



Town’s real identity

Farragut Museum, renovated, comes to life at ribbon-cut



(Above) Farragut residents Nic Montgomery, left, and Cindy Johnson, a member of the historic local Campbell family, talk to Farragut historian Frank Galbraith about family history during the re-opening of renovated Farragut Museum during a celebration at the museum in Town Hall Saturday, May 31.



TAMMY CHEEK

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After almost 18 months closed for remodeling, Farragut Museum officially opened in Town Hall Saturday, May 31, with a ribbon cutting, tours and a historical program, paying tribute to Adm. David Glasgow Farragut.

“Welcome to the grand, exciting opening of the Farragut Museum,” said Parks and Recreation director Ron Oestreich, who oversees the museum.

“On behalf of the (Farragut) Board of Mayor and Aldermen, it’s my honor to welcome you to this special celebration and re-opening of the Farragut Museum,” Vice Mayor Scott Meyer said. “This is more than a museum, it’s a vital part of our community’s identity.”

It came about as part of a short-term exhibit for Tennessee

See MUSEUM on Page 3A



Photos by Tammy Cheek

(Wide photo above) Farragut Vice Mayor Scott Meyer (with scissors) cuts the ribbon to re-open Farragut Museum during a celebration in Town Hall Saturday, May 31. Joining him are Museum Committee members, from left, Paul Bergen; former Vice Mayor Dot LaMarche; Eric Johnson, one of the Town’s founders; Committee chair Sue-Ann Hansler; Beverley Hammond and Chris Carnes. (Above) Christopher Magra, UT Early American history professor, relates the history of Town namk-sake Admiral David Glasgow Farragut. (Left) Farragut Historic Resources coordinator Kristi Vining.

While detailing how to reduce school \$ costs, Russell’s ‘light’ amend irks Hill

Final of two parts on Knox County Commission clashes with local flavor

ALAN SLOAN

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KNOXVILLE — On one of her two major Knox County Government spending reduction recommendations concerning its fiscal year 2026 budget, Knox County Commissioner Angela Russell said she wanted a roughly \$10 million cut from the roughly \$700 million already in the proposed budget for Knox County Schools pending final KCC approval.

“I will (attempt to make) a motion to reduce the school funding to the minimum required by Tennessee state law,” she announced to her colleagues during a contentious Monday evening, May 19, Commission meeting in the City-County Building, downtown Knoxville.

County Mayor Glenn Jacobs is among government leaders expressing dissatisfaction with attempted cuts and reduced increases to the proposed budget by this 5th District representative, (which includes Farragut and Concord), with Russell having attempted — and failed by a vote of her peers — to include amendments intended to cut the proposed budget in what Jacobs and other Commissioners expressed as “late” in the process.

“The way they do the calculations, we were still going to be — if you listen to the recording of the meeting — we were still going to be required to give (schools) a \$15 million increase,” Russell said about the state requirement during a phone interview with farragutpress in late May. “So I was just suggesting that we give them a



Russell



Hill

See RUSSELL, JACOBS, Hill on Page 4A

With \$17.3 mil in projects, Town’s proposed fiscal year ’26-31 CIP gets FMPC nod

TAMMY CHEEK

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The Town’s proposed fiscal year 2026-2031 Capital investment Plan, with a total of \$17.3 million in projects, got the nod of approval from Farragut Municipal Planning Commission during its meeting Thursday, May 15.

“The annual budget for the Town of

Farragut must be approved prior to July 1, which is the start of the fiscal year for our community,” Town administrator David Smoak said. “Part of the budget process, which the Planning Commission participates in, is recommending to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen the capital projects to be considered over the next six years in the Town.”

He explained the CIP fund budget has \$17,302,000 in projects it has planned to get under way in Fiscal Year 2026.

“These projects include security enhancements; Enterprise Resource Planning software upgrades; sand volleyball complex reconstruction; improvements to Boyd Station, which include a roundabout; Union Road improvements; intersection improve-

ments at Campbell Station Road and Jamestowne Boulevard and Concord and Loop roads; and adaptive traffic signal upgrades throughout Town.

“Revenues for the CIP come from Town resources in the form of a \$6 million transfer from the General Fund, \$4,882,000 from CIP reserves and

See CIP on Page 4A

Celebrating ‘generations,’ middle school team’s success, top individuals

- Looking back on the 2025 spring high school and middle school sports seasons — along with a list of high “CareActer” high school athletes from the entire 2024-25 school year — highlights this week’s farragutpress Sports section.
- One highlight is the emergence of a “third generation” success story in the coaching ranks, detailing how each generation fortified the one ahead, all the

while bringing much success — both locally and statewide — to a prominent program.

Meanwhile, a handful of state champions and top finishers on an individual level also are highlighted in Sports. Not to be left out is middle school success, as one special unit is celebrated for local dominance while making a splash at the statewide level. (See stories, photos on page 1B)

Awards, ‘All Lady Vol,’ new biz

- Celebrating school awards is the main theme of this week’s Community section (pages 2B to 7B), which involves three levels of success at two local high schools.
- On the business level, Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce is “All Lady Vol” concerning its annual “Speaker” attraction. Read details about this, and another new Town business, on pages 6A-7A.

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towncalendar

• **Town of Farragut’s Bluegrass Summer Solstice Concert, running from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, June 20,** in Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza, 101 N. Campbell Station Road, will “help us celebrate the longest day of the year with one of Tennessee’s oldest musical genre,” a Town press release stated.

“No need to worry about dinner plans — we’ll have a variety of food trucks on-site, serving up delicious bites so you can focus on the music and fun,” the release further stated.

“More details about the lineup and what to expect will be announced soon.”

New SJNCS education building, renovated gym has unanimous FMPC nod

TAMMY CHEEK
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After some lengthy discussion regarding traffic along Grigsby Chapel Road, Farragut Municipal Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve St. John Neumann Catholic School’s plans to expand with a renovated gymnasium and an additional education building during its meeting Thursday, May 15.

Community Development director Mark Shipley said the site plan calls for a 7,108-square-foot classroom expansion and a 5,005-square-foot gym addition.

“As part of the project, some parking in the affected area will be modified and a turnaround/drop-off area will be provided,” he said. “There will also be some additional outdoor covered areas and sidewalk and landscaping modifications.

Bill Vinson, president of Community Tectonics Architects, originally presented the site plan during a Farragut Municipal Planning Commission Staff/Developer workshop in Town Hall Tuesday, April 29.

“The school addition has a new STEM Class, a science class, a learning class, a gathering area, an office and two restrooms,” he said.

“The gym addition has an expanded gym area with bleacher seating for 406, four offices, a lobby space and men and women’s restrooms,” Vinson added.

The existing gym is about 60 feet by 100 feet. With the addition, it will be about 85 feet by 100 feet.

“The hope is to start the classroom addition as soon as (builders and the school) can get the permit,” Vinson said. “The gym addition is not anticipated to start this year.”

Shipley pointed out one part of the parking turnaround is close to the property line for the parsonage, which is a separate property but still belongs to the church.

Vinson said the church plans to dissolve that property line, making both properties one property.

In doing so, Commissioner Louise Povlin asked about the drive going through the rectory property to Grigsby Chapel to give motorists another access out of the church and school.

Her question came about from residents’ concerns about traffic from the school and church.

However, Shipley said that would have to be a right-out access, making it too difficult to use. Also, by changing the plans, Vinson said that would hold up the project.

Another suggestion was getting a volunteer certified to direct traffic at peak time.

“It does not have to be a police officer,” said Mayor Ron Williams, who also is a Commissioner.



Shipley

KCSOreports

KCSO details told about missing man’s body ‘found under the fishing bridge’ at Northshore

More details follow from Knox County Sheriff’s Office report concerning a missing person, which was believed to be the person found dead near Northshore Drive about a quarter-mile west of the Concord Road-Northshore roundabout as first reported in our May 28 issue:

On Monday, May 26, “the reporting detective was advised by (Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency) that their Rove equipment had located a deceased person under the fishing bridge on South Northshore Drive west of the Concord Road roundabout,” the report stated. He has since been identified as Narendra Patel, 12300 Cotton Blossom Lane in Knoxville.

“... Victim was transported to Regional Forensic Center for further examination,” the report further stated.

“There were no signs of foul play.”

KCSO reported that at 8:48 p.m., Sunday, May 25, a “complainant called the KCSO Teleserve

Unit to report a missing adult at 12300 Cotton Blossom Lane. Complainant (said) the victim, her neighbor, told his mother ... ‘I will be back in a little bit.’

“Complainant (said) the family had attempted to call the victim multiple times, but he would not pick up,” the report further stated. “The complainant (said) she and the family discovered the victim left his wallet and cell phone at the residence, along with a note that stated ‘My car will be at Concord Park.’

“Complainant (said) she spoke to a fisherman at the park and they (said) they had seen him, and the victim asked to sit with them to watch the fish, and then walked away. Complainant advised the victim had never done this before.”

The report stated the deceased “has history of having suicidal tendencies” but had “no history of alcohol or drug use.”

otherKCSOreports

• **At 5:07 p.m., Saturday, May 31, Knox County Sheriff’s Officer units responded to a call of extortion** at a Derby Run Drive residence. Upon arrival, officers met with complainant and victim. Victim explained “he had visited a website for eliciting prostitution, Max80.com, where he and his friends stayed to message with women,” the report stated.

“(Victim) received text messages from someone identifying himself as T--- G----- (suspect, who) stated that Jake must pay a ‘fine’ for wasting the sex worker’s time,” the report further stated. “(Suspect) further stated that he would send his ‘best men’ to ‘do their job.’

“(Suspect) then sent victim’s address and a list of (his) family members. Feeling threatened,

(victim) sent \$3,800, and then \$3,500 to (suspect). (Victim) also received from phone number (860-505-----, a photo of Steven and then a photo of a dismembered body.”

• **At 9:36 a.m., May 31, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report a theft from the parking lot of Sleep Inn & Suites**, 11341 Campbell Lakes Drive. He advised an unknown suspect took power tools and lawn and yard equipment off his trailer. He stated he did not have the serial numbers at report time.

• **At 7:18 p.m., Thursday, May 29, a complainant called KCSO Teleserve Unit to report forgery**, with the fraudulent check cashed

See KCSO REPORTS on Page 4A



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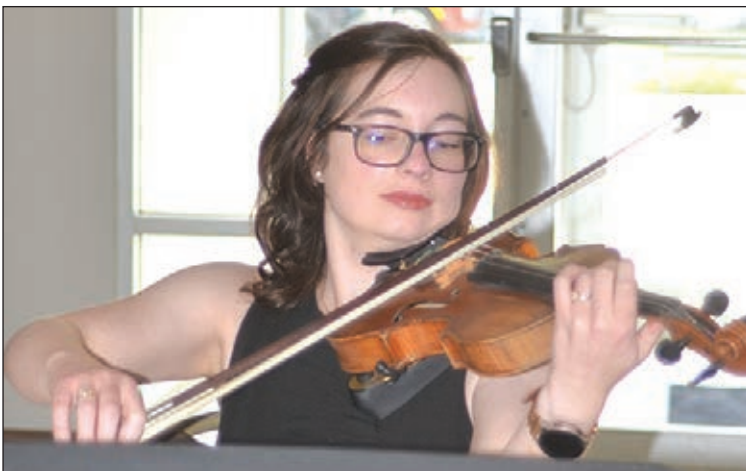
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(Far left) Local Girl Scout Troop 20391 member Bailey Redmond, who recently earned the Gold Award, was among this Troop’s members who read poems and historical information during the Farragut Museum ceremony Saturday, May 31. **(Above middle left)** Troop 20627 members Maggie Mae Buschie, **(below middle left)** Penny Laine Buschie and **(left)** Nora Leonard. **(Above)** Violinist Haley Reasoner entertained the dignitaries and other attendees. **Photos by Tammy Cheek**

Museum
From page 1A

see Gov. Lamar Alexander’s Homecoming ’86 project”, Meyer related.

“It became the Farragut Folklife Museum after an outpouring of interest in the area’s history,” he added. “The first museum site was in the Town of Farragut office space in the former Russell Dairy building located behind what is now the Campbell Station Inn.

“In 1989, Mary McFee, the first museum director, learned of a historical collection of Admiral Farragut’s belongings that were being offered for sale through a historical magazine. The museum committee raised funds, and (the late) Mayor Bob Leonard made a line item in the Town budget for the remaining funds.

Then Vice Mayor Eddy Ford and his wife, Linda Ford, “made the trip to Washington, D.C., to pick up the collection,” the vice mayor said.. “The museum was relocated to Town Hall when (the Town Hall) was completed in 1991.

“I’d like to thank the Farragut Museum Committee who worked with Historic Resources coordinator Kristi Vining to re-open the museum and plan this event,” he added. “I hope the Farragut Museum is enjoyed by visitors and residents for many years to come. It’s a wonderful way to celebrate our past as we look forward to

the future of this great community.”

“From our heart to your heart, we want you to have a tour of the museum and enjoy it,” Museum Committee chair Sue-Ann Hansler said. “Every member of our committee, from (former Vice Mayor) Dot LaMarche on down has sacrificed time, effort and sometimes family meals to work here and to make it a wonderful place for you guys to be here.”

“We’re so glad that the museum’s open and available to our residents and our guests,” Vining said. “It’s a great community asset to learn the history of Farragut.”

“I think it’s great the museum’s open,” said Eric Johnson, one of the Town’s founders. “We need to get out to the schools and some other facilities, such as assisted living, and bring people in because there are things here that are very unique and very important of history.

“We need to make an effort to go out and bring people in, and our new director (Vining) is doing that,” he added.

The celebration’s program includes a look back at Admiral Farragut from University of Tennessee early American history professor Christopher Magra, a Farragut resident; a reflection of the beginnings of Concord and Farragut from historian and retired Farragut Middle School teacher Frank Galbraith; and members of Girl Scout Troops 20627 and

20391, who read poems and historical readings.

“I live here ...,” said Magra, who authored two books on the American Revolution and also is director of the Center for the Study of Tennesseans in War.

“We’ve been to this museum before and have thoroughly enjoyed it. We look forward to spending more time in it this morning.”

“(Farragut/Concord) was a sleepy little Town that was a

great place to grow up,” Galbraith said.

Before and after the program, violinist Haley Reasoner performed for all who attended.

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Russell, Jacobs, Hill

From page 1A

\$15 million increase instead of a \$25 million increase.

“So the schools in the 2021 (fiscal year) budget got approximately \$508 million; and last year (2025 fiscal year) they were budgeted to get \$675 million.

This year, (Jacobs) wanted to go up to \$700-plus million,” she added. “There’s a thing called Maintenance of Effort, which means you cannot give the schools less money than you’ve given them previously.”

“If we cut (the proposed budget) again, that throws their budget into disarray,” Jacobs said during a separate phone interview in late May. “And then there’s also the governor (Bill Lee) who wants teachers to be making \$50,000 a year by a certain point in the very near future. Well, when we start cutting that, if we can’t reach that \$50,000 a year for starting pay, the state is going to cut their portion of the funding coming to Knox County, which means that it falls even more on the local folks to make up the difference.”

Russell agreed that “we need to pay our teachers more. I’m ashamed that we’re struggling to pay them \$50,000 a year.”

She then answered Jacobs and other county and KCC critics of her failed amendments with a few suggested KCS cuts.

“We spend on upper management and crazy job titles like director of school culture and stuff like that,” she said about one area to target for cuts during the interview. “The teachers are providing a service; the principals and the assistant principals, I think, are typically providing a service for our students.

“But it’s the people in the ivory tower that are the problem,” she added. “We’ve got too many people who are not interacting with our students that are on the payroll.”

Jacobs warned about a domino effect of cutting below the roughly \$700 million KCS proposed level.

“They just broke ground on a new Farragut area elementary school (Wednesday, May 14),” Jacobs said during the interview. “Well, if we’re cutting operational costs, then they’re going to have to start moving money away from capital into their operations, which then can impair their ability to deliver these projects, including that school, in the time frame that they have committed to.

“All these things all of a

s u d d e n just come up in the last budget hearing,” he added.

“... It is troubling as well to the folks out in Farragut; we hear a lot about overcrowding at the elementary schools.”

However, “I want to point out the fact that the school (being built) here in Farragut is not being funded out of the \$700,000 operating budget,” Russell said during her interview.

“That amount is coming out



Jacobs

of capital,” she added.

Russell versus Hill

About Russell’s second large proposed amendment to reduce or cut the budget, she attempted an \$8 million budget cut amendment, which also failed, where county parking lots, including schools, would have the current light bulbs replaced with much more energy-efficient lighting.

Russell explained the current lighting should remain in place until they burn out or quit working effectively.

However, Commissioner Terry Hill (6th District rep that includes Hardin Valley) shot back.

“That would be a very easy amendment to make when the district that you represent is a

majority of the Town of Farragut that’s got their own Parks and Rec Department that takes care of their own parks, replaces their own lights,” Hill said during the meeting.

“It would be very easy to make that amendment when, in fact, the people that you directly represent in your constituency would not be the ones even affected by it. It would be the other eight districts out there that would feel the brunt of that,” she added.

“I’m not sure that’s a real, perhaps, fair amendment to make.”

The May 19 meeting “was the first time that I’ve ever seen the majority of Commissioners read the riot act to their colleagues,” Jacobs said.

CIP

From page 1A

\$6,320,000 from federal and/or state matching grants,” Smoak added. “Overall, the projected available fund balance is \$8,994,719.”

The CIP also takes into account improvements to be made at the Boring and Smith Road intersection in preparation for the new elementary school. These include multi-way stops and reconstruction of Dominick Point. The Town also plans to install a mid-block cross walk. The cost in FY 2026 is \$25,000 plus \$150 for the cross walk.

Also to assist with traffic, a new access is planned for Sugarlane Drive.

“The close proximity of Sugarlane Drive and Smith Road creates issues during peak AM/FM peak hours as

eastbound queues back up,” Smoak said, explaining the justification of a new access.

On the other end of Boring Road, the Town plans to close Boring Road at Kingston Pike at a cost of \$50,000.

Another project includes sharing costs with a developer to improve Boyd Station Road with road widening and a roundabout.

As such, FMPC unanimously approved Rackley Engineering’s preliminary plat for such road improvements in front of the Grove at Boyd Station subdivision, which currently is under construction.

Additionally, the Board has included Turkey Creek Road multimodal improvements for \$2.5 million, a roundabout at Watt Road for \$850,000; Phase II of Virtue Road improvements to cost \$7,480,000, with funding starting in 2027.

KCSO Reports

From page 2A

at ORNL Federal Credit Union, 11405 Municipal Center Drive. Complainant said he “originally sent a check for \$206.48

to United Rentals,” the report stated. “The complainant reported that the check never reached United Rentals and that an unknown suspect altered the amount to \$3,379.12. It was then cashed at the bank.

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business
briefs

• Charles Martinez, assistant professor and Extension specialist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, recently received the Emerging Scholar Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association. The award is presented to high-performing, early-career professionals with demonstrated research and resulting publication activity.



Martinez

Martinez was chosen among peers nationwide for this distinguished honor. He received the award during the annual SAEA meeting in Irving, Texas on Feb. 3.

• State Rep. Michele Carringer (R-Knoxville) recently was appointed by House Speaker Cameron Sexton (R-Crossville) to serve as chairwoman of the House Population Health Subcommittee for the 114th General Assembly.



Carringer

Carringer is an advertising professional who served on Knox County Commission for four years prior to her election to the State House in 2019. She also has been involved in several non-profits, including Knoxville Academy of Medical Alliance and Knox County Foster Care Review Board.

• Visit Knoxville and Eartheadelic recently partnered to make the turf at Covenant Health Park convertible, from a field designed for baseball to a field designed for soccer and back again as needed. It allows for the stadium to host an overlapping baseball season for the Knoxville Smokies alongside One Knoxville Sporting Club.

• A VOLthon Dance Marathon, presented by UT Federal Credit Union, recently raised a record-breaking \$271,257 for East Tennessee Children's Hospital at UT-Knoxville's Student Union and Pilot Company Grand Ballroom. More than 600 students attended.

Couple to open
Absolute Health
in Farragut

TAMMY CHEEK
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A husband and wife partnership, Roland “Keith” Hollifield and Jeny Conrad-Rendon, are bringing Absolute Health to Farragut at 11808 Kingston Pike, Suite 130, in the Summit Medical Building with plans to open Monday, June 16.

“I love it,” Hollifield said. “I can’t wait (to open).” He will bring a personal training side with a specialty in rehabilitation and pre-habilitation, while Conrad-Rendon, a licensed practical nurse, will bring a concierge wellness aspect to Absolute Health.

With pre-hab, Hollifield, a certified personal trainer, said he gets people ready for surgeries.

Hollifield explained after a certain amount of months — or 12 sessions — insurance stops paying for prehab and rehab sessions.

“I can fill in that piece,” he said. “I also work with Parkinson’s (Disease) patients, dementia and Alzheimer’s. Nothing you can do for Parkinson’s patients is more powerful than exercise. I’ve been working with those folks for years.”

However, he also provides regular personal training, weight loss training and programming.

“We’ll provide full nutrition supplements,” Hollifield said. “We believe in weight loss through proper diet and exercise, not (an injection).”

He is certified by the National Academy of Sports Medicine and American Council of Exercise, among dozens of others. He also trains older golfers to be stronger and more flexible.

Conrad-Rendon “does concierge regular medicine,” Hollifield said. “She also does Botox, fillers, injections and infusions.”

Taking his time, Hollifield said they started looking for properties to open the venture a year ago.

“I did my research,” he said. “I worked for other companies in the area first and started looking for properties. ... I wanted to make sure I was in the right spot.”



Tammy Cheek

Ronald “Keith” Hollifield and wife, Jeny Conrad-Rendon are preparing to open a unique wellness business, Absolute Health, at 11808 Kingston Pike, Suite 130, in the Summit Medical Building in Farragut with plans to open Monday, June 16.

“I did my research ... I wanted to make sure I was in the right spot,”

- Roland “Keith” Hollifield, Absolute Health co-owner

After looking at other places, “when we saw this place, we were like ‘this is perfect,’” Hollifield added.

To learn more about Absolute Health or book an appointment, call 843-609-8988 or for the concierge service, call 1-901-487-3814.

Potential customers can call or walk in to make an appointment, Hollifield said.

Additionally, their website, absolutehealthfarragut.com, will become active starting June 16.

FWKCC Speaker Series to focus
on women’s athletics success

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

The impact of women’s athletics will lead discussions in an upcoming Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Speaker Series, “In HER Arena: Where Women Lead the Game Follows,” slated for Wednesday, June 18, in the auditorium of Jewelry Television, 9600 Parkside Drive.

Emceed by Missy Kane, 1984 Olympic middle distance runner and Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame inductee, it will feature Joan Cronan, University of Tennessee Women’s Athletics director emeritus; Brittany Tarwater, an All-American swimmer at UT; and Drew McKenna, owner/founder of One Knoxville, which is “our pro soccer team,” FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock said.

“The team is playing at the new Covenant Health Park baseball stadium,” Blaylock added. “In addition to their men’s soccer league, they have a pre-professional women’s soccer league that



Cronan

they just launched in March.”

Doors will open at 7:15 a.m. with the breakfast and networking at 7:30 and the program starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 9 a.m.

“Please plan to arrive early in order to allow yourself time to get parked, be checked in and pass through venue security, find seats, get breakfast and network,” Blaylock said.

“We still have sponsorships available,” she added. “All sponsorship levels include full tables or half tables with additional recognition.”

“Sponsorships start at \$300; but this (event) is also, of course, open to the public, and we know that we have a lot of young female athletes and families of young female athletes in the area. Chamber members and their staff and families can attend for \$35 for an individual ticket, which includes breakfast.”

For non-Chamber members, tickets are \$45 each, which also



Tarwater

See SPEAKER SERIES on Page 7A

the Y

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FWKCC celebrates members milestones with ribbon cutting, networking



(Right) Adam Cook, East Tennessee Children’s Hospital chief of development and marketing office, and Kolby Williams, ETCH Major Gifts officer, co-hosted the Farragut West Knoxville Chamber of Commerce networking Thursday, May 8.

Tammy Cheek



(Above) Adrian Hall Mortgage Team at Rate Inc. celebrated its new location at 813 S. Northshore Drive, Suite 102, in Knoxville with a Farragut West Knoxville Chamber of Commerce-sponsored ribbon cutting Wednesday, May 14. Front row holding ribbon, second from left, were Hall’s mother, Karen Hall (sunglasses); Rachel Reetz, sales assistant; Adrian Hall (with scissors), area sales leader and branch manager; Hall’s husband, Jay Hall; and Kevin Wholihan, associate vice president.

Photo submitted

Speaker Series

From page 6A

includes breakfast. To purchase tickets, visit FWKCC website at farragut-chamber.com. “We did a Speaker Series topic last year when we talked about sports venues and the significance of that to the West Knoxville area economy,” Blaylock said. “Sports is a really big part of both our tourism and our economy in our area, especially with the new baseball stadium here and also

looking at some of the teams from UT and how all sports at UT have really excelled, not just football and basketball, but also softball, baseball, volleyball. “So, we started looking at how the niche of women’s sports is really becoming an



McKenna

industry to reckon with,” she added. Cronan was UT Women Athletics director from 1983 to 2012 before both genders programs merged. “Back in 1983, when she was given the athletic directorship over the women’s program, she was the only female athletic director at the SEC meetings,” Blaylock said. “She was there (at UT) when the late Pat Summit (former UT Lady Vols head coach) was there,” she added. “She and Pat, together, helped take the Lady Vols to eight national

championships. “She’s got a pretty impressive résumé.” T a r w a t e r, now an anchor for WVLT TV (Channel 8), was an SEC champion on the Lady Vols swim team and seven-time NCAA All-American and was named to the Academic All-American Swim Team.”



Kane

Regarding the pre-professional women’s soccer league, “it is intended for student athletes or women who want to get into pro soccer,” Blaylock said. “It basically gives them a profession venue in which to practice, train and play so they can be prepared to go pro,” she added. “It’s the first league of its kind here.” Kane, having been a fitness TV personality for years, currently is health and fitness coordinator for Covenant Health.



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From Pharr to Buck to Cope



(Above left) Garrett Copeland is the fourth Farragut High School baseball head coach to win a state title, which started with FHS field namesake John Heatherly in 1982. He is pictured with wife, Ashley Copeland, and their 8-month-old daughter, Hadley. Seven-time state champ as Ads skipper, Matt Buckner (above right photo, on left, with Copeland) talks about his former assistant: “I’m so proud of him. That’s a lot to follow (so much 2024 talent lost to graduation). He’s just done an unreal job. A really smart guy.”

A ‘third generation’ state champ with FHS baseball, Copeland talks about what he’s learned from Buckner; ‘unreal job.’ Buck



Photos by Alan Sloan

Garrett Copeland is now a “third generation” Farragut High School baseball state champ skipper. Taking over at FHS in 1998, then Ads skipper Tommy Pharr needed his sixth season (2003) to claim the first of his five at Farragut, with four more later at CAK. A top Ads assistant and former player of Pharr’s at Monterey High, Matt Buckner came from Bearden after six years leading BHS — having learned much from his mentor while tutoring a talented Dawgs pitcher, Copeland (Class of ’09) — and won a state title his first FHS head coaching season in 2010, grabbing seven state crowns in just 14 full seasons. In Copeland’s 2025 “rookie” season as a head coach after 12 assisting Buckner at FHS, he piloted a team largely inexperienced to the Division I-4A state title. About “Buck” (right photo, Buckner on the left with “Cope” after his state title win May 24), “He’s been a great mentor to me. ... He’s been a huge part of my baseball life,” Copeland said. “He’s there anytime I need him. I can’t say enough about what he’s done for me. I think he did a good job of preparing me for the situation and preparing me for the role here.”

CareActer Star Athlete '24-25 honorees told

Former Knoxville area football coach and Christian “Truckster” evangelist Dave Moore’s CareActer Star Athlete Program has named its 2024-2025 Star Athletes as recognized for seven Farragut-area high school programs in three sports: football, girls and boys basketball and baseball.

- Football**
Farragut: Robbie Jacobs, Landon Collins, Kent Carbaugh, Luke Finnegan, Jacob Cabrera, Randon Miller, Harrison Kilpatrick, Christian Campbell, Henry Dee, Noah Haag and Bryce Thompson
Hardin Valley Academy: Nathan Holbrook, Michael Stewart, Neal Henley, Evan Clarke, Kaden Cutcher, Grady Estep, Isaac Shelby, Ryder Dozier, Jayden Sheard and Rocco Pritchard
Bearden: Keaton Gilbreath, William Pendergrass, Jaxson Davis, Karnell Mills, Seth Henry, Aiden Thacker, Connor Gibreath and Paxton Parrott
Knoxville Catholic: Dominic Daddabbo, Jalen Wrancher, Liam Patterson, Ethan Hill, Casen Jenkins, Tyren Brabson, Amare Mckenzie, Gavin Jones, JR Fowler and Gavin Guinn
Christian Academy of Knoxville: Lincoln Rich, Maddox Mazingo, Jac Phillips, Ward Sterchi, Will Kelley, Zane Fields, Luke Whicker, Elijah Hoke, Graham Moffett and Alex Gilmer
Webb School of Knoxville: Ben Shawl, Hal Niendorf, Greyson Webb, Cruise Cunningham, Bradyn Hooker, Christian Mi-rochnikoff, Shavar Young, Baxter Johnson, Marvin Hicke and Michael Pemberton
Concord Christian School: Daniel McCoy, CJ Simpson, Dasani Mouldin, Cooper Bacon, Brandon Edwards, Cade Harrison, Asher Noe, Andrew Lumsdaine, Austin Gomes and Ethan Gomes
- Girls basketball**
FHS Lady Admirals: Kyra Wray, Annie Priest, Jaci Neubert, Lilly Mullins and Anna Corum
HVA Lady Hawks: Audree Riehn, Marley Edwards, Sarah Galloway, Rylee Taylor and Holly Lindsey
BHS Lady Bulldogs: Caitlin McVeigh, Riley Hunt, Katie Foster, Cadence Nesbit and Emma Rainey
Webb Lady Spartans: Meeyah Green, Corisa Lowery, Avery Green, Z Rockett and Kyndall Mays
CCS Lady Lions: Irelan Fender, Katie Phillips, Sheridan Patterson, Haylee Hamilton and Avery Orlando
KCHS Lady Irish: Maggie Frana, Tinsley Walker, Kayla Krueger, Ensley Perry and Ari Swain
CAK Lady Warriors: Karlie Whited, Marinn Hubbard, Ali Wilkinson, Sophie Carroll and Annie Leadbetter
- Boys basketball**
FHS: Ethan Kern, Bryce Howard, Luke Finnegan, Kent Carbaugh and Brody Appling
HVA: David Long, Colin Dyreness, Isaac Ratliff, Bryson Frey and Graham Colloredo
BHS: Domenic Mahoney, Drew Parrott, King Hubbard, Justice Watson and Andrew Baker
CAK: Hunter Bennett, Brogdon Lundgren, Bennett Jelks, Jonah Harvey and Cole Piers
KCHS: Javian Eleam, Cade Murphy, Carson Asbeaty, Jason Gainey and TJ Tipton
CCS: Cade Keeton, Landon Housley, Guro Lind, Caleb Stuart and Mason Sparks
Webb: Jaylen Pompey, Wilson Luton, Owen Lentz, Cam Swearngen and Alex Leath
Baseball (one school only)
Knox Catholic: J B Moore, Jamie Bentley, Anderson Perry, Manny Maurer and Pierce Welch

The next generation



Photo submitted

FMS boys track-field wins Knox title, top state finishes include two runner-ups; pair of girls take top 5 in TN

Farragut Middle School boys track & field team captured the 2025 Knox County Middle School Track & Field Championships crown among a 32-team field, finishing first overall for the fourth time in program history. With top eight finishes in 10 of 15 events, these Admirals grabbed three individual Knox first-place honors: Nathan Jacobs in the 400-meter run and long jump, plus Brayden Wilder in shot put. Nathan also was part of three FMS top-finishing teams during the TMSAA Track & Field State Championships Saturday, May 17, in Clarksville. He captured second in the 400 and fourth in the long jump while teaming with Carter Maltais, Drake Lewis and Khai Tehbranchian to finish runner-up in the 4 X 400 relay. Brayden claimed seventh place in discus, while Khai, Carter, Drake and Nicholas Stewart finished eighth in the 4 X 200 relay. “It was an honor and a privilege watching these boys rise to the occasion,” said head coach Sarah Archer, who was assisted by Randy Swartzentruber (top row, far left in photo), Nicole Jackson and Logan Bryant. “With such a new team, there were moments where they had to really dig deep and work together. I am proud of all their hard work and persistence to accomplish so much this season.” FMS girls top finishers at state were the 4 X 400 relay foursome of Arabelle Wray, Ava Brinley, Elin Rotan and Clara Wothe who captured fifth place, while Ryleigh Morris claimed fifth in 100-meter hurdles.

State track-field top 3 for ‘other’ local programs

- MURFREESBORO** — TSSAA Track & Field State Meet top three results in Division I-AAA, Division II-AA and Division II-A (not including state champ teams Farragut boys and Webb School girls; see/read May 28 issue) May 20-22.
- Boys Division I-AAA:** 3200-meter run, Garrett Hawkins, champ, Hardin Valley Academy (9:16.16); 1600 run, Gabe Allen, HVA, third; pole vault, Gavin Bailey, second, Bearden (14-foot-6).
- Girls Division I-AAA:** pole vault, Katie Edmunds, second, Farragut (11-foot-6).
- Boys Division II-AA:** discus, JR Fowler, second, Knoxville Catholic (175-foot-10); shot put, Fowler, second (61-foot-5.75).
- Boys Division II-A:** 4 X 800 relay, second, CAK (8:20.48); 3200 run, Graham Lloyd, third, CAK; pole vault, Silas Fulford, third, CAK.
- Girls Division II-AA:** 4 x 200 relay, KCHS champs (1:41.92); discus, Maggie Frana, champ, KCHS (132-foot-9); 100 dash, Chloe Truss, second, KCHS (12.09); 200 dash, Truss, second (25.73); 100 hurdles, Payton Sipos, third, KCHS; 300 hurdles, Sipos, second (44.90); 4 X 400, KCHS, third; shot put, Frana, third.
- Girls Division II-A:** 100 hurdles, Amelia Wedemeyer, third, CAK; 300 hurdles, Wedemeyer, second (45.95); 4 X 400, CAK, third; triple jump, Lily Johnson, CAK, third.



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Photos by Michelle Hollenhead

(Above) Five Farragut High School educators received Golden Anchor Awards Friday, May 23, from FHS Education Foundation during the its annual End of School Year Brunch in the FHS Commons. Nominated by parents and students, winners each received \$1,000 from the Foundation. From left are Mindy Clark (world languages), Dr. Anthony Wooley (fine arts), Craig Outland (mathematics), Angela Breeding (social studies) and Claire Brimer (social studies). Also pictured are FHSEF president Toni Scott, second from right, and FHSEF Treasurer Christi King. (Below left) Physics teacher Matthew Milligan, left, received the 2025 Tyler Duke Outstanding Educator Award May 23, from Stan Duke, who, along with his wife, Susan Duke, founded the award in honor and memory of their late son, a 2006 FHS graduate who passed away in 2009 while a University of Tennessee senior. It is the second time Milligan has won the award, which is chosen by FHS staff and is accompanied by a \$2,500 award. (Below right) Bookkeeper Jodi Lee received the 2025 Binnacle Award from FHS principal Dr. John Bartlett May 23. This award is given annually to a school support staff member and is accompanied by a \$500 award, which is funded by the Foundation.

Golden Anchor, Binnacle, Tyler Duke annual awardees recognized by FHS



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Jones named Top Volunteer by FIS PTO



Photo submitted

James Jones, with his grandson, Farragut Intermediate School third-grader Grant Shields, recently was named FIS PTO Volunteer of the Year for the 2024-25 school year. “Mr. Jones has been serving FIS PTO as a volunteer for years,” an organization press release stated. “In his free time, Mr. Jones will scour our volunteer lists and fill in blank areas to make sure our PTO programs are successful and students do not miss out on our program opportunities. Science lab is one of the programs he is best known for; this is an FIS PTO program run strictly by volunteers. ... Every grade is offered a hands-on science lab two-to-four times per year. ... Mr. Jones also supports our staff appreciation lunches and our grounds program. ... We can confidently know that if we need anything additional, Mr. Jones will come walking in with extra drinks and sides — giving freely to make our staff feel special.”

Class of 2025 top performers rewarded during annual FHS Senior Awards presentation

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut High School celebrated its brightest seniors during its annual Senior Awards ceremony in Vickie B. Wells Auditorium at FHS Thursday, May 15.

Katherine Evans received a \$2,500 P.E.O. International STAR Scholarship from P.E.O. member Robyn Rivers.

“In the face of some adver-

sity she has persevered and achieved much success,” said Allison Maldonado, Spanish teacher and faculty advisor for the National Spanish Honor Society and National Honor Society. “That is the first time P.E.O. has given that award.”

Katie also received the University of Tennessee Presidential Award. Abby Doyle, Grace Doyle and Joanna Gao also received the scholarship.

Band members Grace Doyle

and Audrey Aiken each received the Michael David Green Scholarship from the family of the late Michael David Greene, who played the trumpet in the FHS Marching and Concert bands. At 14, he was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor and died

when he was 16. His family set up the scholarship to two worthy band students.

Farragut athletes Bryce Thompson and Alisa Bryant each earned a Charlotte and Lendon Welch Scholarship..

Other awards: • Henry Dee received the Evan Richey

Memorial Scholarship and the Commercial Bank Spirit Scholarship;

• Sophia Kovalevskaya, who received the Kiwanis Andy Hutson Service Award, raising money to bring her family

See SENIOR AWARDS, page 7B

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• **Registration is now open for The Salvation Army’s free summer camp programs at Camp Paradise Valley in Burkesville, Kentucky.** Children and teenagers 7 to 17 who reside in the Greater Knoxville area are eligible to attend a six-day overnight summer camp experience — completely free of charge, including transportation, meals, lodging, and activities: Elementary Camp (ages 7–12) Monday through Saturday, June 16-21; Teen Camp (ages 13–17) July 7–12; Music Camp (ages 7–17) July 14-19; Music Conservatory (ages 12–17) June 16–July 12, which is a long-format camp focused on musical skill development, ideal for beginners or experienced young musicians.

For additional information, including parents or guardians interested in enrolling their children, contact The Salvation Army of Knoxville by completing the online interest form found at <https://southernusa.salvationarmy.org/Knoxville/summer-camp-parents>. Parents also can call 865-525-9401 or visiting the office at 409 N Broadway in Knoxville.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for children from East Tennessee to experience the joy of summer camp, many for the first time,” said Maj. Cameron Henderson, who leads the local Salvation Army with his spouse, Maj. Paula Henderson. “Camp Paradise Valley gives kids a chance to step away from their everyday surroundings and just enjoy being kids while also learning valuable life lessons in leadership, faith and friendship.”

For more information about camp or other youth programs offered by The Salvation Army, call 865-525-9401, visit <http://salvationarmyknoxville.org/> or follow The Salvation Army of Knoxville on Facebook and Instagram.

• **Ladies who are new to the area or who just want to make friends, Knoxville Newcomers Club welcomes you** for lunch and a program beginning at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday June 18, in Bearden Banquet Hall, 5806 Kingston Pike. Speaker will be a representative from Second Harvest Food Bank. Make reservations at 865-254-5889 no later than Friday, June 13.

• **Sixty-Second Annual Lenoir City Arts & Crafts Festival**, a key non-profit fundraiser, once again is set for Lenoir City Park, 6707 City Park Drive, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 7, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, June 8. Open to the public, event entry fee is \$3, with children 12-and-under free. Bus rides from the parking lots also are free of charge.

Event beneficiary is General Federation of Women’s Clubs’ Suburbia Woman’s Club. Sponsorship are \$10,000 (Presenting sponsor); \$5,000 (Gold sponsor); \$3,000 (Silver sponsor); \$1,500 (Area sponsor); and \$1,000 (Supporting sponsor). Visit lenoir-cityartsandcrafts.com/sponsors-lenoir-city-festival/ for more information.

• **Farragut Cheerleading will host a Junior Cheer Camp for rising kindergarten through fifth-graders** in Lynn E. Sexton Gymnasium at Farragut High School from 9:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Wednesday, June 9-11.

“All participants will learn cheers, chants, stunts and a dance,” a Farragut Cheerleading press release stated. For more info, or to register, visit <https://farrhs.givebacks.com//store/items/1185039>

• **Knoxville Children’s Theatre, in partnership with Clayton Foundation, will present a live production of “The Miracle Worker”** from Friday, June 6, through Sunday, June 22. Showtimes start at 7 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays; at 1 and 5 p.m., Saturdays; and at 3 p.m., Sundays.

Directed by guest director, Ashlee Latimer, this heartfelt and deeply moving production honors the timeless story of Helen Keller and her heroic teacher, Annie Sullivan.

While challenging at times, this production carries a profound significance that cannot be understated or ignored. Tickets are available at <https://knoxvillechildrenstheatre.com/tc-events/the-miracle-worker-2/>



Tammy Cheek

Hardin Valley Academy’s top 10 students were announced during the school’s Senior Celebration May 2. From left are Macy McInturff, Connor Daniels, Sophia Burgett, Jocelyn Chang (front), Lauren Gray (back), Renata Galan Chongo (front), Sameer Nathawat (front), Lauren Johnson (back), Lucy Niebel (front) and Kaylin Mata (back), with assistant principal Amber Roberts (center back).

‘Many’ HVA ’24-25 awards given

TAMMY CHEEK
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Hardin Valley Academy honored its seniors and some outstanding teachers during its annual awards ceremony in HVA gymnasium Friday, May 2.

“This morning we are gathered to celebrate the many accomplishments of the Hardin Valley Academy Senior Class of 2025,” executive principal Dr. Kirk Renegar said.

“The Class of 2025 has played an incredibly significant role in continuing the Hardin Valley Academy tradition.”

Among them, Bella Buccola, Ryan Moon, Neels Schoonbee, Brock Connatser and Kendra West were named as nominees for the school’s coveted Hawk Award, for which Connatser was announced as the winner during HVA’s graduation ceremony Wednesday, May 21.

Also, the school honored its top teachers, Logan Atwell, Tracey Davis, Rebecca Furman,

Laura Shands, John Sydes and Kayla Webster as nominees for Teacher of the Year, with Furman earning the title.

Another distinguished honor, the Heart of Hardin Valley Award for overcoming personal obstacles throughout the student’s four years at HVA but maintaining a positive “can-do” spirit, went to Preston Wilson, Brayan Gutierrez Rodriguez and Reese Patterson.

Meanwhile, the HVA Triple Play Award, bestowed on athletes who exceeded expectations, went to Kamryn Butcher and Austin Murphy.

This year’s HVA graduating seniors earned more than \$24 million in scholarships, with many participating in academic, athletic, extracurricular and vocational competitions, as well as taking on leadership roles, attending Governor’s Schools, taking part in performing arts and contributing to society through community service; 35 participated in the Dual En-

See HVA SENIORS, MORE on Page 6B



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Matlock earns Loudon Co. Good Scout Award 2025

Jimmy Matlock, right, former state representative for much of Loudon and Monroe counties and owner of Matlock Tire Service & Auto Repair locations in Farragut, Lenoir City, Hardin Valley, Maryville and Athens, earned the 2025 Good Scout Award as bestowed during 2nd Annual Loudon County Good Scout Award Breakfast. It took place Friday, May 16, in Hamby-Smith Boardroom of Lenoir City Utilities Board, 7698 Creekwood Park Blvd., Lenoir City. He is joined by Mike Bell, left, a former state senator who is assistant commissioner for Fire Prevention, State of Tennessee, and the Volunteer State's Lt. Gov. Randy McNally (R-Oak Ridge).

Photo submitted



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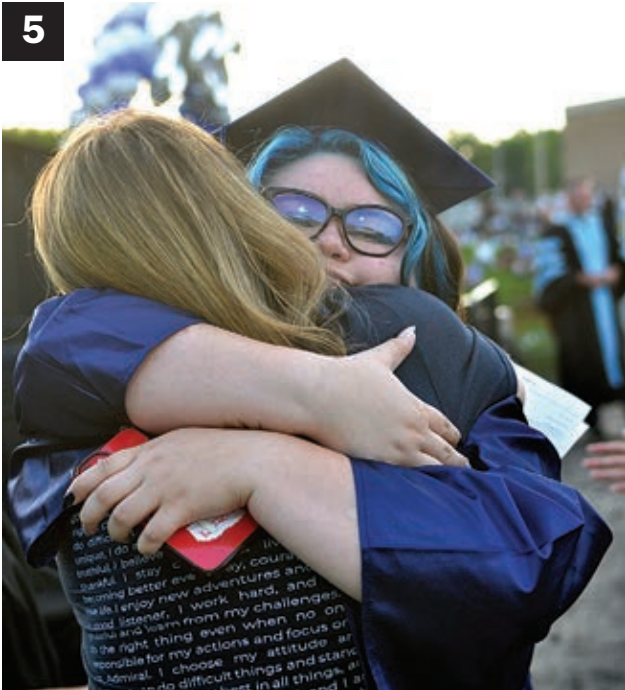
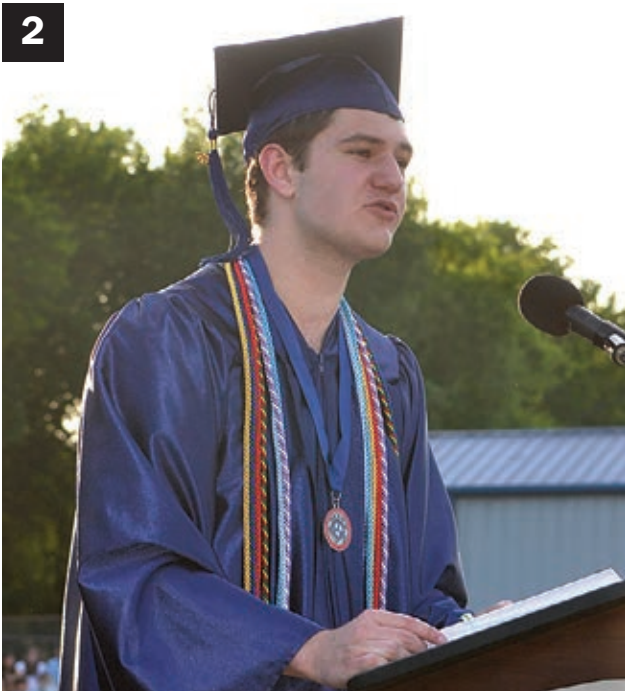
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Farragut High School’s Class of 2025 made its final memory at Commencement on Bill Clabo Field in Eddie Courtney Stadium Sunday evening, May 18. More than 500 walked the stage to symbolically receive their diploma — they picked up the actual diploma after the ceremony before joining their families. The event was an opportunity for final recognitions and reflections by speakers and principal Dr. John Bartlett, whose advice included “make a difference.”



1. From left: Beighlee Watt, Lea Matz, Luke Colgrove, Curtis Baker and Lakyn Baron **2.** Hayden Toon **3.** Lakyn Baron, left, and Katelyn Lowry **4.** Catherine Martin rings the bell **5.** Kadence Reed hugs a teacher **6.** From left: Katie Vu, Madison Huynh, Henry Huynh and Mandy Huynh **7.** ACL Academy principal Sara Vaughn poses for a selfie with, from left, Stuart Greene, Zack Locke and Cody Pinkston **8.** Audrey Ginel gets a hug **9.** Grace Doyle hugs principal Dr. John Bartlett **10.** Isabel Ricciuto and Ethan Morrison

HVA seniors, more
From page 3B

rollment Early College Pathway Experience, Renegar said. In light of those achievements, Connatser, Renata Galan Chongo and Angela Ramiscal each earned the Honors Seal of Biliteracy award; Madison Cox received the Tim Lee peer Tutor of the Year Award; and Ava Loetz received the Unified Partner of the Year Award.

Sara Crawford, Rebecka Jones, Julian Lee, Maria Marquez Martinez, Avery Stringfield and Judy Taylor earned the AP Seminar and Research Certificate, while Chanel Brown, Lauren Johnson, Kaylin Mata, Sameer Nathawat, Lucy Niebel, Gyuri Park and Austin Shin received the AP Capstone diploma.

Of those, Nathawat, this year’s class salutatorian, was named a National Merit Scholarship finalist.

“Sameer is being recognized for his exceptional academic promise as demonstrated by his outstanding performance on the qualifying test commonly known as PSAT,” academy coach Ashli Beeler said. “Sameer plans to attend Cornell University.”

He also is, of course, one of top 10 students in the Class of 2025. He joins Sophia Burgett, Jocelyn Chang, Connor Daniels, Renata Galan Chongo, Lauren Gray, Lauren John-

son, Kaylin Mata, Macy McInturff and Lucy Niebel in that rank. Johnson and Mata, who both plan to attend University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and major in neuroscience, tied for the valedictorian designation. Mata also received the Hagan Scholarship.

Meanwhile the recipient of the \$2,000 Evan Richey Memorial Scholarship was Josie Wade, while the \$2,000 Scott Impellizeri Memorial Scholarship went to Raed Abu-Shehadeh, Connor Daniels and Audrie Schuster.

Also, Daniels and Wade received a criminal justice Scott Impellizeri scholarship so they could pursue plans in criminal justice studies.

Additionally, Ava Raganese earned the inaugural Charlie Shuster Memorial Scholarship and Brody Blair received the Bill Pittman Scholarship.

Ten seniors received Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarships and plan military careers. They are Connor Adkisson, U.S. Army; Joseph Aragon, U.S. Air National Guard; Josh Bailey and Ashlyn Smith, U.S. Army National Guard; Brock Connatser, U.S. Coast Guard Academy; Lauren Gray, University of South Carolina Air Force ROTC; Ethan Kerwin, UT Air Force ROTC; Maddison Patterson, U.S. Navy; Carter Savage, U.S. Marines; and Dax Tran, UT, Air Force ROTC.

Four students, Cannon Col-



Hardin Valley Academy Teacher of the Year nominees, from left, were Kayla Webster, Laura Shands, Rebecca Furman, Tracey Davis, Logan Atwell and John Sides. Furman was named Teacher of the Year during HVA’s Senior Celebration May 2.

lette, Grady Estep, Gaetano Novello and Barron Scheetz, will be entering an apprenticeship after graduation.

Meanwhile, Antonio Dejesus, Brooklyn Johnson and Cara Sides have been accepted into Project SEARCH Program at Parkwest Hospital for the 2025-26 school year.

“These students will participate in total workplace immersion that facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration and hands-on training through worksite rotations,” Beeler said.

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Senior Awards
From page 2B

here from Ukraine;

- Sadie Pastor, Aryan Patel, Daniel Zhang, Shaun Allred, Michelangelo Cambie-Fabris, Maksim Gamolins and Joshua Green each received a Ned McWherter Scholarship;
- Emily Carpenter, Robbie Jacobs and Kaitlyn Mee re-

ceived the Cedar Bluff-Farragut Optimist Award;

- National Achievers Society Stole to Tiyannda Dudley;
- Rose Yagodzinski received the Lafayette and Pearl Hubbs Memorial Scholarship, which was endowed by the late Virginia Palmer, an FHS graduate, in memory of her parents;
- Jonathan Moreno received the Lenoir City Utilities Board

Scholarship and Sadie Watkins earned the Shoup Scholarship;

- U.S. Presidential Scholars semifinalists: Daniel Zhang, Hayden Toon and Henry Dee;
- Rising Tide Award winners were seniors Ethan Morrison, Shaun Allred, Sam Clem and Louis Gutierrez;
- Robert Jacobs, Maria Kochan, Loryn Neeley, Bailey Redmond and Nicholas Sny-

der received a Tennessee Tech Presidential Scholarship;

- Middle Tennessee State University scholarships went to Abigail Hamilton, Evan King and Louis Gutierrez;
- Maryville College scholarships was earned by Kaitlyn Redwine and Randon Miller;
- Varrun Prakash received the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Distinguished Ten-

nessean Scholarship;

- Lucy Beck received the Great West Casualty Scholarship; Ashton Brey earned the Hagan Scholarship;
- Shae Parsons received the Roane State RaiderReady Academic Excellence Scholarship;
- Meira Desai earned the East Tennessee State University Quillen Honors Scholar Program scholarship.

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Talk of the Town

A Publication of the Town of Farragut



Summer 2025

Family fun in the sun

Get ready for a full slate of summer fun with Farragut Parks & Recreation, including two new events!

Celebrate National Grandparents' Day with a picnic at McFee Park Great Lawn Pavilion! This free event, from 1-2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7, honors our most beloved family members. Bring the entire family, along with a blanket, a picnic lunch, sunscreen and gratitude for your grandparents. There will be yard games and a craft station; registration at townoffarragut.org/register is encouraged but not required.

Kingston Pike will be filled with red, white and blue during Farragut's annual **Independence Day Parade**, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 4. The parade begins at the Farragut High School junior lot and proceeds down Lendon Welch Way. It continues to Boring Road, just east of Farragut Towne Square Shopping Center (former Ingles store site). Bring the entire family out for

this community staple!

The grand marshals for the 2025 Independence Day Parade are Farragut High School Athletic Director Don Dodgen and coaches Eddie Courtney, Garrett Copeland and Chelsea Osborne.

Fun with Farragut's Fleet will have big local trucks and machinery rolling and rumbling into Mayor Bob Leonard Park, 301 Watt Road, from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23. This free event is a way for families to get up close and personal with equipment used by the Town of Farragut and other local businesses and organizations.

Creativity is all you need to bring to this year's **Art Fest!** Enjoy interactive art activities from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 14, at the Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd. Our young participants are sure to enjoy various art activities, and adults are encouraged to take part as well. This free event is sponsored by the Farragut Arts & Beautification Committee.



Sleep under the stars with Farragut Parks & Recreation! This year's **Family Campout** is Sept. 19-20 at McFee Park. Check in begins at 4 p.m. on Friday and check out is by 10 a.m. on Saturday. Activities include family games, a campfire, a flashlight scavenger hunt and more! Dinner and breakfast are included. Families must supply their own tent and sleeping bags. Registration is required at townoffarragut.org/register. Cost is \$30 per family up to four people and \$10 per additional family member(s).

For more information about Parks & Rec events, visit



farragutparksandrec.org or Manager Rachel Malone at contact.Recreation.and.Event@townoffarragut.org.



Town of Farragut welcomes sailors from USS Farragut

The Town of Farragut will welcome sailors from the U.S. Navy destroyer, USS Farragut, in early August. The sailors are visiting as part of a Navy initiative, Namesake Visits.

During their time in Farragut, the sailors will tour the town, meet local officials, com-

plete community service projects, reach out to veteran organizations and visit recruiting stations.

This namesake visit will allow sailors to learn more about the history of the Town of Farragut and David Glasgow Farragut, the Navy's first admiral. The

sailors will share naval stories and build relationships with the people and places that share a name with their warship.

The USS Farragut is currently at the Naval Station Mayport, a U.S. Navy base in Jacksonville, Fla.

Party in the Park

To celebrate National Parks and Recreation Month, Farragut Parks & Rec will be partying at the splash pad at McFee Park from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, July 25. This free event is the perfect end to summer vacation, with plenty of games, crafts and music to keep participants busy throughout the whole evening.

Southern Yankee Pizza and Tikiz Shaved Ice & Ice Cream will be at the event, providing

dinner and dessert options for participants to enjoy.

In addition to enjoying the splash pad and McFee Park playground, partygoers will have the opportunity to participate in a large-scale water ball fight and water obstacle course. Swimsuits are encouraged!

For questions regarding this event, please contact Recreation and Event Manager Rachel Malone at rmalone@townoffarragut.org.



Town of Farragut community survey is now open

The Town of Farragut is currently conducting the National Community Survey (NCS) and residents are encouraged to participate. To take the online survey, visit townoffarragut.org/survey or scan the QR code here.



See SURVEY on Page 2

Campbell Station and Watt Road interchanges added to TDOT's 10-year plan

Tennessee's new budget includes \$1 billion in additional transportation funding, allowing 96 road projects to be added to Tennessee Department of Transportation's (TDOT's) 10-Year Plan. Two of those projects are improvements to the I-40 interchanges at Campbell Station Road and Watt Road.

The additional General Fund dollars were made possible by reallocating a portion of the existing Tire Sales Tax revenue to TDOT. In addition to the \$1B in non-recurring funds, the new budget includes \$80 million in

dedicated, recurring General Fund dollars for transportation.

"It was one of my goals to get this funded," says Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams. "We knew that the problems at Campbell Station Road weren't going to go away."

The improvements will also address flooding along the I-40 corridor due to aging stormwater systems, he says.

State Senator Becky Massey, who chairs the Safety and Transportation Committee, is thankful that the additional \$1 billion will cover improvements

to the last two Knox County interchanges to be upgraded.

"I'm pleased to get this first step taken," she says. She admits she's partial to Knox County. "We have five of the seven busiest stretches of interstate in Tennessee."

In April of 2024, TDOT held a press conference at a weigh station just outside of Farragut to announce a new Comprehensive Strategy for the I-40/I-75 corridor in Loudon and Knox Counties. According to TDOT,

See TDOT on Page 2



WHO TO CALL

Town of Farragut Contacts

(All Town of Farragut phones have an 865 area code)

Ron Williams, Mayor..... 966-0214 (rwilliams@townoffarragut.org)
Drew Burnette, Alderman (Ward II) 203-5048 (dburnette@townoffarragut.org)
Alex Cain, Alderman (Ward I)966-7057 (acain@townoffarragut.org)
Scott Meyer, Vice Mayor, Alderman (Ward I)..288-0694 (smeyer@townoffarragut.org)
David White, Alderman (Ward II)389-0028 (dwhite@townoffarragut.org)
David Smoak, Town Administrator..... 966-7057 (dsmoak@townoffarragut.org)

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Community Development
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Alcohol License/PermitsAllison Myers (amyers@townoffarragut.org)
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Accounts Receivable Pam Hall (phall@townoffarragut.org)
Citizen Requests..... Allison Scott (ascott@townoffarragut.org)
Engineering.....Darryl Smith (dsmith@townoffarragut.org)
Event Permits Maria Rayas (mrayas@townoffarragut.org)
..... Karla Magnuson (kmagnuson@townoffarragut.org)
Farragut Court..... Allison Scott (ascott@townoffarragut.org)
..... Maria Rayas (mrayas@townoffarragut.org)
Landscaping Mark Shipley (mshipley@townoffarragut.org)
Sign PermitsBart Hose (bhose@townoffarragut.org)
Farragut Museum Kristi Vining (kvinging@townoffarragut.org)
Personnel Michelle Pence (mpence@townoffarragut.org)
Planning Requirements Mark Shipley (mshipley@townoffarragut.org)
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Codes Phone 675-2384

Building Inspections..... Karla Magnuson (kmagnuson@townoffarragut.org)
and Permits..... Maria Rayas (mrayas@townoffarragut.org)
Building Codes Pete Bruce (pbruce@townoffarragut.org)
.....Elliott Sievers (esievers@townoffarragut.org)
.....Karl Swierzko (kswierzko@townoffarragut.org)
.....Andrew Weaver (aweaver@townoffarragut.org)
Fire Safety/Inspections..... Charles Wilson (cwilson@townoffarragut.org)
Codes Enforcement/ Mark Shipley (mshipley@townoffarragut.org)
Property Maintenance Jon Ramirez (jramirez@townoffarragut.org)

Town Hall
8 a.m-5 p.m. Monday-Friday
11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut, TN 37934
General email: towninfo@townoffarragut.org
Website: townoffarragut.org

Social Media
Facebook: Town of Farragut, Visit Farragut, Farragut Parks & Rec,
Farragut Stormwater Matters
Instagram: town_of_farragut, visitfarragut, farragutparksandrec
X: townoffarragut, ToFFieldUpdate (athletics/field information),
ToFVolleyball (volleyball league), FarragutParks
YouTube: Town of Farragut, Visit Farragut

Parks & Recreation Phone 218-3376
Parks..... AthleticFieldReservations@townoffarragut.org
Athletic Field Rental & Athletic Programming
..... Ryan Rhodus (AthleticFieldReservations@townoffarragut.org)
Community Center Gym & Classroom Rental
.....(CommunityCenterRentals@townoffarragut.org)
Rentals: Pavilions and Community Center Events
.....Arleen Higginbotham (PicnicReservations@townoffarragut.org)
Special Events, Programs and Volunteers
.....Rachel Malone (ParksandRecInfo@townoffarragut.org)
General: Ron Oestreich (roestreich@townoffarragut.org)
General Parks & Rec information on programming and events:
..... ParksandRecInfo@townoffarragut.org
Athletic field reservations: AthleticFieldReservations@townoffarragut.org
Pavilion rentals:PicnicReservations@townoffarragut.org
Community Center rentals: CommunityCenterRentals@townoffarragut.org

Farragut Community Center
8 a.m-9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday
239 Jamestowne Blvd., Farragut, TN 37934
Website: townoffarragut.org/parksandrec

Anchor Park: 11730 Turkey Creek Road

Founders Park: 405 N. Campbell Station Road

Mayor Bob Leonard Park
Main Entrance: 301 Watt Road, Farragut; West Entrance: 700 Harrison Lane, Loudon

McFee Park: 917 McFee Road

Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza: 11409 Kingston Pike

BlueCross Healthy Place at Farragut Town Hall: 11408 Municipal Center Drive

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

The Talk of the Town is a quarterly publication produced by the Town of Farragut.

For more information about this publication, please contact Wendy Smith at 865-966-7057 or media@townoffarragut.org.

Tourism Talk



The Town of Farragut’s Tourism team has exciting updates and opportunities to share!

New “Find it in Farragut” social media series: The tourism team has launched a new series highlighting local businesses and attractions. Follow along to discover community favorites, hidden gems and all the ways to explore what makes Farragut special.

Special event pins are back: Visit Farragut is bringing back our collectible event pins this summer. Be one of the first 100 visitors to stop by the Visit Farragut tent at select events to receive a unique, limited-edition pin.

Fourth of July at the Campbell Station Inn: Join the tourism team outside the historic Campbell Station Inn for Independence Day festivities. Stop by the Visit Farragut booth for fun parade giveaways, including event pins and commemorative cups.

Opportunities for business partners

Industry newsletter sign-up

Stay informed about media features, event opportunities and tourism updates. Scan the QR code above to subscribe and stay connected.

Get listed on our website

If your Farragut business is sales tax-producing or hospitality-based, you’re eligible to be featured on our website. To be added or updated, email VisitFarragut@townoffarragut.org.

Save the dates

- **June 20:** Bluegrass Summer Solstice Concert at McGill Plaza
- **Every Saturday (May–October):** Dixie Lee Farmers Market
- **Every Sunday (June–July):** Pinnacle Farmers Market

For more information about these events, visit **VisitFarragut.org**. Follow **Visit Farragut** on Facebook and Instagram for all things **#FunInFarragut**.



Meet Me at the Museum

Have you visited the Farragut Museum yet? Meet me at the Museum for some exciting happenings:

- After being closed for a year and a half during Town Hall renovations, the Farragut Museum is now open 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Saturday hours allow school-aged children, weekend visitors and those who work regular business hours to enjoy the museum!
- The Museum has a small gift shop that includes books on local history, Farragut t-shirts, magnets, hats, stickers and more.
- The Farragut Museum is proud to offer a free history booklet detailing the history of the Farragut community! The 16-page booklet includes information on the first settlers, the Campbell Station Inn, the Battle of Campbell Station, Admiral David Farragut, the founding of Farragut and more!
- The Museum has also produced a free Kids’ Activity Book designed for elementary-aged children to teach them about our community, government and history. Connect-the-dots, word searches and crossword puzzles are a fun and engaging way to educate kids on the role of local government.
- Coming July 4: Look for the Farragut Museum Committee on a new float, a 10-foot-tall birthday cake, at the Town’s Independence Day parade. The float will be a celebration of the Town of Farragut’s 45th anniversary!
- Want to be a part of the fun? The Farragut Museum is currently seeking volunteers to serve as docents! Two-person shifts are 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and training will be provided.

TDOT

From page 1

the 17-mile stretch between the I-75 split in Loudon County and the I-640 split in Knox County is one of the most congested areas in the state, with over 205,000 vehicles using it every day. Addressing the two interchanges has been a priority for State Representative Jason Zachary. “After 10 years, working with two governors and multiple TDOT commissioners, we finally have approval and funding to move forward with both projects. I’m thrilled for our community and the thousands of people that live,

work and shop in deep west Knoxville,” he says. State Senator Richard Briggs says he worked with Williams and Massey to get the interchange projects on the calendar as soon as possible. Briggs also serves on the Safety and Transportation Committee. “The good news is that it will be done. The cautionary note is that it will be a while,” he says. Construction is projected to begin on the Watt Road interchange in 2029; Campbell Station Road interchange improvements are scheduled to begin in 2032.

Survey

From page 1

Data collection ends on June 9. The NCS is a comprehensive survey that gauges residents’ opinions on various dimensions of community life, including public safety, local government services, infrastructure, economy and

quality of life. The survey also includes input on potential amenities for a future park located at the corner of McFee Road and Boyd Station Road. The first round of the NCS was a paper survey sent to random households in the community. A report on survey results is expected in late June or early July.

SUMMER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

• Unless otherwise noted, register for classes and special events at [townoffarragut.org/register](#), in person at the Farragut Community Center (239 Jamestowne Blvd.) or by phone (865-218-3376). **All classes held at the community center require a free membership. Farragut residency is NOT required for membership. Please stop by the community center during regular hours or arrive early for class to register for your membership!**

- Payment is due at the time of registration. Credit card payments (Visa, MasterCard and Discover), cash and check payments are accepted.
- The Town of Farragut is not responsible for costs associated with the purchase of supplies when a class is canceled.

ADULT

Drop-in Dodgeball

Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.
Ages 18 and up, \$2 per player
Make friends and get exercise by playing a weekly game of dodgeball. We will divide into two teams and play classic dodgeball. We look forward to playing with you!

Beginner American Sign Language (ASL)

Mondays, July 7-Aug. 25, 5:30-7 p.m.
Ages 18 and up, \$75 per eight-session course
Beginner ASL is conducted completely in sign and teaches students the alphabet, fingerspelling, basic vocabulary and common phrases. Registration is required.

FAMILY

Learn a Fiber Art Series

Wednesdays, July 23-Aug. 27, 5-6:30 p.m.
Ages 12 and up, \$5 per class
This is a quick introduction to six fiber arts. All supplies will be provided. Preregistration is required for each class:

- July 23: Hand Sew
- July 30: Crochet
- August 6: Felt
- August 13: Weave
- August 20: Macrame
- August 27: Embroidery

Paint a Friend Challenge

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 7-8 p.m.
Ages 10 and up, \$10 per couple
Bring a friend, a sibling, a parent, or a partner and paint a portraits of each other. No need to be artistic to have fun at this event! All supplies are provided. Please register one person per couple.

Coffee and Crochet

Saturdays in August, 8:30-10 a.m.
Ages 10 and up, \$4 per person
Drop-in for a social hour of productivity! Use this time to learn new stitches, finish projects or chat with other crafters. Bring your own yarn, hooks, Keurig pods or tea bags. No pre-registration required.

Scrapbooking Class

Tuesdays, Aug. 5, 19 and Sept. 2 6:30-8 p.m.
Ages 10 and up, \$4 per person
Crafters of all levels come together to design beautiful, personalized pages. Whether you're new to scrapbooking or a seasoned pro, you'll find inspiration, tools and friendly guidance. Bring your creativity and your favorite photos!

Creative Coloring

Wednesdays, July 30-Sept. 10, 4-5 p.m.
Ages 12 and up, free
Join our weekly sessions for a calming, creative break and a fun hour of socializing. Limited supplies provided; please bring your own materials if you have them!

National Be Nice to Bugs Day

Farragut Community Center
Greenspace

Monday, July 14, 4-6 p.m.
All ages, free
Join us for a celebration of National Be Nice to Bugs Day. A variety of drop-in activities are geared towards youth. Registration is encouraged but not required.

Bingo

July 1, 15, 29; 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Ages 10 and up, \$4 per person
Join us every other week for a night of prizes, fun and friendly competition. Ages 10 and up are welcome! Bring family and friends to try your luck!

Family Basketball

Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.
All ages, \$2 per person
No need to pre-register – just bring a ball and get ready to play! Arrive a few minutes early to check in and get your free community center membership. This session is specifically for youth and families to shoot around and play without the intensity of pickup open gyms.

FITNESS

Total Fitness

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Ages 16 and up, \$4 per person
This class is tailored to individuals of all fitness levels and focuses on functional exercises to improve overall strength and balance. A variety of exercises will build upper and lower body strength, improve balance and strengthen the core. Bring hand weights or other weighted objects, as well as water and a mat.

Zumba

Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Ages 18 and up, \$4 per person
We take the “work” out of workout with Zumba, a Latin-inspired dance class that makes getting fit fun!

Sunrise Stretch

Wednesdays, 8:15-9:15 a.m.
Ages 16 and up, free
Start your day off right with a sunrise yoga session! This is the perfect way to start the day for beginning to advanced yogis. The instructor is glad to provide an introductory class for anyone new to yoga.

Rise and Shine Yoga

Mondays and Fridays, 8:15-9:15 a.m.
Ages 16 and up, \$4 per person
Rise and shine! Start your day off right with a morning yoga class. Bring a yoga mat, water and a positive attitude!

YOUTH

Math Bites: Session 1

Friday, July 11, 1-3 p.m.
Grades 2-4, \$12 per child
Students explore single, double and multi-digit number operations in a fun, supportive environment. All materials are provided.

Math Bites: Session 2

Friday, July 25, 1-3 p.m.
Grades 4-6, \$12 per child
Students experience problems, math games and story time with decimals,

fractions and percents. All materials are provided.

Learn to Ride a Bike Workshop

Mayor Bob Leonard Park
Monday, Aug. 11, 4:30-6 p.m.
Ages 5 to 8, \$5 per child
This is a course for kids learning how to ride a bicycle! Bring your own bicycle and a helmet. Please remove training wheels before arrival. Registration is required.

Wiggle, Giggle, & Go

Fridays; July 11-Sept. 26, 10-11 a.m.
Ages walking to 5, \$2 per child
It's time for toddlers to get group-led activity in and a lot of energy out with a dance party! Parents are encouraged to participate. Bring water and clothes ready for moving and grooving. No pre-registration required.

Storytime Crafts

Tuesdays, Aug. 5-Sept. 30, 9:15-10 a.m.
Age: 3 to 5, \$2 per child
Join us for a fun storytelling session with picture books and a related craft. No pre-registration required

Kids Free Play (Open Gym)

Mondays through June 30, 4-5 p.m.
Ages 4 to 12, \$2 per child
Kids can play and stay active in this open gym! With plenty of space and fun activities, it's the perfect way to burn energy and have a blast!

Creative Space

Mondays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Ages 6-12, free
A perfect opportunity for school-aged kids to use the classroom for open-ended work time. Limited supplies for various activities are provided.

Art Adventures

Tuesdays, June 17-July 29, Aug. 12-Dec. 16, 2-3:30 p.m.
Ages 6 to 12, \$4 per child
Each week, school-aged artists create a new project with varying mediums. All skill levels are welcome! Preregistration is not required.

Afterschool Art

Wednesdays, Aug. 13-Dec. 17, 3:30-5 p.m.
Ages 6 to 12, \$4 per child
Each week, school-aged artists create a new project with varying mediums. All skill levels are welcome! Preregistration is not required.

Elementary Homeschool PE

Grades K-5 (ages 6 to 10)
Tuesdays, Aug. 12-Dec. 16, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, Aug. 13-Dec. 17, 1-2 p.m.
Cost: \$2 per child
This class features sports and group games that emphasize teamwork, good sportsmanship, physical activity and fun! Participants must be at least 6 years old to participate. Preregistration is not required.

Middle School Homeschool PE

Grades 6-8 (ages 11 to 14)
Wednesdays, Aug. 13-Dec. 17, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Cost: \$2 per child
This class emphasizes organized sports, competition and physical activity, while still including plenty of group games, teamwork and fun! Preregistration is not required.

American Sign Language for Kids

Session 1: Tuesdays, July 8-29, 3-4 p.m.
Session 2: Tuesdays, Aug. 5-26, 4-5 p.m.
Ages 6 to 14, \$20 per session
This beginner American Sign Language (ASL) class will include learning ASL vocabulary with visual aids, engaging conversation and fun games and activities.

Beginner Ballet

Level 1: Thursdays, 3-4 p.m., ages 4-6
Level 2: Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., ages 7-12
\$30 per month
Learn the fundamentals of ballet and focus on grace, flexibility, teamwork and creativity. Come to class with hair pulled back, tights, leotard, ballet shoes and a smile!

Toddler Takeover

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.
Ages walking to 5 years, \$2 per child
Join us for guardian-supervised indoor playtime and let your child explore our bright, colorful, age-appropriate equipment!

Tiny Tots Tennis

McFee Park
Mondays, Sept. 8-29, 4-4:45 p.m.
Ages 4 to 6, \$15 per child
This introductory program teaches tiny athletes the building blocks of tennis! We will focus on hand-eye coordination, basic strokes and related gross motor skills. Preregistration is required, as space is limited! Parents are required to participate with their child.

Youth Tennis Lessons

McFee Park
Mondays, Sept. 8-29, 5-6 p.m.
Ages 7 to 9, \$15 per child
Perfect for beginner youth who are interested in playing tennis! We will learn basic strokes, serves and other skills necessary for enjoying the game.

HABIT Dog Reading Hour

Tuesdays, July 1-29, 12-1:30 p.m.
Ages 5 to 12, \$2 per child
Join a HABIT (Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee) dog for a reading hour! This is a great opportunity to improve read-aloud skills, socialization and enjoy quiet, creative activities.

Learn a Sport Series

Various locations
Tuesdays, Aug. 5-Sept. 9, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Ages 6 to 12, \$10 per child
Kids get hands-on experience with a different sport each week, from

soccer and basketball to tennis and more. No prior experience needed—just a willingness to learn and move.

OPEN GYM

Pickleball Open Gym

Mondays and Fridays, noon-3 p.m.
Wednesdays, 4-9 p.m.
Cost: \$4 per person
Ages 14 and up
Grab a paddle and get ready to play! Games are played to 11 points, winning by two. Limited equipment is available for checkout and nets are provided. Please arrive a few minutes early to check in. Users may experience wait times.

Pickup Volleyball

Mondays, 6:30-9 p.m.
Cost: \$4 per person
Ages 14 and up
This session is for individuals who want to play scrimmage-style, non-refereed games. Limited equipment is available for checkout and nets are provided. Please arrive a few minutes early to check in. Users may experience wait times.

Pickup Basketball

Thursdays, 6:30-9 p.m.
Cost: \$4 per person
Ages 14 and up
This session is for individuals who want to play scrimmage-style, non-refereed games. Bring a ball and get ready to play! Please arrive a few minutes early to check in. Users may experience wait times.

Youth Basketball Open Gym

Tuesdays and Fridays, through July 29, 4-6:30 p.m.
Cost: \$2 per person
Ages 13 and under
Parents/guardians must stay on-site with participants.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Grandparents' Day Picnic

McFee Great Lawn Pavilion
Sunday, Sept. 7, 1-2:30 p.m.
(See Family Fun in the Sun on page 1)

Independence Day Parade

Friday, July 4, beginning at 9:30 a.m.
(See Family Fun in the Sun on page 1)

Party in the Park

McFee Park
Friday, July 25, 6-8 p.m.
(See Party in the Park on page 1)

Fun with Farragut's Fleet

Mayor Bob Leonard Park
Saturday, Aug. 23, 9-11 a.m.
(See Family Fun in the Sun on page 1)

Art Fest

Farragut Community Center
Sunday, Sept. 14, 1-3 p.m.
(See Family Fun in the Sun on page 1)

Family Campout

McFee Park
Sept. 19-20
(See Family Fun in the Sun on page 1)

Independence Day Parade participant rules

The Town of Farragut's Independence Day Parade starts at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 4, and parade participants are required to follow these guidelines:

- Parade participants should arrive at Farragut High School no later than 8:30 a.m. on Friday, July 4. Access to the high school is available from Campbell Station Road, West End Boulevard and Lendon Welch Way (the road next to the stadiums).
- Only parade vehicles will

be allowed to enter the parade line-up area. Older children and adults may be dropped off on the circle drive or on the drive to the Farragut Middle School. Those participating in the parade or those with small children will need to park in the circle parking lot at the high school or the parking lot at the middle school. Parade line-up numbers will be available at [townoffarragut.org/townevents](#) and posted on the Farragut Community Center front door

by 8 a.m. on Friday, June 27. Line-up numbers will not be available by phone.

- Antique car participants: Plan on arriving at the high school before 8 a.m. to avoid long lines and overheating your car. There is no special entrance or accommodation for antique cars, so please arrive early.
- Large floats may be taken to the line-up area at the junior lot at Farragut High School any time after 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 3. A guard will be on duty

from 5 p.m. until the parade on July 4.

- Giveaways: No candy or giveaways may be thrown from floats or cars. Walkers may distribute these and other free items along the side of the road during the parade. Children younger than 9 must ride (not walk) during the parade.
- All parade participants must be picked up at the Farragut Towne Square parking lot (former Ingles shopping center).

If you lost it, we might've found it

If you left an item at a Town of Farragut park or facility, don't lose hope. We might have found it. The park staff keeps a bin of items found at parks and the Farragut Community Center. Call 865-218-3376 to see if your item made it to the bin. We can also make note of your missing item and be on the lookout for it. All unclaimed items will be donated at the end of each month.

Community Center Corner

Summer fun and connection for all ages

This summer, the Farragut Community Center offers many ways to stay active, get creative and connect with others. Adults can join Drop-in Dodgeball on Tuesday nights for just \$2 or register for the Beginner American Sign Language course on Mondays. Looking for something relaxing? Check out our free Sunrise Stretch yoga on Wednesdays to start your day off right. Crafters will love the Learn a Fiber Art series, which explores a new fiber art each week, from crochet to macrame. For a fun

night out, grab a partner and try the Paint a Friend Challenge on Wednesday, Aug. 6, or drop in for Coffee and Crochet on Saturday mornings to sip, stitch and socialize. Families and kids can enjoy programs like the Learn a Sport Series for ages 10–14 or Storytime Crafts for preschoolers. Toddlers can dance their energy out at Wiggle, Giggle, & Go, while school-aged kids can get creative during Creative Space on Monday afternoons. With affordable prices and many drop-in options, it's easy



to get involved. All programming and registration information can be found at townoffarragut.org/programs. We can't wait to see you!

Parks & Recreation



Dog Daze brings high-flying canine aquatic fun

The 9th annual Smoky Mountain DockDogs “Dog Daze” event, with the support of Ricki’s Pet Depot, Shop Farragut and the Town of Farragut, returns to Village Green Shopping Center Friday, Aug. 15, through Sunday, Aug. 17. Dog Daze is a free event featuring a regional canine aquatics competition governed and sanctioned by DockDogs International. Canine festivities kick off Friday from 4-7 p.m. with a brand-new event, “Dueling Dogs.” This will be a head-to-head,

two-lane swimming competition. You can register your dog to participate for \$20 at duelingdogs.net. Between qualifying rounds, spectators can shop at the Village Green Shopping Center, mingle with pet food suppliers, get food and drink at the festival tent and visit over 50 vendor and merchant booths. For more information about Dog Daze, including a complete event schedule and a link to register, visit shopfarragut.com.

Keep pet policies in mind while visiting our parks

Farragut’s beautiful parks and greenways are some of the most-used amenities in town, and it takes a group effort to keep them pristine. We ask all who frequent our outdoor spaces to keep in mind our pet policies so that our parks stay clean and safe for everyone. When you and your pup are enjoying the outdoors in Farragut, please be mindful of the health and experiences of others and clean up after your pets. Pet waste stations are conveniently located throughout our parks and greenspaces. No dogs are allowed on athletic fields, playgrounds, McFee Park tennis/pickleball courts or the splash pad. Pets must be on a leash whenever they are off the property of the owner. We are still in the planning



stage of Farragut’s first dog park at McFee Park, but in the meantime, the closest dog park is at Concord Park, a Knox County property located at 10909 Northshore Drive. It offers water fountains for pets, a dock with access to the river and walking trails.

Farragut late summer adult volleyball leagues



Registration for late summer co-ed adult volleyball leagues has an absolute deadline of Wednesday, July 2. The cost is \$175 per team for recreation and intermediate leagues. Payment must be received at the time of registration. The summer session consists of seven regular-season matches plus a post-season double elimination tournament for all levels of play. All leagues are played in the evenings at Mayor Bob Leonard Park on

Watt Road. • Recreational leagues (six players) o Monday evenings beginning July 7. Each team must play with at least two women on the court at all times. • Intermediate league (six players) –This league is for players who are developing their competitive game, have indoor experience and are making strides toward their beach game, such as ex-high school players.

o Thursday evenings beginning July 10. Each team must play with at least two women on the court at all times. For more information and to register for adult athletic leagues, please call the Farragut Parks & Recreation office at 865-218-3376, register online at townoffarragut.org/register or visit the Parks & Rec office at the Farragut Community Center.



Independence Day Parade road closure

Due to the Independence Day Parade, Kingston Pike from Lendon Welch Way to Federal Boulevard will be closed from 8:30 a.m. to approximately noon on Friday, July 4. Detours: north side - Campbell Station Road to Grigsby Chapel Road to Smith Road to Kingston Pike (going west) or Campbell Station Road to Parkside Drive to Lovell Road (going east) and south side - Concord Road to Turkey Creek Road to Virtue Road to Kingston Pike. For more information about the parade, please call 865-218-3376 or visit townoffarragut.org/townevents.