



Roane County Courthouse

County Spotlight: *Roane*

Population: 51,910
County Seat: Kingston

Did you know?

Roane County was named in honor of the second governor of Tennessee, Archibald Roane.

A little known Civil War heroine from Roane County was Mary Love, a sixteen-year-old who transported a Union message to Knoxville through Confederate lines.

For more information, visit:
<http://tennesseencyclopedia.net>

State Provides Guidance on Selecting Contractors

In light of the historic flooding that has devastated parts of Tennessee, the Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) is encouraging homeowners to verify the licensure of contractors they hire to repair their homes by using <http://verify.tn.gov>.

“It’s important for residents to not fall prey to fraud artists posing as legitimate, licensed home contractors,” says TDCI Commissioner Leslie A. Newman. “Taking the time to make sure someone is licensed with the state is the fundamental first step when selecting a contractor to work on your home. By all means, use <http://verify.tn.gov> to see whether the person you’re considering is a licensed contractor.”

When selecting a contractor, it is also important to:

- Get several bids. It’s best to get at least three bids and check references.
- Get a written contract that includes the company’s name, address and telephone number. The contract should also include an anticipated start and completion date.
- Take your time and do not get rushed into signing a contract.
- Never pay more than 1/3 down and do not let the payments get ahead of the work.
- Ask for proof of general liability insurance.
- Make sure the contractor obtains the local permits for inspections.

Tennesseans can also check the Department’s monthly Disciplinary Action Reports to see if contractors have engaged in unlicensed activity or have incurred administrative action taken against them by the Department.

Licensing for contractors also carries parameters that govern the types of jobs different licensees are permitted to perform.

The Department of Commerce and Insurance works to protect consumers while ensuring fair competition for industries and professionals who do business in Tennessee. For more detailed information from TDCI on hiring contractors, please click [here](#).

More resources pertaining to flood recovery can also be found on the following page of this newsletter.

Flood Recovery Resources

CTAS is dedicated to helping Tennessee counties recover from the recent devastating flood. Below are several helpful flood restoration resources. Please contact your CTAS county government consultant should you need additional assistance during this challenging time.

Flood Damage Assessment Training: The Tennessee State Planning Office is offering training to all Tennessee codes officials and flood officials on Substantial Damage Assessment for Residential and Commercial Properties, including the software package available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). If you want to register for this important training or have questions, please email Stan Harrison with the State Planning Office at stanley.harrison@tn.gov, or call 615-946-4756. The training dates are as follows:

MAY 26 - FRANKLIN, TN (Noon to 4:00 p.m.)
WILLIAMSON COUNTY EXT. OFFICE, AG EXPO PARK
4215 LONG LANE, FRANKLIN

MAY 27 - JACKSON, TN (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)
WEST TENNESSEE AG CENTER
605 AIRWAYS BOULEVARD, JACKSON

UT/LSU Offer Flood Recovery Tips: Louisiana State University (LSU) has graciously offered to the University of Tennessee Extension and the people of Tennessee the use of their Disaster Information Factsheet Series, a compilation of lessons learned from the Katrina disaster. The information contains many helpful topics for flood recovery including salvaging furniture, avoiding the hazards of mold and removing odor from your home. To access the factsheets, please use the following link: <http://www.agriculture.utk.edu/news/releases/2010/10-05-flooda.html>

Discounted Loan Rates from TMBF: The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) is offering discounted rates on short-term loans for cities and counties that have been victimized by the recent flooding. To learn more about this special offer, please call TMBF at (615) 255-1561.

TVA REVENUES EXPECTED TO DECLINE

Although payments to counties from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) through the Tennessee Revenue Sharing Act increased by over 15 percent from FY 2009 to FY 2010, counties should not expect the trend to continue for FY 2011. TVA officials have recently alerted CTAS that payments will likely decline by an estimated 10 percent. Although their estimate is based on three quarters of a year of actual data rather than a full year at this point, until better information is available counties should budget 10 percent less for FY 2011 than they received in FY 2010.

TVA payments are a very important revenue stream for counties. The funds are the largest percentage of discretionary revenue from the shared revenues counties receive from the State of Tennessee. Because TVA revenue is significant to the support of county school systems, it is considered by the Department of Education as local revenue in the non-supplanting test (maintenance of effort), so counties that use TVA revenue for education will have to find other revenue sources to replace losses in TVA funding. This could also affect the county's five-year average for highway funding in those counties that use TVA money in the highway fund.

The decline is largely because TVA charges for the previous period included a fuel surcharge which was later refunded back to power providers. This resulted in a reduction in gross sales for the current period which directly affects payments to state and local governments.

Many counties have experienced decreased local sales tax collections for the last two fiscal years and may have been counting on steady TVA payments to offset them. Caution is advised in considering how to navigate the upcoming fiscal year with these funding challenges, especially in light of statutory requirements for counties to continue to fund most of the services they provide.

2010 Convening the Region Summit

The Cumberland Region Tomorrow will hold the 2010 Convening the Region Summit on May 26th at the War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville. This year's key topic of focus is Regional Transit System Development, with mentions of two additional key regional topics of Economic Competitiveness and Open Space Conservation.

The Cumberland Region Tomorrow is a private, non-profit, citizen-based regional organization dedicated to planning for the future livability and economic vitality of a ten-county region that includes Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Maury, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson counties.

Public officials may attend the summit at no cost. For more information, including a registration form, visit: http://www.cumberlandregiontomorrow.org/Summit/2010_Registration.

Four hours of COCTP recertification credit will be given for attendance.

Have comments or suggestions for this newsletter?
Contact Claire Marsalis at claire.marsalis@tennessee.edu.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| May 17-20 | Trustee's Conference, Memphis |
| May 18-20 | TN Registers Association Spring Meeting, Pickwick Landing State Park |
| May 19-21 | COCTP Capstone, Montgomery Bell State Park |
| May 25 | Trust & Emotions Workshop, Jackson |
| May 26 | Convening the Region Summit, Nashville |
| May 26 | Flood Damage Assessment Training, Franklin |
| May 27 | Flood Damage Assessment Training, Jackson |
| May 28 | Trust & Emotions Workshop, Franklin |
| June 8-9 | TN County Services Association (TCSA) Summer Legislative Conference, Gatlinburg |
| June 8-10 | TN County Clerks Association Summer Meeting, Murfreesboro |
| June 23-25 | TN Clerks of Court Summer Conference, Cool Springs |

*For more detailed event information, [click here](#).

Good News: April Revenues Are Up

Tennessee revenue collections improved in April with a net positive growth of 2.23% over April collections one year ago. Finance and Administration Commissioner Dave Goetz reported last week that overall April revenues were \$1.243 billion, which is \$43.4 million more than the state budgeted.

"April is the first positive sales tax growth month in almost two years — since May of 2008," Goetz said. "Sales tax collections started their downward spiral starting in January of that year and, beginning with the month of June, recorded an unprecedented 22 consecutive months of negative collections."

For the complete report on April revenues, [click here](#).

County Officials E-News is a monthly newsletter provided by the University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service in an effort to promote better county government through direct assistance to county officials and their associations.

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