

County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission

Roane County Government



The Month in Review

By Ron Woody, County Executive



Volume 5, Issue 5

May 2014

Memorial Day— May 26th

The month of April was filled with Industrial Economic activity and 2015 Budget work. On April 1st, the monthly Industrial Board meeting was held. The week continued with two additional meetings involving the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty.

During second week of April, Alliance President Wade Creswell and I hosted a group of overseas investors looking at Roane County. ORNL hosted a lecture with Chris Barrett, former President/CEO and Chairman of the Board of Intel, whose topic was "Competing in the 21st Century."

The third week included a trip with the East Tennessee Economic Council to VW Chattanooga and the Chattanooga Power Board. A meeting was held with the new Y-12 contractor Consolidated Nuclear Services (CNS) where the management team reviewed the voluntary reduction in force program which will consist of a less than 5% reduction in employees and a minimum 14% reduction in employee benefits. The third week ended with a meeting with DOE officials discussing the possible USEC closure which could result in the loss of approximately 250 jobs. On a positive note, it looks like the CROET will be receiving various tracts of DOE property to be availa-

ble for commercial and industrial re-use/sale.

During the fourth week, the ATVG Board met and discussed with TVA activities and long term goals of TVA which included lowering energy costs by changing and balancing their energy portfolio as Watts Bar Unit 2 is preparing to come online and the coal energy fleet is being scaled down. TVA Board member, Mike McWherter, also hosted a reception in his home for the ATVG Board.

The last days of April were filled with class work on the University of Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course attended by Alliance President Wade Creswell and Ron Woody. On Friday mornings in April, when time permitted, Roane County was represented by various county leaders at the 7:30 am ETEC meeting in Oak Ridge.

Budget work for April included the committee's recommendation on the Highway Fund (131), Highway Capital Fund (176) and various Agency Funds. The significance of work with the committee and Highway Department was a completion of the next phase of capital budgeting and planning. A later article will address the county's capital projects, planning and financial success.

Inside this issue:

Employee Consideration	2
Public Notices	2
Did You Know About...?	3
Veterans' Clinic Opening	3
OES Update	3
Upcoming Meetings	4
Roane County Park	4
Highway Update	4

National Day of Prayer

May 1st @ noon
on the
Front Steps of
The Courthouse
For more info:
Dee Mann
354-8913

Employee Consideration

Understanding Retirement (part 2) by Jennifer Bolling (717-4109)

May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.

~Peter Marshall

Household Hazardous

Waste Collection Day

Roane County Solid Waste will host the annual

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

on

May 10, 2014

at

Roane County Recycling Center

215 White Pine Road
Harriman, TN 37748

From

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information, please see the county website

www.roanecountytn.gov

Last month I talked about some of your options for a secure retirement, and how Roane County can help you get there. This month, I want to dive a bit deeper and take a look at what your retirement income might actually look like.

Everyone loves payday. Seeing that deposit hit the bank feels great, and really makes our bank accounts look good. Then, unfortunately, the money seems to evaporate. Sitting around the table every month really reinforces the cost of our lifestyles, and how much of our income it takes to maintain that cost. Most of us have a mortgage or rent, a car payment or two, utility bills, credit card balances to pay, and the list seemingly goes on and on. If we've done the right thing and balanced our personal budgets, we know that we have enough to pay our bills, take care of the essentials, and hopefully have a little left over every month. What we too often don't think about is the fact that one day that paycheck won't be there.

If you retired tomorrow, do you have enough saved to maintain your cost of living? Even by scaling back, could you afford to pay your bills? As we age our health care costs are likely to rise. Are you prepared for that? Sadly, too many older Americans are forced to make painful choices, some as bad as deciding between food and medicine. With some preparation now, you can help avoid these types of problems tomorrow.

To get a picture of what your financial situation might be

when you retire, start by taking a look at your bills today. Assuming that you pay on schedule, how many years are left on your mortgage? If it's going to take you beyond the age of 65, try to pay it off early. That may sound like an impossible task but that's not necessarily the case. Simply paying one extra payment each year can shave years off of your mortgage (and save you a lot of interest!). For example, if you have a \$200,000 mortgage at 6.5% for 30 years, making that extra payment every year will enable you to pay off your house 6 years sooner! Going in to your retirement years without the burden of a house payment will give you much more financial security.

What about your other bills? It's ok to have credit cards, and they can really come in handy, but it's important to pay them off every month so you aren't faced with unnecessary penalties and interest. If you have \$5,000 of credit card debt and only make the minimum payment, it could take you over 20 years to pay it off and the interest will more than double what you owe. If you don't have balances, keep it that way! If you do, pay extra on it so you won't have to deal with it for years to come.

If you are within a few years of retiring and don't think that your vehicle will be able to last you for several years, take care of that today. If you have to finance a newer car, make sure that you can pay it off before you retire and chose a car that's going to be affordable for you to operate and maintain on your

decreased income.

Finally, put some money back. We all have bills to pay, and many of us don't have too much left over at the end of the month. However, even putting back a little each month can make a big difference down the line. If you put \$100 in a savings account each month for the next 20 years, you would have almost \$25,000 at today's interest rates. Your main source of income will be what we talked about last month (TCRS, 401(k) and Social Security), but that may not leave much left over for emergencies. Typically you should aim to have at least \$1,000 set aside as a rainy day fund or the amount it would cost to run your household for three months.

We will have a representative from VALIC here this month to discuss some different options that you may be interested in. Look in your check stubs envelopes for more information. I urge each of you to begin taking a more active role in your retirement. We all know people who struggle financially in what is supposed to be their golden years. After years of working hard, you deserve to enjoy retirement while having the security of knowing that you can pay your bills and take care of yourself without being a burden to others. Don't wait until it's too late! Plan today so you can enjoy tomorrow!

Next month we will look at how to determine how much is enough, and how to come up with the rest....


Did You Know About . . . The “Poisoned” Tombstone?

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

Located South of Kingston in the Laurel Bluff Cemetery in the Laurel Bluff Community is the tombstone of L. Mart Plemons, who was born June 7, 1873 and died on May 10, 1902. On his tombstone is the inscription of “Died from poison administered by his wife.” About a month after L.M. Plemons’ death, his widow remarried. At this time, questions began to be raised about the cause of his death. An inquest was performed over the body and it was concluded that he

had died from arsenic poisoning. It was suspected that he ate fruit for breakfast which had been laced with arsenic. His widow and her second husband were charged with first-degree murder and placed on trial. They were found guilty but the conviction was overturned. In March 1903, they were again tried and found not guilty by a jury trial. It might be that his family saw this tombstone as a way to express their verdict.

The Courthouse courts and business offices will be closed **Monday, May 26th** in observance of Memorial Day



Veterans’ Clinic Opens in Roane County

On April 16, 2014 veterans, citizens and dignitaries attended the grand opening of the Community Based Outpatient Clinic located at 2305 N. Gateway Ave, Suite 2, Harriman, TN 37748. The clinic is part of the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System.

preventive health screenings and women’s specialty care. The clinic will also provide referral services for specialty care.

The keynote speech was provided by U.S. Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, who was instrumental in helping Roane County bring the clinic to our community.

Veterans will benefit from the clinic in a variety of ways. The clinic will provide primary care services, routine laboratory work,

The Roane County Veterans’ Service Officer will also have an office at the clinic.

Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.

-Colin Powell

Office of Emergency Services Update by Acting Director Scott Stout



On April 15th and 16th county employees were offered the chance to attend a certification class for CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Sixteen (16) county employees participated in the classes. The classes were held in two locations: the cottage at Roane County Park and the third floor of the Roane County Courthouse. Len Ross, a paramedic for the Roane County Ambulance Service, taught the classes.

Roane County Office of Emergency Services is conducting a day care review and update of emergency plans. The following day cares have completed the State mandated reviews: Trenton Street Day Care, Tam’s Tots, Mideast Head Start (Fairmont School), and Kiddie Korner Day Care. The reviews are conducted on site by OES staff. The day care administrators are advised of necessary changes needed for each day care’s plan. This program is expected to improve the safety of day cares in Roane County.

If you have any items of interest for the newsletter, please submit to Melanie at mtownsend@roanegov.org by the 20th of the month.

~Ron

Roane County Government

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Check out more information on our website:

www.roanecountytn.gov

Follow us on Facebook:

Roane County Government



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
May 1st	Road Committee	QCR	6:30 pm
May 5th	Planning Commission	Chancery	1:00 pm
May 6th	LEPC	OES	10:00 am
May 8th	Environmental Review Brd	CCR	6:00 pm
May 12th	Budget Committee	QCR	5:30 pm
May 12th	County Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
May 13th	Beer Board	QCR	5:30 pm
May 13th	Fire Board	QCR	6:00 pm
May 15th	Budget Committee	Conference Room	8:30 am
May 15th	Audit Committee	QCR	6:00 pm
May 21st	Board of Zoning Appeals	QCR	6:00 pm
May 26th	Courthouse Closed		
May 27th	Public Utility Board	Waste Water Plant	5:30 pm
May 28th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm

Happenings at Roane County Park



Reconstruction of Shelter 1 began on April 15th and, with help from the Roane County Park heavy equipment operators, the trusses and roof system will be up soon. We expect to be able to start taking reservations for May 15th and beyond once the roofing begins.

The design of this Shelter features heavy timbers and a soaring, well-ventilated roof. This insures the cool lake breezes and shade make you visit to Roane County Park the most pleasant possible.

If you enjoyed a vintage baseball game . . . You might be in Roane County.

Roane County Highway Department Update by Brian Matthews, RC Highway Department

The Roane County Highway Department is pleased to announce that we are now recycling used oil and oil filters. When you change the oil in your vehicles or lawn equipment, please bring the used oil and filter to the Roane County Highway Department and allow us to recycle it for you. We will be accepting drop offs Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 5:00pm and if you have any questions give us a call at 882-9782.

We are also EXCITED that the paving season has started!! Our mowing season will begin in May and we know that with elections coming up that campaign signs will begin popping up all over the county. We want to remind candidates that we are responsible for maintaining the right-of-way on our county roads and we are asking that candidates place their signs out of the right-of-way, if you have any questions give us a call.

We are also in discussions with TVA about some of their surplus equipment. Make sure to follow us on Facebook to keep up with all of the things going on at the Roane County Highway Department...