



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

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Contact: Mike Donila Abbey Harris  
306-1177 cell 215-4579 office  
705-1681 cell

## **Small Business Series Features Oakes Farm**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed Ken Oakes, owner of Oakes Farm, as part of his latest video series highlighting small businesses.

Throughout the series, the Mayor has conducted interviews with small business owners and operators, providing them the opportunity to talk about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their families and employees, and helping them share any plans they hold for the future. A new vignette runs each week on the county and Mayor’s various social media platforms.

During this week’s interview, the Mayor and Oakes talked about the Farm’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as they sat in the hay maze.

Oakes said of their COVID adjustments, “We have gone to online ticketing with timed entry so we could control how many people are on the property, so we reduced our attendance...and weren’t able to do any [field trips] this year.”

Mayor Jacobs noted the uniqueness of the Oakes Farm operation.

“What sets you all apart is it’s not just a pumpkin patch and a corn maze, it’s literally—almost, not quite—a theme park,” said Mayor Jacobs. “There’s a lot of stuff here.”

Oakes agreed saying they try to have something for everyone, all ages, to do. He also noted how meaningful it is that people return year after year and how nice it was they were able to provide people a sense of normalcy in a stressful time.

“It’s really good to see families out playing and having a good time—laughing,” said Oakes. “When we get stressed, we go out and walk around and listen to the families and that’s what it’s all about.”

To hear more of what was said, and see Mayor Jacobs launch “The Pumpkin Pounder,” check out the [video](#).

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