

Talk of the Town

8A • FARRAGUT PRESS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020



A Publication of the Town of Farragut • Fall 2020

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

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

Holiday festivities in Farragut with a 2020 twist

It is definitely a year no one could have planned for; however, the Farragut Parks & Rec staff have dedicated time and effort to creating safe events for the community to enjoy. These events may not look the same as they generally do, but one thing is for sure – they will be a fun way to safely bring the community together.

The popular Freaky Friday Fright Nite is changing to Freaky Friday Drive-Thru Boo from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30. Participants will trick-or-treat from their cars on Jamestowne Boulevard from N. Campbell Station Road to Village Green Parkway. Aside from being a drive-through event, the biggest change is that preregistration is required. Participants must register for a specific time slot and indicate how many children (12 and under) will be in the vehicle. Costumes are encouraged, as always! Registration begins Thursday, Oct. 1, at townoffarragut.org/register.

Registration is currently open for returning Freaky Friday vendors to pass out treats. New vendors can register Oct. 1-23 as space permits. There will be a maximum of 20 vendors this year. Register at townoffarragut.org/register.

The Town still plans to Light the Park for the community and visitors to enjoy! There will not be a Countdown to Light the Park event at Founders Park at Campbell Station this year due to social distancing limitations; however, the lights will be on by Tuesday, Nov. 24, through Sunday, Jan. 3. During Light the Park, a slate of socially-distant activities will be offered at Founders Park, including grab-and-go crafts. A calendar detailing activities will be posted on farragutparksandrec.org closer to the event. Park restrooms will be open until 10 p.m. during the six-week light display, except on Dec. 25.

Another tradition that will



continue this year with social distancing is photos with Santa. Families can have photos taken with Santa Claus on Thursday, Dec. 3, in the Assembly Hall at the Farragut Community Center. Preregistration is required at townoffarragut.org/register.

Since children won't be sitting on St. Nick's lap, this could be a tear-free photo for nervous tots! Participants will choose a time slot at the time of registration.

Santa's mailbox will continue to usher all wishes directly to the

North Pole! Nov. 24 through Dec. 21, drop your letters in the mailbox, located in Founders Park at Campbell Station, and they will be delivered by elves to the North Pole. Include a return address and you may receive a response from Santa!

Public showing scheduled for "Birth of a Town"

There will be a public showing of a new history film, "Birth of a Town: The Incorporation of Farragut," at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28, in the Assembly Hall at the Farragut Community Center. Seating is limited due to social distancing and masks will be required. Call 865-218-3376 to reserve a spot or register at townoffarragut.org/register.

"Birth of a Town" features interviews with several residents who were instrumental to the founding of Farragut in 1980. The movie was produced by noted documentary filmmaker Keith McDaniel, who also produced the video "A History of Concord and Farragut" in 2018. Copies of the new documentary will be sold in the Parks & Recreation office at the Farragut Community Center starting Oct. 28. Cost is \$10 for DVD or \$15 for Blu-ray.

Presidential and Federal/State General Election on Nov. 3

The General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, will fill the offices of President and Vice President of the United States, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives - District 2, State Senate - District 6 and State House of Representatives - Districts 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 89. Farragut Middle School, Farragut High School and Farragut Town Hall are all voting precincts on Nov. 3.

Early voting at Farragut Town Hall is Oct. 14-29. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through

Friday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays. From Monday, Oct. 26 through Thursday, Oct. 29, hours are expanded to 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Voter registration forms are available at the Knox County Clerk's satellite office on the second floor of Town Hall. You can also register online at ovr.govote.tn.gov. For up-to-date voting information, including information about who is eligible to vote via absentee ballot, visit the Knox County Election Commission website at knoxcounty.org/election or call 865-215-2480.

Anonymous donor gifts Red Mill Dam to the Town

The Town of Farragut received a 6.43-acre parcel on the west side of Concord Road, just north of Turkey Creek Road, from an anonymous donor in August. Turkey Creek runs through the property and the historic Red Mill Dam is located there.

"We certainly appreciate the generosity of the donor," Town of Farragut Town Administrator David Smoak says. "It will be great for generations to come to have the opportunity to get close to water."

The donated parcel is steep and the underbrush is heavy, but the town has a goal of expand-



ing its greenways along waterways, Smoak says, and the gift will provide an opportunity to do that when funding becomes available through the budgeting process. The Red Mill Dam will also be a component of a future

history walk.

Restrictions on the gift require that the property be used as a passive park and/or open space, rather than for sports fields or other recreational facilities.



Town of Farragut purchases masks for students, staff and residents

We have all had to make adjustments to our routines due to Covid-19, and with Knox and many surrounding counties currently under a mask mandate, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and Town Administrator David Smoak wanted to be sure that all Farragut students attending in-person classes had a vital school supply – a mask. On Friday, Sept. 4, masks were delivered to all students and staff at Farragut Primary, Farragut Intermediate, Farragut Middle and Farragut High School.

Town residents are welcome to stop by Town Hall or the Farragut Community Center during regular business hours to pick up a free mask. Masks are available in youth and adult sizes while supplies last. One per person, please.

A Farragut-themed mask design was created and more than 4,500 masks were purchased through the TN Strong Mask Movement. The movement is an initiative of the Tennessee Economic Recovery Group; it encourages Tennesseans to mask up to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

From the Desk of the Mayor...

If there's one good thing about 2020, it's that we've all learned to be more flexible. We've adapted the things we can and given up the things we can't. It hasn't been easy, but I'm proud of how we've managed so far. As of this writing, our schools are still open and we've kept our COVID numbers low by wearing masks and social distancing. And through it all, Farragut elected officials and staff have stayed hard at work to keep development and town projects moving.

Speaking of elected officials, two of our aldermen were reelected in August—Louise Povlin and Drew Burnette—and the Presidential and Federal/State General Election will be here before we know it. Read the above article for more information about early and absentee voting. It's more important than ever to vote, so plan ahead to do it safely.

Virtual town meetings have been extended through the month of October. Check the Town's social media and townoffarragut.org to learn about future meetings. Governor Bill Lee may, once again, issue an executive order to extend virtual meetings.

This is usually the time of year when everyone is anticipating the upcoming holiday season, but it should be no surprise that our Town events will look different this year. Freaky Friday will be a drive-through event, and while we won't be able to gather to turn the lights on at Founders Park, we can still enjoy Light the Park from the week of Thanksgiving through the end of the year. Read more about our plans in this issue of Talk of the Town.

In spite of ongoing frustrations, fall is always a wonderful time in East Tennessee. I recommend getting outside to enjoy the cooler weather and our glorious fall colors. It will remind you how lucky we are to live in Farragut.



Mayor Ron Williams