-Arlington Road.

➤ The City has hired Kim Odom as its first Senior Center part-time manager with the Center now open Monday through Friday.

➤ A representative of the West Tennessee Veterans' Home told of the need to build a skilled nursing rehabilitation center for veterans in the tri-county area. She said there are 3,000 veterans in Lakeland and challenged the City to budget $100 toward the facility for each of the local veterans. Commissioner Gene Torrey commented he'd like to see the center in Lakeland.

➤ Melissa Bast from Light 'Em Up Fireworks shared with commissioners that the state attorney general has written an opinion that it is permissible for Lakeland to have more than one retail fireworks business. She is interested in buying commercial property in Lakeland for her business. She also said she would sell Duck Commander fireworks if she could locate in the City.

➤ After months of discussion, the Lakeland employee handbook revisions should be available to commissioners at the November meeting. Particular issues are short and long term disability and the amount of sick leave for part time employees.

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Survey Offers Opinions on Lakeland Issues

A September survey conducted on NextDoor.com revealed varied opinions on crime, Lakeland Prep and the proposed property tax increase.

Wesley Wright, editorial board member for Lakeland Currents and vice-chair for COLA, commissioned the survey to satisfy his curiosity, provide civic responsibility and to gauge where Lakeland residents stand on relevant topics. The 13 questions were available on the social media site and yielded responses from 365 people of almost 1,100 registered users on the site. The survey link was posted on Facebook pages and received 77 responses of which 30 were not NextDoor users.

The first question asked if residents were aware of monthly crime reports indicating crime is increasing in the Lakeland area. Fifty-one percent said yes and 49 percent said no.

The second question asked if measures should be taken to help with safety and fight crime. Fifty-nine percent said yes, and 41 percent said no. Of the yes responses, suggestions offered included hire security patrols, install surveillance, start neighborhood watch, install gates or street lights and have informative meetings. The no responses asked who would fund the extra safety measures.

Participants were asked to identify their neighborhoods with 19 percent living in Plantation Hills, 12 percent in The Grove, 11 percent in Oakwood, 10 percent Windward Slopes, 9 percent Cool Springs, 7 percent Lakeland Estates, 6 percent Stonebridge and Woodland Park, 5 percent Woodbridge and Evergreen Hills.

When asked if respondents knew about Lakeland Prep (the proposed grades 6-12 school for Lakeland), 59 percent answered yes and 41 percent said no. When this survey was posted on Facebook pages, 72 percent answered yes and 28 percent responded no.

Answering whether there is support for the mayor, board of commissioners, school superintendent, school board and want Lakeland Prep, 52 percent said yes, 48 percent no. When the question was rephrased with more answer choices, 32 percent were undecided, 50 percent yes and 18 percent no.

Responses to "Why do you support Lakeland Prep?" included good for Lakeland, good for property values, it will draw families and businesses.

Those who answered they do not favor Lakeland Prep cited a dislike for the tax (proposed 55-cent property tax increase), disagreement with the school plans, too much debt for the City and why the rush.

Activities in the City were also a topic, asking what events should the Parks Board or any other board or Lakeland organization try to keep or bring back? Seasonal activities were mentioned along with creating a town center for the City.

To receive the entire survey results, email Wesley wesley@wesleyalanwright.com .

Laura Harrison

vice chair - LSB

Fall is in the air and so are great things at LSS! Oct. 3 marked the end of the first nine weeks of the historic first year of operations of the Lakeland School System. There are many milestones to celebrate and wonderful stories to share, such as students' first day of classes, the return of cooking in the Lakeland Elementary cafeteria and even the LSS administration accepting the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge in front of the entire student body of LES (It's even posted on YouTube)! Over the past month, LSS has also celebrated through the LSS Twitter Page the many individual classroom success stories that have been shared by the teaching staff at LES. It's amazing that all of these great things have taken place in only 45 days of student's attendance.

As a parent of students at LES, I am very fortunate to be a part of the educational success stories. I personally witness the high quality education that children are receiving as a result of the amazing work that teachers and staff are doing every day at LES. I also see the dedication they have to children and the lengths they go to accomplish what at times I refer to as yeoman's work. I am also able to see the selflessness of the parents and community members who contribute their time, talents, and financial resources to further the educational growth of the children of Lakeland. LSS is so fortunate to have this level of support that is a direct contributor to the high performance LES is able to achieve.

While celebrating our success is important, the School Board also must focus on continual improvement. This results in the constant evaluation and critique of the operations of LSS to explore ways to improve things like safety in our school, our nutrition program, and what is being taught in the classroom. Through School Board meetings and the parent/community survey results, the school board has targeted academic programs/curriculum, technology usage/enhancements and long term planning for a K-12 system as focus items over the coming months. Community feedback is vitally important and encouraged as we discuss these items as well as any others to plan for the future of the Lakeland School System.

I personally want to say thank you to the citizens of Lakeland for providing encouragement and support to the Lakeland School Board over the past 10 months. Many people said Lakeland couldn't have our own school system and now Lakeland children can say, "We ARE the Lakeland School System!"

Here are some ways to stay up-to-date on things happening at LSS:

Website: http://lakelandk12.org/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/lakelandk12
Twitter: https://twitter.com/lakelandk12

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LSB update (Lakeland School Board)

Ken Glazer

Since taking office in January, the five-member Lakeland School Board (LSB) has worked tirelessly to open Lakeland Elementary School on time and without flaws. This month their goals were to bring all Lakeland students to classrooms within the City limits and review the education standards from the Tennessee Department of Education.

In August Dr. Ted Horrell, superintendent, presented the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Lakeland School System (LSS to) the Board of Commissioners (BOC). It requested $50 million to build a single facility for Lakeland middle and high school students. The BOC accepted the request and a special funding resolution, brought forward by Commissioner Gene Torrey, called for an increase of 55 cents per hundred dollars of evaluation to fund the new facility, fields, furniture and fixtures. The monies raised would be used solely for this one school facility. The collection of the special property tax would be eliminated upon the full retirement of the bond issued to build the school.

At a public forum on Aug. 19 Ted documented the needs and reasons for the combination middle/high school facility. Public Financing Management (PFM), a municipal bond consulting firm, demonstrated how the bond would be structured and repaid utilizing existing capital improvement funds and the new monies raised by the special property tax. Those who spoke at the forum were nearly unanimous in support of Lakeland Schools but some voiced opposition to the timing and amount of the property tax. In an effort to make sure that Lakeland citizens understood the issue, the LSB and BOC had nine meetings in August. At each of these meetings it was explained that Arlington Middle School is close to capacity right now; that it takes three to four years to build a new school; that not having K-12 schools limits Lakeland's residential growth, which in turn slows businesses growth.

The BOC agreed with the LSB that there would be no better time to finance and build than right now. By waiting two, three or four years Lakeland would only pay more for land, building materials and interest and this would require an increase in property taxes by more than 55 cents currently needed.

On Oct. 14 the Board of Commissioners passed an ordinance to create a special property tax. See details in page 4 story.

LSB also made a strong statement of their own. On Oct. 13 the Board unanimously passed a resolution regarding the current state education standards known as Common Core. The resolution written by Kevin Floyd, LSB chairman, and Ted puts Gov. Bill Haslam, the State Legislature and the Tennessee Department of Education on notice that LSB supports the development of a new education standard for Tennessee's students and they ask for a repeal of the state's adoption of the Common Core State Standard, originally adopted in 2010.

The resolution:

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TENNESSEE STATE STANDARDS

WHEREAS, The Lakeland School System Board of Education (LSS BOE) supports the need for challenging, rigorous standards that prepare Tennessee students for college, careers or the military and allow them to compete academically and vocationally on a national level; and

WHEREAS, The LSS BOE acknowledges that Tennessee students must be better prepared to think critically and creatively for Tennessee to develop and sustain an employable and innovative work force; and

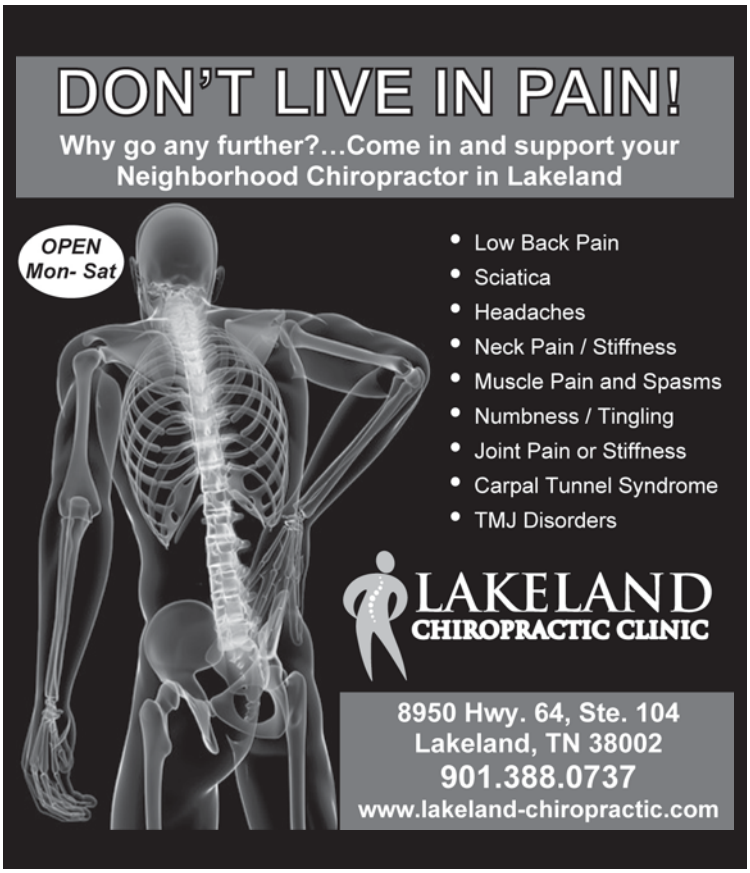
WHEREAS, The LSS BOE believes educational standards that guide instruction for Tennessee students to accomplish the aforementioned goals should be developed by Tennessee educators and community members; and

WHEREAS, The LSS BOE desires a transparent process for developing educational standards and selecting or developing appropriate assessments that involves Tennessee educators and community members; and

WHEREAS, The Common Core State Standards in English and Math that are currently in place for Tennessee school systems were not developed by Tennessee educators, school boards, and community members; and

WHEREAS, The LSS BOE recognizes the concern of many Lakeland area citizens, educators, and legislators that the adoption and implementation of Common Core State Standards diminishes local control of educational decisions and priorities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Lakeland School System, Lakeland, Tennessee that the Lakeland School System Board of Education strongly encourages the Governor of Tennessee, the Tennessee Legislature, and the Tennessee Department of Education to repeal Tennessee's adoption of the Common Core State Standards in favor of new, rigorous standards and assessments created for Tennessee students to be developed with the input of Tennessee educators, school boards, and community members.



Newsworthy around Lakeland

Tracie Fisher from Oakwood.
(photo by Ginny Dunn)

In the middle of a steamy September day, Tracie Fisher, who lives in Oakwood, stopped to collect trash along Seed Tick Road. Ginny Dunn, economic development coordinator for the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, spotted Tracie who was headed to the grocery store and decided to make a difference in her City.

Ginny said Tracie had already filled several bags of trash when she was spotted cleaning up an area of Lakeland. Sherri Gallick, Lakeland vice mayor, said other citizens volunteer their time to keep Lakeland beautiful. Arnie Holcomb has adopted most of Seed Tick Road and Delphine Rose, who walks several of the parks each week and collects trash. "They are committed to keeping Lakeland clean by working in the background," said Sherri. "When you see them, say 'thank you.' "

Lakeland resident Helen McKinney received the Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation Scholarship beginning this year. She is the daughter of Susan Robins of Lakeland and Harry Robins of Oakland. She is a graduate of Gateway Christian School and Southwest Tennessee Community College.

CALENDAR

(BOC/Board of Commissioners; LSB/Lakeland School Board)

October

20 - LES Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A
Early voting continues through Oct. 30
Refuge Church 9817 Huff N Puff Rd
24 - Halloween Carnival/Fall Fest - 6:30-8:30 p.m. IH Clubhouse
25 - LES Book Fair at school

November

1 - Lakeland Walk For Alzheimer's - Memphis Botanic Gardens
2 - DST
3 - LSB work session
4 - General Election - Lakeland on-premises liquor consumption referendum
5 - LES Spirit Night at Papa Murphy's
6 - BOC work session
7 - Dessert Mystery Theater, IH Clubhouse, 7 p.m.
8 - Lakeland Community Clean up Day
10 - LSB regular meeting
11 - Veterans Day -
City Hall, Senior Center closed - Parks Meeting
13 - BOC regular meeting
17 - Stormwater meeting - LES Spirit Night at Chili's
20 - Municipal Planning meeting
26-28 - Thanksgiving holidays - LES
27 - Thanksgiving Day
27-28 - City Hall, Senior Center closed

December

1 - LSB work session
2 - Tree Lighting, LES - 6:30 p.m.
4 - BOC work session
8 - LSB regular meeting
9 - Parks meeting
11 - BOC regular meeting
15 - Stormwater meeting
18 - Municipal Planning meeting

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Crime Report for Lakeland - SCSO

For July 2014, there were 37 incidents versus 16 for June. The biggest increase was 19 vandalism misdemeanor/felony incidents from four the previous month. There were slight increases in aggravated assault (0 to 1); burglary/business (1 to 3); larceny other (2 to 4); theft from building (1 to 3); theft from vehicle (3 to 5). Crime categories of burglary/other, burglary/residential, motor vehicle theft/all, robbery/individual either stayed the same or decreased.

It is believed a group of teenagers (aged 16-18) are responsible for a lot of the vandalism. There were seven or eight cases of vandalism at the same time in Arlington. With a closer watch on the areas and students back in school, it is expected this crime will decrease.

Commenting on the July home invasion at East Shores, Lt. Terry Lomax said the victim was visiting from out of town and was babysitting her younger niece. She was in the kitchen when the suspect came through a back door into the kitchen and pushed the victim down. The suspect put a knife to her leg and told her he'd be back. There was no assault, but, "We get alarmed when we see that kind of thing," said Lt. Lomax.

In September, there were 11 incidents including a theft at the "under construction" LA Fitness on Highway 64. Three industrial welders were taken following a heavy rainstorm when workers left the site quickly because of the weather. The 11 compares to 10 incidents in August. Increases were noted in motor vehicle theft, larceny and theft from vehicles. Other categories remained the same or decreased. More crime was reported between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.

Concerning the restroom wall threat at Arlington High School, revealed Sept. 21 on social media, Lt. Lomax said a person of interest was identified and interviewed. Later that week a 17-year-old suspect was arrested and charged with false reports, according to the SCSO.

Meet Lakeland Business Owners

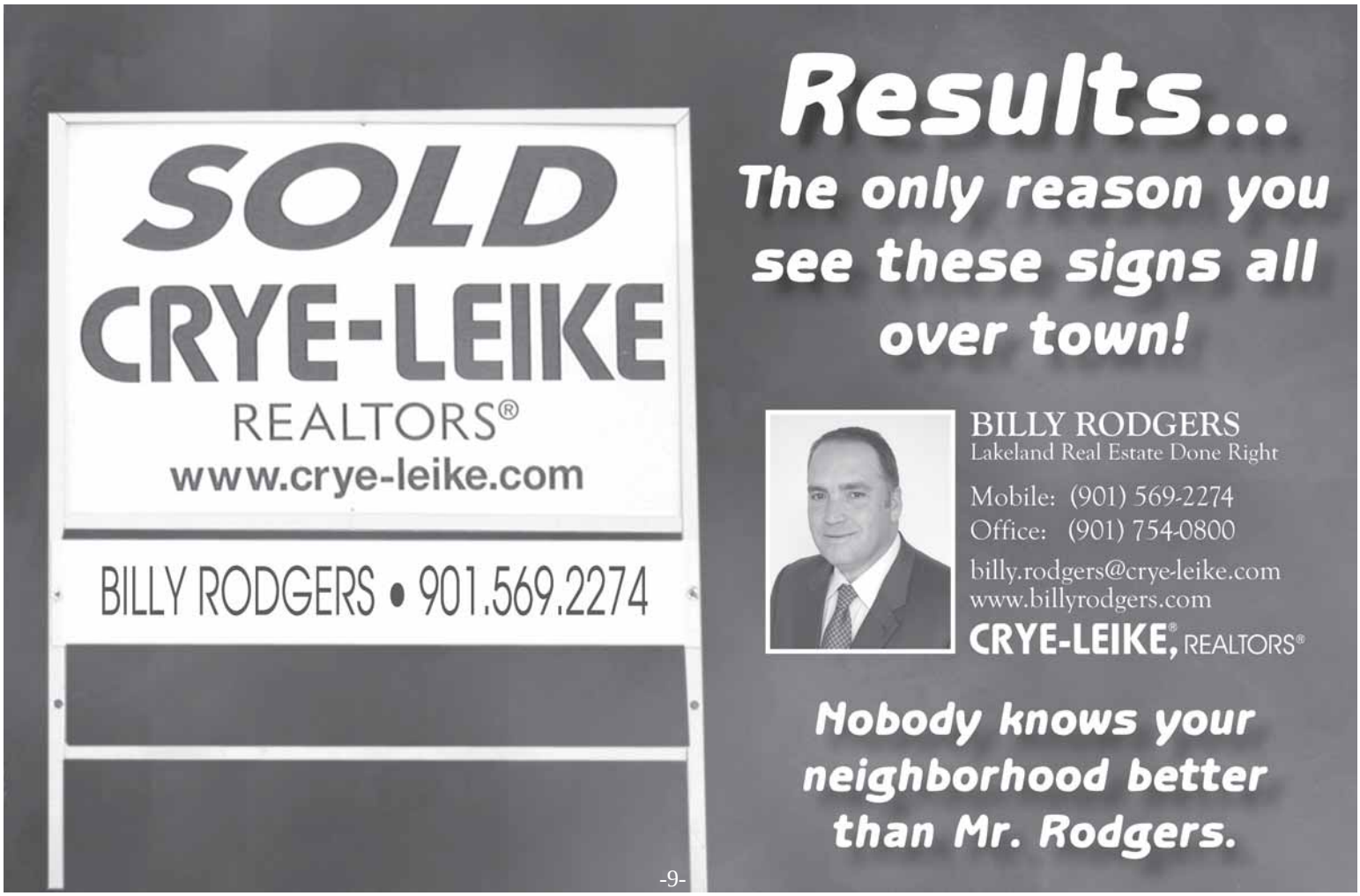
The Gary Gordin family was looking for a recession-free business close to their Lakeland home. In the summer of 2013, Caesar's Liquor became available and Gary and Ramona and sons Luke and Josh bought the store which is across the street from Lakeland City limits.

"We own a pre-school in Horn Lake called Kids R Kids and we wanted something closer to home that would be recession-free," said Luke. "We made an offer a year ago and think the location is great."

He is not too concerned about wine sales being available in grocery stores soon. "We think it will affect us a little, but not as much as others because we carry fine wines," he said. "We are also taking measures to become a one-stop store with ice, cigars, beer and soft drinks," he added.

Often they have wine tastings at their homes for frequent buyers. And they continue public wine tastings at the store from 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays. Going into fall and the end of the year, he said the store will carry seasonal items for holiday gifts and New Years Eve.

The store is located at 9959 Highway 64. (see ad on page 19)



Cecile Carson, left, and Sherri Gallick
at Keep Lakeland Beautiful ceremony.

City Has Beautiful Designation

It's official. Lakeland has been certified as an affiliate of Keep American Beautiful, Inc.

In a ceremony Sept. 23, the event recognized the City's efforts to encourage residents to keep the City streets and neighborhoods clean. Cecile Carson, senior director of affiliate development for Keep America Beautiful, made the presentation. She encouraged Lakeland to involve civic clubs, businesses and other local organizations to keep a beautiful community.

Jim Atkinson, director of planning and administration for Lakeland, recognized Sherri Gallick, the City's vice mayor who helped create the "Keep Lakeland Beautiful (KLB)" campaign.

"The Keep Lakeland Beautiful mission promotes individual responsibility, ownership and pride in our City," said Sherri. "Nobody throws money out of a car window, but people throw out litter." She added, "Litter cost the taxpayers thousands every year. I am confident by adding focus on litter prevention and beautification we can enhance the quality of life, growth and economic development of Lakeland in a positive way."

The certification offers community support tools and the chance to apply for exclusive grants, as well as opportunities for discounts with Keep America Beautiful partners, such as Lowes. Lakeland is one of only two municipalities in Shelby County that are KAB affiliates. The other is in Memphis. For more information www.lakelandtn.gov .

Syma Collins, community service representative for Lakeland, organized a KLB Adopt A Street contest by encouraging residents to pick up roadside litter and keep the City beautiful. HOAs and clubs are encouraged to select streets for their duty and create catchy team names. She also contacted Lakeland Elementary School to get students involved in fun ways to clean the City.

Each street will be graded on a point system for appearance and number of trash bags collected. Recognition will be announced for the team with the most participation in a particular month. Syma will also recognize the most creative team name. There will also be an end-of-the-year event to celebrate the program's successes.

To register for the Adopt-A-Street program, contact Syma at scollins@lakelandtn.org or-867-2717.

There will also be a Community Clean Up Day Nov. 8. (story page 3).

Trash Advisory

Loose needles in trash carts are a health hazard to Republic sanitation employees and residents. This problem is occurring in Lakeland. To address the issue, the City has created a new webpage to offer solutions. If you know of anyone not properly disposing of medical sharps, please pass along this info to them. The City appreciates the support of its residents. http://www.lakelandtn.gov/index.aspx?NID=287

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Lakeland Elementary School PTA News

Christye Gilliland, LES PTA

We hope that your fall break was wonderful!

Love kids? Love books? Love kids that love books? Lakeland Elementary will have its annual Scholastic Book Fair Oct. 21 - 28. Several opportunities will be available to shop the Book Fair and support the only library in Lakeland. The community is invited to visit the Fair on Sat. Oct. 25, where special guests will visit and read with the kids. All proceeds directly benefit the library and Lakeland Elementary. Please contact Cindy Davis, Book Fair cocoordinator with any questions 568-6015.

We will also be having our open house from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Oct 23. Please don't forget to check out the Book Fair that evening.

Muffins with Mom is Oct. 24 and our Red Ribbon Week is Oct. 27-31.

Our Veteran's day program will be Nov. 7 and students will be out of school Nov. 11.

It's almost time for the Booster-thon! The pep rally will be Nov. 12 and the Fun Run will be Nov. 21. Please support the students by contributing to their laps! They work hard for the money!

Our Spirit Nights will be:

Oct 20 - Chick-fil-A, 2849 North Germantown Parkway
Nov 5 - Papa Murphy's Lakeland
Nov 17 - Chili's Wolfchase

Fireworks City, a Lakeland business, donated a promethean board to Lakeland Elementary School. On September 19, a winner for the promethean board was drawn. The winner was Joanne Pedersen. From left, Joanne, Kevin Bailey, VP of Fireworks City, and Principal Joretha Lockhart.
Photo by Dr. Ted Horrell

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It's Review Time!

Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period (AEP)
October 15th - December 7th

If you need to check your Medicare coverage, assess your options, or change your prescription drug plan, this is the time to do so!

I will be at the Lakeland Senior Center every Friday during the Enrollment Period from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. as a resource for checking your current coverage and answering questions one-on-one about social security, Medicare, and your retirement issues.

For an in-home appointment, please call 901-305-7488 or email me at steph@leflerfinancial.com.

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Plantation Hills HOA

Wesley Wright

Wesley Wright

We have had some great Yard of the Month homes this year. As the warm weeks continue and the grass stays green I will continue to be on the lookout for pristine cuts and beautiful flowerbeds around our neighborhood. I may keep the competition running through December to award efforts in outdoor holiday décor such as Thanksgiving presentations and Christmas lights.

We will have another quarterly meeting in November, probably mid month or earlier to avoid the frenzy of the holidays. Stay plugged in at Nextdoor.com for more news. Plantations Hills has more participation than other neighborhoods on Nextdoor.com, so let's keep it that way.

We also have some new plants at our neighborhood sign on Canada Road as well as a rock border. More enhancements are forthcoming over the winter as time allows. Please try to attend City Hall meetings or participate in Lakeland events to promote healthy community involvement. Information is available on Nextdoor.com, on Facebook and http://www.lakelandtn.gov/ covering a plethora of information that would benefit any resident to be mindful of. We intend to gather in October on safety, some events lately have stirred interest in low cost or no cost security measures as simple as coordinating with Shelby County Sheriff's Office. Also be mindful of the increased traffic cutting through our neighborhood due to the construction on Canada Road at I-40. I look forward to meeting every one of you in the next few months. I will be going door to door to introduce myself and see what I can do to make our neighborhood one of the best in Lakeland Tennessee.

WINSTEAD FARMS

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Megan Wylie, account executive

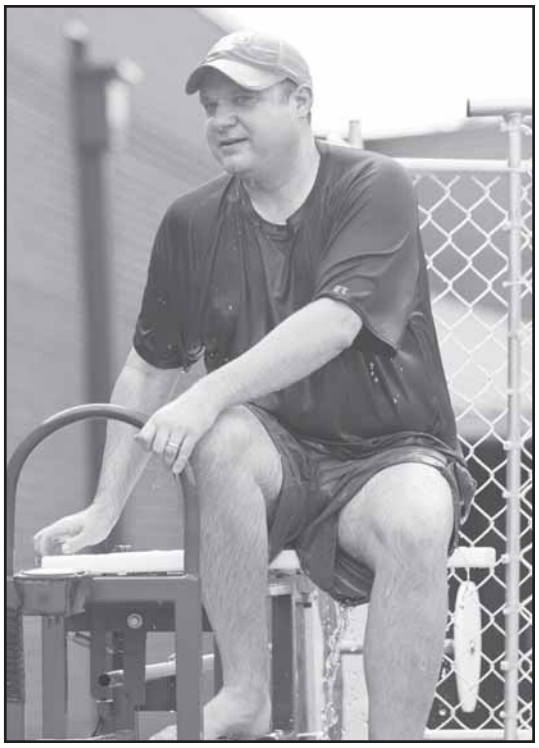
Megan Wylie

Fall is upon us! The pool was closed at the end of September. If you did not receive your new pool key this year please contact Level 1 to do so.

Since school is in session we want to remind everyone to be on the lookout and aware of the extra traffic and children in the neighborhood. "Slow, Children at play" signs were placed in three different locations. We are hoping this will help cut down on the high speeding we've been experiencing in Winstead.

Our Winstead Farms Book Club is growing. We added four new members so far this year. We still have room for anyone else who loves to meet new people and share ideas about reading. Our October book is "All Over but the Shoutin'" by Rick Bragg. We switch gears in November and read a young adult book "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio. December finds us celebrating with our annual Christmas party. Please contact Cathi Braswell at shuter3601@aol.com for more information. Happy Reading.

If you are new to Winstead Farms and need copies of the covenants or contacts for questions, please call Winstead Farms HOA line/Level 1 Management at 321-6766 or mwylie@level1management.com. If you wish to request an ARC approval or have an issue that needs to be addressed also please contact level 1.



Lakeland EXPO

Kevin Floyd, Lakeland School Board chair, took his turn at the dunk tank along with other Lakeland dignitaries Aug. 16. The annual EXPO was at Lakeland Elementary School, and featured business displays, music and games for children. It was sponsored by Hicks Convention Services and Special Events and Rockin' Robin's DJs and attended by over 350 people . Contributions at the dunk tank netted $212 which was presented to the LES principal. Third grade teachers Christopher Papson and Carla Schurtz each received a $100 Knowledge Tree gift card for having the highest EXPO attendance from their classes. Also pictured are Pop-A-Lock owners Jimmy and Amy Wilkins.

Oakwood

Megan Wylie, account executive

Megan Wylie

With the arrival of fall the pool is closed, but our Events Committee has lots of great events planned for Oakwood residents at the Clubhouse the rest of this year! The Back to School Fiesta kicked off the fall events in September. Other events this year include a Daddy/ Daughter dance, our annual children's Christmas party in December as well as ending 2014 with our New Year's Eve party. Notification on all these upcoming events will go out to all residents. Please contact Jami Wallace, Tracy Jones or Cari Baird if you would like to help with any of these events.

With football season upon us and the holidays approaching we want to encourage all residents who want to reserve the clubhouse for an event to do so quickly before it books up. You can contact Level1 Management at 321-6742

Kevin Reynolds has volunteered to head our neighborhood watch committee. If you wish to help or would like to be your block's captain please contact Kevin at kevinVreynolds@yahoo.com. We have openings on other committees as well so if you would like to lead or help please contact Level 1 Management.

Thanks to the many of you that have joined our website. If you have not yet, we encourage you do so! Just go to www.oakwoodlakeland.com and join. Once you receive your password, please log in again and edit your information so other residents can know you by more than your user name. The site is a great online tool for things you may need such as upcoming neighborhood events, pool rules or clubhouse rental forms, covenants and declarations, and resident directory.

Woodland Park

Jo Ann Cohen & Marilyn Piccatto

In September 2013, a beautiful Black Australian Swan landed on our lake. It decided to stay and soon became a favorite of many residents who enjoyed watching and feeding him. He also kept many of the geese off our lake which was an added bonus. One of our resident's grandsons named him Mystery.

In February of this year, he mysteriously left and we thought he was gone forever. Much to everyone's surprise, this August Mystery returned. He was much bigger and even more beautiful. Residents were thrilled to see him again. He seemed to remember the people that fed him and came to the shore for food when he saw them. A few weeks after Mystery's return, he was attacked by a group of geese that cross Canada Road daily and come to our lake. A resident that lives on the lake saw the attack and Viola, another of our generous and caring residents, took Mystery to a local veterinarian. Thankfully he was not seriously injured. He was placed in a pen with a small pool where he recuperated. The veterinarian advised us that he was still a juvenile and not to put him back on the lake due to the aggressive geese.

Viola called the Memphis Zoo and the Botanical Gardens looking for a place for Mystery to live. Rick Pudwell from the Botanical Gardens offered to take him to his home where he has a large pond with waterfowl that he has raised. Once Mystery gets acclimated to being with other waterfowl, he may be taken to the Botanical Gardens and put on their lake. On last report from Rick, Mystery is enjoying his new home.

Lakeshore Ladies Club

Margaret Brown

Margaret Brown

After our break over summer, it was great to come together and reconnect in the home of Alison Ely. Alison's co-hostesses were Pam Golden and Connie Hess. We welcomed new members Susie Richardson and Trudy Scholten who recently moved to Lakeland. Officers for the coming year are: President-Judy Eastin, Vice President-Pat Pope, Treasurer-Alison Ely, Recording Secretary-Margaret Brown, Membership Secretary-Brenda Gibson, Sunshine-Betty Potter, Communication Committee-Charlene Bateman and Margaret Brown. We were saddened to learn of the death of longtime member Mary Belle Manley this summer. We keep her family in our prayers and thoughts.

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Lakeland Estates HOA

Sharon Helms

Sharon Helms

Fall has arrived with a change in the season as well as a change in and around our homes. It's time to winterize things around our homes. Although they provided much fun and pleasure during the summer sun they now need a little extra care and protection.

Pull out the faucet covers, put extra mulch around your roses and shrubbery, prepare your boat, cars and home for colder temperatures. As we'll soon be heading into the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays, there's much to look forward to but also still much to do as we protect our homes and maintain our property values!

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the LEHOA Fall General Meeting date was changed. It is now scheduled from 1 - 3 p.m. Nov. 9 at the IH Managerial Park Building on Canada Road.

We have a special guest to talk about crime and safety issues while we enjoy a nice pasta dinner served with a salad, bread, dessert and drinks. We'll also try to have a few door prizes to help "rattle up" some fun and laughs during this Halloween weekend.

The lunch is free to all LEHOA homeowners whose 2014 dues have been paid. But it's not too late to join. Simply pay your 2014 annual dues of $15 (per homeowner) at the door by cash or check. If you have out of town guests, you can bring them along Their meal will be $10.

Our meeting will give us an update on all that has happened in and around our neighborhood throughout the summer as well as our plans and desires for the future. In addition, we will be introducing our new officers and board members. Hope to see you at the meeting!

For questions, call Sharon Helms 674-6717.

Windward Slopes HOA

Steve Gurley

Steve Gurley

Hello again Windward Slopes neighbors! As you read this article summer is leaving us and fall will soon be in the air. School is back in session and the children will be at their bus stops daily. Please remember to be watchful when driving through our neighborhood. Try to obey that 20 mph speed limit to keep our children and neighbors safe.

I trust everyone had an enjoyable summer season. By Mid-South standards, it was a relatively cool one until we got to August. Then the heat and humidity really kicked in to remind us all what summer usually feels like. It is getting to be that time our year again. Soon you will receive your invoice from Keith Collins Company (KCC) for our annual HOA dues. Good news this year. The HOA dues will be unchanged from last year. If paid by 12/31/14, each homeowner will receive a $20 early bird discount. Look for the insert in the letter from KCC.

Everyone please be safe and enjoy the upcoming autumn season.

The Grove at Lakeland

Robert Ahokas

Robert Ahokas

The summer of 2014 has ended and the cool evenings of autumn have begun. The season of ghosts and goblins is right around the corner! I grew up in the frozen tundra (North Dakota actually) but we never celebrated Halloween the way it's celebrated here!!

The homeowners of The Grove at Lakeland had their first annual HOA meeting Sept. 8 at the IH Clubhouse. A five member board of directors was elected: Dave Bouve, Mark Broussard, Rick Knox, Bruce Nelson and Kim Scott. Keith Collins Company has been contracted to manage the Grove HOA account. Any questions or concerns should be directed to association manager Theresa Boehling-Hodge 753-4170 ext 111 or tboehling@keithcollinsco.com.

The draining and dredging of the water runoff retention pond adjacent to Maple Walk Drive has finally been completed despite interruption by one of the heaviest rainstorms ever experienced in the area. Also of note, Comcast has completed the process of burying cable throughout the subdivision making high speed internet and cable TV access available to all homeowners.

Have a Happy Halloween everyone!

Robert and Trish Ahokas of The Grove get into the spirit of Halloween by displaying a skeleton and dog waving to passing motorists and walkers.

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Chamber Breakfast

Jerry James (left) of A2H with Yolanda Watkins, Stonebridge Golf Club, at the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce breakfast Aug. 13. Mark Askew, president and founder of A2H, was the speaker.

Heron's RIDGE
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Megan Wylie, account executive

Megan Wylie

Fall is upon us! With that being said the annual voting of our Halloween decoration contest is in full swing. Decorate your home to the fullest. The HOA board will be coming around to judge very soon. Also don't forget to join us in decorating for Christmas time too. The winner will receive a gift card!

We had an excellent turnout from Herons Ridge at the meeting with our Mayor, Wyatt Bunker. He reviewed his plans for the LSS Capital Improvement Plan to build a middle/high school facility and the proposed ordinance to institute a 55-cent property tax increase to fund the new school. If you would like more details into the meeting please contact the City of Lakeland.

We do want to take a moment to remind all homeowners to please obey the CC&Rs for Herons Ridge. You can find a complete copy of all the by-laws and covenants on our website www.heronsridge.com. If you are not a member of our website please go and join today. The CC&Rs are in place to help us keep Herons Ridge looking beautiful and attract new homeowners into our neighborhood each year.

If you have any concerns about the HOA or wish to submit a plan(s) for approval please contact Level 1 at 321-6744 or mwylie@level1management.com.

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Bricks and Minifigs

The Lakeland Area Chamber hosted a ribbon cutting for the first and only Bricks and Minifigs in the tri-state region. The character, Vitruvius, from the Lego movie mingled among the crowd of Lego fans. Lakeland residents and owners, Mark and Patty Guttensohn, started the Lego journey with their children when they were younger and opened their store Aug. 13 at 9755 Hwy 64.

Lakeland Parks and Recreation

Jennifer Rezba, public relations assistant IH Clubhouse - 4523 Canada Rd.

Visit www.lakelandtn.gov for the latest information or contact Parks & Recreation 867-2717.

Lakeland Fall Basketball (youth) - Registration through Oct. 26. Play divisions by grades, co-ed: first and second, third and fourth, fifth and sixth and seventh and eighth. Cost is $85 which includes some items. Practice and game dates to be announced.

Fall Youth Basketball will be run by the City of Lakeland. For more information please contact Brenda Lockhart, interim parks & recreation director at 867-2717 or blockhart@lakelandtn.org, visit City Hall or the recreation page on www.LakelandTN.gov.

Hurricane Junior Golf Tour - Nov. 1-2

Stonebridge Golf Club is the host course for one of the fall events on the Hurricane Junior Golf Tour. The Hurricane Junior Tour has never been to the Memphis area.

The Tour (HJGT) was founded in 2008 to provide junior golfers ages 11-18 an opportunity to play exceptional courses in a competitive environment. The Tour's vision is to provide superb hospitality and make every event a memorable one. With play open to both males and females, nearly every junior golfer is eligible to participate on the Hurricane Junior Golf Tour.

Based in Jacksonville, FL, the HJGT administers events all across the country. Juniors will compete in one of four divisions: boys 15-18 and 11-14; girls 15-18 and 11-14. Memberships for the 2014 season are $89 and tournament fees range from $185-$210 for 36 hole events. The HJGT season is based on a calendar year and players earn points throughout the season towards year-end honors beginning Jan. 1. Each Hurricane Junior Golf Tour event is ranked by the National Junior Golf Scoreboard (NJGS). Most events on the HJGT schedule feature a chance for players to earn AJGA stars.
http://hjgt.bluegolf.com/bluegolf/hjgt14/event/hjgt14121/index.htm

Lakeland Women's Tennis Group

The Group will continue to play from 9 - 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays weather permitting, at Windward Slopes Park, 9822 Beverle Rivera Dr. The goals are to exercise, play tennis, and improve the game. For more info, contact Peggy Young at peggyyoung7@comcast.net or 606-8269.

Walk Tennessee Wellness Initiative

Lakeland is participating in this activity with the winning city receiving an outdoor fitness station and being recognized as "the most active city in Tennessee." Walk, run or bike ride to support the City in the "Active Livin'" program. Contact Lakeland City Hall at 867-2717 or www.LakelandTN.gov recreation page.

Lakeland Fitness - 8:30 - 9:30 Monday, Wednesday, Friday - IH Clubhouse

Sherri Gallick, an Aerobics and Fitness Association of America certified instructor, incorporates cardio, yoga and calisthenics into her Lakeland fitness classes for a total body workout. The class is suitable for people 35+ and available for anyone that wants to get in shape. The first class is free, each additional is $5, or participants may purchase a 10-class card for $30. A mat is required for class. For more information, contact Sherri at 867-2345 or sgallick@lakelandtn.org.

Lakeland Senior Programs 55+

Senior Center - 4527 Canada Road

Kim Odom, manager - kodom@lakelandtn.org - 746-8195 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. M-F; 867-2717 after hours

The Lakeland Parks and Recreation Department invites adults 55+ to the Lakeland Senior Center. RSVP or advance notice is not required to attend most programs unless otherwise noted. For the latest Senior Center activities, including calendar updates, visit www.lakelandtn.gov .

Lakeland Walk to Remember Alzheimer's

The Lakeland School System and the Lakeland Senior Center are teaming up to help end Alzheimer's during the Alzheimer's Association's West TN Walk to End Alzheimer's. The two-mile walk will be Nov. 1 at Memphis Botanic Gardens, 750 Cherry Road. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m., opening ceremonies at 9 a.m., and the walk begins at 9:30 a.m.

The community is invited to join by signing up for the Lakeland team *(Lakeland's Walk to Remember Alzheimer's)* at www.alz.org/walk. Team T-shirts (optional) are available for purchase. Info available at www.LakelandTN.gov recreation and just for seniors pages.

For more info about teaming up with LSS and the senior center, contact Sarah Davidson at sdavidson@lakelandk12.org or 867-7071, ext. 232 or Kim Odom at the Senior Center.

Seniors 55+ Christmas Dinner
6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 12.

Seniors 55+ are invited to a catered, traditional Christmas Dinner that will include ham, two side dishes, rolls, dessert, and drinks (catered by Amber Lovell with Charm City Catering in Lakeland). The cost is $10 per person, payable at the door. Entertainment to be announced. Make your reservation today by contacting Rhonda Fink at 867-2717 or email rfink@lakelandtn.org.

"Who Dunnit" Play to Feature Lakeland Talent

Top photo: Cecil Tompkins, Marie Wells and Bobbi Cornett; center Jeanne Hamilton; bottom, Trudy Scholen. *(photos by Jim Willis)*

A mystery play set in the old West and featuring Lakeland performers is coming to the IH Clubhouse Nov. 7: Dastardly Deed at Dry Gulch.

Jeanne Hamilton, a participant in the Lakeland Senior Center, is directing the one-act play with six colorful characters, a piano player and a narrator. It starts at 7 p.m. and will feature actors and actresses from the Lakeland Senior Center, a first at the facility. The cast includes Cecil Tompkins, Bobbi Cornett, Barbara Hyatt, Bob Hamilton, Marie Wells, Rowdy Azell, Trudy Scholten and Jeanne. Hospitality staff includes Betty Ratcliff & Brenda Fowler.

Jeanne says the story involves a sheriff, a gambler, mail-order bride, a saloon gal, the local doc, a Mexican bandit and a school marm. "They accuse and badger each other about the murder of the local sheriff to the point where anyone could be the suspect," she said.

The audience will be tasked with guessing the "Who dunnit?" and several prizes will be awarded. Donations will be accepted at the door and desserts and beverages will be served at no cost.

Jeanne and her husband Bob moved to Lakeland two years ago after their adult son died unexpectedly in November 2011. They came to share a home with their daughter-in-law and her two young children.

She taught theater and electives in middle school in Texas, north of Dallas and directed musicals and theater as well as competitive theater. In 2007 she retired and started a costuming business which she ran more than four years.

She said the idea of doing a play, "evolved over the past few months among my new friends here."

For more information, email Jeanne at cakie_hamilton95@aol.com or call the Senior Center.

Senior Center - new director

The Senior Center is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday - Friday since Kim Odom was hired as the new manager.

She comes to Lakeland with more than 28 years of experience in the newspaper industry. She was involved with the launch of The Commercial Appeal's eight community Appeal sections in 2003, as well as the Local section's "My Life" feature. In her role with The Commercial Appeal covering suburban areas including Lakeland, she is familiar with the community and the Lakeland Senior Center. Her strong communications skills and customer service etiquette will transition well as she works to grow the Lakeland Senior Center. "I am honored to be part of the City of Lakeland team, and I'm looking forward to working with our seniors to grow the Lakeland Senior Center," said Kim.

She can be reached at kodom@lakelandtn.org or call the Senior Center at 746-8195. Kim will be there the majority of the time between those hours, but may occasionally have a volunteer cover an hour or two so that she can open or close for an activity outside of those hours.

Seniors 55+ Email & Mailing Lists

Are you on the senior email blast list and do you receive the monthly brochure/calendar in the mail? If not, we would love to add you to our lists. We have nearly doubled our email list in less than a year but we still have a long way to go! Please contact Kim Odom.

Sewing, Knitting, or Crocheting?

There seems to be some interest in possibly adding a combined knitting, quilting and crochet class to the Center's activities. Do you know anyone who can lead such a class? We would love to offer the space and time for those who enjoy these crafts. If you're interested or know someone that might be, please contact Kim Odom.

2014 Medicare Options through Dec. 5

10 a.m. to noon Oct. 24; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21, Dec. 5. Stephanie Lefler, with Lefler Financial and Insurance Services, will discuss your 2015 Medicare options including the pros and cons of each type of plan. She can help determine health coverage needs and details about Medicare supplement and Advantage plans, as well as Part D. Stephanie can be reached at steph@leflerfinancial.com or 305-7488.

Free, Unbiased Medicare Part D Counseling -

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 27

Did you know that Medicare beneficiaries that have their plans checked annually typically pay less for their medications than those individuals that don't evaluate their plans on an annual basis?

Come out for Medicare Part D enrollment assistance to determine the best plan to meet your needs. Annual Open Enrollment Period is now through December 7. New plans will begin on January 1, 2014.

Bring your Medicare card and all your prescription medications (or a detailed list). Certified and trained counselors will help you select a Medicare drug plan that best suits your needs. No sales involved.

Services provided by: Aging Commission of the Mid-South 222-4111, State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) and Senior Medicare Patrol.

Retirement: Making Your Money Last - noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 14

Mark Louderback of Edward Jones will discuss strategies designed to help you work towards fulfilling your retirement expectations, focusing on providing not only for your income needs today but also well into the future. Please come and join us for this interesting, informative seminar. Complimentary lunch. Please RSVP to 867-2717. Mark can be reached at 382-0590 or mark.louderback@edwardjones.com.

YMCA Silver Sneakers Class

There is a new instructor, Cindy Ragsdale, for the 10-11 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday classes. Chris Amido was the former instructor. Come join the muscular strength and range movement classes presented by the Millington YMCA. The first class is free. Thereafter, classes are $4. Some insurance will cover the cost. Bring insurance to check eligibility.

Mondays Are Fun at the Lakeland Senior Center

Twice a month on Mondays, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the ladies pack the center to play bunco. Who doesn't like fun, snack foods and prizes?

On Monday afternoon things heat up with Jamming at the Senior Center, from 2 to 4 p.m., when seniors gather to play a few tunes.

Guests are welcome to join the bunco party on the second and fourth Monday of each month or bring your musical instruments and strum a tune during Monday's Jam session. If you don't play, but love music, come on out and enjoy the performance. It's a casual event and guests are welcome!

There's an additional bunco night on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information about these and other activities offered at the Senior Center visit www.lakelandtn.gov and click on just for seniors under the residents tab or contact Kim Odom.

Fall senior dinner

Nearly 90 seniors gathered at the IH Clubhouse for the Seniors 55+ Happy Fall Y'all Dinner in September honoring National Senior Center Month. The evening featured a delicious Italian feast catered by Mary Jane Gullett with salad, bread, baked spaghetti/string pie, chicken alfredo, various side dishes, and desserts including an Italian Cream Cake. Sponsor was Mark Louderback, financial advisor at Edward Jones 490-4766. Entertainment was Doug and Sandy Bowles of Mill Creek.

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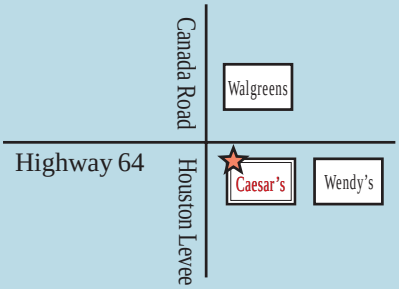

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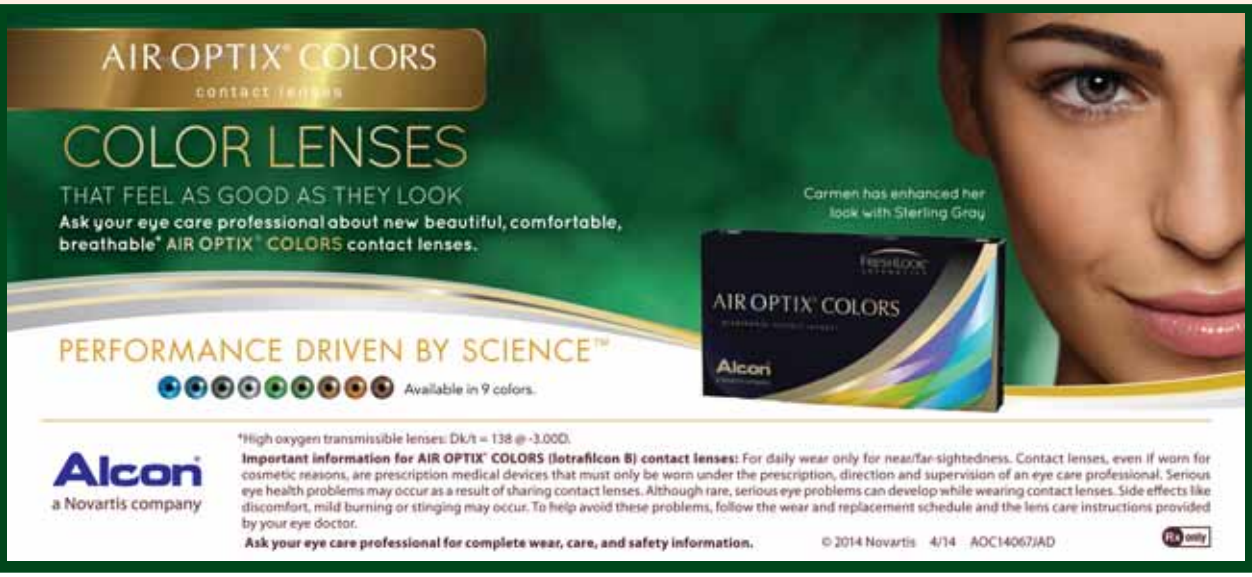

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