

Vol. 19, No. 1 February 2016

Lakeland currents

Bi-monthly
news magazine

Get Active Lakeland

page 2



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"The Active Lifestyle"

by Steven Snow

To some it is a sublime pleasure. To others it's a torture. What is it that can elicit such opposite emotions? Exercise, physical exertion, working out. Whatever you call it, chances are you're not getting enough of it for a healthy lifestyle. A 2011 study found that roughly one-third of all Tennesseans are not getting even the recommended minimum 30 minutes of physical activity on a daily basis. There can be many reasons for that, but one excuse we in Lakeland can NOT use is lack of opportunity. As you will see, our cup runneth over with choices.

THE CLUB SCENE

If you're someone who likes to "kick it" or "pump it" old school there are several commercial brick and mortar fitness facilities that should fit your needs. The newest and glitziest of these is **LA Fitness**, the only one that is not locally owned. It does however offer 40,000 square feet filled with hundreds of pieces of equipment, indoor pool, hot tub, sauna, personal trainers, dozens of group classes and child care.

Just a hop, skip and a jump down U.S. Highway 64 at Canada Road is **ATC Fitness**, a smaller, 24-hour access gym providing members all of the weights and cardio equipment necessary for a well-rounded workout without many of the frills. In addition to these two mainstream health clubs are two specialized niche gyms.

Orangetheory Fitness located in the same shopping complex as **ATC**, bills itself as a "heart-rate-based interval group training studio" and is made to order for the information and technologically-oriented individuals. Participants' heart rates are projected onto an overhead monitor for all to see while a coach/trainer guides each person through a cross-training workout. Following each class, results are emailed to each person.

Crossfit Mechanix, which has been located at

the old outlet mall site since 2013, also utilizes the group fitness concept. With class sizes of six to 12 people, workouts change daily and employ a curious mixture of gymnastics, power lifting and functional exercises designed to "fine tune" your fitness. While probably not for the beginner, modifications can be made for individual limitations.

If you'd like some motivation and instruction without the travel or commitment of a gym, our own Commissioner **Sherri Gallick**, a fitness enthusiast herself as well as a certified trainer, teaches an hour-long class combining cardio dance, strength, flexibility, yoga and conditioning at 8:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the IH Clubhouse. All you need is a desire to move to music and a mat.

GOING GREEN

And for the lovers of the outdoors who yearn for the sounds of chirping birds over noisy treadmills and long for the fresh air and freedom of the wooded trail rather than the sweaty atmosphere and confinement of a Zumba class, there's something for you, too. **City of Lakeland Parks and Recreation Department (P/R)** maintains seven municipal parks encompassing over 124-acres of green space with ponds for canoeing and kayaking, as well as playground equipment, paths and trails for walking, jogging and biking. With City Hall and IH parks in the north, Cool Springs Trail, Windward Slopes Park with its tennis courts and Zadie Kuehl Park south of the interstate and Plantation Hills and Oakridge Park, everyone should be no more than a short distance from a neighborhood park.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Since human beings began to walk upright, we have been drawn to groups and group activities, whether hunting a woolly mammoth, raising

About the Cover:

Jodi Johnson, left, and Ginger Calcote run on one of the trails in Lakeland

Photo by Jim Willis

LAKELAND CURRENTS

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a barn or disco dancing. If you're someone who is drawn to the camaraderie of a group, the City P/R Department conducts several organized adult co-ed sports leagues throughout the year for anyone over the age of 18. All games are officiated with statisticians, timekeepers and referees. From January to March, basketball is king of the realm. Teams of 10 players compete on Monday and Thursday nights at Lakeland Elementary School where everyone has home court advantage. This fall will see the 2016 version of flag football, the most popular sport on the schedule. The 2015 version saw 120 individuals competing on the gridiron with nearly as many on a waiting list for future teams. But basketball and football aren't the only games in town, or at least won't be for long. Plans are to add softball next year and, according to Robbie Spencer, Lakeland's new director of P/R, any other sport with enough community interest and involvement.

In the private sector, **Stonebridge Golf Club** is a nationally known course that has catered to the weekend hacker and seriously cleated golfers since the early 1970s.

Unlimited options and no excuses. On your mark. Get set. Get active, Lakeland

SPORT LEAGUES and PARKS & TRAILS

Robbie Spencer, director
Lakeland Parks and Recreation Department
10001 US Highway 70 - 867-5407
www.leagues.bluesombrero.com/lakelandparksandrec
www.lakelandtn.gov/Facilities

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Stonebridge Golf Course

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Lakeland 382-1886
www.stonebridgegolf.com

Sherri Gallick

Lakeland Parks and Recreation Department
10001 U.S. Highway 70
Lakeland 867-2345



by Alexa Tutor

New This Spring *Tour de Lakeland*

by Steven Snow

Watch for the date. It's coming in May. The eyes of the Mid-South cycling community will be focused on Lakeland for the inaugural of what will surely become the annual "Tour de Lakeland." According to Alan Johnson, the event director and creative impetus, competitive cyclists, recreational peddlers and even children can choose from three separate courses: 5-mile fun ride, 25-miles and 50-miles. Each will highlight the landmarks and natural scenery of the community. The Delta Blues Winery will serve as both the starting point and the finish line for each ride and, for non-riding friends and family members, there will be numerous activities presented as part of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce Spring Festival

The main goal of this family-friendly event is to get outdoors, be active and have fun. There will be inflatables, face painting and an obstacle course for children, shopping, food, music and hot air balloon rides for everyone. The rides will start at 10:30 a.m.

The courses will tour historic landmarks, natural highlights, and local businesses, such as the Winery, the covered bridge at Chris Leigh Farm, the new Middle School site, Garner Lake, the new Lakeland Commons development and the Trinity Farms Stables.

Entry fees before April 1 are \$25/individual or \$50/family up to 6 riders and will include a packet with a T-shirt, giveaways, information about Lakeland and coupons from participating businesses. Entry fees increase by \$5 after April 1. For additional information or to enter, go online to: www.tourdelakeland.racesonline.com.

Whether you plan to ride, listen to music and eat, play outdoors, or just enjoy your neighbors, this will be a perfect opportunity to celebrate the arrival of Spring and the uniqueness of Lakeland.

The Easter Bunny is Coming to Town

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt from 10 a.m. to noon March 19 at IH Park for children up to 10-years-old.

Sponsored by Lakeland Parks and Recreation Department, the family event will feature games, face painting, prizes and more. The egg hunt will feature a few golden eggs among the mix. Find a golden egg among the multitude of colored eggs and win a chance to pick a prize at the prize table.

Children will hunt for eggs in areas divided by age categories. The Easter Bunny will make a special appearance to announce the start of the hunt. On the Easter Bunny's "Ready, Set, Go" signal, children will begin filling up their baskets with prized eggs. Some will be filled with candy, while others will feature special prizes.

New this year will be a judged Easter Basket Decorating Contest with prize giveaways. Registration forms will be available at the judging tables. All decorated baskets need to be submitted to the proper contest tables no later than 9:45 a.m. The contest will be

divided into specific age groups. Winners will be announced after the egg hunt.

In the event of rain, the egg hunt and activities will be moved inside IH Clubhouse located on the grounds. Rain or shine, children will have a fun time and will take home plenty of goodies. As in years past, the Lakeland Lions Club volunteers will help with the event.

"We look forward to seeing the smiling faces of children as they fill their baskets with lots of candy and prizes," said Robbie Spencer, director of Lakeland Parks and Recreation. "We are very excited to host more city events at IH Park. I think a lot of residents will be surprised moving forward as we continue to make improvements to the grounds – making it a wonderful place to host outdoor community events."

For more information, call Lakeland City Hall at 867-2717 or rspencer@lakelandtn.org www.LakelandTN.gov/events.



Lakeland: Your City, Your History

With the Lakeland amusement park dwindling attendance after the opening of Libertyland in 1976, Louis Garner started a petition to incorporate the area into a city. Along with Louis, Henry

Veasy and Beverle Rivera circulated the petition among the residents, then filed the petition complete with signatures, which led to a vote.

On June 12, 1977, with roughly 612 residents in 260 homes and 7.5 miles of roads, the City of Lakeland was born! Exactly one month later, the residents of the newest city in Shelby County voted to elect three commissioners from a pool of six candidates: two with four-year terms and one for a two-year term. Dr. William Howick, Beverle Rivera and Earl Weber winning the four-year and two-year terms respectively, were elected after a vote at Cafe Lakeland July 12, 1977.

Among themselves, they voted and elected Beverle, the then 49-year old owner/operator of Shelby Center Nursery (a day care center in Bartlett), as the City of Lakeland's first mayor. Mayor Rivera was married to Gilberto, a dentist, and is a mother of five children. She is a classical pianist, loves the outdoors and offered her house as a makeshift city headquarters before a city hall could be built. She'd already been active in local government, fighting for quite some time to get water lines out to her property — a 25-acre farm off Seed Tick Road.

Shortly after their election, the commissioners appointed John Wilder, a former state senator and governor, as the City Attorney and Jean Borkert was appointed as City Treasurer. City meetings were held

in a variety of venues from 1977 until 1982 (when the City Hall building was opened) including: Cafe Lakeland, the mobile home park, the Rivera home and Greater Bush Grove Missionary Baptist Church on Memphis-Arlington Rd.

Becky Scobey of Bartlett created the city logo in 1977, and the original oil painting still hangs in our City Hall today. In 1980, Bob Wilkin-son was appointed the first City Manager of Lakeland. No salaries were paid to elected officials until 1982.



FUN FACTS!

The city flower is the crepe myrtle.

When Huff N Puff Road was extended back in the early 2000s, the Road was named "Beverle Rivera Dr." after our first mayor.

Mrs. Rivera, left, was Memphis-educated! She graduated from Treadwell High School before attending what was then Memphis State University (now University of Memphis).

Do you have any fun memories about Lakeland you would like to share?

E-mail me at: alexaktutor@gmail.com



Photo by Jim Willis

Newly Found Art Talent at Age 88

Eighty-eight-year-old Gayle Forsythe started painting late in life but says she can't even draw a stick. But the 20-year Lakeland resident said, "With a brush, I'm a miracle to myself."

Plagued with various health issues, it was five years ago that she decided to take up oil painting but had to give it up for health reasons. "One day I said I believe I can paint. So I bought an easel and supplies and started sketching a deer. It was a pretty good likeness."

She said she has always loved artwork and the beauty and scenes around her and resumed her painting last year.

The octogenarian had her own show in January at the Corinth, MS Artist Guild Gallery with 15 of her paintings. This month she will have pieces of her art on display at St. Francis Hospital Bartlett. Her paintings are usually mountain and desert scenes.

She improvises at her easel because she uses a walker and can't stand up to paint.

She and her late husband bought their home in Lakeland in 1996 and he became ill and died in 1998. In the 1970s she worked for Sears and then worked 20 years for a dentist. "I am fortunate to still be in my home," she said. "I am grateful the Lord has blessed me and I am still living." She has a son who lives in Stonebridge and another in McNairy County and 13 grandchildren. "I love Lakeland and have so many friends here," she said.

Happening In Lakeland

School Board members and students will travel to Nashville February 16 for the "[A Day on the Hill](#)" meeting with Tennessee legislators.

The "[Do Not Knock](#)" registry for Lakeland is "live" on the Lakeland City website, according to Jim Atkinson, city manager. It allows residents to register their addresses with City Hall to keep solicitors from coming to their homes. Check the City website for details and information. <http://www.lakelandtn.gov/FormCenter/Do-Not-Knock-List-4/Do-Not-Knock-List-39>

Residents were also to be notified via snail mail letter from the City.

LES (LAKELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL) PTA NEWS

by Krista Pearce, PTA president



Please join us Feb.25 for our next PTA General Assembly Meeting, the Art Show, dinner and an awesome performance from the LES kindergarteners! The Art Show will begin at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in purchasing your child's artwork, please bring cash or check with you. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Calling all dads! Join us the morning of March 10 (last names A-M) or March 11 (last names N-Z) for **Donuts with Dad** in the school cafeteria. To accommodate the crowd, we divided the event into two days, based on the last name of your student. Donuts and juice will be served. Looking forward to an awesome turnout from our dads!



SAVE THE DATE The 2016 PTA Spring Auction is right around the corner! Calling all ladies and gentleman: Get your big hats and bright colors ready! The Lakeland Derby is coming April 15! Mark your calendars and be ready for some fun! Be looking for more information and more details in the next few months.

Some other important dates in February:

8 – Zaxby's Spirit Night

16 – Auction tickets go on sale

26 – Fit Club 8:15 a.m.

INSIDE THE BOC (BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS) MEETINGS



Terry Lomax is the sheriff's deputy.



Michele Dial and Mitzi Pilcher.

In a four-to-one decision Jan. 14, commissioners approved 14-month term extensions for themselves, allowing the next local election to coincide with the national election in November 2018. Commissioner Sherri Gallick was the lone nay vote. Mayor Wyatt Bunker, who sponsored the ordinance, said it will save the City \$100,000 in 10 years and should encourage more voter turnout. This same ordinance impacts term extensions for Lakeland School Board members.

Other news from December and January BOC meetings:

Wyatt's resolution to allow the Parks and Recreation Department to manage the Keep Lakeland Beautiful (KLB) committee failed on a four-to-one vote, Wyatt casting the only yes vote. An ordinance is to be drafted to create a separate board for KLB.

Commissioner Clark Plunk reported there will be another business adjacent to the free-standing Starbucks but the name has not been announced. It will be in the shopping center with anchor Sprouts Farmers Market. Commissioner Michele Dial said Nancy Koch was named chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission; announced names for the Event Stage will be brought to the BOC; noted approximately 70 men registered for the adult basketball league; advised there will be a summer concert series as well as a City-sponsored Easter egg hunt in March.

Giving a report for the Lakeland Development Corporation, Sherri said the Lake District (former Outlet Mall) may be ready to announce in May about anchors so that area can get started.

Seven items on the consent agenda were approved including the new gateway sign and slogan for the City. Jim Atkinson, city manager, presented newly proposed signage for Lakeland and Alan Johnson, Lakeland Development Corporation member, explained a gateway sign he designed for three locations in the City. It would be made of stone, brick and cinderblock and A2H will do the construction drawings. The new slogan is "Where Quality Is a Way of Life."

On a regular agenda, the "Evolve" property was rezoned and the audit for fiscal year ending June 2015 was accepted. Trey Watkins with Watkins Uiberall commended the City for a "clean audit" and said the City's condition is better this year than last year. "You spent less than you brought in," he said. "You have a great staff."

An amended resolution for a preliminary development plan for Kensington Manor was passed as was an amended contract with Regency Homebuilders, LLC for the same development.

A proposed new logo for the City was approved unanimously as was a contract for a communications tower on City-owned property west of Canada Road and east of El Hill Road.

The BOC approved submittal of applications for funding through the 2017-2020 TIP (Transportation Improvement Program.) This includes resurfacing on a small portion of Old Brownsville Road, utility relocation on New Canada Rd and a bike-pedestrian path on Davies Plantation. Added to the list was road work on Huff N Puff Road.

At the Dec. 10 meeting, commissioners approved on a four-to-one vote (Sherri voted no) a resolution for a youth football program in the City. Robbie Spencer, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, originally proposed an initial City contribution of \$47,000 to start a high quality program. However, his updated figures to the BOC decreased the amount to \$37,000. He said projected revenue of \$19,000 could offset the total amount needed and he asked the City to contribute \$20,000 which was approved. The balance of the needed money would come from profits from other sports programs, sponsorships and fund raisers.

Mitzi Pilcher, treasurer for Partnership Lakeland (PL), announced the organization voted to dissolve and according to their bylaws, donated their assets to the Parks and Recreation Department, and in particular, the stage venue fund. PL donated office supplies, a new pop-up canopy and \$4,714.

The BOC made appointments to volunteer boards:

>> Board of Appeals/Storm Water Board of Appeals - Patrick Kitchens and Ryan McDaniel reappointed.

>> Parks and Recreation Board/Natural Resources Board - Mark Donley and Nancy Koch were reappointed; Andre' Nolan and Scott Robbins are new appointments.

>> Lakeland Development Corporation - Matt Wright is a new appointment.

Progress on the New Canada Road project was presented Dec. 3. John Pankey with Fisher Arnold reviewed the history of the project which he said dates to 2008. Although commissioners have expressed displeasure with the road realignment, Wyatt said the City has completed about 95 percent of the land acquisition. Commissioners continue to discuss amenities for the road including walking and bike paths.

All BOC photos by Jim Willis.



Alan Johnson



Gateway Sign



New Logo

Crye-Leike Realtors

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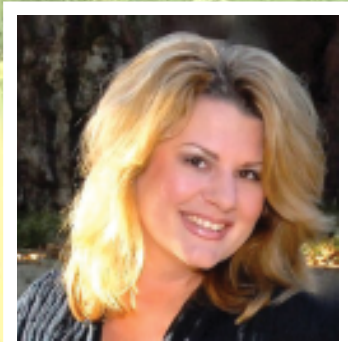
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Meet A Lakeland Business

by Steven Snow

If you want to put your best foot forward, you might want to start with your hair. And to make the most of your hair's potential, you might want to start with Audra Lowe of Alma Bella Salon. As one of Lakeland's leading hair stylists, she is a cut above the rest.

A 13-year veteran of creating the perfect look for both men and women, Audra has spent eight of those in Lakeland. She was drawn here because as a new business owner she felt it was a thriving area on the verge of great things. As the mother of a nine-year-old daughter, it felt like a family-friendly community. She prides herself in offering her clients the quality services found in more upscale, metropolitan areas, but with the convenience and accessibility of a neighborhood business.

Her specialties include the Balayage hair coloring technique, a cutting edge process that uses only non-toxic, organic ingredients. She is one of the few stylists in the area offering this service. Additionally, she performs dry hair shaping, cutting the hair dry instead of wet. As she says, "Cutting the hair dry allows me to see how your hair will naturally fall and where any bulk needs to be removed or more texture added." And guys ... here's one for you. Audra has studied men's styling and beard grooming with some of the country's leading barbers.

But if you think she's resting on her laurels, you'd be very wrong. She feels so strongly about continuing education, that she travels all over the country for seminars and training sessions to stay up to date on current styles and trends. In just the past year she has been to New York and New Orleans and this March she will be in Chicago. With all the expertise she gains from her travels, we're certainly glad Audra Lowe calls Lakeland home. Her ad is on page 18.

Her Salon is at 2981 Canada Road and hours are:

Tuesday - noon to 7 p.m.; Wednesday - 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday - 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.;
Friday- 9:30 a.m. -5 p.m.; Saturday- 9 a.m. -3 p.m. and closed Sunday and Monday.

Contact information: 413-8113 audra.style@gmail.com
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Lakeland Parks and Recreation

City Hall - 10001 Highway 70

Robbie Spencer, Parks & Recreation Director, rspencer@lakelandtn.org

<http://www.lakelandtn.gov/parksandrec> for the latest information or contact Parks and Recreation 867-5407

YOUTH SOCCER

This program will teach the fundamentals, teamwork and understanding of the game, even for those who have never played. All participants will receive custom jerseys, shorts and socks with their fee. Registration runs through Feb. 22 with late registration through Feb. 29.

How:

- Sign up in person at Lakeland City Hall.
- Online at www.LakelandTN.gov/leagues
- Call City Hall 867-2717

Practices: Start the week of March 14 with schedules available March 5.

Age Groups: 5-6 years, 7-8 years, 9-11 years

Fees: \$95

Late Fees: Sign-ups after February 22nd \$120.

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact Robbie Spencer for more information.

ADULT BASKETBALL

Started Jan. 25. Games are played at 6:30 p.m. every Monday and Thursday at Lakeland Elementary School. Seventy-eight players are signed up.



YOUTH BASKETBALL

Almost 150 children eight and under are participating in the co-ed Youth Basketball League at Lakeland Elementary School. The League kicked off Dec. 9 with children ages five to 13 filling 18 teams. Six games are played weekly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through the end of February. The children have new uniforms supplied by the Lakeland Parks and Recreation Department. Danielle Maske and Kevin Floyd coached during the Jan. 6 game when the Waves (Kevin's team) won 18-8 against the Jazz. Both coaches are invested in helping to improve the young athletes' fundamentals during practice and games. Robbie Spencer, Parks and Rec director, said, "Thanks to the volunteer coaches and supportive parents, the youngsters participating in the Youth Basketball League will experience a positive atmosphere while learning proper techniques and fundamentals." *Photos courtesy of Kim Odom, City of Lakeland*



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Lakeland Neighborhood Report

Happy New Year to all from the Garner Lake Association (GLA). The annual board of directors meeting will be at 7 p.m. March 11 at the IH Clubhouse, according to Dennis Sossaman, president. The public is invited and welcome. Membership in GLA is easy. Membership forms shall be going out in the mail in a matter of days and annual dues remain at only \$20. Visit our website at www.garnerlake.com for more information on the work that we do.



LSB (LAKELAND SCHOOL BOARD) UPDATE

by Jay Dorning and Carl Helton

The Lakeland School System (LSS) has a mascot, branding package and street names for the new Middle School.

During December and January meetings, it was announced the Lion will be the official mascot for the LSS, as voted by 74 percent of those responding to a poll.

In January, Matt Wright, former school member and owner of MarketVex Marketing Solutions, presented logos and colors for the System which include a lion head and Lakeland blue, silver and navy. A motion was approved to accept the package that will be used immediately in the design of the Middle School.

His goals, Matt said, were to choose an official color scheme, create a professional and consistent brand and create a sense of family and pride. He offered examples of using the logo on such items as yard signs, coffee mugs and football helmets.

Streets approved by MLGW are the address, 5020 Lions Crest Drive, plus Campus Drive and Lions Ridge Lane.

In other business, \$100,000 of the officially audited fund balance is to be moved to the GASB Trust for post-employment benefits. The amount put in the fund a year ago was \$27,000.

At the December work session, the exterior design scheme of the Middle School was presented. Douglas Burris with Renaissance Group and Stewart Smith with A2H presented to the Board the overall design scheme. The presentation included the school's 112,186 square-foot floor plan incorporated with the site design. The overall design is unique in the aspect that it does not pattern the existing Shelby County School System's previous designs and footprints for schools. The design is focused on students' needs as well as the aesthetic design for the community. Two-dimensional color drawings of each elevation view were presented as well as several color isometric renderings. Sample materials were brought for the Board to view actual color and textures reflected in the drawing presentation. Materials included brick, stone and metal trim incorporated in the design.

After the design presentation, Dr. Jim Mitchell, Southern Educational Strategies, laid out the next steps once the design was approved.

- >> Move forward with engineered drawings and documents for bidding and construction.
- >> Complete construction package and release for bidding.
- >> All civil documents will be phase 1 with bidding in January and site work to begin in the early summer.
- >> Building portion will be phase 2 and all engineered documents will be ready to be released for bidding by the first of May.



This graphic shows updated logo, colors and new Lakeland Lion log. The mascot will serve both the elementary and new middle school.

Dr. Ted Horrell, superintendent, updated the Board on the finances of the cafeteria, saying that in December 2015, there was a profit of \$3,914 compared to a year ago deficit of \$11,301. The profit would have been greater, he noted, except two pieces of equipment had to be purchased.

Trey Watkins from Watkins Uiberall, PLLC spoke about the 2014-15 audited financial statement and said the biggest thing was the ability for cities to include schools in the City's audit, instead of two separate reports. He said there were no findings, which is desired and shared figures with LSB members.

The new HVAC system project is on schedule to be installed during the 2016 summer break.

Lakeland Middle School front elevations were presented Dec. 7 by Stewart Smith, A2H, and Doug Burris, Renaissance Group, both Lakeland companies involved in planning the new school. The Lakeland School Board saw the presentation first, followed by the Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting Dec. 10, 2015. Both men showed samples of the stone and brick to be used in construction. *Photos courtesy of Lakeland School System and by Jim Willis*



LSB member and Tennessee Legislative Network (TLN) representative Teresa Henry announced that all municipal school districts have an opportunity to buy into a \$2,200 software program that would help Lakeland track legislative bills. Cost to each municipal district would be about \$700.

She also noted that the LSB resolution to the State asking that the TNReady test scores not be used for teacher evaluations was denied.

Dr. Ted Horrell, superintendent,

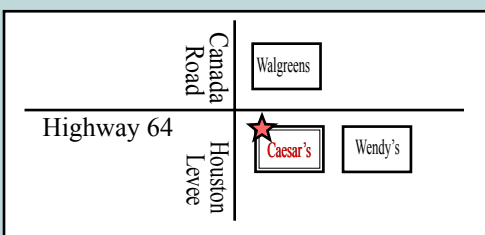


Spelling Bee Winners

Sweden Agunenyne, fifth grade, won the Lakeland Elementary School spelling bee Dec. 15 and Sarah Wang, fourth grade, was runner up. Joretha Lockhart, principal, is with both winners. The group photo represents all who participated. *Photos courtesy of Kristin Hicks.*

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Lakeland Chamber of Commerce News

by Ginny Dunn
Economic Development Coordinator

The **Lakeland Chamber Awards Banquet** was to be Jan. 30 at The Refuge Church, 9817 Huff N Puff Rd with entertainment by The Dantones. Annual winners announced were Delta Blues Winery, Tourism Business Award; Trustmark Bank, Customer Service; A2H, Business Excellence; Safety Nails and Massage, Business Growth Award; Diana Crenshaw Travel agency and Silpada Jewelry, Home-Based Business Champion of the Year; Sprouts Farmers Market, New Business of the Year; Bricks and Minifigs, Innovation Award; and Gateway Tire and Fireworks City, Community Outreach.

Ken Lipkowitz, outgoing Chamber president, was given a Distinguished Service Award for his 2012-15 tenure. Will Ashworth with State Farm Insurance is the new president.

The next **Chamber luncheon** will be Feb. 17 at Stonebridge Golf Club at noon, preceded by 11:30 networking. Guest speaker is Amy LaFaver, manager of Sprouts Farmers Market. Members \$10, non-members \$20. Lakeland City Manager Jim Atkinson will speak at the Mar. 16 luncheon.

The Chamber Holiday Decoration Contest Winners were Best Indoor Holiday Decoration - The UPS Store. The Best Outdoor Holiday Decoration was a tie between CrossFit Mechanix and Signs First Digital.

Wine, Cheese and Legos has been rescheduled to Feb. 26 at Bricks & Minifigs. 7 to 9 p. m.

The Lakeland Spring Festival will be in May, pairing with the Tour de Lakeland at Delta Blues Winery. There will be tethered balloon rides starting at 10:30 a.m. benefiting the Lakeland Education Foundation. Prepaid time reservations are available at <http://mylakeland-chamber.org/lakeland-family-spring-festival/>. The balloon will rise 50-feet and is open to those ages five and up. Costs are \$15 per person or \$45 for four. Other events that day will include face painting, food trucks, music with Ted Horrell (Lakeland school superintendent) and the Monday Night Card and a children's obstacle course provided by CrossFit Mechanix. The Festival runs until 1 p.m.



Country Bridge Shopping Center Changes

The City has approved the site plan and design for new outparcel building and renovations at Country Bridge Shopping Center with a target completion date of late summer 2016, according to Tom Skehan, city planner.

This Center is at the intersection of U.S. Highway 64 and Fletcher Trace Parkway. Plans include extensive facade redesign, the addition of LED lighting and signage and new landscaped islands to enhance the entrance.

Also included in the approved renovation is the addition of a new 4,000 square foot pad building. The new free-standing building will accommodate two new retail tenants, including a Starbucks Coffee that has already committed to the project.

Country Bridge is currently home to more than 10 national and local tenants, and is set to bring on the highly-anticipated natural and holistic pet food store, Hollywood Feed.

Newsworthy Around Lakeland

During the 2015 Christmas season, the **Lakeland Lions Club** joined with other area clubs and sold over 1,000 cases of pecans, each containing 24 bags, throughout Shelby and Fayette counties. The Lakeland Club was named tops in the West Tennessee district for the projects they support in the City, including Halloween and Christmas events.

The **code enforcement person** for the City of Lakeland is John Highsmith. The December issue of Lakeland Currents incorrectly identified him as John Hightower.

The Lakeland Elementary School (LES) PTA awarded **Lifetime Achievement Awards** in January to plant manager Steve McCain and parent and volunteer Tracy Jones. Krista Pearce, PTA president, said the award goes to those who act as tireless advocates for the LES children. "Mr. McCain shows great initiative and completes most tasks without any direction," said Krista. "You will often see him outside picking up trash, pulling up weeds or cutting down a tree. He makes sure our school building feels like home."

Members of **Keep Lakeland Beautiful (KLB)** put their hands and backs into cleaning Lakeland litter last month at Monroe and Canada Roads, bagging over 100 pounds of trash. KLB focuses on local

beautification projects and litter removal. Those participating were Nancy Koch, Andre' Nolan, Alison Ely and Sherri Gallick. They encourage other volunteers to help. Monthly meetings are the second Monday at Lakeland City Hall, with the next one at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 8. In addition to the volunteers, there is a two-man litter collection team for the City that works Mondays through Thursdays. Jim Atkinson, city manager, said they not only collect pounds of typical litter, but also TVs, umbrellas and tires --- 78 of them in two months. Because of recent calls about "flying trash," the City recommends bagging trash before putting it in the trash bin.

The Lakeland **Papa Murphy's** take and bake pizza chain celebrated its fifth anniversary in Lakeland in January, according to Wendy Robeson, who owns the store along with her son. During its tenure in the City, the restaurant has been an active supporter of Lakeland. "We have held a number of Spirit Nights to help local schools raise funds and have showed our appreciation for teachers and school administrators with our 50 percent off during certain times of the school year," said Wendy. Other local contributions to Lakeland include the Business Expo, Christmas Tree Lighting, Fishing Rodeos, Halloween Festival and senior citizen activities. Papa Murphy's is located at 8950 U.S. Highway 64.



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Lakeland Senior Programs 55+

Marilyn Parker, Senior Center Manager, mparker@lakelandtn.org

Lakeland Senior Center (LSC):
4527 Canada Rd.; IH Clubhouse: 4553 Canada Rd.
746-8195 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. M-F, M-F; 8; 867-2717 after hours
Jennifer Rezba, public relations assistant

Lakeland welcomes all local area adults 55+ to the Center, located on the 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/seniors, watch Comcast channel 19 or drop by the Senior Center for a monthly calendar and info on Bunco, dominoes, Mah-Jong, Silver Sneakers and other activities like coffee and chat, piano and popcorn and bingo. Contact Marilyn to be on the email or snail mail list.

VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 12 - Lunch will be catered for a small fee. RSVP to Marilyn.



Photo courtesy of Kim Odom

SENIOR CHRISTMAS DINNER Kim Odom - City of Lakeland

Tapping all the way, the Steppin' Out Dancers delivered Christmas cheer at the Lakeland Senior Center Christmas Dinner in December at the IH Clubhouse. Guests packed the venue for a wonderful evening of entertainment presented by the group of age 55+ dancers, mainly tap.

A delightful choreographed Christmas program of dancing Nutcrackers, Santas and Frosty the Snowmen brought laughter and smiles to the faces of every guest gathered for the holiday dinner. Really shaking things up during the evening was a performance that included a dancing, singing Elvis surrounded by elegantly dressed tap dancers as they performed to *Walking in a Winter Wonderland*.

The dinner featured baked and fried chicken donated by Kroger, along with spiral ham, side dishes and desserts catered by Pink Flamingo Catering.

A few lucky guests took home prize giveaways and everybody was invited to take a gift-bag filled with fresh fruit donated by Sprouts Farmers Market.

"The Christmas Dinner is always special," said Marilyn. "As I looked around, all I saw were happy faces. Thanks to a great menu by Pink Flamingo, generous prizes donated by various local businesses, fruit donated by Sprouts Farmers Market, and spectacular entertainment by the Steppin' Out Dancers, it was a memorable Christmas gathering."



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CALENDAR: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (BOC), LAKELAND SCHOOL BOARD (LSB)

FEBRUARY

- 1 LSB work session
- 4 BOC work session
- 8 LSB regular meeting
KLB meeting 1230 p.m.
- 9 Parks/Natural Resources meeting (P/NR)
- 11 BOC regular meeting
- 12 Professional Day LES school holiday
Valentine Luncheon Lakeland
Senior Center
- 15 President's Day school holiday
- 15-23 Early vote LES - Presidential Primary
- 16 Day on the Hill, Nashville, LSB
- 17 Lakeland Chamber luncheon
Stonebridge Golf Club
- 18 Municipal Planning Commission
meeting (MPC)
- 25 Lakeland Development Corporation
meeting (LDC)
- 26 Wine, Cheese and Legos

MARCH

- 1 Super Tuesday vote - LES
- 3 BOC work session
- 7 LSB work session
- 8 P/NR meeting
- 10 BOC regular meeting
- 11 GLA meeting 7 p.m. IH Clubhouse
- 13 DST
- 14 LSB regular meeting
- 16 Lakeland Chamber luncheon
- 17 MPC meeting
- 19 Lakeland Easter Egg Hunt, IH Park 10 a.m.
- 21 Board of Appeals/Stormwater meeting
- 21-25 Spring Break
- 25 Good Friday holiday
- 27 Easter

APRIL

- 4 LSB work session
- 7 BOC work session
- 11 LSB regular meeting
- 12 P/NR meeting
- 14 BOC regular meeting

Robin Hogue Hughes
Attorney



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- Be entertained at the new stage
- Relax by the lake, fish or hike the trails

***Visit Lakeland's Gem of a Park –
Visit soon and often***

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December in Lakeland

All photos by Jim Willis



DECORATED LAKELAND

Wreaths and giant candy canes decorated Canada Road near I-40 for the Christmas season. The Lakeland Chamber of Commerce created, constructed and displayed the candy canes and wreaths, according to Ginny Dunn, economic development coordinator.



CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL ATTRACTS THROGS OF FAMILIES

Atop a Shelby County Fire Department fire truck, Santa arrived in Lakeland Dec. 4 to a flurry of children eager to greet him at IH Park.

His arrival coincided with the lighting of the giant Christmas tree which fronted Canada Road.

Santa hugged and greeted the boys and girls before going inside the newly opened party room in the IH Clubhouse to talk to each child about wishes for Christmas. The room had been decorated earlier by City staff.

Also inside the IH Clubhouse were tables of crafts and face painting and the line of parents and children waiting to see Santa. Students from Arlington High School were among volunteers helping.

Outside was Eddie Harrison and his band playing music alongside the Food Geek food truck serving tacos and sandwiches. A huge inflatable attracted children and hot chocolate was served.

The event was coordinated through the Parks and Recreation Department and director Robbie Spencer, along with Commissioner Clark Plunk.



FIRST PLAY AT LES

Five-hundred+ parents, grandparents, friends and staff came to Lakeland Elementary School Dec. 12 for a first-ever school play. "Aladdin" was directed and performed by 62 students and coordinated through the Missoula Children's Theatre. MCT is the nation's largest touring children's theatre and tours in all 50 states and 17 countries. Angie Farmer was the organizer for the production, funded through the LES PTA. According to Angela, the tour team arrived in Lakeland with a set, lights, costumes, props and make-up; everything to put on a play, she said, except the cast. Because of positive interest in the play, she anticipates there will be another play for the 2016-17 school year.



SCSO DEPUTIES HAVE LUNCH

The circular driveway at Lakeland Elementary School (LES) was lined with Shelby County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) vehicles Dec. 9 for the first "Soup for Cops" lunch and meet and greet in the school cafeteria. The event was coordinated by PTA moms Kim McKeller and Meredith Bunker. Lunch choices were a variety of soups prepared and donated by LES moms. Accompanying the soups were chips, rolls, cornbread, drinks and dessert. Deputies came from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office to dine and mingle with students. Kindergarten through second graders made and signed a "Cops Rock" banner and other grades created thank you notes.



LAURA HARRISON
Vice Chair -Lakeland School Board

As we kick off 2016, the Lakeland School System (LSS) has many exciting things under way. There are currently two construction projects being put out for bid: the new Lakeland Middle School site construction and the roof and HVAC replacement at Lakeland Elementary

School (LES). Both had bid openings in January and will have tentative bid approvals in early February. MLGW has also approved the new middle school address, 5020 Lions Crest Drive, and the connector street names as well. The Canada Road drive will be named Campus Drive and the Old Brownsville drive will be Lions Ridge Lane. Each has its own significance in the project. Campus Drive references the long term vision of the LSS's completed 6-12 educational campus and Lions Ridge Lane incorporates the Lion Mascot and the geographic elevated location of the planned buildings to the surrounding developments.

Speaking of the Lion mascot, after overwhelming support expressed through an online survey of Lakeland residents, the Lakeland School Board (LSB) officially voted to adopt the Lion as the middle school mascot. Also, the LSB recently approved a branding package that included an updated school system logo along with the official school system colors and Lion emblem to be used for the school, athletic, and extracurricular programs. One of the primary objectives of this brand package is to create a sense of community recognition and pride in the Lakeland Lions regardless of what activity it is. Also one item of note, with the roof construction project at LES this summer, Dr. Horrell (Dr. Ted Horrell, superintendent) is working with the YMCA summer program to help find an alternate location for the very popular summer camp that YMCA usually holds at LES. Also, with the construction project, Camp Invention will not be at LES this summer. As an alternate, Club Invention is being held before school two days a week in February/March for those students interested.

With the ringing in of 2016 also came the 109th legislative session in Nashville. The LSB in conjunction with the other municipal school boards in Shelby County hosted a breakfast for local legislators before their return to Nashville to hear from them on the major education topics being considered by lawmakers. The LSB will be traveling to Nashville in February to take part in the TSBA Day on the Hill where they will



Tonya Carson was granted tenure at the Dec. 14 Lakeland School Board meeting. She is pictured with Joretha Lockhart, principal of Lakeland Elementary School, and Dr. Ted Horrell, superintendent.

have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with legislators to provide feedback about educational bills currently under consideration. The LSS TLN (Tennessee Legislative Network) representatives Geoff Hicks and Teresa Henry are also continuing to monitor and report to the LSB on the progress of bills that may affect education in Lakeland.

At the December Board meeting, the Lakeland School Board was very proud to approve the first ever teacher tenure recommendation for first grade teacher Tonya Carson. At this meeting the Board also received a preliminary report from the audit results and had the official report presented at the January meeting. The results showed that the LSS, along with the City, had a "clean audit" which was the highest audit level that can be achieved. Additionally, the audit results also substantiated that the LSS was able to establish an operational "rainy day fund" amount equal to approximately 10 percent of the annual school system budget in its first year of operations.

As a reminder, the LSB has work sessions on the first Monday of the month and business meetings the second Monday of the month. Time is set aside at both for public comments. Also, please feel free to reach out to the Board or Supt. Horrell via email or phone with any questions or concerns you have about the Lakeland School System.

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

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JOSH ROMAN

*Vice Chair -
Lakeland Board of Commissioners*

As I write this I am fresh off of my third regular meeting as a Lakeland commissioner. I am humbled that my peers voted me as vice mayor and I've already had the opportunity to chair all or part of three meetings. I knew that our

City officials and staff were working hard to move Lakeland forward, but now I see it firsthand. In three months, the Board unanimously voted for or approved a proposal to request state funds for a Stonebridge bike path along Davies Plantation, the creation of a Do Not Knock registry, petitioned MLGW to help clean up the butchering of our trees and non-unanimously voted in election reform, funded a Lakeland recreation football league as well as likely created a stand-alone Keep Lakeland Beautiful board to expand the program. These successes as well as economic development movement in the Sprouts shopping center have made for an exciting first three months.

The Do Not Knock registry should be up and running by the time you are reading this. This means that each person who requests permission to solicit in Lakeland will receive a list of addresses that have opted out. They will be breaking a local ordinance if not followed. If this interests you, call City Hall to add your name and address to the

list. One reminder, this opt-out does not count in regards to political or charitable solicitors. However, the majority of the Board passed an ordinance aligning our elections with the November national elections to save money but also to cut down on how often we are solicited for political yard signs.

The Lakeland recreational football league is a great opportunity to work with Bartlett and Arlington. Our four teams will compete against kids from Lakeland as well as Bartlett and Arlington. This will be the first time our City will see Lakeland jerseys representing us on somebody else's home turf. A great by-product of this program will be the great advertising for our City in the local area.

Lastly, we got our final audit report back this week (Jan. 7) and Lakeland received many compliments from the auditors and Watkins Uiberall. They stated that our staff was one of the best organized and well versed that they deal with out of many municipalities. They commented that it is very rare to have such a clean audit and stated our City is on solid financial ground. The representative also praised the way the City and School Board work together. I can't imagine a more exciting time to represent you on the Board of Commissioners.

With Respect, Josh Roman

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We are so proud of **Emma Drake**, who is headed to Ole Miss. **Hotty Toddy!** All our love - mom, dad, Margaret, and Joe


Mrs. Jones at Lakeland Elementary School:

Thank you for teaching us so much this year.

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On **February 12, 2016**, proud mom Sarah, dad Edward, and big brother James welcomed baby **Hazel Rogers** to this world! 

Congratulations Jenny Davis on completing your **degree** from the **University of Memphis**. Hard work and perseverance always pay off. *Lots of love from Momma and Daddy*

Happy anniversary to my husband of twenty years, **Jeff Baldwin**.  Cheers to twenty more. **XOXO, Lauren**

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The Grove Subdivision



4195 Herons Pond
Herons Ridge Subdivision



4730 Maple Walk
The Grove Subdivision



3198 Clubview
Clubview Subdivision



10247 Colt Cove
Oakwood Subdivision



4617 Maple Walk
The Grove Subdivision



10210 Mays Glade
Lakeland Heights Subdivision



10203 Sprucewood
Oakwood Subdivision



10268 Silver Heron
Herons Ridge Subdivision



10083 French Springs
Cool Springs Subdivision



4620 Maple Glen Court
The Grove Subdivision



4496 Mt. Gillespie
Oakwood Subdivision



9946 Rue Bienville
Cool Springs Subdivision



10053 Woodland Elm
Woodland Park Subdivision



4213 Herons Pond Lane
Herons Ridge Subdivision



4010 Loch Meade
East Shores Subdivision



10210 Ivy Oak
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10293 Herons Ridge
Herons Ridge Subdivision



4225 Herons Pond Lane
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