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Rotarians, friends rescue Ukrainian refugee



TAMMY CHEEK
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Ukrainian refugee and 2007-08 Rotary Club of Farragut Youth Exchange student Yuliia “Julie” Tryukhan, 32, and her two children, Mark, 3, and Polina, 18 months, made it safely to Knox County Friday evening, Aug. 5.

They traveled from Zilna, Slovakia, to Prague, Czech Republic, then flew through Amsterdam, Netherlands, to Atlanta, Georgia. They were delayed in Atlanta Thursday, Aug. 4, but took a flight to McGhee Tyson Airport in Alcoa the following morning.

“I still cannot believe we have actually made it to the U.S.,” Tryukhan said. “I’m really happy we got this opportunity.”

She is one of 250 Ukrainian refugees in East Tennessee — and of those, one of 150 in Knoxville,” said Jim O’Brien, president of Rotary Club of Farragut Foundation, which helped arrange for the Tryukhans’ trip.

“Team Julie,” consisting of RCF’s Vickie Williams and O’Brien, along with Bill and Dinah Vogel who hosted Tryukhan when she was a student, greeted the family and Oleksandr “Alex” Surkov, a friend of the Tryukhans, when they arrived at McGhee Tyson.

“It’s Déjà vu all over again,” Bill Vogel said. “Having her back is a privilege.”

“I was able to briefly talk to (Julie’s husband, Dmytro) “Dima” via Facetime yesterday, 5 (p.m.)ish our time — midnight-ish his time Friday, and he thanked us for what we are doing for the ‘most precious people in his life,’” he added. “Those simple words made me realize what an honor and privilege we have to have Julie back in our home during such a terrible, difficult time for her family.”

“The Vogels are the most wonderful people,” Tryukhan said. “They are like a family to me. Of course, seeing them again felt amazing, and entering their home felt like entering actual home. I feel so lucky I’ve got them in my life.”

“They kept relations,” O’Brien said about the Vogels and Tryukhan. “They opened up their home, and Julie will be staying with them until she finds an apartment.”

Throughout the trip, “Keeping my kids safe is



O’Brien

Photo submitted
Ukrainian 2007-08 Rotary Club of Farragut Youth Exchange student Yuliia “Julie” Tryukhan kneels with her daughter, Polina, 18 months, at McGhee Tyson Airport Friday evening, Aug. 5, after their arrival from Europe.

\$35+ mil new school planned for August ’25

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

To alleviate severe school overcrowding in two Farragut public schools is three years away — factoring in construction supply slowdowns and ever-rising costs — as Farragut’s new kindergarten-through-fifth-grade elementary school is targeted to open for 800 to 900 students by August 2025.

“There are certainly concerns with supply chain issues right now, and we’ve felt those in other building projects that we’re working on — but if it can be done, I know that our team will certainly try their best to get this school open” as soon as possible, 5th District BOE representative Susan Horn said.



Horn

A major first hurdle in the process of dealing with severe overcrowding at Farragut Primary School (2022-23 enrollment of about 1,000) and Farragut Intermediate (2022-23 enrollment of about 1,200) came from Knox County Board of Education during its Wednesday, Aug. 3, meeting.

The Board unanimously voted to purchase 32 acres for the school along McFee Road, located “just past McFee Park (southward) right at the end of McFee Road” according to Horn, which was bought from Scott brothers, Timothy C. and Todd M. Scott.,

See **NEW SCHOOL** on Page 4A

First day of school



(Left) Farragut High School special education teacher Brooke Montjoy walked her son, Tipton, to Farragut Primary School for his first day of first grade Monday, Aug. 8. **(Right)** As twins Cooper Cumming and Caroline Cumming entered kindergarten this week, they posed in the FPS lobby for their parents, Tyler and Karla Cumming, Friday, Aug. 5. (See related photos on page 9A)



Left photo by Tammy Cheek/right photo by Michelle Hollenhead

Williams re-elected by just 58 votes as White wins, Meyer re-elected; turnout down 1,810

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

A spirited campaign for Mayor of Farragut turned into one of the closest elections in the Town’s 42-year history — despite Town voters casting 1,810 less votes

than they did for mayor in 2018 (3,974 versus 5,784). But in the end, Mayor Ron Williams was re-elected — by a razor-thin margin — becoming the fourth consecutive mayor of Farragut to be elected to a second

See **TOWN ELECTION** on Page 3A

business

It’s a mix of two business anniversaries, a business opening and a business expansion — which includes ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

(Read stores and/or view photos of these happenings beginning on page 5A)

community

Five Farragut-area teenagers recently accomplished a feat only 6 percent of their group reaches nationwide. And a Farragut church is responding to a tragedy affecting thousands in neighboring states.

(Read stories beginning on page 9A)

sports

While two area high school programs look to slay a neighborhood giant this fall, a coach has been recognized for his talents locally and found greener pastures elsewhere in East Tennessee.

(See photos and read story starting on page 8A)

Join our amazing healthcare team.

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Covenant
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TreatedWell.com/careers

A big surprise for July Town Sampler champ



Photo courtesy of Stephen Krempasky/Shop Farragut

Carrie Gahagen got a big surprise recently. This Farragut resident was delighted to accept Shop Farragut’s Town Sampler Prize Package, as July champ, at The Reckless Hippie Retail Store, 139 Brooklawn St. near Kroger. Gahagen stands at the store’s entrance next to its owner, Seth Scoggins. July prizes (transferable) are a \$200-plus value: \$25 gift cards from The Reckless Hippie, Firehouse Subs, Summer Moon Wood-Fired Coffee and The French Market Creperie; and \$25 gift certificates from El Mezcal Mexican Restaurant, Farragut Pharmacy, US Cleaners at Kohls’ Plaza and The Embroidery Boutique. Enter the August contest at: <https://wfiv.com/contests/29/shop-farragut-august-2022>

towncalendar

- **Twentieth Annual Fun with Farragut’s Fleet returns to Mayor Bob Leonard Park** from 9 to 11 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 20. “Fun with the Fleet is a way for kids to get up close and personal with big equipment used by the Town and other local rescue and construction organizations,” a Town press release stated. “As always, this is a free event sponsored by the Town of Farragut. This year’s event features Town and Knox County fleet favorites, such as Farragut Public Works, Rural Metro, Smyrna Ready Mix, Knox County Sheriff’s Office and First Utility District. His Security & Technology also will be in attendance, providing children’s I.D. kits. For more information, go to farragutparksandrec.org/fun-withfleet/, call Special Event and Program coordinator Merritt Piper at 865-218-3376 or visit mpiper@townoffarragut.org.
- **Lawn Chair Concert Series continues Saturday, Aug. 13, in Founders Park at Campbell Station** beginning with food trucks around 5 p.m. Kicking off the evening music-wise will be the Farragut High School Marching Admirals at 6 p.m. Additional performers are scheduled to include Alertski, Honky Tonk CIA, Marlee Hart and Roger Alan Wade.



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The Corner Perspective

Dr. Bruce Spangler, CEO of Volunteer Ministry Center

He walks into the Refuge reception area of our facility at 511 N Broadway. The receptionist welcomes him with a genuine smile and inquires, “How may we help you today?”

After a brief get-acquainted conversation, he receives some clothing to replace the worn and soiled attire that had long outlived its usefulness in protecting him from the elements.

Later in the day, he returns, receiving the same welcome. He is eager to have his say, however. “I have something for you. This place was good to me earlier today. But now, I have something for you.”

With that, he reaches over the counter and attempts to hand the receptionist a dollar bill accompanied by a 1989 Lincoln penny. “This place was good to me. This money is not much, but I hope it helps someone like me.”

The receptionist tries to convince him to keep it for himself, but to no avail, for he is overly adamant. The receptionist relents and receives the gift while offering a receipt.

His gift reminds me of the biblical story of the widow giving her two “mites” (our penny for cents) to the coffers at the place of her worship. Observing her actions, Jesus contrasts her actions with those who have more means. “This poor widow has put in more than all the others. They gave out of their abundance, but out of her poverty, she has put in all that she had to live on.”

Often held up as a virtue to mimic, this story gives me a troublesome and reflective pause. Aside from the woman’s generosity in a comparative sense with others, it disturbs me as she provides “all that she has to live on.” Honestly, it challenges my sensibilities. It tests my understanding of economic fairness and human decency. How is she expected to survive as she gives all access away to simple subsistence? Why would a “system” even solicit a contribution of the “widow’s mite?” Maybe the object lesson is to awaken my perspective of a world that exists with so much disparity that it gets clouded by my assumed distance between “us and them.”

And that leads me to think about housing, or the lack thereof. Matthew Desmond’s reflection on the housing crisis speaks volumes: “No moral code or ethical principle, no piece of scripture or holy teaching can be summoned to defend what we have allowed our country to become.” In his book, *Eviction: Poverty and Profit in an American City*, Desmond, shadows a similar, if not identical, object lesson raised by the widow’s mite story as he quotes a struggling mother, “Sometimes the rent eats before the kids.” That challenges my sensibilities as well.

I appreciate his gift of \$1.01 as I do all donations in our effort to end and prevent homelessness. But I hesitate for a moment, for I know that he has no home to return to when he leaves. I hope our work will honor his gift with a home as soon as possible.

Volunteer Ministry Center is a social agency dedicated to ending and preventing homelessness at www.vmcinc.org.

KCSOreports

- **At 5:51 p.m., Friday, Aug. 5, a complainant called Knox County Sheriff’s Office Teleserve Unit** to report a theft from Publix, 11656 Parkside Drive. She advised discovering she had left her wallet inside Publix. Complainant said she went back and was unable to locate it, and when she asked if anyone had turned it in, they advised no. She advised later discovering transactions being made on her bank account at an unknown Sam’s Club location. Total value of loss was listed at \$355, \$300 of which was in cash.
- **At 4:09 p.m., Aug. 5, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report a lost license plate** from a Landing Lane address. He advised he discovered the license plate was no longer attached when a mechanic advised him it was not on his car during his service. He stated the shop reviewed their surveillance tapes and the license plate was not attached to the vehicle when he originally brought it in, so he is uncertain on when or where it was lost. Value of loss was listed at \$65.
- **At 12:16 p.m., Aug. 5, officers were notified a stolen white 2019 Chevrolet Trax** with a Florida tag was parked in the Starbucks parking lot at 11038 Parkside Drive. “A records check

revealed the vehicle was reported stolen from Knoxville Police Department about two weeks ago,” the report stated. “Property owner/victim was located inside the Starbucks and said she got her vehicle back about three days ago from a re-possession company.” LEIDS was notified of the incident and the vehicle was removed from NCIC. The vehicle was recovered and released to the owner. Value of vehicle was listed at \$5,000.

- **At 11:17 Wednesday, Aug. 3, a complainant called East Precinct to report a vehicle burglary**, which occurred at a Lanesborough Way address. According to the complainant, between 9 pm., Tuesday, Aug. 2, and 7 a.m. the next morning, person(s) unknown entered both her vehicles, a 2004 Ford F-150 and a 2016 Jeep Patriot, which were unlocked. Complainant advised her oldest son drives the F-150, and she had her First Horizon Visa/debit card in his cup holder. Complainant stated the suspect(s) stole her First Horizon card and \$100 cash out of her son’s wallet from the F-150. Complainant said she hadn’t noticed anything missing from the Jeep Patriot. Complainant advised the suspect(s) used her card on three transactions with Lyft for \$100 total.

‘Pooch Plunge’ opens Dog Daze weekend at Village Green shopping center Friday

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

Dog Daze VI @ Village Green shopping center, presented by the Angie Cody Real Estate Team, will be “a three-day festival of fun, food, shopping and competition” Friday, Aug. 12, through Sunday, Aug. 14, according to a press release from Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance.

They have teamed up with Town of Farragut, Smoky Mountain Dock Dogs (<http://www.smokymountaindockdogs.com/>) and Ricki’s Pet Depot (<http://rickispetdepot.com/>) to bring this nationally sanctioned regional canine aquatics competition to Farragut (<http://dockdogs.com/>).



Festivities will take place in the shopping center parking lot just south of Planet Fitness, beginning at 4 p.m., Aug. 12, “with local dogs taking a ‘Pooch Plunge,’ (as) area dog owners will have the opportunity to have their ‘puppy’ try a dock dive,” the press release further stated about this opportunity, free of charge, that runs until 7 p.m.

Actual competitions heat up Saturday, Aug. 13, with professional jumps beginning at 10 a.m. and running until early evening.

Sunday’s action also begins at 10 a.m., with finals competitions starting at 1:30 p.m.

Featuring more than 400 jumps with 150 competitors, “... We expect teams from as far away as Ohio and Florida to compete throughout the weekend,” Smoky Mountain DockDogs president Kaye Noble stated. “Our Farragut event has become a premier stop for many of the serious Dock Diving Dog teams. In fact, all event registrations are now sold out. Winners ... will move on toward the World Championships in October as seen on ESPN.”

While more than three dozens food trucks expecting to serve event attendees, SMDD will conduct a silent auction, which will benefit the B.A.A.R.K. Foundation, an organization “that helps the DockDogs community in their time of need,” the press release also stated. Learn more at <http://www.dockdogs.com>. First Utility District is a major sponsor supplying more than 27,000 gallons of fresh Tennessee River water to fill the pool for the weekend.




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Rescued

From page 1A

my No. 1 priority, and I’m glad they are not only as far as possible from the war, but also in a place where they can get comfort,” she said, adding both did “much better than I expected” on the trip

“It was their first time on a plane, so I think the excitement helped to overcome all the stress,” their mother added. “They miss their dad terribly, though.”

Arriving in Knox County, she recalled her first thoughts were bittersweet.

“It feels wonderful to be back because I love America with all my heart,” Tryukhan said. “I just wish it was under different circumstances.

“It’s hard to fully enjoy it without my husband,” she added. “It’s been our dream for years to visit the U.S. with our kids, so it really breaks my heart that he is not here with us.”

After Russia invaded Ukraine in February, Rotary Club of Farragut sprung into action, as Bill Nichols, RCF’s Outbound Exchange Committee chairman, had been keeping in touch with Tryukhan through the years, as did the Vogels, Webb School International Center director Liz Gregor, former club member Linda Bellich and Ivana Sabakova, another RYE student, and Ivana’s father, Jurij Sabakova, a Zilna, Slovakia Rotarian.

Sabakova and his Rotary Club helped Tryukhan flee Ukraine for Zilna, Slovakia, where she lived with his family until recently.

In Zilna, “Rotarians there have cared and supported them throughout,” RCF public image chair Tom King stated in a RCF Flagship newsletter.

Meanwhile, Julie’s husband, who is serving the Ukrainian army, fought the Russians in eastern Ukraine until three weeks ago, when his unit was rotated to a safer Western front.

“My husband has finally been transferred to a different unit where he won’t have to go back to the frontline,” Tryukhan added. “It’s a big relief for us. He is happy we’ve managed to come to Knoxville; but once again, his heart is aching over the fact that we cannot enjoy this new chapter of our life together.

“My mother is back in Crimea,” she said. “she is doing well.”

“Before our (July 20) meeting, two members made donations to the Rotary Club of Farragut Foundation that would cover the three airline tickets,” King stated in a July 24 newsletter. “We also should be prepared to pay for her husband’s flight when he joins them here.”

With that in mind, he asked fellow Rotarians to make donations to the Foundation to continue supporting Julie and her family going forward. Rotarians are asked to help raise \$2,000 to support Tryukhan.

For Bill Vogel, the U4U program is familiar since it was a similar program many years ago that brought his father, a 19-year-old Jewish man, from Germany to the United States during World War II. He was sponsored by his cousin so he could make the trip.

“Alex” Surkov

“Jim (O’Brien), who has handled all of the travel and airline tickets for Julie, says that Oleksandr ‘Alex’ Surkov, one of Julie and Dima’s friends — and Mark’s godfather — flew from Canada to Slovakia some weeks ago,” King stated. “He accompanied Julie’s mother on her trip from Zilina to her home in Crimea (via Poland).”

Surkov traveled with Tryukhan and her children on their flights from Prague to Knox County before returning to his home in Toronto.

“An unsung hero in this story,” Surkov “put his life on hold several weeks ago, bought a ticket and flew to Slovakia to offer his assistance to Julie and her children,” O’Brien

man Ron Pinchok, who was term-limited.

The most convincing win among Town candidates came from incumbent North Ward Alderman Scott Meyer, who received 765 votes versus two challengers: runner-up Adam Atherton (524) and James “Jim” Hill (417).

In early voting, Meyer received 523 early votes, while Atherton garnered 392 and Hill 296.

Swearing-in moved

Because election results won’t be certified until Thursday, Aug. 18, by Knox County Election Commission, the regularly scheduled Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting Thursday, Aug. 11 — during which new Board representatives were to have been sworn in — has been cancelled.

They are now set to be sworn in during the Thursday, Aug. 25, BOMA meeting according to Town officials.



Photo courtesy of Jim O’Brien

Ukrainian 2007-08 Rotary Youth Exchange student Yuliia “Julie” Tryukhan, center, and her two children, Mark, 3, and Polina, 18 months, along with friend, Oleksandr “Alex” Surkov, far right, were greeted by Bill and Dinah Vogel of West Knoxville, her former hosts family who are now sponsoring her stay in the United States, when Tryukhan, her children and Surkov arrived at McGhee-Tyson Airport Friday evening, Aug. 5.

stated in an e-mail. “He ended up escorting Julie’s mother on her journey from Slovakia, through Poland and Russia back to her home in Crimea, and then returning to Slovakia.”

“My heart is full knowing that we have a friend like him,” Tryukhan said about Surkov. “I mean, he is a definition of friendship and devotion to me.

“I don’t know who else on this planet would have done that for us,” she added. “In fact, if it weren’t for him, I wouldn’t have made it to Knoxville with two kids all by myself.

“He is my hero, for sure.”

Although the Tryukhans are in America and safe, after a Wednesday, Aug. 3, RCF meeting, O’Brien said because her husband is still in Ukraine “there is not a celebration.

“They are still in need of prayers,” he added.

“Thursday felt like the lon-

gest and the hardest day ever,” Tryukhan recalled of the trip. “It was just a very long trip, filled with both excitement and anxiety. Friday, on the contrary, felt like the easiest one. I consider Knoxville to be my comfort zone, so finally getting here after everything we’ve been through felt very rewarding.”

Adjusting to new life

The first order of business for Tryukhan is to settle down and adjust to the new life.

“I have not really made any further plans yet,” she said. “I mean, we’ve taken a big turn in our life, so there is going to be some adaptation period. I’m hoping it won’t take too long and we’ll be able to make plans for life again.

“I love Ukraine,” Tryukhan added. “I loved our life back in Ukraine, and I wish we could just live it there peacefully. However, at this point it’s a

matter of safety and future of my children.

“Therefore, going back to Ukraine is an option I will consider only when both those matters are guaranteed. I don’t know if (Dima and her mother) will be joining us, since Dima cannot leave the country and for my mom such a trip would be close to impossible. We’ll have to see.”

Through it all, folks from Farragut and Knoxville to Zelina, Slovakia, have stepped up to help. “I am overwhelmed with the amount of help and support we have been getting,” Tryukhan said. “I honestly don’t know what I did to deserve such wonderful people in my life

“... It’s just amazing how everything has worked out. Being a part of the Rotary family really saved my life, and I will be eternally thankful for that,” she added.

Town election

From page 1A

term after defeating Bill Johns following Election Day results Thursday, Aug. 4.

Williams edged out Johns by just 58 votes among 3,974 cast, as the incumbent totaled 2,016 versus Johns’ 1,958.

Williams won the early vote by 101 — 1,456 versus 1,355.

Meyer re-elected, White wins

Aldermen seats in both the North Ward (Ward I, those living north of Kingston Pike) and South Ward (living south of Kingston Pike) also were contested.

In a battle of candidates new to Town politics seeking the open South Ward II seat, David White edged Marty Layman 967 versus 827.

In the early voting, White received 685 votes versus 594 for Layman.

This South Ward (Ward I) alderman position is soon to be vacated by two-term Alder-



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Free Screenings For Prostate Cancer

The Cancer Institute at UT Medical Center will be offering free screenings during the month of August. Registration is required.

Screenings recommendations:

- Men age 50+
- Men age 45+ who have a family history of prostate cancer or are African American

All screenings include a Digital Rectal Exam (DRE) and Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 3-5 PM
UT Regional Health Center—Lenoir City
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Lenoir City, TN 37772
2nd Floor

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 9-11 AM
St. Paul Baptist Church
2342 Louise Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37915

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 3:45-4:45 PM
UT Regional Health Center—Sevierville
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Sevierville, TN 37862
1st Floor

To schedule an appointment:
Call 865-305-6970 M-F 8am-5pm;
email healthcoor@utmck.edu; or LiveChat

lettertotheeditor

Alderman-elect cites headline error, code violation

This statement is to clarify and to correct an article posted on the front page of the farragutpress on Wednesday, July 27, 2022. The article's heading is "Ballfield Lights Restriction Request: Favorable Feedback." This heading is wrong. This variance does just the opposite. It would allow the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to place extremely tall light-pole lights on certain Town-owned properties. And there was no favorable feedback. It is still in the (Farragut Municipal) Planning Commission, except for Vice Mayor (Louise) Povlin and her group of supporters that proposed it.

The original variance would allow the Board to place pole lights taller than 28 feet on any Town-owned property. I pointed out at the Planning Commission meeting they were opening Pandora's box and placing all residents around Anchor Park in jeopardy because Anchor Park has ballfields and basketball courts, but no lights.

The language they want now is to exempt Anchor Park, and the variance would apply only to McFee Park and Mayor (Bob) Leonard Park.

These Town-owned properties already have illegal, non-code-complying lights. Just two months ago the Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved 60 feet-tall lights on a new basketball court at McFee Park, (which is) a blatant violation of Ordinance 21-20 Outdoor Site Lighting.

Below is the exact wording of **Ordinance 21-20: Section 1. XIII - Outdoor site lighting.**

A. Intent
It is the intent of this section to establish

outdoor lighting requirements that reduce the negative effects of lighting, but at the same time address the need for adequate lighting for safety and visibility concerns. The following requirements shall apply to all developments and/or facilities, excluding single-family and two-family dwellings and street lighting. In no case, however, shall any light shine or glare to create a traffic safety hazard on any adjacent properties, right-of-way, access easements or driveway.

B. Pole-Mounted Lights

1. Pole height for new lights
Unless specified elsewhere in this ordinance, light poles, including any supporting base, shall not exceed 28 feet in height. The height shall be measured from the ground to the top of the pole.

2. Pole height for modifications to existing lights
For existing developments that are expanding, if the existing light poles are taller than 28 feet, and new light poles are to be added as part of the expansion to the project, the Planning Commission may approve a light pole taller than 28 feet so as to match the existing light poles if it can be shown that the taller light pole will not create any negative effects on any adjacent properties, right-of-ways, access easements or driveways. In no case shall new light poles exceed the height of the existing light poles or 40 feet in height, whichever is less.

David White, newly elected alderman, Town of Farragut

Letter to Editor rules: 600 words maximum; four weeks minimum between letter and/or column publications; no foul language; letter will not be published if factual errors are found and not corrected by the author; personal attacks may be disallowed.

Pinchok service recognized with plaque, reception



Paying tribute to years of serving the Town of Farragut, Aldermen Ron Pinchok, second from right, accepts a plaque from Farragut Mayor Ron Williams on behalf of the entire Board of Mayor and Aldermen during a reception in his honor before the Board's meeting Thursday, July 28 — Pinchok's last meeting as an alderman, being term-limited. Also on hand, from left, are Alderman Scott Meyer, Vice Mayor Louise Povlin and Alderman Drew Burnette. Also serving briefly as interim mayor, Pinchok was elected as a Ward 2 (South) alderman in 2014 after first volunteering with the Town in 2011. Among his priorities, Pinchok was a champion for the McFee Park expansion project, creation of Farragut Community Center and restoration of Campbell Station Inn, while advocating for townhomes in the Biddle Farms at Farragut Town Center. He also proposed the Visit Farragut program and initiated the Entertainment District along Outlet Drive. "He's been a leader, and we sure will miss him," Williams said.

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• **We understand that Farragut believes they're business friendly. They sure don't act business friendly** when Hy-Vee tries to put a big sales-tax revenue-generating property in their Town. Hy-Vee is going to go right in the middle of Town on (private) property — if the leadership of Farragut will (allow) it. Hopefully they will. It's a big sales-tax generator for the Town. And secondly, the Panera bread people were attacked with all the changes that the Town officials wanted to make on Panera bread. I understand that Panera bread is probably just going to say "good riddance" to Farragut — the "business-friendly Farragut, which they are not. Panera bread was attacked at the Planning Commission Staff Developer meeting, and I know they were frustrated and shocked. Farragut needs to be more business friendly. Panera bread will leave; hope and pray Hy-Vee will get to come to Farragut and not have to go to Loudon County somewhere.

• **Whoever decided to re-pave Pellissippi (Parkway) at night, I commend them.** It is wonderful to not have to navigate around their trucks and equipment in the daytime, and I think that is great.

New school

From page 1A

for roughly \$3.2 million.

While a typical elementary school of this size (1,200-student capacity) would require only 25 or 26 acres, "there are six (extra) acres we are purchasing. The purpose of those acres is to get a driveway from McFee Road to the school," Horn said.

About the cost to build and prepare the school equipment-wise, "Typically for an elementary school it's about \$32 million," the funds of which is "set aside over three years," she said about total cost, from buildings, electricity and parking lots to desks, books and electronic learning devices.

The major exception is playground equipment costs, which are set to be discussed by BOE "over the coming months," Horn said.

Though the school's capacity is about 1,200, the new K-5 school is expected to initially welcome 800 to 900 students upon opening, Horn said. "The goal is to take about 400 to 450 students out of Farragut Primary and 400 to 450 out of Farragut Intermediate. And still have space to accommodate new growth. There are about 400 new homes being built right around that new location."

As for a timetable for letting bids, "We'll be able to put out a (request for proposal) for the contractor and the architect and the builder fairly soon, with hopes of starting construction sometime in spring

2023," Horn said.

A name has yet to be chosen for the new school, the 5th District rep said.

How overcrowded?
In describing the need for the new school, "there are roughly 10 to 11 classrooms at both Farragut Primary and Farragut Intermediate that are in portable classrooms," Horn said. "Plus, the principals are using every available space in the buildings to accommodate students and teachers."

"This is just not sustainable going forward," she added.

Expand existing schools?
"The school system actually contracted an architect for them to do a feasibility study on adding actual brick-and-mortar to the existing buildings, but it was going to be so expensive," Horn said. "... and the common spaces (at the existing school sites) simply cannot handle more students."

In terms of common space limitations in the FPS cafeteria, for example, "lunch begins about 10:30," she said.

Feedback, outlook
"We've had art teachers who have classrooms on a cart, which is no way for an art class to be taught," Horn said.

"I've talked with several teachers and the principals about how difficult ... it is for them to accommodate all the students," she added.

"There are multiple reasons why this is just a great thing for our community. There will certainly be bumps in the road as we go through zoning and all those issues — but in the end I am thrilled we can do this."



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FWKCC: 35 years and growing

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 35th anniversary with a ribbon cutting at its office, 11826 Kingston Pike, Farragut, Wednesday, July 27. Among those on hand for the ribbon cutting were, front row from left, Tim Williams, 2011-17 board chair; Julia Hurley, 2018-2020 chair; Terry Rutherford, 2020-22 chair; Mike Rothman (with scissors), 1987 chair/president; Julie Blaylock, president/CEO; (second row behind Rothman); Christine Dean, current chair; Brenda Herron; Farragut Alderman Ron Pinchok, second row behind Dean; and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams behind Herron.

Tammy Cheek



Tammy Cheek

Matt Beeler, center, owner/president of Big Kahuna Wings Bar & Grill — Farragut, joins bartender/server Lauren Fletcher and general manager Robert Bowlby in showing off the restaurant's recently completed expansion at his 12828 Kingston Pike location near Dixie Lee Junction.

New server alley, extra BKW space

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Big Kahuna Wings Bar & Grill — Farragut, locally known for its award-winning buffalo-style wings made fresh-to-order and its BKW Seasonings and dipping sauces, recently completed the expansion of its Farragut restaurant, 12828 Kingston Pike, near Dixie Lee Junction.

“(The expansion) was definitely a little more expensive than I had planned for, but the layout is fantastic, exactly what we were looking for,” BKW owner/founder Matt Beeler said. “We have a nice flow, now, of the staff, as well as the patrons who come in.

The restaurant added more than 500 square feet of additional dining space and a new server alley, which allows for better service and flow through the restaurant.

“The server alley, too, is a great addition,” he added. “I was almost more excited about that because the servers used to have to come out from behind the bar with the food out here in the dining area. Now, they can come this way,” he said, indicating the

See EXPANSION on Page 7A

businessbriefs

• **Jon Smith recently joined The Christman Company** as senior conceptual estimator in the construction management and real estate development firm's office in Knoxville. Smith already has contributed his expertise to projects led by The Christman Company, including at Smith & Wesson in Maryville. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and management from Presbyterian College



Smith

and has worked in construction since 2011. He has completed training with California Occupational Safety and Health Administration and is Basic Safety Plus Certified by the Health and Safety Council.

• **Professor and H. H. Arnold Chair John Schmisser** recently took on the role of executive director of the University of Tennessee Space Institute in Tullahoma.



Schmisser

See BRIEFS on Page 7A

Ash 15th special

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD

mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

Laura Ash of Farragut celebrated a special anniversary last week.

The owner/agent for Laura Ash — State Farm marked 15 years in business Monday, Aug. 1, from her offices at 12744 Kingston Pike Suite 106 Renaissance | Farragut, where she has been located since opening.

“Being a State Farm Agent has been one of the great



Michelle Hollenhead

Laura Ash marked 15 years in business as a State Farm agent/owner Monday, Aug. 1.

See ASH 15 on Page 7A

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Engel & Volkörs opens in TCreek

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Engel & Volkörs, a local franchise of an international real estate agency, has found a home at 11347 Parkside Drive in Turkey Creek.

Headed by broker/CEO Cindy Krauss, it celebrated the new office with a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting July 15 for the business that opened its doors in May.

"I just appreciate all of you all being here," Krauss said at the ribbon cutting.

"Cindy has a heart for service; she is an active member of our Farragut Rotary Club. Everything she does, she meets with her passion," FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock said.

"Engel & Volkörs' whole premise is giving that white glove, luxurious experience, whatever that price point is of the home," Krauss said. "So, if somebody is buying an \$80,000 house or a \$5 million house, we're still going to treat them all with the same dignity and respect, and that spoke to my heart."

"Advisors can do all the things a brokerage can do, as far as set up searches for homes, but also show clients about the area," she added.

"We really help our advisors

specialize in an area."

Additionally, "I like that they are a global company, so I can connect with people around the world," she said.

Since her agency has a protected territory, which means there will not be another Engel & Volkörs agency to compete with her, "we get a lot of referrals from people from around the country for people moving to the Knoxville area, and a lot do," Krauss said.

Krauss has lived in East Tennessee since 2006, first living in Westel, between Rockwood and Crossville, before moving to Farragut in 2015.

Before opening Engel & Volkörs, she was an independent agent with Realty Executives.

"So, this was a new brokerage and a new franchise, all at the same time" Krauss said.

"The reason I opened this brokerage was it really called to my heart," she added. "I had looked at what I wanted to do as a realtor."

Krauss decided to open her own brokerage because "I wanted something that would continue to bring in money, even if I wasn't actively selling. I had been a principal broker for a couple other companies, and I really enjoyed it — I like working with agents and helping them to be better and work at a higher level,



Tammy Cheek

Engel & Volkörs broker/CEO Cindy Krauss (with scissors) cuts the ribbon on her new agency shop at 11347 Parkside Drive in Turkey Creek during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event Friday, July 15. She was joined by staff, real estate advisors and Chamber members.

and I enjoy that a lot — (but) I thought 'how do I facilitate that for the future?'"

"I could have built a larger team, but I dissolved my team because I want everyone here to be independent agents," she added.

Another draw for Krauss was the company's legacy of giving. While her charity of choice is Emerald Youth Foundation of Knoxville, for which a portion of her agency's closing revenues go toward that charity, the international com-

pany's charity of choice is Special Olympics.

"Tennessee is one of those states that have been growing at a rapid rate, and a lot of times our network determines

See ENGEL & VOLKERS on Page 7A

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Ash 15
From page 5A

est privileges in my life,” Ash said, noting the company itself is celebrating 100 years of service this year. “I really enjoy being a part of my customers’ lives and helping them with all their insurance needs, and also working with amazing people. “My (three-member) team is so hardworking and always ready to help with your insurance whenever you need it,” she added. Laura Ash — State Farm specialties include car, home, life and business insurance, among its several offerings. She also is an originator for Rocket Mortgage. “I give my all to my customers,” she said. “They know I am available

24-7 to them,” Ash added. Ash supports and sponsors various high school sports teams, including those at Farragut High School, while a “Rivalry Thursday” Football sponsor along with FHS theatre, Bearden dance team and Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce. “I love helping my community,” she said. The mom of two adult children, Joel and Kate, step-mom to Sean and wife to Terry Ash, she also has been mindful about raising “happy, well-adjusted kids. As a mom, there was a lot to juggle, but my kids were also my priority, and I’m very proud of how they have turned out.” For more information, visit Laura-Ash.com or call 865-675-0888.

Engel & Volkörs
From page 6A

where we go next,” said Austin McCown, Engel & Volkörs vice president. “Six months into COVID, we started to see there was a lot of activity coming out of Califor-

nia and New York,” he added. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and by appointment anytime. For more information, call 865-221-8601, e-mail knoxville@evrealestate.com or visit online at knoxvilleevreal-estate.com

Briefs
From page 5A

• The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture recently received an endowment to create the Jerry L. Gibbs Professor of Practice, a multifaceted position designed to prepare students at the Herbert College of Agriculture for careers in the business world.

Bill Johnson, retired Farm Credit Mid-America chief executive officer, began to pilot the program Monday, Aug. 1. • UT recently was named one of two recipients of Gallup’s 2022 Don Clifton Strengths for Students Award, which recognizes colleges, universities and districts that “enable students to learn what they naturally do best and apply their strengths to thrive in school and all areas of their lives.”

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Ribbon cut for Alpine Cakery



Tammy Cheek

Alpine Cakery owners Christine Goebel, center (fifth from left) and husband, Jack Goebel, fourth from right, are on hand to celebrate their bakery’s opening at 10551 Kingston Pike, the former Knox Dough location, with a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting June 21. They are joined by their son, Nick Goebel (with scissors); Jack’s parents, Nora Goebel, third from right, and Jack Goebel Sr., second from right; and a host of Chamber members.

Expansion
From page 5A

alley. “They’re not clogging up where people are coming in.” The addition allowed BKW to add more than 50 percent more seating and more than double the number of tables, adding 25 more seats while going from eight to 17 tables. “It’s our mission not just to grow the popularity of dry-rub,

fresh-to-order wings among consumers, but also to bring back the times when eating a meal with family or friends was considered a special time meant to be cherished,” he said. Founded in 1997 by Beeler, Big Kahuna Wings Bar & Grill is a family-owned restaurant concept “born out of the popular BKW Seasonings brand, whose original and fire-blend

products have been satisfying taste buds at sporting events, parties and family gatherings for more than 50 years,” a press release stated. Hours are from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday. The restaurant is closed on Sunday. To learn more about Big Kahuna Wings, call 865-466-8365.

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‘A lot of positives’ at FHS; Higgins to Science Hill

ALAN SLOAN
editor@farragutpress.com

During his five seasons coaching Farragut High School boys varsity basketball and both golf teams, “There were a lot of positives,” said Jon Higgins, who announced last week he accepted the boys varsity basketball head coaching job at Johnson City Science Hill, a tradition-rich program.

While Higgins coached the 2020 FHS boys golf team to a TSSAA Division I Large state championship, on top of leading the FHS Lady Admirals to a state runner-up finish in 2019 — not to mention guiding the 2021-22 boys basketball team to District 4-AAA regular season and tournament championships — the veteran high school coach and

former Tennessee Vols hoops standout took a different approach when reflecting on his fondest memories.

On the basketball side, “I’m most impressed with the growth of the young men over the course of the five years we were there,” Higgins said. “To watch those guys grow up to become men, that’s always impressive.”

About his own influence on their growth, “I hoped they learned a thing or two,” the ex-Admirals skipper said.

“My plan (was) hard work, discipline,



Higgins

dedication. ... I am very grateful and blessed to have been there five years.

“I’m super-excited for the future for them — not only them, but for me and my family as well,” added Higgins, who with wife, Beth Higgins, have two children: Baylor, 8, and Belle, 3.

Moreover, “I can’t say anything negative about any of the time I was there,” the coach said.

In characterizing the basketball team’s success last year (final 25-9 record and a sectional tournament appearance), “A lot of those seniors, they grew from when they came in as freshmen and just continued to get better and work hard,” Higgins said. “You could see the results at the end of those four years.”

Praising members of his first FHS

varsity hoops team in the 2017-18 season, “It starts with guys like that who set the tone and really put forth the effort initially for a new coach. That really helps change the culture,” he said.

On the golf side, “It’s such a rich tradition; it’s such a great job with a lot of really great kids,” Higgins said. “They work hard at their craft; in golf you have to work hard at your craft.”

Kind words, looking ahead

“We’re going to miss him,” FHS athletic director Donald Dodgen said about Higgins. “I really appreciate what Jon has done with the basketball program and the golf program.”

While Dodgen said the search continues for a new boys basketball coach, assistant golf coach Jason Mayfield will be interim golf head coach.

A rival challenge to BHS dominance in girls soccer?

Lady Admirals, HVA look to make their mark during 2022 season



Among a happy bunch of Bearden Lady Bulldogs celebrating a Division I-AAA state championship last fall came a hug from star forward Brinley Murphy, right, given to a teammate after BHS defeated Houston 3-1 to complete an unbeaten 23-0-1 season. Now a senior, Murphy is looking to lead her teammates to back-to-back state crowns in 2022 to close out her stellar career for the Maroon and Gray.

File photo



Farragut photo courtesy of Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com Hardin Valley Academy photo/illustration courtesy of Jeremy Wiggs/Jeremy Wiggs Photography



A pair of neighborhood rivals are looking to slow down the Bearden express, which is seeking to roar back to the TSSAA Class AAA state tournament this season. Head coach Kristen Lyons and her Farragut Lady Admirals (**above**) point to a Thursday, Sept. 8, showdown with head coach Ryan Radcliffe’s powerful Lady Bulldogs at BHS’s Turner-Allender Field. Gametime is 7 p.m.

Hardin Valley Academy (**left**) has similar ambitions against Bearden and Farragut. Head coach Jessie Stephens and her Lady Hawks travel to BHS for a 7 p.m. encounter with the Lady Bulldogs Thursday, Sept. 22, before HVA hosts the Lady Admirals beginning at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 29.

TSSAA Class AAA State Tournament is Oct. 26-29 in CHI Memorial Stadium in Chattanooga.

Look for the farragutpress How the West Was Won Football Preview
— which features Farragut, Hardin Valley, Bearden, Knoxville Catholic, Webb School of Knoxville and Christian Academy of Knoxville —
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Michelle Hollenhead

New teachers lunch tradition back at FMS

Farragut Middle School’s Parent Teacher Organization welcomed 15 new teachers with lunch at Calhoun’s in Turkey Creek Thursday, Aug. 4 — a tradition which had been sidelined by COVID during the last two years. New teachers, seated from left, are Ashley Gantt, Caitlyn Wood, Amy Lyttle, Krystal Darrow, Trudy Hopper and Ruth Ann Bendy. Standing from left are Courtney Rentschler, Amy Hall, Dana Rust, Lauren Rutherford, Jonathon Newkirk, Emma Rester, FMS principal Weston Edmonds, Bailey Winchester, Ryan Darrow and FMS instructional coach and new teacher mentor Catherine Ginel.

Ky., Virginia flood victim relief: CUMC

MICHELLE HOLLENHEAD
mhollenhead@farragutpress.com

Concord United Methodist Church is stepping up to help flood victims in neighboring states by collecting much needed items at its Missions Department-led secondhand store, The Thrift Store, 8843 Kingston Pike. “After the devastating flooding in Virginia and Kentucky, our Missions Team is hard at work gathering desperately needed items for flood victims in Buchanan County, Virginia,” Concord United senior pastor Larry Trotter stated late last week. “That area is in the recovery stage and now ready to receive help. “We will begin to focus on the Kentucky flood victims when authorities on the ground say they can receive relief supplies.”

See FLOOD RELIEF on Page 10A

Thibeault among five Gold Award Girl Scouts

STAFF REPORTS
editor@farragutpress.com

Five area Girl Scouts, members of the Girl Scouts of Southern Appalachians, were among 20 recently announced 2022 Gold Award recipients. Girl Scout Gold Award represents “exceptional achievement in leadership development, positive values and service,” a press release stated. “The Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can receive,” said Lynne Fugate, CEO of the Girl Scouts of Southern Appalachians. “These young women have worked hard to develop the leadership skills required to earn this prestigious recognition, and their dedication has made a positive difference in our community. We are proud of their achievements and grateful for their commitment to making our world a better place.” Only Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors are eligible for the Gold Award. At a minimum requirement of 80 hours, most girls spend between one and

See GOLD AWARD on Page 11A



Photos by Michelle Hollenhead

FPS Meet the Teacher

Farragut Primary School was bustling with parents and students who visited during staggered times Friday, Aug. 5, to meet their teachers in advance of returning to school Monday, Aug. 8. (Above) Farragut Intermediate School student Lilly Brown, left, accompanied younger sister, Olivia, who started kindergarten this week. (Top right) Amber Clark greeted visitors and helped sell spirit wear in the FPS lobby. She was assisted by her children, from left, incoming FPS second-grader Chase, 7, FIS incoming fourth-grader Audrina, 9, and incoming FPS kindergartner Aria, 5. (Right) Stefanie Gano brought her sons, new kindergarten student Matthew, left, and incoming second-grader Michael. (See related photo, page 1A)



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Big Air WAVE # 2 11:30 am

Big Air WAVE # 3 1:30 pm

Big Air WAVE # 4 3:30 pm

Extreme Vertical (All in one). 5:30 pm

Sun Aug 14, 2022

Onsite Registration/ Practice 9:00 am

Big Air WAVE # 5 10:00 am

Big Air WAVE # 6 11:30 am

Speed Retrieve (All in one Finals) 1:30 pm

Big Air Finals start at 3:30 pm (Pro, Semi-Pro, Contender & Amateur Finals)

The final rounds of competition and award presentations will take place late Sunday afternoon.

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• **Ninth Knoxville Asian Festival at World's Fair Park** runs from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 28. Knox Asian Film Festival is Saturday, Aug 27, at Central Cinema. For more information, check the Central Cinema website. <http://www.centralcinema865.com>
Similar to previous years, the 2022 Asian Festival features authentic traditional food vendors representing Asian Cultures, such as Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Korea, China, Japan, Philippines, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Vietnam.
Asian Cultural Parade starts at 10 a.m. at the water fountain on the park lawn and ends at

10:30 a.m. at the Amphitheater stage.
“We also showcase various martial arts demonstrations, Thailand Traditional Dancers from Washington, D.C., K-Pop and J-Pop performances, Kimono Show, a bonsai exhibition, a cosplay contest, Japanese tea ceremony, Japanese drummers Taiko Drum group from Disney World and Korean Fan Dancers from Georgia,” an Asian Culture Center of Tennessee press release stated.
Register for the free Festival. For more information, visit <https://www.knoxasianfestival.com/>, e-mail info@knoxasianfestival.com or call 831-241-1189.

Flood relief

From page 9A

“Meanwhile, you can help our neighbors in Southwest Virginia by donating school supplies, hygiene items and cleaning supplies (dish soap, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, backpacks, lunchboxes, pens, notebook paper, etc.)” Trotter advised donors to

drop off items by Friday, Aug. 12, in The Thrift Store’s parking lot into a designated POD during regular business hours: from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 10, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday, Aug. 11-12
“We will take the items to Virginia on (Saturday) Aug. 13,” he added.

Tick-related diseases a threat to dogs, cats, humans alike

Q: *Our family just moved from Oregon, and I've found ticks on my dogs and cat. We didn't have ticks in Oregon, and we haven't found a vet here yet. Please help. W.S., Farragut*

A: Welcome to East Tennessee. We certainly do have ticks here, and sadly, they can be found almost all year long. Ticks thrive in our warm, humid climate.

Ticks are not only a nuisance, they are concerning for our pets, as they can cause serious disease.

These parasites can carry Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Fever and lesser-known diseases, such as Ehrlichia, Hemobartonella and Tularemia. There is also the concern that pets can carry ticks inside the house to their human family, and that you can become infected with a tick-borne disease, which is much easier to prevent than treat. Tick prevention should be used on pets

year-round in this part of the country.

For dogs, we have chewable parasite prevention that can be given once monthly or every three months. There are also topical products applied monthly; these work best in dogs that do not swim or get bathed often.

For cats, most parasite prevention is topical, as it can be difficult to give pills to cats.

In general, cats are more sensitive than dogs to chemicals and medications. What is safe for your dog may not be safe for your cat. Some of the over-the-counter flea and tick

products have caused serious side effects, so please be careful and always read the labeling before use.

Some products have minimum age recommendations for safe use in puppies and kittens. Certain medical conditions may necessitate the use or avoidance of certain products. After learning about your pet's lifestyle and medical background, your veterinarian will guide you and make recommendations.

If you have questions about your pet, e-mail Dr. Myers at lenoircityac@gmail.com



Stephanie Myers
Ask the Vet

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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

AGENDA • August 11, 2022
BMA MEETING 6:00 PM
I. Oath of Office II. Roll Call III. Approval of Agenda IV. Approval of Minutes A. July 28, 2022 V. Mayor's Report VI. Organizational Business A. Election of Vice-Mayor VII. Town Administrator's Report VIII. Town Attorney's Report IX. Citizens Forum
BEER BOARD MEETING 6:30 PM
I. Approval of Minutes A. July 28, 2022
II. Beer Permit Hearing
A. Hearing to address Casey's #4037, 13061 Kingston Pike, beer permit violation(s) of Town of Farragut Code of Ordinances § 4-1 et seq.

This meeting can be viewed live on the Farragut YouTube Channel and the Town of Farragut website www.townoffarragut.org/livestream. The meeting will be held at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center 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

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000 LEGALS

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Gold Award

From page 9A

two years on Gold Award projects. Nationally, only six percent of all eligible Girl Scouts achieve the Gold Award.

The following Gold Award recipients are from Farragut and Hardin Valley:

• **Elaina Thibeault**, 2022 Farragut High School graduate, worked with FHS athletic director Donald Dodgen to renovate an unfinished closet space to provide the wrestling team a safe and welcoming place to practice.

When COVID-19 hit, the school's wrestling team — of which Thibeault was a mem-



Thibeault

ber — was relegated to an unfinished closet so the previous space could be re-purposed as a COVID-testing site. With no space to practice, the wrestling team struggled to attract students and promote the importance of an active lifestyle.

Through Thibeault's renovation, the wrestling team was able to practice in a supportive environment and promote healthy living among students.

"The Farragut wrestling team pushes students to achieve their physical and athletic goals in what is now a safe and equipped space, and I am proud to have helped make that happen," Thibeault



McCord

said. "... Wrestling is a very under-appreciated sport, and I wanted people who joined to feel safe and supported in a positive environment rather than the dusty storage room we started with.

"Another very influential and supportive figure in making this project happen was Jason Stinnett, our assistant coach," she added. "He provided materials and labor throughout the entire process and is overall an amazing person."

• **Carolyn McCord**, Hardin Valley Academy Class of 2022, created a website with online resources to destigmatize dyslexia — a disorder she

herself experienced. Through McCord's website, parents, teachers and students easily can access resources to support dyslexic students and alternative learning styles. "The website is for everybody," McCord said.

• **Cynthia "CC" Hazelton** created a closet at GSCSA's Camp Tanasi, stocked with supplies so all campers have an equal opportunity to participate in camp activities. She also worked to educate camp staff about the importance of recognizing resource differences.

• **Peyton Pettyjohn** of Knoxville recognized many students were unaware of available col-



Pettyjohn

lege and career options, so she created a comprehensive list of resources for students and young adults to explore opportunities after high school.

She then designed and painted a large-scale mural showcasing different career options to inspire and empower students. It has a QR code so viewers can scan and access her resources list.

• **Paraskevi "Vivi" Christopoulos** of Farragut was profiled in the Aug. 3 issue of farragutpress as being eager to help families through the difficult time of having a baby in the neonatal intensive care unit after her family experienced the same challenges.



Christopoulos

service directory

miscellaneous services

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Farragut Primary School First Day of School

Farragut Primary School kindergarten through second graders, with parents in tow, walked, rode in vehicles or took the the bus to the first day of school Monday, Aug. 8.

“The first half day of school went very smoothly,” FPS principal Lynn White said. “We had our usual traffic challenges, but it was great to see the students and parents again.

“For our morning announcements, our students could hear us but couldn’t see us — a technical difficulty that we’ve fixed for tomorrow (Tuesday),” she said.

On its first day, FPS had 1,008 students enrolled, but White said she expects more in the days ahead.

They joined students from other Knox County Schools who started the 2022-23 school year.

Volunteers, such as “Papa” Jake Kreis, helped children leaving their parents’ cars and greeted all, including those who walked to school. Kreis has been welcoming students to school for the past nine years.

Motorists are reminded to slow down around school zones.

Photos by Tammy Cheek



Haley Bigney and daughter, Brooklyn, a first-grader



Matt Brahle and his daughter, first-grader Annie Brahle



9-year volunteer “Papa” Jake Kreis



Eric Lukosi and son, Ian, a second-grader



Tricia Stevens and daughter, Makenzie, a first-grader



Emily Krone going to first grade



Tricia Stevens and son, Ben, who is going to preschool



John Ashley with daughter, Lila, 4, after they dropped off big sister, Madelyn (not pictured)



Tial Thawng and son, Austin, a second-grader