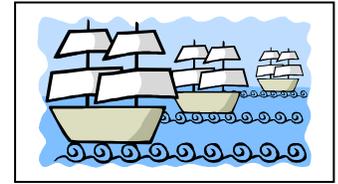




County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

www.roanegov.org

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Columbus Day October 14
Courthouse Closed

Budget Reference Notebook

By County Executive Ron Woody

Elected/appointed officials and department heads: Our Budget and Accounting Department has been charged with the task of preparing what we are referring to as a Budget Reference Notebook (BRN). We would like for you to assist in this project by submitting a one paragraph to one or two page description of your office/department's responsibilities and functions.

Our goal for the BRN is to help everyone's understanding of the many functions which are being performed and to provide a reference manual of our operations. Budget and Accounting will be writing a number of department budget descriptions along with descriptions of sources of revenues from each operation. Our goal is to be ready to print and post on the web by January 1, 2014 thus having the month of December to proof the document.

This will be a challenging project and I'm sure we will be able to improve the document in coming years but we have to start somewhere and now is the time. We shall start the project of the Budget Reference Notebook immediately. We are posting on our website www.roanegov.org, on the County Executive's page, a couple of samples. These samples will be in more detail than that for specific departments but they do provide a description of the department functions and responsibilities.

Our ultimate goal for the BRN is to be transparent in operations, to help all parties in understanding the financial operations of the county government and to provide a media to collect information which shall assist our current and future leaders in the decision making process.

Kaley Walker, Director of Accounts and Budgets, will be accepting your submittals. You are under no obligation to submit materials but we would encourage your submittals

FIVE FOCUS POINTS

By County Executive Ron Woody

We have once again updated our top five focus points and we are hopeful they are in-line with our commission objectives. The current five focus points are:

- (8) Tourism/Recreation
- (12) Risk Management
- (18) Education Funding/Finances
- (19) Implementation of 2014 Capital Plan
- (20) Jail Capacity Issues

More information about the Five Point approach is available on the county website www.roanegov.org under County Executive.

Legislative Issues

As we are coming upon the State Legislature going into session, we thought it may be a good time to review potential issues that our Legislative Committee and community should consider.

- BEP adequately funded but also insuring the BEP is equally distributed.
- Changes in the Delinquent Tax Law related to the county being forced to buy delinquent tax property
- Safety and Law Enforcement as related to jail operations, maintenance and staffing.

Roane County Employees

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, Payroll Officer Linda Stookbury has filed an employment report related to Roane County Government employees, excluding school employees. Below are some excerpts from the employment report:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Full-Time Employees	256	151	105
New Hires	47	36	11

18.4% of employees are New Hires.

To our knowledge the total employee count hasn't changed, and if so, statistically insignificant during the past year, thus the data reflects a turnover of 18.4%.

Largest classification of employees is:

Administrative	89	13	76
7.8% are New Hires	7	2	5

Second largest classification of employees is:

Protective Services	72	57	15
19.4% are New Hires	14	8	6

Although we do not have data available, it would appear that our turnover ratio is higher than a normal business.

School and Jail Indebtedness

Since both School Funding/Finances and Jail Capacity Issues have been added to our five major focus points, we thought it would be of interest to research their respective outstanding debt compared to their estimated insurance value. We recognize that both operations are capital intensive. Please note that we are comparing a current estimated value and not the value at construction. Most of our older facilities would have much lower construction cost due to inflation (also debt at time of construction would be much lower). Facilities such as the Roane County courthouse and many older schools have insurance value but no outstanding debt.

Although the numbers are calculation estimates, we do think they help as we understand the impact of prior decisions which should help us make better future decisions.

	Total Insurance Value	Total Debt	Percentage
Schools	\$178,426,945	\$15,853,493	9%
Jail	\$11,000,000	\$9,975,000	91%

As can be noted by the insurance asset value-to-debt ratio, the school rate is much lower than the jail. We must remember this analysis only shows a little view out the window but is an indication of decision making both in capital planning and in debt management. One must also note that the schools benefited from a \$32 million non-debt capital injection (TVA money) which helped their ratio and the jail suffers from back loaded debt where no principal payments have been made nor will be made for a number of years.

YOUTH DISC GOLF CLUB STARTS AT ROANE COUNTY PARK

Roane County Park welcomes the new Roane County Youth Disc Golf Club. Anyone under the age of 18 is welcome to join. The club will meet at the Roane County Park every Sunday at shed #8 from 2 – 4 p.m. beginning Sunday, September 15, 2013 through Sunday, December 15, 2013. Awards will be given at the last club meet.

For more information about joining the Roane County Youth Disc Golf Club contact Club President, Nick Wilson at 865-466-3273 or Gadget Hobbies Owner, Terry Webb at 865-882-7528.

Founder's Day
November 5, 2013
6:00 p.m.
Second floor of the Courthouse

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NEW HEALTHCARE INSURANCE MARKETPLACE COVERAGE

In early October, each employee should have received or will receive information regarding the county's health insurance plan in compliance with the Affordable Health Care Act. We have also posted the same information on the county website www.roanegov.org under [Items of Interest](#).

STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY **OCTOBER 31, 2013**

Did you know about . . . the ghost of Dr. John Jackson?

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

Since October is recognized as a time of ghosts and goblins, it is appropriate to share a ghost story that was written in a newspaper account in the 1800s. It is the story of the spirit of Dr. John Jackson who died in 1840 in Roane County. He lived in the Eagle Furnace area and was quite prominent and wealthy. Since the banks were unstable at that time, he stored his money at his house. A great flood in 1840 threatened to destroy the building where about \$10,000 or \$12,000 in coins was kept. He was able to get the money to higher ground and he buried it in a field nearby. He became sick from exposure to the rain and died. During his delirium he tried to tell his family where the money was hidden but died before he could reveal the exact location. The family was never able to find the money and the property was sold soon after the flood. It was sold to a Dr. Hoyle who lived there about a month and left without giving any cause to his leaving. Later, other families tried to live in the house but they also soon moved. It was said that the key would turn in the lock without any cause and the door would open. No sooner did they close and lock the door when it would open again. The form of a man, recognized as Dr. Jackson, would move about the yard as if looking for his treasure. But as soon as someone would approach he would disappear. The sound of money could be heard as though a coin had been dropped from the ceiling to the floor whirling around on the floor and stopping but no money could be found. Whoever slept in the house could witness the opening of doors, the ghostly form in the yard and hear the clinking of coins. No one would live in the house and it was abandoned in a few months and through the years the house had fallen to pieces. However, the form of Dr. Jackson could be seen searching for his hidden treasure.

ROANE COUNTY UNITED WAY

Last year our generous supporters helped United Way and RCUW partners serve more than 20,000 individuals right here in Roane County! This year we'd like to share some exciting facts and updates that you may not have known. We hope this information will be as exciting to you as it is for us.

DID YOU KNOW?...

- Generous people who live and/or work in Roane County have donated nearly \$3.5 million over the last 10 years to help others?
- More than 100% of the total amount donated to the RCUW stays local? Yes, you read that right! While RCUW does pay a little more than 1% of total donations (about \$4,000 in 2013) to United Way Worldwide as a membership fee, this qualified the RCUW to receive a \$17,500 Walmart Foundation grant to support our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in Roane County.
- Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program has assisted over 2,500 Roane Countians with their tax returns since 2008—accounting for nearly \$900,000 of Earned Income Credit?

In addition, we'd like to encourage you to learn more about our Volunteer Clearinghouse. Since January 2013, we've had over 4,600 views of the volunteer and in-kind needs of Roane County! If you are searching for a meaningful volunteer experience or a place to donate items, you will find a multitude of opportunities. Just visit www.unitedwayroane.org, and click the VOLUNTEER button.

We are so thankful for all our supporters and volunteers, and we hope you will partner with us into 2014. Together, we can achieve long-lasting change in Roane County!

Plateau Partnership Park Update

By Ron Woody, County Executive

The Plateau Park Partnership of Cumberland, Morgan and Roane County Industrial Development Board met September 5, 2013 to roll out Phase I plan and development of the 1163 acres park. Engineers and the IDB have decided the park should be developed in phases. Phase I is 132 acres with approximately 80 acres available for industry use. The balance of 52 acres would be used for a drip field and waste water treatment plant along with conservation and wetlands easements. The IDB voted to receive bids to start roadway construction within the 132 acre section. Grants were to be applied for to assist in the road construction. This site still has some limitations due to infrastructure utility needs. Roane County has a one-third interest in the park and Roane IDB board members are B.R. Ladd, Darryl Meadows and Danice Turpin.

KEEP ROANE LITTER FREE!

Roane County Road Superintendent Dennis Ferguson wants to thank his fellow officials in Roane County for helping Keep Roane Litter Free! Road Superintendent Ferguson has placed recycling bins in the offices of officials located in the Roane County Courthouse as well as the Sheriff's Office and Codes' Office. The Highway Department is responsible for changing the bags in these containers every 2 weeks or before, if needed. In the 2 months since this program began the Roane County Highway Department has collected 53 bags of aluminum cans and plastic bottles to be recycled. Superintendent Ferguson said, "I want to thank the officials of Roane County for joining me and the Roane County Highway Department in our efforts to Keep Roane Litter Free." If you would like to join in on our efforts by adopting -a -highway or having us come and speak to your organization please give us a call at 882-9782 or by emailing us at LitterFree@RoaneGov.Org.

ROANE COUNTY IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Roane County's Imagination Library celebrated its 9th anniversary in September. Since it began, Roane Imagination Library has mailed almost 170,000 books to our youngest neighbors. The retail value of those lovely books is \$1.7 MILLION. Dolly Parton's amazing literacy program is made possible in Roane County by a partnership among the Dollywood Foundation, the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation, Roane Imagination Library, and committed local residents and businesses. A County Commission resolution on 29 September 2004 was instrumental in making these partnerships possible. Currently, 65-70% of eligible children are enrolled to get free, age appropriate books. We can do better than that! Children aged birth to 5 years old are eligible; the program is open to ALL children there is no income screen. To enroll a child, go to www.DollysImaginationLibrary.com, speak with a librarian at any of the city libraries or phone 865-717-3767.

Website Information Update

www.roanegov.org

Various informational updates have taken place on the county website during the first quarter of our fiscal year.

The Five Major Focus Points have changed to include:

- (18) Education Funding/Finances
- (19) Implementation of the 2014 Capital Plan
- (20) Jail Capacity Issues

FY 2014 Publications:

- 2014 Annual Capital Report
- 2014 Annual Debt Report

Executive Summaries:

- 9b,c&d- Recycling & Solid Waste Programs
- 11a- Annual Debt Report
- 16b- Capital Outlay Plan
- 20c- Swan Pond Sports Complex Progress Report-August 2013
- 36- Cumberland Regional Business and Agribusiness Marketing Authority
- 37- Grant Accounting and Tracking

A number of additional Executive Summaries are in the works.

Frequent updates are made on our website and we are also in the process of developing a new website format.

Newsletters:

Our monthly newsletters are posted on the website and include this one. 38 newsletters have been written.

Articles:

Budget 2014 Article

Meet Your Commissioners

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Benny East Civil District #1



Benny has served as your County Commissioner for the 1st Civil District of Roane County which includes Rockwood, Glen Alice and Eureka. Benny is now serving his 4th Term of office, having been elected in August 1998.

Benny was born in the Glen Alice area of Rockwood to his parents Ben and Lucille East. He came from a large family which consisted of three (3) sisters and three (3) brothers. He was raised on a farm and loved raising cattle and taking care of the farm. His favorite hobbies were hunting and fishing.

Upon returning from military duty, Benny married his loving and supportive wife, Ada Gaddis East in February 1964. They have two (2) children and one (1) very special grandson.

Benny attended Rockwood High School and at that time his dream was to be a member of the United States Marine Corp. After attending Rockwood High School, he fulfilled his dream by enlisting in the United States Marine Corp and served his country for a four year term. Upon returning from military duty, Benny joined the Iron Workers Union in Knoxville, TN and took special schooling on learning to read blue prints and other matters incidental to an iron worker's position. He worked through the iron worker's position as a foreman at Y-12, TVA (Watts Bar & Hartsville) and did much work on the I-40 bridge in Kingston when it was being constructed. Benny held a position with Otis Elevator Company for 27 years, where he traveled extensively for the installation of elevators in large commercial buildings. After retiring from Otis, he formed his own company, East Ditch Witch Service, which he maintains today.

Benny chose to be a Commissioner because of his love for his community and Roane County. He attended most County Commission meetings for years before campaigning for office. He wanted to be part of helping make Roane County a better place for all people.

October Meetings and Events:

Meetings may be scheduled after this Newsletter is published so please check www.roanegov.org for more info

21 st	County Commission	CH	7:00pm
3 rd	Environmental Review Board	CH	6:00pm
7 th	Sheriff's Liaison Committee	CH	6:30pm
8 th	Beer Board	CH	5:30pm
8 th	Fire Board	CH	6:00pm
16 th	Planning Commission	CH	7:00pm
22 nd	County Board of Public Utilities	CH	5:30pm

Office of National Drug Control Policy Awards \$625,000 to Local Coalition to Prevent Youth Substance Use in Roane County.

(Washington, D.C.) – Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), announced \$19.8 million in new Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program grants to 147 communities and 19 new DFC Mentoring grants across the country. The awards announced today are in addition to the \$59.4 million in continuation grants simultaneously released to 473 currently funded DFC coalitions and 4 DFC Mentoring continuation coalitions. The Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition was one of the grant recipients and will receive \$625,000 in DFC grant funds to involve and engage their local community to prevent substance use among youth.

"President Obama believes in the pursuit of an America built to last – a Nation with an educated, skilled workforce that has the knowledge, energy, and expertise to succeed in a highly competitive global marketplace," said Kerlikowske. "For too many young people, this future is clouded by drug use, which inhibits their ability to remain healthy and safe and to achieve their full potential. We congratulate this coalition on its work to raise a generation of young people equipped to remain drug free and ready to meet the challenges and successfully compete in the 21st century."

"We are not powerless against the challenge of drug use among young people here in Roane County," said Sarah Stevenson, Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition's Executive Director. "Research shows that prevention is the most effective tool we have to reduce the terrible consequences associated with drug use among young people. This new funding will allow the Anti-Drug Coalition to help place more young people on the path toward success and enable them to live healthier and safer lives."

The Anti-Drug Coalition will specifically work to address prescription drug abuse and underage drinking, while providing training and educational opportunities to enhance the skills of community members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 9-11: TCSA Fall Conference
Oct 14: Columbus Day holiday
Oct 31: Student Government Day
Nov 5: Founder's Day
Nov 11: Veterans' Day
Nov 28: Thanksgiving Day

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

Ron