

County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



Roane County Government Welcomes Six New Commissioners

Roane County Government

Roane County elected six (6) new commissioners for the 2014-2018 term. We want to welcome the newly elected commissioners and look forward to working with them for the benefit of Roane County.

District 1: **Darryl Meadows**—Darryl has been married to Dr. Angela Evans Meadows for 26 years and they have two daughters, Chelsea and Alison. Darryl graduated from Rockwood High School, attended Roane State and graduated with a BS degree from UT. He is currently the Vice President and Bank Manager for United Community Bank's Kingston office. Darryl served 2 terms on Rockwood City Council and was Vice Mayor both terms. He also served on the Rockwood Electric Utility Board, was a past member of Rockwood 2000, and am a member of Rockwood Revitalization. He currently serves on the Roane Alliance's JECD board, the county's EDA board, Roane County Rescue Squad board and is currently the Chairman of Rockwood Water and Gas and a commissioner with Rockwood Housing Authority. When time allows he enjoys playing golf

District 2: **Junior Hendrickson**— Junior is the son of Fillmore and Brenda Hendrickson. He has a son, Thomas. He graduated from Harriman High School and is currently employed at Y-12. He is the President of the Walden Ridge Classic Car Club and a member of the Roane Heritage Commission and Roane County Chamber of Commerce. Junior is a member of South Harriman Baptist Church. He enjoys classic cars, racing and riding his Harley.

District 2: **Greg Ferguson**— Greg is married to Vicky Ferguson. He has 3 daughters and 3 grandchildren. He attended Harriman High School. Previously, Greg was a County Commissioner for 8 years. He is the owner of Ferguson Paving and has had the company for 15 years. He enjoys watching NASCAR in his free time.

District 3: **Todd Fink**— Todd has been married to Erica Fink for 15 years and they have three children, Braden, Lainey and Will. He is currently in sales at Earl Duff Subaru in Harriman. He serves on the PTO at Harriman Middle School and is on the Parent Advisory Board at Bowers Elementary. Todd coaches Little League baseball and basketball. He is also active at Big Emory Baptist Church where he enjoys working with the youth.

District 5: **Mike Hooks**— Mike is married to Pamela Sexton Hooks. They have 5 children, 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Mike attended Anderson County High School and Columbia Pacific University. Mike served in the U.S. Army. He was owner and CEO of Educational Concepts, Inc. 1992-2003. Previously, Mike served two terms as County Commissioner for District 5. He currently serves as Director of the Roane County E-911 Communications District.

District 6: **David Bell**— David has been married to Kimberly Bell for 2 years. He is a graduate of RCHS. David works for the Public Defenders office as a Criminal Investigator. In his leisure time, David competes in triathlons. He is a Sunday School teacher and missionary at The Grove and an avid hunter.

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September 2014

Sept 1st - Labor Day

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Teachers' Supply Closet provides Roane County teachers with free usable materials for use in their classrooms.

The Roane County Chamber of Commerce is accepting donations of supplies or money.

Please donate today!

Contact Allen Lutz at 376-5572 for more info.

Employee Consideration

by Jennifer Bolling (717-4109)

This month I would like to discuss some important things that are going on with your health and vision insurance. Our annual enrollment period for 2015 is October 1 - November 1. All employees who are eligible to receive insurance coverage will receive a decision 2015 guide during the second week in September. During this time you can make changes to insurance benefit selections. Changes in coverage become effective on January 1 and participants must remain enrolled in their selected benefit options until that time.

spousal coverage. If you need to (at any time during the year) make and adjustment due to SQE please contact me within 60 days of the event and I will make the necessary changes accompanied by proper documentation.

We are pleased to announce there will not be an increase in health premiums for 2015. A small increase of approximately 2.4 percent in vision premiums will go into effect Jan 1. This will result in the following:

Active Members	Basic Plan per month	Expanded Plan per month
Employee Only	\$3.35	\$5.86
Employee and Children	\$6.69	\$11.72
Employee and Spouse	\$6.35	\$11.14
Family	\$9.83	\$17.23

~Continued on page 4

Congratulations to
Jerry Bare
 For becoming
 State Board of Equalization
 Assessment Level 2
 Certified.
 Jerry works in the Property
 Assessor's office.
 Congratulations Jerry on
 this important accomplish-
 ment!

During the enrollment period, participants can: Add, cancel or transfer health insurance option and/or carrier

Add, cancel vision insurance

All changes must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. November 1. No other changes can be made to your policy unless they are due to a special qualifying event. These special circumstances would consist of enrolling in employee only or family/

FLU SHOTS
 Wednesday, September 24th
 8:30 am to 10:30 am
 County Executive's Conference
 Room
 Call Arlene at 717-4101 for
 more information and to get
 on the list for the shots by
 September 16th.

In Memoriam Joseph K. "Joe" Murphy— Roane County's First Paramedic

Mr. Joseph K. "Joe" Murphy, age 56, a resident of Kingston, Tennessee passed away Friday, August 15, 2014 at the Fort Loudoun Medical Center, Lenoir City, Tennessee. He was born November 1, 1957 in Harriman, Tennessee to Clarence Alven Murphy and Imogene Lyles Murphy. Joe worked in emergency medical services for 38 years; 2 years as an Emergency Medical Technician and 36 years as a Paramedic. He was the first Paramedic (EMT-P 4355) to be licensed in Roane County, Tennessee; and was the first Paramedic in the State of Tennessee to retire his license, a licensing option which he helped to champion with the State E.M.S. Board. Joe served for many years with Roane County E.M.S. and Cumberland County E.M.S.; and in latter years as a Dispatcher with Roane County E-911. He was a HAM radio operator (KF4KEK) and a member of the Roane County Amateur Radio Club. He was also a Certified Weather Watcher. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Jim, David, and Russell Murphy. Survivors include: Wife of 33 years: Patricia Murphy of Kingston, TN Sons & Daughters-in-law: Keith & Tracey Murphy of Vonore, TN Michael & Vicki Murphy of Kingston, TN Grandchildren: Piper, Abbie, Jarrett, and Aiden Several nieces and nephews And Special Little Dog: "Missy"

Did You Know About . . . Guido and Hindo?

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

Captain Thomas L. Brown (1866-1931) was one of the best known (notorious?) Roane County "characters" of his time. He was superintendent of the Roane Iron Company's Chamberlain ore mines, south of the Tennessee River. Besides owning two ferries that operated in Roane County, he also was owner of a steamboat that operated between Knoxville and Kingston. In today's terms, he would be a multi-millionaire. In a time when very few

people in Roane County owned automobiles much less seen them, Tom Brown could be seen driving with his German police dogs, Guido and Hindo, riding with him. When he died in 1931, he left a trust of \$1,500 in his will to take care of his two dogs. Today, \$1,500 would be about \$23,000. Tom Brown is buried in the Bethel-Kingston Cemetery in an unmarked grave. It is not known when Guido or Hindo died or where they are buried.

The Courthouse Courts
and
Business Offices
will be closed
September 1, 2014
In observance of
Labor Day Holiday



Highway Department Update by Brian Matthews

The Roane County Highway Department is pleased to announce that we have received another safety grant! This one will provide new signage, road striping, and other safety features on the following roads: Sugar Grove Valley for 7.42 miles, Caney Creek Road for 4.23 miles, Paint Rock Road for 5.10 miles, and Poplar Creek Road for 5.22 miles, Gage Road for 2.06 miles, and Mountain View Road (Rockwood) for 2.53 miles.

Have you heard about the Roane County ABC House? The Roane County ABC House is designed to be a temporary home like facility that will meet the needs of children that have been placed in the custody of law enforcement. We encourage that when you go on a trip and stay in a hotel that you bring back the unused toiletries and bring them to the Roane County Highway Department and we will make sure that they are given to the Roane County ABC House.

We also want to take this time to wish all the teachers and children a safe and happy school year. We also want to wish all the county football teams, cheerleaders, and bands good luck when they perform under the Friday Night Lights! Let's get out and support these kids!

Sen. Yager Hosts Second Annual Grant Workshop at RSCC

State Senator Ken Yager (R-Kingston) will host a free Grant Conference to improve the opportunities for citizens, organizations and local governments to find and tap into a wide variety of grant funds available to them. The conference will be held on Thursday, September 4th at Roane State Community College, at 276 Patton Lane in Harriman in the O'Brien Theatre from 9:00-1:00 PM.

Joyce Nall, Grants Coordinator for Roane County, will present a presentation to the workshop attendees discussing Roane County's grant application and tracking process. Joyce has been the Grant Coordinator for Roane County for 20 years. She works with many of the departments within county government to be sure that Roane County qualifies for as many grants as possible and also tracks the spending and reimbursement requests for county grants to insure all requirements and deadlines are met.

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

Insurance, cont. from pg 2

Some of you may be receiving transfer letters alerting you that you will not be eligible for the Partnership PPO and will be auto enrolled in the Standard due to not fulfilling the obligations of the Partnership Promise. I have been contacted by several people who feel that they have received the letter in error. After contacting Benefits Administration I learned that in fact there were some inaccuracies on their part and retraction letters should have gone out on August 18. I urge you if you feel you have met your requirements DO NOT WAIT to contact them, this is very time sensitive and needs to be addressed ASAP. However if you did fail to participate as indicated and you did not:

- Complete the online well-being assessment
- Perform the biometric screening
- Keep your contact information current and partake in health coaching if necessary
- Enroll in a tobacco cessation program

If you or your covered spouse failed to complete any of the 4 conditions then you will be ineligible for the Partnership PPO this year but you can re-enroll in 2016. Please contact me if you have any questions 717-4109.

Education Funding Lawsuits

Lawsuits on education funding across the nation fall into two main categories:

1. Adequacy— are the states and local governments providing enough funding?
2. Equity— are the systems within the state receiving a relatively equitable amount of funding?

Due to the equity issue, most states limit the amount of local funding in order to comply with the equity legal argument.

As Roane County discusses education funding, the county reviews comparisons with other systems. In regards to the equity issue, city school systems have available access to additional funding

which county systems do not. With this situation in mind, the county should only perform comparisons with other county systems and exclude city systems. The state should likewise compare counties to counties.

City and county systems both receive BEP funding from the state, county property taxes and local option sales tax. These revenue sources are all distributed on a dollars per student basis. If the county increases property tax rates for the schools, then the city schools also receive an increase in the property tax revenue. However, the city systems have an additional revenue option which is city property taxes, city sales taxes or

city government specific dollar contributions. None of these city revenues are shared with the county system.

Tennessee may have an adequacy issue in funding, but there is no question that Tennessee does have an equity funding issue. Tennessee may follow the lead of other states and start limiting the additional contribution made by the cities. From the local standpoint, we will never be able to catch up with the city systems in terms of funding because the county can not increase education funding for the county system without also increasing funding for the city system also.

Governor's Task Force on Education Funding Meeting

The Governor's Task Force on Education Funding met on August 13, 2014 to review and hear presentations on two basic topics: 1) other state's funding formulas and 2) student based budgeting. Much information was delivered at the meeting with a couple of noted comments as follows:

- 41 states use property values as the only measuring of fiscal capacity to pay.
- 32 states distribute based on a foundation formula where an amount per student is calculated.
- Regional cost adjustments are considered in most formulas.
- Almost every state restricts the amount of local funding which can be provided to education.
- Most all states have a mandated local funding requirement.
- No significant relationship exists between spending and student outcome.
- Flexibility of spending should be at the district (county) and school level.
- Must be a move to reconnect staff and public with the cost of operations

From a national standpoint, the presenter anticipates that education will experience cuts in programs over the next decades and funding increase due to cost of services exceeding amount of increased revenue.

Roane County Commission Orientation

The county held its first commission orientation program in August with a presentation conducted by James Brummett, County Commission Chairman, Greg Leffew, County Attorney-Elect and County Executive Ron Woody.

Chairman Brummett discussed the organization and rules of procedure with the commission noting that the September commission meeting will be the time where rules of commission operation are adopted.

County Attorney Leffew reviewed with the commission legal aspects of the Open Meeting Act, Conflict of Interest, and the county's Code of Ethics.

Executive Woody discussed duties of the commission related to the adoption of the budget and tax rate along with the regulations that the commission has enacted, such as zoning, animal control, nuisances and building codes.

The commission further reviewed the organization of county boards, statutory committees, as well as internal committees of the commission. The orientation ended with a powerpoint presentation identifying issues of "The Next Ten Years" (see separate article).

The orientation presentation can be found on the county's website www.roanecountytn.org under County Commission and County Executive-Executive Summaries.

The Next Ten Years

At the August 19, 2014 Commission Orientation, the commission spent some quality time reviewing one particular slide prepared by the County Executive's office titled "The Next Ten Years." The slide was not an all inclusive list of the main issues but a starting point of item identifies. The county was charged to identify additional items and to prioritize and gain a better understanding of the issues facing the county over the next ten years.

A few of the items of consideration were:

- ⇒ Education funding
- ⇒ Reappraisal
- ⇒ Ambulance Department management
- ⇒ Capital needs of Jail and Caney Ford bridge replacement
- ⇒ Metro Government

The entire list of 37 items is noted on Slide # 26 of the Roane County Commission Orientation Program (Executive Summary #40 www.roanecountytn.gov). We anticipate the list changing over the next several months as the new commission establishes their vision of what Roane County will be in 2024.

Roane County Government

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Check out more information on our website:

www.roanecountytn.gov

Follow us on Facebook:

Roane County Government

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
September 1st	Courthouse Closed		
September 8th	Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
September 9th	Fire Board	QCR	6:00 pm
September 11th	ERB/SWAB	QCR	6:00 pm
September 17th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
September 23rd	Public Utility Board	Waste Water Plant	5:30 pm

Roane Imagination Library Funding Underway



of
ROANE COUNTY

The Roane County Commission passed a resolution on September 29, 2004 approving participation in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. In 10 years more than 186,000 books have been delivered to children in Roane County at no cost to the families. Today, 1,890 Roane County children receive a book each month. This program is supported by donations from the community with matching gifts from Roane-County based companies, Pro2Serve and MCLinc, and the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation.

Join the Books from Birth 10th Anniversary Tour **Friday, September 19, 2014, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** at Pinnacle Pointe (Kroger). Representatives from the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation and Roane Imagination Library will be enrolling children; recognizing community leaders, volunteers, and donors; leading activities for children and adults; and awarding door prizes.

Donations are accepted on-line at: www.GovernorsFoundation.org or by mail to: Roane Imagination Library, PO Box 128, Kingston, TN 37763. Sign up your child on-line or by contacting Roane Imagination Library.

For more information about Roane Imagination Library contact roaneimaginationlibr@gmail.com or 865-717-3767 and visit us on Facebook.

Commission Orientation Day 2– 2015 Budget Work Session

After the initial commission orientation meeting and identification of items of interest for the next ten years, the commission requested that their second orientation meeting be a brief of the 2015 annual budget. Since the 2015 budget had not been adopted, it was appropriate to begin the budget adoption process with a budget work session.

Executive Woody and Director of Accounts and Budgets Kaley Walker presented Executive Summary # 15c Fiscal Year 2014/15 Roane County Budget. This presentation is posted on the county website (www.roanecountytn.gov) under County Executive-Executive Summaries. The budget book will be available on the website under County Executive-Departments-Accounting once the final budget is approved by Commission.