

May 22, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

Today is Friday, May 22nd and this is a 9:00 am update. This update will talk not only about Covid-19 related issues, but also some couple general government topics.

Covid-19 Testing

Roane County, as of yesterday, has tested 2,619 with only nine (9) positive cases and eight (8) of the positives recovered. We were fortunate not to have any related cases to Rhea County.

Rhea County has tested 1,042 and have 188 positives. Loudon County has tested 3,172 with 110 positives. Cumberland County tested 3,172 with 96 positives. Morgan County tested 2,888 with 17 positives. Anderson County tested 3,813 with 37 positives. Knox County tested 12,960 with 321 positives.

Roane County still has excellent numbers and let's hope and pray we can keep it that way.

Park Operations

Also Covid related, is operating the county park system. We have been monitoring the state guidelines and decisions related to the State Park Operations and have initially been following their decisions. The State Park System will not open pools which lead us to not open our splash pad. The County Sport and Recreation Committee met last night to reconsider opening the splash pad, but about a week ago, the splash pad facility has been vandalized which could also prohibit or delay the opening.

In trying, financial times, it saddens us to spend your tax payer funds due to criminals destroying public property.

Covid Financial Related Discussion

The County has made several financial decisions during this crisis from amended financial policies, to approving "work at home" policies. We have slowed down some capital investments unless they were to complete started projects or are projects and funded with a grant or indebtedness.

I'm glad to report that the current fiscal year ending June 30th, appears to be in line with our original estimates thus no significant financial strain is projected in the current year budget.

The 2021 Budget is giving the Budget Committee some stress as a cost of \$800,000 in State Revenue for state inmates has been lost due to prior overcrowding in the Jail and a Fire Marshall Order. During the Covid crisis, however, we have seen the inmate population drop from 350 to 100, well within the jail capacity. Hopefully the Covid-19 crisis could help jump start some judicial reform.

As I end this update, I would like to once again thank Roane County citizens for staying safe, staying at home, and social distancing.

Enjoy your Memorial Day weekend and let's pause and thank our fallen men and women who gave their all.

God bless Roane County, the state of Tennessee, and our Nation!

RW/ba

C: media