



County Executive's Newsletter to the Roane County Commission



**November 2016
Volume 8, Issue 11**

Projects for Consideration

This issue of the County Executive Newsletter is a little more lengthy than normal as we address several long-term planning concepts which hopefully will be welcomed by our County Commission and more importantly the Community.

First, I must say long term planning is essential for community growth and sustainability.

Second, decisions are choices among alternatives and often choices must consider timing.

Third, often times for individual, family, and community growth there must be some sacrifice. As we have planned over the last number of years we have tried to balance our sacrifice with our planned accomplishments.

This newsletter focuses on two projects which have been identified since 2010-2011 and in my opinion are ready to be undertaken.

These projects are: Opening up the old Caney Creek Campground area with the construction of a bridge.

Purchase of the Dollar General Store Property.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Founder's Day, Nov. 1st at 6:00 pm.
- Election Day, Nov. 8th Courthouse Closed.

Caney Creek Bridge

It's time to open up 80 additional acres for recreation previously known as the Caney Creek Campground. Our Newsletters, Executive Summaries, County Executive Reports, and other materials have discussed putting assets to use. We have discussed building a bridge in order to access this Caney Creek Recreation area.

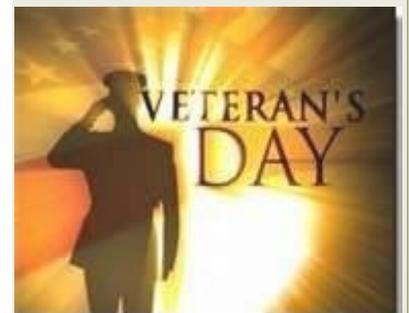
We have worked with the Tennessee Department of Transportation and Roane State Community College to have install a large animal crossing during the next phase of widening highway 70 out of Rockwood to Patton Lane.

Continued on pg. 2

Dollar General Store Property

In 2007 –08 Roane County borrowed \$10 million to purchase property and built—the current Sheriff's Department, Jail, and Office of Emergency Services. When purchasing the property the county chose not to purchase the Dollar General Store building and the adjacent parking lot. Upon taking office in 2010 our administration started a concerned effort to develop the county's first Capital Project Plan, Related Capital Budgets, and both Capital Policy and Respective Debt Policies. The first capital plan along with each subsequent year update identified the county's future need to acquire the land adjacent to the current facility including the Dollar General Store and parking lot.

Continued on pg. 2



Prior Monthly Newsletter are available on the County Website under the County Executive tab.

www.roanecountytn.gov

Caney Creek Bridge.... Continued from pg. 1

(TDOT is scheduled to let the contract this winter which includes the large animal crossing).

Currently, there is no access to the 80 acres for maintenance or emergency equipment. What are the possible uses of the area? How about horse trails, walking trails, community group camping, limited tent camping during certain times of the year, disk golf, group organizational camping or specific events? The list could go on and on. As we explored the potential uses, one common prohibition presented itself. The prohibition was how to safely allow citizens in the area and how to improve, maintain, service, and have emergency response to the area. We have to address this prohibition and have known, the solution is to rebuild the bridge.

Going back to the Ken Yager's administration there existed a plan for a bridge. We have lost over 10 years of a public asset not in use. This was our sacrifice. I think it is time to open up another 80 acres.

The next question is how do we accomplish this? In the 2017 recreation budget the county set aside funds in the event we were unsuccessful for a grant at Swan Pond Sports Complex. We were successful in the grant which would have been for a playground. The next recreation grant application will be in two years. We are proposing that the recreation program now shift a portion of these funds to the bridge project. Currently the bridge construction is a little over \$300,000. We have set aside \$200,000 and we propose adding \$110,000 more to the project. If approved we would hope bidding and letting would take place in late winter with construction in the spring/summer 2017. With access to the area we then can search out grants for further improvements. Volunteers and inmate labor will go a long way in cleaning up the area and building trails. This has been a long thought out project and now is the time to complete another piece of the puzzle of what is known/will be known as the Caney Creek Recreation Corridor from Kingston to Rockwood. Roane County boat launching, tent camping area, the Roane County Park, RV Park, Marina, to this New Chuckwagon camping/trail area on to Rockwood. How about a bike lane along this corridor?

Oh and next year if so desired, we reload the grant funds to plan the Swan Pond Playground and get back on track. Our sacrifice on the project has been only the delay as funds need to be accumulated. A resolution for approval of the Caney Creek Recreation bridge will be filed for November's consideration. We have planned for this future, now is the time to execute.

Dollar General Store... Continued from pg. 1

I will reiterate the jail's capital component of this plan and the need for the county to purchase and strategically plan our County's future.

1. Tennessee Correctional Institution has repeatedly noted in their inspection report that Roane County needs to solve our jails overcrowding.
2. The response plan to TCI for corrected action has noted the county intends to purchase the Dollar General Store (DGS).
3. The county intends for the building to remain a DGS until their lease expires or a later date if the county does not immediately need the facility.
4. The jail housing capacity would anticipate being expanded by using the facility as a minimum security dorm style arrangement; however a detailed study would be conducted to insure the highest and best use.
5. The Office of Emergency Services, (OES) also plays into this long term planning as upon building out the expanded jail facility the county plan would be to build an OES facility. The OES planned facility is scheduled to be on property the county has leased from TVA. The county currently has a \$21,000 annual rent for OES storage in which we desire to be out of the rent payment in future years, as OES operations would be consolidated.
6. Do we need the property today the answer is NO. Do we need the property in the near future the answer is definitely, YES.

We anticipate the county approval of this capital project as the county has known of this need and has planned for the acquisition for a number of years. These decisions are not easy but we are confident that our capital plan has helped us in making these tough decisions. Will there be a cost? Yes, we anticipate potentially a one cent increase in property tax but are also hopeful that we will be able to work the additional expense in the budget without the additional increase. The additional cost would be for the borrowed funds repayment schedule of 10 years.

We anticipate the Property, Sheriff Liaison, and Budget Committees to discuss this project in the coming months. A resolution for approval of the purchase of the Dollar General Store and a resolution to appropriate option funds for the Dollar General Store will also be filed for November's consideration. Without a Plan the people perish.

2nd Annual Environmental Cleanup Workshop

County Executive, Ron Woody in September was requested to participate in a panel discussion at the 2nd Annual Environmental Cleanup Workshop in Washington, D.C.

Ron Woody, County Executive "...said the county's long and strong relationships with local colleges, work-force development boards, and building and trades organizations have paid dividends. The University of Tennessee now offers a minor in nuclear decommissioning and environmental management. An environmental technology program established in 1988 at Roane State Community College still is churning out graduates."

"What made the program successful? Scholarships, internships, and of course employment placement," Woody said. "We have to expose the younger generation to the opportunities that exist. We still have some challenges. Whoever gets to the youth first may have a career for them."

Big Investment in Roane County...242 Jobs



Greg LeMond, speaks at the LeMond Composite celebration in Oak Ridge.

Three-time Tour de France winner Greg LeMond, spoke recently at the LeMond Composite opening. The ceremony was held at the LeMond Composites facility in Oak Ridge, where Tennessee Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd announced that the company will bring around 242 new jobs to Roane County. LeMond Composites signed a license agreement with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory over the summer that will allow the company to manufacture low-cost carbon fiber that can be used in automobiles, sea land containers and bicycles. "We are going to have fun," LeMond said. "We will employ a lot of people there and it's going to be an exciting ride."



County Executive Ron Woody commented, "We're from the government and we are here to help you and give you a trained workforce."

The government is us; we are the government, you and I.

.....Theodore Roosevelt

Agriculture Extension Happenings...
by Jessica Wilkinson

Master Gardener Lunch and Learn will be Saturday November, 12, 2016 at 12 noon at the Extension Office. Certified Master Gardener Judy Rose, will be teaching a micro green's program.

FCE, Idea's Fair, will be Thursday and Friday November 3rd and 4th, at the Kingston Community Center.

The Roane County Courthouse and Courts will be closed on November 8, 2016 in observance of the State General Election Day.



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Check out more information on our website:

www.roanecountyttn.gov

Follow us on Facebook: Roane County Government



Daylight Savings Time Ends!

Set those clocks back!

Sunday, November 6, 2016

Roane Countians enjoying the fall weather on the Roane County Park Walking Trail...by Mike Beard, Parks and Recreation Director

As we perform the duties associated with maintaining the Roane County Parks and Recreation System, the staff meets and becomes friendly with many of our regular walkers. Rain or shine, our regulars are "getting their steps" on the paths at the park and at Swan Pond. Strollers, walkers and joggers enjoy the cooler weather and stay committed to their exercise plan.

Remember what the American Medical Journal reported: "Sitting is the new smoking". You are invited to join your fellow Roane Countians and enjoy our parks.



Message from Connie Aytes, Roane County Director of Accounts and Budgets

Hello Roane County, for most of you who may not know me my name is Connie Aytes. I am currently serving as the Director of Accounts and Budgets and without my wonderful staff I could not keep this office running as smooth as it is during this change in administration. I would like to thank County Executive Ron Woody and the members of Roane County Commission for bringing me "home".

In 1983 when I settled down in the Cherokee Subdivision my dream job was to be able to work in the courthouse. Well as you can see several years went by before that dream came true. Instead I raised my two wonderful children Jessica Strader Dooley and David Strader here in the Kingston area, became involved with my children's softball and baseball teams, served as band mom while my daughter played the trumpet in the RCHS band, and cheered softly from a distance as they both were members of the RCHS golf teams. Cheering was all that I could do because golf was a game I could not master. I also attended Kingston First Baptist Church for over 20 years where I was involved in every age level of the youth. I was one of those mothers where my children were so was I.

After many years of working in the textile industry I began my journey to become the Director I am today in 1993. Of course we all know what happened in that year late in March, the big snow storm of '93. That was my first spring break at Roane State Community College. I went on to graduate with my Bachelor degree from Tennessee Tech University in the spring of 1999. From there I worked as an auditor for the Comptroller of the Treasury in their Division of County Audit (aka Division of Local Government). It was in 2008 that I began my service as the Deputy Director for Anderson County. During that time I had the opportunity to serve as the Director over a period of one year.

Let me back up a few years to 2004 where life threw me a curve and I met my husband Steven Aytes. Loving the outdoors with my father growing up was nothing compared to what I was about to see when Steven took me riding on a four wheeler up through Catoosa wildlife in Morgan and Cumberland County. God made a world full of beauty and we live in the midst of it. Steven and I have a 3 ½ acre partial with an old home that is making its way to being a very beautiful home on Old Johnston Valley Road near Cedar Grove Baptist Church (aka "The Grove") as well as 3 acres on Genesis Road in Morgan County.

Enough of me let's talk business. There is much going on in the Accounting office and for some that is awaiting the budget book, let me apologize for my short coming in getting that published and put out on the website. At this moment, along with projects that have been placed before me, having the budget book complete is my top priority.

I have met most of the departments and their leaders and for those who I have not yet met I promise to make my way to your office soon. I want each and everyone of you to know that my door is always open. Feel free to stop by to ask for reports and to discuss your financial position or just to talk.

With much gratitude,

Connie Aytes

County Recognition and Happenings

Congratulations to our Office of Emergency Services employees who received training recently. This training allows the OES to better assist Roane County citizens while controlling the response to emergencies within their jurisdiction.



Roane County Office of Emergency Services Professional Development:

EMA Division:

Traci Cofer

1. Radiation Concepts & Tactics Integrated Course (RCTIC) - **Anniston, Alabama; August 29th -Sept 2nd**
2. Homeland Security Law & Public Safety -**Bethel University**
3. Natural Disaster Planning & Management -**Bethel University**

Fire Division:

Greg Cloyd & Chuck Hiatt

1. Advanced Extrication Class & Extrication Instructor Hand-off

Greg Cloyd

1. Rope Rescue Technician Class – **TN Fire Academy**



The Roane County Office of Emergency Services will be hosting two fire fighter training courses beginning Tuesday, November 1, 2016. The lead instructor for this training will be OES Operations Captain, Chuck Hiatt. The first class will be the 16-hour Introduction to Fire Fighting, directly followed by the 64-hour Basic Fire Fighting Class.

This can also be used as a 16-hour refresher course. The training meets minimum standards for fire fighters to be on a fire scene and will include the following topics:

- Fire Service History and Incident Command
- Fire Attack Operations and Fire Fighter Safety
- Fire Ground Operations
- PPE/SCBA and Fire Behavior
- Mayday/RIT Operations and Water Supply

Students will receive a certification for both classes upon completion. The training will be held every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6-10 pm and every Saturday from 8-4pm throughout November and will conclude December 10th. The students will receive a break for Thanksgiving week. For more information regarding future fire fighter training or for information on volunteering with one of our rural volunteer fire departments please contact Traci Cofer at the Roane County Office of Emergency Services at 865-717-4116.

Did You Know About... The Murder of Mr. Bradbury?

by Robert Bailey

Probably one of the first serial killers of the United States were the Harpe brothers (Micajah, or Big Harpe and Wiley or Little Harpe) whose reign of terror from 1797 to 1799 included the murder of at least 39 men, women and children in Tennessee, Kentucky and Illinois. Many of the murders were very brutal.

The Roane County connection with the Harpe Brothers was their murder of Mr. Bradbury (his first name is not known for certain) about 1798 in what became known as Bradbury Ridge between Poplar Springs and the Buttermilk Road area in East Roane County. It is not known how he was murdered or where he is buried. There is a rock located on Bradbury Ridge in which his last name was carved. It was still visible in the 1980s. Another murder had ties to Roane County. The brothers attempted to find and kill Hugh Dunlap who moved to Roane County in 1810 but they ended up killing another man thinking it was Dunlap.

It is said the area where Mr. Bradbury was murdered is haunted. There have been many stories of the ghost of Mr. Bradbury being seen on the ridge. One story told by Mrs. L.P. Hensley, was as followed, "Aunt Vinnie Miller who came from Poplar Springs Valley to Eblen Cave Road to the grist mill. On their way back, near what is now Bradbury Church, something got on the running gears of their wagon and spooked the horses. Whatever it was didn't get off until they were over the ridge." This would have happened before 1882 as her father, Absalom Miller died that year.

The brothers were tracked to Kentucky, where in August 1799, Micajah Harpe was shot and killed by a posse. His brother, Wiley Harpe escaped but was later caught and hanged in 1804.



Etching of what the Harpes may have looked like.

Tenth Annual Founder's Day Celebration

November 1, 2016

6:00 pm

Circuit Courtroom

Roane County Courthouse

**Refreshments: General Sessions
Courtroom**

Mark your calendar!

2016 Roane Treasures

- **Curtis Humphreys**
- **Richard Davis**
- **Betty Mowrer**
- **John Narramore**
- **Charles Kelley**

2016 Golden Treasures

- **Jim Leitnaker**
- **Joe Lenhard**
- **Jim McLain**

Have a blessed Thanksgiving holiday with your family. Each day, each season, each cycle, offers something of beauty. Let us notice and give thanks.”



It's once again time to celebrate Roane County at the Annual Roane Alliance Gala, Saturday, November 5, at Volkswagen Group of America in Roane Regional Business and Technology Park. For tickets and to donate auction items please call 865-376-2093. Join us as we celebrate what makes Roane County special.

Election Day! November 8, 2016

You still have time to go vote early. November 3, 2016 is the last day for early voting.



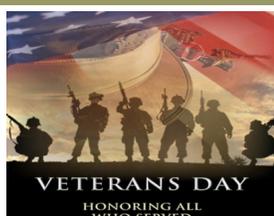
EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

- Kingston Community Center: 201 Patton Ferry Rd., Kingston TN 37763
- Harriman Community Center: 631 Clinch St., Harriman TN 37748
- Rockwood Community Center: 710 N. Chamberlain Ave., Rockwood TN 37854
- First Christian Church: 100 Gum Hollow Rd., Oak Ridge TN 37840

EARLY VOTING DATES & HOURS:

October 19 - November 3, 2016
 Monday - Friday 9 AM - 5 PM
 Saturdays 9 AM - 1 PM
 Absentee Voting: August 10 - November 1, 2016

The Roane County Courthouse and Courts will be closed on Friday, November 11, 2016 in observance of Veteran’s Day.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
Nov. 1st	Founder’s Day	Circuit CR	6:00 pm
Nov. 3rd	Environmental Review Board	Conference Room	6:00 pm
Nov. 3rd	County Owned Back Tax Committee	QCR	6:15 pm
Nov. 7th	Tourism Committee	Roane Alliance	6:30 pm
Nov. 8th	Courthouse Closed/ Election Day		
Nov. 8th	PUB	WWP	5:30 pm
Nov. 10th	Emergency Services	OES	6:00 pm
Nov. 11th	Courthouse Closed/ Veteran’s Day		
Nov. 14th	County Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
Nov. 15th	Fire Board	QCR	6:15 pm
Nov. 16th	Board of Zoning	QCR	6:00 pm
Nov. 16th	Planning Committee	QCR	7:00 pm
Nov. 17th	Jail Study Com.	QCR	6:30 pm
Nov. 21st	Codes Committee	QCR	6:30 pm
Nov. 24-25th	Courthouse Closed/ Thanksgiving		
Nov. 29th	Ag. Extentions	Ag. Conf. Room	6:30 pm

Please submit articles/items of interest to Arlene at arlene.daugherty@roanecountytyn.gov by the 20th of the month ...Ron