

Council of West Knox Homeowners to meet Tuesday

The Council of West Knox County Homeowners meets 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, at Peace Lutheran Church, 621 North Cedar Bluff Road. U.S. Rep John Duncan will be the guest speaker. Several Knox County Commissioners may also be in attendance.

Meet candidates at the Strang Center

The Frank Strang Center, 109 Lovell Heights Road, will host a meet and greet 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 9, for the public to meet candidates running in the upcoming elections. Everyone is invited to attend.

Meeting for Concord Dog Park

The public is invited to an open house to review plans for the Concord Dog Park, 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, at the clubhouse at Concord Marina, 10915 South Northshore Drive. Doug Bataille, senior director of Knox County Parks and Recreation, and Terry Shupp, Knox County Parks and Greenways coordinator, will be on hand to answer questions.

The new park, funded in part by PetSafe, is being proposed on the site of the old Concord swimming pool. This will be the third of five dog parks PetSafe has committed to help fund in the community. The park will encompass more than two acres and will include lake access and separate areas for large and small dogs.

Additional improvements to parking, restrooms and the Concord par three golf course are also a part of the planning process as funding permits. Info: 215-6607 or e-mail parks@knoxcounty.org.

Farragut's 2010 Independence Day parade

The town of Farragut is currently accepting registrations for the 23rd annual Independence Day parade to be held 9:30 a.m. Saturday, July 3. The date of the parade has changed from the traditional date of July 4. Deadline for registration is Thursday, June 24, until 95 entries are received or the lineup area is full, whichever comes first.

Entries can be submitted by groups such as businesses and community organizations and can include floats, entertainment and antique cars. Musical groups and bands are especially encouraged to enter. Information and registration forms are available online at www.townoffarragut.org or at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive. To be added to the parade mailing list, contact Arleen Higginbotham, 966-7057 or e-mail Arleen.higginbotham@townoffarragut.org.



Patrick Spangler provided this photo of a FUD worker pulling roots from a sewer line. The district is working to rebuild lines to prevent disruption of service and infiltration of storm water.

Insurance hike hits FUD

By Sandra Clark

Health insurance premiums are increasing for First Utility District, and that increase may show up on your water bill.

Last week insurance agent Ed Shoemaker of Atchley, Cunningham and Shoemaker explained the "best deal" he could deliver to FUD.

The current plan with United Healthcare of the River Valley (formerly John Deere) has a monthly premium of \$348.33 per employee and \$902.17 for family coverage. FUD pays 100 percent of the employee cost, and all but \$112.10 of the family rate.

The proposed monthly renewal for this plan was \$400.58 (individual) and \$1,037.50 (family) – an increase of about 15 percent.

To keep premiums level, United offered a plan with increased



Engineer Rick Kirby (standing) shows plans for the Ten Mile Basin sewer system to First Utility District board president Zola Turley; looking on are commissioner Richard Maples (right) and assistant manager Wayne Watson. Photo by S. Clark

deductibles (\$500 rather than \$250) and greater out-of-pocket contributions.

Commissioners were not pleased. "We will decide (this), but not now," said president Zola Turley, directing Shoemaker and FUD staff to resume negotiations.

FUD insures 39 individuals and 56 families. The district switched from Blue Cross to United Healthcare in May 2008 for a better rate.

Project updates:

- 100 percent complete on Village Green Sewer Improvements; 85 percent complete on lining laterals.

- 82 percent complete on a new 16-inch water main on Lovell Road.

- 85 percent complete on North Campbell Station Road water main and sewer relocation.

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Saving Adm. Farragut's birthplace

By Donna Abraham

While the town of Farragut celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and honors the man for whom the town is named, Adm. David Glasgow Farragut, Bluegrass resident Margot Kline is on a mission to save his birthplace with hopes of getting it and the adjacent property, Lowe's Ferry Landing, listed on the National Historic Register.

Farragut was born in 1801 at Stoney Point Farm, located on Northshore Drive, just a few miles east of Farragut. He was the first United States Navy admiral and was known for the famous words "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

The birthplace is just across the inlet waterway from Admiral Farragut Park, 23 acres that contain nature trails, a disc golf course and



An aerial view that shows Lowe's Ferry Landing and Stoney Point Farm, birthplace of Adm. David Farragut.

picnic areas.

Twenty acres of the original privately owned Stoney Point Farm remain undeveloped, but a gated residential community is planned for five acres of the site, and final subdivision approval is scheduled

before the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 8, at the City County Building.

Kline said she is not proposing the seizure of private land. "The landing and the large area that is

believed to have significant archaeological artifacts are located on public land that is already designated as part of Admiral Farragut Park. This park area is now fenced off and has fallen into a shameful state," she said.

A stone marker was erected on Farragut's birthplace site in 1900 by members of the Bonny Kate Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

According to Kline, Knox County records show that Adm. Farragut's father, Jorge Mesquida Farragut, bought 640 acres at Stoney Point. "The land was heavily forested and still used as hunting ground by Cherokees. Jorge Farragut was the first person to obtain a license to run a ferry between Knox and Blount counties in this southwest

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part of the county," she said.

In 1797, Jorge Farragut cleared out an area in the wilderness, built a log cabin, plowed the fields and moved there with his young family. At some point in the early 1800s, the family moved to New Orleans.

Abram Lowe purchased the farm not long after the Farragut family left, and Lowe family members ran it for several generations, said Kline.

"What got me interested in preservation of the Adm. Farragut site is the research that I had been doing into the Bluegrass/Ebenezer area where I live," Kline said. "And what got me started on that was the hope that instead of continually fighting developers one rezoning battle at a time, my homeowners' association and others in the Bluegrass/Ebenezer area could get community and county support for planned development that would preserve the area's heritage."

Kline, whose father served in the Navy during World War II and survived the battle of Okinawa, said she considers Adm. Farragut to be an American hero equal to George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and the thought that "his birthplace was about to be plowed up for a subdivision seemed beyond comprehension to me."

Kline said she delivered a request for an archaeological site evaluation to TVA last week. "Hopefully, they will quickly schedule the necessary studies and determine that significant historic artifacts are on the Lowe's Ferry public land and on the 50-foot shoreline area that's under their jurisdiction," she said. "If there are important historic artifacts on the land then the federal government is legally obligated to protect them, and it is a federal offense to damage or remove them."

Kline said she has received support for her efforts and has gotten e-mails and phone calls from hundreds of people around the country, including a call from Paul Loether, chief of the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Division of the Park Service in Washington, D.C. "He was amazingly friendly and



The stone marker on the Adm. Farragut birthplace that reads, "Birthplace of Admiral Farragut, Born July 5th, 1801. Erected by Bonny Kate Chapter, D.A.R., Knoxville. Dedicated by Admiral Dewey, May 15th, 1900."



Bluegrass resident Margot Kline is trying to preserve the birthplace of Adm. David Farragut. Photos submitted

made phone calls to state level historic preservation people," she said.

Because the historic remains of the landing are on public waterfront property that is managed by TVA, Kline said that Loether indicated the site should be protected by Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act.

"I've also gotten tremendous support from Hispanic Heritage groups because they are very proud that Adm. Farragut's father, who was Spanish, was a Revolutionary War hero and one of the Southwest territory's first settlers," she said.

On the local level, Ethiel Garlington, director of preservation field services with Knox Heritage; Ann Bennett, of the Knox County Zoning Commission's historic zoning commission; and the other people at Knox Heritage and the MPC Historic Zoning Commission have also been very helpful, according to Kline.

Sue Stuhl, director of Parks and Leisure Services with the town of Farragut, said she was aware of Kline's efforts to preserve the Farragut birthplace site. "We have no official stance on the issue, but members of our museum committee would be in favor of anything that can be done to preserve the site, if possible," she said.

Kline said she hopes that many people will come and show their support at 1:30 p.m., April 8, at the MPC meeting at the City County Building.

For information, call Margot Kline at 363-3565.



A map which shows the birthplace of Adm. Farragut and surrounding property. The large white area in the center is privately owned land. The subdivision to the right is Admiral's Landing. The subdivision at the top is Northshore Landing. The land that contains lots 1-9 on that property was rezoned from agricultural to private residential in July 2008. The area in green on either side of the water is part of Admiral Farragut Park, public land owned by Knox County. It is Margot Kline's understanding that TVA has jurisdiction over the shoreline from the summer high-water line to 50 feet inland. Section "A" is the location of the ferry landing, part of which still exists.

Section "B" is on private land and the location of a stone marker designating the birthplace of Admiral David Farragut.

Section "C" is not listed on Knox County kgis.org as being owned by anyone. Kline said the northern border of "C" contains a cut stone wall that is approximately 112 years old.

Section "D" indicates an old road that leads to the ferry has been there for about 213 years, since the ferry started running, Kline said. The road is fenced off from the public about 40 feet in from Northshore Drive. Knox County closed the road possibly in 2008 when the adjacent land was rezoned, according to Kline.

Section "E" is part of the original Farragut farm that is privately owned but lies in the TVA shoreline protection zone.

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