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## New state law: Neal warns BOMA about greenway

The following is a letter Knoxville attorney John M. Neal shared with farragutpress early this week that he sent to each Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen representative concerning the Town's proposed Turkey Creek Greenway Extension, partial funding of which is included in BOMA's proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Neal represents four clients (three households) living along Turkey Creek Road who are opposed to the path of this extension through their properties.

The FY '25 budget is scheduled for its second and final reading, and possible approval, during BOMA's Thursday, June 13, meeting:

As all of you know, I represent four of the landowners who would be affected by the proposed Turkey Creek Greenway Extension: Shirley Harkins, David Galbraith and Howard and Bobbie Tipton. My clients all adamantly oppose the taking of their property for a greenway extension.

I understand that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen is about to give the new budget final approval. It includes \$500,000 for acquisition of the property, which would be used for this greenway extension. It would, of course, take sizeable portions of my clients' yards. For the reasons discussed below, you are pro-

hibited from building the greenway extension and the budget should not include any funds for acquisition.

First, I am attaching a copy of State of Tennessee Senate Bill (No.) 1984, which has just been passed and was signed by Gov. (Bill) Lee on May 28, 2024. The statute is so new that it does not yet have a T.C.A. number. This new statute deletes TCA 29-17-102(2), which discusses the power of the government to exercise eminent domain for a public use and substitutes a new section, which states that:

See NEAL WARNS BOMA on Page 3A

## 60th for '64, FHS reunion



Tammy Cheek

Farragut High School Class of 1964, 27 strong, turned out for their 60th anniversary reunion, held in Virtue Church Family Life Center Saturday, June 8. Photographed in no particular order are T.K. Kelley Barnett, Estelle Crouse Bluhm, Gary Brown, Steve Ballew, Loretta Cooper Robertson, John Craig, Jimmy Derrick, Nancy Haun Lawhorn, Rick Foster, Charlene Turner Hobbs, Gary Letsinger, Richard John-

son, David Keck, Randy Kelley, Janice Lee Pickens, Tanya Petree McLean, Phyllis Moore Watkins, Suzanne Riggie, Charlie Russell, Linda Reynolds Russell, Gary Scarbrough, June Graham Scarbrough, Wayne Smathers, Wayne Calvin Starnes, Sarah Williams Stewart, David White and Sandy Gritzner White. (See related reunion photos in this week's West Side Faces, page 4A).

## Studio Res at Marriott second hotel pitched for Outlet Drive near Topgolf

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

After about a year-and-a-half ago, developers for the hotel planned next to Topgolf had returned with a new site plan, new owners and new name for the hotel, Studio Res at Marriott.

Land Development Solutions, Knoxville civil engineering consultants, submitted the new site plan to Town planners during their Staff/Developer meeting in Farragut Community Center Tuesday, June 4.

"Hotels are good; good for the Town," Community Development director Mark Shipley said

"There was a site plan approved for what was called Skor Hotel (along) Outlet Drive, probably about a year-and-a-half ago now," Shipley said. "This is property just to the east of Topgolf."

"When you're standing at Topgolf and you're hitting your golf balls, that (west side of the hotel building) is what you'll see," said Chad Brown, design engineer with Land Develop-

ment Solutions.

"They kind of revamped that (original site plan)," Shipley said. "I think, now, it's a Marriott hotel. They made some minor modifications to the site plan," of which Shipley said the staff had no objections.

"We're trying to move pretty quickly now (to start construction)," said Bruce Collins, vice president of development and construction with Rosemont Holdings. "It's taken us a long time to get to this point. That old Skor brand kind of died ... so we had to go find a different brand, and we like the Marriott products. Everything they have on the market is a nice product.

"They call it an extended stay," he added. "They also call it a residence inn. We look for the customers who are like seven- to 29-days stay.

"You have a lot of people who are coming in for projects that stay more than two or three



Shipley

## Childcare crisis the topic: FWKCC Breakfast Series trio of speakers respond

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Finding quality, affordable childcare affects not only the couples involved, it also affects local businesses and the economy as well, according to speakers on the childcare crisis at a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Speaker Series in Rothchild Catering & Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Wednesday morning, June 5.

The series featured Matt Ryerson, president/CEO of United Way of Greater Knoxville; Bart McFadden, president/CEO of Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley; and state Sen. Becky Massey (R-District 6; includes portions of West Knox County).

"It impacts all of us, whether we have children or not," said emcee Brittany Tarwater, anchor with WVLT-TV News (channel 8, CBS affiliate), who has children of her own. "It's something that impacts all our daily lives."

"If you think back almost 50 years ago, in 1976, about 35 percent of households that had children who needed childcare ... had one parent in the workforce," Ryerson said. "Today, it's flipped, meaning that 65 percent of households with children in that age, where they need childcare now, have all the parents or all the adults in the household working."

See 2ND HOTEL, OUTLET on Page 2A

See CHILDCARE CRISIS on Page 2A

### Farmer's Market note

Dixie Lee Farmers Market, on The Renaissance Farragut grounds along Kingston Pike near Dixie Lee Junction, is open for business from 9 a.m. to noon each Saturday through Oct. 26.

Founded in 2008 by Jeff and Ginger Cannon (as stated on Town of Farragut's website), "Our sole purpose is to strengthen our community by providing you with a place to buy local, top quality fresh produce directly from the people who grew it," a family press release stated. "In doing this, we hope to give an opportunity to our local farmers, gardeners and crafts persons to

promote their products.

"It will strengthen our local commerce by buying from your neighbors, as well as offer our families a healthier lifestyle," the release further stated. "Providing this forum helps farmers and families from local communities to deal directly with each other rather than through third parties, and to get to know and learn from one another.

"Interacting in this environment will teach children to preserve the integrity of our agricultural heritage. This will not only strengthen our community physically and mentally, but spiritually as well."

**CHECK OUT**  
the June  
Farragut West Knox  
Chamber of  
Commerce  
Newsletter  
pg 1C  
In this Issue!



## Volunteer opportunities are available.



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# Ag lab coordinator named May Town Sampler champ



**Photo courtesy of Stephen Krempasky/Shop Farragut/FBA executive director**  
Agricultural lab coordinator Laura Clift “loves to Shop Farragut,” a Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance press release stated. “On a whim, this West Knoxville resident entered our May Town Sampler Contest and won a prize package valued over \$225.” Holding the bag containing her winnings, she is alongside Buttermilk Sky Pie Shop ambassador Claire Langford. Clift won \$25 gift cards from Cracker Barrel, Zaxby’s–Turkey Creek, River Dog Bakery, Great Clips, Reckless Hippie, Sir Goony’s Family Fun Center, Katy’s Hallmark Store, Whit’s Frozen Custard and a \$25 gift certificate from The Embroidery Boutique, “Plus other great Farragut swag, including a 32-ounce insulated mug from Health Markets,” the release further stated. Enter the June contest by visiting <https://wfiv.com/contests/51/shop-farragut-june-2024>. Town Sampler is a monthly contest hosted by Shop Farragut/FBA and West 105.3 WFIV-FM.

## correction

In a page 1A feature story in our June 5 issue about the small children of Timothy and Alexis Kneller battling eye cancer, we incorrectly used the term “quit” in both the headline and the story regarding the Knellers’ employment.

Neither Alexis, as an English teacher at Hardin Valley Academy, nor Timothy, a chimney sweeper, quit their jobs — they instead left their jobs temporarily in order to be alongside their children during their care at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia. We regret the error.

The file photo is Alexis Kneller with her daughter, Vivienne, then 7 months old.



# KCSO reports

We at farragutpress do not understand the problems that might explain why Knox County Sheriff’s Office Incident Reports have not been found in our e-mail after being requested more than 24 hours before deadline the previous two issues.

A KCSO media spokesperson did respond to farragutpress Tuesday morning, June 11, apologizing about the omissions, but said there were no KCSO reports in our area for this week’s issue.

## 2nd hotel, Outlet

From page 1A

nights. They may stay a week or two.”

Originally, the hotel had 108 units, which is expanding to 124 units.

“The hotel footprint is still the same,” Shipley said. “It’s just the rooms are reconfigured.”

“But to accommodate the additional rooms, they’re adding a new row of parking on the east part of the property,” he added, noting one of the accesses would tie into whatever is developed in an area before one gets to a detention basin to the east.

“We would love to have some sort of restaurant there,” Collins said.

“The basin was created with size to accommodate the entire build-out of this entire parcel,” he added. “The detention

will be part of the construction.”

Additionally, Shipley said the developers made some modifications to the building itself.

“In this zoning district, the Outlet Drive Entertainment/Employment District masonry percentages (requirements) are lower,” he said. “It’s at 25 percent for this size; whereas, outside of that part of Town, that zoning district is 75 percent masonry.”

“When we created this Outlet Drive Entertainment/Employment District, we kind of looked at the surrounding plan of development,” Shipley added. “There’s a lot of warehousing there, especially in the county part of Outlet Drive; and this area is along the Interstate (40/75) and a little bit physically detached from the rest of the Town, so we felt the masonry percentage wasn’t

quite as critical there.”

The developers are proposing a four-story structure, which exceeds the 25 percent masonry “probably by a few percentages,” Shipley said.

It also features earth-tone colors.

“We’re over 30 percent on (the masonry),” Collins said.

“It’s really a pretty simple site plan,” Shipley said. “To me, this is a better-looking building. I think it’s an improvement.”

The site plan is expected to go before Farragut Municipal Planning Commission at its Thursday, June 20, meeting.

Mayor Ron Williams, who sits on FMPC, asked about plans for signage. Collins said a sign is planned on the front and a smaller sign is sought at the pedestrian entrance.

“We do have a panel we are allowed at the Farragut Station sign,” the engineer added.

## Childcare crisis

From page 1A

“That’s a significant increase in the number of children who require that,” he added. “On top of that, a region like Knoxville, Knox County or surrounding area, we average around 40 percent, as far as ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained Employee) households.”

“What that means is they are working; they are trying to pay their bills; but at the end of every month, they’re short.” That impacts their decision on whether to pay for high-quality childcare or pay their utility bill.

The speakers agreed the biggest challenges regarding childcare are accessibility, affordability and quality.

Regarding accessibility, “there’s simply not enough slots; there’s not enough childcare facilities; there’s not enough, period,” McFadden said.

“We don’t have enough pods (spaces) for the kids is because of the staffing issue,” Massey said.

Regulation also is a challenge for childcare facilities. Depending on what agency to which they answer — Department of Child Services or Department of Education — they face different regulations, such as “you have to have different-size rooms.”

Regarding affordability, “when you look at most of the childcare costs being in excess

of \$1,000, in a lot of cases, for a family whose household income may be \$50,000, wow, that’s a chunk, that’s a mortgage,” said McFadden, whose organization serves moderate-to low-income families.

Regarding quality, McFadden said when a child is in the care of someone other than his or her parent, “what we want to accomplish for that child, it’s a real challenge.”

“Many kids are not prepared for elementary school,” Ryerson said. “They have an uneven playing field.”

“Childcare is an essential service,” McFadden said. “We need to treat it like an essential service. ... We’ve got to invest in a meaningful way. ... We’ve got to change the mindset of childcare to child development.”

Bart related a case where a mother had COVID-19 but brought her child, who was asymptomatic, to the Boys & Girls Club, causing an outbreak.

Additionally, when schools

“... We’ve got to change the mindset of childcare to child development,”

—Bart McFadden, president/ CEO of Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley

close because of a safety issue, daycares follow schools’ calendars and close as well.

“Flexibility is the key,” McFadden said, adding employers need to be flexible with parents.

Massey noted there is a proposed program, Promising Futures, which is not yet funded but could help with the issue.

“We all need to be invested,” Ryerson said, noting that includes businesses and industries regarding flexible hours for employees, offering daycare as a benefit and even providing in-house daycares at the worksite.



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# Letter to the editor

## Turn Town greenway \$ into turn lanes

The Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen will vote this Thursday, June 13, on the second and final vote on the Town of Farragut Fiscal 2025 budget.

In the farragutpress issue April 24, 2024, there is a story about the Fiscal 2025 budget: <https://farragutpress.com/articles/2024/04/13759>

This item is not needed; "Turkey Creek Road/Greenway improvements, \$500,000 for right-of-way and \$2 million for construction in 2027."

This Turkey Creek Road Greenway extension is a want, not a need. What the people of Farragut need is two new 11-foot lefthand turn lanes at Kingston Pike and Campbell Station Road, which the traffic study in 2020 for the Biddle Farm Apartments said would be required by the year 2025.

through the Kingston Pike and Campbell Station Road intersection. That number has increased in the last four years. This is far more important than a greenway extension that is not needed.

I request the Mayor and Aldermen take out the \$2.5 million greenway extension and replace it with the \$1.55 million expense for the two new 11-foot lefthand turn lanes at Kingston Pike and Campbell Station Road.

In 2023 the Mayor and Aldermen pushed the two new lefthand turn lanes out to 2026 saying they could not afford them.

It is time for the priorities to change to needs rather than wants.

**Mike Mitchell,  
Farragut**

**• Editor's Notes:** All Letters to the Editor from any citizen must have a minimum four-week period between publication — not to exceed 600 words — and must not have inaccurate information, such as wrong statistics, from which to form an opinion. We also reserve the right to reject publication based on factors to include, but not be limited to, threats, name-calling and foul language.

**• Presstalk rules:** keep calls to a 90-second maximum (call 865-671-8255 24 hours a day, seven days a week); keep e-mailed Presstalks to 250 words maximum (editor@farragutpress.com); libelous and malicious comments will not be published; profanity will be edited out; comments will remain anonymous; names of individuals (including public figures) will not be published.

### Neal warns BOMA

From page 1A

"Public use' does not include recreational facilities, recreational purposes or parks. .... except as follows. ... (A)The acquisition of any interest in land necessary for a road, highway, bridge or other structure, facility or project used for public transportation."

Thus, this new statute prohibits the use of eminent domain to condemn private property for the use of recreational facilities and parks.

You may well look at this statute and say it does not apply because a greenway is "necessary for public transportation." However, that would be a misplaced hope. In effect, you would be saying that Lakeshore is not a park because it has trails the public uses for transportation.

In State v. Langley, a 2020 decision by the Criminal Court of Appeals, the court favorably quoted an expert's testimony given in an earlier, and apparently unreported, bench trial:

"At the Shaffer bench trial, the State offered testimony from Terry Napier, the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Bristol located in Sullivan County. According to Mr. Napier, when the Mark Vance Memorial Greenway ... was originally created, it was likely referred to as a linear park.

Mr. Napier explained: "The term 'greenway' is probably a little newer. Past references, it would be referred to as a linear park. ... A linear

park. In other words, being a park that stretched out from Point A to Point B versus the typical rectangular, you know, park that you may have in the community. ... Mr. Napier further defined a greenway as a 'recreational area of length and typically connecting two points'.

"In conclusion, the Court of Appeals stated, "Upon our review, we conclude a greenway does constitute a public park. ...."

Put in the context of the Turkey Creek Greenway, the greenway is a park, not a project for public transportation, and condemnation is prohibited.

Furthermore, another new statute in Title 29, Chapter 17, which is also so new that it does not have a section number (copy attached for BOMA reps) provides that a landowner has a private cause of action to challenge a proposed condemnation. In pertinent part the statute states:

"When a condemner approves the use of eminent domain, the property owner has a right to have a court of competent jurisdiction determine if the taking is necessary to accomplish the public use. ...."

In other words, the legislature has changed the old process whereby a municipality could simply seize land and litigate about its value. The municipality must now justify its conduct before condemnation if the owner wishes to litigate.

It should be obvious by now that my clients are willing and able to litigate. We believe approval of the funds for land condemnation will trigger the

homeowners' right to sue; but at a bare minimum I believe I can guarantee they will be filing suit before you actually get the opportunity to try and seize their property.

Finally, I direct your attention to T.C.A. 29-17-101, which states, "It is the intent of the General Assembly that the power of eminent domain shall be used sparingly, and that laws permitting the use of eminent domain shall be narrowly construed so as not to enlarge, by inference or inadvertently, the power of eminent domain."

I strongly suggest that this is not a fight you want. The costs of litigation will be high and the legislature has made it clear that your chances of success are virtually non-existent. I urge you to abandon this project and save the Town of Farragut the expense of a hopeless lawsuit.

I could not locate e-mail addresses for the members of the (Farragut Municipal) Planning Commission. I would be grateful if Mr. (Mark) Shipley (Town's Community Development director) would send them copies of this letter.

*Editor's Note: we welcome a response from either a representative of Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen — including Mayor Ron Williams and/or Vice Mayor Louise Povlin — or from a legal representative BOMA may retain or have retained in the matter.*

*Town attorney Tom Hale reportedly has recused himself from this case due to a potential conflict of interest.*



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## 60th reunion, Farragut High School Class of 1964

Farragut High School Class of 1964 graduates walked down memory lane remembering the early 1960s, friends and the campus way of life from days gone by during their 60th reunion in Virtue Church Family Life Center, 725 Virtue Road, Saturday afternoon, June 8.

Of the 34 who attended, 27 were graduates, with the rest spouses and guests. In 1964, the United States and Russia were making strides toward space travel, Tokyo hosted the 18th Summer Olympics and the Civil Rights Act was signed into law.

But for seniors at FHS that year, it was about sporting events. "All the guys played basketball and football, and us girls played basketball and cheered," classmate June Graham Scarbrough recalled.

Fellow classmate Gary Scarbrough praised organizer Wayne Smathers, who had taken care of the reunions since the class' 50th in 2014.

Wayne Calvin Starnes remembered, as a sixth-grader, returning to school in the fall and being told "we're supposed to be next door" at the high school. The class also remembered their principal, the late Kenneth "KP" Sargent.

"He was a very bold and no-nonsense kind of guy," Suzanne Riggle recalled of Mr. Sargent.

On the first day of high school, Starnes recalled students were milling around when Mr. Sargent appeared and told them, "You made a fool of my predecessor, but you're not making a d--- fool out of me."

Starnes was taken aback. "People didn't say d--- then," he recalled. He also remembered two boys goofing off before the principal butted the boys' heads together, while Smathers remembered watching Mr. Sargent pick up a student by the shirt and shove him against the lockers.

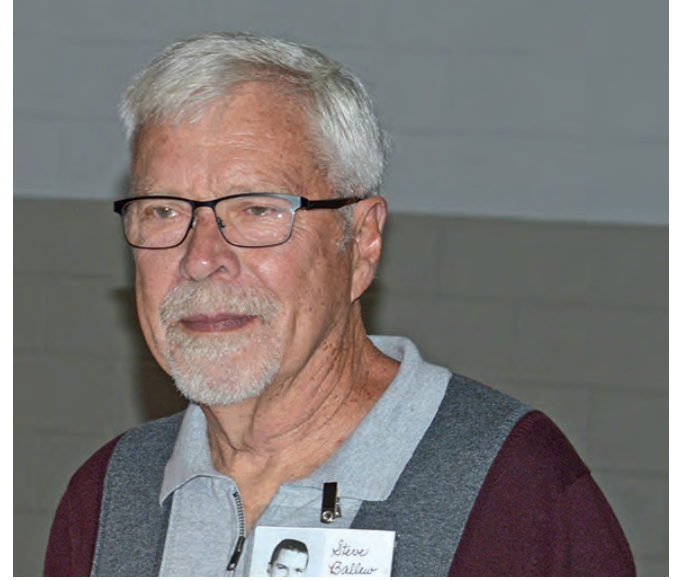
Some of the women remembered Mr. Sargent did not allow them to wear shorts or smoke, although he did allow the boys to smoke outside.

Other classmates who attended were T.K. Kelley Barnett, Estelle Crouse Bluhm, Gary Brown, Steve Ballew, Loretta Cooper Robertson, John Craig, Jimmy Derrick, Nancy Haun Lawhorn, Rick Foster, Charlene Turner Hobbs, Gary Letsinger, Richard Johnson, David Keck, Randy Kelley, Janice Lee Pickens, Tanya Petree McLean, Phyllis Moore Watkins, Charlie Russell, Linda Reynolds Russell, Sarah Williams Stewart, David White and Sandy Gritzner White.

(See photo of the entire class on the front page, 1A)



Suzanne Riggle



Steve Ballew



Randy Kelley



Sandy Gritzner White, left, and Jackie Keck



Judy Derrick, wife of classmate Jimmy Derrick



David Keck, left, and David White



Rick and Sassy Foster



Janice Lee Pickens, left, and Loretta Cooper Robertson



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## Friends open H-Valley Suites

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

**HARDIN VALLEY** — Two friends, Terry Smiley and Leslie Elmore, partnered up to open Hardin Valley Suites, at 10612 Hardin Valley Road.

The suites are welcoming aestheticians, as well as facial, waxing and massage businesses.

Smiley explained they are not catering to hair and nail business because they already are flanked by hair and nail businesses.

“That wasn’t our target anyway,” she said. “We wanted to do aesthetician services.”

“(Customers) can come right in this little strip mall and get beautified any way they want,” Elmore said.

“We’re ready now (to lease) now that we have our sign up,” Smiley added. “Our goal is to take the month of June and interview people and get them in.”

For Smiley, she recalled she was getting her lashes done in a salon suite similar to hers and thought, “I could do this.”

“I called Leslie, and she said, ‘Yeah, I’d like to do that with you,’ Smiley related. “We looked around at two or three different places, and they weren’t right.”

But the catalyst came when she was called into the corporate office of her employer, FirstBank.

“I thought I was in trouble,” she recalled. “But they said, ‘We’re very sorry, but we’re closing seven branches, and your branch is one of them.”

“I went home and my husband said, ‘This is your opportunity to do a lash lounge,’” said Smiley, who lives off Cedar Bluff Road. “Well, there’s my sign. It’s time to go.”

Knowing one another for about 16 years, Elmore said she and Smiley met because their children played soccer together in middle and high school.

“I just like anything to do with getting rid of wrinkles or skin care (and) hair care,” said Elmore, who lives in Louisville, in Blount County. “I have always loved that since I was a teenager, so I thought (the salon suites) could be a successful business.”

Her husband, Scott Elmore, a contract attorney at Elmore Stone and Caffey, for whom she works, helped set up the business, which has Blink Lash & Beauty Bar as its parent company.

“So, when people come in here and need help setting up their business, he can help,” Elmore said.

“We were looking in Maryville, but it was so expensive, and my husband and I drove by here and saw the sign,” Smiley said. “It was perfect.”

When they found the location in Hardin Valley, “Hardin Valley’s growing like crazy, so we thought this would be a great location,” she said.

For more information about the suites, call 865-207-2250.



Tammy Cheek

Long-time friends Leslie Elmore, left, and Terry Smiley have partnered to open Hardin Valley Suites, 10612 Hardin Valley Road. Blink Lash & Beauty Bar is their parent company.



Tammy Cheek

Major Harris and his wife, Dr. Danielle Wright-Harris (both with scissors), cut the ribbon to open their new location of Eden Family Chiropractic, 12814 Kingston Pike, during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event at the business Wednesday, May 29, their opening day. Joining them were Danielle’s parents, Tim and Kris Wright (to Danielle’s left), aunts Lisa Sandidge and Stephanie Siefker (back row) and Chamber members.

## Passion for care

### Eden Family Chiropractic opens to provide patient-centered attention to Farragut community

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Co-owners Dr. Danielle Wright-Harris, chiropractor, and her husband, Major Harris, have brought Eden Family Chiropractic to Farragut to provide care in the community.

Formerly The Town Framery, the building at 12814 Kingston Pike was renovated to accommodate the chiropractic office, which opened Wednesday, May 29.

The small, family-owned business provides care to infants and adults alike, as well as expectant mothers.

“We like to keep patient-centered care,” Danielle said. “That’s a big passion of ours. We know that patients have been put to the wayside in most healthcare nowadays, so we want to bring back that home-style, front-porch care.”

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce welcomed Eden Family Chiropractic with a ribbon cutting on the May 2 opening day.

“This is our third office that we’re opening, and I have not been more excited to be part of a community than this one,” Danielle, president and owner, told Chamber members. “I already feel such deep connections with all of you guys, and I really, really appreciate the warm welcome that you guys have given us.”

“We have never had this level of support, welcome and just guidance and acceptance and love from the community before we even got open,” said Major, vice president of operations for Eden. “It means a ton to us.”

The couple originally opened the practice in Hoschton, Georgia, in 2018. After selling that practice, they opened another location in Hartwell, Georgia, in 2021 that remains in Danielle’s ownership.

However, they wanted to be closer to family, so they moved to East Tennessee.

“I wanted to be closer to my parents and grandparents to help take care of them,” she said. “They live in Robbins, just south of the Kentucky border.”

“Farragut happens to be the perfect in-between for my parents and his mom, who’s still in (Acworth,) Georgia,” Danielle said.

“We were driving around and absolutely fell in love with the area,” Major said. “Love the people, and drove by (the Kingston Pike location), and there was a going-out-of-business sign in the window, so we pulled in and asked Deb (Tuttle, former owner of The Town Framery), ‘What are you doing with the building after you go out of business?’

“A few months later, we took possession, started build-out — and here we are,” he said.

“My husband did all of this, basically, by himself,” Danielle said about the building’s renovations.

For Major, a real estate investor, the work is his main activity.

Any time he finds an older building or one that needs maintenance or is a burden to someone, “that’s where my company (Major Advancements) steps in,” he said.

While Major’s passion is restoring old buildings, “mine is restoring all people, getting their life back, bringing the quality back to their lives,” Danielle said.

The couple reached out to partner with Warren River Early Childhood Institute in Jamaica, for which a portion of charges during the ribbon-cutting went to the school.

The office is open from 3 to 6 p.m., Monday; from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday; and closed Friday through Sunday.

To book an appointment, call 865-303-3306 or visit online at edenknox.com



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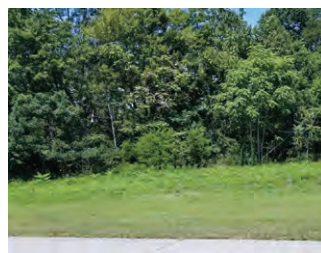
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## CAREacter honorees for hoops told

### STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

CAREacter Star Athlete Program's spring semester area high school athlete (hoops) honorees have been told.

Farragut girls: Carly Vining, Mya Johnston, Jaci Neubert, Annie Priest and KJ McNealy. FHS boys: Berkley Naro, Brevin Swartzentruber, Tony Spadafora, Aiden VanAcker and Ethan Kern.

Hardin Valley Academy girls: Marley Edwards, Holly Lindsey, Rylee Taylor, Kamryn Butcher and Kyndra West. HVA boys: David Long, Wyatt Fellers, Isaac Ratliff, Bryson Frey and Colson Crutch.

Bearden girls: Lindsay Wilson, Kendall Anne Murphy, Caitlin McVeigh, Katie Foster and Riley Hunt. BHS boys: Dalton Siva, Drew Brillhart, Jacob Phillips, Braden Buchanan and Rudra Patel.

Knoxville Catholic girls: Sydney Mains, Amaya Redd, Caroline Krueger, Tinsley Walker and Maggie Frana. KCHS boys: Cade Murphy, Juice Eleam, Caleb Asbaty, Bentley Turbyville and Carson Asbaty.

Christian Academy of Knoxville girls: Izzy Proffitt, Karlie Whited, Ali Wilkinson, Marley Phillips and Maddie Braden. CAK boys: Foster Coleman, Bryson White, Hunter Bennett, Thad Sealey and Bennett Jelks.

Concord Christian School girls: Brianna Hughes, Maddie Greene, Sheridan Patterson, Katie Phillips and Caris Baggett. CCS boys: Landon Housely, Cade Keeton, Dominic Alford, Drew Sloan and Caleb Stuart.

Webb School of Knoxville girls: Lorelei Lee, Katelyn Overton, Brooklyn Overton, Meeyah Green and Corisa Lowery. Webb boys: Jaylen Pompey, Drake Ingram, Cam Swearngen, Alex Leeth and Owen Lentz.

## SEC ex-Admirals trio at MCWS



Photo collage courtesy of Jack Tate/Farragut High School sports information director

Three former Farragut Admirals standouts — all having made major contributions to at least one FHS baseball state championship — are looking to be part of a national championship push as members of three Southeastern Conference programs who have earned trips to the 2024 Men's College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska. **(Top left)** Cal Stark, senior starting catcher for tournament No. 1 seed Tennessee, has been a big contributor to the Volunteers' postseason fortunes. **(Above left)** Ryan Hagenow, Kentucky senior relief pitcher, has appeared in some critical postseason situations for the No. 2 seeded Wildcats. **(Above right)** Jett Johnston, Texas A & M freshman infielder, looks to contribute in Omaha for the No. 3-seeded Aggies. Play in the MCWS begins for Stark and the Vols at 7 p.m., Friday, June 14, with UT the home team (last at-bat) versus No. 8 seed Florida State. Hagenow's Wildcats face No. 10 seed North Carolina State starting at 2 p.m., Saturday, June 15. Johnston's Aggies square off against SEC foe Florida (unseeded) starting at 7 p.m., Saturday.

## Seven from Knoxville Catholic Class of 2024 announce college choices



Photo courtesy of Pam Rhoades/KCHS director of Marketing & Communications

Knoxville Catholic High School celebrated seven of its seniors during a National Signing Day ceremony in the KCHS Auditorium earlier this spring. Signees, from left, are Keilyn Smith, Eastern Kentucky University (football); Andon Mashburn, Union College (football); Quincy Pannell, Union College (foot-

ball); Bellamy Parker, University of South Florida (volleyball); Mason Fields, Emmanuel University (baseball); Gemma Deyo, Campbellsville College (wrestling); and Rebecca Deyo, Campbellsville College (wrestling).

## Ex-Ad, Vol Warren a repeat NFF Hampshire Honor Society member

### STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame announced earlier this spring that Jacob Warren, ex-Tennessee Vols and Farragut High School Admirals standout tight end, was one of eight UT student-athletes on a list of 1,988 players from 339 schools who qualified for NFF's Hampshire Honor Society membership in 2024.

"Warren wrapped up a well-rounded career for the Big Orange this past fall, starting all 13 games at tight end for his sixth-year as a redshirt-senior season," a UT press release stated. "The legacy Vol and Knoxville native is a second-year member of the NFF Hampshire Honor Society after receiving the distinction in 2023.

"He rounded out his tenure in Knoxville as a five-time SEC Honor Roll recipient and

two-time CSC Academic All-District honoree who was a semifinalist for the NFF Campbell Trophy this past fall. On the field, Warren posted his best campaign in 2023 with 16 catches for 191 yards and four touchdowns."

Warren becomes the first Vol to receive the HHS distinction twice in his career.

Nominated by their respective schools, members of the NFF Hampshire Honor Society must be either ...

- A senior player who will graduate this spring/summer, having just completed his final year of playing eligibility in 2023; or a graduated player who has been out of high school at least three years;

And must have ...

- Attained a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade-point average of 3.2 (4.0 scale); and
- Been starters or contributors throughout the 2023 season.

Tennessee's eight Hampshire Honor Society members in 2024 shattered the previous program record of three individuals recognized in 2018 and 2008. Twenty-six Vols have been tabbed to this Honor Society since its inception in 2007.



Warren



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## ‘Chalk it up’ to Town children making art on McFee pavement

**BRANDON L. JONES**

[editor@farragutpress.com](mailto:editor@farragutpress.com)

Ahh, to be a kid again! No worries other than the next color of chalk to grab, coloring the kaleidoscope of a child’s imagination on the parking lot without a care in the whole wide world of the bigger picture.

For Farragut’s first Chalk the Park event, it was an absolutely gorgeous, cloudless, day the morning of Saturday, June 8, when these little artists out at McFee Park were drawing away to their hearts’ content — with the biggest worry being maybe just how big should a rainbow be, how colorful a butterfly’s wings or how big a chalk-filled heart should be drawn — using anything at all that crossed their creative minds with which to decorate the blacktop.

“This is the first time that we’ve done this event,” said Rachel Malone, recreation and event manager of Farragut Parks. “We kind of wanted to do a summer kickoff thing, just a free, fun, family-friendly event. And everybody loves chalk.”

“So it appeals to all different ages. It’s just a really good summer kickoff,” she added.

See **CHALK IN PARK** on Page 8B



Photos by Brandon L Jones  
**(Above)** Madilyn Venczel finishes up a drawing of butterflies and a rainbow on the pavement of McFee Park during Town of Farragut’s Chalk the Park Saturday morning, June 8. **(Left)** Evelyn Wen looks through her assortment of chalk colors in the middle of her McFee Park pavement artwork.



**(Above)** Megan and Michael Shotwell brought their three children to McFee Park to enjoy Town of Farragut’s Chalk the Park Saturday morning, June 9. Their children are Owen (in front of mom), Addie (front right) and Cooper. **(Right)** Randall Robison and his daughter, Reese, play a game using chalk art.



## Choi learns to value Kinsons, new friends, area life

Junoo Choi, a South Korean exchange student from Seoul, speaks to Rotary Club of Farragut during its Wednesday, June 5, meeting in Farragut Community Center. RCF member Tory Kinson and his wife, Monica Kinson, were Choi’s home family, as this 19-year-old attended Bearden High School during the 2023-24 school year.

Brandon L. Jones



**BRANDON L. JONES**

[editor@farragutpress.com](mailto:editor@farragutpress.com)

Taking care of one of your own children is a task unto itself, but taking on an absolute stranger’s child from anywhere in the world is another thing entirely.

Many families, though, find it an invaluable experience and go head first into it, welcoming in a stranger they will come to know, and know they’ll have to say goodbye to, usually, much too soon.

The Kinsons are one such family. Tory, a member of the Rotary Club of Farragut, and his wife, Monica, opened their door and hearts to Junoo Choi about a year ago, saying goodbye to the South Korean exchange student Wednesday, June 5, before heading off the next day to Korea themselves to bring home their daughter, who also participated in the Rotary Youth Exchange.

Monica said over a Chick-fil-A lunch, Choi’s absolute American favorite, “He is like a child to me. ... I’m responsible for him, and I treat him like any other of my kids,” meaning there weren’t any exceptions in terms of chores, family rules, etc.

“I have been dreading this,” Tory told the crowd, seemingly missing him already.

“Today is the last day we’re going to have our son, Junoo, with us,” he continued, echoing his wife’s sentiment. “And I use that word ‘son’ in every sense of the word.”

Choi, 19 in his homeland, hosted by the Kinsons as part of the program, stood before the club last Wednesday to recount his “exchange journey,” as he called it, here in East Tennessee.

Shy, with soft, broken English, he confessed he had his doubts, noting it wasn’t easy in the

See **CHOI’S JOURNEY** on Page 6B

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• **MEDIC has a critical need for O Negative and O Positive blood types.** There is less than a two-day supply of both. Donors will receive a beach towel through the month of June for their donation.

Other June promotions include a special tumbler Friday, June 14, for World Blood Donor Day (in lieu of the towel) and all successful donors receive a Ripley's Aquarium ticket through June 14.

MEDIC offers several special incentives specifically for platelet donors, including daily e-gift cards, MEDIC platelet punch card program and the daily MEDIC gift. Platelet donors must make an appointment by calling 865-521-2684.

Appointments can be made online at [www.medicblood.org](http://www.medicblood.org), via the MEDIC app or by calling 865-524-3074.

MEDIC is the primary blood product provider for 25 hospitals, including Blount Memorial, Covenant Health System, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Tennova Healthcare and UT Medical Center.

• **In partnership with Knox County Schools Welcome Center (535 Chickamauga Ave.), children age 4 to young adults age 21 can receive several services,** including education, screenings, sealants and fluoride varnish.

"About 20 percent of children ages 5 to 11 have at least one untreated tooth decay," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Appointments are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the following dates in June: 12-14, 17-18, 20-21 and 24-28. Interpreters will be available. Call 865-215-5131 to make an appointment.

• **Knoxville Bar Association and Legal Aid of East Tennessee are offering an in-person free Legal Advice Clinic** from noon to 2 p.m., Wednesday, June 12, in Knox County Public Defender's Community Law Office. Any veteran seeking legal help is encouraged to attend.

For the remainder of 2024, the clinics will be held every other month: Aug. 14, Oct. 9 and Dec. 11. Veterans who are not able to attend the clinic in person are encouraged to use the telephone clinic option. Pre-registration is required for telephone clinic. Veterans are asked to call Legal Aid of East Tennessee at 865-637-0484 to pre-register.

This is a general advice clinic with a wide variety of legal issues, including family law, landlord/tenant, bankruptcy, criminal defense, consumer protection, contract disputes, child support and personal injury, among other issues. This

is an advice-only clinic: clients can expect legal advice, but no wills are drafted at this clinic nor legal work performed.

• **Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee will present their 43rd Annual Quilt Show & Competition** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, June 21, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 22, in Knoxville Expo Center, 5441 Clinton Highway (at Merchant Drive) in Knoxville.

Admission is \$10; for a two-day pass, \$15, and free for children under age 12. The Expo Center has free parking and is accessible to the disabled.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a quilt — whether historic or contemporary — to the show for documentation. For more information about the "Go Tell It!" projects, visit <https://quiltalliance.org/projects/gotellit/>.

Many other special activities are planned for the show. Merikay Waldvogel, a nationally known quilt collector, researcher and writer, will present an antique quilt turning from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 21.

There also will be a scavenger hunt with prizes for the younger attendees. Certified appraiser Cindy Stuart will offer quilt appraisals by appointment. Contact her at 865-386-0940 to schedule an appraisal.

For more information about the show and the guild, visit [www.smokymtnquilters.com](http://www.smokymtnquilters.com), e-mail [info@smokymtnquilters.com](mailto:info@smokymtnquilters.com) or find them on Facebook and Instagram: Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee.

• **Join Historic Ramsey-House for another season of Vintage Base Ball.** Featured are four games from June into August.

This is a free event for the entire family. Concessions will be available for purchase, as well as tours through the house (\$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and children). Bring your own chair plus an umbrella or tent for shade or rain.

Visit [ramseyhouse.org/calendar](http://ramseyhouse.org/calendar) for times, themes and the most up to date information. To learn more about Tennessee Vintage Base Ball Association, visit <http://tennesseevintagebaseball.com/>

• **Knoxville Children's Theatre presents "Fantastic Mr. Fox,"** directed by Tony award winner Ashlee Latimer, will be performed in the KCT theater in downtown Knoxville, 109 E. Churchwell Ave., through Sunday, June 23. Tickets are available at [knoxvillechildrenstheatre.com](http://knoxvillechildrenstheatre.com)

"Fantastic Mr. Fox," based on the classic book by Roald Dahl, will be performed starting at 7 p.m., Thursdays and

Fridays; beginning at 1 and 5 p.m., Saturdays; and starting at 3 p.m., Sundays.

"Dahl's much-loved story follows the vain attempts of three farmers, Boggis, Bunce, and Bean to get rid of the fox who regularly steals food from their farms," a KCT press release stated. "Despite their efforts to get rid of the fox by any means possible, the hapless farmers are outwitted at every turn. Ultimately, Fantastic Mr. Fox devises a plan to ensure full stomachs for his family and friends, all of whom celebrate with a sumptuous feast."

The play is performed by 20 young actors from ages 9 to 17. Mr. Fox will be played by KCT veteran Xavier Truman, with Luna Chavez as Mrs. Fox. KCT veterans Noe Etheridge, Julia Lance and Quinton Stiffer join them as the three farmers: Boggis, Bean and Bunch, respectively. Caedmon Gifford will portray Badger, with Thomas Ludwig as Weasel and Ellery Wynn as Rat.

Other KCT veterans joining the cast are Owen Bellamy, Mason Cox, Julian Daniel, Maggie Ingle, Cristian Salas, Emerson Wagner and Grayson Wright. Making their KCT debuts in this production are Chloe Harrison, Savannah Quintana, Elizabeth Quintana, Sophia Stiffler and Auden Tatler. This production is directed by KCT guest director Ashlee Latimer.

The play is designed by 17 young student designers from ages 9 to 17. Brooke Fellow provide the scenic design with assistance from Isabelle Bender, Weston Bucher, Zee Carnes, Emily Rowe, Avannah Jump and Amerie Wrinkle.

KCT veterans Carter Case and Delaney Rickaman will provide the lighting design. Maggie Clower will design and build the costumes with assistance from Hazel Bucher, Desmond Gondo, Lydia Komeshak and Ben Ward. Prop masters are Hogan Honeycutt, Graham Kelley and Lyric Westerfield.

The play's stage manager is Carlie Houk, with assistant stage manager Michelle Phelps.

• **On Saturday, July 20, First Farragut United Methodist Church, 12733 Kingston Pike, will host a Mobile Pantry food giveaway.**

The church parking lot will open at 8 a.m. Families and residents in need of help can pick-up reservation cards at FFUMC from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, July 19. Cards also will

See PLANNER on Page 5B

## 'Red' benign tumors; flea treatment should be 365

**Q:** I took my dog, "Goldie," to the vet (recently). She has this tumor on her neck. It's red and pretty ugly. The vet called it a histiocytoma and told me everything would be OK, but she keeps scratching it. I'm still worried. What should I do? T.K., Farragut

**A:** Please be assured that histiocytomas are benign tumors. This type of tumor can arise acutely and is typically hairless, red and occasionally bleeds and/or itches. The tumor should be differentiated from other potentially serious tumors. The typical method of diagnosis is fine-needle aspirate — placing a needle into the tumor and examining the cells.

In addition to histiocytomas being benign, most of them regress on their own (simply go away) within a few months without needing surgery. And yes, I agree, these tumors can look angry and scary, but over 99 percent will be gone in a short while.

Histiocytomas are common in younger dogs, but can occur at any age. The tumor is common in boxers and dachshunds, but can affect any breed or mixed breed.

If Goldie's tumor doesn't regress, surgery is always an option. If she is particularly itchy, speak to your vet regarding medical options to keep her comfortable. Best of luck to Goldie.



**Stephanie Myers**  
Ask the Vet

**Q:** I found a few fleas on my dogs last week. Since the weather is just now getting hot, I had not started my flea medications yet. When do you recommend typically starting that? T.H., Farragut

**A:** Our office recommends flea and tick prevention year-round. The winters here in East Tennessee can be unpredictable, but are generally mild. Even with the big snow this year, we were finding fleas and ticks on pets in February.

Fleas can cause irritation, secondary bacterial infections and transmit tapeworms. And with tickborne disease on the rise, prevention is more important than ever. Prevention is much easier than treatment, as fleas can lay 20 to 50 eggs per day. Fleas have a lengthy life cycle, with eggs that can hatch out in a few days, a few weeks or a few months.

There are many safe options for prevention for dogs and cats. There are topical and oral products available, some of which provide additional protection against heartworms and intestinal parasites. Most preventatives are used monthly, and there is one that lasts 12 weeks.

Talk to your veterinarian about which is right for your pet. He/she will evaluate your pet's health status, preexisting conditions and take your pet's lifestyle into consideration before recommending a particular product.

If you have questions about your pet, e-mail Dr. Myers at [leinoir-cityac@gmail.com](mailto:leinoir-cityac@gmail.com)

## Recent college honorees, grads told

• Ten Tennessee Tech students from Farragut were among nearly 4,100 students named to the Spring 2024 Dean's List: **Abigail Phillips, Ava Thompson, Bridges Coffey, Callie Fulghum, Connor Sherrill, Jacob Baldwin, Kendall Johnson, Learik Lillard, Ryan Marasigan and Samuel Morrison.**

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must attend the university full-time and achieve a grade-point average of at least 3.1 on a 4.0 scale.

• **Abigail Howard and Sarah Morrow** were among more than 1,800 undergraduate students who qualified for the Spring 2024 College of Arts and Sciences Dean's List at the University of Kentucky. Students on the Dean's List earned 12 or more credit hours as letter grades with a minimum 3.6 GPA for the semester.

• **Andreas Sales McMurtry** of Farragut and **Mackenzie Arlington and Hannah-Mae O'Sullivan** who live near Farragut were among Southern New Hampshire University students named to the Winter 2024 President's List (January to May). Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term.

• **Kaleb Bedard and Patrick Casey** of Farragut were among Maryville College students earning Dean's List honors for spring semester 2024. Consideration for the Dean's List is open to full-time students who have a grade-point average of at least 3.6 in all work undertaken, no grade below a "C" and no incompletes for the semester.

• **Suzanna Maylee Warren** of Farragut earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Health and Wellness Promotion from Maryville College during its Commencement ceremony Saturday, May 4.

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# BHS valedictorian, salutatorian 2024 profiled

**TAMMY CHEEK**

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Bearden High School recently congratulated its valedictorian, Avigail Laing, and its salutatorian, Scott Dunlap.

## Laing

"I felt incredibly honored," said the daughter of Geoffrey and Heather Laing. "There were so many genuinely hard-working students in my graduating class that none of us were truly sure who the valedictorian would be.

"I've worked incredibly hard these past four years; but even then, when I learned that I was valedictorian, I still found it somewhat surprising," she added.

For Laing, being chosen as valedictorian means "a lot to me ... not just because of the honor of the title but because of the fact that being valedictorian hopefully allows me to inspire other students and show them what is possible with hard work.

"What is most special about being valedictorian to me is the opportunity to speak at graduation," which she did during the BHS Commencement ceremony Thursday, May 23, on the school's Bill Young Field.

At BHS, Laing was president of her school's cybersecurity club, student body secretary of the Student Government Organization and a member of Key Club, National Honors Society, National Technical Honors Society and robotics club.

Outside of school, she has run a podcast, "The Personal Growth Project," for three years, starting in October 2021, that has charted in five countries for self-improvement.

"I also love to write about self-improvement online — both by writing articles and by producing a weekly newsletter," Laing said. "I also love to run. I trained for the Knoxville Marathon this year but injured myself one week out and wasn't able to run it.

"I plan on running the Walt Disney World Marathon in January and repeating marathon training, which has taught me so much about my strengths and ability to do hard things," she added.

Additionally, Laing was:

- a semifinalist for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program — one of 625 students selected from the initial pool of 6,000;

- a finalist for the National Merit Program — and one of the 7,140 recipients chosen to receive a \$2500 National Merit Scholarship;

- a Cornelius Vanderbilt scholar — one of 150 students given a full ride to Vanderbilt University;

- a recipient of the National AP Scholar Award, which means she scored a 5 on more than three AP exams;

- a recipient of the Rensselaer Medal, a \$120,000 scholarship;

- a recipient of the U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award;

- a recipient of BHS Foundation's Technical Scholarship; and

- a recipient of Bearden's Best awards for AP Computer Science Principles, Honors Biology I, Honors Physics I, AP Statistics, AP Economics and AP Research.

Laing plans to major in computer science with a focus on cybersecurity and programming.

"I was lucky enough to be able to take multiple cybersecurity classes through Bearden High School's cybersecurity program, which allowed me to become the first female in

the school district to earn the "Core Four" of industry certifications — CompTIA A+ Software and Hardware, CompTIA IT Fundamentals+, CompTIA Security+, and CompTIA Network+," she said. "I have also been able to participate in the CyberPatriot cybersecurity competitions during my time at Bearden, which showed me that I enjoy the field."

She has chosen to attend University of Florida to major in computer science in the honors program.

"I was lucky enough to receive the Gator Nation scholarship, which is the largest scholarship available to out of state students — \$20,000 per year," Laing said.

Reflecting on BHS, "Initially, high school was difficult for me, and I felt a great amount of internal turmoil over the fact that I never felt like I fit in," she said.

"However, by my sophomore year, I truly embraced my interests and started my own podcast, which ended up being one of the best decisions of my life," Laing added.

"It can be intimidating to go in a different direction from the rest of the crowd, but all of my greatest blessings over the past four years have been a result of my decision to live authentically.

"I believe that high school is what you make of it. And for me, I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to take classes for free from amazing teachers, that I feel like it would be a waste for me to do anything but try my best to make use of the opportunities I have been blessed with."

## Dunlap

Dunlap recalled he was very excited and honored to represent Bearden as salutatorian.

"I was also happy that three of my best friends were in the top 10 with me," he recalled.

Being chosen "shows me that with hard work you can achieve your goals," said Dunlap, son of Linda and Todd Schultz and Sean and Stacey Dunlap. "I have a sense of pride knowing that I was successful in the rigorous classes I chose to take during my time at Bearden.

"I am hoping that this will set the foundation for a successful future as I begin college in the fall," he added. "It also makes me appreciate the support I received from my family and teachers throughout the last four years."

During Dunlap's time at Bearden, Dunlap was involved in the Fishing Team, Ultimate Frisbee Team, Cybersecurity Club, National Honor Society and Senior Committee.

And he owns a small, start-up mailbox refurbishing business. He also volunteers as a math tutor and at The Second Harvest Food Bank.

"In my free time, I enjoy golfing, weightlifting, fishing and spending time with my friends," the salutatorian said.

Dunlap is a candidate for the AP Capstone Diploma, has been on the honor roll every

semester and has earned the AP Scholar with Distinction Award.

Also, he has received numerous scholarships, as well as the prestigious Dean's Scholarship at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, where he will attend school in the fall.

"Through the development of my business and the integration of computer science into my coursework, I have grown enthusiastic about the intersection of business and technology," he said. "Creating my own mailbox refurbishing business, Dunlap Mailbox Solutions, gave me a glimpse into the business world and the ever-evolving technology opportunities that were available to support it.

"I believe Georgia Tech's Scheller College of Business program equips students for a technology-driven world," Dunlap added. "Scheller's interdisciplinary business and technology curriculum aligns perfectly with my interests, and its concentrated-based format gives me the opportunity to dive into different areas of business while focusing on information technology management and finance.

"A minor in computer science will provide me with valuable skills to help me address business challenges with IT solutions. Georgia Tech's top rankings in both of these fields will set me up for a successful career."

Inspiration comes from his brother, Stephen.

"He has always pushed me academically and given me helpful advice," Dunlap said.



Laing



Dunlap

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## Flag day salute, Arbor touch

To honor Flag Day, which is Friday, June 14, and to salvage use of an historic cedar tree — one of the oldest in Knox County and a fixture at Tate’s School in Cedar Bluff that was damaged when a category 2 tornado roared through the campus on Aug. 7, 2023 — “Joe Tate, one of the founders of Tate’s School and self-taught artist himself, reached out to wood sculptor Jeff Banning of Louisville (Blount County),” a school press release stated, as Banning poses with his on-campus creation (above).

“I am really pleased with this sculpture because it reflects the patriotic values in-

herent in the culture of Tate’s School ...,” said Joe Tate, New Development director for Tate’s School.

It took Banning about three days to complete this project.

## FIS student among 12 TN essay honorees

### STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

**NASHVILLE** — Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett recently announced the results of the 2023-24 Civics Essay Contest, which included 12 top finishers across the Volunteer State.

Among two Knox County top three finishers was Nancy Claire Johnson of Farragut Intermediate School, who claimed third place statewide in the 3rd-5th Grade group.

“The contest was open to all Tennessee students in public, charter, private school or home-school associations in grades pre-K to 12,” stated a press release from Hargett’s office. “Schools selected up to two essays from each grade level

to submit for the contest, which featured the theme ‘Why Civility Matters.’”

“I am proud of and want to congratulate our 2023 winners and all of the 7,749 students from across Tennessee who participated in this year’s Civics Essay Contest,” Hargett said. “Through their participation, these students learned why their vote matters, and they are better prepared to participate in our electoral process as adults.”

Each winner receives a TNStars 529 College Savings Program scholarship and a trip to the State Capitol in Nashville. First-place winners receive a \$500 scholarship, second-place winners receive \$250 and third-place winners receive \$100.

### Planner

From page 3B

be available Saturday morning. Alternatively, families can sign up on line at <http://www.ffumc.org/register>

A semi-tractor trailer load of food will be distributed from 8:30 a.m. until all food has been handed out. School supplies, gently used children’s clothing, and coats also will be given away. Any area residents in need of help are encouraged to attend.

The Mobile Pantry distributes food purchased from the Second Harvest Food Bank and donated by LDS Bishops Store house.

• **Knoxville Habitat for Humanity announces a special ReStore pop-up donation station** at Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church, 7234 Middlebrook Pike, which will be open to the public from

10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays, from Monday, June 17, through Saturday, June 29.

“The ReStore pop-up donation station provides an excellent opportunity for community members to donate new and gently used items, including furniture, appliances, home décor and building materials,” a KHH press release stated. “These donations support Knoxville Habitat for Humanity’s mission of building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.”

• **Pinnacle Turkey Creek introduces its Inaugural Farmers Market**, taking place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Sunday in June and July.

“This summer market promises to be a vibrant community event, offering a diverse selection of local produce, artisanal products and delicious bev-

erages,” a PTC press release stated.

“Visitors can look forward to an array of vendors, including Wildwood Bee Company, known for their local honey and bee-related products; Frog Juice Kombucha, offering refreshing and healthful kombucha in a variety of unique flavors; and Poynter Family Farm, bringing farm-fresh produce.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for shoppers and visitors to support local farmers and artisans, enjoy fresh and sustainable products, and experience the vibrant atmosphere of our community,” said Gabi Walsh, PTC marketing associate.

The market will be set up adjacent to Flemming’s near Talbots inside of PTC, “providing ample space for shopping, socializing and enjoying the summer weather,” the release stated.

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## Choi's journey

From page 2B

beginning. "Flying over from the other side of the globe for a 20-hour flight and living with a family I didn't know for a year was anything but smooth sailing."

Especially, he added, regarding chores, including "having to clean up the dog poop," igniting a roar of laughter.

But friendships didn't just take like they do in movies or something. Choi expressed a genuine tough go of it, which nearly pushed him to call it quits and head home.

"The subtle racial discrimination and my inadequate language skills took a toll on my self-esteem. ... and every night, loneliness gnawed at me," he said. It was affecting his new home life as well.

The social clouds began to part, though. When believing this trip to the United States was supposed to be life-changing, he realized he couldn't give up because things were tough.

Realizing, too, that friendships are a two-way street, Choi, who attended Bearden High School, said, "I started making an effort. I initiated conversations to make friends, cracked jokes and pushed my-

self to approach people."

And the sun shone down thereafter. "Buoyed by this newfound courage," as he put it, he gradually started looking forward to school, daily making new friends, which had the subsequent effect of allowing him to sharpen his English skills, in turn making it easier to begin opening up to the Kinsons.

Having found a little glide in his stride, as they say, that newfound courage afforded him the confidence to slip on his dancing shoes, casting shadows at two proms, which, he said, don't exist in Korea, where he "danced like there was no tomorrow."

Throughout the year, chocked full of trips, ball games and events, the photographs and memories of which scrolled on a big screen on the wall behind him in the Farragut Community Center, Choi came to love the region.

"I found myself inadvertently growing as I encountered diverse people and experienced the vastness of the world," he recalled. "I transformed from being merely pessimistic to becoming resilient, gaining the strength to rise again even after facing failure."

"I acquired the courage," he went on, "to live and began

contemplating my dreams."

To the Kinsons, he closed by saying, "Thank you for making me an unforgettable experience. I love you so much, mom and dad."

And with that, their "son" simply thanked everyone for listening to this exchange journey that had instilled so much in his life.

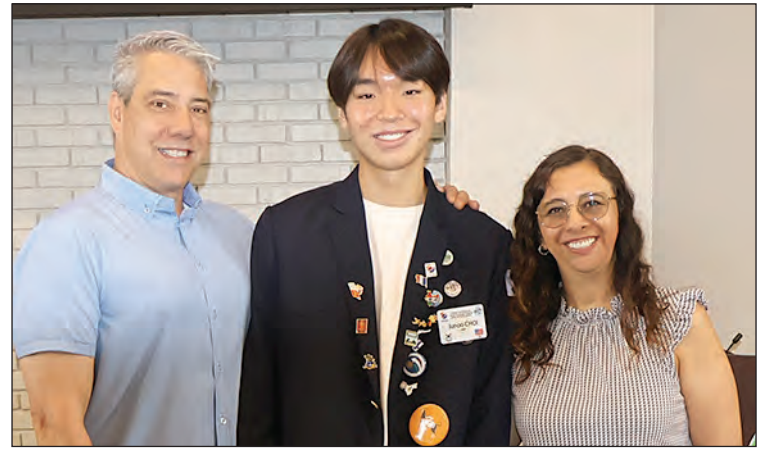
And with that, Tory took the microphone, explaining how Rotary prepares kids for the cultural "shock" that's inherent with this program, but foreshadowing the shock teens experience returning to their previous lives.

Of his family back in Korea, he told Choi, "They don't realize how much you've changed. You've learned confidence; you have drive; you have goals now. You're going to be a different guy."

He emotionally added, "You're going to be a big, bright star in the world."

The hope is they come back to the area later in life, equipped with the skills potentially to become business, community or political leaders, according to McKinley Tabor, chairman of inbound students for Rotary District 6780 who's looking 20 to 30 years down exchange students' lives.

"I guess in a way," he said,



Brandon L. Jones

Tory and Monica Kinson with Junoo Choi, 19, the exchange student they hosted who attended Bearden High School during the 2023-24 school year, as Choi spoke to The Rotary Club of Farragut during its Wednesday, June 5, meeting. Choi has returned to his home in Seoul, South Korea.

"one of the big reasons I do this is, No. 1, when you give a kid this experience, it changes their life trajectory."

RCF member Bill Nichols, who's been working with the Rotary Youth Exchange since 2010 while instrumental in getting American students sent abroad, reflected on the program. "It's a cultural exchange, not an educational exchange," he said.

"Now (Choi's) going to go back to his culture, and we want him to express a positive image of the United States."

"You're asking a family to open up their hearts and homes to a teenager from another part of the world they have never met," Tabor said.

"It's a big ask."

This Rotary is seeking welcoming families now for at least two other students, a young man from Colombia and a young lady from Uganda, hoping, as was the case for Choi, that some other kids come and go with a brand new look at life having experienced a part of it they may otherwise have never known existed.

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# Admiral Rep champs: FIS

Eleven Farragut Intermediate School students were recognized for top achievements as entries into FIS's annual PTO Admiral Representation Contest, where the students are challenged with performing and/or creating around a theme, which this school year was "Change is You." Students illustrated this theme through seven avenues that were award categories: Dance Choreography, Music Composition, Film Production, Photography, Literature and Visual Arts, plus recognition for coming up with the "Change is You" theme, the Overall award of which went to fourth-grader Ellen Wu (second from left in back). Ellen also was Overall Literature winner. Other winners, front row from left, were fourth-grader Heidi Hill (Overall Visual Arts winner); third-grader Ryan Hunley (Visual Arts honoree); third-grader Finley Walker (Music Composition honoree); third-grader Vedha Singaraju (Dance Choreography honoree); third-grader Lindy Lawson (Literature honoree); and third-grader Roman Spar (Overall Photography winner). In back, from left, were fourth-grader Isaac Wang (Overall Music Composition and Film Production winner); Ellen; fifth-grader Nina Qi (Literature honoree); Aishani Roy Nag (Visual Arts and Theme honoree); and Yashvi Kanudawala (Overall Dance Choreography winner).



Alan Sloan

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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut will hold a public hearing on June 27, 2024, at 6:00 PM, at the Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestown Blvd, to hear citizen's comments on the following ordinances:

- I. Ordinance 24-06, an ordinance on first reading to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Chapter 109-Signs, to provide for canopy signs and projecting signs in portions of the Town (JA Fielden, Applicant)
- II. Ordinance 24-08, an ordinance on first reading to amend the Farragut Zoning Map for Parcels 070 and 072, Tax Map 142, between the Waverly Court Subdivision and Baldwin Park Subdivision, 341 Boring Road, from R-1 and R-2 to R-3, 12 Acres (Homestead Land Holdings, Applicant)
- III. Ordinance 24-09, Ordinance to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Chapter 103, Aquatic Buffers and Chapter 111, Stormwater Management Control by deleting chapters in their entirety and substituting new language for Chapter 111, Stormwater Management Control
- IV. Ordinance 24-12, Ordinance to amend the General Fund Capital Investment Program budget FY23-24, passed by Ordinance 23-07

It is the policy of the Town of Farragut not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability or veteran status pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 93-112 and 101-336 in its hiring, employment practices and programs. To request accommodations due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting.

**Request for Public Comment**

**Proposed Section 26a Permit on Fort Loudoun Reservoir for Concord Marina**

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is considering a Section 26a permit application from Go Outdoors Concord, LLC to expand Concord Marina's harbor limits by approximately 13 acres and the addition of associated amenities on Fort Loudoun Reservoir at Sinking Creek River Mile 0.6 (left bank), lat/long 35.864958, -84.130953, in Knox County, Tennessee. A Section 26a permit approval will allow Go Outdoors Concord, LLC to construct additional facilities which would include three floating boat slips, fuel pumps, a restroom, utility lines, and riprap shoreline stabilization.

TVA is interested in receiving comments regarding the action's potential to affect the environment and/or historic properties and to identify any other issues associated with this request. Any comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and will be available for public inspection. All written comments on this proposed action must be received on or before July 10, 2024. Written comments may be mailed to the address below or emailed to kllelis1@tva.gov.

**Kacey Ellis**  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11A-K  
Knoxville, TN 37902  
Email: kllelis1@tva.gov

239 JAMESTOWNE BLVD | FARRAGUT, TN 37934  
865.966.7057 | WWW.TOWNOFFARRAGUT.ORG

**FARRAGUT BEER BOARD**  
June 13, 2024 • 5:55 PM

- I. Approval of Minutes
  - A. May 23, 2024
- II. Beer Permit
  - A. Approval of Class 1, On-Premise Beer Permit for Season's Café, 11605 Parkside Drive

It is the policy of the Town of Farragut not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability or veteran status pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 93-112 and 101-336 in its hiring, employment practices and programs. To request accommodations due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting.

239 JAMESTOWNE BLVD | FARRAGUT, TN 37934 | 865.966.7057 | WWW.TOWNOFFARRAGUT.ORG

**FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**  
AGENDA • JUNE 13, 2024  
WORKSHOP 5:15 • Committee Appointments  
BEER BOARD MEETING 5:55 PM • BMA MEETING 6:00 PM

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - A. May 23, 2024
- IV. Mayor's Report
- V. Resolutions & Ordinances
  - A. Ordinances
    1. Second Reading
      - a) Ordinance 24-07, Ordinance of The Town of Farragut, Tennessee Adopting the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024, and Ending June 30, 2025
      2. First Reading
        - a) Ordinance 24-06, an ordinance on first reading to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Chapter 109-Signs, to provide for canopy signs and projecting signs in portions of the Town (JA Fielden, Applicant)
        - b) Ordinance 24-08, an ordinance on first reading to amend the Farragut Zoning Map for Parcels 070 and 072, Tax Map 142, between the Waverly Court Subdivision and Baldwin Park Subdivision, 341 Boring Road, from R-1 and R-2 to R-3, 12 Acres (Homestead Land Holdings, Applicant)
        - c) Ordinance 24-09, Ordinance to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Chapter 103, Aquatic Buffers and Chapter 111, Stormwater Management Control by deleting chapters in their entirety and substituting new language for Chapter 111, Stormwater Management Control
        - d) Ordinance 24-12, Ordinance to amend the General Fund & Capital Investment Program budget FY23-24, passed by Ordinance 23-07
      - VI. Business Items
        - A. Approval of Contract 2025-02, On-Call Pavement Markings
        - B. Approval of Contract 2025-03, On-Call Guardrail Maintenance
        - C. Approval of Contract 2025-04, On-Call Traffic Signal Maintenance
        - D. Approval of Contract for Professional Design Services – MBLP Pickleball Courts and Parking
        - E. Approval of the FY25 Town of Farragut Committee Appointments
        - F. Approval of the Tennova Farragut Frosty 5K, hosted by the Farragut High School Cross Country Team
        - G. Approval of the PJ Parkinson Run for Parkinson's 5K/10K Race
      - VII. Citizens Forum
      - VIII. Town Administrator's Report
      - IX. Town Attorney's Report

It is the policy of the Town of Farragut not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability or veteran status pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 93-112 and 101-336 in its hiring, employment practices and programs. To request accommodations due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting.

239 JAMESTOWNE BLVD | FARRAGUT, TN 37934 | 865.966.7057 | WWW.TOWNOFFARRAGUT.ORG

**FARRAGUT MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
AGENDA • June 20, 2024  
Farragut Community Center – Assembly Room • 7:00 p.m.

For questions, please e-mail Mark Shipley at mshipley@townoffarragut.org, Bart Hose at bhose@townoffarragut.org, or Holley Marlowe at hmarlowe@townoffarragut.org

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes for the May 16, 2024 meeting
3. Appointment of Youth Representative
4. Discussion of a Town of Farragut Wayfinding Schematic Design Plan (Town of Farragut, Applicant)
5. Request for approval for sidewalk and street improvements to Admiral Road and portions of Sonja Drive (Town of Farragut, Applicant)
6. Discussion and public hearing on a request to amend the Farragut Zoning Map for Parcel 15402, Tax Map 130, west of the Cotton Eyed Joe's, from C-2 to OD-RE/E, 3.1 Acres (Cox Universal Group, Applicant)
7. Discussion and public hearing on a site plan for a new hotel concept for the property at 11320 Outlet Drive (formerly approved as a Skore Hotel), 4.34 Acres, Zoned OD-RE/E (Land Development Solutions, Applicant)
8. Discussion on an amendment to the development concept plan for the commercial portion of the Kingston Pike Village/Farragut Junction Planned Commercial Development (PCD) project at the southwest intersection of Kingston Pike and S. Watt Road (Daniel Smith, Applicant)
9. Discussion and public hearing on amendments to the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22 - Article 5. Driveways and Other Access Ways, Section 22-147. Traffic Impact Study Requirements, to provide for additional considerations for pedestrians and bicyclists (Town of Farragut, Applicant)
10. Discussion and public hearing on approval of the Town of Farragut Mixed Use Town Center Vision Plan (Town of Farragut, Applicant)
11. Discussion and public hearing on amendments to the Future Land Use Map in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update involving the following locations: 1) Updating the land purchased by Knox County Schools off Boring Road to reflect a Civic/Institutional land use designation, 2) Updating the land purchased by the Town of Farragut off McFee Road to reflect a Parks and Recreation land use designation, 3) Updating the areas that are currently shown as Medium Density Residential and Low Density Residential south and east of the Ford property and the Park Place Subdivision to reflect a Very Low Density Residential land use designation, and 4) Updating the areas that are currently shown as Medium Density Residential along a portion of Concord Road to reflect a Low Density Residential land use designation in the northern portion and a Civic/Institutional land use designation for the Pleasant Forest Cemetery and the area abutting the cemetery to the north (Town of Farragut, Applicant)
12. Approval of utilities
13. Citizen forum

It is the policy of the Town of Farragut not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability or veteran status pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 93-112 and 101-336 in its hiring, employment practices and programs. To request accommodations due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting.



### Chalk in Park

From page 2B


And with some 100 families slated to participate, they had their chinks ready and game faces on for a fantastic morning in the sun.

And by the looks of things as the day progressed, they were well on their way, it seemed, to thinking about the next time kids could come chalk the park.

Photos by Brandon L. Jones

Twin 10-year-old siblings Bella Dineen (near right) and Tazz Dineen (far right) enjoy creating artistic works on the pavement of McFee Park during "Chalk the Park" Saturday morning, June 8.



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# CHAMBER LIFE

"MISSION: TO STRENGTHEN, PROMOTE, AND CREATE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS AND EDUCATION THAT ENCOURAGE MEMBER SUCCESS."

VOL. 38, NO. 6

A PUBLICATION OF THE FARRAGUT WEST KNOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JUNE 2024

## Lunch to Remove Networking Roadblocks

You're Invited to a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce

### LUNCH N' LEARN

Removing Networking Boundaries

CONNECT

IMPACT

ENGAGE

WHEN: TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 | 11:30AM - 1:00PM

WHERE: 7 TITLE | 2077 TOWN CENTER BLVD., #302  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37922

TREATS PROVIDED BY



Professionals are often told that networking is ESSENTIAL to business development. But let's be honest: networking can often feel daunting due to a variety of factors:

- The pressure to make a strong first impression, which can lead to anxiety and self-doubt
- The intimidation of navigating large OR smaller events where everyone seems to already know each other
- The difficulty of approaching new people and the fear of rejection or being perceived as pushy
- How to have a quick conversation that isn't just "small talk"
- The lack of immediate results or tangible outcomes that can make networking seem unproductive and not worth the time

To help combat those struggles, the chamber continues its educational programming with a lunch & learn that will give attendees relatable ways to help them remove the roadblocks in networking in order to make better connections that lead to increased impact for them and their business.

Featured panelists are:

- Raeus Cannon, Founder/CEO, Referral Excellence Organization (REO): As CEO/ Founder of Referral Excellence Organization

(REO,LLC), a membership association (and longtime FWKCC member) that promotes business growth by creating Networking Communities, Raeus is well versed in helping people make REAL connections that result in profitable relationships, and has professionally spoken to multiple southeastern chambers of commerce, BNI, and small business groups over her long career.

• Julie Blaylock, President/CEO, FWKCC: As the chief staff since 2017 at the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce, Julie admits she did not even know what networking WAS when she accepted her first role at FWKCC as Executive Assistant in 2011. Over the years, she has studied, practiced, facilitated and observed networking of almost every type, size, and style, focusing on the importance of honing in on what works best for each individual and understanding that different personalities can be equally successful with intentional effort.

• Zan J. Schriver, III, Development & Digital Media Manager, Volunteer Ministry Center: Zan works closely with the executive leadership team at VMC, a non-profit that strives to end homelessness through permanent supportive housing solutions. With priorities that include building relationships that lead to community education on these often

See LUNCH on Page 2

## COFFEE AND CONNECTIONS

JUNE

**WHEN** JUNE 14TH 8 - 9:30 AM

**WHERE** @KBREW ON EBENEZER  
1000 Ebenezer Rd, Knoxville, TN 37923

**WHAT** Coffee and Connections!

**WHO** Young Professionals of Knoxville and West Young Professionals

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

PLATINUM

GOLD

## YPs Host Twice in June

The chamber's West Young Professionals kicks off summer with TWO great programs in the month of June that chamber members and YPs from all over are invited to attend.

On Friday, June 14, West Young Professionals (WYP) teams up with Young Professionals of Knoxville (YPK) for "Coffee and Conversations." This casual networking takes place at KBrew on Ebenezer Road from 8:00 to 9:30am, and is a drop-in event.

On Thursday, June 27, WYP will host a unique networking designed to connect young professionals with potential mentors in the area. "Lessons Learned" will feature several more experienced professionals from across different industries who will speak on different topics such as how they made the transition from being a younger professional,

overcoming imposter syndrome, and more. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in multiple roundtables with the mentors and connect one on one.

Mentors currently committed include Derrick Furlow (X-Hunger founder, Entrepreneur, Vol for Life), Adrian Hall (Movement Mortgage), Katie Wiley (Asst. Director for Employer Development, UTK), Tavis Bailey (Owner, Printing Image / Former Olympian in Discus), and others.

That event will take place from 8:00 to 9:30am at SouthEast Bank in Farragut.

Guests can register for either event at [farragutchamber.com](http://farragutchamber.com) > Events.

The West Young Professionals are especially thankful to their program sponsors TDS Telecom (Platinum), YMCA The Davis Family (Platinum), and SouthEast Bank (Gold).

## 2024 Business EXPO



May 1, 2024

The **Presenting Sponsor, Slamdot**, smiles for a photo during the Business EXPO at Rothchild Event Center, which brought in upwards of 500-600 attendees.

Join us for a  
**WEST YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**  
BUILD YOUR OWN BLUEPRINT EVENT

### LESSONS LEARNED WORKSHOP

JUNE 27TH 8 - 9:30 AM  
@ SOUTHEAST BANK  
12700 KINGSTON PIKE, FARRAGUT, TN 37934

FEATURING A PANEL OF LOCAL PROFESSIONALS TO SHARE THEIR INSIGHT AND LIGHTEN UP THE AFTERNOON

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# Enterprise Club

These Chamber members generously contribute to the Chamber and the Continued Development Grant Program above and beyond their annual dues.

<b>ADMIRAL ELITE</b>	<b>ADMIRAL</b>	<b>VICE ADMIRAL</b>	<b>COMMANDER</b>
<b>CAPTAIN</b>	<b>ANCHOR</b>	<b>VICE ADMIRAL</b>	<b>COMMANDER</b>





By your Knoxville Small Business Development Center

Pellissippi State Community College and the Knoxville Small Business Development Center are excited to announce applications are being accepted for the first fall cohort of the Startup Training Resources to Inspire Veteran Entrepreneurship (STRIVE) program. STRIVE is part of a landmark initiative that transforms veterans and military family members into entrepreneurs. The program, offered in conjunction with Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF), leverages networks and education resources in local communities to support and advance veteran-owned businesses. Applications are welcome from all veterans, active duty (within one year of discharge), and military spouses who demonstrate a strong interest in entrepreneurship and small business ownership. The nine-week course will be held at Pellissippi's Blount County campus in the Ruth and Steve West Center, starting in September.

This program is designed to help Veterans through all stages of their business plan. Whether they have an idea, a business in the early stages, or an established business looking to grow, everyone will benefit from this training course. Throughout the course, participants will develop their entrepreneurial knowledge and interact with subject matter experts to identify, overcome, and mitigate trouble spots, leading to increased confidence and potential for success. The program's purpose is to take an early-stage business or business plan through a structured and practical process. It is not designed to teach participants in-depth theories like those taught in an undergraduate or graduate level entrepreneurship program. STRIVE aims to open the door to economic opportunity for veterans, National Guard members, and reservists by developing their competencies in creating and sustaining an entrepreneurial venture.

Seats are limited and applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Therefore, it is recommended that veterans apply as soon as possible. All applicants must fill out an online application. In addition, each applicant must have a business idea or have an existing business to participate in the program. The class content and assignments will utilize this information throughout the program.

If you or someone you know who is a veteran would like to apply or find out more information on this free program, please visit <https://www.pstcc.edu/veteran-services/strive/> or reach out to the Knoxville Small Business Development Center at 865-246-2663.

You can also reach out to the Knoxville SBDC if you would be interested in becoming a sponsor of this program.

**Lunch**

From page 1

misunderstood issues, as well as developing donor partnerships, Zan has learned to network in a way that is both productive, profitable, and in keeping with his introverted style.

• Philip Giguere, AVP Business Development, Captive Resources: As the current outgoing chair of West Young Professionals, Philip brings the voice of up and coming professionals to the discussion, having navigated the growth of his own career in insurance since 2018. A self-proclaimed extrovert, Philip is passionate about professional growth and helping young professionals and entrepreneurs find their place in Knoxville so they can successfully call it home.

NOTE: LIGHT Lunch refreshments PROVIDED (Included at NO COST to existing chamber members). You may also bring a Brown Bag.

# Networking

## All Occasions Party Rentals and Tradebank – May 9, 2024



(L-R) Bryson Clouse, Express Employment Professionals; Mayreli Garcia, Express Employment Professionals; Courtney Kear, Josh Hemphill State Farm; and Brittany Mariano, TN Dept. of Labor American Job Center pose for a group photo.



Bobby and Fiona Fox, Co-owners Fox Muscle & Joint, smile for a quick photo in-between networking.

## Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union Northshore – May 16, 2024



A few members of the Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union team gather for a photo during their morning networking.



(L-R) Ken Abbott and Tyler Hunsaker, TDS Telecommunications, smile for a quick photo.

## AMR Rural Metro – May 24, 2024



Emergency Responders and other members of AMR Rural Metro pose with their service dog Dolly.



(L-R) Kate McLawhorn, Midwest Communications; Michele Silva, Midwest Communications; and Mike Arms, Tennessee Strategies greet each other at the morning networking.

## Element Knoxville West – May 30, 2024



(L-R) Sonya Roy, Element Knoxville West, and Kim Fry, Hilton Knoxville Airport grab a quick photo while networking.



(L-R) New Chamber Members Erin Lacienski and Lauren Prater, BioworX Knoxville, share an excited smile for the camera.

## 2024 Business EXPO



May 1, 2024

EXPO Sponsor Simply Magical Vacations by Amy poses next to her beautiful booth at the May 1st event.



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e-mail: [info@farragutchamber.com](mailto:info@farragutchamber.com) | [www.farragutchamber.com](http://www.farragutchamber.com)

This newsletter is published monthly by the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce.

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# Ribbon Cuttings

## Duck Donuts – May 7, 2024



**Co-owner** Brantley Thomas readies the ribbon cutting scissors to celebrate new ownership of the 6104 Kingston Pike location of Duck Donuts.

## Concord Place Memory Care – May 15, 2024



A resident of Concord Place, joined by staff, other residents, Chamber members, and members of the community, readies the scissors to cut the ribbon on the facility previously known as Avenir.

## Bake That Dough – May 21, 2024



**Owner** Darien Stathakis wields the ribbon-cutting scissors with her family, partner, and members of the community by her side to celebrate their new storefront location at 10700 Virginia Pine Way, Suite 106 in Knoxville.

## Whit's Frozen Custard – May 22, 2024



**Owner** Kimberley Wilt is joined by her daughter and other staff to celebrate their 1-year anniversary milestone.

## Eden Family Chiropractic – May 29, 2024



Husband and wife, Major Harris, **VP of Operations**, and Danielle Harris, **Chiropractor**, wield the scissors at the dual ribbon-cutting event with the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce to celebrate their grand opening.

# Member Briefs

Looking for more details on a specific event, special or job?

Go to [www.farragutchamber.com](http://www.farragutchamber.com) to see these and other member items!

Is your patio ready for summer get-togethers? If you need your home and patios clean and ready for summer, give **Knight and Day Pressure Washing** a call at 865-800-3122, or message them for your complimentary quote at [Knightanddaypressurewashing.com](http://Knightanddaypressurewashing.com)

**Miser Wealth Partners - Loudon** is seeking a friendly and professional full-time front desk receptionist to join their team. This long-term position requires strong organizational and communication skills, a high level of client confidentiality, and a willingness to adapt in a fast-paced, growing firm. Apply now at: [smartapply.indeed.com/beta/indeedapply/form/contact-info](https://www.indeed.com/beta/indeedapply/form/contact-info)

**Salon Biyoshi** invites you to celebrate PRIDE in style! Through the month of June, add a FREE color pop to any last extension service. Just mention this deal when booking. 865-690-4111.

Join **Lincoln Memorial University** on June 21st and 22nd for the 18th Annual Mountain Heritage Literary Festival featuring a keynote address from Robert Gipe, Weatherford Award-winning author for outstanding Appalachian novel. Register now and enter the promo code MHLF24 for 20% off: <https://bit.ly/4aSH8ue>

Get ready for a summer filled with excitement and adventure at **Kids Cove Drop-In Childcare's** Summer Camp. Each day features themed activities designed to spark creativity, build new skills, and keep your little ones engaged. Snacks and meals included! Spaces are limited. Visit [www.kidscoveknoxville.com](http://www.kidscoveknoxville.com) and sign up today!

If you're not a member of **AA-Air Company's** Comfortable Club yet, you should be! Discounts, freebies, and extras add up to considerable ROI. But priority service and weekend appointments are awesome when your HVAC is acting up! Comfortable Club membership PAYS! Call them today at 865-689-5290 for more information.

Give local, save local this summer. Donate this June to the **MEDIC Regional Blood Center** and receive a Tennessee Blood Donor-themed beach towel. Schedule your appointment today at [medicblood.org](http://medicblood.org).

**Graphic Creations, Inc.'s** 2024 Football Schedules are a great way to encourage customer loyalty and repeat business! They have several schedules to choose from and all are offered in both 12x16 and 18x24 sizes. Learn more at [www.graphiccreations.com/sports-schedules/](http://www.graphiccreations.com/sports-schedules/).

# Welcome New Members!

The Chamber welcomes these businesses who joined us recently in May!

Did you know businesses/organizations can submit an application & payment online? Visit [www.farragutchamber.com](http://www.farragutchamber.com) and click "Join the Chamber!"

Since its inception in 1952, First US Bank has operated on a community bank model, growing, and prospering on the strength of long-term relationships with people in the communities they serve. They strive to exceed the expectations of their customers, employees, and shareholders every day and in every engagement. For additional insights, call (865) 474-6363 or visit <https://www.fusb.com/>.

FIRST US BANK

Apotheca Dispensary was created in 2019, as a trustworthy source of reliable and sustainable cannabis, kratom, and microdosing magic mushroom products. They consider each location a community connection, of which we are part. For complete information visit <https://www.apotheca.org/> or call (980) 759-3534.



Every member of their team has received professional training and is licensed to. They will create a custom treatment plan for every injury. Treatment may



include dry needling, soft tissue movement, cupping, specific corrective exercises, training modulations, and a thorough plan. You can trust their reliable solutions and professional service to ensure body maintenance. For additional information insights visit <https://shiftperformancept.com/> or call (865) 217-6084.

Knox Education Foundation (KEF) is a catalyst for transforming public education to achieve excellent outcomes. KEF's core values include accountability, equity, innovation, courage, and hope. KEF has identified five focus areas and will fulfill its mission by prioritizing resources, investing in talent, and conducting research. Visit <https://www.knoxed.org/> or call (865) 370-2300 to learn more.



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STIVERS WEALTH MANAGEMENT

See NEW MEMBERS on Page 4



# Welcome New Members!

## New Members

From page 3

your current situation. Education is key in creating an effective retirement plan, at Stivers Wealth Management, education will always come first. For further details call (865) 288-7685 or visit <http://www.stiverswealth.com>.

For more than 40 years, Lookout Pest Control has served the Southeastern United States with residential and commercial pest management, including general pest, termite, and crawl space encapsulation services. Their mission is to look out for the people in our communities — employees first, customers always. To explore further visit <https://www.lookoutpestcontrol.com/> or call (865) 413-5237.



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sustained injuries due to the negligence of another motorist, we will ensure that justice is served. They are the experienced attorneys that Knoxville residents turn to after a severe accident. Hotz and Associates is your advocate for personal injury cases. Contact (865) 637-9000 or visit <https://askthecarwreckattorneys.com/truck-wrecks/> for your free consultation.

The ultimate neighborhood gathering place is your local beerstro with a phenomenal beer selection and mouth-watering cuisine with a warm and inviting community atmosphere and the ideal destination for memorable moments! Beer for here, beer for home and beer alternatives. Further details can be found at <https://thecasualpint.com/> or call (865) 315-7657.



Knox Dough offers rolled ice cream infused with cookie dough created without eggs and with heat-treated flour to keep the dough delicious and safe to eat- a top seller, shakes, floats, shaved ice, and pizza cones. For more details call (865) 556-9677 or visit <https://knoxdough.com/>



# Thank You for Renewing Your Membership!

*The Farragut/West Knox Chamber thanks these businesses who have renewed their investment in the Chamber as of May 2024. We can count them as Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members! We urge members to patronize one another when the goods or services a member can provide are needed. We also hope that area residents recognize a business's commitment to its community when it becomes part of its local chamber of commerce and reward that commitment with its patronage.*

A special thank you goes to these renewing members who are continuing their support of our chamber and the businesses it serves through their above-and-beyond Enterprise Membership:



**Knox County Mayor's Office**  
Thank you for your Admiral Elite Enterprise Membership!



**Town of Farragut**  
Thank you for your Admiral Enterprise Membership!



**LCUB**  
Thank you for your Commander Enterprise Membership!



**TDS Telecom**  
Thank you for your Captain Enterprise Membership!



**Costco Wholesale**  
Thank you for your Anchor Enterprise Membership!



**iRIS Networks**  
Thank you for your Anchor Enterprise Membership!



**KUB**  
Thank you for your Anchor Enterprise Membership!



**Regions Bank Knollwood**  
Thank you for your Anchor Enterprise Membership!

ADS Phoenix  
AFLAC - Cynthia Moore  
Baskin Robbins  
Big O Tires - West Knox  
Blue Ridge Yoga & Wellness Center, LLC  
Designer Garages  
Dunkin' Donuts  
East Tennessee Natural Gas, LLC  
EdFinancial Services  
Fastest Labs  
Foundever  
Graphic Creations, Inc.

Hill Group Inc.  
Hilton Garden Inn Papermill  
Inst-I-Glass of Knoxville  
Iva's Place, Inc.  
JCPenney  
Knox Speed And Diesel  
NerdsToGo - West Knoxville  
OneDigital  
Pipe Wrench Plumbing Heating & Cooling  
River Dog Bakery Farragut  
Skintentional Beauty Spa

South College - Lonas Campus  
The Villages of Farragut  
Thomas Tuning and Service  
Tim's Custom Painting  
Total Hair & Body Medical  
Tupperware - Barbara Sanders  
Visit Knoxville  
Water into Wine  
Window Genie of West Knoxville and Farragut  
Young-Williams Animal Center  
YWCA Knoxville & The Tennessee Valley

# Calendar of Events: June/July 2024

Members can quickly RSVP for events in their Member Portal at <http://members.farragutchamber.com/login>. Call 675-7057 or email [Suzanne@farragutchamber.com](mailto:Suzanne@farragutchamber.com) for a link to create your account! Visitors/Guests can register by clicking the links on the Chamber Calendar ([www.farragutchamber.com](http://www.farragutchamber.com) > "Events") and registering under "Not a member?".

**Tuesdays at the Chamber: FREE Business Mentoring for ANY business with SCORE Greater Knoxville. MUST Email [Clifton.Caudill@SCOREvolunteer.org](mailto:Clifton.Caudill@SCOREvolunteer.org) to pre-schedule.**

**Wednesdays at the Chamber: FREE Business ADVISING for ANY business @ Chamber with SBDC. Visit [www.tsdbc.org/request-advising/](http://www.tsdbc.org/request-advising/) to pre-schedule.**

**June 13th • 4:30p**  
American Museum of Science and Energy  
115 Main St. East | Oak Ridge 37830

**June 20th • 8a**  
Volunteer Ministry Center  
511 N. Broadway  
Knoxville 37917

**June 27th • 8a**  
West Young Professionals-  
Lessons Learned:  
"Build Your Blueprint"  
SouthEast Bank  
12700 Kingston Pike  
Farragut 37934

**July 11th • 8a**  
King University with  
East Tennessee Children's Hospital  
Farragut Community Center  
239 Jamestowne Blvd.  
Farragut, 37934

**Would your business love to host one of our popular weekly networkings? Members can do just that! Call us at (865) 675-7057 to learn more or to book for this year!**