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Jake Nichols

A road closure sign is visible on Boring Road near Kingston Pike. The road has been closed for safety, according to the Town of Farragut.

Drawing mixed reactions

Boring Road closure at Kingston Pike to become permanent

Tammy Cheek
 tcheek@farragutpress.com

A portion of Boring Road connecting to Kingston Pike has been closed, and town officials plan to make the closure permanent.

“If you look at the current situation, you have cars turning from Kingston Pike to that little Boring Road path, going up through there and cutting through,” Farragut Mayor Ron Williams said. “Right now, that’s closed. It will be permanently closed. You’ll no longer be able to cut through.”

“There are people who use it to cut through who are complaining,” he said. “But people who live there are thankful.”

“The people who live out there are ecstatic about it because all of them get out and walk,” Williams said. “With all that traffic going through there, walking is an issue.”

Williams said sidewalks in the area eventually will be connected.

He said Knox County Schools is widening Boring Road from Smith Road to the new school entrance.

“Knox County Schools is building

this entrance, and this entrance off Boring will be for the buses and the staff,” he said. “The school staff will park in front of the school, which faces west.”

When buses enter, “they will queue for pickup and drop-off,” Williams said. Parents will use Village Commons Boulevard, which will loop to Boring Road and back.

“This will be a situation where the buses and soccer moms will be divorced, so you will not have a conflict like what you do at the other schools,” he said.

In addition to the road widening, the project includes sidewalks because all land within a mile radius is in the school responsibility zone, Williams said.

“What that means is kids can walk to school safely,” he said.

Another change will be a four-way stop at the intersection of Boring and Smith roads.

“The closure of Boring Road is understandably a topic of significant interest to nearby residents, and I appreciate the opportunity to clarify

See CLOSURE on Page 6A

Access matters: Resident respondents say Kingston Pike connection should remain

Tammy Cheek
 tcheek@farragutpress.com

Reactions were mixed regarding the closure of part of Boring Road, when residents were asked to respond to a flyer distributed in their newspaper box.

While some want the road at Kingston Pike to remain open, others are relieved it is closed.

Against the closure:
 ■ **Darrell Douglas:** “My wife and I are residents of Baldwin Park. It’s my understanding that there were no public hearings about closing this section of Boring Road prior to the decision to close it.”

“In my opinion, it would be greatly beneficial to keep access open at the Boring/Kingston Pike intersection, with both entry and exit as “right turn only,” he said. “As the number

of homes along Boring Road increase, traffic will get worse with Smith Road as its only exit.

“Also, where Boring Road intersects with Smith Road, a four-way stop sign should be placed, giving traffic from all side streets at that intersection a safer way to get on to Smith or Boring Road. With the school bus and faculty traffic, plus Stonemeade residents, traffic on Boring will increase significantly.”

(Editor’s note: A four-way stop is planned for the intersection of Boring Road and Smith Road.)

■ **Mike and Wendy Stafford of Baldwin Park:** “We appreciate that the Farragut Press is interested in receiving public comments regarding the relatively sudden decision to close Boring Road. Unfortunately, the

Town of Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen seemed much less interested in public input before making that decision.

“We have lived on Burney Circle in the Baldwin Park subdivision for more than 12 years,” they stated in an email. “One of the unexpected benefits of living here has been the surrounding horse pastures and woods, where we regularly enjoy seeing deer, turkeys, foxes, abundant birdlife and, unfortunately, the occasional coyote. We knew that development would eventually come to the area, and we have generally supported the Town’s planning decisions.”

“The Board made what we believe were good zoning decisions by denying large apartment

See ACCESS on Page 2A

Farragut planners to review residential growth projects

Tammy Cheek
 tcheek@farragutpress.com

Two subdivision plats will be going before Farragut Municipal Planning Commission when it meets 6 p.m., Thursday, June 18, in Farragut Town Hall.

Homestead Land Holdings presented its final plat of Phase 2 for the Grove at Boyd

Station to the Town staff during a Staff/Planner meeting Tuesday, June 2. At the same meeting, Urban Engineering Inc. presented a preliminary plat for Phase 2 of Grigsby Park.

At the Grove, Town Community Development director Mark Shipley said the developers are going to the northeast in the second phase at Boyd

Station Road.

“This one has 32 lots,” he said. “It’s a little over 15 acres.”

The last phase, which included the roundabout is located to the southeast of the development, Shipley said. “This [phase] is pretty much due north of that. It’s up along the Cottages at Pryse Farms.”

“It’s pretty straightforward,” he added. “The only

[staff] comments are there’ll be some letters of credit for this.

Do you know if the surface course [is down]...”

“It’s not down yet,” said Thomas Krajewski, vice president of land development for Anderson Baker, development manager for Homestead.

“We’ve got it queued, but we have two other projects queued

as well.

“I think we’re going to get the Stonemeade [subdivision] surface course done first. We’re fully prepared to do a letter of credit in the event that it’s not ready.”

Also, Shipley said Homestead needs to reseed grass in some areas.

See PLANNERS on Page 8A

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Access

From page 1A

developments and instead improving the Villages of Farragut and a new residential subdivision off Boring Road,” the Staffords stated. “While construction of the new elementary school has been very difficult for us at times — with constant construction noise (sometimes before 5 a.m.), heavy equipment traffic and road disruptions — we recognize that a new school serves the community far better than another large apartment complex.

“What concerns us is the sudden decision to permanently close Boring Road. The decision was not well-communicated and appears to have been made, at least in part, to avoid the expense of widening the narrow, one-lane road to improve traffic safety,” they stated. “We have not heard whether a traffic study was conducted to support this decision.

“Most residents already know that traffic on Kingston Pike during school mornings is extremely congested,” the Staffords stated. “The new elementary school will exponentially add to that challenge.

“It is one thing for parents to experience delays while dropping off and picking up their children,” they stated. “It is quite another for long-time residents to find themselves effectively trapped in their neighborhoods during peak traffic periods because alternative routes have been eliminated.

“We encourage the Town to conduct and publicly share a comprehensive traffic study to justify the closure or identify better alternatives,” the Staffords stated. “We also recommend evaluating the intersection of Boring Road and Smith Road for a three-way or four-way stop. The intersection already presents safety concerns, as traffic traveling north on Smith Road from Kingston Pike is often difficult to see when exiting Boring Road.

“We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns and hope the Town will carefully consider the long-term impact this decision will have on area residents.”

■ **Paul Johnson, Burney Circle:** “Yes, the current closure of Boring Road is having an impact on me.

“I have lived in Baldwin Park for over 12 years and on about half the trips I make from my house had been on Boring Road to Kingston Pike,” he stated in an email. “The other half of my trips were on Boring Road to Smith Road. Both ends of Boring Road are dangerous.

“I am the district coordinator for the AARP Driver Safety Program, and our Smart Driver Course stresses that older drivers should avoid making left hand turns,” Johnson stated. “Sure, I primarily made left turns off of Boring Road onto Kingston Pike. Sometimes I had to wait for some time, but if it wasn’t safe to turn left I would turn right into the shopping center and swing around and wait for the traffic light.

“The intersection at Smith and Boring is extremely dangerous to turn left,” he stated. “Traffic is hidden by the slope of Smith Road and quite a bit of the traffic exceeds the 40-mph speed limit. I believe the Town is going to eventually put a four-way stop at this intersection; but in the meantime, we take a risk every time we turn left.

“Since the road construction has closed a portion of Boring Road, I have been driving through the new Stonemeade subdivision and past the farragutpress office for those trips I formerly used on Boring Road to Kingston Pike,” Johnson stated. “Several stretches of Village Commons Boulevard in The Villages of Farragut has parking where cars could back into the street.

“I walk through this area frequently and observe cars not stopping at stop signs in this area. Using this route has added 3-10ths of a mile of additional travel, each direc-

tion,” he stated.

“The Town, since I have lived here, has stated that whoever developed this property formerly owned by Doug Horne would be responsible to widen Boring Road,” Johnson stated. “Then, the Knox County School Board purchased it and is only widening a short distance of Boring Road. Now Mayor [Ron] Williams wants to close Boring Road at Kingston Pike.

“One of my primary concerns is emergency service response time,” he stated. “If someone in Baldwin Park has a health issue, how much more time will the response be with Boring Road closed? How much more will the response time be increased for those homes on the current narrow portion of Boring Road that will be at the dead end?”

“Is the closure a means for the Town not to spend money widening the road (From what I recall, Boring Road has been at the bottom of the list of substandard roads to be widened.)?”

“I want to stress that the Town of Farragut has historically been responsive to the concerns of its citizens, but so far there has been no public discussion of closing Boring Road. It seems the decision has already been made,” Johnson stated. “My final comment regards the road closure signs during the construction.

“Why are there no signs on westbound Kingston Pike warning that Boring Road is closed?” Johnson asked. “On Thursday morning, I took my grandchildren for a walk along the greenway to see the Boring Road construction. We noticed a small business van approach the Boring Road and Boring Lane intersection, only to discover that they could not proceed,” he stated. “A short time later we noticed the same vehicle at a home across from Baldwin Park subdivision. Today we had a representative of a company come to our home and he explained that he attempted to come up old Boring Road only to discover he had to turn around. I’m sure there have been many more who have had to turn around.”

■ **Unnamed resident:** “My wife and I live in Barrington Park off Boring Road. We’re very disappointed to learn that the Town of Farragut is planning to block the Boring Road/Kingston Pike access.

“This will be especially inconvenient to our neighborhood, as well as to the new neighborhood under construction next to us (32 homes), as traffic builds with the opening of the elementary school,” he stated in an email. “It would certainly be helpful if we could at least exit Boring Road onto Kingston Pike by turning right and also enter Boring Road off Kingston Pike by turning right.

“This seems like a reasonable compromise instead of blocking the road completely,” he said.

■ **Baldwin Park resident Don Schreyer:** “I attended the Town meeting for the approval of the Stonemeade subdivision on March 31.

“During the meeting the mayor mentioned that Boring Road will be terminated at about 134 Boring Road into a turnaround. No entrance or exit to Kingston Pike,” Schreyer stated in an email.

“This solution is not acceptable. No citizen input was sought to make this decision.

“The residents who live on Boring Road, and the residents who live on roads that connect to Boring Road, Baldwin Park subdivision and Boring Lane, need to be asked for input,” Schreyer stated. “No decision on the future of Boring Road should be made without their input. *Note: Mayor Williams is term-limited; his term is up in August of this year.*

“Boring Road needs to be brought up to current standards, he stated. “The best solution would be right-in and right-out at Kingston Pike as a new traffic light would not be allowed on Kingston Pike.

“The new school for 1,400 students will have 66 classrooms, thus 66 teachers, caf-

eteria staff, maintenance staff and administration staff, likely over 100 folks who, I understand, would use the Boring Road entrance to the school staff parking lot,” Schreyer stated. “Most of these people will arrive before school starts and depart after school is out. *Note: school starts at 7:45 and ends at 2:45.*

“It is reported that 12 buses will support the school,” he stated. “They will enter from Boring Road via Smith to drop off students, and at the end of the school day pick up and move students to their homes again using Boring Road via Smith.

“The additional traffic load on Boring Road will be significant,” Schreyer stated. “With a right-in right-out at Kingston Pike, the teachers and staff would have an alternative way to reach or exit the school,” he stated. “Emergency vehicles would also have an alternate path to service the school as well.

“I support the connection of Boring Road to Kingston Pike via right-in, right-out,” Schreyer stated. “The Town has the funds to bring the road up to standards. If they desire, they could seek funds from the county and/or the school board as the addition of the school to this location is causing the problem.

“In past years when Doug Horne desired to sell the land the new school occupies, the Town wanted Doug to pay for the upgrade of Boring Road,” he stated. “The new landowner is Knox County Schools and the Town needs to require them to upgrade the road to current standards.”

■ **Brittany Moore:** “Personally, I don’t want it to close. I think we have plenty of roads that come out on Kingston Pike that are small feeder roads like Boring Road is.

“If you think of the road between [Concord First] Baptist Church and the condos there,” she said. “It’s a small feeder road, as well, and the amount of people who come out on that road, rarely do I see wrecks.

“There’s rarely [wrecks] on our [Boring] Road,” Moore said. “I go in and out of there 15 times a day, probably ... the time to go around, they say, to [Village Commons Boulevard] and come down through the new neighborhood [Stonemeade] and come across from Kingsgate at that red light is just not a time saver. It’s not a traffic saver.

“It is routing people through a neighborhood versus an established road that’s been here,” she said. “I think it directly affects the few of us whose families have been here for hundreds of years.

“It truly affects us daily,” Moore said. “Personally, I think they should leave it alone.

“During all the school conversations, I know people were thinking about school traffic, school traffic, school traffic,” she said, adding the back way was only intended for buses, not for teachers or other staff.

“They were very clear, when they went through that, that their intention was not to have students enter and exit anywhere off of Boring Road other than buses in the bus loop,” Moore said. “I think the Town of Farragut needs to respect that. I think that’s the reason people voted the way they did vote and wanted the school the way it was.

“I think there’s plenty of traffic on other roads that feed off Kingston Pike,” she said. “With the newly proposed red light at Jamestowne and proposed red light from Village Green and Concord First Baptist, where they aligned those roads, that would give enough time for Boring Road to be just like any other feeder road and provide breaks in between the traffic. Right now, there’s a speed issue there.

And, “for the people who are [living on Boring Road], it is a safety concern to close that road off because of the way that the police are not in West Knoxville, if there’s an issue. The fire station is off of [North] Campbell Station [Road]. It’s a hassle and unneeded.

“We have talked to [Farragut Municipal Planning Commissioner] Louise Povlin and other people about some measures to slow people down ... speed humps to help curb the through traffic,” Moore said. “And, the Town has reached out to Ingle’s to possibly get a cut-through next to the dentist’s office to come out at the old Ingle’s red light [In separate interview, Mayor Ron Williams said the Town did reach out to the Ingles’ owners and that suggestion was declined],” she said. “I feel like they should push that. I think they should try hard to get that.

“I think it’s very unfortunate that they think cutting through a neighborhood ... is a consolation prize for closing this [road] off,” Moore said. “It’s unsafe for the neighbors; it’s more traffic because you’re entering into the school traffic at certain times.

“And, if I have to pick up my kids at Farragut High School and Farragut Middle School, I’m now going to be contending with the new Farragut Elementary School traffic,” she said. “So, I don’t think it helps us any with traffic flow.

“They haven’t talked to us about it,” said Moore, who serves on the Town’s Visual Resources Review Board. “They haven’t told us that it would come up in a meeting.”

While she serves on the VRRB, “I hear a lot of it, but I did not know that they were now planning to do this because the last time I talked to the mayor directly about it, it was one option. It was not ‘the’ option.

“I think there’s some people trying to push this that, if they do close it off, it’s a convenient drop-off for kids, and I thought that’s what we were trying to eliminate,” Moore said.

■ **Baldwin Park resident Caroline Lemond:** “I’ve lived here for 10 years, and that section of the road they’re closing permanently, I use all the time.

“When I’m coming anywhere east from Kingston Pike, that’s by far the quickest way to get home,” she said. “If you don’t turn in there, you have to go through about three or four traffic lights and turn on Smith Road.

“The road has always been substandard, narrow and dangerous because you have to kind of drive off the road when another car is coming,” Lemond said. “We’ve always wanted it to be improved, but what’s happening right now that it is closed, is that everybody’s coming through the Village Commons [Boulevard], where the Villages [of Farragut] are and through that new subdivision, Stonemeade, which hasn’t been developed yet, so people keep doing that instead of going all the way down to Smith Road,” she said. “That’s going to create a lot of traffic in the Villages, which is probably not good for the seniors who live there. That’s already happening.

“Our preference is that [Boring Road] be left open – and improved,” Lemond said. “It has to be improved because the way it is now, it’s terrible. There are not any safe shoulders.

“We have heard some people propose a right turn off Kingston Pike and a right turn off Boring Road onto Kingston Pike, and that would be acceptable,” she said. “I don’t know how [the closing] is going to impact people going to the [new] school. Supposedly, the parents are supposed to come up Village Commons [Boulevard].

“The buses are going to go up behind our house,” Lemond said. “...It would be nice if it were left open.”

■ **Mary Miller (whose father Jack Ferrell, 96, lives in Baldwin Park):** “We have been going all the way around to get into the neighborhood.”

She understood the closure was because the road was being widened.

“But, that’s way out of the way to get to this neighborhood,” she said, adding she is opposed to the closure.

“How long have people been using that [Boring Road ac-

cess]? How many accidents have there been there?” Miller asked. “I don’t know of any in all the years my dad has lived here.

“There might be near misses because people get impatient, but we don’t sit there forever, especially if it’s high traffic, we just turn right, go into Ingle’s and go to the light,” she added.

■ **Pam Sherwood:** “With the new houses coming in and the new school, it’s so important to have Boring Road, particularly because of fire and police.

“If the firemen need to get in or the police or medical, closing that [could affect] one life even, if something happened and they couldn’t get to us,” she said. “I think it’s so important to keep it open. With the school, I think it would be very important to have that opened.

“I have heard they don’t want to widen it all the way down [Boring Road] because of costs, but Farragut is one of the most desired areas in Tennessee to live because of the schools, the safety and the people here,” Sherwood said. “I think it would be great if they [improved all of Boring Road] because you have to keep up the community.

“But most of all, for the safety aspect of it because if one person couldn’t get what they needed, as far as medical, it would be terrible, devastating,” she said.

■ **Baldwin Park resident K. Johnson:** “I want to voice my concern regarding the [Farragut Board of Mayor and Alderman’s] scheduling a complete Boring Road closure of the Kingston Pike access.

“According to the Board’s plan, Boring Road will be terminated at 134 Boring Road into a turnaround with no entrance or exit to Kingston Pike,” Johnson stated in an email. “Rather than dead-ending Boring Road, I advocate the connection of Boring Road to Kingston Pike be right-in, right-out access to promote public safety, emergency response and road connectivity.

“Keeping Boring Road open offers an additional way in and out of this area so emergency first responders are able to efficiently get to this area in the event of any type of incident,” Johnson stated. “Let’s be mindful that emergency vehicles need to have road access to get in and out to do their jobs. Keeping Boring Road open provides an alternate path for fire and rescue vehicles to service the area.

“The new Farragut Area Elementary School, located between Boring Road and Village Commons Boulevard, is the largest elementary school ever built by Knox County Schools with a capacity of 1,400 students,” Johnson stated. “A school of this size is projected to require about 90 employees. The larger proportion of students will be car riders not bus riders.

“Once the new Stonemeade subdivision is built out, 75-plus households will be situated along the Boring Road corridor,” Johnson stated. “A major expansion of the Villages of Farragut, including villas, is now underway to accommodate more senior residents there.

“All these will undoubtedly contribute to more traffic in the vicinity,” Johnson added. “Rather than installing a cul-de-sac and completely closing off Boring Road access to Kingston Pike, please consider widening Boring Road with right in/right out access to Kingston Pike. This would allow traffic to be dispersed across a wider road network, improving emergency access and enhancing connectivity for years to come.”

In support of road closure:

■ **Frances Cottrell:** “Our viewpoint on Boring Road’s closure is that the effects are mostly positive. School traffic will not be flooding our road, and we will have a quieter neighborhood.

“However, we will miss driving down that road to see the wild turkeys and flowers,” Cottrell said. “But we welcome

KEEP IT FARRAGUT

LOUISE POVLIN *for* MAYOR TOWN OF FARRAGUT

I believe in listening, respecting differences, and solving problems that affect all of us—traffic, infrastructure, and development. At the heart of every decision is the question: “Does this protect our community character?” These aren’t partisan issues. They’re Farragut issues.



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Louise has lived in East Tennessee for 26 years and in Farragut for the last 18 years with her husband Jay, where they raised their 3 sons, Jack, Jared, and Joshua. She's been honored to serve the Town of Farragut since 2013.

LEADERSHIP AND QUALIFICATIONS

Town of Farragut

- Alderman (2016-24)
- Vice Mayor (2018-24)
- Committees
 - Farragut Municipal Planning Commission
 - Education Relations Committee
 - Stormwater Advisory Committee
 - Tree Board
 - Farragut High School Education Foundation
- Farragut Municipal Planning Commissioner (2013-16, 2024 - Present)
 - MPC Representative for Stormwater Advisory Committee
 - MPC Representative for Tree Board

Farragut Small Business Owner (2012-24)

Farragut Small Business Rep (FBA) (2015-24)

Farragut Neighborhood HOA Board (2012-16)

Farragut Public School Volunteer (2008-24)

CANDIDATE COMPARISON

	Louise Povlin	Alex Cain
More than 13 years of service to the Town of Farragut	✓	✗
Held Key Leadership Roles for More Than 13 Years	✓	✗
More than a Decade of Planning & Zoning Expertise	✓	✗
Managed 8 or more Town Budgets and Maintained Farragut's No-Property Tax Model	✓	✗
Active Representation for Farragut with Knox County for More Than A Decade	✓	✗
Municipal Leader for Multiple Community Awards for Quality of Life & Safety	✓	✗
Degreed Engineer (Problem Solver & Analytical Mind) and Local Small Business Owner	✓	✗



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Early Voting July 17th - August 1st
Election Day - August 6th

Paid for by Elect Louise Povlin, Scott Meyer, Treasurer

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

Voters have a choice in August. They can continue the government "telling you what they are going to do" approach that the legacy candidates are advocating or they can choose a government driven by the people. Voters can choose to elect the candidates that will keep the same people involved in government through appointments to positions where they can rubber stamp decisions or candidates that will change the how things work in Farragut by bringing in new people with new opinions.

Voters can choose more apartments, mixed use developments, traffic, property taking through eminent domain for unnecessary projects, attempts at skirting state law by renaming failed greenway projects, court battles, shady deals, controlling discussions through protocol and procedures, and the turning of Farragut into a town straight out of New Jersey or an approach that reflects the will of the people who want a more reasonable government that listens, and includes them

when making decisions.

Voters can continue to allow the use of fear, uncertainty, and doubt to attack the positions of people that disagree with decisions being pushed through or they can choose to elect representatives that will respect their views and opinions even if they disagree with them.

Voters can continue to allow individuals that scream they are being "Harassed" through official government communications if the narratives that they are using to push projects are proven false or they can elect individuals that listen, gather facts, weigh the alternatives, stay within the scope of their roles, and work for the people.

I am choosing to change how things work in Farragut by voting for Alex Cain for Mayor of Farragut, Joey Ruffalo for North Ward Alderman, and I recommend Greg Wiberley for South Ward Alderman.

Bill Hodge,
Farragut

Dear Editor,

Small businesses are an important part of what makes Farragut a great place to live, creating jobs, supporting nonprofits, sponsoring youth sports, contributing to community events, and providing services residents rely on every day.

As someone who has spent years helping individuals and small business owners improve their financial health and operations, I've seen firsthand how government processes can either help or hinder success and I've witness firsthand the challenges entrepreneurs face when opening, expanding, or investing in a business.

As our community grows, we should ask an important question: How can we ensure Farragut remains a place where small businesses can succeed?

The answer is not necessarily more government but better government.

Farragut has adopted high standards for development, construction, signage, site planning, architecture, and land use. Those standards help

protect property values, preserve community character, and maintain the quality-of-life residents expect and I support those standards.

But supporting standards and supporting efficiency are not mutually exclusive.

Business owners should be able to understand what is required, know what the process looks like, and receive consistent answers along the way.

When someone invests their savings into a business, signs a lease, hires employees, or renovates a commercial space, uncertainty becomes expensive. Delays, confusion, and inconsistent communication all carry real costs.

This happens when a process is unclear.

When a process becomes frustrating, the first question shouldn't be, "Who can we hire?" It should be, "How can we improve the process?"

Too often, government's answer to a challenge is another position, department, or layer of bureaucracy. Taxpayers deserve better than that.

Before asking residents to fund new staff positions or

programs, we should evaluate whether existing processes are working efficiently. Good government is not measured by how many people are involved in a process. Good government is measured by how well the process works.

The goal should not be to create special treatment for businesses. The goal should be to create a system that is transparent, fair, and predictable for everyone.

Small business owners are not asking for shortcuts. They are asking for clarity.

If we can maintain Farragut's high standards while improving transparency, communication, and efficiency, we can support local businesses, protect taxpayers, and preserve the character of our community at the same time.

That's the kind of practical, common-sense leadership Farragut deserves.

Joey Ruffalo
Candidate for
Alderman, Ward 1 -
Town of Farragut

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

■ I thought the letter to the editor that the Candidate for Farragut Alderman (Ward 2) wrote this past week was correct. We do not need the entrenched leadership of the former vice mayor in the position of power anymore. She has personally approved the Biddle Apartments that nobody wanted and denied the development rights on the Ford property — on their 65 acres of property west of the town hall. She's twice denied the development of the Ford property. They had the great company out of Des Moines, Iowa, Hy-Vee, coming into town and they denied that. She denied an earlier development plan on the Ford property. So, she's not qualified to be mayor; she's an entrenched power that doesn't need to continue. The current mayor and the former vice mayor would rotate back and forth between the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Planning Commission. The two of them on the Planning Commission controls the town. There should not be a mayor and vice mayor on the Planning Commission. That controls the town. If you get two votes on the Planning Commission against something and they're on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, that controls the issue. So the former vice mayor is not qualified to be mayor. She's denied property rights to numerous property owners on her whim, and that is unconstitutional. We need new leadership. What's wrong with change? What's wrong with new leadership? This is a democracy we have in America and in Farragut. We need new leadership. Let's try new leadership and see what

happens. We don't need the former vice mayor and current mayor in power anymore.

■ I think it's good to set the record straight — the Knox County property taxes that are paid by Knox County residents that live in Farragut go into the Knox County budget. That covers all the budget items of Knox County, including all the Knox County schools. The Town of Farragut only contributes a total of \$154,000 to the Farragut Primary, Intermediate, Middle and High School. They only contribute \$154,000 total per year to the four schools in Farragut. The Knox County property taxes go into the Knox County budget. The Knox County property taxes from Farragut go into the Knox County budget. That covers all the Knox County expenditures, including all the schools. Again, the Town of Farragut only contributes \$154,000 to the four Farragut schools, which is ridiculously low. It's a very paltry sum. The new election for mayor, maybe the new mayor will contribute more to the four Farragut schools. Now, they only contribute \$154,000. Again, the Knox County property taxes that go to Knox County pay for Knox County expenditures, including all schools, all Knox County schools. And again, the Town of Farragut only contributes \$154,000 total per year to the four schools in Farragut: Primary, Intermediate, Middle and High School. That's a very small sum. The new mayor hopefully will change that and contribute more. Rather than spending \$5 million on buying land on McFee Road, rather than spending \$9

million on McFee Park, surely they can spend more on Farragut schools. Rather than \$5 million on Farragut land, on land at the end of McFee Road, and \$9 million on the McFee Park. Let's get our priorities straight.

■ A recent letter to the editor asked, "how many people think it is suitable to cross congested roads like Kingston Pike, Campbell Station Road or Parkside Drive while carrying groceries or retail goods?" Walking five minutes from my subdivision to Ingles, crossing from an event at Campbell Station Inn to Starbucks, or walking from Tupelo Honey to a baseball game at the high school are obviously suitable. Bemoaning the idea that people might travel on foot or bicycle (whether to "reduce

the use of cars for transportation" or just to enjoy the fresh air and a little exercise) isn't about maintaining a "small town atmosphere." And it's shocking to suggest that maintaining a "small town atmosphere" means we should be made to fear walking in Farragut. The question is what our candidates for Mayor and Aldermen plan to do to make walking in Farragut safer?

■ I watched the Alderman's Candidates Forum on YouTube from this past Thursday night, and I have a question. I would like to know why somebody who does not even live in Farragut thinks he can come in and say we need to have a property tax for our own sheriff's department because we have million-dollar homes that people want to buy and

it's not gonna matter to them if the tax goes up. Well, guess what? Farragut is a beautiful community, and yes, we do have some million-dollar and over homes, but for the most part, we are a middle-class and upper-middle-class working and retired family community. I don't know about you, but I don't want to see my taxes be something like they are in the City of Knoxville where you pay X amount of dollars for your Knox County property tax and then you pay even more for a city property tax. For that extra tax, you do get the KPD (Knoxville City Police Department) and garbage pickup. I think it's well worth it just for us to have Rural Metro and have a new sheriff in town, literally, who will take care of us.

The final opportunity to submit candidate endorsements in Letters to the Editor or PressTalks for publication before the August 6 election is **10 a.m. Monday, July 13** for inclusion in the July 15 edition of farragutpress. No candidate endorsements will be published after the July 15 edition.

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Connor, family celebrate 100th birthday at KCHS

Jake Nichols

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Helen Mabry Connor moved gingerly through the doorway, spotting a familiar face on the other side.

"Oh look, I believe I know that girl," said Connor, who smiled as she gazed upon a black-and-white photo of herself as a teenager. "That's a long time ago."

But even with the passage of time, the smile and facial features remained the very same for Connor, who turned 100 years old on Monday, June 2.

On the previous Saturday, May 30, more than 70 of her relatives gathered at the Connor Lobby — named for Connor's eldest son Mike and his family — near the St. Gregory the Great Auditorium at Knoxville Catholic High School.

For hours, they celebrated Connor's century mark with cake, balloons, a slideshow, a banner and even a serenade.

"This has been a year in the making," said Christy Watkins, Helen Connor's youngest daughter, of the party.

The Knoxville Catholic aspect just happened to work out since their previous venue had been booked. But it provided a fitting twist for the birthday girl, a 1945 KCHS graduate whose picture now resides along every other senior portrait in the school lobby.

All six of her children graduated from Catholic, too, as well as 18 of her 19 grandchildren. Then just a couple of weeks ago, the first great-grandchild graduate crossed the stage as part of the class of 2026.

"This just happened to be

a God thing, having it here at Connor Lobby at Knoxville Catholic," Watkins said. "We could not get our normal venue that we usually use for large family gatherings, and one of my good friends who's the vice president here said we could have it here and that they would set it up. We are so humbled and honored. It's perfect, because this is where it all began."

As a teenager, Helen Connor served as a captain for the basketball team — "I was a glory hog," she quipped — and dreamed of starting a family with the future husband she danced with in Knox Catholic's first gym on Magnolia Avenue.

The campus shifted to west Knoxville in 2000, but in good times and bad, the Connors remained.

At one point, Helen Connor worked two jobs to ensure her children received a Catholic education. And even when the money was not there, her unwavering dedication served in its place.

"When my sister was about to start high school, she thought, 'Oh, she's probably not going to be able to go,'" Watkins recalled. "So the principal there told her, 'You just have her show up and don't worry about it. Then when you can pay, we will revisit it.' He said it was more important that they have that education than the money."

The family has felt a pull toward the school ever since, while Connor has continued a life built on faith and hard work.

"All six of the kids saw noth-



Photo by Jake Nichols

Helen Mabry Connor, front and center, was joined by more than 70 family members to celebrate her 100th birthday on Saturday, May 30, at Knoxville Catholic High School.

ing but exemplary faith, work ethic and commitment to family," Watkins said, wiping away tears as she spoke. "I would see her falling asleep praying. She gave it all to God. Her work ethic has been the biggest example, and we attribute anything we accomplish to her."

Still, Connor has been to have her fair share of fun too. She is known for her dancing, especially to the tune of Bing Crosby or Perry Como.

Once, she even took down a few relatives in poker after serving up spoonfuls of her famous dressing and chocolate pie at a family Thanksgiving.

"It was so comical that this pillar of faith who exudes dig-

nity and class was actually a little card shark, too," Watkins said.

Then again, it was just another turn in a life that had seen plenty of those already.

In her 100 years, Connor has lived through countless events: The Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights movement, the invention of the atomic bomb, the moon landing, the creation of the internet, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the 9/11 attacks and the COVID-19 pandemic, to name a few.

Her life has stretched through 52 Olympic Games and 17 presidents. Also, she has been alive for every Ten-

nessee football national title, as well as the entire lifespan of the late Pat Summitt, who was born when Connor was already 26 years old.

Like Summitt, Connor has shown a kindness and determination that have transcended generations.

"She's very outgoing, does not meet a stranger," Watkins said. "And when she could drive, she would be at everything."

Lately, things may have slowed down a bit for Connor. But when asked how it feels to be 100, she grinned and offered three words to summarize her century of memories: "It feels wonderful."

BOMA adopts \$8.8 million capital plan in FY27 budget

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen unanimously approved, on final reading, its fiscal year 2026-27 budget during its meeting Thursday, May 28.

However, resident Kimberlie Parks again questioned the need for an economic development position, as she had during the May 14 meeting when the budget passed on first reading.

"We had a business liaison function, and the staff eliminated it during staff reorganization last year," she said. "What changed?"

"Please show the public why we need this position. What kind of measurement are you going to create for this role?" Parks asked.

During a May 7 Board meeting, Alderman Alex Cain also

questioned the need for the position, but he made no comment about it at the May 28 meeting.

"The economic coordinator position has been the topic of Board discussions many, many times," Alderman Joe LaCroix said. "The direction from the Board is policy, so we would like to see that position created."

"The key performance indicator is going to be built into the description in this administrative role that goes through Mr. Smoak's area of control," he said. "Just as you don't see the KPIs for the other positions that we talk about — the engineers or Community Development — that's an administrative piece."

Parks responded that the comments did not answer why the position was needed.

During the May 7 meeting, Vice Mayor Scott Meyer said

he believes there has been a "discombobulated effort for business development in Farragut for a while."

"I think this position meets that need," Meyer said.

He said the position would serve as a point of contact for businesses seeking assistance navigating Town departments.

In addition to the \$115,936 annual cost of adding an economic development director, the budget includes \$8,778,000 in Capital Investment Plan projects for FY27. Those projects include upgrades to various park facilities; design and engineering for improvements to McFee Road and the entrance to the McFee Road property; construction of improvements to various streets and crosswalks for the new Farragut Elementary School; intersection improvements at Grigsby Chapel Road and St. John Court; construction of a roundabout

on Watt Road at the southern entrance to Mayor Bob Leonard Park; and adaptive traffic signal upgrades throughout Farragut.

"By far the largest of our CIP funding next year, and in the future, is going into transportation and infrastructure projects," Town Administrator David Smoak said. "The total next year is planned at \$6,427,000."

Projects include a traffic signal at the intersection of North Campbell Station Road and Jamestowne Boulevard, Turkey Creek Road multi-modal improvements, the Watt Road roundabout and additional street lighting throughout the town.

Smoak also reported several changes made to the budget since May 14:

■ Additional travel and training budget for economic development, \$5,000.

■ Additional funding for Farragut Business Alliance/Shop Farragut, \$15,000.

■ Information Technology: additional ERP software and maintenance costs, \$5,000, and fire inspection software, \$1,500.

■ Community Development: additional funding to complete a scanning project, \$30,000.

■ Additional text-based subscription costs for the Communications Department, \$4,000.

■ Additional contingency for major building repairs, \$100,000.

■ All departments: long-term disability, dental insurance and group life insurance increases, \$10,700.

The additional expenditures total \$171,200.

The budget also includes \$15,000 in expenses for the Red Mill Dam project and an additional \$150,000 for Americans with Disabilities Act-related expenses.

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Closure

From page 1A

Knox County Schools' role in the matter," said Lauren Morgan, Knox County Board of Education representative for District 5.

"From a school system perspective, our responsibility regarding Boring Road is limited to the portion that connects Smith Road to the entrance of the new elementary school," she said. "As part of the school's construction, Knox County Schools is responsible for widening and improving that section to ensure safe access for students, families, staff and buses.

"The remainder of Bor-

ing Road does not fall under Knox County Schools' jurisdiction," Morgan added. "Decisions regarding that portion of the roadway are under the authority of the Town of Farragut."

Morgan said traffic was a major consideration as planning for the new school progressed. A traffic study was conducted before construction began, and transportation decisions were made using the study's findings and recommendations.

"Throughout the process, the school system's focus has been on providing safe and efficient access to the campus while accommodating anticipated traffic patterns,"

she said.

Morgan also emphasized the importance of maintaining positive relationships with nearby residents.

"The relationship between a school and the surrounding community matters tremendously," she said. "I do not have authority over decisions made by the Town of Farragut regarding Boring Road, as that does not fall within Knox County Schools' jurisdiction. I do believe strongly in maintaining positive relationships with our neighbors and listening to their concerns."

Williams said the closure will begin near a newly constructed home where a horse corral once stood.

"The road will be closed at that driveway, and there will be a walking trail that goes down and connects to the sidewalk at the old Ingles Market," he said.

Some residents have expressed concerns that the closure could increase traffic congestion.

Williams said alternative access routes will remain available through nearby developments connecting to Village Commons Boulevard.

"You'll actually be able to go out that way and come out to the light beside the farragutpress," he said.

The mayor also cited safety concerns at the intersection with Kingston Pike.

"The other reason we closed that off is people come down and want to turn left onto Kingston Pike, and you can't see," Williams said. "It's so dangerous. I don't know how many wrecks we've had there."

Williams said the Tennessee Highway Patrol recommended the closure because of crashes at the location.

"The bank comes up high and you have to pull all the way out into the road to see," he said.

"If we didn't close it, if we left it open, what you would have is all the soccer moms parked along that road so they wouldn't have to get in the loop [at Village Commons] to pick up their kids," Williams added.

Access

From page 2A

this change. It won't really mess up our daily life at all."

■ **Barbara and Jeffrey Crist of Baldwin Park:** "We're in favor of closing Boring Road to through traffic, however, we really don't want the buses coming down Boring Road from Smith Road.

"I'm very much in favor of the buses going up Boring Road from Kingston Pike and then turning around and heading back out the same way," the Crists stated in an email.

■ **Janet Cable:** "I support the closure of Boring Road. It would control additional traffic from school and keep it safer for walkers and greenway users.

"There are alternatives that allow access from Boring to Kingston Pike on Smith Road and through Stonemeade and the Villages of Farragut," Cable stated in her email.

■ **Baldwin Park resident George Cooper:** "The Town should facilitate a public discussion and solicit community input regarding the planned closure of Boring Road at Kingston Pike.

"For many reasons includ-

ing of having open discourse with residents and the value of soliciting differing perspectives and ideas in decision-making," he added.

"My opinion is to close it with a turnaround after the last driveway before Kingston Pike," Cooper said. "I have specific reasoning for this but in no way claiming this is the right choice without learning all other perspectives. What better way for me as well as the Town to learn others' perspectives than in a community open forum!"

■ **Benna Hughes, a Boring family member who lives with her father Ben Boring:** "I have two feelings. When I first heard about [the closure, I was absolutely against it because it's our part of the roadway our family drives on and the part our family uses all the time, and I was hoping that now the road was getting widened — it's very narrow — that it would be opened.

"We absolutely don't want the rest of the road widened if it would not be closed off. Everybody would be coming onto Boring Road to avoid Kingston Pike," she said.

"This has been a beautiful country road forever, and [widening the road] is going

to destroy it," Hughes said. "I would rather it be closed. People are already speeding on the road. [Widening] is going to make it worse."

"I understand there is going to be a cul-de-sac [at Boring Road]," she said, adding she feared the cul-de-sac would become a hangout for teenagers.

"I hope the Town could prevent that," Hughes added. She also asked if there could be speed bumps on Boring Road.

■ **A Baldwin Park resident, who asked that he not be identified, said:** "There's not been much information distributed, in my opinion. I talked to several people and they all have different thoughts about what's supposed to happen or what the plan is.

"I haven't seen anything from the Town; I haven't seen anything from the homeowners' association," he said. "I see the construction going on. It looks like they're going to build an improved road, at least on part of Boring Road, so it's a little confusing to me what exactly is going on.

"I personally am in favor of closing the road or some part of it so there is no through traffic," the resident said. "I am very pleased with how qui-

et the neighborhood has been with the lack of cut-through traffic — people coming from Kingston Pike, trying to get onto Smith Road and avoiding the intersection down in front of [the farragutpress office].

"It is amazing to me how much traffic has been reduced, and the quiet is nice" he said. "The inconvenience is I could not go east on Kingston Pike — or west, if they are going to close it.

"I think you'll find a lot of people in Baldwin Park want to keep everything the way it

is," the resident said. "Well, that's going to be almost impossible to accomplish.

■ **Craig Colvin:** "We welcome the change. Close it down. That's fine with us.

"It makes it easier to walk [along the road]," he said. "It cuts down on traffic flow, and they go down to Smith Road and have access.

"It's OK if you're going west the old way on Boring Road [onto Kingston Pike], but if you are trying to cross the traffic and go east, it's next to impossible."

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Rack ready for debut

Tammy Cheek
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Shoppers, get on your mark for the opening of the Seattle-based Nordstrom Rack Thursday, June 25, at 11417 Parkside Drive in Turkey Creek.

While doors officially open 9 a.m., festivities will begin at 8 a.m. with music, a disc jockey, light bites, gift card giveaways and a chance to win a \$1,000 gift card.

“We look forward to being a part of the Knoxville community and serving our customers with an amazing offering of great brands at great prices,” said Gemma Lionello, president of Nordstrom Rack. “We’re excited to grow our footprint in the Knoxville market and introduce new customers to the Nordstrom experience.”

At this location, “customers will be able to take advantage of our convenient services, such as online order pickup from both Nordstrom.com and NordstromRack.com, and they can make returns easily,” she said.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Nordstrom Rack to Pinnacle Turkey Creek,” said Gabi Walsh, marketing manager for Pinnacle Turkey Creek. “As one of the nation’s most sought-after retailers, their arrival further enhances the exceptional mix of fashion, dining and lifestyle offerings that make Turkey Creek a premier shopping destination for Knoxville.”

The new store, which encompasses 30,000 square feet, is one of 302 Nordstrom Rack stores across the United States, according to Gianna Giacomino, Nordstrom spokesperson.

It is located at Pinnacle Turkey Creek center, which is leased and managed by Crawford Square Real Estate Advisors. That includes PGA Superstore, Marshall’s and Burlington.

“Nordstrom Rack is the off-price retail division of Nordstrom Inc., offering customers up to 70 percent off on-trend

apparel, accessories and shoes for the whole family from many of the top brands sold at Nordstrom stores,” Giacomino said. “Nordstrom Rack delivers the fashion customers are used to experiencing at Nordstrom stores while providing access to many of the same brands at a savings.”

She said it leverages Nordstrom stores to offer 90 percent of the top brands available at Nordstrom.

“Nordstrom Rack is the off-price retail division of Nordstrom Inc. and plays a critical role in the company’s Closer to You strategy, which focuses on delivering customers a more convenient and interconnected experience across its stores and digital platforms,” Giacomino said.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Nordstrom Rack to Pinnacle Turkey Creek.”

~ Gabi Walsh, marketing manager for Pinnacle Turkey Creek

Along with apparel and accessories, she said it also carries beauty products and home decor from many of the top brands sold at Nordstrom stores, as well as core services, such as online

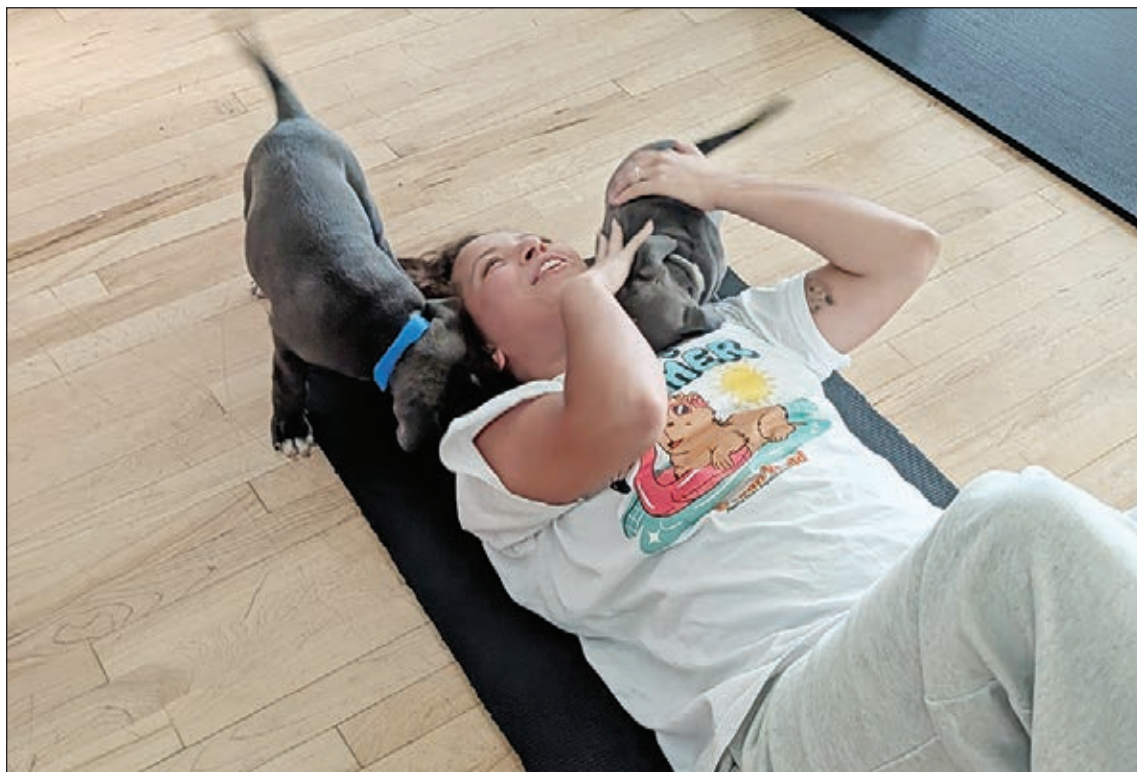
order pickup for Nordstrom.com and NordstromRack.com, easy returns and alterations at select stores.

“Nordstrom Rack is the largest source of new customers to Nordstrom,” Giacomino added.

“This new location expands the company’s physical footprint and economic impact in Tennessee,” she said. “It currently operates one Nordstrom store and four Nordstrom Rack stores in Tennessee, generating about 490 jobs statewide.”

“Nordstrom is committed to investing in the diverse communities where it operates,” Giacomino said. “Over the past four years, Nordstrom, with its customers, has donated more than \$2 million in support of its long-term partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the United States.”

“These proceeds support the recruitment, training and engagement of adult mentors and mentorship moments between Bigs and Littles, including preparing for an interview, learning to tie a tie and helping with homework.”



Tammy Cheek

A Pilates participant, Annie Torres, is distracted from exercise by a couple of Humane Society of Tennessee pups.

Fitness for a furry cause

Tammy Cheek
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Puppy kisses and wagging tails welcomed Farragut West Young Professionals who teamed up with Davis Family YMCA to host Puppy Pilates to benefit Humane Society of East Tennessee in the YMCA, 12133 S. Northshore Drive, June 6.

“We are partnering with Davis Family YMCA to do Puppy Yoga, and they are also doing a donation drive for us as well,” said Hannah Joyner, community outreach manager for the Humane Society. “So everyone who is coming here is giving a monetary donation or they’re bringing supplies for our animals.”

West Young professionals, a division of Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce, teamed up in the effort with members taking part in the pilates, said KaDee Andreasen, Humane Society development director and an Ambassador chair for FWKCC.

“We have some Chamber members here and some young professionals here, too,” she said.

Joyner said 16 people signed up for the event. She added all the money generated from Puppy Pilates went to the Humane Society.

“Honestly, it’s such a great partnership,” Joyner said. “The shelter doesn’t receive any government funding.



Tammy Cheek

Erin Stidham, a Davis Family YMCA staff member, loves on Clumsy.

We’re completely a donations-based shelter, so events like this would allow us to keep saving lives every day.

“It’s also great for our puppies,” she said. “They get some great socialization, get to meet new people, see new things so that when they go to their forever home, they’re a little more socialized and ready for the world.”

While supporters worked out, puppies distracted them

with kisses, toys and curious investigation.

“I love it when Chambers get along with multiple organizations, come together and do something that really helps change lives,” Andreasen said. “It’s not only monetary, it’s good for our dogs to get socialization.”

“They spend a lot of time in the kennels, so being able to get loved on really helps them, too,” she added.

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Second Harvest introduces next CEO, Harvesting Hope

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee announced Rachael Ellis as the organization’s next CEO during a gathering at Thompson Tender Beef Farm in Corryton, a longtime Knox County farm partner owned by County Commissioner Adam Thompson. The event also introduced Harvesting Hope, a new initiative focused on increasing access to fresh, locally grown food while strengthening partnerships with East Tennessee farmers and producers. Speakers included Mary Clay Kline, Board President David Owens, outgoing CEO Elaine Streno, and Rachael Ellis, who shared the organization’s vision for continued growth, innovation, and service across its 18-county region.

For more information about Second Harvest, contact Marvin Figgins at marvin@secondharvestetn.org or visit www.SecondHarvestETN.org





Tammy Cheek

Developers of Grigsby Park will have to remedy the front of the homes in the first phase of the subdivision before they can proceed, as the front of the homes have paving instead of a yard.

Planners
From page 1A

“Yeah, we hydro-seeded the entire site before the rains,” Krajewski said. “The rain kind of moved the hydro-seed out. [The rains] got the grass to grow. Grass is growing everywhere, but there’s patches here and there.”

“We were talking to our erosion guys,” he said. “I’ve asked the erosion guys to do a little bit more work.”

For the next phase coming, “we’re going to continue utility work this summer,” Krajewski said. “The construction entrances, for the future work, is down at Boyd Station Road, so I’m going to try to keep those closed.”

At Grigsby Park, along

Grigsby Chapel Road, Shipley said the second phase is being done by a second group of developers who took over the project.

“The first buildings are mostly built over here on the west side,” he said. “This is a different developer.”

“I assume you are going to build out the rest of phase 1 and this [phase], too,” he said to Bradley Sharp, civil engineer with Urban Engineering. “They’ve got some field stuff to fix in this [Phase 1] that they’re aware of, and that will hold up this [second phase] until they get that corrected.”

The field items to which Shipley referred was the front of the units are all paved and there is no landscaping.

The preliminary plat for

Phase 2 shows the public improvements needed to service the new portion.

“There will be a crossing [bridge] of this stream,” he said. “It’s an aquatic buffer 30 feet from the center line of the top of the bank on each side.”

“That was another crossing, the bridge, to make sure we are compliant with [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] requirements there,” Shipley said. “Then, as you go across the bridge and the walking trail, there’s the Grigsby Chapel Greenway.”

He pointed out the developers will need to add another access or the units will have to have sprinklers in the homes, a fire marshal requirement.

Celebrating Dad

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Jake Nichols

Riley Hunley, a former Farragut standout who played college basketball at Tennessee Tech, has joined the Admirals' coaching staff as the newest assistant under head coach J.P. Burris.

Hunley comes home

Ken Lay
Correspondent

Riley Hunley is coming home.

Hunley, a former basketball player at Farragut High School, is returning to his alma mater as an assistant coach for the boys basketball team.

He recently was hired by head coach J.P. Burris to replace Adam Jenkins, who resigned

after last season.

Hunley played at Farragut from 2004 to 08 under former head coach Donald Dodgen, now the school's athletic director.

"It's a great opportunity for me," Hunley said. "I'm excited. It's home to me. I just live up the road and my kids are in the Farragut schools."

"I played for Dodgen and it was a lot of fun. I was here from 2004 to 08 and we had two great

years during my junior and senior years."

This will be Hunley's first time as a permanent assistant on a coaching staff. Although he has helped the program at Farragut as he worked as a volunteer for former head coach Chris Cool, now an assistant principal at Clinton High School.

"It's great to be around the kids," Hunley said. "It's good to carry on the

tradition. I've known J.P. for a long time. We played here together.

"I love the game. I just love being around it. This is my first time as an assistant. After Coach Dodgen, we had Coach Cool and I volunteered and helped him a little bit."

During his playing days with the Admirals, Hunley played both guard positions under

See HUNLEY on Page 5B

Farragut gymnast earns national recognition

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

Whitney Skaalerud has seen a lot of impressive feats from her daughter, Elle.

But few have been as mind-blowing as what 13-year-old Elle, a Farragut resident, accomplished earlier this spring

On May 1, she took part in the USA Gymnastics Level 9 Eastern National Championships. As noted, she competed as an individual and as a part of the Region 9 Jr. 4 team.

"Gymnastics is a very elite sport, so even for the best of the best it's hard to be at the top," Whitney Skaalerud said. "You can be so close to the top, and there's such a fine line in the rankings. It's almost like winning a lottery because all the cards have to fall into place for it to work out."

Competing out of GymTek Academy for head coach Boo Ellis, Elle Skaalerud competed at the state level in Clarksville on March 21. Her all-around score, which is a combined score for vault, bars, beam and floor events, advanced her on to the Region 8 championships on April 12 in Bradenton, Florida.

There, Elle Skaalerud competed against gymnasts hailing from states across the Southeast, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and, of course, Tennessee.

Once again, she advanced by way of her all-around score, this time propelling her on to the USA Gymnastics Level 9 Eastern National Championships. As noted, she competed as an individual but also as part of the team on the first day of May.

"Any one of the girls on her team could have succeeded," Whitney Skaalerud said. "All these girls work so hard, no change in their practice schedule, practicing four days a week for three-and-a-half hours. It's really hard to make it to the next round, and it's so small of a chance."

"For me to watch her grow through the years, to see that kind of discipline and self-control to continue something that's that hard and takes up your whole calendar, it's amazing to watch the self-discipline and perseverance she has."

At the final event, Elle Skaalerud was one of just 15 total girls from



Photo submitted

Thirteen-year-old gymnast Elle Skaalerud, a Farragut resident, performs a switch ring leap during the USA Gymnastics Level 9 Eastern National Championships. Skaalerud earned recognition from across the region for her skills, as she advanced from the state to the regional and national levels in youth gymnastics.

different age groups to represent the Volunteer State. Moreover, she was the only athlete to represent the state on the Region 8 Level 9 Junior 4 team, which

claimed first place with gymnasts' combined all-around scores for the Junior 4 age group.

"I was kind of expecting her to make regionals, but when she made

nationals, I was just like, 'Wow,'" Whitney Skaalerud said. "I don't know if I could do something for a whole year the way she does. To me, the life lessons are more

than just winning the competition. You have to keep doing it even when you're having a mental block, and for me, that's the coolest part to watch."

Admirals stacking reps through summer hoops

Jake Nichols
jnichols@farragutpress.com

J.P. Burris had a specific message for his Farragut boys basketball team.

He drew the Admirals into a huddle at Karns High School, looked around and offered a summation of where things stood.

"Summer matters," he said. "We've got to get through summer to get where we're trying to go."

In this case, of course, Burris did not just refer to summer meaning the hot period of months stretching from May through July and August

Rather, he was referring to the essential, experience-building months before the TSSAA-mandated Dead Period, which can set a team on a track toward success once the season rolls around.

That process is important for any team, but especially so for a Farragut team that is coming off its first state tournament appearance in 43 years — yet lost six seniors to graduation a month ago.

"I would say confidence, number one, and then transition to live play," Burris said when asked what he wants to

See HOOPS on Page 2B



Jake Nichols

Farragut's Connor Everly goes in for a layup against a defender from Powell during a scrimmage on Tuesday, June 2, at Karns High School.

Lions, Warriors game televised

Ken Lay
Correspondent

In its first full varsity season more than a decade, Concord Christian School qualified for post-season play.

The Lions also had a successful 2024 campaign as they played a combined junior varsity and varsity schedule under head coach Steve Matthews.

In 2025, Concord finished 6-5 and made a first-round exit from the Division II-A playoffs. The Lions opened last season by playing

at Christian Academy of Knoxville at Warrior Stadium.

Concord's historic game was suspended due to inclement weather. It was, however resumed the following day and CAK prevailed, 24-7, in what Matthews hopes was the beginning of a healthy rivalry for the Lions.

The two schools will once again open the season on 2026 as the Warriors will make the return trip to CAK on Saturday, Aug. 22.

See TELEVISED on Page 2B

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Concord goes 4-0 in pool play at UT 7-on-7

Ken Lay
Correspondent

When Steve Matthews took the reins of the Concord Christian School high school football program, he knew he would have to build things from scratch.

When he arrived at the school, the team hadn't had a varsity football team in nearly a decade. The Lions had also never won a varsity game.

Concord re-launched the varsity program in 2024 and

played a combined varsity and junior varsity schedule and went 1-2 in varsity games.

Last season, the Lions went 6-5, playing their first full varsity schedule in several years. They competed in Division II-A and advanced to the first round of the playoffs.

Concord is now preparing for the 2026 season, which looms around the corner and late last week, the Lions competed in the University of Tennessee Josh Heupel 7-on-7 Tournament.

And, they put on a big

show as they went undefeated in pool play. In pool play, one of Concord Christian's wins came over Knoxville West. The Lions shut out the Rebels, 30-0.

After a one-and-a-half hour lunch break, Concord returned to the field and won a first-round single-elimination game against Macon County and earned a showdown with a top team from Georgia, which ended its stay at the tournament.

"We had a good run," Matthews said. "We went 4-0 in

pool play. The only local team that we played was West, and we beat them, 30-0.

"Then we had an hour-and-half lunch break and we might've lost a little momentum but we beat Macon County and then we played a really good team from Georgia.

Quarterback Kohbe Ward, a rising sophomore, will once again be at the controls for the Lions' offense. He saw some time at other positions while freshman Dylan Brown saw some time as Concord's field

general.

Other key players for the Lions include Don Don Underwood, Amare McKenzie and Dasani Moulden.

Brown, a transfer from Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, California, and McKenzie, are newcomers. While Moulden, Ward and Underwood all return from last year's squad.

"I think they all did a pretty good job," Matthews said. "We have some guys who can run pretty fast. We had a pretty good day at UT."

Hoops

From page 1B

see during this period. "You've got a lot of guys who haven't played a lot and one returner who's gotten major minutes. So, just trying to gain some confidence with these guys who haven't played varsity, and you're going to get that with as much live play as you can get this time of year."

For Farragut, that reset process started last Tuesday and Wednesday, June 2-3, at Karns High School.

The Admirals lost to Halls and Powell that first day, the initial matchup uniting two teams that faced off last post-season.

"Today was literally our first day," Burris said that afternoon. "I thought Connor (Everly) played really well in the second game. That first one, we just didn't have great effort. We were a little rusty. Again, literally the first day, so we've got time to see who will step up. And we're missing three of our top eight that aren't with us right now."

Burris was alluding to Matthew Dickens, who has been out

after a car accident; Blue Sagle, who was out of town; and Alex Evans, who has taken part in a summer internship at Dolly Parton Children's Hospital.

Notably, Dickens has played the most minutes of any returner, though Everly ripped a couple triples and moved well in transition at Karns, too.

Meanwhile, fellow rising senior Westin Carbaugh dropped in some floaters and held his own in the paint, showcasing size Burris will certainly rely on this winter.

The next day, the Ads lost to Grace Christian but bounced back to beat Gibbs as Evans returned for the latter two matchups.

With more of the summer slate ahead, Burris said he is looking for more growth for a team that will feature four seniors to lead this year's squad.

"Just a lot of repetitions," he said. "The more we can practice and rep things, the more it will benefit us and try and play as much as you can to get that live play feel. It's a process, and that's what we signed up to do."

great because college football hasn't started yet," said Matthews, who will begin his third season at the school. "It's going to be on our field behind the school and its going to be a great environment."

On the possible budding rivalry game between the Lions and the Warriors, Matthews said. "It's always nice to play against teams who are close by and our players and fans are looking forward to this. I'm sure CAK will be looking forward to the game."

Televised

From page 1B

But this time the two teams will play a regionally televised game. WBIR and Mark Packer's Rivalry Thursday and Rivalry Friday crew will be on the call as Concord will be on television for the first time.

Both teams will have to answer an early wake-up call as kickoff is slated for 11 a.m. at Concord's home field, which sets behind the school.

"It's going to be on our home field and it's going to be on a Saturday, which will be

Farragut baseball tradition continues

Ken Lay
Correspondent

Farragut High School hosted its annual youth baseball camp last week at John Heatherly Field.

Head coach Garrett Copeland, his staff and players hosted approximately 165 campers at the event, which took place Monday through Thursday, June 1-4, during the mid-morning hours.

The camp is one of the area's most popular events in the community for aspiring baseball players and others.

And again in 2026, Copeland had to turn players away.

"We had 165-ish campers and we usually have to shut it down about a week before registration and we have to put kids on a wait list," said Co-

peland, who recently completed his second as FHS's head coach by guiding the Admirals to a fifth consecutive Class 4A state championship. "I hate to wait-list kids but I have to do it. "We have to do it because of facilities and resources."

At the camp, which hosted players ranging in age 7 to incoming freshmen, players are taught fundamentals of the game by Farragut coaches and players.

"We had stations and this is good for our players to give back," Copeland said. "I think the kids enjoy being around our players and I think our players enjoy being around the kids."

"Farragut is a unique community and there's a lot of community support and a lot of community interest in baseball.

"It's a great thing to see players who have been coming to the camp since they were 6 and they come here to play. You also have kids who come that don't even play baseball. They're looking to just come and have fun and that's a great thing."

The camp has become an annual staple in the community, but Copeland couldn't trace back its beginnings. He's coached at Farragut for 14 years and has worked every year since coming to the school.

"I don't know who started it," he said. "I think (former) coach (Tommy) Pharr might've started it."

"I've been here for 14 years and we've had it every year that I've been here. Camps like this are pretty common and I think every school has their own."

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Intro to Farragut Class grads reunite

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

About 80 graduates of the Town's Introduction to Farragut Class from the past 12 years gathered to mingle, dine and learn a little more about their town during a reunion Wednesday evening, June 3, in Farragut Community Center.

"This is our first-ever graduate reception," Town administrator David Smoak said. "Our first class was back in 2013, and when this class started, we had this alderman named Ron Honken.

"We were talking about this class because he had gone to Leadership Knoxville, and I had a leadership program before I came [to Farragut]," Smoak said. "He said, 'You know, this would be a great thing for you to do.'

"This has been absolutely fantastic to have the community learn more about the community you live in and work in ... but also to give back to the community," the administrator said. "Last year, Ron's son

Reed [Honken] graduated from our class.

"It's been great to see so many friendly faces and familiar faces," Smoak said. "We've had 183 graduates of the Intro to Farragut program. Truly, it's been just a reward and honor to have each of you come through the class, get to know you a little better during that time, and also have go back into the community and tell the great things that you learned."

"This class, in 2015 for me, was kind of an eye-opener because I had been around other municipalities but not one quite like this one in the way it operates," said Mayor Ron Williams, a 2015 Intro graduate. "It's unique, and I guess you all have seen that when we go through the budget and meet all the people who run our Town, as far as the department heads.

"And it's kind of when you get right down to it, what makes us unique and one of the reasons we don't owe anybody like towns around us is



Tammy Cheek

Introduction to Farragut class members, Bill and Susan McManus, enjoy a reunion dinner at Farragut Community Center Wednesday, June 3.

good management," he said. "That starts with Mr. Smoak and his staff ... we're all pretty thrifty and really watchful over the Town money."

After the Intro experience, Williams served a couple terms on the Board of Zoning Appeals before being elected alderman, serving on Farra-

gut Municipal Planning Commission and other committees and two terms as mayor.

See INTRO on Page 4B



Photo submitted

Farragut High School alumnus Nathan Reczek of Farragut recently successfully graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy.

Farragut native graduates from U.S. Naval Academy

Staff Reports
editor@farragutpress.com

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND—Nathan Reczek of Farragut has successfully completed four years of challenging academic, physical and professional military training, graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in data science and a commission as a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Reczek, son of Michael Reczek, is a graduate of Farragut High School. At the academy, Reczek was a member of the 27th Company.

Founded in 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy "is a prestigious four-year service academy that prepares midshipmen morally, mentally and physically to be professional officers

in the naval service," a press release stated. "More than 4,400 men and women representing every state in the United States and several foreign countries make up the student body, known as the Brigade of Midshipmen.

"U.S. News and World Reports has recognized the Naval Academy as the 2025 No. 1 public school and No. 3 best liberal arts college," the release added. "Midshipmen learn from military and civilian instructors and participate in intercollegiate varsity sports and extracurricular activities. "They also study subjects, such as leadership, ethics, small arms, drill, seamanship and navigation, tactics, naval engineering and weapons and

See NAVAL GRAD on Page 5B

Local author co-pens middle grade time travel adventure

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

Traveling through time and saving history — three middle-grade youngsters find adventure while searching for their missing dad.

That is the plot behind "Paladins of the Sacred Line — Book One: Siege of Boston," co-authored by Tim Holder, a West Knoxville historian, speaker and radio show host, and MB Mooney of Georgia, who joined up to bring adventure in history for middle school-aged youth.

Holder said he met Mooney at a writer's conference.

"He said, 'We should write a book together because we both have a history background,'" Holder said. "I'm a history professor, and he taught history in middle school."

"His idea was 'let's write a book for middle school readers, and we'll do like a time travel series and we'll have kids in the story go back and meet historical figures,'" Mooney told Holder.

The two collaborated long distance to write the book. They started their endeavor about five or six years ago and finished it about two or three years ago.

"And then, we were looking at publishing options," Holder said. "A publisher picked us up last year. It just came out in April."

The book, published by Sciv-Kids, is available on Amazon.

"He thought it would be cool if we picked a time period the kids would actually be learning about in school," Holder said of Mooney.

The story revolves around early teen brother and sister, Mike and Grace, and their best friend Shawn. Mike and Grace's dad is a time traveler, a Paladin, or guardian, of time.

"He's stuck in the past and they need to go rescue him, but they also need to save George Washington," Holder related. "A lot of eighth-graders study early U.S. history."

Holder explained Paladin is synonym for knight.



Holder

"We thought that would be a cool word to use," he added.

Regarding the sacred line, he said it referred to the timeline, which is "kind of sacred. You can't go back and change the past because that will change the present."

In a sequel, "what historical figures will they be looking at next year in school?" Holder

See AUTHOR on Page 5B



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• Riverside Coffee Shop is hosting its first annual Pickleball Tournament on Sunday, June 14, at 1 p.m. on the pickleball courts at Mayor Bob Leonard Park in Farragut. This is a family-community event and sponsorships are available. Contact angie@riversidetp.org for more information.

• Morning Pointe's Hardin Valley campus will host a Father's Day Classic Car Show on Tuesday, June 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2449 Reagan Road Knoxville. Residents, families, and members of the public are invited to enjoy an afternoon celebrating fathers and father figures while exploring a collection of automobiles spanning generations. The event is open to the public.

• Morning Pointe of Lenoir City Assisted Living and Memory Care campus will host its annual Cruise-In event on Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 155 Morning Pointe Drive in Lenoir City. Guests can expect a variety of classic cars on display, along with small business vendors, basket raffles and food available for purchase from the Morning Pointe culinary team. Admission to attend the event is free.

Center invites community members to the Friends of Wesley House Breakfast on Thursday, June 26, at 7:30 a.m., hosted at Cokesbury United Methodist Church. The breakfast is free to attend, but advance RSVP is required. To RSVP, host a table, or learn more about sponsorship opportunities, contact Wesley House at 865-524-5494 or email events@wesleyhouseknox.org

• The Knoxville Area Urban League (KAUL) is seeking support from sponsors, vendors and volunteers for this year's Shoes for School event. The event will be held Saturday, August 8, from 9 a.m. to noon at Covenant Health Park. Sponsors and volunteers can register now at givebutter.com/2026-shoes-for-school-oswjd.

• Registration is now open for the 2026 Emory Valley Center Dragon Boat Race on Saturday, Aug. 15, at Melton [Hill] Lake in Oak Ridge. Each team will race in authentic dragon boats with 10 paddlers and one drummer. Team sponsorships and event proceeds directly benefit the individuals and families served by Emory Valley Center. For more information, contact Aaron. Price@evcmail.org. Register at www.emoryvalleycenter.org/dragon-boat-race-2026/

Intro From page 3B

Reunion attendees also heard from Town historian Frank Galbraith, who related the history of how the Town of Farragut came about, starting with the birth of James Glasgow Farragut, later adopted by David Porter and changed his name to David Glasgow Farragut. His father Jorge Farragut, originally from the Balearic Islands, lived in old Concord after he fought in the Revolutionary War and got a land grant.

"In the 1880s, Concord, discovered in 1854, was the largest

city outside Knoxville," the historian said. "They discovered marble in them there hills."

Every year, Galbraith presents "Day of Infamy," a presentation about the bombing of Pearl Harbor. This year, the event will be on Dec. 7 in the Town Hall.

Attendees also heard from Steve Krempasky, who graduated from the first Intro class in 2013.

"It was all about learning about this town, and this Town really intrigued me a lot," he said about the class. "Farragut was a different town in 2013 than what we have today," Krempasky said. "But, that

background, driving to different locations, having guest speakers and sitting in the Board meetings and committee meetings, that made a big impression on me. It gave me a civic lesson of my life."

In 2015, he became executive director of Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance, on which he served until his retirement last year.



Krempasky



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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ON PROPOSED CODE OF ORDINANCES

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing on the adoption of municipal code of ordinances will be held by the Board of Mayor & Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee, at 6:00 p.m. on the 25th day of June 2026, at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut, TN 37934, to hear citizen comments on the following ordinances:

1. Approval of Ordinance 26-12, an Ordinance on the second reading of the Town of Farragut, Tennessee, Amending the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Capital Investment Program Fund Budget, Passed by Ordinance 25-10.

A copy of the proposed code of ordinances is available online at www.townoffarragut.org or the recorder's office for anyone who desires to examine it in advance of the hearing.

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BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING
Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 6:00 PM

1) Call to Order
A) Election of Officers
2) Approval of Minutes
A) Approval of February 25, 2026 Minutes
3) Public hearing on a request for
A) Public hearing on a request for approval of a Special Exception to expand an existing nonconforming building at 800 N. Campbell Station Road, Zoned C-2 (oysk3 Architects, Applicant)

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

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Farragut Board of Mayor & Aldermen Workshop Meeting
Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 5:15 PM

AGENDA
I. Roll Call
II. Business Items
A. Review of Applications Submitted to Serve on Volunteer Committees
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.

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FARRAGUT BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Minutes
A. May 28, 2026, Minutes
IV. Mayor's Report
V. Ordinances & Resolutions
A. Ordinances
1. First Reading
a. Ordinance 26-10, an ordinance on first reading to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Appendix A - Zoning, Chapter 3. - Specific District Regulations, to replace Section V. - Rural Single-Family Acre Residential District (R-1-S-A), with the Rural Large-Lot Estate District (RLE)
2. Second Reading & Public Hearing
a. Ordinance 26-09, an ordinance on second 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
VI. Business Items
A. Request for approval of the Village Green Swim Team Triathlon on July 16, 2026
B. Approval of Fiscal Year 2027 Volunteer Committee Appointments
VII. Citizens Forum
VIII. Town Administrator's Report
IX. Town Attorney's Report
X. 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

000 LEGALS

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FARRAGUT MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

AGENDA
I) Call to Order
II) Approval of Agenda
III) Approval of Minutes
A) Approval of minutes for the May 21, 2026 meeting.
IV) Action Items
A) Appointment of Youth Representative for the next fiscal year
B) Discussion and public hearing on Resolution PC-26-07, a resolution for Planning Commission recommendation on Ordinance 26-13, an ordinance to amend the Farragut Zoning Map for a portion of the property located at 817 Virtue Road from S-1 (Community Service) and Agricultural (A) to R-1 (Rural Single-Family Residential), 8.55 Acres (Benchmark Associates, Inc., Applicant)
C) Discussion and public hearing on a final plat for Phase 2, Unit 2 of the Grove at Boyd Station Subdivision, 15.86 Acres, 32 Lots, Zoned R-1/OSMR (Lynch Surveys, LLC., Applicant)
D) Discussion and public hearing on a preliminary plat for Grigsby Park, Phase 2, 27.5 Acres, 47 Lots, Zoned R-4 and Floodplain District (Urban Engineering, Inc., Applicant)
V) Discussion Items
VI) Approval of Utilities
VII) Citizens Forum

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

Naval grad
From page 3B

military law," it stated. "Upon graduation, midshipmen earn a Bachelor of Science degree in a choice of 26 different subject majors and go on to serve at least five years of exciting and rewarding service as com-

missioned officers in the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps," the release added. "The Brigade of Midshipmen is comprised of approximately 4,400 students from every state in the union. Each year, about 1,200 students are admitted to the Naval Academy's incoming class."

The academy's alumni include, one president, 32 members of Congress, six governors, 72 Medal of Honor recipients, two Nobel Prize winners, 56 astronauts, 56 Rhodes Scholars and more than 4,000 admirals and generals.

Hunley
From page 1B

Dodgen's mentorship. After his high school days, he played at Tennessee Tech.

"I was a guard. I played both point guard and shooting guard," he said. "I was pretty versatile and I did just about everything. I did what I could do to get on the floor."

Hunley knows that basketball is a team game, no matter the environment.

"Basketball is a team game. You have to play together and you have to have a chemistry, whether it's pick-up games or if it's organized ball."

Burris said that Hunley is a welcomed addition to the coaching staff at FHS.

"When I came here, he always

wanted to be involved but the timing just wasn't right," Burris said. "Then I reached out.

"We played here together and he does things the right way. I really feel like he fits our program. He really fits in with our other coaches like Adam did. Coach Jenkins got a really, really good job opportunity and he wasn't going to have time to help us."

Farragut students earn collegiate honors

Southern New Hampshire University has announced Cheralyn Jones and Gillian Bartholomew, both of Farragut, were named to the university's spring 2026 President's List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.70 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning

12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring and summer.

Additionally, at Berry College in Rome, Georgia, Jordan Tichon and Tyson Zachary of Knoxville were named to its Dean's List, for which students who posted an academic grade-point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale while carrying a class load of at least 12 hours during the semester are named.

www.farragutpress.com

Author
From page 3B

asked. "That will help drive that decision" for the sequel's plot."

Holder was a dean at Walter's State Community College a few years ago, when he decided to teach part time, writes and does public speaking. He writes mostly about early presidents and faith. Sometimes, he will combine the two.

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Bob Watt Fishing Rodeo

A cool spring morning welcomed children ages 6 to 12 and their parents to Anchor Park Saturday, May 9, for Town of Farragut's 42nd Annual Bob Watt Fishing Rodeo.

With two time sessions — 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m., 100 youngsters participated in each session. Winners of each session are:

• 7 a.m.: Coraline Thompson in Girls 6 and Under category for catching the heaviest fish, 4.11 pounds; Lidia Ewan in Girls 7 and 8 years old for catching the heaviest fish, 3.77 pounds; Clara Ewan in Girls 10-12 for catching the heaviest fish, 3.15 pounds; Si Williams in Boys 6 and Under for catching heaviest fish, 3.8 pounds; Asher Grant in Boys 10-12 division for catching heaviest fish, 3.81 pounds; and Liam Walker in Boys 7 and 8 years category for catching heaviest fish, 4.27 and catching the most fish in his category.

• 9 a.m.: In the boys categories, the biggest fish award went to Griffin Griffin, who also won for the most fish; the smallest fish award went to Knox Hendrix. In the girls' category, Claire Moirressey won for the biggest fish, Layla Moser for catching the most fish and Emma Wang for catching the smallest fish.



1. Mason Walker, 12, gets 3.5-pound fish weighed by Ryan Rhodus, P&R program director
 2. First session winners, from left: Coraline Thompson, Lidia Ewan, Clara Ewan, Si Williams, Asher Grant and Liam Walker
 3. Ethan Pitts, 7
 4. Nathan Elliott, 6
 5. Eric Cunningham with daughter Harper, 6
 6. Madeline Minter, 10
 7. Lydia Ewan, 7, gets 3.77-pound fish weighed by volunteer Dallas Malone
 8. Merik Cameron, dad Adam Cameron, Ari Cameron and Evie Cameron

Photos by Tammy Cheek

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As the 2026 election season approaches, farragutpress is providing political candidates with an opportunity to share their message directly with readers through candidate profiles published in the newspaper.

- Each candidate may submit one profile, and the written content should be 400 words or fewer.
- One photograph may accompany the profile.
- While the newspaper will not alter the substance or message of submitted profiles, it reserves the right to make spelling and grammar corrections as needed / AP style.
- All submissions will be reviewed by the Publisher prior to print deadlines to ensure they meet established standards.
- Candidates need to provide contact information with their submission in case clarification or follow-up is necessary.

Candidates may email their political profiles to
editor@farragutpress.com

The deadline for political profiles prior to
 the August 6th election is 12 p.m. on Friday, July 10th.

Deadline for profiles is
 Friday by 12 p.m. prior to the
 following week's publication.

