

County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission

Roane County Government



By Ron Woody, County Executive

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December 2014

Christmas Day– Dec 25th

What a busy time of year for county government. It would seem that after all the elections things would slow down but that has not been the case. This December newsletter is full of some of the many things that have taken place in recent months. The Alliance Gala, Roane County Founders' Day, Education Foundation fund raiser and Classroom Under the Sea are just a few things that happened in the last month. Roane County also received an award from TCSA for Communication and Transparency Initiatives at the Fall TCSA Conference. Conferences were also held by the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments and Energy Communities Alliance. More information will be available in next month's newsletter.

Many activities have taken place within the county operations and capital investments, as a new baler and concrete pad have been installed at the Recycling Center. Work at the Agricultural Extension office is finishing. Please take a moment to look through the newsletter for areas of success in Roane County.



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"Roane County Schools Education Foundation"

The Roane County Schools with assistance from local leaders formed a 501(c)(3) Education Foundation in 2013. The Foundation's purpose is to help support the local school system above and beyond public tax dollars. We applaud Roane County School leaders along with the local community leaders in the formation and operation of the Education Foundation.

Current Board of Directors is: Jeff Sliger, President; Jamey Davis, Vice President; Mark Clem, Treasurer; Emily Belitz, Secretary with board members: Rob Jago, Jan Fine, Eric Bacon, Dr. Steve Smith, and Director of Schools Gary Aytes.

We enjoyed the recent fund raiser at the Princess Theater with Hillbilly Jedi.

For more information: www.roaneschoolsfoundation.com

*I would like to wish you and your family
a very merry and blessed Christmas. ~Ron*

"Changing Government through Research, Study and Analysis"

It is not how much
we have, but how
much we enjoy, that
makes
happiness.
~Charles Spurgeon

Employee Consideration

Upcoming Holidays

Dec. 24th, 25th & 26th-
Christmas Holiday

Jan. 1st-
New Years' Day

Jan. 19th-
MLK, Jr Day

Roane Alliance Gala

On November 8th, the Roane Alliance hosted the Annual Gala. This year the Gala was held in Roane County for the first time. We would like to congratulate Wade Creswell and the Alliance staff and volunteers for the excellent job they did. Also, thank you to Volkswagen for hosting the event.

Founders' Day Roane Treasures

- Jerry Goddard- 1st Civil District
- Clarence Nelson- 2nd Civil District
- Ted Morton- 3rd Civil District
- Nathan Hickey- 4th Civil District
- J. Polk Cooley- 5th Civil District

Lotte "Mama Mia" O'Brien- Golden Treasure

Please see the November 17th issue of the Roane County News for full biographies on these Roane Treasures. Congratulations to all our Treasures on your selection and thank you for your service to Roane County.

Classroom Under the Sea

We celebrate the success of Roane State professors, Bruce Cantrell and Jessica Fain, as they are scheduled to live underwater for 73 days. Located in Key Largo, Florida, the underwater habitat has become a biology lab and lecture hall for not only Roane State biology students, but also for various middle school classes and the Bowers Elementary School Before-and-After-School program. Lesson plans and recorded episodes can be found at www.roanestate.edu/classroomunderthesea.

New Hybrid Retirement Plan by Jennifer Bolling

One of the more valuable benefits of public service is the retirement benefit you accrue under the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS). Your benefit provides retirement security and grows in value each year you serve.

TCRS has implemented a new plan, called the TCRS Hybrid Plan, which consists of a combination of a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan for new employees with County Commission approval.

The defined benefit portion of the hybrid plan, which will be managed by TCRS, will remain as a "traditional" form of pension and any future benefit will be determined by a benefit formula, as opposed to an account balance. The assets of the defined contribution plan will be deposited into the State of Tennessee's 401(k) plan and you will have the ability to select the investment option or options to which you contribute.

For the defined benefit side of the plan, employees will contribute 5% of their salary and the county would contribute 4%. On the defined contribution side, employees will contribute 2% of their salary, with an opt-out feature, and the county will contribute 5%. The contribution of the county almost doubles your investment in your retirement!

In the past, a member was qualified to receive a full retirement benefit upon reaching the age of 60, or achieving 30 years of service. With the new hybrid plan a member must now attain age

65 and 5 years of creditable service or meet the rule of 90 (where age and years of service total 90).

Previously, a member was eligible for early retirement benefits at age 55 with vested status. A member must now reach the age 60 and have 5 years of creditable service or meet the Rule of 80 (where age and years of service total 80).

Upon termination an employee will be eligible for a refund from the defined benefit portion of the plan from TCRS. He/she will receive the contributions made plus interest credited to his/her account. On the defined contribution side the employee will also be entitled to receive the contributions made by both the employer and employee, plus any earnings on the account.

Employees will still be vested after five years of service. A vested member is someone who has accrued enough years of service to receive a retirement benefit once all eligibility requirements are met.

As you can see, there are possible changes coming for new participants. This is an essential way of ensuring that Roane County can continue to play an active role in ensuring your retirement security in the face of ever rising costs. I urge you to learn all you can and become engaged in issues that affect your benefits. As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Did You Know About . . . Tennessee Williams?

By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian

Tennessee Williams, whose original name was Thomas Lanier Williams, a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, who wrote several well-known plays that have been adapted into movies, had ancestors who lived and are buried in Roane County.

Among his famous plays which were adapted into movies were "The Glass Menagerie", "A Streetcar Named Desire", and "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof."

His ancestors, who were from Roane County, are Gideon Morgan (1751-1830), a Revolutionary War soldier, whose home is located across from the Historic Roane County Courthouse and Rufus Morgan (1781-1826), a son of Gideon.

Tennessee Williams was a 2nd great-grandson of Rufus Morgan. Both Gideon and Rufus Morgan are buried in the Bethel-Kingston Cemetery.

The Roane County Courthouse Business Offices and Courts will be closed on

**December 24, 2014,
December 25, 2014,
&
December 26, 2014
for
Christmas Holiday**

Roane County received an award from the Tennessee County Services Association at the Fall Conference in Pigeon Forge. Roane County submitted applications for County Success Stories in Communications and Fiscal Policies. Roane County won the award for Communications and Transparency Initiatives. Roane County was recognized for our new website (www.roanecountytn.gov), this newsletter and the various published reports and articles that are available on the website. Roane County is proud to be on the cutting edge of communications with elected officials and citizens alike.

You are invited to our **Open House!**



Roane County
Recycling Center
&

Solid Waste Department
Ralph Stewart, Director

Wednesday, December 17, 2014
at 10:00 am

Roane County Recycling Center
219 White Pine Rd
Harriman, TN 37748

Please join us for our open house. You will have the opportunity to see our new baler, made possible through a Hub & Spoke Grant from TDEC.

YOU ARE INVITED

To the annual

**COURTHOUSE CHRISTMAS
LUNCHEON**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014

11:30-1:30

On the 3rd floor of Roane County Courthouse

If you have any items of interest for the newsletter, please submit to Melanie at melanie.townsend@roanecountytn.gov by the 20th of the month.

~Ron

Governmental Capital Planning– How to Get Plugged In

About four years ago, the County started the implementation of a strategic capital investment plan with the adoption of a capital policy. A significant aspect of the policy is to identify the future needs of replacement assets along with potential new assets to meet the citizens' needs. The capital policy is being improved and refined each year. This article identifies **five steps/categories** used in the capital implementation process and notes where new capital investment project can be plugged into the program.

1. Infrastructure Needs Survey (INS)- an annual survey required by TCA§4-10-109, prepared by the local government and submitted to the regional development district and Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) lists large dollar capital items generally requiring debt to fund. Example: Building Construction. Filed with Commission December 2014 Correspondence #30

2. 2-5 year capital needs of the INS

report prepared by County Executive's office and identifying projects of the INS that are anticipated within the next 2-5 years. Filed December 2014 Correspondence #31

3. Capital Assets that generally fall below the threshold of large dollar items that require debt or would be noted in the INS; however the assets could be listed in the INS Report. Example: HazMat vehicle

Assets that fall into Category 3 are often assets that are scheduled out in the future years and may not have funds available to obtain the asset. This category of assets is the most difficult to set aside funding or to identify funding sources. The desire is to have funding set aside but debt funding is eligible to finance these assets.

4. Capital Assets that have been programmed, budgeted, and funded. These assets are budgeted and accounted for in the capital projects funds of 171 General and 176 Highway. A newly developed status report will be filed periodically with the commission. Filed December 2014 Correspondence #32

5. Capital Assets that are a lower dollar

and programmed annually in the operational budgets of the county departments. Example: furniture, certain computer equipment and office equipment

How do you get a project plugged in? The commission committees should recommend high dollar projects to be included in the INS. INS projects that committees desire to be placed in the 2-5 year status should be recommended by the respective committee and submitted to the Budget Committee for recommendation. The Budget Committee shall make recommendation of INS projects for debt funding to the County Commission.

Projects in the Category 3 would be recommended by Elected Official/ Department Head to the respective commission committee which would recommend to the Budget Committee.

Projects in the Category 4 & 5 would be recommended by the Elected Official/Department head and approved by the Budget Committee in the annual budget.

Highway Department Update by Brian Matthews

We want to thank Ralph Stewart at the Midtown Recycling Center and his staff for their assistance on November 15th with America Recycles Day. Ralph and his staff allowed us to hang up signs and other things notifying people of what was going on and distributed materials letting people know what was and wasn't recyclable. According to KAB, "I Want To Be Recycled" was the theme of Keep America Beautiful's 2014 America Recycles Day, which takes place annually on and around Nov. 15 throughout the country. America Recycles Day, in its 17th year, educates people about the importance of recycling to our economy and environmental well-being and helps to motivate occasional recyclers to become everyday recyclers. America Recycles Day celebrates the benefits of recycling and provides an educational platform that motivates people to take action to recycle more and recycle smarter, influencing recycling behaviors at work, at home and on the go. It was another great event for Keep Roane Litter Free. We have also continued to add to the number of people wanting to adopt-a-highway. If you or your organization would like more information, please feel free to give us a call at 882-9782.



In Memorium— George W. “Copper” Bacon

Mr. George W. “Copper” Bacon, age 75, of Rockwood, Tennessee, passed away on Thursday, October 30, 2014, at his home surrounded by his family. Mr. Bacon had been battling lung cancer and Alzheimer’s.

Copper was a member of the Crab Orchard Christian Church in Crab Orchard, Tennessee. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. Copper was a car salesman, selling cars in the Roane County area for 50 years.

Mr. Bacon served on the Roane County Commission for 16 years. He was a lifelong farmer in the Glen Alice community in Rockwood. He loved farming and taking care of his Black Angus cows. Mr. Bacon also loved Tennessee Walking Horses. He was a member of the Tennessee Walking Horses Breeders Association.

Copper served on the Roane County Farm Bureau Board. He was a 50 year member of Rockwood Masonic Lodge #403 and was a Shriner. He was a 50 year member of the Rockwood Lodge

of the Knights of Pythias. Copper was very active in the Rockwood community which he called home. He was a lifelong member of the Rockwood Civitan Club.

Most of all, he was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was preceded in death by parents, George W. Bacon, Sr. and Myrtle Gill Bacon; brother, Leland (Cotton) Bacon; sister, Eula Dean Bacon Braswell; son-in-Law, Harold G. Miller. Copper is survived by loving wife: Maxine Boggess Bacon of Rockwood, Tennessee; son, Craig Bacon of Rockwood, Tennessee; daughters, Melodie Miller of Rockwood, Tennessee, Beverly Massaro (Frank) of Crossville, Tennessee; sisters, Lula Bell Robinson (Henry) of Harriman, Tennessee, Cindy Niles (Jim) of Daysville, Tennessee; five grandchildren, Stephanie, Whitney, Bradley, Jesse, Derek; three great grandchildren, Alexus, Jaidyn, Courtney; lifelong friends, Gene Sills and Benny East; several nieces and nephews; and a host of friends in the Rockwood and Roane County communities.

Christmas Parades

Kingston— Dec 1

@ 7p

Harriman— Dec 4

@ 7p

Oliver Springs—

Dec 6 @ 7p

Rockwood— Dec 8

@ 7p



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
December 2nd	LEPC	OES	10:00 am
December 2nd	Ag Extension Cmte	QCR	6:00 pm
December 3rd	Courthouse Luncheon	3rd floor	11:30-1:30
December 4th	Rec Advisory Cmte	Cottage	6:30 pm
December 8th	Budget Cmte	QCR	5:30 pm
December 8th	Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
December 16th	PUB	WWP	5:30 pm
December 17th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
December 18th	Cable TV Cmte	QCR	5:30 pm
December 24,25,26	Courthouse Closed	Christmas	
January 1st	Courthouse Closed	New Years' Day	



Roane County Government

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

Phone: 865-376-5578
Fax: 865-717-4215
Email: roanecounty@roanegov.org

Check out more information on our website:

www.roanecountytn.gov

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