



CHAMBER LIFE

"THE MISSION STATEMENT IS TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY BY PROMOTING BUSINESS GROWTH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT."

VOL. 31, NO. 12

A PUBLICATION OF THE FARRAGUT WEST KNOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DECEMBER 2017



Annual Open House Keeps Cold Away!

Temperatures kept falling but the guests kept arriving for the Chamber's annual Holiday Open House on Tuesday, Dec. 12! Hundreds of members and guests gathered together for the Chamber's final large-scale member event before the end of 2017. Each December, the Chamber opens its office doors to say "Thank you" to the members who support the Chamber and one another all year long.

Rothchild's Events & Catering provided a cozy heated and decorated tent in front of the Chamber office with multiple member restaurants stationed around the interior showcasing some of their favorite food items. The variety of food available to try was sure to please any palate and included both longtime members of the Chamber and newcomers. Samplings of mini pork

tacos, crostini, ribs, spicy shrimp chowder, wings, shrimp & grits, Alaskan king crab and on-site seared scallops were provided by Abuelo's: The Flavor of Mexico, Archers BBQ, Buddy's Bar-B-Q, Clean Eat Farragut, Corner16, CRU bistro & wine bar, Dickey's Barbecue Pit, Puleo's Grille, Quaker Steak & Lube, Virgin Bay Seafood, Water Into Wine and Zoes Kitchen. Dixie Lee Wines & Liquors provided fabulous wines served by The Pour Guys while The Casual Pint - Farragut offered a pilsner and honey brown ale.

Music, sound equipment and an amazing solo vocalist (age 11) were courtesy of Angela Floyd School of Dance & Music. While carols played, guests had tons of fun with the on-site "photobooth" service provided by kapture! Photobooth courtesy of Veron-

ica Walter. Photo prints were available to take home plus they could immediately be textured to any recipient.

Guests inside the Chamber office enjoyed Kirkland Brand coffee by Costco (who also served fresh pumpkin pie in the tent) which paired well with the dessert-decked conference room! Cakes, pies and pastries were plentiful from Apple Cake Tea Room, Buttermilk Sky Pie Shop, Edible Arrangements, "Mom's" Truffles, Panera Bread, and NHC Farragut. A long line quickly formed outside President Julie Blaylock's office for the two masseuses from Oasis Day Spa.

The brightest spot of the evening was the Chamber's gold Giving Tree which collected donations for local non-profit Volunteer Ministry Center (VMC). Guests provided new unwrapped gift donations for

children, women and men. VMC uses these gifts to stock their "Holiday Store", where their formerly homeless clients purchase gifts for loved ones using the points they've earned doing community service projects throughout the area. This system provides a way for those clients to "buy" and give gifts with dignity, as part of VMC's program to help each person regain true independence. VMC representative Zan Schriver was thrilled with the membership's generosity, saying this was "one of the largest donations accumulated by a single organization."

Thank you to ALL who helped make this event the huge success that it was. We hope to see everyone again next December and wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season!



Members Enjoy NEW Included Advertising!

The Chamber offers many benefits to members in order to provide lots of opportunities to promote their business and maintain strong community involvement; these include weekly networkings, ribbon cuttings, education scholarships and more. The chamber knows too well that regular marketing efforts take time, something precious to any business owner or professional and the staff is always working to make changes that make taking advantage of Chamber Membership easier and exciting.

One way we've accomplished that is through new opportunities for FREE advertising. With multiple outlets that have a large following such as our website, social media pages, weekly email, and our Newsletter inserted into the Farragut press, member businesses now have even MORE ways to quickly promote their job openings, news, events, and deals to potential customers with just a few mouse-clicks.

For the community, our website is becoming a hub of information on all things Farragut and beyond! The site was recently overhauled by Abacus Arts to include a new Community Calendar of Events ("Where do we take the kids this weekend?"), a page dedicated to "Hot Deals" offered by members (perfect for your holiday shopping needs), a section for job-hunters, plus local News Releases!

Are you a current member and want to learn more? Call us at 675-7057 or email therese@farragutchamber.com for a fast personalized walk-through of these benefits.

Farragut Fall 5k Delights 2 & 4 Legged Participants

Runners, walkers, volunteers and staff enjoyed a cool clear morning at Mayor Bob Leonard Park on Saturday, Nov. 11 at the Chamber's 23rd Farragut Fall 5K Run & Fun Walk. A crowd of 200+ jogged and stretched out to music courtesy of race management company Total Race Solutions in preparation for the event.

The race and walk began at 8:00 a.m. with Mayor Ralph McGill firing the starting gunshot alongside wife, Marianne McGill at the intersection of Kingston Pike and Watt Road following a display by the Farragut High School ROTC Color Guard at the start line. Runners sprinted up Watt Road

into Sedgfield subdivision.

Walkers and dozens of dogs followed, heading to the park's one mile course in anticipation of the special Doggie Bags full of treats waiting for them at their finish line. Several dogs and their humans took part in a Pack Walk led by a certified canine behaviorist and trainer, Lincoln DeSouza. DeSouza notably graduated under the direction of Dog Whisperer Cesar Milan.

The overall winner for the Male 5K Open was Brent Bueche, 36, with a time of 18:58 minutes. The Female 5K Open winner was Becky Grindstaff, 36, with a time of 22:11

minutes. Both top runners received medals and a cash prize.

While waiting for participants to cross the finish lines, onlookers and registrants made the rounds of the always popular food tent! Water, coffee, fruit, chicken biscuits, and other items were courtesy of Costco Wholesale, Chick Fil A, Kroger - Farragut, Ingles, Dunkin Donuts at Campbell Station, and Panera Bread. The crowd also enjoyed a beautiful patriotic performance from the Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble!

Door prizes were awarded prior to med-

See 5K on Page 4

ENTERPRISE CLUB

These Chamber members generously contribute to the Chamber and the Continuing Education Scholarship Program above and beyond their annual dues.

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 (865) 671-3094

Town of
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 (865) 966-7057

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President Quotes 'n Notes



Julie A. Blaylock

With a holiday on the way that celebrates many wonderful things—including lots of cookies—I found this piece too good not to share.

The Cookie Thief by Valerie Cox
A woman was waiting at the airport one night, with several long hours before her flight. She hunted for a book in the airport shops, bought a bag of cookies & found a place to drop. She was engrossed in her book but happened to see, that the man sitting beside her, as bold as could be... grabbed a cookie or two from the bag in between, which she tried to ignore to avoid a scene.

So she munched the cookies and watched the clock, as the gutsy cookie thief diminished her stock. She was getting more irritated as minutes ticked by, thinking, "If I wasn't so nice, I'd blacken his eye." With each cookie she took—he took one, too! When just one was left, she wondered what he would do. With a smile on his face, and a nervous laugh, he took the last cookie... and broke it in half. He offered her half... and quietly ate the other!

She snatched it from him and thought: "Ooh, brother... This guy has some nerve and he's also rude!

Why he didn't even show any gratitude!" She had never known when she'd been so galled, and sighed with relief when her flight was called.

She gathered her things and headed to the gate, refusing to look back at the thieving ingrate.

She boarded the plane, and sank in her seat, then she sought her book, which was almost complete.

As she reached in her luggage, she gasped with surprise: there was HER bag of cookies, in front of her eyes.

"If mine are here," she moaned in despair, "the others were his, and he tried... to share."

Too late to apologize, she realized with grief, that she was the rude one, the ingrate, the thief.

In this season of giving and in anticipation of resolutions for the year to come, let us all remember to share what we have, be it food or time or care, and resolve to be quicker to kindness and slower to assume or judge. "If you judge people, you have no time to love them." (Mother Teresa) May you and yours have a warm & happy holiday!

Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce

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This newsletter is published monthly by the Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce.

Welcome to our new Farragut West Knox Chamber Members!

The Chamber welcomes these businesses who have joined us recently in the month of November! Did you know businesses/organizations may now submit their application and payment online? Visit www.farragutchamber.com and click "Join the Chamber!"

The Amerson Group
Rena Amerson
1907 Choto Road
Knoxville, TN 37922
<http://www.facebook.com/AmersonGroup/>

BK Lash & Skin Boutique
Beverly Kobus
11324 Parkside Drive,
Salon 16
Knoxville, TN 37934
<http://www.bklash.com>

Faith Promise Church
Farragut Campus
Tonja Breaux
11237 Kingston Pike
Farragut, TN 37934
<http://www.faithpromise.org>

GCS
Byron Gilmore
P.O. Box 52413
Knoxville, TN 37950

K9 Center of East Tennessee Inc.
Trish Isbell
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Knoxville, TN 37932
<http://www.k9centertn.com>

oysk3 architects
Cara Knapp
1545 Western Avenue, Suite 100
Knoxville, TN 37921

Tate Insurance Group
Rick Loyd
6423 Deane Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN Tennessee 37919
<http://www.tateinsurancegroup.com>

Welcome Back Renewing Members

The Farragut West Knox Chamber welcomes back these businesses who have renewed their investment in the Chamber as of this past November. We are privileged to count them as Farragut West Knox Chamber of Commerce members! We urge members to patronize one another when the goods or services a member can provide are needed. It is also our hope that area residents recognize the commitment a business makes to its community when it becomes part of its local chamber of commerce and reward that commitment with their patronage.

Admiral Title, Inc.
Archer's BBQ - West Knoxville
Brandon's Awards
Candlewood Suites
Children's West Surgery Center
Christian Brothers Automotive
East Japanese Restaurant
Enrichment Federal Credit Union - Northshore Drive (Thank you for your Anchor Enterprise Membership!)

IMS, Inc.
Julia Hurley - Keller Williams Realty
Karen Greene with Keller Williams Realty
LC Fence, LLC
McAlister's Deli
Melrose Title Company
Patriot Investment Management
Scripps Media, Inc.
StaffingSolutions, An EmployBridge Company
The Stokely Company
Superior Carpet and Rug Cleaning
Threds, Inc.
Town of Farragut (Thank you for your Admiral Elite Enterprise Membership!)

Member Briefs

Looking for more details on a specific event, special or job? Go to www.farragutchamber.com to see these and other member items!

Ricoh honored **Thermocopy**, the largest most experienced business technology company in East Tennessee, as a 2018 "Circle of Excellence Certified Dealership." Fewer than 20% of Ricoh Family Group Dealers earned the "Circle of Excellence" award. To be considered for the program, a company must demonstrate commitment to customer service and technical expertise following Ricoh's strict guidelines.

The Town of Farragut seeks a Tourism Coordinator (P/T). This person will work in the development and implementation of plans and programs to attract and sustain cultural tourism and business in the Town of Farragut. Works under the direction of the Leisure Services Director. Call 966-7057 for info.

Julia Hurley - **Keller Williams Realty** is hiring folks looking for an exciting and challenging career move? OSA is the hardest and the most rewarding aspect of a real estate team. Real Estate License is required. Send your DISC profile results to JuliaHurleyGroup@gmail.com.

It's Donor Appreciation Day at the Hardin Valley **Goodwill** (11509 Hardin Valley Road) on Dec. 28 from 9 a.m. - Noon! No donation required to attend.

The Venue in Lenoir City will host a New Year's Celebration Casino Night on December 31st at 8 p.m. Tickets \$60 via www.venuecl.com.

Take a Drone Flight Skills class at **Pellissippi State Community College** Jan. 20! \$159 Course fee. Contact bes@pstcc.edu for more info.

Ice Princess and Friends Dance Party for age 2+ at **Angela Floyd School for Dance and Music** on Jan. 20 at 1 p.m. \$35 Registration at <http://www.angelaflloydsschools.com>.

Every Saturday starting Dec. 2017: FREE Pack Dog walking group with **K9 Center of East TN** (11225 Threadstone Lane) at noon. All dogs welcome!

Tropical Smoothie Café Farragut: Pick any flatbread & 24oz smoothie for \$7 on Tuesdays only (includes side). ALL smoothies \$2.99 (40% Off) from 7am - 9am Daily!

Prime Medical Training: 50% off Infant CPR Training through 12/31. Register with code "Farragut CPR" at www.primemedicaltraining.com.

Earn Your Degree at **King University!** New Year = New You! Earn an Associate, Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral Degree in a convenient, affordable format while balancing work, family and school! Offered in face to face and online formats. Call (865) 690-5803 for info.

Richard F. Qulia Polygraph & Investigations is offering a \$800 Forensic Polygraph Examination for only \$650 to anyone with a company that has suffered thefts by employees or for anyone wanting to establish the truth in a personal relationship. Call (865) 233-4960 to reserve.

PT Solutions Physical Therapy of Farragut is proud to offer a free wellness, performance, and injury screening to help you determine a wellness/performance plan and/or what the source of any pain or discomfort may be.

Calendar of Events

Members can RSVP for these events through their online Member Information Center at farragutchamber.com. Call 675-7057 or email info@farragutchamber.com for a link to create your account!

- December 21, 2017** No Networking – Shop Local for the Holidays!
- December 28, 2017** No Networking – Happy Holidays & New Year
- January 4, 2018** Networking
Sherrill Hills Resort Retirement Community
271 Moss Grove Blvd.
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- January 11, 2018** Networking
Calhoun's Turkey Creek
625 Turkey Cove Lane
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- January 18, 2018** Networking
Profile by Sanford Knoxville
113 Lovell Road
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Who's who... Artistic Designs

By **Michelle He**



For the holidays and other occasions throughout the year, many people are left with the same daunting task: buying the perfect gift for their loved ones. While it is easy to get lost in the abundance of options, the solution to your worries may be found in the work of Faris Ashkar, a local artist and custom woodworker with 37+ years of professional experience.

Having started his woodworking career as a hobby when he was six, Ashkar has spent the majority of his life perfecting his craft and redefining the field of woodworking. During a tour of his home-based workshop, Ashkar revealed a few of his primary artistic inspirations. He enjoys experimenting with a variety of different styles—such as etching, portrait work, and calligraphy—but "the works of the Renaissance, Middle East, and Mediterranean are some of my greatest influences."

On a tour of his own home, which includes multiple examples of his work, one is immediately drawn to the building's unique interior design. Intricately carved light fixtures, furniture pieces, and art are everywhere and no piece is exactly like the other. Such a sense of individuality is the hallmark of Ashkar's work, as is his gracious manner in insisting his guests let him prepare a pot of Lebanese coffee. In fact, Ashkar takes pride in his distinct style and the limitless directions he can take with wood. This was particularly evident upon seeing—and taking part in—Ashkar's intricate fractal wood burning process.

Ashkar's woodworking abilities do not stop there. He is well versed in creating custom cabinetry, house railings, and even jewelry. Such a diverse and imaginative range of abilities truly sets Ashkar apart from other artists in the area. If you are in need of the perfect gift or are interested in learning more about Ashkar's work, please visit www.farisashkar.com or call (865) 405-8445.

5K

From page 1

als from Arlene's Fun Travel, Mary Kay – Marianne Morse, Abuelo's, Invisible Fence Brand and several others. Each gender and age division was awarded medals for bronze, silver, and gold places per USATF. The first three canine competitors to finish the walking course each received a medal plus prize courtesy of Radio Systems

The Chamber thanks all volunteers, participants and sponsors who made this event possible. A special thanks goes to Rural Metro for providing on-site assistance as needed. Thanks also to Junk Bee Gone and Waste Connections for their donations to keep the park clean!

The 5K supports the Chamber's Continuing Education Scholarships and a portion of registrations goes to the Smoky Mountain Service Dogs (SMSD), who were on hand that morning with their current dog-in-training. Dogs spend two rigorous years with volunteers and trainers learning social skills and tasks. They then spend two weeks training with the wounded veteran they will assist. The cost to train just one dog is \$25,000.

The Chamber again thanks Presenting Sponsor Town of Farragut, Community Sponsors Foxy Locks Pet Grooming, PT Solutions, Melrose Title Company, NHC Assisted Living, Planet Fitness, State Farm: Laura Ash, Vanessa Brown, Cindy Doyle, and Jeannette Rogers, First Utility District, Max Potential of Farragut, Autumn Care Assisted Living, Invisible Fence Brand, Courtyard Marriott-Pigeon Forge and Liberty Mutual Insurance Agents Adam Freitag and Nicole Dabbs and Media Sponsor farragutpress.com and i.105.3 WFIV for supporting this event!

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