

June 3, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

Section 1

Today is Wednesday, June 3rd and this is a 9:00 am update. It has been about eight (8) days since my last update which I hope is an indicator that means we are slowly getting back to normal.

On Tuesday's each week, the Regional Mayors/Executives have a teleconference and each week, fewer and fewer of these county leaders participate in the call. Each Friday, many gather with Mayor Jacobs of Knoxville for a group phone conference; Less participate, the meetings are shorter, and now there are different topics being discussed.

I say all of this to indicate that we are getting back to normal, more comfortable with the new normal, or other issues have become more important.

I would like to address a couple topics on this first update.

1. Testing and Results
2. Park Operations

Testing

As of June 2nd, Roane County has tested 3,146 people with 16 positive cases and 12 recoveries. Morgan County is also treading well even with the Regional Prison testing 3,060 people, having 17 positives and 11 recoveries. Anderson is also doing quite well with 4,628 people tested, 41 positives, and 38 have recovered. Rhea County has tested half of Roane and Morgan County at 1,584, 214 positive cases, and 157 which have recovered. Loudon County has tested 2,041 people with 154 positives, 115 of those positives have recovered.

Social distancing is working. I think next week will indicate if the Memorial Day holiday and lack of social distancing has had a measurable impact.

Roane County Park System

Our Splash Pad is closed and we have a Sports and Recreation Committee meeting on June 15th to discuss a possible reopening. There are a number of issues. With the CDC recommendations and guidelines, along with the Governor's guidelines, it appears we would have to staff up and have supervision at all times to practice social distancing. So, it's difficult during trying financial times to spend more money on one project when you know you may have to cut money on other projects.

Section 2

This is another update following the previous update made this morning, June 3rd, at 9:00 am. There are a number of issues I would like to discuss.

With Covid-19, we had vandalism at the Roane County Park and now marching and riots have been taking place in the area and even planned in Roane County. No one should deny we have racial problems and issues, and we must work to solve the many problems.

I'm thankful that our local NAACP called a meeting this week with local City Mayors, City Chiefs of Police, Roane County Sheriff, myself, and other community leaders to be more proactive in addressing our local issues.

County's Financial Situation

We are expecting to close our Fiscal year in a couple of weeks as planned some 12 months ago and the closing appears to be in line with projections.

Within the last six (6) months, the County has experienced (1) a Pandemic and (2) State Fire Marshall action of the Roane County Jail. Both of these situations have caused financial concerns primarily for the coming Fiscal year.

The Budget Committee is currently working through various options to recommend to the Commission, some of which are reduction of public service and redirecting revenue. We think our proposal will have a nominal effect on operations.

How should we work together and live together?

Micah 6:8 – "He has shown you what is good and what does the Lord require of thee? Only three (3) things. Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord."

God bless Roane County, our State and our Nation!

RW/ba
C:media