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ISSUE 45 VOLUME 38 FARRAGUT, TENNESSEE WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026 • 1A

## DECISION 2026

# The fight for Farragut

## Candidates discuss schools, business, taxes

**Tammy Cheek**
*tcheek@farragutpress.com*

Four candidates seeking seats on the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen answered questions during a candidate forum hosted by Tennessee Strategies at the Farragut Community Center on Monday evening, July 13.

Among the questions was one asking mayoral candidate Louise Povlin about her background and why she is qualified to serve as mayor.

Povlin said she has lived in Farragut for 18 years, where she raised her children, volunteered in Knox County Schools and opened a small business in town in 2012.

An engineer, she said the late Mayor Ralph McGill asked her to serve on the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission. She later was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 2015, elected to the seat in 2016 and re-elected in 2020 before reaching term limits in 2024.

"I can run for one term as mayor, and I'm absolutely fine with that," Povlin said. "If you want a mayor who is educated and knowledgeable and will stand with you in a neighborhood meeting and answer your questions, and if she doesn't have the answers, know who she needs to go to, that's who I am."

Asked whether the Town should contribute more to public education, Povlin said Farragut already supports its schools.

She said the Public Works Department provides assistance in various ways. She also said she convinced Town administrator David Smoak to have participants in the Intro to Farragut class complete volunteer projects at local schools.

Povlin added she served as an ex-officio member of the Farragut High School Education Foundation board, the Board provides a community grant to schools and the Town has an Education Relations Committee.

"I reworked (the committee) a couple years ago into making it more effective by bringing in representatives from the schools," she said.

On attracting businesses, Povlin said residents consistently tell her they want more locally owned businesses.

"And we have a lot, and we want more," she said. "But they need special support in their build-out. ... We need to make sure we are helping them with that."

She said traffic and communication are the town's two biggest issues.

"I think those are the things that need to get squared away," Povlin said.

The forum also featured candidates for aldermen, including incumbent Joe LaCroix, who is running for South Ward Seat 2, and North Ward Seat 1 candidates Dian Hall and Joey Ruffalo.

"I'm running for this position because I think my thoughts and

**See CANDIDATES on Page 10A**

## Forum no-shows cite concerns

**Tammy Cheek**
*tcheek@farragutpress.com*

While four candidates seeking Farragut Board of Aldermen seats attended a candidate forum hosted by Tennessee Strategies at the Farragut Community Center on Monday evening, July 13, two candidates were absent.

Alex Cain, who is running for mayor, and Greg Wiberley, who is seeking the South Ward Seat 2 position, chose not to attend. On Tuesday morning, both shared their reasons.

"The way this event unfolded in planning, communication and execution has raised serious concerns about whether it was being transparent in its own motivations," Cain stated in an email.

"First, the forum promoted itself as open, fair and balanced. Yet all emails from the forum organizers failed to identify any individuals or planners."

On July 10, event organizer Mike Arms, Tennessee Strategies senior partner, left a voicemail for

**See FORUM on Page 9A**

## Farragut mayoral candidates share views in Q&A

As Farragut voters prepare for early voting, which starts Friday, July 17, the Town's mayoral candidates supplied answers to questions from farragutpress. Former Vice Mayor Louise Povlin and current Alderman Alex Cain continue to address concerns about traffic, public safety and development. Voters will be able to cast their early votes in Farragut Community Center through Saturday, Aug. 1. The Election Day will be Thursday, Aug. 6.

**1. Public safety is a top priority for many Farragut residents:** With a new Knox County sheriff taking office and discussions about increasing patrols within the town, what role should the mayor play in working with the sheriff's office to enhance public safety and what additional measures, if any, would you support?

**2. Managing Growth:** Farragut continues to attract new residential and commercial development. How would you balance continued growth with preserving the town's character, and what specific changes, if any, would you support in the Town's planning or zoning policies?

**3. Public Trust:** Some residents have expressed concerns about transparency and citizen engagement, particularly following changes to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen's public comment policy. As mayor, what steps would you take to improve public trust, encourage citizen participation and ensure residents feel their voices are heard?

**4. Biggest concern for Farragut:** Every community faces difficult decisions about its future. What do you see as the single biggest issue Farragut will face over the next four to eight years, and why?

**5. Property Rights:** Transportation and multimodal improvements are long-term priorities for the Town of Farragut, but some residents and property owners have expressed concerns about how these projects could affect their land —specifically Turkey Creek Road and Evans Road. What principles would guide your decisions when balancing community infrastructure needs with individual property rights?

**1. Public safety is a top priority for many Farragut residents:**

Upon being sworn in as mayor, I will direct the Town administrator and attorney to review community agreements with county sheriff's offices statewide. This review will enable productive conversations with the Knox County Sheriff's Office to develop a mutually beneficial long-term partnership. I have known Sheriff-elect Gibson for some time, and we have already discussed increased traffic enforcement and greater patrol visibility as soon as he takes office.

**2. Managing Growth:**

As mayor, I will promote responsible growth that protects property

**Alex Cain**

rights while ensuring extensive public input from the outset. Residents deserve a real voice in shaping development decisions early in the process.

I support targeted

**See ALEX on Page 10A**

**1. Public safety is a top priority for many Farragut residents:**

It is vital that the mayor and the sheriff have a collaborative and supportive relationship. The Town needs a designated agency contact, so issues can be dealt with quickly and seamlessly. Sheriff-Elect Gibson should be given respect and time to implement his vision. The Town should be prepared to seek solutions for dedicated personnel if we need it.

**2. Managing Growth:**

Farragut residents have reshaped our land use map and aligned it with the existing zoning. Farragut residents need to participate in reshaping our land use goals moving forward. Plans

**Louise Povlin**

to begin that process are in the works.

**3. Public Trust:**

Much of what the Planning Commission and the Board do and the rules we must follow are a mystery to most resi-

**See LOUISE on Page 9A**

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# Farragut alderman and mayoral candidates share views

All profiles submitted by the candidates

## Alex Cain

***Candidate for Mayor of Farragut***

Alex Cain is a proven leader and dedicated public servant who has called Farragut home since 1998. Currently serving as North Ward alderman after his election in 2024, he brings practical experience from the private sector and local government to his campaign for mayor.

As managing partner of Tristar Executive Solutions and Smoky Mountain Transportation, Alex operates a Tennessee-licensed executive services company specializing in security solutions and concierge transportation. His background includes serving as a school resource officer at Farragut and Bearden High Schools and teaching Criminal Justice and Forensic Science at Farragut and Gibbs High Schools. He remains actively involved in the community as a volunteer football coach and video coordinator for Farragut High School and as a member of First Baptist Concord Church since 2002.

Alex's campaign is centered on fiscal responsibility and citizen-focused government. He is committed to protecting Farragut residents by preserving the town's no property tax policy, along with opposing government bonds through conservative budgeting and responsible spending. Drawing on his security expertise and prior relationship with the incoming Knox County sheriff, he will prioritize public safety by strengthening partnerships with the sheriff's office, increasing officer visibility, strengthening traffic enforcement and enhancing neighborhood protection. On development, Alex supports responsible growth that includes extensive public input and strong community partnerships while protecting the property rights of both developers and homeowners.

With a clear vision of building a stronger, kinder community where every neighborhood thrives and every voice matters, Alex Cain is committed to listening to residents before decisions are

See CAIN on Page 9A

## Dian Hall

***Candidate for Farragut Alderman, Ward 1***

The future of Farragut belongs to the people who call it home. That's why Our Town, Our Future is more than a campaign slogan — it's a call to action for every resident.

The best decisions for Farragut come from listening to our community, engaging neighborhoods early and planning thoughtfully for the future. Together, we can preserve what makes Farragut special while preparing responsibly for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

That vision defines how I will serve as your alderman: Listen. Plan. Deliver. I will listen before decisions are made, plan with a long-term perspective and deliver practical solutions that reflect our community's values. Whether we're addressing traffic, infrastructure, parks or development, I believe local government works best when residents are informed, involved and heard.

Service has been the defining principle of my life. During my 27-year Air Force career, I learned that the best leaders listen before they lead, earn trust through their actions, and bring people together to solve problems and seize opportunities. When my family made Farragut our home 14 years ago, those same values became the foundation of my commitment to this community.

I have had the honor of serving on my homeowners association board and coaching T-ball, basketball and soccer for First Baptist Concord Church. I currently serve on the Town of Farragut Parks and Athletics Council, teach Children's Sunday School at Concord United Methodist Church and volunteer at the Faith Lutheran Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry.

I support well-planned growth that balances opportunity with responsibility. That means protecting the character of our neighborhoods while ensuring roads, traffic, stormwater infrastructure and public services keep pace with development. It also

See HALL on Page 10A

## Louise Povlin

***Candidate for Mayor of Farragut***

I am running to be the next mayor of the Town of Farragut because I believe Farragut's future should be shaped with the same care, common sense and community spirit that have made our town such a special place to live. We can welcome thoughtful progress while protecting our neighborhoods, strengthening infrastructure and ensuring residents are informed advocates for their concerns before important decisions are made.

Growth will continue in and around Farragut. Much of the remaining undeveloped land in our Town is already zoned for commercial, office or residential use; and we respect private property rights. I have a strong record of reaching out to residents directly impacted by new development to ensure their concerns are addressed. All future development should respect existing neighborhoods and protect our community character.

Traffic — both congestion and speeding — remains among Farragut's most urgent quality-of-life issues. We need continued improvements to traffic signal timing, a thoughtful transportation plan for the Ford property, safer neighborhood streets through a consistent effort to curb speeding and appropriate investments beyond our borders.

I will champion a stronger communication plan for the Town. Residents should not have to search through layers of meetings and documents to understand what the Board and Planning Commission are considering. We should use every available channel — Town website, social media, HOA networks, temporary signage, and direct outreach - to provide clear, timely, accurate information so citizens can participate effectively.

Farragut is financially strong. We budget conservatively, carry no debt, maintain healthy reserves and continue to thrive without a property tax. That strength gives us the opportunity to take care of our existing infrastructure

See POVLIN on Page 10A

## Joey Ruffalo

***Candidate for Farragut Alderman, Ward 1***

When my wife and I chose to make Farragut our home, it wasn't just because of the beautiful parks, excellent schools or convenient location. It was because Farragut is a community where people still know their neighbors, support local businesses and take pride in where they live. Those are the qualities worth protecting, and they're why I'm running for alderman.

I'm a lifelong conservative who believes in faith, family, freedom, and fiscal responsibility. I hold an MBA in financial planning and serve families and business owners as a financial coach and business growth strategist. I'm also a best-selling author and host of The Prosperity Lounge radio show and podcast, where we spotlight local leaders and encourage practical solutions that strengthen our community.

I'm proud to serve as vice chair of the Farragut Tourism Committee and as a board member of Shop Farragut. I'm a member of the Farragut Rotary Club and the Farragut West Knox Chamber, where I've served on the Gala Auction Committee for three years. I also serve as secretary of the West Knox Republican Club and chair of the Knox County GOP Welcoming Committee, focused on connecting newcomers to our community.

I'm running for alderman because I believe in protecting what makes Farragut special while preparing wisely for the future. Residents want leadership that listens, plans ahead, and makes smart decisions with your tax dollars.

If elected, my top priorities are:

• Protect Taxpayers – I will be a responsible steward of your money, oppose a property tax, and support spending that delivers results.

• Address Traffic – I will work to reduce congestion, improve road safety, and ensure Farragut's voice is heard at the county and state level.

• Preserve Farragut's Character – Growth must be

See RUFFALO on Page 10A

## Greg Wiberley

***Candidate for Farragut Alderman, Ward 2***

My name is Greg Wiberley, and I am running for South Ward alderman in the Town of Farragut. I am seeking the seat formally held by the late David White.

My campaign is based on three general themes: Caring, Community, and Competence.

Caring: I have lived in Farragut since before it was even incorporated. My wife and I have raised five kids here, all going through the Farragut schools. I single-handedly built our one and only house here. I delivered our middle son in that house. We have great neighbors, some of whom have been with us for decades. Our roots are deep and strong and our love for Farragut is steadfast.

Community: The founders of our town envisioned our town to be a place where families could thrive and be a part of something special. I have been a volunteer in the Farragut schools. I have coached CBFO basketball, AYSO soccer, Farragut baseball, and FBC intramural basketball. My wife and I were youth directors at VCPC for many years, and I helped build two youth cabins at Camp Chilhowee.

So I think that I've lived the life in Farragut that defines what it means to be a part of and contribute to the community. Community is not a campaign slogan for me but it has been a way of life.

And finally Competence: I graduated from both high school and college at the top of my classes. I earned the highest level of contractor's license in Tennessee through testing and qualifications which allows for industrial, commercial, and residential projects. I was a part of the leadership teams that built the Biomass Steam Plant at ORNL and developed the first phase of Northshore Town Center. I was the project manager over high-end residential at Tennessee National and have designed and built hundreds of other projects. I was a first responder to the tornado damage in Chattanooga a

See WIBERLEY on Page 9A

**www.farragutpress.com**

# EXPERIENCE MATTERS

LOUISE POVLIN for MAYOR TOWN OF FARRAGUT

Show Your Support Visit My Website

*Vote for Proven Leadership.*
*Vote Louise Povlin for Mayor.*

**ElectLouisePovlin.com**

Paid for by Elect Louise Povlin, Scott Meyer, Treasurer

## NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.

**Louise Povlin for Mayor of Farragut**

Farragut deserves steady, experienced leadership from day one. Louise Povlin brings 13 years of service to our town, deep planning and zoning expertise, and a proven record of listening to residents, solving problems, and protecting what makes Farragut special.

### PROVEN LEADERSHIP. LOCAL RESULTS.

- 13 years of Planning and Zoning experience serving Farragut.
- Key leadership roles focused on responsible growth, infrastructure, and neighborhood character.
- Helped strengthen Farragut's fiscal position while maintaining the town's no-property-tax model through eight budget cycles.
- 10 years of active representation with Knox County and state leaders.
- Degreed engineer, analytical problem solver, and local small business owner.
- Completed extensive continuing education coursework in planning, zoning, municipal and state law, economic development, and leadership.

### A RECORD OF STANDING UP FOR RESIDENTS

- NO MORE APARTMENTS
- Reduced density across the land use plan based on Community input.
- Led the effort to address Farragut's aging stormwater infrastructure.
- Worked to preserve corridor character while improving substandard roads.
- Proactively meets with residents to discuss future development, brings them into the discussion, and advocates for their concerns.
- Successfully advocated for many resident-requested capital projects.
- Worked with residents and businesses to update and amend policies and regulations.

### THE CHOICE IS CLEAR

Alex Cain has served as an alderman for two years, but Farragut needs more than limited experience and campaign promises. The mayor's office requires a working knowledge of municipal codes, zoning laws, the legislative process, and the constitutional limits that protect private property owners from government overreach.

The Mayor of Farragut is not a position for on-the-job training. Our town deserves a leader who already knows the issues, understands the process, and has a record of delivering results.

**Vote Louise Povlin for Mayor of Farragut**
**Experienced leadership for the town we love.**

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

*"A lifetime of service. A future of leadership for Farragut."*

# DIAN HALL

FOR ALDERMAN • WARD 1

**A LIFETIME OF SERVICE**

- Retired U.S. Air Force Officer
- Fox Run HOA Board
- Farragut Parks & Athletics Council
- Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry
- Sunday School Teacher
- Youth Sports Coach

*From serving our country to serving our community,*
**I'm ready to serve Farragut as your Alderman.**

## LISTEN. PLAN. DELIVER.

I will **listen** to residents, **plan** for Farragut's future, and **deliver** thoughtful solutions that protect what makes our town special.

- ✓ **PLAN AHEAD** for Traffic & Growth
- ✓ **PROTECT** Our Neighborhoods
- ✓ **SUPPORT** Local Businesses
- ✓ **KEEP FARRAGUT FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE**
  **NO PROPERTY TAX**

**OUR TOWN. OUR FUTURE.**

SCAN ME to visit my website!

**electDianHall.com**

VOTE THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

EARLY VOTING JULY 17 – AUGUST 1

PAID FOR BY THE CAMPAIGN OF DIAN HALL

## TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT. PEOPLE FIRST. ACCOUNTABLE.

THE TOWN of FARRAGUT TENNESSEE 1980

**GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS FOR YOU, NOT AROUND YOU.**

**TRANSPARENCY YOU DESERVE:** Transparency isn't just a principle — it's a results-driven commitment. Since joining the Board of Mayor and Alderman, I've made your voice a priority in every decision.

**CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE:** Smart infrastructure investment protects our community. I'm committed to responsible planning for roads, stormwater, parks, and facilities.

**FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BUDGETING:** 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.

## JOE LACROIX FOR ALDERMAN. HONEST LEADERSHIP. REAL RESULTS.

*PAIDFORBYELECT JOELACROIX, JENNI CRADDICK TREASURER*

# Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

Community leader Johns endorses Alex Cain for Mayor, Joey Ruffalo for Alderman North, and Greg Wiberly for Alderman South.

It has been four (4) years since I have submitted anything to our Town's "paper of record," the award-winning farragutpress. I will be brief:

The Town of Farragut 2026 election is not "rocket-science." The major issue is getting complacent registered voters to the polls to join the rest of us. Make sure you know your voting location as there have been changes.

Now for the topic at hand:

1). If you like urbanization, apartments, more traffic, more "homeless" on our streets and greenways, decreased home equity, bureaucrats and bureaucracy, special interests (apartment / commercial developers) over citizens, funding moneypits (Campbell Station Inn and a "future" event center), Town Center 2.0 (property between Town Hall and Kohl's), dangerous roads, and a leadership team where public administration principles, law, and ethics are secondary to personal ambitions and personal relationships, then this is your slate:

Louise Povlin (Mayor), Dian Hall (Alderman North), and Joe LaCroix (Alderman South)

2). If you want the urbanization nightmare to end and all of this other "bravo sierra" to stop, then this is your slate:

Alex Cain (Mayor), Joey Ruffalo (Alderman North), and Greg Wiberly (Alderman South)

I am supporting the end of urbanization of our community. I am supporting Cain, Ruffalo, and Wiberly.

Bill Johns,
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

In the upcoming election for Town of Farragut Mayor and South Ward Alderman, Alex Cain and Greg Wiberley do not support the TOF plans for Turkey Creek and Evans Road greenways. Pedestrians and cyclists on these roads face grave dangers. If the Town's proposed greenway connections are completed, residents of South Ward will have a continuous off-road route from their homes to both McFee Park and Anchor Park, providing significantly safer access for walking, running, bicycling, and family recreation. Greenways are consistently viewed in community surveys as one of the top quality of life features of Farragut. Vote for Louise Povlin and Joe LaCroix to support their expansion.

Bill McAdams,
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

I am pleased to offer my wholehearted support for Louise Povlin in her campaign for Mayor of Farragut.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work with and communicate with Louise Povlin, and numerous Fox Den homeowners and HOA board members on issues affecting our community. One of the most significant concerns has been the proposed development off Champions Point, South Fox Den Drive / Kingston Pike. Throughout these discussions, Louise has consistently demonstrated a thoughtful, fact-based, and community-focused approach to local government.

As residents evaluated the potential impacts of the proposed development, concerns were raised regarding increased traffic volumes, pedestrian safety, visibility at access points, cut-through traffic, impacts on neighborhood character, and the overall quality of life for existing residents. Community members also expressed concerns about the effect of additional vehicle traffic on South Fox Den Drive, an area without sidewalks that is heavily used by walkers, cyclists, and golf carts.

What impressed me most was Louise's willingness to listen. She engaged residents respectfully, sought to understand the details behind their concerns, and demonstrated a genuine commitment to balancing growth with the preservation of established neighborhoods. Rather than approaching these issues from a predetermined position, she focused on gathering information, evaluating facts, and ensuring that residents had a voice in decisions that directly affect their homes and families.

Farragut continues to face important decisions regarding growth, transportation, infrastructure, and neighborhood preservation. These challenges require leadership that is practical, collaborative, and committed to protecting the qualities that make our community such a desirable place to live. Louise possesses those qualities.

I believe her experience, integrity, and dedication to public service make her exceptionally well-qualified to serve as Mayor. She understands that responsible development must consider not only economic opportunities, but also traffic safety, neighborhood compatibility, and the long-term interests of Farragut residents.

For these reasons, I am proud to support Louise Povlin for Mayor of Farragut and respectfully encourage others to do the same.

Sincerely,
Drew MacDonald,
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

Campaigns including advertisements, signs, social media, and Letters to the Editor are preparing us for the upcoming Farragut election.

As a resident for 52 years, one of the seven people identified as a founder of Farragut, former Alderman, and a citizen still interested in our community I am concerned about the Town's future.

I am voting for and support Alex Cain for Farragut Mayor and Greg "Coach" Wiberley for South Ward Alderman.

Growth is normal and has continued uninterrupted since the Town's beginning. But the growth the last 8 years is out of control. Development of property is an owner's right, but not to the extent it adversely impacts current residents. Residents are not given proper consideration.

Farragut town meetings limit citizen speaking time to 3 minutes. Elected officials have no time limit. Citizens often don't have an opportunity to express their complete opinion.

Former Vice Mayor Louise Povlin voted to increase allowable apartment heights from two stories to four stories and supported and voted to approve 781 apartments.

Ms. Povlin voted to spend millions remodeling Town Hall, a project that resulted in the elimination of the receptionist, no directory for visitors, and staff working behind closed, locked doors. These employees work for the citizens and should be readily accessible.

Revising the ordinances increased maximum apartment's height from 2 stories to 4 stories, reduced single family lot sizes significantly, and allowed commercial development too close to Kingston Pike. One consequence was this limited additional lanes/turn lanes in the future.

Former Vice Mayor Louise Povlin has stated she is doing what the founders of the Town wanted. Only 3 remain and as one of the original town founders I can verify this is not true.

We did not have the bad traffic problems 8 years ago we now have. It is not Lenoir City's fault as was stated by the Mayor and former Vice Mayor. There is development and there is overdevelopment. We are seeing the consequences of overdevelopment in our town of Farragut.

I encourage everyone to vote. On Election Day the voting location for Farragut residents living south of Kingston Pike is at the Korean Church on Kingston Pike, 108 Farlow Drive east of Concord Road almost to Lovell Road. (Check your revised voter's card.)

Early voting for everyone is the Farragut Community Center. Vote early.

Eric Johnson
Town Founder and
1st Farragut Alderman
1980
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

Voters will soon elect a new Mayor and two Aldermen. This may be the most consequential local election Farragut has faced in years as it is our opportunity to choose a new direction for Farragut. I believe many of BOMA's development decisions have reflected developers' priorities more than the preferences expressed by many residents. This situation has been a significant factor in the overdevelopment many residents have observed in Farragut.

What many residents may not realize is the extent to which campaign financing connects developers and other special interests with candidates supported by the current administration.

I encourage every voter to review candidates' campaign finance disclosures (past & present) as filed with the Knox County Election Commission. Those reports allow voters to see who has made the largest campaign contributions to candidates supported by this and previous administrations.

Transparency... During the 2024 Alderman campaign, one incumbent received nearly $10,000 in contributions from developers and related interests just days before the election, but such was not publicly disclosed until October. This election is expected to generate significantly more donations than any previous election, but when will those be revealed to voters? In 2026 one incumbent candidate deleted all his social media accounts which prevents their review by voters. Is this their version of transparency?

In my view, permitting this developer supported alliance to maintain their voting majority on the BOMA allows their political coalition to continue advancing its preferred vision for Farragut as opposed to that of Farragut residents.

Biddle Farms serves as a stark reminder of the difference between what was presented to the residents and what ultimately appeared to better serve the developer's financial interests. Despite overwhelming widespread public opposition to the inclusion of four-story, high-density apartments in the Town Center.

A governing majority that exercises this degree of personal discretion despite significant public opposition should concern every Farragut voter. Allowing it to continue should not be permitted.

Campaign conduct should also be considered by voters. While public records are fair game in an election, KCS public records show that Alderman Cain's employment records were requested by a close friend of this administration, Michelle Hollenhead. Those records were later used in social media attacks that I believe unfairly characterized Alderman Cain's exemplary record while limiting his opportunity for effective rebuttal.

Independent candidates that will represent us!

JD Roberts,
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

When Alderman Joe Lacroix was appointed alderman last year to fill the unexpired term of the late David White, Joe promised to keep his constituents informed, and one way was to hold public meetings twice a month prior to upcoming Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings.

Alderman Lacroix has kept that promise.

Twice a month Farragut residents of BOTH the South and North Ward come to these meetings to ask questions, voice their concerns, give feedback, or just to listen. Alderman LaCroix listens to ALL who attend. Joe encourages ALL Farragut residents to contact him if they need information or assistance.

As both a resident and Alderman, Joe is a vocal proponent of the town and has strived to increase the community's understanding of the processes and procedures undertaken by the elected officials and town staff.

Joe LaCroix committed to being there for ALL Farragut residents; he has kept that promise and will continue to do so.

Alderman LaCroix is an informed, caring and knowledgeable Alderman and candidate for the South Ward. As a former Town employee, he has a unique perspective on how the Town of Farragut works, and he knows who to talk to on how best to address and solve problems.

As a resident, Joe attended Board of Mayor and Aldermen and Municipal Planning Commission meetings regularly, as well as budget hearings, strategic planning meetings, workshops, and other outreach efforts the town has made over the past 8 plus years.

Joe truly loves our town and our community. Joe is proud of Farragut and strives to continue our strong fiscal position, growth and development of our parks, greenways and sidewalks to connect the town, and maintaining the high quality and well-maintained infrastructure and commercial areas.

Joe feels these priorities must also be flexible enough to change as the town changes. The nature of these changes should be informed by public outreach and continuing to find better ways to keep our community informed.

Joe embodies the concept of a candidate who wishes to help and serve the Town, which is what should be the driving force of any campaign.

"Joe LaCroix - Serving the people of Farragut, YOUR TOWN YOUR VOICE!"

I am honored to be assisting Alderman Joe LaCroix in his reelection campaign and Bry and I are proud to vote for him!

Jeanne Brykalski
Bry (Bob) Brykalski,
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

As a former Business Process Consultant in State and Local Government for almost 42 years, working with Louise continues to make me better understand her unique value and qualification to take the reins as Mayor. Think "Continued Competence" and Best Qualified by far.

Serving on the Berkeley Park HOA and then attending the 2022 Introduction to Farragut Class, I met Louise at every class and learned more about her skillsets and how Farragut works right along with David Smoak, our Town Administrator. Ron Williams shared with me that serving on the Farragut Municipal Planning Commission should be the goal of every graduate of the Introduction to Farragut class. Attend any workshop, and you see why Louise has been there since 2013. She listens, evaluates and guides to help get the right decisions made and then implements as part of BOMA.

When we were ham-

See LETTERS on Page 6A


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farragutpress

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

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

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

**Letter to the Editor rules:** Must not exceed 400 words · Include name, address & telephone number to be verified · All Letters to the Editor from any citizen must have a minimum four-week period between publication · Must not have inaccurate information, such as wrong statistics, from which to form an opinion
We reserve the right to reject publication based on factors including threats, name-calling and foul language

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

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

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

**Find our 2026 policy for submission of political profiles at farragutpress.com.**

# FARRAGUT RESIDENTS RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT EVENT CENTER PROJECT AND TOWN DECISIONS

## KEY TIMELINE OF EVENTS

**July 18, 2024 —**
**Farragut Planning Commission Meeting**

- The Farragut Planning Commission considered adopting the Mixed-Use Town Center Vision Plan as a town ordinance.
- Vice Mayor Louise Povlin strongly supported the move.
- The Vision Plan's map identified an Event Center and boutique hotel on Eddy Ford's land along Kingston Pike.

**https://www.townoffarragut.org/DocumentCenter/View/8263/Mixed-Use-Town-Center-Vision-Plan**

*(Page 59 shows the Event Center and boutique hotel on Eddy Ford's land)*

**Town legal counsel advised adopting the plan as a resolution, not an ordinance — a setback to the desired Event Center.**

**January 2026 —**
**Budget Retreat Discussion**

- Alderman Drew Burnette stated on the record that he wanted the Town to purchase Eddy Ford's land and build an Event Center.
- Alderman Joe LaCroix followed by suggesting the Town issue bonds to buy the land and construct the facility.Audio recording available here:

**https://youtu.be/oSX7jf-O-xU?si=UQjzsPbgCMKmR3B5**

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

**Land Cost:**

- Last known purchase price for the Ford property: $16 million.
- Adding a Town-owned Event Center would significantly increase total costs.
- Residents have asked whether this level of debt could eventually require a property tax.

**Planning & Consulting Costs**

- The Town paid $1.2 million to TSW, Consultants of Atlanta for the Mixed-Use Town Center Vision Plan.
- The Town recently approved the same firm to replace the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
- Some residents question whether this represents a renewed effort to advance the Event Center and boutique hotel concept through Town-issued bonds. Is it a second bite at the apple?

**Questions Residents Are Asking**

- Were residents ever contacted about the Town potentially taking on this level of debt?
- Do residents support a Town-owned Event Center?
- After the Biddle Farm development, do residents trust the current Town administration to budget, oversee, and manage a project of this size and financial scope?

**Community Discussion Continues**

- Residents across Farragut continue to evaluate how these decisions may shape the Town's long-term planning, financial commitments, and development priorities. While candidate Povlin says no property tax, her support of the Event Center and boutique hotel concerns residents.

VOTE 2026

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## Letters

From page 4A

strung by the MUTCD to get a traffic light at Grigsby Chapel and St. John Court, she supported our communities and St. John Neumann to give safe egress onto Grigsby Chapel. She met with homeowners whose properties would be needed to support implementation of the traffic light and, again, gained consensus, so safety can be restored. Our light is on track for a 2027 implementation!

This shows acquired knowledge and practiced PEOPLE and inter-departmental communication skills that make a vote for her a necessity if we want our Town to continue to BE the best that it can be!

My concern about the alternate of choice for Mayor is the assumption that his intent to DO the job well can't be supported by his lack of experience. I have stood toe to toe with leadership at City of Atlanta to implement process improvement for stakeholders across multiple departments. It is hard to bring about change and the risks associated with getting it right. Louise has exactly what is needed to successfully carry the baton from Ron and keep us moving forward through every growing pain that will need to be confronted.

Louise Povlin is easily the best and safest choice!

Kim Frasch,
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

As a mother with children in Knox County Schools, including sons involved on the Farragut High School football team, I pay close attention to the adults who are trusted to teach, coach and influence our children.

That is one of the reasons I support Alex Cain for Mayor of Farragut.

I have seen how students respond to Alex. He was loved by many of the young people he taught and coached because he cared about them, encouraged them and treated them like they mattered. Teenagers are usually very good judges of whether an adult is genuine. The respect so many former students and athletes continue to show Alex speaks volumes about the kind of person he is.

Alex is also an approved Knox County Schools volunteer and continues to serve with the Farragut High School football program. As a parent, that matters to me. Schools do not simply allow anyone to work around students and athletes. Parents place a great deal of trust in the people who are part of their children's lives.

Unfortunately, Alex's opponents have chosen to turn this election into a campaign of personal destruction. Instead of focusing on traffic, growth, infrastructure, transparency and the future of Farragut, they have relied on old employment disputes, rumors and carefully selected information meant to damage his reputation.

That is not the kind of politics I want my children watching.

Candidates should be questioned about their voting records, their plans and their leadership. Those are fair issues. Trying to tear apart a man's life because he chose to run for mayor is not fair, and it does nothing to help Farragut.

I have watched Alex continue to show up, speak with residents, serve the community and remain focused despite the attacks against him. He has handled an ugly campaign with strength and dignity.

As a mother, a Knox County Schools parent and a Farragut resident, I believe character matters. Alex Cain is an honorable man, and I am proud to support him for Mayor of Farragut.

Sincerely,
Kimberlie Parks,
Farragut, TN

Dear Editor,

I am voting for and support Alex Cain for Farragut Mayor and Greg Wiberley for South Ward Alderman. Our town desperately needs new management on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. These strong candidates are that needed new management.

In the last ten years on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, we have seen a steady decline in responsibility and representation to the people. Town leaders have ignored the goals and ideals that guided Farragut's founding, and their actions have directly caused a dramatic increase in housing density and traffic in our community. Officials changed lot sizes from 20,000 square feet to almost 10,000 square feet, and they forced 781 four-story apartments onto residents. The founders set the apartment limit at two stories.

If we look at the National Community Survey of 2025, we see the people of Farragut love the place they live in but give only fair to poor grades for the operation of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Farragut Planning Commission. Ron Williams and Louise Povlin have been the two key officials who have the most responsibility for these poor grades.

The politicians on the Mayor and Alderman tell us only to look at the good grades for the place we live and to ignore the grades for the government that are fair to poor. They tell us those grades do not matter. They matter to me. Do they matter to you?

What matters even more to me is the constitutional crisis of 2020 and 2021, when Mayor Ron Williams and Vice Mayor Louise Povlin locked the citizens of Farragut out of their own town hall and denied them their constitutional right to confront their elected representatives in person. They did this to ram through the Biddle Farm apartments. Were you aware this happened?

No other government in Knox County did what Mayor Williams and Vice Mayor Povlin did. Residents asked to come to the podium one at a time, they were denied. They asked to call in on the phone they were rejected. They asked to be on the Zoom meetings the town used, they were told no. The people of Farragut were restricted to email communication only.

The entire time this outrage occurred the gym that Vice Mayor Povlin owned was open to the public.

It is crucial this town have new management if it is to thrive.

Mike Mitchell,
Farragut, TN

**www.farragutpress.com**

# Youth Movement

There is a lot of excitement at Rather & Kittrell. Over the last two years, we have welcomed eight new advisors to the firm. This reflects both our continued growth and our long-term commitment to serving clients with excellence. While our team has grown, our philosophy has remained the same: provide a deliberate, detail-oriented advisory experience where every client receives the time, attention, and thoughtful guidance they deserve. Bringing in talented new advisors allows us to deepen that experience while preserving the collaborative culture that has always been at the heart of our firm.

One of the ways we bring that philosophy to life is through our team-based approach to client service. Every client is supported not just by advisory staff, but also client service staff. Rather than relying on a single point of contact, your financial plan is supported by a team that understands your goals, your family, and your long-term vision. If your lead advisor is traveling, in a meeting, or eventually retires years down the road, another trusted member of your team is already familiar with your situation and ready to step in without missing a beat.

Our "Youth Movement" is about much more than adding the next generation of advisors—it's about building a firm with continuity, depth, and longevity. Experienced advisors work alongside newer professionals every day, sharing knowledge, mentoring one another, and combining decades of experience with fresh perspectives. The result is a collaborative environment where clients benefit from the collective expertise of the entire firm, leading to stronger planning, more thoughtful recommendations, and consistent service throughout every stage of life.

At Rather & Kittrell, we believe great client relationships should stand the test of time. By investing in exceptional people and intentionally building every client relationship around a team, we are creating a firm that is equipped to serve families not just for years, but for generations. Our goal is for you to never have to ask, "What happens to my account if my advisor is no longer around?" The answer is simple: your relationship doesn't rest with one person—it rests with a team that already knows you, understands your goals, and is committed to helping you succeed.

Sam Paganelli CFA®, CFP®
Advisor
spaganelli@rkcapital.com

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Knoxville, TN 37934

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& 

They matter to me.

Mansour Hasan, Agent
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Knoxville, TN 37934
Bus: 865-690-7100
mansour.hasan.qyec@statefarm.com

I get it. Your home and car are more than just things. They're where you make your memories and they deserve the right protection. It's why I'm here.
LET'S TALK TODAY.

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# Notice of Early Voting

## Federal/State Primary, County General, Town of Farragut Municipal Election

## July 17th - August 1st, 2026

## EARLY VOTING

**July 17th**
through
**August 1st**

### LOCATIONS AND HOURS OF OPERATION

**10 am – 6 pm**
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

**10 am – 7 pm**
Friday

**10 am – 1 pm**
First two Saturdays

**10 am – 3 pm**
Saturday, August 1

**Closed Sundays**

**Special hours at City County Building, Karns Senior Center, and Meridian Baptist Church**

**EAST KNOXVILLE**
Emerald Youth
East Area Ministry Center
2336 Martin Luther King Avenue

**FARRAGUT**
Farragut Community Center
239 Jamestowne Boulevard, Farragut

**HALLS**
Faithway Baptist Church (across from Halls Senior Center)
4402 Crippen Road

**NORTHWEST KNOXVILLE**
Old Firestone Building (in front of Expo Center)
5523 Clinton Highway

**NORTHEAST KNOX COUNTY**
Gibbs Ruritan Club
7827 Tazewell Pike, Corryton

**EAST KNOX COUNTY**
Carter Senior Center
9040 Asheville Highway

**WEST KNOXVILLE**
Downtown West
1645 Downtown West Boulevard, Unit 40

**NORTHEAST KNOXVILLE**
New Harvest Park
4775 New Harvest Lane

### SPECIAL HOURS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

**DOWNTOWN**
City-County Building, Small Assembly Room, 400 Main Street
**SPECIAL HOURS:**
8 am - 4 pm on Saturday, July 18.

**NORTHWEST KNOX COUNTY**
Karns Senior Center, 8042 Oak Ridge Highway
**SPECIAL HOURS:**
9 am – 5 pm weekdays. Closed on Saturday, July 18 and Saturday, July 25.

**SOUTH KNOXVILLE**
Meridian Baptist Church, 6513 Chapman Highway
**SPECIAL HOURS:**
10 am - 5 pm on Wednesdays. 10 am – 4 pm on Friday, July 17.

### FEDERAL AND STATE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

**GOVERNOR**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Marsha Blackburn
☐ Monty Fritts
☐ John Rose
☐ Write-in

**UNITED STATES SENATE**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Bill Hagerty
☐ Write-in

**UNITED STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 2
Vote for One (1)
☐ Tim Burchett
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE SENATE**
DISTRICT 5
Vote for One (1)
☐ Jimmy Matlock
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE SENATE**
DISTRICT 7
Vote for One (1)
☐ Richard M. Briggs
☐ Kent Morrell
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 14
Vote for One (1)
☐ Jason Zachary
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 15
Vote for One (1)
*No Candidate Qualified*
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 16
Vote for One (1)
☐ Michele Carringer
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 18
Vote for One (1)
☐ Elaine Davis
☐ Brent N. Jones
☐ Elliott Schuchardt
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 19
Vote for One (1)
☐ Dave Wright
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 89
Vote for One (1)
☐ Justin Lafferty
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 90
Vote for One (1)
*No Candidate Qualified*
☐ Write-in

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN**
DISTRICT 5
Vote for One (1)
☐ Zach Farrar
☐ Lucas Heaton
☐ Write-in

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEWOMAN**
DISTRICT 5
Vote for One (1)
☐ Sherri Garrett
☐ Amy Poteet
☐ Write-in

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN**
DISTRICT 6
Vote for One (1)
☐ Martin Ammons
☐ Brian Hornback
☐ Write-in

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEWOMAN**
DISTRICT 6
Vote for One (1)
☐ Gwen Baxter
☐ Jane Chedester
☐ Write-in

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN**
DISTRICT 7
Vote for One (1)
☐ Jeremy Colley
☐ Write-in

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEWOMAN**
DISTRICT 7
Vote for One (1)
☐ Staci Beeler
☐ Janis C. Crye
☐ Write-in

### FEDERAL AND STATE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

**GOVERNOR**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Carnita Atwater
☐ Tim Cyr
☐ Jerri Green
☐ Adam "Ditch" Kurtz
☐ Kevin Lee McCants
☐ Write-in

**UNITED STATES SENATE**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Marquita Bradshaw
☐ Maria Brewer
☐ Kevin Lee McCants
☐ Civil Miller-Watkins
☐ Diana Onyejiaka
☐ Write-in

**UNITED STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 2
Vote for One (1)
☐ Michaela Barnett
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE SENATE**
DISTRICT 5
Vote for One (1)
☐ David Miller
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE SENATE**
DISTRICT 7
Vote for One (1)
☐ Bryan Langan
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 14
Vote for One (1)
☐ Lindsay Young Honaker
☐ Shivam R. Zaveri
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 15
Vote for One (1)
☐ Sam McKenzie
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 16
Vote for One (1)
☐ Eliza Boles
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 18
Vote for One (1)
☐ Bryan Goldberg
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 19
Vote for One (1)
☐ Jenny Fowler
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 89
Vote for One (1)
☐ Randy DeBord
☐ Write-in

**TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
DISTRICT 90
Vote for One (1)
☐ Gloria Johnson
☐ Write-in

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN**
DISTRICT 5
Vote for One (1)
☐ Andrew F. Bennett III
☐ David A. Garcia
☐ Write-in

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEWOMAN**
DISTRICT 5
Vote for One (1)
☐ Anne Backus
☐ Write-in

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN**
DISTRICT 6
Vote for One (1)
☐ Jim Clement
☐ Write-in

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEWOMAN**
DISTRICT 6
Vote for One (1)
☐ Amanda Collins
☐ Write-in

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN**
DISTRICT 7
Vote for One (1)
☐ Will Bowen
☐ Write-in

**STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEWOMAN**
DISTRICT 7
Vote for One (1)
☐ Dana E. Moran
☐ Write-in

### KNOX COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION

**CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE 6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
DIVISION I (Unexpired Term)
Vote for One (1)
☐ Emily F. Abbott, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**COUNTY MAYOR**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Betsy Henderson, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Beau Hawk, Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**COUNTY COMMISSION**
DISTRICT 3
Vote for One (1)
☐ Sheri Super, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Brandon Huckaby, Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**COUNTY COMMISSION**
DISTRICT 7
Vote for One (1)
☐ Barry Beeler, Republican Party Nominee
☐ William Cooper, Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**COUNTY COMMISSION AT-LARGE**
SEAT 10
Vote for One (1)
☐ Justin D. Cofer, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Katina Sharp, Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Ronin Cunningham, Independent Candidate
☐ Write-in

**COUNTY COMMISSION AT-LARGE**
SEAT 11
Vote for One (1)
☐ Garrett Holt, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Vivian Underwood Shipe, Democratic Party Nominee
☐ David Velarde, Independent Candidate
☐ Write-in

**COUNTY TRUSTEE**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Nick McBride, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Stephen Hood, Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**GENERAL SESSIONS JUDGE**
DIVISION IV (Unexpired Term)
Vote for One (1)
☐ Andrea Kline, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Ben H. Houston II, Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**SHERIFF**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Brent Gibson, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**CIRCUIT, CIVIL SESSIONS AND JUVENILE COURT CLERK**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Charlie Susano, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**CRIMINAL COURT CLERK**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Mike Hammond, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**COUNTY CLERK**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Richie Beeler, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**REGISTER OF DEEDS**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Sherry Witt, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
DISTRICT 1
Vote for One (1)
☐ Charles Frazier, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Breyauna Holloway, Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
DISTRICT 4
Vote for One (1)
☐ Ashley Sarfelle, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Katherine Bike, Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
DISTRICT 6
Vote for One (1)
☐ Lee Ann Eaves, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Cadence Collins, Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
DISTRICT 7
Vote for One (1)
☐ Steve Triplett, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Amy Fenner, Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
DISTRICT 9
Vote for One (1)
☐ Bill Sofield, Republican Party Nominee
☐ Brandy Jenkins, Democratic Party Nominee
☐ Write-in

### TOWN OF FARRAGUT MUNICIPAL ELECTION

**MAYOR**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Alex Cain
☐ Louise Povlin
☐ Write-in

**ALDERMAN, WARD 1**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Dian Hall
☐ Joey Ruffalo
☐ Write-in

**ALDERMAN, WARD 2**
Vote for One (1)
☐ Joe LaCroix
☐ Greg Wiberley
☐ Write-in

### STATE GENERAL

**SUPREME COURT – AT LARGE**
**KYLE A. HIXSON**
Shall Kyle A. Hixson be retained in office as a Judge of the Supreme Court, At Large, or be replaced?
☐ Retain
☐ Replace

**SUPREME COURT – AT LARGE**
**MARY L. WAGNER**
Shall Mary L. Wagner be retained in office as a Judge of the Supreme Court, At Large, or be replaced?
☐ Retain
☐ Replace

**COURT OF APPEALS – EASTERN DIVISION**
**WILLIAM E. PHILLIPS II**
Shall William E. Phillips II be retained in office as a Judge of the Court of Appeals, Eastern Division, or be replaced?
☐ Retain
☐ Replace

**COURT OF APPEALS – WESTERN DIVISION**
**STEVE MARONEY**
Shall Steve Maroney be retained in office as a Judge of the Court of Appeals, Western Division, or be replaced?
☐ Retain
☐ Replace

**COURT OF APPEALS – WESTERN DIVISION**
**VALERIE L. SMITH**
Shall Valerie L. Smith be retained in office as a Judge of the Court of Appeals, Western Division, or be replaced?
☐ Retain
☐ Replace

**COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS - EASTERN DIVISION**
**STACY L. STREET**
Shall Stacy L. Street be retained in office as a Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, Eastern Division, or be replaced?
☐ Retain
☐ Replace

**COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS - EASTERN DIVISION**
**STEVEN W. SWORD**
Shall Steven W. Sword be retained in office as a Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, Eastern Division, or be replaced?
☐ Retain
☐ Replace

**Knox County Election Commission**
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**Knox County Courthouse**
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Knoxville, TN 37902
P: 865-215-2480

**Office Hours:**
***Monday - Friday:***
8 am – 4:30 pm

**www.knoxvotes.org**

A federal or State of Tennessee issued photo ID is required to vote, unless an exception applies. College student IDs will not be accepted. To learn more about the law and its exceptions, please call 865-215-2480 or visit www.GoVoteTN.com.

fromtheTownbyWendySmith

# Observations from a retiring communications manager

By the time you read this, I'll have retired from the Town of Farragut after 9.5 years of service as the communications manager/PR and marketing coordinator. When I was first hired, I was part of the Parks & Recreation Department and primarily wrote media releases about events and programs. Oh, how times have changed!

Working for the Town of Farragut has been rewarding in many ways, but I most appreciate the opportunity to work with Town staff, who are devoted to making Farragut better every day. Here are some of the experiences I've enjoyed the most:

**Working at Town events:** I was hired by Parks & Rec director Sue Stuhl, and it was one of her policies that new staff work every event during their first year. That's a lot of events. My favorites are Freaky Friday Fright Nite (candy and costumes are always fun) and the Shamrock Ball. When you make kids happy, it's contagious.

**Opening new Town amenities:** Ribbon cuttings are fantastic because they're the public announcement of the end of a project — usually a very long project. The most memorable grand opening was that of the Farragut Community Center on Jan. 16, 2020, the 40th anniversary of the incorporation of Farragut. The Town's partnership with Knox County to purchase the former Faith Lutheran Church has provided a space for thousands of events and classes since then, both at the community center and the West Knox County Senior Center. This amazing local government partnership was recognized last year by the Tennessee Municipal League.

Another memorable ribbon cutting event was the opening of the Campbell Station Inn in January. This historic property was purchased in 2013, so the renovation and repurposing of the inn was a long time coming. It was worth the wait! The grand opening of Phase 3 of McFee Park in 2022 also stands out. The addition of the Great Lawn, tennis and basketball courts and the Great Lawn Pavilion made McFee Park a true destination.

**Interacting with and informing the community:** I'm not going to say that interacting with the community is always positive. As it turns out, it's much easier to criticize than it is to compliment local government. (To learn more, watch Citizen's Forum during a Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting at townoffarragut.org/agendas or check out the Town's Facebook account.) But when the community steps up to ask sincere questions or offer constructive comments, good stuff happens. There are several ways to do this:

• Schedule a meeting with a staff member or visit the reception desk at Farragut Town Hall. If you have questions or comments about development within Farragut, a road project, our parks and greenways or any other topic that staff can address, they're happy to chat. Calling 865-966-7057 also works.

• Attend a public input session. The Community Development Department will soon ask for feedback as they update the Town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and a few weeks later, the Parks & Rec Department will ask for input on amenities for the new park property on McFee Road. These are both important opportunities to share your thoughts and learn more about how local government works.

• Reach out to individual board members. Their email addresses are available at townoffarragut.org/board.

Farragut is an amazing community, and those who are fortunate enough to live here should appreciate the things that make it unique: a volunteer government, a friendly and accessible staff, attractive public buildings, beautiful parks and greenways and a multitude of events and programs for all ages — all without an additional property tax. If you're thankful for any of these things, please share it!

Barbara Lowry, ABR, CRS
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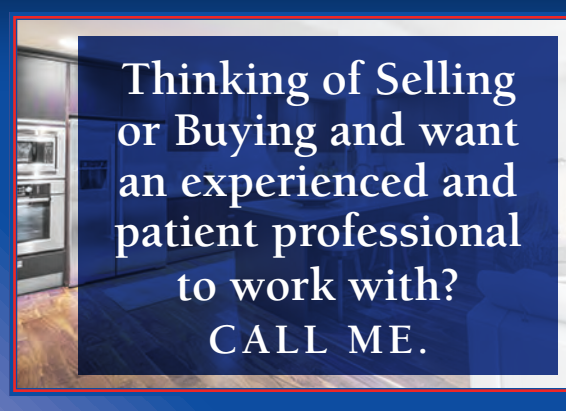
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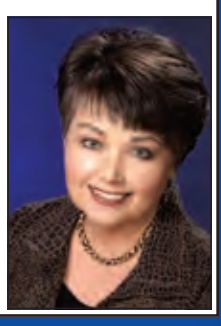

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## Louise
From page 1A

dents until they're faced with development in their backyard. The Town posts agendas online, but to a resident unfamiliar with how it all works, learning how it all works is a steep learning curve. During my service, I actively reached out to residents directly impacted by a proposed rezoning or development, helped educate them and bring them into the discussion so we could collaboratively advocate for their concerns. Direct outreach, we need more of that.

**4. Biggest concern for Farragut:**

Continuing to address traffic challenges while protecting our community character requires thoughtful planning. We need to continue to optimize traffic light timing, develop a road network plan for the Ford/Biddle properties, fund our portion of the I40/Campbell Station exchange improvements and advocate for the Northshore Drive corridor improvements proposed in a Knoxville Regional TPO study, the widening of I40 and the relocation of the weigh stations. We need to address our traffic safety issues with appropriate traffic-calming measures and thoughtful design.

**5. Property Rights:**

Prior to 2016, road improvement design was one-size-fits-all (like Everett and McFee) As a direct result of my efforts to reduce lane width and design speed for Union Road, the Town has moved away from their over-designed standards.

New design standards were adopted for Evans Road that address safety issues while maintaining the charming, rural character of that corridor. These improvements can be contained within the Town's right-of-way.

The Planning Commission rejected a plan that ran a trail through private property on Turkey Creek Road. The Town can construct a sidewalk and widened lanes in our existing right of way.

## Cain
From page 2A

made, preserving core services and delivering results-driven leadership for all of Farragut.

As you go to the polls, you should consider which candidate represents your values? Do you want a government of the people, by the people and for the people? If so, I am Alex Cain and I ask you for your vote.

Farragut desperately needs new management in the office of mayor. I can and will bring that new management, vision and leadership.

## Wiberley
From page 2A

few years back and have been involved in many other catastrophic events.

So for decades now I have answered the call when Farragut needed me, whether in the schools, in sports, in church, or simply as a neighbor. And that is why I am running for alderman this year: the need is now for me to step forward, and I feel that I can provide the experienced leadership that is required at this pivotal moment.

I would appreciate your support.

## Forum
From page 1A

the farragutpress regarding the forum.

"My company is going to serve as the moderator and facilitator of the event," Arms said. "So I just wanted you to be aware of it. We have got questions coming in from the [Farragut Business Alliance/Shop Farragut], but we filled in some other questions and are going to try to make this a very civil event and impartial and focusing purely on the issues and eliminate any non-counter effective issues."

"In the afternoon of July 13, the contact email for the forum was disabled," Cain stated. "… The only public figure announcing the event is a supporter of my opponent.

"Questions about the format and ground rules were emailed, and as of July 10 the answers were not forthcoming," Cain stated. "This lack of information and communication certainly is the main reason I think the forum had issues.

"I feel that the organizer(s) and moderator(s) should have been completely free of any partisan leanings," he added. "Mike Arms, Tennessee Strategies, is on the record supporting Louise Povlin, including having a campaign sign in his yard.

"Not a single person from any campaign, except the Povlin campaign, was involved in the planning, rulemaking and format of the forum," Cain stated. "I spoke to Mr. Mike Ragsdale, partner at Tennessee Strategies, in the early afternoon of July 13. He reassured me there would be no bias during his moderation of the forum. I thanked him and indicated that I would take his reassurances into consideration. His professionalism was refreshing."

However, Cain stated that throughout the afternoon of July 13, he received anonymous calls on his campaign cellphone.

"Throughout the afternoon of the 13th, I received on my election cell phone calls without caller ID," Cain stated. "No messages were left. I talked with a few. Those that I talked to were demanding/mandating that I be at the candidate forum because I 'must answer to the residents for my wrongs!' They said it was 'their right' to hear from the candidates.

"On our home landline, my mother, who is 80 years old, received a few of the same 'caller unknown' calls of harassment," he stated. "I'm reporting the times of all these calls to the sheriff's office, to be included in the report regarding the death threat from last month."

Cain alleged that social media posts by Jay Povlin and others defamed him and urged him to attend the candidate forum.

"My first election was nothing like this," Cain stated. "I cannot believe the harassment machine Jay Povlin has directed toward me and my family.

"After all the harassment throughout the afternoon, I made the decision that I would not attend the forum due to the lack of respect given to me and my family by a small group of residents," Cain concluded.

Wiberley also explained why he did not attend the forum.

He included an email from Julie Blaylock, president/CEO of the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce, inviting him to a candidates forum that "originally was going to be sponsored by the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce."

"I deemed that to be a legitimate sponsor, as there did not appear to be any partisan motivation on their part and so could manage all candidates fairly," Wiberley stated in an email. "I accepted that invitation to participate."

However, "subsequent emails show where the Chamber removed itself as a sponsor, for reasons I do not know," he stated.

Tuesday, Blaylock said the Chamber was sponsoring the forum and then asked Tennessee Strategies to help sponsor the event. While getting close to the Chamber's deadlines, she said they still did not have confirmation that all candidates, particularly the mayoral candidates, were going to attend.

"Our charter states we cannot endorse or lobby for any one candidate," Blaylock said. Fearing not having all candidates present would "put us in a gray area and we were afraid to take the risk. What's appropriate for a private entity may not be appropriate for us."

Thus, the Chamber stepped away, but Tennessee Strategies carried forward the event. While Blaylock had heard the event went well, she did not hear if any other organization stepped up in the Chamber's place.

"Beginning on June 24, an entity identifying itself only as 'Farragut Forum 2026' issued a new invitation," Wiberley stated. "… There is not one individual identified with the group. So the obvious question for me was … who is the new sponsor?

"The subsequent email chain from the other candidates shows there were important questions about the event, notably what the format and guidelines would be," he stated. "I never did see where those issues were fully satisfied, and I was not personally updated on any changes. In fact, the only direct communication I had from them was the initial invitation. Ultimately, the group's gmail account was taken down.

"One public notice for the event was at the last BOMA meeting, with a known Louise Povlin supporter making an announcement," Wiberley stated.

"Finally, there was a lot of back-and-forth on social media about who was really behind the group, and the consensus was that it was associated with Louise Povlin's supporters," he stated. "That was the final straw in my determination that this forum was poorly thrown together and was not going to be fair and balanced. In order to protect my campaign, I decided it was not in my best interest to attend."


SOUTH WARD REPORT CARD

Two Candidates. Two Very Different Records.

| SUBJECT | GREG WIBERLEY | ERNEST "JOE" LACROIX |
|---|---|---|
| 1. FARRAGUT ROOTS | A+ Resident since 1986. | C Resident since 2016. |
| 2. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE | A+ 50+ years in construction, project management and planning. | B 35 years in information technology. |
| 3. COMMUNITY SERVICE | A+ Beginning 1994: Soccer, Basketball, & Baseball Head Coach, Church Youth Director, Farragut Schools Volunteer | C 3 years on two town committees |
| 4. LEADERSHIP | A+ Decades of experience as a project leader on multi-million dollar projects | C 9 months as an appointed alderman |
| 5. PRACTICAL TOWN READINESS | A+ Real-world experience with infrastructure planning & project coordination | C+ Government IT experience and service as an appointed incumbent. |

GREG WIBERLEY

FARRAGUT SOUTH WARD

www.coachgregforfarragut.com

FINAL GRADE: GREG WIBERLEY A+

INDEPENDENT LEADERSHIP • FARRAGUT VALUES • A CITIZEN'S VOICE

Campaign grades are opinions based on candidate resumes and public campaign materials.

Paid for by Greg Wiberley For Alderman Campaign

## Ruffalo

From page 2A

thoughtful and compatible with our neighborhoods, infrastructure and history.

• Support Local Businesses – Small businesses are the heartbeat of our community. We must make it easier for them to succeed and thrive.

I will be accessible and transparent — holding regular office hours, coffee connections, and listening sessions so every resident has a seat at the table.

Together, we can protect our quality of life, strengthen our community, and ensure Farragut remains the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

## Hall

From page 2A

means supporting the local businesses that make Farragut unique.

Our small businesses are neighbors, job creators and the backbone of our local economy. By creating a business-friendly environment with fair, predictable processes and thoughtful planning, we can help local businesses thrive while preserving the quality of life that makes Farragut such a special place to call home.

I'm running to ensure that every decision reflects the values of the people who live here — not just today's needs, but the future we want to build together. I would be honored to earn your support and serve as your voice on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

## Alex

From page 1A

updates to our planning and zoning policies, including: A citizen-driven Comprehensive Land Use Plan update guided by a steering committee of both new and established residents with fresh ideas, to identify suitable growth areas while safeguarding neighborhoods and open spaces.

By listening to citizens, protecting property rights and maintaining fiscal discipline, we can strengthen our sales-tax base and core services without eroding what makes Farragut special.

**3. Public Trust:**

Rebuilding public trust begins with genuine listening. While knocking on doors, I hear residents' concerns about transparency and recent public comment policy changes.

Improving the public comment policy to allow reasonable speaking opportunities while respecting residents' time.

Boosting transparency with clear agendas, documents and more live-streamed meetings on the Town's YouTube channel.

Holding monthly resident meetings with aldermen and expanding digital feedback so input shapes decisions early.

**4. Biggest concern for Farragut:**

As a highly desirable community, development pressure will intensify. We risk straining infrastructure, especially traffic, inviting costly government expansion, like new taxes, bonds, or duplicative positions. Our reliance on sales tax makes us particularly vulnerable.

Prioritize extensive public input on every major development decision.

Maintain strict fiscal discipline, NO PROPERTY TAX, no new bonds and conservative budgeting. I am committed to responsible growth, fiscal conservatism and citizens-focused government.

**5. Property Rights:**

As mayor, I will firmly oppose eminent domain whenever possible and pursue smarter, less intrusive alternatives, such as redesigns that use the Town's existing right-of-way or easements without taking private property.

I will also require a review of all previously planned projects to ensure they follow strong property-rights protections. Infrastructure should serve the community, not undermine it. I will always prioritize property rights while delivering responsible, cost-effective improvements respecting Farragut homeowners.

## Candidates

From page 1A

my ideas on how to tackle the issues the town is facing are pretty sound," said LaCroix, who was appointed to the board in September 2025 to fill the vacancy created by the death of Alderman David White.

LaCroix, who holds an MBA, said he spent 18 years working in local government as a staff member.

"From that perspective, I understand how government works from the inside," he said.

Hall said her 27-year career in the U.S. Air Force prepared her for public service.

"The one thing about the military is they continually train you," she said. "They train you in leadership; they train you in project management; they train you in command positions and finances."

After moving to Farragut, Hall said her children attended Farragut schools, and she became active in the community by coaching youth sports, volunteering with local athletic organizations, serving on her homeowners association and, most recently, serving on the Town's Parks and Athletics Council.

Hall said her focus is listening to residents and addressing their needs.

Ruffalo said he and his wife became involved in the community soon after moving to Farragut.

"We got involved; we got active," he said. "That was something we wanted to do. We wanted to give back to our community."

He is a member of the Rotary Club of Farragut, serves as vice chairman of the Town's Tourism/Visitors Committee and serves on the Shop Farragut/Farragut Business Alliance board.

Ruffalo, who also holds an MBA, said his background in financial planning and business development has prepared him for public office.

"My degree has allowed me to work with individuals, to work with businesses," he said. "I'm a business development strategist. I know what it takes to run a business and what it takes to grow businesses.

"I just want what's best," Ruffalo added.

None of the candidates said they favored imposing a property tax to pay for fire or police protection.

## Povlin

From page 2A

obligations: aging facilities, stormwater infrastructure, remaining substandard roads to improve, our trail/sidewalk network to complete, paving needs, parks, and recreation planning.

Local businesses are essential to Farragut's character and success. We must attract the sales-tax-generating businesses residents want and that fit our long-term vision. By providing support through renovation/construction, better coordinating the work of the Chamber, Shop Farragut and Visit Farragut with the Town's economic development efforts, we can support entrepreneurs from first idea through grand opening and long-term growth.

My commitment is simple: listen carefully, communicate clearly, plan responsibly and protect the character of Farragut while preparing for the future. I would be honored to earn your vote and work with you to keep Farragut strong, welcoming and well-managed for the next generation.

**www.farragutpress.com**

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## The YMCA of East Tennessee's Swing for a Cause

*at Avalon Golf Course*

Golfers gathered at Avalon Golf Course on Thursday, July 9, to Swing for a Cause during the YMCA of East Tennessee's charity golf tournament. The event brought together community members, local businesses, and sponsors for a day of friendly competition with a meaningful purpose—raising funds to provide scholarships that help ensure children, families, and individuals can participate in YMCA programs regardless of financial circumstances. This is the second stop on the 2026 tour with the next one happening the end of August.

If you are interested in finding out more about the tournament and general fund for the YMCA, please contact Jared Daugherty at jdaugherty@ymcaetn.org or visit ymcaetn.org

farragutpress

Back to School

Our Back-to-School publication is a trusted resource for parents, students, and educators throughout Farragut and West Knox.

**Publication date: July 29, 2026**

Deadline for Advertising Space and Materials: July 24

for more information call 865-675-6397 or email khartman@farragutpress.com

# FARRAGUT'S 4 SCHOOLS

## Elementary, Intermediate, Middle and High School

## The Town of Farragut needs to invest more money directly into our 4 schools.

**We only give $151,000 per year. We need to give at least $1,000,000 per year. With the Knox County school board cutting funding this coming year because of Knox county cuts, we need to step up.**

**The Town of Farragut has a surplus of $32,000,000 and no debt. The surplus grows about $6,000,000 per year. We must invest more than a small amount $151,000 in the schools to help teachers, parents and students. $1,000,000 per year is something we can afford. What do the Mayor candidates say about this. Our 4 schools need more support.**

**Citizens for better funded Farragut schools when the county is cutting money.**

# KEEP IT FARRAGUT

## Putting Farragut First. Keeping It Thriving.

## 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 then 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*

## Louise Has More Than 10 Years of Experience of Putting Farragut First

**Safer Roads & 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

## LOUISE'S VISION

- No More Apartments
- Supporting Small Businesses
- Community Guided Planning
- Resident Focused Leadership
- No Farragut Property Tax

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

Learn More, Donate, Volunteer

**ElectLouisePovlin.com**

Visit My Website

Show Your Support

Paid for by Elect Louise Povlin, Scott Meyer, Treasurer

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## A Ten-Year Track Record of Progress For Farragut

**Community Successes of Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Povlin, and The Town Leadership Team**

**Revitalizing Farragut's Commercial Core**
Under my leadership team, dozens of long-vacant, outdated, or blighted properties were demolished, rebuilt, or repurposed. Former gas stations, retail centers, and underused corridors are now home to thriving restaurants, shops, medical offices, banks, and service businesses. Major reinvestment occurred throughout Biddle Farms, Dixie Lee, Parkside, Farragut Town Center, and the Outlet area, bringing strong occupancy and renewed economic activity.

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

**Revitalizing Farragut's Commercial Core**
Under my leadership team, dozens of long-vacant, outdated, or blighted properties were demolished, rebuilt, or repurposed. Former gas stations, retail centers, and underused corridors are now home to thriving restaurants, shops, ADA accessibility town-wide.

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

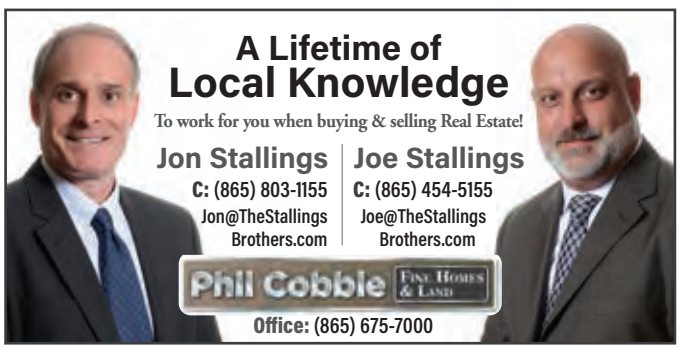
**Balanced Growth & Housing**
New subdivisions, townhomes, apartments, senior living, and mixed-use developments were completed or are underway, transforming underutilized land into productive residential and commercial spaces while supporting our long-term vision of community growth.

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

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

**Respectfully, Mayor Ron E. Williams**

Paid for by Elect Louise Povlin, Scott Meyer, Treasurer




# Lady Ads earn All-State honors

**Jake Nichols**
*jnichols@farragutpress.com*

Several All-State awards have rolled in over the last few weeks from the 2026 spring sports season, and multiple area players were honored in the process.

Farragut High School standouts Rylee Raby and Hallie Grace Johnson earned Tennessee Sports Writers' Association (TSWA) All-State nods for Class 4A while Emily Bogoski and Amelia Williams earned the same honor in Division II-A for Christian Academy of Knoxville.

For FHS, Raby batted .439 on the year with 50 hits and 44 RBI with a .719 slugging percentage and a .489 on-base percentage. Johnson, meanwhile, totaled a .447 average at the plate with 51 hits, a .781 slugging percentage and a .515 on-base percentage. Notably, she and Raby both drew 16 walks on the year.

In the circle, Johnson – a Radford commit – led the Lady Admirals with a 0.82 ERA with 22 wins and just four losses. Within those 22 wins came 13 shutouts with 32 runs allowed (18 earned), 35 walks and a mind-boggling 212 strikeouts.

Bogoski made All-State as a pitcher for CAK, earning the nod for a second consecutive year while Williams was named as an outfielder. Johnson earned the honor for her work in the circle, as well, while Raby was notably the only catcher named All-State in Class 4A.

# *Local athletes shine on All-State teams*

**Ken Lay**
*Correspondent*

Owen Fulford had a banner year for Christian Academy of Knoxville and he concluded the season with a flourish at the Division II-A state championships at the University of Tennessee's Tom Black Track in Knoxville in May.

He was recently honored when the Tennessee Sports Writers Association released its boys All-State teams.

Fulford earned All-State honors in the decathlon, the 100-meter hurdles, the 300-meter hurdles and the pole vault. He won the decathlon, swept the hurdles events and finished second in the pole vault.

CAK's Devin Young earned All-State honors in the pole vault as he finished third at the state championships.

Concord Christian School had a pair of selections as Kohbe Ward was recognized for winning the 400-meter dash at state. The Lions' Dasani Moulden was honored for his runner-up finish in the 200-meter dash.

In Division II-AA: Knoxville Catholic's J.R. Fowler received All-State honors from the TSWA as he won the state title in both the shot put and the discus. Cade Duncanson, the Irish's distance specialist, was honored as he took second in the 3,200-meter run.

Several girls also received All-State honors based on their state championship performances.

In Division II-AA: Local athletes swept the top two spots in the 100-meter dash. Webb School of Knoxville's Lacy Young earned All-State honors

**See ALL-STATE on Page 2B**

**Photo courtesy of Jack Tate**

Before being drafted by the Detroit Tigers or playing in the SEC, Jett Johnston became an All-State standout for the Farragut Admirals, leading FHS to a pair of state titles.

# The right move

## Johnston's journey to pro baseball

**Jake Nichols**
*jnichols@farragutpress.com*

On Sunday, July 12, Jett Johnston sat in his living room and watched his lifelong dream come true.

The 2023 Farragut High School graduate was picked by the Detroit Tigers in the 13th round of the 2026 Major League Baseball Draft.

In the process, he became Farragut's 25th draft pick in program history.

"Obviously it's been a dream for as long as I've been playing baseball," Johnston said during an exclusive interview with the farragutpress. "This is a really great milestone, and I'm super pumped I got to spend it with my family.

"Anyone who knows baseball knows this is just the beginning, and there's a long road ahead. Now it's time to put my head down and go to work. God's great, and I'm fired up for the opportunity."

But that opportunity would not have come without Johnston's two years as an Admiral, as well as a crucial decision that determined his future in professional baseball.

**Formed at Farragut**

From the moment Johnston arrived in Tennessee from Texas, Matt Buckner could tell he was different.

"He could throw really hard," the former Farragut coach recalled. "Pretty elite velocity early in his career."

Buckner molded Johnston throughout the two years he spent at FHS, as he led the Admirals to a pair of state titles with an All-State selection in 2023.

"Coach Buckner was very confident in my abilities, and he gave me every opportunity I could have asked for," Johnston said. "I had some ups and downs, but he rolled me out there every day and told me that baseball is a hard game and to keep going.

"He reminded me I was good enough to play at the

**See JOHNSTON on Page 3B**

# Area athletes honored for championship seasons

**Jake Nichols**

These Concord Christian School athletes were just a few of the state champions honored at the Knox County Night of Champions on Tuesday, June 16. Members of the CCS track team from left to right: Presley Horst, Baylor Kohlbusch, Lydia Kohlbusch, Annie Von Hagan, Kohbe Ward, Reese Franklin and Maurice Smith. Oakley Helton (baseball) attended as one of the Players of the Week.

**Jake Nichols**
*jnichols@farragutpress.com*

Steve Prince looked up at the Neyland Stadium Jumbotron as his Concord Christian track runners flashed across the screen.

Those Lions were just a few of the athletes recognized at the Knox County Night of Champions on Tuesday, June 16.

The event — hosted by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs — recognized each state championship team and individual, as well as the Guardian Foundation Players of the Week.

"This was the brainchild of Jane Jolly in my office," Jacobs said. "We just wanted to do something to celebrate the Knox County high school students who won state championships. It's quite an achievement, and it's really just about celebrating them and their accomplishments."

Area state champions recognized in this event were: Farragut baseball (which won its fifth straight state title);

Webb girls cross country (which won its third straight team title); Hardin Valley unified flag football; Hardin Valley boys golf; Christian Academy of Knoxville girls golf; Bearden girls soccer (fourth in last five years); Webb girls basketball (back-to-back); CAK's Owen Fulford, who won three individual championships in the ninth title for the for Fulford family; Knox Catholic's JR Fowler, who won state championships in discus and shot put;

Concord's Kohbe Ward in the 400-meter dash; CCS girls 4x400 relay team; CCS mixed 4x400 relay team; the CAK girls 4x800 relay team; Catholic girls 4x200 relay (third in a row) and the Webb girls' track state team title, their 13th as a program and sixth in a row.

Attendees snacked on pizza, popcorn, donuts and cookies, then sat in the upper deck of Neyland Stadium as Jacobs and keynote speaker Michelle Marciniak imparted advice to the athletes.

Marciniak, a Final Four MVP as part of the Lady Vols' 1996 national title run, recently returned to Knoxville as

**See CHAMPION on Page 2B**

# Admirals lax standouts earn All-State honors

**Jake Nichols**
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This past season, both Farragut lacrosse programs saw a fair share of success.

The boys lacrosse program won its second-straight region title and advanced to the state semifinals for the second consecutive year.

On the girls side, the Lady Ads fell to Cookeville in heartbreaking fashion to end the season.

Both programs received All-State nods, as several players were recognized for their efforts.

Admirals senior captain Brock Lockhart earned his second consecutive All-State award from the Tennessee Boys Lacrosse Association, totaling 121 goals and 190 points in his career to become the all-time points leader in FHS history.

He also exemplified the kind of leadership that can leave an indelible mark on a program.

"He was what every coach wants and needs as a leader," said head coach Ben Sachs of Lockhart. "It didn't matter who you were. He lifted you up on and off the field, sharing any knowledge he could with anybody. A prime example of what it means to be a captain. He had a selflessness and dedication, making sure guys were in the right spot, at practice, talking to them to build them up.

"He is really someone I wish every team could experience because it changes the whole dynamic of the group with the way he brought leadership to our team. I truly feel privileged to have spent the last two years with him. His numbers speak for his talent, but the leadership was a whole different ballgame."

Finn Sachs also received his second consecutive All-State award. He averaged 3.8 goals and 1.7 assists per game this season with a .514 shot percentage and he sits 15 points away from Lockhart's point record at the end of his sophomore campaign.

"His junior year is going to be big for him," head coach Ben Sachs said. "I really see him continuing to grow as a player and a leader. He has a skill set that allows him to dictate what he wants to do on and off the field.

"He'll almost be the face of Farragut lacrosse because of the hard work he's put in, and there is no limit to what he can do — it's all up to how much work he wants to put in. He's going to be someone that younger players will look up to."

Moses Burnette earned his first All-State nod this year, totaling a team-high 31 takeaways on the season.

"One of the biggest things was this was his third year playing lacrosse," Sachs said of Burnette. "He really dedicated himself to becoming a great player and learning the sport as quickly as he could. He became a student of the game and was so effective cutting off passes, finding gaps and moved the ball to the offensive side so we could score."

Nick Toth brought a similar impact, netting 27 takeaways for the Admirals while making things tough for opposing offenses.

"He really forced turnovers this year, getting about two a game," Sachs said. "And most offensive players, when matched up with him, would immediately pass it away. Players didn't really want to go one-on-one with him, and he forced guys to rethink their approach. He was a tone-setter for us, making a slide or body check to someone like, 'If you're going to try and shoot, you're going to have to go through me.'"

Luke Duenckel also earned an All-State nod, racking up 74 grounds balls this year.

"I expect Luke to continue his effort," Sachs said. "One of the greatest things about him is that he is the example of effort over talent. He won ground balls, ate shots and gave 110 percent. If every player put that effort into their lives, they would be unstoppable."

Jake Nichols

Farragut's Moses Burnette (0) and Brock Lockhart (5) celebrate after a goal during the 2026 season. They both earned All-State honors for the Admirals, as both FHS programs saw All-State players after this season.

But even with these All-State selections, senior Jane Davanzo was also selected as an All-State pick for the Lady Admirals.

She averaged 3.2 goals and 1.4 assists per game, totaling 82 shots on goal with 19 caused turnovers, 41 goals, 59 points and 18 assists in her senior season.

**See LAX on Page 3B**

## Champion

**From page 1B**

the CEO of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

She shared stories about her own upbringing, which included the famous tale about Pat Summitt's in-home visit while she was nine months pregnant with her son, Tyler.

On a more serious note, Marciniak encouraged the athletes to go the extra mile in everything they do.

"I feel very fortunate that Mayor Jacobs asked me to be here and was the person I got to speak with," she said. "What an amazing ambassador for our city and county. I loved being able to speak to these champions.

"They're the best of the best in their age group, and it really doesn't matter how old I get. I experienced the same things they experienced, and it's still the same mentality to have what it takes to become a champion and sustain that."

Meanwhile, Prince reflected on what the night meant for his CCS athletes and the group as a whole.

"This is absolutely amazing, beyond words to look around at all these other state champions," he said. "I just thank Knox County for doing something like this. It's wonderful. Now they'll go back and tell their friends, 'When they ask you to come out for track, this is what you might get one day.' Not only a state medal but to come to Neyland Stadium and have a big party."

## All-State

**From page 1B**

as she won the event. Catholic's Chloe Truss was runner-up in the race and also was recognized by the TSWA.

Three area sprinters earned All-State honors in the 200-meter dash. They included Young, Truss and Webb's Simone Romain. Truss also earned All-State recognition for her third-place finish in the 400-meter dash.

The Lady Spartans' Calysta Garmer earned All-State honors in both the 800 and 3,200. Her sister, Jazzlyn, also was named All-State in the 3,200.

Catholic's Charlotte Fowler was named All-State in both the shot put and the discus.

In Division II-A, Concord Christian eighth-grader Baylor Kohlbusch was named All-State in the 400-meter dash. She finished third at the state championships.

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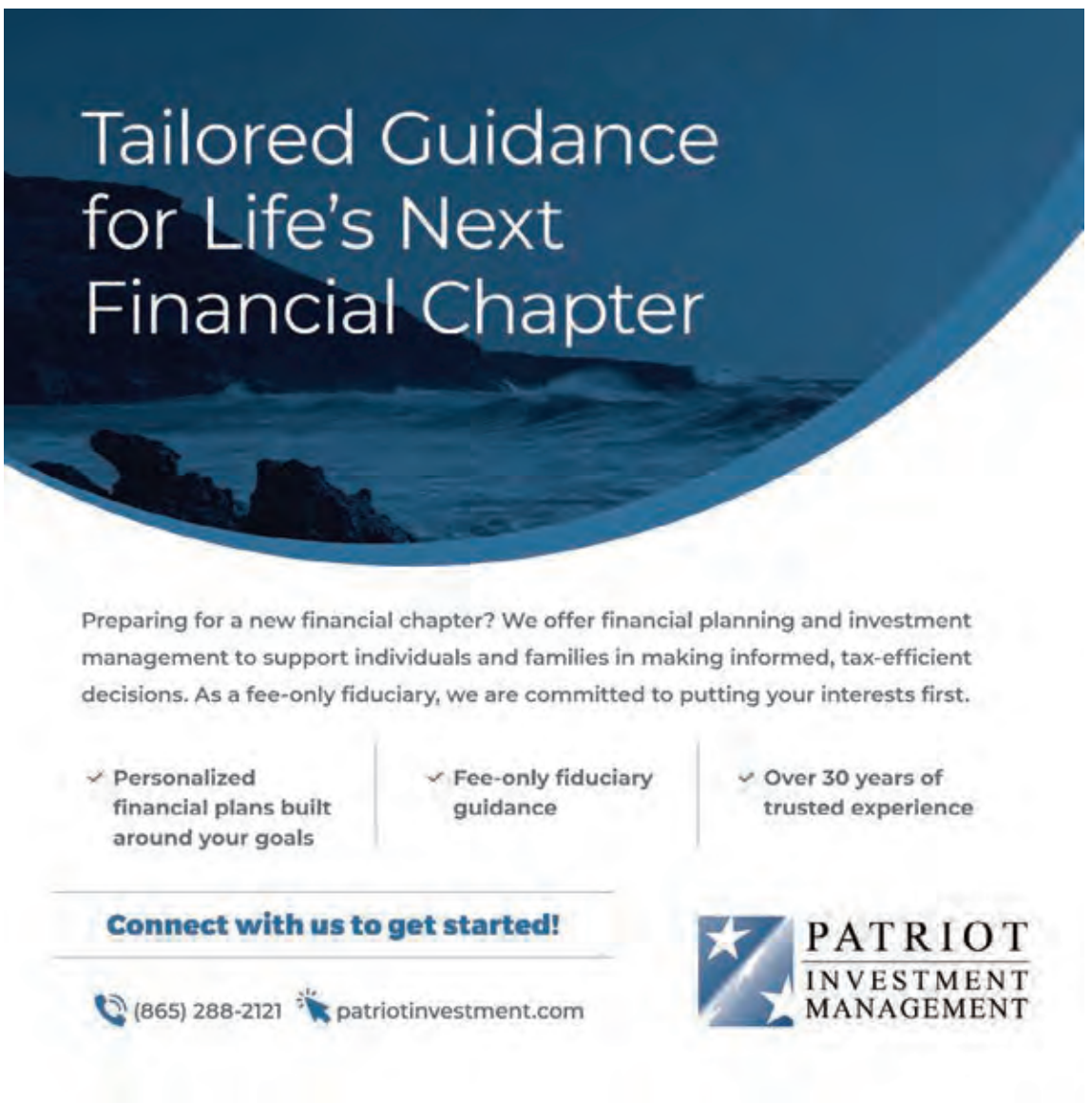

# Fox Den ladies hit the course

**Jake Nichols**
*jnichols@farragutpress.com*

Fox Den Country Club hosted its 18-Hole Ladies Guest Day event, themed "Golf is a Gamble," Thursday, June 11.

On that day, a club member can bring up to three guests to form a foursome. Or, two members can bring one guest each for one of several events in the Fox Den Ladies' Golf Association.

"It's a good chance for them to bring their friends and guests show up," said Danny Ackerman, the head golf professional at Fox Den. "We had people from Texas and New Jersey here, and people who are members are really proud of the club and love a chance to show it off. It's a neat thing for the members, and we've had people want to join after experiencing that."

The gambling theme stretched onto the course with a new format, "Gamble Two Ball," where all four players played their own ball and did not find out which two teammates' scores would count until after the hole was completed.

They also incorporated rolling the dice to determine additional team scoring elements throughout the day.

A particular highlight came in the creative outfits and decorated golf carts, which only added to the festivities.

The winning group — comprised of Patti Ricker, Linda Stanfill, Jane Denges and Evelyn Jackson — totaled a score of 139 to emerge with the victory.

The second-place team, finishing with a score of 147, included Stephanie Haywood, April Rouleau, Whitney Childers and Ashley McGaha.

In the second flight, the top team was Carol Hornstra, Patty Manney, Pam Stacey and Sundae Caudle, who combined to shoot a 154.

Secondly in that flight were Traci Smith, Jackie Ansley, Lynna Rader and Rylie Hennen; who shot a 155 altogether.

There also was an assortment of contests throughout the day. On the second hole, Teleri Hughes came 2 feet, 6 inches from the hole, while Janet Kincaid drew within 4 feet, 11 inches on No. 6. At No. 13, Debbie Siddons came 8 feet, 1 inch from the cup, and Pam Schaffer won the "Hit the Green" giveaway on the 16th green.

In the driving contests, Sheema Welch won the member-long drive competition with Hughes knocking the longest drive of guests.

Annette Stevens hammered the most accurate drive of members in attendance, while Anne Parkhill took the win for most accurate guest drive.

## Lax

From page 2B

"Jane was a dominant force on the field," Farragut girls lacrosse coach Savannah Thomas said. "She consistently put up points on the offensive end that helped us take the edge on opponents. She was a midfielder, so on many occasions she was leading the team in goals, points, draws and defensive caused turnovers. Players looked to her on the field as something to strive toward. She is also leader through and through. She was always staying late after practice to work on skills specific to what she needed to work on, and she was helping newer girls to improve their skills."

Thomas added Davanzo came up with countless ideas to help team morale, using her positivity and creativity to "help the team finish strong, regardless of the outcome."

For his own All-State players, Sachs said they have "continued to raise the bar" for Farragut lacrosse.

By Thomas' quotes, it is clear that same sentiment can be applied to Davanzo, too.

## Johnston

From page 1B

next level in pitching or hitting and reminded me to keep making adjustments."

Little did Johnston know how that advice would pay off down the road.

In the meantime, he threw up to 94 mph on the mound and batted .368 with 13 home runs his senior season.

The plate presence drew the eye of then-Texas A&M head coach Jim Schlossnagle, and Johnston headed for College Station, intent on proving his worth.

### A new chapter

Johnston started three times on mound as a freshman while the Aggies made a College World Series run before losing against Tennessee.

Schlossnagle departed for Texas soon thereafter, though, and Johnston headed to the Cape Cod League to prepare for a new start with the Auburn Tigers.

Only then he started 0-for-17 at the plate — enduring what Johnston called "the worst slump of my life."

"At that point, I was trying to figure out my swing and approach," he added. "But I also kind of realized I wouldn't be able to do that in the SEC or at the highest level."

The thought remained in Johnston's mind as he moved on to the Appalachian League, where a .320 batting average paved the way for a strong start at Auburn.

But a rolled ankle kept him from pushing for an outfield spot later that year as a hitter.

So he made an adjustment and decided to focus solely on pitching going into his draft year as a junior.

"I made an executive decision for my future, and I spent so much time praying about it, not knowing what the right answer was," Johnston added. "Maybe I could have hit .350 this year and been a first-rounder, but I wanted to put myself in the best position. Auburn supported me the whole way and gave me all the resources I needed to succeed."

Jake Nichols

After starring at Farragut High School and continuing his career at Texas A&M and Auburn University, Jett Johnston was picked by the Detroit Tigers in the 13th round of Sunday's Major League Baseball draft. He will enter the professional ranks as a pitcher, having showcased his skills in both at the high school and college levels.

### A fresh approach

Because of his freshness to pitching full-time, Johnston had not done any of the pitcher-specific workouts since he was always working on other things, too.

So he locked in on the refined exercises, appreciating the difference he felt each day.

"Eliminating the hitting made my body feel better," he said "and cleared my mind and helped me get better."

It paid off in draft stock, too, as Detroit took Johnston with the intent of molding him into a starter.

"And I've never had that," he said. "I didn't have time to be anything but a reliever at Auburn, so I guess Detroit really saw something.

"They've seen so many arms with so many pitches and know what works, so I'm trusting that they'll take care of whatever needs to get done and I'll have to do a lot myself to get better, too."

Now, as Johnston departs Farragut for pro baseball later this month, he will have plenty more learning to do.

But he will take the lessons he learned on the field where he trained just a day after watching his draft dream come true.

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# Stars, Stripes & Sparkles

## *Celebrating America's 250th Birthday in Style!*

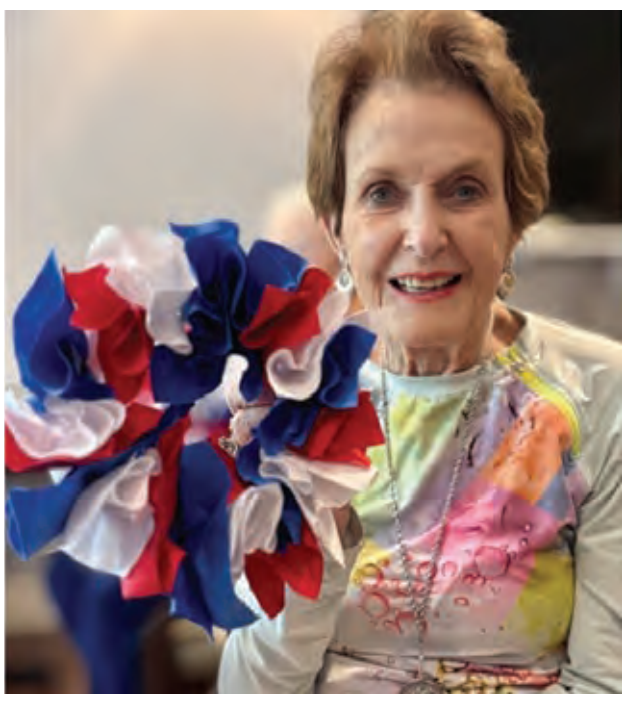
Our residents and patients celebrated **America's 250th Birthday** in a big way with lots of activities full of patriotic fun, creativity, and community spirit! Together, they embraced the red, white, and blue by creating colorful tie-dye bandanas and crafting beautiful patriotic wreaths that proudly decorated our community. Each project gave everyone the opportunity to express their creativity while honoring this historic milestone in our nation's history.

The celebration continued with an outstanding live patriotic performance by **"At the Jukebox"** featuring Mitch, John, and Gary. Their energetic performance filled the room with familiar patriotic favorites and classic American tunes, inspiring residents, patients, families, volunteers, and staff to sing along, clap, and celebrate together. The music brought smiles to every face and reminded us of the pride, freedom, and unity that make our country so special.

One of the biggest highlights of the month was our very first **Glow Party**! Residents and patients lit up the afternoon with glowing necklaces, bracelets, and festive decorations as we **shined bright for the red, white, and blue**. The room was filled with laughter, dancing, music, and glowing smiles, creating memories that will be treasured for years to come.

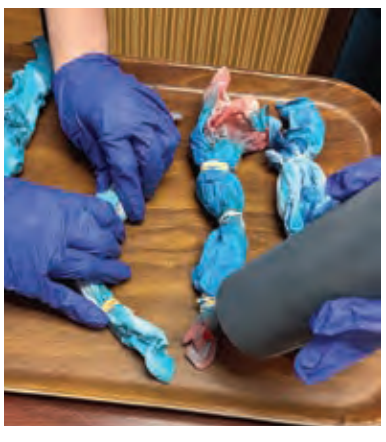
Celebrating this once-in-a-generation anniversary was more than just a party. It was an opportunity to honor our nation's past, celebrate the present, and enjoy time together as a community. From crafts and music to glowing fun, we proudly celebrated 250 years of America with joy, gratitude, and unforgettable memories.

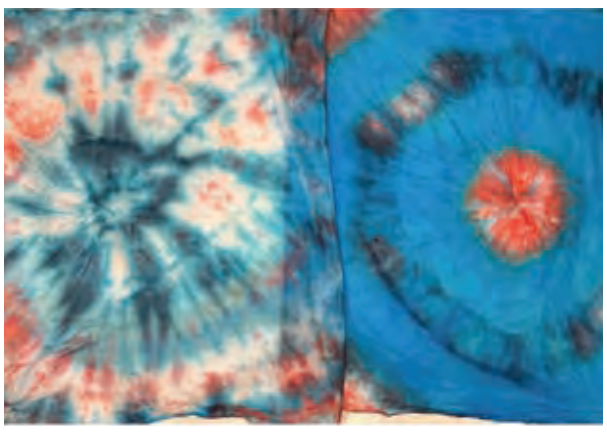
Our residents and patients had a wonderful time celebrating the Fourth of July with an afternoon full of patriotic music, laughter, and fun!



Handmade with heart – our talented residents showed off their creativity by crafting festive patriotic wreaths

We lit up the night at our Fourth of July Glow Party with glowing fun, festive punch, and plenty of patriotic smiles!





Our residents and patients got creative with red, white, and blue tie-dye! A special thank you to our amazing volunteers for helping make the fun possible.

**Photos submitted**

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# Fireworks, fabled history honor America 250

Photos by Jake Nichols

Families and children came out to enjoy the patriotic festivities on Saturday, July 11, during the Celebration at the Cove at Concord Park. The event lasted throughout the afternoon and into the night, and it was capped off with a fireworks display over the water of Fort Loudon Lake. **Above:** Wes and Christy Drewry and family; **top right:** Piper, 7; **right:** Mandy Mays

**Jake Nichols**
*jnichols@farragutpress.com*

Just past 9 p.m. on Saturday, July 11, Glenn Jacobs stepped toward a microphone at Concord Park.

Only the Knox County mayor was not wearing his typical suit, nor was he wearing one of the outfits he donned for years as a professional wrestler.

Instead, he wore stockings, navy pants, a vest and a white wig, which sat just above the rounded spectacles he used to read the parchment within his grasp.

The colonial attire provided a fitting flashback as Jacobs read the Declaration of Independence, a prelude to the fireworks capping Saturday's Celebration at the Cove to recognize America's 250th anniversary at the Cove at Concord Park.

Presented by Visit Knoxville and Knox County, this event honored the United States' rich heritage with a full day of family-friendly festivities, live music and a booming fireworks display over the water of Fort Loudon Lake.

"We started brainstorming this event probably around the first of the year, knowing the 250 would be a big year for us," said Whitney Fitzsimmons, Knox County Recreation coordinator. "So we wanted to think of what we could do to have some kind of celebration on top of what was already on the calendar."

Rain poured for a few minutes Saturday, but the weather otherwise held off as people enjoyed different booths and food trucks before settling in for a concert that evening.

Within the daytime activities, attendees could peruse booths of local artisans, historical exhibits and community partners with hands-on activities for children.

"Despite the weather, which is always our biggest nemesis, we have seen some really great interactions," Fitzsimmons said. "When we plan, we want

See CELEBRATION on Page 8B

# Reveiz chronicles 'adventure of a lifetime'

**Carlos Reveiz**
*Correspondent*

After nearly a year of planning, my wife, Nancy, and I were finally on our way to begin the adventure of a lifetime — the Camino de Santiago.

Our journey began with an overnight flight from Boston to Paris. Since our overnight train to southern France didn't leave until 10 p.m., we had nine hours to explore Paris. The hop-on, hop-off bus tour was the perfect way to experience many of the city's iconic sights before boarding what turned out to be an incredible sleeper train to Bayonne. The next morning, after a short train ride, we arrived in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, France — the traditional starting point for thousands of Camino pilgrims each year.

After watching countless videos and reading everything we could about this charming French village, it was surreal

Photo submitted

Carlos Reveiz and his wife, Nancy, walked with several new friends during their journey on the Camino de Santiago. From left are Ilona Bot (Netherlands), Melissa Flynn (Chicago), Carlos Reveiz, Bob Wise (San Diego), and Nancy Reveiz.

to finally stand at the beginning of our 580-plus-mile pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, with plans to continue to the Atlantic coast at Finisterre.

We spent two days resting and preparing for what many consider the most difficult stage of the Camino — a 15-mile trek over the Pyrenees Mountains with more than

See REVEIZ on Page 7B

Tammy Cheek

Farragut High School chorus members, Rafika Amlani, left, and Abby Lu Eckles, sang Star Spangled Banner.

# *Farragut Museum program shares 'Spirit of America'*

**Tammy Cheek**
*tcheek@farragutpress.com*

A similar crowd heard the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1776 declare the American colonies were separating from England, creating a new nation.

Farragut Museum Committee welcomed a crowd who witnessed the reading of the Declaration of Independence

See SPIRIT on Page 9B

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# Press Planner

• The Where's Waldo? scavenger hunt has returned to Downtown Knoxville for the ninth annual event through July 31. This year's hunt features more than 40 participating businesses, including restaurants, shops, museums and galleries. Window graphics at participating locations mark each stop, where searchers can pick up a Waldo Passport and begin their search. For a list of participating merchants, visit downtownknoxville.org/waldo. Inside each business, participants look for Waldo hidden somewhere on display. Once he's spotted, players can ask for a stamp of their passport and continue the search at the next stop. Participants who collect 20 or more stamps are eligible to enter prize drawings featuring gift cards and other rewards. The first 750 spotters also can claim a "Found Waldo Knox" sticker at Union Ave Books, the host location of the Where's Waldo? scavenger hunt.

Another scavenger hunt everyone can take part in is "Newts in Knoxville," a permanent downtown installation created by the Downtown Knoxville Alliance. This self-guided adventure features 12 bronze Eastern newt sculptures hidden throughout downtown. Participants can pick up a free passport with clues at the Knoxville Visitors Center, Mast General Store or online at knoxnewts.com. The experience is designed to be completed in under an hour and offers a lighthearted way to explore downtown while learning about local wildlife.

• American Red Cross is asking donors of all blood types to make an appointment to give blood, platelets or plasma. As a thank-you, all who come to give through July 31 will receive a Fandango movie ticket by email (up to $15 ticket price and fees). Additional details can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/July

• Knox County Schools announces its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. The 2026-27 school year begins on Aug. 10, and families unable to pay for breakfast and lunch meals at school – or do not attend a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school – now can apply for free and reduced-price meals. Families can apply for meals through the LINQ Connect portal at https://linqconnect.com/main. Paper applications are also available.

• MEDIC Regional Blood Center is teaming up with Dollywood to provide a special incentive for donors from Monday, July 20, through Friday, July 24. All donors with a successful donation will receive a ticket to Dollywood. Donations during this event week are by appointment only. Due to the popularity of the promotion, MEDIC cannot accommodate walk-in donors. Donors can call 865-524-3074 to schedule their appointment, visit medicblood.org/donate or download the new MEDIC donor app to search for a drive closest to them and schedule their appointment.

# Rotary Club changes guard

**Tammy Cheek**
*tcheek@farragutpress.com*

Rotary Club of Farragut turned a page, looking back on the past year's accomplishments and new challenges for this year, as it presented the "changing of the guard" of officers during a ceremony in Fox Den Country Club Wednesday, June 24.

That included passing the gavel from 1999-2000 Past President Jim O'Brien to now Past President Candace Viox then to new President Brian Walker.

"I'm very proud and excited to continue being a part of the club," Viox said before recapping the activities, projects and lives impacted during the past year with Rotary's slogan, "Unite for Good," in mind.

Those projects included Mission of Hope and Compassion Ministries food pantries, Alzheimer's Association, Salvation Army, Rotary Youth Exchange, Donate Life America and the CART Fund.

Additionally, the club was instrumental in raising funds benefitting Operation Hero's Hill, which is building homes for veterans, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace, for which they not only raised money but also built beds for children who have no beds. This year's build bed project was the largest ever, according to Viox.

Revisiting the past year, she praised her husband, Richard Rinehart, for his support, as well as others who were there to help.

Viox also announced two awards RCF received from District 6780 for its Rotary Foundation participation and the STAR Award.

Tammy Cheek

Brian Walker, the 2026-27 Rotary Club of Farragut president receives the gavel from Past President Candace Viox, who served from 2025 to 2026, at a changing of the guard ceremony Wednesday, June 24.

In July 2025, she took the helm as the club's president. Upon ending her term, Viox replied, "It has been an honor and tremendous blessing over the past 12 months.

"The relationships, outreach and support we have achieved in our community have been truly amazing," she added. "The Rotary's slogan was Unite for Good, and I took this charge to heart."

"Our club is in a stronger position today thanks to the spirited leadership of Candace Viox," Public Image chair Tom Woodbery stated in the club's newsletter.

After incoming Assistant Gov. Ed Anderson swore in Walker and the rest of the club's board members, Walker praised Viox, adding her success was because "she was very opinionated, very demanding, she makes quick decisions and she knows what she wants."

When he started with Ro-

**See ROTARY on Page 8B**

## Reveiz

**From page 6B**

4,500 feet of elevation gain to Roncesvalles, Spain. Mountain weather is famously unpredictable, but we were fortunate. The climb was challenging, yet every step rewarded us with breathtaking views that made the effort worthwhile.

About 10 minutes into our first day, we met Bob from San Diego. Before long, it felt like we had known him for years. Later that same day, we met Ilona from the Netherlands, and just like that, our Camino family began to take shape. On the third day, Melissa from Chicago joined our little group, and from then on the five of us shared countless miles, conversations, laughs and unforgettable memories. Some fellow pilgrims even nicknamed us "The Brady Bunch."

Experienced pilgrims often describe the Camino as a journey in three stages: physical, mental and spiritual. During the first few weeks, your body is simply trying to adjust to the daily miles, sore muscles and aching feet. Eventually, the challenge becomes mental as you learn to embrace the daily routine, adapt to changing conditions and keep moving forward one step at a time. The final stage is often described as spiritual — a time when gratitude replaces discomfort, and you realize how little you truly need to be happy.

Our daily routine quickly became second nature. We woke before dawn, carefully taped any hot spots on our feet to prevent blisters, applied plenty of Vaseline, packed our backpacks and started walking. A heat wave had settled over much of Europe, so most mornings we were on the trail by 4 a.m. to avoid the afternoon temperatures.

Each afternoon followed a familiar pattern: find our albergue (pilgrim lodging), check in, enjoy a well-earned meal, shower and get some much-needed rest before doing it all again the next day.

Map submitted

This map of Spain shows the Camino French way (in green) and the progress the Reveizes made along their journey (first seven days highlighted in red).

During our first seven days, we covered 102 miles. We crossed the Pyrenees, walked through picturesque farmland and rolling hills, enjoyed spectacular scenery and visited villages rich in history. Along the way, we met pilgrims from all over the world, each with their own story but united by the same goal — reaching Santiago de Compostela.

One of the things that touched us most was the kindness of the local people. They understand the history and significance of this centuries-old pilgrimage and warmly welcome those making the journey. Whether passing another pilgrim or greeting a local resident, the words were always the same: "Buen Camino" — "Have a good journey."

Those two simple words became much more than a greeting. They became a reminder that while every day on the Camino begins and ends in much the same way, everything in between is filled with unexpected adventures, lifelong friendships and memories that will last forever.

Until next time... Buen Camino!

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## Celebration

From page 6B

something for every age, ability and interest to have something for everybody."

A patriotic bike parade took place at 1 p.m., and later, the stage served as a backdrop for a reading of "Unfinished Revolution," along with a pie-eating contest and history trivia.

From there, singer-songwriter Carson Beyer entertained the crowd in a 250th anniversary edition of the beloved Concerts at the Cove series, paving the way for Jacobs' reading and the fireworks that concluded the event.

"It's awesome," Jacobs said before donning his unique garb. "It's great to see so many people come out and have a good time. Back in the 18th century, they didn't have Internet or TV or radio or even telegraphs, so the decoration was spread through newspapers and public events. So we tried to replicate that here today."

## Rotary

From page 7B

tary in California in 2017, he was introduced to the "Three Pillars of Giving:" Time, talent and Treasure. As such, Walker challenged each of the members to invest in at least one, maybe two of the three pillars.

"However, he added, "I'll never ask for three because they can lead to burnout and overload."

Then Walker asked, "What are you willing to give to help this club move forward?"

In as separate interview, Walker said he is anxious to be president.

"It's a lot of pressure because there are so many past presidents still participating in the club, and I have a lot to live up to," he said. However, he added, "It's a good thing and so many have offered to help in whatever form they can."

**Clockwise, from top left:** A little girl has her face painted during Celebration at the Cove; Ian Kolmos and his daughter play with bubbles; Knox County mayor Glenn Jacobs reads the Declaration of Independence to the crowd; Rylan Smith, 4, rides his red, white and blue-decked bicycle.

**Photos by Jake Nichols**

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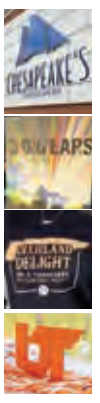

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## Spirit

From page 6B

as part of a Sharing the Spirit of America program, which took place in Farragut Town Hall Wednesday, July 8.

The event also was an opportunity to celebrate the life of Admiral David Glasgow Farragut, who was born July 5, 1801, in Stony Point, later called Lowe's Ferry.

"On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia," Farragut Mayor Ron Williams said. "This important document was written to formally announce and justify the 13 American colonies' separation from Great Britain.

"Four days later, on July 8, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud in public for the first time by Col. John Nixon," Williams said. "Because colonists could not witness the Continental Congress in real time, public readings were how ordinary citizens learned they were a new nation.

"Today, people across all 50 states and 16 U.S. territories will read the Declaration of Independence to commemorate its first public reading," he said. "I am proud to be part of Farragut's participation in the national America 250 event.

"Thank you to everyone who is celebrating with us."

Following the posting of colors and Pledge of Allegiance from Farragut High School Reserve Officer Training Corps, Virtue Church Pastor Bill Lyle recited President and Gen. George Washington's prayer.

However, first he referred to the First Continental Congress on Sept. 7, 1774, saying, "after the men gathered together to write this document … they realized they had to have the blessing of God. So, they called the Rev. Jacob Bouchard to come and open with prayer. He read Psalm 35."

Then, "they had two hours of spontaneous prayer that were going on," Lyle said. "This country was founded as a Christian country. That was ratified in 1882 by the Supreme Court case, The Church of Holy Trinity vs. The U.S."

Then, he recited Washington's prayer of 1783, "as he was residing as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army," Lyle said. "This prayer is read at Mount Vernon often."

The prayer begins, "Now, I make it my earnest prayer that God would have these United States in his holy protection."

FHS's chorus members, Abby Lu Eckles and Rafika Amlani, singing of the national anthem, Star Spangled Banner, followed the prayer.

Then the reading of the Declaration of Independence began with Knox County director of Veterans Affairs Buzz Buswell, followed by Andrew Bogle Chapter of the DAR representative Judy Wilson, Museum Committee member Sue-Ann Hansler and retired U.S. Navy Chief Todd Johnson, taking turns reading the Declaration of Independence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among those are the pursuit of Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" … are the familiar words school children still learn.

In hearing the words, the Declaration justifies the separation, relating the injustices evoked against the colonists by Britain, "a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism" when it "burned our towns and destroyed the lives of our people."

Following the reading, local historian Frank Galbraith related the life of Admiral Farragut.

Originally, David Glasgow Farragut was named James Glasgow Farragut, but after his mother died, Galbraith related how Commander David Porter with the U.S. Navy took in the boy, who was encouraged to join the Navy when he was still a child. Farragut would later change his name from James to David to honor his foster father.

"At the age of 9 and a half, [Porter] got [Farragut] in the Navy," Galbraith said. He related Farragut's service at the time of the Battle of Mobile Bay during the Civil War and how Farragut would be the first full admiral in the Navy.

Tammy Cheek

Andrew Bogle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution members, in no particular order, Madeline Russell, Judy Blair Wilson, Suzanne Emery, Virginia Farris, Iris Davenport, Deborah Lindsey, Eleanor Meisenheimer, Betty Craig, Patty Murphy, Pat Chambers, Joan Pinkey were on hand to greet attendees of the Town's Spirit of America program in Farragut Town Hall Wednesday July 8.

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### LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Farragut, at its meeting on July 9, 2026, adopted the following ordinance on second and final reading:
1. 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)

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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 13th day of August 2026, at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut, TN 37934, to hear citizen comments on the following ordinances:
1. Ordinance 26-13, an ordinance on second 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)
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.

*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 accommodation due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting.*

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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 23rd day of July 2026, at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut, TN 37934, to hear citizen comments on the following ordinances:

1. Ordinance 26-14, an ordinance on second reading to amend the Farragut Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2-Administration, Article 6-Finance, Division 2-Purchasing Regulations.

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.

*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 accommodation due to disabilities, please call 865-966-7057 in advance of the meeting.*

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