



# Roane County Executive's - July 2020 Newsletter to the Community



## Watts Bar Paddle Event (Kaley Hill, Roane Alliance)

The Roane County Visitors Bureau kicked off the official start of the summer season by hosting a paddle event on Watts Bar Lake this past Saturday. While this was a fairly small event due to restrictions put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, those who participated were able to cross off some new miles of the Tennessee RiverLine. Thank you to all who attended the event and we look forward to seeing you at our next group paddle! Make sure to follow the Roane County Visitors Bureau social media pages to get the most up-to-date info on upcoming events around Roane!



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The Courthouse will  
be **CLOSED** Friday,  
July 3rd in  
observance of  
Independence Day!



## New Outdoor Recreation Guide

Summertime is here and it's the perfect time to explore outdoor Roane! While COVID-19 has thrown a loop in many of our plans, it doesn't have to stop your next outdoor adventure. Social distancing is easy to accomplish in the great outdoors, and outdoor recreation is known to not only improve physical health but also mental health. You may already have your favorite spots for outdoor activities in Roane but you may also be missing out on a few of Roane's outdoor treasures. If you're craving outdoor adventure and are ready to "Get Out!" in Roane, download the new guide at <https://www.roanetourism.com/get-outdoors/>



## Dennis Ferguson's The Fishing Rodeo for Kids

Dennis Ferguson began the Fishing Rodeo for Kids in 1991 as a day to bring together the citizens of family and friends in Roane County! Over the years of this wonderful venue it has grown to be a center piece event within the community and it continues to grow this day! We hope you join us **Saturday, August 1, 2020 from 9am- 6 pm** at the Roane County Park in Roane County!



## Highway Department *(Brian Matthews)*

It is a busy time at the Roane County Highway Department. We are continuing to work through work orders and deal with storms and various other issues that pop up. Our mowing crews are out and about in every district on their mowing routes. If there is anything that we can help you with, please feel free to reach out to us at **865-882-9782**.

We are beginning to get invitations to speak to various organizations and groups, if you would like for us to come and speak to you or your organization, please feel free to reach out to us to set up a time.

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**ROAD SUPERINTENDENT  
DENNIS FERGUSON'S**

★ **8TH ANNUAL  
Community Picnic** ★

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Wednesday July 1st**  
**12 PM - 3 PM**  
**LUNCH SERVED AT 12 PM**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**ROANE COUNTY PARK**  
\*\*\*\*\*

★ **THIS IS A FREE EVENT** ★

**LIVE MUSIC**  
**BY CJ AUSBURN MUSIC**

**Hamburgers  
Hot Dogs  
(With All The Fixings)  
Watermelon**

\*\*\*\*\*  
Roane County Park  
3515 Roane State Highway  
Harriman, TN 37748  
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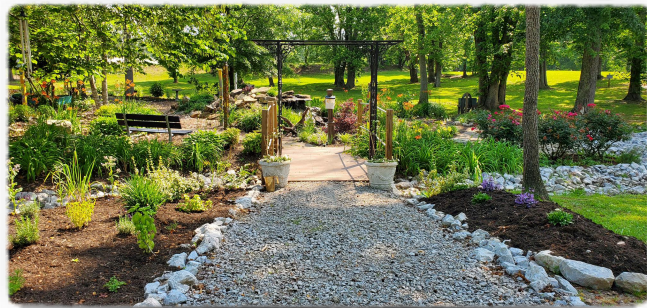
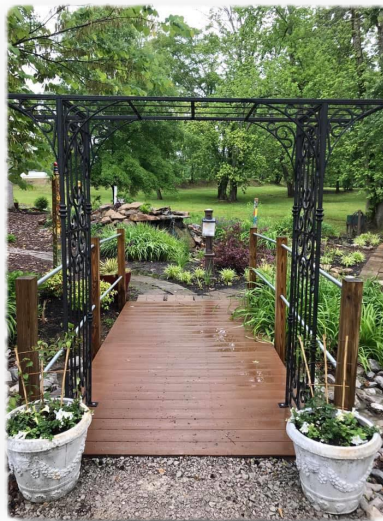
For More Information: Roane County Highway Department on Facebook  
No Taxpayer Funds Used

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## Roane County Park

Our Master Gardeners have been hard at work in our gardens at Roane County Park. Come take a peaceful stroll through our gardens or have a relaxing sit on one of our benches.



## Splash Pad

The Roane County Park's Splash Pad is now open with restrictions. The new operating hours are from 12pm-7pm Thursday-Sunday. If you are not a participant in the splash pad, wear a mask. You must sign in to use the facility. The number of users will be limited.

We hope everyone enjoys the reopening of the Splash pad! Many thanks to the Roane County Parks and Recreation staff and Sports and Recreation Committee for allowing this to happen!





## Roane County Health Department *(Laura Conner, Health Department Director)*

Greetings from your Roane County Health Department. You may have noticed that across the state, the numbers of confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 continue to increase. During these re-opening phases, it is important to remember and practice good preventative measures that include wearing a mask in public, frequent hand washing or sanitizing, covering your coughs and sneezes, avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, staying at home if you are ill, and avoiding contact with others who are ill. These are simple, yet effective, strategies to help keep you and those you love safe and healthy.

We continue to offer free COVID-19 testing at the health department every day, Monday through Friday. We ask that interested individuals call first at **865-354-1220** to provide some information and arrange a time to come in to be tested. We are also distributing free cloth masks for anyone interested. If you have a group that is in need of masks, please call Laura at the health department to discuss your need. We are happy to help if we can!

You may have heard about Case Investigators and Contact Tracers. These are important steps that we take when someone is diagnosed with COVID-19 to help slow the spread of the illness. If you are diagnosed with COVID, an employee of the health department will call you to check in on your health, discuss who you have been in contact with, and ask you to stay at home and self-isolate unless you need medical care. We are all a bit guilty of not answering the phone if a number we do not recognize calls, but they will leave a message for you. It is very important that you return those calls. Unless you give permission, your name will not be shared with those you came in contact with, even if they ask. Self-isolation is a critical component of protecting those you live with and others in the community healthy and helps to slow the spread of the disease. Self-isolation means staying at home in a specific room away from other people and pets you may live with and using a separate bathroom if possible. If you need assistance or support for things like food or care, the Contact Tracers can work with other agencies and organizations to help you meet those needs. **Keep Everyone Safe-Answer the Call.**



The employees at the Roane County Courthouse wore their 2020 Census shirts last Friday to remind everyone to fill out their Census forms. Your participation matters and is important to our community, our state, and our nation!

**Everyone counts!**

### *2020 Census Response Rates*

Are you curious about how many people in your community are responding to the 2020 Census? You'll be able to stay up to date with a map of self-response rates from across the United States by visiting <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>

The numbers are updated daily around 3pm. Tennessee's response rate is currently at 60.5% and Roane county is currently at 60.0%

Your response matters! Everyone counts! Respond today at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)



## *The Path through a Pandemic: How Roane Medical Center is Navigating to a New Normal*

Like everyone, we at Roane Medical Center have steered through these uncertain times with caution. As you know, our hospital is a member of Covenant Health, where system-wide infection control protocols went into effect on March 8, 2020. At Roane, our infection control, emergency preparedness and safety teams put procedures into an effective, workable action plan.

This readiness, along with all groups across Covenant Health, immediately ramped up enhanced cleaning and sanitation of the facilities and began creating areas for an influx of patients. The clinical departments took on the most significant challenges by taking official guidance from the federal and state organizations to treat an unfamiliar virus with the resources available. We began educating staff right away to ensure the correct and most accurate information was being given. And reduce fears, while preparing for the “worst case scenario.” The hospital had an infection plan, a pandemic plan and an education plan that was updated and communicated often as new information about the virus was made available.

The threat of running out of personal protective equipment (also known as PPE) across the nation was real, and our physicians and caregivers had to be innovative with their utilization and developing new devices to safely treat a COVID-19 patient. In addition, our request for mask donations in the community was met with open arms, what a support and blessing.

As we prepared for the event, Roane County residents graciously followed the recommended Centers for Disease (CDC) guidelines for reducing the spread of the virus by practicing social distancing and isolation. The daily numbers from the Tennessee Department of Health still reflect a very small number of active cases in our county, and to date, there have not been any COVID-19 hospitalizations at Roane Medical Center. But that said we are prepared when that time comes.

Now that Tennessee has allowed elective medical services to resume, Roane Medical Center is proud to have followed suit and we have reopened all services. Our new normal requires us to make certain changes to keep our community members and staff safe. Our hospital is prepared to handle the influx of patients who have delayed emergency treatment and elective procedures, and we’re encouraging the community to seek treatment in our safe environment.

We have redesigned the entry points into our hospital with screening stations, mask protocols and sanitation stations. The registration process has been reorganized to reduce person-to-person contact and avoid high-touch areas. We’ve streamlined services to reduce the time our patients spend in commons area. Seating arrangements follow the six feet apart guidelines, and visitor restrictions have been adjusted to allow families to be together without overcrowding hospital units.

As a result, we’ve learned our response time to implementing our disaster plan is quick and we remain prepared for the future, no matter what lies before us. Your outpouring of support for our hospital and staff has once again shown us that we serve a vital role in our community. After all, you are the reason we are here.  
- Thank you!



## Roane County EMA/OES First Responders & Special Guest Reading Day with "Sparky the Fire Dog"



**How:** Facebook Live

**When:** Every Wednesday

**Time:** Noon

If you are interested in being a guest to help Sparky read, contact FLSE Brad Goss at **865-455-9295** to set up a date that meets your schedule.

Sparky and his team had a blast hanging out with the kiddos at KKDC talking about fire safety and what to do in the case of an emergency. Great kids and teachers! Thanks for allowing us to come hang out!



## Did you know about . . . . Coal Clay House? *(Robert Bailey, Historian)*

"Be it remembered that it hath been made appear to this court that heretofore to wit on the 12th day of May 1817 a male child apparently aged about three weeks was left in a clandestine manner in a coal house on the plantation of Samuel Eskridge Esquire of this county, and as the said child is without known parents or a name, It is ordered that he hereafter be known and distinguished by the name of Coal Clay House." This is recorded in the Roane County, TN, County Court Minute Book (1816-1818), page 184, dated 21 July 1817.

On 21 Jul 1817, the county paid Nancy Talton \$60.00 per year to keep the child labeled at that time "Coal C. House". On 26 Jan 1824, the county authorized Nathaniel Hewitt to bring "John Clay Coalhouse" "an orphan boy" that was in the care of Nancy Casey to court. The next day, the court bound "Coal C. House, an orphan boy of the age of seven years" to Nathaniel Hewitt until he attained the age of 21. In this record the name "John" had been marked through. On 28 Jul 1828, the order was rescinded and "John Colehouse" was brought back to court. Then on 27 Oct 1828 he was bound to James Buckhannon.

Unfortunately, this is the end of records of "John Clay Coal House." It is not known what happened to him. It is possible that he died young or he decided to change his name.

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# Roane County Needs You

## 3 Opportunities to Get Involved in Roane County Government

**1. The Roane County Environmental Review Board (ERB) needs members:** This board was created to review environmental issues such as hazardous waste, nuclear energy and/or anything pertaining to the environment. This board has the power to make recommendations to the County Executive and Commission. *Meets monthly at the courthouse every 1st Thursday at 6 pm*

**2. Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) needs an Alternate from the 3rd District:** The purpose of the BZA is to rule on the application of existing zoning laws. It is difficult to create zoning regulations that universally apply to all parcels of land. The BZA allows property owners with unique conditions on their parcels a means to appeal for an exception. *Meets monthly at the courthouse every 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm*

**3. Planning Commission needs a Kingston representative:** The PC is a committee comprised of representatives from each Roane County's seven districts. Their purpose is to act as citizen planners, work to develop plans, and implement policies that affect the county's development. *Meets monthly at the courthouse every 3rd Wednesday at 7:30 pm*

*For more information,  
contact the Roane County Executive's Office:*  
[info@roanecountyttn.gov](mailto:info@roanecountyttn.gov)  
865-376-5578



## County Government Meetings

### DATE

### MEETING

### LOCATION

### TIME

July 2nd	ERB
July 3rd	CLOSED
July 9th	Emergency Services
July 9th	Industrial Liaison
July 13th	County Commission
July 14th	PUB
July 14th	Fire Board
July 15th	BZA
July 15th	Planning Committee

CR	6:00 pm
OES	6:15 pm
Roane Alliance	5:00 pm
QCR	7:00 pm
WWP	5:30 pm
OES	6:15 pm
QCR	6:30 pm
QCR	7:30 pm