



County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

2-Year Anniversary



“Roane County is Now Engaged and more to come. . . .”

Upon becoming Roane County Executive I attended a County Executive/Mayor statewide meeting in Nashville and heard a variety of speakers. One speaker was the acting Commissioner of Education who was talking about education in general and the Oak Ridge National Lab specifically, which housed at the time the world's fastest computer/or computing system. He was commenting of how successful and proud Anderson County was for being the home of the National Lab and the world's fastest computer. Those comments did not rest well with me. As a prior colleague and friend, I took him aside and told him that he needed to learn more than reading, writing, and arithmetic; that the Commissioner of Education needed a little geography lesson. I told him that The Oak Ridge National Lab and the world's fastest computer are in Roane County. I knew then that Roane County needed to be engaged and let people know who we are and what we have to offer.

“Roane County is Now Engaged and more to come. . . .”

One of the most important economic drivers for Roane County has been and will continue to be the U. S. Department of Energy and their related contractors. Often we hear references to Oak Ridge and Anderson County; Roane County is often not mentioned and not even known to be the location of the DOE's old K-25 site (now the East Tennessee Technology Park) or the X-10 (the Oak Ridge National Lab). Further, we have often not had a seat at the table of many environmental input issues and decisions. That is changing with the new philosophy model of changing the direction of the old non-profit Local Oversight Committee (LOC); see articles in the January and July 2012 newsletters. **Roane County has become engaged.**

In a short period of time Roane County Government, for the first time to our knowledge, has a seat on the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab) with the placement of OES Assistant Scott Stout. It is prestigious and has had news coverage not only in *The Roane County News*, but *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* and *The DOE Oak Ridge Office Public Involvement News*. **Roane County is engaged.**

Further, word is getting out that Roane County has input with both Stout and Woody being active in the National Energy Communities Alliance (ECA), www.energyca.org. Recently, Executive Woody was asked to speak as a panel member at the Los Alamos, New Mexico ECA meeting about the challenges in communications within the programs and activities of the DOE community. Guess what? **Roane County is engaged.** Roane County has a seat at the table. Decisions are often products of long-term relationships and Roane County is taking steps to build these relationships and to let others know that much of the DOE operation is in Roane County.

Two great benefits/successes in the philosophy change in the old LOC organization is Roane County having a board seat on the ORSSAB and active membership in the Energy Community Alliance. Roane County sits at the table. **Roane County is engaged.**

Woody's notes and comments at the ECA meeting can be found on Roane County's website:

www.roanegov.org.

Office of Emergency Service

Decontamination Vehicle:

The Roane County Office of Emergency Services has just acquired, at no cost to the County, a slightly used hazardous materials decontamination trailer. The decontamination trailer was obtained with the assistance of Lieutenant Bobby Anderson from the military at Fort Campbell. The 53 ft. long trailer can handle large numbers of people needing to be decontaminated. This piece of equipment will be used to support the Region 2 Homeland Security District, Department of Energy, and Tennessee Valley Authority in hazardous materials incidents. Some of the advantages of having a trailer are the quick set-up times and long sustaining operational periods. Director Rose is thankful to have this trailer as part of the emergency response resources.

LEPC Meeting at Energy Solutions:

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) met for their regular quarterly meeting on August 8, 2012 at Energy Solutions on Bear Creek Road. The Committee was provided a tour of the facility and an overview of the operations before conducting the quarterly meeting. It was a consensus of the group that it was good to get out into the community to get a better understanding how businesses operate. The LEPC wants to thank Energy Solutions for being a good neighbor and inviting them into their facility. The LEPC is looking forward to visiting many other local businesses and industries in the coming months. The next LEPC meeting will be announced soon by Chairman Fred Schultz.

Thank you!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Roane County Road Superintendent **Tom Hamby** and Roane County Property Assessor **Teresa Kirkham** for their many years of dedicated service. Tom has served Roane County as Road Superintendent since May 1999. Teresa began working in 1976 and became the Assessor in September 1994. We thank you for your many years of public service and wish you well in the next phase of your life.

Newly Elected Officials Orientation:

Our newly elected Property Assessor, David Morgan, and our newly elected Road Superintendent, Dennis Ferguson, recently attended CTAS Orientation in Murfreesboro, and a county orientation held in the County Executive's Office. The county orientation became Executive Summary #27, "Orientation for New Officials", and can be found on the county website.

Scott Stout appointed to Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Scott Stout, Roane County's Safety Officer, and Assistant Director of the Roane County Office of Emergency Services, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board, a volunteer citizens' panel that provides advice and recommendation to DOE on its environmental cleanup operations on the Oak Ridge Reservation. **Congratulations Scott!**

Website:

The following **Executive Summaries** and **DMA** have been added to our website in August:

Executive Summaries - 2012

- ♦ Fire Assessment Study (Executive Summary #26)

Executive Summaries - 2013

- ♦ Capital Implementation Plan (#16a)
- ♦ PUB MTAS Study (#2b)
- ♦ RCERB Presentation to County Commission (#6a)
- ♦ County Orientation for Newly Elected Officials (#27)

DMA - 2013

- ♦ Transportation of Deceased Persons (#10)

Executive Summaries Pending:

- ♦ #2(c) Wastewater Treatment Plant Multi-Year Financial Review
- ♦ #10(a) Update of Old Jail Project
- ♦ #11(a) Debt Management Update

Walton Road Scenic Byway (by Joyce Nall)

The Walton Road opened in 1801 and was named after its builder, a Revolutionary War veteran, Captain William Walton. The road linked Fort Southwest Point with the Upper and Middle Cumberland settlements of the Nashville area and points east.

Walton Road followed the path of the old Indian trail, the Cumberland Trace, or Tollunteeskee's Trail named after a Cherokee chief whose village was near modern day Rockwood. It is now incorporated into U.S.70 and Interstate 40, but sections of the original road can still be seen along the Cumberland Plateau.

The Walton Road Scenic Byway Project is part of a regional effort to preserve, promote and protect this natural and cultural resource of the region, and to develop the area as a heritage tourism destination. The counties involved are Roane, Cumberland, Putnam and Smith.

ROANE COUNTY CORN MAZE

Grand Opening Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.
Across from Roane State Community College – next to ball fields.

Open September 15- November 4, 2012
(Hours: Friday 4 pm till dark; Saturday 11 am till dark; and Sunday 1 pm till dark)

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Welcome!

Roane County welcomes **Dennis Ferguson** and **David Morgan**. Dennis is the incoming Road Superintendent. Dennis served in the State Legislature from 1991 to 2010, and has been in the asphalt/paving-related business with his father most of his life. David, as new Property Assessor, comes to Roane County with a background of experience in the manufacturing industry as Plant Engineer, Production Supervisor, & Training Manager, and property management experience as President of The Chesapeake Village Condo Association in Kingston.

We wish both Dennis and David successful careers as public servants and we extend our resources and assistance as you transition into these positions.

Y- 12 Plant

[Article No. 4 in a series by Robert Bailey, County Historian]

[This is the fourth of a series of articles about the history of Oak Ridge, the “Secret City.” Oak Ridge made a tremendous impact on our area in 1942 and the possibility of a National Park would again have a major impact in our County.]

The Y-12 plant was designed and constructed by the Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation of Boston at a cost of about \$427,000. The name of the plant has no special significance. It contained about 170 buildings and was built on 500 acres.

The plant was put into use by the operating company, the Tennessee Eastman Corporation of Kingsport, TN, in January 1944. At its peak in 1945 it employed 22,000 people.

Its purpose was to separate uranium atoms (U-235 from U-238) using an electromagnetic process developed by Dr. E.O. Lawrence of the University of California. It was the first and only plant of its kind in the world. Y-12 separated the uranium that was used in “Little Boy” the uranium bomb which was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. It was the first atomic bomb to be used as a weapon. The other bomb, “Fat Man”, a plutonium bomb, which was developed in Hanford, Washington, was dropped three days later on Nagasaki, Japan.

After the war, the plant started manufacturing uranium components for nuclear weapons. The construction of parts for nuclear weapons by the Y-12 plant played an important part in eventually ending the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

FLU SHOTS

County Employees: - Free flu shots will be given in the County Executive’s Conference Room on Wednesday, September 26th from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. If you have medical insurance through the county you must bring your “Caremark Prescription Card” and complete a form. When you call Arlene (717-4102) to sign up for the flu shot please tell her if you have county insurance.

If you do not have county insurance you may still receive a flu shot on September 26th. The OES office will have a paramedic here to administer flu shots to the employees who do not carry county insurance.

Spouses of employees who want the shot will need to register prior to shot day with Arlene also and will be required to pay \$20.00 at the time of receiving the shot. **NO CHILDREN PLEASE.** Shots will be administered on a “first-come, first-served” basis.

Office or Department Managers: Please call Arlene or fax her a list of employees who want to receive a shot, indicating whether they carry the county insurance or not.

SIGN UP NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012.

As in years past, Ambulance, Solid Waste, and Highway Department shots will be charged to the specific accounts for those employees who do not have insurance through the county.

Upcoming planned events:

September 5th – TCCA Regional meeting – Knoxville

September 15th – Corn Maze Grand Opening – 11 a.m.

September 24th – Dedication Ceremony by TWRA for Gerald Largent’s donation of property – 1:00 p.m.
(Directions: From Intersection of 58/70 go west on 70 and turn left on Bluff Road then go 2 miles, turn left on Bowman Bend Road and go 1.8 more miles. In field adjacent to Bowman Bend Road)

October 10-12 – TCSA Annual Conference – Memphis

October 25 – Student Government Day – Courthouse

October 30 – Founders’ Day Celebration - Courthouse

September Meetings and Events:

Check www.roanegov.org for more info

Sept. 3	LABOR DAY – CH CLOSED (No Sheriff’s Liaison Committee meeting this month)		
Sept. 5	Board of Zoning Appeals (Special Called Meeting)	CH	6:00pm
Sept. 6	Environmental Review Bd.	CH	6:00pm
Sept 10	County Commission	CH	7:00pm
Sept 11	Beer Board	CH	5:30pm
Sept 11	Fire Board	CH	6:00pm
Sept 12	Planning Commission	CH	7:00pm
Sept 13	Property Committee	CH	6:30pm
Sept 20	Emergency Services Comm.	EOC	6:00pm
Sept 27	Co. Bd. Of Public Utilities	CH	6:00pm

Volkswagen update: (by Kaley Walker)

Roane County has two grant projects going on at the RRBTP related to the arrival of a Volkswagen Distribution Facility:

- The first and most visible is the grading and land work of the site. This project will total \$2,257,800 with \$1.5M of that coming from the State of Tennessee, \$382,800 coming from VW itself and \$375,000 coming from Roane County. So far \$2,027,669 of this project has been completed.
- The second grant project is the construction of an access road. This project totals \$981,945 with \$921,945 coming from the State of Tennessee and \$60,000 coming from Roane County. So far \$53,409 of this project has been completed with the majority of that being for engineering.

We are pleased to report that both projects are on schedule and within budget. VW has significant additional investment outside of the above noted grants. Scheduled completion is the first of 2013.

Select Tennessee Site Certification Program

Two Roane County sites have been nominated for inclusion for certification in the Select Tennessee Site Certification Program.

The sites are the Cardiff Valley Road Site (Roane County Industrial Park) and the Jones Road Site (Roane Regional Business and Technology Park).

The Select Tennessee Certified Sites Program helps Tennessee communities prepare available sites for investment and expansion. The program sets a consistent and rigorous standard upon which companies can rely in making critical location decisions.

Go to www.unitedwayroane.org to complete a Needs Survey which will help the Roane County United Way towards planning to ensure resources are directed to most effectively meet the short- and long-term needs of our citizens.

TVA Kingston Fly Ash Site:

EPA and TVA held a public hearing at the Roane County High School auditorium related to the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) Report which addressed the residual ash in the river systems. EPA’s Craig Zeller presented the status update of Phase I and Phase II of the cleanup effort and presented options for Phase III. Phase III deals with ash which remains in the Emory and Clinch River and options for monitoring, covering, or removal/and or a combination of the three. The Monitoring Option easily allows nature and passage of time to dilute the remaining ash and a monitoring program to insure the anticipated results were being met. The Covering Option would place a gravel bed on top of the ash to help prohibit future movement and ash from being disturbed. The Dredging or Removal Option would, in fact, attempt to remove the remaining ash. A combination of the three options would also be available. Public comment extends through September 10. The County Environmental Review Board is in the process of studying and commenting on the options. The county has requested an extension of the comment period for an additional 30 days.

Comments can be submitted by email at: kingstoncomm@tva.gov.

If you have an item of interest related to our county, please submit to Sheila or me. Deadline for submission is the 20TH of the month.
Ron Woody