

County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



Roane County Government

Taxes, Taxes, Taxes... Why Do I Have to Pay So Much in Taxes?

By Ron Woody, County Executive

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St. Patrick's Day--March 17th



A part of the answer to the question posted in the title is we pay taxes for service we demand. We are purchasing roads, education, safety and security, recreation activities, and medical care. We also pay taxes because we or members of our society are not responsible or sometimes just lazy.

This article is not about taxes in general, it is about what we can do in March 2016 to make Roane County a better place to work and live. We will sign a proclamation stating that March is Clean Up Roane County Month.

As I was taking my garbage off two Saturdays ago, I noticed my neighbor was picking up trash on the side of the road. He had worked both sides and you could see a distinct difference. We all need to do the same.

The Highway Department has an invitation in this issue noting Thursday, March 10th, Friday, March 11th, and Saturday, March 12th as "Keep Roane Litter Free Community Clean Up Day." Folks, let us clean up our little section of our community, county, state, and world. I believe we all want our county clean and, if we don't help keep our county clean, then we will be using our tax monies to do the litter pick up. I am sure there is a much better use for our monies. Take some time in March to clean up Roane County. Garbage bags and supplies are provided by the Roane County Litter Grant. Contact the Roane County Highway Department at 856-882-9782 to receive your supplies.

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March 1st Election Day!
The Courthouse will be
Closed.



**Daylight Savings Time
Begins! Sunday,
March 13th @ 2:00
a.m. Spring ahead one
hour!**



**The Courthouse will be closed
Friday, March 25th in
observance of Good Friday**

Wishing you

a Blessed Good Friday

March 27th



County Updates —

From the County... by Ron Woody

Generally during the start of the new year, County Executive Ron Woody submits articles of interest concerning our county to the local newspapers. The articles inform Roane County citizens of what local government is doing and the focus of the future. Roane County Government’s work, accomplishments, and plans can be found on the county website www.roanecountytn.gov under County Executive.

Recent Articles published:

- **Evaluate Where We Are, and Get Engaged**
Published (1-13-16) Roane County News
- **What Does 2016 Hold for Roane County?**
Published (1-20-16) Roane County News
- **What Does 2016 Hold for Roane County? Part 2**
Published (2-3-16) Roane County News
- **Private-Sector Investments in the Community**
Published (2-17-16) Roane County News

New OES site progress

The Roane County Office of Emergency Services has begun clearing the TVA leased property on Swan Pond Road in preparation for its new facility. OES has now moved into the second phase of development and will be researching building designs for the new facility. We anticipate building when Roane County has to expand the Roane County jail. The cleared timber will be available for donation to qualified non-profit organizations for the next sixty days. Interested organizations must be insured and provide their own equipment for removal of the timber. After sixty days, the remaining timber will be made available to the public for bidding. Please contact the Roane County Purchasing Office at 376-4317 for more information.



Roane County Parks and Recreation

Update at SPSC (Swan Pond Sports Complex).....By Mike Beard Director of Parks and Recreation

The photos below show the progress that has been achieved at Roane County’s Swan Pond Sports Complex. “We are entering the construction phase and looking forward to sports programming this spring.”



Entrance road showing underground electric (white line) and water (blue line) utility installations as we prepare for construction and programming later this year.



Aerial view of the Swan Pond Sports Complex a year ago as Tennessee Valley Authority was finishing the final grading.

Did You Know About.... Mary Love?

By: Robert Bailey, County Historian



March is Women's History Month and we recognize a Roane Countian who made her mark in history. The story of Mary Love (1823-1887) occurs during the Civil War. We know about brother against brother, but what is not often discussed is a sister against brother and her family. That is the story of Mary Love.

Mary and her family lived in a house that was located on the main road from Knoxville to Kingston on what is now called Lawnville Road. Her brother, Josiah T. Love was a surgeon in the Confederate army. Even though her family was confederate she carried a dispatch to the Union forces at Knoxville. The following is a report to the Senate of the United States, dated Jan 13, 1873, that was submitted in the following words: "The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of the Miss Mary Love, having considered the same, make the following report: During the siege of Knoxville, in November, 1863, General Grant desired to send an important dispatch from his headquarters, at Chattanooga, to General Burnside, at Knoxville, through the investing lines of the confederate forces under General Longstreet. This dispatch was sent to Colonel Robert K. Byrd, commanding at Kingston, Tennessee, with orders from General Grant to get it to General Burnside 'at any cost and at all hazards.' Colonel Byrd caused five copies of said dispatch to be made, and sent them in different directions. One Charles Francis lost his life in the attempt to get through the confederate lines with one of them. No one of them reached General Burnside except the one of which Miss Love was the bearer. Miss Love was a loyal woman, but she had a brother in the confederate service, and was less exposed to suspicion by the confederate guards for that reason. She was promised by Colonel Byrd that she should be well paid for her services and the peril she encountered. She traveled alone some twelve miles, but at dark she procured the Rev. Thomas P. Carter to accompany her, and they passed through the confederate forces to Louisville, Tennessee, which place they reached about midnight, making thirty-three miles traveled by the complainant. At Louisville, she caused the dispatch to be sewed into the vest of a lad, one John T. Brown, about 13 years of age, and sent him successfully to Knoxville, where he delivered the dispatch to General Burnside. It was of a very important character, and probably saved the forces of General Burnside from surrender and East Tennessee to the Union Army. Your committee reports a bill for paying Miss Love the sum of \$2,000." She received the \$2,000 in payment for her services to the Union. She is buried in the Love family cemetery off of Lawnville Road with the rest of her family.

It's Quittin' Time in Tennessee...

By Laura Conner, District Director Roane and Morgan County Health Departments

We are working on a statewide tobacco cessation awareness campaign called "It's Quittin' Time in Tennessee". We have been asking local businesses and organizations if they would like to partner with us on this to spread the word about a few key messages:

- Quitting smoking saves lives.
- Improves health and reduces health care costs.
- Reducing tobacco use rates promotes healthy communities.
- Reducing workforce smoking rates improves employee health, increases productivity and saves dollars.

There are resources available to help. **Call the Tennessee Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669).** You may also join the program online at www.tnquitline.org. IT'S FREE!! It's hard to quit smoking but studies show that people who use a program really do better.

We will have a banner with all the businesses or organizations that sign on with names and logos and will display it in the yard of the health department to recognize the partnership.



Working Together Toward a Better Roane County

New Interactive Map

Provides Legislatures with

School Information



- The Comptroller's Offices of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) has created two new interactive maps featuring a wide range of education data at the school and school district levels.
- The maps illustrate the House of Representatives and Senate legislative districts overlaid with school district and school level information. The legislative profile maps are both clickable and searchable. A user can search by legislator, school district, and school name.
- The maps include demographic information, accountability and performance, and financial data. Some specific data points include the number and type of schools (e.g., traditional, charter, etc.), school designation, average ACT score, per-pupil expenditure by average daily membership, and average classroom teacher salary.

These maps can be found here: <<http://comptroller.tn.gov/OREA/MappingTN>>.

"Gold Standard" in Customer Service

Dr. John T. Merwin, a local citizen, sent a letter to Ralph Stewart, Director of the Roane County Solid Waste/Recycle Center, expressing his appreciation of Ms. Teresa Goldston. Dr. Merwin stated "no matter what the weather is Teresa is right out there assisting the customers and ensuring the safety of the next customer. I can assure you if she was not the superb employee she is, many Roane County residents would just let their waste accumulate in some back woods or other public place versus bringing it in to be properly disposed."

Thank you Teresa Goldston on performing your job and creating a safe environment at the Roane County Recycling Center in Midtown, Tennessee.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
March 1st	COURTHOUSE CLOSED	Election Day	
March 1st	Agriculture Extension Cmte	Ag. Ext.	6:15 pm
March 3rd	Environmental Review Board	CR	6:00 pm
March 7th	Budget Committee	QCR	6:30 pm
March 8th	Public Utilities Board	WWP	5:30 pm
March 8th	Fire Board	QCR	6:15 pm
March 10th	Emergency Services Committee	OES	6:00 pm
March 14th	County Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
March 15th	Ad-Hoc Prob. Services Comm.	QCR	6:30 pm
March 16th	Board of Zoning Appeals	QCR	6:00 pm
March 16th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
March 17th	Road Committee	QCR	6:30 pm
March 22nd	Solid Waste Advisory Board	QCR	6:30 pm
March 25th	COURTHOUSE CLOSED/	GOOD FRIDAY	

You're invited to:

**Keep Roane Litter Free
COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY**

**March 10th, 11th, and 12th
9:00-4:00**

FREE LUNCH- March 10th at 12:00

Look for the BIG tent at the
Old Roane County Campground



**Roane County
Highway Department**
Dennis Ferguson, Road Superintendent

We are seeking volunteers to clean up their community. We will provide you with the supplies. If you would like to participate give us a call at 882-9782.

Part of the Great American Cleanup Litter Grant Sponsored by TDOT Weather Permitting

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
CLOSINGS/OTHER EVENTS**

- March 1st— Courthouse Closed, Presidential Preference Primary Election
- March 25th— Courthouse Closed, Good Friday
- March 27th— Easter Sunday

Please submit articles/items of interest to Arlene at arlene.daugherty@roanecountytn.gov by the 20th of the month. ~Ron

Press Release

February 24, 2016

Contact: Traci Cofer, Program Manager –RCOES 865-717-4116

Roane County Office of Emergency Services Is a Force of Nature and You Can Be Too!

Kingston, TN – This time of year is a perfect occasion to *Be a Force of Nature* and **the Roane County Office of Emergency Services** is proud to be promoting severe weather preparedness week. To help spread the word and make its employees and members of the community better prepared, **RCOES** is committed to being a leader for weather-readiness by knowing the risk, taking action and being an example. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Severe Weather Preparedness Week is a nationwide effort designed to increase awareness of the severe weather that affects everyone as well as encourage individuals, families businesses and communities to know their risk, take action, and be an example.

Each year, many people are killed or seriously injured by tornadoes and other types of severe weather, despite advance warning. In 2011, there were more than 1,000 weather-related fatalities and more than 8,000 injuries. Severe weather knows no boundaries and affects every individual and because of this we are committed to ensuring the safety of Roane County and we're calling on you to Be a Force of Nature. Knowing your risk, taking action and being an example are just a few steps you can take to be better prepared and assist in saving lives.

For severe weather alerts and updates like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Roane-County-TN-Office-of-Emergency-Services-Homeland-Security-280572297660/>

Studies show that many people use social media in the event of a disaster to let relatives and friends know they are safe.

This is an important trend because people are most

likely to take preparedness steps if they observe the preparations taken by others. Social media provides the perfect platform to model preparedness actions for others. For this reason we are asking you to pledge and take the following steps:

Know Your Risk: The first step to becoming weather-ready is to understand the type of hazardous weather that can affect where you live and work, and how the weather could impact you and your family. Check the weather forecast regularly, obtain a NOAA Weather Radio, and sign up for localized alerts from emergency management officials. Severe weather comes in many forms and your shelter plan should include all types of local hazards.

Take Action: Be Force of Nature by taking the pledge to prepare at Ready.gov/severe-weather. When you pledge to prepare, you will take the first step to making sure that you and your family are prepared for severe weather. This includes developing a family communication plan, putting an [emergency kit](#) together, keeping important papers and valuables in a safe place, and [getting involved](#). Visit www.Ready.gov/severe-weather for more on family preparedness for severe weather.

Be an Example: Once you have taken action and pledged, share your story with your family and friends. Create a YouTube video, post your story on Facebook, or send a tweet. Post the Be a Force of Nature widget [[link](#)] on your social media profiles.

More information and ideas on how you can Be a Force of Nature can be found at www.Ready.gov/severeweather. Information on the different types of severe weather such as tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flooding is available at www.weather.gov and www.ready.gov/severeweather or the Spanish-language web site www.listo.gov.

"Changing Government through Research, Study and Analysis"