



ANDERSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WORKING FOR BUSINESS SINCE 1932

February 2016

Vol. 16, No. 2

Chairman's Letter to Members

I was excited about the opportunity to work with Rob Followell during his term as our 2016 Chamber Chairman. When Rob told me about his decision to pursue the fantastic opportunity that recently developed for him, I was happy for Rob, but frankly a bit disappointed. Rob and I have become good friends and I will miss his friendship, as well as seeing what we could have accomplished together for our community through our Chamber. I am certain each of you will join me in wishing him well in his new endeavor.

As I began to prepare to take over Rob's chairman position, I have asked many of you what would you do if you woke up one morning and found yourself Chairman of our Chamber. As it turns out, there are many critically important issues that our Chamber should and can affect, such as addressing the lack of developed industrial property available in our county for economic development, assisting in the creation of high quality retail development, fostering an atmosphere conducive for more and better housing, creating aesthetic improvements to our interstate exits, improving our schools,



Heatherly

lobbying for effective local and state legislation, assisting in the push to bring the Magnet Mills issue to conclusion, continuing our call for broadband access for all, assisting in needed workforce development, supporting the Oak Ridge Mall initiative, and implementing overdue improvements to our chamber facility and technology.

Our Chamber President, Rick Meredith, continues to implement many new positive improvements to our chamber staff, services, and operations. I am confident that with Rick's leadership, combined with the energy of Melissa Charles, our Chamber's new co-chair, along with your help, we can accomplish much together. There is plenty to be excited about in our county as well as an abundance of opportunity for all of us.

Please join me during this exciting time at our Chamber. I hope you will consider getting involved, attend a few chamber events, and help us improve our community.

Steve Heatherly
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Member Focus: TNBank

TNBank was started in 1995 by a group of local folks who wanted to ensure a long term focus on community needs. The bank has grown to include five locations in three counties. We are local bankers doing business with our neighbors. This is so ingrained in our culture that since November 19, 2002 Hometown Banking® has been a registered trademark of TNBank.

TNBank Mortgage Department experienced a "re-birth" in 2014 with new management and team members. We are fast becoming a sought-after lender and leader in the mortgage business.....BECAUSE OUR FOCUS IS YOU!!

Why People Are Using TNBank for Their Mortgage Needs:

Our first priority is YOU! You are not just a transaction...you are a BIG DEAL!

Communication is key and we are committed to keeping you updated throughout the process

We provide timely processing and closing



We provide the unique qualities of a community bank with the resources of a large bank. Our work ethic is impeccable; anyone can quote you an interest rate but very few will actually roll up their sleeves and work as hard as we will.

We make the application process convenient by completing via phone, e-mail or in person

Live help! When you call TNBank, you actually get a real person on the phone

We offer all types of Mortgage loans including construction, purchase or refinancing financing. We also work closely with the bank in-house lenders to provide our unique niche products – interest only bridge loans and HE-LOC second mortgages, that can be coupled with a long term first mortgage, providing a lower monthly payment when purchasing your

new home.

CONTACT HEATHER EMERT, LORIE WILSON, HEATHER SCOTT, GREG ADKINS OR DAN QUILLEN TODAY AT (865) 483-9444. Also visit our website at www.tnbank.net

Thursday, April 28, 2016

3 - 7 p.m.

New Hope Center
602 Scarboro Rd., Oak Ridge

Register Early!

Call 457-2559 or go to our website to register.



Board Changes

Recently, it was announced that Rob Followell would be the new chair of the chamber board. Due to his taking a position in Winchester, TN, our chair-elect has been promoted early.

Steve Heatherly of Merit Construction has been elected the new Chair of the Board of Directors. Read his letter to the members for more information.

Melissa Charles of Sellers Realty has been elected Chair-Elect. A lifelong Anderson County resident, Melissa Parks Charles is the office manager and a licensed affiliate broker at Sellers Realty. A Graduate of the Realtors Institute,



Charles

she has received the Knoxville Area Association of Realtors Award of Excellence numerous times for sales in excess of \$1 million during a calendar year. She serves on the Board of Directors for the North Anderson County Boys and Girls Club, a Tennessee Achieves Mentor, Clinton Civitan Club Secretary, Methodist Medical Center Foundation Casino Night Committee and volunteers at Methodist Medical Center. She is an avid sports fan, loves traveling & golf and is married to Jim Charles, a Chamber member with Edward Jones investments

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PARTNERS IN THE NEWS

Oak Ridge Associated University's Rebecca Crowe and Allen Wash have received Advancing Professionals Awards from the National Contract Management Association, which recognize young professionals in contract management. Crowe is procurement and contracts section manager and small business advocate at ORAU. Wash is a contract specialist. Director of procurement and contracts administration, Heidi Timmerman, has been named Facility Management Contractor Procurement Director of the Year by the U.S. Department of Energy.



AEG, American Employer Group, has joined the Chamber Community Partners Program at the Silver level. Welcome AEG!!



Methodist Medical Center (MMC) has named BJ Worley, a CNA on 2 West, MMCer of the Month for January!



Tennova Healthcare has named Andrew Mueller as Interim CEO for the North Knoxville Medical Center.



Powell-Clinch Utility District has renewed their Community Partnership at the Silver level. Thanks Powell-Clinch!



Merit Construction, Inc. has renewed their Community Partnership at the Silver level. Thanks Merit!



New Names, New Missions

With the new year, there are new things happening at the Chamber. We have changed the names of our councils and have rearranged missions and objectives. Below is a list of the new committees. If you are interested in becoming involved in any of these, please contact the Chamber for more information.

Business Development Committee

The mission of this committee is to establish programs to encourage entrepreneurship and maintain existing retail/commercial businesses. Some of the objectives this year

are to introduce the new "Co-Starters" program for small businesses, continue Small Business Seminars with TSBDC and to revamp the "Buy Local – Stay Local" program.

Co-Chair – Don Whitaker of Peoples Bank.
Community/Government Relations Committee

Their mission is to position the Chamber as the facilitator for regional development between government, business, and community and be an advocate for Anderson County. An on-going objective of this committee is the Six County Legislative Agenda,

increase voter registration and participation, and to meet regularly with our legislators and elected officials. Chair – Harold Edwards; Co-Chair – David Erb.

Education/Workforce Development Committee

The mission of this committee is to be a leader in helping build a local workforce to compete in a global market. Currently working on the Job Fair for April at the New Hope Center in Oak Ridge and working with the local high schools and industries to help develop the local workforce. Chair – Jim Zo-

nar of CNS; Co-Chair – Kim Harris of Roane State Community College.

Public Relations/Events Committee

Our mission is to enhance the Chamber's image and expand the Chamber's capabilities to better serve the members and the community. We are currently working on a Fishing Tournament for March, a Golf Tournament for Industry Appreciation and our annual Fall Antiques Festival. Chair – Jeanne Mitchell of Temp Systems; Co-Chair – Nick Forrester of Titan Political Strategies.

LUCK OF THE IRISH STROLL & SALE

Friday, March 18th & Saturday, March 19th

Historic Downtown Clinton, TN

Sponsored by the Historic Downtown Clinton Merchants Association
865-264-4258
www.clintontnantiquetrail.com

CLINTON ROTARY CLUB'S FIFTH ANNUAL *Daddy/Daughter Dance*

Saturday, February 6th
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Clinton Middle School Gymnasium



Tickets On Sale Now!

\$20/couple in advance • \$25/couple at the door • \$10 additional tickets

Tickets available at these locations:

Knight's Flowers • Courier News • Hoskins Drug Store

Fox Toyota • Real Dry Cleaners

Clinton City Schools • The Community Bank • Peoples Bank of the South

Doors open at 6:00 pm for pictures • Formal or casual dress

Welcome New Members!

Timothy A. Bible, DDS
Dentist / Healthcare
 Dr. Timothy Bible
 123 Leinart St.
 Clinton, TN 37716
 (865) 457-2860
www.bibledentistry.com

Dura-Line
Manufacturing/Sales
 Chuck Parke
 1355 Carden Farm Drive
 Clinton, TN 37716
 (865) 342-5642
www.duraline.com

George Farris
Legends
 George Farris
 1104 West Outer Dr.
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830
 (865) 384-8074

First Lady
Retail/ Medical Equipment
 Angela Farmer
 7551 Dannaher Dr.
 Powell, TN 37849
 (865) 859-7010
www.thefirstladyshop.com

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Event Planning / Sound Engineering
 Andrew Howe
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 Oak Ridge, TN 37830
 (865) 640-5704
www.AndrewLewisHowe.com

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Real Estate Agent / Associate Member
 Crystal Huskey
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 Norris, TN 37828
 (865) 494-5188
www.norrisrealestategroup.com

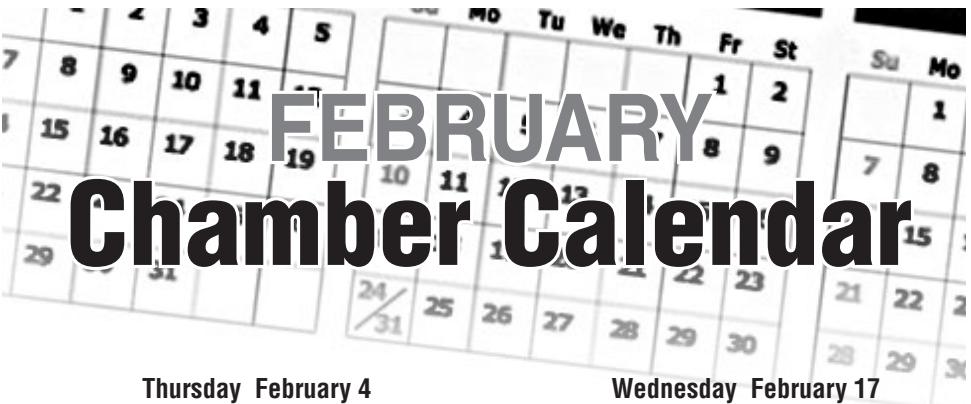
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Medical / Urgent Care
 Debbie Davidson
 1030 Oak Ridge Turnpike
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830
 (865) 685-0285

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 301-H Oak Ridge Turnpike
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830
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 Anderson County Animal Hospital - Norris
 Anderson County Career & Technical Center
 Anderson County Chiropractic
 Anderson County Schools
 ARCADIS
 AutoMedic Inc.
 Blossman Propane Gas & Appliances
 Bojangles - Clinton
 Bull Run Steam Plant
 Cantrell, Goode & Associates
 The Carlstar Group
 Children's Defense Fund
 City of Clinton
 Clinch River Home Health
 Clinton Office Supply
 Clinton Rotary Club
 Clinton Utilities Board
 CNS, LLC
 Community Bank of East TN
 Costco
 Eclipse Land Management
 Edward Jones – George Paynter
 Emory Valley Center
 Enrichment Federal Credit Union
 Enterprise Rent-A-Car
 Farm Bureau Insurance Services

Five Star Food Services
 Fox Toyota, Inc.
 Gary Cooper Insurance
 Goodwill Industries – Knoxville Inc.
 GT Discount Tire Store
 Guest House at Alexander Inn
 Gun Doctor
 Holley Gamble Funeral Home
 Hollingsworth Cos.
 Hoskins Drug Store
 LaBelle Optometrist Office
 Madison Insurance Group
 Maurice's
 Methodist Medical Center
 Michael Brady, Inc.
 Michael Dunn Center
 Miller Equipment Co.
 McNeely Family Physicians
 Museum of Appalachia
 Norris Real Estate Group
 NHC of Oak Ridge
 Oak Ridge Office Supply
 Ole Ben Franklin Motors
 Peoples Bank of the South
 Pharma Packaging Solutions
 Pinnacle Financial Partners
 Powell-Clinch Utility District
 Pryse Orthodontics



Thursday February 4

5 – 6:30 p.m.
BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
 Vacations on the Water
 175 Executive Park Dr. Clinton
 865-603-5400

Wednesday February 10

9 – 11 a.m.
SMALL BUSINESS "START-UP"
 SEMINAR
 Jutta Bangs, TSBDC
 Chamber Office, Limited Space
 RSVP to 865-457-2559

Monday February 15

President's Day
 Chamber Closed

Thursday February 11

4 – 5:30 p.m.
RIBBON CUTTING
 First Lady-The Specialty Shop
 North Knoxville Medical Center
 7551 Dannaher Dr., Powell
 865-859-7010

Wednesday February 17

9 – 11 a.m.
"BUSINESS PLANNING" SEMINAR
 Jutta Bangs, TSBDC
 Chamber Office, Limited Space
 RSVP to 865-457-2559

Thursday February 18

8 – 9:30 a.m.
COFFEE
 Climashield
 641 N. Park Dr., Clinton
 865-463-6184

Friday February 19

8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
NON-PROFIT SEMINAR SERIES
 "Board Planning"
 SCORE and United Way
 Chamber Office, Limited Space
 RSVP 865-483-8431

Wednesday, February 24

8 - 10:30 a.m.
RIBBON CUTTING
 Neighborhood Urgent Care - Oak Ridge
 Full Breakfast, Give-aways and
 Entertainment 1030 Oak Ridge Turnpike,
 Oak Ridge, 685-0285

Non-Profit Workshop Seminar Series
 "Board Development"
 Feb. 19, 2016
 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Presented by SCORE and United Way
 Space is limited, call
 865.483.8431
 or email:
director@uwayac.org
 to reserve your spot!

Economic Indicators December 2015

New Business Licenses Issued - 20
 Building Permits Issued - 13
 Unemployment - 5.4%

Leadership Anderson County



Leadership Anderson County attended Media Day this month and were featured on Live at Five at Four on WBIR. They are seen here with Beth Haynes.



Program now accepting applications for the

Class of 2017

Beginning May 2016

For more information, contact

Norm Nelson, 457-2559 or email

norm@andersoncountychamber.org

Learn how leadership affects your community and strengthen your leadership abilities while discovering your community in a new way.

Applications can be downloaded on our website.

Post Your Employment Needs!

Are you hiring? The Anderson County Chamber of Commerce will list your Job Opening for free on the Job Postings page on our website. Please send the details to janet@andersoncountychamber.org or fax to 865-463-7480.



Mentoring the next generation of caregivers

Methodist shares a "health" of information with Youth Leadership Anderson County

Anderson County Youth Leadership recently visited Methodist Medical Center for their class Healthcare Day. Students from Anderson County and Clinton High Schools take part in Youth Leadership, which is a program offered by the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce. Students must apply and be selected for the program. Youth Leadership is designed to foster leadership skills, acquaint students with their community's needs, opportunities, problems, resources, and infrastructure, and familiarize students with career and leadership opportunities available in their community.

While at Methodist, Youth Leadership participants learned about the broad range of careers available in healthcare as they listened to job descriptions and asked questions with staff representing the pharmacy, medical imaging, physical therapy and the dietitians.

Interactive demonstrations showed students the organization and teamwork required to keep a hospital running effectively. Additionally, they had an opportunity to gain hands-on experience as they participated in special lab stations. Students tested their skills using endoscopy equipment, learned how to give CPR on adults and infants, and discovered the complexities of hand hygiene and infection control.

Students participating in this year's Youth Leadership program include, in alphabetical order: Kaitlynn Baird, Brittany Bean, Madison Bowling, John Byrge, Ahmadre Darrisaw, Brady Dixon, Skylar Drewery, Molly Eldridge, Keisha Heatherly, Hope Hicks, Brianna Holder, Kenzie Keaton, Mary Kate Longmire, Makayla Nance, Jonathan Neal, Caleb Powers, Alex Roberts, Gavin Shelton, Dylan Sherwood, Haylee Strohl, Mykaela Tackett, Hannah White, Mattie White, Kasey Young, Colton Zenni



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Chair



Susan McGetrick
AC Visions
Co-Chair



Diane Allred
Allred & Associates
Real Estate



Scott Chase
ISAGENIX



Debbie Davidson
Neighborhood
Urgent Care



Pam Forgety
Meadowview
Assisted Living



Marge Hauschildt
Pleasantries Cakes and
Catering



Katie Hinch
Morning Pointe
Assisted Living



Don Hughes
William Knight
Insurance



Crystal Huskey
Norris Real Estate
Group



Jacob Kamer
King University



Conya Mull
Emory Valley Center



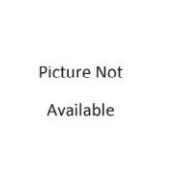
Kristin Olsen
Small Paws Bed &
Biscuit



Michael Ousley
Edward Jones
Investments



Elizabeth Powers
Mortgage Options
Lending



Ellen Trusty
Regions



Heather Scott
TN Bank



Debbie Sellers
Mary Kay Ind.
Consultant



Kathy Stansberry
Stansberry Insurance



Samantha Watson
McNeely
Family Physicians



Mark Wilson
Platinum Financial



Don Hughes of William Knight Insurance Agency was the winner of the Ambassador of the Quarter prize, a \$25 Harrison's gift card!



The Anderson County Ambassadors with the help of other Chamber members collected food and socks for the elderly this year for Christmas. Pictured are Norm Nelson delivering the box full of socks to Pam Forgety at Meadowview Assisted Living and Katie Hinch at Morning Pointe Assisted Living. Both Pam and Katie are Chamber Ambassadors.

The Anderson County Chamber Ambassadors program has long been the backbone of the organization. Our Ambassadors enhance member satisfaction and membership retention by contacting our members periodically to make sure we have current information on file and to make sure that they are involved. Ambassadors remind members of the Chamber events and help them acclimate by introducing them to other members at our coffees. Their purpose is to establish a personal connection with Chamber members, encourage members to maximize their membership benefits, and to welcome new and current members at Chamber events.

If you come to an event and are greeted at the door, that is an Ambassador. The people that give you a nametag and remind you about dropping your business card in the Member Focus box are Ambassadors. Without Ambassadors, our Chamber could not do all the work that we do to continue to support the businesses in our area.

We would like to welcome our newest ambassadors; Scott Chase with ISAGENIX, Crystal Huskey with Norris Real Estate Group, Conya Mull with Emory Valley Center, Kristin Olsen with Small Paws Bed and Biscuit and Heather Scott with TN Bank. We would also like to congratulate Susan McGetrick on being elected co-chair and Scott Chase as secretary.

For more information about joining this elite and essential group of people, please contact Kim Mitchell at the Chamber or talk to an Ambassador at an event. We would love to have you working with us!

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Certificate of Appreciation Seminar



Chamber President Rick Meredith and Executive Vice President Janet Hawkins present Board Chairman Rob Followell a certificate of appreciation for his service on the Chamber board. Followell has resigned from Tennova North to take a position in Winchester, TN. We wish Rob all the best in his new endeavors.

Ribbon Cutting



There was a great turnout on December 30, 2015 at 8 a.m. for Apple Blossom Café and Catering ribbon cutting under new owners: Jimmy Taylor and Leigh Ann Young, seen cutting the ribbon. Apple Blossom Café and Catering is located at 409 Cullom Street in Clinton, 457-5618 They are open 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday – Friday and 11 a.m. – 2:30 on Sunday.



A wonderful mini seminar by enthusiastic speaker, Eric Benson called "Smile More & Stress Less" was given at the Chamber in December. He reminded us all that eating right, getting plenty of sleep and keeping exercise on the top of our list are important in reducing stress, not only during this hectic holiday season, but all year round. Visit ericbenson-speaks.com to learn more about his seminars and Living a Life You Love!

Non Profit Workshop



The Association of Fundraising Professionals and SCORE presented a Non-Profit Workshop titled "Strategic Planning" hosted by United Way of Anderson County on January 15th. Along with the valuable information learned, they also received CEU's from Roane State Community College. Pictured is presenter Dana Peterka.

"20 on the 20th"

Partner with the Courier News to help Support local Business! Buy local and Spend \$20 on the 20th and \$13.60 Stays in Anderson County!

See mycouriernews.com For more info!

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Anderson County

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willowrunapts@comcast.net

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Boys and Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley has presented the Man & Youth Award, which recognizes support to the organization, to **Tony Hollin**. Hollin this year served as co-chair for the Our Kids, Our Future campaign, which raised \$14 million for a new facility for the organization.

Knoxville Business Journal has named their 40 under 40 for 2016: **Madhu Chinthavali**, Power Electronics team lead, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; **Kristen Hicks**, Senior Audit Manager, LBMC; **LaShanda Miller**, Director, Talent Management, ORAU; **Tara Pandya**, R&D staff, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; **Tyvi Small**, Director of Diversity & Community Relations, UT Haslam College of Business.

Museum of Appalachia's Fall Homecoming has been named one of the Top 100 Events in the country by the American Business Association.

Harry and Ann Patton cel-

ebrated their 60th Anniversary on December 26, 2015. Congratulations!

Anderson County Schools Director **Larry Foster**, has announced that he will be retiring at the end of June 2016. Anderson County Schools Principal Darren Leach has been named East Regional Principal of the Year and January 22 has been declared Darren Leach Day by Anderson County. Anderson County High Schools' Travis Hutcheson, assistant principal, has been named the new Maverick's Soccer coach.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Sheng Dai, a researcher and group leader of the nano-materials chemistry group, has been named one of the world's most highly cited researchers by Thompson Reuters. **Ann Weaver**, director of facilities management, has received the Postma Young Professionals Medal from the East Tennessee Economic Council. **Satyabrata Sen**, researcher, received the 2016 Sidney D. Drell Academic

Award for this contributions to projects for the Department of Homeland Security by the Intelligence and National Security Alliance. ORNL researchers and their collaborators are being recognized for by the International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry for their work in verifying two new chemical elements, # 115 and #117.

Pinnacle Financial Partners has added **Regina Jennings** as a senior Vice-President and financial adviser, **Chris Clanton**, as a client service specialist, and **Kristi Knight**, as a financial adviser assistant. Senior Vice President **Bill MacGrath** has been named secretary for the Rotary Club of Knoxville.

Kramer Rayson's Wayne Kramer has been named the President of the Knoxville Bar Association board of directors.

Helen Ross McNabb's Hilde Phipps, director of addiction services, has been awarded the

Dorothea Dix Professional Service Award for her service providing training and direction for alcohol and drug abuse counseling from the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations.

Knoxville News Sentinel health writer, **Kristi Nelson** received the Media Award for outstanding contributions to Tennessee's behavioral health system from the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations.

United Way has received support from **ORNL Federal Credit Union** which raised \$75K+, and from Oak Ridge Schools who raised \$18K.

Clinton City Schools Director Vicki Violette, has announced that she will be retiring in June 2016.

Roane State Community College's Heather Beck has been named president – elect of the Volunteer Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America for their 2016 board of directors and

Emily Scheuneman of Helen Ross McNabb Center is immediate past president. **DesignSensory's Casey Self** has been named a director at large.

Clinton Police Department's Officer Adam Warren has been being named the East Tennessee DUI Officer of the Year for 2015 by the Governor's Highway Safety Office for his persistence in performance while serving and protecting the citizens of Clinton. Police Chief Rick Scarbrough has been appointed to serve on the Executive Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police

The American Cancer Society and the **Clinton Physical Therapy Center** are beginning their drive for the Relay for Life of 2016. An informational meeting will be held at the therapy center on January 26 at 6:30 p.m. to begin planning and forming of new teams. The Relay for Life will be held on April 30 around the Anderson County Courthouse.

States Assesses Broadband Need

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd announced on Tuesday, January 5, the launch of a statewide assessment of broadband access and usage in Tennessee.

Boyd said the department determined the need for a statewide assessment of broadband access and usage during his initial set of listening tours across the state in early 2015. Elected leaders, business executives and economic development professionals in all nine TNECD regions told Boyd and department officials that a lack of broadband access may hurt future economic development efforts in rural Tennessee.

"Tennessee's economic future is directly tied to our broadband access," Boyd said. "Broadband access impacts our quality of life, educational opportunities, healthcare and our businesses' ability to compete. We must measure who has broadband Internet access and how they are using it. Help us make sure every Tennessee community has access to broadband by taking this assessment."

Boyd said the department's as-

sessment is an impartial survey of broadband access, adoption and usage in Tennessee's rural, suburban and urban communities. TNECD will then offer strategies to drive broadband utilization in the state.

In addition to the demand assessment, TNECD will partner with the telecommunications industry and other stakeholders to identify access gaps and evaluate options and costs to build out unserved and underserved areas of the state. TNECD will also offer recommendations for operational and funding models.

After months of preparation, the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce Community/Government Relations Committee and their 6 County Legislative Agenda, which included surrounding counties elected officials, was presented to local legislators on November 6, 2015. One of the key issues that was addressed was the broadband issue. The agenda stated, "Broadband access is vital to education, economy and health. As we move further into the technology age, we have found that reliable, high speed access to the internet is no longer an option; it is a necessity if we are to compete economically

or succeed academically. We hope to impress upon you our view of the importance of broadband access on the scale of other vital infrastructure needs, like water lines or asphalt." Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank and Anderson County Chamber Government Relations Chair Steve Heatherly have held community forums on the issue and expressed their views to legislators, but now they say they are hoping Anderson County citizens will take the lead on the state broadband assessment so the county can keep up in a fast-paced world.

On Monday, January 18, Heatherly spoke with WBIR's Kendall Morris and stated, "It's the slow circle of death that you see wheeling around there, and it's waiting and waiting and waiting," Heatherly said. "You get a lot of that." Heatherly lives on a section of road in the county that he said does not have broadband capabilities. Either end of the road has access to high-speed Internet, but the portion he lives on is left out.

"We will never get broadband access on our road on our own," he said. "We've got to have some help from the government. It needs to be treated like a utility. The world is a

digital world. Anybody that doesn't have access to broadband is getting passed by."

TNECD Assistant Commissioner for Rural Development Amy New said broadband access is crucial to driving workforce development and furthering entrepreneurship in rural areas.

New said the department will work with local governments, economic development organizations and the industry to drive participation in the assessment.

"High-speed Internet access has become a standard need for businesses and educational institutions around the world, and rural Tennessee is no different. Help us make sure every Tennessean's voice is heard on this important topic by taking the survey," New said.

The survey of businesses and households begins today and continues through March 15. Businesses and residents may take the online assessment at www.tn.gov/broadband. The department will deliver a full report and policy recommendations derived from the assessment to Governor Bill Haslam in June.

How confident do you feel about your retirement?

Let's talk.



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