

County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission

Roane County Government



"Transition Igniters"

By Ron Woody, County Executive

Volume 5, Issue 7

July 2014

July 4th- Independence Day



Transition— a change over time. We are all aware that our lives and community change over time. Roane County of 2014 looks nothing like the Roane County of 2000, 1900 or the 1800's and will not look the same in the year 2020. These different looks signify a change in our county and communities. Change or transition is inevitable.

The transition is sometimes sudden or spontaneous and sometimes it is planned. The TVA ash spill was spontaneous; however, the recovery was planned. As bad as the ash spill was, at the end of the recovery, Roane County will have endured, survived, grew and transitioned to another era. Other transitions of our county have been the building of the Manhattan Project and the TVA reservoir. Examining both, we see a spontaneous change along with a planned change. Other major transitions have been the discovery of ore, the railroad industry, locating of I-40 interstate, floods of the 1920's and 1950's and many more could be identified. "Transition igniters" were both external to our control and some were started by a local movement.

Both major and minor change have impacted us with some immediate effects and some taking a long time to recognize. Recent graduations were held throughout the county and our next generation recognizes transition will take place within their lives and communities. One graduation speech was entitled, "Where Do We Go From Here?" A song was written by another graduate titled, "We Are Not Kids Anymore."

We are transitioning again with some old and some new county leadership as the 2014 election is upon us. The challenge to our leadership is no different from what our high school senior has stated, "Where Do We Go From Here?"

Noted within this newsletter is an opportunity for our current and new leadership, along with the general public, to participate in a forum to discuss items that have been identified as "transition igniters" for our community.

What are "transition igniters? I would define them as a time, item or significant event that starts or makes a change. For example, carbon fiber technology, 3D printing and alternative power production are transition igniters for the coming years.

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Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.

~John F. Kennedy

Employee Consideration

"I would like to take a moment to recognize one of your staff members that works very hard. Teresa Goldston at the landfill. I have been going there for years on an infrequent and irregular basis. She is always pleasant and friendly. I know she must have a tough job but it doesn't matter the weather or time of day she always has a smile and is very helpful. I'm sure you get complaints about various and sundry things but most of us never take the time to recognize when county employees do well. So I just want to thank her through your office for going above and beyond regular job duties."

~Jeffery Nance via county website

"Just want to give another pat on the back for whoever has been working on the softball field. We didn't practice yesterday, but last week...the field was in great shape. It's better than the KOC fields that my son has his games on."

~Shawn Queener via Roane County Park email

Are You Getting the Most Out of Your Benefits? by Jennifer Bolling (717-4109)

When home and family life are balanced and going well, life is good. However, when there are problems at home, it is almost impossible to completely separate those from life at work. A sick child, an elderly parent, a troubled teen or household budget problems can occupy our thoughts and cause any of us a great deal of stress and grief. Without help, these types of problems can unfortunately go from bad to worse. Personal problems can certainly take a toll on work performance, and the fear of our work being affected by what's going on at home only adds more stress to an already stressful situation.

Thanks to our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) you don't have to go through any of this alone. Help and guidance is available to every Roane County Employee who receives medical benefits. This underutilized service is part of your existing benefits package and signing up is not necessary. Our EAP offers a variety of helpful resources for families and individuals in all of life's stages. All services are confidential and help is available 24 hours a day / 7days a week to not only

employee, but all household family members. Trained counselors are available by phone, as well as through an extensive network of specialized professionals. If counseling is needed, up to five visits will be covered under the EAP, with an additional sessions that can be deferred to your medical insurance.

The following are just a few of the family issues that they can help with:

- Parental Resources, with self-help tools on children and child-rearing from prenatal care through adolescence
- Interpersonal relationships – marriage, divorce, blended families
- Adoption
- Child and Elder Care Locators
- Caregiver Resources
- Career & Education Planning Resources, with help in locating financial aid
- Budgeting, debt management, and Tools for Tough Times

- Domestic violence and abuse issues
- Stress and anger management
- Coping with grief and loss
- Family and relationship counseling
- Family matters related to military deployment and homecoming
- Help for substance abuse
- Nutrition planning, diet and weight loss help

Legal and other professional services are also available through this benefit. Maybe you need a financial specialist that can help you with things like debt consolidation, retirement planning, and budget management. If you need legal advice, this service will provide you with one session, with an attorney. Please don't hesitate to take advantage of this useful amenity. All services can be accessed by calling 855.HERE4TN (855.437.3486) or go to www.here4tn.com

Did You Know About . . . the Woman Who Returned from the Dead ?

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

A local story told in Rockwood was the death of Aunt Susan Brown and her return from the dead. As the story goes, it was reported that she had died and arrangements were made in her house with the body placed in her coffin. All of her family and friends gathered for the "sitting up with dead" which was a common practice. Food was prepared to feed the gatherers and the table was spread with food except for cabbage. Aunt Susan was apparently aroused from a deep sleep by the smell of the cabbage cooking on the

stove. She came into the kitchen and commented on how good the cabbage smelled. Needless to say all of the gatherers scrambled out the doors and windows. After all of the confusion was settled, Aunt Susan was left to enjoy the cabbage. Since she didn't need use of the coffin at that time she used it to store seeds and other things for several years. She died in January 1920, many years after her "supposed" death, and was buried in the Post Oak Cemetery. Her obituary that appeared in "The Rockwood Times" confirms this story.

The Courthouse Courts
and
Business Offices
will be closed
July 4, 2014
in observance of
Independence Day



Improperly Built Decks Can Be Dangerous by Glen Cofer, Building Inspector

More than a million decks are built and replaced each year in the United States. While decks are a popular feature of many homes, the construction and safety of decks have become a real concern within the building industry. Improper deck building has resulted in a growing number of deck failures and related injuries and deaths. According to Don Bender, the director of the Composite Materials and Engineering Center at Washington State University, the deck is the most dangerous part of the house. Washington State Magazine's article "Making Decks Safer" reports, "Decks cause more injuries and loss of life than any other part of the home structure. Except for hurricanes and tornadoes, more injuries may be connected to deck failures than all other wood building components and loading cases combined." While decks are required to meet certain code standards and load capacities, it's estimated that of the 40 million existing decks, only half are code compliant — leaving 20 million decks that need to be rebuilt or retrofitted.

Do Decks Really Need to Meet Code Requirements? Because they look relatively simple to build, many people do not realize that decks are structures that need to be designed to adequately resist certain stresses. Like a house, or any other building, a deck must be designed to support the weight of people and objects placed on them, as well as lateral and uplift loads that can act on the deck as a result of occupant movement, wind or seismic activity. The 2009/2012 versions of both the IBC and IRC contain language outlining the general design requirements of structures. This excerpt from the 2009/2012 IRC (Section R301.1) represents a summary of the intent of both codes: "The construction of buildings and structures in accordance with the provisions of this code shall result in a system that provides a complete load path that meets all requirements for the transfer of all loads from their point of origin through the load-resisting elements to the foundation." The concept of a complete or continuous load path refers to a series of solid connections within the structure of a deck that transfer load through its frame to the ground or adjacent, supporting structure (commonly a building). This same principle is applied to the design of all types of wood frame buildings. This continuous load path is created by using a system of structural connectors and fasteners to connect the wood members together.

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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



Education is the key
to unlock the golden
door of freedom

-George Washington
Carver

Roane County Veterans' Service Office Update

Veterans Service Officer Brian Dunn continues to work with veterans and their spouses and survivors to assist them in obtaining the benefits due them for their service to our country.

In May, Brian received 81 office visits, held 119 telephone consultations and made 5 nursing home visits, 4 funeral home visits and 7 home visits.

Brian also participated in training in Knoxville in May.

Brian can be reached at

865-717-4169 (CH office)

865-882-4015 (clinic office)

Happenings at Roane County Park by Mike Beard, Park & Recreation Director

Things are busy at Roane County Park. The summer fun is in full swing with swimming, walking, splashing and playing happening every day.

The Splashpad is a big hit on these hot summer days. New water toys have added to the fun.

The new playground is being put to good use also. Kids are able to play on a safe, inclusive playground with parents and caregivers sitting on the benches to watch.

The new, improved Shelter 1 is also completed and available for reservations. Remember Roane County Park for your next family gathering.

Kudos to Jonathon Harris, Roane County citizen. Mr. Harris found a gold wedding band and turned it in to Mike Beard, Park and Rec Director. The owner of the ring, James Deal of Illinois, had contacted the park saying he lost his ring.

Director Mike Beard was

able to mail the ring back to Mr. Deal and he was very excited and thankful to have his ring back.

Thank you Mr. Harris for being an honest person. You have left a positive image of Roane County in one family's memory.



Roane County Juvenile Department Provides Summer C.A.M.P. for Youth by

Leonora Spangler, Youth Service Officer

The Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC), the Roane County Sheriff's Department and Juvenile Court sponsor the Children's Attitude Motivation Program (C.A.M.P.) each summer. C.A.M.P. is a court ordered, 6-week program designed to teach teenagers teamwork and self-discipline. C.A.M.P. is funded by the Roane County United Way and through private donations.

This year, 6 youth, aged 13-17, are participating in C.A.M.P. The youth, along with School Resource Officer Steve Sanders, and youth service officers, provide community service work during the mornings. The participants have picked up litter around area schools, conducted small painting projects and provided limb cleanup at a local cemetery.

They have also participated in projects with the Roane County Boys and Girls Club and RCADC. The youth are also growing a small container garden behind the Juvenile Center. They will donate the lettuce being grown to the Hands of Mercy Food Bank after enjoying a salad themselves.

The youth were able to participate in a ropes course. Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services owns the course and donated the use of the facility and the supervision for the youth to participate.

In the afternoons, the youth attend life skills courses. These courses include anger management, the CAST program which is a coping skills program, TWRA boating and

water safety course and CPR training provided by the Harri-man Fire Department.

So far, the camp participants and leaders have provided approximately 600 hours of community service. They have many more projects planned, including washing all the golf carts at Emory Gap Golf Club. They will also be participating in a railroad safety course.

Graduation for the camp is scheduled for July 18, 2014 at noon at the RCADC office on Race Street in Kingston.

Donations for funding C.A.M.P. can be sent to the RCADC, 151 East Race St., Kingston, TN 37763. More information about RCADC can be found at www.roaneantidrug.org.

National Weather Service by Scott Stout, Acting OES Director

On May 30th Roane County Office of Emergency Services completed the final step of renewing Roane County’s “Storm Ready” certification. Acting Director Scott Stout and Operations Officer Chuck Hiatt took a tour of The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Morristown. Anthony Cavallucci with the National Weather Service showed the computer systems they use to predict weather patterns and also how storms are tracked using topography, current conditions in the area, along with the weather tracking radar. To achieve and maintain Roane County’s “Storm Ready” certification six guidelines must be met.

Communications:

- Establish/maintain a 24 hour Warning Point
- Establish/maintain an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

NWS Information Reception:

- Establish/maintain ways for EOC/Warning Points (WP) to receive NWS warnings. Etc.

Hydro-meteorological Monitoring:

- Establish/maintain ways of monitoring hydro-meteorological data

Local Warning Dissemination:

- Establish/maintain ways to monitor for EOC/WP to disseminate warnings
- Provide weather radios in public facilities

Community Preparedness:

- Offer annual weather safety talks
- Provide Weather Spotter training to dispatchers biennially
- Host/co-host annual NWS spotter training

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Congratulations!

Scott Stout, Acting Emergency Services Director, has been certified to serve as an Assistant Fire Chief to the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

Congratulations Scott on being awarded this prestige position.

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.

-Ronald Reagan

Training Opportunities for Local Elected Officials

State Sponsored Training for Elected Officials

University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service

County Officials Orientation Program (COOP)

August 26-28, 2014

Murfreesboro, TN

Local Training For Elected Officials

County Commission Chairman James Brummett has tasked the County Executive’s office with preparing and presenting an orientation program on the local scale. This will be open to all new and returning elected officials. Topics covered will include commission authority, responsibility and organizational structure including boards and committees, commission relationship with elected/appointed officials, and departmental operations including opportunities and challenges for the upcoming years. If anyone desires a specific topic to be covered, please contact Chairman James Brummett or County Executive Woody for agenda consideration. Outlined at the meeting will be items we consider as “transition ignitors” for our future commission.

Commission Orientation Program

August 19 & 21, 2014

6:30-8:30 p.m. Qualls Commission Room

Roane County Government

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Check out more information on our website:

www.roanecountytn.gov

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Roane County Government

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
July 1st	Cable TV Committee	QCR	6:00 pm
July 4th	Courthouse Closed		
July 8th	Beer Board	QCR	5:30 pm
July 8th	Fire Board	QCR	6:00 pm
July 10th	ERB	Conference Room	6:00 pm
July 14th	Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
July 15th	Inspector & Codes Cmte	QCR	6:00 pm
July 16th	Board of Zoning Appeals	QCR	6:00 pm
July 16th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
July 21st	Budget Committee	Conference Room	4:00 pm
July 22nd	Public Utility Board	Waste Water Plant	5:30 pm



Decks (continued from page 3)

Do I Need to Retrofit My Deck? It is estimated that of the approximately 40 million existing decks, only half are code-compliant. Experts believe that it is likely that many of these decks are potentially unsafe. In situations where it is not feasible to rebuild an existing deck, it may be preferable to retrofit it by applying hardware to existing framing members.

Life Expectancy of a Deck: Most experts agree that the average life expectancy of a deck is 10 to 15 years. Since deck building started over 30 years ago, there are many existing decks that are past their useful life. Deck maintenance is often overlooked as well. Decks are exposed to the elements, which can cause damage. It's important that decks are properly inspected and maintained on a routine basis. If unsure it's best to consult with a professional, such as a structural engineer, architect, home inspector, or contractor in order to make sure the deck is safe.

5 Things To Look For on an Existing Deck:

1. Improper Connections
2. Loose Connections
3. Corrosion
4. Rot
5. Cracks

For more information on decks, please contact Building & Codes @ 717-4230.

National Weather Service (continued from page 5)

Administrative:

- Establish/maintain a formal hazardous weather operation plan
- Biennial visits by Emergency Manager to NWS
- Annual visits by NWS official to Community

The National Weather Service provides a PowerPoint based webinar/ telephone conference for the communities in the region for future severe weather events, and answers questions from participants.

This is a listing of the general county offices which will be on the ballot on August 7, 2014.

THIS IS NOT A SAMPLE BALLOT. This is for informational purposes only.

Sample ballots are available in the Election Commission office.

POSITION	CANDIDATES		
Chancellor- 9th Judicial District	Frank Williams		
Circuit Court Clerk	Ann Goldston	Marty Miles	Sarah E Stewart
Circuit Court Judge- 9th Judicial District	Tom McFarland	Mike Pemberton	
County Attorney	Greg Leffew		
County Clerk	Barbara Anthony		
County Commission, District 1 (electing 3)	Ronald Berry	Barry Cofer	Roberta L Dennis
	Benny East	Wade McCullough	Darryl Meadows
	William "Bud" Strader	Wm R "Billy" Wright Jr	
County Commission, District 2 (electing 3)	Michael A Dishman	Dennis E Easter	Randy Ellis
	Greg Ferguson	Jim Gann	James "Dub" Harmon
	Junior Hendrickson	George Nelson	Bobby Shillings
County Commission, District 3 (electing 1)	Todd Fink		
County Commission, District 4 (electing 2)	James W Brummett	Steve Kelley	
County Commission, District 5 (electing 1)	Ray Cantrell	Mike Hooks	Carol L Runyan
County Commission, District 6 (electing 3)	Bob Alford	David M Bell	Bobby L Collier
	Nick Forrester	Chris Johnson	Debra F Smith
County Commission, District 7 (electing 2)	Carolyn Collier Granger	Stanley Moore	
County Executive	Mike Farmer	Ron Woody	
Criminal Court Judge- 9th Judicial District	E Eugene Eblen		
District Attorney General- 9th Judicial District	Russell Johnson		
General Sessions Judge Part 1	Jeff Wicks		
General Sessions Judge Part 2	Dennis W Humphrey		
Public Defender– 9th Judicial District	Kim Nelson		
Register of Deeds	Sharon Brackett		
School Board, District 1 (electing 1)	Larry D Brackett	Sam Doughty	John C Evans
School Board, District 3/4 (electing 2)	L Sam Cox	Mike Smith	Mike Taylor
School Board, District 5/6 (electing 1)	Vic King		
Sheriff	Jared Hall	Jack L Stockton	
Trustee	Wilma Jean Eblen		