

County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



Roane County Government

What's Going on in Your County Government?

By Ron Woody, County Executive

Once again, we have had a busy month with a flurry of activities. As we collectively plan activities, we see that during any particular month or period we have projects that start, come to completion, and continuing work takes place on projects in development.

What has come to completion?

- Hiring of county's first Veteran Service Officer (story pg 2)
- Approval to donate surplus county property to NAACP, City of Kingston, and Rockwood Rams Club
- Hiring of Alliance's new CEO, Wade Creswell (story pg 3)
- Approval for Roane County Sheriff's Office to use recently acquired Caewood property as House of Hope for children rescued from meth houses
- Sale of county owned back tax property

What has shown significant progress?

- Nashville meeting on Education Fund-

ing with School Board member Wade McCullough, Director of Schools Gary Aytes, Commissioner Ron Berry and Executive Woody

- Transfer of DOE property to CROET for public use
- Hub and Spoke grant and city agreements to expand recycling within county and cities
- Sewer expansion in Midtown for residents

What is planned?

- Opening of a 6400 sq ft Veterans Clinic on March 18th
- Grand opening celebration of the Veterans Clinic on April 16th
- Refinancing of school debt with expected savings of \$100,000 per year
- 2015 Budget work has begun
- 2010 Delinquent property tax sale on March 29th

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Roane County Robotics Team-Full Metal Jackets Robotics

The Full Metal Jackets Robotics team is once again competing in the FIRST program. FIRST means *For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*. The team consists of about 40 students from Roane County High School, Midway High School, Harriman High School and Rockwood High School. There are 10 mentors including engineers from ORNL and TVA, a college professor, two private business owners, two teachers and parents.

The students will build a large, 120-pound robot, including all mechanical and electrical components, and program it to play the FIRST game of the year. Last year the team received the Rookie All-Star Award at the Smoky Mountain Regional Competition. This year's team is looking forward to competing again.

Tax deductible donations of money and/or supplies and materials are welcome. For more information contact Cindy Holmes at RCHS at 376-6534 or cholmes@roaneschools.com.

2010 Delinquent Tax Sale

March 29, 2014

10 a.m.

Chancery Courtroom

For more information,
contact Clerk & Master at

865/376-2487

Employee Consideration

New Website!

The new Roane County Government website is up and running. You can check it out at www.roanecountytn.gov

New Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) Hired

Roane County Executive Ron Woody is pleased to announce the hiring of the county's new VSO, Mr. Brian Dunn. Mr. Dunn is a veteran of the U.S. Army.

He will be available to help all Roane County veterans, survivors and dependents in applying for and receiving veterans benefits. The VSO will have an office on the third floor of the Courthouse. Also in the works, is a possible office in the new Veterans' Clinic opening soon in Roane County.

More information will be available in the future. We would like to welcome Mr. Dunn and look forward to working with him. For appointments, please call (865) 804-8858.

Congratulations to

David Morgan, Roane County Assessor of Property

on his recent award. David was awarded the **2013 Assessor of the Year** award before the Tennessee Association of Assessing Officers during the Regional Educational Seminars.

The Benefits of Health by Jennifer Bolling

Now that the holidays are behind us, it is the perfect time to begin a new fitness routine. We all know the benefits of regular exercise, and what a positive impact it can have on our overall health, but sometimes we need an extra push to get started, or don't even know where to start at all. Fortunately, there are many different ways to get fit right here in our area.

What if someone told you that a healthier, longer life was within your grasp? This may sound too good to be true but, with a little hard work and dedication, we can all make it happen. According to a wealth of research, exercise is the silver bullet for a better quality of life.

Weight loss is important. We all have a pair of jeans or, with summer being right around the corner, a bathing suit that we'd love to fit in to. Exercise can get you there! More importantly, it can and will reduce your risk for several chronic diseases and conditions. Finding activities that you enjoy and that become part of your daily routine is the key to a long and healthy life.

The list of health benefits is impressive, and the requirements are relatively simple -- just do it!

Any amount of exercise, at any age, is beneficial. And, in general, the more you do, the greater the benefits. The National Academy of Sciences has recommended that

everyone strive for a total of an hour per day of physical activity. Sounds like a lot, but the hour can be made up of several shorter bursts of activity (it can be walking, gardening, even heavy house-cleaning) done throughout the day.

Physical activity is an essential part of any weight-loss program, to maximize your fat loss while keeping valuable muscle mass. Exercise has many other health benefits. It can help prevent or improve these various illnesses:

1. Heart Disease- Regular activity strengthens your heart muscle; lowers blood pressure; increases "good" cholesterol (high-density lipoproteins or HDLs) and lowers "bad" cholesterol (low-density lipoproteins or LDLs); enhances blood flow; and helps your heart function more efficiently. All of these benefits reduce the risk of stroke, heart disease, and high blood pressure.
2. Stroke- Being active reduces your risk of having and dying from a stroke.
3. Type II Diabetes. This disease is increasing at alarming rates. Physical activity can enhance weight loss and help prevent and/or control this condition. Losing weight can increase insulin sensitivity, improve blood sugar and cholesterol levels, and reduce blood pressure -- all of which are very important to the health of people with diabetes.

Exercise has also been proven to reduce depression, lower your risk of many types of cancer, help prevent osteoporosis, and will reduce the effects of nicotine withdrawal for those who are trying to quit smoking.

Roane County Government wants to play an active role in giving our employees all the tools to become healthy and fit. A healthy workforce is an important element in providing outstanding service to the citizens we serve. After all it's hard to be an effective public servant if you are dealing with serious health conditions. We also care about you, and want everyone in our extended "family" to be as healthy as possible.

To that end, we are proud to offer a menu of options to help you reach your fitness and health goals. Several gyms and fitness facilities located here in Roane County have agreed to give our employees a membership at a discounted rate. We are also involved with the highly successful Weight Watchers program, which allows our employees the opportunity to get in-person support and motivation with weekly meetings.

There are resources out there, and we want to help you take advantage of them. For more information, please call Jennifer Bolling at 717-4109.

Did You Know About . . .Sterling N. Brown?

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

As February is Black History Month, it is important to note the accomplishments that Roane County African-Americans have made. One of those is Sterling Brown. Sterling Nelson Brown went from being a slave in Roane County, to become a professor of Bible Introduction and Bible History at Howard University Divinity School in Washington, D.C. for thirty one years. His story is told in his autobiography "My Own Life Story" that was published in 1924. Sterling was born on November 21, 1858 as a slave in Roane County to Hardy and Clarisa

Brown. He was sent to the first free school ever taught in Roane County which was taught by Miss Angeline Summers.

When his father became ill, in order to help support his family he was forced to go to work at the age of 13 years to help provide for his family "which at that time often went to bed hungry and sad."

As the Cincinnati Southern Railroad was beginning to be built, he went to work on the railroad and later worked at a brickyard earn-

ing fifty cents a day. With the money he earned he was able to buy a small farm for his parents. He entered Fisk University in Nashville, in November 1875. He graduated from Fisk University in 1885 and from the Oberline Theological Seminary in 1888. He became a pastor in Washington, D.C. for 25 years. In November 1892, he began teaching the English Bible in the School of Religion at Howard University and remained for thirty-one years. He died in 1929. His son, Sterling Allen Brown was also an educator at Howard University.

Roane Alliance Board selects new President/CEO

The Roane Alliance board unanimously approved Roane native Wade Creswell as the next Alliance President/CEO.

Creswell, 39, was recommended to the board by its officers and the selection committee after a nationwide search that began several weeks ago shortly after

current President/CEO Leslie Henderson announced her retirement, effective March 28, 2014.

Creswell will come to the Alliance from his position as Vice President of Development and Public Relations, Health Services, at Michael Dunn Center, one of Roane County's largest employers.

The Michael Dunn Center is a non-profit agency that serves children and adults with developmental disabilities.

"Wade will bring a strong skill set and a new perspective to The Roane Alliance operations," Alliance Board Chair Sharon Templeton said after the board meeting.

Highway Department Employees Receive CPR/AED Training by Brian Matthews

Would you know what to do if someone around you had a cardiac episode? How quickly would you be able to respond to someone in need?

These are questions that Roane Superintendent Dennis Ferguson kept asking himself about the guys working in our garage and out on the roads. Instead of just asking these questions, Dennis decided to

do something about it and on Jan. 21st and 22nd, under the guidance of Roane County EMT Jay Settles, the crew at the Roane County Highway Department received training and certification in CPR/AED.

Jay came to the Roane County Highway Department for 2 days and made sure our guys received proper and concise information supplemented with

hands on training in what to do in case we were to encounter a situation where the training would be needed. Jay was a calming and reassuring voice as our employees went through the training needed to respond promptly and correctly to an emergency situation.

Dennis wanted to thank Jay for taking time out of his busy schedule to teach our guys the

County Executive's St. Patrick's Day Reception

Monday, March 17th

1:00-3:00 pm

Conference Room In County Executive's Suite at Courthouse.



Happenings at Roane County Park

Shelter 1 reconstruction will start soon!

Spring is around the corner and Roane County Park is gearing up with a new shelter, new playground, new features at the Splashpad and improvements in the disc golf course.

Now is the time to make reservations for shelters at Roane County Park. Call 882-2640 for reservations. Cost is \$5/hr (3 hr minimum).

importance of CPR and AED training.

The Roane County Highway Department encourages everyone reading this article to enroll in a CPR class because in an emergency situation a few seconds can save a life.



If you have any items of interest for the newsletter, please submit to Melanie at mtownsend@roanegov.org by the 20th of the month.

~Ron

Roane County Government

200 East Race Street
P.O. Box 643
Kingston, TN 37763

Phone: 865-376-5578
Fax: 865-717-4215
Email: roanecounty@roanecountytn.gov

Check out more information on our website:

www.roanecountytn.gov

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Roane County Government

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
March 3rd	Budget Committee	Conference Room	6:00 pm
March 3rd	Sheriff's Liaison Cmte	QCR	6:30 pm
March 4th	Ambulance Billing Eval Team	OES	2:00 pm
March 4th	Emergency Services Cmte	OES	6:30 pm
March 6th	Tourism Committee	Alliance	5:00 pm
March 10th	County Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
March 11th	Beer Board	QCR	5:30 pm
March 11th	Fire Board	QCR	6:00 pm
March 14th	Environmental Review Board	TBD	TBD
March 18th	Building Inspector/Codes	QCR	6:00 pm
March 19th	Board of Zoning Appeals	CCR	6:00 pm
March 19th	Planning Commission	QCR	6:00 pm
March 25th	Public Utility Board	Waste Water Plant	5:30 pm

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Roane County Solid Waste Department
Will host the annual
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

On
May 10, 2014
At

Roane County Recycling Center
215 White Pine Road
Harriman, TN

From
9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

For more information see county website
www.roanecountytn.gov

Local DAR Chapter compiling commemorative book

Southwest Point Chapter NSDAR of Kingston, TN is compiling a commemorative book of Military Veterans with a tie to Roane County, TN. The public is invited to submit a copy of a photo and short military biography. Information requested includes veteran's name, birthdate and place, parents' names, spouse's name, branch of military, enlistment date and place, decorations/awards received, theater/battles, discharge date and place, and if applicable, death date and burial place.

Mail the photo copy and information to : DAR, P.O. Box 611, Kingston, TN 37763. Submission is free. Deadline is March 31, 2014.

For additional information contact Connie Williams (865)717-3949 or Barbara Wasilko (865)310-4560.

Reduction in disposal fees for the Solid Waste Fund (116) by Kaley Walker, Budget Director

Roane County has two (2) funds which deal with the disposition of waste. Our Solid Waste Fund (116) is the operation of the convenience centers throughout the county. This fund is mainly associated with garbage which is collected to be sent to a landfill. Our second fund which also has some disposal is our Recycling Fund (123). This fund deals with the collection, sorting, and disposition of recyclable materials. Since 2004, there has been a decline in the cost of disposal of garbage in the Solid Waste Fund. This can be attributed to three (3) factors that are under the control of the county: 1) use of compactors at the sites to reduce the number of needed pickups, 2) the placement of recycling boxes at the centers and 3) the success of the recycling center itself. The last two (2) of these aim to divert waste from the landfill and recycle it for a new purpose.

The compactors are being installed at the busiest sites first. Compactors reduce the size of the waste and allow for a larger amount to be picked up each time thus reducing the associated tipping fees. The convenience centers have recycling boxes at them which accept different materials. Recycling consists of: paper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum and other metals. Some convenience centers also have the ability to accept waste oil. The Recycling Center itself is available to all residents of the county for recycling and household and commercial waste disposal. For more information see the county website www.roanecountytn.gov.