

ROCKY TOP NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE ROCKY TOP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FREE

APRIL 2022

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Briceville Fire Station Project Moving Forward



In the fall of 2019, local, state, and federal officials came together in Briceville to celebrate the awarding of an \$80,700 grant from the USDA Rural Development for the project. At the time, a \$74,200 low-interest loan and a \$30,000 match from the county government coupled with the grant were expected to pay for the project in its entirety.

However, as a press release from County Mayor Terry Frank's office points out, the pandemic hit and the project was delayed by other factors such as market disruptions that affected companies bidding on the contract to construct the new fire hall, the dreaded "supply chain" issues that caused "massive cost spikes" and forced officials to scale back the project, seek new bids, and find a way to make up an estimated \$75,000 shortfall that the Mayor writes "did not go away."

Last summer, the Anderson County Commission approved a request from the Briceville VFD for \$75,000 to make up the funding gap needed to get the project done. To help balance the books, the Briceville Fire Department, which like all other fire agencies in the county receives an annual appropriation of \$27,500, agreed to reduce its annual contribution from the county to \$5000 for each of the next 15 years. The measure passed unanimously.

Officials have not announced a timetable for the completion of the new fire station.

(Anderson County Mayor's Press Release)

It has been a long time coming, but the Briceville Volunteer Fire Department is ready to proceed with construction of a new fire hall

In late September 2019, officials from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development gathered in Briceville to announce a grant to the Briceville Volunteer Fire Department for \$80,700 and a loan of \$74,200, along with a county match of \$30,000 to make the dream of a new station a reality. .

On hand were then USDA Rural Development State Director Jim Tracy and then USDA Area Director for Rural Development Joe Woody, along with Anderson County Commissioners Shain Vowell and Tim Isbel, Lt. Governor Randy McNally, County Mayor Terry Frank, Greg Campbell from Design Innovation Architects, Fire Chief Jamie Brewster and numerous volunteers from the Fire Department as well as members of the BVFD Board. A lot of people were thanked that day – from Congressman Chuck Fleischmann and State Representative John Ragan to "boots on the ground" hard work by Ashley Nelson from USDA Rural Development.

But then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and the project hit several snags. Market disruptions affected bidders; supply chain issues created massive cost spikes and forced reworking of the project; scaling back, new bids – and also, the need to close a funding gap for price increases that did not go away.

The Anderson County Board of Commissioners stepped forward to help with the \$75,000 funding gap needed to get the project done. In June 2021, several members of the Briceville VFD attended Anderson County's Budget Committee meeting to support a request for County Commission to assist with the funding gap.

Annually, each county fire agency receives an appropriation of \$27,500 to aid fire response throughout the county. BVFD agreed to reduce its annual county appropriation \$5,000 for the next 15 years. Not only did the Budget Committee approve the request, but there was a unanimous vote from County Commission to get this project over the finish line.

"Final details have been difficult to wrap up with rapid market changes, but we're excited and very thankful we're finally there," Briceville Fire Chief Jamie Brewster said.

"This assistance to the Briceville Volunteer Fire Department is an acknowledgement from all the agencies involved of the importance of all volunteer fire departments to our rural communities," said Shain Vowell, District 4 County Commissioner who, along with Tim Isbel, represents the Briceville community. "I am proud to be a small part of the life-saving work of these brave and self-sacrificing men and women," Vowell said.

"I appreciate everybody involved with this very worthwhile project," Isbel said. "From the support of County Commission and all the support from Mayor Frank and our state legislators, it's all very much appreciated by this community. The residents of the Briceville community deserve this, as well as the fire department board and volunteers who have a deep dedication for community service. It's so well deserved and exciting to finally see this happen," Isbel added.

Leadership at the USDA has changed. USDA Rural Development Area Specialist Kirk Morris is now seeing the project through completion. Donations to Briceville VFD can be sent to PO Box 238, Briceville, TN 37710.

Youth Ambassadors Encourage Peers to be Sober at Prom and Graduation But Parents are Still the Biggest Influence.

Anderson County, TN, April 2022 – Since the beginning of the school year, students from Anderson County, Clinton, and Oak Ridge High Schools have joined together to support substance misuse prevention in their schools and community. These students, who form the Youth Ambassador Coalition, or YAC, would like to remind parents and caregivers of the role they play during prom and graduation season.

In one survey, 3 out of 4 teens said their parents have the biggest influence on their decision to drink alcohol. Parents and caregivers can help keep prom goers and new graduates safe during their celebrations by reminding their teens that they disapprove of any alcohol or drug use, knowing the itinerary and checking in, being clear that it is never okay to drive or ride in the car with someone who is under the influence, make sure their phone is charged in case they need to reach out, and that parents and caregivers are available and supportive if something happens and they need to reach out. I AM ONE keychains will be handed out to students as they leave prom and a tag reminding them that “One Decision Can Change Everything: Make this a night to remember, not a night you want to forget.” The #IAMONE campaign encourages youth to declare I AM ONE who will not use drugs or alcohol.

ASAP of Anderson would like to thank the Tennessee Highway Safety Office for providing a grant to support an I AM ONE selfie studio during Anderson County and Clinton Proms and the Oak Ridge’s Graduation Celebration to be yet another reminder to make safe, healthy decisions as they celebrate and prevent them from being another traffic-related injury or fatality.

For parents or caregivers wondering how to talk with their teens about substances, visit ASAPofAnderson.org. There you will find resources to help support you in having these important conversations. You can also get up to date information by following @ASAPofAnderson on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

CRAFTING FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



Bring your project and finish it as you socialize with other women of similar interest. Don't have a project, help with one that will benefit others: Chemo and Infant Hats, Lap Robes for Shut-ins, Mats for the Homeless. The only skill you need is a big heart.

Everyone Welcome

*1st & 3rd Mondays of the Month
4-6pm*

*First Baptist Church of Rocky Top
Fellowship Hall*

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SEND US YOUR EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The Rocky Top News is published by volunteers who are not always able to gather all of the news happenings in Rocky Top. Therefore, we are asking for your help. If you are at an event, please take a picture and email it to the Rocky Top News at rockytopchamber@gmail.com with the details of the event. Also, if you are involved in an organization or group that is planning an event in Rocky Top, please email or call the Rocky Top News with the details. There is no event too big or too small to let us know about.

AREA EVENTS IN AND AROUND ROCKY TOP COMMUNITY

Downtown Clinton Celebration of Arts - April 9th

Windrock Park Spring Shindig - April 21st-23rd

Driving Miss Daisy at Oak Ridge Playhouse - April 29th-May 8th

Sheep Shearing at Museum of Appalachia - April 29th

Mountain Bike Poker Run - April 30th

All events are subject to change.

Please follow social media or call for up-to-date information about your favorite events.



Anderson County Schools
Every Student, Every Day

2021-2022 School Year Calendar

January 17	Martin Luther King Day (District Closed)
February 21	Presidents' Day (District Closed)
March 11	3 rd Grading Period Ends (47 days)
March 14-18	Spring Break (Schools Closed)
April 15	Good Friday (District Closed)
April 18	In-service (NO school for Students)
May 3	In-service (NO school for Students)
May 27	Last Day for Students (Abbreviated Day - No Buses) (94 days) (178 Year Total)
May 30	Memorial Day (District Closed)



Join Our Mission
www.rockytoptnchamber.com
865-426-9595



ROCKY TOP TENNESSEE

Chamber Events

This is a great opportunity for Chamber members to network with other Chamber members. Everyone is welcome. If you are interested in joining the chamber, please feel free to attend any these events. For more information about the Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce or for updated events, visit www.rockytoptnchamber.com

Joint Networking Coffee
with Anderson County Chamber
at Community Bank in Clinton
Thursday, May 5th, 8:00am-9:30am



CITY OF ROCKY TOP MEETING SCHEDULE

City Court

2nd Wednesday of the Month at 8:00 a.m.

Downtown Growth Committee

2nd Thursday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting

3rd Thursday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.

This paper is published by the Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce monthly and is free to the public.

Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 1054
Rocky Top, TN 37769
865-426-9595

Please submit events, content and ads by email.
rockytopchamber@gmail.com

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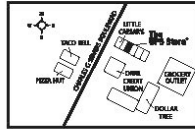
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Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.



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Rocky Top Chamber Mentor Program

Thank you to Brandon Pelizzari, Assistant District Attorney, for speaking to the Lake City Middle School 8th Graders today about his job with the District Attorney's Office and his career as an attorney. He talked about the importance of setting goals and not giving up, even when the cards are stacked against you. When asked why he does what he does, he said that he always felt the need to give back and be of service to his community. The speaker program is sponsored by the Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of educating 8th graders going into high school about the variety of professions that they could pursue.



THANK YOU

A special thank you goes to Leslie Holmes-Leach, DMD (Dentist), Michelle Vowell, EFDA (Expanded Function Dental Assistant), Reecia Lovett, RDH (Dental Hygienist) and Rocky (Therapy Dog) with Rocky Top Dentistry for speaking to the 8th students at Lake City Middle School at our Mentor Program! Thank you for all you do for our community!



NEW AT ROCKY TOP PUBLIC LIBRARY

Adult Fiction:

Diablo Mesa by Preston & Child

Calder Grit by Janet Dailey

Nothing To Lose by J.A. Jance

Never by Ken Follett

The Paris Apartment by Lucy Foley

Long Overdue at the Lakehouse Library by Holly Danvers

Caramel Pecan Roll Murder by Joanne Fluke

Death of a Green-Eyed Monster by M.C. Beaton

The Age of Ash by Daniel Abraham

Anthem by Noah Hawley

Adult Paperback Fiction:

An Amish Bride by Rosalind Lauer

Strength in the Storm by Laurel Blount

Magdalena's Choice by Molly Jebber

Young Adult:

House of Sky and Breath by Sarah J. Maas

Non-Fiction:

My iPad for Seniors by Michael Miller

Thriving with Kidney Disease by Walter Hunt

COPD by Donald A. Mahler, MD

The Seven Minute Productivity Solution by John Brandon

Juvenile Biography:

Who Was Jackie Robinson? By Gail Herman

Who Is Wayne Gretzky? By Gail Herman

Juvenile Non-Fiction:

The Everything Kids' Basketball Book by Bob Schaller



ROCKY TOP PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Make It Monday Craft Class

Adult craft classes will be held on the 2nd Monday of every month at 12:00PM. Please note there is a small registration fee for each class. Limited space is available so stop by early and register for the class. For more information you may call the library.

Little Trees Painting Group

Come join us for "Little Trees Painting Group" on the 3rd Monday of every month at 12:00PM. Bring your paints and canvas and enjoy the fun! No registration is required. For more information you may call the library. Class is limited to 8 people.

Storytimes

Little Tots Storytime

Little Tots Storytime is every Friday at 10:30AM. Bring your babies and preschool children and join the fun with stories and a fun activity!

Family Storytime

Please join us every Saturday at 12:00PM. Bring your school age children and enjoy a fun story and a craft!

STEAM Homeschool Group

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) allows students to gain valuable skills that can be used in all areas of their education, real life and future careers. The skills students learn through STEAM activities can help solve problems through creative thinking, hands-on experience and collaborating as a team. Every Thursday 1:45PM - 2:45PM. Pre-registration is required for this program.

Friends of the Rocky Top Public Library

If you appreciate the library and the many programs that are provided, and would like to have a part in them, join the Friends of the Rocky Top Public Library. The Friends Group is instrumental in providing for the various needs of the library. Many of the children's programs are made possible by the Friends Group. The Friends of the Rocky Top Public Library are a great asset to our community! If you would like to be part of this great group of people, pick up a brochure today at the circulation desk! Ask about the "perks" that you would receive by joining the Friends Group as well!

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How to log in and access our on-line catalog from the website:

1. Log into: rockytoppubliclibrary.com
2. Click on: Request an Item
3. Select Log In: It is automatically defaulted to TENV
4. Select Drop Down Box: You will be given an option to select your library. Type in Rocky Top Public Library.
5. Enter your library card number
6. Enter userpass as your password when you first set your account up. You can change the password once your account is set up.
7. You will now have full access to all the materials at the library and can renew and reserve materials you would like to check out.

So you want to make prom

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER...



- 1 CHARGE YOUR PHONE**
Have a fully charged battery so you can take lots of photos and videos. Remember to reach out to friends and parents if you need to.
- 2 SHARE YOUR PLANS**
Share your itinerary with your parents or caregivers so they know where you are - just in case something goes wrong.
- 3 SAFE TRAVELS**
Make sure you have a plan for safe transportation. Never drive or ride with someone under the influence.
- 4 NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS**
Have an amazing celebration with clear memories on prom night. Remember that even if others are drinking, you don't have to.



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