



County Executive's Newsletter to the Commission

www.roanegov.org

Courthouse Closings:

November 6th – Election Day
November 12th – Veterans Day
November 22-23 - Thanksgiving

Your county is engaged. – Activities for October 2012 by County Executive Ron Woody

We thought we would give you a little outline of the activities of October 2012.

Week One.

Starting October 1, Risk Manager Scott Stout and County Executive Ron Woody met with the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board (DNFSB) to discuss the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) and operations at Y-12. On the 2nd a public hearing was held by the DNFSB where Executive Woody made public comments in support of the UPF (when constructed it will be the largest construction project in Tennessee at \$6-8 billion). On the 3rd the regular County Budget Committee met; and on the 4th, a meeting with Roane Alliance President Leslie Henderson to review industrial prospect developments. On Friday, the weekly East Tennessee Economic Council (ETEC) hosted Bob Prince, CEO of Gen4 and a discussion was held on 10-20 megawatt nuclear reactors (reactors smaller than the proposed Small Nuclear Reactor (SMR's) at the old Clinch River site.

Week Two.

Monday the 6th was a holiday but activities included a retirement reception for RSCC President Gary Goff and then a ribbon cutting for the new Rockwood McDonald's. Tuesday was the monthly board meeting of the East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA) along with the East Tennessee Development District (ETDD). As County Executives and Mayors, these are statutory board seats. Further, Roane County has an audit committee membership for each of the boards. After the meeting, travel took the Executive, along with Deputy Road Superintendent Tony Brown, Commissioners Bobby Collier, Randy Ellis, and Carolyn Granger to Memphis for the annual Tennessee County Services Association (TCSA) meeting. The TCSA meeting closed on Friday with Commissioner Collier being elected President. Commissioner Granger serves as Secretary. **Roane County is not only engaged but is also in leadership positions.**

Week Three.

After the weekly Monday staff meeting, Executive Woody traveled to Nashville to meet Governor Haslam who presented Roane County with a \$50,000 Park Grant check. Monday night, Commission met in regular session. From Nashville, Executive Woody traveled to Clarksville for a Tuesday meeting with the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments (ATVG). ATVG is a seven-state board which represents local government in the TVA service area. Former Commissioner and current Kingston City Mayor Troy Beets serves as a board member with Woody. **Roane County is not only engaged, but also became a leader as Woody was elected as the 3rd Vice-President,** putting him in line for the President once rotation comes back to Tennessee. From Clarksville on Wednesday was a short trip to Murfreesboro to receive updates for financial accounting and reporting which included sessions on the Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Fraud, and even TEMA mitigating grants. Budget Director Kaley Walker joined Woody at the conference. Also during this week, Joyce Nall attended the Governor's Economic Conference, and Purchasing Agent Lynn Farnham met with CTAS Attorney Libby McCroskey and other Purchasing Agents to discuss the proposed 2013 Financial Management Act.

Week Four.

Seven of the eight County Mayors/Executives which are serviced by Roane State Community College met with Dr. Gary Goff and Dr. Chris Whaley along with Tech 2020 officials to discuss the creation of a Business Incubator Authority. A meeting with DOE/ORO Manager Larry Kelly and John Shewairy was held in the Executive office on Tuesday evening. A separate meeting was held with the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) and Tech 2020. Later that same evening there was a Local Workforce Investment Act (LWIA) meeting in Knoxville. Student Government Day was held on Thursday, the 24th sponsored by the Roane County American Legions. The guest speaker was retired Lockheed Martin Energy System President Bob Van Hook, PhD, a Roane County resident. **Roane County is engaged.**

Week Five.

Monday was a short trip to view work being completed at the Roane Regional Business and Technology Park (RRBTP). On Tuesday, October 30th, Executive Woody met with the Roane Central Utility District and the Industrial Site Selection representatives. Tuesday evening, the 2012 Founders' Day Treasures were honored. They were: **David Webb** (1st Civil District), **Clarence Robbins** (2nd Civil District), **Bob Humphreys** (3rd Civil District), **Gretchen Standridge** (4th Civil District), **Josephine McKinney** (5th Civil District) and the Golden Treasures were **James C. Hinds**, and **Ben Edd Scandlyn** (posthumously honored).

TCSA FALL CONFERENCE:

Several Roane County officials attended the annual TCSA Fall Conference which was held in Memphis this year.

This year's conference covered

- Changes in Tax Increment Financing (an Executive Summary is forthcoming)
- Communities' approaches to their economic development efforts
- Your county's revenue stream and BEP funding

Congratulations to Roane County Commissioner Bobby Collier for being elected as the President of the TCSA Board for the coming year. **Congratulations** also to Commissioner Carolyn Granger for being elected as Secretary to the Board for the coming year.

Roane County is leading.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY

On Thursday, October 25, 2012, approximately 150 students from Roane County Schools participated in the annual Student Government Day event. These students attended a short program where Bob Van Hook was the speaker and then broke into segments, 5 or 6 to an official, where they met with that official and learned a little about the official's duties and responsibilities in county government. After meeting with the officials, the students traveled to Roane State Community College for lunch.

THANK YOU to County Executive Staff Assistant Arlene Daugherty for organizing this year's event. THANKS also to the Roane County American Legion Posts for their continued support.

Website:

The following **Executive Summaries** have been added to our website in the last several months:

Executive Summaries - 2013

- (10a) Old Jail Renovation – August 2012
- (11a) Debt Management – October 2012
- (16a) Capital Outlay Plan Implementation – August 2012
- (26) 2012 Fire Study – August 2012
- (27) New Officials Orientation – August 22, 2012
- (28) TDOT Presentation to South RPO - August 2012

Reports added:

- **Wastewater Plant Operations**
- **2013 Budget Book**
- **BEP – Roane County's Earnings**

ASSOCIATION OF TENNESSEE VALLEY GOVERNMENTS (ATVG)

The ATVG is a seven-state board which represents local government in the TVA service area.

The ATVG meets on a quarterly basis to update its members on TVA operations, legislative issues, and economic development prospects. Specific issues addressed have been...

- Small Modular Reactors
- Chickamauga Dam Lock
- River System Management
- Election/Appointment of TVA Board
- In Lieu of Tax Payments
- Fleet Energy System (hydro, nuclear, coal, natural gas, and solar)

Congratulations to County Executive Ron Woody for being elected as 3rd Vice-President to the organization for the coming year.

COURTHOUSE EMPLOYEES VOLUNTEER FOR EXTREME HOME MAKEOVER (by Heather Stooksbury)

Roane County Courthouse employees, Ashley Denton (Elections) and Heather Stooksbury (Purchasing) answered the call for volunteers to help with the construction of a home for the Watson family in Knoxville this past January. The Watsons were selected based on the work they do for single mothers in the area.

Ashley & Heather worked in the rain, mud and snow doing such tasks as building walls, installing rock on the exterior of the house, carrying trusses for the roof and at times carrying coffee to the skilled laborers. One of the high spots of the adventure was Heather surviving a 6'x6'x12' board falling 10' and hitting her in the head! Of course meeting the stars of the show was also a dream come true.

This segment of Extreme Home Makeover is scheduled to air around the Thanksgiving holiday. Be sure and tune in to watch these ladies in action!

Roane County is volunteering.

ROANE COUNTY CORN MAZE

Across from Roane State Community College – next to ball fields.

September 15- November 4, 2012

(Hours: Friday 4 pm till dark; Saturday 11 am till dark; and Sunday 1 pm till dark)

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Leadership Team:

In the October newsletter I introduced you to two of our management team. This month's focus is on....

Administrative Assistant/ Grants Coordinator **Joyce Nail** continues working on grant applications and management along with managing the county's Economic Development Administration Fund and many economic industrial activities. Some grants currently in administration are \$1.5 million VW, Roane County Park Grant, Litter Grant, Wastewater State Revolving Loan Fund Grant \$5.2 million.

Executive Assistant **Sheila Lemons** continues the development of the county website and publication of this monthly newsletter. Sheila handles the aspects of Roane County litigation, County Commission agenda, scheduling and correspondence, and some events such as Founders' Day.

Office Assistant/Workers Comp Liaison **Arlene Daugherty** assists the County Commission in the sale of property due to unpaid property tax, along with managing the county's self-insured workers' compensation program. Arlene further manages many of the county events such as Student Government Day and St. Patrick's Day.

Purchasing Agent **Lynn Farnham** and her staff work with department heads and accounting to insure compliance with state purchasing law and local policies along with assisting in long-term capital budget plans. Lynn also assists the County's Risk Management operation by the purchase and management of property liability insurance claims.

We will continue to focus on more of our management team in the next few issues of this newsletter . . .

Property Tax Levy by Kaley Walker, Budget Director

At the September Commission meeting the County Executive mentioned the Tax Levy notices had arrived in Roane County. The newly elected Property Assessor, David Morgan, traveled to Nashville the prior Friday to pick up the notices and the books used by the Trustee to record payments. These books have the total levy information available. There are three (3) different groups who pay property tax; property owners, property owners who qualify for a tax freeze and public utilities. Of these three, the vast majority of the property tax comes from the property owners. Here is a breakdown of the tax levy:

Property Owners	\$26,392,468
Property Freeze	\$ 403,096
Public Utilities	\$ 761,582
Total Property Tax Levy	<u>\$27,557,146</u>

Out of this levy we anticipate that 93% of it will be paid during the first year levy, there is always a small portion that are paid late or not paid at all. The Budget Committee takes this into account when they are developing the budget and base the revenue expectations at this lower collection rate.

93% of Collections	\$25,628,145
Revenue Budgeted	<u>\$25,514,000</u>
Possible Additional Revenue	\$ 114,145

The bulk of any additional revenue will be earned for Education as taxes are distributed based on the operations in which the tax was levied.

ROANE COUNTY FOUNDERS' DAY 2012

The 6th Annual celebration of Founders' Day was held on October 30th. This year's Treasures were honored as follows: 1st Civil District: **David Webb**, 2nd Civil District: **Clarence Robbins**, 3rd Civil District: **Bob Humphreys**, 4th Civil District: **Gretchen Standridge**, and 5th Civil District: **Josephine McKinney**. The Golden Treasures honored were: **Ben Edd Scandlyn** (posthumously), and **James C. Hinds**.

Resolution # 10-12-04 – Political Signs

The Roane County Commission, at its October 15, 2012 meeting, adopted Resolution #10-12-04 to set the policy for the placement of political elections signs on Courthouse, Old Jail, and Convenience Center Property.

The resolution provided that political signs be prohibited on the Courthouse or Old Jail property. It also provided that placement of political elections signs would be allowed on the hill above the Old Jail thirty days before Election Day only. The resolution also provided that political elections signs be prohibited from being displayed on the convenience center fences, and on county-owned property within 15 feet of the said fences.

Did you know . . . ? [by Robert Bailey, County Historian]

That the Oakdale located in Morgan County near the Roane County line was not the first Oakdale?

Located near the Elverton community between Harriman and Oliver Springs was the Oakdale Iron Works. Located here were ore pits, railroads, a coal mine, coke ovens, a two-story hotel and a post office among other buildings.

Edward H. Potter, Gilbert Patton, Walton Blake, Allston Allen and Frederick Whiting bought 139 acres from Joseph Robinson to form the Little Emory Iron Works in 1872. By April 1873, seven acres had been acquired by the Company and changed the name from the Little Emory Iron Works to Oakdale Mining and Manufacturing Co. In 1879, it acquired about 4000 acres for the Iron Works and in July 1882, the company changed its name to the Oakdale Iron, Coal and Transportation Company.

It is not known when the Oakdale Iron Works ceased operations but it was probably in the early 1890s. Even in recent times, there were still remnants of the coke ovens.

November Meetings and Events:

Check www.roanegov.org for more info

Nov. 1	Industrial Liaison Committee	Alliance	5:30pm
Nov. 6	CH CLOSED – Election Day		
Nov. 8	Environmental Review Board	CH	6:00pm
Nov.8	Road Committee	Hwy.	6:30pm
Nov.12	CH CLOSED- Veterans Day		
Nov.13	Fire Board	CH	6:00pm
Nov.14	Planning Commission	CH	7:00pm
Nov.15	Joint Property/Solid Waste Committee meeting	CH	7:00pm
Nov.19	County Commission	CH	7:00pm
Nov.22	CH Closed – Thanksgiving		
Nov.23	CH Closed - Thanksgiving		
Nov.29	Co. Board of Public Utilities	CH	5:30pm

ROANE COUNTY RECEIVES \$50,000 PARK GRANT

Roane County submitted a grant application to replace an old wooden playground set with a new up-to-date and code playground set for the Roane County Park. Joyce Nall, Grants Administrator, was successful in the application and Ron Woody had the honor of receiving the check from Governor Haslam.

The total grant project will be \$100,000 with the county matching in cash or in-kind \$50,000. We have to have the playground changed over by the spring.

OES Staff attend Tennessee Ambulance Service Association Reimbursement Conference

Members of OES leadership attended the TASA Reimbursement Conference in Nashville October 8th through the 10th. This year’s conference focused on the changes taking place with Medicare and Medicaid/TennCare. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Law will bring sweeping changes to the way ambulance providers will need to conduct business. Medicare changes, documentation requirements, and preparing for Medicare audits were all conference topic. This is an annual conference put on information gained from this education opportunity will help the OES prepare for all the new requirements.

Environmental Management Cleanup Budget

We have expressed our concerns over the past 12 months about the prospects of loss of jobs and sales tax impact due to the reduction of the DOE Environmental management (EM) budget. In a recent Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board newsletter, “The Advocate”, a graph was provided showing the environmental budget (excluding stimulus monies) since 2005.

The Oak Ridge 2005 EM Budget was \$537 million. The proposed 2012 budget is \$420 million. During the recession (2009-2011) the EM budget in Oak Ridge exceeded \$700 million for at least two years due to the President’s and Congress’s economic stimulus package.

On September 21st there was an announcement of the reduction of 41 workers; on October 1st an additional 21 workers, on October 4th an additional 91 workers, and on October 8th another 31 workers.

More could come. . . .

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Hearings on UPF

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) of Washington, DC held meetings in Knoxville on October 1 and 2 related to the Y-12 National Security Complex and the proposed Uranium Processing Facility (UPF).

County Executive Ron Woody and Risk Manager Scott Stout met in a scheduled meeting with the Board of October 1. Woody expressed Roane County's and the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance's (ORCCA) support of the proposed UPF project along with discussion of safety, maintenance, and the aging facilities issue at the National Security Complex. The Board mentioned reading Woody's recent Los Alamos comments titled "Come and Go" (found at www.roanegov.org). The Board agreed that many players come and go but that the DNFSB was in place to insure safe nuclear facilities of the Department of Energy and Department of Defense.

On October 2nd, a public hearing was held at the Knoxville Convention Center where the Board questioned DOE officials and the engineering contractor about the UPF schedule of engineering, construction and safety provisions of the proposed facility.

The public was also given time to comment for the record. Various individuals and community leaders provided public input and comments including Tom Beehan, Oak Ridge Mayor; Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor; Mike Arms of the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments; Knox County Mayor's representative and Roane County Executive Ron Woody.

Roane County is engaged.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to Doug Wilson and Lisa of Rite-Aid Pharmacy for coming to the Courthouse to give Flu Shots to our employees. Part-time employees and employees who didn't carry the county insurance were provided flu shots as well by Roane County Office of Emergency Services Paramedic Brandon Browning.

Governor in Oliver Springs

On September 18, 2012, Governor Haslam was in Oliver Springs to announce that the town had been selected as the recipient of a CDBG grant for water system improvements. County Executive Ron Woody, along with Commissioners Fred Tedder and James Brummett, attended the announcement.

Congratulations Oliver Springs!

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OES Hosts Regional Safety and Health Officer Training

by Howie Rose, OES Director

On August 22nd and 23rd the Roane County Office of Emergency Services hosted a regional delivery of the Health and Safety Officer class. This class was taught by the Tennessee State Fire and Codes Academy. This course focused on employee health and safety issues for emergency responders. The class addressed injury prevention, physical fitness, and the need for a comprehensive departmental risk management plan. In total there were 29 students and many fire departments from the region; some as far away as Brentwood attended as well as all OES supervisors. The class was held at the Emergency Operations Center; OES Director Rose said "We are thankful to have the facilities to host this type of training". OES and the State Fire Academy are partnering to have additional training at the OES office.

County Benefits – 401(k) Plan Supplemental Retirement

In April, the county activated a 401(k) supplemental retirement plan with Great West. From April 1, 2012– June 30, 2012 the county would match your per-pay-period contribution up to \$40 in order to allow you to "catch-up" and take advantage of the county's \$240 annual match. When the 2013 county budget was adopted, Commission increased the county's annual match to \$480 which would be \$20 per pay period. If you have been contributing less than \$20 a pay period you have not been taking advantage of the entire county match. You will be given a one-time opportunity to catch up and take advantage of the entire county contribution. Great West's representative, Buddy McKinney, will be at the Courthouse on November 15th from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. to sign up employees or to give already contributing employees a chance to change their contribution to \$20 per pay period. If you want to take advantage of the "catch-up" provision you can also do that at the same time. However, it will require a one-time contribution of up to \$200 (\$20 x the number of pay periods since July 1), or \$100 if you have already been contributing \$10 per pay period. After the one-time "catch-up" to take full advantage of the county's contribution, you will need to insure you are contributing at least \$20 a pay period. The "catch-up" provision will **only** be offered for the pay period ending November 24, 2012.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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

Ron Woody