



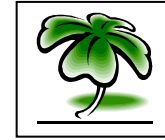
## County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

[www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org)

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Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Easter!



### Roane County Celebrates Roane Medical Center!

Roane Medical Center hosted a series of Open Houses the weekend of February 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>, as community leaders, hospital employees and family members, along with the general public, were invited to tour a fabulous facility. Sunday, February 11, 2013, the ribbon cutting was attended by around 1,000 individuals as Covenant's CEO Tony Spezia, Roane Medical Center's Hospital Administrator Gaye Jolly, Harriman Mayor Chris Mason, County Executive Ron Woody and Ferrell Winfree, the first baby born at the Harriman City Hospital in 1939, cut the ribbon to the new 145,000 square foot facility.

The new Roane Medical Center is located at Exit #350 in Midtown. The center is equipped with technologically-advanced surgical suites, digital mammography and stereotactic breast biopsy technology plus bone density scanning and completely wired, electronic medical records. The hospital has 48 private patient beds. Attached to the hospital is a professional office building which includes the hospital's administrative offices and the Stowers-Rotary Community Room. The adjacent building also houses the Patricia Neal Outpatient Therapy Center and a cardiopulmonary rehabilitation unit.

### Roane County Celebrates and says "Thank You"!



### Roane County Thanks the Staff of the Roane County Emergency Services

On Sunday, February 17, 2013, a smooth transition from the old Roane Medical Center to the new facility took place beginning with the first transport out at 8:15 a.m. Much planning and preparation took place to insure a flawless move. The Roane Medical staff and the Office of Emergency Services had a number of meetings to plan the move. All EMS full-time employees were scheduled to assist with transport and additional ambulances were used to insure transporting from the old to the new along with insuring that emergency services were available. The OES staff manned command posts at both the old and new hospitals and coordinated the move with our ambulance crews.

**Thanks EMS and OES for a job well planned and executed!**

### Citizens Urged to Test Homes for Radon, the Second Leading Cause of Lung Cancer in U.S.

*Information provided by Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation*

- Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless, tasteless gas that is dispersed in outdoor air, but which can reach harmful levels when trapped in buildings. Scientists have long been concerned about the health risk of radon, but never before has there been such overwhelming proof that exposure to elevated levels of radon causes lung cancer in humans.
- EPA estimates that radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after smoking and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. "However," says Amy Little from the Tennessee Radon Program, "because you can't see or smell radon, people tend to downplay the health effects and ignore the possibility that there might be a silent killer in their homes."
- Testing homes for elevated levels of radon is simple and inexpensive. Radon test kits can be purchased at local hardware stores for under \$25.00. Radon problems can be fixed by qualified contractors for a cost similar to that of many common home repairs such as painting or having a new water heater installed.
- The Tennessee Radon Program urges community residents to take action by testing their homes for radon. Radon poses a serious threat to our community's health but there is a straightforward solution.
- For more information on radon, radon testing and mitigation, and radon-resistant new construction, call The Tennessee Radon Program at 1-800-232-1139 or visit our Web site at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/osp/gi/radon/> or visit EPA's National Radon Action Month Web site at [www.epa.gov/radon/](http://www.epa.gov/radon/).

### Did You Know About . . . The Last One-Room School In Roane County?

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

The last one-room school in Roane County was the Dry Fork Elementary School located in the Dry Fork Community, in the Southern part of Roane County. The school closed at the end of the 1968-1969 school year.

The school opened in 1878 and the first teacher was James Clarksen who only taught for one year. Forty seven teachers taught at the school during its ninety-one year history. The last twenty seven years were taught by Mrs. Fleda Guffee.

Besides teaching, Mrs. Guffee also drove the school bus during her last year at Dry Fork. In an article in *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 13 Apr 1967, it was stated "Discipline is seldom a problem, and a boy or girl spanked at school usually gets another at home, 'I just stop the school bus, walk up to a house and tell a pupil's folks what he's done,' Mrs. Guffee (sic) said, 'Before nightfall a boy whipped at school may have had his second dose!'"

In this same article, Mrs. Guffee also stated "The advantage of a one-room school, is that small children learn how to get along with each other, how to cooperate, to give and to take. And our secret of any success we have here, I believe, is in home visits. I make many of them."

The last year the school was in operation it had 26 students. When the school closed, the students were transferred to Paint Rock Elementary and Midway High School. Mrs. Guffee transferred to Fairview Elementary School and taught for another year.

When the school closed, the property reverted back to the family of Robert Lee Viar, the owner of the property. According to a 1977 newspaper article, the building was being used as the residence of Edward and Velma Viar.

### Roane County Writers' Group

The Roane County Writers' Group held its 4th annual Scholastic Awards Program featuring a Student Writing Contest in December 2012. Roane Writer's Group President, B. J. Gillum, announced that a record number of entries, over 580, were received. Bill Landry was the emcee again this year. Winners were selected in three (3) categories: poetry, short story, and essay.

**Laci Danielle Hixson**, a senior at Midway High School, was presented with a \$2,500 scholarship award for her short story, "At the Mercy of the Hourglass," by Elizabeth Rose, Cherokee Middle School Principal. She also received the "Cliff Lynch Memorial Award (presented by B. J. Gillum), and the Flame of Knowledge Award, (presented by Allen Lutz of The Roane Alliance), along with a dozen red roses. Roane County Director of Schools, Gary Aytes, congratulated the winning students.

The winners' works will be compiled into a book which will be made available to the public to raise funds for next year's contest. Congratulations to the winners and to all who submitted entries. Special thanks to the Roane Writer's Group for its Scholastic Awards Program.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Commissioner George Nelson has retired after 47 years with the Co-op.

Congratulations George! – Valley Co-op will miss you!

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### **Five-Point Star Management System Progress:** by Ron Woody

We continue our focus on five key elements of county government with a change and update to our focus. Both our sewer expansion (11) and Industrial Development (13) have had significant progress and are still of extreme importance; however, we shall roll these under the Implementation of our 2013 Capital Plan (15).

As we annually do, we shall add the 2014 Budget (16) as one of our five main focuses. We shall also pull from our capital plan the expansion of our Recycling Center and add to our focus Recycling Center Expansion along with operations of the Solid Waste Department for a Solid Waste/Recycling point (17). Focus points of Recreation/Tourism (8), Risk Management (12), and Implementation of our 2013 Capital Plan (15), round out our five (5) points.

A discussion of our 17 points is located on our website: [www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org)

**FYI – The Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2013 @ the Recycling Center in Midtown from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Put this event on your calendar now and begin gathering all those hazardous wastes that have been piling up over the past year. More information will be posted in the paper, on our website, and in this newsletter.**

### **More about the Division of Emergency Communication (DEC)**

*Information provided by Bill Farnham –continued from the January 2013 newsletter–*

In the January 2013 Newsletter we told you a little about the DEC. Here we will try to explain the importance of this all-volunteer group to the safety and well-being of Roane County.

DEC members engage in continuous training throughout the year. They participate in exercises to improve and maintain capabilities. DEC members are compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the standard for all management activities for emergencies in and affecting Roane County. The DEC also staffs the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during local emergencies such as flooding, ice storms, and severe weather. They are trained by the National Weather Service and report on severe weather every time there is a threat. The DEC has the capability to send email via short wave radio and a system called Winlink when the internet is out locally or in large areas. Two communications and command trailers are operated for events that require mobility. The DEC is a professional quality group of volunteers. They are on standby 24-7-365, and their dedication, skills and true professionalism provide our citizens with an invaluable service. The DEC is an essential part of the warning system for dangerous events that may threaten Roane County's citizens and our Emergency Services Offices recognizes their value and provides outstanding support and encouragement.

### **Roane Leadership Program**

Submitted by Joyce Nall, 2012-2103 Chairman Roane Leadership Alumni Association

Many of you are graduates of the Roane Leadership Program. Roane Leadership is a cooperative effort between Roane County Chamber of Commerce, Roane State Community College and many citizens of Roane County who serve on a volunteer board. The Association's mission statement is "believing that responsible, well informed leaders, armed with a broadened perspective can influence the course of events, the Alumni Association, composed of graduates of Leadership Roane County, accepts as its mission the development of resources which will enhance quality of life, provide security for the future and support prosperity for our people."

The Leadership Alumni Board is making an effort to contact alumni and give them more opportunities to serve the county and their communities. In the upcoming months you may receive a phone call or e-mail from a Board member asking for your service in a particular project.

If you have an idea for an enriching program/project that you would like to "take the lead on" in the community, please contact Joyce Nall at [jnall@roanegov.org](mailto:jnall@roanegov.org), or 865-717-4103, Teresa Duncan at [duncants@roanestate.edu](mailto:duncants@roanestate.edu), or 865-882-4648, Kristi Beason at [beasonk@roanestate.edu](mailto:beasonk@roanestate.edu), Glenda Johnson at [glenda6900@bellsouth.net](mailto:glenda6900@bellsouth.net), or Danice Turpin at [dturpin@ttcharriman.edu](mailto:dturpin@ttcharriman.edu) or 865-882-6703.

***"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."*** Henry Ford

## **Ice Storm Event - January 25, 2013**

By Howie Rose, Director, Roane County Office of Emergency Services

Weather is the number one (1) hazard to Roane County citizens. This is a synopsis of what the Roane County Office of Emergency Services (OES) does in preparing for our greatest hazard.

January 25, 2013 was a day of ice for Roane County and surrounding counties. Roane County had a total ice accumulation of approximately .10 inch. Preparations for the ice event began on Wednesday, January 23rd.

### **Wednesday, January 23rd**

#### **Webinar with the National Weather Service in Morristown**

– Prediction for Friday, January 25th: .50 to .70 total ice accumulation - wide spread power outages (1 – 2 weeks to restore all customers), falling trees and large limbs and hazardous travel conditions.

#### **Due to the forecast the following actions were taken:**

- Notified all county and city emergency service agencies of the threat.
- Informed the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Staff of the potential need staff the EOC
- Briefed the County Executive

### **Thursday, January 24th**

#### **Webinar with the National Weather Service in Morristown**

- Prediction for Friday, January 25th: .15 to .30 total ice accumulation – some power outages, limbs breaking out of trees and hazardous travel conditions, especially for morning commute. Agencies represented were :

• Office of Emergency Services	• Sheriff Office, Roane County Schools,
• Harriman Utility Board,	• Rockwood Electric Utility
• Roane County Health Department,	• Tennessee Department of Transportation
• Roane County Highway Department	• Kingston Street Department
• Rockwood Street Department	• Oliver Springs Street Department
• Roane Medical Center	• Tennessee Valley Authority – Kingston Fossil Plant,
• Roane County Purchasing	• Kingston Fire Department
• Harriman Fire Department	• Kingston Police Department
• Building and Codes	• Roane County E-911 Center
• Commissioner Bobby Collier.	

### **Actions Taken**

- Notifications were made to the local home health agencies, pharmacies, and wrecker service providers making them aware of the potential for an ice storm and asking them to make preparations.
- Briefed County Executive on updated forecast and preparations.

### **Based on weather prediction, the following decisions were made:**

• Close Schools	• Close Courthouse
• Turn off water tanks	• Chains
• Location of shelters	• Made notifications of school and Court House Closing
• Emergency Operations Center activated	

### **Friday, January 25th**

• **4:00 AM activation of the EOC. The EOC was staffed with representatives from:**

- OES,
- Roane County Sheriff's Office,
- Roane County Highway Department,
- OES Division of Emergency Communications

**At 2:00 p.m. Friday the EOC was deactivated because of rising temperatures and improving road conditions.**

**St. Patrick's Day Open House at County Executive Ron Woody's Office on Friday, March 15, 2013 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Come by and celebrate with us.**

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**Congressman Chuck Fleischmann meets with Roane County Officials:**

January 30 2013, Congressman Chuck Fleischmann and various members of his staff met with Roane County officials to discuss local and national issues. Congressman Fleischmann established a County Mayor/Executive Round Table meeting in each of the counties he represents. The Roane County Round Table was well attended as Executive Woody invited the City Mayors, County Commissioners, and other county elected officials. City Mayors, Troy Beets of Kingston, Chris Mason of Harriman, James Watts of Rockwood, and Tom Beehan of Oak Ridge, all attended. Elected/Appointed Officials attending were County Executive Ron Woody, Property Assessor Davis Morgan, Circuit/Sessions Clerk Kim Nelson, and Election Administrator Charles Holiway. The following County Commissioners were also in attendance: Copper Bacon, Ron Berry, James Brummett, Ray Cantrell, Jerry Goddard, and George Nelson.

Various issues addressed and discussed were:

• Uranium Processing Facility	• Spent Nuclear Fuel Disposal Sites
• Small Modular Reactor	• Free Trade Zone
• DOE's Environmental Management Budget	• Reuse of DOE properties
• Election Worker Unemployment	• School Resource Officers
• VA use of old Harriman Hospital	• City and County Infrastructure – Water/Sewer
	• Operations
• Drug Control Regulation	• Inter Coastal Waterway Transfer Fund
• Manhattan Project as a National Park	

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Congressman Fleischmann and his staff, Bob White, Adria Landmesser and Jim Hippe, for meeting with our local leaders. Also congratulations to Congressman Fleischmann on his recent Congressional appointments, most notably to the House Appropriations Committee.

**Highway Department Implements and Expands Brine System**

Road Superintendent Dennis Ferguson is pleased to announce the expansion of his brine system. Brine is a salt and water mixture that the Roane County Highway Department has been using on roads during wintry conditions. Using brine allows the highway department to stretch their salt budget 40%.

The highway department used its brine system during the first round of winter weather and the response was overwhelmingly positive. The department is looking to expand from mobile units having 450 gallon tanks, to two 1000 gallon tanks and is also studying ways to produce 3500 gallons of brine an hour to be put out on the roads as needed.

The department hopes to place brine stations in the Blair area, South of the River, and in Rockwood allowing for quicker response times. The Roane County Highway Department is constantly evaluating plans and looking for ways to better use our resources to serve the community. Expect to hear more about the brine system in the near future.

Please follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RoaneCountyHighwayDepartment](http://www.facebook.com/RoaneCountyHighwayDepartment).

**The Next American Idol?**

Janelle Arthur, a 22-year old native of Oliver Springs, Tennessee is appearing for the third time on "American Idol".

Janelle began singing at an early age as she played a young Dolly Parton in the show "Paradise Road" at age 8. Her parents are Gentle Dean and Judy Arthur. She belongs to the Oliver Springs Church of Christ. Janelle attended Oliver Springs Elementary and Middle Schools and then was homeschooled as she continued her entertainment work.

**Good Luck Janelle!**

## Roane County Volunteer Clearinghouse

Wondering where you can volunteer or donate in-kind goods? - - - Interested in upcoming events and employment opportunities at our local non-profit organizations?

Now you can find the answers to all these questions, as the Roane County United Way is proud to announce the debut of the Roane County Volunteer Clearinghouse!

If your organization, agency, or church serves Roane County, please feel free to register your needs on the Volunteer Clearinghouse! Simply go to [unitedwayroane.galaxydigital.com](http://unitedwayroane.galaxydigital.com) and click the "Agency Sign-Up" button. For Registration Guidelines or help signing up, please feel free to contact Paulette at the United Way office—(865) 882-7711.

The Roane County Codes Enforcement Office is scheduling classes on 2012 Residential Code changes. If anyone is interested in attending a class call the Codes Enforcement Office at (865) 717-4230.

## March Meetings and Events:

Check [www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org) for more info

5 <sup>th</sup>	Budget Committee	CH	7:00pm
7 <sup>th</sup>	Environmental Review Board	CH	6:00pm
-	Building Inspector, Code and Review Committee	CH	6:00pm
11 <sup>th</sup>	Public Hearing on School Board	CH	6:30pm
-	County Commission	CH	7:00pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Beer Board- <i>if needed</i>	CH	5:30pm
-	Fire Board	CH	6:00pm
20 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Zoning Appeals- <i>if needed</i>	CH	6:00pm
-	Planning Commission	CH	7:00pm
28 <sup>th</sup>	County Board of Public Utilities	CH	5:30pm
29 <sup>th</sup>	COURTHOUSE CLOSED for GOOD FRIDAY		All Day

## East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) Cleanup Project by Scott Stout

On Wednesday, January 9, 2013 Jim Kopotic, Portfolio Federal Project Director for ETTP gave a presentation to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) on the cleanup efforts at ETTP (the old K-25 plant).

### Summary of the Cleanup Project

- **ETTP Cleanup Status:**
  - **Facilities demolished:** 374
  - **Waste removed:** 1.77 million cubic yards
  - **DUF<sub>6</sub> cylinders removed:** 7,000
  - **Area cleared for unrestricted use:** 1,400 acres
- **Ultimate Goal for ETTP: Transfer to Private Sector** - Progress includes:
  - 19 properties (~700 acres) and 332,000 square feet of building space transferred
  - 300 acres of DOE-owned property and 180,000 square feet of DOE-owned building space leased
  - More than 11 miles of railroad and related equipment transferred to CROET, rehabilitated and sold to private sector

There were several specific projects discussed at this meeting, they included:

- **K-770 Scrap Removal Project** – completed shipments and disposal of 48,100 tons of scrap into the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility in April 2007.
- **Cylinder Disposition** – 7,000 cylinders (5,952 safely shipped to Portsmouth). The last cylinder shipment was December 2006. All ETTP cylinder storage yards have been emptied.
- **K-1070-B Remediation Completed** – cleanup of 6.5 acre disposal area. There were 100,200 cubic yards of soil and debris excavated and shipped.
- **ETTP Zones 1 and 2 Status** – Zone 1 is the area on which ETTP is located; Zone 2 is the area surrounding ETTP. (Almost 1,500 of 2,200 acres approved for no further action).
- **K-25 Building Demolition** – West wing demolished by Bechtel Jacobs. UCOR completed the east wing demolition (except for TC-99 units). UCOR is currently demolishing the north end.
- **Historic Preservation** – A Memorandum of Agreement was signed in August 2012 that details commemorative activities at ETTP.
- **K-27 Building** – Pre-demolition activities are currently under way.
- **Previous Demolition and Disposal Projects** – K-1401, K1420, Cooling Tower, Lab Area, K-1501 Steam Plant, K-29, K-1206-E Water Tower and K-1320

If you have an item of interest related to our county, please submit to Sheila or me. Deadline for submission is the 20<sup>TH</sup> of the month.

Ron