



Farragut budgets 265K for equipment replacement

Tammy Cheek
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As Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen continues its budget process, it reviewed its budgets for the Town's equipment replacement, state street aid, Americans with Disabilities Act capital projects and insurance funds during a workshop Thursday, March 26.

"Our equipment replacement fund is a 10-year funding mechanism that we do to look at all of our major equipment throughout Town — vehicles, our big equipment like dump trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, mowers and the units that go with those," Town administrator David Smoak said.

"We try to look ahead at replacements of those units in the future, make sure we have enough money in the fund balance to pay for those," he said.

Focusing on fiscal year 2027, Smoak said the main revenues coming from or into the equipment fund are from interest earnings based on the fund balance the Town has, proceeds from sales of equipment and transfers from the general fund.

"We have a lot of proceeds [from sales]," he

said. "We have a lot of equipment that we recently surprised that will go to gov.deals."

"In the general fund, we're just putting money aside and [then] put it into the equipment fund, so we can make sure we have enough for future expenditures," Smoak said. "This year, we are going to transfer \$235,000 from the general fund into the equipment replacement fund," he said. "We've got major expenditures of \$265,000, and so when you add up all those things, we have right at \$16,000 in revenue over expenditures planned with an ending fund balance right around \$1.3 million.

Smoak said the Town will need to replace a John Deere utility tractor, which is used daily and will be a \$50,000 replacement unit; a 1575 mower with an additional cab, which is heated and cooled, estimated to cost \$50,000 to replace; and a dump truck, estimated to replace at \$160,000.

"We replaced one dump truck this year," he said. "This is the second one we have. We're going to a newer unit."

"I know we're going to get some questions, and if there is a competitive

See ROADS on Page 4A



Tammy Creek

Local residents streamed into the new Publix just after the ribbon was cut.

Farragut welcomes Publix

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A crowd eagerly waited before daybreak as Farragut Mayor Ron Williams cut the ribbon for Publix at Westerly Commons in west Farragut Thursday morning, March 26, at 13123 Kingston Pike, near the intersection with S. Watt Road.

"We'd like to welcome you to your new Publix," the store's community relations manager Kimberly Reynolds said.

"We have a lot of people standing here to get in," the mayor said before introducing Town officials who were present. "I'm really excited to have Publix on this corner and our second one in our Town. I think, for everybody who lives out this way and myself, this will be a real convenience.

"And, for the people who live in Lenoir City and Loudon area, we really appreciate your sales tax," he added, generating laughter. "As you probably know, we live on sales tax here.

"Anyway, this is going to be a busy corner, so hopefully everybody can have a good time today ... it's a beautiful store," Williams said.

"Thank you for your leadership and partnership in getting us here today," Reynolds added.

"I just couldn't be more excited to open up this store for your community and our neighbors and really looking forward to serving you — serving you the way you expect from Publix," store manager David Kuehl said. "I couldn't be more happy to be leading this team. We are very excited to show you what we've got going on in [the store]."

"We are thrilled to welcome customers to our newest Publix in Farragut," Publix media relations manager Nicole Krauss said. "Customers, both old and new, will enjoy some of the special features of this brand-new location, and we're excited to provide our customers with the quality, convenience and service they know and love."

"We're delighted to continue growing here in and around East Tennessee, the Knoxville area and Farragut," she said.

The 48,387-square-foot store offers new features, such as free Wi-Fi in the store and a mezzanine upstairs, which offers an "opportunity to grab lunch,

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Knox County mayoral candidates share views in Q&A

As Knox County prepares to elect its next mayor, voters are weighing not only the candidates themselves but also their ideas for the county's future. To help inform that decision, farragutpress invited all four candidates to respond to a series of questions addressing leadership, priorities and long-term planning.

Below are the questions posed, followed by the answers submitted by each candidate.

1. Leadership and vision

Based on your political philosophy and your approach to solving problems, why should voters elect you as the next Knox County mayor?

2. Top challenge

What do you believe will be the most serious challenge facing the next Knox County mayor, and what specific policy or initiative would you pursue to address it?

3. Education

What role does education play in Knox County's long-term success, and how would you support the county's schools and workforce development efforts as mayor?

4. Infrastructure

As mayor, what would be your plan to improve and maintain infrastructure, including road repairs, traffic management and planning for future development?

5. Growth and planning

What specific policies or planning strategies would you support to ensure growth occurs in appropriate areas while reflecting the priorities and quality of life concerns of current residents?



Kim Frazier

1. Leadership and vision:

I bring a community-minded, collaborative approach guided by conservative values and a deep commitment to the people and communities that make Knox County home.

I believe in limited government, fiscal responsibility, and protecting the freedoms that create opportunity, but those principles work best when guided by the needs and voices of our communities.

My approach is to listen first, bring people

See FRAZIER on Page 5A



Beau Hawk

1. Leadership and vision:

I'm running to bring an outsider's voice to the mayor's office, because the County government needs a change from the inside. Fraud, theft, and abuse have run rampant in county government for decades. Misuse of county vehicles, weak financial controls, audits that sit on shelves, and elected offices operating with no real oversight. We cannot trust the politicians who've gotten us to this point to lead us out of it. I'll champion term limits for fee office hold-

See HAWK on Page 5A



Betsy Henderson

1. Leadership and vision:

When I was sworn in to serve on the Knox County School Board in December 2020, our community faced a crisis: COVID.

In that moment, I stood with families, not hysteria. In the face of attacks and intimidation, I fought to keep schools open and opposed mask mandates because parents, not politicians, should make decisions for their children. Such leadership

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Larsen Jay

1. Leadership and vision:

Voters will choose their next Knox County Mayor, a role that serves as the President/CEO of our county's operations. I view Knox County as a public service organization owned by its citizens, responsible for delivering five core services: public safety, education, infrastructure, health, and economic development. After a lifetime of hard work, including more than twenty years of executive leadership and eight years as your at-large

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FHS alum becomes 'Torchbearer' at UT

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

For Sana Boghani, Monday, March 16, appeared the same as any other.

She settled into an evening health policy and management class, part of her pursuit of a Master's degree in public health. The room buzzed with low chatter as students shared stories from Spring Break.

Suddenly, the mood shifted. Dr. Joe Mazer, the dean of the College of Communication and Information at the University of Tennessee, walked in with several of Boghani's professors and mentors following closely.

They informed the 2022 Farragut High School graduate she had been named a 2026 Torchbearer, the university's highest undergraduate student honor.

Awarded annually to a select few seniors and recent graduates, the Torchbearer designation recognizes academic excellence and an extraordinary

commitment to service and leadership.

Boghani — a December 2025 UTK graduate — accepted a hug and broke into a wide smile, donning the same color of navy she had worn at her FHS graduation four years prior.

"I had no words, but my face gave it away," she said. "I feel very humbled, blessed and grateful that I was considered for that honor. While I applied and was nominated, I had zero expectation that I would actually receive the award. It was a moment I will never forget."

The moment served as a fitting accolade in Boghani's UT journey, which started with doubt as she saw friends venturing out-of-state for college.

Instead, she attended a school that is exactly 17 miles from her high school alma mater and earned a plethora of honors in the process.

"I thought that I was staying in my bubble by staying in-state," she said. "But I did not realize that UT itself just

broadened my horizons."

At Tennessee, Boghani became a member of the Chancellor's Honors program and was recognized as one of the top four graduates in the College of Communication and Information.

She served as a Land Ambassador for the College of Communication and Information, sharing her own passion for UT as a campus tour guide and student panelist.

Also, Boghani took on leadership roles in UT's Ignite program — an extended orientation experience for first-year students — and organized service projects for more than 400 incoming freshmen.

Perhaps most impressively, she completed 435 hours of community service — 210 hours more than required to receive the university's Gold Service Medallion.

"Service is such a part of who I am, and it really aligns with the ethos of the university, which makes this award even more meaningful,"



Photo courtesy of the University of Tennessee

Sana Boghani, a Class of 2022 Farragut High School graduate, accepts a hug after learning she had been named a 2026 Torchbearer, the highest undergraduate honor one can receive at The University of Tennessee.

Boghani said.

Altogether, those efforts extend a strong work ethic that began at FHS.

As an Admiral, Boghani grew into an award-winning student who earned recognition as part of the National Honor Society and the AP Capstone program.

"She's a great kid," Farragut High School principal Dr. John Bartlett said of Boghani. "Bright young lady, one of those people that — it sounds cliché — but she makes everyone better and is a good leader. So you see those things play out with her becoming a Torchbearer."

Mix, mingle, market: Chamber expo set April 22

Tammy Cheek

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Knox County businesses will have a chance to show what they offer during Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo 2026.

Going into its fourth year, the event will take place from noon to 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, in The Venue at Lenoir City, 7690 Creekwood Park Blvd., Lenoir City.

"Join us for an afternoon of networking, connection and discovery as you meet new service providers, connect with businesses new to the area and learn more about the many unique brands and services in our region," Chamber president/CEO Julie Blaylock said.

This event, presented by Slamdot and open to the public, is a business-to-business expo, she said.

"So, there will be a lot of business networking going on," Blaylock added. "Business members of the Chamber attend at no cost as long as they pre-register."

"Anybody else whose not a member of the Chamber, whether they are a business or just a resident who just wants to shop for new services, they can pre-register and get two tickets for \$5," she said. "On the day of the expo, at the door, anybody who hasn't pre-registered is \$5 each. That includes members, non-members, everybody."

Pre-registration can be done by visiting farragutchamber.org.

"We definitely encourage residents and non-members to attend," Blaylock said. "That's why we've kept the pre-registration entry fee so low. We want to make it easy for people to attend."

The first 300 people who arrive will get a swag bag with coupons and samples and other items, and everyone who attends will have an opportunity to walk around and talk to vendors.

"We will have 82 businesses there," she said. "We just sold out the booths, so we are now on a waiting list for booth openings."

"We will have nine area restaurants, caterers or beverage providers," Blaylock said. "They will be doing samples."

"While this is not a 'taste' type event, it will have people offering samples of food, and we'll have those people highlighted so they can be found easily," she said.

And, "we have very strong sponsorship representation," Blaylock added. In addition to Slamdot, other sponsors include expo sponsor, First Century Bank; business-level sponsors, CertaPro Painters, Lenoir City Utilities Board and Y-12 Credit Union; community sponsors, Simply Magical Vacations by Amy,

Nerds to Go Knoxville, Good Day Garage Doors, Kat's Lash Lounge & Wax Studio and UT Federal Credit Union; dual media sponsor, farragutpress.com and WFIV-FM radio; and the 2026 swag bag sponsor and booth beverage sponsor — providing bottled water — is Graphic Creations.

Blaylock said the expo has evolved every year.

"We have sold out booths every single year," she said. "We hear, year over year, from vendors that they get more qualified leads from being part of this expo than many other trade shows that they pay a lot more money to participate in."

Corrections

During a Thursday, March 19, Farragut Municipal Planning Commission meeting, Jeffrey Marzolf asked the Commission for a change to the Future Land Use Map and rezoning for 1.1 acre property at 11830 Kingston Pike. The amount of the acreage was listed incorrectly in an article on the front page of the Wednesday, March 25, issue of the farragutpress.com. We regret the error.

In the U.S. Representatives District 2 race, Michaela Barnett, a Democrat, is running against current Rep. Tim Burchett. Her name was misspelled in a front-page article that ran in the Wednesday, Feb. 18, issue. We regret the error.

Mansour Hasan, State Farm Agent presents

The Good Neighbor Character Award

Yashvi P.

Congratulations to Yashvi P., a Second Grader from Farragut Primary School, for winning the Good Neighbor Character Award presented by Mansour Hasan, State Farm Agent. Yashvi was selected for this honor by her teacher because of her caring nature. "I am proud to recognize Yashvi for consistently showing kindness to others," said her teacher, Mrs. Faugot. "She brightens our classroom with a positive and caring attitude."



Mansour Hasan **State Farm**

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Jay

From page 1A

County Commissioner, I am prepared to lead Knox County into its next chapter. My experience across the private, community, and government sectors has given me a strong understanding of how to make informed, balanced decisions that benefit the public. This is a critical time for Knox County. As our community grows, we must meet new challenges with common-sense conservative leadership. I am committed to public service and to ensuring Knox County remains a place where our children can live and succeed. That requires honest, accountable leadership, and I am ready to serve.

2. Top Challenge:

The most serious challenge facing the next Knox County Mayor will be addressing infrastructure demands caused by rapid growth. If we do not

Henderson

From page 1A

experience matters because when you choose an executive, the next challenge remains unknown but is likely right around the corner.

It is important to choose a leader who shares your values, has the judgment to make tough decisions, and has the courage to stand firm under pressure. Being Mayor is not about speeches or slogans, but rather, it is about leadership when it counts. When tested in a crisis, I did not back down, and I will bring that same resolve and decision-making to the mayor's office.

2. Top challenge:

Prioritizing County spending will be my top priorities because that will allow us to have the resources we need invest in roads, school and our Sheriff's Office.

Roads

From page 1A

Kubota product, you might can answer that," Mayor Ron Williams questioned Smoak.

"I know we do state contracts for a lot of these items," Smoak replied. "I don't know if (Kubota) is on the contract or not."

Regarding the Tourism/Visitors fund, which receives revenues through the Hotel/Motel Room Occupancy Tax; event ticket sales and fees; museum and gift shop revenues; grant funding, which is going away at the end of this fiscal year; and interest earnings, "we have a beginning fund balance right at \$923,476," he said.

The proposed budget shows anticipated revenue from the

act quickly, congestion and gridlock could discourage people and businesses from investing in our community. Infrastructure includes the systems that move people, goods, and services efficiently, but road conditions and traffic are immediate concerns. Nearly half of Knox County's neighborhood roads have not been repaved since they were built, creating a significant backlog. To address this, I would double the paving budget in my first year and continue increasing investment until we reduce the 3,400-mile backlog. I would also target major congestion points by adding turn lanes, installing roundabouts, and widening key roads to improve traffic flow. Additionally, I would work with state officials to secure grants and allow Knox County to complete certain state road improvements. This approach would lower costs and shorten timelines,

I will oppose any tax increase and work to keep your tax burden low.

Since Knox County's last property tax increase in 1999, the county budget has nearly tripled from about \$423 million to more than \$1.1 billion today. With responsible budgeting and natural growth, we can fund our roads, schools, public safety, and essential services without asking families to pay more.

3. Education:

From day one on the School Board, my focus has been clear: put students first and deliver real results. Knox County Schools is the third largest school district in Tennessee. We educate nearly 60,000 students and represent approximately two thirds of Knox County's overall budget. I had the honor of serving as Chair for two years, leading during a time when our schools,

tax of \$557,000 for 2026.

Meanwhile, for 2026, the Town expects the following expenditures: tourism personnel, \$200,584; operating costs, \$736,792; museum personnel, \$40,918; and museum operating costs, \$41,061.

For two years in a row, "we've been spending a large part of our tourism fund balance down for the wayfinding project [signs]," Smoak said. "We also have a stage we have planned for next year.

"We project \$418,000 next year in major equipment to do those two things," he added.

"We had the Bassmasters restaurant in Town," Williams said. "They were really impressed with the overhead street signs that were lit on Kingston Pike."

allowing us to deliver results more quickly for residents.

3. Education:

Education is essential to Knox County's long-term success. There is no better investment than education as it directly impacts our future workforce and economic growth. Although public schools are governed by the State of Tennessee and administered locally, the mayor plays an important role in advocacy and collaboration. I would work closely with the Superintendent and Board of Education to support strong academic outcomes and effective planning. This includes promoting civics education, expanding career pathways, and supporting workforce development opportunities that connect students with real-world skills. I would also support strategic school consolidation in some areas to replace outdated facilities with

families, and teachers needed steady leadership.

We did not just talk about improvement. We made tough decisions and took action.

Together, we reduced central office staffing to push more resources into the classroom. We brought in strong new leadership to move the district forward. We invested directly in classroom teachers to remain competitive and stop the loss of talent to surrounding districts. We expanded career and technical training opportunities so students can graduate ready for college, trade school, or military service.

We will build on this foundation and ensure Knox County continues moving toward world class schools while maintaining fiscal discipline and strong parental involvement.

4. Infrastructure:

We deserve infrastructure

Smoak said the state street aid fund is from where the Town's major repaving projects are funded each year.

modern schools that better serve students and teachers. In addition, I would champion higher education institutions, trade schools, and military service opportunities to ensure students have multiple pathways to success and that Knox County builds a strong, adaptable workforce.

4. Infrastructure:

In addition to prioritizing road repairs and expansions, I would modernize traffic management. One key initiative would be implementing AI-driven smart traffic light systems that adjust in real time based on traffic patterns, improving flow and reducing delays. I would also work with state leaders to develop a regional bypass to re-direct transit trucks away from congested highways, improving safety and travel times. Finally, I would support the development of choice lanes to increase capacity on major routes. By combining improved mainte-

that supports families, neighborhoods, and local businesses. As mayor, I'll prioritize the projects that matter most to our residents and I'll do it with responsible conservative budgeting. No wasteful spending. No tax hikes.

Many of Knox County's biggest road challenges are managed by the City, the State, or the Federal Government. That's why relationships matter. I've already built strong partnerships with our state and federal delegation to fight for Knox County, and I'll keep doing it to secure every dollar we deserve.

We will cut red tape, streamline government, and make sure your tax dollars go where they belong into better roads, safer neighborhoods, and reliable services for our families.

5. Growth and planning:

A growing and thriving community is a blessing, but reck-

nance, modern technology, and long-term planning, we can create a transportation system that meets current and future needs.

5. Growth and planning:

Managing growth responsibly is critical to preserving Knox County's quality of life. The AdvanceKnox Comprehensive Growth Plan provides a strong framework for balancing development and preservation. Because Knox County operates separately from the City of Knoxville and the Town of Farragut, it is important to maintain a coordinated approach. AdvanceKnox focuses on concentrating development along major corridors while protecting rural areas. As our population is expected to grow, we must remain committed to smart growth policies that align housing, jobs, and development with infrastructure capacity. By following this plan, we can support growth while preserving Knox County.

less, unchecked development is not. We must take a proactive, conservative approach—one that ensures economic opportunity without sacrificing our identity. That means supporting responsible expansion while maintaining the charm that makes East Tennessee home.

The County is going through a process to develop plans for the next 20 years of development. I sat on the committee that reviewed the growth plan called Advance Knox. I did not vote for that plan because it opened up over 9,000 acres of rural land for development across Knox County.

We are blessed to live in a community that people want to join, but this is our community and we get to determine its future. As your Mayor, I will listen to the people to ensure we grow in a way that protects what we love about East TN.

said. There also are interest earnings added to that for a total revenue of "just over \$1 million."



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Hawk
From page 1A

ers, greater oversight within every department, and real communication and transparency with the people we're elected to serve.

2. Top challenge:

The most serious challenge facing the next Knox County Mayor is affordability — specifically, the housing crisis that is pricing out the very working people who make this county run. I hear it constantly on the campaign trail and from union members across East Tennessee: Knox County is growing, but it's not growing for everyone. The fix is straightforward even if the politics aren't — we have a supply problem, and we need leadership willing to solve

it. That means prioritizing growth along corridors where infrastructure already exists, removing zoning barriers to infill and mixed-use development, and incentivizing density where it makes sense to prevent sprawl from pushing the problem further out. Knox County doesn't need to choose between growth and affordability — it needs a mayor with the will to plan for both at the same time.

3. Education:

I support fully-funded public schools that meet the needs of each student and adequately reward teachers for their life-changing work. School vouchers do not effectively provide alternatives to public schools, rather they drain our system of needed funds. We need true champions for public schools

in office, not politicians with ties to private schools and the school privatization lobby. I know that public education is the foundation of our community and democracy, and we should invest in it accordingly — fully, fairly across the county, and without compromise. When we invest in our schools, we invest in our future.

4. Infrastructure:

Knox County's infrastructure problem is largely self-inflicted — we've managed roads reactively, patching potholes and adding lanes only after congestion is already out of control. As mayor, I'll shift to a merit-based investment framework: prioritize infrastructure improvements in corridors where public investment will catalyze economic growth and

pay for itself over time, freeing up resources for the residential repairs that have been chronically deprioritized. That means rigorous project evaluation tied to projected economic return, coordinated planning between road capacity and new development approvals so growth doesn't outpace infrastructure, and a long-term capital plan that gets ahead of problems rather than reacting to them. Knox County residents deserve a county that spends their infrastructure dollars like it actually has a strategy.

5. Growth and planning:

Knox County's growth needs a clear framework: build where infrastructure already exists, protect where it doesn't, and ensure every development decision prioritiz-

es the community members who are directly impacted. On housing, I'll prioritize removing zoning barriers to infill development, incentivize mixed-income housing near existing transit and utilities, and push for stronger tenant protections to keep corporate landlords from pricing long-time residents out. On land use, I'll support updated comprehensive planning that includes enforceable greenspace protections, agricultural conservation easements, and tree canopy standards tied to development approvals. And I'll establish a standing community advisory process that brings residents, neighborhood associations, and environmental stakeholders to the table before decisions are made.

Frazier
From page 1A

together, and work collaboratively to find solutions.

For more than 15 years, I've worked alongside neighbors, businesses, and local leaders to address challenges from growth and infrastructure to schools and public safety. I began as a citizen advocate, and as your Countywide Commissioner, I've turned concerns into action by improving planning and development policies, supporting law enforcement and first responders, strengthening ethics, improving emergency response, and keeping taxes low while preparing responsibly for the future.

I believe good government should be accessible, transparent, and accountable, and that the best decisions are made when citizens have a seat at the table.

Knox County deserves a Mayor who will put communities first, protect our quality of life, guide growth with purpose, and work collaboratively to shape a stronger future. I've been showing up when it

was about people, not politics, and I'm ready to continue that work as your Mayor.

2. Top challenge

The biggest challenge is balancing growth with infrastructure, maintaining services, preserving community character, and doing it all with fiscal discipline.

Growth has outpaced infrastructure, placing pressure on roads, schools, and emergency services, while costs rise and expectations grow. My approach builds on the work already underway to proactively plan growth in a balanced, community-driven way.

A key initiative I've led and will continue is strengthening development policies and aligning infrastructure so roads, schools, and public safety are considered before growth happens. This includes elevating standards, streamlining processes, requiring fair developer contributions, and ensuring policies reflect today's needs, not those from decades ago.

I will also establish a Citizens Advisory Council to give communities a direct voice in defining service expectations

and helping chart how we meet those needs.

When we plan wisely and work together, we can protect what we love while creating opportunity.

3. Education

Education is critical to Knox County's success. Strong schools prepare our children, strengthen our workforce, and support our economy.

As Mayor, I will support Knox County Schools' efforts to strengthen academic experiences and overall student outcomes. That starts with planning ahead, so school capacity keeps pace with growth.

We must also strengthen workforce pathways. Not every student follows the same path, so we need to expand career and technical education, apprenticeships, and partnerships with local businesses so students graduate with real skills and opportunities.

I was proud to serve on the 865 Academies Advisory Committee and support collaboration across education and industry, which further supports our county's economic future.

4. Infrastructure

Infrastructure is a core responsibility of the local government and a challenge I've worked on long before holding office.

As a citizen, I experienced firsthand the impacts of growth on traffic and overcrowded schools, and worked to push for better planning. As Commissioner, I've strengthened policies, improved long-term planning, required fair infrastructure contributions, and prioritized road investments.

We've made progress by creating a comprehensive land use and transportation plan that aligns development with infrastructure and considers impact on roads, schools, and public safety during planning, not after.

Next, we must redefine our decades-old "level of service." I will engage taxpayers directly, sharing revenues, expenses, and priorities and ask what level of service they expect and how we meet it.

This is work I've been doing for years, and as Mayor I will continue focusing on protecting our quality of life while preparing for the future.

5. Growth and planning

Responsible growth starts with intentional planning and listening to our communities.

As Mayor, I will continue implementing our Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan to guide growth in areas where infrastructure exists or is planned and aligns with community character.

We must also ensure policies stay current. Knox County adopted a Growth Policy Plan in 2001 but did not revisit it until 2022. During that time, thousands of acres were rezoned without corresponding updates.

Through a countywide effort, we brought together citizens, businesses, farmers, and community leaders to reassess where growth should occur. That work must continue.

I will ensure regular review and updates to land use regulations, make community-minded appointments to boards and committees, and expand citizen engagement through a Citizens Advisory Council.

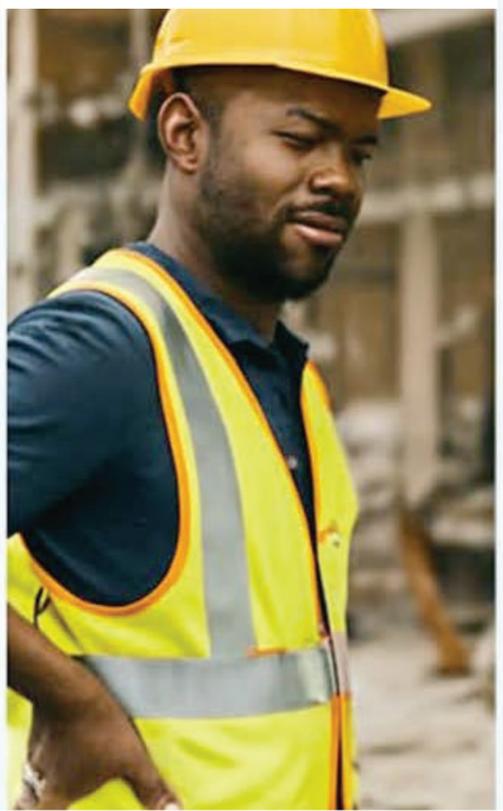
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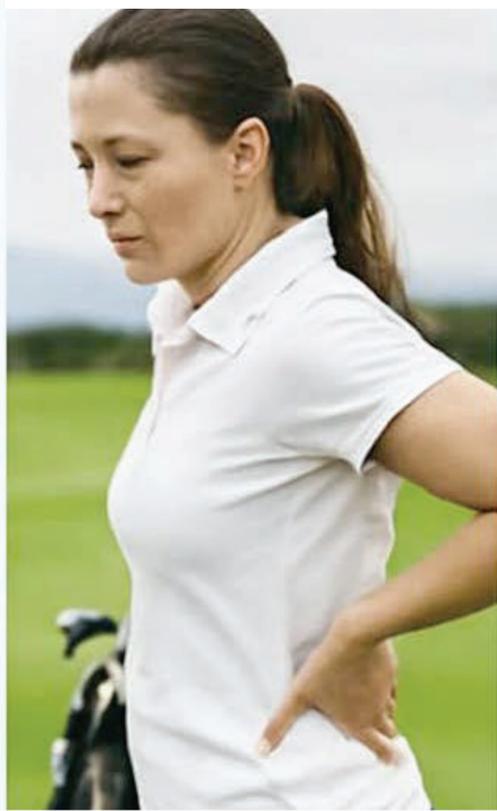
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Farragut baker launches Foxy's Tasty Treats stand

Michelle Hollenhead
Correspondent

Look out, Fox Den, there's a new "fox" in Farragut.

"Foxy" is the fun alter-ego of Tammy Silvers-Haller, who has turned her baking hobby into a business from her Stonecrest home.

She recently opened Foxy's Tasty Treats, offering a selection of cookies, brownies, scones, cakes, cake pops and breads from a hutch at the end of her driveway on Dundee Road.

Foxy's is open for business Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays "until we sell out," Silvers-Haller said.

Silvers-Haller has advertised on social media, including Nextdoor, Instagram and Tik-Tok, and she has placed signage at the entrance to Stonecrest off Kingston Pike and on the back entrance off Sonja Drive.

So far, business has been brisk, and she rotates the variety of baked goods weekly. Word of mouth among the neighbors has led at least one customer to try to force open the hutch during a recent weekday.

"I met her outside, and offered what I had already baked," Silvers-Haller said with a smile, noting something is always cooking in her kitchen.

She uses fresh ingredients and welcomes suggestions on what to make for the bake stand, but her forte and passion is "custom baking."

"I thrive best when someone tells me what they want specifically because I want [the client]



Photo submitted

Foxy's tasty treats operates out of this hutch Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in front of her home on Dundee Road in Stonecrest.

to be able to say I gave them exactly what they wanted."

That desire has been borne out through testimonials, including one that stated "WOW is all I have to say. My wife and I had Foxy make us some baked goods for our micro wedding of about 40 guests and she OVER delivered. ... She [made] Apple Crisp Cookies and Pineapple Carrot Cake ... We will definitely be requesting her for all of our future events," while another stated: "Foxy prepared a Key Lime Pie with a biscotti cookie crust. I am a dessert enthusiast [and] this was the best Key Lime Pie I have ever tasted. This was a wonderful experience. I will be ordering again!"

It all really started as a fun hobby "about 10 years ago to share joy with the people around me," Silvers-Haller noted.

"One day, a friend suggested I record myself baking ... I wanted to have fun with it,

so I named myself 'Foxy' and threw in a British accent for laughs. ... I had a blast with it," she said, adding the videos were a Tik Tok hit.

Friends and loved ones also suggested Silvers-Haller start charging for her wares. She took the first step by creating an LLC for her business, and, in addition to custom sweet confections, she has branched out to making desserts for Sam and Andy's restaurant in Farragut.

"We were in there eating one day, and I noticed they only had a limited selection of desserts, so I offered to make some for them, and it has worked out really well so far," said Silvers-Haller, noting she has prepared banana pudding and strawberry shortcake, with an eye toward branching out, at the owners' directions.

Additionally, Silvers-Haller won multiple first-, second-



Photo submitted

Tammy Silvers-Haller owns and operates Foxy's Tasty Treats Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (until sold out) from her home in Stonecrest.

and third-place awards at the Tennessee Valley Fair last fall "all for baking," she said, noting first place for her pumpkin spice latte cookies; and second place for decorated sugar cookies and apple crumble "cuffins (cupcake muffins)."

"I have also won awards for my peanut butter pie, which is to die for."

It's hard to believe Silvers-Haller had time to start anything new, as she is currently working on her master's degree online in education ad-

ministration, which is augmenting her undergraduate teaching degree she has put to use as a 23-year military veteran.

For more information about her many offerings for cookies, pies and cakes too numerous to list — including vegan and gluten-free options — visit Foxy's Tasty Treats website or her bake stand, where she accepts cash and Venmo payments. She can also be reached via email at foxytastytreats@gmail.com.

Bass recognized for decades of service

Staff report
editor@farragutpress.com

Farragut veterinarian Dr. Mili Bass recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association.

"The award recognizes a veterinarian who has generously contributed to the advancement of the TVMA and the veterinary profession for at least 30 years," a press release stated. "Criteria for the award include public acceptance, professional knowledge and activities with

fellow veterinarians."

Bass, a 1981 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, has been practicing in Farragut since 1982, according to the press release.

"She is the owner of Dream Katcher Lodge," it stated. "Her current veterinary practice is Animal Acupuncture and Pain Management, and she sees her patients at the Veterinary Referral Center of East Tennessee."

"Dr. Bass was the first female to serve on the TVMA board of directors and was the first

female to represent the state of Tennessee in the American Veterinary Medical Association House of Delegates," the release stated. "She was also the first female to be appointed to the Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners."

"In addition, she was the first University of Tennessee graduate to serve in these positions," it added.

Bass has served in a number of offices, including the TVMA presidency, and she received TVMA's Distinguished Service Award in 2005. She is a Diplomate (emeritus) of

the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners with a Canine/Feline Specialty and was named in the First Edition of Who's Who in Veterinary Science and Medicine. Additionally, Bass was a member of Farragut Municipal Planning Commission from 1988 to 1998.

At the University of Tennessee, she is a member of The Tennessee Society and The Alliance of Women Philanthropists and also has been named to The President's Club and Chancellor's Associates.



Dr. Mili Bass

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Letters to the editor

Letter to the Editor:

Currently, over 129,200 Tennesseans are living with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia, and many more likely remain undiagnosed. A simple blood test can now detect Alzheimer's before symptoms appear — a scientific milestone that could change lives. Early detection and diagnosis are critical, as they allow individuals access to treatments when they are most effective and more time to plan for the future.

Having had several family

members with Alzheimer's, I understand firsthand the importance of early detection. When my grandmother was diagnosed over thirty years ago, there was very little help available. Even when my mother was diagnosed in 2015, only a handful of medications existed to treat symptoms. Now in my fifties, I am concerned about being part of the next generation impacted by this devastating disease.

Additionally, in my role as a dementia care navigator, I work daily with families navigating memory loss. Unfortunately, I frequently witness the devastating impact of late diagnoses.

Thankfully, Congressman Burchett can play an important role in accelerating access to blood biomarker tests and earlier detection of Alzheimer's and other dementia in Tennessee and across the nation. This is a "mammogram moment" for Alzheimer's — just as Congress enabled Medicare to cover routine mammograms, leading to earlier detection and declining breast cancer deaths, Congress can deliver the same breakthrough

moment for Alzheimer's. The bipartisan ASAP Act (S. 3267 / H.R.6130) creates a pathway for Medicare coverage of FDA-approved dementia blood biomarker screening tests, helping to ensure beneficiaries do not face unnecessary delays or barriers to detection and treatment.

The passage of the Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention Act would provide me and countless families with significant hope, knowing that Alzheimer's could be identified early through a simple routine blood test.

Please join me and the Alzheimer's Association in encouraging Congressman Burchett to support the bipartisan Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention (ASAP) Act.

To learn more about this disease and how you can join the fight to end Alzheimer's, please visit alz.org.

~ **Kim Warnick**,
Farragut
Founder, Dementia
Care Solutions of
East Tennessee

Publix
From page 1A

grab dinner," she said. "Maybe you need to get a quick meeting. You can open up your laptop.

"And this is really unique," Krauss said about the mezzanine space. "A lot of the newer stores — not every store — have this. It's just something new and different that I think our customers will enjoy."

Additionally, the store features a full-service pharmacy with a drive-through window and "this is one of our newer deli concepts," she said. It is located right near the front door and offers "pub subs," which is what we're famous for.

"But, we have a whole variety of food in our deli, from sushi to burrito bowls," Krauss said. "It's a one-stop shop ... it's grab and go. It's easy."

The store also has an app in

which customers can get coupons and other features.

The Publix near Dixie Lee junction is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Sunday. Its pharmacy is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday; from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday; and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday.

The store will have between 130 and 150 associates employed.

"That's comprised of

both part-time and full-time workers," she added. "One of the unique things about working for Publix is we are the largest employee-owned grocery store in the country."

Krauss explained the employees own stock in the company.

"Our associates have skin in the game," she said and added there are opportunities for advancement.

And, "what's wonderful for

us is that we always seek to be a reflection of the communities that we serve," Krauss said. "So, when you open up a new store in a new area, it's not just about serving that community," she said. "It's about providing an opportunity for job growth. It's about providing opportunities to give back, which we do through our hunger alleviation programs and all different kinds of things."



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farragutpress would like to thank all who participated as well as the prize donors and sponsors who helped make the 2026 contest a success!

Be sure to join in the fun when our Halloween Coloring Contest returns this October!

Photo by Jake Nichols

Front row, from left: Lucy Pacitti, Ella Hubrig, Caroline Young and Vivienne Fuller
Middle row, from left: Norah Rose Malka, Kayla Chinn and Reagan Daigle
Top row, from left: Erin Stidham, Executive Director at Davis Family YMCA, and Laura Clift
Not pictured... Zayden Stoddard, Judah Stoddard, Lorenzo Gallo, Cameron Bengston

farragutpress Easter Coloring Contest 2026 winners were announced Monday, March 30, with the chosen recipients gathering at the newspaper office for prizes and recognition.

AGES 4-5 CATEGORY
First Place: **Ella Hubrig**
Second Place: **Zayden Stoddard**
Third Place: **Lucy Pacitti**

AGES 6-8 CATEGORY
First Place: **Vivienne Fuller**
Second Place: **Lorenzo Gallo**
Third Place: **Judah Stoddard**

AGES 9-11 CATEGORY
First Place: **Cameron Bengston**
Second Place: **Reagan Daigle**
Third Place: **Caroline Young**

AGES 12-112 CATEGORY
First Place: **Norah Rose Malka**
Second Place: **Kayla Chinn**
Third Place: **Laura Clift**

A Special Thank You to our Prize Donors:



Town of Farragut's annual Shamrock Ball

About 200 girls enjoyed quality time with their dads during Town of Farragut's annual Shamrock Ball in Farragut Community Center Saturday, March 21.

The event offered two sessions, averaging 100 girls each.

Along with dancing, the dads and daughters enjoyed making friendship bracelets, having their photos taken and loading their vanilla or chocolate pudding cups with sprinkles, marshmallows, Oreo crumbles and Nilla wafers.



Aaron Burkhart and daughter Livy, 4, dancing



Alec Murchier and daughter Marceline, 7



Alex Trexler and daughter Jenna Kate Trexler, 5



Andrew and Stella Hanson



Briana Schenck, 17, and dad Russell Schenck



Daniel Monday with daughters, Daphne, 8, and Tess, 6



Doug Mack and daughter Hayden, 10



From left, Drake Parker with daughters Bonnie, 4, and Charliegh, 3, and grandfather, Grady Riggins



From left, Jaron Densky with daughters Esme, 2, and Eliza, 6, and Corey Bush with daughter Edith, 4.



J.P. Hilton and daughter Kate Hilton



Keith Asp and daughter, Kimber, 6



Matthew Oswald and daughter Ember Oswald, 8



Photos by Jake Nichols

Above: Farragut's Mason Shelton (4) leaps with his Admiral teammates after hitting the second home run in as many at-bats for FHS on Monday, March 30. That hot start helped the Ads gain early momentum in a 7-6 win over Hardin Valley Academy.

Baseball battles

Rivalries take center stage

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

As the calendar flips toward May, baseball teams across the state are looking to test themselves against top competition to prepare for the postseason.

While that has been the case for Farragut, Bearden and Hardin Valley, all three teams have taken part in recent rivalry matchups, as well, to ratchet things up even more.

Here's a look at how things have unfolded lately.

Farragut 7, Hardin Valley 6

On Monday night, March 30, Farragut held off Hardin Valley 7-6 in a tense District 4-4A matchup.

Joey Ray took the win for FHS, fanning six with two straight to end HVA's final threat in the bottom of the seventh. He also slammed the door in the bottom of the sixth when Hardin Valley had the tying run on third.



Bearden pitcher Grayson Wright (23) fires a pitch toward home plate on Wednesday, March 25, at Hardin Valley Academy.

"Joey's a competitor and will compete no matter the situation," Admirals head coach Garrett Copeland said. "He went a little longer in relief than normal but he competed all night."

The teams combined for four home runs in the first three innings — three from FHS and two by Zain Kureshi-Smith and Mason Shelton specifically on back-to-back pitches in the top of the second inning.

Aidan Flagg added another for the Admirals one inning later while Kenny Lane hammered one for the Hawks in the bottom half of the third.

The teams soon settled in, trading blows before HVA tied the score 6-6 in the bottom of the fifth. But Flagg knocked an RBI single a half-inning later, scoring Mason Shelton for what wound up being the winning run.

"I always tell them we have to stay even emotion-

See BASEBALL on Page 3B

Admirals off to best start of Culbreth era

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Bradley Culbreth knows what it takes to succeed in the postseason — talent, injury avoidance and depth.

All three factors have played pivotal roles in the Farragut boys soccer team's 8-0 record, as the Admirals have shot out to their best start in Culbreth's tenure as head coach.

He attributed the start to his players, noting "they want to win together."

So far, FHS has done exactly that. They brought home the Smoky Mountain Cup last Saturday, March 28, going 3-0 with a 4-2 win over Bartlett in the championship match at Rocky Top Sports World

in Gatlinburg.

"All three games were very competitive," Culbreth said. "It was three tough teams, and we took it one at a time."

Jason Gao put the Ads up 1-0 before halftime against Bartlett, only for the Panthers to tie the score 1-1 right at the start of the second half.

Uday Sujithkumar broke the stalemate, and Caleb Gahagan found the net shortly thereafter before Gao bookended the day with another goal to outlast a penalty kick from Bartlett in the final eight minutes.

Matthew Burney took the clean sheet in goal, having paced the Ads in their 2-0 win over Westminster, Georgia in the tournament opener, too.

See CULBRETH on Page 3B

Lady Ads' thriller highlights flag football

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

In a tense moment, Aydan Skelton looked for a teammate she trusts.

She found it in Brooklyn Morris, who had already scored both Lady Admiral touchdowns against Karns on Monday, March 23.

With the game tied 13-13 in double-overtime, Morris caught the pass from Skelton, evaded a defender and crossed the goal line to give FHS a 14-13 win.

The victory marked a 1-0 start in district play for Farragut in its first TSSAA-sanctioned season of girls flag football, as FHS forced OT after trailing 12-6 with 55 seconds left in regulation.

"I was just excited for

our team," said Morris, a first-year player. "We haven't had the best season yet through the pre-season, but I was excited that we all played well. We all worked really hard to get that one."

Farragut took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter on a touchdown pass from Skelton to Morris, but Karns bounced back with two scores to take a 12-6 lead into the break.

Emma Pearl Riffer and the Lady Admiral defense kept the Beavers at bay, but FHS could not find any more offense until the final minute of the fourth quarter.

Morris hauled in the game-tying score, and when the conversion failed, FHS took the ball

See FLAG on Page 2B

Johnson posts 300th strikeout in Farragut career

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Hallie Grace Johnson hit a notable personal milestone on Tuesday, March 24.

She just didn't realize it until after the fact.

In the Lady Admirals' 4-0 district win over Hardin Valley, the junior ace rang up the 300th strikeout of her Farragut career. It also was her 14th strikeout of the game, as she finished with 16 punch-outs on the day for 302 to that point in her time as a Lady Admiral.

"I didn't even know I was close, so it was a

good surprise," Johnson said with a laugh last week. "They said it over the loudspeaker, and that's how I found out. I was kind of shocked, actually, but it was a good thing for sure."

The Radford commitment noted she does not focus on numbers, waiting until the end of each season to check her statistics for that year.

Rather, she focuses on each game as it comes, taking one batter at a time.

That approach reflects the overall mentality within the FHS program, as head coach Nick

Green said he was not aware of Johnson's accomplishment until after the fact.

"But it's still a great accomplishment considering she's just at the start of her junior year," he said. "There aren't too many people who get to that mark. It's a direct reflection of the time and effort that Hallie Grace puts in."

Johnson credited her catcher, Rylee Raby, and her pitching coach, former FHS pitcher and Western Michigan stand-out Leah Bucklen, for their parts in her success.

Bucklen — previously Leah Seffernick — tops the list for the Lady Admiral strikeout total, racking up 987 from 1996 through 1999.

Johnson is now seventh all time in Farragut softball history while Lakyn Moore is sixth at 348.

Johnson is not the only FHS pitcher to find recent success, as Hudson Bradford gave up just one hit with five strikeouts in last week's 12-0 win over Oak Ridge.

In total, the Lady Ads posted shutouts in six of their last seven outings coming into this week.



Photo by Jake Nichols

Farragut pitcher Hallie Grace Johnson tosses a strike against Bearden on Tuesday, March 17.



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Bulldogs hold firm in 0-0 stalemate

Ken Lay
Correspondent

Two of the state's top high school boys soccer teams met over the weekend on a cold Saturday, March 28, and scoring turned out to be at a premium to say the least.

Bearden and Ravenwood played to a 0-0 draw to end the week at Turner-Allender Field.

"I thought we had some chances in the first half," Bulldogs' coach Ryan Radcliffe said. "And then, they came out and they jumped all over us.

"This was a great game against a very good team. They're a great team."

The match against the Raptors (6-1-1) was Bearden's third game of the week.

The Bulldogs (6-1-1) had a tough match against one of Northeast Tennessee's top teams on Thursday and Bearden defeated Science Hill,

4-0, in the friendly confines of Turner-Allender Field.

Four different players found the back of the net for Bearden against the Hilltoppers.

Aiden Zalk, Aidan Ainsworth, Sammy Tabares and Ahmed Dkhiti scored against Science Hill while Anderson Aguilar, Ainsworth and Fadel Hamdan were all credited with assists in the match.

On Tuesday, March 24, the Bulldogs opened District 4-AAA play at home against Lenoir City to begin a busy week on the pitch.

Against the Panthers, goalkeeper Eli Keener not only recorded a clean sheet, he also scored a goal.

The Bulldogs also got markers from Ainsworth and Hamdan. Tim Styles had an assist in the match for Bearden, which was set to host Class A power Gatlinburg-Pittman Tuesday night but results were not available at press time.

Lady Bulldogs fall to West in District clash

Ken Lay
Correspondent

Bearden High School has endured its share of struggles on the softball diamond this season.

The Lady Bulldogs had a tough go of things last week in a 6-1 loss to geographical and one-time District 4-4A rival Knoxville West.

Bearden's bats were largely held at bay on Wednesday, March 25, at BHS's Kim Hazelwood Field as the Lady Bulldogs struggled to solve the pitch of West High ace pitcher Brooke Weaver.

Weaver, who pitched a complete game, going seven innings, gave up one earned run

in the bottom of the seventh. She also yielded five hits and two walks. She struck out seven in the contest.

The two teams were locked in a scoreless tie in the top of the third inning until Weaver, who was so dominant in the pitcher's circle, made some big noise with her bat as she clubbed a three-run home run over the left-field fence.

The Lady Rebels added two more runs in the top of the fourth frame as Ava Humphreys and Mia Beeler each came up with an RBI single.

They would extend their advantage to 6-0 when they

See BULLDOGS on Page 3B

Flag

From page 1B

first in overtime on a 2-point-conversion style play. Camille Faugot caught the pass from Skelton for a 13-12 lead, but Karns matched before the Farragut defense came up with one more stop.

That set the table for one final catch from Morris, setting off a raucous celebration for the Lady Ads in their 2-0 start to region play.

In other results, Bearden's flag football squad pushed its record to 5-0 last Friday, March 27, with a 48-0 win over West, then turned around and beat Halls 45-13 on Monday, March 30, for a 6-0 mark. In that win, Jayda Berrios snagged her second pick-six of the season while Emma Rainey racked up 110 receiving yards.

The Lady Bulldogs lead the region with an 85-point differential.

"It's been really cool to see," Bearden coach Zach Scott said. "We played two games before our basketball girls got to us and had some practices without them, then sprinkled them in in the Karns game. We've played a lot of girls, so it's been cool to see everyone accept different roles on the team. Our quarterback, Sophie Keener, has improved tremendously, and she's a big reason why we've scored so many points."

He added BHS has taken a staunch approach on defense, giving up just 39 points across



Jake Nichols

Farragut players celebrate with Brooklyn Morris (34) after her game-winning score against Karns on Monday, March 23. The Lady Admirals took down the Lady Beavers 14-13 in a win that stood out among recent area flag football results.

six games with two shutouts.

Hardin Valley, meanwhile, is ninth in the region after a 44-6 loss to Clinton in its first game on March 27 and a 13-0 loss to Powell on March 30.

Alaina Lineberry scored the lone touchdown of the season for HVA against Clinton while Katie Manrod and Savanna Winterbotham intercepted two passes apiece against Powell.

"They're enthusiastic and seem like they're having fun," Lady Hawks coach Kristofer Minton said. "That's just the way games go sometimes but

their attitudes and efforts have been good to see."

For Farragut, the Lady Admirals (3-4, 2-1) continued their success with a 25-7 win over West on March 30. They sit fourth in the district, having channeled a "next player up" mentality with Bella Bruton out and Morris now injured as well.

Up next, the Lady Ads will take on Halls in a matchup on Thursday, April 2. Bearden will face Gibbs the same day while HVA will take on Karns March 6.

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Baseball

From page 1B

ally,” Copeland said. “These games are going to have highs and lows, but we have to stay even because at the end of the day, those single events don’t define the game.”

There was a bit of controversy in the second inning, as HVA looked to have tacked on a third run to tie the score. But it was wiped off, leaving Hawks coach Aaron Simmons to question the umpires after they made their ruling.

“It was a secondary hit, so it was still a live ball,” Simmons explained later. “Everybody moves up one base all of a sudden, except the guy going from third to home. And that’s not the right call on that. It changes the whole game plan.”

He noted that there were “other situations that hurt” the Hawks too, but reinforced the need to be ready to compete when the teams met again Tuesday, March 31.

Bearden 5, Hardin Valley 4

A week before that, March 25, Bearden took down HVA 5-4 in another back-and-

forth battle.

Finn Piper scored on a wild pitch in the top of the sixth, giving the Bulldogs a lead they would not relinquish after storming back from a 4-2 deficit.

Boone Piper led BHS with a 3-for-4 plate effort with one RBI, and Isaiah Allen added two hits on three at-bats with another RBI.

Grayson Wright took the win for BHS while Ethan Frederick came through with a save that saw five strikeouts, two with a runner on third in the bottom of the sixth to keep BHS at a one-run lead.

“The biggest thing was just to see them fight,” Bulldogs coach Dave Prichard said. “We’ve experienced a lot of success the last couple years, and these first couple weeks, we’ve struggled a little. I told them they could have packed it in, but they kept fighting. We know we’re playing a tough schedule, and the goal is to get better every day. I thought that was the first time we saw the offense really go a little bit, which was really encouraging.”

Bulldogs

From page 2B

scored a run in the top of the sixth on an RBI single by Claire Davenport.

While the Lady Bulldogs endured their struggles, West had no such problems. The Lady Rebels pounded out 10 hits in the contest.

“This was a great effort and a big win for us,” Lady Rebels’ coach Brandy Weaver said. “We hit the ball well and we played good defense, and the pitching was good too.”

“I’m so proud of these kids.”

The Lady Bulldogs scored their lone run of the contest in their last at-bat when a sacrifice fly by Ada Daniels that plated Makhia Nickerson, who singled to lead off the frame.

Bearden coach Alicia Bo-

ris said her team struggled against Brooke Weaver.

“We waited too long to make adjustments,” Boris said. “We started making adjustments in the fifth, but we’ve got to be quicker.”

“Sometimes, you try to do too much and you just have to get back to fundamentals.”



Photo via Farragut soccer/X

The Farragut boys soccer team went 3-0 at the Smoky Mountain Cup last weekend, proving its mettle before beginning a tough district slate this week against Maryville.

Culbreth

From page 1B

The match saw one goal apiece from Gagahan and Charlie Sorochan before half-time while Tyden Sanchez scored both goals against HarBer (AR) in a 2-1 semifinal victory. That win featured Parker Fuller in goal as he and Burney complement each other with their styles of play.

“He played great, got tested plenty,” Culbreth said. “They’re both studs in their own way, and they have two

different styles of what they’re good at, so I’m confident with both of them back there.”

He has similar confidence in the Ads’ offensive weaponry. Of the eight goals FHS racked up last weekend, no player had more than two apiece.

“We’re getting production from all over the field,” Culbreth said. “We can throw different styles at people. If I want the ball on the ground with skill players, I can do that. If I want big, strong, fast kids to run at you, I can do that. These kids don’t care who gets the

credit. They just want to win together.”

FHS will look to utilize that approach this week, as it begins district play on Thursday, April 2, against Maryville.

And while an undefeated record is great, Culbreth noted he wants his team to approach this week with a clean slate.

“Everything you’ve done until now doesn’t matter,” he said. “It’s been a test to get us ready. Ours is the hardest district in the state, and we know that.”

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Martin, Walker named CCS valedictorian, salutatorian

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Seniors Joseph Martin and Delaney Jane Walker take center stage at Concord Christian School as CCS's valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

Graduating with a 4.58 grade-point average, Martin's focus has been psychology on the pre-medical track. He plans to attend the University of the South in Seawanee, Tennessee, and pursue a career in private practice psychiatry.

"There is nothing more lovely than the sanctification that comes in Christ," said Martin, the son of Jill and Timothy Holder and Robert and Jennifer Martin. "My time in high school was one of nearly exponential growth and happiness, and I can only encourage the same for others."

At CCS, he was a member of the National Honors Society, Student Government Association, Marching Band, Key Club, Science Olympiad, Mock Trial Team, CCS Worship Team, Creative Writers Club and CCS Pep Band.

Additionally, Martin had

See CCS on Page 8B



Martin



Walker



Jake Nichols

Hardin Valley Academy teacher Dana Sherrell, far left, stands alongside students Amany Washington, Allie Hedrick, Corley Vaughn, Addisyn Wagner, Lillian Lanza, Karla Pawlak and Destiny Smith. These seven students have chosen to become educators after being inspired by teachers in their own lives.

Future teachers honored at HVA

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

On Friday, March 27, students and teachers packed into the auditorium at Hardin Valley Academy.

Seven of those students sat at decorated tables onstage, and above them, a large graphic with three words reflected the occasion: Future Teacher Signing Day.

The school's fifth-annual ceremony honored HVA seniors Amany Washington, Allie Hedrick, Corley Vaughn, Addisyn Wagner, Lillian Lanza, Karla Pawlak and Destiny Smith.

Each student is part of Hardin Valley's Teaching as a Profession (TAP) program, which has been led by Dana Sherrell since 2014.

During the ceremony, each student signed to declare her intent to become an educator, listing teachers who have made impacts on their

own lives.

"It's incredibly meaningful," Sherrell said after serving as the emcee for the ceremony. "Teaching is one of the most important professions in our society, but it's also a profession that requires a great deal of dedication and heart. To see students not only consider education as a career but truly feel called to it is very special. Over the past five years, we've watched students discover their passion for teaching through the TAP pathway and through their field experiences in real classrooms."

"When they make the decision to pursue education, it's exciting because you know they will go on to influence the next generation of students. That ripple effect is powerful."

She noted this ceremony was purposefully set up to mimic the athletic signing ceremony.

See TEACHERS on Page 6B

Farragut Feud

Rotary Club to host fundraiser

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Family Feud fans can enjoy the game show fun right in their hometown and help children sleep better at night.

Rotary Club of Farragut is hosting Farragut Feud, a fundraiser in which teams can compete in a game show from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, April 10, in Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.

Funds raised from the event will support Sleep In Heavenly Peace Knoxville, a non-profit organization that builds and delivers free bunk beds, mattresses and bedding to children ages 3 to 17, in the Knoxville area who are sleeping on floors, couches or in inadequate conditions, according to SHP's website.

"We would love for anyone to be part of the fun," RCF president Candace Viox said.

In addition to the friendly competition, there will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and a silent auction.

"There are several ways you can support our club," she said.

Club members can become a team sponsor for \$1,250 and receive a decorated table for eight; eight bar tickets; game participation for four table members; sponsor recognition on posters, social media and the local newspaper.

People also can sponsor a bed for \$250, which covers the materials needed; buy individual tickets, which cost \$150 per person and includes fun, food, the cash bar, silent auc-

See FUNDRAISER on Page 6B

Concord UMC youth lead special worship night, service

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Concord United Methodist's youth shared a powerful time of worship as more than 150 students and their families gathered for a special Student-Led Worship Night, hosted by Concord United Students, in February.

That night led to students leading a morning service Sunday, March 15. Another worship night has been scheduled for 6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 3.

Worship Night brought together youth groups from across Knoxville, including Middlebrook Pike, and Powell United Methodist Church, for "a night filled with passionate worship, heartfelt testimonies and prayerful unity," said Becca Means, CUMC missions director. Students took the lead in every aspect of the event, sharing their stories of faith, lifting up songs of praise and inviting others into a genuine experience of God's presence.

"We had this idea to do a

worship night," Means said. "We were talking about it, as a staff, what it would look like. We felt like it would be a great opportunity for our students to be able to show their talents and to lead."

"But, more so that, we felt that it's important for our students to be in worship with other students who are outside of the church walls," she said. "They get to do that a couple times a year with camps that we do."

See CUMC on Page 7B



Photo submitted

Concord United Methodist Church youth Alana Bush leads with a powerful prayer during the church's Student-Led Worship Night.

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• Morning Pointe Senior Living will host a free community Easter Egg Hunt and Petting Zoo on Friday, April 3, at 11 a.m. at its Hardin Valley campus at 2449 Reagan Road. Families are invited to enjoy a festive morning featuring an egg hunt; petting zoo animals; including Highland cows and bunnies; and a chance to connect with residents and team members while welcoming the spring season. The Easter Egg Hunt and Petting Zoo is free and open to the public, and local families are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 865-343-0409.

• The Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking will host the M. Todd Cramer Memorial Golf Tournament, presented by Johnstone Supply, on Monday, April 13, at The Club at Gettysvue. Participants will start the day with lunch provided by Dead End Barbecue and then proceed to a shotgun-start-style tournament on the 18-hole course. Registration and additional information can be found at growfretn.org.

• Blue Ridge Yoga is hosting a Puppy Yoga Fundraiser on Saturday, April 18, at 12:30 p.m. The cost to join is \$39 and 100 percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Humane Society of Tennessee Valley. Visit www.yogaknoxville.com/workshops-events to sign up.

• Alzheimer's Tennessee invites families, friends and neighbors from across East Tennessee to join together at three community walks to honor loved ones, celebrate "Tennessee Originals" and raise vital support for those affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The Knoxville Walk will be held Saturday, April 11, at Knoxville Catholic High School in Knoxville; the 5 County Walk takes place Saturday, April 18, at Lakefront Park in Clinton; and the Foothills Walk is set for Saturday, April 25, at Alcoa High School in Alcoa. To start a team, register or learn more, visit www.alzTennessee.org/Walk.

See PRESS PLANNER on Page 8B

YMCA kicks off annual fundraising campaign

Jake Nichols
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Monday, March 23, the YMCA of East Tennessee kicked off its 2026 Annual Campaign to raise funds that help ensure everyone in the community can access Y programs and services, regardless of one's ability to pay.

Since this year marks the 175th anniversary of the YMCA, the Y has set a 2026 campaign goal of \$350,000.

Moreover, since the organization is celebrating 175 years, the Y is hoping for 175 people to donate \$175 each for the purpose of maintaining one "stronger, safer, connected community," per the organization.

As a nonprofit organization, the YMCA of East Tennessee awards more than \$1 million in scholarships every year through donations and community support — not membership dues.

More than 30,000 people are



Photo submitted by Erin Stidham

Activities like this group tennis class are available at the Davis Family YMCA, one of several that will benefit from the YMCA of East Tennessee's annual campaign, which kicked off on Monday, March 23.

YMCA members across East Tennessee, and another 10,000 participate in YMCA programs, such as swim lessons, youth sports and after school childcare. These aspects showcase the annual fund's

daily impact. "The YMCA stands for accessibility to all, and the reason the Y raises money is so that we would never turn

See YMCA on Page 6B

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Safer Roads & Smarter Infrastructure

Significant roadway and traffic improvements were completed or advanced across Farragut, including Campbell Station Road, Concord Road, Kingston Pike, Watt Road, Union Road, Virtue Road, Peterson Road, and North Boyd Station Road. Projects included new turn lanes, roundabouts, sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, lighting, guardrails, and traffic-calming measures. A modernized traffic signal system improved traffic flow, pedestrian safety, and ADA accessibility town-wide.

Parks, Trails & Recreation Enhancements

Major upgrades were delivered at McFee Park, Mayor Bob Leonard Park, Anchor Park, and neighborhood pocket parks. Improvements include pickleball courts, turf athletic fields, ADA trails, restrooms, parking, perimeter roads, and new recreational amenities. Trail connections and greenway expansions were completed, designed, or budgeted, expanding outdoor access for all ages.

Balanced Growth & Housing

New subdivisions, townhomes, apartments, senior living, and mixed-use developments were completed or are underway, transforming underutilized land into productive residential and commercial spaces while supporting our long-term vision of community growth.

Investing in the Future

Town Hall renovations were completed, public plazas and streetscapes enhanced, additional park land acquired, and long-range planning advanced for transportation, stormwater, and corridor improvements—positioning Farragut for continued success.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the residents, businesses, staff, and community partners of Farragut for the trust placed in my leadership over two terms. Serving this community has been an honor, and the progress achieved reflects a shared commitment to thoughtful growth, public service, and the long-term success of Farragut.

~ Respectfully, Mayor Ron E. Williams

Fundraiser

From page 4B

tion and fellowship; or donate silent auction items.

“Remember the funds we raise will go toward building beds in May for needy children sponsored by Sleep in Heavenly Peace and other local projects,” Viox said.

To purchase tickets or become a team sponsor, make checks payable to Rotary Club of Farragut and pay by credit card at <https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77902412&NoCaptcha>

For more information, call Laura Green at 865-776-3130 or Viox at 865-771-0780.

YMCA

From page 5B

someone away for inability to pay,” said Erin Stidham, executive director for the Davis Family YMCA. “We have such a wide scope of programs that benefit from the annual campaign. One of the biggest is access to membership, so [that means access to] fitness programs, youth programs, family fun and discounted or free swim lessons, which is such an important aspect for our community.”

Through these ventures, the Y taught more than 5,000 children — regardless of family income — how to swim last year and welcomes more than 1,000 children from Knox County Schools to its after-school programming.

Stidham also highlighted the organization’s food program,

as the YMCA of East Tennessee donated 102,000 meals to three local rural communities in just nine weeks.

“Community members who would like to support this effort can donate online at ymcaetn.org/give,” a press release stated. “Gifts to the annual campaign help provide childcare for working families, teach children life-saving swim skills, connect seniors to community and deliver healthy meals to families in need.”

“This campaign allows for us to meet people where they are in life,” Stidham added, “and we have every resource here for them to reach their goals. We want to take care of their minds, bodies, spirits and well-being. So these donor dollars allow us to continue these financial assistance programs.”

Teachers

From page 4B

nies that take place across the country every year.

“When we first started the ceremony five years ago, the goal was simple: we wanted to celebrate students who were choosing to enter the teaching profession in the same way athletes celebrate signing days for college athletics,” Sherrell said. “Choosing to become a teacher is just as meaningful of a commitment, and we felt it deserved recognition.”

“Many of these students chose education because a teacher believed in them, encouraged them or helped them through a difficult time. Seeing those students now commit to doing the same for future generations is really inspiring.”

Two Knox County Schools representatives, director of Career and Technical Education Matthew Mosley and executive director of Talent Acquisition Alex Moseman, were on hand to speak for the event.

Mosley noted Sherrell’s impact on the future educators who walk the halls at HVA, addressing the aspect of teaching that goes far beyond the subject matter.

“Every one of us has a teach-



Jake Nichols

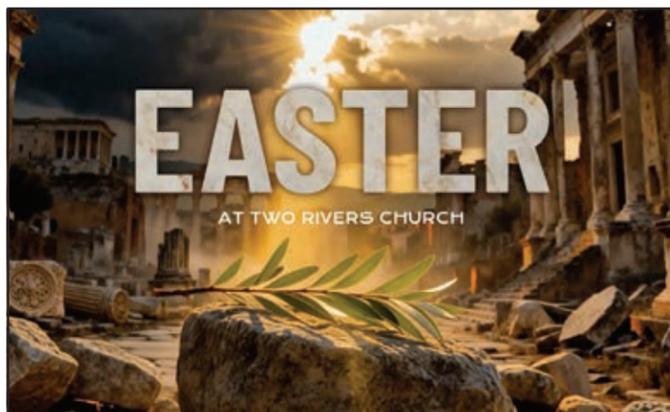
A plethora of decorations welcomed visitors to the Hardin Valley Academy auditorium last Friday, March 27, as seven HVA students took part in the school’s Future Teacher Signing Day.

er we can look back on and remember because there was a personal connection, something that drilled down beyond the content,” he said. “That is what’s so special about what we do, that we get to shape people, and Mrs. Sherrell does an excellent job of instilling that passion for people.”

Meanwhile, Moseman noted each student who took part in this ceremony would be guaranteed interviews with Knox County Schools upon comple-

tion of their degrees.

“We believe everybody should have a clear, well-supported pathway into teaching, and there’s no clearer place to make that commitment than the TAP program here at Hardin Valley Academy,” Moseman said. “KCS is a district with momentum. We have seen teacher retention rise, starting school years fully staffed. So to see folks pick up on that in schools is really exciting.”



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CUMC
From page 4B

“We think it’s important for them to have that confidence in their faith, to be to see others and to worship together so that they are able to go outside of the walls,” Means said. “When they build those relationships, just that confidence being inside of them to share their faith wherever they are.”

“So, we decided to do this student-led worship night, and we invited churches from around the community,” she added, estimating about 150 students and their families were at the inaugural event.

“We opened it up to everybody,” Means said. “We wanted a night where we could all come together and have one purpose.”

In the end, “it was inspiring

to see how our students took ownership of their faith and just shared in the joy of loving Jesus,” she said. “We had students who led worship for the very first time.”

“They led the worship piece; they sang; we had students who gave testimonies,” Means said. “We had one student who gave a very passionate testimony who had never spoken in front of a big group like that before.”

“We had students who prayed on stage for the first time,” she added.

During a period of time leading up to the worship night, there were games.

“We had a big group game,” Means said. “We had students who led those games.”

The students’ actions “really just blew us away,” she said.

“It was incredible to see how

they just stepped out. It was a welcoming environment, but it was definitely a spirit-filled environment.”

Worship leader Paul Jones, who leads worship on Sunday mornings, helped students by mentoring them leading up to the worship night, “preparing their hearts for what leading worship means,” she said. “We got great feedback from the visiting churches and youth groups.”

When all was done, two students asked Means, “Can we do this again tomorrow?”

“It was that kind of joy-filled room,” she added.

Concord United Methodist Church youth Christian Baker shares excerpts from the Bible during the church’s Student-Led Worship Night.



Photo submitted

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obituary

Vincent John Senatore, 91, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 26, 2026, in Knoxville, Tennessee.



Senatore

Vincent was preceded in death by his parents, Vincent Michael Senatore and Suzanne Helen Daly Senatore; his first wife, Helen; and his son, Vincent Glenn Senatore. He is survived by his loving wife, Louise Creekmore; his daughter, Holly; his son, CDR Richard Senatore, USN; his daughter, Dana; and his son, Stephen Senatore. He also leaves behind six cherished grandchildren and many cousins.

Vincent will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to service, his craftsmanship, his leadership, and his deep love for family and community. For full obituary details please visit www.berryhighlandmemorial.com

CCS

From page 4B

a 35 ACT cumulative score and received the Association of Christian Schools International Distinguished Christian Student Award for Academics, ACSI Distinguished Christian Student Award for Fine Arts, a Science Olympiad Medalist and other numerous awards.

At the same time, he was band captain, Key Club treasurer, a Student Government Association representative and received two Superior Awards from East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association Solo and Ensemble.

As salutatorian, Walker, who majored in agricultural sci-

ences at CCS, plans to attend University of Tennessee Knoxville; although, she is unsure of a future career at this time.

"I found my time in high school to be some of the best times of my life so far," said the daughter of Daniel and Jenky Walker. "I found my best friends and have learned from the most incredible people.

"I am forever grateful that God placed me in Concord Christian School to deepen my relationship with Him and lean into a firm foundation focused on Him," Walker said. "I can look back on these four years and see myself built up from a little piece of everyone who has poured into me and loved me so well. I am so thankful.

"Over the course of high school, I have been involved in the National Honor Society, Key Club, the National Spanish Honor Society and the Student Government Association, serving as vice president," she said. "I am grateful to have been part of the high school soccer team, serving as captain; the high school basketball team; and Club Soccer.

"Over the years, I have been honored with the Top-Scholar Athlete award, Rookie of the year, All-district in soccer, All-region in soccer and All-state MVP in soccer," Walker said.

Additionally, she is a graduate of the Student Leadership University and homecoming queen.

Press Planner

From page 5B

• Water Mission, a Christian engineering nonprofit, will host its fourth annual Walk for Water in Knoxville on May 2. The Knoxville community will come together to raise awareness of the global water crisis and support Water Mission's efforts to implement safe water solutions worldwide. Walkers will gather at Zoo Knoxville. Activities will begin at 8 a.m., with the Walk starting at 9 a.m. Registration is available online at walkforwater.com/Knoxville. Participants can join an existing Walk team or start their own. Registration is free, and participants receive free Zoo admission for the day.

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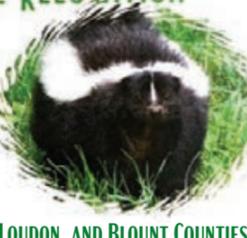


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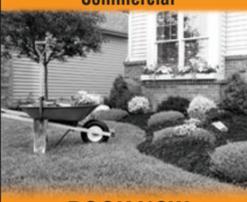
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LIVING THE Spring Life

FARRAGUTPRESS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026 • 1C



Photos submitted

Above: Farragut resident Pam Garrity and her dog and companion, Buddy, are pictured in her Altamira garden.

Right: Tulips abound in John and Pam Garrity's Altamira garden, which is showcased among the Dogwood Arts Festival's Camera Sites this year.



Flourishing in Farragut

Garrity property is "Camera Site"
location for Dogwood Arts Festival

By Michelle Hollenhead, Correspondent

Pam Garrity's Holland visit while her husband was stationed overseas indirectly brought a bounty of tulips to Farragut, and her flower-filled garden is now a flourishing Dogwood Arts Festival destination.

The couple's lush Altamira property has been affiliated with the annual spring event "for about 10 years," Pam Garrity said, noting it has previously been part of the festival's "open gardens;" but this year will be one of many "Camera Site" locations.

"Being a camera site means you are invited to stop and visit the front garden and take pictures," she said. "We used to be an 'Open Garden' which meant you [could] tour the front and back at any time during April.

"We now have a dog and our rear garden is

enclosed, so we switched to a 'camera site.'"

Garrity, her husband, John, and their son, Matthew, moved to Farragut in 2010.

"After 15 military moves, she looked forward to setting down roots [both figuratively and literally], by establishing a perennial garden," John noted.

Pam became an active gardener; completed the Master Gardener Program at the University of Tennessee; and led the Garden Guild for many years at All Saint's Catholic Church, where she developed a Community Garden, sharing the harvests with local food pantries.

"Her own garden – the 'labor of love' at Altamira – took years of work with her Norfolk

See GARRITY on Page 3C

Local parks offer abundant outdoor options

By Michelle Hollenhead,
Correspondent

While winter seems to be intermittently dragging on, hopeful signs of spring are peeping through, no doubt leading to outdoor plans in the not-too-distant future.

Parks play a big part in the area outdoor scene. Between the Town of Farragut and Knox County parks and recreation departments, options abound for both the new and seasoned outdoor enthusiast, especially for those wishing to make a full day of it.

Concord Park/The Cove

Concord Park encompasses 500 acres along

Fort Loudoun Lake, offering amenities, including mountain biking trails, paved greenways, picnic areas, playgrounds, tennis courts and a golf course.

Miles of trails can either be walked or biked. The main trailhead leads from the primary parking area, behind the tennis courts and the Par 3 Golf Course, just off Northshore Drive. Trails are located to the east and west of the prominent informational kiosk located in the parking lot.

According to Knox County Parks and Recreation information, "the main trails at Concord are legacy trails that have challenging natural features."

See PARKS on Page 2C

Spring yard work?

Remember safety first

Story submitted

Spring is the time to get out your lawn equipment to shape up your yard. But before you fire up your lawn mower, trimmer, and other yard gear, the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) reminds you to keep safety in mind.

"We all want to get outside and work on our yards, but your equipment needs some attention first," said Kris Kiser, president/CEO of OPEI, an international trade association representing outdoor power equipment, small engine, utility vehicle, golf car and personal transport vehicle manufacturers and suppliers. "A little prep can go a long way in keeping things safe and running smoothly."

See YARD WORK on Page 3C



Parks

From page 1C

The second trailhead is located on the west end of the fishing bridge just east of Concord Yacht Club. From there, a trail accessing the westernmost area is located under the bridges. Additionally, there is a trail connection on the east end of the bridge, commonly referred to as roundabout property.

Bring your own or rent a bike to ride along the greenways.

Knoxville Outdoor Tours provides bike rentals, which offers direct to trail head bike and equipment rentals all over Knoxville.

According to its website, “We bring the bike right to you at the trail head of your chosen trail system,” drawing from a fleet that includes both E-bikes and analog bikes, starting at \$60, seven days a week.

Bikes can be booked on the website a minimum of 48 hours in advance. If quicker response time is needed, call 865-257-9390 to check availability.

For more information visit <https://knoxvilleoutdoortours.com/collections/rentals>.

Concord Par 3 Golf Course

Located along Northshore Drive, the course is open from dawn until dusk, and features a practice green and clubhouse, with accessories, snacks and drinks. Lessons by PGA professionals are also offered, along with clinics, and leagues for adults and children.

Concord The Point Park

Concord Park “The Point” features 0.35-mile paved walking trails that circle two soccer fields and also contains a skate park and an in-line hockey area. Located at 10882 S. Northshore Dr., the park is open from dawn to dusk.

Boating

For those without their own watercraft, Sunlife Marinas at Concord Park offers boat rentals from a six boat fleet that includes two party barges, a pontoon and three Triton options. Rentals start at \$249, and options include a full day (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or a half day (9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.)

Valid driver’s license is required for rental and all renters must be age 25 or older.

For more information, visit <https://sunlifeconcord.com/boat-rentals/>

Paddleboarding/kayaking from The Cove

The Cove is a Concord adjacent park, containing picnic pavilions, walking trails, swimming beach area and playground equipment, with the lakefront backdrop to boot. One highlight is the opportunity to paddle board or kayak either by bringing your own or renting from River Sports Outfitters. Visit <https://www.riversportsoutfitters.com/pages/peek-registration?srsliid=AfmBOoqFEW68CivT0klQ9kPCUcA-6q4O4jj6xrMlNAGeN64K-6fED4Y->, to see a wide selection of canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards (SUPs) from which to choose.

All rentals include a paddle(s) and a PFD(s).

Start or end the day with brunch, lunch or supper at Lakeside Tavern, located in Concord Park. The long-time Knox County staple opens daily at 9 a.m.

Upcoming Spring into Summer events:

Dixie Lee Farmers Market

Starting Saturday, April 18, the Dixie Lee Farmer’s Market returns for its 19th year to Renaissance|Farragut, retail and office complex, 12760 Kingston Pike. Fresh produce and a number of new and recurring vendors bring home-made and home-grown to Farragut through the spring, summer and fall.

Upcoming 5K at The Pinnacle

Race for a Reason, Sunday, April 26,



will raise funds for the Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley, a local nonprofit dedicated to providing care, shelter and second chances for animals in need.

Proceeds from this year’s race will directly benefit the Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley, helping fund lifesaving programs, medical care and adoption services for animals across our region.

For more information visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/TN/Knoxville/pinnacleturkeycreek>

Bob Watt Fishing Rodeo

The 42nd annual Bob Watt Youth Fishing Rodeo will be held in two sessions Saturday, May 9; from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and from 9 to 10 a.m. It is open to children ages 12 and under and is free to participate, but registration, limited to 100 children per session, is required. Visit <https://townoffarragut.org/775/Special-Events> for more information.

Chalk the Plaza

Town of Farragut’s Chalk the Plaza will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at Mayor Ralph McGill Plaza, 101 N. Campbell Station Road. Returning is the competition for amateur artists, and, in honor of America’s 250th anniversary celebrations, artists can enter the special theme “America the Beautiful.” Artists may still compete in the classic open competition as well.

The Art Market will welcome even more talented artists and vendors and area food trucks will also be part of the celebration.

For more information visit <https://linktr.ee/ChalkthePlaza>

Free Fishing Day

Statewide, Bobby Wilson Free Fishing Day in Tennessee is Saturday, June 6. On that day, anyone (residents or non-residents) can fish without a license in Tennessee’s public waters. Locally, it is being promoted by Knox County Parks and Recreation Department at Concord’s The Cove. Additionally, a Free Fishing Week follows state-wide, allowing children ages 15 and younger to fish for free from June 6–12.

Try-Athalon in McFee

Beyond tennis courts, walking trails and the ever-popular splash pad, which typically opens for the season sometime in April, this year Town Park and Rec officials are hosting “Farragut’s Try-Athalon” Saturday, June 13 from 8 to 10 a.m.

Children ages 4 to 6 and 7 to 10 are welcome to participate. Described as a



Photos courtesy of Knox County Parks and Recreation / Middle photo submitted

From top: The Cove at Concord fronts Fort Loudoun Lake, and offers picnic pavilions, a paved walking trail, playground equipment, a beachfront swimming area and a River Sports Outfitters rental location for kayaks and paddle boards.

Pictured is one of two party barges available for rent from Sunlife Marina Concord among its six boat fleet. The season begins Memorial Day weekend.

Knox County’s Concord, The Point park, along Northshore Drive, has a skate park and in-line hockey area.

non-competitive event, the “Try-Athalon” will encompass water obstacles, a bike ride and a fun run/walk.

Cost is \$20 per child and registration

deadline is May 7.

For more information, visit <https://townoffarragut.org/775/Special-Events>.



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Yard work

From page 1C

Here are a few simple tips:

- *Follow manufacturers' guidance.* It sounds basic, but it's important. If you lost the manufacturer's owner's manual, you can usually find it online.
- *Inspect your equipment.* Check oil and air filters. Buy fresh fuel. Look for damaged or missing parts.
- *Never disable, modify or remove safety devices.*
- *Use fresh fuel.* Buy the amount of fuel you need. Never store equipment with fuel in the tank. Remember, storing fuel in hot, humid conditions will make the fuel grow stale more quickly.
- *Charge batteries using an appropriate charger.* Use the charger that came with your equipment and follow the manufacturer instructions. Follow their guidance on storing batteries properly.
- *Clean and store equipment properly.* Wipe off dirt and debris and keep your equipment in a dry spot.
- *Always keep children and pets away from operating equipment.*

For more safety information about outdoor power equipment, visit www.opei.org

Garrity

From page 1C

Terriers Wally and Buddy by her side," her husband said. "She built a peaceful retreat, which became a featured garden on the Dogwood Arts Festival's Knoxville Open Garden Tour."

The garden consists of a wide variety of perennials and unique "garden accent" pieces collected during years of travel and a flowing "waterwall" surrounded by potted plants.

Tulips were always top of mind, as Pam visited Holland's famous Keukenhof Tulip Gardens with Matthew while stationed in Germany as John was deployed to Iraq. Inspired, Pam

wanted to bring some of that beauty to Altamira.

The first year they were in Altamira, she planted 300 to 400 bulbs, and has increased the numbers every year since, most recently planing 1,400 tulips this past November.

"The tulips she plants are a special hybrid tulip called 'Big Ups,' cultivated as an annual, so they must be planted every year," John said. "It is a very big project, but well worth the effort when they bloom in the spring."

Depending on the weather, Garrity's tulips are typically blooming by the Dogwood Festival Kickoff, which this year is April 1, with events planned all over Knox County throughout the

month.

"Senior Centers bring their residents in vans so they can view the tulips; families take family photos; and she even had a proposal photographed with the tulips as a backdrop," John said. "She sees it as her small contribution to the Dogwood Festival and loves to share it with her Farragut community."

Her garden is and has been a true labor of love. John said he helps some with heavy lifting and where else she might need, but Pam is certainly the driving force.

"I spend three to four hours per day during the spring, working in the garden, and two to three hours maintain-

ing the rest of the year," Pam noted. "The only real down time is December-February."

She offers an open invitation to celebrate the start of the Dogwood Festival with a drive by 532 Altamira Drive to view the beautiful display of tulips and spring blooms.

"Don't forget to bring your camera," she added,

For more information on the Dogwood Arts Festival open gardens, camera sites and Dogwood Trails — including one through Fox Den, Village Green and Country Manor — visit https://www.dogwoodarts.com/_files/ugd/6aa64a_17f445adffb44f5d9913d6459181749f.pdf



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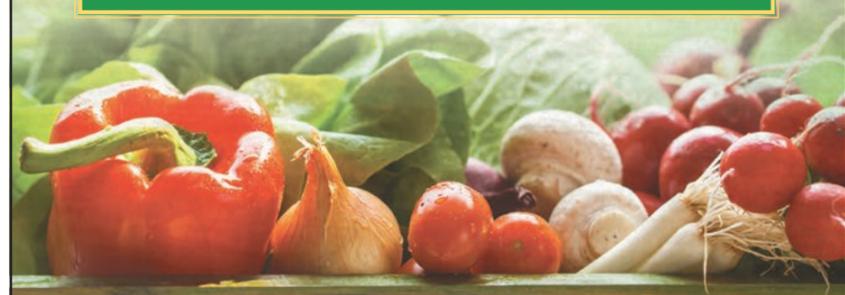
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Put some *spring* in your cleaning step

Spring is the season of nature's rebirth. Trees and flowers begin to bloom anew each spring, and young animals can be seen frolicking with their parents. During a time when it seems like the entire planet gets a refresh, many homeowners turn their thoughts to refreshing their homes as well.

As the days lengthen and the weather warms, spring cleaning takes center stage. Spring cleaning is more extensive than simply washing away grime, as cleaning a home often offers a psychological reset for the coming months. A clear strategy can make the task of spring cleaning feel less daunting, and these tips can help cut down on clutter and other interior annoyances that have arisen after months spent indoors.

Declutter before cleaning

The rule of thumb when starting on spring cleaning is to combat clutter before cleaning. Trying to clean around clutter is inefficient and may result in throwing in the towel prematurely. It is important to remove as much as possible from each room before you begin cleaning. As homeowners move through each room, they can assess whether they've used items in the last year or whether they serve any functional or aesthetic purposes. If not, they can be trashed or donated.

Move top to bottom

It's important to follow the rules of science when spring cleaning. That means dust and debris will be affected by gravity. Engaging in a top-down approach will help make cleaning more efficient. Beginning at the ceiling and working down toward the floors will help people avoid having to clean the same surface twice.

Using a duster or a microfiber cloth, individuals can clear cobwebs from corners and dust from crown molding. Fingerprints will accumulate near light switches and door handles, so those areas should be wiped down, too.

Homeowners can conduct a thorough cleaning of heating and cooling output and intake vents as they likely have gathered dust over the winter. A down of floor moldings can get to any area near the floor or under furniture that doesn't get frequent cleaning.

Do a kitchen reset

Focusing attention on the kitchen, which tends to be the busiest room in the house, is a wise idea for spring cleaning plans. This is the time for individuals to pull everything out of the refrigerator and pantry and check for expiration dates. Wiping down the shelves means cleaning away any accumulated food drips or spills. Additional areas to consider include behind the refrigerator, inside the dishwasher filter and inside the microwave.

Focus on air quality

It's key to replace the HVAC system filters come springtime, as well as any air purifiers in the home. This will help reduce allergens and ensure the cooling system will run efficiently when it's time to turn it on.

Spring cleaning takes place each year. Prioritizing decluttering and following a systematic path through the home helps people eliminate stress and mess at the same time.

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