



# County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

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

May 2013 – Issue #33

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Memorial Day – May 27, 2013 (Observed)  
Courthouse CLOSED

## Changes in Operational 2014 Budget

We see a number of challenges in the upcoming 2014 Budget of which our Commission, employees, and citizens should be aware.

First, we had our departments begin submitting their requests in February and March and both the Director of Accounts and Budgets and the County Executive began meeting with the department heads and officials in April. The Budget Committee then started deliberating on the budget beginning March 28th and continuing through April to formulate the 2014 Budget.

In March, the Budget Committee recommended the three Debt Service Budgets with little change from the prior year. Being that 30-year budgets had previously been developed, there was little change outside of updating revenue estimates. A planned shift in property tax back from the Capital Fund to Debt Service was made related to the prior sale of industrial property to Volkswagen (specific information about this planned change is located in previous resolutions and minutes).

Upon working and deliberating other operational funds of the county the following practices were initiated:

- Each department was to note whether their 2014 budget request was different in operation or had services changed from their 2013 budget.
- Then the department heads, elected and/or appointed officials were asked what change could be anticipated within five (5) years and ten (10) years.
- A review also took place of current and potential later capital needs for all budgets.

The Budget Committee began building all budgets with a 4% percent raise calculated for employees' salaries. Elected officials are mandated for a 4.61% increase.

One of the biggest unknowns in the 2014 Budget is the impact of the Affordable Health Care Act. As we continue to receive more information on the Act it appears that the county may have to make changes in our employee and employer's contributions and also regulations of part-time workers.

Currently Roane County Government has two separate contributions rates on health insurance. The Roane County School System has an 80% employer and 20% employee partnership for single health insurance expense. Roane County General and Highway Funds have a 95% employer and 5% employee shared expense for single coverage. It appears employee costs are discriminatory in nature and may cause Roane County compliance issues and potential costs for our insurance program. In dollar terms, county and highway employees pay approximately \$350 a year for health insurance at 5% contribution. If the county goes to 20% contribution for employees, then the cost increases for the employee to \$1,350. To achieve a balanced health insurance program, the County General and Highway may increase to 20% employee contribution and with this change the county would increase all employees' salaries by the \$1,000 additional cost. Who are the winners and losers in the cost sharing? **Winners** - if you don't have health coverage you receive an extra \$1,000 in your pay. **Losers** - elected officials whose salaries are established by the State and would not receive the \$1,000 adjustment. **Neutral to losers** – all officials and employees who must now share a greater amount of incurred health care costs.

## **Fire Safety in Roane - Wildfire Preparedness**

From the Roane County Codes Enforcement Office

Tennessee residents often choose to make their homes in woodland settings – in or near forests, rural areas, or remote mountain sites. There, homeowners enjoy the beauty of the environment, but also face the very real danger of wildfire.

“Wildfires often begin unnoticed,” Tennessee Fire Marshall and Commerce & Insurance Commissioner Julie Mix McPeak says. “They spread quickly igniting brush, trees and homes. Reduce your risk by preparing now, before a wildfire starts. Meet with your family to decide what to do and where to go if wildfires threaten your area.

Follow the U. S. Fire Administration’s steps listed below to protect your family, home and property:

### **Plan & Practice Wildfire Safety**

- Conduct outdoor burning safely and legally, being sure to secure the appropriate permits. For more info go to <http://1.usa.gov/16PG719>.
- Make sure that fire vehicles can reach your home. Clearly mark all driveway entrances and display your name and address. Ensure adequate accessibility by large fire vehicles to your property.
- Report hazardous conditions that could cause a wildfire.
- Teach children about fire safety. Instill in them that fire is a tool for adults, not a toy. Keep matches and lighters out of their reach.
- Post fire emergency telephone numbers.
- Plan several escape routes away from your home – by car and by foot.
- Talk to your neighbors about wildfire safety. Consider how you could help neighbors – such as elderly or disabled persons – who have special needs. Make plans to take care of children who might be on their own if parents can’t get home.

### **Protect Your Home**

- Create a 30-100 foot safety zone around your home.
- Rake and remove dead leaves, dead limbs and rubbish from around and under structures in this zone and clear all flammable vegetation.
- Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney outlet.
- Ask the power company to clear branches from power lines.
- Regularly clean roofs and gutters, and inspect chimneys.
- Remove vines from the walls of the home.
- Mow grass regularly.
- Store gasoline, oily rags and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Place cans in a safe location away from the base of buildings.
- Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and uphill from your home. Clean combustible material within 20 feet. Use only wood-burning devices evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory.
- Identify and maintain an adequate outside water source such as a small pond, cistern, well, swimming pool or hydrant.

### **Escape Safely**

- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Wear protective clothing: sturdy shoes, cotton or woolen clothing, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face.
- Lock your home when you go.
- Tell someone when you leave and where you are going.
- Choose a route away from fire hazards. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of fire and smoke.

For a complete list on how to prepare your home for wildfire, visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). To learn more about the proper procedures for outdoor burning in your area, visit [www.BurnSafeTN.org](http://www.BurnSafeTN.org).

### Submitted and Sometimes Published Articles

On the county website under County Executive, one can find submitted and sometimes published articles. We would encourage you to take some time to review these articles. The titles of some of the articles are: Where do My Property Taxes Go? (10-3-12), Roane County's Industrial Effort (11-2-12), and Sustainability (2-26-13).

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## Volkswagen obtains Temporary (Certificate of Occupancy) C.O. from the Codes Office

By Kay Christopher, Roane County Zoning Officer

Coming into Roane County via I-40 from Knoxville, if you will look on your right, just past the huge H.G. Hackney building, you'll see the new Volkswagen Distribution Center is basically completed.

Recently, a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (C.O.) was issued by the code's office. This means the building has been released to Volkswagen.

The building contains over 540,000 square feet and has 58 bays. It is three stories high and covers over 15 acres under roof.

The Codes Enforcement Office has been working closely with Eric Stanton, supervisor of Panattoni Construction, who is responsible for this massive building project.

To date, over 300 inspections, consults, and reviews have been performed on the massive building by the codes enforcement office, with even more to go.

The building is a LEED Certified structure which means Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, and is certified under the United States Green Builder's Council.

Roane County is proud to be the home of the new Volkswagen Distribution Center, and we are fortunate they chose our beautiful county as their site.

**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 and on our website ([www.roanegov.org](http://www.roanegov.org)).**

## Requirements for Ready-Removables (Portable Storage Buildings) with Electrical Wiring

State Law: *Tennessee Code Annotated* 68-126-311 (effective July 1, 2012)

(A.) Ready-removables with electrical wiring must meet applicable state and local electrical permitting requirements, local building permitting requirements, and have hardwired smoke alarms installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

(B.) NO ready-removable shall be modified for use as residential, recreational, or emergency housing in this state.

### Career Opportunities

Proton Power: <http://www.protonpower.com>

Volkswagen Group of America:

<http://www.vw.com/en/corporate/nav/careers.html>

These two companies will be hiring in the Roane county area in the near future. Check these websites out for opportunities to apply. If a specific contact is not available please continue to check the site for updates.

### Relay For Life

Roane County Government participated for the first time this year in the Relay for Life event held at Roane State Community College on April 19th. Representing Roane County Government at the event were: Heather Stooksbury, Lynn Farnham, Sheila Lemons, Ashley Denton, Scott Stout, Randy, Hannah and Bryson Ellis, and Brian Matthews, along with Ron Woody. Tony and Jeanie Brown, Sandy Williams, Wes and Haveyn Stooksbury, Dennis Ferguson, Derek Henderson. Keith Howell, Ken Clinton, Teresa Henderson and others were also involved in raising money to help find a cure for cancer.

**CONGRATULATIONS to all the Graduates of  
our Roane County Schools!**

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**Introducing the FULL METAL JACKETS:**

Jacob Chadwell, Michael Stooksbury, Hayley Conner, Jessica Watts, Sam Rose, Auston Byrd, Erika Ostrander, Joe Benthall, Jacob Galyon, Nathan Parkison, Gabe Martin; Alli Nelson, Mac Wynne, Hunter McClure, Luke Huddleston, Jonathan Newman, Adam Roberts, Emma Tobin, Casey Woody, Katie Wattenbarger, Ma Wentai, Grant Ladd, Allie Copeland, Rachel Mutter, Roger Newman, Devan Tobey, Corey Preston, Jordan Emch, Ben Riddle, Amanda Leachman, Jacob Perry, Sam Starkey, Jenny Parrish, Conner Nelson, Jon Dailey, Andrew Whittenbarger, Conner Reed, Cothron Theiss, Jonathan Nelson, Austin Stanton, Jonathan Higgins, Corey Stafford, Joey Michaud and Christian Hawkins

The Roane County High School Full Metal Jackets, comprised of 43 students — 42 from Roane County High and one from nearby Midway High School, is the pioneer robotics team at Roane County High School in Kingston, Tennessee. The team is preparing to participate in the FIRST National Championship Robotics Competition April 24-27. They are eagerly looking forward to their challenge, Ultimate Ascent. The Full Metal Jackets created Robo-Jacket, a robot in training who will be climbing a three-level pyramid at the end of the competition.

Please help the Roane County High School FIRST Robotic team go to NATIONALS!! The team qualified at the Smoky Mountains Regional the last weekend in March and is headed to St. Louis April 24-27! The team needs \$11,000 to go, so please donate to help them out. All donations to this site will go directly to the team for the Nationals Competition.

Go to <http://rchsrobotics.webs.com/> for more information or to make a donation.

**Roane County History and a Look into the Future** by Ron Woody

As we look back and study our Roane County Industrial and Economic history we have seen some *boom* and *bust* city prosperity. Without getting into a lot of details we show the boom years in both Rockwood and Harriman during the early 1900's Industrial Revolution with mining of iron ore and with the railroad industry.

We also saw the residential development with Harriman, the Utopia City and Temperance University. Later both Harriman and Rockwood saw growth with the textile industry and a number of jobs that added a second income to the family. The boom of mining and steel mill manufacturing, along with the textile industry brought construction jobs with the residential boom. As industries matured and the national industries and economics changed, we then saw the cities lose the second income of the family, along with mid-management and top management jobs moving to other areas and even overseas. The Town of Oliver Springs experienced some of the same growth and later experienced difficulties as the growth of the coal industry and railroads, along with the Oliver Springs Hotel, "Richard's House" saw declines.

Kingston did not experience the boom related to industrial growth within her city limits. Kingston's growth was somewhat of a spillover from the boom of Rockwood and Harriman, along with the construction and operation of the still-operating Kingston Steam Plant. Further, Kingston enjoyed the bedroom community growth of the 1930's and 1940's with the 1933 TVA Act and, more important, the Manhattan Project taking place in our neighboring city of Oak Ridge.

All of this history and understanding gives us an insight of where we have been but also may help us see through a window to our current challenges and opportunities. The world changed, the nation changed and our communities and cities changed. Our population has grown slowly. Our demographics have changed. Our economic position in the nation, state and region has changed.

We must ask ourselves "Where are our current opportunities?" As your County Executive I spend a lot of my time in Roane County - Oak Ridge. The future is being planned at our world-renowned Oak Ridge National Lab. It seems like our 7:30 a.m. Friday morning meetings with over 100 leaders is always discussing new technology from carbon fiber to advancements in metallurgy to small modular reactors to the rebuilding the Y-12 facility.

We shall continue to try and diversify our county so that no significant change in a single industrial sector will have a great impact. The future continues to be bright with the UPF and SMR projects in Oak Ridge and the commercial/retail expansion in Midtown, and at Gallaher Road.

We will continue to partner with the DOE, the City of Oak Ridge, and related companies to help all of Roane County's cities, and the county, continue a slowed planned growth.

We will probably never see the boom days of the mining, steel, and textile industries within our county, and Harriman and Rockwood will probably become the bedroom communities that Kingston has always been. We will have some business growth in all of our cities but we must be aware that the economy has changed and industry has changed as well.

Roane County High School Graduation – May 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.  
Harriman High School Graduation – May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.  
Rockwood High School Graduation – May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
Midway High School Graduation – May 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.  
Oliver Springs High School Graduation – May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

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## Did you know about. . . ? The History of the High Schools of Roane County

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

In Roane County's history, four high schools were created by Roane County Court (now the Roane County Commission). Those were Roane County High School, Wheat High School, South Harriman High School and Midway High School. The schools of Harriman, Oliver Springs and Rockwood were created by the respective cities and were independent of the Roane County School system in their beginnings.

Roane County High School had its origins as the Rittenhouse Academy and was the first high school created by the Roane County Court in 1905.

Wheat High School started out as the Poplar Creek Seminary and later as Roane College. It came under the Roane County Board of Education in 1908 and closed in 1942 as part of the government acquisition of land for the building of Oak Ridge and the Manhattan Project.

South Harriman High School was the third county high school to be created by the Roane County Court. The resolution was passed in 1915 and became effective in 1916. The school closed in 1963.

Midway High School was opened in September 1947. It was the last high school to be created by the Roane County Court. It replaced Fairview and Paint Rock High Schools, which were organized as two-year or junior high schools in the 1920s.

Harriman High School began in 1891. Beginning in 1922, Harriman High School was reported by the county superintendent as a county high school in order to receive more state recognition for funding and the graduates of the school received state high school diplomas. As a city high school as opposed as a county high school it was not recognized by the state until the county listed it as a county high school. It became part of the Roane County School System in 2003.

Oliver Springs High School had its beginning about 1895. In 1925 the first four year high school was organized. In 1935, the Oliver Springs Independent School District was dissolved and it became part of the Roane County School System.

Rockwood High School's first graduating class was in 1892. In 1922 it was recognized as a state approved high school. In 1935, both the Rockwood High School and Campbell High School became a part of the county system.

Campbell High School was the only high school for blacks in Roane County. It started out as the Rockwood Colored School in 1920 and later became Campbell High School. It closed in 1965.

### Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) and the Manhattan Project

Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan, ECA Chair, testified before the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulations on HR 1208. ECA was given outstanding compliments on their effective legislation related to the Manhattan Project National Park in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Hanford, Washington. Our fingers are crossed that Oak Ridge and Roane and Anderson Counties will soon have a National Park.

### Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA) and Energy Communities Alliance (ECA)

Both the **ORRCA** and **ECA** met during the month of April to discuss issues related to the United States Department of Energy.

The **ORRCA** continued their discussion of DOE land transfers and the environmental clean-up effort. Further, a specific issue of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's regulations related to Surety Bond for waste handling companies. The issue deals with the calculation and whether the surety bond is adequate for the waste being handled in the event of an accident or a company filing for bankruptcy. The surety bond discussion was due to IMPACT Service's bankruptcy.

The **ECA** met in Washington D.C. and had a lengthy discussion with DOE staff, Terry Tyborowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Program Planning and Budget for Environmental Management; Neile Miller, Acting Under-Secretary for Nuclear Security; Senior Advisor Dave Huizenga, Office of Environmental Management; and other DOE staff related to environmental work and department and site budget. The DOE-EM budget presentation is available on our website – Executive Summary #30.



**Meet Your Commissioners**

This Month:

**Commissioner Nick Forrester**

Nick Forrester serves as your County Commissioner for the 6<sup>th</sup> District (Kingston). Nick was elected to office in August of 2010.

Nick graduated from Roane County High School in 2003 and continued his studies at Roane State Community College, finishing his degree in Political Science at East Tennessee State. He is currently working on his MBA in Management Strategy. Although a graduate of ETSU, Nick is a BIG ORANGE fan through and through.

Nick is a life - long resident of Kingston growing up in the Lawnville area. His parents are Pete and Tracy Forrester and are two of his biggest supporters along with his wife Christy. He and Christy have been married for 3 and ½ years and are expecting their first child this summer.

Nick works at Roane State Community College and is very passionate about secondary and post-secondary education. He says working at Roane State feels like he’s come home. He recently finished the CTAS Certified Public Administrators Training Program. He feels that learning about local government makes him a more prepared leader for Roane County.

Among Nick’s heroes are George Washington “because he had no other sense of what politics or the presidency were and essentially made the presidency what it is today”, and Babe Ruth because “he was the greatest baseball player to ever live and gave a lot of what he had to needy children.”

Nick wants to serve you and encourages his constituents to call him any time at 247-8691.



**To Stop or not to Stop, That is the question.**

Since the completion of the first stages of the widening project of Hwy 70 in Rockwood, a lot of questions have been asked concerning whether or not you are supposed to stop on a four lane highway when a school bus is dropping off children. The answer is: When a four lane highway is divided by a physical barrier (grass, concrete median or guardrail) you do not have to stop. When there is no physical barrier (turn lane) you must stop. The School Resource Officers have gone out in the areas where this problem has occurred and have pulled over cars that have failed to stop for the busses. We are trying to spread the word so we do not have any of our children hit by drivers that are not aware of the law.

**May Meetings and Events:**

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

1 <sup>st</sup>	Budget Committee	CH	All Day
1 <sup>st</sup>	Board of Zoning Appeals	CH	6:00pm
1 <sup>st</sup>	Planning Commission		7:00pm
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Environmental Review Board	CH	6:00pm
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Joint Safety Committee	EOC	6:30pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	County Commission	CH	7:00pm
14 <sup>th</sup>	Beer Board- <i>if needed</i>	CH	5:30pm
14 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Board	CH	6:00pm
15 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Zoning Appeals- <i>if needed</i>	CH	6:00pm
15 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Commission	CH	7:00pm
16 <sup>th</sup>	Industrial Liaison Committee	R-A	5:00pm
21 <sup>st</sup>	Sports Recreation Committee	CH	6:00pm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	County Board of Public Utilities	CH	5:30pm
27 <sup>th</sup>	COURTHOUSE CLOSED for MEMORIAL DAY		All Day

**Sheriff's Office Range Facility Progress**

By Deputy Bobby Anderson

The range facility is coming along nicely and is almost complete. Work on the classroom portion of the range continues. The electrical service has been installed and we hope to have the water and sewer installed soon pending budget approval. Installing the utilities will be one of the final steps before the classroom facility can be used. This project has benefited the Sheriff's Office by giving us a facility that allows for flexible scheduling and within close proximity to other training sites. We expect our firearms training program to excel due to this facility. This facility will also allow the Roane County Sheriff's Office to meet the growing demand for handgun carry permit classes and be utilized by the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency for public hunter education.

We would like to thank all that have helped us develop this valuable asset:

- Roane County Commission,
- County Executive Ron Woody
- Jack Jinks
- Road Supervisor Dennis Ferguson
- Former Road Supervisor Tom Hamby
- Solid Waste Coordinator Ralph Stewart
- Building Official Glen Cofer
- Barger and Sons
- REU and HUB

**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*