

County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



Be on the Look Out For the Aquatic Weeds

By Ron Woody, County Executive

In August of 2015 for the first time in decades the Watts Bar Reservoir began experiencing aquatic weed infestations. Three (3) invasive aquatic plants began to take over various shallow coves around the city of Kingston and south on the Tennessee River. The weeds are Hydrilla, Milfoil and Naiad. These weeds are not native. While they have some environmental benefits, they can have negative environmental impacts including boating, fishing, and recreational long term concerns.

One health concern that has been expressed in regards to the aquatic weeds is as a habit for mosquitoes and thus the Zika Virus. This summer we are viewing this as a "wait and see" time. Various groups will monitor the aquatic weeds and begin studying the environmental and economic impact of the invasive aquatic weeds. We could be forming a stakeholder group if the problem continues.

Zika Virus... by Ron Woody

The Tennessee Department of Health has been distributing information to our local Health Department and County Executive/Mayors across the state to help us prepare and respond to the newest public health challenge. According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control), "The illness is usually mild and people usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital." The issue is how the Zika virus is transmitted from a pregnant woman to her fetus and the linkage to a serious birth defect.

Mosquitos carry the virus, so eliminate the habitat of the mosquitos. Make sure you don't have standing water around your home such as in flower pots, abandoned tires, or buckets.

We have reached out to TVA Reservoir Management regarding fluctuating the Watts Bar Lake to aid in disrupting mosquito habitat.

National Day of Prayer

May 5, 2016

12 noon

Front lawn of the Courthouse



The National Day of Prayer is designed so that we pray together with respect, remembering that prayer is important regardless of our sex, race, economic status, age, etc. The National Day of Prayer began in 1952. President Harry S. Truman signed the day into law.

Roane County Government

Volume 8, Issue 5

May 2016



Happy
May!!

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Working Together Toward a Better Roane County

In January 2016 we updated our Five-Point Star Management System for Roane County

The Current Updates are...

- **2017 Budget** work of Capital and Debt Planning and a new emphasis on two-year operational budgets.
- **Emergency Management** (began January 2016) The focus shifts to the Office of Emergency Management and the TVA-Swan Pond property lease. The property needs to be cleared of trees and cleaned up. The focus also includes understanding trends in rural fire protection with an emphasis in training and first response personnel and equipment. The department has applied for an Aid to Firefighters Grant for the purchase of a new fire truck.
- **Recreation/Tourism** Focus shifts back to Recreation/Tourism with a new pavilion being built at Riley Creek Campground with the aid of TVA funding. We are also opening new tent camping sites at Riley Creek along with shoreline restoration work around the boat launch/dock area. Swan Pond Sports Complex is also seeing progress. Work on a restroom/concession stand will hopefully start in April 2016. Also, a picnic pavilion and work on the soccer fields and festival field will continue through the spring and summer with the intention of being ready to play in the fall. The county is applying for a Local Parks and Recreation Fund grant to fund part of Phase II at SPSC which includes an adventure playground, play lawn area, picnic pavilion, and restroom adjacent to the soccer fields. The county has also applied for a Natural Resource Trustee Program grant in conjunction with the cities of Harriman, Kingston and
- **Rockwood**. This grant application includes shoreline stabilization work at all three cities along with Roane County Park and courtesy docks throughout the county at existing TWRA boat launches.
- **Industrial Development** (began May 2015) The focus of this area has been the construction of a new Jones Road within the Roane Regional Business and Technology Park through funding from a TVA Invest Prep grant. The county is also working to finalize the hand over of the sewer system with the RRBTP to Lenoir City Utility Board. The county is also working to develop an understanding and potential position on the ETPP and CROET's continued operations.
- **Administration** (began August 2015) Focus within the area of Administration is on issues and studies, including grant management review and manual creation, internal controls, back tax law and policies, website improvements, building and codes consolidation of activities with planning and GIS. Various studies are under way, including: educational delivery system, vendor trucks, UT-Battelle property assessment, health insurance, 401(k), and focus notebooks.

More information on the Five-Point Star Management System folks can be found on the County website. www.roanecountytn.gov/county-executive

County Updates

Riley Creek is Open... Anticipating Another Successful Season!

Roane County Parks and Recreation Cements Partnership with TVA...by Mike Beard



The recent ribbon cutting event testifies to the fact that Roane County Parks and Recreation continues to build a solid relationship with the TVA Recreation Organization. The new shelter for Riley Creek Campground will be a lasting reminder of this teamwork and a springboard for future collaborations. Working together to fund the project, TVA's donation along with our Capital Planning efforts have resulted in a new lakeside amenity for Riley Creek Campers....just what they had been asking for....and just in time for SUMMER 2016!

Progress at Swan Pond Sports Complex

Roane County is excited about progress which is being made at the Swan Pond Sports Complex (SPSC). The development of SPSC has been identified in four (4) major phases.

- ◆ **Phase I** consists of final preparation of the fields being ready to use (additional leveling, top dressing, fertilizing all of which includes around 100 tons of sand). Installation of utilities (water, electric, and sewer), and construction of a restroom/concession building along with a picnic shelter. Estimated Phase 1 cost of \$490,570 is anticipated with a completion date of mid July 2016.
- ◆ **Phase II** consists of constructing a second restroom, a playground, and play lawn along with infrastructure for the facilities to be ADA compliant. Estimated cost of \$500,000 and anticipated completion date of mid 2018. Phase II is subject to a successful Local Parks and Recreation Grant (LPRF) grant award. If the County is not successful in the grant, the project will be postponed until a successful award or additional funding becomes available.
- ◆ **Phase III** will be the installation of lights in the parking lot area of the soccer fields along with lighting the soccer fields. Estimated cost is \$222,000 and estimated completion date is one year after Phase II and as additional funding becomes available.
- ◆ **Phase IV** is completion of the current proposed master plan which will build out the back or the north area of the SPSC with a combination of four softball/baseball fields, concession/restroom/press box facility, along with a maintenance building. Estimated cost is \$8 million and delivery date as funding is approved. It is anticipated that the county would be partnering with city or cities before this phase would be considered for construction and operations.

County Updates...continued

NRC Host Public Meeting for Small Modular Reactors (SMR)

Various Roane Countians attended a meeting in Oak Ridge on April 12, 2016 to gain a better understanding of the NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) Early Site Permit (ESP) application process for siting nuclear power plants. A meeting of state and local government officials was held in the morning and two public meetings were held at the Pollard Technology Conference Center in the evening.

NRC is anticipating a TVA ESP application for a SMR the second week of May. NRC generally will begin the review process to determine whether the site is safe to build and operate a plant. NRC will evaluate the environmental impacts of building and operating the plant. The NRC review is anticipated to take three (3) years.

TVA is anticipating requesting to license a SMR at the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site adjacent to the DOE reservation.

Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MPNHP)

Progress continues on the development of the MPNHP. The National Park Service has information about the park on their website, www.nps.gov. The Park Service also provides a manned informational booth which includes a representation of the park, at the Oak Ridge American Museum of Science and Energy, www.amse.org. The museum and soon the park will offer residents and tourists an opportunity to study the history which helped lead to today's science and tomorrows advancements.

"In answer to the question, was the development of the atomic bomb by the United States necessary? I reply unequivocally, Yes to the question. Is atomic energy a force for good or for evil? I can only say, As mankind wills it"..... Brigadier General Leslie Groves

Reappraisal Year is Over But...

In 2015 the county completed the five (5) year reappraisal program, as all property values should have been brought current to the value as of 2015. Each year the Local Board of Equalization meets to continue reviewing property values that still may be in question. The county's Local Board of Equalization will be in training held by the State Division of Property Assessment during the second week in May in preparation for the Local Board of Equalization meetings in June. More information will be available in the June Newsletter.

Real Estate Assessment Data ...Roane County is back with the State assessment data software IMPACT. We are pleased to report that the familiar, easy to use state software for property data is up and running. With the assessment data one also has access to the GIS (Geographical Information System) mapping and aerial overlays. We anticipate there may be a glitch on two from time to time in the system, but we are happy to report progress is being made. You can access this property data information on our home page www.roanecountytn.gov by clicking on Roane County Assessment Data in the middle of the page.

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Henry Ford

Executive Summaries...

A number of new executive summaries have been added to our website:

- #44 Presentations of 20 departments made at the August 24, 2015 Staff Retreat.
- #45 TDOT's Transportation Infrastructure
- #46 Rural Development Report
- #47 TVA's Clinch River SMR Project
- #48 Aquatic Plane Management
- #49 County Owned Back Tax Property

New Committee

A new committee is in place to manage and sale county owned back tax properties.

The County Owned Back Tax Committee consists of the following members:

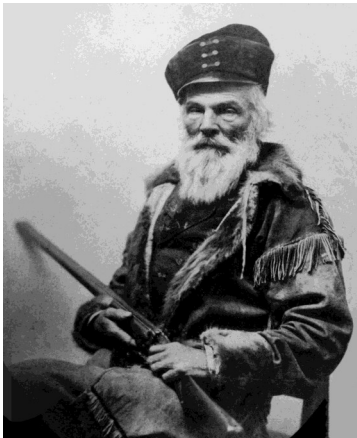
Commissioner Darryl Meadows, Chairman
County Executive Ron Woody, Secretary
Commissioner Randy Ellis
Commissioner Todd Fink
Commissioner Stanley Moore

The Roane County Courthouse and Courts will be closed on Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.



Did You Know About.... Joseph R. Walker?

By: Robert Bailey, County Historian



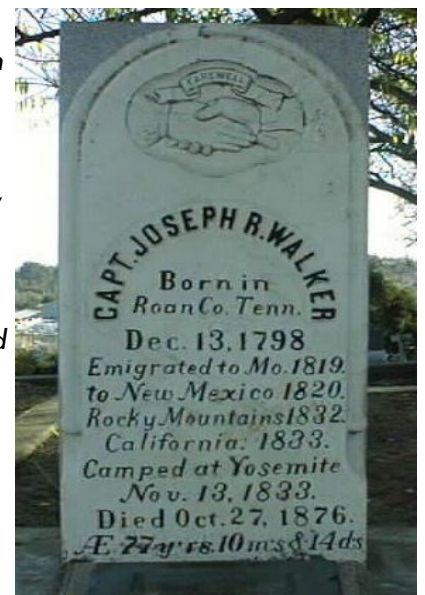
Often people from Roane County leave their marks in other places. One of those people is Joseph R. Walker (1798-1876) who is considered one of the greatest mountain men of the western frontier. Among his many accomplishments, were being the first white explorer of the Great Salt Lake in Utah and the first white man to cross the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In 1833 he discovered the Yosemite Valley. Walker helped to survey the Santa Fe Trail and led the first wagon train into California. He also helped to found Independence, Missouri and served as sheriff there.

Among the places that are named for him are: Walker Lake (River) in Nevada and Walker Pass in

the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. He is buried in the Alhambra Cemetery, in Martinez, California.

His tombstone reads:

"Captain Joseph R. Walker, Born in Roan Co., Tenn., Dec. 13, 1798, Emigrated to Mo. 1819. To New Mexico 1820. Rocky Mountains 1832. California, 1833. Camped at Yosemite Nov. 13, 1833. Died Oct. 27, 1876. Ae. 77 y's. 10 m's & 14 ds."



Highway Update.... By Brian Matthews As

the weather gets warmer it brings out the paving and mowing crews. We are paving all over the county and are asking that people follow the signage and flagmen in those areas, giving the crews room to work. We have also started our mowing season and you will see tractors mowing in every district. We are asking that you give the mowers room to work and use caution when you see the signage and equipment in those areas.

The Roane County Highway Department is looking forward to hosting Student Government Day. We always look forward to meeting the "Road Superintendents" from each of our high schools. Every Student Government Day we are blessed with students that are ready to learn and have a bright future ahead of them. We love spending time with the students and answering any questions they have about our office. As always, if you need anything do not hesitate to call us at 882-9782.

2016 Fallen Officers**Memorial Service**

You are invited to attend the 2016 Fallen Officers Memorial Service on May 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Roane County Sheriff's office in the back parking area where our memorial is located. A service will be held followed by a lunch. It has been 10 years since we lost Bill Jones and Mike Brown and we would hope that everyone can attend and honor them as well as the others that we have lost in the line of duty. Please come out and help us honor those that have paid the ultimate price.

Staff Retreat...2016

Executive Ron Woody will host the 2nd annual staff retreat on May 24th at the Agriculture Extension Office conference room for all department heads under his supervision. Department heads will present a short power point presentation highlighting the following two questions: 1. What have you done over the last year to make Roane County better? 2. What areas of focus are you planning for next year to make Roane County better?

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

ROANE COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

WHERE: Recycling Center – 215 White Pine Road, Harriman

WHEN: May 14, 2016 – 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

This one day event is a FREE and SAFE way to rid your home of household hazardous materials.

Please call the Roane County Recycling Center at 865-590-7779 for more information.

Please submit articles/items of interest to Arlene at arlene.daugherty@roanecountytn.gov by the 20th of the month. ~Ron

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
May 2nd	Comm. Work Session	QCR	6:30 pm
May 3rd	Budget Cmte	CR	5:30 pm
May 4th	Co. Bd. of Health	Health Dept.	12:00 noon
May 5th	Non-Profit Cmte	CR	5:30 pm
May 5th	ERB	CR	6:00 pm
May 9th	County Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
May 10th	Public Utility Board	WWP	5:30 pm
May 10th	Fire Board	QCR	6:15 pm
May 12th	Industrial Liaison	Alliance	5:00 pm
May 12th	Emg Servs Cmte	OES	6:00 pm
May 16th	Bldg. Insp./Codes & Review Cmte.	QCR	6:30 pm
May 17th	Budget Cmte.	CR	5:30 pm
May 18th	Bd. of Zoning Appeals	QCR	6:00 pm
May 18th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
May 20th	Budget Cmte	CR	9:am
May 24th	Co. Exec. Staff Retreat	Ag. Ext.	9:00 am
May 30th	Courthouse Closed		
May 31st	Budget Com. Meeting	QCR	5:30 pm