



County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Reception at County Executive's Office on March 16th from 1-3 p.m.

Visit from the U.S. Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis, and Dr. Jill Biden, Wife of Vice-President Joe Biden

Roane State Community College and the Tennessee Technology Center at Harriman hosted U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and Jill Biden, Ph.D., wife of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, during February. Roane County was honored to welcome a tour of our valued educational resources. A meeting and tour was held at the Technology Center in Harriman. Many thanks to Dr. Goff and staff, along with Danice Turpin and staff, for hosting this event. Along with the above named, County Executive Ron Woody and Harriman Mayor Chris Mason welcomed Secretary Solis and Dr. Biden.

Roane State was the only community college in Tennessee to receive this honored visit. The visit reflects the federal investment in the community college system and particularly Roane State Community College which has received numerous awards and grants related to retraining workers for the new carbon fiber technology along with other programs. Special thanks to RSCC for their investment and activities in our community.

County-Wide Fire Department

There has been a lot of discussion the past few months regarding the county-wide fire department, ISO ratings, and what direction the county desires in meeting fire safety needs.

A brief summary of where we were, how we changed, and where we are follows:

- Since the 1990's or before, non-profit Volunteer Fire Departments received contributions from the county by way of a countywide property tax.
- 2005 – Roane County Fire Board suggested a study by CTAS of fire safety efficiencies – no action taken.
- 2007 – Roane Alliance (Industrial Development Board) indicated that the Roane Regional Business and Technology Park (RRBTP), due to high ISO ratings would be difficult to sell to businesses.
- 2008 – CTAS study reveals multiple deficiencies and suggests a Corrective Action Plan. Roane County creates a County Fire Department with revenues derived from rural residents' taxes and hires three (3) firefighters. Goal to reduce ISO rating.
- 2009 – ISO evaluations began. East Roane County VFD reduced from 9 to 5/7. **Location of RRBTP**
- 2010 – ISO evaluation of Midtown VFD lowered to 5/9.
- 2011 – County Fire Board requested a new CTAS assessment. Expecting study to be completed and submitted in March 2012.

Summary: The County supports reduced ISO ratings which help on insurance premiums and safety of residents

- Major factor is reducing ISO ratings
 - Fire Hydrants (the county started installation in 2008/2009)
 - Available firefighters (even with excellent volunteers supplemental day-time firefighters were needed) County employed three (3) full-time day-time employees in 2008/2009
 - Sufficient and adequate equipment. The County helped fund equipment improvement in 2008/2009
- The County must decide a path forward with the following known options
 - Maintain the current operation
 - Increase present with more County firefighter employees
 - Abandon the County Fire Department

ROANE COUNTY FLOOD MAPS
By Kay Christopher, Zoning Officer

Almost 50% of the developed land in Roane County has been incorporated. Rivers and lakes, the next largest land use, cover approximately 22% of Roane County, and this doesn't include streams.

Roane County is divided into four (4) land areas by three (3) rivers, the Tennessee, Clinch and Emory.

The Tennessee River flows from Loudon County through Roane and into Rhea and Meigs Counties. The Clinch River flows from Loudon and Anderson counties, through Kingston, and empties into the Tennessee River. The Emory River flows from Morgan County, through Harriman, and empties into the Clinch in Kingston.

Roane County adopted the FEMA Flood Maps in the late 1990's. The FEMA maps were updated and revised, then approved by Roane County Commission in 2009. Restricting construction in a floodplain is very important, and Roane County is in compliance and in good standing with the FEMA program.

In early May 2010, Middle Tennessee received the greatest amount of rainfall in its recorded history. The flooding exceeded the 500-year floodplain. Roane County flood maps show the 100-year floodplain, or 1% annual chance of flooding. The 500-year floodplain means that there is a 0.2 % chance of flooding annually in 500 years.

With 22% of Roane County being rivers and lakes, the chance of our county being flooded is possible. Our office is striving to do everything possible to see that if this happens, loss of life, injury, and damage to structures and property will be minimal.

Roane County FEMA maps can be viewed during regular business hours at the Zoning/Codes Enforcement Office.

Roane Alliance Annual Report

The Roane Alliance, under the leadership and direction of Leslie Henderson, presented during February the Annual Report of Activity under the direction of the Roane Alliance.

The report covered the Industrial Board, Chamber of Commerce, and Tourism functions of economic development for Roane County. This 30-page document highlighted the many successes and a look forward to future activities.

The complete report is available for your view at <http://www.roanegov.org/id28.html> then click on 2011 Roane Alliance Annual Report.

Roane County Accounting Department
Overview of: FUND 111 by Kaley Walker

The Urban Services Fund (111) is our Countywide Fire Department as well as Countywide Animal Control. This fund is supported by a property tax on rural residents only. There are currently 2 pennies of property tax supporting this fund, as well as rural sales tax, fees earned from services at the Animal Shelter, and contributions from fund raisers.

The countywide fire department does assist the cities when needed, and the cities assist the county when needed. The Animal Shelter has contracts with the cities for animals that are turned in from each of them. Quarterly and capital contributions to the volunteer fire departments are paid out of this fund as is the purchase and installation of fire hydrants countywide.

Interstate Connector Requested for Rockwood

The City of Rockwood has taken the initiative to ask the State and Federal government for an Interstate Connector from the Airport Road Exit into the City of Rockwood. We support this initiative and have written letters of support to State and Federal officials.

FUND 111 Urban Services BEGINNING FISCAL YEAR 2012	
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$559,720
REVENUE	\$697,725
EXPENDITURES	(\$736,194)
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$521,251

As we looked back on the February calendar we noticed a number of meetings and calls that related to our economic/industrial recruitment efforts. Much work was done with the Roane Alliance and other industrial park players. **Good news is coming!**

Commission Action February 13, 2012

The following resolutions were adopted:

- Resolution #01-12-17 increasing litigation taxes for General Sessions Court from \$32 to \$61.
- Substitute Resolution #02-12-15 requesting the State Board of Education and General Assembly to consider improvements to the Tennessee Secondary Governmental Education Program.
- Resolution #02-12-16 approving Roane County becoming a member of the State of Tennessee 401(k) defined contribution plan.
- Resolution #03-12-17 requesting that the General Assembly repeal TCA 33-7-304 dealing with financial responsibility for mental health evaluations for inmates with misdemeanor offenses only.
- Resolution #02-12-18 to receive money from TVA due to their acquisition of property in the Swan Pond Community affected by the ash spill.
- Resolution #02-12-21 adopting the Roane County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Resolution #02-12-22 asking our Legislative delegation to make the sale of synthetic drugs a felony and requesting support by surrounding counties.



St. Patrick's Day Reception

County Executive's Office

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Light Refreshments

Don't forget to wear GREEN!

Relay for Life – Roane County Team

The county's employees have been asked by **Roane County Relay for Life** to consider establishing a team for the April 27-28, 2012 event scheduled at Roane State Community College. **Relay for Life** is an annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Do we have anyone who would like to volunteer as a Team Captain and help us organize our Roane County Government Team? Let's support each other and I know we will have many relay walkers for our cancer victims and survivors. Be a Team Leader and/or volunteer! See Sheila Lemons for more details or email Fran Puckett at fpuckett@bellsouth.net or call her at 865/376-5901.

Roane County Animal Shelter.....by John Griffin, Director

Greetings from our local animal shelter! Another year has begun with hopes of being another fortuitous year of adopting and rescuing animals and reuniting lost pets to their loving homes. We have a lot of exciting things we are planning this year. A couple events planned for the near future are:

- Our 2nd Annual Bark at the Park (a joint effort with the Humane Society of Roane County, Planned Pet Hood, and 2nd Chance K-9 Rescue) is a pet-friendly concert event where we have the local band River Sharks and other talent performing. This will be an enjoyable day at Roane County Park with music, food and prizes, but mostly FUN! (The date for this event has not been determined at this time but will be announced as soon as possible.)
- Our 2nd annual yard sale at the shelter (the date will be announced later).

The Animal Shelter is also collecting dog and cat food donations. These donations will not only help shelter animals, but will also go to other local rescue groups to help feed their animals in hopes of diminishing the cost incurred by our struggling economy.

Industrial Inventory Summit

We will be hosting an Industrial Inventory Summit at Roane State Community College in the small lecture room at the O'Brien Building (Room O-101) on Thursday, April 12, 2012. We anticipate having guests and presentations from all our Industrial Park Property representatives, and representatives of the Department of Energy. Please mark your calendar for this event. The program will be from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm.

Retail/Recreation/Tourism Summit

We are anticipating a successful Industrial Inventory Summit. The next summits could be a Retail Inventory Summit and a Recreation/Tourism Summit.

Let's see how the Industrial Inventory Summit works out, but let's think ahead.

Direct Deposit

Roane County has been on direct deposit for employees for the past 4-5 years. Our goal is to have all employees signed up by July 1. We are currently around 65-70%. We would ask that you please stop by payroll and sign up. You will need to bring a "void" check and we will provide a sign-up form. If you have questions, please call Linda Stooksbury at extension 4113.

March Meetings and Events:

- March 1 – Environmental Review Board – 6:00 pm – Courthouse
- March 5 – Sheriff's Liaison Committee – 6:30 pm – Courthouse
- March 8 – Safety Committee – 6:00 pm - OES
- March 12 – County Commission Meeting – 7:00 pm – Courthouse
- March 13 – Fire Board – 6:00 pm – Courthouse
- March 15 – Building Inspector, Code and Review Committee – 6 pm - Courthouse
- March 16 – St. Patrick's Day Reception - 1:00 – 3:00 pm - County Executive's office
- March 21 – Board of Zoning Appeals – 6:00 pm – Courthouse
Planning Commission – 7:00 pm – Courthouse
- March 22 – County Board of Public Utilities – 6:00 pm – Courthouse

County Benefits – 401(k) Plan

Do you want to make 100% return on your money???

Beginning with the first pay period in April, if you put up to \$40 into a separate retirement account (State of Tennessee - Great West), Roane County will add another \$40 to it. That's right you put \$40 and the county will put \$40 and you now have \$80. At the July payroll (start of new fiscal year) the matching amount is \$10 a pay period for 24 pay periods. If you cannot match \$40 through the remainder of this year; then just start with \$10 and the county will match it.

Option 1. Participate this fiscal year by having \$40 withheld from your pay check for 6 pay periods, with the county matching your contribution and then in July that amount will drop to \$10;

Option 2. If you want to start this fiscal year but can't have \$40 withheld per pay period, start with \$10 per pay period with the county matching your contribution;

Option 3. Wait and start the withholding for Fiscal Year 2013 which would be \$10 per pay period with the county matching your contribution.

Start your own supplemental retirement plan with the help of the county. Either way you choose, **you need to sign up between March 12--23, 2012.** Let's see if we can get 100% participation and show folks that we can earn 100% on our money.

For more information see Linda Stooksbury or call her at 717-4113. More information will be in a future pay check envelope.

We received good news on the Federal Budget for our DOE partners. Although the environmental budget was down, funding has been approved for a large Y-12 UPS project and the science initiative at ORNL.

If you have an item of interest related to our county, please submit to Sheila or me. Deadline for submission is the last Friday of the month.

Ron Woodv