

# County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



Roane County Government

## Information You Should Know

By Ron Woody, County Executive

Throughout each month various information and issues are addressed related to your county government operations. Here is some of the information you should know:

- Y-12 National Security Complex appears to be prepared for a new contractor with Consolidated Nuclear Services (CNS) which is Bechtel and Lockheed Martin. We anticipate the DOE and CNS will work to reduce the Y-12 workforce 5-15%.
- Caney Ford Bridge's last inspection by the state rated the bridge at 57.5% which is above the state's ranking for safety concerns. Two cost estimates with two different solutions have been discussed. These solutions range in cost from \$4 million to \$6.5 million.
- Education funding or a reduction in state funding to Roane County will continue to be an issue along with an increase in general school operational costs. The school system lost \$1.8 million in the year ending June 2013 and is anticipated to lose another \$1.8 to \$2 million in the year ending June 2014. The savings account in education is quickly becoming depleted.
- Governor Haslam visited Roane County's City of Oak Ridge K-25 site (East Tennessee Technology Park/Heritage Center) on Friday, March 21st to learn about the clean-up effort and success of revitalization of the Manhattan Project era plant to a new modern industrial park.
- On Monday, March 24th I attended the first meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Education Funding. The Governor chaired the meeting as the committee began their research and review process of education funding.

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Easter— April 20th



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### Jennifer Rossi, Certified Athletic Trainer, awarded "Lifesaver Certificate of Recognition"

Jennifer Rossi of STAR Physical Therapy and athletic trainer at Roane County High School was recognized for her efforts on behalf of Seth Haynes by the Tennessee Athletic Trainer's Society (TATS). Rossi and Dr. John Belitz of Roane County Family Practice were instrumental in treating a traumatic injury to Haynes' spinal cord suffered during a football game in October 2013.

The neurosurgeon who treated Haynes at the hospital later commented on the importance of the rolling over of the athlete and placement of the patient on the stretcher. The excellent work of Rossi, Belitz, the trainer for the opposing team and the on-site paramedics were key in the recognizing, managing and preparing of the patient for transport. The athlete underwent successful surgery and even attended the game the following week.

Rossi's professionalism and dedication to the athletes at Roane County High School exhibited STAR Physical Therapy's mission of improving the delivery of healthcare to our Roane County athletes at practice and competition sports at all levels. Rossi represented STAR and Roane County at an exceptional level during this incident. Congratulations and thank you, Jennifer.

OES sponsored

### CPR/AED Training

April 15th at Cottage  
at Roane County Park

April 16th in 3rd floor  
courtroom at  
Courthouse

Contact Melanie for  
more information

865-717-4101

# Employee Consideration

Congratulations

**Nick Williams  
&**

**Claude Weems**

Nick and Claude were sworn in as Deputy Assessors on March 5, 2014 by County Executive Woody

## Household Hazardous

### Waste Collection Day

Roane County Solid Waste will host the annual

### **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day**

on

May 10, 2014

at

Roane County Recycling Center

215 White Pine Road  
Harriman, TN 37748

From

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information, please see the county website

[www.roanecountytn.gov](http://www.roanecountytn.gov)

## Understanding Retirement by Jennifer Bolling (717-4109)

Retirement is a word that is used to evoke pleasurable thoughts of spending time with grandchildren, traveling, doing all those things that there never was time for, and enjoying the fruits of your labor. Along with the excitement of opening a new chapter of life, there was a definite peace of mind that came from knowing that you would be financially secure after your career was over.

Our parents and grandparents had a much different experience than many today are likely to have. Many, particularly those in our area who worked at the DOE facilities in Oak Ridge or at T.V.A., had solid pension plans. They put in their time and then were rewarded by being able to retire at a reasonable age with a steady income that often included cost of living increases. Those who weren't that fortunate worked hard and knew that if they paid off their debts and put money back, their savings coupled with the promise of Social Security, would get them through.

Today's worker lives in a much different world. Although Roane County employs are very fortunate to have a defined retirement benefits through the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) that is no longer the trend. Due to rising costs, many companies simply cannot afford to continue offering this benefit and have switched from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan that costs less and comes with fewer obligations to the employer. Others offer lump-sum cash payments to employees or retirees to settle the employer's obligations. Beyond that, due to the recession and other labor market related changes, many people have found themselves working jobs that offer little or no retirement benefits. Left on

their own, these hard working people often save less, invest less, and plan less. By doing so they invest less, pay higher fees, and they get lower returns.

Sadly, as many people struggle just to make ends meet, saving for the future just isn't something they feel they can afford. They put off saving, which will force them to work longer, and greatly increase the chance that as they get older their livelihoods will be dependent on government benefits. Unfortunately, that promise of Social Security that I mentioned earlier isn't as certain as it once was, and its benefits don't reach nearly as far. According to Debt.org, total U.S. Consumer debt (the amount all of us owe) is at an all-time high of over \$11 trillion. We collectively have more credit card debt than all previous generations combined, and we are carrying that debt and the monthly bills it produces in to our older years, which is something previous generations didn't do. A social security benefit simply won't be able to match the obligations that many of tomorrow's retirees will have.

Despite these sobering facts, there are things that each of us can do right now to help prepare for retirement. As I mentioned, we participate in the TCRS, and 5% of your gross income is deducted to go toward your retirement, along with a match percentage paid by the County which changes yearly based on several factors. This plan will ensure a defined benefit, based on your retirement age, years of service, and 5 highest consecutive earning years. TCRS is a highly rated fund that last year, despite the bad economic conditions, had a gain of just under 10%. No CD or savings account can come close to that rate of return. We are very

fortunate to have this plan.

Having a defined benefit plan enables us to know with a fair degree of certainty how much retirement income it will generate. To get a good estimate of how much you will receive in retirement benefits go to <http://treasury.tn.gov/tcrs/> on the left side there is a benefits calculator. By simply plugging in your numbers you will get an excellent idea of what you can expect. We can then make better decisions regarding debt and how much additional money we might need to live, pay our bills, and enjoy life. To help with additional retirement security, Roane County also offers its employees the chance to participate in a 401(k) and will match up to \$40.00 per month of your contribution. 401(k) plans make tax deferred investments in various stocks, bonds, mutual funds and other assets. The stock market, for example, has seen an average return over the last decade of over 10%. Certainly it fluctuates on a daily basis, but this clearly makes it a sound long term investment and shows how valuable it can be in to you later in life.

Having a healthy retirement income is no longer just a matter of getting a good job and putting in your years. We have to work harder, and smarter, to plan for tomorrow. Fortunately we have an employer that is committed to working with us. If you have any questions about your retirement, and what options are available to you, please see me. I'll be happy to help! Next month, we'll take a more in depth look at what you can do now to get ready for retirement at any age.

**Did You Know About . . . Women in Roane County Politics?**

**By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian**

Women’s History Month, recognized in March, is to honor those ladies who have made great contributions to our history. In the 1800s and early 1900s, all of the Roane County officials were male. The first female to hold an elected office was Dora C. Blye who became the Register of Deeds in 1922. Next was Mrs. Pearl Billings who became the trustee in 1945. Clara (Mrs. Josh) Fulks became the Circuit/Criminal Clerk in 1947. Mrs. Aetna Davis became the Election Registrar in 1950. Betty Till was first Property Asses-

sor in 1976. The first female Clerk and Master was Marietta Roberts who started in 1977. Miss Lucy Smith was appointed Roane County school superintendent in 1891. Among the cities, Ruby Luckey became the first female mayor when she became mayor of Kingston in the 1980s.

The first female county commissioner was Una Coffman who was elected in 1990 and retired in 2006. She was the Chairman of the County Commission from 1996 to her retirement. She has also officiated 506 marriages to this date. Since

then Nadine Jackson and Carolyn Granger have served on the commission.

We are so fortunate to have so many women pioneers who have served and continue to serve Roane County.

“Do not stop thinking of life as an adventure. You have no security unless you can live bravely, excitingly, imaginatively; unless you can choose a challenge instead of competence.”

~Eleanor Roosevelt

The Courthouse courts and business offices will be closed **Friday, April 18th** In observance of Good Friday

Congratulations to **S&ME, Inc** American Council of Engineering Companies of TN 2014 Engineering Excellence Award Grand Winner For PawPaw Creek Wetland Mitigation At Roane Regional Business and Technology Park

**Spring at Roane County Parks and Recreation by Mike Beard, Director**

Remember Jeff Foxworthy’s comedy act tag line.....”you might be a redneck”? Spring is full of developments at Roane County Park and Riley Creek Campground and Recreation Area that might be a fit for Foxworthy:

If you camped along beautiful Watts Bar Lake with your kids....**you might be in Roane County.** (Riley Creek opens 3/14/14)

If you watched children of all abilities play together in a single playground.....**you might be in Roane County.** (the new playground at RCP is open)

If you enjoyed a family event in a brand new shelter on the lake shore..... **you might be in Roane County.** (the new shelter will be available soon)

If you enjoyed a picnic, a swim and your kids played with the new toys at the Splash Pad.....**you might be in Roane County.** (new toys and features are coming soon)

If you had a hard time deciding which of 29 boat launches to use to go fishing..... **you might be in Roane County.**

If you enjoyed walking on over 9 miles of paved trails..... **you might be in Roane County.**

If you are ready for Spring, then we are getting ready for you.....**right here in Roane County.**

If you have any items of interest for the newsletter, please submit to Melanie at [mtownsend@roanegov.org](mailto:mtownsend@roanegov.org) by the 20th of the month. ~Ron

## Roane County Government

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Check out more information on our website:

[www.roanecountytn.gov](http://www.roanecountytn.gov)

Follow us on Facebook:

**Roane County Government**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
April 7th	Budget Committee	Conference Room	6:00 pm
April 7th	Sheriff's Liaison Cmte	QCR	6:30 pm
April 8th	Fire Board	QCR	6:00 pm
April 10th	Environmental Review Brd	CCR	6:00 pm
April 14th	County Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
April 16th	Board of Zoning Appeals	CCR	6:00 pm
April 16th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
April 18th	Courthouse Closed		
April 22nd	Public Utility Board	Waste Water Plant	5:30 pm

### In Memoriam James P. Hill

Mr. James P. Hill, age 44 of Rockwood, Tennessee passed away on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at the Roane Medical Center, Harriman, Tennessee. Mr. Hill was born February 20, 1970 in Rockwood, Tennessee to Carlos Eugene and Danna J. Clowers Hill. James was of the Protestant Faith. He was a former employee with Walmart for 16 years and was an employee with the Roane County Public Utility as Chief Operator for 10 years.

He is preceded in death by his Father, Gene Hill.

Survivors include:

Wife: Tonya Kay Hill of Rockwood, TN

Sons: James Matthew Hill & Dylan Ray Hill of Rockwood, TN

Mother: Danna J. Hill

Brothers: Johnny Ray Hill; Randy Hill & wife Glenda of Rockwood, TN

Sister: Kathie Jones & Husband, Allen of Oakdale, TN

Nieces & Nephews: Scottie; Isaiah & Derek Jones; Cameron & Hunter Hill; Brian & Makalee Barnes; Devin; Christopher & Heather Young; Destiny; Dana & Drew Jones; Amelia; Kyle & Daniel Young

Please remember the family at this time.

### Register of Deeds issues warning to residents

Sharon Brackett, Roane County Register of Deeds, issued a statement from her office to people who recently acquired property in Roane County. Brackett's office has become aware that companies are contacting property owners offering to sell information at an inflated price. The Register's office encourages property owners to contact the office at (865)376-4673 before sending money to anyone requesting a charge for a copy of their deed or property profiles. Most of the information can be acquired from the Register of Deeds' office for a nominal copy charge of \$.25 per page. As a member of the Tennessee Registers Association and the County Officials Association of Tennessee, Brackett has requested the involvement of the State Attorney General's office in this matter. For further information, please call the Register of Deeds' office at (865)376-4673.

### Great American CleanUp by Brian Matthews, RC Highway Department

On March 20th Roane County took part in the **Great American CleanUp**. Around 800 bags of trash, a lot of tires, a boat, and various other household items were collected. We want to thank everyone that took part to KEEP ROANE LITTER FREE! We want to give a special thanks to McDonalds, The Roane County News, 105.7 The Hog, Roane County Sheriff Jack Stockton, our E-911 dispatchers, County Executive Ron Woody, TDOT, Roane County Park, The Roane Alliance, Sail Away Reality, The Girl Scouts, Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Eagle Furnace Baptist Church, Pam K, Sail Away Reality, Roane State Baseball, The Michael Dunn Center, and the staff of the Roane County Highway Department for getting out to pick up over 20 miles of road in Roane County.

Road Superintendent Ferguson said, "Please stay tuned as this will not be our last cleanup day. We believe that working together we can Keep Roane Litter Free." If you or your organization want to join Keep Roane Litter Free give us a call 882-9782. Please check out the photo album that we posted on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RoaneCountyHighwayDepartment> to see pictures of everyone in action!