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Tammy Cheek

Farragut mayoral candidates, Alex Cain and Louise Povlin, explained their positions on the Town's issues to Concord Farragut Area Republican Club members.

Candidates clash on growth

Traffic, development dominate Farragut mayoral forum

Tammy Cheek
 tcheek@farragutpress.com

Growth, traffic and future development dominated the discussion as Farragut mayoral candidates Alex Cain and Louise Povlin outlined competing visions for the Town during a standing-room-only meeting of Concord Farragut Area Republican Club on Wednesday, July 1, at Fruition Café.

The candidates each spoke for 10 minutes before taking questions from attendees. While both emphasized public engagement and expressed optimism about increased law enforcement patrols under incoming Knox County Sheriff Brent Gibson, they differed on how Farragut should approach future development.

Cain came to Farragut in 1998, following his par-

ents here.

"What drew me to Farragut was the people, the atmosphere, the small town feeling we have," he said. "When I got here in 1998 ... there was no Turkey Creek. It was all woods."

Then, the developments came. Still, "the feel of the town was great." Cain said. "During that same time, there was a lot of investment in our infrastructure ...

from outside sources."

Then, "somewhere between 2010 and 2012, to me, things started to change," he said. "We started to get more traffic. We started to see different types of developments come in, and the atmosphere and the feeling to me changed ... from rural, small town, to suburban."

"What we had was

See MAYORAL on Page 4A

The road ahead

TDOT outlines options to address needs along I-40/75

Tammy Cheek
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More than 100 residents attended a Tennessee Department of Transportation public meeting at the Farragut Community Center on Wednesday, July 1, to review proposed improvements to a 17-mile stretch of Interstate 40/75 aimed at easing congestion, improving safety and upgrading aging infrastructure.

The meeting focused on TDOT's Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) study for the interstate corridor from the I-40/I-75 interchange in Loudon County to the I-640 interchange west of Knoxville.

According to TDOT, eight alternatives have been developed to address growing traffic volumes, truck traffic, aging infrastructure, drainage issues and safety concerns. Two of those alternatives — adding general-purpose lanes or constructing choice lanes — are the preliminary recommendations while six others remain under evaluation.

"Right now, we've got eight alternatives that have been researched," TDOT Regional Communications officer Mark Nagi said. "Two of those are the preliminarily recommended alternatives: choice lanes and

See TDOT on Page 6A



Independence Day parade ushers in America 250



Carlos Reveiz/crfoto.com

farragutpress received second place for Best Sports Photograph for "Admirals season ends," by Carlos Reveiz.

farragutpress receives statewide recognition

Tammy Cheek
 tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut's hometown newspaper, the farragutpress, continues to win among its East Tennessee counterparts.

At the annual Tennessee Press Association awards ceremony, which has been co-sponsored by the University of

Tennessee System for 86 years, on Thursday, June 25, farragutpress received second place for Best Sports Photograph for "Admirals season ends," by Carlos Reveiz, and second place in Best Special Issue or Section for "Even Better Now," on Town of Farragut's

See STATEWIDE on Page 2A



Top: From left, Mavis Holmes, 5; Charles Saponara, 6; and brother Lewis Saponara, 9. **Right:** Clayton and Kirby Ginn and their children show off their patriotic outfits. **Above:** From left, Sheila Schreyer, Maureen Kamata and Masa Kamata.



Jake Nichols
 jnichols@farragutpress.com

Kingston Pike was packed with patriotic parade-goers on Saturday, July 4, during the Town of Farragut's annual Independence Day parade, which followed the annual Farragut Freedom Run. The event held an even deeper meaning than usual, as America's 250th anniversary was celebrated in Farragut and across the country. Children tossed footballs and softballs while awaiting the parade floats, which were preceded by local Boy Scout Troop 444 carrying the Independence Day banner. Other parade participants included the Farragut High School Marching Admirals, Farragut Mayor Ron Williams and Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, among several others. Check out West Side Faces for plenty more action from last Saturday's festivities. See page 2B



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LaCroix added to expanded Stormwater Committee

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

In response to the May 8 sewer line break, the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted during its Thursday, June 25, meeting to amend the Town's Stormwater Advisory Committee charter by adding a Board member to the committee.

Previously composed of seven members, the committee now will have eight members. Following the charter amendment, the Board appointed Alderman Joe LaCroix to serve on the committee.

"At the last Board workshop on June 11, you discussed adding a Board member to the Stormwater Advisory Committee," Town engineer Darryl Smith said.

During that June 11 workshop, LaCroix said he wanted

to amend the committee's charter to include a Board member.

"(Adding a Board member) can be done very simply," Smith said June 25. "It's very straightforward."

Before the appointment, Alderman Alex Cain voiced his support.

"I understand Alderman LaCroix has expressed his desire for this, and I think you'll be very good at it, Joe," Cain said.

"I agree with Alderman Cain," Vice Mayor Scott Meyer added. "I think Alderman LaCroix would be great."

"I do, too," Mayor Ron Williams said before the Board appointed LaCroix.

During public forum, Kimberlie Parks said she had applied to serve on Town committees, but her application was not included in the binder provided to Board members.

"This is about the third time in approximately eight months I have volunteered to serve for the Town and was never given the actual opportunity," she said. "At some point, this becomes a pattern ... it does not encourage meaningful citizen involvement."

In other business, the Board approved an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Capital Investment Program Fund budget to cover additional expenses for the Enterprise Resource Planning, or ERP, software implementation project. The original budget for the project was \$160,000.

However, "during the implementation process, additional unforeseen expenses were incurred, including GovSense consultant travel and the purchase of supplemental user licenses that were not included

in the original scope," Town Finance director and treasurer Tessa Cortes reported.

"To properly account for these costs, a budget amendment is required to transfer \$8,000 from CIP reserves to CIP expenditures," she said.

The Board also approved:

- Guidelines for Town records maintenance and retention, authorizing the Municipal Technical Advisory Service, a unit of the University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service, to compile and print a records retention manual for use by municipal officials.

- An emergency contract to replace a storm sewer pipe on Glen Abbey Boulevard.

The deteriorating pipe was first discovered in April after a depression formed in the southbound through lane, As-

sistant Town engineer Eric Schindler said.

"The pipe was in poor condition, but replacement was not initially deemed immediately necessary," he said, adding crews excavated the area, covered the pipe with geotextile fabric, backfilled the site and repaved the roadway.

However, another roadway failure occurred toward the end of May.

"Upon inspection, it was determined that repairs are no longer an option and emergency replacement of the pipe by replacing the existing corrugated metal pipe with reinforced concrete pipe is necessary," Schindler said.

He recommended awarding the \$250,000 project to Whaley Construction Inc. Repairs are expected to take two to four weeks.

Statewide

From page 1A

remodeled Town Hall.

"Congratulations to our farragutpress editorial team on this well-deserved recognition," farragutpress general manager Kathy Hartman said. "Winning multiple awards and earning several top-five honors is a testament to our team's dedication to delivering outstanding local journalism and serving the community with excellence."

"Receiving this recognition from the Tennessee Press Association is truly humbling," Reveiz said. "I never set out to win awards — I simply wanted to use my camera to tell the stories of our local athletes and preserve moments they'll remember for the rest of their lives and our amazing community!"

The paper also won fifth place for Best News Reporting for Food Insecurity series by Tammy Cheek; fourth place

for Best Sports Coverage by Alan Sloan, Bill Howard and Tony Cox; fourth place for Best Business Coverage by Tammy Cheek, Tony Christen and Cindy Wilfert; and fifth place for Local Features for West Side Faces.

According to a press release, the ceremony honors newspapers, journalists and media organizations for outstanding work in reporting, photography, writing, design and public service.

"Local journalism helps tell the stories of our communities while keeping people informed about the issues that matter most in their daily lives," said Keith Carver, senior vice chancellor and senior vice president of the UT Institute of Agriculture. "That purpose aligns closely with our land-grant mission. Whether through local newsrooms or university outreach, we share a responsibility to provide trusted, research-based information that serves Tennesseans and helps

communities thrive."

The ceremony was held during a luncheon at the Embassy Suites in Franklin, which featured 1,088 entries submitted by 68 member newspapers and online publications. Entries were judged by the Maine Press Association through the Tennessee Press Association's reciprocal judging process.

Tennessee Press Association is the trade association of Tennessee's daily and non-daily newspapers and online news organizations and it is the parent organization of Tennessee Press Service and Tennessee Press Association Foundation. It was founded in 1870-71 for the purpose of creating a unified voice for the newspaper industry of Tennessee.

farragutpress

Second place in Best Special Issue or Section for "Even Better Now," on Town of Farragut's remodeled Town Hall.



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For the students, parents, teachers, and residents of Farragut:

Keep access open to Kingston Pike at Boring Road—right in, right out.
This is the right decision for the safety, convenience, and well-being of our community.

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THE FACTS: Farragut Outperforms the Nation*

- **97% Positive Rating** - Farragut is a great place to live (higher than the national average)
- **95% Positive Rating** - Overall quality of life in our town
- **92% Positive Rating** - Overall economic health (much higher than the national benchmark)
- **Top 2% Nationwide** - 75% of residents rate the Value of Services for taxes paid positively, putting Farragut in the 98th percentile globally

*Town of Farragut NCS Survey, 2025 Results

THE RECORD: 10 Years of Proven Progress

Safer Roads and Improved Infrastructure:

- Significant roadway and traffic improvements were completed or advanced across Farragut
- A modernized town-wide traffic signal system improved traffic flow
- Pedestrian safety and ADA accessibility addressed town wide

Revitalized Commercial Spaces:

- Blight to Business - demolished or repurposed outdated properties
- Economic Reinvestment - renewed vitality in Farragut Town Center, Dixie Lee, Turkey Creek, and Outlet Drive area

World Class Parks & Future Planning:

- Major upgrades were delivered at McFee Park, Mayor Bob Leonard Park, Anchor Park
- Sidewalk/trail connections and expansions were completed, designed, or budgeted
- Town Hall renovations were completed
- Public plazas and streetscapes enhanced
- Long-range planning advanced for transportation, stormwater, and corridor improvements—positioning Farragut for continued success

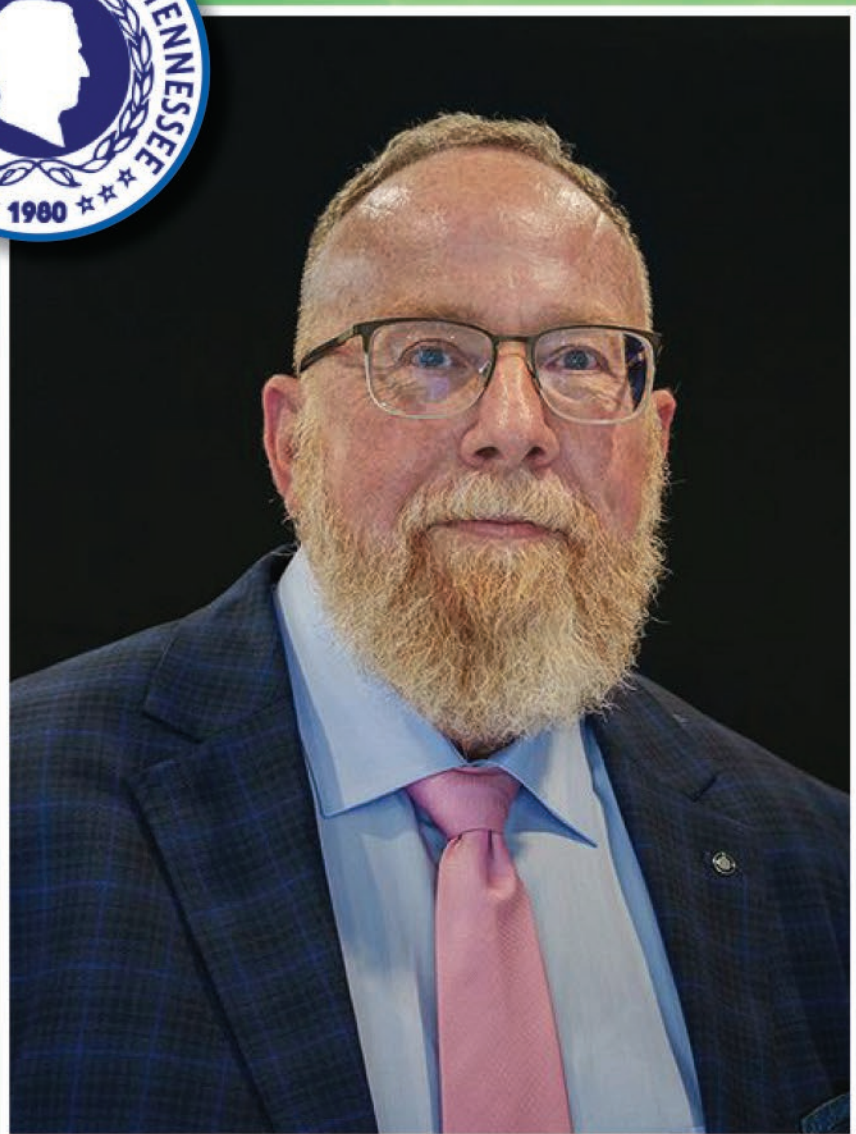
THE VISION: Community Guided Planning

True leadership doesn't mean calling our home a "failure" for political gain. It means protecting our neighborhoods, addressing traffic constructively, and utilizing data-driven transparency to guide growth.

Early voting July 17 - August 1 | Election Day August 6th

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Farragut has never had a property tax — and I'll make sure it stays that way. I'm committed to disciplined spending, long-term planning, and growing revenue through a strong business community.

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Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

The choice for Mayor is very clear. Louise Povlin has the required demonstrated experience, knowledge, work ethic, and integrity to be an outstanding Mayor to lead Farragut. Her demonstrated experience and proven performance as an Alderman for the North Ward, as Vice Mayor, and a member of the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission make her by far the most qualified candidate. I first got to know Louise when she served with me on the Planning Commission, and I saw first hand the hard work she put into understanding each and every agenda item, as well as the associated Ordinances and Regulations. She was always prepared. She was quick to see where improvements could be made and often took the lead on working with all parties for input to keep Farragut moving forward. As Alderman, she took this same focus and ability to work with the citizens, the Town staff, and all stakeholders on a variety of items. Examples include working with various HOA's and affected sectors of the Town for input related to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) or addressing improvements to the Town's road plans including cross-sections to address safety concerns and tailor them to create a more small town feel rather than using handbook specifications for widths with curb and gutter as seen in more urban environments. She has a comprehensive understanding of the Town's needs and budget priorities. She understands the importance of the small business community to our Town, and since both she and her husband have been small business owners in our Town she can relate to their needs. She has a firm stance on "no more apartments" and "no property tax." Look around you, Farragut is an outstanding place to live and raise a family, and Louise has played a significant role in moving the Town forward. On the other hand, her opponent has been an Alderman for only two years, and to date he has done nothing of significance during his tenure to demonstrate his qualifications or leadership skills to be Mayor. I urge you to vote for Louise Povlin and keep Farragut...Farragut.

Ed St. Clair,
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

As the fastest growing community in the great State of Tennessee, we Farragut resi-

dents are most fortunate to live where we do. I have been living on Sonja Drive since 1971, long before there was a Town of Farragut. Farragut High School was a pasture when I moved in. It's incredible what I have seen come about. We should be grateful that Farragut's originators, particularly Bob Leonard, the Town's first Mayor, recognized the Farragut area's potential and possessed the vision and ability of how best to bring it to being. Every election is a crossroads of sorts, and here we are again. Since the Town's founding, we've had by and large good mayors and aldermen. It is good that citizens step forward with a willingness to serve without pay to guide the Town's future direction. Many serve with little or no experience in governmental matters. However, given the challenges before us, Farragut needs to be led by a mayor that has exemplary qualifications and the depth of knowledge and experience to lead us through the difficult challenges the Town faces. Of the two candidates seeking the position, only Louise Povlin has demonstrated and proven she has those attributes. She is the clear choice for Mayor.

Martin L. Shoffner,
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

On the Fourth of July, I had the tremendous honor of participating in the Town of Farragut's Independence Day Parade as one of the veterans being recognized. It was an experience I will never forget. The morning was spent among an incredible group of veterans representing every branch of our military and a wide range of careers and life experiences. While our backgrounds were different, we shared one common bond — a commitment to serving our country. It was a privilege to be in their company. As we traveled through the streets of Farragut, the overwhelming display of patriotism was inspiring. Families lined the parade route dressed in red, white, and blue. Children eagerly reached for candy, adults waved American flags, and the cheers from the crowd reminded every veteran how deeply their service is appreciated. Seeing generations of Americans celebrating together filled me with pride and hope. For one special day, political differences and everyday concerns seemed to fade into the background. Instead, we came together simply as Americans — celebrating our nation's independence, honor-

ing those who have served, and appreciating the community we call home. It was a powerful reminder of what unites us. My sincere thanks go to Ron Oestreich, his dedicated volunteers, Dian Hall for coordinating the veterans, the Farragut Business Alliance, the Town of Farragut, and the hundreds of volunteers whose hard work made this celebration possible. Their dedication created an event that truly showcased the very best of our community. I am grateful to have served our country, humbled to have been included in this celebration, and truly blessed to call Farragut home.

Nancy Bolon,
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

While housing affordability may not be a significant issue for most current residents of Farragut, since they are the beneficiaries of the surge in housing prices, it has the potential to suppress the desirability of living in Farragut, as well as the growth of our town. The House and Senate recently passed the 21st Century Road to Housing bill by an overwhelming margin of some 90% in both chambers, though the president refused to sign it after having a tantrum over his SAVE act not passing. While not a landmark bill, it's a good step in lowering the cost of housing by increasing the supply and reducing barriers to building them. Our representative, Tim Burchett, was one of 20 House Republicans to vote against the bill, while 168 Republicans voted for it. When asked to explain his vote, a spokesman for Rep. Burchett, Will Garrett, said it was leftist Elizabeth Warren's bill, along with extremist Rep. Rashida Tlaib. The bill was sponsored by Senator Tim Scott (R-SC), and Rep. French Hill (R-AK). While Warren and Tlaib may support it, so do some 90% of both chambers. Are Mr. Garrett or Rep. Burchett suggesting that Senator Scott or Rep. Hill are leftists or extremists, or the other 168 Republicans in the House? Any reasonable steps that can be implemented to reduce the cost of living and improve affordability is a good thing, even in Farragut. It's not clear why Rep. Burchett isn't backing bills that do so, and his response suggests that he is the one on the extreme side, not those he mentions. He claims to want to lower costs for us but then votes against bills that will.

Ron Moore ,
Farragut, TN

Mayoral
From page 1A

this continued development upon development upon development," Cain said. "Then in 2018, we had the proposal come in for Biddle Farms. He remembered looking from Farragut High School to the property being developed and saw four-story apartment buildings.

"I remember that was never part of the original plan," Cain said. When Biddle Farms was being developed, he decided to get more involved personally in Town government. He ran and was elected alderman in 2024. While knocking on doors, "What I heard more than anything is 'they don't want to listen to us when we talk about it,'" Cain related.

He observed a lot of the traffic is cut-through traffic.

"How do we solve the cut-through problem?" he asked. "We want people to come to our town ... our town runs on sales tax revenue."

He said road improvements could help address traffic while calling for more public participation in development decisions.

"Let's truly look at anything that's being proposed and get a lot of citizen input to it," Cain said. "If you elect me as mayor, the big thing I want to make sure we do is spend a lot of time collecting citizen input. ... I want to hear from the people. I want to have a regular dialogue — back and forth — on a regular basis."

Povlin moved to Farragut 18 years ago. With her children attending Knox County Schools, she spent a lot of time volunteering in the schools.

Then in 2013, she showed up at a Farragut Municipal Planning Commission meeting, asking it to fix a road instead of another, and "they agreed with me."

At the end of that meeting, she recalled past mayor, the late Ralph McGill, asked her to take a vacancy on the FMPC.

Povlin was appointed to complete former Alderman Ron Honken's term in 2016, won election to the seat that year and was re-elected in 2020. She was term-limited in 2024 but continues to serve on

the Municipal Planning Commission.

In relating the Town's history, Povlin said, "We are going to operate without a property tax. The only way this community should ever take on a property tax is by referendum."

"If the citizens in this community want an amenity or a service that we can't afford under our current funding, then we need to get together ... get it on a referendum," she said. "I am adamantly opposed to ever adopting a property tax."

Povlin said she has concerns about people saying "get back to a small-town atmosphere."

"I have concerns that means you plan to not build any more sidewalks and trails in our future road projects," she said. "That needs to be made clear for us."

"The Mixed Use Town Center has its roots in a 1991 land use plan, which was adopted under Mayor Bob Leonard," Povlin said. "The Town Center was defined in the 2001 land use plan, which was adopted under [Mayor] Eddy Ford. That's where the four-story buildings came from."

"The four-story buildings were part of the Town Center Plan and Town Center Zoning District that was created in 2007," she said.

The concept was then adopted in a 2012 Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Regarding future development, Povlin said she believes public input is important but must be balanced with property owners' rights.

"I want to hear," she said, referring to residents' concerns.

"Residents need to be engaged, but they need to understand we can't just say no on a certain project," Povlin said. "I understand the desire to slow growth, but property owners have due process rights, and we are required to provide a structure through which they can exercise their rights."

She noted, though, there are no more apartments zoned to be in the Town.

On law enforcement, both candidates said they have spoken with incoming Knox County Sheriff Brent Gibson and are optimistic patrol coverage in Farragut will increase.

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60 years, Pattersons is 'here to stay'

Tammy Cheek
tcheek@farragutpress.com

For 60 years, Pattersons Home Appliance Center has seen the company grow from a service-oriented business to sales.

At the 25th anniversary of Pattersons Home Appliance Center in 2018, third-generation co-owner Mark Patterson said the business "is here to stay."

"The secret to our success for over 60 years is simple: treat every customer like family," he said last week. "From helping you choose the right appliance, to delivering it with care, to standing behind it with dependable service — we believe relationships last longer than warranties."

Don Patterson founded the business in 1965, in Harri-man, Roane County. Then July 12, 1993, the Patterson family opened its third location at 10640 Kingston Pike, just outside Farragut. Its second location is in Oak Ridge in 1986 or 1987. It also has a location in Crossville and Rockwood.

"I've had the privilege of working at Pattersons Home Appliances Center for more than four years," said Steve "Slim" Stiltz, Pattersons' outside sales and promotions. "Before that, I spent over 35 years working for my own family's business, so I truly understand the values that make a family-owned company spe-

cial," he said. "At Pattersons, taking care of our customers doesn't end with the sale — it begins there."

"From helping you choose the right appliance for your home to coordinating a seamless delivery to being there when you need service, we go the extra mile every step of the way," Stiltz said. "That's the difference a family-owned business makes. To us, you're not just a customer, your part of the family."

"The fact that we're a third generation-run business, that's something that we're very proud of as a company," said Brittany Fordham, sales for Pattersons. "That we've stayed in business continually since 1965, our reputation in the communities."

"We're community-oriented, family-oriented," she said. "We try very hard to do right by everybody who walks in the door, and that's something that's been that way for day one."

She surmised Pattersons' success is attributed to the company's values.

"Our company values start with 'honor God in all that we do,'" Fordham said. Then, "respecting others, doing good work, helping others, forgiving others, by giving thanks and celebrating life."

"That's something that the Pattersons all sat together and came up with as our values, and we really try every day to live by those values in our business," she said.



Photo submitted

The Patterson team, Steve "Slim" Stiltz, left, outside sales and promotions; Gerald Branch, appliance specialist; and Brittany Fordham, sales, are serving the community.

About Pattersons, "We're very honest in what we do," Fordham added. "We don't try to hide things from our customers ... we're going to be very upfront. Here's the issue and here's what we're going to do to fix it."

"We hope no one ever has an issue, but if problems arise, we're very honest, and we do care," she said. "That's our slogan, 'because we care.'"

Through the years, Pattersons has seen the technology and the type of appliances change, Fordham said.

"We started out as a service company, servicing, refriger-

erants," she said. "I believe we serviced air conditioning units. The natural progression was that we moved into selling the appliances themselves and still servicing everything."

"What appliances people buy have changed," Fordham observed. For example, "dishwashers weren't really a home appliance [in the 1960s] as heavily as they are now. That also varies from area to area."

"In Roane County where we started, dishwashers are still not in 40 percent of the homes," she said.

The Kingston Pike location

was added "just to expand our customer base, expand where we can service, to expand Pattersons as a whole," Fordham said.

Today, the company carries the entire Whirlpool line: Amana, Whirlpool, Maytag, KitchenAid and JennAir.

It offers delivery and installation and repair on all appliances it sells.

"What we sell is what we service," Stiltz said.

The store is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday; from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and closed on Sundays.

Nordstrom Rack opens

Shoppers lined up around the Nordstrom Rack building, 11417 Parkside Drive in Pinnacle at Turkey Creek, Thursday, June 25, for the store's grand opening, featuring giveaways and sales.

The 30,000-square-foot store offered 70 percent off on apparel, shoes and beauty products.

One of the biggest winners was Mya Torres, who won the \$1,000 drawing.

Before the big day, media members and social media influencers had an early sneak peak in the store Tuesday, June 23, when refreshments and gift cards were provided.

From left: Nordstrom Rack store manager Amanda Coutu welcomed shoppers. George Norris, Nordstrom area asset protection manager, greeted customers entering the media day event.

Tammy Cheek





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TDOT

From page 1A

general-purpose lanes.

"The other six are still being evaluated," he added. "So, the study will continue, and we expect to have this study complete by the end of the calendar year. At that time, there will be multiple alternatives that will go forward into the engineering phase, the NEPA environmental phase.

"After that, we will see where things stand and if we can get this implemented in TDOT's 10-year plan," Nagi said.

Residents filled the community center's Assembly Hall to examine display boards outlining the alternatives while speaking one-on-one with TDOT staff members and consultants.

"It's my understanding that this is just the beginning of the process," said Steve Krempasky, former Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance executive director. "They have until 2030 to put together the total plan for this bypass, which is desperately needed because so much through traffic just clogs the town's arteries and doesn't stop."

Krempasky also praised TDOT's approach to gathering public input.

"You can see TDOT is working hard here," he said.

"They've got so many representatives out on the floor talking one-on-one with people. I thought that was kind of cool, and there are opportunities to comment on paper and on-line."

"There's a lot of public involvement, and that's important," former Farragut Municipal Planning Commissioner Ed St. Clair said. "Somewhere in these alternatives a solution will emerge, but the problem needs to be solved. It needed to be solved like 30 years ago."

State Sen. Becky Massey said improving the interstate corridor remains one of Tennessee's top infrastructure priorities.

"I was pleased with the turnout at TDOT's public meetings regarding possible solutions to our increasing congestion on I-40/I-75 through Knox County," said Massey, who represents District 6. "I'm thankful for the major investments the Tennessee General Assembly has made during the last several years, but we're going to have to do a lot more to meet the infrastructure needs of our state."

"I will continue to advocate for long-term solutions to meet the challenges of a growing population, increased costs of building and maintaining our roads and the increased wear and tear on our roads,"

she said.

State Sen. Dr. Richard Briggs, who represents District 7, said TDOT presented a thorough overview of the project.

"I believe that TDOT presented all the different options, how they arrived at them and what their decisions are," Briggs said. "They had many of their engineers and out-of-town consultants there to answer anyone's questions around the posters."

Briggs said the project will likely come down to either adding one lane in each direction or constructing choice lanes.

"But there are too many things that have to be decided," he said. "One is what the final plan will be. I believe it's really

going to come down to whether we add one additional lane in each direction or build these choice lanes, which would be pay lanes with two additional lanes in each direction."

Funding, he added, may be the larger challenge.

"Probably a bigger issue is how we're going to pay for this," Briggs said. "That's also going to determine how long it takes."

Briggs, who serves on the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, said the committee has been studying transportation funding options.

"They've gone through a 92-page report on different ways we can pay for this," he said. "They give three

different scenarios.

"However, we're a pay-as-you-go state," Briggs added. "The only source of revenue to maintain and build roads is the gas tax. We're going to have to come up with a different way to pay for it."

Farragut Mayor Ron Williams said the study also addresses another longstanding concern: flooding along the interstate corridor.

"All along the ridgeline, you've got flooding of water that comes in, and it's all headed to the lake," Williams said. "We call this area Turkey Creek. You've also got Second Creek and Third Creek in the City of Knoxville. All that water has to go somewhere."

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Time for Regime Change

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Louise Povlin has done these things during her time in power.

- Approved 4 story apartments on the Biddle property during COVID without public hearings.
- Denied good sales tax tenants on the Ford property and denied a town center development on the Ford property by changing the zoning text amendment
- Promoted greenway taking of residential home front yards on Turkey Creek Road and Evans Road. The homeowners hired a lawyer and sued to stop Louise Povlin
- Denied a new assisted living project off Boring Road by voting against it, after the Planning Commission had approved the assisted living community by a vote of 6-3. Then Louise led the effort to deny the assisted living community.
- Trying to close the Boring Road access to Kingston Pike that will cause a safety and access hazard for parents, teachers and students for the new elementary school off Boring Road. It should be at least a right in, right out access at Boring Road.

Isn't it time for regime change and send Louise Povlin home.

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Admirals collect statewide recognition

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Since the end of the 2026 prep baseball season, a litany of All-State honors have rolled in from multiple organizations.

Farragut senior Travis Brummitt Jr. was named an All-State selection by the Tennessee Sports Writers' Association, finishing off a year that

also saw a Mr. Baseball finalist nod.

"He's always been a talented player, even coming in as a freshman," Farragut coach Garrett Copeland said of Brummitt. "He had a great swing, but he was big for his size and needed to grow into his body. He moves athletically, and I think this award was a culmination of four years of hard work. Very rightfully

earned."

As for the Tennessee Baseball Coaches' Association selections, Copeland was named the 2026 Co-Coach of the Year, along with Lakeway Christian's Chuck Hargis.

This is Copeland's second consecutive year to receive at least a share of the honor, as he earned the award outright last season.

"It's always a nice honor,

especially by peers and outside members," Copeland said. "But that doesn't come without good players and teams that win, so you have players that produce and work hard and execute. We try to get guys in positions to succeed, but they have to be able to produce in those situations.

"Coaching here isn't something to take for granted, but there are a lot of people that

go into it. It's not just the head coach that does the work, and I look at it more as a program award, not an individual one."

The Ads also received another superlative with Brummitt Jr. being named Co-Pitcher of the Year, along with Greeneville's Will Harmon.

In other TBCA lists, three Admirals were selected to

See STATEWIDE on Page 6B

Brummitt continues legacy

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

In the fall, Travis Brummitt Jr. will enroll at Pellissippi State Community College.

But before he does, he can take time this summer to look back on a senior season to remember.

In the 2026 season, Brummitt emerged as a go-to player for the Farragut baseball program, becoming a Class 4A Mr. Baseball finalist in the process.

He pitched the Admirals past Science Hill in a decisive Game 3 sectional matchup, sending FHS back to the state baseball tournament.

Then, he stayed composed through a rain delay and venue shift to toss a complete game in the state championship, ultimately finding himself at the bottom of a dogpile near the pitcher's mound at Siegel High School on Friday, May 22.

For any player who grows up dreaming of wearing the Farragut colors, that sounds like a dream come true; but it means even more for Brummitt and his family, as his lineage traces through the Admirals' program.

His father, Travis

Brummitt Sr., suited up for the Admirals as a pitcher from 1991 to 1994.

He was not the only Brummitt to find success in blue and white, as late brother Jason Brummitt and younger brother Logan Brummitt all played for the Admirals, too.

Travis Brummitt Sr. continued his success at the next level, playing for Cleveland State before the Yankees picked him in the 37th round of Major League Baseball's 1995 amateur draft.

He wound up bouncing around the minor leagues in the Braves' farm system, eventually meeting his wife Valerie during a stint, playing for the Eugene Emeralds in Eugene, Oregon.

And soon enough, Brummitt Sr. was raising his own son in hopes he would one day wear the same uniform as so many before.

Born in 2008, Travis Brummitt Jr. grew up playing for his father, becoming accustomed to the high expectations that were required to succeed.

As he grew, so did his yearning to take on his family's tradition at FHS. That journey officially began when he transferred in to Farragut Middle School, still playing for his father un-

til he got to high school.

Even then, he learned what it meant to play for a program with a target on its back.

"When you wear Farragut across your chest, every team is going to give you their best and play their hardest to beat you," Brummitt Sr. stated.

The younger Brummitt grew into his talent, choosing long-term success over immediate rewards in his development.

He threw with his dad in the front yard, stayed in the batting cage and focused on what he could control.

Still, his mother worried about how he would fare as part of the Admirals' program.

"What if he doesn't start?" she posed to her husband.

"Then he will have to get better," he replied.

Once he entered high school, Brummitt Jr. did not get many opportunities on the mound since Farragut had so much depth in its arsenal.

But he never considered transferring, still pushing for an opportunity at a place that meant so much.

Finally, his senior year rolled around — and the

See BRUMMIT on Page 6B



Jake Nichols

Farragut senior Travis Brummitt Jr. had a season to remember, continuing a family legacy that stretches through years of history within the Farragut baseball program.

Spadafora repeat highlights 2026 Freedom Run



Submitted

Farragut High School athlete Lucas Spadafora completes the Farragut Freedom Run's 1-mile event on Saturday, July 4. Spadafora's first-place finish and time of 4:58 matched his results from last year, as he has now won the event two straight times.

Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

In 2025, Lucas Spadafora won the Farragut Freedom Run's 1-mile event with a time of four minutes, 58 seconds — and he did it wearing a blue Adidas shirt with black Nike sneakers.

Exactly one year later, on the 250th anniversary of America's independence, the Farragut High School standout executed a perfect rinse and repeat.

He won the same event with the same time, even donning the exact shoes and shirt he wore for his first Freedom Run victory in 2025.

"It was a pretty good feeling," Spadafora said. "Somehow I ran the ex-

act same time as last year, which is pretty crazy. There was one guy who I thought might beat me because he looked pretty fast, but I ended up taking it home."

The repeat occurrence was one of several highlights in the 2026 Freedom Run, which featured more than 500 runners as it preceded the Town's annual Independence Day parade.

In the 2-mile open, Bearden graduate Cash Coggin (10:54) took the top spot, avenging second-place finishes in 2024 and 2022.

"It felt good," Coggin said, "especially after finishing second those two years prior. It was good to get the win."

Behind Spadafora in the 1-mile were David Hudson (5:08) in silver with Jackson Lowe (5:09) in bronze.

Meanwhile, Ryan Hartzel (11:12) finished second to Coggins in the 2-mile, and Quinn DeGuira (11:26) came in third.

In team results, Grace Community Church (31:09.6) totaled the best time in the 1-mile event with Crossways/GH Team (32:47.6) in second and Farragut XC (35:04.4) in third.

In the 2-mile open, Farragut XC (1:13:53.3) took the top team spot while Stars, Stripes & Wolves (1:23:19.3) and Smoky Mountain Service Dogs (2:21:52.9) took silver and bronze.

The Smoky Mountain Service Dogs organization is the beneficiary of the event, as a portion of the proceeds are donated to help its mission.

"It's a dream come true as a business owner, and being able to work with a local organization and give back to that organization that supports our wounded veterans, it's fantastic," Fleet Feet owner Shahin Hadian said. "For us, it means a lot to see them continue to do what they do, and we donate \$6,000 — whether we make that or not — so that it goes to training the dogs."

As of Sunday afternoon, July 5, \$726 had been raised for the orga-

See RUN on Page 6B

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Independence Day Parade

Crowds cheered as floats and parade participants made their way down Kingston Pike on Saturday, July 4, in the Town of Farragut's annual Independence Day parade.

Photos by Tammy Cheek and Jake Nichols



Elaina Nealy



James Bethea, 10, and Patrick McCabe, 3

Left: From left, Ella and Cynthia Anderson, Vivienne and Kayla Oliphant, Kelsea and Madden Walters and Cruz Walters

Below: The Bearden Navy JROTC



From left, Garrett Taber, 7; Ben Taber, 5; Blakely Bowden, 3; and Emory Bowden, 7



Right: Crystal Freeman and 6-year-old Eleanor Freeman

Below: Evan Crook and Ed Mesa



U.S. Air Force veteran Jerry Godolphin waves from the passenger seat of a blue Corvette.



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Left: Matt and Jennifer Smith



Left: From left, Alissa Kennedy with children, Maddie, 9, and Olivia, 13



Above: From left, Lillian McElroy, 2; Anderson White, 4, and Elliana Turvin, 6



Robert Gomez and his dog, Maple



Left, above: Eric Reese, left, and Joe Hollingworth



Left: Fields Hovater, 14, left, and Jared Pace paused for a photo before helping to block off Kingston Pike and keep people off the road during the parade.



Shea, Abby and 2-year-old Maddox Gibson showed off their red, white and blue



Ball family, from left, Landon, 9; Makenna, 13; Audrey, 12; mom Nicole; Sydney, 16; and dad Kyle

farragutpress is now accepting political profile submissions for the 2026 election cycle.

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.

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Tammy Cheek

Farragut Museum's temporary exhibit, "Cornerstones of Community: Churches of Farragut," includes histories of churches and items, such as photos, historical accounts and a Bible from 1887.

New Farragut Museum exhibit features churches

Tammy Cheek

tcheek@farragutpress.com

Farragut Museum presents its newest temporary exhibit, "Cornerstones of Community: Churches of Farragut," which will run until early September in the museum, located in Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive.

"When we opened the museum, we did an exhibit on a tribute to veterans," Town Historic Resources coordinator Kristi Vining said. "Then we did an exhibit about sports stars from Farragut, and then we did an exhibit on Farragut artists.

"Now, our exhibit is on the history of churches in Farragut," she said. "We do these temporary exhibits every four months."

The current temporary display features historic artifacts — church charters, photographs, a 1887 pulpit from Virtue Church and Bibles, according to Vining.

She named the exhibit "cornerstones" because of the importance of the churches in the community "and how they're a gathering spot for neighbors and friends," Vining said. "So,

See CHURCHES on Page 5B

Deeper than a dress

Farragut family shares full-circle Independence Day



Right: Casey Freed and her daughter, 5-year-old Malia Freed, experienced a full-circle moment last Saturday, July 4. Twenty-nine years to the day before this photo was taken, Freed (then Casey Whitson) wore the same dress her daughter is wearing here. She was featured in the July 8, 1998, edition of farragutpress (above).

1998 photo by Dan Ping / Right photo by Jake Nichols



Jake Nichols

jnichols@farragutpress.com

Craning her tiny neck for a better view, 5-year-old Casey Whitson leaned forward on Kingston Pike on July 4, 1998.

Her American flag dress marked the occasion, billowing in the wind during Farragut's annual Independence Day parade.

Former farragutpress editor Dan Ping captured the moment in a sweet photo, which landed on the front page of the next week's newspaper.

Fast-forward 29 years to the day that photo was taken, Whitson, now Casey Freed, stood near the same spot last Saturday.

Her parade attendance stood the test of time.

But so had the dress, which had been purchased by Freed's mother, Kathy Barger.

Except now, that same mate-

rial rested on the shoulders of Freed's own 5-year-old daughter, Malia Freed — making this 250th anniversary of America's independence even more memorable.

"It's coming back full-circle 29 years later," said Casey Freed, a 2011 Hardin Valley Academy graduate. "That makes me feel really old. But it means a lot to my mom. Malia actually tried on the dress for the first time last Wednesday because I brought it with me, and of course my mom cried. It was really cool."

For Freed, the flag-themed dress represents far more than a simple cotton clothing item.

It is the passing of tradition, which is all the more important considering her move to Missouri six years ago.

These days, when Freed brings her family back to her hometown, she does not return to the same house she grew up

in on Maple Tree Drive.

Yet the arrival feels the same every time.

"Farragut has always been deep in my roots," she said. "Friends, family, soccer, school. It's almost like a sense of relief coming here because this is always going to be home."

Now, this small dress will forever be tied to that homecoming — and to the family bonds that have been built through the years.

"It means everything," Freed said. "It is now going to be a generational heirloom, which is pretty cool because we don't have a lot of that stuff. And in a couple years, my 3-year-old Raelynn will get to wear it, too. We have come back every year since I moved away six years ago, and they've gotten to pick up candy on the street just like I did. So it's pretty cool."



Tammy Cheek

Rotary Youth Exchange

During a Wednesday, June 25 Rotary Club meeting, Taiwan Rotary Youth Exchange student Doris Chang, second from right, joined RCF's Rotary Youth Exchange officer Bill Nichols, far left, and host family members, Alan Fishmoor, Mary Beth Crutsch, second from left, Charlotte Fishmoor, third from left and Fara Fishmoor, as Chang said farewell after spending a year in East Tennessee, first at South Doyle High School and later at Webb School of Knoxville, a trip sponsored by RCF. She now returns to her home country.

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Press Planner

Paralyzed Veterans of America launched its annual in-store checkout campaign with long-time partner Food City. NASCAR legend Kyle Petty joined his dad, seven-time NASCAR champion Richard Petty, to support the campaign. This year's in-store donation drive will run at all Food City locations from July 1 to 28. Customers can select \$1, \$3, or \$5 donations, donate the amount of their choice, or round up their order total to the next dollar amount as they checkout. Customers who are shopping online can also donate. To learn more about the Food City/PVA partnership and this month's activation, visit foodcity.com.

Churches

From page 4B

we're focusing on that kind of history."

Of the 21 churches in the Town limits, she said about 15 or 16 churches shared artifacts for the exhibit.

"They have been so gracious to let us borrow stuff," Vining said.

For example, it includes the original pulpit of Virtue Church, once called Virtue Cumberland Presbyterian Church, that dates back from 1887 to 1964.

She pointed out the pulpit is built backward. "That is so interesting to me," she added.

Also, the exhibit includes the deed from Grigsby Chapel United Methodist Church, which dates back to 1852, a photo of the charter of Farragut Presbyterian Church, the original part of the gate from Pleasant Forest Cemetery and a Bible dating back to

1877 from Concord Methodist Church.

"The newest church is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' temple," Vining said.

The exhibit also relates how the churches got started and what their emphasis is now.

"It's been very interesting to put it together, and I think it's just another way to celebrate our community, Vining said.

In another part of the museum, it exhibits the flag the U.S. Navy gave Adm. David Glasgow Farragut when he was promoted to admiral in the 1860s.

"The stars are hand-sewn, and these four stars are the rank of admiral," Vining added. "The Museum Committee bought it several years ago from a collector, and I had it framed."

The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and admission is free.

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MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

I) Call to Order A) Election of Officers II) Approval of Agenda III) Approval of Minutes A) Approval of minutes for the June 18, 2026 meeting. IV) Action Items A) Discussion and public hearing on a preliminary plat for Grigsby Park, Phase 2, 6.9 Acres, 18 Lots, Zoned R-4 and Floodplain District (Urban Engineering, Inc., Applicant) B) Discussion and public hearing on a final plat to approve the division of Parcel 55, Tax Map 152 into two lots and a request to approve a variance from the requirement in the	Subdivision Regulations to construct a pedestrian facility along the parcel's frontage of Turkey Creek Road due to the minor nature of the subdivision, .63 Acres, Zoned R-2 (Michael Ogle, Appalachian Surveys, Applicant) C) Discussion and public hearing on a site plan for a 2,800 square foot addition to the Goddard School Farragut, 125 Loudoun Road, Zoned C-1 (Studio Four Design, a Michael Graves Company, Applicant) V) Discussion Items VI) Approval of Utilities VII) Citizens Forum
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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, JULY 9, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

I. Roll Call, Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance II. Approval of Agenda III. Approval of Minutes A. June 25, 2026, Minutes IV. Mayor's Report A. Proclamation for 2026 Park and Recreation Month V. Ordinances & Resolutions A. Ordinances 1. First Reading a. Ordinance 26-13, an ordinance on first reading 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) b. Ordinance 26-14, an ordinance on first reading to amend the Farragut Code	of Ordinances, Chapter 2-Administration, Article 6-Finance, Division 2-Purchasing Regulations. 2. Second Reading & Public Hearing a. Ordinance 26-10, an ordinance on second 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) B. Resolutions 1. Resolution R-26-10 Authorizing the Town to Participate in the Public Entity Partners Cybersecurity Matching Grant Program 2. Resolution R-26-11, Authorizing the Town to Participate in the Public Entity Partners "James L. Richardson Driver Safety" Matching Grant Program 3. Resolution R-26-12, Authorizing the	Town of Farragut to participate in the Public Entity Partners Judy Housley Safety Matching Grant Program 4. Resolution R-26-13, Approving the Town of Farragut Purchasing Policy VI. Business Items A. Approval of Award of Contract 2027-01 for FY27 Street Resurfacing to APAC-Atlantic Inc. B. Approval of Professional Services Agreement With Cannon & Cannon, Inc. for Russfield Drive Culvert Design Services C. Approval of Revisions to Stormwater Advisory Committee Charter D. Appointment of a Board of Mayor and Aldermen Representative to the Stormwater Advisory Committee VII. Citizens Forum VIII. Town Administrator's Report IX. Town Attorney's Report X. Adjournment
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Brummit

From page 1B

Admirals' newest arm entered with lofty goals of his own to match the team's expectations.

He wanted to become district MVP, a Mr. Baseball finalist

and, ultimately, surpass his father's accomplishments.

Fast-forward to May 2026, and he has checked each one off the list while leading the Admirals to their fifth-straight state title.

He put up impressive numbers in the process, going 10-0

on the mound with a team-leading 70 strikeouts in 65 innings pitched, almost 24 more than the next most-used arm on the Admirals' staff. At the plate, Brummitt Jr. led the team with a .411 average and a .515 on-base percentage, and he was tied for the

team lead with 53 hits. Also, his 56 RBI tied with Heritage's Gaven French for ninth in the state, according to the Tennessee Baseball Coaches' Association.

Altogether, by the time Brummitt Jr. plopped a STATE CHAMPION hat on his head,

he had fulfilled a legacy that began well before he stepped foot on a mound.

"It sucks that it has to come to an end," Brummitt said of his career. "But it was a great end, playing with some of my best friends."

Run

From page 1B

nization.

In other race results, Katie Ruby (6:25) was the top female finisher at 20th overall in the 1-mile run with the 49-year-old Hudson as the top male finisher in the master category. Kyoko Yamamoto (7:15), 52, was the top female finisher in the same category in 48th place, while 58-year-old Andrew Sauter (6:35) and 63-year-old Sharon White (8:57) were the top male and female finishers at 25th place and 134th place, respectively, in the grandmaster level.

The top male veteran finisher was 66-year-old Chris Knight (7:36) in 61st place, and 64-year-old Atriss McBee (11:56) notched the top female veteran finisher with 244th place in the 1-mile run.

For the 2-mile run, 15-year-old Farragut High School athlete Bailey Ann Smith (13:44) was the top female finisher at 13th overall.

Yangyang Wang (12:07), 42, was the top male finisher in the master category at seventh overall with 58-year-old Laura Froning (14:18) taking 19th

overall to earn the top female finisher in master.

The top male grandmaster finisher was 51-year-old Damon Andersen (14:41) at 25th overall, and Deedra Fay Bejarano (16:45), 57, took top female grandmaster finisher for 57th place.

The top male and female veteran finishers for the 2-mile event were 64-year-old Brent Bueche (16:47), who finished 58th overall, and 62-year-old Sherry Dutkosky (17:02), who finished 66th.

"We've gone through some growing pains, but every year seems to get a little better," Hadian said.

The same should be true for Spadafora, who will be a junior at FHS this year.

But when he pursues a three-peat next summer, he may have to choose a different outfit.

"The shirt is one of my favorites, so a weekly wear, and the shoes are race day shoes," he said. "But I'm almost growing out of both of them."

Statewide

From page 1B

their first team for the 2026 season: Mason Shelton, Aidan Flagg and Jake Harris. Bearden's Grayson Wright also was named, as were Hardin Valley's Jax Sparks, Catholic's D.J. Lowery and CAK's Joey Sulish.

"Obviously this is his first year we've had him," Copeland said of Shelton. "He was a tale of two tapes this season, and the second half was more like him. In the last six weeks, he hit 11 home runs and became a real weapon for us. Anytime he was up, I felt like he'd do damage."

"Then Aidan, obviously he has one speed," he continued. "Everything he does is full-out to the best of his ability. He expects a lot out of himself, and he was a threat at the top of the lineup. Defensively he became a really good outfielder for us, and he made himself into a really good player."

"Then Jake behind the plate, he provided leadership and

calm discipline. He was our team leader, someone other guys looked to, able to carry that load on his shoulder and did things the right way."

On the TBCA second team, Farragut's Cash Schroeder and Braiden Meredith were picked, as were Bearden's Isaiah Allen, Hardin Valley's Kenny Lane, Catholic's Rylan Jessee, CAK's Wyatt Jones and Webb's Colton Collier.

For the Sportswriters' Association, other area selections included CAK senior Joey Sulish and Jones, a sophomore.

Sulish also was named All-2-Way First Team for TN Baseball Report, and Jones made All-State second-team for TN Baseball Report and was named Division II-A Player of the Year for the same outlet.

"They're both really good players," CAK coach Tommy Pharr said. "Joey has been good since he was an eighth-grader, a special player and kid. He's a leader on the field and in our school, and he's been really good on the mound and offensively. Played a lot of

different places and does it really well.

"Then Wyatt had a great sophomore season, a very competitive kid and a really good hitter and defender," Pharr continued. "He's got huge upside, and like Joey going to Tennessee Tech, Wyatt in a couple years will be going to a Division I school somewhere, too."

Sportswriters also picked Webb senior Grayson Gregory as a Division II-AA All-State pick and gave the same nod to Catholic junior DJ Lowery, who also made All-State first-team for TN Baseball Report.

"He had arguably one of the best offensive years in Catholic history," Catholic coach Caleb Moore said of Lowery. "Extremely impressive, such a steady presence in our lineup. Then to do what he did on the bases, swiping 35 of 35, he's starting to reach his potential and see what he can become; so it was fun to watch all year."

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VOL. 40, NO. 7

A PUBLICATION OF THE FARRAGUT WEST KNOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JULY 2026



**Voice of the Vols
speaks Aug. 4 Pg. 2**

**Youngest Daytona 500
Winner Speaks Aug. 25
Pg. 3**

Exclusive Savings for Chamber Members Pg. 3

From Titans broadcast booth to Knoxville return

Voice of the Vols joins Aug. 4 Speaker Series

The Farragut West Knox Chamber's 2026 Speaker Series continues Aug. 4 with one of Tennessee's most recognizable sports voices, Mike Keith, the new Voice of the Vols.

A Hall of Fame broadcaster and University of Tennessee alumnus, Keith returned to Knoxville in 2025 after 26 seasons as the Voice of the Tennessee Titans. Best known for his iconic call of the "Music City Miracle," he now serves as the play by play voice for Tennessee football and men's basketball while continuing to share stories that connect fans to the game.

During this Speaker Series event, Keith will reflect on his career in sports broadcasting and his return to Knoxville, offering a behind the scenes look at leadership,

storytelling and life in Vol Nation.

The event will take place Wednesday, Aug. 4, from 7:15 to 9 a.m. at Jewelry Television, 9600 Parkside Drive. Attendees should note that a security screening is required upon entry. Networking and breakfast begin at 7:30 a.m., followed by the program and Q and A at 8 a.m.

Sponsorships are available in limited quantities and include a pass through contribution to Emerald Youth Foundation, Mike Keith's selected nonprofit partner and valued Chamber member.

For more than 30 years, Emerald Youth Foundation has worked to ensure Knoxville youth have access to healthy, enriching experiences that support physical, academic and spiritual growth. Through year round sports leagues, teams and clinics including basketball, soccer, flag football and more, the organization engages

youth in underserved neighborhoods while promoting wellness and character development.


Serving as the event's Press Box Sponsor is Rackley Roofing, the official roofer of the Volunteers. Rackley Roofing's mission is to transform the roofing industry through unmatched customer service, documentation and safety. Additional support is provided by Club Level Sponsors First Horizon and Slamdot. Breakfast is sponsored by The Casual Pint Northshore.

Member tables of six are available for \$300. Individual tickets range from \$30 to \$45 and include breakfast. Tickets can be purchased at farragutchamber.com > events.

For sponsorship information, contact the Chamber office at (865) 675-7057 or email julie@farragutchamber.com.

MIKE KEITH: VOICE OF THE VOLS

a Farragut West Knox Chamber Speaker Series event

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Join West Young Professionals for **Lunch With a Leader**

Trevor Bayne
SouthEast Bank Brand Ambassador
NASCAR Daytona 500 Champion / Sports Analyst / Business Founder

Wed. August 25th.
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Trevor Bayne headlines upcoming Lunch with a Leader

The Chamber's West Young Professionals will welcome entrepreneur, business leader, and former NASCAR driver Trevor Bayne for their next Lunch with a Leader event Aug. 25 at SouthEast Bank in Farragut.

Bayne made history as the youngest winner of the Daytona 500 before building a diverse career that includes business ownership, sports broadcasting, and leadership roles within the motorsports industry. Today, he serves as head pro and ambassador of Flatrock Motorclub, a FOX Sports analyst, and an ambassador for Legacy Motor Club.

During the luncheon, Bayne will share lessons learned from the racetrack, the boardroom, and beyond, offering insights on leadership, entrepreneurship, and

personal growth. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions, connect with fellow young professionals and meet Bayne following the program.

The event takes place Tuesday, Aug. 25, from noon-1 p.m. at SouthEast Bank, 12700 Kingston Pike in Farragut. Lunch is provided by SouthEast Bank at no cost to attendees, and a photo opportunity with Bayne will follow from 1-1:30 p.m.

The West Young Professionals thank SouthEast Bank for hosting the event and providing lunch for attendees. Additional support is provided by West Young Professionals Platinum Sponsors Davis Family YMCA, and Mortgage Investors Group.

To register, visit farragut-chamber.com > events.

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Networkings

Fifth Third Bank – Turkey Creek | June 11, 2026



Above left: *Fifth Third Bank* staff members (L to R) Doug Buchanan, financial center manager and Farragut West Knox Chamber ambassador; Justin Sullivan, vice president, district manager; Elizabeth Pagano, financial center manager; and Natalia Atehortua Bedoya, personal banker associate, pause for a group photo while hosting the Chamber's morning networking event.

Above right: (L to R) Doug Buchanan with *Fifth Third Bank*, Charlotte Jensen with *Bowen Door Service*, Ashley Rinehart with *Cintas*, and Jamie Hash with *Cintas* enjoy getting to know one another over coffee.

Volunteer Ministry Center | June 18, 2026



Above left: *Volunteer Ministry Center* staff are joined by attendees for a group photo during the Chamber's morning networking event hosted by the organization. **Above right:** (L to R) Alex Tate and Ashley Fox of *Pioneer Heating and Air* attend their first Chamber networking event as new Chamber members.

Ribbon Cuttings



Humane Society Tennessee Valley June 2, 2026

Executive Director Ryan Hughes (right center, holding scissors) and Board President Victoria Konar (left center, holding scissors) are joined by board members, staff, volunteers and community members during a joint ribbon cutting with the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce and the Knoxville Chamber to celebrate the Humane Society of Tennessee Valley's 140th anniversary.



Sports Treasures | June 10, 2026

Owner Zach Haire (center, holding scissors) is joined by family, friends and community members to celebrate the opening of Sports Treasures in Farragut, offering sports cards, memorabilia, and collectibles for enthusiasts of all ages.



PLUNJ Knoxville | June 16, 2026

Co-owners Joshua and Felicia Kenna (center, sharing scissors) are joined by staff, friends, and community members to celebrate the opening of PLUNJ Knoxville, a Nordic-style bathhouse offering cold plunge and dry sauna experiences that support recovery and well-being.

Intrepid Nitro Coffee & Tea Bar June 30, 2026

Kris Bowers (scissors) and wife, Season (to left) are visibly thankful for the investment of their community into their family business as they open their second location of Intrepid Nitro Coffee & Tea Bar at 11432 Hardin Valley Road, Suite E in Hardin Valley.



Volunteer Hearing | June 24, 2026

Owner and lead practitioner, Dr. Tabitha Rossini is surrounded by her caring team of audiologists and support staff along with friends and chamber members to celebrate the new location of Volunteer Hearing in West Knoxville, located at 201 Center Park Drive, Suite 1060, just off Kingston Pike near Pellissippi Parkway.



Scan to See What's Happening!

Use the QR code to view our July events calendar and stay up to date on networking, workshops, and Chamber happenings all month long. Don't miss a chance to connect!



Did you know?

Did You Know that one of the most effective ways to prepare your business for growth is not creating a standard operating procedure (SOP), but mapping out how your business operates?

Many business owners seek assistance with documenting procedures, but the process often uncovers much more than expected. Process mapping is a step-by-step exercise that helps owners understand how work flows throughout their business, identify inefficiencies, and reduce reliance on institutional knowledge that exists only in the owner's or employees' minds.

Rather than simply listing major tasks, process mapping breaks every process into individual steps. For example, what may seem like a simple hiring process quickly expands into dozens of detailed actions, from posting a job and reviewing applications to onboarding new employees and granting system access. These details are

often overlooked because they have become second nature to those performing them.

The real value of process mapping lies in the conversations it creates. As business owners walk through their operations, they frequently discover bottlenecks, inconsistent training practices, and opportunities to simplify processes. In many cases, they gain a clearer understanding of the challenges preventing their business from reaching the next stage of growth.

Beyond creating documentation, process mapping provides practical benefits that support long-term success. It can improve employee onboarding, make delegation easier, create consistency across teams, prepare a business for expansion, and reduce dependence on a single individual to keep operations running.

For growing businesses, this exercise often becomes more than a documentation project; it becomes

a roadmap for future improvements. By identifying priorities and organizing business operations, owners are better equipped to make strategic decisions and build systems that support sustainable growth.

While process mapping requires time and thoughtful discussion, the investment often pays dividends through increased efficiency, stronger operations, and greater confidence in the business's ability to grow. Sometimes the greatest benefit isn't the completed process manual; it is the clarity gained along the way.

If you're ready to better understand your business operations and prepare for future growth, the Tennessee Small Business Development Center can help. Our no-cost, confidential business advising services include guidance on process improvement, operational planning, and building systems that position your business for long-term success.

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Knoxville Smokies

— Game Day Grounds Crew (18+)

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tail, and the ability to manage multiple priorities in a fast-paced environment.

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— Front of House / Server (Part-Time)

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to our Enterprise Members!

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*Thank you for your
Anchor Enterprise Membership!*

Welcome New Members!

The Chamber welcomes these businesses who joined us recently in June

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

Scan the QR code to learn about our new members!



*Thank you for your
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THANK YOU for Renewing Your Membership!

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

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Enterprise Club

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