

# County Executive's Newsletter to the Community



## Reviewing Priorities and Adjusting

In our last newsletter, we discussed the planning steps of putting together the 2020 Budget. During this past month, we checked off the first step by reviewing with our departments their 2019 capital plans and budgets and worked with the budget committee on a few adjustments. This important process allows the departments to review priorities and make needed adjustments which then sets a clean tablet for the 2020 capital budget and the following 19 years. Our department heads and commission understands the importance of reviewing your goals and objectives and making the needed changes.

One of the most significant changes was the realization that the county recreation master plan probably needs updating. As we reviewed the recreation capital plan, we asked the question, "When was the last masterplan?" The plan exceeded 15 years. Thus it had been 15 years since the general public had an opportunity to make formal comments on the county recreation plan. The recreation plan includes current and potential recreation services for Roane County Residents and the county tourism industry. Since the last plan the county has taken over a TVA campground (Riley Creek), leased and built the Swan Pond Sports Complex, and the State Department of Transportation has built a multi-use crossing that connects the Roane State Community College Expo Center and Walking Trails to a potential walking trail, horse trail, or campsites at the Old Caney Creek campground area of 60 acres. Keep up with the formal recreation planning process in our future newsletters as the county recreation advisory board, and park and recreation committee begins their work.

## A Partial View to DOE Activities

{Ron Woody, Roane County Executive}

In 1991, an agreement was reached between the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Energy (DOE) known as the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA). The purpose of the agreement was to:

- Ensure that the environmental impacts associated with past and present activities at the [DOE] Site are thoroughly investigated and that appropriate remedial action is taken as necessary to protect the public health and welfare and the environment
- Establish a procedural framework and schedule for developing, implementing, and monitoring appropriate response actions at the Site in accordance with Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability (CERCLA), the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution

... continued on page 2



Reviewing Priorities & Adjusting	1
A Partial View of DOE Activities	1
Highway Department Update	2
Retirement Health Insurance Changes?	3
Roane County Emergencies & Disasters	3
Parks & Rec Citizens Advisory Board	3
Historian: A Town Called Adams	4
Animal Shelter Hours Change	4
Women's Executive Program	4
Hazardous Waste Day	5
Celebrating Roane Medical Center	5
Roane County Schools	6
County Government Meetings	6

Contingency Plan continued from page 1... (NCP), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), appropriate guidance and policy, and in accordance with Tennessee State law;

- Prevent, mitigate, or abate releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances from low-level radioactive waste tank systems under this Agreement prior to final remedial action at the [DOE] Site;
- Facilitate cooperation, exchange of information, and participation of the Parties;
- Minimize the duplication of investigative and analytical work and documentation and ensure the quality of data management;
- Ensure that remedial action(s) at the [DOE] Site will be in compliance with applicable or relevant and identify appropriate requirements.
- Expedite response actions with a minimum of delay; establish a basis for a determination that the DOE has completed the remedial investigation or feasibility study(s), remedial design(s), and remedial action(s) at the Site pursuant to CERCLA and applicable Tennessee State laws;
- Coordinate response actions under CERCLA and this Agreement with RCRA Facility Investigations and corrective measures now being conducted under RCRA and applicable State laws;
- Ensure that all releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants as defined by CERCLA and all releases of hazardous wastes or hazardous constituents as defined by RCRA are addressed so as to achieve a comprehensive remediation of the Site.” (Federal Facility Agreement, 1991)

To reflect as “an extension” of the FFA, there was, subsequently, created a regulatory contract called the Tennessee Oversight Agreement (TOA) which was accepted and signed in 2011 (TOA, pg. 1). This agreement was between DOE and the State of Tennessee and was later broken down into three separate agreements. The details of those agreements will be addressed in another article at a later date. Presently, we will address the details surrounding the funding of the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA). ORRCA was established to educate the elected officials and general public on the environmental clean-up activities of DOE, as well as, emergency preparedness programs. The ORRCA website [www.orrca.tn.gov](http://www.orrca.tn.gov) hosts a wealth of information that assists elected officials and the citizens within the adversely affected communities in understanding the specifics of the environmental clean-up processes and progress. ORRCA also strives to educate elected officials to make more informed decisions for their community.

### **Highway** - {Dennis Ferguson, Road Superintendent}

It has been a busy and productive time for us at the Roane County Highway Department. Our wood distribution program is continuing to provide firewood to those in need during the winter. We want to thank STIHL for coming out and holding a chainsaw safety class for our employees. We want to thank the Roane County Green Team for working with us to develop and distribute a brochure about all the opportunities that people have to help us Keep Roane Litter Free. We also want to thank the Roane County News for talking with Road Superintendent Dennis Ferguson about what all we are doing to be prepared for winter weather. As always, if we can be of assistance to you give us a call at 865.882.9782.



## Is Our Retirement Health Insurance Changing?

{Office of the County Executive  
{Ron Woody, Roane County Executive}

If you are an employee, elected official, retiree or County Commissioner, you may want to make sure you have read "Impacts of Accounting Regulations" in the January 2019 newsletter.

Could our retirement health insurance be changing? That will be a decision that the County Commissioners must make prior to March 31, 2019.

The State Department of Finance and Administration in a Jan 18, 2019 letter establishes the deadline along with three basic options:

- Opt-In: The county continues to offer pre-65 retiree health insurance.
- Opt-Out: The county no longer offers pre-65 health insurance coverage.
- Limited Opt-Out: Continues coverage for current retirees but will no longer cover future retirees.

The decisions made will impact employee benefits along with the county's financial liabilities as noted in the previous article. The County Benefits Committee will meet in the near future to further discuss the county's options. An executive summary will be posted on the county website.

## East Regional Health Office Recognized for Protecting Tennesseans From Emergencies and Disasters

{Laura Conner, District Director  
Roane and Morgan County Health Departments}

The Tennessee Department of Health East Regional Health Office (TDH), tasked with improving the health and prosperity of people in East Tennessee, has been busy. One in five East Tennesseans utilizes TDH services, while we are all indirectly affected by their emergency response to health threats, licensure of health professionals, regulation of healthcare facilities, and inspection of food service establishments. In January TDH East Regional Health Office was recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials for its ability to plan for, respond and to recover from public health emergencies. Our East Regional Health Office demonstrated these capabilities by meeting comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready, a unique partnership between National Association of County and City Health Officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We are proud to have been recognized by Project Public Health Ready for our high level of preparedness for emergencies," said East Regional Health Director Janet Ridley. "This honor reflects tremendous effort, dedication, creativity, and cooperation by our entire team across our region. We will continue to improve our ability to quickly and effectively respond to any public health crises in our communities."

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## New Roane County Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Board

Our Parks and Recreation (P&R) services are not mandated statutorily but by tradition. Since 1961, the TVA RLR-35188 and other resolutions have directed the path for Roane County P&R. As we approach sixty years of P&R services, the County Commission created the Roane County Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Board (RCPRCAB) to bring a citizen's perspective on the development of various Roane County P&R policies, priorities, and objectives.

This RCPRCAB is designed to ensure a diverse development of health and recreation offerings for our citizens. Its formation brings the experience and knowledge of six P&R Directors, three private citizens, six student representatives, and two county commissioners to the drawing board. The RCPRCAB convened for the first time on January 24th, fulfilling a Tennessee Local Parks and Recreation Grant (LPRF) requirement for public input and communication. The newly formed board recommends the development of a new master plan.

Mike Beard, the Roane County P&R Director, is enthusiastic about the recent appointment of the RCPRCAB, "Roane County's potential is as abundant as its beauty. It is vital to seek wise counsel, to effectively wield its charm." He believes, "Each P&R director's unique perspective and knowledge will lead us to a more cohesive and complementary master plan." Furthermore, "The high school students are given the opportunity to partner with community leaders and older generations to learn how to be a positive and effective force in the community. In return, their elders and community leaders are given a chance to be invigorated by the unbridled creativity and enthusiasm of youth." To learn more see [Executive Summary 17h](#).

## A Town Called Adams

Historian - {Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian}

Currently, Roane County has five cities (or towns as I like to call them). However, there were others that were created but no longer exist. Among others, Cardiff, Post Oak Springs, Wheat and Emory Gap are towns that no longer exist. The town of "Adams" was also one of those that began with high expectations but has been lost to history. The following article appeared in The Chattanooga Daily Times, Mon., 26 June 1899, Vol. XXX, No. 193, p6. "New Town In Roane County:"

Adams Will Be the Name and It Will Be a Creature of the Central. A new town is being laid out in Roane County, Tenn. at a point near the Roane college and Wheat post office. J.B. Dickinson, a prominent farmer and real estate holder of that section being the promoter. Mr. Dickenson (sic) was in Chattanooga yesterday. To a reporter for The Times, he stated that several good-sized farms had been acquired, through which the Tennessee Central will run. The townsite is above Poplar creek and is said to be an admirable place for a little city. There is a large mill on the creek, owned and operated by J.H. Adams and we expect to call the town Adams. It is our intention to have the place surveyed at once and cut the land into town lots. There is a big spring coming out of the ridge above the site and we expect to furnish cold spring water to the city without a pumping station.

Roane College, later Wheat High School near the K-25 plant



## Animal Shelter Hours Change:

{Stacey McElhaney, Director Roane County Animal Shelter}

Beginning Monday, January 7, 2019, the Roane County Animal Shelter realigned the operating schedule to meet the increasing demand of service. The shelter will be closed to the public on Monday of each week. Hours of operation for Tuesday through Saturday will remain 10am through 4pm. We have made so many positive changes over the past year and we are diligently working to keep improving. Mondays will be utilized for spay/neuter day, ongoing staff training, scheduled maintenance/repairs and cleaning. This day also allows the Volunteer Veterinarian to evaluate and aid in maintaining healthy and happy shelter pets. Thank you all so much for your ongoing support!

## Animal Shelter Hours:

**Sun-Mon - Closed and Tues-Sat - 10am - 4pm**

## Roane Chamber Women's Executive Program

{Pam May - Interim President & CEO, The Roane Alliance}

In 2018 Roane Chamber doubled the number of networking events available to its members. There were more workshops and Lunch & Learns as well - nearly one every week. In 2019 the Roane Chamber is kicking off a new 4-part series that provides a new networking opportunity for women, while also learning from women who inspire us all.

The Women's Executive Program is a partnership between the Roane Chamber and the Greenwood School Education Foundation and is sponsored by ORUD. Each event is held from noon to 1:30 at Greenwood School, 726 Greenwood St. in Kingston. Lunch is included. Make plans to attend the following Wednesdays:

**March 6**, President Danice Turpin, TN College of Applied Tech - Harriman

**April 3**, General Manager Candace Vannasdale, Harriman Utility Board

**June 5**, Community & Public Relations Mgr Betsy Cunningham, Y-12 Federal Credit Union

**October 9**, Major Cheryl Sanders, Tennessee Highway Patrol

For more information contact Courtney Briley at 865-376-5572 ext. 205, [cbriley@roanealliance.org](mailto:cbriley@roanealliance.org) or visit [www.RoaneChamber.com/womens-executive-program](http://www.RoaneChamber.com/womens-executive-program)

## Roane County Household Hazardous Waste Day {Ralph Stewart, Solid Waste and Recycling Director}

Help keep Roane County clean and safe by properly disposing of your household hazardous waste. You are probably thinking you don't have any hazardous materials in your house. Surprisingly, many household items are flammable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic and should not be thrown into the garbage. This is a great opportunity for you to make a difference by safely disposing of these materials. You are protecting the environment and others from being harmed. This one-day event is sponsored by Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation as a FREE and SAFE way to rid your home of household hazardous materials.

### Is this for businesses or for Roane County residents?

Households from any county are able to participate. Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Waste (i.e. wastes from non - household sources such as businesses, schools, farms, churches, etc.) is acceptable by appointment only. Call 615-643-3170 to request a price quote and schedule an appointment.

### Are there any hazardous wastes that residents should not bring?

 Please do not bring any:

- medical/ infectious waste (except needles and sharps in puncture-proof containers)
- explosives
- radioactive materials (including smoke detectors)
- alkaline batteries no longer contain mercury and therefore can be thrown away in the trash
- Paint is accepted on Tuesdays at the Post Oak Convenience Center located at: 123 Post-Oak Valley road in Rockwood

**Where:** Recycling Center 215 White Pine Rd, Harriman 37748

**When:** Saturday, May 11, 2019, from 9am-2pm

Please call the Roane County Recycling Center at 865.590.7779 for more information.

### From The House

- Art/ Craft supplies
- Moth balls
- Floor cleaners
- Rechargeable batteries
- Drain cleaners
- Photo chemicals
- Chemistry sets
- Metal/ Furniture polish

### From The Yard

- Fertilizer
- No - pest strips
- Rodent Killer
- Herbicides
- Pool chemicals
- Muriatic acids
- Pesticides
- Insect spray

### From The Workbench

- Degreaser
- Paint thinner
- Stain Remover
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Sealant
- Wood Stripper
- Solvent
- Rust/Wood preservative

### From The Garage

- Antifreeze
- Gasoline
- Brake Fluid
- Engine degreaser
- Carburetor cleaner
- Kerosene

## Celebrating Roane Medical Center's Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Heart-Check {Tim Suter, Director of Emergency Services}

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is a leading cause of death and adult disability in the United States. Every 40 seconds, someone suffers a stroke and every four minutes a stroke will take another minute. When suffering from a stroke, every moment counts and every decision is critical.

Thankfully, Roane County citizens can rest a little easier knowing that Roane Medical Center (RMC) underwent a rigorous onsite review to receive the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Heart-

Check mark for Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers. RMC is part of the region's only stroke hospital network, Covenant Health. Member hospitals collaborate to provide a rapid diagnosis, averaging over 80% of stroke victims seeing an emergency physician within 15 minutes of arrival far and above the national average of 67%.

Jason Pilant, Chief Administrative Officer of Roane Medical Center, believes this achievement is "Due to the hard work and dedication of our staff, stroke care clinical team and our physician partners at the Roane Medical Center." Nancy Brown, chief executive officer of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, echoed. "By adhering to this very specific set of treatment guidelines, Roane Medical Center has clearly made it a priority to deliver high-quality care to all patients affected by stroke."



**The Joint Commission**



**American Heart Association  
American Stroke Association**

## Making a Difference in Roane County

Congratulations to Mrs. Sivik's, HOSA competitors! 1st place finish in Biomedical Debate, 2nd place in Forensic Science, 5th place in Nutrition, 1st place in Extemporaneous Health, 4th place in Dental Terminology, 1st place in Prepared Speaking, 2nd place in Pathophysiology, and 4th place in EMT. Very proud of these young men and women!

Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) and Full Metal Jackets(FMJ) have partnered together in a major way. TCAT will now be the home of Team FMJ's new 1/2 size playing field! Thank you, TCAT, for seeing the amazing robotics work our students are completing and fulfilling their need of preparation and practice space!

The Boys & Girls Club of Roane County is looking for a couple of tutors/students that could come in from 3:30-4:30 two or three times a week to help our kids with homework. We run a program called Power Hour which enables the kids to do their homework every day. We are especially interested in tutors proficient in algebra and science.

Zack McFarland,  
[zmcfarland@bgccv.org](mailto:zmcfarland@bgccv.org)

The Princess Theatre needs volunteers to serve as greeters, concessionaires, ushers, lighting tech assistants, sound tech assistants, and other roles. Skill sets taken into account as positions are assigned.  
 Darren York, 865.591.6324  
[YorkDL@roanestate.edu](mailto:YorkDL@roanestate.edu)

We are all important pieces of a larger picture. Roane County's picture is brighter thanks to our **Roane County Teachers of the Year**



**Amy Haney**

Oliver Springs High

**Becky Efferson**

Dyllis Springs Elementary

**Donna Widner**

Oliver Springs Middle

**Dora Ewing**

Ridge View Elementary

**Elisabeth Igou**

Kingston Elementary

**Jackie Barnes Benjamin**

Midtown Elementary

**Jackie Moore**

Harriman Middle

**Jessica Marasco**

Midway Elementary

**Justin Gambrell**

Rockwood High

**Katie McKee**

Midway Middle

**Kaye Francis**

Bowers Elementary

**Kellie Allen**

Cherokee Middle

**Megan Hladis**

Midway High

**Mindy Kelley**

Rockwood Middle

**Missy Worth**

Ridge View Elementary

**Sharon LaCasse**

Roane County High

**Tammy Rogers**

Harriman High

## County Government Meetings

2nd	Road Committee	Highway Department	10:00 am
4th	Roane Academy Committee	Qualls Commission Room	6:30 pm
5th	Property Committee	Qualls Commission Room	6:30 pm
7th	Environmental Review Board	Executive's Conference Room	6:00 pm
7th	Long Range	Qualls Commission Room	6:30 pm
11th	County Commission	Qualls Commission Room	7:00 pm
12th	Benefits Committee	Executive's Conference Room	12:00 pm
12th	Board of Public Utilities	Waste Water Plant	5:30 pm
12th	Fire Board	Office of Emergency Services	6:15 pm
14th	Emergency Service	Office of Emergency Services	6:15 pm
19th	School Liaison	Qualls Commission Room	6:30 pm
20th	Board of Zoning Appeals	Qualls Commission Room	6:00 pm
20th	Planning Commission	Qualls Commission Room	7:00 pm
21st	Sports Recreation Committee	The Cottage	6:00 pm
25th	Building and Codes	Qualls Commission Room	6:30 pm
26th	Agriculture Committee	Ag Extension	6:00 pm