

Report to the Citizens Newsletter



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Playground Design Left Up to the Experts—Oak Ridge Kids!

Swing sets, slides, and sandboxes are all common attractions on playgrounds, but thanks to the imagination of Oak Ridge students, the new Cedar Hill Park Playground will feature a unique design.

During the recent Cedar Hill Playground “Design Day,” dozens of children from the City’s elementary schools brainstormed with the project’s designers, Leathers & Associates, and city staff. The children were asked key questions such as “What would you like to climb up on?” and “What is your favorite thing about the current playground?” Students also contributed their ideas in the form of artwork, and hundreds of student drawings were submitted.

The children’s creativity ranged from racing carts and fast food restaurants to conventional playground attractions such as

“swirly” slides, bridges, and rock climbing walls. The designer was able to craft a schematic that encompassed both the children’s ideas and elements specific to the community and the park’s setting.

The preliminary design was unveiled at a special “Design Day” Community Celebration at the Civic Center that allowed the public to see the day’s results. Some of the exciting elements featured include a pirate ship, a fire pole, bouncy bridges, a tire trench, a maze, and much more.

(continued to page 3)



A project designer from Leathers & Associates displays a preliminary design for Cedar Hill Park during the “Design Day” Community Celebration.

Inside This Issue:



p.4

“FOG”
Advisory



p.6

Money saving ideas
courtesy of the Oak
Ridge Public Library



p.7

Oak Ridge
welcomes visitors
from Sister City,
Naka-shi, Japan.

Mayor's Message

Getting the Secret Out

By: Mayor Tom Beehan

Oak Ridge, like most communities, has a unique history that has helped influence the type of business, industry, and citizenry that chooses to locate here. As a result of the federal government's work performed here decades ago, Oak Ridge is an attractive location for businesses involved in energy, materials science and environmental technology sectors.

As many Oak Ridgers know, these businesses are major employers, which support a relatively thriving regional economy.

A few days prior to his inauguration, Governor Bill Haslam was in Oak Ridge to discuss his economic development strategy, which, for us, includes building on the opportunities afforded by Oak Ridge National Lab and the Y-12 National Security Complex and capitalizing on the investments made in

energy R&D.

Former Congressman Zach Wamp recently reinforced this message. He challenged our local elected officials and business community to help educate officials across Tennessee about the importance of Oak Ridge to our statewide economy.



In recent years, Oak Ridge has been branded "The Secret City" due to its wartime origins. When it comes to our economic strengths, however, we need to continue to work with our partners to communicate how vital Oak Ridge is to our region, to our state and to our nation, and to add "Energy Capital" to our brand. It's time to get the secret out about everything Oak Ridge has to offer.

Oak Ridge Historian Receives First-Ever Tourism Award

Oak Ridge City Historian, William "Bill" J.

Wilcox, was recently honored with the First Annual Wiley Oakley Tourism Award during the annual Tennessee Governor's Conference on Tourism.

Bill Wilcox is a chemist who arrived in Oak Ridge at the height of World War II to work on the top-secret Manhattan Project. Mr. Wilcox continued to work in the government facilities of Oak Ridge until his retirement in 1986, and now spends much of his time educating the public about Oak Ridge's fascinating history.

In 2006, Bill Wilcox was given the honorary title of City Historian. Other honors include the Secretary of Energy Appreciation Award and the ETEC "Muddy Boot" award. He is also an active member of the Oak Ridge Heritage & Preservation Association.

The tourism award is named after Wiley Oakley, who is considered to be one of the first advocates for tourism in Tennessee, for his work as a mountain guide in the Eastern part of the state. Mr. Wilcox was selected to receive the award for his efforts to promote heritage tourism in Tennessee.



City Council members (standing, from left) are Mayor Pro Tem Jane Miller, Tom Hayes, David Mosby, Ellen Smith, and (seated, from left) Anne Garcia Garland, Mayor Tom Beehan, and Charlie Hensley.



(pictured left to right) Scott Templeton, publisher with Miles Media; Jeanie Wilcox; Bill Wilcox, Oak Ridge Historian; Susan Whitaker, TN Commissioner of Tourism; Katy Brown, Convention & Visitors Bureau; and Jane Miller, Mayor Pro Tem.



Fire Grant Funds Innovative Safety Program

The Oak Ridge Fire Department

understands the importance and value of safety education, and children represent a key audience. With a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the department has purchased four, "Muppet-sized" puppets, which will be presented to each of the city's elementary schools. The puppets will help communicate fire prevention and other important safety information.

Drawing on the history of Oak Ridge, the firefighters decided to name all the puppets after one of Oak Ridge's female pioneers in atomic physics, Dr. Elizabeth Rona. Dr. Rona was a contemporary of Madame Marie Curie, and worked with her in Paris. In 1950, Dr. Rona joined the staff of the Oak Ridge Associated Universities' Special Training Division, where she became a valuable member of the division's teaching staff.

The Fire Department will present the "Dr. Rona" puppets to the schools during February's

school board meeting. At that same meeting, officials will present the 2010 Fire Prevention Week Educational Partner Award to Glenwood Elementary School.



Laura Davis, Oak Ridge Fire Department Deputy Chief, Fire Prevention unveils a Dr. Elizabeth Rona puppet.

Playground Design Left Up to the Experts— Oak Ridge Kids! (cont'd)

(continued from page 1)

The playground, which will be built mainly on the existing footprint of the current park, will be organized and built by volunteers. Trees will remain and become part of the overall design.

Interested individuals are encouraged to participate as a member of the playground steering committee or as part of the construction team. For information about the playground steering committee contact Jon Hetrick, Project Coordinator, at jhetrick@cornn.org. To learn more about the project or to volunteer for the construction visit www.cornn.org/cedarhillpark.

Community Events

What's Happening

■ Saturday, April 16, 2011 2011 City Egg Hunt

Over 15,000 candy and prize filled eggs will be hidden in Bissell Park with a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize egg in each age group.

A.K. Bissell Park
11 a.m.
www.orrecparcs.org



■ Friday, April 29,
2011
Battle of the Teen
Bands
The musical competition will

feature local bands and groups vying for prizes and the honor of being named B.O.B. Champion. Admission is free, and concessions will be sold.

A.K. Bissell Park Pavilion, 6 p.m..
Please contact Matt Reedy at (865) 425-3450 for information.

■ Saturday, April 30, 2011 Earth Day Festival



Visit the festival for a family-friendly, FREE celebration of Earth Day in Oak Ridge

Oak Ridge Civic Center
and A.K. Bissell Park
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
For more information, visit

www.orearthday.org.

■ June 17 - 18, 2011 9th Annual Secret City Festival

Share the secret of the award-winning festival with the entire family. The festival promotes the history of the City and unites its World War II heritage with the technological advancements that are ongoing within the City of Oak Ridge.

A.K. Bissell Park
For more information,
visit www.secretcityfestival.com.



Residential Grease Management: Beware of Fats, Oils & Grease

Nearly 50% of all sewage overflows nationwide are caused by improperly disposing of everyday fats, oils, and grease (FOG). Sewage overflows are not just public health issues, but can result in serious damage to our environment, especially rivers and streams. The City of Oak Ridge has taken on the challenge of educating residents about FOG and on proper disposal of this waste.

FOG can be found in food and food ingredients that are used in homes every day. Some examples include meat, cooking oil, butter, shortening, margarine, baked goods, sauces, and dairy products. Whenever FOG is poured down a drain or into a garbage disposal, it builds up over time constricting the flow of wastewater and eventually causing sewers to back up into homes and causing

manholes to overflow sewage into streams and rivers. The first pipes that could become blocked with FOG may be the residents' own pipes, resulting in expensive plumbing bills.

The best way to prevent sewage overflows caused by FOG is to learn how to safely and properly dispose of the waste. The first and best method is to minimize the use of cooking oil and grease when cooking. A good way to handle byproducts (especially cooking oils and grease) from cooked food is to pour the warm contents into a container that can either be kept in a freezer or is easily disposed. Freezing the container will keep the FOG in a solid state, making it easier for disposal when it becomes full. Preferably, the container would be disposable because grease is not accepted in local recycling programs.

In addition to properly storing FOG, it is

also a good idea to use a rubber spatula to scrape as much of the waste out of pots or pans as possible. Afterwards, wipe the item with a paper towel to remove any additional buildup of grease before placing it in a dishwasher or kitchen sink. This process will reduce the amount of FOG that could be transferred into a drain.

Whenever possible, find creative ways to safely reuse or recycle properly stored FOG. One suggestion is to turn refrigerated FOG (new lard) into wild bird suet by mixing it with birdseed.

Properly disposing of FOG is good for home plumbing, as well as the City's sewer system, by keeping the sewer lines cleaner and reducing the chance of sewer overflows.

For more information, contact Oak Ridge Public Works at 425-1875.

Employee News

Oak Ridge Firefighters Recognized for Professionalism

Oak Ridge Battalion Chief

Michael Slay was recently appointed to the Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education as a representative of the Tennessee Professional Firefighter's Association by former Governor Phil Bredesen.

The Commission is responsible for the certification of volunteer and paid firefighters across Tennessee. Its mission is to raise the standards of firefighting personnel who engage in its certification and training programs.

As a result, Tennessee firefighters are better prepared with the skills and knowledge necessary to save lives and property. Courses in firefighter safety, efficiency, decorum, and ethics are part of the certification process.

Over 300 fire departments are enrolled in the Commission's programs, serving more than 15,000 fire service personnel in Tennessee.

In addition, Oak Ridge Firefighter Eric Rackard was the recipient of the Safe Kids of the Greater Knox Area Coalition *Member of the Year* Award during the organization's recent banquet at Oak Ridge High School. The banquet was held to recognize individuals who demonstrate exemplary achievements in reducing unintentional child injuries.

Rackard was instrumental in implementing the Safe Kids car seat checkpoint, which began in 2009. The regular checkpoints are hosted by the Oak Ridge Fire and Police Departments. He helped introduce a similar program to the Harriman Fire Department, which now hosts its own monthly safety checkpoint.

To learn more about the checkpoint program, contact Eric Rackard, Oak Ridge Fire Department at 425-3914, or visit the website at www.orfd.com.



Firefighter Eric Rackard receives the Safe Kids of the Greater Knox Area Coalition *Member of the Year* Award.



City Manager's Report



INTEGRITY, HONESTY, EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH A DIVERSE POPULATION AND WORKFORCE, AND COMBATING DRUG-RELATED CRIME WERE AMONG THE TOP THEMES THAT EMERGED FROM THE POLICE CHIEF SEARCH DISCUSSIONS.

Citizen Engagement Makes a Difference

By: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

"Over 150 residents participated in the Police Chief Search Community Meetings and shared their ideas on what attributes the next Police Chief should possess."

Effective managers

understand that solving community challenges requires active citizen engagement and effective citizen participation processes.

I am very pleased to say that more than 150 citizens demonstrated their commitment to the Oak Ridge community through their recent engagement in the Police Chief Search process. Good ideas were shared and we learned about policing through the process.

Two public sessions were held at the Children's Museum and at the Scarboro Community Center. Attendees were asked to identify and discuss (1) characteristics and qualities they would like to see in the next Police Chief; (2) issues the Police Chief will face over the next five years; and (3) experience needed to best serve Oak Ridge.

Dozens of additional comments were provided via a dedicated e-mail address from citizens and police officers alike!

Integrity, honesty, experience in working with a diverse population and workforce, and combating drug-related crime were among the top themes that emerged from the discussions. Many others were recorded and will be integrated into the written profile as the selection process moves forward.

I thank everyone who took the time—not only to participate—but to actively engage their neighbors, friends, co-workers and fellow citizens in a conversation about our collective public safety future. The discussion will help me serve you better in the selection of our next Police Chief.

*(left picture) Attendees get the opportunity to provide input at the first community meeting held at the Children's Museum.
(right picture) Residents had another chance to identify characteristics they would like to see in the next Police Chief at the second meeting at the Scarboro Community Center.*



Money Saving Tips from the Oak Ridge Public Library

Did you know you can save hundreds of dollars by using the Library's free services? Here are some examples of how to save a bundle at the library:

\$ Use your library card for 2 free hours of computer use every day the library is open to visit your favorite web sites.

\$ Prepare your resume. Microsoft Word and other programs are available at the library and printing is available for only 10¢ a page.

\$ Is the local coffee shop too noisy? Bring your laptop and browse the web with *free* wireless access.

\$ Buy wisely by researching your next purchase with *Consumer Reports*. The library has both current and past issues of the magazine and the yearly *Consumer Reports Buying Guide*.

\$ Cancel your subscriptions to magazines and start reading them at the library. The savings is \$10 to \$30 per annual subscription.

\$ Entertain the kids on a rainy day with *free* children's videos from

the Children's Room video collection.

\$ Skip buying the latest \$35 bestseller and check it out at the library. If it isn't on the new book shelf when you visit, put your name on the waiting list.

\$ Stock your home library by browsing the Book Nook in the lobby. You can find some real bargains for less than a dollar!

\$ Prepare for the GED, PSAT, SAT, ACT, GRE, LSAT, ASVAB or other examinations with preparation books from the library.

If you live in Oak Ridge and have photo identification, you can get a library card! Stop by the Main Desk in the library to sign up. The library is located in the Civic Center on Oak Ridge Turnpike. Contact us at (865) 425-3455 or at our website, www.orpl.org.



Secret City Sponsors Receive Cheers at Kick Off

The 2011 Secret City Festival

began with a kick-off reception sponsored by B&W Y-12 and the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce at the Y-12 New Hope Center in December.

The event—which marked the beginning of preparations for the June 17-18, 2011 festival—convened and honored the festival's "pacesetter" sponsors. Attendees received a memorable welcome from the Oak Ridge High School Cheerleading squad. Mayor Pro Tem Jane Miller, Chair of the Sponsorship Committee, served as emcee for the evening's activities.

City Manager Mark Watson and B&W Y-12 President Darrel Kohlhorst represented the City of Oak Ridge and B&W Y-12. Other returning sponsors include EnergySolutions; WSI; NetGain; Methodist Medical Center; CROET; Pilot Travel Centers; Oak Ridge Chapter of Credit Unions; URS; Akins Crisp Public Strategies; Roane State Community College; USEC; Comfort Inn; the Oak Ridger;

LAMAR; Comcast; Food City; Rothchild Event Rentals; Oak Ridge Floral; Oliver's Restaurant & Catering; Street Legal; and the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce.

This year's festival will also welcome several new businesses to the family of sponsors including: Fluor, Information International Associates, Morgan Keegan and Chuck's Car Care Center.

The festival was honored with awards from the International Festival Events Association. The Gold Pinnacle Award was presented to Pat Imperato and Ruby Miller, representatives of *Keep Anderson County Beautiful*, for the organization's help with volunteers for the festival's recycling program. City staffers Amy Fitzgerald and Diana Stanley were presented the Silver Pinnacle Award for their work on the sponsor solicitation packages. The Bronze Pinnacle Award for Best Sponsor was given to Sharon Templeton of EnergySolutions for the



City Manager Mark Watson and Mayor Pro Tem Jane Miller help to distribute "gifts" from Santa Claus at the 2011 Secret City Festival kick-off.

firm's on-going support and commitment as a sponsor of the popular WWII Reenactment.

Information about the 9th Annual Secret City Festival is available at the festival's website at www.secretcityfestival.com. To learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact Jane Gibson, Festival Coordinator, at (865) 425-3441.



ough People: Residential Recycling Reminder

20 Years

er City

ionship

1. City ordinances require that containers for recyclable materials should not be placed at the curb until the evening before the scheduled collection, and containers should be removed from the curb on the same day they are serviced.

2. If your home receives city trash and recycling service, but no one in the household is physically able to take your recycling cart at the curbside, contact Waste Connections at 482-3656 about options that will allow you to participate in the recycling program.



The City of Oak Ridge recently celebrated its 20-year “sister city” partnership with Naka-shi, Japan. To commemorate the anniversary, a delegation from Naka-shi traveled to Oak Ridge for several days of festivities.

The Naka-shi visitors were hosted by 15 Oak Ridge families and spent four days participating in tours throughout the Oak Ridge region. While in Oak Ridge they visited the Municipal Building, Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), the Friendship Bell, Chamber of Commerce, and Big Ed’s Pizza.

Oak Ridge’s sister city arrangement with Naka-shi began in the early 90’s through Sister Cities International. Sister City International is a non-profit organization whose mission is to “promote peace through mutual

respect, understanding, and cooperation—one individual, one community at a time.”

Oak Ridge and Naka-shi paired together because of their cultural and commercial ties, particularly with scientific development as both locations have nuclear research facilities. The Japan Atomic Energy Agency operates a fusion research facility in Naka-shi, and this facility houses one of the premier tokamak fusion reactors in the world.

Centennial Bluff was the site of a farewell banquet and celebration on the final night of the visitors’ stay. Japanese Consul General Hiroshi Sato traveled from Nashville to greet the attendees, which included the host families, members of City Council, City staff, and Sister City members. The night ended with a special performance of bluegrass music from Mayor Tom Beehan and his fellow band members.



(pictured above)

Naka-shi, Japan visitors; Mayor Tom Beehan; and a number of Oak Ridge host families pose in front of the Friendship Bell located at A.K. Bissell Park. The Friendship Bell was just one of the many stops made during their day-long tour of Oak Ridge.



(pictured left)

Mayor Tom Beehan along with Councilmembers Charlie Hensley, Tom Hayes, and Ellen Smith have their picture taken with visitors from Naka-shi, Japan in the Mayor’s Office.

A Tale of Two Council Members

Two women

from different parts of the country move to East Tennessee. Each is elected to their respective City Councils, one in Oak Ridge, the other in Bristol. They meet for the first time at a meeting of the Tennessee Municipal League. Not too unusual, right?

What makes this situation exceptional is the fact that the women—Oak Ridge Councilmember Ellen Smith and Bristol Mayor Margaret Feierabend (pronounced ‘fire-robin’)—had never known each other, but their fathers had met as graduate students in 1941 at Yale’s Forestry Camp in northwestern Connecticut. They remained friends for nearly 68 years!

David Smith, Ellen’s Dad, and Margaret’s father, Paul Burns, went on to serve in the Army Air Corps Reserve studying meteorology. During the War, Smith was sent to Africa and

Italy; Burns was stationed in England, France and Belgium and Germany. Both were promoted to the rank of Captain and began work on their Ph.D.’s at Yale in 1946.

Professor Smith joined the faculty at Yale’s School of Forestry and was widely regarded as one of the national foremost experts on silviculture. In 1955, Professor Burns became the youngest forestry school head in the U.S. when he accepted a position at Louisiana State University.

The friends and colleagues kept in touch over the years, keeping up with each other’s families through letters, phone calls, and even a New Haven reunion. Paul Burns wrote a 7 page letter to Ellen detailing his friendship with her father, just a month prior to Dave Smith’s passing at age 87.

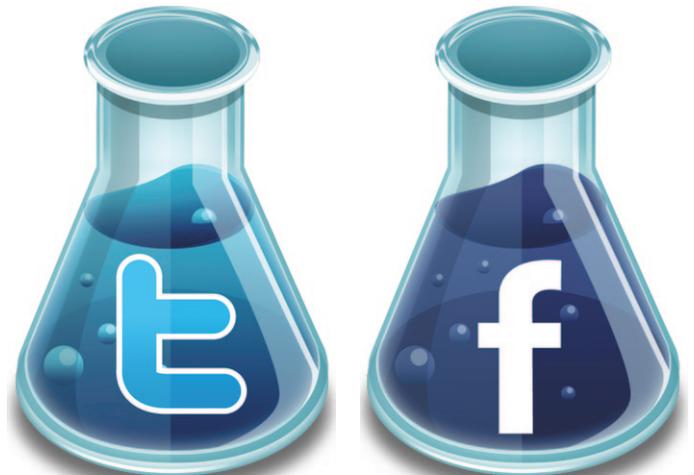
A lifelong friendship capped off by the legacy of their daughters’ public service. An interesting tale, indeed!



(pictured left to right) Bristol Mayor Margaret Feierabend and Councilmember Ellen Smith at the 70th Tennessee Municipal League Annual Conference in Chattanooga.

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