

# ETDD Newsletter

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## Grassy Fork Elementary Groundbreaking Ceremony

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, officials from around East Tennessee gathered at the Grassy Fork Elementary School in rural Cocke County for a celebratory groundbreaking ceremony that was almost 20 years in the making. For nearly two decades the East Tennessee Development District has been working alongside officials from Cocke County, Newport Utilities, U.S. Representative Phil Roe's office and many other concerned citizens in the area trying to figure out a way to get public water to the remote Grassy Fork Elementary School.

Grassy Fork Elementary School currently serves 88 children grades K-8 in the Hartford area of Cocke County. They are one of only a few schools left in the entire state of Tennessee that is still being served by well water. During drought years the school has issues being able to provide enough water to serve the entire school's needs. It has even been so bad that they have had to bring in port-o-johns for the children, as young as five years old, to use because of water quantity issues. When Representative Roe heard about the challenges the school was facing he made it his number one priority over the years and helped to assemble a team of people to help make it happen. Among those that have been major contributors to the cause are former Field Representative for US Representative Phil Roe, John Abe Teague; current Field Representative for US Rep. Phil Roe, Bill Darden; State Senator Steve Southerland; State Representative Jeremy Faison; former Cocke County Mayor, Vaughn Moore; current Cocke County Mayor, Crystal Ottinger; current General Manager of Newport Utilities, Glenn Ray; and Executive Director of the ETDD, Terry Bobrowski.

In 1996 Cocke County applied for and was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that completed the first 2.7 miles of waterline needed to get into the area. Then in 2008 Newport Utilities was able to complete additional waterline that would bring it within 3.2 miles of the elementary school.

At this point everyone knew they were close, but the issue of being able to fund the estimated nearly \$2,000,000 final leg of the project was still being finalized. With a private donation from the Niswonger Foundation of \$100,000 the community and officials involved finally had their plan. They would apply for, and eventually receive, a 2012 CDBG grant as well as grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in both 2012 and 2013. The three grants in conjunction with the private donation and a local match provided by Newport Utilities would be able to install a new pump station, water tank, and provide clean, reliable drinking water for nearly 50 residences as well as the elementary school.

This project is a perfect representation of what can be accomplished when you have local leadership working together that is committed and persistent in their goals. As the officials gathered on that afternoon in front of the Grassy Fork Elementary School student body to talk about the project and how far it had come it was quite evident from all the smiling faces that the long road it had been to get to this point was worth every effort.



**AREAWIDE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**SBA 504 NEWS**



Walter N. Perry (second from right), U.S. Small Business Administration Tennessee District Director presents Areawide Development Corporation officers the award for 2014 Tennessee CDC of the Year for Dollar Volume generated. From left is David Verble, Board President of Areawide Development Corporation and President of Citizens National Bank of Sevierville; Don Woods, Areawide Director, Walter Perry, and Terry Bobrowski, Areawide Development Corporation Executive Vice President and Executive Director of East Tennessee Development District.

Areawide Development Corporation held its annual membership and board of directors meeting on Monday, September 21, 2015 at Green Meadow Country Club. Walter N. Perry III, U. S. Small Business Administration District Director from Nashville was the guest speaker. Mr. Perry shared that SBA lending statewide had experienced a 40 percent increase this year with existing businesses expanding as well as several start-up businesses. He noted that statewide SBA has 567 loans, totaling \$318 million this year between the SBA 504 and 7a loan programs. Mr. Perry explained that rural areas still need help, he urged rural lenders and community leaders to take advantage of the SBA resources available. Mr. Perry also recognized Areawide Development Corporation as the Tennessee Certified Development Company of the Year for Dollar Volume for fiscal year 2014. ADC generated \$6.8 million in SBA 504 loans in 2014. ADC is one of five certified development companies serving Tennessee. Areawide partners with financial institutions across the state of Tennessee to finance capital projects for small businesses utilizing the SBA 504 loan program.

In his report to the membership, Don Woods, ADC Director noted the number of loans approved was down slightly this fiscal year as well as the dollar volume generated. ADC is in SBA Region Four (4), the region as a whole is down 5% in loan approvals as well as dollar volume generated this fiscal year as compared to fiscal year 2014. ADC's loan portfolio is \$44.7 million and consists of 63 SBA 504 loans.

During the Annual Meeting the following officers were elected for the upcoming year:

President	David Verble
Vice President	Teri Brahams
Treasurer	Jim McBrearty
Secretary	Tish Campbell

On September 16, 2015, 469 twenty-year debentures totaling \$301,921,000 and 37 ten-year debentures totaling \$12,087,000 were funded nationwide by SBA. The 20 year debenture full term funding rate was 5.360% and the 10 year full term funding rate was 4.790%.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

During the last quarter, three economic development grant applications were submitted and approved.

The State of Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) is providing a \$5,000,000 FastTrack Industrial Development grant to the Blount Partnership in order to partially pay for site improvements needed for the expansion of Denso Manufacturing. In order to increase their auto part manufacturing capacity, Denso Manufacturing is constructing a 190,000 square foot warehouse. The expansion will result in 500 new jobs and \$400,000,000 in private investment.

A FastTrack Economic Development grant of \$200,000 was awarded to Cocke County to assist with site improvements related to an expansion by Oakcrest Lumber. The expansion will result in 73 new jobs and close to \$6 million in private investment.

A \$20,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant was awarded to the East Tennessee Development District to prepare a broadband feasibility study for Campbell County. The study will analyze options to increase broadband access in the county. Additional ARC funds will then be focused on implementation of the study.

### **PINI (TACIR) SURVEY**

The PINI survey is complete for the year 2014. All projects have been entered into the Internet Web based system and have gone through a bi-level quality control system. It will soon be time to kick off the new survey for the year 2015. ETDD will start mailing out the education's survey forms in early September. The collection for the General database and TDOT's projects will begin around January 2016. After all the surveys have been collected, the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) publishes a lengthy summary that details infrastructure needs for all of Tennessee. The report is presented to the governor and state legislators for use as a planning tool and a funding decision-making tool.

## **GRANT INFORMATION**

### **Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)**

CDBG grants are currently being reviewed by State ECD staff with announcement expected sometime in fall 2015.

ETDD staff is currently assisting the following communities on the administration of their projects:

1. Claiborne County- Waterline Extension
2. Cocke County- Waterline Extension
3. Dandridge- Wastewater System Improvements
4. Harrogate- Wastewater Line Extension
5. Jacksboro- Fire Service Improvement
6. Jefferson City- Wastewater System Improvements
7. Madisonville- Wastewater System Improvements
8. Morgan County- Waterline Extension
9. New Tazewell- Housing
10. Roane County- Wastewater Line Extension
11. Rockwood- Wastewater System Rehab
12. Rocky Top – Water system Improvements
13. Scott County – Wastewater System improvements
14. Tazewell- Housing
15. Union County- Waterline Extension
16. Vonore- Fire Service Improvements

### **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)**

ETDD staff is currently assisting the following communities with ARC administration: Newport Utilities, City of Rocky Top, Campbell County, Scott County, Cocke County, City of Morristown, Town of Winfield and Monroe County.

New pre-applications will become available in October/November with an early December deadline. ARC grants are broken into three areas:

**Distressed Counties are an 80/20 grant:** Campbell, Claiborne, Cock, Morgan, and Scott.

**At-Risk Counties are a 70/30 grant:** Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Monroe, and Union.

**Transitional Counties are a 50/50 grant:** Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon, Roane, and Sevier

The main goal of the ARC program is job creation; however, other areas have been approved in the past. Your project will need to meet one of the four general goals: 1. Increase job opportunities and per capita income 2. Strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy 3. Develop and improve infrastructure. 4. Build the highway system to reduce isolation.

**FEMA**

One issue the local fire departments need to be made aware of is that no monies will be awarded unless you are registered with the SAM.GOV Federal program.

Previously applied for FEMA grants for firefighting and emergency response equipment are currently being announced, usually every Friday, and that will continue until all of the monies have been allocated. At the writing of this issue, Sweetwater is the only ETDD assisted fire department to receive a grant.

**Recreation**

The next benchmarking deadline is November 2015. Benchmarking provides points on the recreation grant application that makes your project more competitive. The benchmarking application will also provide your recreation department some notoriety across the State by being benchmarked. If you would like more information or would want help to benchmark your community, call ETDD staff for assistance.

The traditional local parks and recreation grant is scheduled for a grant period late Spring 2016. ETDD staff will send out an email to notify all communities about the grant when it becomes available.

**Solid Waste**

ETDD staff assisted the following communities this past quarter on the administration of the following grants: Used Oil Grants – Rocky Top, Dandridge, Morgan County, Jefferson City, Tellico Plains and Scott County. Recycling Grants – Caryville for containers to assist in their door to door collection, Morgan County for trailer and baler to assist at their recycling center, Monroe County for fork Lift to assist at their recycling drop offs at the Convenience Centers, Lafollette for recycling truck to assist in their door-to-door collection of recyclables and Newport for containers to assist in their door-to-door collection of recyclables.

New Used Oil grants were submitted October 1<sup>st</sup> for Campbell County, Dandridge, Friendsville, Goodwill Industries, Morgan County, Newport, Norris, Russellville Utility, Sunbright, and Union County.

New Waste Reduction grants were submitted October 1<sup>st</sup> for Campbell County, Union County, and Scott County. Staff also assisted Anderson County, Loudon County and Goodwill Industries with their applications.

**Needs Assessments**

Needs assessments are required by a State legislative act every five years. New needs assessments began for Anderson, Blount and Hamblen Regions for this fiscal year.

**Police Grants**

Communities MUST be registered with SAM.GOV, Grants.GOV and COPS in order to apply. These registrations can take up to 30 days to complete. Due to security reasons, these grants are quite cumbersome and require that each community has one person that can keep up with their passwords and that person should be the only person that changes the passwords.

Please note that you can go online at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) to find out about different grants available. The site has a list of 26 federal grant making agencies. Also, please get in the habit to frequent our website at [www.etdd.org](http://www.etdd.org) to receive updates on grants and other important information and deadlines.

**HOUSING**

Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) are one of many available funding opportunities for housing rehabilitation. These subsidies, funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are made available through the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) to eligible communities across the state. Housing rehabilitation projects under the CDBG program must meet HUD-established national objectives, including blight elimination and providing assistance to low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents. Only about 5 projects in this category of CDBGs are funded each year across the entire state, and applicants may request up to \$500,000 to assist a maximum of 10 houses. The most competitive projects propose assistance for a concentrated area of owner-occupied LMI residences that exhibit codes violations. Projects are designed with one or two "target areas," groupings of eligible residences, for maximum impact in the community.

CDBG applications are typically due the final week of February each year. A local public meeting must be held prior to the application, and residents that wish to receive assistance under this program must fill out an individual survey that provides basic household information such as family size, ownership, and income details. Unlike other types of CDBG projects, a housing grant does not require any matching funds by the community. Additionally, those communities that participate in the Three Star program may

apply for an extra \$25,000 in grant assistance. Communities have three years to complete the projects and may also apply for other housing grants (such as those available through the Tennessee Housing Development Agency) during this period for maximum impact.

For more information on the CDBG housing program, please contact the ETDD Housing Planner at (865) 273-6003 to discuss an application.

### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is a program through the National Park Service (NPS) that recognizes historically significant places and resources. Listed properties include buildings, sites, objects, structures and districts. Inclusion in this program is an honorary designation, and no restrictions apply. Properties are not required to be open to the public, restored, or even protected from demolition. Unlike local historic districts, properties in a National Register district are not regulated in terms of design, so property owners retain the right to make any changes (up to and including demolition) that they wish. NRHP listing provides limited protection in cases of federal involvement on undertakings, or projects where the federal action is funding, transfer, sale or lease of a property, permitting or licensure, and other types of involvement. When these types of undertakings occur, the Tennessee Historical Commission reviews the project to determine the impact to historic properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Although this legally-mandated review is in place, it cannot necessarily keep a project from moving forward as proposed, even if an adverse impact is determined to exist.

NRHP listing provides several benefits, including access to preservation grants and tax incentives. Rehabilitation tax credits are one incentive for NRHP-listed properties and are often utilized for NPS-approved rehabilitation by owners of historic commercial buildings in downtown historic districts. Federal preservation grants allow provide funding on projects that utilize NPS standards for repair and rehabilitation efforts. Properties that are publically owned, typically by government or non-profit organizations, and those that are for public use (such as courthouses or other government buildings) generally receive access to these funds rather than privately-owned properties. Grant applications are due to the Tennessee Historical Commission each January. These are 60/40 matching grants that can be used for building restoration, historic or architectural surveys, and educational activities with a preservation component. ETDD can assist in the

identification of competitive preservation projects that may be eligible for these types of grants and can also provide grantwriting services to communities in our region.

Historic districts are present throughout much of East Tennessee and many communities have combined efforts of preservation and economic development by listing historic commercial districts as part of a larger revitalization effort. NRHP-listed districts often require additional layers of protection such as local historic zoning overlays, which help protect the area with locally-enforced design controls. This layer of protection helps retain higher property values and preserves the character of a district, often leading to additional revitalization efforts. The Main Street program, administered by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD), provides historic downtown districts with additional incentives and guidance with downtown revitalization and community development. Facade grants of up to \$100,000 from ECD are available to these communities, and smaller grants can also be accessed under the smaller 2-year Tennessee Downtowns program.

The East Tennessee Preservation Alliance and East Tennessee Quality Growth will host the annual preservation conference in Knoxville, October 22-24, 2015. Donovan Rypkema, a nationally-renowned preservation consultant, will be the keynote speaker on the economic impacts of historic preservation. Historic zoning commissioner training is included in the conference sessions, and is free of charge. Additional sessions will cover topics such as rural preservation, place-making strategies, and TVA's involvement in the East Tennessee Valley. Historic walking tours and specialized workshops are also included in the training opportunities.

ETDD works with a variety of local and regional preservation groups and advocates that can assist with NRHP nominations, preservation grant applications, and tax incentives. Please contact Caroline Eller with ETDD for preservation-related assistance and technical guidance.

### **RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)**

The Tennessee Department of Transportation will be accepting Transportation Alternatives grant applications until November 3, 2015. Projects eligible for funding under this program include: 1. Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities, 2. Safe Routes for Non-Drivers, 3. Conversion of Abandoned Railway Corridors to Trails, 4. Scenic Turnouts and Overlooks, 5. Outdoor Advertising Management, 6. Historic Preservation and Rehab of Historic Transportation

Facilities, 7. Vegetation Management, 8. Archaeological Activities, 9. Stormwater Mitigation and 10. Wildlife Management. This program requires a 20% local cash match. For additional information, visit the ETDD web site at <http://www.etdd.org/07/pedestrian-bridge-project/>.

Other TDOT grant programs anticipated to be available this fall and winter include Multimodal Access Funding grants, Community Transportation Planning grants and Safe Routes to School grants. Information on these grants programs will be forwarded to local officials upon receipt from TDOT. If interested in these grant programs, please contact Don Brown as soon as possible.

The East Tennessee Development District staff serves as Coordinator for the East Tennessee South Rural Planning Organization, RPO, and the East Tennessee North Rural Planning Organization. We work closely with the Tennessee Department of Transportation on transportation planning issues. One of the roles of the RPO Coordinator is to communicate with and coordinate with organizations in the region involved in transportation planning. We are available to consult with local agencies on transportation planning issues and to participate in local government meetings when major transportation issues are on the agenda.

The East Tennessee Development District website contains the most up-to-date information on the two RPO's. The web site includes the most up to date TDOT Project Status Reports that provide a description and status of all TDOT projects in each county within the RPO. The link to this website is <http://www.etdd.org/services/community-development/transportation/>.

### **PLANNING ADVISORY SERVICE**

There have been several free sessions offered for planning commissioners throughout the East Tennessee Region this year. The land use training at the University of Tennessee Arboretum on July 30 was well attended. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation provided several guest speakers as well as the University of Tennessee Institute for Agriculture. Kevin Hoyt, Director of the Arboretum, provided considerable expertise in the technical aspects of a land use tour. The East Tennessee Human Resource Association (ETHRA) provided the bus transportation for the planning commissioners. Many thanks to the event host, presenters and transportation provider as well as the planning commissioners who attended.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation conducted two planning commissioner training sessions on storm water management in Oak Ridge and Jefferson City in September. John LeCroy, Director of External Affairs for TDEC in Knoxville was one of the presenters as well as Valerie McFall. Several planning commissioners and storm water managers attended these two events.

The final training sessions for this year is on private property rights. The guest speaker is Dan Hawk. One training session will be held at the Appalachian Electric Cooperative, Highway 11 E in New Market on October 22 at 6 pm. The second session is at Farragut Town Hall on October 29 at 6 pm. No pre-registration is required.

The Planning Advisory staff is exploring several topics for training for the 2016 calendar year. One topic is "what makes a good subdivision road?" Private property rights will again be offered, but if you have any suggestions for future training topics, please contact the ETDD Planning Advisory Service at 865-748-5113.

### **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Working with the ETDD planner, GIS staff recently completed the final version of a new official zoning map for Rockwood. Over several months, a series of land use and zoning study maps were provided for planning staff and the Rockwood Planning Commission, which they used in their studies to better align zones with current and projected land use. The resulting map was approved by the Rockwood City Council on August 24, 2015. GIS staff also digitized a new zoning map for the city of Baneberry and continues to work with the city and their ETDD planner to update the town's maps.

GIS staff contributed maps and illustrations for several grants this quarter, including over 20 maps for Solid Waste grants for several communities in the ETDD region. Other grant maps and illustrations included those for HOME grants for Claiborne County and New Tazewell, transportation corridor study maps for Union County, an ARC grant location map for Scott County, THC National Register nomination maps, and updates to a CDBG target area map.

Other recent projects involve land use maps for Caryville and Gatlinburg. After field checking was completed by the planners and town staff, GIS staff began the process of updating the land use codes in the database for each parcel where necessary. Both of these projects are still in progress.

On September 22, GIS staff attended the Eastern Regional Forum of the Tennessee Geographic Information Council (TNGIC) held in Kingsport, TN. Over 130 GIS and geospatial professionals from East Tennessee and western Virginia were in attendance for professional development and networking. Presenters at the conference highlighted the use of GIS in economic development, the integration and management of GIS data, use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (drones), and tips for good cartographic design, among other topics.

**PEOPLE AND PLACES**

**Areawide Development Corporation Employee News**

Please join us in welcoming Joe Austin to Areawide Development Corporation. Mr. Austin joined ADC on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 as a Business Development Officer. Mr. Austin’s duties will entail sourcing, packaging and closing SBA 504 loans as well as working with our other in-house loan programs. A Knoxville resident, Mr. Austin has extensive commercial loan experience and has established an excellent reputation within the local lending community during his career. Welcome Joe!



**East Tennessee Development District Employee News**

Please join us in welcoming Tina Piatt to the East Tennessee Development District. Ms. Piatt joined ETDD on July 16<sup>th</sup> as an Administrative Assistant. Tina’s primary duties will be to assist with the operation of the front office and provide extensive assistance to the fiscal officer. Ms. Piatt has extensive experience with financial record keeping and has been employed by a number of local accounting and financial firms in the past. We are pleased to welcome Tina to the ETDD staff!



**Summer “Steppin’ Out” Challenge**

As part of our wellness program, we instituted a “Steppin’ Out” exercise challenge. This is the third exercise challenge but our first “Steppin’ Out” challenge with a company goal and tiered milestones.

We began our summer challenge on July 12<sup>th</sup> and ended on September 5<sup>th</sup>. This challenge had four tiers of milestones to shoot for in that eight weeks of 160k, 240k, 320k and 640k steps and an overall company goal that was five percent higher than our previous challenge.

Our employees met the challenge head on. They well exceeded the company goal by over one million steps and reached 6,634,636 steps. To give that perspective, our total steps are equivalent to 3,317 miles. That’s enough to walk all the way across the country and have plenty of steps left over to go shopping! We had four employees exceed our top tier milestone of 640k steps in that eight weeks. We are very proud of our employees for “Steppin’ Out” and making wellness a priority. Great job!

**VENDOR REGISTRY SERVICE**

Vendor Registry is an East Tennessee firm specializing in bidding specifically for local governments, schools and utilities. There are other firms that do this, too...but not located here. The service is free to government and utilities. Absolutely free. They take the whole process online, integrate it with your website and hugely expand the pool of people getting your bids. In East Tennessee those of us who serve the public tend to know the public we serve. Some of us are not located in big cities...or big counties. We’re connected to our communities. But surprisingly, many of us still do our purchasing the old fashioned way: lots of paper that takes of lots of space and time...and resulting in a limited number of bids.

The Vendor Registry system posts the bid to your web, and you can easily notify your vendors and the vendors registered with other local governments. This gets it out to more potential bidders. The registry helps you reach more vendors than we ever reached before. This is good business. And it costs nothing. I think that qualifies it to be a no-brainer.

Jessica Morgan, City Recorder  
City of Sweetwater

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### October 2015

- 6 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 7-9 TCSA Annual Conference, Rutherford County
- 12 Columbus Day Holiday, ETDD offices closed
- 13-14 Governors' Conference on Economic Development, Nashville Renaissance Hotel
- 20 East Tennessee Regional Council of Fire Chiefs meeting, Rural Metro Knoxville
- 21-23 Association of Tennessee Valley Governments meeting, Gatlinburg, TN
- 22 Private property rights training for planning commissioners, Appalachian Electric Coop
- 25-28 NADO Annual Training Conference, New Orleans, LA
- 29 Private property rights training for planning commissioners, Farragut Town Hall

### November 2015

- 3 Election Day (municipalities)
- 4-7 National League of Cities, Congress of Cities, Nashville Convention Center
- 10 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday, ETDD offices closed

### December 2015

- 8 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 24-25 Christmas Holiday, ETDD offices closed

### January 2016

- 1 New Year's Day, ETDD offices closed
- 12 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 18 Martin Luther King Holiday, ETDD offices closed
- 27-28 Association of Tennessee Valley Governments meeting, Chattanooga, TN