

Hope everyone has a Happy and Safe 4th of July!



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Stop EZ Stop in Old Concord, dozens say

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

CONCORD — Almost unanimously expressing opposition to locating a 7,000 square-foot EZ Stop Food Mart and restaurant on the edge of Historic Concord District along Concord Road near Northshore Drive, about 60 residents met with third- and fourth-generation owners and their attorney to

exchange thoughts and plans. Not one of a few dozen residents who expressed their opinions during a roughly two-hour gathering in Old Concord's Chota Lodge No. 253 F&AM Fellowship Fall Thursday evening, June 20, spoke in support of the EZ Stop plan: 5,000 square feet for the convenience store, and a 14-pump gas station (seven two-sided boxes), plus 2,000 square feet for an adjoining restaurant,

Calloway's Tennessee Kitchen. "The property that we're looking at is about 4.7 acres," said attorney Benjamin C. Mullins of the Frantz McConnell & Seymour, LLC firm in downtown Knoxville. "... We're also there (alongside) Second Street." Also on hand was Tommy Hunt, a third-generation part owner/president of EZ Stop-Calloway Oil Company, who was alongside his daughter, vice presi-

dent Julia Langston, a fourth-generation company part-owner, and her husband, vice president Trenton Langston. A number of concerns were expressed: traffic, noise, aesthetics, lighting, restaurant drive-thru, property values, possible sinkholes, possible unmarked graves with historical significance on the property and security

See **CONCORD DEBATE** on Page 5A

Hotel plans proceed

TAMMY CHEEK
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Realization for two hotels by separate entities proposed for Outlet Drive are coming to light as Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen unanimously approved a zoning amendment for one and a concept plan for the other during its meeting Thursday, June 20.

Cox Universal Group, proposing to build a new Wyndham-brand ecoSuites hotel, received approval for its request to rezone 3.1 acres, formerly known as West Park Inn, west of Cotton Eyed Joe along Outlet Drive, from Regional Commercial (C-2) to Outlet Drive Regional Entertainment and Employment District (OD-RE/E).

"The applicant would like to construct a four-story hotel on the property," Community Development director Mark Shipley said. "The OD-RE/E provides for a lower masonry percentage that would help make the project economically viable."

"For a building exceeding two stories and 25,000 square feet, the net façade area of the building must be at least 25 percent masonry," he added. "In contrast, the C-2 District requires that the net façade area of the building must be at least 75 percent masonry."

Shipley said the developers' desire to build a hotel is consistent with the OD-RE/E District and "a hotel would help support the Town's tourism program."

Likewise, a new concept plan for Studio Res at Marriott got the green light as well.

A year-and-a-half ago, FMPC and BOMA approved a site plan for the previously

See **HOTELS** on Page 2A

Bluegrass at Founders Park



Summer Solstice sounds, smiles

Visit Farragut presented Bluegrass Summer Solstice concert Thursday, June 20, in Founders Park at Campbell Station, 405 N. Campbell Station Road. (Above) Clayton (no last name given), father of Greer (left) and Emerson, enjoyed the evening. Performers included Brand New Box of Matches (right), the Knoxville-based duo of Ryan Hardison's talent on the banjo and Elizabeth Sherman's vocals on ballads and honky-tonk-inspired tunes. Also performing were Tim Decker and Tennessee River, with Decker on the banjo, John Orr on the guitar, Steve Potts on the mandolin, Dennis Almond on the upright bass and dobro player Jimmie Rosenbaum. (See related photo, page 2A)



Photos by Brandon L. Jones

Parking garage typical of plan?

Vision Plan to be an ordinance?

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Municipal Planning Commission voted unanimously to postpone action on its Mixed Use Town Center Vision Plan during its Thursday, June 20, meeting after hearing from residents who were concerned it would be voted in as an ordinance.

Specifically noted was mention of a potential parking garage.

"I don't think we're in a great big hurry to do this," said Mayor Ron Williams, an FMPC member, said about the overall plan. "We're not punching a clock on this, so we need to work on it some more."

"I think we should probably look at some different wording that would suit all the Planning Commissioners ... as far as how we develop it," he added.

"Understanding that this is a Vision Plan, ask yourself, why is 'this' plan, unlike those (other plans), being put in the Town's ordinances?" resident Michael Wilson asked, after referring to such plans as the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan among others.

Parking garage
"Over the last few days, there has been a lot said about this plan and some of its contents, namely the potential parking garage found on pages 69 and 91," Wilson said

See **PLAN OPTIONS** on Page 2A

Farragut, area voting precinct locations, days, times

- **Farragut and Knox County Early Voting** runs from Friday, July 12, through Saturday, July 27, for the County General and Town of Farragut non-partisan elections, plus state and federal primary elections, all ending on Election Day Thursday, Aug. 1.
- **Farragut and Hardin Valley area voting precincts, days and times are listed:** 66SE and 662W, Farragut, Farragut High School, 11237 Kingston Pike; 66NE and 66NW, Farragut, Farragut Middle School, 200 West End Ave.; 65N, Concord North, Farragut Primary School, 509 N. Campbell Station Road; 65SW and 65W, Concord Southwest and Concord West, Faith Lutheran Church, 225 Jamestowne Blvd.; 65E and 65S, Concord East and Concord South, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 1001 Ebenezer Road; 62, Hardin Valley, Hardin Valley Elementary School, 11445

Hardin Valley Road; 69S, Northshore, Northshore Elementary School, 1889 Thunderhead Road; 67 and 68, North Cedar Bluff and South Cedar Bluff, Cedar Bluff Middle School, 707 N Cedar Bluff Road; 68E, East Cedar Bluff, Cedar Bluff Branch Library, 9045 Cross Park Drive; 69W, A. L. Lotts Elementary School, 9320 Westland Drive.

- **Times and days:** 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, July 12; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, July 13; (City-County Building, Downtown Knoxville, is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., July 13); 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday, July 14, through Thursday, July 18; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, July 19; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, July 20; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday, July 21, through Thursday, July 25; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, July 26; and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, July 27.



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Details for attending, enjoying Town's Independence Day Parade; nearby road/street closures told

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

Town of Farragut's annual Independence Day Parade returns at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, July 4, rain or shine. The parade begins on Kingston Pike at Lendon Welch Way and continues west on Kingston Pike to Boring Road, just east of Farragut Towne Square Shopping Center (former Ingles store site).

Grand Marshals for this year's parade are distinguished Town of Farragut volunteers Marianne McGill, one of a handful of Town founders and a former alderman, Joyce Moran and Dot LaMarche, a former Town vice mayor.

The registration maximum of 90 entries for the parade was full after a week following the submission start date of April 1.

Road/street closures

• Due to the parade, Kingston Pike from Lendon Welch Way to Federal Boulevard will be closed from 8:30 a.m. to approximately noon Thursday, July 4. Options for parade detours are as follows: North side - Campbell Station Road to Grigsby Chapel Road to Smith Road to Kingston Pike (going west) or Campbell Station Road to Parkside Drive to Lovell Road (going east). South side - Concord Road to Turkey Creek Road to Virtue Road to Kingston Pike.

• South Campbell Station Road from Kingston Pike to Brooklawn Boulevard and Municipal Center Drive will be closed from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. for Farragut Freedom Run (5k and 10k).

Parade participant guidelines

Parade participants are required to follow the following guidelines:

• Parade participants should arrive at Farragut High School no later than 8:30 a.m., about one hour prior to the parade's start. Access to the high school is available from Campbell Station Road, West End Avenue and Kingston Pike via Lendon Welch Way.

Only parade vehicles will be allowed to enter the parade line-up area. Older children and adults may be dropped off on the circle drive or on the drive to Farragut Middle School. Those participating in the parade or those with small children will need to park in the circle parking lot at the high school or the parking lot at the middle school.

Parade line-up numbers will be available on the Farragut Parks & Recreation website, farragutparksandrec.org, and will be posted on Farragut Community Center's front door by 8 a.m., Friday, June 28. Line-up numbers will not be available by phone.

Antique car participants should plan on arriving at the high school before 8 a.m. to avoid long lines and overheating your car. There is no special entrance or accommodation for antique cars, so early arrival is recommended.

Large entries may be taken to the line-up area at the FHS junior parking lot any time after 5 p.m., Wednesday, July 3. A guard will be on duty from 5 p.m. until the parade begins.

Other rules, information source

Regarding giveaways, no candy nor any other giveaways may be thrown from entries or cars. Walkers may distribute these and other free items along the side of the road during the parade. Children younger than 9 must ride (not walk) during the parade.

All parade participants must be picked up at Farragut Towne Square parking lot.

For more information about the parade, call Farragut Parks & Recreation Department at 865-218-3376.

KCSOreports

Once again, despite our efforts to secure Knox County Sheriff Office reports — and with KCSO confirming it had received the request through an e-mailed response — none were received as of deadline at 8 a.m., Tuesday, June 25.

We again regret this omission, and will seek an explanation about this with KCSO officials.

Hotels

From page 1A

branded Skor hotel, to be located beside Topgolf.

However, developers for the 4.34-acre property returned with a new plan.

"That old Skor brand kind of died ... so we had to go find a different brand, and we like the Marriott products," Bruce Collins, vice president of development and construction with Rosemont Holdings, said during a June 4 Town Staff/Planner meeting. "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."

Originally, the hotel had 108 units, which is expanding to 124 units. "The hotel footprint is still the same," Shipley said.

To accommodate the additional rooms, developers are planning for more parking spaces.

Plan options

From page 1A

While he said he favored a parking garage, he noted, "It is easy to see that this type of confusion will result from making this plan an ordinance."

According to the Town Center Vision Plan document, the garage Wilson referred to is described as a "mobility project," which would feature building a municipal parking deck adjacent to Biddle Farms development (330 spaces).

It also shows the Town as the responsible party with potential funding sources coming from "Capital Funds, Tax Increment Financing (and) private funds."

Plans to be an ordinance?

"As we know, plans are guiding documents and ordinances provide requirements to be followed," Wilson said. "Will residents, developers and others view this ordinance and be confused? This plan should be treated the same as the other similar Town plans I mentioned."

Resident Mike Mitchell asked that it be approved as a plan, as did Randal Roberts, a candidate for the South Ward 2 alderman seat.

Alderman David White echoed objections to the plan being approved as an ordinance.

"Ordinances should not be

Bluegrass Solstice for cousins



Brandon L. Jones

Cousins Ella Myers, left, and Kate Myers tossed a blanket out onto the green grass to enjoy a little bluegrass Thursday, June 20, during Bluegrass Summer Solstice in Founders Park at Campbell Station, during which the groups Brand New Box of Matches and Tim Decker and Tennessee River played. (See related photos on page 1A)

made of future plans," he said.

"Over the last week, there's been considerable confusion about the nature of this document on social media," said Alex Cain, a candidate for the North Ward alderman seat. "Is it a vision plan or is it going to become an ordinance?"

"The term ordinance implies something we must follow ... we should always avoid creating this type of confusion," Cain added.

However, Planning Commissioner Jeff Devlin, also a candidate for the North Ward alderman seat, said he supported adopting the vision plan as an ordinance.

"I believe people in this community can actually think through what a vision plan actually is and understand that the ordinance part of it is not some plot to mess with everybody later," the commissioner said.

"But the ordinance is saying that we're committed to this and this is something we are going to do for this community in the future," Devlin added.

While Vice Chairman Ed St. Clair said, "We definitely need a vision plan," he added. "With years that I've been on the Planning Commission, seen lots of plans and lots of lots of ordinances, I'm a little bit puzzled myself."

"... I'd like to know rationale behind (the plan being adopted as an ordinance.)"

Attempts to clarify

"I'd say the reason it's proposed as an ordinance, in this case, is similar to why it was with the Architectural Design Guidelines," Community Development director Mark Shipley explained.

"It gives the concepts in the plan more credibility if somebody's wanting to come in and do something ... but ultimately it's up to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen."

However, Shipley emphasized: "This is a vision plan. This is not requirements. Everything in this plan does not have to happen, and it certainly doesn't have to happen the way it's shown."

Chairman Scott Russ echoed Shipley's emphasis on the plan: "This is just a vision plan. This isn't a zoning; this isn't something in concrete that's going to happen tomorrow, next year, five years from now."

"I agree that we need to do something that makes it a meaningful document," Planning Commissioner Jon Greene said. "... but I also recognize the comments that are being made here that we don't want to make people believe that somehow this is (ordinance)."

"I agree this needs to be made clear," he added. "Perhaps a resolution is a better alternative."

towncalendar

• **Join Farragut business owners, managers and employees for an informative networking opportunity** between 4 and 8 p.m., Tuesday July 16, at Hurricane Cycles, 138 West End Ave. in West End Shopping Center. This special Summer Mixer is co-hosted by TDS Telecom. Snacks and beverages will be supplied by Euphoric Cheese and other Farragut favorites.

Additionally, learn more about Shop Farragut's great summer programs, including The Great Farragut Sidewalk Sale and Dog Daze No. 8.

This Biz Mixer is free to all in the Farragut business community. RSVP at steve@shopfarragut.com with the number in your party, needing an accurate count for food and beverage.

• Farragut Parks & Recreation Department's new programs for adults includes a Walking Club, free of charge, which will run from 7 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday beginning July 17 through Sept. 4. Meeting locations in July are Parkside Greenway (Connor's parking lot, July 17); McFee Greenway (Great Lawn Pavilion, July 24); and Mayor Bob Leonard Park (upper restrooms, July 31).

correction

• The e-mail for Milestone Montage, which is www.milestonemontage.com, was listed incorrectly in a story in the business section, Page 4A, in the Wednesday, June 19, issue of farragutpress.

We regret the error.

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Wife touts Roberts for South Ward seat

My husband, Randal Roberts, has decided to run for alderman of the South Ward. I support his decision and I would like to ask for your support as well. Local politics is not something either of us thought would be in his future but Farragut is no longer the place we chose to raise our children in and that concerns us both.

Change is inevitable, but few of us expected there to be over 500 apartments in Farragut or that our "town center" is becoming completely different from what was initially promised. Our traffic problems continue to mount, and it seems that there is little effort on the part of our elected officials to explore and implement possible solutions. Tree-lined medians are definitely not the answer.

This election is going to be about trust. Who are the residents going to trust in the years to come? My husband takes that responsibility very seriously. He believes that the residents have a voice and it should be heard. He collected over 1,500 signatures of Farragut residents against the Biddle Farm apartments but the voices of those residents were ignored by our Town officials.

Randy has never been afraid to stand for

things he believes in. He stood up and fought Weigels when they wanted to put a full-access entrance directly across from Sugarwood which would have endangered the safety of the residents. He is always willing to stop and help when someone is in need, whether it is to tow, a broken down car that is stalled in the middle of the road, like he did just this past week, cut up and haul off an elderly neighbor's branches or take someone that was stranded with a flat tire to get it fixed and stay with them to ensure they got back on the road safely.

He is involved in various ministries, all of which are in service to others. He would now like the chance to serve as your alderman to bring a voice and transparency regarding the affairs of our Town.

He is innovative and a critical thinker, and he doesn't just accept the status quo if he feels it can be done better. I believe that Randy will be an asset to this Town. Please join me at the polls and cast your vote.

Lisa Roberts,
Farragut

Cain is North Ward choice

I would like to take this moment to express my support for Mr. Alex Cain, who is running for Farragut alderman. I have known Mr. Cain for nearly 15 years, and during that time he has been someone who has supported this community with both his time and unbounded energy.

He has been a volunteer coach for the Farragut football team, actively involved himself in civic affairs and been an outstanding member of the Wyndham Hall community. He has been, and is, deeply committed to making Farragut one of the best communities in all of East Tennessee.

As everyone knows, our community very much needs solidly grounded, industrious citizens to step up to leadership roles and make decisions that will benefit the stability and growth of this entire area. We need civic leaders who will be willing to put in the time and effort to properly research issues that come before the council and make decisions that will be in the interests of everyone for the long term.

We need someone who will be measured and responsible. To that end, I don't believe we could have a better candidate than Alex Cain. He is a conservative man, he looks to preserve our natural areas and greenways and he will be an excellent custodian of this outstanding place we call home.

I give him my full support and would ask that others consider doing the same.

Robert Pollock, Farragut

Garage, property stands good for Roberts

I support South Ward Alderman candidate Randal Roberts because I do not wish to see a large parking garage as a part of the Town Center. I also do not wish to see tree-lined medians along Concord Road as part of the town center.

This agenda item was discussed at the FMPC meeting Thursday, June 20, and almost came to

a vote as an ordinance. Candidate Roberts also supports property rights, which has become a topic of concern regarding the Turkey Creek Greenway extension.

Thank you,

John Aiken, Farragut

Points for Russell, District 5

I strongly recommend voting for Angela Russell for Knox County Commission District 5. She has great credentials, including:

- Graduated with highest honors from the University of Tennessee in accounting and obtained Tennessee State Board of Accountancy Certified Public Accountant License #10359. This equips her to understand accounting, budgets and financial management;
- Tennessee Real Estate Appraiser and Commission-certified General Real Estate Appraiser License #4236. Obtained appraisal Institute MAI designation. This gives her a better understanding of real estate, its development and its affect on our community;
- Employment experience in public accounting, private business accounting and management and real estate appraising.
- Numerous terms on subdivision HOAs and a founding member of the Northshore-Choto HOAs group. The Northshore-Choto HOAs group was formed to address road safety, lack of infrastructure, and concerns about high-density changing the character of our community;
- History of advocating for better roads;
- History of advocating for responsible development. Proven leadership and effective results in opposing Choto Landing, a proposed high-density government subsidized development. She helped author the proposed Choto Landing development opposition website (see link), raise legal funds, make phone calls, put up signage, organize multiple community meetings, and she served as legal counsel point-person. <https://www.chotoland-ing.com>

General Election: early voting is July 12 through July 27. Election Day is Aug. 1.
Vote for Angela Russell.

Adam Atherton,
Farragut

List of reasons to support Russell's candidacy

I would like to take a moment to offer my support to a different type of candidate that is so worthy of our support in this upcoming election on Aug. 1. That would be Angela Russell, who is running for the office of County Commissioner for District 5, which includes Farragut and surrounding areas.

I first met Angela at a meeting of the Knox County Conservative Republics (kcertn.org) back a couple of months ago. I'm not easily impressed by many people until I get to know them, much less on first contact.

But there was something different about Angela. Her composure and down-to-earth nature was so refreshing to see compared to others who have adapted their presence to match that of the office they occupy, or hope to occupy. I just don't see that happening with Angela like it has with others.

At one of the monthly meetings of the Concord Farragut Republican Club, she gave what had to be the best Town Hall presentation I have ever heard. I tried my best in hopes of finding someone that had actually recorded it, but no such luck. It was from the heart, unscripted, neighbor-

to-neighbor conversation as to why she felt compelled to pursue public office at this time. She has the heart of a servant and that's what is so lacking in what you find in other candidates.

She honestly wants to represent the residents in what would be her district if elected. We so desperately need someone like that with all the challenges we now face with over-development, homelessness, out-of-control government spending and all the liberal agendas that seek to change our way of life to achieve a "new normal!"

Angela is an underdog in this race, she'll be out-spent, out-advertised and about every out-something you can imagine over the next month

or so. But this election is not about who has the most signs, the biggest signs or the most advertising — it's about putting the right person in office that will represent us to the best of her natural ability, and that would be Angela Russell.

I strongly recommend that we throw our support behind her in this campaign, either through word of mouth or campaign contributions. But most importantly, when we go to put our ballot in the machine during early voting or on election day!

To learn more about her, I strongly suggest you check out her website (VoteAngelaRussell.com). We need her voice on County Commission.

Randal Roberts, Farragut

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- keep calls to a 90-second maximum (call 865-671-8255 24 hours a day, seven days a week);
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- 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.

Concord debate

From page 1A

were chief among them.

Traffic, access issues

“Concord Road is 15,000 vehicles averaging per day,” Mullins said, adding the company’s goal is not to increase traffic, “but to intercept” existing motorists regularly traveling this route and make them regular customers.

Mullins and the family officials said the convenience store and restaurant would have a right-in, right-out access to and from Concord Road going northbound. Southbound Concord Road traffic, both coming in and exiting the store, would need to use Second Street, which borders the property to the south.

“We’ve got to improve the entrance to Second (Street) onto Concord (Road)... We’ll make it easier to make those turns,” Hunt said.

However, one resident pointed out Second Street is basically “one-lane wide ... I fairly regularly meet somebody head-on. ... But now we know each other and are courteous to each other and pull over to the side and let each other pass. But a stranger that doesn’t live in this neighborhood may just start honking their horn.

“... And you can’t do anything about this because it’s private property. ... And they’re not going to widen it because it’s in the (Concord) Historical (District) that they don’t even allow culverts to be put in,” he added.

To sum up, “How are we going to get in and out of here with extra (business) traffic?” the resident asked.

“Sir, I don’t anticipate extra traffic,” Mullins said. “... We are not trying to bring traffic here. ... We’re not looking to change your community and the people who are coming to your community any more than it already exists.”

Noise, lighting issues

Company officials propose to leave a vegetation/tree barrier 25-feet deep behind the proposed facility and add more trees as a noise, light and aesthetics buffer next to a cemetery bordering the Masonic Lodge to the west.

“The areas that we need to disturb (during construction), we will see that we will replace it with a very dense landscaping buffer there. And the landscaping that they designed is greater than what planning staff ... would normally require for this type of development.”

One resident expressed concern about the restaurant drive-through intercom being a noise issue to nearby residents. “The speakers will be directional, so only the car (occupants) can hear them,” Hunt said.

Some residents still con-

cerned about noise asked the EZ Stop officials to add various sound barriers if they come to Concord, which they said would be considered.

As for lighting possibly bleeding over into the adjacent neighborhoods, “We are aware of light intrusion, so all of the fixtures will be horizontal ...,” Hunt said. “And I’m pretty sure the vegetation is tall enough” on the back side of the proposed business next to the cemetery. “They’ll never see any light.”

Unmarked historic graves?

J.K. Yoder, a member of Chota Lodge No. 253, pointed out possible unmarked historic gravesites under the property in question.

“The fact that unmarked graves do exist alongside the west access road within our current cemetery, and there are long-standing tales of other unmarked graves to the west of the access road (in the proposed development area), begs the question as to why this concern has not been further studied and put to rest?” Yoder stated in an e-mail to farragutpress.

“... As indicated in the Tennessee code, there are strict guidelines as to how historic cemetery preservation is to be addressed ... and laws related to this,” he further stated.

“... Knox County planning guidelines related to the Old Concord Village Historic Area includes the following clause: ‘Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archeological resources affected by, or adjacent to, any project.’

Development, but not this

“We want something to serve the community, and we don’t believe this is it,” one

resident said. “What we think would serve the community is something that doesn’t have the in-and-out of thru traffic, constant, constant people. ... Something like a bistro or a cafe ... something that serves the community with emissions vacant; we’d love that.

“Not bringing in trucks and gas trucks and quick stops, and all the in-and-out It’s a very dangerous to our young kids that do ride bikes around here ... because there’s going to be so much thru traffic that it’s going to be impossible for this to be still a neighborhood,” she added to applause from the gathering.

Another resident said, “I took friends fishing recently right over there (pointing toward Fort Loudoun Lake). And if I knew there was a plain little restaurant or multiple restaurants that I felt like, ‘hey, we could walk over there,’ we 100 percent would. And that would be something more appropriate for this area.”

One resident asked near the end of the meeting: “how many of you four have been down here at 4 o’clock and watched people push the kids around? ... Been down here to check that out?”

Other concerns

When one resident expressed fears that an EZ Stop would lower area resident property values,” Mullins responded, “I can tell you nobody’s property values go down when something like this comes in.”

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The next vital step finds the EZ Stop team meeting with Knox County Planning Commission Thursday, July 11.

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DW Designs marks 10 years

BRANDON L. JONES
bthejones@gmail.com

When Dan Wilson, owner of The DW Designs, started messing about with graphic design and screen printing in his house 10 years ago, he didn't imagine being surrounded June 4 by community dignitaries for a ribbon cutting outside his new location at 11521 Parkside Drive in Turkey Creek.

A self-taught graphic designer working at First Baptist Concord back in 2012, Wilson realized the organization "needed a void filled in the graphic area," he recalled, "and so I just picked it up and started teaching myself in order to become more of an asset to the media team," with which he worked the better part of six years.

Burning both ends of the candle, Wilson continued — learning while helping them

— to get wind beneath his business's wings.

And so with one pop-up event in 2014 — and with 24 pieces of one T-shirt that simply read "Born and Raised," which received a "huge" response on Facebook at the time — Wilson recognized God's plans may have shifted for him, so he delved deeper into his endeavor while still working at the church.

In 2017, he was afforded the opportunity of opening his first storefront in Farragut.

"Farragut has and will always be a huge part of my story," he said. "I love this town; I love being a part of this community."

On getting the business idea into existence, Wilson said, like when helping his church, he was attempting to fill a need. "Like me, personally, I couldn't find or didn't find original gameday designs



Brandon L. Jones

DW Designs owner Dan Wilson (holding scissors) joins his employees and Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce reps to celebrate the 10th anniversary of The DW Designs, which recently moved back to Farragut, now in Turkey Creek (11521 Parkside Drive). This FWKCC-sponsored ribbon cutting took place Tuesday, June 4.

that I actually wanted to wear. Not everybody wants to wear a Power T or a standard 'Go Vols,' and that's me — I didn't want to wear that — but I was trying to find something like that, and I couldn't find it, so I started creating it."

DW Designs, shortly thereafter, moved in 2018 to Bearden, and Wilson began making more a name for himself, staying there about five years

before, with the help of COVID-19, seeing foot traffic slow and online sales grow.

"And so I was, like, 'what am I paying for?'"

He downsized to this new location, where he hopes it serves as a "reminder and/or kick-starter" for folks who haven't realized yet it's there.

"I'm still very small," Wilson added, "even though I've been successful."

Of the tougher 2024 economic predictions, he said, "This feels like I'm starting over."

About his daughter, Belle, 13, and son, Clayton, 8, who were in attendance, "I hope they get to see how special these moments are," Wilson said, "and remember these things for many years to come."

For custom quotes or more information, visit thedwdesigns.com.

Boyles couple set to open Poppets Play Place in Town

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Victoria Boyles and husband, Michael Boyles, of Farragut are planning to open Poppets Play Place, an indoor playground, at 154 W. End Ave. this fall.

"Michael has his heart set on Aug. 12," Victoria said.

"That's the target," Michael added.

The indoor playground is called "soft play because everything in there is soft, made of foam or wrapped and protected," including the floors, Victoria said. "Everything is BPA (Bisphenol A) and phthalate free."

While BPA and phthalate are chemical additives used in the making of plastic, they can be toxic.

"So we're making sure there are none," she said.

The Boyles said Poppets Play Place is not a daycare facility. Parents or other caregivers are responsible for the child.

"They come in with the child," Victoria said. "We just check them in."

Much like a park, Poppets is a "pop-in place for children ages 0 to 7," Victoria said. "Parents, grandparents, babysitters, any kind of caregiver can come in with their children. They sign a waiver, and (the children) can come in for free play."

Photo submitted

Michael and Victoria Boyle of Farragut are opening Poppets Play Place, a children's indoor playground, at 154 W. End Ave. this fall.

"It's temperature-controlled," she added.

Victoria said parents can purchase slip-resistant socks if they don't have them, and the socks can be re-used.

"There's a separate party room that can be rented for birthdays, baby showers, gender reveal," she added.

The play place structure is 22 by 8 feet wide and 9 feet tall.

"They can climb on (the play structure), slide," Victoria said. "Little look-out window."

"There's safety netting on each compartment," Michael said. "There's no way a child can fall."

Then, there's a section for "crawlers and cruisers," for children up to age 18 months.

"So those little ones can be in there," Victoria said. "That way, the 4- and 5-year-olds aren't (knocking them down)."

Poppets Play Place also will hold events and special days, such as Mommy Meet-Ups and Home School Days, Grandparents Tuesdays and Homeschool Thursdays.

The idea to open an indoor playground was spawned by the couple's daughter, who recently gave birth to their first grandchild.

"She lives outside of Atlanta, and she went to one down there (about six months ago)," Victoria recalled. "She said, 'Oh, you guys have got to do this in Farragut.'"

After researching the idea, the Boyles signed the lease in May.

Hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday and Tuesday; from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday; and closed Sundays.



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TOWN SAMPLER

Omaha 'relief' more than Ryan's hope — it was real



Kentucky photos provided courtesy of Matt May, UK Baseball Sports Information director

(Above) Ryan Hagenow, University of Kentucky Baseball senior standout relief pitcher and former Farragut Admirals staff ace/All-state arm who helped lead FHS to the 2019 Division I-AAA state title, fires plateward for the Wildcats during a record-breaking 2024 season for the program. (Right) Hagenow takes charge of a situation during a UK game.



Hagenow's arm helps key UK surge of record success

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

LEXINGTON, KY — Statistically the top pitcher for a Southeastern Conference team that just enjoyed its best season in program history, Ryan Hagenow said he'll carry lots of special memories from his senior season on the mound for a Kentucky Wildcats team having just experienced the College World Series in Omaha.

"Yeah, it was surreal," said this former Farragut High School staff ace and All-state right-hander — who pitched in Omaha roughly five years after leading the Admirals to the 2019 Division I-AAA state title — about being a top relief pitcher on the first UK team to play in the College World Series.

He also helped "Big Blue" earn an SEC regular season co-championship, a No. 2 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament and a program-best 46 wins.

"It felt like throughout my four years here, we slowly got closer and closer and closer to that goal," he said. "But being part of something ground-breaking here and getting our fans behind us and just getting everybody's support, it was one of the coolest experiences of my life."

Going to Omaha "was a dream come true," Hagenow said.

Led by head coach Nick Mingione, "We were predicted to finish fifth in the (SEC) East, and we weren't supposed to have the year that we did, but we knew we were very, very capable of having the year we did from the start, from (last) fall when we were scrimmaging," he added. "... I knew this team had a lot of potential."

His season, UK career, future

Though he only worked 18.2 innings, Hagenow, 22, finished with a team-best 2.41 earned-run average and a 2-0 record with three saves (17 strikeouts and eight walks, with opponents hitting just .222).

"I'd say I was really happy with my season," the ex-Admiral said. "I embraced my role. ... The coaching staff trusted me in some of our really, really big situations this year. So I may not have thrown as many innings as I originally thought, but I felt like my role was really important, whether that be coming in and getting out of jams or coming in the ninth inning and closing out a game."

Moreover, "I feel like I was able to perform in some of the toughest situations we had this year," said Hagenow, a Media, Arts and Studies major at UK who hopes "to do something in the sports world" with his degree.



File photo

Ryan Hagenow hugs FHS head coach Matt Buckner after Hagenow, starting staff ace, was the winning pitcher in the 2019 state title game versus Bradley Central.

Dealing with injuries during his four seasons in Lexington, Hagenow evaluated his UK career.

"Obviously, everybody has this dream plan, and they're going to go in and be the Friday guy, be the Friday guy for three years and get drafted," the ex-Admiral said about aspiring to be the staff ace starting pitcher on the most important SEC day. "But I've battled through a lot throughout my time here. And although my career didn't pan out how I originally thought it would, I was really happy because every time I had a setback or an injury, I ended up coming back and performing in some big situations."

About the upcoming Major League Baseball Draft, "I haven't really thought about it," Hagenow said. "I don't plan on going in the draft unless it just happens."

Looking back to FHS

Looking back more than four years after his playing days ended at FHS, "I think I just appreciate it more," Hagenow said. "I'm more grateful for it, and I could have been more grateful in the moment."

"As more time goes on, you realize how big of an impact certain things had on you, like (head) coach (Matt) Buckner, coach (Daniel) Sharp, coach (Bill) Mink, coach (Mark) Newby, coach (Garrett) Copeland — all of them, just how thankful I am," he added.

"It takes a lot of sacrifice on their end to spend as much time at the field developing us as people and as players. They sacrificed a lot of their time."

Final thoughts

Despite the Wildcats falling short of playing for a national championship, there were a lot of good things to absorb in 2024. "Knowing it was my senior year, I tried to take in every single moment from the start of the season because I knew how fast it would go by," Hagenow said.

Realignment, NIL, portal all 'Fulmerized'

ALAN SLOAN
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LOUDON COUNTY — In the midst of his annual fundraising golf classic at Landmark at Avalon Country Club just west of Farragut, recently, College Hall of Famer Phillip Fulmer tackled a question on conference realignment, then took a swing at questions on the wide-open yearly transfer portal and NIL/player payment issues in college football and college athletics as a whole.

"Realignment has probably been coming for a while," said the former Tennessee Football head coach of 16-plus seasons who led the 1998 Vols to a national championship and two SEC crowns. "Lots of discussions on how it could happen, and there's a lot yet to be resolved with all the NIL stuff and the portal stuff. I think all that's part of realignment. It's not going to change."

"Hopefully, it'll get better because there are lots of holes in this that I don't think anybody likes, except maybe the prospects and parents," he added with a laugh.

Moreover, "You really have issues that are out there that are not being talked about, probably with Title IX issues, minor sports issues," said Fulmer, also a former All-SEC guard at UT (1969-71). "How do you manage that? I'm not in that world anymore, but I know that there's a lot of consultation on what's going to happen."

"I think there's got to be some clarity with this because it's probably unsustainable over a period of time," he added. "But the rules are what they are, and the Supreme Court says, 'You've got to do this,' so the coaches have no choice but to be in this world. And I'm sure they would like a lot of things cleared up if they can."

As for head coaches and coaching staffs continuously having to navigate all the recent-years' changes, "It's really hard," Fulmer said. "But the other side of that coin is you're basically entering into a contract that a kid can leave when he wants to during special times."

Fulmer, however, also pointed out "some pluses on the coaches side," too, with student/athletes' scholarship remaining only a one school-year guarantee.

"At the same time, the coach can ask a person to leave," he said. "Back in the day, you counted them coming in and you counted them going out. You had graduation issues, things like that."

"If a coach doesn't like what a kid is doing from an effort standpoint or behavior standpoint, or maybe he's just not good, the coach can encourage the kid to leave, too," Fulmer added. "A coach has a chance to improve his roster every year."

"... But now everybody's just coming and going with free agency, if you will."

His bottom line? "I would rather not have all the movement," Fulmer said. "That doesn't make sense to anybody, I don't think."

About the Pac-12 Conference essentially dissolving, with 10 of the 12 former member schools headed to the Big Ten (UCLA, Southern Cal, Oregon and Washington), Big XII (Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah) and Atlantic Coast Conference (Stanford and Cal-Berkeley), "I don't think that was in anybody's mirror, right?" the Hall of Famer asked.

"You couldn't see that happening, but it tells you the power of the dollar," he added. "It's a money thing."



Fulmer

Smydra signs with ETSU

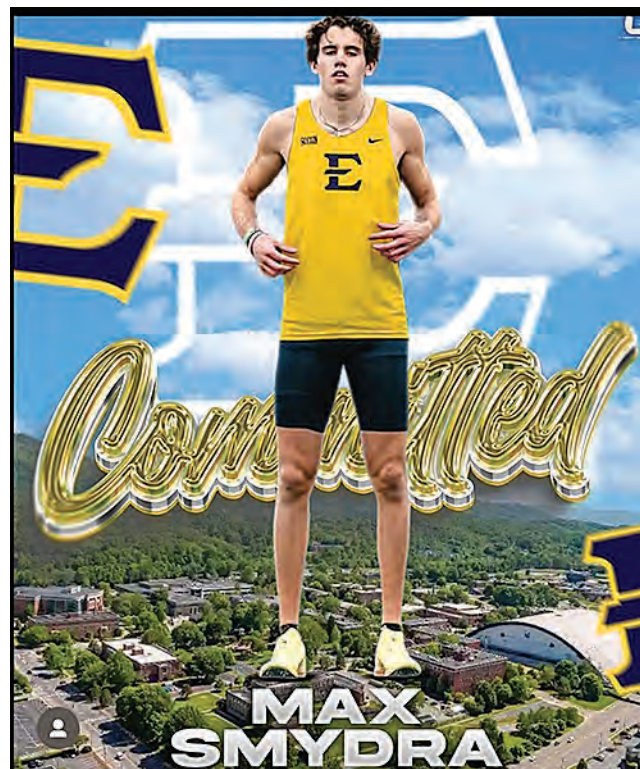


Photo illustration by Jack Tate, FHS sports information

Max Smydra, a Farragut High School standout track and field athlete from the Class of 2024, signed with East Tennessee State University last week.

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Dr. Maurie McInnis

Webb student to Yale prez: 40 years

BRANDON L. JONES
editor@farragutpress.com

History-making for this Ivy League university, Maurie McInnis, a 1984 graduate of Webb School of Knoxville, will take the helm as Yale's 24th and first permanent female president Monday, July 1.

Serving six years as the president of Stony Brook University in New York, McInnis is headed back to the New Haven, Connecticut, campus where 35 years ago she began as a graduate student. She earned her doctorate degree in 1996.

Excited, she wrote in a release following her appointment of the desire "to reconnect with those I know and to meet so many more of you." Josh Bekenstein, senior trustee of

the Yale Board of Trustees and chair of the Presidential Search Committee, complimented McInnis, a trustee since 2022 herself, in a written statement to the Yale community, calling her a "compelling leader, distinguished scholar, and devoted educator ... [with] a deep understanding of higher education and an unwavering commitment to our mission and academic priorities."

Back at Webb, admiration and praise followed from a current administrator and a few of her former teachers who have since retired.

"In 2017, Webb School proudly recognized Dr. Maurie McInnis with its Distinguished Alumni Award," Webb president Dr. Ansel Sanders said in a statement. "And today her journey continues to inspire."

"We congratulate her," he continued, "on becoming Yale University's first permanent female president — a historic achievement. Webb School is immensely proud of Dr. McInnis' leadership and accomplishments."

"Thinking about Maurie, three characteristics immediately come to mind: she is intellectually gifted, intelligent and has utmost integrity," said Sheila Jacobstein, McInnis' upper school science teacher at Webb. "She is an amazing individual who demonstrates graciousness as she interacts with others."

"As a student in my AP biology class," she continued, "Maurie was always organized and approached every problem and project with logic and a commitment to excellence. At the same

See MCINNIS WEBB-YALE on Page 9A

USAF pilot

Fighting COVID among his AFA training challenges, FHS grad Lyons tells his story

ROSARIA CARLSON
Correspondent

On May 30, 2020, Farragut High School graduate Anthony Lyons graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy. His story, as with many 2020 high school graduates, is one of perseverance and adaptability in a time when everything was uncertain.

Four years ago, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Farragut High School sent home its students — some of them, Lyons included, for the very last time.

"At first we were pretty excited," Lyons recalled, "until they told us we wouldn't be finishing our senior year."

It was a confusing time then; students didn't know if they would see their classmates again or if they would even get to have a graduation. Luckily, the school managed to pull through for them with a socially distanced graduation ceremony, though Lyons laments missing whatever senior pranks his peers may have planned.

Things continued to be strange as Lyons and the rest of his U.S. Air Force Academy classmates reported for basic training in June.

Lyons recalls the COVID-19 response was very different in Colorado than it was in Tennessee. Regulations were not enforced as heavily as they were in Colorado, where a quarantine zone was in effect, as well as mandated masks and social distancing. When asked how these regulations affected his classes and training, Lyons explained they were expected to keep on their masks at all times during PT, resulting in strange mask tan lines and sweat build-up in the masks due to the summer heat.

"It was like being waterboarded with sweat," Lyons recalled with good humor.

Classes during his first year at the Academy were conducted online, on par with most college campuses across the nation at that time. When asked about his experience with online learning, Lyons said it definitely was an adjustment period for everyone, including the professors.



Photos submitted

(Above) Anthony Lyons during an exercise in his U.S. Air Force Academy combat training. **(Below)** Lyons in his USAF dress uniform.

Most of the professors at the time were "seasoned teachers" who were used to doing things in person and struggled to learn the online platforms and how they worked.

From a student's perspective, those classes felt less effective than the in-person classes he was used to, citing too many distractions and "it was too easy to fall asleep." Although online classes since have become much more effective as teachers and professors have had a chance to adapt to the changing climate, in the early days of the pandemic it was understandably difficult for everyone involved.

Lyons also explained he saw less of his classmates his freshman year because of the quarantine order.

"I tried to really make up for that the last three years, trying to make as many friends as possible. I think many people felt the



See LYONS, AIR FORCE on Page 10A

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• **St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 110 Sugarwood Drive in Farragut, announces its June Gift of the Month** is for Vine Middle Magnet School. "Each month we collect items for a different, local nonprofit organization," a church press release stated. "We look forward to offering our neighbors in the community an opportunity to help.

"Vine Middle is an inner-city, low-income school with a diverse population," the release further stated. "... The attendance and test scores are problematic, so we are encouraged to help in a variety of ways since education is the best way to alleviate poverty."

Items sought are lined paper, pencils, 2-sided pocket folders, colored pencils, expo markers, sanitizing wipes and paper towels. Drive By-Drop Off is from 1 to 2 p.m., Sunday, June 30, in the Church parking lot. For more information, visit <https://stelizchurch.org/>.

• **Knoxville Bar Association announces a free Legal Advice Clinic for black-owned businesses** runs from 4 to 6 p.m., Thursday, July 18, in Knoxville Area Urban League, 1514 E. Fifth Ave.

The goal is to help these business owners navigate legal issues and have the opportunity to meet individually with attorneys to ask questions and seek advice.

"As part of the clinic, business owners can bring their questions to be addressed by local attorneys experienced in business law," a KBA press release stated. "Attendees should plan to arrive by 4 p.m. to hear a presentation from

Professor Eric Amarante of the UT College of Law.

"The presentation will educate business owners and entrepreneurs about legal and business issues that affect business ventures and other tips on how to protect and enforce their legal rights," the release further stated.

"Many of the legal issues that business owners face can be avoided or minimized with proper legal guidance from the start."

Pre-registration is required for this clinic: visit <https://linktr.ee/kbamobc>.

• **MEDIC and Bruster's Ice Cream will be providing coupons for donors who donate** on Wednesday, June 26, and Thursday, June 27, for a pint of ice cream.

Donors also will receive a beach towel and Texas Roadhouse coupon.

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, 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.

• **The Pinnacle at Turkey Creek's Farmers Market is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sundays**, which started in June and continues through July at The Pinnacle, 11251 Parkside Drive. To become a farmer's market vendor, reach out to Gabi Walsh of Pinnacle directly at Gwalsh@crawfordsq.com

"We are seeking farmers market vendors who sell a variety of products, including dairy, fruits, vegetables, meats and other farm goods," a Pinnacle press release stated.

"I understand that serving as president of Yale means that I can play an important role as a role model,"

— **Maurie McInnis**, Yale University president-elect

McInnis Webb-Yale
From page 1B

time, she welcomed others to the table and valued their input. I cannot say enough about how extraordinary Maurie is. It was such a joy to have taught her. It's been both thrilling and rewarding to have followed Maurie's academic and professional career since she graduated from Webb School."

Maybe lending to McInnis' writing talents and perhaps piquing her interest in history, English teacher Ginna Mashburn wrote that her appointment wasn't a shock.

"Maurie was a wonderful student," she remembered, "always doing consistently good work with apparent ease. As a member of a very strong class academically, she more than held her own but was not flashy about it. In fact, her independence and self-assurance are traits that stand out. Her professional success comes as no surprise."

Warren Heiser is another of McInnis' English teachers from her days at Webb who taught her in sophomore Hon-

ors English class.

"I remember Maurie as a top student and a great individual— responsible and mature well beyond her years," Heiser said.

She is the daughter of Malcolm and Jackie McInnis — both retired professors of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville — who are natives of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Her family, who moved to Knoxville when Maurie was about 6 years old, "encouraged my curiosity from an early age," the president-elect stated in an e-mail.

"The Webb School further nurtured that curiosity," she added. "The high-quality education I received there was instrumental to my career trajectory," contributing her devotion to a career in education and research to those roots planted here in Knoxville.

"I understand that serving as president of Yale means that I can play an important role as a role model. I am honored to have that opportunity."

McInnis will succeed outgoing Yale president Peter Salovey.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut will hold a public hearing on July 11, 2024, at 6:00 PM, at the Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestown Blvd, to hear citizen's comments on the following ordinances:

I. Ordinance 24-09, 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

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.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024, adopted the following ordinances on second and final reading:

I. 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

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.

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FARRAGUT BEER BOARD


June 27, 2024 • 5:55 PM

I. Approval of Minutes
A. June 13, 2024
II. Beer Permit
A. Approval of Class 5, Off-Premise Beer Permit for Dollar General #30142, 13024 Kingston Pike

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.

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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

AGENDA | JUNE 27, 2024

BEER BOARD MEETING 5:55 PM • BMA MEETING 6:00 PM

I. Roll Call
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Minutes
A. June 13, 2024
IV. Mayor's Report
A. Town of Farragut Planning Commission Appointments
V. Resolutions & Ordinances
A. Ordinances
1. Public Hearing & Second Reading
a) Ordinance 24-06, an ordinance 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 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 24-12, Ordinance to amend the General Fund & Capital Investment Program budget FY23-24, passed by Ordinance 23-07
VI. Citizens Forum
VII. Town Administrator's Report
VIII. 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.

Lyons, Air Force

From page 8A

same way," he said.

Luckily, this year the Academy implemented an online portal to help AFA alumni keep in touch and remain more connected.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, Lyons said he accomplished all of the big things he wanted to do while at the Academy, citing the Soaring program (learning to fly a glider), the Powered Flight program (learning to fly a powered plane), and the Jump program (jumping out of a plane).

Of these, Lyons heaps the most praise upon the Jump program, which he feels is a program everyone who goes through the Academy should experience.

"It is absolutely life-changing, just falling through the sky and seeing the earth come at you," Lyons recalled. "It's very peaceful, actually."

For anyone wishing to experience the sensation of free falling through the sky without attending the Air Force Academy or jumping from an actual plane, Lyons notes that it feels exactly the same as indoor skydiving, which was part of his training for the

Jump program.

Following his graduation, Lyons is stationed in Colorado Springs at AFA, working with security forces for the next year, after which he will attend undergraduate pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi in pursuit of becoming a pilot.

From there, the next 12 years of his life are planned: he'll be a pilot in the Air Force.

"I can decide after that if I want to stay in or become a pilot somewhere else," Lyons explained.

When asked how he feels about knowing where the next 12 to 15 years of his life are going, "I like it. I like the structure and predictability," he said. "I don't have to worry about what I'm going to do."

"In my family, I've always been good at doing what I'm told, so I guess that's how I figured I'd be a good fit for the military," Lyons added.

Having completed the program and begun his life after graduation, Lyons has a few words to offer students who might be considering following the same path:

"If you are looking for a solid, structured, and predictable career path, I think the AF is a great path," he said. "If you're looking for a well-balanced op-

portunity for education and keeping career paths open, service academies in general, and definitely the Air Force Academy, are great places to do that.

"AFA is the best place to go if you want to be a pilot."



Photos submitted

(Above) Anthony Lyons during his pilot/parachute training at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. (Right) Lyons and his family, Tian and Jerry Lyons, with Kathryn Shorey (girlfriend) in front of Admiral James David Glasgow Farragut statue, Town namesake, in Admiral Memorial Plaza.



service directory

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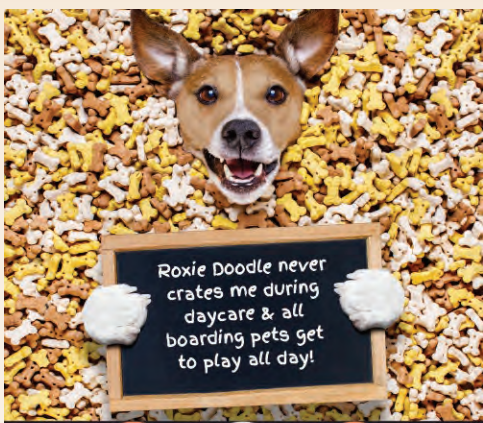


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The 24th Annual

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Dixie Lee Farmers Market

Produce, milk and even entertainment awaited shoppers at Dixie Lee Farmers Market at Renaissance | Farragut, 12740 Kingston Pike, Saturday, June 15. Market-goers shopped for green-leaf lettuce and lemonade from Four Season Farm; baked goods, eggs and oils from Ancient Roots; cooking and craft items from Christina Deyo of Loudon County; dairy items from Newman Family Farms; flowers and more.

“I’ve been here since the market opened,” said David Davis of Davis Farms in Etowah, while Jennifer Bishop, the “Milk Lady” from Newman Family Farms, is going into her sixth year serving NFF products at this market.

Meanwhile, singer/songwriter Horatio Monroe entertained the crowd.



Jennifer Bishop, the “Milk Lady”



From left, Teresa and Maggie Piera with Christina Deyo



Coleen Castle



Entertainer Horatio Monroe



David Davis



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Robert and Bonnie Deacon



Michael and Beth Donovan



Jose Santiago with sons, Iverson, 3, left, and Jameson, 6



Charlotte Feezell with grandma, Dreama Feezell



Jessica Turbin



FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024 • 1B

THE VOTES ARE IN

farragutpress readers make their choices for their favorite businesses within reading area

Readers of farragutpress recently cast their ballots for their favorites in the **EIGHTH ANNUAL “READERS’ CHOICE” AWARDS.**

Readers used ballots printed in the paper (which had to be the actual ballots — not reproductions — to be counted) to vote for their favorite Farragut-area businesses in a variety of categories.

The complete list of winners can be found on page 4 of this section.

A couple of your favorites are highlighted here:

BUDDY’S ‘Smokin’ Good Deal every day’ again pays off



About BUDDY’S bar-b-q’s Farragut location, 121 West End Ave., being a farragutpress Reader’s Choice champion, “We were thrilled to have been voted Best Bar-B-Q by the readers of the farragutpress,” a company e-mail stated. “We love serving this community and strive to be deserving of their votes year after year. Buddy’s has been located in Farragut in the West End shopping center since 1992. “We think our customers

love Buddy’s because we consistently provide good food at a great value,” the release further stated. “We feel like having a commitment to quality and value and smoking our proteins (pork, chicken, beef, ham) every day has made us successful for over 50 years.”

In addition to the Farragut location, “Buddy’s maintains the same high-quality standard across all locations, en-

“ We love serving this community and strive to be deserving of their votes year after year.”

– BUDDY’S bar-b-q spokesperson

See BUDDY’S on Page 2B



Photo submitted

Kirsten Milbourn, Elite Suites Salon Studios hair stylist and IBE extensions elite artist, shared her talents with client Jennifer Ryan.

Elite Suites Salon Studios offers ‘top-of-the-line, comprehensive array’

As farragutpress Reader’s Choice champion for Best Nail Salon and Best Tanning Salon, “Elite Suites Salon Studios offers area beauty professionals luxurious and spacious facilities with top-of-the-line furnishings and equipment to service their guests,” owner Kimberly Hennessy said about its 10536 Kingston Pike location.

Their service providers include hair stylists, estheticians, sunless spray tanning, massage therapists, medical

injectors, nail technicians, permanent cosmetics, tattoo artists and clothing boutiques.

“Guests can enjoy a comprehensive array of beauty services all in one convenient location,” she added. “They also feature Norvell sunless spray tanning available in a private automated booth or performed via airbrush by a highly trained Norvell technician.”

As for its popularity, “I

See ELITE SUITES on Page 2B



Elite Suites
From page 1B

believe salon professionals choose Elite Suites because of our commitment to their success and unrivaled tenant services, such as our guest concierge services and laundry services through our front desk receptionists," Hennessy said. "We are locally owned and on-site daily to provide assistance and ensure their success."

Guests choose Elite Suites "because they are always welcomed to a clean, relaxing environment that is home to some of the most talented beauty professionals in our area," its owner said.

“The support and professionalism offered by Elite Suites is unparalleled.”

– Jeannie Fultz, nail technician

"Many of our tenants have been with us at this location since we opened in early 2016. We pride ourselves on our work environment and the longevity of our ongoing business relationships."

From the rank-in-file, "I have been a part of the Elite Suites family for almost eight years now, and I couldn't imagine operating my business anywhere else," said Jeannie Fultz, nail technician. "I have been in the industry for almost 20 years and worked in a variety of

salon environments.

"The support and professionalism offered by Elite Suites is unparalleled," she added.

BUDDY'S
From page 1B

ensuring customers can enjoy the same great flavor and expect the same service no matter which Buddy's they visit," the release stated.

"We welcome customer feedback so that if there is a problem, we are able to identify it and take steps to resolve the issue and make improvements."

This honor isn't the first time the Farragut Buddy's has been a Reader's Choice favorite. "We are proud of winning the farragutpress Reader's Choice award year after year, winning Best Bar-B-Q consistently," the release stated. "We take great pride in main-



taining the highest health scores and always delighting our customer with a Smokin' Good Deal every day."

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Best Mexican Food: [El Mezcal Mexican Restaurant](#)

Best Wings: [Big Kahuna Wings](#)

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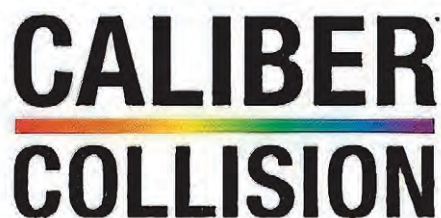
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