



Volume IX, Issue 3, March 2011

The Official Newsletter of the Roane County Chamber of Commerce

Visit us online at www.roanealliance.org

Happenings

Chamber Ambassador Monthly Meeting

Monday, March 7, noon

The Roane Alliance Board Room "brown bag" lunch; anyone interested in joining please call the Chamber 376-5572

Chamber Day On The Hill

Wednesday, March 9

Bus transportation compliments of Roane State
Bus leaves at 8 am from The Roane Alliance; arrives back at approx. 6 pm
To RSVP call Darrell at 865-376-5572

State Business Enterprise Resource Counseling Day

Wednesday, March 9

Begins at 10 am, Roane Alliance Small Business Resource Center
For counseling appointments call Beth at 865-376-2093

Chamber's Monthly "Speaker Series" Luncheon

Featured Speaker: Leland Gregory

Topic: "Gates Foundation Education Initiative"

Tuesday, March 15, noon

Roane State Community College
276 Patton Lane, Harriman
Call to reserve a place: 865-376-5572

Small Business Administration (SBA) Community & Patriot Express Loan Workshop

Wednesday, March 23, 9 am - noon
Roane Alliance Small Business Resource Center

Learn how to apply for SBA guaranteed loans - reserve a spot for the workshop, call Beth at 865-376-2093



Roane State Expo Center
March 26, 10 am - 4 pm
865-376-5572

For a complete Chamber calendar visit www.roanealliance.org/chamber/calendar.html

Annual Legislative Breakfast—Current, Informative & Crowded

The Roane Alliance and the Chamber's Legislative Affairs Committee hosted their annual breakfast forum to a standing-room-only crowd on Wednesday, February 2. State Senator Ken Yager and State Representative Julia Hurley were on hand to talk and answer questions on important issues such as jobs, education, and the state budget.

"The breakfast provides an opportunity for business and community leaders to have an informal discussion with their state legislators on issues of concern as they leave for Nashville to begin the legislative session," said Roane Alliance President/CEO Leslie Henderson.

The legislators were also presented with the Chamber's 2011 Legislative Agenda. Prepared by the Legislative Affairs Committee, which is chaired by Buddy Bowers, and approved by the full Chamber Board, the agenda includes recommendations in the areas of economic development and tourism, transportation and infrastructure, and education. "The 2011 Legislative Agenda outlines the issues of most importance to the Roane County Chamber membership and gives our legislators valuable information that they can use as a framework for shaping legislation and casting their votes," Bowers said.

Additional information on the legislative agenda can be obtained by contacting the Roane Alliance at 865-376-2093 or e-mail at info@roanealliance.org.



From l-r: State Senator Ken Yager, State Representative Julia Hurley, and Buddy Bowers

65th Annual Chamber Banquet

Friday, April 29, 6 pm
Whitestone Country Inn
To RSVP call 865-376-5572

Don't miss the Spring social event of the year that includes prestigious business awards, wine reception, gourmet meal, & silent auction!



2010 Alliance Annual Report Just Released



The year 2010 saw Roane County bounce back from the greatest recession our country has experienced for a very long time. Although it started at the first of the year with only tenuous glimmers of hope – a little bit here, a little bit there – by the end of the year, as seen from the data included in this year's annual report, there can be no doubt that Roane County is far along on its way to a strong, healthy recovery.

"When the staff started doing the research to compile this 2010 Roane Alliance annual report," said Leslie Henderson, President/CEO Roane Alliance, "we knew going in that Roane County had not suffered as much as many others had in the recession."

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Next Luncheon - Gates Foundation Initiatives

The next March Chamber "Speaker Series" Luncheon will be held on March 15 at noon. *New York Times* bestselling author and former SNL scriptwriter, Leland Gregory, will be the featured speaker.

The topic? An important provocative state-wide effort - the Complete College Tennessee Act of 2010. This Gates Foundation-funded education initiative to the Tennessee Association of Business Foundation (TABF), makes several changes designed to enhance cooperation between colleges and universities. Being discussed all across the state, Gregory will discuss its goals and explain more about the act.

The cost for the Chamber luncheon is just \$12/person. Space is limited. Reserve your spot today by calling the Chamber at 865-376-5572.

Welcome New Members

March of Dimes Jessica Ariks

609 W Ridgecrest
Kingston, TN 37763
865-385-7435

EET Corporation Louie Sferrazza

3106 Roane State Highway
Harriman, TN 37748
865-717-4277

Dr. Murray's Economic Forecast - Expect Growth

Dr. Matthew Murray - Tennessee's Economic Forecaster - announced that the State is "Still Digging Out" when he gave his 2011 annual forecast at last month's Chamber Speaker Series Luncheon.

Announcing that the 'recession' ended in June 2009, Murray spoke about his economic outlook for Tennessee. Explaining that "forecasting is like trying to drive forward while looking out your rear-view mirror," Murray made the following predictions:

- High levels of unemployment will prevail through the decade leading to significant hardship for people and places;
- Property tax revenue growth will slow because of weak residential and nonresidential sectors;
- Sales tax revenue will fully rebound in 2013/14; and
- Counties and cities will be squeezed by the state and the state by the federal government.

There is already some good news. According to Murray, "Business investment in equipment and software is currently getting stronger, auto sales are up and doing very well now, and building permits are still low in numbers but are stable."

For more information about Roane County's economy read the 2010 Roane Alliance Annual Report available online at www.roanealliance.org/about/index.html.



Annual Business Awards

Nominations Due By March 15

Business of the Year Award

Distinguished Service Award

Athena Award

Paul E. Goldberg Young Professional Award

Nominations can be made by any Chamber member. Forms are available by calling the Chamber at 865-376-5572 or on the website: www.roanealliance.org/chamber/positiveimage.html

To Advertise in Newsletter:

Only available to Chamber members
\$50 charge for insertion
Provide 400 flyers (letter-size) by 25th of the month to the Chamber at 1209 N. Kentucky Street, Kingston, or call **The UPS Store**, 376-1773 and have them print/insert for you

Lunch & Learn's 'On The Road' Workshop - A Success

The Chamber and SCORE took the popular Lunch and Learn Workshop on the road, holding it this month at **Mountains To Lakes Real Estate** in Harriman.

This workshop, appropriately titled - *How to Delight Your Customers* - was presented to a large and enthusiastic crowd, who were delighted to attend in a different location. A special thank you goes out to owner Kim Inman for allowing the workshop to be held at her business.

This popular workshop, presented by **Dana Peterka** of SCORE, also provided attendees a chance to hear from Darrell Williams, Chamber Membership Services, about Chamber benefits and from Pam May, Tourism Manager, of the benefits of being located in Roane County where visitors spent \$56.07M in 2009.

This workshop will next be held in Kingston at Fort Southwest Point on March 31. Lunch is provided free of charge for Chamber members at all workshops and \$35 for non-members. Space is limited so reserve your space today by calling the Chamber at 865-376-5572.



Community Events

JR Drake Rodeo
Roane State Expo Center
 March 4 & 5, Indoor Arena
 JR Drake, 828-713-3006

Yonder Hollow Productions
Bluegrass & Mountain Music
 Saturday, March 5, 4 & 7:30 pm
 319 W. Rockwood Street, Rockwood
 For information call 865-250-6717

Bridal Show
Whitestone Country Inn
 March 6, 12 - 4 pm
 Fashion Show • Vendors • Door Prizes
 865-376-0113 / 888-247-2464
 or email Deneise@whitestoneinn.com

TQHA Celebration Circuit
Roane State Expo Center
 March 10-13, Both Arenas
 Barbara Fisher, 865-922-1402

Instrumental Ensembles Concert
Roane State's O'Brien Theater
 March 18 & 19, 7 pm
 Malinda Yager, 865-354-3000 x4536

Run for Dunn 5k Run/1m Walk
Roane State Community College
 Saturday, March 19, 9 am
 Check-in, pre-race entertainment &
 registration begins at 8 am
 Register online at
www.michaeldunncenter.org or
 Angela Fox, 405-0080, amfox2@gmail.com

Bradbury Club Bluegrass Concert
 Saturday, March 19, 7 pm
 3343 Buttermilk Road, Kingston
 865-376-4201

Spring Bridge Party
Whitestone Country Inn
 Wednesday, March 30, 10 am - 4 pm
 865-376-0113 / 888-247-2464
 or email Deneise@whitestoneinn.com

And coming in April:

Thunder Road Festival
 Downtown Rockwood
 Saturday, April 2, 10 am - 6 pm
 865-354-1337

**For more
 community events:
www.RoaneTourism.com**

Business Briefs

EnergySolutions Hosts Workshop For Roane County Teachers

The **EnergySolutions** Foundation hosted a science teacher workshop on February 18 for more than 35 middle school and high school teachers of the Roane County School District. The workshop provided teachers with knowledge and classroom tools to both effectively teach nuclear energy in the classroom and to help teachers prepare their students for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) related careers in their community.



Roane County Park - #1 in East TN

We have a gem in Roane County, and it seems that everyone in the region now knows. Roane County Park was recently voted the #1 park on wbir.com.



With a splash pad, wooded walking trail, 18-hole disc golf course, swimming area, picnic pavilions, and more—all on the banks of Watts Bar Lake, it is no wonder it is the favorite. Don't miss the park's Summer Fest June 11th - sure to be fun for the entire family!

Cont'd from page 1: 2010 Alliance Annual Report Just Released

This is not to say that the recovery was or is being felt across the board. The residential housing market is still suffering greatly, the construction and hospitality business are still far from recovering, and small businesses needing financing are still in many ways facing a brick wall.” However, the numbers in the annual report are strong.

Here are just a couple of highlights from the report:

- A record-setting annual job increase of more than 1,100 jobs for Roane County – some of these from earlier lay-offs, but hundreds and hundreds of them newly created this year. And maybe equally important, the increases are seen across the board, from many different sectors, with only a handful of industries from our industrial guide reporting losses – totaling this year only about 30.
- A record-setting number of new Chamber members came on board – double that of the year before – going a long way toward bringing our total membership back up to the 400 benchmark we held during our pre-recession times.

“Those numbers above – and much more information about our activities and accomplishments here at the Alliance – are included in the 2010 Alliance Annual Report, said Henderson. “I hope you will take the time to read and enjoy it, because I think you’ll agree with us that after looking at Roane County in 2010 – “We’re back!”

The full report is available on the Roane Alliance’s website at www.roanealliance.org/about/index.html

January 2011 Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.4 percent in January on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index increased 1.6 percent before seasonal adjustment.

19 new business licenses were issued in January 2011

Roane County Chamber of Commerce

A Partner of The Roane Alliance

1209 North Kentucky St, Kingston, TN 37763

Tel: (865) 376-5572 | Fax: (865) 376-4978 | www.RoaneAlliance.org

Newsletter prepared by The Roane Alliance Staff: Leslie Henderson, Beth Hickman, Pam May, Darrell Williams, Tami Wright, Allen Lutz & Teresa Jackson

Chamber Member Celebrations



Materials and Chemistry Laboratory, Inc. (McLinc) held a “Customer Appreciation Breakfast” at their facility in the Heritage Center at the East Tennessee Technology Park on February 15. The large crowd enjoyed the home-cooked buffet that showcased their new conference facility that is also available for rent.

McLinc utilizes its unique facility to meet a wide range of customers’ needs, including product studies and methodologies in support of a variety of chemical process initiatives. The laboratory also conducts applied research and development in the area of waste management, nanotechnology, alternative fuels and more. For more information about renting their conference facility or their services contact Linda Maines at 865-576-4138.

The Roane Chamber of Commerce presented **Mama Mia’s Pizzeria and Restaurant** owner Lottie O’Brien with a “Certificate of Appreciation” commemorating her forty years of business in Kingston and Roane County.



Chamber Chair Diana Knobloch said, “ever since moving here from Chicago, my family and I have really enjoyed your food and especially your pizza, Lottie! Please accept this certificate as a show of our appreciation from the Chamber as well as the whole county.”

A longtime Chamber member, Mama Mia’s first opened on February 4, 1971 at 705 W. Race Street in Kingston. Their phone number is 865-376-5050.

From l-r: Diana Knobloch, Roane United Way; Lottie O’Brien, Mama Mia’s Pizzeria; and Darrell Williams, Roane Alliance.

SailAway Learning & Academy held an open house on February 3, drawing a good crowd that included the Bailey family from Lookout Mountain, Georgia, who were on the ‘lookout’ for an exceptional education for their children.

SailAway is located at 106 Armour Road in Kingston, call Brenda Murphy at 865-931-4659, ext 104 for more information about the education programs they offer.

From l-r): Don Bailey; Jenna Bailey; Brenda Murphy, President & CEO, SailAway; Laura Bailey; Randy Ellis, Roane County Commission; and Allen Lutz, The Roane Alliance



RENEWALS

Merit Construction, Inc.
Buddy Heins
10435 Dutchtown Road
Knoxville, TN 37932
865-966-4100

Heartland Tours, Inc.
Fred Miles
P.O. Box 1291
Harriman, TN 37748
865-882-0272

Rotary Club of Harriman
Mike McElhinney
P.O. Box 633
Harriman, TN 37748
865-376-9564

Sustainable Future, LLC
Annette Moliter-Gomberg
201 Ogle Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37920
865-684-4426

Cotham Construction Co., Inc.
Roy Cotham
P.O. Box 415
Harriman, TN 37748
865-882-0581

G & G Enterprises
Greg White
102 Johnson Street
Kingston, TN 37763
865-919-0032

Living Stones, Inc.
Charles Brown
P.O. Box 7112
Oak Ridge, TN 37831
865-414-2624

Motel 6
Bob Patel
495 Gallaher Road
Kingston, TN 37763
865-376-2069

William Bennett M.D.
Individual
415 Devonia Street, Suite 301
Harriman, TN 37748
865-882-9775

Roane Veterinary Hospital
Dr. Donald Davis DVM
P.O. Box 207
Kingston, TN 37763
865-882-6327

Browder’s Ace Hardware & Business Center
Teresa Taylor
1100 Ladd Landing Blvd.
Kingston, TN 37763
865-376-7606

Regions Bank
Ted Meredith
200 N. Roane Street
Harriman, TN 37748
865-590-1090

Girl Scout of the Southern Appalachians, Inc
Beth Collman
1567 Downtown West Blvd
Knoxville, TN 37919
865-688-9440

C.R. Barger & Sons, Inc
Travis Wolfe
P.O. Box 370
Kingston, TN 37763
865-882-5860

Bechtel Jacobs Company, LLC
Steve Buckley
P.O. Box 4699
Oak Ridge, TN 37831
865-241-2000

Scandlyn Lumber Company
J. Kurt Scandlyn
801 Larry Byrd Road
Kingston, TN 37763
865-376-5585

TVA Kingston Power Plant
Leslie Nale
714 Swan Pond Road
Harriman, TN 37748
865-717-2500

Parsons & Wright, CPA’S
Joe Savage
1000 Brentwood Way
Kingston, TN 37763
865-376-5865

Land Development Solutions
Rusty Baksa
310 K Simmons Road
Knoxville, TN 37922
865-671-2281

Caney Creek Resorts LLC
Doug Phillips
3745 Roane State Highway
Harriman, TN 37748
865-882-4042