

# County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



Roane County Government

**"The 2016 Plan Has Been Adopted"**  
**By Ron Woody, County Executive**

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Columbus Day— Oct 12th



Well, after months of deliberation and waiting on a certified tax rate, the plan of service for county programs has finally been approved. Yes, there was a tax increase and yes, no one wants to pay more in taxes, but there was also enough sentiment among citizens that services should not be cut and primarily the cuts would have been education services.

Hopefully, the additional funds will last for a number of years and your government can work to become more efficient in delivery of services. Further, maybe we can become more responsible citizens and not need or desire all the services your government provides. We pay taxes to pick up our litter on the side of the road; we pay taxes to take care of our animals and clean up our property. We pay taxes because citizens break the law. Many taxes must be paid because our society is not a responsible society. Let's work together in our communities, civic groups, churches and schools to become more responsible citizens.

"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place."

~George Bernard Shaw

Ninth Annual Founder's Day Celebration

November 3, 2015

6:00 pm

Circuit Courtroom

Roane County Courthouse

Mark your calendar!

We will honor our Roane Treasures and  
our Golden Treasure for 2015.

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Roane County  
Commission  
will meet on the  
3rd Monday  
In October  
10-19-15

### A Plan— Not a Budget Anymore

Recently, I participated in a webinar for my CPA license entitled, "15 Best Practices on Budgeting." I've been preparing budget for over thirty (30) years and have attended a number of CPA training classes during this same time period. All I was needing was some CPE credits for my CPA and thought that this would be an easy two hours and I probably would not learn anything, but who knows I may.

Well to my surprise, I heard a few new ideas and had reinforced many that I have been practicing over the years, but were explained just a little differently.

The first new idea was we should use the word "plan" instead of budget. Think about it, when we budget, we are planning to accomplish a task or goal. Our citizens require and demand certain services. The government is charged to estab-

lish a plan to provide those services. If the services are not required or demanded, then there is no need to develop a plan. Think about it a little more. Do we really need to have asphalt roads, litter clean-up, a county park, or animal control? If we do want it, desire it or need it, we must develop a plan to meet a desired level of service.

Second, the more difficult part of the plan is delivery and to sell your plan. Why you may ask do you have to sell your plan? Well the short answer is everyone does not desire the same services. Take for instance, the county's new program of Veterans' Service Officer. Most of the county supports the program but there are those in our community that do not want a new program at any cost. Someone must sell the plan.

I remember while working at the University of Tennessee as a

consultant, I had the pleasure or pain to attend a week of governmental accounting classes at Texas Tech. I will never forget an instructor asking the question of why do you think government spends hours debating travel accounts and then minutes approving multi-million dollar projects? I will let you think about that answer, but the long and short of the discussion is that we should focus on the project(s) that really matters or have significance. Roane County's plan being delivered cost over \$90 million dollars. What are the top five or ten projects within the plan?

As we focus on our projects, we must remove or eliminate the uncontrollable. What's uncontrollable, one may ask? Uncontrollable are federal and state mandates. In order to make these controllable, maybe laws need to be changed such as

maintenance of effort funding. One must fund the Highway Department with local funding on a minimum five-year average and education must be at a minimum the same dollar amount the current year as prior year. Minimum requirements may be excellent laws, but there is no need spending time debating uncontrollable costs.

Your plan should allow for not only unexpected costs but also opportunities. I have often said that a man with little money has a better opportunity to make an investment than a man with no money. A plan should calculate and be ready for opportunities.

To our citizens, commissioners and school board members, we have started delivery of our 2016 plan for service, and planning for our 2017 plan for services. Let us know what you want included, deleted or modified in our delivery of services.

### Roane Positive

Various meetings took place in September where hopefully Roane County was represented in a positive light.

A TCCA regional commissioners meeting took place on September 1 in Knoxville.

On September 3rd, Executive Woody attended the Oak Ridge Rotary meeting where US Senator Lamar Alexander spoke about the "Oak Ridge Corridor" of which Roane County is a part.

On September 10th, Woody was at a discussion with

Governor Haslam and TDOT Commissioner Schroer.

On September 15th, elected officials were hosted by The Roane Alliance at the annual Elected Officials BBQ.

Tourism Commissioner Kevin Triplett was given a ride on Watts Bar Lake on September 17th which highlighted recreation opportunities in Roane County.

On September 29th, Woody introduced US Representative Chuck Fleischmann in Washington, DC at the first ever DOE Environmental Management Clean Up Workshop.

### **State Tourism Commissioner Rides the River**

Special thanks goes out to Blue Springs Marina, the Crows Nest Restaurant, and owners Larry and Janet Steidle for allowing Roane County to use their marina and restaurant to host Commissioner of Tourism Kevin Triplett. Boat captain Jeff Steidle took the crew for a ride around Thiefneck Island. Thiefneck Island is the largest island on the Tennessee River. The ride continued into Rockwood Cove at Tom Fuller Park. Back at the Crows Nest Restaurant, Chef

Will Simmerly cooked for the group which included Commissioner Triplett, Regional Tourism Director Dave Jones, Commission Chairman Ron Berry, Alliance CEO Wade Creswell, Tourism Director Pam May along with Executive Woody. For two hours Roane County had the State Tourism Commissioner's full attention and hopefully we made memorable moments of Roane County.

### **Highway Update by Brian Matthews**

The Roane County Highway Department and Keep Roane Litter Free participated in the Keep Tennessee Beautiful conference in Franklin, Tn. Deputy Governor Jim Henry, Speaker of the House Beth Harwell, and Coach Fulmer were the featured speakers. At the conference many other attendees expressed interest in some of our programs and have followed up with us since we have returned to get further details about what we are doing in Roane County. Since we have returned, we have made some calls to Maury County about some of the things that they are doing and that we hope to bring here. If you would like to know more about what we are doing, please feel free to call the office at 882-9782.

Roane County Courts and  
Business Offices will be closed  
**Monday, October 12, 2015**  
In observance of  
**Columbus Day**



Congratulations to Derek Henderson  
Derek received his  
Master's of Business Administration  
From Western Governor's University  
Derek works for the  
School Transportation Department

### **Working Together Toward a Better Roane County— Grants Help Make This Happen**

#### **Yager's Annual Grant Workshop**

Senator Ken Yager hosted his annual grant workshop on September 23rd at Roane State Community College. Grants Coordinator Joyce Nall and Director of Accounts and Budget Kaley Walker were speakers at the conference. Ms. Nall spoke on administering grants and Mrs. Walker discussed the system Roane County uses to track our grant financials. Over 100 participants attended the event and once again, Roane County was well represented.

#### **Home Grant Public Hearing**

A public hearing for Roane County's 2014 Home Grant was held on September 17th. Approximately 20 people attended the hearing. Barbara Pearman of MP3, grant administrator, explained the requirements and the process of the grant. Roane County received a \$250,000 no-match grant from THDA to renovate homes for low-income citizens of Roane County. The county hopes to be able to renovate 5-6 homes with the grant award.

#### **Minority Health Grant**

The Roane County Health Department received a \$2500 minority health grant from the State Department of Health. This no-match grant is designed to help raise health awareness within minority communities. The Roane County Health Department will be administering this grant with input from the Roane County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

"Changing Government through Research, Study and Analysis"

**Did You Know About . . .the Haunted House in Oliver Springs?**

**By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian**

The Oliver House was built by Richard Oliver, in the 1840s, for whom the town of Oliver Springs was named. In 1892, the home was owned by Mrs. William M. Lewis and burned. In a newspaper article about the fire, The Knoxville Tribune, 3 Nov 1892, stated that the house was haunted. In that article, the details about the haunted house are given. The article states "Strange noises have been heard in the house, and some very peculiar scenes witnesses wit-

nessed. One night not long ago Mrs. Lewis started to go up the stairs and was confronted by the figure of a man. She supposed that the spectre was her husband and called him by name. No reply was made and she screamed. The spectre or whatever it was instantly vanished. One of the rooms up stairs was not furnished for several years. Mrs. Lewis herself occupied the room for a couple of years and then abandoned it because she was disturbed every night by

strange noises. One night as she was about to retire after having locked the door, the door suddenly flew open and sounds of groaning filled the room. She locked the door again and again with the same result. A thorough examination of the doorway was made and no fault could be found in the construction."

Another room, the southwest parlor on the ground was also supposed to be haunted. During the Civil

War, a "gallant young man was engaged to be married to a certain young woman, who for some reason changed her mind. She then married an officer in the Confederate services who remained in the far south several months during the year 1863. He came home one night and looking through the window saw his wife in the embrace of her first love. He carried an old rusty army musket with him and firing killed the paramour."

**UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
Oct 1st	Environmental Review Board	QCR	6:00 pm
Oct 6th	Cmte on Cmtes	CR	6:30 pm
Oct 13th	Public Utility Board	WWP	5:30 pm
Oct 14th	Road Committee	HD	11:00 am
Oct 15th	Emergency Services	OES	6:00 pm
Oct 15th	Animal Control Cmte	QCR	6:30 pm
Oct 19th	Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
Oct 20th	Fire Board	QCR	6:00 pm
Oct 21st	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
Oct 26th	Codes Cmte	QCR	6:30 pm

*"People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care."*

*~Theodore Roosevelt*

**Heritage Commission Gala**

On the evening of Saturday, September 26th, the Roane County Heritage Commission's 12th Annual Gala took place at the Historic Roane County Courthouse. Attendees gathered to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, auction items, good friends and to honor Roane County's own Jim Henry. Mr. Henry has recently been named Chief of Staff to Governor Haslam.

Roane State's Bruce Cantrell was also recognized along with Jessica Fain for their record breaking "Classroom Under the Sea" stay.

The Gala is the major fund raiser for the Heritage Commission.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR- OTHER EVENTS**

- Oct 3rd- Rockwood Fall Festival- 10a-6p Downtown Rockwood
- Oct 3rd- Kingston Country Fair- 10a - 5p at Southwest Point
- Oct 7th-9th- TCSA Fall Conference in Murfreesboro
- Oct 12th- Courthouse closed for Columbus Day
- Oct 17th- October Sky Fall Festival- Oliver Springs
- Oct 17th- Alliance Gala- Volkswagen
- Nov 3rd- Founder's Day- 6:00p Circuit Court Room at Courthouse
- Nov 11th- Veterans' Day- Courthouse closed
- Nov 26 & 27- Thanksgiving Holiday- Courthouse closed
- Dec 24 & 25- Christmas Holiday- Courthouse closed

Please submit articles/items of interest to Melanie at [melanie.townsend@roanecountytn.gov](mailto:melanie.townsend@roanecountytn.gov) by the 20th of the month. ~Ron