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## Planning Commission approves Grove, Stonemeade final plats



Tammy Cheek

Construction workers for Saddlebrook Properties get the walkway ready for The Grove at Boyd Station subdivision Wednesday, April 15.

**Tammy Cheek**  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

As developers finish construction of The Grove at Boyd Station and Stonemeade subdivision, Farragut Municipal Planning Commission unanimously approved final plats with conditions during its meeting Thursday, April 16.

The Grove received approval for Phase 2, Unit 1, with conditions attached. Commissioner Noah Myers made the motion to approve the final plat, seconded by Mayor Ron Williams, who also serves on the Planning Commission. The subdivision encompasses 16.15 acres with 15 lots zoned Open Space Mixed Residential (OSMR).

"This is the next phase of The Grove at Boyd Station [located at McFee and Boyd Station roads, where a roundabout recently was constructed as part of a Town road improvement project]," Community Development director Mark Shipley said. "The road was just recently reopened."

In addition to house lots, the development includes two open-space lots.

"This is a relatively

small phase," Shipley added.

Russ Rackley, engineer and owner of Rackley Engineering, said there are four plats total, but the project is in its final phase.

Shipley said conditions of approval include providing a two-year maintenance letter of credit for pedestrian facilities, stormwater detention and roadway; a completion letter of credit for pedestrian facilities and landscaping; a copy of covenants for Town attorney approval; required signatures; completion of remaining site-related punch list items; and correcting a note error.

"The staff did conduct a site inspection on April 6, and the site was definitely far enough along to be presented to the Planning Commission," Shipley said.

"We have no objections to the conditions," Rackley said. "Everything is complete. ... We're finishing gravel on the other 30-some-odd lots of what we initially wanted to do for this next unit."

While Rackley said he was not "privy to the punch list," he noted

See **PLANNING** on Page 5A



Jake Nichols

Farragut resident Charlyn Shelton, otherwise known as "November Pain," shares a smile with fans during pre-bout warmups on Saturday, April 4.

# Glitter and grit

## Farragut residents thrive in Hard Knox Roller Derby

**Jake Nichols**  
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Kisha Durst still remembers the moment everything clicked.

The year was 2009, and Durst was in her third season with a Hard Knox Roller Derby team, which was still in its infancy.

Her own knowledge of the sport remained limited at that point. During bouts, opponents and teammates flew by — nothing more than a blur of helmets, knee pads, glitter and black lipstick.

Then, in the snap of a finger, everything clicked.

"It was like someone flipped a switch," Durst recalled 17 years later, "and everything slowed down to a normal pace. It all made sense, and I could see and understand what was happening."

Fast-forward almost two decades, and Durst — a Farragut resident since 2019 — has become a crucial piece of the Hard Knox league in a sport still relatively new to the region.

"I am an OG [Original Gangster], yes," joked Durst, who works as a guest experience coordinator for BlackBerry Farm during the week.

But once Durst clocks out of her daily job and straps on her multicolored helmet, she transforms into her alter-ego, "Bushwacker."

"Roller derby is basically my second job," she said during a bout on Saturday, April 4. "I'm head of training and a coach and captain of the All-Stars. So it's my second, non-paying job."

Durst was one of several people to join the first-ever Hard Knox team, as roller derby took hold across the country after the airing of the 2007 documentary, "Hell on Wheels: The Birth of All-Girl Roller Derby."

Her involvement came via MySpace invite. After digging into the sport, which involves two teams of five trying to lap each other for points, she was hooked.

See **GLITTER** on Page 5A

## Jones campaign focuses on safety, experience

**Submitted Candidate**

Jimmy "J.J." Jones is a lifelong law enforcement officer who has dedicated his career to serving and protecting the people of Knox County. He worked his way through the ranks of the Knox County Sheriff's Office, gaining hands-on experience in patrol, investigations and leadership before serving two full terms as

sheriff from 2007 to 2018.

During his time as sheriff, J.J. led one of the largest departments in the county, overseeing patrol operations, detention facilities, and a multi-million-dollar budget. Under his leadership, the department achieved a 92 percent homicide solve rate, implemented body-worn cameras to strengthen transparency and established structured part-



Jones

nerships like 287(g) to

See **JONES** on Page 6A

## Whitehead seeks Knox County Clerk position

**Submitted Candidate**

John R. Whitehead is a lifelong Knox County resident who has dedicated his life to serving both his country and his community. A graduate of Carter High School, John went on to serve four years in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. That experience shaped his commitment to dis-

cipline, integrity and putting others before himself, values that have guided him throughout his life.

After returning home, John began his career in Knox County government, where he quickly found his calling in public service. He started as an appraiser and worked his way up to chief Deputy Assessor, a role he held for 18 years. His leadership and dedica-



Whitehead

tion led to his election

See **WHITEHEAD** on Page 5A



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Tammy Cheek

Preston Kendall, project manager for Ingles Markets Inc., unveiled the plans to add a cart corral and patio area to the exterior of Ingles Stores 91 at 11847 Kingston Pike as part of a “big [interior] remodel” during Farragut Municipal Planning Commission’s Thursday, April 16, meeting.

## Ingles wins approval for store renovations

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Local residents received good news from the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission, which approved renovations to a supermarket in Town during its meeting Thursday, April 16.

Preston Kendall, project manager for Ingles Markets Inc., said Ingles is planning a “big remodel” of the interior of Store 91, 11847 Kingston Pike while also adding a covered canopy and cart corral enclosure to the exterior. As such, he submitted a site plan for the newer segment of the storefront to FMPC.

“This is part of a big remodel that we’re doing inside of the store,” Kendall said. “This is something to help what we’re doing on the inside and give people a place to sit outside and under shelter from the sun and the weather.”

“For the FMPC, this is relatively minor, at least from the exterior perspective,” Town Community Development Director Mark Shipley said. “What’s being proposed is a covered seating area east of the eastern access into Ingles.

“And then, on the west end of the west entrance, there would be a cart corral area expansion there,” he said. “Now, the covered area on the east side — and this is one of the comments when the first site plan came through — does cross the sidewalk across the front of the building.

“So, they’re routing the pedestrian route through that space if somebody wants to come from the east of this covered seating area. That route will be marked and delineated, and all the tables will have to be fixed so they don’t stray into the path, because that can hap-

See INGLES on Page 6A

## Henderson highlights experience, community values

Submitted

Candidate

Dear Farragut Neighbors, My name is Betsy Henderson, and I’m running for Knox County mayor because I believe this community is at a crossroads.

East Tennessee isn’t just where I live, it’s home. I was raised here, and like so many families in Farragut, my husband and I chose to build our life in Knox County because of the values, schools and sense of community that make this area so special.

My perspective on leadership was shaped early in life. My parents built small businesses right here. I saw firsthand the long hours, the risks and the determination it takes to make a small business succeed. They didn’t have the luxury of waste or inefficiency, and neither should government. That experience gave me a deep respect for the hard-working families and small business owners who are the backbone of Farragut and all of Knox County.

In my time as chair of the Knox County School Board,

I focused on getting back to basics, cutting bureaucracy, investing in classrooms and delivering real results for students and families. That same approach is what I will bring as your mayor, focusing on what matters most: good roads, strong public safety and excellent schools, all while cutting waste and not raising taxes.

While growth and development are part of any community, that should only happen in the right way. That means protecting our neighborhoods, managing traffic and preserving the character of our community, not turning it into something unrecognizable.

Most importantly, I believe government should always live within its means — just like every family in Knox County. With a budget of over a billion dollars, we can meet our needs without asking you to pay more.

I’m proud to be the only candidate who:

Stood with families during COVID to keep schools open and fought mandates;

Made a clear public commitment to not raise your taxes;



Henderson

Is focused on the core responsibilities of government, roads, schools and public safety;

Voted against the plan to move over 9,000 acres from rural land to planned growth; and

Has a proven record of cutting waste, reducing bureaucracy and delivering real results.

This campaign is about keeping Knox County a place where families can thrive, businesses can grow and our way of life is protected for the next generation.

I would be honored to earn your support and your vote.

Sincerely,  
Betsy Henderson

## KCSO policereports

### Forgery, theft reported at post office

A Farragut man reported April 13 that a check mailed from the Farragut Post Office at 11409 Municipal Center Drive post office was altered and cashed without authorization. The check, originally written for \$17,698.73, had the payee name changed and was cashed on April 3, according to the report. The complainant did not know if the check was cashed in person or through a mobil app. Au-

thorities listed the case as theft, forgery and fraud. No suspect information was available.

### Fraud reported at Kingston Pike store

A Dollar General manager reported April 11 that multiple suspects used deception to obtain merchandise at a store on Kingston Pike. The suspects attempted to pay for an Apple gift card with a declined debit card, then convinced an employee to process the transaction as cash. The loss was reported at \$495. No ar-

rests were made.

### Wallet stolen at Kingston Pike business

A woman reported April 10 that her wallet was stolen while she purchasing a drink at the Costco food court on Kingston Pike. The victim said she briefly placed the wallet under her arm before noticing it was missing. The wallet contained cash, identification documents and multiple credit and debit cards. The total known cash loss was about \$80. No suspect has been identified.



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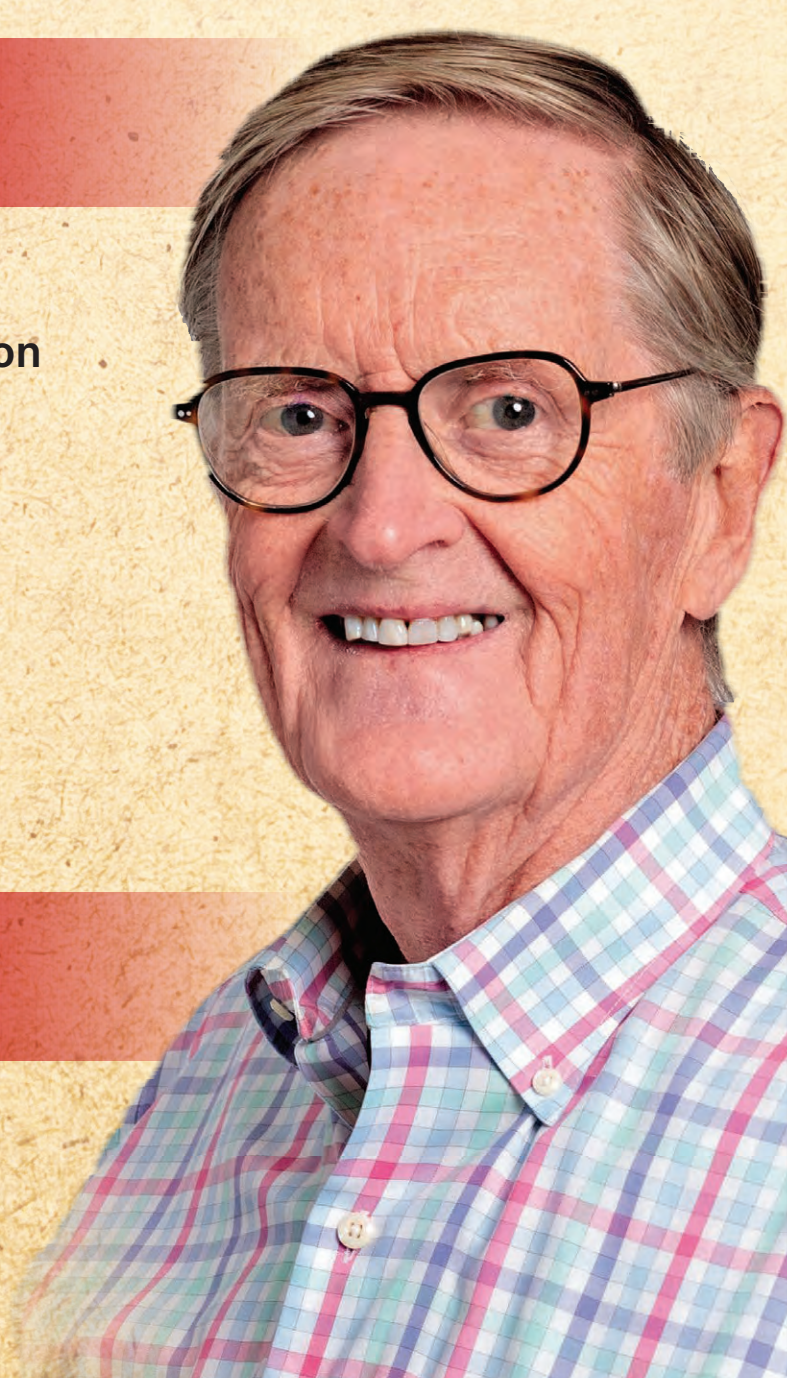
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# Letters to the editor

# Opinion

Dear editor,

In response to Alderman Cain's letter, a review of the staff report and proposed duties for the Economic Development position is warranted. Nothing in the report indicates duplication of efforts already handled by the Chamber of Commerce, Shop Farragut, or Visit Farragut. Nor does it indicate any intention for the Town to enter the commercial development business - an activity that properly belongs to the private sector, not municipal government.

If the duties laid out can be integrated into an existing staffing role, all the better. Did he suggest that during the recent Board workshop that was held to discuss this position?

Farragut was founded in 1980 to preserve the community's character after Knox County's lack of development standards and haphazard planning led residents to support incorporation. Since then, the Town has operated without a municipal property tax. The Town relies on business-generated revenue as its primary

revenue source. By maintaining strict development standards to protect our community's character, Farragut has a reputation as a challenging location for businesses.

Under Mayor Ralph McGill, the Town began working to better balance preserving our community character with responding to business needs. Progress has been made, but that work is unfinished.

Today, the Town partners with the Chamber of Commerce, the Farragut Business Alliance (which manages Shop Farragut), and Visit Farragut. Each plays an important role, but they largely operate independently with little coordination.

In 2018, Farragut assigned business liaison duties to a staff member tasked with working directly with business owners and commercial realtors, producing guidance materials, and organizing workshops. A staff reorganization in FY2025 eliminated that role, scattering its responsibilities across multiple departments.

As a result, Farragut cur-

rently has no formal economic development strategy or one staff member tasked with coordinating one. For a town dependent on business-generated revenue, this creates unnecessary risk. Our business landscape is continually evolving, with companies regularly entering and exiting the market, while new commercial buildings continue to come online. Each of these businesses interacts with the Town.

Maintaining and expanding the consumer base and maximizing opportunities to support both new and existing businesses is essential to sustaining strong economic performance. It is difficult to identify a more important core municipal service than supporting those who generate the revenues that fund roads, public works, parks, and essential services—while continuing to operate without a municipal property tax.

**Louise Povlin  
Candidate for  
Farragut Mayor**

way project, those plans were abandoned before discussion ever began. In 2025, a new cross section for Evans Road was adopted that significantly reduced the roadway design parameters to preserve Evans Road's rural character. The adoption of this new cross section ensures that the 2022 plan cannot be revived because it is inconsistent with the updated subdivision regulations.

These facts are significant, directly challenging several assertions presented in the article. For the sake of precision, fairness, and comprehensive journalism, it is essential that these details are recognized and given proper consideration.

**Scott Meyer  
Vice Mayor  
Town of Farragut**

print and on social media. Oh how I wish you could see what we endured prior to incorporating. My husband, former Mayor Ralph McGill was actually told by the chairman of the Knox County Commission that he had no right to speak at the meeting! How about that for citizen input?

If you are a "newbie" to the area, I would advise you to take a short road trip out to Clinton or Chapman Highway and see how we would look today had we not incorporated. Needless to say, we have been blessed with people in office who truly care. Please inform yourselves regarding all of the lies and innuendos against what these UNPAID board members have done and continue to pursue.

**Marianne McGill,  
Farragut, TN**

**The Quiet Pond**

*In a small pond tucked behind a stand of cattails, a group of frogs lived peacefully for many seasons.*

*Each morning, the frogs greeted the sun with their usual chorus. It wasn't perfect, but it was theirs — a mix of croaks, chirps and the occasional off-key ribbit. The sound carried across the water, a reminder that the pond was alive and well.*

*One year, a pair of herons arrived.*

*They didn't make much noise at first. They simply stood at the edge of the water, watching.*

*Some of the younger frogs noticed right away.*

*"We should speak up," one said. "We should make noise so others know they're here."*

*But an older frog shook his head.*

*"Best to stay quiet," he said. "We don't want to draw attention."*

*So the frogs lowered their voices. Their morning chorus grew softer.*

*The herons waded in a little deeper.*

*A few more frogs disappeared.*

*Again, the younger frogs grew uneasy.*

*"We should warn the others," one said. "We should be loud."*

*But the answer came back the same.*

*"Keep your head down. Stay quiet. It will pass."*

*Days turned into weeks. The pond grew quieter still.*

*Where there had once been a chorus, there were now only scattered croaks.*

*One evening, a small frog climbed onto a rock in the center of the pond. He took a deep breath and let out the loudest croak he could muster.*

*It echoed.*

*Another frog joined him. Then another.*

*Soon, the sound spread across the pond — loud, sharp and impossible to ignore.*

*The herons, startled by the sudden noise and movement, lifted their wings and flew off in search of calmer waters.*

*The frogs kept croaking long after the birds were gone.*

*Not because they liked the noise.*

*But because they had learned something.*

*A quiet pond is an easy place to overlook.*

*A silent voice is an easy one to ignore.*

*The frogs in the pond learned that silence made them easy to overlook.*

*That lesson applies beyond the water's edge.*

In recent weeks, elected officials have used terms such as "misinformation," "disinformation" and "biased." After the farragutpress published "Concerns mount over greenways, property use and town planning," the paper was directed to the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics for a refresher.

To be clear, that story did not recount past votes or meeting actions. It reported what residents were saying — their concerns, their fears and their questions about what could happen to their property.

Those concerns did not appear in a vacuum.

They followed discussion of a proposed capital improvement program budget, comments about eminent domain from a sitting alderman and a February decision to use eminent domain on Union Road. The town's plan lists the Turkey Creek Road multi-modal project — formerly the greenway extension — with \$500,000 in 2027 and \$2.2 million in 2028. A lawsuit filed in July 2024 by property owners sought to stop expansion through front yards. Officials have said the project might be completed within the existing right of way, but the lawsuit has paused that path.

Fair questions remain: Has there been an effort to resolve the lawsuit outside the courtroom? What will future projects, including Evans Road — listed for design and engineering in 2029 — mean for property owners?

Elected officials have a platform backed by authority. They speak at every meeting. Citizens, by contrast, are often limited to a few minutes at the podium.

That is where a community newspaper matters.

For generations, local newspapers have provided a place for the public to be heard — not filtered, not dismissed, but documented. Reporting on citizens' concerns is not misinformation. It is part of the record.

A quiet pond is easy to ignore.

A community that speaks — and is given a place to speak — is not.

Dear editor,

In the article a few weeks ago regarding greenways, property use, and Town planning contained factual inaccuracies and misrepresented the Town's stance on private property rights.

The claim that the Turkey Creek Road project was solely about a greenway extension is incorrect. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen discussed multiple options during a May 2023 workshop. The Board approved a combined road widening and greenway design to address public safety concerns for drivers and pedestrians along that stretch of Turkey Creek Road. The design contract approved in September 2023 reflects the Board's decision.

During the May 16, 2024, Farragut Municipal Planning Commission (FMPC) meeting, citizen and property owner

concerns about the Turkey Creek Road plan led the FMPC to unanimously defer any action—no action was taken; no plan was approved. There has been no effort to assess property for purchase.

The recently amended "eminent domain law" went into effect after this meeting. Since no action was taken on the Turkey Creek Road plan, there was no possibility of violating the amended law. It should be noted that TDOT does not share Mr. Neal's interpretation of this law.

There may be a possibility to bring the Turkey Creek Road project within the existing right of way with lane widening and a sidewalk along the curb, but the ongoing lawsuit has stalled exploration of this option.

As for the complaint about the 2022 Evans Road green-

Louise Povlin in acquiring countless grants to have what we see before us. Our board members have done it all by volunteering because they love this community, not because of their gain.

Although the first mayor and I disagreed on many issues, there were several issues we all agreed on. His vision was to have a walkable community from end to end, and provide many of the fine parks we have today, and for the most part this has been accomplished. Many hours were spent on gathering the citizens' input.

Some would say that the present board is trying to rule and reign over all of the citizens while ignoring their input. This could not be further from the truth. Please be very careful and thoroughly check out all that you hear and see in

Dear editor,

Just to set the record straight.....as one who was directly involved in the founding of Farragut and former alderman and Vice mayor, I would like to say I am extremely pleased with Farragut's development. It is not perfect, but then again, no place is.

But we have seen it flourish in the last 45 years and has recently received the distinction of being one of the most desirable communities in Tennessee. Every community has its growing pains, but has it been worth it? I would answer with a resounding yes.

What we enjoy now is pretty much what we envisioned, ..... and all without taxing our citizens. If we cannot afford it, we do without! We are now enjoying the efforts of Mayor Williams and former Vice Mayor

**presstalk 865-671-TALK (8255) or editor@farragutpress.com**

■ **I know many people were upset by all the apartments,** four-story apartments at Biddle Farms. I know that was approved during the pandemic when there was no public hearings. I know the residents down Concord Road and that area are upset about that. We have a mayor's election

coming up this August. Probably we need new leadership. We need new leadership at the top of the Town. That's what we need. Try new leadership. I know a lot of people are upset with a lot of things that the old leadership has done. So let's all get out and vote. Thank you.

■ **I read the letter to the editor in the farragutpress last week,** and I agree with the Ward 1 alderman. Farragut does not need a \$116,000 economic development person. What they need is the mayor and vice mayor to tell the staff to not have so many comments on every commercial development, not drive people

crazy with rules and regulations trying to get into the Town.

You know, the history of the Town is we lost Walmart, which was a big sales tax generator years ago. The former vice mayor and the mayor frustrated Hy-Vee, the Des Moines, Iowa company [which] was going to invest \$75 million on a

general merchandise store on Eddie Ford's property. They frustrated that company and they went away. The vice mayor and the mayor lost that prospect. We also lost a \$50 million assisted living company off of Village Commons and Borning Road. It was turned down

**See PRESSTALK on Page 5A**

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**farragutpress** is published weekly at 11863 Kingston Pike Farragut, TN 37934

**Deadline for Letters to the Editor and Presstalks is Monday at 10 a.m. for that Wednesday's edition.**

**Presstalk rules:** Keep calls to a 90-second maximum · e-mails to 250 words maximum · Libelous & malicious comments will not be published; profanity will be edited out · Comments will remain anonymous but must come from verifiable phone/email · Names of individuals (including public figures) will not be published

**Letter to the Editor rules:** Must not exceed 400 words · Verifiable name, address & telephone number to be verified · All Letters to the Editor from any citizen must have a minimum four-week period between publication · Must not have inaccurate information, such as wrong statistics, from which to form an opinion

We reserve the right to reject publication based on factors including threats, name-calling and foul language

**Full rules can be viewed at farragutpress.com under Opinion and Presstalk.**

**Obituary Information and Deadlines:** Send obituary & photo, if applicable, to editor@farragutpress.com. The cost is \$25 for the first 200 words and 25 cents for each additional word thereafter. The cost to submit a photo is \$10. We only use thumbnail "head and upper chest" portrait photos. The submission deadline for obituaries is 10 a.m. on Monday for that Wednesday edition. Payment must be received by 10 a.m. on Tuesday for that Wednesday edition.

Call 865-675-6397 or email editor@farragutpress.com with questions.

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**YOUR TENNESSEE PRESS  
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**Glitter**

From page 1A

“I said, ‘Oh my gosh, I have to do that,’” Durst recalled. “I had watched a form of it in the ‘90’s and thought it was the coolest thing. So I knew it was something I should do with loving sports and being aggressive. It’s like football meets hockey on roller skates.”

As the sport has evolved, so, too, has the Hard Knox organization. What began as a group of four people has grown to two different teams that skate across the floor of the Knoxville Convention Center once a month with tickets available at [hardknoxrollerderby.com](http://hardknoxrollerderby.com).

“There was a huge transition with the pandemic when we couldn’t practice, and rebuilding the team gave us a chance to create the culture we wanted,” Durst said. “So starting from the ground and building it up again was really fun to watch.”

Throw in some fishnet stockings and nicknames such as “Honey Punch,” and you have the perfect blend of grunge

and athleticism in a family-friendly environment.

“I always say it’s where the band geeks, drama kids, art kids and all the people who felt like weirdos and outcasts found each other,” Durst said. “We’re the island of misfits, but we all make sense together. It’s where people who feel like they don’t have a place fit in.”

“If people want to dress crazy or wear makeup, they can. We do have some parameters because it’s family-friendly, but beyond that, come up with a creative name and find your identity.”

Charlyn Shelton, another Farragut resident who goes by “November Pain,” followed that exact instruction when she joined the program three years ago.

Much like Durst in 2009, she still does not know all the rules.

But she has appreciated the welcoming nature of her teammates, who range from brand-new skaters to veterans like Durst.

**Planning**

From page 1A

“as far as I know, everything is complete ... the surface course is down.”

“They still have some things to finish, like the walking trail, but that’s covered under the letters of credit,” Shipley said.

“Tomorrow (April 17), we’ll complete the base stone on the greenway trail along Boyd Station Road and around the roundabout. We hope to get it paved next week,” Rackley said. “Utility relocations delayed us and put us into winter, and it’s been a dogfight to get this far this fast.”

“The roundabout looks great, by the way,” Williams said. “Good job. I think the Choto folks are really happy that you got the road back open.”

“Yeah, not so much the Willow Cove residents,” Rackley said. “They were hoping it would stay closed.”

On a similar action, the Commission unanimously approved the final plat for Stone-meade subdivision, located off Boring Road near the new Farragut Area Elementary School under construction.

Williams made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Jon Greene.

The development includes 39 lots zoned R-3, including 32 house lots and seven open-space lots.

“It does have a secondary access down into the Village Commons Boulevard to the south,” Shipley said. “There are also walking trail connections in two places — to the east of Baldwin Park and to the south to Village Commons Boulevard.”

Shipley said staff visited the site April 6 and found it in good condition, recommending approval with conditions. These include adding a note related to street name signs due to a recent ordinance amendment; labeling buffer strips; providing a maintenance letter of credit for roads, pedestrian facilities and stormwater; a completion letter of credit for the surface course, sidewalks and landscaping; and obtaining required signatures.

“The buffer strip will be added in the fall,” Shipley said. “There is a completion letter of credit for that.”

Rackley said there were no objections and the asphalt surface would be completed this week.

“On these two projects, we worked really well with Town staff,” said Brian Mohny, co-owner of Saddlebrook and developer of both subdivisions.

Expressing appreciation, Mohny said, “We had some meetings about how we wanted to walk through Farragut’s processes ... I’m just really grateful.”

**Presstalk**

From page 4A

by the vice mayor and the mayor. So we need the leaders of the Town... maybe we’ll have a new mayor coming up; maybe we need a new mayor... we need the leaders of the Town to be proactively encouraging economic investment, not denying it. And we don’t

need another bureaucratic position. We need the staff to be more sensitive on economic development proposals, not having so many comments that frustrate people like Hy-Vee and the assisted living company out of Virginia Beach to run away. We just need to be smarter about economic development for the leadership of the Town. Thank you.

**Whitehead**

From page 1A

as Knox County Property Assessor, where he served four terms.

During his time as Assessor, John built a strong record of accountability and professionalism. He successfully led four successive countywide reappraisals with zero audit findings from the state, demonstrating careful oversight and attention to detail. His work earned him numerous recognitions, including the Tennessee Chapter of Assessing Officers Member of the Year Award, the East Tennessee

Exemplary Leadership Award, and multiple Three-Star Certification Awards for professional excellence. He also served as President of the East Tennessee Assessors Association for eight years and received the Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor given to assessors in the state.

John is known for his steady leadership, strong work ethic, and commitment to doing the job the right way. He believes that public office is a responsibility, not a title, and that leadership means showing up, being present, and serving people with respect and accountability.

Throughout his career, John has remained focused on the people of Knox County. He understands that behind every record and every transaction is a citizen who deserves professionalism and fairness. His experience, combined with his lifelong commitment to service, has earned him the trust of the community he has served for decades.

John R. Whitehead’s record reflects a simple principle: show up, work hard, and serve with integrity.

John would appreciate your vote for Knox County Clerk!



# The Back-Up Plan

Last year, I had the opportunity to fly along on a U.S. Air Force training in-air refueling mission. What I expected to be an interesting day turned into one of my favorite experiences.

Before takeoff, we saw the detailed checklist the pilots and crew use to prepare for the mission. Every person had a role. And in the cockpit, there were always two pilots.

They explained that even the most highly trained pilots do not fly alone. There is always a co-pilot. Not because the pilot is not capable, but because the stakes are too high to rely on one person when conditions change. Good planning means being prepared and having backup.

Personal finance works the same way. In many households, one person handles most of the financial decisions. They manage the accounts, understand the investments, and know where everything is. The other spouse trusts that things are being handled. Usually, that works fine until life changes.

The biggest financial mistakes often happen during stress or transition. A market decline. A health issue. A job change. The loss of a spouse. In those moments, decisions are often made quickly and with-

out enough context.

That is where a good advisor can serve as a financial co-pilot.

A good advisor does not replace the pilot. A good advisor helps slow decisions down, ask better questions, and make sure short-term choices still fit the long-term plan. And when the person who handled the finances is suddenly gone, that backup becomes even more important.

A true backup plan means more than having statements and documents in place. It means someone else understands the full picture and can provide stability when it matters most.

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**Jones**

From page 1A

enhance public safety efforts. J.J. also focused on long-term solutions, working toward a Safety Center for mental health and addiction diversion, aimed at reducing jail overcrowding and addressing the root causes of repeat offenses. He holds a Master's degree in criminal justice from the Uni-

versity of Tennessee, which he has applied throughout his career in both investigative work and executive leadership. Known for his steady leadership, experience and commitment to accountability, J.J. Jones has built a career focused on protecting families, supporting law enforcement, and delivering results for Knox County. "I would appreciate your vote for Knox County Sheriff!"

**Ingles**

From page 1A

pen if that's not taken care of," Shipley said. "Most of their work is going to be interior. "They're trying to blend in the exterior as much as they can, given the fact that you're going to have an age difference, obviously, in the material," he said. "So, it's not going to be a perfect match, but I think they've done a good job with what they're proposing. "I think they've already addressed the subject-tos," Shipley added. "It looks like the only remaining comment is just a reminder that the exterior signage is a separate review and approval, and the fact that it's on this plan doesn't necessarily mean that it's been approved."

Mayor Ron Williams, also an FMPC member, made the motion to approve the site plan, and Commissioner Jeff Devlin seconded it. "We are going to try to match everything as close as we can," Kendall said. "We can get the same brick, but it's going to be an age difference, so it will look a little newer than the other." "Also, we're putting crash-test bollards in front," he added. "We're not counting on the brick and the fence to hold cars back from the pedestrians. "The other side is just an enclosed cart corral," Kendall said. "So, instead of being outside in the elements, with animals — birds, mainly — getting on them, we're going to enclose it so the carts will be inside."

Visit [farragutpress.com](http://farragutpress.com)

**Boring Road closure**




In preparation for the new elementary school, Knox County will close Boring Road between Burney Circle and Boring Lane to through-traffic. The planned start date for the project is Monday, April 27. This closure is expected to last 3-5 weeks.



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## Volunteers refresh Riverside Coffee Shop spaces

**Tammy Cheek**  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

**LENOIR CITY** — Riverside Coffee Shop, near Farragut, can do more for its staff and clients after a Pilots volunteer group and ABA Next Steps took on a project to improve its interior and exterior spaces on Wednesday, April 8.

“We have the Pilot Company, what they call Miles of Good, and they do service projects all over the community,” said Angie Davidson with ABA Next Steps and executive director with Riverside Coffee Shop, 16239 US Highway 70, Lenoir City. “We put in an application and they chose us to come.”

“We had two teams coming,” she said. “The morning team helped us do painting for our new community room, and they are pressure washing the outside.”

“We have an afternoon team that’s come in, and they’re getting our community space outside — our tables put up,” Davidson said. “We’re having them focus on our community spaces inside and outside, putting in the labor for us.”

“They’ve also been generous to donate all the supplies,” she added.

“ABA Next Steps is proud to partner with Pilot Company’s Miles of Good program” for the volunteer effort to “enhance Riverside Coffee Shop as a welcoming, inclusive community space,” Davidson said. “I know their goal and mission is to help in the community, where they sort of align with what’s going on.”

“My understanding is they like our project here,” she said. “We work with adults with disabilities, give them job skills, life skills and independent living skills ... they were interested in partnering with us.”

Through this initiative, Davidson said Pilot Company volunteers dedicated their time and effort to help transform the coffee shop into a welcoming environment.

“The project reflects a shared commitment to community impact — creating a joyful gathering place where individuals can meet, build relationships and feel a sense of community,” Davidson said. “It will also further support ABA Next Steps’ mission of providing meaningful, real-world training opportunities for adults with disabilities.”

“ABA Next Steps works to promote community inclusion and foster meaning-



Tammy Cheek

A team of Pilots volunteers, from left, Katie Garlock, Kellie Gadeken, Ashley Bolinsky and Veda Seay take a break after working at Riverside Coffee Shop as part of Pilots’ Miles of Good program on Wednesday, April 8.

ful social interaction while equipping participants with practical tools needed to enter the workforce successfully,”

she said. “Through hands-on experience in the coffee shop, student interns discover their strengths, build confi-

dence and learn to effectively communicate their abilities as they pursue employment opportunities.”

## Indo-Mex, a new concept in dining

**Tammy Cheek**  
tcheek@farragutpress.com

A new concept in dining came to Town when Curry & Queso had its grand opening at 117 Lovell Road, beside Costco, Saturday, April, 11.

The first Indo-Mex restaurant, owned by the Patel family, fuses Indian and Latin American flavors to create a whole new experience.

“We have never heard about it,” said Narev Patel, co-founder/owner, along with his sister and brother-in-law. “The flavors go together really well. Mexican is known to have more border flavors and so is Indian food, and a lot of the spices are shared as well.”

“It turned out to be a really good combination,” he added.

On that day, “we’re giving all of our signature items for \$6.99,” Patel said.

“Previously, we actually owned Roll-Em-Up Taquitos

— that used to be on the same spot,” Patel said.

However, “that was a franchise that wasn’t really working for us, so we shut it down and thought of our own concept,” he said. “We love Indian food — we’re Indian — and we love Mexican food as well, so we were just experimenting at home, combining the two, and it turned out really good.”

“So, we decided to turn that into a whole concept,” Patel said.

He described his menu items as a Mexican grill but with an Indian spin to it.

“You can get bowls, burritos, quesadillas and Frankie, an Indian wrap,” Patel said. “We have signatures, which are tested, curated recipes.”

Customers also can build their own bowls, burritos or fries, selecting their base (rice and beans or two rices); a protein (paneer, chicken, ground beef or other); drizzle on curry



Photos submitted

**Above:** Curry & Queso owners, Jinal Patel (front left), Nirav Patel (back left), Vimal Patel (right back), Jiya Patel (right front) taste test their signature dishes. **Top right:** Curry & Queso offers such sides as masala fries on its menu.

(butter masala, tikka masala or no curry); add toppings (kachumber, jalapeno corn salsa, romaine lettuce or other) and then sauce it up with mint-chili, smoky chipotle or cilantro lime crema.

The restaurant also offers

masala fries, chips and dip — red salsa, green salsa, street guac or masala queso.

To finish off the meal, Curry & Queso features gulab jamun, which are “little red balls of dessert that keep you coming for more,” and to drink, man-

go lassi, a fresh mango and yogurt-based drink.

“We’re going to open up catering as well,” Patel said.

The restaurant is open from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday.

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# FWKCC kicks off new tour series at Topgolf

**Tammy Cheek**

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members recently had an opportunity to see the behind-the-scenes action of Topgolf during the Chamber's inaugural How It's Made Tour at Topgolf, 11400 Outlet Drive, Friday March 27.

FWKCC president/CEO Julie Blaylock credited the Chamber's board and education committee, chaired by Brenda Huckaby, for initiating and making the event happen.

They've already planned the next How It's Made event for 10 a.m. Friday, June 26, at Daylen Products Inc., 11110 Gilbert Drive, Knoxville.

"One a quarter, that's our goal," Blaylock said. "I'm super excited to be at Topgolf today."

At Topgolf, Aaron Gicking, director of sales, said the business has been in Farragut for six years.

"This is my second venue," he said. "I opened it back in 2022. I couldn't be happier."

"Topgolf was established back in 2000 ... the idea was from two gentlemen from the [United Kingdom]," Gicking said. "Oddly enough, it took 20 years before a venue actually opened in the UK."

it now has venues across the world, such as the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, and China, among others.

"Is it true that the balls have GPS in each ball?" asked Chamber member Steve Heydel, business developer with Corporate Quarters.

"It doesn't have GPS, but it does have an RFD chip in there," Gicking answered. He added the chips are scanned so they can be tracked to "know exactly where it's going."

Gicking led the FWKCC group through to the back side of the building to see how balls are cleaned and sorted and the golf bays.

"This is where all the magic really starts," he said. "We have our ball cleaner and sorter," he said. "It's going to go through the sensor to check all the RFD chips to make sure they're working. If it doesn't, [the machine] is going to eject [the balls] and they go through a second time. Sometimes it takes three or four times to get the chip to finally read. Once it does, we can put it back in practice."

"We'll finish it out on the field," he said. "I know that's where you all want to see what is in the holes. Then to make it fun, we're going to take a picture on the golf course."



**Above:** Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members gathered for a photo during an inaugural How Its Made tour at Topgolf, 11400 Outlet Drive, Friday March 26.

**Left:** Aaron Gicking, Topgolf director of sales, described the process of play at Topgolf to Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members

Tammy Cheek



*Originally the brainchild of United States Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day began as an environmental teach-in but has since grown into a global day meant to inspire awareness and appreciation of the environment.*



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Earth Day is celebrated on April 22. Because it's right in the heart of the spring season, when many people feel rejuvenated after a long winter, Earth Day is the ideal time for men, women and children to take that extra energy they have in the spring and channel it into eco-friendly behaviors that benefit the environment. To do just that this Earth Day, consider the following tips.

- **Take a walk!** Or a jog or a bike ride. Men and women can help reduce air pollution by walking, jogging or riding a bike to get from place to place. While this might not be doable across the board, particularly for men and women with long commutes, when running errands around town on the weekends dust off your bicycle instead of gassing up the car. If you're taking kids to the park on the weekend, walk or bike to the park. It's a great way to spend time outdoors and benefit the environment at the same time.
- **Plant a tree.** Spring is a time of year when many homeowners get back to working on their yards. When cultivating your green thumb this spring, plant a tree or several trees around the yard. Also, when working outdoors, lessen your reliance on pesticides. It might be difficult to eliminate pesticide use entirely, but whenever possible look for more natural, eco-friendly alternatives to keep your lawn looking lush.
- **Turn off the lights!** Daylight Savings Time now starts earlier than it did in years past. The reason for that is to reduce energy use, which only works when people actually reduce their daily energy usage. If it's still light outside, turn the lights off inside and enjoy a warm spring evening outdoors.
- **Go paperless.** Many banks and credit card companies now encourage consumers to go paperless with their statements as a means to becoming more eco-friendly. Some banks even offer incentives to choose online statements over traditional paper statements. When possible, reduce waste by going paperless with bank and credit card statements.
- **Use eco-friendly cleaning products.** Many household cleaning products pose a threat to the environment by leaking harmful toxins into the air. When spring cleaning this year, choose non-toxic eco-friendly cleaning products that help reduce both air and water pollution.

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## Brummitt, Ads hold off ORHS for top spot in district

**Jake Nichols**  
 jnichols@farragutpress.com

Travis Brummitt Jr. wanted to stay on the mound.

The Farragut senior made that known several times on Monday, April 20, and he had good reason to feel that way.

Facing a full count with a runner on third and two outs in the bottom of the seventh, Brummitt fired a third strike to preserve the Admirals' 5-4 win over Oak Ridge at ORHS. With the win, the Ads claimed the regular-season district title and earned the top seed for the District 4-4A Tournament.

Brummitt went the distance for FHS, giving up three hits and four runs with six strikeouts on the night.

"He made it known that he continued to want the ball," Farragut coach Garrett Copeland

See ADS on Page 2B

## Farragut tops HVA in shootout after 2-2 draw

**Ken Lay**  
 Correspondent

Another District 4-AAA boys soccer match had to come down to a penalty kicks shootout for Farragut High School late last week.

And Admirals coach Bradley Culbreth was anything but surprised after his side already had one shootout this season.

"The game went pretty much the way that I expected it to go," Culbreth said after Farragut and rival Hardin Valley Academy played to a 2-2 draw in regulation Friday night at HVA. "They're a good team and they've been banged up."

"Their season hasn't gone like they would've liked, but this went pret-

See SHOOTOUT on Page 2B



Tony Cox

Kambree Fontenot of Farragut High School rotates through her windup during a discus attempt at the Volunteer Track Classic on Saturday, April 18. Fontenot finished 19th with a throw of 93 feet, 1 inch.

## Dandy dozen

FHS track sets personal bests at Vol Classic

**Jake Nichols**  
 jnichols@farragutpress.com

Through this spring, the Farragut track and field team has put forth several strong performances. This past weekend saw another one, as the Ads posted seven top 10 finishes and a dozen personal bests during the Volunteer Classic at Tennessee's Tom Black Track on Saturday, April 18.

The Lady Ads' 4x800 team of Christie George, Bailey Ann Smith, Zoi LeCours and Addison Haynes finished second at 10:11.14, while the men's 4x800 team of Corom Hlebasko, Lucas Spadafora, Nick Deguira and Sam Shagan ran an 8:01.63 to clinch fourth. The women's 4x400 team of Ava Brinley, Elin Rotan, Clara Wothe and Kennedy Dade finished fifth at 4:13.05. The women's 4x200 team, comprised of Ada Becker, Kennedy

Dade, Ryleigh Howe and Emma Pearl Riffer, clinched seventh with a time of 1:46.09, and the women's distance medley relay team of Gruzalski, Herford, Dade and Wells finished eighth overall with a time of 14:46.01.

In the men's 400-meter event, Nathan Jacobs finished fifth overall with a personal best of 50.59 seconds while Peyton Edmunds took eighth overall in the pole vault with a personal record of 8 feet, 6 inches.

Ryleigh Howe set a personal best in the 300-meter hurdle event at 47.80 seconds, and Kambree Fontenot set a new personal mark in discus at 93 feet, 1 inch. Distance runners all set personal bests in their respective events as well. Andrew Cabaniss reached a new mark in the men's 800-meter run at 2:00.97, while John

See DANDY on Page 3B



Tony Cox

Peyton Edmunds of Farragut High School plants her pole and drives upward during a vault attempt at the Volunteer Track Classic at Tom Black Track over the weekend. Edmunds placed eighth in the finals with a jump of 8 feet, 6 inches.

## Jake, Mac Harris cherishing year together



Jake Nichols

Farragut freshman Mac Harris, left, and senior Jake Harris are enjoying their one season together as Admirals before Jake continues his career at Eastern Michigan University.

**Jake Nichols**  
 jnichols@farragutpress.com

If you ask anyone in the Farragut baseball locker room to pick the team leader, the answer will be the same: Jake Harris.

An Eastern Michigan signee, Harris takes pride in the culture and tradition that lies within the Admirals' storied history.

As a senior captain, it is his duty to pass on that appreciation and responsibility to the

younger generation.

And this season, one member of that generation lives in the same house: his brother Mac, a Farragut freshman.

"I don't really truly see myself in a leadership role — just a guy hanging with his friends, having a good time," Jake said. "I've had a lot of experience in Farragut, and I think some younger guys lean on me, and I love doing it. My little brother is a freshman, so every opportunity I get, I try to give him as much

knowledge as I can."

The brothers may be different ages, but they share the same position: catcher.

Jake Harris has grown quite used to the position through the years, having established plenty of routines and favorite pitches along the way.

During pregame, he eyes the ball with even sharper focus than usual, doing anything he can before he steps behind the plate or to it for

See HARRIS on Page 2B

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**Shootout**

From page 1B

ty much went like I expected.”

The two Farragut area foes played 80 minutes and then played 20 minutes of golden goal overtime, and nothing was settled so the match was declared a tie.

It, however, went to penalty kicks for district standings tie-breaking purposes. The Admirals won the shootout, 4-2, as seniors Adrian D’Alosio, Edwin Denic, Nathan Henderson and Lincoln Unger tallied in the shootout.

Goalkeeper Parker Fuller made two saves in the shootout after netminder Matthew Burney made seven saves in regulation and overtime.

“My four seniors scored in the shootout and I changed keepers and Parker Fuller made two big saves,” Culbreth said. “I’m really proud of my guys for the way they played.”

“We went up 1-0, and then we were down, 2-1, and I’m really proud of our guys. When you’re undefeated, you have a target on your back.”

In their other shoot-

out, the Ads (10-0-2 overall, 2-0-2) lost to West High at home after playing the Rebels to a 0-0 draw.

Farragut got its goals from William Morris and Uday Sujithkumar, while Jason Gao and Charlie Sorochan were credited with assists in the match for the Admirals.

While Farragut is in the midst of one of its best seasons, the Hawks have struggled as they’ve battled injury and illness. HVA is 5-5-2 overall and 2-2-1 in league play and has had 12 different starting lineups in 2026 after winning the Class AAA state championship last season.

But the Hawks would prove to be a formidable opponent on this night.

“This game was a classic,” Hardin Valley coach Ray Dover said. “We played well and I liked the way our kids responded when they went down 1-0.”

“This was our 12th match and we’ve had 12 different starting lineups. The guys fought hard in the game. They really battled.”

**Ads**

From page 1B

said of Brummitt. “That’s been by design — we wanted to continue to build throughout the year — but he’s a competitor and that’s what we expect from him.”

Brummitt and the Ads’ defense got plenty of help from the Farragut offense, which stacked five runs in the top of the sixth to break a 0-0 stalemate.

A Mason Shelton bases-loaded walk brought Matthew Mitchell home, then Cole Creasman knocked an RBI single before Braxton Tye hit

a three-RBI double to put FHS ahead by five.

“I thought we did a good job staying within the strike zone, took what they were giving us and worked a couple walks,” Copeland said. “We put a few balls in play, some things happened, and Braxton worked that at-bat to break it open. I thought we did a good job staying within ourselves and being patient.”

Undeterred, the Wildcats responded with a two-out, two-run homer from Parker Free and another two-run shot from Vanderbilt commitment Joe Webb.

Brummitt kept the Ads

ahead with a strikeout in the Wildcats’ next at-bat. He followed that by inducing three straight outs in the next inning, the final one with the tying run just 90 feet away.

Now, FHS will look to handle its business in the rematch on Wednesday, April 22. But the most important aspect was clinching the top seed, which FHS did in thrilling fashion.

“Anytime you’re competing against other people, you want to come out on top,” Copeland said. “Being able to play at home for the district tournament is big, so glad we were able to achieve that.”

**Harris**

From page 1B

an at-bat.

Once Harris descends into his crouch, he is prepared to catch anything that comes his way — though there are a few favorites.

“An 0-2 curveball, when the pitcher lands it, is pretty good,” he said with a smile. “As a hitter it’s one of my least favorites. But it depends on the pitcher because a lot of guys are really good with their curveball. But then you’ve got a guy like Travis Brummitt, whose changeup is really elite.”

That approach has rubbed off on Mac Harris, who noted the advice he has received from his older brother.

“It’s really about the men-

tal toughness,” Mac said. “He tells me you have to be a dog back there, be a brick wall and get to every ball and not let one past. It’s crazy how he moves behind the plate and gets to everything. Sometimes I’ll ask him what he sees or how he did something and he’ll give me the answer.”

The same goes for Jake with Mac, swapping tidbits as they go through warmups or ride home together each afternoon.

“We do a lot of the skill work together, ride to practice together, ride home together,” Jake said. “We can talk about it, and I’ll tell him what he did and how he can improve on it, and he does the same thing with me, like, ‘Hey, you did this really bad today.’ He keeps me humble, which is good.”



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Elaine Strena



**Dandy**  
From page 1B

Williams reached a milestone in the 1600-meter event at 4:38.43. In the 3200-meter run, Bailey Ann Smith, Sam Shagan, Chase Temples and Andrew Kafoed set personal bests of 11L54.37, 9:37.65, 9.39.84 and 10.09.19, respectively.

In sprints, Jake Solaiman hit a personal best with 11.61 in the men's 100-meter event. Also, several personal records occurred in the 200-meter events: Riffer at 26.38 seconds, Howe at 26.59 seconds, Jacobs at 22.58 seconds and Aaron Pohl at 22.82 seconds.

FHS junior Ada Becker finished ninth in the girls long

jump finals while HVA's Naomi Burum took fourth in that event and sixth in the girls triple jump. On Monday and Tuesday, April 20-21, FHS athletes Chase McAvoy, Tyler Martin, Caden Eaker, Harper McAvoy and Arabella Wray took part in multi-event sectionals at Jefferson County High School.

In other area results from Saturday, two Catholic standouts, Laila Lucier and Charlotte Fowler, took first and second in the girls' hammer throw with Fowler also claiming fourth in girls' shot put. Fellow Irish standout JR Fowler finished first in the boys' hammer throw finals with a mark of 196-4.00. He also finished third in

discus and fourth in shot put. Webb's Lacy Young took first in the girls' 100-meter dash with Catholic's Chloe Truss in second, and fellow Spartan Emma Cissna claimed third in the girls' 2,000-meter steeplechase finals. Young also finished second in the 200-meter while HVA's Ana Berkheimer took fourth in the girls' 1600-meter run with teammate Alexandra Vesser in second in the 3200-meter event. Bearden's Cooper Jones claimed second in the boys' high jump finals at 6 feet, 4 inches, and HVA's Colson Crutch and Bearden's Mouhamed Seck took fifth and seventh, respectively, in long jump with Jones in ninth. Seck also placed third in triple jump

with Crutch in sixth.

Concord Christian's Dasani Moulden and Kohbe Ward took seventh and fourth in the 100-meter dash and 400-meter dash at 10.84 seconds and 50.39 seconds, respectively, while Hardin Valley's Nicolas Rivers took seventh in the boys' 200-meter at 22.54 seconds. Catholic's Reid Bannister took eighth in the boys' 800-meter finals at 1:59.03, and teammate Cade Duncanson took eighth in the boys' 3200 with Shagan taking 11th in that event. Bearden's Evan Fisher claimed seventh in the boys' 300-meter hurdles at 40.47 seconds, and HVA's Will Allen took third in the 2000-meter steeplechase with Catho-

lic's Levi Sprecher in eighth. CCS and CAK claimed sixth and ninth, respectively, in the boys' 4x100 relay finals, while Bearden's boys took ninth in the 800-meter spring medley relay finals. CAK's boys took seventh in the 4x400 version of that same event.

HVA finished right behind FHS in the boys' 4x800 event, claiming fifth, and the Hawks also finished sixth in distance medley relay. Catholic and CAK finished sixth and eighth, respectively, in the girls 4x400 relay, while Hardin Valley finished fourth in the 4x800 relay with Webb in first in girls distance medley relay.

# CORRECTION

In last week's edition of the farragutpress, which ran on Wednesday, April 15, we wrongfully attributed a photo in our sports section to Jake Nichols. That photo was captured by Carlos Reveiz, as are all FHS boys soccer photos unless identified otherwise. Carlos does incredible work and should be rightfully credited for his effort and time. We apologize to Carlos and regret the error.



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**farragutpress**

## Shared Visions

Art show, soup fundraiser make Fine Arts extravaganza



**Above:** The Farragut High School jazz band performed as part of a joint event with the Empty Bowls fundraiser and the Shared Visions Art Show on Thursday, April 9, inside The Commons at Farragut High School.

**Right:** Bowls were being sold for \$5 each as part of the Empty Bowls event on Thursday, April 9, inside The Commons at Farragut High School.



Photos by Jake Nichols

**Jake Nichols**

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

The comforting smell of soup wafted on a late spring breeze, blending with the initial notes of the Farragut Middle School orchestra's rendition of, "I Can't Help Falling in Love with You."

The sounds and smells provided a fitting escort into The Commons at Farragut High School, where the Shared Visions Art Show and the Empty Bowls initiative joined forces with FMS orchestra and Farragut High School jazz band on Thursday, April 9.

The cornucopia of fine arts activities weaved together for the third consecutive year, drawing quite a crowd as visitors filtered in through the sun-dappled glass.

The Empty Bowls aspect featured soup dinners — with

choices of potato, chicken and rice or broccoli and cheese — which were available with a drink, bread and dessert for just \$15 per meal. Any meal purchase went toward FISH Hospitality Pantries, whose representative noted that just one \$5 donation provides 20 pounds of food. So each \$15 meal would feed three families, continuing a fundraising tradition that has dated back several years at FHS.

Last year alone, the fundraiser brought in \$4,700, which fed 940 families.

But it also reinforced a sense of community, as FHS students worked the event.

"It teaches them a lot of life lessons that they can carry with them," FHS Visual Arts teacher Angela McCarter said. "The Empty Bowls event is completely run by the students. They are the servers,

ticket sellers, and they made the bowls. To have them understand how they can work together to achieve a common goal is an important lesson."

The art show portion featured a similar lesson with work from all four Farragut schools — Farragut Primary, Farragut Intermediate School, Farragut Middle School and Farragut High School.

First, second and third-place winners were announced for each school, as were 10 Honorable Mention candidates.

Junior Ella Reese was awarded "Best of Show" for a monoprint of tools done in pastels.

For Farragut High School's 2-D winners, first place went to sophomore Kaylen Sandridge with Reese claiming second

**See ART SHOW on Page 8B**



Photo submitted

Dolly Children's Hospital staff don pajamas to observe PJs for Safe Sleep on Thursday, April 16, at the hospital.

## Dolly Parton Children's Hospital wears pjs to raise awareness on safe sleep habits for infants

**Tammy Cheek**

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

Nurses and staff at Dolly Parton Children's Hospital, formerly East Tennessee Children's Hospital near downtown Knoxville, dressed in their pajamas Thursday, April 16, to bring awareness to infant safe sleep.

They rallied communities nationwide for the first PJs for Safe Sleep awareness day.

"Across the hospital, staff wore pajamas to work to spark conversations about safe infant sleep — an issue that's become increasingly urgent, with Tennessee seeing a 71 percent rise in sleep related infant deaths from 2024 to 2025," said Elisabeth Jordan, the hos-

pital's account coordinator.

Created by Safe Kids Worldwide, a long-time partner of the hospital, "Dolly Children's also encouraged local families to join in and stop by the on-site safe sleep education tent, where caretakers can learn best practices and receive sleep machines to support healthy routines."

"This is the first time we are celebrating," Dr. Natalia Havasy, public information officer and director of marketing and community benefit with DPCH, said. "Cribs for Kids created a day called PJs for Safe Sleep, and it is an infant sleep awareness day.

"We are paying attention

**See SAFE SLEEP on Page 8B**

## West Knox Shrine Club to host annual shrimp boil

**Jake Nichols**

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

Saturday, April 25, the West Knox Shrine Club will put on its 4th annual Rebecca Honeycutt Memorial Shrimp Boil from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pelancho's Mexican Grill, 1516 Downtown West Blvd.

The money raised from each event is used for the operational costs of the Shrine Club, such as rent and utilities, so that the club can continue its mission of being a "premier

fraternal organization for men of good character," according to Shriner's International.

The fundraising event is named after the late Rebecca Honeycutt, who tragically was killed in a car accident at the age of 29 in 2022.

Her husband, Jordan Honeycutt, is a member of the club to this day.

"She was the wife of one of our Shriners, and we sort of dubbed her the Queen of the

**See SHRIMP BOIL on Page 5B**

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# press planner

• Now through April 29, Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee has a matching gift challenge, made possible by friends of Second Harvest. Your gift will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$30,000. Food costs remain high, and many households are having to make difficult tradeoffs between groceries, housing, utilities and medical needs. When you give today, you help ensure East Tennessee families have access to nutritious food and a more stable week ahead. Visit [secondharvestetn.org](http://secondharvestetn.org) to donate.

pal Church, 110 Sugarwood Drive, collects needed items for a local nonprofit organization every month. The April Gift of the Month is for The Volunteer Ministry Center (VMC). VMC offers a comprehensive array of services for the homeless and for homeless prevention. Learn more at [vmcinc.org](http://vmcinc.org). On Sunday, April 26, from 1 to 2 p.m., St. Elizabeth's is offering a drive by to drop off service as we collect the following items to be delivered to the VMC: sports bras and new under-

See PRESS PLANNER on Page 9B

## Shrimp boil

From page 4B

Country Boil," said West Knox Shrine Club Past Potentate Ron Adams. "She enjoyed it, and we kidded her about it.

"We want to keep her name prominent after dedicating it to her. She was a very nice person, and her husband, Jordan, still works hard, especially for this boil. We miss her very much."

This year's event location is notably different, as the three previous boils were held at Finn's Restaurant and Tavern, which was previously owned by Shriner Jon Ferrie.

Adams noted another Shriner owns this Pelancho's location, as well as the four others across Knoxville, so it worked out well.

"We will try to see if they can't do the same good works we did at Finn's," he said. "The logistics are a little different but we think it will be even better."

Plates will cost \$20 per adult and \$10 for each child 10 and under.

Each plate is all-you-can-eat, Adams noted, and there will be drinks provided.

Each member is given 10 to 20 tickets to sell, and there are typically 200 to 250 people at the event.

"We do raise money, but we also get people out that we don't know and get a couple of petitions for our shrine," Adams said. "So it has worked out really well for us, and the money we bring in is enough to keep us rolling through the year."

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## The Heart of the Davis Y

From March 23rd through April 18th, the Davis YMCA community came together in an incredible way for our Annual Campaign—and the results were nothing short of inspiring. Thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters, we raised \$65,000 in donations. Paired with the \$11,400 raised during our 16th Annual Silent Auction, we reached an outstanding total of \$76,400.

This success is more than a milestone—it's a direct investment in our community.

Funds from the Annual Campaign ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be part of the Y, regardless of financial circumstances. These dollars support scholarships for memberships, allow kids to experience summer camp, provide safe and enriching programs for teens, and help older adults stay active, engaged, and connected. Because of this campaign, we're able to continue building a stronger, healthier, and more inclusive community for all.

Throughout the campaign, the energy inside the Davis Y was just as powerful as the generosity behind it. Members showed up ready to challenge themselves, taking on our 175-rep and 175-lap challenges—and absolutely crushing them. Whether it was powering through reps on the fitness floor or completing 175 laps in the pool, the determination and encouragement on display captured the true spirit of our community.

To every donor, participant, volunteer, and supporter—thank you. This campaign is a reflection of the heart of the Davis Y: people showing up for one another, giving back, and making a lasting difference for others.

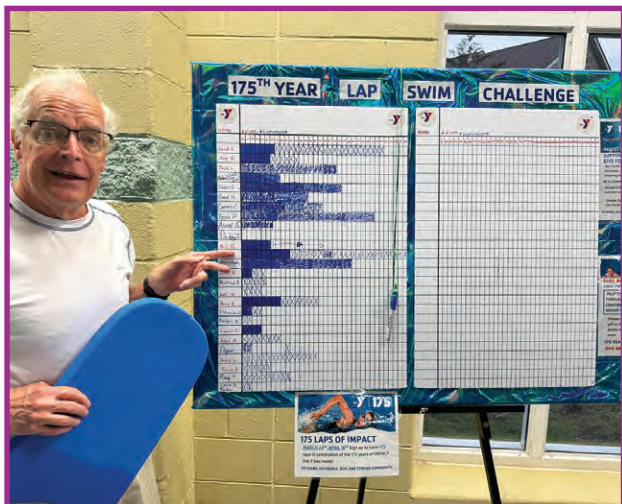
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Thank you to Pat Devin who curated this years 16th Annual Silent Auction. You absolutely crushed it!!!

Photos submitted



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**Art show**  
From page 4B

place and senior Madison Romer earning third place. In the 3-D category, freshman Evelyn Hardy earned first place with senior Julianne Hao in second place and junior Eric Smith in third.

Farragut Middle School winners included seventh-grader Lily Kitts in first place, sixth-grader Phoebe Nguyen in second place and eighth-grader Alisha Azad in third place. For Farragut Intermediate, first place went to fourth-grader Ayesha Dutta with fifth-grader Zoia Iushutina claiming

second place. Third-grader Archer Dennis was awarded third place.

Farragut Primary School featured second-grader Elora Zakhary in first place, first-grader William Riffert in second place and second-grader Johnny Hu in third place.

As the FMS orchestra moved into the White Stripes' "Seven Nation Army," people milled around to look at the wide variety of work on display.

Some of the notable honorees included a birthday cake, a pastel drawing of a spiky-haired cat in sunglasses and a cardboard jellyfish. There was even a large bear — nicknamed

"Robin Sherbeatsky" as a nod to "How I Met Your Mother" — comprised of ripped-up cardboard.

For award winners and other participants, McCarter noted she wants the experience and the freedom of artwork to leave a lasting impression.

"With Fine Arts, it's hard sometimes because other academic fields or career-oriented classes push kids to know what they want to do when they're in ninth grade," McCarter said. "So having the freedom to do art classes is really important to make them better human beings. This is a great experience for them."



Photo by Jake Nichols

Farragut Middle School orchestra performed as part of a joint event with the Empty Bowls fundraiser and the Shared Visions Art Show on Thursday, April 8.

**Safe sleep**  
From page 4B

to infant safe sleep, and it's a huge point of discussion," she said. "Sadly, a lot of infant injuries and infant deaths come to us and happen here, but a lot of it is so preventable.

"So, by participating in this day, wearing pjs and doing something fun, it's a really easy visual for us to give to families to show them, 'Hey,

we're trying to teach you something really educational,'" Havasy said. "Just a couple tips can really prevent your child from possibly getting injured or even dying.

"There are 3,500 infant deaths in regard to safe sleep in the nation," she said. "Annually, it's been increasing. Just a few years ago, that number was 100 less. And, it's a huge problem in the state of Tennessee.

"So, it's a huge problem

that needs to be addressed for sure," Havasy added. "A lot of times it is due to lack of education or lack of understanding why the education's out there.

"I think a lot of people think 'my baby is cold; I should maybe give them a blanket in their crib,'" she related. "We don't want to give them a blanket because they can suffocate."

"We suggest smaller things to make them warm," Havasy said. "Put the babies in sleep

sacks or dress them in long-sleeve layers, things like that, to make sure their baby is warm and safe and there's no obstruction to their airways."

Also, "our No. 1 thing we always say is remember your ABCs," Havasy said. "That means alone, on their backs in a crib."

She explained that means the infant is alone in the crib — no blankets, pillows, stuffed animals or no sound machine.

However, Havasy said pacifiers have been known to help with breathing.

She advised having the child on his or her back to help make sure the airways are clear.

"That's actually a change from decades ago," Havasy said.

Regarding where they sleep, she recommended a crib or portable one — not a large bed with a parent, a car seat, infant carrier or anything in which they can get wrapped.

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# obituary

**Dr. Thomas James Bradbury "Brad,"** age 70, passed away on Sunday, April 12th, at home surrounded by his family and beloved dogs.

Born in Pasadena, California, Brad spent his childhood in Holland, Michigan before moving to East Tennessee. After graduating from Oak Ridge High School, Brad attended University of Tennessee Knoxville where he played on the rugby team.

A proud graduate of University of Tennessee's College of Veterinary Medicine's inaugural class, Brad went on to work at Lenoir City Animal Clinic where he provided pets and their owners compassionate care for 46 years. Whether it was rescuing a hawk on the golf course or caring for a baby groundhog, it was his mission to help all of God's creatures. He mentored many new veterinarians, teaching skills and sharing knowledge while providing encouragement.

community and a lifelong Rotarian with Lenoir City Rotary Club, serving as President and other offices, as well as sponsor for LCHS Interact Club and volunteer for District 6780 Interact conference.

Brad was an avid golfer and fixture at Fox Den Country Club as "Bucket Man," filling divots and sinking putts while feeding ducks for the past 30 years. When not golfing, Brad traveled to all four corners of the world with his wife and daughters, often scuba diving.

He was a humble leader with a lifelong commitment to serving others-- friends and strangers alike. His kindness, smile, and sense of humor will be missed. To know him was to love him, and his absence

leaves a void in the hearts of many.

He was a wonderful husband and father and is survived by his wife of 48 years, Dr. Kimber Bradbury, and daughters, Dr. Kristin Salter of Murfreesboro, TN and Dr. Kelly McDonald (Andrew) of Charlotte, NC. His favorite role was that of doting grandfather or "Putter" to his granddaughter, Katherine. He is also survived by his siblings, Karen Johnson (Eric) and Stan Bradbury (Carmina), as well as numerous friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, James T and Mary Louise Bradbury.

A service will be held on Thursday, May 7th, at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Farragut at 6:30pm.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Loudon County Humane Society (P.O. Box 602, Lenoir City, TN 37771) and Lenoir City Rotary Club (P.O. Box 944, Lenoir City, TN 37771)



Bradbury

# classifieds

625 AUCTION

625 AUCTION

## ONLINE ONLY ESTATE AUCTION

309 SUNNY SPRINGS LANE - KNOXVILLE, TN 37922



### BIDDING BEGINS TO CLOSE THURSDAY, MAY 7TH

REAL ESTATE | 12:00PM-Noon (ET)  
PERSONAL PROPERTY | 7:00PM (ET)

### OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, MAY 5TH FROM 2-4PM

Stunning end-unit Craftsman Villa with finished basement  
Approx. 3947 SF with 4 bedrooms & 3.5 bathrooms  
Main level master suite with large walk-in closet and en-suite bathroom with tile floor, soaking tub, walk-in shower, and double sink vanity  
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Home theater with 9 oversized leather theater chairs, built-in entertainment unit, and projection screen TV with surround sound

### PERSONAL PROPERTY TO BE SOLD INCLUDING:

Over 300 lots including antique & contemporary furniture, rugs, artwork, kitchenware, household items, "snap" jewelry, 2 very nice American Empire chests, Jaclyn Smith by Largo Furniture Cherry finish bedroom suite, wrought-iron patio table & chairs, high-top tavern table & 4 stools, McCoy pottery pieces, California Pottery & others, Asian design area rugs, stoneware & china dinnerware sets, La-Z-Boy sofa & love seat, Norman Rockwell table bell collection, French Provincial dining table & china cabinet, collection of Bath & Body Works soaps & lotions, Blue Willow dinnerware, Oneida flatware, collector plates, Pentax K1000 camera system, Pampered Chef, Bunn, Keurig & more kitchenware items, and LOTS, LOTS MORE!!!

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KENNY PHILLIPS, AUCTIONEER - LIC # 2385

## Press planner

From page 5B

wear; bug spray; new or gently used T-shirts, jeans and sweatpants; and hats.

All Old Timers, Farragut High School alums and friends are welcome to attend the Old Timer's Grand Reunion on Saturday, May 2, 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at Virtue Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 725 Virtue Road. All who attended FHS any time prior to 1976 at the old school qualify as "Old Timers." Cost is \$5 at the door. There will be coffee, donuts, juice and door prizes.

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# classifieds

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### 000 LEGALS

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**ROAD CLOSURE**  
**Boring Road**  
Farragut, TN 37934  
will be closed for road work construction  
Starting April 27<sup>th</sup>  
Until Further Notice

Road Construction work is for a new school on Boring Road.

**Merit** CONSTRUCTION, INC.  
10435 Dutchtown Rd.  
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### 000 LEGALS

**farragut**  
Farragut Town Hall  
11408 Municipal Center Drive

**FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN WORKSHOP MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026 AT 5:00 PM**

I. Roll Call  
II. Business Items  
A. Review of Financial Policies for FY2026-2027  
III. Adjournment

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

### 318 GARAGE SALES

**Heron's Pointe**  
**Neighborhood GARAGE SALE**  
{ Saturday, April 25 }  
8 AM to 1 PM  
Choto Road Area • 37922

**Walnut Grove Neighborhood Garage Sale**  
**Saturday -MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
(RAIN Date 05/09)  
**8am to 3pm**  
Located off Boyd Station Rd.  
West of Railroad Underpass  
37922

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Cleaning Service  
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We can work with your schedule  
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**BRIXWORTH**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE**  
Saturday, April 25, 8am to Noon  
Off Turkey Creek Rd.  
Two Entrances:  
Brixworth Blvd. or Bayshore Dr. 37934

To advertise your garage sale in the **farragutpress**, contact Linda at 865-218-8881



11408 MUNICIPAL CENTER DRIVE | FARRAGUT, TN 37934 | 865.966.7057 | WWW.TOWNOFFARRAGUT.ORG

### The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2026, adopted the following ordinance on second and final reading:

a. Ordinance 26-06, an ordinance on second reading to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Chapter 111 – Stormwater Management Control, Section 111-7. Design Standards for Detention and/or Retention Ponds, to remove the requirement for stormwater detention in the lower portion of a watershed where engineering documentation can demonstrate that this would have a positive effect on overall stormwater management due to the timing of stormwater runoff

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Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

### FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance  | of the Town of Farragut,  |
| II. Approval of Agenda   | Tennessee on Second Reading, Amending the   |
| III. Approval of Minutes   | Fiscal Year 2025-26 Capital   |
| A. April 9, 2026 Workshop  | Investment Program Fund Budget, Passed by   |
| B. April 9, 2026 Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meeting   | Ordinance 25-10   |
| IV. Mayor's Report   | VI. Business Items  |
| V. Ordinances & Resolutions  | A. Reappointment to the Visual Resources Review Board   |
| A. Ordinances  | B. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Tunnell-Spangler & Associates (TSW) for professional services to completely update the Town's existing Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) that was adopted in December of 2012. |
| 1. First Reading   | C. Approval of Contract 2026-24, South Monticello Road Culvert Replacement.   |
| a. Discussion and public hearing on Ordinance 26-09, an ordinance on first reading to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Appendix A - Zoning, Chapter 4. General Provisions and Exceptions, Section VIII. - Farragut Municipal Flood Damage Prevention Regulations, Section C. General Provisions., 2. Basis for Establishing the Areas of Special Flood Hazard, to update the referenced Community Panel Numbers for 0243G and 0244G, to reference the LOMR effecting these panel numbers and that became effective February 10, 2026 | D. Approval of Request from First Utility District for Easements on Town-owned Property at 11700 Campbell Lakes Drive   |
| 2. Second Reading & Public Hearing   | E. Approval of Supplement Request 2 from Urban Engineering, Inc. for Additional Design Services for Sonja Drive/Admiral Road Side-walk Project  |
| a. Approval of Ordinance 26-07, an Ordinance   | VII. Citizens Forum   |
|  | VIII. Town Administrator's Report   |
|  | IX. Town Attorney's Report  |
|  | X. Adjournment  |

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Farragut Town Hall | 11408 Municipal Center Drive

### VISUAL RESOURCES REVIEW BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>AGENDA</b>   |   |
| I) Call to Order  | Stonemeade Subdivision, north entrance, located at 341 Boring Road.   |
| II) Approval of Minutes   | D) Review of subdivision entrance signs for Stonemeade Subdivision, south entrance, located at 341 Boring Road. |
| A) Approval of the March 24, 2026, meeting minutes.   | E) Review of new tenant panel signs for the commercial office building located at 11852 Kingston Pike.          |
| III) Staff Report   | F) Review of a landscape plan for the West End Phase 3 development, located at 117West End Ave.                 |
| A) Wall signs approved since the last meeting.  | G) Review of a landscape plan for Costco, located at 10745 Kingston Pike  |
| IV) Business Items  | V) Citizens Forum   |
| A) Review of a tenant panel sign for Truss Vet, located at 11011 Kingston Pike.                                 |   |
| B) Review of interior accessory directional signs for the Farragut Office Park, located at 11950 Kingston Pike. |   |
| C) Review of subdivision entrance signs for   |   |

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# People have been asking J.J. a question: “Why run again?”

The answer is simple.

J.J. has already carried the responsibility of leading the Knox County Sheriff’s Office. He didn’t step into leadership overnight, he worked his way through the ranks, learning every level of the department before serving two full terms as Sheriff.

During that time, he managed one of the largest operations in Knox County, supported the men and women behind the badge, and made the difficult decisions that come with protecting our community.

Public safety isn’t something you figure out as you go. It requires experience, leadership, and a steady hand.

That’s why J.J. is stepping forward again — to continue serving the people of Knox County with the same commitment and dedication that has defined his career.

**SAFETY  
THROUGH  
EXPERIENCE**

**VOTE**



**JIMMY “J.J.”  
JONES**

**FOR KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF**

