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## TSSAA Hall of Fame Dodgen's latest honor

**STAFF REPORTS**  
editor@farragutpress.com

Farragut High School legend Donald Dodgen, current school athletic director, is almost 15 years removed from a "remarkable 38-year coaching career (that) stands as a testament to his dedication, leadership and influence on student-athletes at the high school and college levels," a Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association press release stated.

This governing body of state high school athletics recently elected Dodgen — with almost 60 years of excellence as a player, coach and AD — into its Hall of Fame, which was announced Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Dodgen and seven other new Hall of Fame members will be inducted at the annual TSSAA Luncheon

in the Student Union Building at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Monday, April 7.

A High School All-American 6-foot-5 scoring machine as a basketball superstar at Gatlinburg-Pittman High (Class of 1969), "Coach Dodgen played at Tennessee Wesleyan, where his talent on the court helped propel him into the spotlight as both a player and coach," the release stated.

"His achievements were honored with inductions into multiple halls of fame, including the Tennessee Wesleyan Hall of Fame (as both player and coach), Gatlinburg-



Dodgen

Pittman ... Farragut High School Hall of Fame (as a coach and administrator) and the KIL Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

"With a career that spans multiple schools and sports, he has had an enduring impact on both the athletic programs and the communities he served," it further stated. "His legacy as a basketball coach, athletic director and mentor has made him one of the most respected figures in Tennessee high school athletics."

Dodgen's coaching journey "took him to several schools, where he coached basketball and girls softball," the release stated. "Starting at McMinn County High School, then moving on to Gatlinburg-Pittman"

See TSSAA HALL-DODGEN on Page 2A

## 'Saddling up' a Boring Road subdivision, 12.7 acres? Staff discusses

**TAMMY CHEEK**  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Saddlebrook Properties is looking to develop 12.76 acres along Boring Road for a subdivision.

Russ Rackley, engineer representing Saddlebrook Properties, presented a proposed preliminary plat for the development during the Town of Farragut's Staff/Developer meeting Tuesday morning, Feb. 4.

The property lies between Waverly Court, located to the west of the property, Baldwin Court subdivision and the proposed elementary school to the east and Village Commons to the south. The developers are planning to create 32 residential lots.

"It was rezoned a few months ago," Farragut Community Development director Mark Shipley said. "It was R-2 and R-1, and they rezoned it to R-3, which is the same zone as Baldwin Park: small lots, single-family detached.

"Village Commons stubbed in a public access easement here that (Saddlebrook is) tying into, so they meet the Town's connectivity requirement of having more than one way in and out of the property," he added.

"There is some wooded area on the plan. Most of it's up here on the northern third of the property. The rest of this has been kind of cleared over time, and a lot of it's kind of grown back in to scruff and Bradford pears and things."

One plan discussed "is to tie in a sidewalk, bring it down all the way through and then there would be an internal sidewalk," Shipley said. "A detention (pond) area is down here (indicating a southern area).

"This will not be on the (Farragut Municipal) Planning Commission agenda this month," he added. "It will be, I'm sure, on for March.

"There are some things that are required, when you submit plans, that weren't provided, like the tree plan, some of the utility information, streetscaping (plan). I think they're well on their way to getting those things done."

One point he made about R-3 District, "it is unlike the open space residential, buffer strips areas that are required. Like in R-3, you have a required buffer strip around the side and the rear and then the detention (pond) — those required spaces that can't count toward a 10 percent open space.

"Whereas in (Open Space Residential), which Russ and his guys are more familiar with — and it's an understandable oversight — you can count those, but it's a 35 percent open space," Shipley added.

The community development director also said "there are walking trails that tie into the property that need to be connected with the proposed development, as well as making sure the lots have the required amount of street frontage and the plat does not show the required open (common) space for residents."

They also discussed the design of the road entering the pro-



Shipley

See SUBDIVISION? on Page 6A

## U.S. Pom '4-peat'



Photo obtained courtesy of Andrea Miller

## National champs again under Brink: FMS dance

For the fourth consecutive year, Farragut Middle School dance team has earned a national championship and a national runner-up placement in the same event. Coached by Macy Brink and competing in National Dance Team Championships at ESPN Wide World of Sports in Orlando Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 1-2, these FMS girls were named National Dance Team Champions in Junior High Pom and national runner-up in Junior High Jazz. Team members, back row from left, are Sophie Pennekamp, Leighton Upshaw, Parker Miller, Sarah Shoup, Caitlyn Stickley, Audrey McCaleb and Rylee Mack. Front row, from left, are Brooklyn Knight, Emery Campbell, Ella Marie Lambert, Emma Kate Kilpatrick, Katie Beth Swaggerty and Kennedy Prosan. Crediting Farragut area dance studios, along with other "choreographers, sponsors and assistant coaches" for playing a key role in each FHS dancers' development, Brink added, "It really comes down to the girls and their work ethic and the way that they come together and create a team environment — a whole family environment — that helps to make it work and allows them to be successful."

## Black History Month at CUMC continues

Each Wednesday evening in February, Concord United Methodist Church's Community Care Night "will provide a lens into the role Christianity has played in the efforts to secure Civil Rights for all," a CUMC press release stated about its weekly celebration of Black History Month.

A free meal is from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Worship time is held from 6:30 to 7 p.m., and in February will feature messages each week about The Gospel and the

Civil Rights Movement, including a play Feb. 19 titled "Walk, Don't Ride" for ages 10 and older.

- Feb. 12 – Pastor of Discipleship Brooke Hartman will share "The Gospel Within: Dr. Martin Luther King the Preacher."
- Feb. 26 – The Rev. Harold Middlebrook will share his experience as a pastor and leader during the Civil Rights Movement as a friend of Dr. King.

All events are free and open to the public.

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



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## Accountant counts Sampler \$



Photo courtesy of Stephen Krempasky

Tammy Cramer, Lenoir City resident and accountant, is overjoyed to be named January Town Sampler champion, recently receiving her Shop Farragut bag of goodies alongside proprietor Fares Schlank at his West Bicycles shop in Village Green shopping center. Cramer received a package valued at more than \$200, receiving a \$35 gift card from Clean EatZ and \$25 gift cards from: West Bicycles, Ricki's Pet Depot, Poppet's Play Place, The Shrimp Dock, Katy's Hallmark Shop, Hurricane Cycles and Farragut Golf and Games, plus other Farragut schwag. The February contest is well under way. Join by visiting <https://wfiv.com/contests/62/shop-farragut-february-2025>

## TSSAA Hall-Dodgen

From page 1A

before taking the boys hoops head coaching job at FHS beginning in the fall of 1996, "he left an unforgettable impact on each place that he served. As a basketball coach, his overall record of 655 wins and 309 losses speaks to his consistency and excellence ... including a trip to the state tournament in 1982 and multiple region and district championships.

"At Farragut, where he spent the bulk of his coach-

ing tenure, he compiled an impressive 308 career wins," the release further stated.

Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year as AD, "he has overseen the growth and success of the school's athletic programs. Under his leadership, Farragut has won 13 state championships across various sports. His leadership has been instrumental in creating a culture of excellence, and Farragut High School's success on the state level is a direct result of his vision and dedication to student-athletes."

## KCSOreports

• At 9:24 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 8, Knox County Sheriff's Officer units were dispatched to a North Campbell Station Road address regarding a female passed out in a grey Honda Accord at a convenience store gas pump.

The car was "running at the pumps," with "suspect/arrestee slumped over at the wheel of the vehicle," the report stated. "I was able to wake (suspect), who was confused, disoriented and had pinpoint pupils. Suspect "said she was unaware of the amount of time she had been asleep in her car," further saying she was "tired and had taken Xanax and it knocked her out. "

Suspect said she "was in the process of buying the car and was the primary driver of the vehicle," the report further stated. A records check ... showed she had an outstanding warrant through our department and through Campbell County."

An officer conducted a search, "locating a small, clear plastic bag containing a brown rock crystal-like substance believed to be Ecstasy (1.4 grams) and \$572 in U.S. currency in denominations of 100s, 20s, 5s and 1s inside (suspect's) brassiere," the report stated.

Another officer "found four small bags containing a brown powder-like substance believed to be heroin (4.9 grams, 2.5 grams, 1.0 gram, 0.4 grams), a small bag containing an off-white crystal-like substance believed to be methamphetamine (.4 grams), a small clear bag containing 5 green tablets believed to be Xanax, small clear bag containing crushed white pills believed to be fentanyl and a small scale with what appeared to have powdered narcotics on it."

The vehicle was towed and suspect was arrested and transported to Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility.

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## FINANCIAL FOCUS®

### QCDs: Tax-friendly charitable gifts

Nov. 11, 2024

In most walks of life, you'd probably be pleased if you could accomplish two goals with one action. That's exactly what happens when you can turn some of your retirement funds into charitable gifts that support a worthy organization while also realizing tax benefits.

Here's a little background: If you haven't already withdrawn from your traditional IRA, you must do so once you reach 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later. If you don't take these withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — or if you take too little, you will be subject to a possible 25% penalty on the amount not withdrawn. These RMDs can be sizable, and they're also taxable. But when you move money from your IRA to a qualified charitable organization — a process known as taking a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD — you can possibly satisfy your RMD requirement for that year, with the funds then being kept out of your taxable income. You don't even have to wait until you reach the RMD age because you can begin making QCDs of up to \$105,000 per year once you reach 70½. (This amount is indexed for inflation, so it may rise each year.)

And because QCDs won't add to your taxable income, you can get additional benefits. First, by taking QCDs, rather than accepting the taxable income from your IRA, you could lower your adjusted gross income (AGI), which, in turn, could help reduce the taxes on your Social Security benefits. The taxes on these benefits are based on your overall income and filing status. And second, a lower AGI can possibly reduce your Medicare Part B premiums, which are also based on your income.

Now let's look at the relationship between two other retirement accounts and QCDs:

- **Traditional 401(k)** — A traditional 401(k), like a traditional IRA, will be subject to RMDs, but it doesn't qualify for a QCD. However, you could roll your RMDs from a 401(k) into an IRA, which would then let you use the QCD strategy. This rollover may be more beneficial to you than simply taking the distribution from your 401(k) and then donating the money to a charity, but you'll want to consult your tax professional.
- **Roth IRA** — A Roth IRA is not subject to RMDs, so you can essentially keep your IRA intact as long as you want, though you're likely to need at least some of it to help you pay for your retirement. But because Roth IRA withdrawals are tax-free (provided you've had your account at least five years and are 59½ or older before you take withdrawals), you won't get the benefit of lowering your AGI by transferring your IRA funds to a charity. Of course, you're still free to take money from your Roth IRA and donate it to charities. If you itemize on your taxes, you can deduct your charitable contributions, up to 60% of your AGI. But many people no longer itemize because of a significant increase in the standard deduction a few years ago.

If you don't need all the required withdrawals from your traditional IRA, you may find that taking a QCD is a good way to use the money. By helping a charitable group and getting tax benefits, you'll be "multitasking" in a way that benefits everybody.

**Cory J Gerlach**  
Financial Advisor

**Edward Jones**

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This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC



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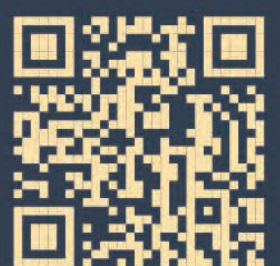
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# letterstotheeditor

## Priorities questioned at top of Town gov't

What a disappointment to hear the first of the biggest challenges for 2025 coming out of Mayor Ron Williams' mouth to be social media misinformation. Are we not past this?

President Biden, early in his failed presidency, established, and quickly folded, his Disinformation Governance Board or Ministry of Truth. It was shut down due to constitutional issues, but more importantly and prominently, nobody wants to be censored in a free society. Why does Mayor Williams want to censor and shut down his constituents viewpoints?

Is it because his constituents are not happy with his wasting millions on an empty and useless brick building with dubious history? Is it because people aren't happy with the constant gaslighting about traffic not being a problem; people do not think the ATMS (Advance Traffic Management System) is pretty phenomenal as stated in (an) article.

Perhaps he is weary of constituents bringing up concerns about overly dense development, including sparsely populated Biddle Farm businesses and apartments popping up around Town? Maybe it is because spending \$55,000 on a tiny outdoor ice rink for six weeks is considered wasteful.

I agree the Town of Farragut communication manager (Wendy Smith) does a good job getting information out to the community, but I don't agree that censorship of constituents is necessary or appropriate. Mayor Ron Williams needs to reconsider his priorities.

~ Adam Atherton, Farragut

*Editor's Note:* We published a front page story in our Wednesday, Feb. 5, issue where — at least in the body of the story — Mayor Ron Williams first mentioned social media misinformation. This seems to be pointed out in the above letter's first paragraph.

If the letter's author is referring to any possible Williams "social media misinformation" quotes from other public forums and/or publications from which he is forming an opinion, that is not the point in this note.

However, our readers can decide if the mayor's quotes from our Feb. 5 story — on the "social media misinformation" issue — add up to censorship upon a second look:

*"I think this coming year, we need to be very, very proactive in our social media. What I mean by that is Wendy (Smith, communication manager) does a good job with what she puts out there, and I think we can expand on that and make it even better."*

*"We have a lot of misinformation that gets out there ... I think (the social media) would be a help."*

## 'Incredibly disappointed' in Board chair's EFA stance

I was incredibly disappointed to see the Letter to the Editor from the chair of the Knox County Board of Education, Betsy Henderson. Frankly, I can't believe that anyone in her position would have publicly come out in favor of this legislation, given who/what her chair is supposed to advocate for.

The overwhelming opposition that the Education Freedom Act had from the voters in Knox County is also well-documented, but apparently that has completely fallen on deaf ears. Our state senator, Dr. Richard Briggs (R-District 7), was the lone exception.

As a dad of two young girls and husband of a teacher, I'm confident that many Knox County constituents, including myself, favor the concept of school choice.

Every child has a unique set of needs, and I strongly believe that we should enable parents to seek the best educational opportunities for their children, which should include the flexibility to enroll at a school that allows them to reach their full potential.

However, the Education Freedom Act was never truly about "school choice," and I'm offended that the BOE chair cited "political framing" to vilify those who came out against this legislation. Betsy cited an example in her letter of "a mom of a child with dyslexia struggling to find a school that meets her child's unique needs."

The reality is that this legislation does not guarantee a place for that student in any private school setting in Tennessee. Unlike the public schools, private schools have the incredible luxury of being able to deny enrollment to any child for any reason.

These schools routinely deny students with learning disabilities — and in many cases, the public schools are their only reasonable alternative.

The same can also be said for the low-income family with the bullied child or for the single mother, two other examples that Betsy cited in her letter.

We reside in a "right to work" state, and Tennessee private schools follow that same mantra when it comes to their admissions. They are allowed to operate as they see fit, which allows them to be incredibly selective.

As a result, Tennessee public schools increasingly exist to serve those who have been rejected by these private institutions.

Since the Education Freedom Act involves re-purposing a significant amount of public funding for school vouchers, its framework should, at the very least, challenge the private schools to do three things — prioritize lower-income families, provide accommodations for students with any learning disability and increase enrollment.

If enrollments remain stagnant, these vouchers will simply act like coupons for parents who already have their children enrolled in private school, making it easier for those schools to justify tuition increases in the long term, making it increasingly difficult for lower-income families to afford a private school education.

A little bit of Internet research shows that other states that have implemented similar voucher programs have ultimately led to this disturbing result.

So Betsy, here's the \$64,000 question: if private schools are just going to remain status quo, how can the Education Freedom Act actually help that dyslexic student, that lower-income bullied student or that single mom you passionately wrote about?

~ Vincent "Tom" Young, Farragut

to submit letters/presstalks: [editor@farragutpress.com](mailto:editor@farragutpress.com)

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## Bringing a little sweetness to Town Center

Bradley's Gift & Home to open a Farragut store, their second

**TAMMY CHEEK**

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

Chocolate lovers rejoice.

Bradley's Gift & Home, 141 N. Peters Road, is adding a second location in Farragut Town Center, 138 Biddle Farms Blvd., with plans to open in July.

"We want to bring a little sweetness to our hometown," said Joy Hamlett, co-owner with her husband, Bradley "Brad" Hamlett, both of Farragut.

"We were hoping it would be spring, but at this point it looks like it's going to be summer," she added. "It's been quite a process."

"We're so excited."

Having been in business for almost 30 years, "We've kind of been on a long journey," Joy said, noting the business was started by her husband and his father, Jim Hamlett.

The original store opened in 1995 at the former Thrifty Nickel location near Pellissippi Parkway and across from Fort Sanders West.

"It was a very poor location at the time," Joy recalled. "In 2000, they were struggling, deciding whether to close or move, and at the last minute they found a location, North Peters Road, which was across the street from our current location."

"They moved in next door to where I was working at the time," she added. "That's how (Brad) and I met ... we got married in 2002."

Up until that point, the store was just chocolate. "Once we got married, there was a need for us to continue to grow, and the shop I was working in prior closed, which was kind of like a gift shop," Joy said.

"We just, kind of, set out to add more (merchandise) to the



Photo submitted

Bradley "Brad" and Joy Hamlett, owners of Bradley's Gift & Home, check out progress on their new store, where they are opening a second location — the first in their hometown of Farragut — in Town Center this summer.

chocolate shop," she added. "We went to market, started picking out other treasures — candles and linens and pretty things, home goods and gifts."

"It really took off. People would buy a box of chocolate with a little candle as a happy little gift."

Fast-forwarding, "We have all kinds of treasures now," Joy said. "We have jewelry, baby gifts and home décor."

Among their signature favorite chocolates are their Rocky Top Caramel Corn Pop and Tennessee Walking Stick pretzels.

See **BRADLEY'S** on Page 6A

## Dixie Lee PureMagic



Alan Sloan

Based upon signage, a new PureMagic carwash location is apparently coming to Dixie Lee Junction just beyond the Town of Farragut limits in Loudon County sometime in 2025. While work is under way, farragutpress was unable — despite repeated attempts — to connect with a PureMagic spokesperson to learn building details. We will seek that for next week's issue.

## businessbriefs

• **Darren Reasonover** recently joined **Rather & Kitzel** as an associate advisor. He will be working with existing RK advisors to help clients make informed decisions with their money. He is a Knoxville native who graduated from Hardin Valley Academy.

• **Knox County Criminal Court Clerk Mike Hammond** recently was elected by his peers to head the Tennessee State Court Clerks Association as its president for 2025.

"I am grateful to my fellow clerks from Memphis to Mountain City for giving me the

chance to lead the organization," Hammond said. "I look forward to a productive year helping the clerks with innovation and improvements in their individual offices, as well as hosting the state conference in Knoxville in May. The court system across the state functions at a high level due to the hard work of my fellow clerks."

• **Priority OnDemand** recently announced **Steve Blackburn** was named **chief administrative officer**, a newly created position, and **Phil Koster** was appointed **chief operating officer**.

In his new role as CAO, Black-

burn will focus on companywide strategic planning and implementing infrastructure and systems to support future growth. He has more than 30 years of emergency medical services experience, previously serving as the company's chief operating officer.

**Koster**, previously Southeast Regional president, succeeded **Blackburn** as COO of Priority Ambulance, overseeing all ambulance operations across the company's national footprint. **Koster** brings more than 25 years of experience in public safety and ambulance service management to the role.



Reasonover



Blackburn



Koster

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**Bradley's**

From page 5A

In 2012, they moved the store across the street and expanded.

Along with the Cedar Bluff store, Joy said, "we had a space downtown in the old Candy Factory building from 2012 to 2017," then we sold that and moved to Market Square for a few years.

and closed that one, but we kept our Cedar Bluff store," Joy said. "We kept (the Cedar Bluff store) strong and going."

However, "every since we closed the store downtown, we've been praying about it," she said. "We want to grow again ... we're ready for the next step."

Now, they are ready to expand again — this time in their hometown.

"This is our home," Joy said.

**Subdivision?**

From page 1A

posed subdivision.

"It will discourage school traffic (from using the subdivision) from coming in that way," said Brian Mohney, agent/Realtor with Saddlebrook Properties.

"I'm sure we're going to have a lot of conversations with the (Board of Education) about things dealing with traffic," Shipley added. He indicated parent and staff cars will be entering the school from Village Commons.

feet of stacking (along Village Commons Boulevard)," he said, adding one of the Planning Commission's conditions will be to ask the school system to pre-grade for a third stacking lane while they have the equipment on site.

"One of the considerations for doing this project with Saddlebrook was that through traffic would be a negative to residents," Mohney said. "I've heard the residents of Baldwin Park and Boring Road are concerned about (the traffic)."

However, he added he is not worried about there being traffic in the subdivision.

**Poppets Play Place cuts ribbon for opening**



Tammy Cheek

Owners Michael and Victoria Boyle (center, with scissors) get ready to cut the ribbon on their indoor playground business, Poppets Play Place, during a Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce event in Poppets Play Place 154 West End Ave., Tuesday, Jan. 14.

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## 3 swim-dive state champs; CCS roars

BHS-Webb dive pair, HVA Hall, Lion Hall among TISCA highlights

**ALAN SLOAN**  
editor@farragutpress.com

**KNOXVILLE** — Three state champions representing Hardin Valley Academy, Bearden High School and Webb School of Knoxville combined with HVA and Concord Christian School's high boys team finishes — CCS with just 11 swimmers — to make a big splash at last weekend's state meet.

Throw in Farragut High School's girls finishing an East Tennessee best seventh as a team and you have a number of headline performances during TISCA State High School Championships in Allan Jones Aquatic Center at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, which ended with finals competitions Saturday evening, Feb. 8.

### Aqua Hawks led by Hall

In the men's 200-yard freestyle, Hardin Valley Academy junior Hayden Hall finished as state champion (1:37.45) and also finished fourth in the men's 100-freestyle (:44.94), helping to lead his Aqua Hawks to an eighth-place boys finish and a combined ninth-place among teams with boys and girls participants — 12th among all teams.

As for Hall, "He is now an All-American and has his Winter and Summer Jr. National Cut," HVA head coach Cori Glafenhein said. "He also is a Scholastic All-American."

Overall, "I want to express how proud I am of all the athletes involved with Hardin Valley Aquatics, both middle and high school," she added. "The swimmers on this team are so supportive of each other, they celebrate each others victories ... (and) they build each other up when they may feel defeated. ..."

### Griffith, Barber champs

In 1-meter diving, it was a West Knox County sweep: Bearden sophomore Sarah Griffith was women's state champ (480.45), while Webb School of Knoxville senior Brooks Barber earned a state title (479.10). Bulldog Garrett Bailey took third among the boys (463.30).

### CCS Lions success

The Lions boys finished seventh (122.50), while CCS was eighth overall in the combined results among schools with both girls and boys competitors — 11th combined counting all schools.

In the men's 100-breaststroke, Concord sophomore Landon Hall took third (54.81) while also finishing third in



(Above) Sophomore Landon Hall was at the top among Concord Christian School swimmers during TISCA State Meet Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7-8, in Allan Jones Aquatic Center at the University of Tennessee. Hall finished third in men's 100-yard breaststroke, third in 200-IM and was a leg on the Lions' third-place 200-medley relay. (Right) Among 1-meter diving, Webb School of Knoxville senior Brooks Barber earned a state title (479.10), while Bearden sophomore Sarah Griffith was women's state champ (480.45). (Below) HVA junior Hayden Hall, far right, is among Aqua Hawks teammates, from left, senior Connor Daniels, sophomore Landon Cleland and junior Cole McIntosh who hold the boys team's eighth-place trophy.

Action photo above courtesy of Tony Cox/photos below by Alan Sloan



200-IM (1:49.24).

The first leg in the Lions' 200-yard medley relay, Hall joined seniors Christopher Rector, Charlie Houston and Kolby Leach to earn third place (1:32.33).

About Concord's high finishes, Rector, Lions team captain, spoke for the team.

"It's been a truly incredible

run for such a tiny Christian School — we have just over 200 kids in our high school," Rector said.

"And we come to a meet like this and compete with teams that can recruit, teams that have thousands of kids in their high school, and we come in seventh for boys and eighth combined," he added.

### Other HVA/FHS finishes

In the women's 500-free-style, HVA freshman Katelyn Dutrow earned the runner-up spot (4:55.73).

In the women's 200-free-style relay, FHS took fourth with senior Karley Wolfgram, junior Aydan Skelton and seniors Kendall Hudgens and Karolina Nosarzewski (1:38.84).

## State's #3 Bearden girls outlast Lady Admirals

**BILL HOWARD**  
editor@farragutpress.com

It was a typical back-and-forth game between longtime rivals into the third quarter until one team pulled away.

In the end, Bearden High School's girls' basketball team got the regular-season sweep against Farragut, 54-46, in FHS Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium Friday night, Feb. 7.

While BHS junior point guard Natalya Hodge led all scorers with 21, the state's third-ranked Lady Dawgs (25-4 overall, 9-0 in District 4-4A) used defense to force the Lady Ads to rely heavily on the three-ball — but FHS had way too many misses.

"We got some decent looks, but you gotta be able to knock 'em down," Jason Mayfield, Farragut head coach, said.

"Our defense did a great job of holding them under 50 points," Justin Underwood, Lady Bulldogs head coach, said. "I just thought our defense was fantastic."

Jaci Neubert and Trinity Curry each scored 13 for FHS (19-8, 7-2).

See LADIES on Page 3B

## Dawgs, #4, hold off late Farragut rally

**BILL HOWARD**  
editor@farragutpress.com

It was yet another tough and hard-fought basketball game between longtime rivals.

Friday night, Feb. 7, in Lynn E. Sexton Gym, Bearden's No. 4 state-ranked boys' team used a late third-quarter run to build a six-point lead against Farragut that it wouldn't relinquish, prevailing 54-48. "We battled back, we had an opportunity," FHS head coach JP Burris said. "We just didn't execute there at the end."

"Farragut brought a great fight tonight," BHS head coach Jeremy Parrott said.

When Bearden's JaMichael Blair hit a lay-up with 6:07 left in the game, it gave the Bulldogs an eight-point lead, 47-39.

But the Ads answered with five straight — a lay-up and a three-point basket by point guard Parker Lane — to make it 47-44 with 3:14 left. Bryce Howard hit two free throws, cutting it one at 49-48 with 50 seconds left.

They wouldn't score again. FHS senior forward Dom

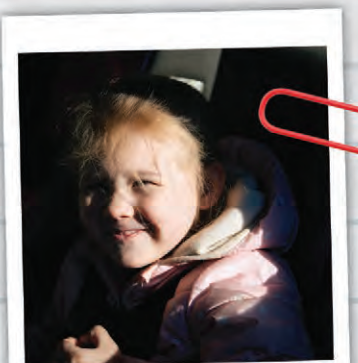
See BHS-ADS on Page 3B

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# Champs Connatser, Leavell 'Best;' HVA team 2nd



Laws also #1 while Rohn, 48-2, among Region #2s

**ALAN SLOAN**  
editor@farragutpress.com

**MARYVILLE** — With a pair of Region II-AA champions, including the tournament's "Best Wrestler 144-and-Under," Brock Connatser, Hardin Valley Academy was team runner-up after the final round at Maryville High School Saturday afternoon, Feb. 8.

Now a three-time Region II-AA champion, Connatser — a senior in the 132 weight class whose record is 50-2 on the season (182-23 career mark) — easily defeated David Cook of Halls in the finals 9-2.

His teammate at 126, senior Jacob Laws (42-5 this season, 141-45 career record), also won the Region crown with ease, defeating Ty Davis of Halls by fall at 3:44.

"I'm just proud of those guys — two great leaders and two great people," HVA head coach Matt Bates said about Connatser and Laws.

Bates' team also had three Region runner-ups: senior Kaine Letsinger at 113, 45-9 record so far this season; senior Raed Abu Shehadeh at 138, 38-11 this season, and junior Mikeal Arce at 285 with a 22-6 season record.

Other Hawks qualifiers for Sectionals, which is Saturday, Feb. 15, at HVA, were sophomore Rosalio Arce, third at 120; senior Austin Murphy, third at 190; senior Evan Clarke, third at 215; senior Grady Estep, fourth at 144; junior Ryland Wilkinson, fourth at 157; and senior Jacob Carter, fourth at 165.

**Leavell, other top Dawgs**  
Bearden's Deameion Leavell improved to 20-1 this season and 115-17 in his career while dominant at 165. He disposed of Halls Kizer Meek with a fall at 1:39 in the finals while named the tournament's "Best Wrestler 150 and Above."



Head coach Matt Bates (with plaque) alongside his Region II-AA team runner-up HVA Hawks.

Among Leavell's feats this season was finishing first in the prestigious Bradley Invitational.

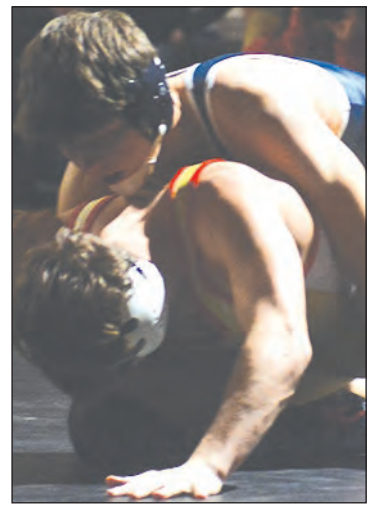
About Leavell, "He's been around wrestling most of his life; he grew up wrestling in Kentucky. ... He's a very athletic kid who's a better football player than a wrestler (a Bulldogs wide receiver star)," BHS head coach Daniel Harvey said. "And he works hard, a very selfless kid."

Five other Bulldogs qualified for Sectionals: sophomore Jack Cordnell, third at 106; senior Alexander Rawson, third at 150; sophomore Jasstin Chandler, third at 157; junior Gary Carlisle, third at 175; and freshman Parker Stevens,

fourth place at 113.

**Rohn, other top Admirals**  
Farragut senior Dylan Rohn, sporting an impressive 48-2 mark heading into Sectionals Saturday (143-31 career record), reached the Region finals before losing for just the second time all season, 13-6 to Halls senior Jordan Sexton (22-5), a two-time state meet medalist.

Six other Admirals qualified for Sectionals: junior Jonathan Laney, third at 138; senior Phillip Stafford-Hedge, third at 165; freshman James Swagerty, fourth at 106; freshman Isaac Maine, fourth at 175; Zack Gonzalez, fourth at 190; and sophomore Izake Koga, fourth at 285.



Though losing this 144-pound Class Region II-AA title match to Halls' Jordan Sexton, FHS senior Dylan Rohn (blue) had his moments of dominance.

All wrestling photos by Alan Sloan  
**(Top)** Brock Connatser, Hardin Valley Academy senior, was named "Best Wrestler 144-and-Under" as Region II-AA champ for a third straight season, this year in the 132-pound class. **(Above middle)** Bearden junior Deameion Leavell, champ at 165, was named "Best Wrestler 150-and-Above" at the Region tourney. **(Above)** Jacob Laws, HVA senior, was Region champion at 126.

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# Inaugural Jack Tate Award; pair of Lady Ads honored for 1,000+ career pts.



**(Center)** Inaugural Jack Tate Award at Farragut High School, which honors Tate, right, beside athletic director Donald Dodgen, was presented Friday night, Feb. 7, between varsity games featuring the Ads and Lady Ads versus Bearden in FHS's Lynn E. Sexton Gym on Donald Dodgen Court. The award will annually honor someone at the school "having Jack's qualities of Dedication, Loyalty, Consistency, a Highly Valued member of the community and a Positive Attitude," Dodgen said. **(Left)** Tate chose the inaugural Jack Tate Award honoree to be FHS senior Ethan Kern, second from left, a basketball manager. "Ethan is a hard worker who is dedicated to the basketball program," Tate said. "He is extremely loyal to the coaching staff; a highly valued (team) member ... treats everyone with respect and is a first-class young man with a contagious positive attitude." Also pictured is JP Burris, third from left, FHS varsity boys head coach, and Cory Johnson, boys junior varsity coach.

**All Farragut High School basketball photos by Alan Sloan**  
Two of the top scorers for the Farragut Lady Admirals basketball team, junior wing KJ McNealy, left, and senior wing Jaci Neubert, were honored for recently reaching and surpassing the 1,000-point career scoring mark. Alongside their head coach, Jason Mayfield, the honor came between FHS varsity home games versus rival Bearden Friday night, Feb. 7.

**BHS-Ads**  
From page 1B  
VanAcker scored a game-high 23. Junior point guard Justin Nordin led Bearden with 15

points, while Blair got 11 for the Dawgs (24-4 overall, 8-1 in District 4-4A starting the week). King Hubbard added 10. Lane scored 13 for FHS (16-11, 3-6 to start the week).

**Ladies**  
From page 1B  
The Lady Ads led 12-11 after one quarter, but a 6-3 Bearden stretch to end the half made it

26-22 Lady Dawgs. An 8-3 FHS run within the first two minutes of the third quarter gave Farragut a 30-29 lead. But the Lady Dawgs grabbed the momentum right back,

outscored the Lady Ads 14-6 the rest of the quarter to lead 43-36 with eight minutes to go. That lead grew to 12 before a late Farragut run cut the lead to 48-44 with 1:22 to play.

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## Concord United Methodist Church's Crop Drop

Concord United Methodist Church members have been on a mission to help alleviate hunger and serve their community in a number of ways with their annual Mission Blitz.

The mission included a Crop Drop, which took place Friday and Saturday, Jan. 17-18, where church volunteers bagged and weighed 40,000 pounds of sweet potatoes, which were donated by area farmers, before

distributing the sweet potatoes to area food pantries, such as Shepherd of Hope at Faith Lutheran Church in Farragut.

Members also volunteered at Wesley House Community Center, 1719 Reynolds St., near Western Avenue in Knoxville; packed hygiene kits for 300 families affected by disasters; and provided treats to 20 area firehalls, among other services.



Mark Mowery operates the fork lift



Gill Sallade helps move boxes of sweet potatoes



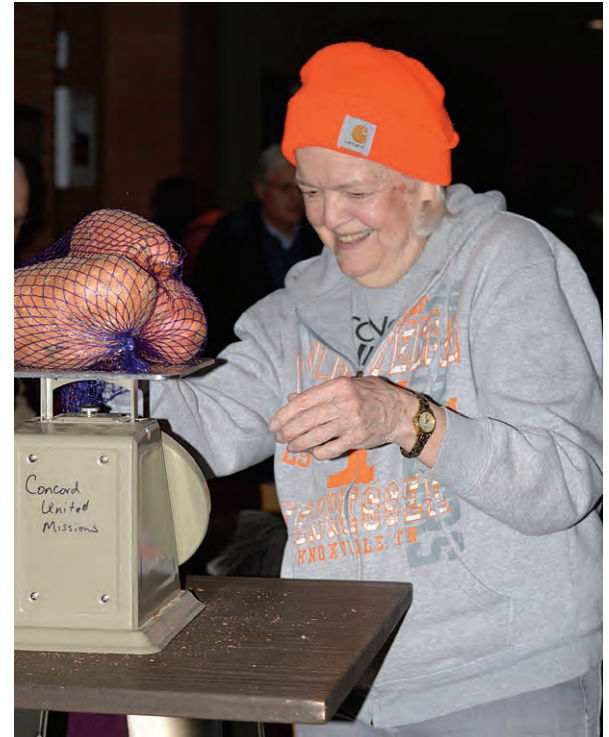
Jeffrey Nichols, 15, weighs his bag



Guy Nichols fills his bag with sweet potatoes



Sue Bortner finishes filling her bags



Brenda Fields weighs her sweet potatoes



Lily Hicks, 10, gets ready to fill bags



Kristin Hicks



Chaqualia Wyatt



Volunteer Ryan Fields is signed in by Carolyn Phillips.



From left, Clara Hicks, Haley Moore and Piper Moore fill bags

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## 'Still my Valentine' after decades of love

Morning Pointe couples, three, married 70, 69, 68 years

TAMMY CHEEK

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

**KNOXVILLE** — Three Morning Pointe Assisted Living Knoxville residents at Westland Drive are spending Valentines together, even after 68, 69 and 70 years.

Don and Helen Baxter have been married for 68 years; Houston and Odence Seat for 70 years and Bob and Barbara Mock for 69 years.

### Houston and Odence

"We've been together through it all," Odence said about her life with Houston.

The Seats will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary this year. The couple met in Professor J. Ridley Stroup's Bible class at Lipscomb University. "We were good friends, and I only went to college two years," said Odence, a Petersburg, Tennessee, native while Houston is a Donaldson, Tennessee, native.

"He graduated from Lipscomb — he had a degree in accounting — and then he had to go into the Army for two years," she added.

Odence remembered she was charmed by Houston's good looks "and sweet disposition," and Houston felt the same about Odence.

However, the romance did not start until after he was in the Army.

"He worked his way through college at Kroger," Odence said. "So, therefore, we did not date a whole lot then. But when he went into the service, we started writing regularly."

"Then after he got out of the service ... we got engaged in September and got married the fourth of November (1955)," she said. "We waited until he had a good job."

Odence was 23 and Houston was 25 on their wedding day.

While living in Nashville at that time, he was hired as an accountant with International Harvester Company. A year-and-a-half later, IHC moved its offices to Memphis, but Houston went to work for the IHC dealership in Nashville and worked there for 22 years.

After that business sold, Houston and his cousin bought a furniture store in Nashville, ran it for about seven years then Houston went to work for Tennessee Department of Human Services for 23 years.

"When we were married, I was working for an insurance company ... now American General ... a secretary," Odence said.

"We had our daughter the first year we were married, and then I went back to work after I had her. Five years later, we had a son," she recalled. "I quit work at that time ... I stayed at home until (her son) was 3 years old."

Then, "I started working at the kindergarten part-time at our church," Odence added. "After two years, I became the director of the kindergarten, and I worked there 18 years."



Recent photos by Tammy Creek/wedding photos submitted

The wedding photo and a current photo as senior citizens are paired together with three couples who are residents of Morning Pointe of Knoxville: Houston and Odence Seat (**top and above**); Don and Helen Baxter (**top right**); and Bob and Barbara Mock (**above right and right**).

When she turned 51, Odence began working at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, doing medical transcription until she was 72 years old, when she retired. But she returned to the USDA, working part time until she was 82.

"Church was always big for us," Odence said. "We both had our hobbies that we liked to do. He liked to do woodworking and play music ... he can play the piano, guitar ... recording music. I loved to sew and we had lots of good friends."

"We had a little dinner club

we were in for years. I think we stayed busy. I think that's why things were good for us."

She also attributed their long marriage to their being older and both had been on their own before they married.

### Bob and Barbara

"We've had a good life," Bob said. "Like any couple, we've had our ups and downs ..."

"But we stayed together," Barbara added. "We've really loved one another."

Friends from the start, the

See 217 TOTAL YEARS, Page 8B



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## KCS top 'Bees'

Knoxville Christian School's Elementary Spelling Bee Thursday Feb. 6, featured event organizer Heidi Smith, elementary teacher. Among grades second through fifth are the top five finishers, in order from left: Sadie Hickman (champion), Jonathan Jacques, Blakely Butler, Liam Schilling and Hunter Robinson.



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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, Feb. 20, in FHS Commons. All families from all Farragut schools are welcome free of charge.

• **Ladies who are new to the area, or who just want to make new friends, are invited to lunch with a speaker** at Bearden Banquet Hall, 5806 Kingston Pike, beginning at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19. Speaker will be Maureen Collins, a chaplain whose duties include work at a maximum-security prison for men. Make reservations by Wednesday, Feb. 12, by calling 865-205-4154.

• **American Red Cross urges donors to give blood or platelets in February** to help build up the blood supply after thousands of donations went uncollected last month.

People of all blood types – especially those with type O negative blood – are encouraged to make and keep their donation appointments so hospitals can continue to ensure critical care for patients this winter.

Since the beginning of the year, hundreds of blood drives have been canceled and more than 15,000 blood and platelet donations have gone uncollected due to severe winter

weather and wildfires.

As February continues, so does the potential for additional weather systems to disrupt blood drives. Flu and other seasonal illnesses are spreading, which also could force more people to cancel scheduled donation appointments, compounding the impact to collecting lifesaving blood products.

To book a time to give blood or platelets, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a thank-you, all who come to give through Friday, Feb. 28, will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice.

See [RedCrossBlood.org/Flurry](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Flurry) for details.

• **Knoxville Bar Association, in partnership with Legal Aid of East Tennessee, will host a Debt Relief Legal Advice Clinic** for pre-screened individuals beginning at 8:45 a.m., Saturday, March 8, in the Public Defender's Community Law Office (1101 Liberty St. in Knoxville).

Qualified individuals must live in Knox, Blount, Loudon or Sevier County.

Attorneys will volunteer to conduct initial meetings with the clients to discuss situations/options.

See **PLANNER** on Page 7B

## Cat scratch fever is real

**Q:** A friend just told me that cat scratch fever is a real disease. I really thought it was just a joke and an old song. Are my pets at risk? Can you tell me more? R.T., Farragut

**A:** Yes, cat scratch fever is a real disease. The disease is caused by a bacteria called Bartonella, which lives inside the red blood cells. Species affected include cats, dogs and people.

Fleas carry the bacteria Bartonella, and it continues to live in their feces, also known as "flea dirt." When a cat with fleas (and flea



Ask the Vet  
**Dr. Stephanie Myers**

See **ASK VET** on Page 7B

## classifieds

625 AUCTION

625 AUCTION

### ONLINE ONLY ESTATE AUCTION

#### FORT LOUDOUN LAKEFRONT HOME 133 CEDAR CREST LANE - FRIENDSVILLE, TN 37737



#### OPEN HOUSE:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH FROM 9AM-1PM (ET)

#### BIDDING BEGINS TO CLOSE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH AT 12PM - NOON (ET)

Single level brick ranch home with approx. 1248 SF

Situated on a lovely 1.41+/- acre lot with approx. 144' of Fort Loudoun Lake frontage

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AUCTION & REALTY, LLC

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865-938-3403

KENNY PHILLIPS, AUCTIONEER - LIC # 2385

### SPECIAL 2-DAY ONLINE ONLY ESTATE AUCTION SELLING ON BEHALF OF THE DONALD PARKINS ESTATE

**SALE #1 | FIREARMS, JEWELRY & KNIVES**  
PREVIEW: Friday, February 7th from 1PM-5PM  
Located at Powell Auction & Realty  
6729 Pleasant Ridge Road - Knoxville, TN 37921

**BIDDING BEGINS TO CLOSE:**  
Saturday, February 8th at 7PM (ET)



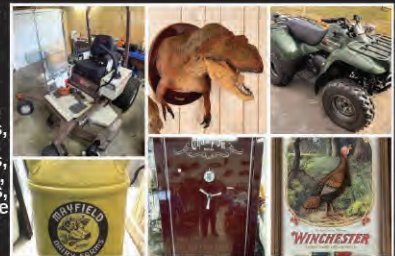
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### SALE #2 | HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, TOOLS, COLLECTIBLES & MORE

PREVIEW: Friday, February 7th from 9AM-1PM  
Located at 133 Cedar Crest Lane - Friendsville, TN 37737

**BIDDING BEGINS TO CLOSE:**  
Sunday, February 9th at 7PM (ET)

OVER 900 LOTS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY INCLUDING:  
Taxidermy collection, Collection of "All God's Children" figurines, Collection of "Precious Moments" figurines, Dolls, Elvis collection, Beatles collection, Large Mayfield Dairy Farms collection, NASCAR collection, University of Tennessee collectibles, Advertising collectibles, Furniture, Antiques, Lamps, 40+ pc set of Fiesta Ware, Small appliances, Framed & unframed artwork, Books, Music, Movies, TV's, Clothing, Tools, Fishing lures & rods (including some nice old wood lures), Grasshopper 329 Zero Turn Lawn Mower, DR Brand Brush Cutter, Like new Kawasaki 4-wheeler with only 38 hours, and MUCH, MUCH MORE  
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**Planner**

From page 6B

Qualification will be income-based, with pre-screening by LAET. The client served through the clinic may also be eligible for free bankruptcy services.

**Ask Vet**

From page 6B

dirty) scratches himself, the bacteria can enter his/her body through a break in the skin barrier. Likewise, that same cat may scratch another cat, dog or a person and would

transmit the bacteria.

Most cats with normal immune systems will harbor the bacteria and not show clinical signs. Cats that become ill may experience fever, anorexia, lethargy and/or lymph node enlargement. Although dogs can become

infected, it is quite uncommon.

Disease rates are higher in warm climate areas with heat and humidity, where fleas thrive. Although we do experience winter weather in East Tennessee, strict flea control is recommended throughout the year, especially if your pets

sleep in your bed. If your cat or dog is not currently protected against fleas, please speak with your veterinarian; he or she can guide you as to what is best for your pets.

For questions, e-mail Dr. Myers at lenoircityac@gmail.com



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www.faithloves.org

Christian Friends of Israel  
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Jerusalem, 91015 Israel  
Gen 12:3 www.cfijerusalem.org

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**Worship Complex**  
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Knoxville, TN 37932  
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Church: (865) 671-3370  
Fax: (865) 966-2072  
Email: newcovenant@newcovenantbc.com  
Website: www.newcovenantbc.com  
**Weekly In-Person Services**  
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Sun: Worship Service (11:00 AM)  
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**On ZOOM**  
Wed: Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (6:45 PM)  
Wed: Cultivate (7:00 PM)  
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11 a.m.  
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SUNDAY | 9:30 & 11:00A  
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**203 HELP WANTED**

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---

**000 LEGALS**


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

**FARRAGUT BEER BOARD AGENDA**  
Farragut Community Center • 239 Jamestowne Blvd  
February 13, 2025 | 5:55 PM

- I. Approval of Minutes
  - A. January 23, 2025
- II. Beer Permit
  - A. Approval of Class 6, Special Occasion beer permit for St. John Neumann Church & School, "Off to the Races" Derby Event

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.

**000 LEGALS**

  
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**FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**  
Farragut Community Center • 239 Jamestowne Blvd  
**AGENDA • February 13, 2025**  
**BMA WORKSHOP**  
**General Fund Revenue/Expenditure Projections for FY25/FY26 • 5:00 PM**  
**BEER BOARD MEETING • 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. January 23, 2025
- IV. Mayor's Report
- V. Ordinances & Resolutions
  - A. Ordinances
    1. First Reading
    - a) Ordinance 25-03, ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Fund,


Capital Investment Program & ADA Capital Projects Funds

b) Ordinance 25-04 to amend Farragut Municipal Code, Chapter 2 – Administration, Article 6 – Finance, Section 2-299 to replace in the existing section in its entirety with a new ordinance

- VI. Citizens Forum
- VII. Town Administrator's Report
- VIII. Town Attorney's Report

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**000 LEGALS**

  
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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut will hold a public hearing on February 27, 2025, at 6:00 PM, at the Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd, to hear citizen's comments on the following ordinances:

- I. Ordinance 25-03, ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Fund, Capital Investment Program & ADA Capital Projects Funds
- II. Ordinance 25-04, ordinance amending Farragut Municipal Code, Chapter 2 – Administration, Article 6 – Finance, Section 2-299 to replace in the existing section in its entirety with a new ordinance

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 MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA**  
February 20, 2025 | Farragut Community Center – Assembly Room | 6:00 p.m.  
For questions, please e-mail Mark Shipley at mshipley@townoffarragut.org, or Bart Hose at bhose@townoffarragut.org

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes for the January 16, 2025 meeting
3. Discussion and public hearing on approval of a site plan for pick-leball courts at Mayor Bob Leonard Park off Harrison Road (Town of Farragut, Applicant)
4. Discussion and public hearing on approval of a final plat for Biddle Farms Residential, Parcel 3.22, Tax Map 143, 3 Lots, 19.18 Acres, Zoned PCD (Biddle Farms Residential, LLC, Applicant)
5. Discussion and public hearing on approval of a site plan for an Express Oil Change and Tire Engineers development, 11155 and 11157 Kingston Pike, 6.6 Acres, Zoned C-1 (Civil Consultants, Inc., Applicant)
6. Discussion and public hearing on approval of a site plan amendment request to leave the section of retaining wall not visible from Kingston Pike as plain block in association with the Dogtopia of Farragut at 12924 Kingston Pike (Urban Engineering, Applicant)
7. Discussion and public hearing on 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)

8. Discussion and public hearing on a request to amend the text of the Farragut Zoning Ordinance in the Planned Commercial District (PCD) so that a proposed automobile-oriented use that has frontage on a major arterial street may have a drive-through under certain conditions (Kingston Pike Properties 2, LLC, Applicant)
9. Discussion and public hearing on a request to amend the text of the Farragut Zoning Ordinance to lessen the setback for outdoor fences associated with commercial kennels in the General Commercial (C-1) Zoning District where the kennel abuts property that is not zoned residential or agricultural (Urban Engineering, Applicant)
10. Approval of utilities
11. Citizen forum

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

## 217 total years

From page 5B

Mocks were only 15 when Bob, seven months' older, and Barbara met in their church's youth group in Indianapolis.

"I think we were sophomores in high school," recalled Barbara, now 89.

"I was attracted to her, and I had prayed for a young girl for me to meet," said Bob, now 90. "I'm from a broken family, and I was lonely. I wanted some female companionship."

"I was fun-loving and outward in my expression with friends," Barbara said. "And, like he said, he was looking for a friend."

"We were young, not able to drive," Bob said. "Many times I took her home on my bike."

"I sat on the bar," she said. "But his arms were around me so that's not bad."

The Mocks started dating as sophomores, but then "we were getting too serious in my opinion, so I broke it off because I knew there was no way I could get really serious with a girl because I had goals of go-

ing to college," Bob recalled. "While he was in college, he was in Michigan," Barbara said. "... He went off to college every eight weeks, earning his degree in engineering."

But he still thought of Barbara. "Sometime during my junior year, I called her and asked her for a Coke date," Bob recalled. "By this time, she was pinned (a fraternity term meaning the stage before engagement) to another guy."

"(Her then boyfriend) was going to the University of Kentucky," Barbara recalled.

"But she went out with me on the Coke date, and I won her back," Bob said "I eventually pinned her myself."

"I didn't go to college," Barbara said. "I took all the professional classes I could in high school, ,,,."

The couple then married on June 30, 1956. "We've made a good combination," she said. "I liked to have fun ... and he was serious, determined to get his education and that meant he was going to be my husband provider."

He graduated with a degree

in mechanical engineering in a co-op program from General Motors Institute, now known as Kettering University, in Flint, Michigan.

But "as soon as I got out of college, I got into computers," Bob said. "I was a programmer. I retired from IBM."

Before his retirement, "we've lived coast to coast," he said. They also had a six-month assignment in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Mocks have two children, Robert and Michelle, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

### Don and Helen

Don and Helen, both 91, who have been married for 68 years, met at a bowling banquet in college, each with other dates.

"We sat across from each other," Don recalled.

"We went to the same high school (in Newport-News, Virginia), and he dated a friend of mine, so I knew who he was," Helen said. "He was pretty good looking. He was tall."

"I liked what I saw," Don said about Helen. "Attractive, beautiful."

He asked Helen out on a date, but she declined ... twice. "I had other plans," she said. Still, they became good friends.

Later, Don's persistence came through, she gave in and they started dating in 1964. Two years later, he proposed on Valentine's Day. "It was snowing," he recalled.

At the time, Don was attending Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and she was working in the shipyard credit union.

"When we got married, he was still in college. He said, 'When I graduate, you can stop working.' So I took him at his word and I stopped working. I stayed home."

After college, Don attended Virginia Biotech Innovators (now Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg, Virginia, then transferred to Old Dominion University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in business management.

Then, he worked at the Newport-News Shipping and Dry dock Company for about 10 years before he got an "offer

I couldn't refuse" to work for TVA's nuclear program and U.S. Department of Defense in Oak Ridge about 10 years, Don said.

Afterward, he returned to Newport-News to take care of his family until 1990 then came back to Knoxville to live close to their daughters.

Around that time, Don said he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's and Helen was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and needed care.

The Baxters have two children, Debbie and Cindy, and five grandchildren.

Even after 68 years, "it's been great," Don said about their marriage. "I wouldn't trade her for anything. She's still putting up with me. ..."

Helen's advice for a long marriage is: "Be understanding. Everyone is different, and you can't change them." Also, "trust each other; be willing to compromise."

Among Don's advice is: "Don't think you're going to get with somebody and change them" and "respect one another."

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# CHAMBER LIFE

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

VOL. 39, NO. 2

A PUBLICATION OF THE FARRAGUT WEST KNOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FEBRUARY 2025

## Last Call for Speaker Series Seats

The chamber's Speaker Series events provide an opportunity for businesses and the public to hear from speakers on specific topics or issues that are of importance to them, their business, and our community. Members receive discounted pricing as a benefit of membership. Attendees from the community are always welcome.

Interested attendees don't have much time left to register to attend the upcoming Speaker Series event on February 18, "Building Solutions: Tackling Housing & Homelessness Together" presented by Tennessee State Bank and taking place at Cokesbury United Methodist Church in West Knoxville. Limited tickets remain and the final deadline is Thursday, February 13.

The curated five person panel will tackle this often hard-to-talk-about topic with help from veteran emcee, Hallerin Hilton Hill. The goal will be to help attendees understand the complexities of the issue, the critical nature of it, and what solutions are being put forward that businesses

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE FARRAGUT WEST KNOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### 2025 SPEAKER SERIES:

#### Building Solutions - Tackling Housing & Homelessness Together

*with special guest speakers*

- Tracey Williams
- Katie McIlwain
- Erin Read
- Law Enforcement Officials

**Emceed by:**  
**Hallerin Hilton Hill**



**Details**

**February 18, 2025**  
**11:30a - 1:00p**

**Cokesbury Church**  
**9919 Kingston Pk.**  
**Knoxville 37922**

**Presenting Sponsor**



**Tennessee State Bank**  
"Banking at its Best"®

**Table Sponsor:**  **Slamdot**  **Classy Caterer**

**Municipal Partners:**  **KNOX COUNTY TENNESSEE**  
 **farragut**

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and individuals can help support. Local experts from a variety of sectors will join the conversation to explore how we can work together toward solutions, including: Tracey

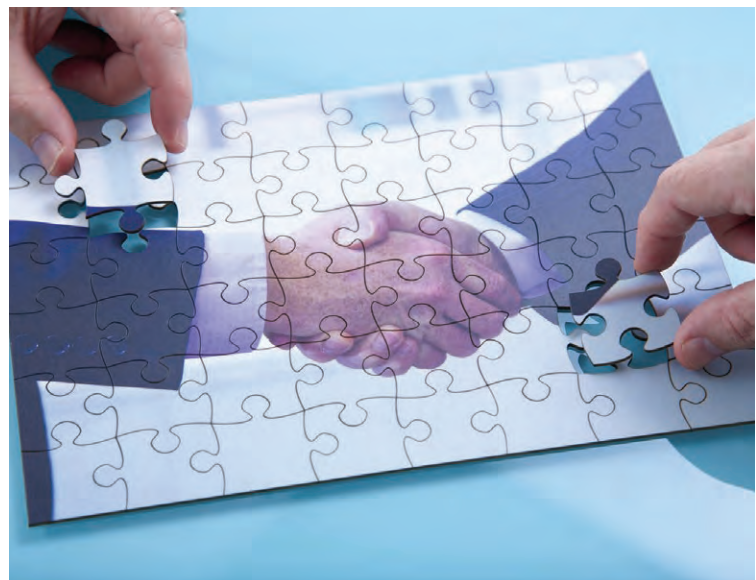
Williams, CEO of Volunteer Ministry Center; Katie McIlwain, Cokesbury United Methodist Connection Center Director in West Knoxville; Erin Read, Executive Director

for Knoxville-Knox County Office of Housing Stability and law enforcement from both Knoxville Police Department and Knox County Sheriff's Office.

Doors open at 11:15am; Lunch is provided by Classy Caterer. Sponsors and attendees can register at [farragut-chamber.com](http://farragut-chamber.com)

See **SPEAKER SERIES** on Page 2

## Annual Meeting Invites Members to Attend



In compliance with the chamber's bylaws, members are warmly invited to attend our Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 20th to both network, meet our current board of directors, and to hear updates on the state of the chamber, our accomplishments from 2024 and what's ahead for 2025.

Fellow member Southeast Restoration is graciously providing both space and light

refreshments for all attendees. Located at 10325 Yellow Pine Lane convenient to Lovell Road and Pellissippi Parkway, Southeast Restoration is pleased to make their space available to the chamber and its community, and they look forward to meeting many of our members.

There is no cost to attend the Annual Meeting; simply visit [farragutchamber.com](http://farragutchamber.com) > Events to register.



## 2025 Expo Tickets now available

Booths are filling fast for the 2025 Business Expo presented by Slamdot, taking place on Wednesday April 23, from 1:00pm to 6:00pm at Rothchild Event Center. Remaining booths are currently still open to chamber members only, and will open to non-member businesses on March 1.

Tickets are now available with deep discounts for pre-purchase, so anyone considering attending this fantastic chance to network and meet dozens of new businesses or potential service providers should not wait! Chamber

members and their staff can pre-register to attend at NO cost as a benefit of membership. Members must login using the Online Member Portal and employees must be listed as active within the member profile.

Non-members or members of the public can pre-purchase 2 tickets for just \$5 ahead of the event. Entry is \$5/person at the door of the event, regardless of membership status.

The Expo Bootcamp took place on February 5 and approximately 50 attendees heard

tips, tricks and best practices from panelists and member vendors alike. The chamber wants to thank the following members for showcasing their do's and don'ts and taking the time to introduce themselves to area businesses: Alamo Branding, Burns Mailing and Printing, and Pureline Design & Print, Inc.

Businesses can still register to sponsor or buy a booth at the 2025 Business Expo (April 23 at Rothchild Event Center, 1:00pm to 6:00pm) by visiting [farragutchamber.com](http://farragutchamber.com) > Events.

# Enterprise Club

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

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



# Networkings

## Did you know?

When writing to Jean-Baptiste Le Roy in 1789, Benjamin Franklin shared a truth that remains to this day: "In this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes." It is that time of year when small business owners begin the mad scramble to gather documents, and too often, find an accountant to file their taxes. Taxes are enough to worry to death!

Did you know that as business owners, you have more than just the April 15th date to be aware of when it comes to taxes? As "Tax Preparation Season" is now underway and April 15th is rapidly approaching, it is important for business owners to stay informed about other key dates related to their business taxes. And if while reading this you have suddenly felt every single receipt from last year's purchases weighing on your head, do not fret just yet. You still have time.

The very first task you will want to tackle is making sure your books are updated. We are not referring to the latest bestselling novels. Your "books" are your financial records for your business to support your tax returns, including your income statement and balance sheet. If you utilize a CPA or tax service to prepare your filings and returns, make certain you provide them with your financial information in a timely and orderly fashion. Tax preparers will tell you that a box of receipts is not orderly.

The next step you will want to take is to make sure you understand your deductions. For instance, if you are a Sole Proprietor, these are the deductions on your Schedule C such as mileage, phone/internet, business insurance, capital purchases, and legal/professional services and fees. Another deduction you will want to remember if you have office space at home is your Office Deduction.

While April 15th is generally the date we associate with when taxes are due, there are a few other important dates that you will want to be aware of including:

**MARCH 1** – Tangible Personal Property Tax Form is due to the Knox County Property Assessor's Office (the blue form you received in January)

**MARCH 15** – Form 1065, 1120 or 1120S Forms are due

**APRIL 15** – In TNTAP, both the Franchise and Excise Taxes and your Business Taxes are due. The Business Taxes are also how you renew your license for Businesses who make \$100K+ in revenue.

If you are still feeling overwhelmed with trying to understand your business taxes, we are here to help. Although we are not CPA's and we cannot file your taxes, we can answer almost any question that a small business owner may have. *Reach out your local TSBDC to schedule an appointment before the abovementioned deadlines.*

## Broadway Carpets & Flooring January 16, 2025



The Broadway Carpets & Flooring team gathers for a group photo at the first Chamber networking event of 2025, hosted at their location.



(L-R) Joel Ash of Ash Chiropractic and Wellness and Arp Trivedi of New York Life Insurance Company network as newer Chamber members.

## State Farm Insurance - Mike Massaglia January 23, 2025



The State Farm Insurance Mike Massaglia team gathers for a group photo at the first Chamber networking event of 2025, hosted at their location.



(L-R) Charlie Barnard of Matlock Tire Service & Auto Repair smiles for a photo with MR10 Realty team members Martha Riordan, Bailey Yarbrough and Michael Riordan.

## JCPenney Beauty January 30, 2025



The JCPenney Beauty team poses for a photo at the Chamber networking event they hosted.



(L-R) Brian Sams of Y-12 Federal Credit Union and Dennis Landfather of evolve – Strategic Pathfinder pause for a quick photo.

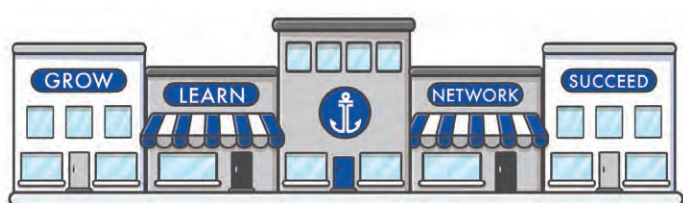
### Speaker Series

From page 1

chamber.com > Events.

A portion of all sponsorship proceeds includes a pass-through donation to two participating entities working hard

to solve this issue (Volunteer Ministry Center and Cokesbury's "Fig Tree" Connection Center in West Knoxville). The chamber appreciates the support of Presenting Sponsor Tennessee State Bank; Table Sponsors Pinnacle Financial Partners and Slamdot; and Half-Table Sponsors Cyan Insurance Solutions and oysk3 architects.



**FARRAGUT  
WEST KNOX  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE**

11826 Kingston Pike, Suite 110  
Farragut, TN 37934

(865) 675-7057 | (865) 671-2409 Fax  
e-mail: info@farragutchamber.com  
www.farragutchamber.com



# Ribbon Cuttings

## Terrain Wellness - January 7, 2025



Husband and wife owners Dr. Ebi and Kelsey Galyon prepare to cut the ribbon, celebrating Terrain's 1st year in business.

## Poppets Play Place - January 14, 2025



Husband and wife owners Victoria and Michael Boyle are joined by community members and children enjoying the facility as they cut the ribbon.

## Home-based Business Ad Solutions Media - January 21, 2025



Ange Quist, Digital Media Account Manager, is welcomed to the community with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

## Rio Grande Fence Co. - January 29, 2025



The Rio Grande team lines up to cut the ribbon, celebrating one year of business in Knoxville.

## Member Briefs

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

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

**Knoxville Habitat for Humanity** is hosting their 10th annual Sporting Clays Tournament March 20th & 21st. Participation in the tournament directly helps KHFH reach their mission of supporting veteran homeownership opportunities in Knox County. Reserve your team's spot now or consider sponsoring the event by visiting [www.knoxvillehabitat.org/sporting-clays-tournament/](http://www.knoxvillehabitat.org/sporting-clays-tournament/).

This winter, **Lee Company's** here to keep your home cozy and worry-free. From expert HVAC maintenance to plumbing and electrical repairs, their trusted professionals are ready to tackle winter's challenges. With 80 years of experience, they deliver reliable, innovative solutions tailored to your needs. Stay warm, stay safe — Lee Company has you covered! Call them at (865) 674-9097.

The **Town of Farragut** has hired a new historic resources coordinator who will soon begin work on the re-opening of the Farragut Museum! Learn more about her plans by subscribing to Farragut Matters e-newsletter. This monthly publication has the most up-to-date info on Town of Farragut projects, meetings and events. <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/57bJcWB/farragutmatters>

With support from five brave Hunks and the community, \$39,225 was raised for **Iva's Place** at their Hunks in Heels fundraiser. These funds provide emergency resources, trauma-focused therapy, and life-changing support for domestic violence survivors. This event brought hope, healing, and a brighter future for those rebuilding their lives.

Locally owned and family-operated, **The Honey Do Service** offers fixed-cost handyman services with a one-year warranty on all workmanship. From general repairs to full kitchen and bath remodels, their team serves West Knoxville and beyond with reliability and quality. Free estimates are available. (865) 690-7772

**YWCA Knoxville & the Tennessee Valley** is seeking passionate individuals to join their team. If you're committed to making a difference in the community and empowering others, this is your chance to be part of a meaningful mission. Visit their website to learn more and apply. [ywcaknox.com/](http://ywcaknox.com/)

The **Children's Museum of Oak Ridge** will host its annual International Festival on February 25 from 10:00am – 4:00pm. Guests can enjoy performances, food, crafts, and activities celebrating world cultures. Proceeds benefit the Museum. Save 20% by purchasing tickets online. Sponsorships are available. [childrensmuseumofoakridge.org/international-festival-2/](http://childrensmuseumofoakridge.org/international-festival-2/)

The **Davis Family YMCA** offers high-energy spin classes for all fitness levels. Led by motivating instructors and set to heart-pumping music, these full-body workouts help build endurance, strength, and stamina. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned cyclist, check the schedule and start crushing your fitness goals! [ymcaknoxville.org/](http://ymcaknoxville.org/)

# Welcome New Members!

**The Chamber welcomes these businesses who joined us recently in January!**

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

Kathryn Schrader founded Strategic Tax and Business in 2007 to serve small business owners with personalized, comprehensive financial management services, including tax, bookkeeping, payroll, and training. Her passionate team specializes in diverse industries, simplifying processes for entrepreneurs. Visit <http://www.strategictaxandbusiness.com> or call (865) 323-8835



As an Allstate agent in Knoxville, Alex Miller enjoys building community relationships and helping residents find personalized insurance solutions. He offers a range of coverage options, assesses immediate and long-term needs, and provides guidance to protect homes and financial futures. Call (865) 340-4721 or visit <https://agents.allstate.com/alex-miller-knoxville-tn.html>



Bed Bug Solutions East Tennessee specializes in expert, cost-effective bed bug extermination in Knoxville, Gatlinburg, and nearby areas. Offering one-year warranties, cutting-edge techniques, and exceptional customer care, their licensed team ensures homes and businesses remain bug-free. David and Elisabeth George are the management team for East Tennessee so give them a call at (865) 409-0996 or visit <https://bedbugsolutionstn.com>



Since 1984, Landscape Workshop has been a full-service grounds management company providing expert maintenance for outdoor commercial spaces. With multiple Southeast locations, they deliver consistent, superior landscaping services and offer regional clients the convenience of a single vendor for multiple sites. Visit <http://landscapeworkshop.com> or call (865) 978-2241.



East TN Properties buys houses for cash in Knoxville and surrounding areas, offering quick, flexible closings with no fees or extra costs. They purchase properties as-is, eliminating the need for repairs, cleaning, or agent involvement. Visit <http://www.easttnpro.com> or call (865) 356-1412.



New York Life agent Arp Trivedi offers tailored life insurance and financial solutions, simplifying complex options with clear explanations. Whether planning for the future or managing intricate situations, he creates customized plans to fit your needs and budget



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## New Members

From page 3

effectively. Visit <https://www.newyorklife.com/> or call (678) 993-8402.

The delicious, mobile coffee truck that brings you the caffeination inspiration you need, delivering signature coffee products—like Nitro Cold Brew and Caramel Frappe—to any occasion or festivity. And for those who don't like coffee, they offer a variety of delicious Hot Chocolates, Energy Drinks, Lemonades, and Teas. Visit <http://travelintomscoffee.com> or call (423) 963-0444.



Brain training strengthens thinking skills through games and exercises, much like physical training builds muscle. It enhances memory, attention, and processing speed, aiding learning, reading, writing, and math. Regular practice can improve cognitive abilities, helping individuals learn faster and overcome challenges. <http://www.learningrx.com> or call (865) 246-6326.



Rhythm Collective uses creative elements like videos, photography, and web design to give brands a competitive edge. Beyond aesthetics, they craft memorable, strategic assets that capture attention, enhance brand positioning, and drive lasting impact in a crowded marketplace. <http://rhythmco.com> or call (865) 804-3613.



HealthMarkets Insurance Agency helps individuals, families, and businesses make informed insurance decisions. Licensed nationwide, they offer health, Medicare, life, and supplemental plans from 200+ insurers. With unmatched service, 3,000+ agents, and online tools, they ensure convenient, personalized assistance. Call (865) 454-2290 or visit <https://www.healthmarkets.com/jnlsen>



Green Meadow Partners, Inc. provides temporary, temp-to-hire, and direct placement staffing across various professional fields. Their recruiting services support businesses with contingency-based hiring and full-scale recruitment, from job listings to interviews, ensuring the best candidates are placed with no upfront costs for employers. Visit <https://greenmeadowpartners.com/> or call (865) 862-4728.



Whimsical Mischief are creations filled with artistry, wonder, and mischief. Call Stacy Monday at (561) 271-8062 for more information.

Help You Dwell understands the longing for your home to be the place you always dreamed it could be. Since 2014, they've been honored to guide and empower thousands of clients in East Tennessee and beyond to find freedom and peace of mind in their spaces through organization and relocation services. It's their greatest joy to help you reclaim your home. Call (865) 245-9080 or visit <https://www.helpyou dwell.com/>



The Honey Do Service offers trusted handyman services in Knoxville, TN, including repairs, painting, and remodels. Locally owned and family-operated, we provide free estimates, fixed-cost proposals, and a one-year workmanship warranty. Reliable service ensures projects are completed as promised. Visit <https://honeydoservice.com/improving/west-knoxville-tn> or call (865) 690-7772.



Revolution Financial Management is dedicated to helping families secure their financial future. With personalized strategies and expert guidance, they empower you to protect what matters most—your home, your savings, and your loved ones—while achieving long-term financial peace of mind. Call (503) 709-2371 for more information.



CML Construction is a commercial/residential contractor serving Knoxville and the surrounding areas, focusing on customer satisfaction, safety, quality, and personalized attention. Services provided: concrete & masonry, decks & railing, demolition services, door Services, electrical services, flooring, and general contracting. For more information, call (865) 416-9199.



# Thank You for Renewing Your Membership!

*The Farragut/West Knox Chamber thanks these businesses who have renewed their investment in the Chamber as of January 2025. We can count them as Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members! We urge members to patronize one another when the goods or services a member can provide are needed. We also hope that area residents recognize a business's commitment to its community when it becomes part of its local chamber of commerce and reward that commitment with its patronage.*

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



**Parkwest Medical Center**

*Thank you for your Commander Enterprise Membership*



**NHC Place – Assisted Living**

*Thank you for your Anchor Enterprise Membership*



**Regions Bank Knollwood**

*Thank you for your Anchor Enterprise Membership*



**The Eye Group, P.C**

*Thank you for your Anchor Enterprise Membership*

7 Title  
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Alzheimer's Association TN Chapter  
Amish Elegance  
Ampt Electric  
Art House Kitchen & Bath  
Baskin Robbins  
Be Well  
Broadway Carpets & Flooring  
CADES  
ChildHelp - N. Cedar Bluff Location  
Corrigan & Williams  
Courtley Chiropractic  
Cruise Planners-Reality On Pause  
Doubletree by Hilton  
Oak Ridge/Knoxville  
Enrichment Federal Credit Union - S. Northshore

Express Employment Professionals  
Farragut ENT & Allergy  
FLiWHEEL Partners  
Greystone Pointe Apartments  
Hampton Inn & Suites - Turkey Creek  
Junk Galaxy  
Keller Williams Realty - The Cooper Group  
Kendall Investigations  
Knoxville Real Estate Professionals Inc.  
Knoxville Real Estate Professionals Inc. - Prosperity Drive  
Kumon of Farragut  
Lakeview Home Improvement  
Lincoln Memorial University  
McGuire Roofing & Construction  
McNabb Law, PLLC  
MR10 Realty

Pest & Mosquito Authority  
Pipe Wrench Plumbing Heating & Cooling  
Rick Terry Jewelry Designs  
Roane State Community College  
Rotary Club of Farragut  
Save A Heart  
SmartBank - Farragut  
Smith Handyman Service  
Smith Roofing & Exteriors  
Superior Carpet and Rug Cleaning  
Tennessee Orthodontic Studios  
The Venue at Lenoir City  
The Village at Westland Cove  
Tri Star Senior Advisors, Inc.  
UPS Store #2381  
Window Hero West Knoxville  
Your Home Sold Guaranteed Realty, Kings of Real Estate Team

# Calendar of Events: February 2025

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

**Tuesdays at the Chamber: FREE Business Mentoring for ANY business with SCORE Greater Knoxville.**

**MUST Email [Clifton.Caudill@SCOREvolunteer.org](mailto:Clifton.Caudill@SCOREvolunteer.org) to pre-schedule.**

**Wednesdays at the Chamber: FREE Business ADVISING for ANY business @ Chamber with SBDC.**

**Visit [www.tsbdc.org/request-advising/](http://www.tsbdc.org/request-advising/) to pre-schedule.**

**February 13th at 4:30p**

Business Networking with  
Farragut High School Education Foundation  
11237 Kingston Pike, Knoxville 37934

**February 20th at 4p**

Chamber Annual Membership Meeting  
(host venue: Southeast Restoration)  
10325 Yellow Pine Ln., Knoxville 37932

**February 27th at 8a**

Business Networking with  
Pellissippi Community College  
10915 Hardin Valley Rd., Knoxville 37932

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