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Father Schuster new SJNCCS pastor; Reed still not reassigned

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

The Diocese of Knoxville has a new pastor ready to lead St. John Neumann Catholic Church and School — with previous leadership experience at SJNCCS — effective in nine days.

“Bishop Mark Beckman has appointed Father Mark Schuster pastor of St. John Neumann Parish effective April 4, 2025,” stated a release from John Mecklenborg, director of Communications for the DOK Office of Communications.

“Father Schuster was ordained a priest June 8, 2019,” the release further stated. “He served as associate pastor at St. John Neumann starting July 1, 2019.

“Most recently, he has served as parochial administrator at St. Alphonsus Church in Crossville since July 1, 2021 and becoming pastor (there) effective June 1, 2022.”

As for the reassignment of Father Joseph Reed, former SJNCCS pastor, “We don’t have an update on that; that’s still being determined,” Mecklenborg said in a phone interview Monday, March 24.

Reed was placed on administrative leave in December but has since been cleared of any criminal wrongdoing by law enforcement investigations, including Knox County Sheriff’s Office.



Schuster

A friendly 12- to 11-foot road request: FMPC to Knox County

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

As Knox County Schools move ahead with its building plans for the new elementary school along Boring Road, Town of Farragut will be expected to ask the school system to reduce its street lane widths from 12 to 11 feet when it improves Boring Road.

In a 4-1 vote, Farragut Municipal Planning Commission voted to ask for the reduced lane widths even though it already approved the school system’s transportation plans for 12-foot lanes during its meeting March 20.

“It can’t hurt (to request),”

Commissioner Louise Povlin said.

While Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, FMPC chair Scott Russ, Commissioner Jon Greene and Povlin voted in favor of the request to school board, Commissioner Ron Pinchok voted no.

“I’ve got to say, I don’t have a problem with 12-foot lanes,” Pinchok said.

“I know you don’t, but they’re fat,” Povlin said.

“But, you’ve got big buses, and you’re going to have all the buses on that road,” Pinchok retorted. “I know when the buses come through my neighborhood, if there’s a car

See **FRIENDLY ASK** on Page 8A



Farragut family of five tells their Fox Den CC story: Living Life/Loving Life



Fox Den Country Club has been blessed with a promoter who bubbles over with praise about this Farragut club, which is celebrating a 56th birthday in 2025. Heather McKeehan is more than happy to not only be a FDCC member, along with her husband, Heath McKeehan, and family for 15 years — but also having their 5,700-square-foot, two-story home with pool located along a FDCC “back nine” fairway at the golf course. Heather’s praise about the family’s life at the club is part of Living Life/Loving Life found inside this week’s farragutpress issue. It previews Spring activities related to recreation, plants, gardens and yards for the upcoming outdoor season. **(Above left)** Heather and Heath with their three children, taken a few years ago: in front is oldest daughter, Farrah, with Heather holding the youngest, Finley, and Heath holding Fallon. **(Above right)** A recent photo of Finley playing the FDCC course. **(Left)** Heath a few years ago with Fallon, left, and Farrah.

Photos submitted

Prelim concept master plan, Kingston Pike Villages, gets unanimous FMPC nod

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Plans for Kingston Pike Village’s commercial portion in front of the Farragut Junction apartments in the west part of Town — near Dixie Junction at the intersection of Kingston Pike and South Watt Road — are moving along.

Developers got Farragut Municipal Planning Commission unanimous approval for their preliminary concept master plan during its meeting Thurs-

day evening, March 20.

Still, with the number of changes made to the original plans for the Planned Commercial Development project, the master concept plan also will have to have approval from Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

“The revisions to the concept master plan associated with the commercial portion of this project would constitute a major change to the original plan that was approved with the rezoning,” Town Community Development director

Mark Shipley said. “As a result, once the Planning Commission acts on the concept master plan, it will also need to go to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for approval.

“The concept master plan is one of the components related to a rezoning to the Planned Commercial Development District,” he added. “The original concept master plan for the Kingston Pike Village PCD project (which sits on 18.5 acres) included both a multi-family portion on the south half of the

development and a commercial portion on the north half of the development, which originally included a grocery store, fuel center and two retail buildings along Kingston Pike.

“The multi-family portion of the project has been completed, and the concept master plan that is proposed for approval at this time involves the commercial portion.”

Shipley pointed out there have been

See **KP VILLAGES** on Page 6A

new subdivision gets FMPC green light

The preliminary plat for a new subdivision, yet to be named, proposed for Boring Road got the green light from Farragut Municipal Planning Commission during its meeting Thursday, March 20.

The subdivision includes 32 house lots and seven open space lots, according to Town Community Development director Mark Shipley.

“A street connection will be made to the street that stubs into the property from the Village Commons Se-

nior Living Community to the south,” he said. “The main subdivision access will be along Boring Road.

“The proposed open space includes two connections to walking trails that stub into the property from the Baldwin Park subdivision,” Shipley added. “The remaining open space will be entrance areas and an area in the middle of the subdivision that will all be designed for passive recreation and heavily landscaped.

“As required in the R-3 Zoning District, a plant-

ed buffer strip will be provided around the side and rear periphery of the development. Stormwater detention is provided in the southeast portion of the development.”

Before the approval, FMPC addressed three variance requests associated with the 341 Boring Road subdivision being located between Waverly Court and Baldwin Park subdivisions and across from the new elementary school to be built.



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Model homes sought on 1 acre off Outlet Dr.

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Schumacher Model Homes is hoping to build a couple of model homes on 1 acre off Outlet Drive, next to the future Echo Suites Hotel.

Representatives for Schumacher Model Homes presented a proposed site plan during Farragut Municipal Planning Commission's Staff/Developer meeting Tuesday, March 4.

However, Community Development director Mark Shipley warned them, "since this is in a commercial zone, these (buildings) have to be treated as offices.

"Residential is not a permitted use, so they have to be built to the (International Building Codes) instead of the International Residential Codes," he added. "Basically, we're treating them as two office buildings. That's the only way it can be legal, as far as permitted use."

"The problem with putting homes there is they can never be used as homes," assistant Community Development director Bart Hose said.

"They may look like houses on the outside, but you are going to have to be built internally as offices," Shipley said.

"We are actually in the Turkey Creek center now," said Jerald Lunsford with Schumacher Homes. "We've had an office there

See MODEL HOMES on Page 8A

towncalendar

• **Forget Me Not Race, a loop from Planet Fitness in Village Green shopping center through Village Green subdivision in Farragut,** is an in-person race also with a virtual option. The goal is to raise awareness and funds to eliminate dementia, a devastating disease. Come and join by racing for a cure and fighting in memory of legendary Lady Vols Basketball head coach Pat Summitt against this fierce opponent.

Fifteenth Annual Forget Me Not 5k/10k/1-Mile Race will be held starting at 8 a.m., Saturday, April 12: 8 a.m. for 10k start; 8:30 a.m. for 5k; 8:30 a.m. for Mile.

The 5k is mostly flat and the 10k contains a couple of hills, just to keep things interesting. Registration and entry fee: \$30 for 5k, \$40 for 10k and \$25 for 1-Mile per participant.

The Forget Me Not Race benefits The Pat Summitt Clinic at The University of Tennessee Medical Center for research. (The race is hosted by volunteers, so all proceeds will be presented as a check to The Pat Summitt Foundation). Become an individual fundraiser when you register to participate in the race or create a fundraising page even if you aren't participating in the race.

Each participant will receive an official Forget Me Not Race T-shirt. Choose size when registering. We cannot guarantee preferred sizes if registering after April 6. Only registered participants will receive a shirt and be qualified for prizes.

While this race is in-person, packets will be provided. Included are shirts, coupons, additional give-a-ways and more. Participants can pick up their packets/shirts from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, April 11, at Little Joe's Pizza, 13100 Kingston Pike in Farragut.

Prizes will be awarded to top three finishers in the 5K and 10K and participant awards for 1 Milers. For more information, contact Drew Degges at drewdegges19@gmail.com or Angela Wampler at angelawampler@gmail.com

• **Farragut Lions Club Car Cruise-In** will run from 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday, April 5, at Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 11483 Parkside Drive in Farragut.

"Bring your classic cars, vintage rides — or just your love for all things automotive," a joint Town/FLC press release stated.

"This is a fun-filled event for car enthusiasts and families alike."

KCSO reports

• **At 11:49 p.m., Friday, March 14, a Knox County Sheriff's Office unit responded to a domestic disturbance at a Kingston Pike address.** Victim said he and his partner, the suspect, "had been in an on-again, off-again altercation all day, and at one point in the day (suspect) threw a lighter at him, striking him in the side of the face," the report stated.

Victim "went on to say that at one point the argument escalated to the point where victim (said) that he told (suspect) he would call the police — and at that point (suspect) took his phone."

Victim also said he "offered his belongings to (suspect), as victim's belongings are actually (suspect's) belongings," the report further stated. Officer said he "offered (victim) transportation to a safe location and medical treatment, which he declined — but did ask for a ride to a location.

"While en route to the location, (victim said) that (suspect) may in fact be the individual who actually called 911 to help during the altercation."

• **At 6:51 p.m., Thursday, March 13, a KCSO deputy was sent to a business along Outlet Drive in reference to an assault.** Victim said around 1 p.m. "she was taking her lunch break at work when her ex-boyfriend (suspect) — who she has not seen in almost two years — approached her and began calling her a 'horrible mother' because of her having custody of their son who he is currently not allowed to see due to an ongoing DCS investigation," the report stated.

Victim said "she offered to buy him lunch at the Speedway gas station, trying to de-escalate the situation because she did not want to be seen arguing with someone at her place of business.

"When they returned, they parked across the street at Cotton Eyed Joe and continued to argue, then drove back across the street," the report further stated.

Victim said "that when they exited the vehicle, (suspect) then asked for a hug. When she went to give (him) a hug, he then grabbed her by the throat and began to strangle her, making it difficult for (victim) to breath, and pushed her to the ground."

Victim said "she doesn't know if she passed out or not, but that it began to go black and she does not remember."

Victim said "once she was on the ground, he let go of her throat and grabbed her by her hair, forcing her to look at him while he was talking," the report stated.

• **At 9:45 p.m., Tuesday, March 11, officers responded to a possible burglary at a former Campbell Lakes Drive business.**

Complainant/property manager said "he responded to an alarm activation at 9:29 p.m. and discovered the front door to the (business) had been pried open with a metal pole," the report stated.

Complainant "said he started to check inside of the building for any trespasser, but exited to wait for law enforcement," the report further stated.

"Officers secured the building and did not locate anyone inside. Officers then walked through the building with complainant to determine if anything was damaged or missing. (Complainant) did not see any signs of damage to the building, and there was no property missing." Complainant said security cameras "were offline," while also noting the business has been closed "for about a year, and he was last on the property about one week ago."

presstalk
call 865-671-TALK (8255)
or e-mail editor@farragutpress.com

• I liked the Letter to the Editor last week. It points out there are many other connections between neighborhoods around Turkey Creek Road, and the \$3 million Turkey Creek Road Greenway is redundant and not needed.

Those of us who live here do not want to lose the use of our road for up to a year for a project that is more of a vanity project than a real need.

There is connectivity between (the following subdivisions) Brookmere and Sheffield; connectivity between Sheffield and Kingsgate; Kingsgate and Brixworth; Kingsgate and Sailview; Kingsgate and Briarstone.

We don't need the Turkey Creek Greenway. We don't need our road closed to build it.

Presstalk rules

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

Letter to Editor rules

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

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Forever Heard

A devastating mistake turned into a biz bringing joy to others

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Contessa Pierre has found a way to turn a devastating mistake into a business that brings joy to others. The key is saving precious memories.

This Farragut High School Class of 2000 graduate and Hardin Valley resident has launched Forever Heard, in which guests of an event can leave a message to last a lifetime.



Pierre

It was started last year while planning her wedding and selling her house — both at the same time.

She offers an “audio guestbook,” in which the guest of a wedding or other special event leaves a recorded message on a phone, which she

provides, intended to be permanent.

Pierre has a variety of styles of phones, depending on the style of the event, and she even offers a phone booth.

The initial seed for the idea was sown when she lost the voice mail of her late father.

“My dad passed three years ago this past January,” Pierre said. “When he passed, I had one voice mail left on my phone saved of his.”

However, “one night my phone did an update and I woke up and that message was gone,” she said. “I was like ‘oh my gosh, I have nothing with my father’s voice. I have nothing to remember him.’ I was really devastated.”

Since then, Pierre and her husband were packing up the house, getting ready to sell it, and found a greeting card from her father.

“He would always write little handwritten notes in our cards, so I kept a few of them,” she said. “One of them said, ‘Forever Heard, Forever



Photo submitted

Forever Heard offers a variety of phone styles. The bride simply needs to place it in the wedding venue and guests can leave an audio message on the phone.

Loved, Your dad.’

“At the time, I thought nothing of it,” Pierre recalled.

A couple months later, she attended the Pink Bride’s Show, where she was looking for a cool, innovative way to revamp her wedding. Pierre came across an audio guestbook a bride can use at her wedding.

“I remember thinking I didn’t see anything like this at the bride show,” she said. “I had never seen anyone at a wedding have it or another event. I remember thinking to myself ‘something like this would have been great to

have after I lost my dad’s voice message.’

“It would have been with me forever,” Pierre added. “It would have been permanent.”

Then, her plans for a business “came together in one big lump,” she said. “I started researching, got my LLC ... for me (the business) was more than a gimmick or a trend.”

In coming up with a name for the business, she remembered her father’s handwritten note, “forever heard.”

For more information about Forever Heard, call 865-919-7282 or check her out on Facebook and Instagram.

business briefs

• **Knox County Public Library** recently received the 2025 Kaleidoscope Award for the best children’s event by the Southeastern Festivals and Events Association for its annual Children’s Festival of Reading. The festival was selected from a pool of 206 applications from six states in 21 categories.

The Children’s Festival of Reading is held on the third Saturday in May to celebrate the end of school and the beginning of summer. It launches summer programming at the library and features children’s book authors and illustrators, storybook characters, science demonstrations, storytellers, musicians, arts and crafts, a parade of books and more than 50 community organizations. Last year, more than 11,000 guests attended.

This year, the festival is set for May 17 in World’s Fair Park with award-winning authors and illustrators.

• **Weichert, Realtors - Advantage Plus in Knoxville** recently was named to the Premier Client Group by Weichert Real Estate Affiliates Inc., earning distinction as one of the top-performing companies in the national franchise system in 2024.

Weichert, Realtors - Advantage Plus is one of 32 companies — out of more than 220 from the Weichert national franchise system — named to this group of real estate brokerages. PCG members are identified based on sales performance from 2024.

Old is new in the local banking business world

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce welcomed Old National Bank, a new bank and new member, into Town with a Chamber-sponsored ribbon cutting at the branch in Century Plaza, 10820 Kingston Pike Suites 12 and 14, Tuesday, March 18.

“It’s an exciting day for Old National,” ONB banking center manager Jordan Haugen said. “We’re glad you were able to join us.”

Old National Bank, founded in Evansville, Indiana 190 years ago, slowly expanded from Indiana north and east. It acquired CapStar Bank, which previously was in that location, in July, as a division of Old National Bank.

“This is our 190th anniversary,” said Audrey Johnson, Old National relationship banker. “We’re very proud of that. We’re just looking to support the community.”

The branch provides personal banking, business banking and lots of loan opportunities, she added.

Haugen said the bank provides “basically anything you can think of.”

That also includes business and commercial lending, business accounts, online banking, money markets, certificates of deposit and a wealth division and home mortgage team in Athens.

“They service all of East Tennessee,” Haugen said of the two divisions. “We’ve got basically anything you could possibly want.”

“We, at the Chamber, are pleased that you are very involved in the community,” FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock said during the ribbon cutting. “You demonstrate that to us by being a captain Enterprise member (of the Chamber), you are going above and beyond the membership.”

“We’re delighted to be in Knoxville, specifically in Far-

ragut,” said Chris Adams, ONB market president for East Tennessee. “Old National Bank, now with the acquisition that’s coming up ... we have a variety of opportunities to help you with your retail needs, your commercial needs, mortgage, wealth, pretty much anything you can think of. We’re pleased to be in this community.”

“We have a strong commitment to being involved in our community,” he added. “We just wrapped up our Choose Your Charity promotion; and while the winners have not been selected, by the end of the month we will distribute \$190,000 across the state of Tennessee to a variety of charities.”

Haugen explained with Choose Your Charity, the company took all of the 501(C)3 non-profit organizations in Tennessee, and “the ones who were within a 10-mile radius of each banking center, we put them in this list to where clients and non-clients could vote



Tammy Cheek

Old National Bank banking center manager Jordan Haugen (with scissors) gets ready to cut the ribbon at a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting at the branch in Century Plaza, 10820 Kingston Pike, Tuesday, March 18. Joining him are Brett Comerford, front row, far left, commercial lending officer; Chris Adams, beside Haugen (blue jacket), East Tennessee Market president; Catie Horne, third from right, relationship manager; Jennifer Benson, second from right, human resources manager; Audrey Johnson, far right, relationship banker; and a host of Chamber members.

for what charity would essentially win \$7,500.”

The bank’s hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

Monday through Friday. For more information about ONB, call 865-672-5900 or visit online at oldnational.com

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The Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce is excited to welcome businesses and attendees to our Business EXPO 2025!

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DISCOVER LOUDON COUNTY



LOUDON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S

8th Annual Taste of Loudon County BUSINESS EXPO

Loudon County restaurants, businesses and organizations gathered together to show what they have to offer during Loudon County Chamber of Commerce's 8th Annual Taste of Loudon County Business Expo in The Venue, Friday, Feb. 28. Hundreds of attendees enjoyed samples from 11 restaurants while browsing at booths from 55 businesses, all under one roof.

Attendees could find out more about anything from pest control to frozen custard.

Upcoming EVENTS

**Tuesday,
April 8**

Business after Hours,
Del Conca USA, Inc

**Thursday,
April 10**

11:30 am
Visit Loudon County
Tourism & Hospitality
Roundtable +
Council Meeting

**Saturday,
April 12**

2:00pm
9th Annual
Spring Fling

**Tuesday,
April 22**

Chamber Coffee &
Commerce with
Paramount Title
Services, LLC

**Saturday,
May 3**

Chamber Gala
The Yacht Club, TV

**Friday,
May 16**

May Nights
on Broadway in
Downtown Lenoir City

**Thursday,
September 18**

Golf Tournament
Avalon



Kathy Hartman and
Tyler Hunsaker



A List's Nick and Kelly Blankenship
talk to attendees



Rotary Club of Lenoir City's president
Jeff Sutton, left, talks with Kim Koan



Aaron Trent and
Cindy Utrera



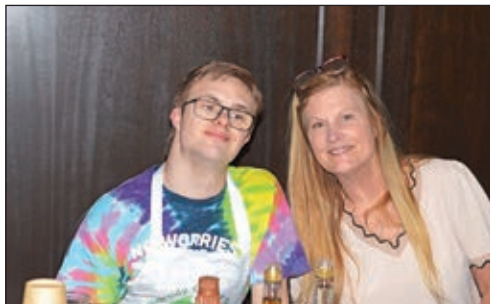
Isela Ogas Witts and
Sidney Witts



Mike Cmajdalka, left, with Robert Allen
of Blue Stem Hollow



Annie Howard Clark and
Doug Young of Shoney's



Tristan Lee and mom Angela Lee of
Riverside Coffee Shop



KFC's Kate Lane, left, and Melissa Hope
serve Jonathan Anderson



Chris Huddlestoln and
Elise Arndt



Family Brand's Tommy Haber,
left, with Jim Koon

Truist Ban Ribbon Cutting



Lori Morgan, second from left, Truist Bank branch leader; David Farmer, center, relationship banker; and Rachel Price, with scissors, mortgage officer, joined Truist Bank supporters, Loudon County Chamber of Commerce members and others in celebrating the bank's opening with a Chamber-sponsored ribbon cutting at the bank, 227 Market Drive, Lenoir City, Wednesday, March 5.

Business After Hours Southern Bell Events



Photos Tammy Cheek
Tammy Roberts, vice president of client success with McCosh Films, and George Bove, community relations consultant with MBI Companies Inc., enjoyed mingling during a Loudon County Chamber Business After Hours networking in Southern Bell Events, 103 E. Depot St., Tuesday, March 11. 2.

One Stop Services Ribbon Cutting



Wendel Berube (with scissors), owner of One Stop Services, was joined by his wife Beverly (to left), son Bryan (behind Berube and to his left), daughter Brittney Munson (to her mother's left), first customer Mary Francis Whitaker (to Berube's right) and Loudon County Chamber of Commerce members during a Chamber-sponsored event at 110 E. Depot St., Lenoir City Wednesday, March 12.



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- April 12
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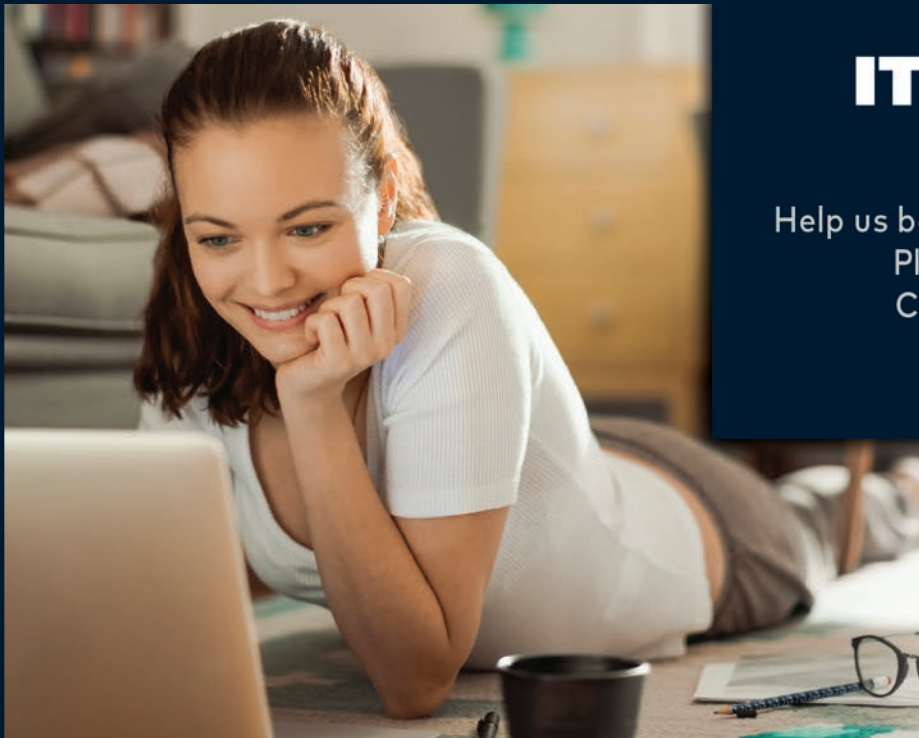


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KP Villages

From page 1A

a number of modifications to the plans since developers originally proposed the PCD project.

“We looked at various versions of these over several meetings,” Shipley said.

The latest concept master plan shows a mixture of retail, office and restaurant spaces ranging from 2,500 square feet to 6,225 square feet.

“The patio, or landscaping space in the back, replaces a (previous) loading zone — we got rid of that,” said K.J. Parent, an entrepreneur with Forth Creek Capital who represented the developers. “You can see there are two larger parking spaces back there. That will be used for the loading zone for retail and restaurant.”

One business developers are hoping to include in the development is Starbucks, according to Parent.

“I do think that there was an aspect of the drive-thru that we added in to make it look a little better (in terms of) separation between the parking drive behind it,” he said.

“The applicant is not showing any development currently on the western-most area to the south of the Y-12 Federal

Credit Union,” Shipley said. “This will need to be reviewed when the applicant knows what type of development they would like to propose in this area.

“That will also need to be approved by both the Planning Commission and Board of Mayor and Aldermen,” he added.

The concept master plan “presented for approval at this time reflects the general layout and uses proposed in the areas shown,” Shipley said. “A more detailed site plan will be needed for the Planning Commission’s approval once the concept master plan has been approved by both the Planning Commission and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

“The staff would encourage the applicant to explore the possibility of introducing a more pedestrian inviting space along the street section that will front whatever type of development ultimately proposed in the western portion of the site,” he added. “There may be some opportunities to expand the open space or outdoor gathering space objectives of the PCD district in that area since it partially abuts the dog park and the multi-family portion of this project.”

Still, Planning Commissioners voiced their satisfaction

with the new plans.

“I’m comfortable with it,” Commissioner Louise Povlin said. “I appreciate that you’ve gone back and given us some more green space that is, kind of, closer to the apartments. That’s going to be the quietest part of the commercial development anyway.”

“We are the same developers as Farragut Junction, the apartments,” Parent said. “We want (those residents) to come down (to the commercial por-

tion). It works for us, too.”

“This is so much better than a grocery store,” Povlin said.

“It’s more neighborhood-scale buildings,” Shipley added. “That’s almost, kind of, like a Neighborhood Convenience Commercial development.”

“It definitely favors that,” said Mayor Ron Williams, also an FMPC member.

“I appreciate the changes you’ve made,” Commissioner Ron Pinchok said. “I like what you’ve done with the open area

and also the loading area.”

However, he was concerned there may not be enough space for loading and unloading for a restaurant or retail.

“You’ve got to get across the line of cars waiting to go through the drive-thru to get (to those businesses), Pinchok said. “So what’s the plan here?”

“... It will be a little tough in the mornings, but the other two (buildings are booked for office space,” Parent said.

Estate Planning
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The Knox Fox Real Estate Group and Team welcomes new members

We’re so excited to welcome Allison to the The Knox Fox Real Estate Group and Team!

Why Real Estate?

For Allison, real estate is all about helping people. She wants to make a meaningful impact by guiding clients through one of life’s biggest transitions—finding a place to call home.

Her Favorite Thing About Real Estate:

She loves walking into a home and seeing the love shared within its walls—the fun paint colors, unique decor, and rooms transformed into something special. Seeing people’s personalities shine through their homes is one of her favorite parts of the job!

Where She’s From:

Originally from Northeast Ohio (Kent), Allison has found a new home in Tennessee and is loving every minute of it!

Her Favorite Thing About Tennessee:

We’re thrilled to welcome Lily to the The Knox Fox Real Estate Group and Team!

Why Real Estate?

With 8 years of experience in housing and finance, Lily wanted to take her expertise in a new direction. Her own home-buying experience was life-changing, and now she’s passionate about helping others navigate that journey!

Favorite Thing About Real Estate:

Lily loves seeing the creativity in every home—from fun paint colors to unique décor, each house tells a story.

Hometown:



Allison

The views! From the mountains to the water, exploring Tennessee has been therapeutic for Allison, and she’s excited to see even more of this beautiful state.

What She Loves Doing When She’s Not Working:

When she’s not helping clients, you can find Allison:

Gardening, Listening to music & podcasts, Playing with her dogs, Spending time outdoors, Playing pool, Cooking

Why She’s Excited to Join The Knox Fox Real Estate Group:

“The small business vibe is more my style, so finding Teri Jo and Eric was a blessing! Their tenacity and knowledge will only help me grow in my career, and I am very excited to work alongside them. I look forward to coming to work each day, learning, and being part of Knox Fox!” – Allison

What She’s Looking Forward To:

Allison is eager to meet new people, learn from the best in the business, explore more of Tennessee, and most importantly—help people through their next big journey in life!

Join us in giving Allison a warm welcome to the team!


×


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Mortgage Investors Group Partners with the Knoxville Smokies

Mortgage Investors Group (MIG), a premier mortgage lender in Tennessee, is proud to announce its partnership of the Knoxville Smokies, East Tennessee’s beloved Minor League Baseball team. This partnership underscores MIG’s commitment to the local community and its dedication to supporting hometown traditions.

As an Official Cup Holder Sponsor of the Knoxville Smokies, MIG’s branding will be prominently displayed on all cupholders throughout the main seating bowl at Covenant Health Park. This sponsorship ensures MIG’s presence at every game, providing a lasting touchpoint for fans as they enjoy America’s favorite pastime.

With Opening Day set for April 15, 2025, the Knoxville Smokies will make their highly anticipated return to Knoxville after 25 years in Sevier County. The team’s move

to Covenant Health Park in Downtown Knoxville is expected to bring a surge of energy to the area, benefiting both local businesses and baseball enthusiasts.

“At Mortgage Investors Group, we believe homeownership and community go hand in hand,” said Anna Beltran, President & CEO of Mortgage Investors Group. “The Knoxville Smokies are a key part of East Tennessee’s sports culture, and we’re excited to have our brand integrated into the fan experience at the new stadium.”

MIG looks forward to celebrating a new era of Smokies baseball alongside fans and the Knoxville community. Be on the lookout for MIG’s logo on every cup holder as you take in the action at Covenant Health Park this season!

About Mortgage Investors Group
Founded in 1989, Mortgage

Investors Group (MIG) is Tennessee’s premier independent mortgage lender, dedicated to helping individuals and families achieve their dream of homeownership. With a strong reputation for personalized service, competitive loan products, and deep-rooted community involvement, MIG has grown to serve homebuyers across the Southeast with multiple branch locations.

As a company built on integrity and customer-focused solutions, MIG offers a wide range of mortgage options, including conventional, FHA, VA, USDA, and jumbo loans. Whether assisting first-time buyers or seasoned homeowners, MIG’s experienced loan officers provide expert guidance to make the mortgage process seamless and stress-free.

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Friendly ask

From page 1A

parked along the road, which they're not supposed to be, it's tricky, and I think every extra foot is for the safety of our (children) ..."

"I have a huge problem (with 12-foot lanes," Povlin said.

Commissioners Noah Myers, Shannon Preston, Jeff Devlin and Vice Mayor Scott Myers, also an FMPC member, were absent.

At the Jan. 16, FMPC meeting, commissioners approved road improvement plans to Boring Road associated with Farragut Elementary School, which is to be constructed to the south and east of the Baldwin Park subdivision off Boring Road.

As part of the proposal, Town Community Development director Mark Shipley said Knox County included a section of improvements to Boring Road that would extend the cross section of Boring Road that was improved from Smith Road across the frontage of the

Baldwin Park subdivision.

"This cross section included two 12-foot lanes with a 2-foot curb and gutter on each side, he said.

Then, at the Feb. 20 Planning Commission meeting, (Povlin) mentioned, under Citizen Forum, that she would like for the Planning Commission to consider recommending to the county two 11-foot lanes rather than 12-foot lanes, given the rural character of the remainder of Boring Road and the likelihood that any future improvements to the remainder of Boring Road would not include 12-foot lanes with curb and gutter.

"The county has already bid the project with the 12-foot lanes," Shipley said. "However, if the Planning Commission wishes to recommend 11-foot lanes, this could be considered by the county if changes occur to the plans during the course of the project.

"The staff has no objections to the proposed request," he added.

Model homes

From page 2A

and a design center there for about four years. Our initial idea was to go to the site even before Topgolf was there.

"(In the Parkside Drive location), you come in and it's just like a showroom," he added, noting at the Outlet Drive site, people could tour the homes.

"We don't build communities, so we don't go offsite and build a subdivision and put them up. This is our only source of showing people what our homes look like."

"You can always do a text amendment (request), but that's going to be a long process," Shipley warned. "And, I don't really know whether the Planning Commission and the Board (of Mayor and Aldermen) would want to change

the text (of the ordinance)."

Regarding the plat, "I think they are trying to close on this property in late March," Shipley said. "So, the plat, when it gets recorded, it will establish these two lots and we can get the assigned address for both parcels.

"You are going to have to coordinate with Echo Suites on the access and drainage," Shipley added, directing that comment to the Schumacher representative. "Planning Commission had a condition on the stormwater approval to where they required some detention, not to the full extent as if it were a completely undeveloped tract, but they did require, I think, it was 50 percent of detention.

"That will have to be coordinated with this project," he added.

Posies for the Pantry

Five Town churches combine efforts to help FLC pantry

Five local Farragut churches are supporting 6th Annual Posies for the Pantry Fundraiser at Farragut Presbyterian Church, 209 Jamestowne Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 12.

"Their hope is that the community will come and purchase spring flowers, plants and herbs to help support the Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry located in Faith Lutheran Church," A FLC press release stated. "Posies for the Pantry will also feature multiple craft vendors, a 'Bargain Shed' of gently-used garden tools and décor and free crafts for the kids."

Urban Table food truck will provide break-

fast sandwiches and other food items to benefit Knox Area Rescue Ministries.

Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry "strives to assist and serve those who are experiencing food insecurity," the release further stated. "No person is turned away ..."

The pantry, a ministry of Faith Lutheran, also is supported by Concord United Methodist Church, Farragut Presbyterian, First Baptist Concord and Grassy Valley Baptist Church.

If you would like to volunteer at the pantry, contact pantry director Renee Stone at shepho-pantry@gmail.com or call 865- 966-9626.



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Webb star Green is Miss Basketball II-AA

Looking to drive on a Christ Presbyterian Academy defender is Meeyah Green, Webb School's junior wing (24), as Lady Spartans post Kyndall Mays looks to help.

Alan Sloan



STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

It wasn't surprising that the brightest star on the best team in Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's Division II-AA level would be named Miss Basketball in the state of Tennessee.

Webb School of Knoxville junior wing Meeyah Green earned that honor after leading her Lady Spartans (29-3 final record) to the Division II-AA state title at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville Friday and Saturday, March 7-8. All Miss and Mr. Basketball state honors at all Division I and Division II levels were announced Tuesday, March 18.

In Webb's 52-47 state semifinal victory against Lipscomb Academy (27-4), Green put up a team-high 15 points with seven rebounds and four assists.

One day later in the state title showdown versus Christ Presbyterian Academy (23-7), won by Webb 61-47, Green pumped in 19 points to go with five assists and five rebounds.

At 9-4 after 4 Fla. games, baseball Ads at Bearden

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

After going 2-2 against some rugged Florida competition last week during Spring Break, new Farragut Admirals skipper Garrett Copeland and his guys turn their attention back to local competition.

Specifically Phil Garner Ballpark, home of the Bearden Bulldogs, as BHS awaits a visit from archrival Farragut Wednesday evening, March 26, in a huge District 4-4A contest. Opening varsity pitch comes at 6:30 p.m.

The Admirals will be looking to bounce back from a 3-2 district loss to rival Hardin Valley Academy just before Spring Break.

Florida four

Farragut opened play in the Sunshine State with a 3-1 loss to Buchholz (Gainesville, Florida) Monday, March 17.

One day later things improved, as the Ads defeated Moseley (Lynn Haven, Florida) 4-1.

A resounding 14-6 victory followed Wednesday, March 19, beating Oakleaf (Orange Park, Florida) 14-6.

A bumpy finish to the trip came Thursday, March 20, as Lincoln (Tallahassee) dominated and won 14-0.



Photo courtesy of Tony Cox

Making solid contact keeps Lady Hawks softball close

Addison Chandler, Hardin Valley Academy softball leadoff hitter, smacks at RBI triple in the top of the seventh inning during this Clinch River Classic game in Anderson County versus Coalfield Saturday, March 22. Despite Chandler's contribution — two hits overall — the Lady Hawks lost 6-5.

Going 4-1 at Wildcat Classic, Lady Ads softball 13-3-1

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

HIXSON — Winning four of five games after reaching the Wildcat Classic Gold Division semifinals at Hixson High School in Chattanooga over the weekend, coach Nick Green's girls began the week with a 13-3-1 overall mark.

A 5-2 loss to Gibbs Saturday, March 22, was the lone Farragut setback.

"As it's worked out, we've got a lot of kids involved," Green said about his team, which has just six upperclassmen. "We were highly competitive in competing for playing time and things like that. And I think that's helped us out. We have a deeper roster this year than we did last year."

In addition to the star power of All-state senior shortstop Elsa Morrison, a Tennessee Lady Vols signee, "our catching group is pretty strong ... both of them have been splitting time," Green said about sophomore Rylee Baby, who started as a freshman last

season, and sophomore Callie Brown.

Wildcat Classic

Beating Girls Preparatory School 6-0 to open play Friday, March 21, Raby had three singles and an RBI, while Morrison also was three-of-three at the plate with a double and an RBI.

Sophomore pitcher Hallie Grace Johnson pitched the shutout.

Blanking Franklin County 11-0 Friday, winning pitcher was senior Ava Barnes, while freshman Taylor Wolfgram, "a freshman who's been contributing in the circle for us" according to Green, picked up the save.

Freshman Logan Jameson, starting center fielder who's "pretty much anchored down the center field spot for us this year," had two hits. Sophomore Eleena Ralston belted three hits, in-



Green

cluding a double, with an RBI and two runs scored.

Camryn Shrader, a freshman, went two-for-two at the plate with a double and two RBI.

Saturday morning found the Lady Ads blanking Bradley Central 8-0 behind the shutout pitching of sophomore Hudson Bradford.

Jameson scored three runs to go with one hit. Alexa Shrader, junior third baseman, smacked a two-run homer.

Beginning Gold Bracket single-elimination play later Saturday, Farragut rallied to edge DeKalb County 7-5. "We were down 5-1 at one point," Green said.

Barnes pitched in relief "and gave us two solid innings of work, and then Hallie Grace Johnson came in, gave us two solid innings of work and picked up the win there," Green said.

Offensively, Raby was two-for-three at the plate, while senior outfielder Amelia Dorset was two-for-two offensively with an RBI and a run scored.

"As it's worked out, we've got a lot of kids involved. We were highly competitive in competing for playing time and things like that. And I think that's helped us out. We have a deeper roster this year than we did last year,"

-Nick Green, FHS head coach
about his young 2025 softball team

Johnson went the distance against Gibbs. "She had a decent outing, but we just didn't generate a lot of offense against Gibbs," Green said.

Barnes connected for two hits and one RBI, while Morrison added a hit, RBI and a run scored.



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KCS Knights end '24-25 season with a tourney runner-up trophy



Photos by Alan Sloan
 Freddy Rojewski-Rodriguez (15), Knoxville Christian School guard, goes strong to the basket against Apostolic Christian School's defense in a Knoxville Independent School League Tournament game at KCS on Wade & Allan Houston Court, which would be the Knights' final game of the 2024-25 season. However, KCS earned a tournament runner-up trophy (top right photo) despite this 74-56 loss, as Javonta Brown's team-high 16 points and 12 more from Jon Cooper paced the home team.



Knoxville Christian School basketball cheerleaders for the 2024-25 school year who helped the Knights (boys team) earn a tournament runner-up trophy at the end of the season are, from left, Chloe Hammann (freshman), Carisma Carpenter (junior), Lily Warren (junior), Alanna Hooper (freshman), Emily Dunham (freshman), Bea Dunham (seventh-grader), Zoey Wallman (freshman), Savannah Dunham (junior) and Valeria Cano Baez (senior).

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Concerts For Our Own reaches out for Farragut support



Photo submitted

A performance by Exodus — A Tribute to Bob Marley (above), is the third concert promoted by Concerts For Our Own's Brewnevolence Concert Series at Yee-Haw Brewing Company's Knoxville stage, 745 N. Broadway in Knoxville, Sept. 25, with proceeds benefiting The Love Kitchen and Breast Connect. First up at Yee-Haw is The Ultimate Garth Brooks Tribute featuring Shawn Gerhard, starting at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 17. Next is a May 8 concert featuring The Highwaymen Show - American Outlaw Tribute.

STAFF REPORTS

editor@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — Concerts For Our Own is partnering with Yee-Haw Brewing Company to present the Brewnevolence Concert Series, a three-show lineup blending great music, craft beer and community giving.

Held at the Yee-Haw Knoxville Stage, 745 N. Broadway in Knoxville, this series kicks off at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 17, with The Ultimate Garth Brooks Tribute featuring Shawn Gerhard, "promising an unforgettable night of high-energy entertainment for a great cause," a CFOO press release stated.

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door, with a three-show series pass \$75.

Other concert dates are May 8, The Highwaymen Show - American Outlaw Tribute, and Sept. 25 - Exodus - A Tribute to Bob Marley.

Background

Concerts For Our Own, LLC, is a company owned by local businessman and promoter Aaron Snukais that has one primary goal each season when bringing in area and regional singing talent.

"I just pick different charities every year that I feel can use the money and that are small and have their boots on the ground and do good work," Snukais said.

This year's beneficiaries are The Love Kitchen in East Knoxville along with Breast Connect, "a support group for women who are going through mastectomies," he said.

"This will be the third year we've done this," Snukais added. "So far, we've given \$61,000 to different local East Tennessee charities.

"And these are real small charities that probably get overlooked.

See FOR OUR OWN on Page 8B

Education Eight

Farragut, HVA, Webb among Scholars' Bowl teams still alive on PBS

TAMMY CHEEK

tcheek@farragutpress.com

KNOXVILLE — With dozens of East Tennessee high school teams eliminated, Tennessee Scholars Bowl 2025 is ready to head into its Education Eight round of competition.

Competitions can be seen starting at 5:30 p.m. the following days on PBS (WEPT-TV (Channel 2) and WKOP-TV (Channel 15).

The "Smart 16 matchups began with Farragut High School, competing against Corbin, Kentucky, Thursday, March 13. Farragut defeated the Kentucky team, 580-365.

Others included Kingston defeating Happy Valley Monday, March 17; Jefferson County winning versus Morristown East Thursday, March 20; Hardin Valley Academy beating South Greene Friday, March 21; and Halls defeating Temple Academy Monday, March 24.

The Education Eight competitions begin Wednesday, March 26, with a matchup between Farragut and Kingston.

One of the two Hardin Valley Academy teams will compete against one of the two Webb teams Thursday, March 27; L&N STEM Academy will square off against Jefferson County Friday, March 28; and Halls will take on Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett Monday, March 29.

Following the Educated Eight round, the teams will be narrowed down to the Philosophical 4, which begins airing Tuesday, April 1. The championship showdown will air Thursday, April 3.

This is the 41st season of Scholar's Bowl.

According to a press release, public, private, parochial schools and homeschool students compete in Tennessee Scholars' Bowl, which started airing early round competitions Jan. 13.

Tennessee counties represented in the 2025 tournament have been, in addition to Knox, Anderson, Blount, Carter, Claiborne,



Photo submitted

Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Jefferson, Loudon, McMinn, Monroe, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington. Several schools sent two teams to the tournament.

The format? "Teams of four students answer questions in literature, language, science, art, math, geography, music, sports, history, religion, current events and other subjects," the press release stated. "Each game is a single elimination match. Winning teams advance to rounds of 32, 16, eight and four before the final two teams compete for the Frank Miller Memorial Trophy and a \$1,000 cash stipend in the championship game."

It was another form of a Tennessee versus Kentucky rivalry, as Scholars' Bowl opponents Corbin (Kentucky) High School and Farragut clashed in a quarterfinal round match that aired last week on PBS (WEPT-TV (Channel 2) and WKOP-TV (Channel 15). Farragut won 580-365 to advance into the round of eight level.

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YMCA of East Tennessee Unveils New MATRIX Equipment at Davis Y

The YMCA of East Tennessee continues to invest in its members' health and wellness with exciting upgrades at the Davis YMCA. The fitness floor has been reimagined and equipped with brand-new MATRIX equipment, including two cable crossovers, four functional fitness stations, and four new bench presses at varying inclines. These additions are designed to enhance efficiency and range of exercises, helping members get the most out of every workout.

While the Y is known as a top-tier fitness facility, it is much more than just a gym. As a purpose-driven organization, the YMCA of East Tennessee is committed to strengthening the mind, body, and spirit through impactful programs, community engagement, and personal development opportunities.

Did you know that the Y updates its MATRIX equipment every three years? This commitment ensures that members always have access to the latest advancements in fitness technology, keeping the facility modern, relevant, and competitive in the ever-evolving world of health and wellness.

Beyond state-of-the-art equipment, the Y is a place where individuals and families grow, connect, and thrive. Whether through fitness, youth development, or programs that support mental and spiritual well-being, the YMCA of East Tennessee remains dedicated to serving the whole person.

Come experience the difference for yourself! Stop by the Davis Y today and see how these upgrades can take your wellness journey to the next level.

For more information, visit the YMCA of East Tennessee website ymcaknoxville.org or speak with a staff member.



1. Frank Venable understands the impact regular stretching has on his body, mind, and attitude throughout the week.
2. Robert Walker III prioritizes muscle maintenance in his fitness routine and appreciates the diverse exercise options offered by the Matrix Functional equipment.
3. Living vicariously through our Y Worldwide travelers as they explore the South Pacific coast with Collette Travel!
4. The Garfield family visited the Y for an intergenerational swim, staying active together on a cold day!
5. Gaga Ball is back in season for our Homeschool Students!
6. Pete Shelton helps break-in the new Matrix Functional Fitness equipment, thanks Pete!
7. Leanne Dickson knows her arm workout wouldn't be complete without triceps pull downs from the new Matrix Cable machine.
8. Katie Bouldro gets ready for arm day by warming up on the brand-new benches.

Photos submitted



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The YMCA is hosting its first-ever **Evening of Impact**, an exclusive evening of cocktails, community, and impact on **Thursday May 22, 2025!** This special event is part of the YMCA's Annual Giving Campaign, raising essential funds to expand youth programs in 2025:

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• **Farragut High School's World Cultures Night 2025, a night to celebrate** all the cultures of the world, runs from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, March 27, in FHS Commons. All families from all Farragut schools are welcome.

• **National Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemoration**, presented by the Captain Bill Robinson Chapter 1078 of Vietnam Veterans of America, begins at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 29, at Vietnam Veterans Monument at East Tennessee Veterans Memorial in World's Fair Park, 525 Henley St. in Knoxville. Color Guard provided by the Bearden High School Navy Jr. ROTC, followed by a Proclamation from Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee.

Speaker is Lt. Gen. Larry D. Nicholson, USMC, Retired. The Missing Man Table, a rifle volley, and Taps will be performed by The Volunteer State Veterans Honor Guard. Refreshments will be provided by Vietnam Veterans of America Honorary Life Member Jackie Bridgeman.

• **St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 110 Sugarwood Drive in Farragut, has announced its March Gift of the Month** for Compassion Closet in Farragut.

"Each month we collect items for a different, local non-profit organization," an SEEC press release stated. "We look forward to offering our neighbors in the community an opportunity to help."

Compassion Closet collects clothing, furniture and other items needed foster families and relatives who are taking children into their homes. Most often this situation arises quickly and there is no time for families to prepare. Many of the children have nothing more than the clothes on their backs.

Some of the most needed items are: new boys' underwear, all sizes; new children's pajamas, all sizes; Pull-Ups, all sizes; and new kids hygiene items.

The Drive By to Drop Off is from 1 to 2 p.m., Sunday, March 30 in the church parking lot. For more information, visit: stelizchurch.org/

• **Ebenezer United Methodist Church-Wide Mission "Weekend" Event** will find the church's women, men and youth groups coming together Friday and Saturday, April, 4-5, to raise funds for missions — beginning Friday

with EUMW Rummage Sale from 4 to 7 p.m., and continuing the sale from 7:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday at the church, 1001 Ebenezer Road.

The Men's Club and Youth Ministry will join in Saturday with Pit Smoked BBQ and a Bake Sale. All proceeds go to missions. Order barbeque before Tuesday, April 1. For more information, call 865-691-8330 or go to <http://www.eumcknox.org>

• **Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon organizers are calling for volunteers** to help with the Saturday-Sunday, April 5-6, race weekend.

Race officials specifically are looking for volunteers to act as course monitors, staff the Goody's Health & Fitness Expo on Saturday, at the finish line for all races and at water stations during the Sunday races.

Volunteers should complete online registration at knoxvillemarathon.com/volunteer-spectators and choose the day, time and task that best suits their individual or group preferences.

Volunteers are invited to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Party starting at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 17, at Calhoun's on the River.

• **Concerts For Our Own is partnering with Yee-Haw Brewing Company to present the Brewnevolence Concert Series**, a three-show lineup blending great music, craft beer and community giving. Held at the Yee-Haw Knoxville Stage, 745 N. Broadway in Knoxville, this series kicks off at 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 7, with The Ultimate Garth Brooks Tribute featuring Shawn Gerhard, "promising an unforgettable night of high-energy entertainment for a great cause," a Yee-Haw press release stated.

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door, with a three-show series pass \$75.

Other concert dates are May 8, The Highwaymen Show – American Outlaw Tribute, and Sept. 25 – Exodus – A Tribute to Bob Marley.

• **Knoxville Bar Association and Legal Aid of East Tennessee are offering local veterans an in-person, free Legal Advice Clinic** from noon to 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 9, in Knox County Public Defender's Community Law Office, 1101 Liberty St. in Knoxville.

Veterans who are not able

to attend the clinic in person are encouraged to continue to use the telephone clinic option. For this, pre-registration is required. Call Legal Aid of East Tennessee at 865-637-0484 to pre-register.

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

This is an advice-only clinic — no wills are drafted nor legal work performed.

• **First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville, 620 State St., is hosting Dr. Amy-Jill Levine**, a renowned Jewish New Testament scholar, to speak from 7 to 9 p.m., Saturday, April 5, in the church sanctuary. A reception follows in Fellowship Hall.

Her lecture, titled "Jesus and Judaism: The Connection Matters," will explore how understanding Jesus within His Jewish context brings new meaning to His piety, politics and parables.

The lecture is free and open to the public, but attendees must register in advance at firstpres.rsvp.

Free parking is available on-site or in the State Street Garage. For more information, contact First Presbyterian Church at 865-546-2531 or visit www.fpcknox.org.

• **University of Tennessee Arboretum Society's 57th Spring Plant Sale will take place Friday, April 11, and Saturday, April 12.** The public sale will be held from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, at the UT Arboretum, 901 S. Illinois

Ave. (Hwy. 62) in Oak Ridge. The Society's "Members Only" sale will be from 4 to 7 p.m., April 11.

Society memberships or membership renewals may be purchased Friday evening for this "early bird" shopping opportunity. By joining UTAS on Friday night, people can enjoy the membership benefit of having the first pick of a beautiful selection of plants, some of which sell out that evening. Checks, cash and credit cards will be accepted. You may also join UTAS online before the sale.

The three vendors for the sale are Tennessee Naturescapes from Clinton, Riverdale Nursery from Knoxville and East Fork Nursery from Sevierville. Tennessee Naturescapes is an all-native plant nursery and will be offering a varied selection of all native shrubs, small trees, grasses and perennials.

Riverdale Nursery will feature a variety of harder-to-find shrubs and small trees for landscaping, perennials, annuals and vines, as well as culinary herbs, vegetable starts, berries and brambles. East Fork Nursery of Sevierville, one of the premier native azalea growers in the country, will be bringing a wide selection of azaleas and also offers an array of unusual conifers.

These three vendors offer something for everyone. UT Arboretum Society members will be on hand to help answer questions. Red wagons will be available to help load plants.

UT Arboretum Society celebrates its 60 anniversary in 2025. To learn more about the Society, go to [\[tumsociety.org\]\(http://tumsociety.org\).](http://www.utarbore-</p>
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• **Ladies who are new to the area, or who just want to make friends, are invited to Knoxville Newcomers Club** for lunch and a program starting at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 16, in Bearden Banquet Hall, 5806 Kingston Pike.

Speaker will be Appalachian Bear Rescue. We also will have a bake and craft sale to benefit the Club. Make reservations by calling 865-250-4154 by April 9.

• **The Rotary Club of Farragut Foundation invites everyone to The Big Game Show** from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Thursday, April 17, in Fox Den Country Club, 12284 North Fox Den Drive. "The Big Game Show is a series of games similar to the kinds you see on television that are led by a professional host and involve contestants and the entire audience," an RCF press release stated. "It is a lively, fun, high-tempo game show that involves everyone. ..."

Table sponsorships (\$1,750) "include a buffet dinner for eight, silent auction, cash bar and a variety of entertaining ... games," the release stated. "Single tickets (\$100) are limited. Proceeds go toward worthy service projects in East Tennessee."

For tickets or more information about the event, visit farragutrotary.my.canva.site.

• **The All Heart Gunner Foundation invites the Knoxville community to support the 4th Annual "All Heart Prom"** beginning at 7 p.m., May 3, at Bridgewater Place. This charity event will

See PLANNER on Page 10B

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STAR-powered Craft & Tack Sale 'like Black Friday,' draws hundreds



Photos by Tammy Cheek

Craft & Tack Sale in the arena of Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding, 11800 US Highway 11 East between Farragut and Lenoir City, Saturday, March 22, featured lots of deals on crafts, tack and other items at about 60 booths.

Around 11 a.m., STAR operations support Chandler Blankenship said the event "had at least 100 to 150 so far and expected 200 to 300 to attend the event."

The biggest crowd arrived in force when the sale started at 8:30 a.m. "It was like Black Friday," she recalled. People browsed booths laden with everything from saddles, tools, bridles, blankets, new and used tack, leg wraps, chaps, boots and helmets to home décor items, jewelry, handmade wooden pens, crocheted animals, miniature animals and wood-carved coasters.

Ready to help attendees, vendors providing services varied, from Eden Family Chiropractic to those selling food, such as Beef and Blossom, which sold beef cuts and mini Bundt cakes. Rocky Top Hot Dogs owner Rob Daniels served up smoky dogs.

(Above left) From left are STAR executive director emeritus Lynn Petr, development director Angela Bartlett and event volunteer Kaitlin Ghorley. (Above right) Larry Petr, an event volunteer, looks over some items.

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Spring Fest at 35 North with Liquid Velvet music

Weekend rain did not deter patrons of 35 North Bar & Grill from enjoying music performed by Liquid Velvet as part of a spring festival, which took place indoors at the restaurant, 11321 Kingston Pike, Saturday and Sunday, March 15-16.

Patrons enjoyed the music along with food and drink.

Photos by Tammy Cheek

(Left) Liquid Velvet musician Donnie Hall. (Above) 35 North Bar & Grill servers Jaydyn Sheppard, left, and Jessica Galyon.

For Our Own

From page 3B

“My goal is that each one of the charities walk away with at least \$10,000.”

The inspiration

A retired radio station general manager and sales manager in the Knoxville market with experience “booking concerts” while also lending his services to Second Harvest Food Bank, “I found out when I retired that I wasn’t very good at it,” Snukais, 71, said.

“I also found out that I should have asked my wife how much she wanted me around, and I would have found out she didn’t want me around that much,” he added.

“I got a little office and I started doing these concerts. I’m blessed that I’m financially stable, so I’m able to give all the money that these concerts make to local East Tennessee charities. And that’s why it’s called Concerts For Our Own because the money goes to our own charities here in Knox.”

How it operates

Known as the ‘Chief Happiness Officer,’ Snukais explained the operation.

“There’s no staff, except when I do a show, and that’s when I hire people or I get volunteers to help me with ticket taking and arm banding people and all that stuff,” he said. “A lot of the volunteers come from the local charities that we work with.”

For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.concertsforourown.org

Three more fall shows

“We’re doing three shows at Yee Haw Brewing Company, and then we’re going to be doing three shows in the fall at the Tennessee Ampitheater,” Snukais said about three other benefit shows — details still not set — in September and October also to benefit The Love Kitchen and Breast Connect.

“The shows that I do at the Ampitheater are reserved seats, and it’s a little bit more elevated, I guess,” he added. “These shows that we’re doing over at the brewery, just come have a good time, drink some beer and help us raise some money.”

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318 GARAGE SALES

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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN AGENDA

Farragut Community Center • 239 Jamestowne Blvd • March 27, 2025

BMA WORKSHOP Program Change, Fee Schedule Classification & Compensation 5:15 PM

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

I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

A. March 13, 2025

IV. Mayor's Report

V. Ordinances & Resolutions

A. Ordinances

1. Second Reading

a) Approval of Ordinance 25-02, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Appendix A., Zoning, Chapter 3., Section XII., General Commercial District (C-1), Subsection B., 12., c., 3., to change the setbacks, under certain conditions, for outdoor fences associated with commercial kennels

b) Approval of Ordinance 25-03, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Municipal Code, Appendix A., Zoning, Chapter 3., Section XXVI., Planned Commercial Development District (PCD), Subsection C. Minimum Standards., 1. Land Uses., to add a new section f.

to provide for a drive-through under certain conditions

VI. Business Items

A. Approval of a variance of 350 feet from the distance between driveways requirement for arterial streets in the Driveways and Other Access Ways Ordinance for a proposed access associated with a duplex at 1114 N. Campbell Station Road (Oleg Zayets, Applicant)

B. Approval of Appointment to the Knox County Community Health Council Appointment

C. Approval of Appointment to the Visual Resources Review Board D. Approval of Agreement between the Town of Farragut and Knox County for the lease of office space in the Farragut Town Hall E. Approval and Award of Contract 2025-13, Fiber Location, Emergency Restoration and Maintenance Services

VII. Citizens Forum

VIII. Town Administrator's Report

IX. Town Attorney's Report

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



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FARRAGUT BEER BOARD AGENDA

Farragut Community Center • 239 Jamestowne Blvd
March 27, 2025 | 5:55 PM

I. Approval of Minutes

A. February 27, 2025

II. Beer Permit

A. Approval of a Class 5 Off-Premise beer permit for Mr. Zip #523, 10855 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.

Diamond Dawgs start 11-1, roll past Knoxville West, Maryville

KEN LAY

Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — As Bearden High School prepared for the 2025 baseball season, fourth-year head coach Dave Prichard's main area of concern was offensive consistency.

The Bulldogs have endured some early struggles at the plate despite a hot 11-1 start to the season, including a 2-0 record in District 4-4A.

But when Bearden opened the District portion of its schedule last week, the bats came alive, as the Bulldogs pounded out 16 hits in a 14-6 victory over Knoxville West at Lindsay-Hawkins Park Wednesday, March 19.

Bearden returned to district play Monday, March 24, and blanked Maryville on the road 10-0.

"Tonight, they finally did what we wanted them to do offensively," Prichard said. "They finally hit the ball well

and they hit the ball the way we wanted to see them hit it."

After the two longtime rivals played a scoreless first inning, the Bulldogs got on the scoreboard by putting up four runs in the frame.

Logan Benko led off the inning with a double. He took third on a ground-out by Tyler Cline before coming home with the game's first run on an RBI single by second baseman Sammy Greene. The Bulldogs would add three more runs in the inning to take a 4-0 lead.

Evan Cope came up with an RBI double, plating Cameron Cooper, who also had a scoring single for the Bulldogs. BHS picked up another run on an error by the Rebels.

West would answer in the bottom of the frame, scoring five runs to take the lead. Dylan Stenstrom came up with an RBI single before Mason Dugan clubbed a grand slam to give West a 5-4 advantage.

Bearden would take the lead for good in the top of the third, scoring four runs. The Bulldogs would again benefit from West errors.

Greene, who went 2-for-4 with a double, three RBI and three runs scored, hit a two-run double in the frame. Cooper drove in a run with a sacrifice fly.

Bearden would again benefit from Rebels' miscues and score two more runs on errors. When the dust had settled, the Bulldogs had a 9-5 lead.

After scoring a run in the top of the fifth with the help of another error, BHS had another big frame in the sixth. Pinch hitter Hunter Harris delivered a three-run double and Grayson Wright came up with a two-run triple to make the score, 14-5.

The Rebels, who are in the midst of a major rebuild, scored a run in the bottom of the sixth.

The win didn't come easily for the Bulldogs. In fact, Prichard had high

praise for West and first-year head coach Rob Stacy.

"He's doing a good job over there and he's really got something good going," Prichard said of Stacy.

Following the 2025 season, the Rebels (8-6 overall, 0-3 in the district) will move to District 3-4A and replace defending district champion Oak Ridge.

Prichard said he thinks West will do well.

"The teams in that district better watch out next year," Prichard said. "Oak Ridge is leaving and they'll be going over there and they could win it."

Non-district victories

Bearden continued its winning ways outside the district, edging Johnson City Science Hill, 3-2, Thursday, March 20, at BHS's Phil Garner Ballpark.

The Bulldogs' offense then went wild, notching a 20-8 victory at Jefferson County Friday, March 21.

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Planner

From page 6B

take place beginning at 7 p.m. and aims to raise funds to provide direct financial relief to families battling pediatric brain cancer.

Tickets for the All Heart

Prom are available at \$150 per couple or \$85 per individual online at allheartgunner.com VIP tickets, which include a bar pass for the host bar, are \$160 per individual or \$300 per couple.

The All Heart Prom brings together local professionals

and community members for a memorable evening of fun and philanthropy. Ticket sales, a silent auction and the highly anticipated Prom King/Queen competition all contribute to raising funds for families with children fighting brain cancer. The charity gives these fami-

lies a check for \$3,300 to use at their discretion — whether for essential needs or something special to create lasting memories during a difficult time.

Founded in honor of Gunner Smith, a local child who passed away from brain cancer in 2021, the All Heart Gunner

Foundation has helped 33 families so far and has distributed more than \$100,000.

The event will feature a deejay, lighthearted speeches and a chance to mingle with community leaders who are dedicated to the cause.



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2. Prizes awarded: 1st, 2nd and 3rd
3. Winners will be selected in five categories: **Ages 4-5, Ages 6-8, Ages 9-11, Adults 12-112** and **Special Needs**
4. No entries accepted for judging after **4 p.m. EST on Thursday, April 10, 2025**

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Entry Form

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FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025 • 1C



Boating on area lakes

Current Watersports specializes in the sale and service of MasterCraft wake/ski boats and Crest pontoons. It also has locations in Cincinnati and Louisville.

Its staff answered the following questions about area lake water sports for 2025.

• *What's new in boats, jet skis and other watercraft and accessories for the 2025 spring/summer recreation season?*

Similar to trends in automotive, the boating industry is seeing more companies take strides toward digital advancements, as well as sustainability efforts. In many models, you will now find touchscreen controls, bow/stern cameras,

enhanced navigation systems, wireless connectivity and “smart boat” capabilities. These innovations not only make boating more “user friendly,” but safer as well.

For 2025, the boating and water sports industry is pushing the limits with cutting-edge technology and enhanced performance. Expect to see more storage options, upgraded

touchscreen helm controls, integrated cameras and advanced surf systems for the perfect wakes and waves.

You can even stay up to date on your boat's status and vitals via your phone with the MasterCraft Connect App. This allows you to check your boat's fuel levels, battery charge and even turn your battery on and off, all from your phone. Whether you're a wakeboarder, surfer or just cruising, 2025 is all about elevating your ride.

• *What should you look for in buying a boat? A new boat? A used boat? Type of boat?*

When buying a boat, consider your lifestyle, budget and how you'll use it. For new boats, look for the latest technology, warranties and dealer support.

Used boats can offer great value, but be sure to inspect the engine, hull and maintenance history.

The type of boat matters — wakeboats are perfect for those

interested in watersports; pontoons are meant for family days out cruising in comfort.

Always test drive, compare features and buy from a reputable dealer to ensure you don't have to compromise any time out on the water.

• *What buying mistakes do boat/jet ski purchasers make?*

One of the biggest mistakes buyers make is not considering the total cost of ownership — maintenance, storage, insurance and fuel add up quickly.

Another common misstep is buying the wrong type of boat for your needs, whether it's too small for your family or not suited for your favorite activities.

Lastly, don't underestimate dealer reputation — make sure you are buying from a trusted and knowledgeable source to ensure quality and service beyond the sale.

• *Upcoming boating safety classes: where, when, what to learn?*

To find upcoming boating safety classes in Knox County, you can check with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, which regularly offers certification courses. For a complete schedule of upcoming courses and information, you can visit www.tn.gov/twra/boating/boating-education/.

• *Is taking a boating safety class extremely important, even if you're an experienced boat operator?*

Absolutely. Even experienced boaters can benefit from a boating safety class. Rules, regulations and technology are always evolving, and a refresher can help you stay up to date.

Plus, safety courses reinforce essential skills, like navigation, emergency procedures and local boating laws — helping prevent accidents and ensuring everyone on board stays safe. Many insurance compa-

See BOATING on Page 3C



Chaos gardening, general plant, flower tips from Meadow View

Meadow View Greenhouse & Garden Center shares flower and plant growing tips while introducing “chaos gardening.”

Chaos gardening is a newcomer to the gardening world and has developed a fan club of younger gardeners and those who like more relaxed types of gardening. Basically, it involves taking leftover seeds (or new packets of seeds) and mixing them all together in a bowl and tossing them onto your beds. Then you just wait and see what happens.

This can be done with annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs, and results in a variety of colors and sizes in one area. These plants tend to be stronger because they are not in a monoculture and are attractive to pollinators.

On the downside, this type of garden can look weedy and overgrown. It is not for folks who prefer formal gardens or have a strict homeowners association.

Preparing a spring/summer bed depends on whether you are starting from scratch or improving an existing bed. Starting a new bed requires the removal of grass and then the addition of soil.

Tilling in new soil and compost is best, but you can topdress if you don't have access to a tiller. If you have an existing bed, just remove weeds and add a couple of inches of compost to the soil to renew the nu-

See GARDENING on Page 2C



Alan Sloan

Heath and Heather McKeehan and their three daughters on the lawn in front of their home along a “back nine” fairway of a FDCC golf course hole. Daughters, from left, are Farrah, 15; Finley, 10; and Fallon, 13. (See related photos on page 1A of this week's farragutpress)

Front row fairway view

McKeehans fired up about life at Fox Den Country Club

While enthusiastic about listing all the reasons the McKeehan family loves Fox Den Country Club, mom was a bit concerned.

Giving credit to various FDCC leaders who help make the club's social life and activities fun and rewarding, Heather McKeehan was afraid she'd leave out someone.

After all, she was eager to give lots of people credit because the family joy about Fox Den runs even deeper. That's because this family of five live just a few hundred yards from the clubhouse, having their roughly 5,700 two-story home with a pool along the fairway of a “back nine” FDCC golf course hole.

“We have lived here for five years, and we've been members of Fox Den (club) for 15 years,” said the mother of three girls, ages 15 to 10.

As for the desire to live along the course, “Well, two of my

girls, they liked to golf, and my husband (Heath) golfs all the time — and we love Fox Den,” she said. “So, it's important to my husband and family to be here on the course and close to the club.”

Taking advantage of “when things went down” to purchase the home in 2020, “we snagged the house up and then we remodeled it, and we put in a pool,” Heather said. “The location is ideal. ... We have the beautiful view of the 17th green. And you're just right there at the club — I mean, just practically next to it.

“And we have our golf cart where we get to go around and visit our neighbors, that's always fun,” she added. “And then we're close to everything in Turkey Creek. ... So it's just a wonderful place to be. We're right in the middle of everything.”

As for specific FDCC activities, “We've had all the events

for my children and the sports that have been available to us at the country club, the social events for the families: the Daddy/Daughter Dance, the camps,” Heather said. “They used to have Fox Den Camp, that was really fun, but now they do the golf camp, and they have the tennis camp.

“My girls started out in their sports at Fox Den with wonderful instructors, and they made it fun,” she added. “And then the events, the Daddy/Daughter Dance is always fun. The Fox Den Mother's Day Golf Tournament, you can take your child and be in the tournament. Also the swim team (Fox Den Red Foxes), we participated in that years ago. That was something that was fun to do — just lots of family sports activities.

“And then they also offer just holiday activities, which

See MCKEEHANS on Page 4C

Tips for lawn care and growth

Lee Strunk, owner of All Seasons Lawn Care, has several lawn care and lawn growth tips to share:

Common mistakes people make

“Probably the biggest mistake that most people make is mowing too low. Fescue should be mowed 3 1/2 to 4 inches” above the ground. “Most people want it more like 2 because they think they don’t have to mow so often. But the reality is they burn the fescue up and then all they’ve got is weeds.”

“So you really pay in terms of appearance and everything else.”

Dealing with weeds

“The best way to deal with weed control, if you’ve already got them and they’re actively growing, is to have them sprayed with a chemical product. And that’s probably best done professionally.”

And then after that, “go ahead and get on a regular fertilization program. And that regular fertilization program, if you do everything that really should be done, is about seven treatments a year (including late fall and winter). But it’s a preventative matter.”

Do-it-yourselfers could spread granular fertilizer with a seed spreader or use the liquid form with either a 50-gallon or 100-gallon tank, Strunk said.

“Some of the bigger companies have a ride-on tool (for a riding lawnmower), ride-on piece equipment that does the spraying. ... There’ll be directions as how many pounds per square foot. ... That’s the way it’s labeled.”

“Get your mower up to good height, 3 1/2 to 4 inches (off the ground). A good healthy stand of grass is a good preventer for weeds because it’ll literally choke it out. But you still need some chemical help.”

“Some people, they don’t like to use chemicals, so there are — I don’t know much about them — some non-chemicals for people that don’t like having the chemicals around their pets or their children.”

But the way you prevent unwanted yard growth, “you do the treatment back in the late fall, early winter ... so you don’t have them this time of the year.”

Seeding

A lot of homeowners mistakenly reseed their lawns in the spring. “Evidently a lot of people do, because I was at one of the suppliers the other day



and they were completely out of seed. But this time of the year is really the wrong time to reseed a lawn.

“If you’re putting in a new lawn, you’ve got to do it when you’ve got to do it. But if you’re reseeding a lawn, it should be done in the fall: aerate, reseed it and fertilize it in September, October, along in there.”

Strunk also said do-it-yourselfers should wait about six weeks between re-seeding and putting down the first fertilizer treatment.

“Because, if you do it this time of the year you can’t do the weed control. So what happens is you have another summer full of weeds because by the time that seed germinates and gets up to where that it can withstand the herbicides, then you’re up into the summertime and then you’ve got a lot of weeds to deal with at that point.”

“There’s a fertilization called dementia (granular), and that usually has a fertilizer or food for the grass, and then it has weed prevention in it. Dementia 1305 is recommended.”

When you are starting a new yard, or doing patchwork on a given area of your yard, “honestly, it’s more expensive up front to sod,” Strunk said. “We’ve done this for over 20 years.”

But he recommends sod when creating a lawn at a new home “because

when you go in and sod it, keep it watered, then you’re ready to mow in a week or so,” Strunk said. “But doing seed, you got to try to keep it watered, and then you’re probably going to wind up with a lot of weeds because most people put down wheat straw.”

“I actually call that ‘weed’ straw because you get so much weeds out of that straw. And when you get that growing in your yard, the only thing that will kill it is Roundup (weed killer). So then you got to go back to and kill it all off and start again.”

“But people use (wheat straw) because it covers the seed up; it helps keep the birds from eating up your seeds and it helps hold moisture.”

Mowing pattern change

About changing the pattern of how you mow each time, Strunk said that while it’s not too important with push mowers, “that’s a good idea if you’re using the heavier commercial mowers. A commercial riding lawn mower will typically weigh about 1,000 pounds. So if you’re using something that heavy on your lawn, it would be a good idea to switch up because if you mow the same tracks every week. Obviously, you’re going to compact the soil and have hard spots in the yard and gullies or ruts.”

For more information, call 865-309-4159.

GARDENING

From page 1C

trients. You can mix it together a bit as you are planting.

Many folks are starting to include vegetables in their flower beds. Cole crops such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale and lettuce can be grown in cooler seasons, and warm season vegetables and herbs can be grown along with annuals. The flowers can actually help with the pollination of the vegetables because they attract more pollinators.

Mulching the beds will help to keep soil temperature and moisture levels more stable. Like chaos gardening, this is not for folks who prefer a manicured look or folks with strict HOA rules.

If you want a vegetable garden that fits in with your landscape, you will need to carefully choose how and what to grow. Raised beds are a very popular way of doing this, as are regular beds that may include small shrubs or woody herbs such as rosemary or lavender as a border. Smaller vegetables tend to do very well in these, such as bush beans, peppers and tomatoes. Trailing vegetables, such as cucumbers and melons, will do best if trained on a trellis so they don’t invade your yard.

To protect any plantings from a late frost, cover them with a breathable fabric (not plastic) that extends all the way to the ground and is anchored there. If a plant is fragile, use something to hold up the top of the fabric.

Your goal is to create a tent over the plant to hold in the warmer temperatures of the soil. Make sure the plants are well watered. Snow is a good thing if it is going to get really cold, because snow keeps the plants at 32 degrees. New plants and those that are not fully zone hardy are the most susceptible to frost/freeze damage. *Note: very small plants can be covered with a cloche, a gallon jug with the bottom cut out or even a bag.*

When we are talking about plants that do well in this area, natives and their cultivars are always going to do best. If you are from much farther north or south, the plants you are accustomed to growing may not be happy.

It will be best for you to ask someone at a reputable garden center for suggestions.

Meadow View is located at 9885 U.S. Highway 11. For more information, call 865-986-7229.

Get on ‘The Cutting Edge’ with lawn, landscape advice

The Cutting Edge Lawn and Landscaping, LLC, offers landscaping and lawn advice as presented by Taylor and Annslea Phillips:

Common mistakes made by do-it-yourself landscapers?

Often times, homeowners will attempt to upkeep their lawn by watering during growing season, and in turn, water too frequently or in the evening hours.

However, infrequent, deep-waterings is better than frequent, light-waterings for the root system. Additionally, watering in the late evening promotes disease, while watering during daytime hours allows the blades of grass to dry and deters fungal disease.

Early morning watering is the most ideal for the health and longevity of the grass.

Is there a list of most popular flowers and most popular shrubs homeowners request? Are there favorite flower colors?

Many homeowners in Tennessee like to add “Southern charm” into their landscaping by adding limelight hydrangeas, boxwoods and knockout

roses. For added property line screening and privacy, Tuji green giants are a popular and timeless choice.

Tips for having a nice, yet low maintenance landscaping for your home?

Having a nice, yet low maintenance landscape for your home can be attainable by just a few simple steps:

- Carefully choosing plants when landscaping
- Choosing native plants that have adapted to our local climate require less water and care
- Incorporating perennials that come back year after year is budget friendly and less work
- Opting for drought-resistance plants as they are more resilient and require less attention
- Using mulch: mulch not only helps retain moisture in your plants but it also suppresses weeds and gives a neat appearance when done annually or even semi-annually
- Automated watering: adding drip lines in flower beds or adding an irrigation system can save time and ensure



plants get the right amount of water

• Incorporating hardscaping: adding paver patios and stone features reduces areas that require lawn care while adding a visually appealing outdoor space that compliments your home.

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tenance and long lasting and as an added bonus, often times can increase property value.

The Cutting Edge is located at 8335 Oak Ridge Highway in Knoxville. For more information, call 865-455-7133.



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BOATING

From page 1C

nies even offer discounts for completing a certified course.

• Any new rules of the water for 2025?

We partner with one of our manufacturers, MasterCraft, to promote the “Wake Responsibly” movement, led by the Water Sports Industry Association. This initiative promotes safe and respectful wake boating practices to protect waterways, shorelines and fellow boaters. This initiative encourages boaters to:

— Minimize repetitive passes; avoid repeatedly surfing or wakeboarding in the same area to reduce shoreline erosion and disturbances.

— Keep music at respectful levels; be mindful of noise levels, especially in residential areas.

— Stay at least 200 feet from docks and shorelines; This helps prevent property damage and keeps waterways safe for everyone.

By following these guidelines, boaters can enjoy water sports while ensuring a positive experience for all lake users.

• Biggest mistakes boaters and jet skiers make on the water?

Some of the biggest mistakes boaters make on the water include ignoring right-of-way rules, misjudging speed and distance and failing to check weather conditions.

Another common error is not paying attention to your surroundings — distracted driving on the water can be just as dangerous as on the road.

• To what extent is drunk boat/jet ski operation a problem? Is TWRA doing anything about this?

Boating under the influence is just as serious as drunk driving on the road. Alcohol impairs judgment, reaction time and coordination — making it a leading factor in boating accidents.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency actively enforces BUI laws with patrols, checkpoints and strict penalties to keep waterways safe.

Boaters always should designate a sober operator and stay aware that law enforcement takes BUI just as seriously as DUI.

Current Watersports – Knoxville is located at 11221 Outlet Drive. For more information, call 865-940-9253.

Popular ‘river’ sports in East Tennessee

When it comes to the most popular “river” sports in the Knoxville/East Tennessee area, including kayaking, canoeing, fishing and tubing, “the water attracts a variety of folks and that can be anything that is safe to float or paddle on to enjoy the solitude,” said Ed McAlister with River Sports Outfitters, Inc. “The experience does not have to be expensive as there are plenty of options available for any budget ranging from used equipment to basic.” But always be safe. “Never under-estimate the power of the water, and, especially the temperature — even in the dead of summer,” he added. “Much of the water we enjoy comes from the bottom of the dams and can be in the 60’s year-round. A PFD is a must no matter when you are on the water.” As for coming together, “Most customers have their own paddle groups or join a club (such as) Chota Canoe Club, which has trips and instructions,” McAlister said.



Photo submitted

Check out these area marinas

• **Sun Life Marinas Concord Marina**, 10931 Concord Park Drive in Concord. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, and from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday (closed Monday and Tuesday). Phone: 865-966-5831.

• **Choto Marina**, 12214 Choto Marina Way in Concord. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed Saturday and Sunday). Phone: 865-966-5472.

• **Fox Road Marina**, 1100 Fox Road in Knoxville. In-season, open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. Off season, open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and by appointment only Saturday (closed Sunday). Phone: 865-966-7444.

• **Fort Loudon Marina**, 5200 City Park Drive in Lenoir City. Main office open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (closed Sunday and Monday). Phone: 865-986-5536.

• **Sun Life Marinas Louisville Landing**, 2932 Boat Dock Road, Louisville, 37777. In-season hours: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday (closed Monday). Off-season

hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (closed Sunday and Monday). Phone: 865-984-9001.

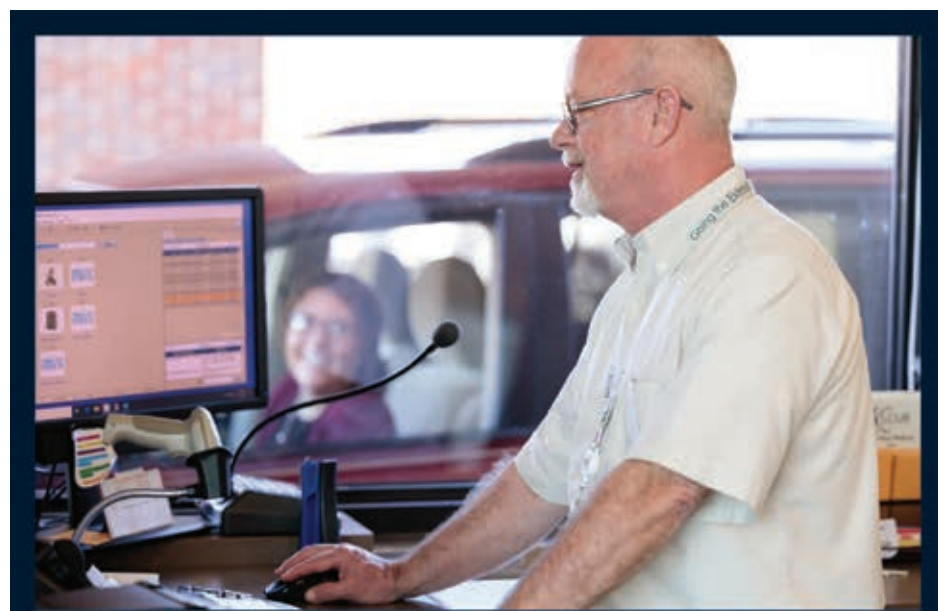
• **Volunteer Landing Marina**, 956 Volunteer Landing Lane in Knoxville. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday; and from noon to 2 p.m., Sunday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). Phone: 865-633-5004.

• **Stardust Marina**, 149 Stardust Lane in Andersonville. Open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday; from noon to 8 p.m., Fridays; from noon to 10 p.m., Saturdays; and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sundays. Phone: 865-494-7641.

• **Beach Island Resort & Marina Watercraft Rentals**, 170 Beach Island Road, Maynardville. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed Saturday and Sunday). Phone: 865-992-3091

• **Harbortowne Marina**, 280 Tellico Port Road, Vonore. Open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed Saturday and Sunday). Phone: 423-884-6429.

Hours and days of operation are subject to change. Please contact individual marinas for current information.



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Fox Den Country Club made even better

Fox Den Country Club “is fortunate enough to have seen tremendous growth over the last five years,” stated Caroline Inman, FDCC assistant general manager.

“With a membership that is continuously growing, we were able to kick off our Clubhouse Refresh with our downstairs restaurant, Tackett’s, in 2022,” she added. “We took a restaurant that was historically underutilized and lovingly referred to as dungeon-esque by members and turned it into a trendy and welcoming pub-like restaurant loved by all.”

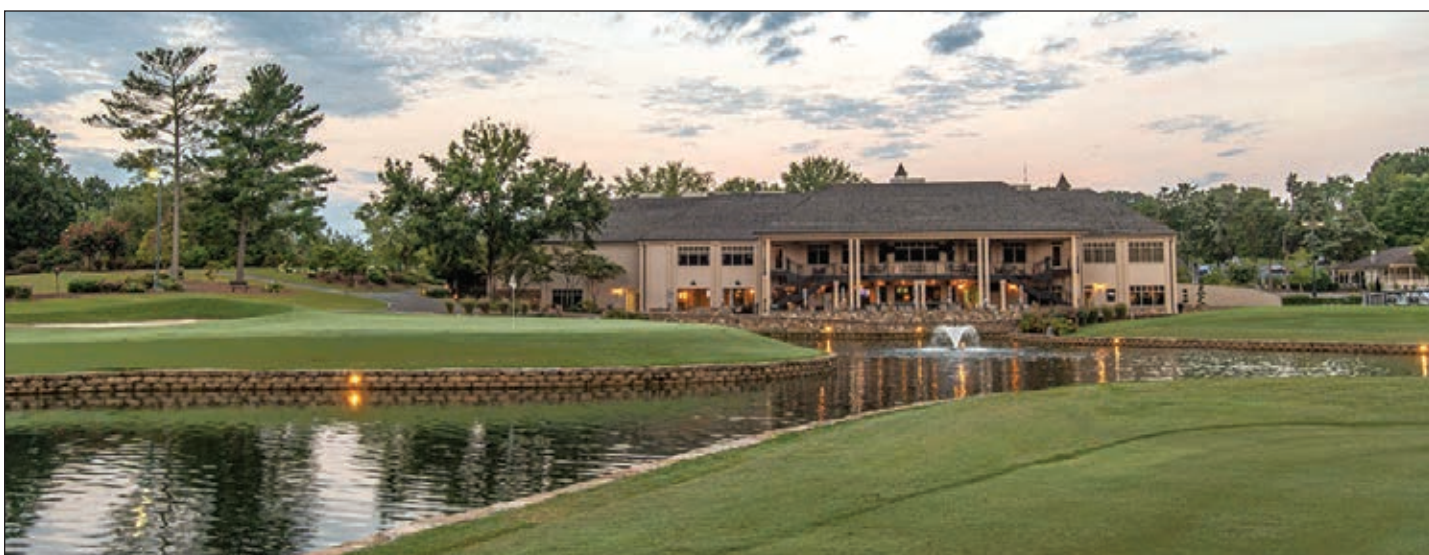
In 2023, it was “a year of planning for our ‘Upstairs Refresh,’ while also redoing all of the bunkers, which included switching to install capillary concrete and new sand,” Inman stated.

2024 featured “the beginning of our long overdue upstairs Refresh,” she stated. “Our clubhouse has a fabulous foundation, so we did not have to engage in a full demolition.

“With the help from our friends at Lauderdale Design Group and some member-owned companies, we were able to create a sophisticated space featuring new flooring, paint, wallpaper and lighting,” Inman added.

Moreover, “Our upstairs refresh beat all the odds and came in on time and under budget,” the assistant GM stated.

As for 2025, it is “off to a momen-



tous start with the completion of our upstairs restroom refresh,” Inman stated.

“We are so proud of our beautifully

updated facilities and how far our club has come in a few short years. We know that 2025 will be one for the books.”

Fox Den Country Club is located at 11284 N. Fox Den Drive in Farragut. For more information, call 865-966-9771.

MCKEEHANS

From page 1C

is for the family, that are really fun. The Easter Egg Hunt is always a really good one; that’s always fun for the kids. They decorate cookies, they have the egg hunt, then they usually have a spaghetti dinner — and the grandparents come and they have the Easter Bunny.

Speaking of Spring, “One thing that I’ve always enjoyed is the Mother’s Day brunch — it’s just one of the best brunches all year round,” Heather said. “Chef Linda (Crowley) does a fabulous job, and the food selection is out of this world: there’s hot bars and there’s seafood. ... There’s so much to choose from, and it’s always delicious.”

In addition, “They add extra little touches to where we can take pictures;

they always have a photo booth,” she added. “The Halloween Party for the adults is fun.”

As for golf, “We’ve been involved with the Member Guest Tournament for years, and it’s always fun to look forward to because we bring our guests in from out of town,” Heather said. “And the men always seem to have a wonderful time golfing. ... And they always have an amazing party with a band.

“And the food is always great, and the socializing and just being together as friends at the club,” she added. “I have great memories of that as well.”

There’s more. “We’ve also had milestone birthdays at the club that we hold dear to our hearts where the staff and everyone has done a great job,” the mother said. “We had Heath’s 50th birthday there, and it was just really

fun. And Chef Linda, once again, did an amazing job with the food, and we had a lot of people there. It was just really lovely.

“So we just have a lot of memories at the club.”

Heather also praised FDCC director of tennis David Berens and head golf professional Danny Ackerman.

“There’s so many,” Heather added. “And Caroline (Inman) that runs the front office, she’s amazing.”

Overall, “I guess we just feel like we’re just grateful for the staff, and we’re just grateful for all the families and the relationships that we’ve built throughout the years,” she said, also mentioning summertime pool parties and community movies.

“There’s just so much.”

And while Heath and oldest daughters, Farrah, 15, and Fallon, 13, have

been more into golf, Heather said she and youngest daughter, Finley, 10, prefer to play tennis.

Under Berens’ instruction, “She’s gotten pretty good. ... I’m so ever thankful for getting her start there,” the mother said about Finley’s tennis advancement.

Heather said the family often spends time around the pool during various FDCC golf tournaments “and cheer them on. And we also have a golf cart, and so we drive the golf cart around when we’re watching.

“On Monday, when the club is closed, the course is just wonderful to walk, and you can take your golf cart and just stroll around, have a cocktail if you want to or not,” she added.

Making things all the more pleasant, “We have sweet neighbors; they’re all very nice,” Heather said.

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