



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Mayor Jacobs' Small Business Series Features Mayo Garden Center**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed Claxton Mayo, Jr., and daughter Elizabeth Cox Mayo – both with the Mayo Garden Center – as part of his small business series.

Each week, the Mayor conducts interviews with small business owners, offering them the opportunity to talk about what they do; highlight their work; and share any future plans. A new vignette runs each Wednesday on the county and Mayor's social media platforms. This month, the series focuses on anchor businesses across the county.

Mayo Garden Center, a family-owned business that Claxton Mayo's great grandfather opened in 1878 on Gay Street, now has three locations in Knox County. The stores offer a huge selection of every product needed to beautify a home's exteriors, from lawnmowers and trimmers to seasonal flowers and foliage, patio furniture, and outdoor grills.

"We started out as a seed business. Back in 1878 people didn't go to the grocery stores," Claxton Mayo said. "They had to grow their own food and seeds were very important to people back then."

He added: "We still sell seeds – it's an important part of our business but we are also a garden center and have most everything that a garden center would have. In addition to that we sell patio furniture and power equipment. And each one of those could be a standalone business."

Mayor Jacobs asked what the key to their success is when there are so many big box stores that carry and offer similar items.

"Dad is the most honest person in the world, and he stands behind everything that we sell, and we try and make it right for the customer," Elizabeth Cox Mayo said. "And I always tell people – especially when I'm selling them furniture – I tell them that it's a good quality piece and I don't want them to be unhappy with it. Because they can come back and find us – they can come back and holler at us. You know with the big box stores, there's no one to complain to. If you have a problem here, we're going to fix it. That is true for all of our merchandise."

To hear more of what was said, check out the [video](#).

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