

Talk of the Town

10A • FARRAGUTPRESS THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

The spring Talk of the Town has been condensed due to the postponement/cancellation of several events.



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Please see townoffarragut.org and farragutparksandrec.org for updates on Town events, programs and meetings.



Anchor Park restrooms and fields are open! Renovations include a reconstructed and expanded restroom with a family restroom and covered picnic area as well as an entrance plaza, ADA access to the diamond and recreational fields (spectator and player areas) plus new landscaping, benches and signage. Part of this project was funded by a Local Parks and Recreation Fund grant (LPRF) administered by the Recreation Educational Services Division of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Make a difference in Farragut by serving on a volunteer committee

Each year in June, the Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen appoints citizens to serve on advisory committees, councils and boards. This is a great way to share your time, talents and enthusiasm with the Farragut community. Even high school students can make a difference by serving as a youth representative on a volunteer committee.

The Town will begin accepting applications for volunteer committees on Wednesday,

April 1. Committee applications and a description of each committee are available at Town Hall and online at townoffarragut.org/committees. Some volunteer committees have residency or professional requirements.

Applications for youth representatives to volunteer committees are now being accepted. Applications and a list of committees that are accepting youth reps are available at townoffarragut.org/youth. Student applicants must be

juniors or seniors who live in the Town of Farragut or attend a Farragut school. This opportunity is for public, private and home-schooled students.

The deadline for both applications is 4 p.m. on Friday, May 15. Please note - these are working committees, and applicants should be willing to give time to monthly meetings and committee projects or events. For more information, call the Administration Department at 966-7057.

The census is coming!

Every year, billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

An accurate count impacts everyone - even Farragut residents! That's why it's important for everyone to complete a 2020 Census form.

"A lot of people don't understand just how important the census is for small communities like Farragut," says Town Administrator David Smoak. "Getting an accurate population count impacts how much state and federal funding we receive for road projects and local schools. All the data collected by the census is confidential, so it doesn't impact your privacy, but it does impact the services we are able to provide to the community."

Here are answers to some of the most frequently-asked questions about the census:

When can I complete the form? How do I complete the form?

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding - online, by phone or by mail.

What will be on the form?

There are questions about how many people are in the household and the sex, age and race of each. There is also a question about the ownership of the home - whether it is owned outright, if there is a mortgage or if it is a rental.

The Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home or your business, even to law enforcement agencies.

Will there be census takers in my neighborhood? How can you verify that someone is a census worker?

Yes, census takers will be sent to the homes of those who don't respond. If someone visits your home to collect information for the 2020 Census, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.



Field use requests for fall and winter 2020

Allocation packets for athletic organizations requesting field use at Anchor, Mayor Bob Leonard or McFee parks for fall 2020 will be available Monday, April 20, on the Parks & Recreation website (farragutparksandrec.org) or at the Farragut Community Center. This includes requests for practices, games and tournaments on natural turf fields from Aug. 3 to Nov. 1, and on the Mayor Bob Leonard Park synthetic turf fields from Nov. 2 to Feb. 28, 2020. Tournaments can be requested through winter 2022. The completed application packet for all requests is due by noon on Thursday, May 22, to the Farragut Community Center (not postmarked). Packets can also be emailed to AthleticFieldReservations@townoffarragut.org.

A representative from each group requesting field use for fall 2020 is required to attend the Parks and Athletics Council field allocation meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, and encouraged to come early to attend a meeting of all user groups at 6 p.m.

For more information or to request a packet by mail, please contact Lauren Cox or Bryson Keith at 218-3376 or AthleticFieldReservations@townoffarragut.org.

Town seeking preferred vendors for community center rentals

The opening of the Farragut Community Center brings an opportunity for Farragut businesses to become preferred vendors for upcoming rentals and events. This opportunity is only available to businesses located within Town limits. If the business has multiple locations, billing will need to be through the Farragut location to qualify.

This opportunity is free for 2020! Preferred vendors will be recommended

to current and prospective renters. Their required paperwork and permits will remain on file, making the process easier for the vendor, renter and community center staff. For more information or to be added to the preferred vendor list, contact Arleen Higginbotham, ahigginbotham@townoffarragut.org, or Sue Stuhl, ststuhl@townoffarragut.org. Both can be reached by phone at 865-966-7057.

Independence Day Parade registration available April 1

The Town of Farragut's 33rd annual Independence Day Parade is at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, July 4. Registration forms for the parade will be available beginning Wednesday, April 1, at townoffarragut.org/register (a free account is required to register) or at the Farragut Community Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd., from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday).

Due to the overwhelming popularity of this parade, entries will be limited to the first 95 registrants. Absolutely no registrations will be taken after Wednesday, June 17, and only to this date if spaces are available. All entries will receive a confirmation email once the online registration is processed.

Parade lineup will be based on the date the registration form



was received (per category). Parade lineup numbers will be available on the Town's website and posted at the community

center at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, July 1. No parade lineup numbers will be given over the phone.

From the Desk of the Mayor...

The coronavirus has made this a challenging season in Farragut. I'm truly sorry for the distress and inconvenience many of you are experiencing. As we endure it, I hope we will look for ways to help and comfort our neighbors. We'll make it through this crisis, and when we do, we'll be a stronger community.

In the meantime, here are a couple of important items. The 2020 Census begins on April 1, and the data collected is very important to Farragut because it determines how much federal funding our area receives for schools, roads, public transportation and more. You may have already been contacted through the mail about completing the census form. For the first time, people will be able to respond anytime, anywhere - online from any device or by mail or phone - so completing the census will be easier than ever.

Also note that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen is currently working on the FY2021 budget. This is one of the most important things we do all year, and we welcome citizens to attend meetings where the budget will be discussed and share their opinions. To look for budget discussions at upcoming BOMA meetings, see agendas at townoffarragut.org/agendacenter.



Mayor Ron Williams