

# County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



## A Little Flavor of County Government

By Ron Woody, County Executive

Roane County Government

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People often ask what does the County Executive or County Mayor do? What is his/her responsibilities? The short answer is fiscal responsibility and for Roane County that encompasses about \$100,000,000 per year. But we must recognize that many individuals have responsibilities from the Roane County Commissioners, Roane County School Board, Board of Public Utilities, elected and appointed officials, department heads, and employees. The public also has responsibilities as they are the clients the government serves.

If all groups work together much can be accomplished for the community. Let me now show a little of the activity your local government was involved in these past months.

- We have had a few day trips to Nashville testifying on a Delinquent Tax Bill, much more work has taken place with staff as we have prepared for the first meeting of the committee that manages and sales back tax property. We will be proposing some overall governmental policies trying to prevent massive amount of tax payer money being spent on back tax property management.
- Work has continued with the DOE property management to determine and have supporting documentation to defend the county's value of DOE in lieu of tax payments.
- After almost two decades we are trying to wrap up the final transfer agreement of The Roane Regional Business and Technology Park's sewer system to LCUB.
- Construction of an industrial park road replacing Jones Road was bid, awarded, and construction has started; however, bad soil has caused some construction delays and potential reengineering and additional cost. *~continued pg. 2....*

### Inside this issue:

A Little Flavor of Roane County .... continued	2
A Roane County Hero	2
Working Together	3
TN Valley Camp-Sight	3
TNCPE Commitment	3
County Updates	4
Hazardous Training	4
Highway Update	4
Did You Know...	5
CAC event	5
Upcoming Meetings	5

## 2016 Student Government Day Thursday, April 28



On Thursday, April 28, 2016 area high school students will be shadowing elected officials and learning how the county government operates. Students from all five high schools will participate. Approximately 100 students will be attending this special event. Your local American Legion Posts help to fund this event along with the county. The event is a great opportunity for our students to see their county government at work. We must create interest in our government in order to stimulate the next generation of leadership for our county.

### Connect with our Cities

[www.cityofharriman.net](http://www.cityofharriman.net)

[www.mykingstontn.com](http://www.mykingstontn.com)

[www.oakridgetn.gov](http://www.oakridgetn.gov)

[www.oliversprings-tn.gov](http://www.oliversprings-tn.gov)

[www.rockwoodtn.org](http://www.rockwoodtn.org)

## A Little Flavor of County Government

(continued from pg. 1)

- Construction improvements have been made at the Swan Pond and Orchard View convenience centers as we continue implementing a phase improvement plan for the convenience centers and recycling center.
- It probably goes without saying but the 2017 Budget work has begun. The Budget Committee has made recommendations on the 2017 Debt Budgets with no recommendation for a tax increase. Also many of the internal and agencies funds has been reviewed. More detail budget work in the coming months.
- A number of meetings have taken place regarding environmental management and related DOE work as The Oak Ridge Reservation Community Alliance, The Energy Committee Alliance, and The Roane County Environmental Review Board have all met.
- We welcomed Lifestar Services with a ribbon cutting at the Rockwood Airport.
- Much attention has been given to our Animal Shelter as we began a more aggressive adoption approach using Facebook and working with rescue organizations.
- Improvement continues at the Riley Creek Campground with the addition of a pavilion and a tent camping area. A contract is soon to be awarded for a restroom/concession building and a pavilion at the Swan Pond Sport Complex. It does appear we could experiences some set backs on opening the complex as the soccer fields appear not to be ready for spring play.
- As most of you know we have submitted and been published in the local newspaper articles of County Government Interest. These articles are also published on our website.
- Staff reviewed and started refocusing on the Five-Star Management Plan identifying Emergency Management, Recreation, Administrative Studies, Industrial Development, and the 2017 Budget as our current topics.

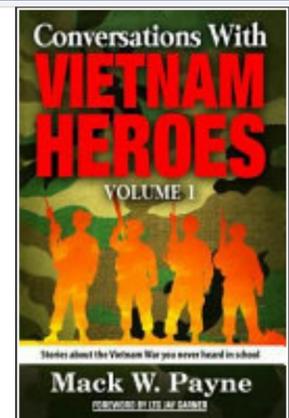
It has been a busy ten months and it does not appear to be slowing down as even our committees of County Government have had a hard time finding dates to meet. There is much more to write about but, we have once again, run out of space; hope you now have *A Little Flavor of County Government*.

## A Roane County Hero and County Employee.... Melvin Page

A recent book has been published titled: "Conversations with Vietnam Heroes: Stories about the Vietnam War you never heard in school."

Published in November 2015, the author Mack W. Payne interviewed several Vietnam Heroes, one of which is Roane County's own Bailiff, Melvin Page.

Thank you Melvin for your service to our country and county. You are a true Roane County Hero. The book is available at Amazon.com.



Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

[Thomas A. Edison](#)

## Working Together Toward a Better Roane County

### Tennessee Valley Camp-Right Stewardship Award

Riley Creek Campground has been awarded the prestigious Tennessee Valley Camp-Right Stewardship award. This coveted award recognizes the efforts of the Campground staff and the Roane County Parks and Recreation Department to operate the campground in a sustainable manner and enhance the habitat and recreation value of this asset to our citizens.

Together with TVA, Roane County built a new Pavilion at Riley Creek this past winter. Our campground holds the promise of being used as an example to other campground operations in the TVA system.

Riley Creek scored high enough in sustainability and environmentally sound management practices to qualify on our first attempt. As a reward, Roane County has been awarded paid membership to the National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds, along with the attractive recognition sign shown here.



Tennessee Valley Camp-Right Campground recognition sign presented to Riley Creek Campground

### Roane County Health Department Honored with TNCPE Commitment Award

The Roane and Morgan County Health Department District was honored at the *23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Excellence in Tennessee Awards Banquet* held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016. The Commitment Award is the intermediate level of the Tennessee Center of Performance Excellence program. It recognizes organizations that are beginning to demonstrate serious commitment to, and implementation of, performance improvement principles.

The Commitment Award was presented by Rebecca Hunter, Commissioner, Department of Human Resources, State of Tennessee, and TNCPE President and CEO, Katie Rawls. More than 450 business and community leaders from across Tennessee packed the ballroom of the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs to salute the winners. There were 44 organizations representing high-performing businesses, government agencies, nonprofit and education organizations recognized for their commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. For more information, visit [www.TNCPE.org](http://www.TNCPE.org).

In addition, the Roane County Health Department was recognized by Commissioner of Health, Dr. John Dreyzehner for demonstrating commitment and progress through the levels of the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence. Director Laura Conner, was also presented a Commissioner's Certificate of Appreciation and Commissioner's Commemorative Medallion for serving on the Board of Examiners with TNCPE. This was her third year serving on this prestigious board and she plans to continue service next year.



## County Updates

### 2016 Hazardous Materials Training

The Roane County Office of Emergency Services recently hosted the TEMA Hazardous Materials Operations (HazMat Ops) class, which is a forty hour certification. It was conducted the last weekend of February and the first weekend of March 2016. The HazMat Ops class was directly followed by the eighty-hour (two week) intensive TEMA Hazardous Materials Team Operations class.

Roane County Office of Emergency Service's Chief of Operations, Chuck Hiatt, was the lead instructor for these specialized classes. First responders and emergency management personnel from seven surrounding public and private agencies attended, including ORNL and TEMA personnel. All attendees that completed this intensive training have fulfilled all prerequisites to become licensed Hazardous Materials Technicians.



### Highway Update...by Brian Matthews

The Community Clean Up days were a success. We had over 70 volunteers, collected over 11,000 pounds of garbage, over 1,200 pounds of recyclables, over 4,700 pounds of tires, and around 1,200 pounds of wood and brush. If you or your organization would like to participate in the ongoing clean-up, please give us a call at the office at 882-9782.



**Did You Know About.... Sam Houston?**

**By: Robert Bailey, County Historian**

It had always been legend that Sam Houston clerked and lived in Kingston at the beginning of the War of 1812. In 1878, Willoughby Williams (1798-1882) wrote an article about Sam Houston, which was published in the *Nashville American*. It includes a section about Houston's time in Kingston. Willoughby Williams' mother, who is referred to in the article, was Nancy (Glasgow) Williams, who later married Joseph McMinn, a Tennessee governor and for whom McMinn County is named. Here is part of his article:

"My earliest recollections of Gen. Houston date back to 1811 at Kingston, Roane County Tenn. He was a clerk at the time of Mr. Sheffy. My mother, in her widowhood, was living about three miles from Kingston. I was thirteen years of age, and Mr. Houston five years my senior. The line of the Cherokee country was about three miles south of Kingston, the Tennessee river being the boundary. The Indian trade being much valued, his services were highly appreciated from the fact that he spoke with fluency the Cherokee language. He was especially kind to me, and much of my time was spent in his company. He remained in the capacity of clerk until after the declaration of the war in 1812. At that time the United States were recruiting troops at Kingston for the war. Lieut. Wm. Arnold, of the Thirty-ninth regiment of Regulars, was sent to Kingston on recruiting service. The whole population had caught the war fever and intense interest prevailed. The manner of enlisting at that day was to parade the streets with drum and fife, with a sergeant in command. Silver dollars were placed on the head of the drum as a token of enlistment, the volunteer stepped up and took a silver dollar, which was his bounty; he was then forth with marched to the barracks and uniformed. "

"The late Robert H. McEwen, of this city, cousin of Gen. Houston, and myself were standing together on the streets and saw Houston take his silver dollar in the year 1813.

He was taken immediately to the barracks and dressed in uniform and appointed the same day as Sergeant. Soon after this Lieut. Arnold had received thirty-nine soldiers, and was ordered to send them forth to join the troops, marching to the Creek war, under the command of Col. John Williams, of Knoxville, who commanded this regiment of regulars in person at the battle of Horse Shoe, and afterwards became a distinguished Senator in Congress from Tennessee. Soon after Houston left Kingston, his friends applied to President Madison for his promotion, who commissioned him as Ensign. The commission was promptly sent, and reached him before the battle of Horse Shoe. At the battle he mounted the Indian defense with colors in hand, and was wounded by a barbed arrow in the thigh. A soldier, whom he ordered to extract it by main force, made several ineffectual attempts, and only succeeded under a threat by Houston to kill him unless he pulled it out. He was carried back, suffering intensely from the wound which had been lacerated. His indomitable will led him immediately back into the fight, when he was soon wounded by two balls in the shoulder. His intrepid spirit displayed on this occasion won him the lasting regard of Gen. Jackson. Disabled from further service, he was sent back to Kingston with the sick and wounded. Robert H. McEwen and myself met him some distance from Kingston, on a litter supported by horses. He was greatly emaciated, suffering at the same time from his wounds and the measles. We took him to the house of his relative, Squire John McEwen, brother of R.H. McEwen, where he remained from some time, and from thence he went to the house of his mother, in Blount county."

Recently, documents have been found in the Roane County Archives that show records witnessed and signed by Sam Houston on notes to Nichol and Shaifer, which were merchants in Kingston. It is probably that the "Mr. Sheffy" that Williams referred to is Mr. Shaifer.

**Kids First Child Advocacy Center**

presents

*A Child's Journey ...from Victim to Survivor*

Please join us for our Annual Dinner and Auction Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 5:30 P.M. Bridgewater Place, 205 Bridgewater Rd., Knoxville, TN Cost: \$100 Guest speaker NASCAR Champion Rusty Wallace Musical Entertainment, Games, Silent & Live Auctions Reservations ~ Call Denise at the CAC, 865.986.1505 or by email at ddubrulle@cac9jd.org.



**UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
April 4th	Cmte on Cmtes	CR	6:30 pm
April 5th	Road Committee	QCR	6:30 pm
April 7th	ERB	CR	6:00 pm
April 11th	County Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
April 12th	Public Utility Board	WWP	5:30 pm
April 12th	Fire Board	QCR	6:15 pm
April 14th	Emg Servs Cmte	OES	6:00 pm
April 18th	Code Committee	QCR	6:30 pm
April 20th	Bd. of Zoning	QCR	6:00 pm
April 20th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
April 21st	Budget Committee	QCR	6:30 pm
April 25th	Budget Committee	QCR	6:30 pm

Please submit articles/items of interest to Arlene at [arlene.daugherty@roanecountytn.gov](mailto:arlene.daugherty@roanecountytn.gov) by the 20th of the month. ~Ron