Vol 18, No.2 April 2015

Lakeland currents

Bi-monthly news magazine

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Early Vote, Election Day

Early voting continues through April 11 for a special April 16 Lakeland election for or against issuing bonds to build Lakeland Prep.

Lakeland Elementary School at 10050 Oakseed Lane is the early voting site until April 11 and is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Polls are not open on Sunday. There is NO early voting at the Refuge Church at 9817 Huff N Puff Road.

Election day voting will be by precinct from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. according to Richard Holden, Shelby County Election Commission.

- LAK-01 – First Baptist Church Lakeland, 4500 Canada Road
- LAK-02 – St. Paul United Methodist Church, 2949 Davies Plantation Road

Residents zoned outside of the two polling locations will receive letters directing them to vote at one of the two polling locations for this Special Election ONLY!!

On Feb. 16, the Board of Commissioners had a special meeting and unanimously selected the April 16 date. In a special meeting of the Shelby County Election Commission Feb. 24, the vote of four commissioners was unanimous to move early voting to LES over the previous location, the Refuge Church.

The election is to decide whether to issue general obligation bonds for Lakeland Prep not to exceed $50 million. The bond repayment is to be serviced by a tax increase that is to be implemented later this year. Lakeland Prep is to be a grades 6 -12 school located near the northeast corner of Highway 70 and Canada on 94 acres.

Cost for the election is estimated at $50,000. However, Richard Holden, Shelby County Election Commission election administrator, said selecting LES will save the city $3,500 to $5,000. Biggest cost factors are printing the legal notice and employees salaries. He said the final cost of the election will be available in May.

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Cover - Three Lakeland Elementary School students display items to be auctioned at the Seventh Annual PTA silent auction April 17 at Colonial Country Club. They are, from left, Elaina Wright, Elliot Pearce and Emerson Jones. Among items to be auctioned are opera length pearls from Platinum Jewelers, a Grizzlies autographed binder, trips, parties and gift cards. Cost for the event, which includes dinner, is $25 per person. See story page 3. *photo by Jim Willis*

LAKELAND CURRENTS

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First for Tennessee Right Here in Lakeland

Sprouts Farmers Market, one of the fastest-growing retailers in the country, will soon finish construction on a new store in Lakeland and open at 7 a.m. May 13. The 28,000-square-foot store will be located at 9050 Highway 64 and is the first Sprouts store in Tennessee.

Donna Egan, director of corporate communications for Sprouts, shared information about the new retailer to Lakeland.

Sprouts is hiring approximately 100 full and part-time team members for the Lakeland store. Sprouts' "Healthy Living for Less" approach to grocery shopping means potential team members should share a passion for healthy eating and the fresh, natural and organic products throughout the store.

Employment opportunities include:

- Department managers and assistant department managers (grocery, produce, deli, meat, bakery, vitamins and more)
- Clerks – all departments
- Cashiers
- Courtesy clerks
- Backup receiver, administrative coordinator and scan coordinator

To learn more about the available opportunities or to apply, please visit www.sprouts.com/careers. Sprouts offers team members a Total Rewards Package, which includes competitive pay, excellent benefits, an outstanding culture, dynamic work environment and opportunities for career development.

Sprouts offers consumers a complete healthy grocery store experience featuring fresh produce, bulk foods, dairy, meat and seafood, bakery, vitamins and supplements and more.

The bright, open store will showcase fresh-baked goods, eclectic beer and thousands of natural, organic and gluten-free groceries. Sprouts' on-site butchers help customers with special cuts of meat or seafood or homemade burgers and sausages. The vitamin department carries thousands of top-quality, sensibly priced vitamins, natural remedies, functional food, lifestyle support and herbal supplements.

Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, Sprouts employs more than 17,000 team members and operates more than 190 stores in eleven states. For more information, visit www.sprouts.com or @sproutsfm on Twitter.

Jim Atkinson is Interim Lakeland City Manager

Sam Lencke

Jim Atkinson

For the past two months, Jim Atkinson has been wearing the city manager hat while looking for someone to take his former job as city planner. He became interim city manager after Chris Thomas was terminated Jan. 20. Confirmation of Jim's employment agreement was deferred by Lakeland commissioners March 12 to allow Jim more time to study the contract. The confirmation will be on the Board of Commissioners agenda this month.

Jim brings 10 years of experience with the Lakeland city government to the position. He has worked as director of planning and administration for the past one and one-half years and was planning director for eight and one-half years prior to that. Before coming to Lakeland, Jim worked for the city of Farmington, MN, the city of Mounds View, MN and the town of Collierville, TN.

Jim has a master's degree in city and regional planning from the University of Memphis and also holds a graduate certificate in local government management from the U of M. He is a 10-year member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

He and his wife Christen have been married 15 years and they have three sons ages eleven, eight and six-years-old. Jim and his wife are active members of Covenant United Methodist Church. He plays drums in the church praise band and occasionally plays in a band on weekends.

In his current role, Jim is responsible for Lakeland's day-to-day operations. This includes finding the most efficient and effective way to deliver services, develop long-range plans, prepare the city budget and manage city debt, set direction and expectations to find the most efficient ways to deliver services, guide and monitor department work plans and react to unforeseen situations.

When asked what he feels that he brings to the city manager positions, Jim stated, "I have worked in municipal government for over 15 years and have been a part of all aspects of city management. I understand that I do not know everything and I continually seek knowledge to become better at this job. I have respect for others' ideas, opinions, comments and com plaints. I also carry much institutional knowledge from being employed with the City of Lakeland for over 10 years."

Jim says he envisions Lakeland with a well-defined identity for high quality, sustainable development, quality revenue-producing commercial development, great schools, well-planned and maintained infrastructure, clean appearance and being fiscally sound. In the short term, Jim states that Lakeland will be creating the framework for achieving the long-term vision - by updating the comprehensive plan, strategic plan and land development regulations. He will continually seek ways to improve efficiencies.

Jim can be reached at his office in Lakeland City Hall at 867-2717 during normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. He can also be contacted by e-mail at: jatkinson@lakelandtn.org.

LES BOOTS AND BLING AUCTION, GALA

The biggest fundraiser for Lakeland Elementary School will be the Boots and Bling Gala. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. April 17 at Colonial Country Club.

Tracy Jones, chair of the event, said, "This is our biggest fundraiser. Last year we made over $20,000. In the past few years, this event has raised funds that have allowed the purchase of educational programs, an upper-grade playground and technology for our school. This year we will be dedicating the profit from this event to the enhancement of our technology and special programs. Our main goal this year is for every teacher in the school to have a Smart Board in their room. We are hoping to raise enough money to purchase the last six!"

A Smart Board is an interactive whiteboard, designed for engaging students. It is a touch screen; you can use your finger, or the pens provided, according to Tracy. The digital screen allows images from the computer to be displayed on a board. Its touch screen feature allows teachers to run programs directly from the screen. It can accommodate different learning styles. Tactical learners can use the screen and learn by touching and marking at the board, audio learners can have a discussion and visual learners can observe the teaching on the board.

Tracy said numerous businesses are sponsoring the auction and have collected many donations ranging from jewelry to trips to restaurant gift cards to wine tastings to birthday parties, etc. "We have so many wonderful donations. "

Among the items up for bid are opera pearls from Platinum Jewelers valued at $1,200; Flight Simulator for four people for an hour valued at $500; two-night stay for Doubletree Disney plus four Disney Quest tickets, parking and breakfast, $700 value; two-night stay at Embassy Orlando I-Drive plus parking and breakfast, $300 value; and Grizzlies autographed binder and Grizzlies autographed basketball.

"Also, we have Teacher Features. Our fabulous teachers have donated their time and/or money for a fun event with a child. For example: Principal of the Day, Zoo Trip with a Teacher, Teacher for a Day, Breakfast with a Teacher and Manicure/Pedicure with a Teacher. We will have a silent auction, live auction, and will have lock boxes with a chance to win some amazing jewelry."

She said anyone can come to the auction. "All you have to do is buy a ticket. They are $25 per adult and you can purchase one by contacting Ashley Red at ashleyred@gmail.com . "Dinner will be served and there will be a cash bar. Tickets are on sale until April 10. "Come enjoy a fabulous evening of food, music and amazing auction items," she added.

Lakeland Currents is the media sponsor for the event.

Former Blue Angels Pilot Lives in Lakeland

Meet Mark Provo: a Florida native, a retired Naval officer, a Lakeland resident AND a former lead solo pilot with the esteemed Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron.

Yes, Mark flew two seasons with the team and has incredible memories, photos and even his bright yellow helmet to remember the 1995 and 1996 seasons when he served. He still holds the vertical roll record for the Blue Angels teams.

"It was harder than combat," he said, citing the precision required for the flying. "You have to trust each other with your life," he said. "It's an incredibly rewarding experience that challenged me flying-wise"

The Blue Angels' six demonstration pilots fly the F/A -18 Hornet, typically in more than 70 shows at 34 locations throughout the United States each year. An estimated 11 million spectators view the squadron during air shows each full year. The Blue Angels also visit more than 50,000 people in a standard show season (March through November) in schools and hospitals. Since 1946, the Blue Angels have flown for more than 260 million spectators.

Explaining that his Navy career actually started when he flunked out of Florida State University, he said he enlisted in the Navy and became a deck seaman – essentially a Navy janitor. But Mark wasn't destined to be a seaman long. He finished college while on active duty and then went to officer candidate school and then to pilot training. "I was always interested in aviator school, " he said.

After getting his aviator wings, Mark had a three-year tour that included Desert Storm in 1991 with F/A-18 Hornets. He then became an instructor on the same plane. And later he applied to the Blue Angels team and was selected.

Although a heady career, Mark said the position required him and his teammates to be on the road 310 days of each of the two years of the tour. "You have to be gone so much. We would have to fly to the show site, land, refuel and then set up all the geographical stop watches," he said. "Each place is different, but you have to mark a three, two and one mile checkpoint plus the center point."

One of his favorite parts of his job was speaking to students on Friday nights. "Every Friday we would visit a college or high school. Since I was the first enlisted man to fly (he was the first enlisted sailor to become an officer and become part of the team; and there have been only three in 69 years of the team) I felt very privileged and would go every Friday."

Mark was part of two movies: an IMAX film called "The Magic of Flight" with Tom Selleck and "America's Flying Aces: the Blue Angels 50th Anniversary" with John Travolta.

The Panama City, FL native retired from the Navy as a lieutenant commander in 2000. He tried a stint as a venture capitalist in Dallas before interviewing with FedEx and taking a pilot job in 2002. He was living in Evansville, IN at the time and commuted to Memphis until buying a home in Lakeland last year.

Mark Provo, Lakeland resident and former Blue Angels pilot.

Photo by Jim Willis

He chose Lakeland after talking to other FedEx pilots who recommended the City. "I love the fact that it's outside the City (Memphis) and the public schools are excellent."

He and his wife Cricket have six children between them, ages 22 to 10, and including a 10-year-old daughter who attends Lakeland Elementary School.

He and a partner from Clemson, S.C. are keynote speakers on corporate excellence and military precision relating to the Blue Angels. He also authored a book for his children, "The Pass Down Log: The Secrets to a Successful Life from a Blue Angel Pilot," which he later published and is still available today.

Have a feature story idea? sjwmphs@comcast.net

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Newsworthy Around Lakeland

Jace Lockhart and his basketball team

The sixth-grade basketball team at Arlington Middle School finished the season undefeated and are the sixth-grade Municipal Middle Schools Champions. Among the team members is **Jace Lockhart** who is the son of Joretha Lockhart, principal of Lakeland Elementary School.

Others on the team include Eddie Buxton, Michael Dallas, Tony Fili, Jake Golday, Jordan Johnson, Dylan Keith, Alex Maddox, Myles McClinton, Landon Owens, Braxton Thompkins and Stephen Walls. Coach is Rod Davis.

Mom Joretha says, "We are extremely proud of them and say congratulations for an awesome season. You are #1."

*****

Status of **missed school/snow days** at LES: According to Dr. Ted Horrell, Lakeland School System superintendent, seven days were missed for weather."We have more days 'built in' to our schedule because we go to school a half-hour more per day than is required by the state. At the conclusion of the winter weather season, we will evaluate the days missed and I will make a recommendation to the Board on how many days we will make up. It is ultimately a School Board decision. I will definitely coordinate with ACS (Arlington Community Schools) and BCS (Bartlett City Schools) when developing my recommendation. We have to look at the lost instructional time and weigh that as well."

Gateway Tires in Lakeland is planning a building renovation, according to Jim Atkinson, interim city manager. It was to be reviewed by the Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) last month. Exxon Lakeland is seeking approval for a site renovation. They had a previous approval from the MPC but it has expired. Jim also said the I-40 exchange work is going as planned.

*****

Congratulations to **Michelle Filsinger** who was selected to represent the Lakeland School System for Tennessee Department of Education Teacher of the Year competition. She is a kindergarten teacher and has been in the teaching profession 14 years, having also taught in Millington. She was chosen by the faculty and staff at LES.

*****

Alexa Tutor has joined the Lakeland Currents staff to write a column about Lakeland history. She and her husband Chris are parents to Jackson, 8, and Madison, 3. Originally from Chicago, she moved to Stonebridge in 1988 and has lived in the City ever since. She is a member and singer in the worship team at Faith Anglican Church, an active member of the LES PTA and administers the Lakeland, TN Facebook page. She is a billing clerk and account representative for an east Memphis physician and "I love to crochet in my free time, " she said. "I am honored and excited to be joining the LC team," she added. (Story page 13)

*****

Lakeland eighth-grader **Reed Cannon** participated Feb. 28 in the Tennessee AAU State Wrestling Tournament and placed third overall in the annual competition of almost 1,000 youth wrestlers. It was on the Tennessee Tech campus in Cookeville, TN.

Reed Cannon, wrestling champ

Reed is the son of Lisa and Joe Cannon, attends Arlington Middle School and will be on the wrestling team for Arlington High School next year.

Reed is a member of the Elite Wresting Academy and also was selected to represent Region Five's All-Star Team and was selected for Team Tennessee at the National Tournament in Iowa. His team also placed third overall in the competition.

Happening In Lakeland

Everyone is invited to the Delta Blues Winery ribbon-cutting at 10:45 a. m., gates open at 10 a.m., April 13. Food, music, wine tastings and tours will follow the ceremony. Delta Blues Winery is located at 6585 Stewart Road in Lakeland and opened in February.

*****

The Lakeland Chamber needs YOU!

Wine sold in Lakeland Grocery Stores can be a reality in the September 17 elections. Three hundred fifty Lakeland registered voters' signatures must be submitted to the Shelby County Election Committee by July 19.

You can help keep Lakeland competitive in recruiting grocery stores! Be the street captain in the neighborhood where you live and get signatures.

Contact Ginny Dunn with the Lakeland Chamber to get a petition. ginny@mylakelandchamber.org

Also on the ballot for that election will be two commissioner seats (Gene Torrey and Randy Nicholson) and two school board seats (Matt Wright and Teresa Henry). New terms will start in October.

Lakeland City Retreat

Ken Glazer

They called it a retreat for the members of the Board of Commissioners, Lakeland Development Corporation and the Lakeland School Board, but it was anything but a retreat. The meeting March 2 --- facilitated by interim City Manager Jim Atkinson and Lakeland School Superintendent, Dr. Ted Horrell --- was directed at the future: the future of the City of Lakeland.

Jim opened the session with a focus on the opportunities for the growth of Lakeland from a 10,000-foot view. He pointed out that the city encompasses 25 square miles of land with only 22 percent currently developed. Currently approved subdivisions contain approximately 1,500 undeveloped residential lots. He said the commercial center for development for the next three to five years will be on the compass points surrounding the new I-40 interchange with additional development heading north by New Canada Road to Highway 70. There, both residential and commercial growth are expected around the site of the new school (Lakeland Prep) property at Highway 70 and Canada Road.

Development is expected to accelerate now that Lakeland Development Corporation exists and can offer tax incentives to developers who might otherwise spend their money in another city.

Next, Ted informed the group on the status of the Lakeland School System. Foremost was the fact that the 850 students at Lakeland Elementary rank No. 3 in overall reading and math proficiency in Shelby County, which also makes them in the top tier in the State. In all, Lakeland has 2,211 students enrolled in public schools.

He mentioned that LSS had entered into a contingency contract to purchase 94 acres for the grades 6-12 school. He said contracts for soil analysis and environmental services had been approved by the School Board, pending review by the City Attorney.

The new campus could open in August 2018, depending on the outcome of the bond issue referendum April 16 in Lakeland. Early voting for that special election started March 27 and goes to April 11.

Upon completion of the a lengthy discussion on what the future City of Lakeland would look like, there was consensus that all three boards should recognize that their individual actions have effect on the other boards and that they want to develop a unified vision as a goal for the future.

Meet A Lakeland Business

Sam Lencke

A dental office with a family feel that strives to stay on schedule. That is what Nancy Highland and her staff of six endeavor to do for their patients every day at the Smile Enhancement Dental Center (SEDC). Nancy says th at she knows how frustrating it can be to schedule an appointment and then have to sit and wait to be seen.

The Center is located at 9621 Davies Plantation East, next to the Cracker Barrel restaurant. Nancy has owned SEDC for six years.

She employs two dental hygienists along with four other staff members.

Nancy is a graduate of the University of Michigan Dental School. She resides in Collierville and has been married for 20 years.

She has two sons, ages 14 and 18. Her favorite activity is running.

SEDC provides general and cosmetic dentistry, along with pediatric dental care. The offices are open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about SEDC or to schedule an appointment, call 383-2345. You can also send an e-mail to smileenhancement@bellsouth.net.

Nancy and Smile Enhancement Dental Center are regular advertisers in Lakeland Currents and their ad can be found on page 15 in this issue.

Lakeland Chamber Awards

Ken Glazer

Among a list of awards presented at the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce dinner Jan. 24 was a "Person of the Year" Award to Wesley Wright. Owner of Wright Landscapings and editorial board member of Lakeland Currents, Wesley received the award for being a true advocate of Lakeland.

Ginny Dunn, economic development coordinator for the chamber, said, "He is an entrepreneur who takes a vision and turns it into reality. In addition to his business, he has shown a strong community involvement and enriched the community at large."

Wesley Wright

The buffet dinner catered by Pink Flamingo was at the Refuge Church in Lakeland. Following the dinner, Ginny introduced Cecil Tompkins, chairman of the Lakeland Education Foundation (LEF). Cecil pointed out that Lakeland's foundation is roughly 20 years behind other cities in the area and how important it is for businesses to support the education foundation. He stated LEF had given thousands of dollars to teachers at Lakeland Elementary to support their efforts. He mentioned that LES is using 10-year- old computers and replacing them is one of this year's objectives.

Ginny then introduced Chamber President Ken Lipkowitz, who reviewed the Chamber's 2014 highlights including the Expo and golf outing. He noted new businesses in the area that joined the Chamber like Emerald Thai Restaurant and Burning Desire Cigar Emporium. He let everyone know that the Chamber now has offices at City Hall. He praised the Chamber supporters and thanked Matt Wright for his help in updating the Chamber web presence.

Officers were presented including Ken Lipkowitz of Infinity of Memphis, president; Kevin Bailey of Fireworks City, secretary; Yolanda Watkins of Stonebridge Golf Course, treasurer. Carl Bumgardner of The UPS Store, Jeff Whitney of Fibrenew, Wil Ashworth of State Farm and Jimmy Moore of J. Moore & Associates will serve as Board members for 2015.

Awards were given for the Holiday Decoration Contest. Fireworks City won Best Light Show. The UPS Store won Best Holiday Theme. Signs Digital First won Best use of Color. Best Overall and recipient of a $250 cash award was Crossfit Mechanix.

The next awards went to the 2014 top performing businesses: Stonebridge Golf Course won the Hospitality award; Fireworks City the Community Service award; Fayette Pool Supplies the Best Small Business award.

Any business operating in Lakeland that would like to be a part of the Chamber should contact Ginny Dunn at City Hall or visit www.mylakelandchamber.org

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LSB update (Lakeland School Board)

A contingency contract for the purchase of 94 acres for the Lakeland Prep school site was discussed and accepted Feb. 9 by the LSB. This preliminary contract allows 90 days for the due diligence phase to assess the property to see if the land is suitable as the school site.

At the same meeting, Dr. Jim Mitchell of Southern Educational Strategies (SES) presented results from the community feedback on Lakeland Prep, both on paper and through on-line questionnaires. There were a total of 297 respondents using a Likert scale of 1-5. Eighty-one percent of respondents were parents/guardians and 75 to 77 percent were aged 30-49.

The top five most important categories in both surveys were college prep, advanced placement, technology/digital learning, library/media center and athletics. Frequent comments made about the building design included separation of student areas; STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and/or STEAM (STEM plus art) emphasis; science, technology and computer labs; SWD (students with disabilities) and special needs programs; school security; adequate parking/traffic separation; and theater/auditorium being shared with the community.

Both a school site contract (clearing, grading, infrastructure) and an architectural contract (building and facilities design, athletic fields, theater) were approved by LSB members. Jim stated, "We know these people and they are experienced." He was commenting on A2H and the Renaissance Group, who will be architects and engineers for Lakeland Prep and are both Lakeland firms.

After working together in developing the site plan, the two firms will work in tandem to provide all architectural and engineering design services for the new school. "Bringing this school to Lakeland is paramount to the future generations of this growing community," said Stewart Smith, AIA, senior architect at A2H. "As a proud, longtime member of the Lakeland business community, we are excited to see this project come to fruition. Teaming with Renaissance Group makes this project even more special."

Douglas Burris, AIA, senior vice president and partner at Renaissance Group, said, "We are ecstatic to have the opportunity to work with the City of Lakeland to help provide a new standard in educational facilities. We have put together a great team with A2H, and we feel privileged to help write a new chapter in Lakeland's history."

A month later, at the March 9 meeting, it was reported that the due diligence process is proceeding and not impeded by the frozen February and March weather.

Jim said three key pieces of the due diligence are underway: environmental services, soil analysis and the actual property boundary survey. "This is shaping up to be a great project," he said. " The Project is well underway."

Other news from LSB:

- The new start time for LSB work sessions and meetings will be 5:45 p.m. beginning in April.
- The Board discussed participation in the GASB 45 Trust as the pension/retirement fund for the Lakeland School System .
- On Feb. 9 the Shelby County Commission voted to delay reallocation of funds for the school land purchase with the repair and/or replacement of the roof and HVAC system at LES until after the Lakeland bond referendum vote April 16.
- The Board approved a contract with Goodwill Industries for custodial services. Kevin Floyd, chair, said the school gets good service at a good price.
- Also approved was amending the budget planning calendar to be more in line with the City calendar. LSB will submit its budget to the City in late April or early May.

LAKELAND GET INVOLVED

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

The Great American Cleanup is the country's largest community improvement program that kicks off in more than 20,000 communities each spring. This national program engages 4+ million volunteers who take action in their communities to create positive change and lasting impact.

Keep America Beautiful and its powerful network of community-based affiliates execute the Great American Cleanup each year by launching service projects based on the knowledge and needs of local communities. During the Great American Cleanup, our volunteers' work returns on average $175 million in measurable benefits across the participating communities.

The Great American Cleanup program offers structured service projects including experiential environment education, organized volunteer events and employee engagement opportunities. We work closely with governors, mayors and other local government and community leaders including state recycling organizations to ensure that we're meeting the needs of local communities.

Keep Lakeland Beautiful will participate in the Great American CleanUp which runs nationally to May 31. According to Sherri Gallick, vice mayor, three areas of the city will be targeted:

A. Zadie E. Kuehl Memorial Park, 3065 Yukon Dr. - April 25 - A group will clean and update portions of the park.
B. IH Clubhouse area -May 2 – Teams will weed and trim bushes around the IH Clubhouse.
C. Huff N Puff Road - May 9

To help, contact Rhonda Rink, rfink@lakelandtn.org 867-5409. Volunteers should come at 9 a.m. any of the three days to help with the work.

The city received a supply of trash bags to help with the Lakeland clean ups, compliments of Keep America Beautiful. The city also received a supply of bottled water from Lowes, as they are a partner of Keep America Beautiful and Keep Lakeland Beautiful.

Clarification

In February, Lakeland Currents published a story about the Lakeland School System and the following paragraph was in the story:

Then in December, Arlington opted out of a shared employee position, instructional, special education and accountability, saying they needed the employee full time in Arlington. Lakeland was asked to hire its own person within the City, which was done in January 2015.

Ted Horrell, superintendent for LSS, said the sentences should be clarified to show, as follows:

"To clarify, Ms. Tammy Mason (Arlington Community School superintendent) said to me verbally that she wanted to discuss having our shared special education employees full-time with Arlington starting with the next school year. I agreed this would be the best for both systems and for the employees. I then requested that we go ahead and terminate the contract to share in December rather than wait until June, and Ms. Mason said that she could not recommend ending the contract prior to the end of the fiscal year due to budget reasons. I then requested that we go ahead and amend the interlocal agreement to reflect the June termination date so we could be confident in budgeting for our new position, and she agreed to make that recommendation. Both boards then signed the amended interlocal agreement."

AHS PTSA General Meeting

Jim Willis

Tammy Mason, Arlington Community Schools superintendent, on March 9 told about 50 people attending a meeting of the Arlington High School PTSA that she anticipates a reduction in enrollment at AHS in coming years, both as a result of Lakeland building its own high school as well as reduced enrollment from non-resident students.

Among those attending were elected and staff officials from Lakeland and Arlington, AHS parents and interested parties from both communities.

She said she is not able to determine how that might specifically affect AHS because there are so many factors involved, including the student-teacher ratio set by the school system, the actual number of students who enroll, the number of teachers available and the course interests of students.

With the current AHS student-teacher ratio of 23:1, she said the loss of a hundred students would translate to the loss of four teachers. She said any reduction in course offerings would involve quantity, not quality.

Tammy was invited to address the meeting by PTSA president Richard Todd. She was asked to share results of an online survey designed to allow AHS parents to ask questions about the potential impact to AHS of the building of Lakeland Prep, a middle and high school.

Richard said despite what he has read on social media, he did not purposely schedule the meeting at a time so that Lakeland School System (LSS) Board members could not attend and that he does not know Jim Bomprezzi, a former Lakeland mayor and an opponent of funding Lakeland Prep.

Richard said it was his decision, however, not to reschedule the meeting to accommodate Lakeland because AHS registration was scheduled for March 26 and he wanted parents to have the answers to their questions before that date. "I live in Lakeland, but this is not about Lakeland," Todd said. "It is about what is best for AHS."

One of the questions included in the survey was "Has Lakeland School System had any discussion with Arlington officials about how students will be transitioned?" When Tammy came to that question in her Power Point presentation, the answer on the slide was, "Yes, the superintendents have had preliminary discussions."

At that point, Tammy asked Dr. Ted Horrell, LSS superintendent, if he would like to address the question. Ted said he and Tammy have known each other as superintendents and fellow school principals, but that each of them began their careers as teachers.

Ted said there is a certain amount of politics that touch school superintendents, but decisions impacting students are always made from the perspective of a teacher on what is best for the students. Ted said he knows he speaks for himself and Tammy when he says any decisions affecting ACS and LSS students will be made from the perspective of doing what is best for students.

Tammy joined in that sentiment, saying, "At the end of the day, we will do what is best for the kids."

Tammy said that attendance at elementary school PTA meetings typically is standing room only, but that often is not the case at the high school level. She said attendance at high school PTA meetings often is such that you can sit around a table and proceed with the meeting.

She said she was pleased at the turnout at Monday night's meeting. She said that just showed that Richard's suggestion to address the survey at the PTSA meeting was a good one.

Tammy noted she has heard from many who said they were not able to attend the PTSA meeting, but were interested in knowing the details on the survey. She said the Power Point presentation she made would be shared online.

February Tragedies in Lakeland

Chip Washington, public information officer for the Shelby County Sheriff's Office, said there is no relationship between the Feb. 24 tragedy to the one the night before in Lakeland, each involving victims who took their own lives.

In speaking to Lakeland Currents, he said the victim Feb. 24 was a male in his late 30s and was in no way connected to what happened the night of Feb. 23 with the teenager near the Davies Plantation Road overpass. The victim Feb. 24 was on Beverle Rivera Drive.

"These are two very tragic events to two individuals," he said. "It is highly coincidental they were in relative proximity to each other."

Victims in such tragedies are not identified out of respect for the families and LC honors that policy.

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Partnership Lakeland Annual Meeting

Three officials from Lakeland shared state of the City and school system updates with those attending the Partnership Lakeland (PL) annual meeting Feb. 24.

A similar presentation to promote Lakeland had been made earlier in the day to Crye-Leike Realtors in Germantown by Wyatt Bunker, mayor; Jim Atkinson, interim city manager; and Dr. Ted Horrell, school superintendent.

Officers announced for PL are Nolen Manley, vice chair; Leslie Fleming and Dianne Day, members at large; and Marilyn Piccato, secretary.

Speaking first, Wyatt said if he was selling the most perfect house with every feature in an undesirable area, folks would not look at the house. Thus it is important to market Lakeland and its amenities. "It's hard to sell amenities with an expiration date," he added, referencing the interlocal agreement with Arlington Community Schools. He said Lakeland is in a unique position this year.

Next to speak was Jim who said he shared with the Realtors that Lakeland is 25 square miles with only 22 percent of the area developed. He noted the City is positioned for the future with access to Highways 385, 64, 70 and Interstate 40. He then reviewed current and upcoming projects in the City including:

- I-40 interchange - It is on schedule and should be finished mid-2016.
- Outlet Mall replacement - There have been many variations on a new theme but the current proposal is for the Lake District, although it has not been approved by the City. All the existing mall buildings would be demolished and replaced with a retail center, some office space, restaurants and a hotel. Right now the developer is awaiting tax incentives which could be offered by the new Lakeland Development Corporation (LDC).
- Beverle Rivera extension - As that road cut to Huff N Puff is completed, there will be a traffic light at the intersection at Canada Road immediately.
- New Canada Road - It will be two to three years before this 20-year-old project is finished, but will be a four-lane road with a median and will connect to Highway 70.

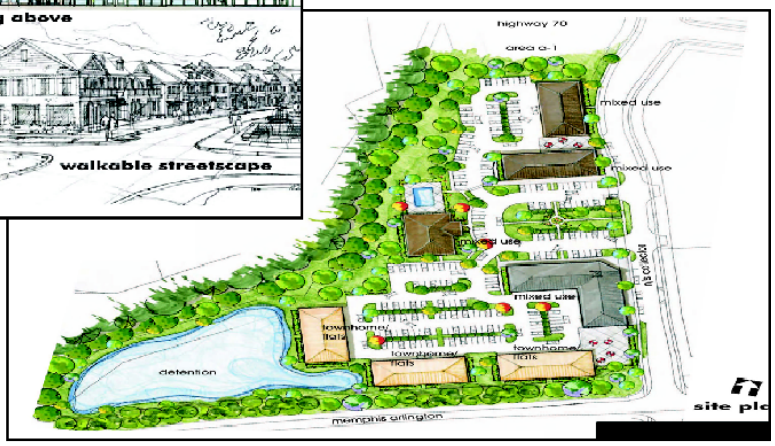
Jim also fielded questions about the storm mitigation program for 2011 flood damage, Kensington Manor subdivision and Lakeland Commons development. (PL story continued right)

Ted quipped that he is best known for his recent posts on Facebook, noting whether school will be open because of snow and ice. He lauded Lakeland Elementary School (LES) and said it has been an exemplary start to the new school system. "There is a strong group of involved parents and we've had a technology influx from the PTA and Lakeland Education Foundation." He mentioned laptop carts, Chromebooks and interactive tablets.

Financially, Ted expects that the March budget he will present to the Board will be $200,000 under the $7 million budgeted, so there will be no requests for additional money.

He commented on Lakeland Prep saying the school will start with about 700 students and as a small campus will offer many advantages. "It is a very different experience," he said, to be part of a school of 700 versus 3,000. "It's a more nurturing environment, students feel safe." He explained that 94 acres have been obtained on a contingency contract and the Board has hired a consultant along with engineers and architects, all from Lakeland.

The next step, he said, is the bond referendum in Lakeland. "The School Board and I feel like this is the best move for the students and the best opportunity for Lakeland."



The plans are conceptual design drawings conveying intent. Detailed designs will be provided with the Secondary Detailed Development Plan as dictated by the City of Lakeland policy for planned developments. All detailed drawings will substantially comply with these concepts and Lakeland regulations. Drawings courtesy of Cory Brady.

Inside the BOC Meetings

Lakeland Commons, a mixed-use development, is coming to Lakeland and construction could start by the end of the year.

By a unanimous vote, the mixed-use development bordered by US Highway 70, Seed Tick Road, Memphis-Arlington Road and Scotts Creek was approved March 12 by the Lakeland Board of Commissioners. The project could start by the end of the year and be built out in 12 to 18 months.

Among the components of Area D of the property site will be rental residential units above businesses and for-purchase townhouse units totaling 150 units maximum. For the future, Areas A, B, and C are planned to accommodate a grocery store, service commercial, dining and boutique shopping, according to Cory Brady, planner with Integrated Land Solutions, PLLC. " We believe the implementation of

(**BOC Meetings** – continued on page 12)

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SAMPLE BALLOT
SPECIAL ELECTION – CITY OF LAKELAND SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
APRIL 16, 2015
City of Lakeland 2015 Bond Issue Referendum

Shall the City of Lakeland, Tennessee (the City), issue general obligation school bonds in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed $50,000,000 for the purpose of financing the (i) acquisition of land and site development for and the design, construction, renovation, repair, improvement and equipping of schools in and for the City; (ii) acquisition of all property real and personal, appurtenant thereto, or connected with such public works project and construction of related infrastructure, (iii) payment of legal, fiscal, administrative, architectural and engineering costs incident thereto; (iv) reimbursement to the City for funds previously expended for any of the foregoing; (v) payment of capitalized interest during the period of construction ; and (vi) payment of costs incident to the issuance and sale of such bonds, bearing interest at a rate or rates not exceeding the maximum rate permitted by applicable law and payable from unlimited ad valorem taxes to be levied on all taxable property within the corporate limits of the City?

☐ YES ☑ NO

payable from unlimited ad valorem taxes to be levied on all taxable property

Early Voting March 27th - April 11th at Lakeland Elementary School

Election Day Thursday, April 16th at regular Precinct

VOTE NO

on the $50,000,000 BOND DEBT!

For more facts visit www.LakelandWatchdogs.com

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Questions? Get Answers @ www.yesforlakeland.com

Dear Lakeland Friend,

Our city is at a crossroad. As citizens we are going to decide if we invest in ourselves and spark the engine of growth, or, we can say "no" and go back to past policies. Make no mistake, a "yes" vote is an investment. An investment we can absolutely afford. Financial professionals and economists have confirmed this. Sure, it's costing around $330 more per year in taxes (on average), but it's needed. It's needed now in fact. Arlington Middle School is over capacity, the high school is approaching capacity and we have a limited contract with nowhere else to go. Plus, low interest rates will allow us to save millions if we act now.

So let's bring back the $11 million we send every year to our neighbors to educate our kids and use that money for Lakeland. Let's lay the cornerstone to our future economic development. Let's attract new residents and become the vibrant community we know we can be. Let's enjoy higher property values and demand for our homes. Let's provide our Lakeland kids with a premium education unlike anything in Tennessee. Let's take pride in our city and our schools. Let's build a new and prosperous Lakeland together.

See you at the polls,

Yes For Lakeland Citizens

paid for by vote yes for lakeland mandy magness, treasurer

(**BOC Meetings** – continued from page 9)

the current plan for Area D will spur the development of those future phases as dictated by market conditions." he said.

Four buildings are mixed-use retail/commercial/residential with rentals handled by the developer, Vince Smith. Three buildings would be townhouses, targeted to be owner-purchased and occupied, and not set up as rental units. The developer acknowledged that a worst-case scenario could turn the townhouses into rental units.

Cory outlined the selling features of the development while commissioners expressed concern about traffic and rental prices. Cory noted that the rental units will not be apartments in the literal sense but townhouses and flats. He said the architecture on the plans shows the intent to build attractive units and the property will encompass the vision of Lakeland. "Highway 70 is the commerce corridor for Lakeland," he said.

Vince expects the newly developed area to attract young families, professionals and empty nesters. "You will see all the amenities of a single-family home in a more concentrated area," he said.

The townhouses would be 1,800 to 2,250 square feet, two or three bedroom, single or double garage, sold in the high 100s. The mixed use will mostly be two bedroom, starting at about 1,150 square feet with rents about $1,850 a month.

Retail establishments at the complex could include restaurants, a bank, pharmacy, cleaners and service providers.

David Smith with A2H responded to questions about increased traffic. During morning peak hours of 6:30 to 7:30, there would be 37 more cars on Seed Tick Road. For the return drive, 5 to 6 p.m., an additional 43 cars would pass down the same road. David noted that residents of Lakeland Commons would not be expected to all drive at the same time, so the impact on traffic would not be so great.

Sherri Gallick, vice mayor, asked if there would be a traffic light at Highway 70 by the development. David said TDOT (Tennessee Department of Transportation) would do a full scale traffic study to access the demands.

Also covered by the BOC in February and March:

- Potholes are a major concern, reported Jim Atkinson, interim city manager. In January, 39 holes were filled; 66 in February; and 99 by March 12 with about 86 more to be filled. He said the cost per hole has averaged $60.32.
- Jim announced there is a billion dollars in federal grant money for flood issues. Shelby County is a qualifying area as is Tennessee. The money can be used to fix unmet needs from storms and flooding in 2011. Lakeland has to first prove to the County it has unmet needs. If this hurdle is passed, then projects could be selected for grant money to be received.
- Public Works Director Bristol Roberts was selected to serve as the City's representative on the Shelby County Municipal Solid Waste Planning Board.
- The special election to decide whether to issue general obligation bonds for Lakeland Prep will be April 16. In a rescheduled special meeting of the Board of Commissioners Feb. 19, the date was unanimously selected by the BOC. Early voting will be at Lakeland Elementary School from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Apr. 11 except for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. On election day, voters will go to their regular precincts. The bond to acquire land for constructing and equipping Lakeland Prep will not exceed $50 million.
- Approved the purchase of an aerial lift truck to trim tree canopies, replace pole lights, repair the siren, among other uses.
- Deferred discussion on the creation of new branding for Lakeland.
- Deferred the Lakeland Prep zoning discussion to either the April work session or a called meeting. Rezoning requires two readings and a public hearing and notice to residents about the proposal.
- Jim reported he is studying the 5 percent increase in the fire fee; talking with Republic Services about missed pickups due to snow; completing the Special Census with an extension and still dealing with drainage issues in the City.
- Maurice Denbow was selected for the Lakeland Development Corporation.

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Gene Torrey

Lakeland commissioner

Gene Torrey

The year 2015 brought a new focus and direction to the Parks and Recreation Board and its efforts in the coming year. Under the leadership of Brenda Lockhart, the Parks Board will be defining projects that will be attainable, within the budget guidelines and still have significant exposure and impact to the citizenry of Lakeland.

In January, the Board toured four of the City's parks to assess their condition and overall status. Of special interest was the cleanliness of the total area of each park, the state of the infrastructure and the location and condition of appropriate signage.

Compliance to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements was a major concern, as small issues ignored tend to grow into larger issues over the winter months. The tour defined numerous issues that, although were of significance, were not of a costly nature.

Most of these issues could easily be resolved with a little manpower from willing volunteers, rather than an outlay of tightly budgeted funds. Playgrounds were inspected and found to have been vandalized over a long period of time. Safety is the controlling factor when playgrounds are installed. The ground safety coverings associated with the playgrounds were found to be in need of major repair. All in all, the inspected parks - City Hall, Windward Slopes, Zadie Keuhl and the IH facility, appeared to be adequately maintained and frequently used.

The parks Board will be presenting a plan to the BOC next month for Capital Improvements and Repairs and Compliance. The top five proposed projects are as follows:

1. Add a practice ball field to Windward Slopes Park.
2. Convert current tennis practice wall into a Pickle Ball Court at Windward Slopes.
3. Procure fixed signage posts to be located through Lakeland for designated event information display.
4. Replace and repair playground safety surfaces.
5. Ensure ADA noncompliance issues in all our parks are addressed.

The efforts of the Parks Board, as each of these projects is completed, will draw the well-deserved attention of the BOC and the public as the spring and summer months bring out visitors. The Parks Board encourages any and all citizens who care to share ideas and participate in these projects to contact Brenda Lockhart through City Hall.

Lakeland: Your City, Your History

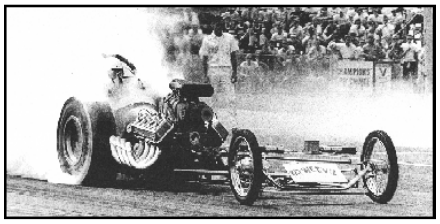
Alexa Tutor

Alexa Tutor

Did you know???

Lakeland was once the home of not one, but two raceways? In this issue, we will focus on the track that was "The Lakeland International Raceway". Located between Canada Road and Monroe Road, behind what became the old factory outlet mall, it opened in 1960. It hosted famous racers from around the world, and was quickly dubbed the "traction capital of the South"! In the late 1960s, the quarter-mile drag strip was incorporated into a full road course.

All three major drag racing groups raced here: the NHRA, IHRA and AHRA.



With the turn of the decade came a silver screen opportunity for the track. The Lakeland International Raceway was chosen to be part of a racing film, aptly titled "Two-Lane Blacktop". The cult-classic had scenes filmed at the raceway in 1971, and in the movie, the main characters travel to Memphis to race at the track. In 1972 and 1973, "Big Daddy" Don Garlits set national speed records here.

Sadly, in 1979, the track was closed, but you can still see remnants of it today. Lakeland is full of wonderful and interesting history, and I look forward to discovering and investigating more fun facts!

Photos from Lakeland International Raceway.
Courtesy of Jim Atkinson at Lakeland City Hall.

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Lakeland Elementary School (LES) PTA News

Christye Gilliland, LES PTA

It's hard to believe that this school year is almost done! We are on the lookout for some fresh faces for the PTA Board of managers for the 2015-2016 school year. As an LES PTA Board of Managers member, you have the opportunity to have a great impact on your child's elementary school experience. Please consider nominating yourself or someone you know that might be interested in joining our Board.

This link will take you to our website to view the Board positions and download the nomination form. Please fill out the form and send it in to your child's teacher, or you can contact Monica Pitts at monpitts@bellsouth.net for more information. http://mylakelandpta.com/2015-16-pta-board-of-managers/ May 1 we will have a FUN FAMILY DANCE! It will be a fun night for all from 6 to 8 p.m. DJ Rockin' Robin will be there and Todd Few of Christian Brothers Automotive is providing pizza!

Don't forget to sign up for Camp Invention. The dates this year are June 1-6 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 pm. Go to www.campinvention.org/register for details and to register!

Spirit nights are:
April 7- Buffalo Wild Wings (Hwy 64)
April 20-Three Guys Pizza (Hwy 64)

Don't forget to call 221-0052 or visit www.ChristianBrothersAuto.com to schedule your services and a portion of the proceeds with go to our school!

CALENDAR

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

April
2 - BOC work session
3 - Good Friday - City, Senior Center and school holiday
6 - LSB work session
7 - Spirit Night - LES - Buffalo Wild Wings
9 - BOC regular meeting
11 - End of early voting, Special Election
13 - LSB regular meeting
13 - Delta Blues Winery Grand Opening, 11 a.m.
14 - Parks meeting
15 - Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
16 - Municipal Planning meeting
Lakeland Special Election
17 - PTA Annual Spring Auction, Colonial Country Club
20 - Spirit Night - LES - Three Guys Pizza
23 - LDC meeting
25 - City-Wide Lakeland garage sales, start 7 a.m.

May
4 - LSB work session
7 - BOC work session
11 - LSB regular meeting
12 - Parks meeting
13 - Opening day for Sprouts Farmers Market in Lakeland
14 - BOC regular meeting
21 - Municipal Planning meeting
22 - Last day for students LES
25 - Memorial Day - City and Senior Center holiday
28 - LDC meeting
29 - Lakeland Chamber Classic Golf Tournament, Stonebridge Golf Club

June
1 - LSB work session
4 - BOC work session
8 - LSB regular meeting
11 - BOC regular meeting

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Dr. Ted Horrell

LSS superintendent

Dr. Ted Horrell

My 15 years in education have taught me that the return from Spring Break brings a focus on end-of-year assessments and preparation for the upcoming school year. It is also a time of reflection on the current year, goal-setting and opportunities for student and staff growth. This time last year, of course, the leadership and school board of Lakeland School System were planning for a school year in a school that was under the control of another school system. This year, we can look back and see if our plans and aspirations came to fruition.

I am confident that I speak for our school board in saying we could not be happier with th e inaugural year for Lakeland Elementary School under our new system. The performance, attitude, energy and enthusiasm of the school-based administration and staff have left almost nothing to be desired. Parent involvement, despite being already high, has managed to increase under the leadership and support of the Lakeland PTA and the newly formed Lakeland Education Foundation. That incredible parent support has led to, among other things, a massive infusion of technology that is unheard of for one school in such a short amount of time.

Our leadership team is hard at work developing several proposals for next year that we believe will offer our students even more opportunities to grow academically and personally, and will also enhance the overall school experience for our parents and families. Our goal remains to be the best elementary school in the state, and we believe we can get there.

One of the many parents who have left positive reviews about LES on the new website, www.memphisschoolguide.org, summed up the sentiments of many by saying, "It feels like we are getting a private school education without paying the big bucks."

We certainly feel the value offered by Lakeland Elementary can compete with that of any school, public or private, and we will continue to strive to live up to that statement in all we do. As always, we are grateful to the community for your incredible support of our students and staff. Here's to a great start, and an even brighter future.

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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.

Plans are underway but not firm for a spring tennis camp. Also, there is to be T-ball and coach pitch starting when school is out, according to the City of Lakeland. Go to www.LakelandTN.gov and search sports for updated information.

Lakeland Fitness - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday - IH Clubhouse
Cardio, yoga and calisthenics, led by Sherri Gallick, certified instructor. 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+

Lakeland Senior Center (LSC) - 4527 Canada Rd; IH Clubhouse - 4553 Canada Rd.
746-8195 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. M-F; 867-2717 after hours
Marilyn Parker - Senior Center manager mparker@lakelandtn.org

Lakeland welcomes all local area adults 55+ to the Center, located on the picturesque grounds of IH Park. It is a gathering place for friends to enjoy camaraderie through games, programs, seminars, and special events. visit www.LakelandTN.gov for info on bridge, Bunco, dominos, Mah-Jong, Silver Sneakers, and other activities. Contact Marilyn to be on the email or snail mail list, or watch Comcast channel 19.

NEW! Beginner's Tap Dance 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. April 8
Great exercise and lots of fun! No tap shoes required (tennis shoes are fine). Taught by Debbie Bain and will continue based on interest. She can be reached at travelindancer55@yahoo.com.

Picnic on the Patio for Earth Day - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. April 22
We'll be grilling hamburgers and hotdogs. Feel free to bring a side dish or dessert. Some Monday afternoon pickers from the Jamming Group will play and picnic with us. Come for lunch and a kick-off to a much-awaited spring!

Bible Study with Trudy Scholten - 10 - 11:30 a.m. April 29
Topic: In Praise of a Noble Woman. (Proverbs 31: 10)

Book Club - first Wednesdays - 1:30 - 3 p.m. April 1, May 6, etc.
For questions or more information, please contact Jeannine Dillard at 331-2839 or jdillard1949@gmail.com .

Senior Center Pie Bake Winners photo Courtesy of the LSC

The first annual Pie Bake-Off was the culmination of several events celebrating National Pie Month. Throughout February, there were several pie tastings including pies donated by Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, The Pie Folks in Germantown and Cracker Barrel as well as homemade pies, tarts and a quiche.

The competition was Feb. 27 and the ribbons and cash prizes were sponsored by Mark Louderback, financial advisor with Edward Jones. He also brought Papa John's pizza and salad for lunch.

Cash prizes were $20 for third and fourth places: Joyce Cole, Chocolate Chess Pie and Trudy Scholten, Sour Cream Raisin Pie. First and second places each received $40: Linda Walls, Berry Berry Pie and Betty Ratliff, German Chocolate Cream Pie. Pictured, from left, Linda, Mark and Betty.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

We encourage residents to exercise your privilege to Vote.

Special Election: Lakeland Bond Issue Referendum
April 16, 2015

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Crime Report for Lakeland – SCSO

During January 2015, there were 26 offenses in Lakeland, mostly occurring on Sundays and between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sixteen were south of Interstate 40, six in Davies Plantation and four north of Highway 70. There were six thefts from motor vehicles, with three of those at fitness centers.

Lt. Terry Lomax of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office said crimes are based on opportunity, like items in view and unlocked doors.

Increasing for the month were residential burglaries from zero to one and theft from buildings, from zero to three. Crime categories showing a decrease were burglaries from businesses, one to zero; motor vehicle thefts, two to zero; larceny oth er, four to two; theft from vehicles, seven to six and vandalism - misdemeanor/felony, five to four. Aggravated assault stayed at zero, burglary other, zero and robbery individual, zero.

There was no crime increase for any category from the end of January to Feb. 22. The statistics provided by the SCSO show residential burglary, larceny other, theft from building, theft from vehicle and vandalism misdemeanor/ felony down from the previous reporting period. All other categories stayed the same.

In this second reporting period, crimes mostly occurred between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and the days of the week with the most incidents were Mondays and Thursdays with three crimes each.

For the next reporting period, to March 15, three categories increased: aggravated assault, zero to one; motor vehicle thefts, zero to two and thefts from vehicles, three to five. Other crimes decreased or stayed the same. Likely time for crime was again from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three crimes each on Mondays and Tuesdays, less on other days.

Nancy Highland, D.D.S.

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Lakeland Neighborhood Reports, News

✓ The **City-Wide Yard Sale** will be April 25, according to Wesley Wright, coordinator for NextDoor.com. Via a survey on that site, Lakeland residents voted in March and selected the April date. As was the case in 2014, this is not a Lakelandsponsored event, but just one day that all in Lakeland can have yard sales or shop throughout the City. Follow details on NextDoor.com or the Lakeland Currents Facebook page. Those taking part in the event will be responsible for their own signs and advertising. Suggested start time is 7 a. m. Neighborhoods participating will be listed on both web pages.

✓ **Oakwood Subdivision** - At the February annual meeting, Keith Acton was elected to the Board. Reelected were Don Bomar and Phillip Farmer. Keith replaces Kevin Mount who served on the Board over eight years, mostly as HOA president. The Events Committee hosted a February Wine Tasting Party, a March Painting Party for the ladies of Oakwood and a March Easter Party. Upcoming events include a spring yard sale coinciding with the City of Lakelands yard sale date, the pool opening May 1 and a movie night May 16. Visit the website www.oakwoodlakeland.com or Facebook group, Oakwood Subdivision in Lakeland, for more details or to provide suggestions. Events Committee members are Cari Baird, Cammie Briquelet and Tracy Jones. All landscaping or outside house projects must be submitted and approved by the Board. Contact Keith at kacton@comcast.net. If you have questions or suggestions you can always contact HOA manager Megan Wylie with Level 1 Management at 321-6742 or mwylie@level1management.com.

✓ **Winstead Farms** - The pool opens the middle of May. Contact Level 1 at 321-6766 if you did not receive your new pool key. Megan Wylie mwylie@level1management.com can help if you have house projects to be approved per the neighborhood covenants.

✓ **Plantation Hills** - The first Yard of the Month begins in May. Since we had a strong late winter, I wanted to give everyone a good month of April to get lawn and landscape in order. We will be having a neighborhood meeting in early April. Stay tuned on Nextdoor.com for updates. --- Wesley Wright

✓ **North Lakeland Community Association** - Their meetings are in odd months, third Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

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