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Bi-monthly  
news magazine

# Lakeland currents



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Election, What's Next ..... page 6  
Lakeland History ..... page 11  
From Your City Manager ..... page 14  
Happenings ..... page 19

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# Sprouts Farmers Market Open for Shoppers

After years of doing without, residents of Lakeland and points beyond have a grocery store, and not just ANY grocery store.

Sprouts Farmers Market came to town May 13 to open a new venue at 9050 Highway 64 that offers lots of fresh produce, healthy choices and an assortment of grocery items. The 28,000-square-foot store is a first not only for Lakeland but for Tennessee. A second store is to open in Germantown July 8.

Opening the doors to hundreds of eager shoppers, the store replaces a Kroger location which was closed in 2011 when Kroger acquired the Schnucks store across Highway 64 in the Memphis city limits.

The grand opening was akin to a Hollywood event with a crowded parking lot, lines of eager customers, giveaways, balloons to children and enthusiastic welcomes to shoppers. Employees gathered at the entrance chanting, "Fired up Sprouties, fired up" and clapped as customers entered the new store. The first 200 customers received 20-percent coupons and complimentary muffins and coffee were shared with all who entered for the 7 a.m. opening.

Customers drove from all over to shop at the new store including Moscow, TN (45 minutes), Nesbit, MS and all around the Memphis area. They expressed excitement as they entered the store filled with neatly arranged produce, bins of bulk food items, rows of vitamins and supplements, deli and bakery items, dairy and seafood.

- ✓ "This is nice. I'm so glad it's here."
- ✓ "I'm loving this. The produce looks so fresh, there is a great variety and the prices are good."
- ✓ "This is amazing."
- ✓ "They make you feel like royalty here."

**Sprouts** – (continued on page 10)



BUILD YOUR OWN SANDWICH		
<b>Choose your bread</b>	<b>Choose your meat</b>	<b>Dress as you like</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classic White</li> <li>• Multigrain</li> <li>• Sourdough</li> <li>• Marble Rye</li> <li>• Sweet Prairie</li> <li>• Roll</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turkey</li> <li>• Roast Beef</li> <li>• Ham</li> <li>• Pastrami</li> <li>• Bacon</li> <li>• Chicken Salad</li> <li>• Albacore Tuna</li> <li>• Vegetarian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lettuce</li> <li>• Tomato</li> <li>• Red Onion</li> <li>• Sub Dressing</li> <li>• Mayonnaise</li> <li>• Mustard</li> </ul>
<b>Add-Ons include:</b> Avocado, Hummus, Bacon or Cheese Additional charge each		<b>\$3.99</b> EACH

**Cover:** Colorful peppers are a focal point in the produce section of newly opened Sprouts Farmers Market in Lakeland. See complete story above. *Photo by Jim Willis*

Scenes from opening day at Sprouts Farmers Market. Photos by Jim Willis

## LAKELAND CURRENTS

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## Out-of-Country Adoption – Is It a Possibility for Your Family?

The idea of adopting a child was something they discussed early in their marriage.

But it would be nine years before Dr. Ted Horrell, superintendent of the Lakeland School System, and his wife Sarah actually started and completed the process for foreign adoption.

On Dec. 3, 2014, they flew to China to adopt Archer, an 18-month-old boy, and brought him home to Germantown. Making the trip with them was their 3-year-old biological son Fletcher and both Ted's and Sarah's mothers. It took time and thousands of dollars, but both said it was worthwhile and they would do it again.



*Archer Horrell*

Archer was legally their child and a U.S. citizen when they arrived Memphis Dec. 18. It was a special Christmas for the Horrell family.

"Before Fletcher was born, we were open to the idea of adoption," said Ted. People close to them had adopted including Sarah's brother and also Ted's best friend." After Fletcher was born, they again considered adoption because of difficulties in conceiving a second child. They wanted to grow their family and have a sibling, preferably a brother, for Fletcher.

"We thought back to where it all started and with quite a bit of prayer, we were led by God to adopt," said Ted.

Sarah researched adoption agencies online and selected Holt International Children's Services because her sister-in-law had used them. "She knew my personality and said the agency was very structured and I would like that," said Sarah.

Early on, Ted said, they felt like they wanted a Chinese boy to adopt. "We both had been to China separately earlier in our lives." Ted went after college and Sarah for mission work. Ted added that the wait time for adoption from China was shorter than in some other countries.

In China, a baby must stay in his home country five months to allow the possibility of a local adoptive home for the infant. So, Sarah said, most babies available for adoption are at least seven months old or older. She said it takes about seven years to adopt a healthy baby girl with no neo-natal issues. The special needs process takes only 12 to 18 months, which they chose. She said Archer is considered developmentally delayed, but he is doing well, eating and playing and learning new words every day.

Sarah said the adoption process took just shy of 13 months from start to finish. There was an application to complete, the fees, linking with a local agency, mountains of paperwork, the home visit and the FBI check. She said Holt tells prospective adoptive families the cost will be in the \$25,000 range to start and complete an adoption, including the travel to China.

Ted added that Sarah handled almost all of the details, while still being home with Fletcher and working part-time with Armstrong Relocation out of their home.

Once they arrived in China, they were given 24 hours to change their minds about the adoption. That was not an option they wanted, said Sarah, so they started the process of interviews and checkups and more paperwork. Although typically it only takes a 10-day visit to China for the process, the Horrells went to Beijing a little early to tour and see the country.

Adding to the tension for the trip, Fletcher had a slight fever on the morning they left Memphis and it elevated to over 104° before reaching China. Fortunately, Sarah had called her pediatrician before leaving home and got an antibiotic, and along with Advil, was able to treat Fletcher and have him well by the time they arrived in China.



*Sarah and Ted Horrell and their sons Fletcher and Archer. Photos by Jim Willis*

Describing the process, Ted said, "They get you finished as quickly as possible." Archer was in a Nanjing orphanage so there was a wait for his passport and to finalize his adoption. Then it was time for the flight home via multiple airports and two small children in tow.

Once in his new home, Archer adjusted well to his new surroundings. Sarah said he understood Chinese but only spoke two or three words. She said they treat him as they would any other child his age. "We talk to him, we label things and we read to him," said Sarah. He can say about 60 words and has learned a lot from Fletcher. In four months he has grown over 3 inches.

Ted, who was selected as Lakeland's first superintendent in December 2013, was born in Memphis and moved to Germantown with his parents when he was in sixth grade. Sarah has been in Memphis since she was five-years-old.

Ted enjoys writing music and playing guitar and said they have a guest bedroom/music room with an electric piano, a drum set and guitars. Of her hobbies, Sarah said she stays busy with the children and her job but said she enjoys shopping.

Asked if they would consider foreign adoption again, knowing the costs and the time involved. "Yes, we might," said Sarah "if we decide to have a third child."

For those considering such an adoption, she said there are grants available and Holt provides many resources. She said there are some people who fund-raise to secure funding to adopt their forever children.

Have a feature story idea? [sjwmphs@comcast.net](mailto:sjwmphs@comcast.net)

## Newsorthy Around Lakeland

One hundred-twenty **fifth graders** at Lakeland Elementary School boarded four buses April 8 for a "Day on the Hill" in Nashville. Originally scheduled during the winter, it was cancelled because of snow. The students, five teachers and 45 parents met with Rep. Ron Lollar during their day in the capital city.



\*\*\*\*\*

Two members of the Lakeland community have joined the staff of Lakeland Currents to cover and write stories about the Lakeland School Board.

**Darla Mangan** has lived in Lakeland since 2007 and works full time doing insurance and surgery scheduling for an orthopedic surgeon. She and her husband Chris have three sons, 10-year-old twins and a 6-year-old and enjoy working and serving in church and the community. "I am excited to be a part of Lakeland, meeting all our wonderful neighbors and being a part of the new growth and changes that are coming for Lakeland," she said.

**Jay Dorning** is from Memphis and has lived in Lakeland 11 years. He and his wife Melissa have a son, Justin.



### Fifth Graders to the Hill

Four busloads of Lakeland Elementary School fifth graders went to Nashville April 8 for a "Day on the Hill" with Tennessee legislators. It was the largest group ever to make the trip. The students were scheduled to go earlier in the year but the trip was cancelled because of inclement weather. Photos by Sam Lencke

\*\*\*\*\*

Do you know that Lakeland Currents keeps you updated on happenings in the City of Lakeland between bi-monthly publications? Follow posts on Facebook and Twitter and get results of Board of Commissioners and Lakeland School Board meetings, events and other news in Lakeland.

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## **LSB update (Lakeland School Board)**

*Jay Dorning and Darla Mangan*

The 2015-16 budget for the Lakeland School System was presented at the April 6 work session with a value of \$7,281,938. Dr. Ted Horrell, superintendent, said there is not a lot of radical change from the 2014-15 budget. As with the current figures, he said for next year he plans to come in under budget and put aside some money in reserve. Link to the budget is here: <http://lakelandk12.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/LSS-Budget-2015-16.pdf> or go to the Lakeland School System website <http://lakelandk12.org/> and look for budget under agendas for April 6.

Ted was asked by Kevin Floyd, Lakeland School Board (LSB) chairman, if he felt more comfortable this year in preparing budget and enrollment projections. He commented that indeed it was much easier to create the new budget with experience from the current school year.

Jim Mitchell with Southern Educational Strategies updated the LSB on the due diligence for the Lakeland Prep property. He said five major projects progressed as planned:

- Meeting with Memphis Light, Gas & Water about adequate utilities
- Geotechnical analyses of the soil
- Level 1 environmental assessments for hazardous materials or landfills
- Water environment study to check wetlands, ditches and streams
- Traffic study

He reported in May that the report on the school land acquisition found no major issues and the 94-acre site seems acceptable for the Board to consider. Jim suggested the Board exercise the option to extend the due diligence time 30 days to allow a four-inch thick binder of documents to be reviewed for the Lakeland Prep site.

After the due diligence report is complete SES would exercise the 30-day exit clause in the SES contract because the current process is ending as a result of the referendum vote. Thus the contract with SES would end until or when additional work is needed for a school plan.

Julie Reagan, assistant principal at Lakeland Elementary School, presented her months-long findings for math textbook adoption. She and a committee of LES teachers worked since before Christmas on this project.

Ted made a resolution to bring the before/after school care in-house instead of using the Millington YMCA. He said this would be a budget-neutral project and might even generate funds for the school system. He added he would like to have enrichment opportunities for the students in this program.

Also recommended at the work session was formalization of a policy to allow children of LES staff and teachers to attend LES. Ted said he would like to add to the current policy that children of Lakeland City employees could also attend the school.

Susan Rice, Lakeland Elementary school health coordinator, addressed the Board and announced the school is getting EpiPens for emergency uses, paid by grants. She is working on arrangements with the University of Memphis nursing program

to work with the school next year. She is looking at healthy living options to open up for kids and families of LES to encourage healthier lifestyles.

At the April 13 regular meeting, the Board and Superintendent approved and passed the before/after school care resolution, the 2015-2016 general fund budget and an Apple laptop lease MOU (memorandum of understanding) with City of Lakeland. Laura Harrison, vice chair of LSB, told the faculty and staff of LES how much they appreciate them being so patient. They had to wait until this year for the Board to have a budget and get the laptops for them. The motion was passed.

The Board approved the motion for the executive committee to execute a school letter for accreditation.

During the May 4 work session, Ted and Kevin expressed disappointment in the outcome of the Lakeland School bond referendum and stated they are looking for alternatives that may be more acceptable to the citizens of Lakeland.

At the May 11 regular meeting, the June regular meeting was changed from June 8 to June 3 because of LSB member conflicts. In addition, work sessions will be cancelled in July, September and for fall break because the sessions would fall on or close to holidays.

Resident Susan Miller asked about a transfer statement published this year about Donelson Elementary School and Lakeland Elementary School. She said the language said "if space is available" Lakeland students could transfer to LES. Ted said that was a mistake and all Lakeland children can transfer to LES but must provide their own transportation. This is per the agreement with Arlington Community Schools.

The consent agenda was approved without discussion: meeting minutes, formation of an ethics committee, approval of a 2015-16 special funds budget and approval of a policy on attendance.

Ted talked about the nutrition budget and said menus will be analyzed to determine what children will eat to encourage more to participate in the lunch program. He also said he would like to move the student price from \$2.75 to \$3 per lunch. Ted said he could subsidize the cafeteria next year up to \$10,000 and the subsidy will not require more money from the City.

He added, "I will wind up doing a budget amendment for the 14-15 year to cover this year's shortfall, and then I will also allocate funds for the 15-16 school year to fund the anticipated shortfall. It would not be additional money in the budget in terms of revenue. I would take it from several other places where I budgeted conservatively. There will not be an amendment before it goes to the BOC (Board of Commissioners)."





**Kevin Floyd** chair  
Lakeland School Board

1. Absolutely! I've had the opportunity to meet with and speak to a large number of Lakeland citizens and there is no doubt in my mind that they will pull together to move Lakeland forward.

2. I think Lakeland needs to strive to maintain a small town community feel that embraces its natural resources yet provides an adequate level of responsive municipal services. This can be done by developing a diversified tax base through smart commercial growth and residential planning that will keep Lakeland a safe family-oriented community with high property values. If this is done, I believe Lakeland can be a great place to live, work, and play.

3. If Lakeland is going to remain a safe, family-oriented community with high property values, a stable quality K-12 school system will have to be in place. Obviously this article is being printed on the heels of an election where a majority of voters turned down a \$50 million bond to build a middle/ high school facility. In the wake of this election, I believe the City/Board of Education needs to look at other avenues to stabilize the school situation in Lakeland. One avenue may be to move forward with developing a long-term plan to develop a campus for 6 -12 grade students in phases while evaluating any elementary school needs. The first phase may be to build a middle school and phase in the high school on an as needed basis whenever that might be, while continuing to partner with the Town of Arlington in the meantime. I believe that a campus plan will give current residents and prospective residents some clarity and stabilize the school issue in Lakeland for some time.

## The Way It Was – Election 2015

It was a contentious battle between the NO team that believed \$50 million was too much debt for a small city like Lakeland; and the YES team that advocated a new school would grow the City, bring families and businesses to the town and eliminate crowding that plagues Arlington Middle School.

Weeks of door-to-door visits, flyers, phone calls, banners and sign-holding by both sides ended April 16 with 3,595 Lakeland residents voting on the referendum.

By 728 votes, the bond was defeated 2,161 to 1,434. In early voting, 2,374 votes were cast: 1,075 in favor, 1,299 against.

Three years ago Lakeland voters overwhelmingly approved the establishment of a municipal school. Lakeland Elementary opened in August 2014 as the only school in the Lakeland district. The bond would have financed a grades 6-12 school proposed on a 94-acre site at Canada Road and U.S. Highway 70. Currently Lakeland students in grades 6-12 attend schools in Bartlett and Arlington.

Was this the largest vote ever in Lakeland history? "The April 16, 2015 Lakeland and Special Election produced the largest turnout for a Lakeland election," according to Richard Holden, administrator of elections for the Shelby County Election Commission (SCEC). Statistics from the SCEC provide insight into recent Lakeland-specific elections:

- September 2007, 1,398 votes cast, 7,009 registered voters, 19.9 percent voted.
- September 2011, 480 Lakeland voters in a combined Lakeland-Arlington vote count.
- August 2012, 3,572 voted in the first municipal school vote, later deemed unconstitutional by a federal judge.
- September 2013, 2,035 voted out of 8,725 registered voters, 23.3 percent voted.
- April 2015, 3,597 voted out of 8,324 registered voters, 43.2 percent voted.

In the August 2012 election, 65.9 percent voted for municipal schools and 56.3 percent voted for the half-percent sales tax increase, according to Laura Harrison, Lakeland School Board vice chairman. Just 25 more people voted in the bond referendum than in the first municipal school vote in 2012. The second school vote was in July 2013.

Cost of the 2015 referendum was \$35,000 to \$40,000, according to Richard. This was less than the anticipated cost of \$50,000 because of the use of the elementary school as the early vote site.

Now what? Representatives from both sides of the issue discuss the future of Lakeland, right and left. They were asked to submit 300 words max to the following questions:

1. Is it possible for all Lakeland citizens to work together after the April campaign?
2. Describe your vision for Lakeland's future. How would you achieve that future?
3. What role, if any, should schools play for Lakeland residents and Lakeland's future?

## **Stephanie Lefler**

organizer, Vote NO Campaign

1. Yes. All Lakeland citizens want our city to be successful, we just differ on the vision of what that means.

2. Our vision of Lakeland's future is one that uses our assets to create a city different from all surrounding cities. We envision tree-covered trails that connect the entire city, beautiful parks and athletic fields, a relaxed pace of living, great schools, excellent infrastructure and amenities and low taxes. Combine all these and people will flock here.

3. The one thing we currently have is great schools. Although they might not be "ours", we are guaranteed access to these same great schools for six more years, at a minimum. These are the same schools where everyone planned to send their children. Our roads are in disrepair and are an embarrassment. We have major drainage issues in many parts of the city. Our parks are not where a parent would take their children to play. We have no athletic fields, library, organic police, fire or ambulance services. When you include what we all pay for contracted Fire and Ambulance services, we have the second highest property taxes in the entire State of Tennessee. We understand the desire for an organic Lakeland K-12 school system and support that worthy goal. However, now is not the time for this. The results of the recent referendum clearly show the majority feels taxes are too high, massive debt on our small city is financially irresponsible and the school arrangement we have now with Arlington meets our needs. We want a real short-term plan (2-5 years), a long-term plan (5-20 years) and debt limits to protect the citizens of Lakeland against continual tax increases required to pay for debt the BOC incurs against the clearly expressed desire of the majority of Lakeland voters

## **Nancy Highland, D.D.S.** **Smile Enhancement Dental Center**

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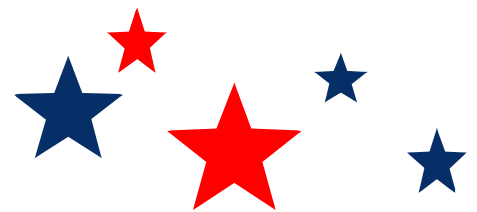
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Polling place on  
election day, April  
16 and “tailgate  
parties” from the  
No and YES  
campaigns at  
Lakeland  
Elementary School  
during early voting.

Photos by Jim Willis







*Mayor Wyatt Bunker presides over a budget hearing with commissioners May 6 at City Hall.*

*Photo by Jim Willis*

## **Inside the BOC Meetings (Board of Commissioners)**

*Ken Glazer*

Concern about the 2015-16 budget brought a large number of citizens to City Hall May 6 for a special meeting to review the document line-by-line.

The property tax could be raised by 55-cents to \$1.40, but residents were not allowed to speak at the session.

So the next night, on May 7, citizens returned to City Hall for the first reading and to voice their opinions. Thirteen citizens spoke to the issue of the tax rate and debt limits.

Among the elected officials, Mayor Wyatt Bunker was the only speaker on the issue. "I was the one in favor of the bond going to a referendum," he told the group. "I also am in favor of the school. I believe it would have been the right decision (to issue the bond to build the school). I would have supported the tax for that plan if people had chosen the bond." He continued, "I have always opposed taxes so this is a strange place for me to be," reiterating that he believes Lakeland needs to have its own K-12 school system which would mean new taxes. Then he stated, "But I can't support the increase for taxes unless a plan comes up." Thus he cast the only No vote on an ordinance that would set the tax rate at \$1.40 on its first reading. Commissioner Randy Nicholson was not at the meeting.

The Lakeland School System (LSS) and Lakeland School Board (LSB) have a plan which they were to present to the LSB June 1 work session and to the BOC at the June 4 work session.

Wyatt did vote with the three other commissioners to approve an ordinance to commit specific revenue sources and establish specific uses of those resources on first reading. City Attorney Chris Patterson pointed out to the BOC that this ordinance states that 55-cents, of whatever tax rate is approved, will be committed to funding school capital improvements.

Two other ordinances were approved upon first reading. The first to establish a debt service fund for the City of Lakeland and the second to rescind ordinance 14-216 which had specified that 55-cents of the \$1.40 property tax would be used specifically to retire the \$50 million bond issue for Lakeland Prep. Since the bond issue was defeated it was decided that rescinding 14-216 was good housekeeping.

The Mayor commented on a request for a debt-limit ordinance mentioned by several citizens in public discussion. "Debt limits are only as stable as those who are committed to having them. It's not the fix-all," he said. He pointed out that Collierville, which has established debt limits, is planning to borrow \$90 million to build a high school for 3,000 students .

Germantown is to borrow \$23 million for a new elementary campus and expansions at Riverdale Elementary.

Wyatt went on to say, "The legislative body has the ability to set the tax rate." He explained the actual tax rate will be \$1.40. "Lakeland does not pay extra for law enforcement," he said, adding that you do have to add a fee for fire service. That has to be an average because the fire fee is based on square footage and all homes are not the same size. Considering an average, Wyatt said the \$1.40 new tax in Lakeland with the fire fee would be equivalent to \$1.80 or \$1.85, between Germantown and Collierville tax rates.

In another move, Jim Atkinson was affirmed as the City Manager at the April 9 work session. Jim was the City director of planning and administration under former City Manager Chris Thomas. He was selected to be the interim City Manager when the BOC ended Chris's contract. Although this is technically his first time as a city manager, the Commissioners expressed full confidence in Jim's ability to do an excellent job for the City.

Additionally the Board advanced three large projects by approving: 1) An ordinance rezoning the 94-acre school site to "institutional", the classification required for a school building; 2) A resolution authorizing the City Manager and / or City Attorney to acquire the land needed for the right of way and easements for the New Canada Road Project; and 3) A memorandum of understanding between the City and the LSB which would allow the City to enter into a lease for computers and services from Apple, Inc. for the LSS.

Commissioner Gene Torrey announced a grant application had been sent to Lowe's Corporation to build a covered performance stage with lighting at IH park.

It was announced that the \$250,000 state grant, originally approved for dirt work on a 100-acre site at Memphis-Arlington and Canada Roads, would be requested again for that site. City officials planned to use the grant money to do site work on the Lakeland Prep site. When the bond issue was defeated, it was decided to ask that the money be used on the original planned site south of Highway 70.

Statistics from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office show crime was lower in May than in April. Credit for the decline was given to the parking lot blue light observation station at LA Fitness and the continued use of crime data analysis to show where deputies are needed. Lakeland's crime rate is lower than any of its neighboring areas. Lt. Terry Lomax was commended by the Mayor for the Department's efforts on behalf of Lakeland.

**Matt Wright**  
**LSB member**

It's hard to believe that our first school year is officially complete. Thanks to a team effort between the board, our Superintendent, our school staff and many great parents and students, Lakeland Elementary continues to set the bar for great elementary education. The LES (Lakeland Elementary School) staff was recently rated the best elementary staff in Shelby County and our students continue to perform at a very high level. And once again our PTA made a tremendous difference by raising over \$30,000 at their annual auction which we used for technology at the school. Thru diligent oversight we also came in \$200,000 under budget for the year, while adding to our growing reserve fund.

There was also much change at the legislative level this year in Nashville. As the Tennessee Legislative Network representative, I have the pleasure and responsibility of working with our state legislators (especially our own representative Ron Lollar). This March the common core standards were finally repealed after two years of heavy debate. The Lakeland School System was one of only four systems in Tennessee (and the only one in Shelby County) that officially adopted a resolution asking Governor (Bill) Haslam to repeal common core and start over with new standards designed by Tennesseans. So that landmark decision was especially satisfying to our board and parents. The process of adopting new standards will begin next year with a board appointed by legislators and the Governor. Our board will continue to monitor and provide input as to our desire for local control and standards that represent the values we have in Lakeland.



Matt Wright

While disappointed in the results of the school bond referendum (which would have funded construction of a middle and high school), the school board is still excited about the future of our school system. We've been hard at work, along with Dr. (Ted) Horrell and our project manager, Dr. Jim Mitchell, studying options that will solve the most pressing problem of overcrowding at the middle-school level. (Arlington Middle School is currently at 109% capacity). This would accomplish two goals. It will significantly reduce the overall debt of the immediate project by implementing a two-phased, master plan approach which would add the high school in the future. It will also send positive signals to current families in Lakeland (and those looking to move for schools) that Lakeland remains on a path of providing a premium K-12 educational experience here within our own municipality. Whether we are K-5, K-8 or one day K-12, I have no hesitation saying Lakeland has a bright future.



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The night before, the store opened for a preview party that was categorized as “very strong” by Sprouts staff who also noted the store Facebook page had 15,000 “likes.”

Specials the first week included red seedless grapes for 88-cents a pound, buy one, get one free offers, Atlantic salmon fillets for \$5.99 a pound and Sprouts bar soap for \$1.

Amy LaFaver is the manager of the store, which is fully staffed with 140 employees. She said the store promotes specials via newspaper advertising, email blasts, social media and a “Deals of the Month” booklet available at the store. On Wednesdays, shoppers can enjoy discounted prices from back-to-back Wednesday ads on that one day, dubbed as “double ad Wednesday.” The prices are good eight days instead of the typical seven days at most stores.

She said the focal point is produce and it is displayed in the heart of the store. It comprises 25-percent of the shopping space. “This is a fantastic location,” she said. “Lakeland needs the variety and this is a nice central location.”

Diego Romero, corporate community manager from Phoenix, explained the company’s policy of giving back to the community. “Community involvement is a priority for us,” he said. Produce and breads are routinely donated to local food banks. He also said the local store would welcome involvement with the Lakeland community and school.

Ken Lipkowitz, president of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, said “Seeing this store open today is a combined effort on the part of so many that worked so hard to make this happen. And today that hard work is realized to the benefit of the residents of Lakeland and the surrounding area. We are so pleased to welcome the Sprouts family to Tennessee.”

The bright, open store showcases fresh-baked goods, eclectic beer and thousands of natural, organic and gluten-free groceries, according to Store staff. Sprouts’ on-site butchers help customers with special cuts of meat or seafood or homemade burgers and sausages. The vitamin department carries thousands of top-quality, sensibly priced vitamins, natural remedies, functional food, lifestyle support and herbal supplements. Sprouts’ knowledgeable service and low prices offer customers a unique shopping experience.

Headquartered in Phoenix, AZ, Sprouts employs more than 17,000 team members and operates more than 190 stores in eleven states. For more information, visit [www.sprouts.com](http://www.sprouts.com) or @sproutsfm on Twitter or on their Facebook page.

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**Lakeland:  
Your City,  
Your History  
Alexa Tutor**

In the last edition of Lakeland Currents (April), we talked about one of two raceways that were located in our great City, the Lakeland International Raceway. The past month, I've been digging and searching for information on the other track, the Lakeland Speedbowl (or Lakeland Raceway Park). It was admittedly more difficult to find information about this particular track. If you have old newspaper clippings, articles, or photos about this track, would you kindly send them to me at [alexaktutor@gmail.com](mailto:alexaktutor@gmail.com)? What I could find follows.



The Lakeland Speedbowl, or Lakeland Raceway Park was a one-third mile dirt oval track that later added a Kart track infield. It was located on Canada Road, north of I-40. Unfortunately, tragedy struck opening night, Sept. 2, 1960. Norris Maxwell was a 28-year old rookie driver who lived in Memphis. Two drivers spun out in the first turn of the track, causing a massive dust cloud to form. Maxwell drove into the dust cloud, and it is not widely known what happened while in the midst of the cloud, but when he emerged, his 1943 Ford was out of control. He drove into the infield and slammed into a utility pole. He was taken to a Memphis Hospital where he later passed away. He was survived by his wife and son, who was 7-years-old at the time.



**DUST CLOUD** -- Charlie Parrish of Nashville takes a spin into the dust above while the rest of the field goes by at Lakeland Raceway Park in Memphis. Parrish was later in a more serious mishap.

The Speedbowl would not let the horrific event overshadow the rest of its existence. It hosted stock car races, open wheel sprints, and when the Kart track infield was added to the center of the oval, the track became part of the Speedway Inc. racing circuit. The Lakeland

Speedbowl even had an appearance from a daredevil stunt driving show called "The Joie Chitwood Tournament of Thrills". Famous racers such as Hooker Hood, Sam Swindell, Sr., Charlie Parrish and Wayne Niedecken frequently raced at the Lakeland Speedbowl. The track sadly had a short existence, as it was closed in 1968.

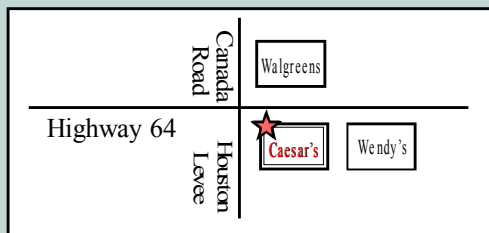
Fun fact! As mentioned previously, the track was located on Canada Road, north of I-40. It was essentially where the First Baptist Church and the few houses around it stand today. In fact, the north driveway to the church was one of the entrances to the track!



**LIKE TOPS** -- Wayne Niedecken's "99" and two other cars are shown spinning about like tops at the Lakeland Raceway Park at Memphis, which joined the Speedway, Inc., racing circuit last week.

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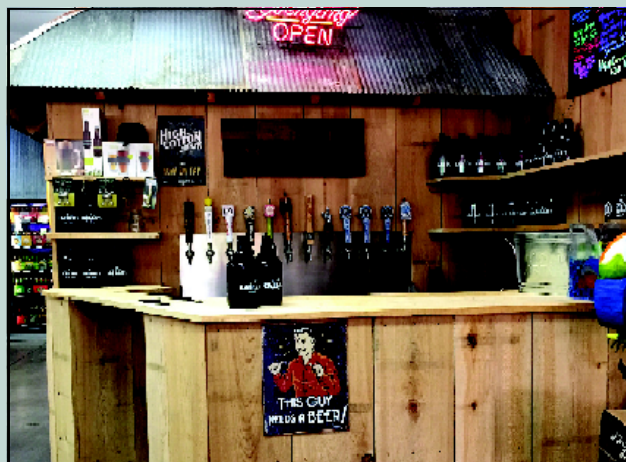


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## Lakeland Neighborhood Reports, News



**Lakeshore Ladies Club** recognized Stephanie Leffler as Citizen of the Year at a May 13 luncheon. It is a tradition of the Lakeshore Ladies Club to honor a resident who worked tirelessly and showed leadership to better the City. She was selected because she believed all Lakeland residents should have a vote for or against a proposed \$50 million bond to build Lakeland Prep. Her team gathered more than enough signatures to bring the issue to a vote. Stephanie is pictured with her husband, Mark Leger, and members of the Club.

### **Garner Lake Association** -Boat Lighting Etiquette from Dennis Sossaman

Boats and boating were new to all of us once. For new boat owners here are the rules of boat lighting to ensure boating pleasure and safety for you and your neighbors. It serves as a good review for us old-timers too.

Lights are required on ALL boats between dusk and dawn. That includes fishing boats and kayaks. You can see fine with no lights on, but you cannot be easily seen and could be injured or killed in the event of a collision.

When cruising, you must have your navigation (usually labeled "NAV") lights on. They are the red and green lights on the front of your boat and the white anchor light on the pole at the rear of your boat.

When anchored or floating on the lake, you should have your anchor (usually labeled "ANC") light lit. That is the aforementioned white light on the pole. Some boaters have added decorative lighting to their boats. That is fine as long as they are not pointed directly at other boats, houses, etc.

Here is a biggie: If you have bright white "headlights" on the front of your boat, those are docking lights, not headlights. They should only be used to aid in docking your boat. They should never be lit when you are cruising the lake or anchored on the lake. They are blinding to other boats like high beam headlights on automobiles. They greatly limit oncoming boaters' ability to see other boats which may also be using the lake. And they do not aid your ability to see much in open water. Docking lights can also be annoying to folks on shore.

So let's be good neighbors with our boat lights, and happy (and courteous) boating to all!

Has your neighborhood or HOA contributed financially to **Lakeland Currents**? To keep this Lakeland news publication delivered to your home or business, LC needs financial support. It costs \$4,000+ to snail mail the full-color news magazine to Lakeland residents and businesses each issue. While advertising DOES cover some expenses, it is still a struggle each issue to fund the volunteer-operated bi-monthly news magazine. To financially support the only true news source in Lakeland, contact Ken Glazer, 373-9291, [glazer63@gmail.com](mailto:glazer63@gmail.com)

Hérons Ridge, Oakwood and Winstead Farms have a new account executive working with their HOAs. She is Meghan McDaniel with Level 1 Management Group [mmcdaniel@level1management.com](mailto:mmcdaniel@level1management.com) 321-6766.

The **Hérons Ridge** HOA will host a picnic this month for all homeowners in the subdivision. Details forthcoming to owners.

In **Winstead Farms**, Cathi Braswell coordinates the neighborhood Book Club. Upcoming selections include Goldfinch, The Firm, Still Alice, and 11/22/63. Contact Cathi at 290-5599 for more information.

Keath Ford is the new chairman of the Pool Committee in **Oakwood** Subdivision and supervised new equipment and repairs around the pool. Clubhouse rentals are \$150 with a \$250 deposit and are only available to residents who are current on their HOA dues. Tracy Jones, Cari Baird and Cammie Briquelet are on the events committee and are planning a July 4 celebration. Oakwood has its own website [www.oakwoodlakeland.com](http://www.oakwoodlakeland.com) and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/32674702433/>.



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**Jerry Chism**

## Delta Blues Winery Grand Opening

With a bagpipe playing and dignitaries on hand, the Delta Blues Winery celebrated its official grand opening Apr. 13 in Lakeland.

About 50 people came for the 11 a.m. ceremony to cut the yellow ribbon and open the doors to the 60th winery in the state of Tennessee and the first winery in Lakeland.

In his comments, owner Jim Wilson said Delta Blues is the newest member of the Wine Trail of West Tennessee. He added all the grapes for the Delta Blues wine are grown in West Tennessee. Other Winery owners are Jim's wife, Sheila Zaricor-Wilson; Dianne Day and her husband Dr. Ed Stevens and Jerry Michie.

Also speaking were Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, Lakeland Vice Mayor Sherri Gallick and Kevin Kane, president and CEO of Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Winery features Friday night "RE-Wine" from 7 to 10 p.m. on the DBW main stage. Check their Facebook page for concert updates. Photos by Jim Willis



### Crime Report for Lakeland - SCSO

Crime incidents increased during March: 12 incidents versus 10 the month before. Aggravated assault went from zero to one; burglary residential from zero to three and vandalism: misdemeanor/felony from zero to two. Two areas saw a decrease: theft from building, two to one and theft from vehicle, six to three. Crime happened most frequently between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. with Wednesday having the most incidents for day of the week.

For the period April 13 to May 10, 2015 there were eight incidents, down from the previous reporting period. The only areas of increase were theft from buildings, zero to two and vandalism: misdemeanor/felony from one to three. All other categories either decreased or stayed the same. The busiest time frame for crime was 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the most frequent day for crime was Monday.

## CALENDAR

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

### June

- 1 - LSB work session
- 3 - LSB regular meeting  
Chamber luncheon, Club Windward, Andy Wise with WMCTV
- 4 - BOC work session
- 6 - Lakeland Fishing Rodeo
- 9 - Parks meeting
- 11 - BOC regular meeting
- 15 - Board of Appeals
- 18 - Municipal Planning Commission
- 19 - Senior Star and Stripes Dinner 6 - 8 p.m.
- 25 - Lakeland Development Corporation (LDC)

### July

- 2 - BOC work session
- 3 - City Hall, Senior Center closed for holiday
- 9 - BOC regular meeting
- 13 - LSB regular meeting
- 14 - Parks meeting
- 16 - Municipal Planning Commission
- 20 - Board of Appeals
- 22 - LDC

### August

- 3 - LSB work session
- 6 - BOC work session
- 10 - LSB regular meeting  
First day, Lakeland Elementary School (LES)
- 11 - Parks meeting
- 13 - BOC regular meeting
- 15 - Family Expo - 11 a.m. 2 p.m. LES
- 17 - Board of Appeals



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**Jim Atkinson**  
*city manager*



There has been much community-wide debate and discussion about school facility needs and financing school construction projects. As of the writing of this article, an amended plan for school capital projects is in progress but has not yet been completed. Once the plan is complete and presented for community review, there will be much to discuss regarding the responsible planning and funding of our great school system. Until then, I want to use this space to highlight a few of the non-school related service improvements that are being considered as part of this year's budget process. The new fiscal year begins July 1, 2015.

**Litter Control** – As we all know, the City has a litter problem. Starting last year, the City contracted with an organization to provide litter pick-up one day per week along selected roadways throughout the City. As part of this year's proposed budget, the City will add a two-person litter crew that will be dedicated to keeping our roadways and parks free from litter. Bringing this service 'in-house' would keep the costs equal to the current contract while increasing productivity by over 200 percent.

**Road maintenance** – Over the years, the City has maintained roads mostly by patching and crack-filling. This year, money has been budgeted for true paving projects – that is, the full milling and paving of entire streets or large portions of streets. With help from Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS),

the City has developed a paving plan that ranks each street based on condition and will be used to determine the order of paving projects. It is expected that several of these projects would be funded each year.

**Solid Waste** – The contract with Republic Services executed in 2014 missed on a couple of important items: (1) A limit was placed on the number of yard waste bags and (2) Recycling was limited to every other week. The Board of Commissioners is currently reviewing a proposal to add back one or both of these services without raising the solid waste fee for residents.

The budget also includes proposals to bring several contracted services in-house where doing so would result in a cost savings and increased productivity:

- City engineering services, currently contracted with A2H, would be brought back by hiring a City engineer.
- Litter collection by a new City litter crew would replace the current litter collection contract.
- Contracts for cleaning services for City Hall, IH Clubhouse and the Senior Center would be replaced by a part-time employee. This would result in a cost savings while increasing productivity by 120 percent.

There will soon be some new faces at City Hall:

- A planning director has been hired and will begin work by the end of June.
- We are currently interviewing candidates for the Parks and Recreation director position.
- We will soon be posting an opening for a full-time code enforcement officer.
- We will soon be posting an opening for City engineer.
- We will soon be posting openings for a part-time litter crew.

**Robin Hogue Hughes**  
Attorney



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## Great American Clean Up



Lakeland residents joined with City staff May 2 to clean the IH Clubhouse grounds and filled 13 bags or 130 pounds of trash around the facility, walking trails and fishing lake. Volunteers brought gloves and their energy to help beautify the City. Trash bags were provided by Keep America Beautiful (KAB) and bottled water was courtesy of Lowe's, a partner of KAB and Keep Lakeland Beautiful (KLB). On May 30, Lakeland scheduled a Community Clean Up Day at Windward Slopes Park, collecting e-waste and bulky items.

Two City cleaning days were cancelled in May due to rain and will be rescheduled. Pictured are volunteers who helped May 2, along with Commissioner Sherri Gallick and her husband Randy. photos by Sam Lencke

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## Boots and Bling for LES



A capacity crowd of 210 attended the seventh annual auction for Lakeland Elementary School Apr. 17, "Boots and Bling Gala" at Colonial Country Club. Tracy Jones was chair of the event and Ashley Red was in charge of tickets. Amount raised was \$30,102, a record amount. The landscaping package from Wright Landscapings was the top bid item, bringing \$2,300. Tracy said the dessert auction made \$2,120 and the live auction yielded \$7,000. Teacher Features earned over \$2,300 for the auction. The funds were used to purchase smart boards for LES so every class has one. "The event would not have been possible without our amazing PTA board of managers, parents, and teachers. We are also thankful for all the local businesses supporting Lakeland Elementary School by being sponsors and donating items to the auction."

Pictured bottom left is Tracy checking auction items, and Gala attendees choosing items for bids.

Photos by Jim Willis



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## Lakeland Parks and Recreation

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

Visit [www.lakelandtn.gov](http://www.lakelandtn.gov) for the latest information or contact Parks & Recreation 867-2717.

### **Lakeland Annual Children's Fishing Rodeo - 8 a.m. June 6 - IH Park Lake**

Let's Go Fishing! Bring your pole and bait and join us at the Annual Fishing Rodeo for children ages 4-12 accompanied by an adult. On-site registration starts at 7:15 a.m. and runs through 7:55 a.m., but avoid the lines and pre-register! Registration forms for pre-registration are available at City Hall and at [www.Lakelandtn.gov](http://www.Lakelandtn.gov) (Recreation page).

The Fishing Rodeo will begin promptly at 8 a.m. and includes seven 15-minute sessions. Winners will earn a prize at every session. Trophies also will be given for the longest fish, most fish caught - boy, and most fish caught - girl. Lakeland appreciates the First Baptist Church of Lakeland allowing participants to park in the Church parking lot for this event. For more information, call City Hall at 867-2717 or [kodom@lakelandtn.org](mailto:kodom@lakelandtn.org).

### **Women's Tennis - 9 - 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays - Windward Slopes Park**

Weather permitting 9822 Beverle Rivera Drive. The group's goals are to exercise, enjoy playing tennis, and improve their game. For more info, contact Lisa Edwards at 412-3303.

### **Lakeland Fitness - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday - IH Clubhouse**

The first class is free, each additional is \$5, or participants may purchase a 10 class card for \$30. A mat is required for class. For more information, contact Sherri Gallick, a certified instructor, at 867-2345 or [sgallick@lakelandtn.org](mailto:sgallick@lakelandtn.org)

### **Youth Summer Tennis Camps - June 22-25 - Windward Slopes Park**

Quick Start Tennis Camp & Tennis Camp is for beginners-intermediates instructed by David DeGutis, a USPTA tennis instructor and coach. Quick Start uses a larger ball, lower nets, shorter court, is for ages 5-10 years old and is offered from 9 to 10:15 a.m. Full court is available for oldest campers, if needed. Bring your own racket. Camp fee is \$80.

Tennis Camp for beginners-intermediates is open to youth, ages 11-18 or younger experienced students and will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Camp includes full-court instruction, fundamental drills and competitive games. Camp fee is \$80.

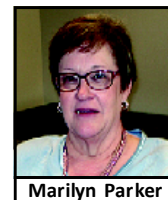
Registration forms are available at Lakeland City Hall, 10001 Highway 70 or [www.LakelandTN.gov](http://www.LakelandTN.gov) sports. For more information, call Lakeland City Hall at 867-2717 or contact Coach DeGutis at 412-9768.

## **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](mailto:mparker@lakelandtn.org)



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

**Book Club - 1:30 - 3 p.m. first Wednesday monthly - June 3** "The Husband's Secret" by Liane Moriarty

**Karaoke Fun! 11 a.m. – noon - June 10**

**Retirement Roundtable/ Workshop - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. June 12** by Lefler Financial. Lunch: RSVP 867-2717.

**Senior Dance Party - 1-3 p.m. June 16**

All styles of dance. Bring your favorite music and dance. Oldies but Goodies, 70s Hippie Era, Disco, etc.

**Stars & Stripes BBQ Dinner - 6 – 8 p.m. June 19**

With Dan Scott, singer and employee for Lakeland. \$10 at the door for BBQ, slaw, sides, drink and dessert. RSVP to Marilyn 746-8195 or [mparker@lakelandtn.org](mailto:mparker@lakelandtn.org)

**Nutrition Program - noon to 2 p.m. June 26 including lunch**

Mark Louderback with special guest, Michael Stansbury. RSVP 746-8195, [mparker@lakelandtn.org](mailto:mparker@lakelandtn.org).

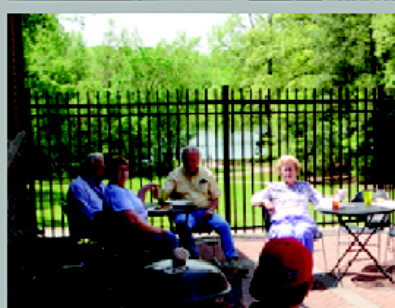
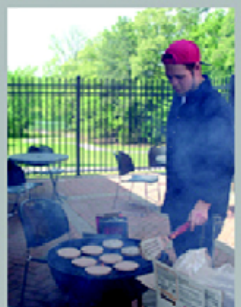
**Men's Pinochle, Electric Guitar Jam**

Coming in June. Check Senior Center calendar for days & times.

For July events, refer to Senior Center calendar at [www.LakelandTN.gov](http://www.LakelandTN.gov) and search Seniors.



## Picnic on the Patio Lakeland Senior Center April 22, 2015



A pair of crepe myrtles now anchors the entrance of the yellow trail at IH Park and were a gift to the LSC. They were donated by Mark Louderback, financial advisor for Edward Jones and a regular supporter of LSC, in honor of Arbor Day, April 24. Those participating in the ceremony were Lakeland's City Manager Jim Atkinson, Public Works Supervisor Bristol Roberts and June Spoonamore, a local horticulturalist. Photos by Jennifer Rezba, City Hall

Seniors had a picnic on the patio for Earth Day April 22 with hamburgers, hot dogs, side dishes and desserts. Local senior & retired minister Bob Cole offered a prayer and Marilyn Parker's grandson served as the "grill master" for the almost 50 in attendance.

The Senior Center's Jamming Group performed acoustic music. Trudy Scholten even yodeled upon request! Then, Lakeland's own Bertha Payne and friend "Silver Star" performed some urban soul and rhythm & blues. Donations of food and items were provided by Stephanie Lefler, Bob and Jeanne Hamilton and Marilyn. Photos by Jennifer Rezba, City Hall

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\*BILL CREDIT/PROGRAMMING OFFER: IF BY THE END OF PROMOTIONAL PRICE PERIOD(S) CUSTOMER DOES NOT CONTACT DIRECTV TO CHANGE SERVICE THEN ALL SERVICES WILL AUTOMATICALLY CONTINUE AT THE THEN-APPLICABLE RATES. LIMIT ONE "DIRECTV" MGW TO PER MONTH. Fee-based postpaid service rates and current prices. \$11.95 (\$19.99/mo). Prices include the following instant bill credits for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 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## Meet A Lakeland Business

Sam Lencke

Having survived the past four years after Kroger moved their store across Highway 64, Salon Allure owner Ziba Rector and her staff are obviously excited about the new Sprouts Farmers Market in the Country Bridge Center and the traffic it will create. The full-service family hair salon is located at 9020 Highway 64, Suite #108, which is next door to the new Sprouts Market.

Salon Allure opened in May 2010 and currently employs five stylists and a receptionist. Ziba anticipates hiring three to four additional stylists after the Sprouts opening.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in marketing and business management from the University of Memphis, Ziba worked in the corporate world five years before deciding to work for herself and doing hair. She admits that it has been a challenging occupation, but she and her staff work hard to nurture lasting relationships with their clients.

Salon Allure offers work for the entire family. Ziba says that she and her staff attend hair shows and continuing educational opportunities to stay up with current trends.

Hours of operation are Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 382-140. While walk-ins will be accepted if possible, it is recommended that you call for an appointment. Their website is: [www.salonalluretn.com](http://www.salonalluretn.com) and you can visit their Facebook page at: [www.Facebook.com/salonalluretn](http://www.Facebook.com/salonalluretn).

Ziba and Salon Allure are regular advertisers in Lakeland Currents and their ad can be found on page 5 in this issue.

**Support Lakeland businesses and business owners**

### Happening In Lakeland

There will be free fun for the entire family at the Lakeland Family EXPO from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 15 at Lakeland Elementary School (LES). Admission and parking are free. Local businesses will have displays offering discounts and samples. Two teachers from LES with the highest attendance will each win a \$100 gift card from The Knowledge Tree.

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You can help bring wine and liquor sales to a vote in Lakeland by signing a petition at City Hall this month. Go to 10001 Highway 70 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. or contact Ginny Dunn at the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, 428-4873, [ginny@mylakelandchamber.org](mailto:ginny@mylakelandchamber.org).

Ginny said 350 valid signatures must be collected on both petitions by July 1 and then submitted to the Shelby County Election Commission.

The first petition is to authorize the sale of wine at retail food stores in Lakeland. The second would allow retail packaged liquor stores in the City.

If the signatures are collected and validated, the vote would be on the Sept. 17 ballot. The wine law would go into effect in July 2016. Voters in Memphis, Arlington, Bartlett, Collierville, Germantown, and Millington all approved wine sales in grocery stores last November. Package liquor would be available immediately.



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