

# County Executive's Newsletter to the County Commission



Roane County Government

## "Energy Communities Alliance (ECA): Local Concerns, National Impact" By Ron Woody, County Executive

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ECA is an organization made up of communities of the Department of Energy facilities around the nation. Information about ECA can be found on [www.energyca.org](http://www.energyca.org).

ECA is engaged with the DOE community of Oak Ridge, Anderson County and Roane County with both Kingston City Manager, David Bolling and Roane County Executive, Ron Woody, being members. Woody serves as secretary of the ECA board. Woody became involved as a board member at the request and urging of former Oak Ridge City Mayor, Tom Beehan, who is the past chair of ECA. Mayor Beehan retired and Woody was requested by the Oak Ridge delegation to continue with the Oak Ridge leadership in ECA.

ECA has succeeded in a number of incentives within the last several years. One of

the most notable successes was the successful passage of legislation establishing the Manhattan Project as a National Park. One project which continues to be advocated for by ECA is the Environment Management Cleanup (EM) for Oak Ridge, Roane and Anderson counties. Successes include the demolition of the K-25 building, and continued cleanup of 70 year old facilities at both ORNL and Y-12. Other projects include the Y-12 Uranium Processing Facility, storage, processing or waste both on site and at other DOE facilities across the nation.

Oak Ridge ECA advocates for funding on Tennessee projects, but also for projects across the nation as each site is often integrated with other sites around the nation. Roane and Anderson counties, along with the City of Oak Ridge, must continue to be significant players in Department of Energy policy decisions.

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### Roane County and Oak Ridge Advocate on Capitol Hill

In mid-February, the City of Oak Ridge leadership scheduled meetings with our United States Senators' staffs. Members of Sen. Lamar Alexander and Sen. Bob Corker's staffs met to discuss local concerns which are impacted by national decisions. A special thank you is extended to the Oak Ridge leadership for including County Executive Woody in the informational session. Areas of discussion and advocacy included Oak Ridge's submittal of a printed legislative agenda, landfill construction at Y-12, DOE water mitigation on site and off site, TOHO Tenax traffic free zone for carbon fiber, and a hold date for a potential major project announcement.

Again, many thanks to the City of Oak Ridge for allowing Roane County inclusion in the national conversation.

"Changing Government through Research, Study and Analysis"

Daylight  
Savings Time  
Begins  
Sun. March 8th  
@ 2:00 a.m.



Don't forget to set all  
of your clocks one  
hour ahead!

**Thank You.****Mike Danner & David Randle:****A Card Received by the Roane County EMS**

Mike & David,  
I guess you thought by now that I'd forgotten you and your kindness but you'd be wrong. Hardly a day has gone by that you haven't been in my thoughts and gratitude. You went above and beyond the call of duty. In an automated world, where so many are devoid of feeling, you showed true human kindness, helpfulness and just a boatload of heart. You both deserve a solid gold medal, and if it were in my power, you'd certainly have it! You most definitely did not miss your calling and I thank God every day for kind hearts like yours. Our world desperately needs more like you! God bless and keep you, and I thank you— always.

Sincerely & gratefully, Marilyn Chadwick

**Financial Spring Cleaning by Jennifer Bolling**

Roane County leadership is hard at work putting together the new budget for the next fiscal year. As we delve further into this arduous process, I have come to realize how much it reminds me of spring cleaning, a time when all monetary procedures are thoroughly evaluated and dissected. Although governmental and personal finances differ greatly, some aspects remain very similar, and it begs the question, is your financial house in order? Of course, you should pay close attention to your finances all the time, but it's helpful to schedule a time, every six months or so, to consider where things stand monetarily, whether you're where you planned to be or want to be, and whether you need to make changes for the rest of the year.

Look for big things first paying close attention to items that will have significant effects on your finances. These may be events such as getting married or divorced, buying or selling a house, or having a baby. If something like this has happened in the

past six months, how well are you handling it? If you're expecting something like this in the next six months, are you prepared? Events such as these can change your financial picture dramatically. Managing them can be complicated.

Assess how you're doing, the routine, everyday decisions you make about your finances are very important. They can determine whether you're heading up or down financially. Here are some basic things to look at in order to evaluate how you're doing so far this year:

**Budgeting:** it's crucial to maintain a budget so that, at a minimum, you know how much money is coming in and going out and can act accordingly. Have you faithfully kept a budget this year? If so, what does it tell you about where you're headed?

**Controlling debt:** Did you incur unplanned debt during the holidays? Did you decide to put a few things on the credit card and quickly pay it off in January? Have you kept that promise to

yourself? Whatever the source of your debt, it is important to keep it down. If you think making the minimum payment on a credit card each month allows you to tread water, you're wrong. Use the online calculator at:

[www.federalreserve.gov/creditcardcalculator](http://www.federalreserve.gov/creditcardcalculator) to get an idea of how long it can take to pay the debt and how the interest paid can far exceed the amount borrowed.

Making changes as circumstances call for them can keep financial problems from getting out of hand and put you in a stronger position fiscally. If you're heading for a deficit, look back over your expenditures for the last year and cut spending on the things you can do without. Heading for a surplus? Decide on the best use for the extra money, from paying down debt to bolstering your savings. Remember it's always easier to clean up as you go than to realize your entire house is upside down. Good housekeeping is also sound financial planning.

**Manhattan Project National Park (MPNP) by Ron Woody**

County Historian Robert Bailey and Alliance Tourism Director Pam May have been given a task of helping Roane Countians tell their stories of the contributions of the county and our citizens to the Manhattan Project. Roane County and Kingston's Gallaher Road exit #356 will become one of the three major gateways to the Oak

Ridge Manhattan Project site.

The U.S. Dept. of Energy and the Dept. of Interior are set to enter into a memorandum of understanding on how the MPNP story will be done. Certain DOE assets, such as the K-25 site, may not have access restrictions, whereas, ORNL may have

limited restrictions and Y-12 may have no access available.

Many DOE and community assets exist which can help tell the Manhattan Project story, but we anticipate a national park unlike any other. This will be a national park that encompasses three distinct sites, in three non-

contiguous states. The three sites are Oak Ridge, TN, Los Alamos, NM and Hanford, WA. If you have any suggestions for Roane County's storyline for the Oak Ridge component of the national park, please feel free to contact Robert Bailey at 376-9211 or Pam May at 376-5572. Another success story in the making.

"Changing Government through Research, Study and Analysis"

**Did You Know About . . .Roane County’s Ugliest Man?**

**By Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian**

The person who was given that title was Wesley M. Featherly. In Walter Puliam’s, “Harriman, Tennessee, The Town That Temperance Built,” the late Judge Elmer Eblen was quoted as saying Featherly “was not exactly the handsomest person you ever saw. Matter of fact, some thought he was the ugliest man they ever saw.”

Originally from Michigan, he came to Harriman from Florida and purchased what became “The Harriman Record” newspaper in 1900. He ran the newspaper until 1919 when he moved to California. In 1923, he appeared as the King’s Chancellor in the movie Robin Hood with Douglas Fairbanks and also appeared in about a dozen

other movies. It is said that he capitalized on his ugliness to get his roles in Hollywood.

In 1923, he was severely injured while playing the role of a traveling salesman in the film version of Dante’s Inferno. He never fully recovered from his injury and died in 1925.

**Roane County Park Gears Up for Spring by Mike Beard, Director of Parks & Rec**

The good people of Roane County know how to use our Park. Reservations can be made up to 11 months ahead and already there is no weekend cottage availability in March. April’s reservation book contains 26 events and May’s has 34. Between the Master Gardener’s Plant Sale, Birthday Parties, Memorial Day picnics and Family Reunion Season getting started, May is filling quickly. If you want to reserve a facility in the Park this Spring, don’t delay, times-a-wastin’, you should call the reservation line [865-882-2640](tel:865-882-2640) as soon as possible.....our friendly operators are standing by to assist you in planning your time at the now-frozen, but soon to thaw, Roane County Park.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
Mar. 2nd	Sheriff’s Liaison Cmte	QCR	6:00 pm
Mar. 5th	ERB	CR	6:00 pm
Mar. 9th	Property & Budget Cmte	CR	6:00 pm
Mar. 9th	Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
Mar. 10th	Fire Board	QCR	6:00 pm
Mar. 12th	Emergency Services Cmte	OES	6:00 pm
Mar. 16th	Budget Cmte	CR	6:00 pm
Mar. 17th	Back Tax Cmte	QCR	6:00 pm
Mar. 17th	Budget Cmte	CR	6:00 pm
Mar. 18th	Board of Zoning Appeals	QCR	6:00 pm
Mar. 18th	Planning Commission	QCR	7:00 pm
Mar. 19th	Budget Cmte	CR	6:00 pm
Mar. 24th	Risk Mgmt Cmte	OES	6:00 pm
Mar. 26th	Public Utility Board	WWP	5:30 pm
Mar. 30th	Sports Rec/Sports Advisory	Cottage	6:00 pm

**Congressional Update**

**By Ron Woody**

United States Representative Chuck Fleischmann spoke recently to the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA). Congressman Fleischmann represents our area in the three primary missions of the Department of Energy: the National Lab, Y-12 National Nuclear Security Administration, and Environmental Management (EM) clean up mission at K-25, ORNL and Y-12. Executive Woody was honored to introduce Congressman Fleischmann to the ECA Peer Exchange in Washington, D.C. Other local leaders attended the Peer Exchange including Oak Ridge City Council member Chuck Hope, Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank, Anderson County Commissioner and former mayor Myron Iwanski, Kingston City Manager David Bolling, Oak Ridge City Manager Mark Watson and Amy Fitzgerald, Oak Ridge Director of Government Affairs and Information. Roane County is engaged on the national level.

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

**Comptroller's Office to Oversee Reappraisal**

The State Comptroller of the Treasury, Department of Property Assessment will insure Roane County has a successful reappraisal program. Over the last few months, the Comptroller's Office has expressed concerns on the timeliness of the Roane County reappraisal program. Assessor Morgan has stated a number of times that the reappraisal program is on schedule, but has been unsuccessful in convincing the Comptroller's Office.

On Thursday, February 26, 2015, the State Board of Equalization voted to have the Comptroller's Office, Division of Property Assess-

ment to actively be engaged in the Roane County reappraisal program. The Comptroller's Office was expected to inform the county that work by their office on the Roane County reappraisal program would be charged to Roane County. Instead, Kelsie Jones, Executive Secretary of the State Board of Equalization, indicated that his office would perform field assessments of the Roane County appraisal program. If these assessments showed satisfactory progress on the Roane County reappraisal program, the state would not bill the county for any work.

**TENTATIVE BUDGET MEETING CALENDAR**

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
Mar. 16th	Debt & Capital	3CR	6:00 pm
Mar. 17th	Wastewater, Agency Funds	3CR	6:00 pm
Mar. 19th	School budget	3CR	6:00 pm
Apr 2nd	Commission/School Board Worksession	TBD	6:00 pm
Apr. 16th	Road, Solid Waste/ Recycling	3CR	6:00 pm
April 27th	Sheriff, Ambulance, Fire, Animal	3CR	6:00 pm
Apr. 28th	GF Elected Officials, Work Comp, Dental Ins	3CR	6:00 pm
May 14th	Wrap Up	3CR	9:00 am
May 21st	Commission worksession	QCR	6:00 pm
June 18th	Commission worksession (alternate)	QCR	6:00 pm

**Health Department Update By Laura Connor, Director**

I wanted to give an update on our progress through the Baldrige/ Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence. As you know, we submitted our application and Organizational Profile for consideration combining both Roane and Morgan County Health Departments as a district. On 2-12-15, a team of examiners came to visit us and interview our respective leadership teams, review our processes, look at some additional documents and interact with other staff. I am happy to report that the visit went great! Although they are not able to give any concrete feedback at the time of their visit, there were several times they alluded to the fact that we were definitely performing at a much higher level than a Level 1

(definitely a 2 and maybe even a 3, but that would require review of additional documents and a different application). I really thought that as well, but thought it best this first time to apply at the entry level.

I am pleased to say that we have been awarded the Level 1 Award from the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence. I will be attending the conference and awards banquet next week to receive the award. There will be a press release sent by TNCPE to the local media outlets. We are very happy and proud of this accomplishment. We will receive a detailed feedback report from the team of examiners that were with us in a few more weeks and will be anxious

to see the details in the report. It should affirm the things that we are doing well, but also point out some opportunities for improvement that they identified after reading our application and being on site. We will couple the feedback report with other improvement activities that we use to aid us in continuing the journey to serve more efficiently, effectively and always focus on providing excellent customer service and outstanding care. We plan to continue this journey and look forward to preparing and submitting an application for a more advanced level later in the year. I'll keep you posted as we progress and what happens at the conference next week.



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MARCH 3, 2015

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## PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM COLD WEATHER DEATHS

*11 Tennesseans tragically lost to hypothermia since start of 2015*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee Department of Health is urging Tennesseans to stay warm and protect themselves, friends and family members from deadly hypothermia as another round of severe cold weather impacts the state. A preliminary review of January and February 2015 fatalities indicates more than one-third of 30 cold weather-related deaths in Tennessee have been attributed to hypothermia, caused when the body's core temperature drops to unsafe levels. Among the hypothermia deaths that have occurred, there appear to be no unexpected or previously unidentified individual risk factors. The long stretch of unusually cold weather caught many unprepared for the disaster.

"Hypothermia can happen to any of us, but people who are medically fragile, homeless, on certain medications and using alcohol are at greater risk than others and a caring person can help protect them," said TDH Commissioner John Dreyzehner, MD, MPH. "Please think about friends, family and acquaintances that may be at greater risk, and make a plan to check on them. If you can't do it yourself, call emergency services, local police or your local health department. If help is needed to assist someone else, emergency responders are here to make that happen. A phone call or conversation could mean the difference between life and death."

Hypothermia can happen fast. Persons most at risk for hypothermia include those who:

- take certain medications, like those used for behavioral health, that affect the body's ability to regulate temperature
- use alcohol, especially if intoxicated by alcohol and other drugs
- are elderly or have medical conditions that may impair generation of body heat
- live alone, are socially isolated or are homeless
- have mental/behavioral health issues
- are male (studies have shown males are more likely to be victims of hypothermia)

"A person can be developing hypothermia but not know it because confusion and amnesia are among the symptoms of the deadly condition," said Paul Petersen, PharmD, TDH director of Emergency Preparedness. "Many mistakenly believe hypothermia only happens to people who

-more-

**ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243**

spend long periods of time outdoors. In fact, it can happen to a person in a residence or structure that doesn't have sufficient warmth, or in a vehicle lacking a working heating system."

In addition to creating a system for checking on others, Tennesseans are urged to properly take care of themselves during extremely cold weather. Directions for avoiding hypothermia include:

- If you have a medical emergency, or are worried about a friend or neighbor, don't hesitate to call 911
- Dress in layers to retain body heat and limit time outdoors or in cold environments. Wearing a hat or head covering is most important.
- Come inside frequently to warm up. If your home or business heating system fails don't attempt to "tough it out"; seek an alternative place to stay. Never use a power generator indoors; they can generate deadly carbon monoxide gas. Also do not use outdoor gas or charcoal cooking devices indoors.
- Don't drink alcohol. It provides a temporary sensation of warmth but long-term it causes your body to lose heat and can lead to hypothermia. Alcohol can also dull the senses, prohibiting clear-thinking when it is needed most.
- If you must travel by vehicle, make sure you have life-saving necessities: a functioning cell phone with a car charger; blankets; candles to generate heat and matches; a flashlight; food and water. Before getting on the road, let someone know your travel route and have him or her check on you to make sure you arrived safely.
- Medical conditions or drugs you take may affect your body's ability to regulate heat. Some antidepressants, antipsychotics, narcotic pain medications and sedatives can change the body's ability to regulate temperature. Some health disorders can also affect your body's ability to regulate its temperature, including underactive thyroid, poor nutrition, stroke, Parkinson's disease, trauma, spinal injuries, dehydration, circulatory issues and other conditions.
- Make sure you have someone that checks on you. Don't be embarrassed to ask for an exchange of, "I'm okay" calls.
- To find an emergency shelter in your area, call 2-1-1, your county emergency management agency or the non-emergency telephone number of your local police department. You may also visit <http://health.state.tn.us/ceds/TNDisSup/index.htm>.

"Take care of yourself first so you can then help take care of others," Dreyzehner said. "When you do a cold weather wellness check by phone or in person, invest a little time to truly make sure the person is okay and follow up with him or her later to make sure that person is still alright. If you suspect a person needs assistance, trust your instincts and seek help. You could save a life."

Learn more about hypothermia at

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/staysafe/hypothermia.asp>.

###

This news release can be accessed online at <http://news.tn.gov/taxonomy/term/30>.

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