



## County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

[www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org)

Earth Day - April 22<sup>nd</sup> - - - - - Arbor Day – April 26th



### Executive and Legislative Activities since January

By County Executive Ron Woody

Periodically we like to refresh everyone's memory of the many functions in which your government is/has been/ and is anticipated to be involved. To us they are considered day-to-day operations.

A number of service and civic organizations had requested updates of county operations. We appreciate the invitation and opportunity to speak and are encouraged by these organizations' commitment to better government. A number of these organizations have been: Civitan, TEA Party, WECO Radio, Lion's Club, Oak Ridge Country Club Estate Association, NAACP, and Pine Ridge Prime Timers.

Work continues with the East Tennessee Economic Council where we have attended seven of their 7:30 a.m. Friday morning meetings since January 1<sup>st</sup>. At the ETEC meeting we are brought up to date on activities of the Department of Energy and new ground-breaking technologies.

Various meetings had been held with TVA related to park and recreation, changes in TVA leases of operation, shoreline management, and the Kingston Ash Spill cleanup.

We were able to participate in the historical demolition of the north wing of the K-25 building, along with welcoming the opening of the new Roane Medical Center in Midtown. Governor Haslam helped cut the ribbon at the new carbon fiber DOE facility at the Horizon Center Industry Park.

The Commission passed three important resolutions that should help improve the operation of government and encourage economic growth. These resolutions were part of a long-term plan for Roane County: (1) transfer of ownership of an old school to Michael Dunn thus allowing Michael Dunn to sell for retail/commercial use and build a new modern campus; (2) converting the juvenile services building into the UT Extension building will improve extension services, reduce security costs for the courthouse, and provide an educational training and committee room for other county government use; and (3) adoption of the preliminary plans for the Swan Pond Sports Complex establishes the foundation for a recreation venue and expands tourism opportunities.

The Roane County Budget Committee began the 2014 budget process with budget recommendations on the county's three (3) debt service funds. The Budget Committee is happy to recommend no new revenue is needed for these operations.

A number of meetings were attended as we work with the Department of Energy on the Uranium Processing Facility to understand the work force needed along with the supply and materials chain. More will be written in future articles about the UPF.

Tours were made of the Volkswagen facility along with Dr. Sam Weaver's Proton Power operation. Both of these are important projects for Roane County's continued economic development.

Other happenings during the past months were school security and safety meetings dealing with facility improvement along with the potential addition of resource officers. Recommendations are pending.

A Non-Profit Commission Committee has been established to review funding requirements and to prioritize funding. The Roane County Audit Committee has also been formed and a meeting has been scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The state's technology centers appear to be ready to change to technology colleges.

### Release of the 2012 Roane Alliance Annual Report

This document reports activities of the Industrial Development Board (IDB), Chamber of Commerce and the Visitors' Bureau (Tourism).

Roane County contributes to the IDB and Tourism effort through a contract with The Alliance for IDB activities and tourism. Roane County's investment is made up of \$180,000 of the \$27,570,000 property tax levy. The Hotel/Motel tax is by Private Act devoted to tourism in an amount of \$92,000, and 100% the Wholesale Beer Tax of \$170,000. Other funding sources are the LCUB and ORUD payments related to the Roane Regional Business and Technology Park. The total contribution is \$536,850 of the county's \$108,000,000 budget. This allocation of funds is noted in the appropriations resolution.

The Roane Alliance 2012 Annual Report is available on the Roane Alliance website at:  
[http://www.roanealliance.org/about\\_the\\_roane\\_alliance/annual\\_report.aspx](http://www.roanealliance.org/about_the_roane_alliance/annual_report.aspx)  
or on our website at:  
<http://www.roanegov.org/publications.html>.

### Career Opportunities

Proton Power: <http://www.protonpower.com>

Volkswagen Group of America:

<http://www.vw.com/en/corporate/nav/careers.html>

These two companies will be hiring in the Roane county area in the near future. Check these websites out for opportunities to apply. If a specific contact is not available please continue to check the site for updates.

### Spring is just around the corner

By Mike Beard, Roane County Parks and Recreation Director

The Roane County Parks and Recreation Department is getting our parks ready for spring. Even on cold days many Roane Countians are already walking the trails at Roane County Park, feeding the wildlife, throwing discs and wishing the weather made the splash pad look more inviting.

When you come by, expect to see new playground mulch, new more-informative signs, a cottage parking lot full of folks using the facility for meetings, and a resurfaced tennis court and other improvements. Later this year a completely new playground is coming.

Riley Creek Camping and Recreation Area is full of activity, too. With the opening date of March 22<sup>nd</sup> just around the corner, our team is getting the Park ready for campers, picnickers, walkers and water sports. All the signs of old man winter are being removed so you can enjoy this wonderful setting on the beautiful Tennessee River. Once the lake fills, the fun will really begin.

Emory Gap is getting a good clean-up so everyone can enjoy the good weather that is coming.

*We are having a great day at Roane County Parks, please come by, visit us and send your suggestions to:*  
[mbeard@roanegov.org](mailto:mbeard@roanegov.org)



### TDOT's Yellow DOT Program

The Tennessee Yellow DOT Program is designed to provide first responders with an individual's medical information in the event of an emergency on Tennessee's roadways. The information can mean the difference between "life and death" in the "Golden Hour" immediately following a serious incident.

Participants will receive a Yellow DOT decal, folder and medical information sheet; a personalized photo will be taken and placed on the sheet. The participant will complete the medical information sheet which consists of their emergency contact information, medical information, recent surgeries, hospital preferences, current medications, insurance and physicians' information. This information will be the sole responsibility of the participant. The Yellow DOT decal will be placed on the driver's side rear window of their vehicle.

Distribution Centers are expected to be set up across the State, and locations of these centers will be listed on TDOT's Office of Incident Management webpage. **The statewide program is expected to "kickoff" in spring 2013.**

For additional information, contact [TennesseeYellowDOT@tn.gov](mailto:TennesseeYellowDOT@tn.gov).

### Submitted and Sometimes Published Articles

On the county website under County Executive, one can find submitted and sometimes published articles. We would encourage you to take some time to review these articles. The titles of some of the articles are: Where do My Property Taxes Go? (10-3-12) Roane County's Industrial Effort (11-2-12), and Sustainability (2-26-13).

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### County Government Day

March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> was County Government Day in Nashville. Various officials attended legislative committee meetings along with their respective association's board and membership meetings. Roane County's own Commissioner Bobby Collier is the President of the Tennessee Association of County Officials which is the head organization of the County Commission Association, County Mayor's Association, and other county officials' associations.

Attending from Roane County were: Commissioners Bobby Collier, Carolyn Granger, Ron Berry, and Randy Ellis; Circuit Clerk Kim Nelson, Register of Deeds Sharon Brackett, and County Executive Ron Woody. Property Assessor David Morgan was also in Nashville with the 2013 Roane County Leadership Class.

**FYI – The Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2013 @ the Recycling Center in Midtown from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Put this event on your calendar now and begin gathering all those hazardous wastes that have been piling up over the past year. More information will be posted in the paper, on our website, and in this newsletter.**

### Community Paramedicine

By Howie Rose, Roane County OES Director

Roane County's Director of Emergency Services has been appointed to a State of Tennessee Health Department Community Paramedicine Task Force. This task force is responsible for developing a new community based health care program that utilizes the County employed Paramedics to become part of the integrated community based primary care system. This is an initiative brought about by the new Affordable Care Act. The program works by having Paramedics conducting home visits for patients that have just been discharged from the hospital. The purpose of the home visit is to help the patient receive follow-up care. This helps ensure the patient continues to improve at home. Under the Affordable Care Act any patient that is readmitted with-in 30 days of discharge will result in a fine for the hospital that cared for the patient. Hospitals and Doctors' offices will pay Paramedics to follow up on these patients to make sure they do not end up back in the hospital. Our Paramedics will see patients whose insurance does not provide home health.

"This program is still under design. What the final program will look like is still several months away" said, OES Director Howie Rose. Roane County is proud to have been included in the development of such a program. This program could potentially bring primary care to people that cannot afford home health care or go to their doctor. Updates will be made available as this program develops.

### Rural Planning Organization

Roane County was well represented at the recent Rural Planning Organization (RPO) meeting which works with the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) in prioritizing projects in our region and county. RPO meets periodically to review the road construction plans for state projects within our community. Roane County's two major projects consist of widening Highway 70 from Rockwood to Midtown, widening north of Pine Ridge Road to Highway 61 in Harriman. Many other projects are on the list and are in some stage of study, engineering, property acquisition, or even construction. TDOT's priority system of funds is: safety, operational/congestion (spot improvements), economic development, and the multimodal. A copy of the prioritization is available on our website: [www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org).

Those attending from Roane County were: Becky Ruppe (representing Rockwood), Troy Beets and Jim Pinkerton (representing Kingston), Barbara Pearman and Ron Woody (representing Roane County), Brian Matthews (representing the Roane County Highway Department) and Dr. Julian Ahler (representing the Roane County Chamber of Commerce). There were over 50 people in attendance.

### Y-12 -- Born through necessity in 1943, thriving through expertise.

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entered World War II. President Franklin Roosevelt created the top-secret Manhattan Project to build an atomic weapon. The Y-12 plant was built in 1943 to produce enrich uranium, the key ingredient to produce a nuclear chain reaction. The “Little Boy” atomic bomb, created with Y-12’s highly enriched uranium, was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. When the war ended, so did Y-12’s mission; scientists found new uses for nuclear material and Y-12’s capabilities.

In the 1950’s through the 1980’s Y-12 transformed uranium enrichment facilities to perform nuclear weapon components manufacturing. Y-12 built a reputation for precision machining and measurement of uranium and other metals using diamond tools and air-bearing spindles – a Y-12 invention that enabled precise machining accurate to a millionth of an inch. Y-12 fabricated airtight boxes for Apollo astronauts to bring lunar materials back to Earth. Y-12 built propulsor prototypes for the U.S. Navy’s USS Seawolf nuclear submarine.

Beginning in the 1990’s Y-12’s mission shifts again to include reducing the threat of nuclear proliferation and powering the nuclear Navy. In 1994 Y-12 began the mission of keeping vulnerable nuclear material out of the hands of terrorists.

Today, Y-12 works to transform the site to meet the nation’s nuclear security needs, including building the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (a storehouse for the nation’s weapons-grade uranium) and planning the construction of a modern, efficient and safe Uranium Processing Facility (UPF).

### Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day at Y-12

Y-12 recently held its second annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering event during which some 400 girls in grades 9–12 from area schools were encouraged to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The girls interacted with women working in the engineering field and experienced hands-on activities at various exhibits hosted by Y-12, ORNL, the University of Tennessee and various engineering organizations.

The guest speaker at the event was Jamie Porter. In May 2012, Porter became the first African American female to receive a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from the University of Tennessee.



Approximately 400 girls from 13 local high schools attended the second annual event.

Participating schools included Anderson County Career and Technical Center, Claiborne High, Clinton High, Coalfield High, Hardin Valley STEM Academy, Harriman High, Knoxville West High, Midway High, Oak Ridge High, Oakdale School, Oliver Springs High, Roane County High, Rockwood High and Sunbright High.

As one Harriman junior observed, “It’s awesome to see all different kinds of girls in one place who have the same interest.” An “extremely impressed” Midway High School teacher said, “The kids will be talking about this when we get back and asking to go again next year.”

### FY 2014 Budget - Sustainability

By County Executive Ron Woody

As we work on our FY 2014 Budget, the overriding questions which will be discussed are: Are our programs sustainable? Do we have programs in place that have sufficient revenue to pay for the program and, if not, what plans are we working on to have a sustainable budget?

We made our debt budgets sustainable two years ago as our tax rates were recalibrated and we have now programmed 30-year budgets. Cuts were made in the Ambulance operations to reach sustainability. Capital projects were established to help us reach our long-term plans and to replace capital assets. The 2014 Budget question is: Do we have sustainable programs?

“The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year.”  
--- Mark

### Manhattan Project as National Historical Park

U. S. Senator Lamar Alexander has introduced legislation that would designate three sites of the World War II-era Manhattan Project, including sites at Oak Ridge, as a national Historical Park. Senator Alexander said, “As Americans, we have a special obligation to preserve and protect our heritage, and the Manhattan Project National Historical Park will ensure that all Americans learn about the significance of the Manhattan Project and how it continues to shape our history.”

### Governor Haslam Visits Roane County

We were pleased to have Governor Haslam speak at the Ribbon Cutting of the U. S. Department of Energy’s Carbon Fiber Technology Facility located at the Horizon Center Industrial Park. The ribbon cutting was considered the commissioning of the facility along with the launch of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy – Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative.

After the ribbon cutting Governor Haslam was the keynote speaker for the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce. We were pleased to be a participant to both events.

### Midway High School Student, Jayde Rose, Serves as Senate Page



In the photo made in the Senate Chamber are Jayde’s grandfather, Howard Rose (a former Roane County Commissioner), her father Howie Rose, (who accompanied her to the Capitol) Ms. Rose and Senator Ken Yager.

(NASHVILLE, Tenn.), March 5, 2013 – A Midway High School student, Jayde Rose, recently served as a page in the Tennessee State Senate. Rose was sponsored by State Senator Ken Yager (R-Harriman) who represents Roane County in the Tennessee State Senate.

Page duties consist of anything from making copies, running errands, to distributing legislative information to members of the General Assembly. They report to the Chief Clerk of the House and Senate.

### April Meetings and Events:

Check [www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org) for more info

1 <sup>st</sup>	Audit Committee	CH	5:30pm
1 <sup>st</sup>	Sheriff’s Liaison Committee		6:30pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Environmental Review Board	CH	6:00pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	County Commission	CH	7:00pm
9 <sup>th</sup>	Beer Board- <i>if needed</i>	CH	5:30pm
9 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Board	CH	6:00pm
17 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Zoning Appeals- <i>if needed</i>	CH	6:00pm
17 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Commission	CH	7:00pm
25 <sup>th</sup>	County Board of Public Utilities	CH	5:30pm
25 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Commission/School Board Meeting	CH	7:00pm

### Did you know about . . .

#### The First Coal Used in Roane County?

By Robert Bailey, County Historian

In an article by Captain William Eblen McElwee (1835-1929) published in the Rockwood Times, in 1904, he lists many of the “firsts” in Roane County. Whether he was accurate in his listing, is up to debate as some of his articles are not historically accurate. But here they are:

- The first coal used in Roane County, was mined and used by Allison Howard in 1812.
- The first coal shipped to market, by Capt. Wm. Jackson, 1830.
- The first Catalan forge, with water blast, for making hammered iron, built by George Gorden, 1816.
- First furnace, charcoal, cold blast, pig iron and castings; built by George Gorden and Mathew P. English in 1827.
- First Grist mill, water power, built by Samuel Eblen, 1799.
- First Saw mill, Steam power, Roughs [Ruoff] & Co., 1850.
- First well established newspaper, Kingston East Tennessean, N.A. and M.L. Patterson, 1852.
- First book written in county, "Arithmetic by Samuel Fowler."
- First bell-crowned silk hat, made by John Ashley and worn by John Eblen, 1812.
- First sewing machine, a Remington, bought by Col. R.K. Byrd for \$110 and presented to a lady friend.
- First threshing machine, a "Taplac(?)" power, bought by Brown & McElwee, 1850.
- First mowing machine, a wood bar, one wheel, McCormac, bought by Benjamin Huffine, 1857.

**If you have an item of interest related to our county, please submit to Sheila or me. Deadline for submission is the 20<sup>TH</sup> of the month.**

*Ron*