

Vol. 18, No. 5 October 2015

Lakeland currents

Bi-monthly
news magazine



October Halloween Festival

page 2



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CONTENTS:

- >> New at IH Center - page 3
- >> Election Results - page 4
- >> Cop Stop - page 12
- >> Calendar - page 18

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Halloween Festival is October 24

Come for the contests, come for the food, but come for the Festival from 5 to 9 p.m. on City Hall fields, 10001 Highway 70.

Cost is \$5 for a family of three or less, \$8 for four or more.

Activities include giant obstacle inflatables, trick-or-treating, face painting, photos with costumed characters, pumpkin carving and decorating stations, spooky baked goods and food for sale plus more.

There will be contests galore: Costumes, pumpkin bake-off, pumpkin pie-eating and pumpkin carving.

Judged-contests and times are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5:45 p.m.: 4-Way Insurance Costume Contest | 6:45 p.m.: Belz Enterprises Pumpkin Pie Eating Contest |
| 6:30 p.m.: Lion's Club "All Things Pumpkin" Bake-off Contest | 7:45 p.m.: Fireworks City Pumpkin Carving Contest |

For contest rules and other information, visit www.LakelandTN.gov/Halloween.

About the Cover:

Costumed and ready for the Lakeland Halloween Festival October 24 are Lakeland children Madison (3) and Jackson (9) Tutor, children of Alexa and Chris Tutor and Abbie (5) Vandiver, daughter of Paul and Erica Vandiver.

Photo by Jim Willis

LAKELAND CURRENTS

Published bi-monthly by a volunteer staff with financial support from the City of Lakeland, local homeowner associations and advertising.

Treasurer is Ken Glazer.

Editorial Board is Gerry Burditt, Jay Dorning, Carl Helton, Steve Laster, Sam Lencke, Alexa Tutor, Paul Vandiver, Jim Willis and Wesley Wright.

Editor: Sherrye Willis
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Graphic Layout: Jessica Willis.

Printing: HOT Graphics & Printing, Inc.

For advertising, contact:
Ken Glazer 373-9391,
glazerk63@gmail.com or
Paul Vandiver 606-2580,
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Circulation:
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10001 Highway 70.

NOW IN LAKELAND: FLAG FOOTBALL

Rock and rap music blared as the newly formed flag football team members readied for the league's first games last month.

One of the largest flag football leagues in Shelby County is right here in Lakeland with 120 playing on 10 teams and the action started Sept. 21. Two fields behind City Hall are used, complete with portable lights for evening hours and music to set a festive tone.

Robbie Spencer, parks and recreation director, noted the 12-member teams represent one of the largest public adult flag football leagues in the county, based on number of players.

The games are played at 6:00, 7:15 and 8:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Schedules are posted at www.lakelandTN.gov under recreation for those interested to come and watch. The season lasts through October.

Robbie said all skill levels are playing along with a team of City staff members.





Gene Torrey with the newly built Lakeland entertainment stage.

NEW FOR LAKELAND RESIDENTS AT IH CLUBHOUSE

by Sam Lencke

JUST COMPLETED OUTDOOR STAGE

A new outdoor venue has been constructed at IH Park and promises to offer entertainment and be a gathering place for Lakeland residents.

With the completion of the outdoor stage, International Harvester (IH) Park adds another amenity to what the park offers to the citizens of Lakeland. This 65-acre park consists of rolling hills, a five-acre fishing lake, events stage, pavilion, over 20 picnic facilities and a portable restroom. There are 2.8 miles of walking/jogging trails, along with biking and hiking trails through the wooded areas.

The new concert and event stage was conceived by Commissioner Gene Torrey, along with Mayor Wyatt Bunker. The new event stage is situated within a natural amphitheater area that is a perfect setting for concerts, weddings, and other community events, with IH Park Lake providing a picturesque backdrop. For events, additional portable restrooms will be added until a permanent building is constructed, said Jim Atkinson, city manager.

Gene, who is a big proponent of Lakeland's recreational activities and is active in volunteering at Lakeland Parks & Recreational events, is excited about the addition of the stage. Gene said, "I am excited for the completion of this project. This will be the crown jewel of our parks system. It will become the main gathering place and entertainment center of the City for our residents."

The City was its own contractor in building the stage, using money from the general fund that was shifted to the Parks and Recreation fund. Jim said he appreciated the contributions of Lowe's Home Improvement, SS Outdoor (ssoutdoor.com), and Ellendale Electric. Jim said, "We're excited for this events stage as we continue to expand our parks and recreation offerings. The addition of the stage will allow for future events such as concerts in the park, family movie night and other community events."

Jim also commented, "With the addition of Robbie Spencer, Lakeland's new Parks & Recreation Director, great things are happening. Stay tuned!"

Future plans for the stage area include terracing around the stage, clearing underbrush in the wooded area, party decks and permanent restroom facilities. Also, additional parking will be added while not disturbing the natural beauty of the park.

PRIVATE ROOM IS NOW OPEN

Effective this month, the International Harvester (IH) Managerial Clubhouse meeting room was officially turned over to the City of Lakeland, marking the last acquisition for the City of IH Park and Clubhouse. The park site was acquired by International Harvester in 1969 to be a site for retreats and special meetings for the IH managerial staff.

After the final closure of the IH plant in north Memphis in 1983, the building continued to be used by former managerial staff members who still lived in the Memphis area. Over the last several years, the park and clubhouse have been turned over to Lakeland under contract. There are only a small number of members left in the area and the only stipulation in the contract is that the meeting room can be used for special events two days per year by the IH managers.

The 5,500-square-foot Clubhouse serves Lakeland in many capacities, including recreational classes, programs and public meetings. Many senior citizen activities take place there on a regular basis. The facility features a 2,900-square-foot assembly room and a smaller meeting room with a classroom setup. There is a full kitchen and a bar/server island. A large patio with a picturesque view of IH Park Lake is on the back of the building.

Lakeland City Manager Jim Atkinson stated that plans for the newly acquired meeting room include new flooring and replacing deteriorating windows. Other changes and upgrades are planned for the future. The room will be made available to seniors during the week.

IH Clubhouse is located at 4523 Canada Rd. and is available by reservation for private parties and functions. It is an ideal place for retreats, conferences, business meetings, parties or any other gathering. The facility is available for viewing on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. by appointment only. Contact Lakeland City Hall at 867-2717 for viewing or reservation information.



Michelle Dial
Board of Commissioners



Josh Roman
Board of Commissioners



Geoff Hicks
Lakeland School Board



Teresa Henry
Lakeland School Board

ONE INCUMBENT, THREE NEW FACES IN LAKELAND GOVERNMENT

A small number of residents voted in the September general election but the 2,122 people (uncertified total) who did go to the polls elected Michele Dial and Josh Roman to the Board of Commissioners (BOC), Geoff Hicks to the Lakeland School Board (LSB) and returned Teresa Henry for four more years on the LSB.

There were 8,537 registered voters, compared to 8,324 potential voters in the April 2015 bond vote referendum. In the April decision, 3,597 Lakeland residents voted and turned down a \$50 million bond to build a middle and high school.

Both initiatives on the September ballot passed overwhelmingly: Retail packaged liquor and wine in food stores.

Much like the weeks and months leading to the April referendum, the September campaign featured support aligned for and against new schools and property taxes. There was snail-mailed literature, social media posts, sign-waving, door-to-door visits and phone calls.

There were three public forums to introduce candidates to Lakeland residents. The Lakeland Elementary School (LES) PTA hosted a forum for LSB candidates Aug. 24; the Northeast Shelby Republican Club featured candidates for the BOC Aug. 25; and Partnership Lakeland included candidates for all offices in a Aug. 31 forum moderated by the League of Women Voters.

BOC candidates	Vote total	LSB candidates	Vote total	Retail packaged liquor	Wine/food stores
Michele Dial	1,117 ✓	Teresa Henry	1,143 ✓		
Josh Roman	1,080 ✓	Geoff Hicks	1,114 ✓		
Larry Pardue	1,020	Susan Miller	980		
Justin Smith	981	Mica Partain	936		
write in	-0-		2		
Total	4,198		4,175	1,540 yes✓ 528 no	1,620 yes✓ 502 no



Early vote crowds from Sept. 12 and voting day Sept. 17.
photos by Jim Willis



SENIORS 55+ DINNER & SOCK HOP!

Seniors rolled back the clock to the '50s and '60s for a Sock Hop celebration, as the ladies wore classic poodle skirts and saddle oxfords, and the guys sported faded blue jeans, T-shirts and leather jackets. The Sock Hop was in honor of National Senior Center Month during Lakeland Senior Center's quarterly dinner event at IH Clubhouse Sept. 11.

Approximately 40 seniors celebrated the good ol' days with a delicious menu catered by Pink Flamingo and old fashioned homemade candied apples with boxes of Cracker Jack for dessert. After dinner, a few guests

took to the dance floor to join in the exciting Hula Hoop contest. After a few hoops, the real fun began as guests relived the fabulous '50s & '60s to some rock-n-roll oldies presented by DJ's Wayne & Linda Knight. These cool cats proved they've still got it as they danced to popular tunes like, "Rock Around the Clock Tonight," and "Twist Again."

Photos courtesy of Kim Odom, City of Lakeland. Left to right: Barbara Taylor with a hula hoop; seniors dancing; and Linda and Wayne Knight.



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INSIDE THE BOC (BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS) MEETINGS by Ken Glazer

LAKELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL IS COMING TO TOWN

The money is secured, the property is under contract and a second school building is coming to Lakeland in 2018 near the corner of Highway 70 and Canada Road.

On Sept. 16, \$20 million in capital outlay notes (CON) were sold to Key Banc Capital Markets, the winner of an online bidding process Sept. 9. Some other bidders in the internet sale included Morgan Stanley, Bank of America and Guggenheim Securities.

The money provides funds necessary to build and furnish the new school which will house grades 5-8 on 94-acres. Until the school is completed, Lakeland students will continue to attend Arlington Middle School as part of an interlocal agreement. High school students attend Arlington High School and will continue there until there is a need to build a high school in Lakeland.

The first payment on the notes will be March 1, 2016. It will be interest only and is projected to be \$386,627.08. The first principal and interest payment of \$2,213,550 will be March 1, 2017.

Lisa Daniel with PFM (Public Financial Management) Group said at the Sept. 10 BOC meeting that Lakeland's high-grade credit rating of Aa3 with Moody's Investors Service allowed the City to get an excellent effective interest rate of 2.82 percent on the notes. Originally the City was conservatively estimating the interest rate would be 5 percent, hoping the rate would be lower.

The "Aa3" rating is described as high-quality and very low credit risk. The rating reflects the City's strong financial position marked by solid reserve levels, moderately-sized and affluent tax base and slightly elevated debt profile which amortizes rapidly.

IN OTHER MATTERS BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOC:

>> On final reading, property west of Chambers Chapel Road was rezoned for Oakwood Grove, a proposed single family neighborhood between The Grove and Oakwood subdivisions. Ronnie Faulkner with Hallmark Builders hopes to start building the 4,000 to 4,500 square-foot homes within a year.

>> The City presented a proclamation of thanks to the Lakeland Lions Club for its years of support for the City. **Tony Neri** from the Club accepted the framed document from **Mayor Wyatt Bunker**. All five commissioners commended the Club for its years of dedicated service to Lakeland and its citizens. Mentioned was the Club's support of festivals, the Fishing Rodeo, Easter Egg Hunts and their contributions to the Parks Department and playground equipment.



>> Also passed on final reading was a referendum on lifetime term limits of two four-year terms for commissioners and mayor. The referendum will be on the general election ballot in November 2016.

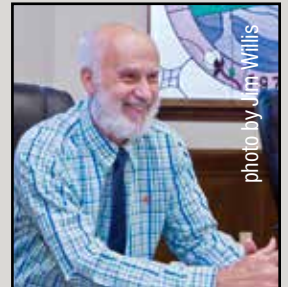
>> **Gene Torrey**, commissioner, discussed the new event and concert stage at IH Park. He said there will be a soft opening this fall with a concert series starting next year. He said much of the expense of the venue was donated, including a check from Kevin Bailey at Fireworks City and discounted charges for materials from Lowe's Home Improvement.



>> Action to fill a vacant position on the Parks and Recreation/Natural Resources Board was postponed until October. The City will accept applicants to this Board for the next several months because so many current members roll off the Board next year. The goal is to maintain a Board that is familiar with the current and future plans. Steve Snow, an applicant, addressed the Board stating his reasons for wanting to become involved. Steve has 25 years experience in the fitness and wellness field. His appointment will be considered in October.

>> Gene acknowledged this was his and Commissioner **Randy Nicholson's** last regular meeting. He stated he was glad he had the opportunity to serve the City.

>> Randy, who has served the City for 20 years including 11 years and nine months as a BOC commissioner, thanked his wife for her unwavering support.



>> **Barry Stroud** with the Shelby County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) shared some information of coming home to find his wife unconscious, rushing her to the hospital and learning she had a brain tumor. The great news is she is recovering nicely. The tumor was not cancerous. Barry said he was thankful for all those who gave support and prayed for his wife.

>> A resolution was passed to approve the Lakeland Development Corporation strategic plan as well as a pre-development contract for the middle school. The contract will define the required open space and connector roads for the entire Jones-Gilliland project.

>> At the Sept. 3 work session, Shelby County Trustee **David Lenoir** reported good news for Lakeland. Existing home sales in 2015 are 73.6 percent ahead of 2014 and new home sales are the same as 2014. David said the county-wide reassessment coming in 2017, coupled with new home sales, could mean greater revenue for the County. He also said Lakeland property tax revenue collections are at 98 percent, which he commended. It was forecast to be 94-percent.



Also:

- **Jim Atkinson**, city manager, reported Shelby County will likely repair a damaged culvert on Chambers Chapel Road before Lakeland takes over the maintenance of the road in conjunction with Arlington.
- The City has scheduled discussions with Arlington on the creation of a fire district. MTAS (Municipal Technical Advisory Service) will also participate in the discussions.
- The City is applying for a Pool safety grant that will reimburse the City up to \$5,000 for driver safety-related expenditures, if awarded. This is a \$10,000 grant with a 50-percent local match.



- There are 10 adult teams (18 and older) of 12 members each signed up for flag football beginning this month according to **Robbie Spencer**, Parks and Recreation director. More adult and youth sports for teams playing basketball, soccer, softball and baseball will be added in coming months.
- Rates for sewer usage that will keep the sewer system self-sustaining as required by law were discussed. It will be a month or more before all of the data can be put together for the BOC to review.
- Lakeland Awards, an annual program to honor citizens for their contributions to the City, was discussed.
- The October meeting schedule was amended to have the October work session Sept. 30 and the regular meeting Oct. 20.
- Easements for New Canada Road were reviewed as Chris Patterson, city attorney, asked to proceed with condemnation on tract 27 owned by Nabil Shahin. Chris said there were about 45 properties initially and there are six still in discussions with owners. This led to conversation among commissioners about the history of the proposed road through Plantation Hills neighborhood. Randy said the widened road will destroy the neighborhood. "A four-lane road through this subdivision is bad," he added. Wyatt commented he doesn't like it either and wondered if there was a way to de-rail the project. "We've spent a lot of money on this," he said. Chris said the City is in phase two or three of five phases and it's part of a TDOT (Tennessee Department of Transportation) grant.



LAKELAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

by Ginny Dunn
Economic Development Coordinator

Vote for the best Christmas decorations at Lakeland businesses starting Nov. 26 through Dec. 31.

The Lakeland Chamber will award a cash prize and trophy to the Lakeland business with the best outdoor holiday decoration and a cash prize and trophy for the best indoor holiday decoration.

Anyone can vote for his favorite at www.mylakelandchamber.org and also view contest rules at the website.

"The initial study was done, then plans, then acquire the rights of way." He said \$3 million has been spent so far by TDOT. Randy suggested some alternatives to the road that was designed a long time ago. "Don't do it, reduce it to two lanes, make it bike-friendly. That would be a compromise. But would they make us pay the money back?" he asked. Chris said although the discussion was helpful, the point of the resolution was to acquire property rights. "The City already owns most of the property," he noted. Subsequently, the resolution to acquire the property for \$39,522 or condemn the tract was approved by a four to one vote, Randy voted No. However, commissioners want the State contacted to see if the design plan can be modified at no cost to the City.

- An amended contract with Republic Services was approved effective Sept. 18 for unlimited yard waste collection. For an additional \$3.80 per household, unlimited yard waste (limbs, leaves, grass clippings and bags) will be picked up every Friday. Both bags and bundles must be 35 pounds and under. Contractor and builder waste must be removed by the contractor. Fees will not increase with this service but will be paid from monies the City currently receives from residents.

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NEWSWORTHY AROUND LAKELAND

CITY CREDIT RATING

Moody's Investor Service announced that Lakeland, TN has maintained its high-grade credit rating of "Aa3" for the City's \$20 million general obligation Capital Outlay Notes (CON).

The rating is described as high-quality and very low credit risk. It reflects the City's strong financial position marked by solid reserve levels, moderately-sized and affluent tax base, and slightly elevated debt profile which amortizes rapidly.

According to Moody's, an obligor with an Aa3 rating has "very strong capacity to meet its financial commitments. It differs from the highest-rated obligors only to a small degree."

The credit rating is a financial indicator to potential investors of debt securities. These are assigned by credit rating agencies such as Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings to have letter designations (such as AAA, B, CC) which represent the quality of a debt. Moody's assigns credit ratings of Aaa, Aa, A, Baa, Ba, B, Caa, Ca, and C.

Among multiple positive factors cited by Moody's in assigning the rating is continuance of the City's strong financial position, manageable debt, and strong management and governance as evidenced by its healthy reserve levels.

Jim Atkinson, Lakeland city manager, said "Moody's has confirmed the City's strong financial position and commitment to responsible fiscal management. It is exciting to be recognized for the City's carefully-planned growth and development."

ORANGETHEORY FITNESS

An exercise facility is opening in Lakeland this month that promises a different approach to fitness and weight loss.

The new business is Orangetheory Fitness and it is located at the Corner Shops of Canada Road, 2961 Canada Rd.
www.orangetheoryfitness.com/lakeland-tn 302-6132.

There will be two weeks of free classes Oct. 19-29 to anyone who wants to try the facility. On the evening of Oct. 29, there will be a VIP party for all who have expressed an interest in the new venue. And the grand opening will be Oct. 30.

According to franchise owner Nancy Rose, the facility offers a 60-minute workout broken into intervals of cardiovascular and strength training. Participants can burn 500 to 1,000 calories per session using equipment such as treadmills, rowing machines, TRX suspension training™ and free weights. The physiology behind the workout involves heart rate-monitored training designed to keep heart rates in a target zone that stimulates metabolism and increases energy. The result, she said, is the "orange effect."

Nancy said the training is backed by EPOC (post exercise oxygen consumption) designed to keep heart rates in a target zone to stimulate metabolism and increase energy. She said the calorie burn can last up to 36 hours after the workout.

Orangetheory will be open daily from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. and only closed on Christmas. Nancy said the key is group personal training with 24 in a class and everyone wears a heart monitor. She said there are no memberships or contracts and fees are month to month based on attendance per month.

SALES TAXES

Listed below are sales tax numbers for Lakeland since January, according to Jessica Millspaugh, CMFO, finance director for the City of Lakeland. "This is for local sales tax and does not include the local option piece that we set aside for schools," she said.

Lakeland Local Sales Tax			
	2014	2015	+/- from PY
February	40,927.51	39,330.15	-3.9%
March	49,816.42	51,740.68	3.9%
April	40,955.60	53,331.89	30.2%
May	49,817.85	72,755.12	46.0%
June	48,867.16	76,878.54	57.3%
July	69,489.30	74,778.77	7.6%

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MEET A LAKELAND BUSINESS by Sam Lencke

Wright Landscapings owner Wesley Wright works hard to keep his service personal and takes pride at being on site at every lawn and service project. Wesley says that he is especially proud of his A-rating with Angie's List and the award that his business won as top landscaper in the area. Wright started his business part-time just over 10 years ago while he worked at other jobs and then took it to a full-time business four years ago. Wesley currently employs two full-time workers and two part-time.

Wesley and his wife Joyce have two children: 6-year-old daughter Elaina and 7-month-old son Seth. Joyce is a project manager for her daytime job and is an accomplished photographer and owns Aeternum Photography.

Wesley has a degree in history from the University of Tennessee/Knoxville, a master of arts in philosophy from Southwestern Theological

Seminary and a master of arts in Education from Union University. Besides community involvement, he enjoys movies, travel, table tennis, photography, hiking, writing, singing and teaching. Wesley and Joyce are active members of Bellevue Baptist Church.

As if he doesn't have enough things going, Wesley is authoring two books based on his experience as a teacher, filmmaking student and parent. He also is launching a web site that caters to small business owners who want to grow or sustain their business.

Wright Landscapings offers property maintenance, mowing, pruning/trimming shrubs, irrigation system work, and lawn treatment among its many services. If his company doesn't perform a service, Wesley works with other companies that can provide whatever is needed such as tree service, hardscape installation and drainage solutions.

Normal hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wesley can be reached at 490-4983 or by e-mail at: wesley@wrightlandscapings.com. The company web site is: www.Wrightlandscapings.com and on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/Wrightlandscapings.

Wright Landscapings is a regular advertiser in Lakeland Currents and the ad is on page 19 in this issue.

NEW LC STAFF MEMBER

Carl Helton joined the LC staff to cover LSB meetings along with Jay Dorning. He is a Memphis native and moved with his family to Lakeland in 1982. He is a graduate of Bolton High School, State Tech and Memphis State University.

After college he moved to Oakland, TN to become a steel detailer, designing heavy steel connections. Five years ago he landed a job with a Memphis-based Fortune 500 Company in store development and returned to Lakeland in 2004 and bought the home where he and his parents lived from the early '80s.

He has been married to Amanda 11 years and they have four children. He volunteers with his church youth program and mentors junior and senior boys along with coaching tee-ball and youth baseball. He is an avid hiker, backpacker and mountaineer and has led trips into the Rocky Mountains.

He is also a runner and has participated in four St. Jude half marathons as a St. Jude Hero raising thousands of dollars. He is a member of the LES PTA and helps maintain the trails at IH Park, removing limbs, debris and trash.

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HAPPENING IN LAKELAND

MONTHLY LITTER PICK UP

Keep Lakeland Beautiful (KLB) started a regular litter pickup this summer. The dates are the second Wednesday and second Saturday of each month, from 8 to 10 a.m. Rain will cancel the litter pickup.

At the KLM regular meeting, a new location is selected for the next month which will be led by a different KLB member and announced to Lakeland citizens. For the latest information, check www.lakelandtn.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=285, the website address for KLB litter pickup. Details are also posted on City Facebook page, Channel 19 and NextDoor.

Residents are encouraged to volunteer for these cleanups said Rhonda Fink, community services representative for the City. No advance notice required. Just come to the site on the appropriate date.

The second annual **LAKELAND EDUCATION FOUNDATION (LEF) GRANTS AWARD PROGRAM** will be at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 29 at Lakeland Elementary School, according to Cecil Tompkins, chair of LEF. This event will recognize teachers with cash awards and is open to the community.

LAKELAND FAMILY FUN FEST, an event to raise funds for the Lakeland Education Foundation (LEF), will be from 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 25 at Delta Blues Winery 6585 Stewart Rd. in Lakeland. The centerpiece of the day will be a hot air balloon ride. The balloon will be tethered to the ground and will only rise about 50 feet, but riders can get the thrill of a balloon without floating to a great height. It will be operated by an experienced balloon pilot. The ride will cost \$15 per person and a family can buy three tickets and get one free.

In addition, there will be live music with Ted Horrell and the Monday Night Card, hayrides, kids' games and food vendors. The Lakeland Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring this first annual Fun Fest, and all proceeds will benefit the LEF for teacher grants. The Winery is off Highway 385, Stewart Road exit.

CITY ADOPT-A-STREET NEWS

The Salem Ranch Pickers picked up seven bags and 97 pounds of litter along Stewart Road in August.

New volunteers to the program include Gus, Jean and Mokie who pick-up on Seed Tick Road from Highway 70 to the north entrance of Lakeland Elementary School.

www.salonalluretn.com
www.facebook.com/salonalluretn

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According to Rhonda Fink, community services representative for the City, individuals, families, schools, HOAs, teams, clubs and various organizations are encouraged to volunteer.

- Volunteers are asked to conduct cleanups alongside roadways at least four times a year, specifically once during each season.
- After one cleanup by the volunteers, the City will install a sign with the volunteers' name displayed along that corridor.
- All roadside litter will be disposed of by the City of Lakeland.
- The City will provide all materials and safety gear necessary for the cleanup program.
- A staff member will be present during the cleanup.
- Recommended roadway cleanup projects will be about one-half mile in length. Both sides of the roadway must be cleaned up.

To register : www.lakelandtn.gov and download an information packet.

Please note: All participants in the Adopt-a-Street program must first view the safety CD before any litter collections. Contact City Hall at 867-2717 for the CD.

This year's **CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL** event is tentatively set for 7 p.m. Dec. 7 and includes a tree lighting. Details will be announced at www.LakelandTN.gov (search recreation)

The next **LAKELAND COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY** is from 8 a.m. to noon Nov. 7 at Windward Slopes Park, 9822 Beverle Rivera Drive



photo by Jim Willis

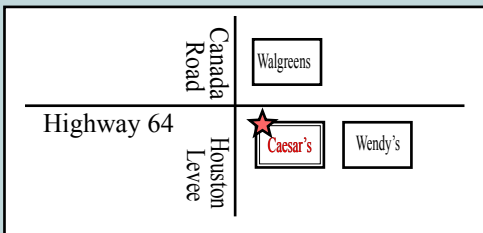
The bypass road between Huff N Puff and Beverle Rivera Roads should be open by early October, according to Jim Atkinson, city manager. He said Canada Road will close around mid-October for a week or less and traffic will be routed to the new road during that time. Utilities will be extended across Canada Road. The traffic light at Davies Plantation/Beverle Rivera and Canada Road should be operational by Christmas.

next to the fire station. Lakeland residents can dispose of those hard to get rid of items: bulky trash, e-waste (monitors, computers, printers, cell phones, cell batteries, car batteries), white goods (washers, dryers, small household appliances), tires (limit 4, no rims), scrap metals, construction debris (residents only; please bend nails down), small appliances, yard waste. Items **MUST** be able to be unloaded by two men. You must be a Lakeland resident to participant. An ID is required with each vehicle. For more information, call Lakeland City Hall at 867-2717 ext. 409.

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photo by Jim Willis



Photos, left to right: Wyatt Bunker with Sgt. Reggie Reid; Paul Hein of SCSO Emergency Services with Amanda Damron; Giles Damron with Sgt. Reggie Reid.

INVITE SCSO DEPUTIES TO DINNER IN YOUR HOME

A new program has been started in Lakeland to acquaint residents on a more personal level with first responders.

It's called "Cop Stop" and encourages families and neighborhoods to invite Shelby County Sheriff's Office deputies to dinner at least once a month.

Wyatt and Meredith Bunker hosted the first "Cop Stop" meet and greet dinner for the deputies Aug. 22 at their Lakeland Heights home. Amanda and Giles Damron sponsored a dinner Sept. 12 in Cool Springs.

The purpose of the dinners is to build relationships with first responders and treat them to dinner at least once a month in family homes or neighborhoods.

Meredith is co-chairing the activity in Lakeland with Amanda Damron of Cool Springs and said her neighborhood probably will invite deputies

bi-monthly to dine with the residents. Amanda said the first dinner date went really well.

She is coordinating the dinner dates with Arlington neighbors, who usually host their dinners on Sundays.

Similar dining experiences have been offered this year for police in Germantown and East Memphis.

To coordinate a "Cop Stop" in your neighborhood or on your street, contact Meredith: msweeney1@gmail.com 494-6776 or Amanda: adamron@comcast.net.



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LAKELAND PARKS AND RECREATION

City Hall: 10001 Highway 70. Visit www.lakelandtn.gov/parksandrec or 867-2717 for the latest information.

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

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Youth basketball is back and better than ever! This program will focus on

teaching children the fundamentals, teamwork and understanding of the game. Year after year, we want to have each child coming back and playing in this program. Don't worry if you haven't ever played the game of basketball because this is where you'll learn. All kids will receive NBA reversible replica jerseys and shorts with the fee. Registration runs Oct. 12 through Nov 2.

Four ways to sign-up:

- 1) In person at Lakeland City Hall. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 2) Online by clicking the top right button called "Register" on this website: www.Leagues.bluesombrero.com/lakelandparksandrec 24/7.
- 3) Call the City 867-2717.
- 4) Last opportunity will be at the City Basketball Clinic at 6 p.m. Wednesday Nov. 4 at Lakeland Elementary School.

Practices will start the following week, Nov. 9. Schedules available November 13. Age groups: 5-6 years, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-13. Fees: \$95 includes full NBA reversible replica uniform. Late fees: sign-ups after Nov. 2 will be \$120. For more information contact Robbie Spencer.

ADULT BASKETBALL

Want to relive those glory days? Or just want to compete and have fun? The City announces the start of an adult basketball season starting this winter. Some features include: stat keeping, website for league leaders, individual and team awards and more. The league will consist of a 12-game season with playoffs and a championship. Each player will receive custom team jersey and shorts.

Registration: Nov. 16 through Dec. 16 Sign up online at www.Leagues.bluesombrero.com/lakelandparksandrec or sign up in person at City Hall. Cost is \$600 per team (max of 10) or \$60 per person (fee includes full uniform, supervisors and referees). Games will be played at Lakeland Elementary School beginning Jan. 4, 2016. Contact Robbie Spencer for more information.



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 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, 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.

SENIOR SAFARI TO MEMPHIS ZOO 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 7

RETIREMENT ROUNDTABLE 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oct. 9 topic TBA.
Lunch: please RSVP 746-8195.

ELECTRIC GUITAR JAM 5 to 8 p.m., Oct. 9 IH Clubhouse

BIBLE STUDY WITH TRUDY SCHOLTEN 10 a.m. to noon,
Oct. 12

CREATIVE CRAFTING 11 a.m. to noon, Oct. 12 fall crafts


SENIOR EXPO FIELD TRIP to Bartlett 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 13

SENIORS 55+ CHRISTMAS DINNER 6 to 8 p.m., Dec. 11
with Steppin' Out Dancers.

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LSB (LAKELAND SCHOOL BOARD) UPDATE

by Jay Dorning and Carl Helton

Enrollment has increased this year at Lakeland Elementary School (LES) according to Dr. Ted Horrell, superintendent, comparing figures to 2014. At the September LSB meeting, he reported the 16-day enrollment at LES was 871 students K-5 and the count was 884 students including special education students. On the 16th day of enrollment in 2014, there were 830 students K-5 and 843 including special education students.

He advised that the state changed from the TCAP (Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program) standard test to the TM Ready Test which will cause a delay in the students' final report cards. He also stated the test grades would be used for students as well as for teacher accountability.

Also at the September meeting, Robbie Spencer, the director of Lakeland Parks and Recreation, asked the LSB to partner with the City to establish youth football and cheerleading teams. He stated that the teams would be open to all the children in Lakeland regardless of which school they attend.

Ted stated that the Lakeland PTA and Lakeland Educational Foundation were the only approved Lakeland School support organizations and both have signed agreements with the school.

LSB approved a facility fee schedule, which lists the cost associated with renting any Lakeland school property. The Board also approved the capital outlay budget as well as the professional development plan.



Ted acknowledged that this was the last board meeting for LSB member **Matt Wright**, pictured, and presented him with a plaque thanking him for his contributions to the Lakeland School System.

The LSB met in a special session Aug. 12 to discuss a resolution to purchase 94 acres of land for Lakeland Middle School. It passed easily by a five to zero vote.

The cost will be \$1 million and closing on the property is expected in October.

Ted opened the meeting by saying it was a really exciting night for Lakeland. He lauded the team of experts who selected the property, examined it and collaborated to bring the contract to the table. "This is a testament to a shared vision of what our school system and City are going to be," said Ted.



Experts representing Jones Gilliland, the owners of the property, addressed Board members. **Dexter Muller**, pictured, former director of planning for the City of Memphis and currently with the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce, said the Jones family has owned the property at Highway 70 and Canada Road for over 100 years. He added that development around the school will be something residents will be proud to have.

Ritchie Smith with Ritchie Smith Associates (planning, landscape architecture and urban design) said, "This will give Lakeland identity. The land is an extraordinary site."

Doug Swink, a partner in Renaissance Realty, noted that the acreage, part of about 1,000 acres, is one of the largest land holdings in the community. And he said the Jones family wanted the school board to pick out its choice part of the property.

"The development around the school will be something the citizens will be proud of," he said. "The school is the heart of the deal and the combo of the two will be very powerful." He noted the land is a beautiful resource, rolling land with meadows and forests.

When asked by Matt to describe the planned development, Doug suggested thinking of Franklin, TN. "It will be a traditional neighborhood design, a village within a town, with smaller homes and estate homes, working around the natural features."

Dr. Jim Mitchell with Southern Educational Strategies and a resident of Lakeland, said, "This will be a focal point, a sense of place for Lakeland, TN. The community is going to be proud."

Jim said he was grateful for support from the Lakeland Board of Commissioners and LSB. He noted that Vice Mayor Sherri Gallick and Commissioner Gene Torrey were in attendance at the meeting.

Vice Chair Laura Harrison thanked everyone who enabled the school system to purchase the land. "This site plan represents our vision," she said. "The location is certainly a long-term vision. This makes sure that the Lakeland School System is set up for the future. I am supportive of what this does for the Lakeland School System."

Chair Kevin Floyd said this is a win for everyone. He said during negotiations all worked together to protect each other's interests,

speaking of the property owners, the City and the school system. "But there are things you need to know," he added.

"First this was the best site for the school," he said. Kevin also explained a 20-year revision clause that allows the Jones family to buy back any of the property if the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) is not realized in 20 years.

And finally he announced that a portion of the Jones land is in the Lakeland reserve and Mr. (Rudolph) Jones will petition the City to have the land annexed into Lakeland. "This is a big win," said Kevin.

Other news coming from LSB during the summer:

- The Board gave approval for a cell tower to be built on the grounds of LES which will bring in \$18,000 annually for the school system and also will provide better cell reception to Lakeland residents.
- Ted Horrell stated that an indoor and outdoor air quality test had been completed by Environ Clean at LES July 30 after a request from a Lakeland resident. Ted advised the test involved rooms 308, 309, 310 and 406. He stated the test concluded that the moisture levels were normal and the highest mold spore per cubic meter count found at the school was 200 which is well below the highest acceptable level of 1,000 spores per cubic meter. Ted stated that there is no mold problem at Lakeland Elementary School.
- Kevin bragged on the first year as a school system in saying, "We wrapped up a wonderful first year with news that the state TCAP scores came in and Lakeland Elementary (LES) came in first in math and reading and second in science for the state. This was an amazing accomplishment for the Lakeland School Systems' first year."

- Ted stated that the school technology upgrades were completed and now all teachers have their own ports in the classroom and the speeds are about four times faster than before. This should help the teachers and students in this new school year.

The next LSB meeting will be Oct. 5.

EXEMPLARY SCHOOL STATUS

In August, the Tennessee Department of Education named Lakeland School System (LSS) an exemplary school district, one of 12 systems in the state to receive the distinction. In addition LSS was named a Reward School, placing it in the top five percent of schools for academic achievement. LSS's district-wide TCAP achievement scores ranked number one in the state in both math and reading/language arts, and ranked number two in the state in science. These honors came during the inaugural year of LSS operation.



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KEVIN FLOYD

Chair, Lakeland School Board

At the time of the writing of this article, I can gladly report that we are nearing completion of the process for the Lakeland School System to purchase 94 acres of land from Jones-Gilliland, LLC for \$1 million. The school board approved the documents necessary to put the land under contract at a

special called meeting Aug. 12, and the City subsequently approved the documents relating to City obligations.

Since these approvals were attained, our closing attorney has been working to complete the final phases of the title work and other due diligence that is required to close on the property. The school board hopes to close on the purchase in early October (a tentative date was to be Oct. 2) at which time the land will belong to the Lakeland School System.

This particular piece of property has been owned by the Jones family for over 100 years, and we have worked closely and cooperatively with Doug Swink and Dexter Muller, representing the Jones-Gilliland group, to accomplish the steps that have been undertaken so far. It's also worth noting that the Jones-Gilliland group has stated that they intend to develop a premiere residential development around the property surrounding the school.

We have received exemplary support and expertise from Southern Educational Strategies, a consulting firm led by former Shelby County Schools Superintendent Jim Mitchell and former Tipton County Schools Superintendent Tim Fite. The Mayor, Board of Commissioners and City Manager Jim Atkinson and his staff have also been instrumental in assisting with the process and answering critical questions.

While we have been waiting on the closing process to occur, our team of architects and engineers was working on the schematic design phase of the project in an effort to move the project forward as efficiently as possible. We have an anticipated opening date of August 2018 for the school.

This is unquestionably a historical event for our City that will benefit both the City and the children of Lakeland for years to come. The future of Lakeland is bright.



CLARK PLUNK

Lakeland Commissioner

Two years ago at the start of my current term as commissioner, the BOC saw the necessity to combine the MPC and the DRC to speed the recovery of our retail sales and cut a large portion of "red tape". It was another campaign promise delivered by the current BOC. This leads me into a question I'm frequently asked, "Just what does the MPC do?"

The role of the MPC is to set the development standards for the community. Lakeland's MPC is charged with establishing subdivision standards that ensure the orderly division of property, environmental safeguards and the installation of necessary utilities and roads to support the development without jeopardizing the existing infrastructure. The MPC is also charged with zoning regulations. In essence, the rules govern the allowable uses, size and placement of structures and signage etc. Finally, the MPC has design review authority over multifamily, commercial and industrial development.

It is critical that MPC members possess the following attributes: the skill of listening to what others have to say; knowledge or understanding of issues facing the community, of local ordinances and state and federal laws that govern land use; fairness, open-mindedness, analytical thinking and hopefully have relevant experience, which is not critical but very helpful at times.

The MPC is comprised of seven members. Six are appointed by the Mayor and any can be removed at any time except the liaison who is a commissioner and appointed by the BOC. It personally gives me great satisfaction to serve on the MPC knowing I'm a lasting part of decisions that shape Lakeland's future and determine our direction.

Lakeland is growing by leaps and bounds and we have several things in the wings such as the Krystal restaurant which is currently working with the MPC. They have been working with our planner to meet all our regulations and I don't anticipate any delays.

It's great to drive by the new Sprouts and see the life brought by our new grocer. They have lit up the old shopping center. There is still a lot of potential growth for the shopping center. The owner is actively searching for tenants for the vacant retail spaces.

The other item I'm often questioned about is apartments and the mindset of the MPC. One of the first things I was asked to consider from a developer was the possibility of allowing apartments. I was very candid with the developer and told him personally I have never even considered apartments. It's another campaign promise I intend to keep and I personally think that everyone on the MPC feels the same way.

Hopefully I will be serving two more years on the MPC. If any citizen has any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to call me or go to my website at www.clarkplunk.com.

LAKELAND NEIGHBORHOOD REPORTS, NEWS

WINSTEAD FARMS is showcasing garden homes with a model on site 103. The Winstead Farms Book Club has announced the fall and winter lineup: "Still Alice," "11/22/63," "The Rosie Project" and "The Girls of Atomic City-The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win WW II". For more information call Cathi Braswell - 290-5599. The Winstead Farms pool was to close the end of September.

OAKWOOD HOA was to close its pool the end of September and have a guys' poker night Oct. 3. Planned is a family dance party Nov. 7 and kids Christmas party Dec. 12.



LAKELAND: YOUR CITY, YOUR HISTORY

by Alexa Tutor

One of the many attractions at “Funderful Lakeland” was the Huff ‘n Puff Railroad, which went all the way around the lake.

The train was added after the amusement park opened in 1962, and quickly became one of the top attractions.

I had the opportunity to meet with Phillip Stafford, who has lived in Lakeland since the 1950s, and he shared his memories of working in the amusement park during his summers off of school.

After boarding the train and riding around the lake, taking in the beautiful scenery, you would come to a wooded area and around a bend to see an old still on the side of the track. While you were busy looking at that still, Rancid T. Butterball would hop on the train and “rob” the unsuspecting passengers!

See, that was his still on the side of the track, and he needed to get it fixed up so he could get back to his business of making moonshine! He came prepared with a shotgun in case anyone gave him any trouble.

Although they were loaded with blanks, Mr. Stafford recalled them double and triple filling the wads with powder, causing a big cloud of smoke and quite a noise. In fact, one passenger was so startled, they took one

of the other “robber’s” guns, and shot him with it! Even though they were only filled with blanks, it was at such a close range the actor was injured, and had to be taken to the hospital! He did make a full recovery, but it is not known if he returned to his job.

While Mr. Stafford wasn’t there for that infamous event (he’d left for college), he did recall taking a few cute girls off the train with him when he played the robber (don’t worry, he took them right back to the station to meet back up with their family or friends).

The Huff ‘n Puff closed with the amusement park around 1982, and the train sat abandoned in Mississippi for years. It was eventually purchased by Dry Gulch USA (an amusement park outside of Tulsa, OK), and is now lovingly known as “The Christmas Train”.

Do you have any fun memories about the Huff ‘n Puff Railroad you would like to share? Email me at: alexaktutor@gmail.com.



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LAKELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (LES) PTA NEWS

by Krista Pearce, LES PTA President



We have kicked off another awesome school year at LES! Thank you to everyone who has joined the PTA this year! It's not too late if you have not, just go to <http://mylakelandpta.com/get-involved/>, fill out the form and send your payment in with your child.

Boosterthon continues through Oct. 8! The theme this year is BIG WORLD

RECESS! The Fun Runs will be Oct. 8 and parents are welcome to join us. "The mission of the Boosterthon Fun Run is to Change the World by strengthening schools and impacting the next generation through Fitness, Leadership and Character."

The Lakeland PTA sponsors a Fit Club program that meets every other week in the gym. This year they will meet from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. Friday mornings. This is the tentative schedule through December: Oct. 9, 23; Nov. 20; Dec. 4, 18. You must complete the Fit Club waiver for your child to participate. You can find the form here - <http://mylakelandpta.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/FitnessClubsignupanddisclaimer2015-16.pdf>

The Watch DOGS dads need volunteers for upcoming events - Oct. 8 Boosterthon Fun Runs, Nov. 5 Veterans Day decorating and Nov. 6 Veterans Day programs. Please contact Keith Acton at keith.acton@st-residential.com if you can help!

Other events in October:

- 8: Baby Jack's BBQ Spirit Night
- 20: Papa John's Spirit Night
- 20-26: Book Fair
- 26-30: Red Ribbon Week
- 29: Muffins with Mom 8 a.m.
(last names that begin with A-M)
- 30: Muffins with Mom 8 a.m.
(last names that begin with N-Z)

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

OCTOBER

- 5: LSB regular meeting
- 12-16: Fall break, LES
- 13: Parks meeting (Parks/Natural Resources)
- 15: MPC meeting (Municipal Planning Commission)
- 19: Board of Appeals/Stormwater
- 20: BOC regular meeting
- 22: LDC (Lakeland Development Corporation)
- 24: Halloween Festival - City Hall Park
5 to 9 p.m.
- 25: Lakeland Family Fun Fest
Delta Blues Winery
2 to 5 p.m.
- 29: Lakeland Education Foundation Grants Award Program
6 p.m. LES
- 31: Halloween
Vampires in the Vineyard
Delta Blues Winery - 7 to 10 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 2: LSB work session
- 5: BOC work session
- 6: Veterans Day Program at LES
- 7: Community Clean Up Day
8 a.m. to noon
Windward Slopes Park
- 9: LSB regular meeting
- 10: Parks meeting
- 11: Veterans Day - City Hall, Senior Center,
Lakeland Elementary School (LES) closed
- 12: BOC regular meeting
- 16: Board of Appeals/Stormwater
- 19: MPC meeting
- 25-27: LES closed for Thanksgiving
- 26: Business Decorating Contest begins
- 26-27: Thanksgiving - City Hall, Senior Center closed

DECEMBER

- 3: BOC work session
- 4: Christmas Tea - Senior Center
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 7: LSB work session
Christmas Festival
7 p.m. (tentative date)
- 8: Parks meeting
- 10: BOC regular meeting
- 11: Senior 55+ Christmas Dinner
6 to 8 p.m.
- 14: LSB regular meeting
- 17: MPC meeting
- 21-1/1: Winter break LES
- 24-25: City Hall, Senior Center closed for Christmas

CRIME REPORT FOR LAKELAND - SCSO

Many categories took a jump during the June 15-July 15 time period. Burglary business, zero to two; burglary other, one to three; burglary residential, one to three; motor vehicle thefts, zero to one; larceny other, four to five; theft from building, zero to one; theft from a vehicle, 10 to 11; and vandalism misdemeanor felony, four to five. Total incidents went from 19 to 29. No categories decreased and only two stayed the same: aggravated assault at zero and robbery individual, zero.

Lt. Terry Lomax with the Shelby County Sheriff's Office reported that crime statistics for this period had increased, most notably in thefts from motor vehicles. He said two areas hardest hit were near Herons Nest Cove and at the Cracker Barrel parking lot.

Two adults and one juvenile were arrested in the Herons Nest crimes and security tape is being reviewed to identify the suspects at Cracker Barrel. Additionally, Terry said thefts from vehicles are on the rise at LA Fitness since the Sheriff's Department's SkyWatch Tower video surveillance tower was moved to another location. He said the security tower will be rotated back to LA Fitness, but that it's not practical to leave the SkyWatch Tower at any location permanently.

Three categories increased from July 6 to Aug. 2: burglary residential zero to three; motor vehicle thefts, zero to one and larceny, other, one to two. Showing a decline for the 30-day period were thefts from vehicles, seven, down from 10. Overall, incidents increased from 16 to 18. The most frequent day for crime was Tuesday, frequent time of day was 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In the reporting period July 13 -Aug. 9, there were 17 incidents, most frequently on Tuesdays and between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Burglary business and theft from vehicles decreased. Categories showing an increase were

burglaries residential, one to two; motor vehicle theft, zero to one; and larceny other, one to two. Staying the same were aggravated assault, burglary construction, robbery individual zero and theft from building, all zero and vandalism/misdemeanor, four.

At the September 10 BOC work session, Terry reported there were 23 incidents, many from unlocked vehicles or sheds. He said there was no violent crime except simple assault/domestic. Overall, he said crime in Shelby County is down 2.6 percent. Among the incidents was a shoplifter at the Lakeland Walgreen's when the suspect jumped the counter in the pharmacy department and took bottles and pills. No weapons were used.

There were 16 incidents during the Aug. 24 - Sept. 14 period with the highest number occurring on Mondays and between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Burglary residential increased from one to two; larceny other from one to four; theft from buildings zero to one; and theft from vehicles five to seven. Robbery individual decreased from one to zero and other categories stayed the same.

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