

What on Earth

Is Happening in the Clearfork Valley

Comments and suggestions to What On Earth P.O. Box 81 Eagan TN. 37730

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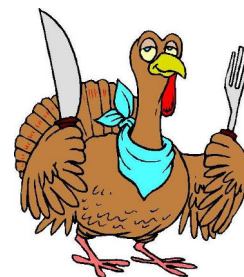
Community Participation

Recently I came across an article “**Practicing the Small-Town Art of Participation**” by Whitney Kimball Coe. She spoke about what it was like to come back home to her rural community as a young person and bringing her family with her, but what really spoke to me was the phrase she used was what she calls the “practice of participation” and what that means is you just keep participating and you keep showing up. I think that is one area that is lacking in this community, people don’t show up.

I could not tell you how many events I have attended for other groups in the community supporting their festivals, purchasing tickets, cookie dough for their fundraisers, but what I see is how few people come out and support events that Woodland and CCI host. Recently Woodland held their 2nd Annual Pie Fest and the few people that attended are the ones who come and support us each year, which we are so grateful for.

I also know there are so many more people who live in this community that could have stopped in even if it was just to say hello and show that they support the work we are doing. This article was supposed to be about the Pie Fest but it is so much more, it is addressing the lack of participation and making excuses why people don’t participate but the one thing I know I will keep showing up and supporting other groups and giving all that I can. That is the only way this community will ever change is for people to participate and be involved.

Your Invited!



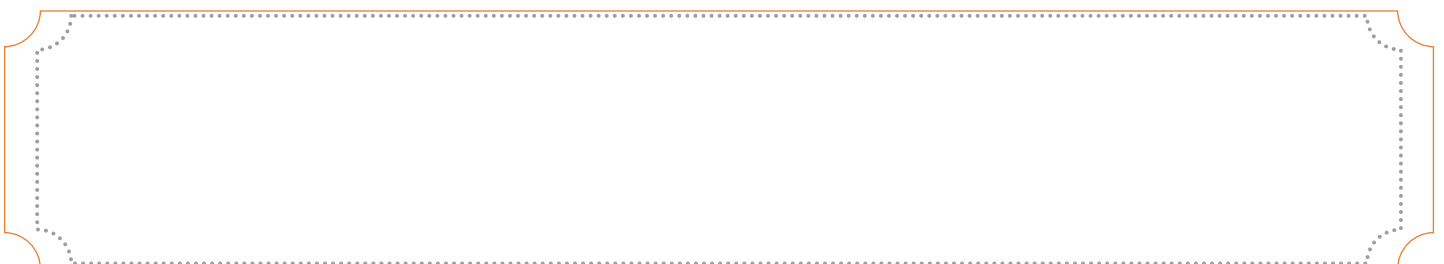
What: Thanksgiving Dinner

Where: CCI Old Eagan School

When: November 23, 2017

Time: 3:00 pm

Everyone Welcome



Letter from Notre Dame

During the week of October 14th through 19th, myself and ten other students from the University of Notre Dame came to the Clearfork Community Institute. Our trip was funded by our school's Center for Social Concerns, which holds a class about rural poverty in the spring and fall. This class requires a week-long service immersion which sends more than 200 students to the Appalachia region. All of these students, including our group at Clearfork, spent their weeks learning, conversing with community members, and helping in anyway that we could. Although we were guests at the Clearfork Community Institute, we really felt at home there. In fact, we felt welcome throughout the community and everywhere we went during that week, including people's homes, churches, stores, and worksites.

We think the main focus of our trip was education. While in Eagan, our group met with many members of the community to talk about the impact of mining, drugs, education, and the government on the local people. As a group, we met up every night to discuss what we had experienced during the day--how it had changed our opinions or confirmed our opinions. We realized how there is no simple argument for or against any of these issues, but rather are many people on each side of an argument.

Perhaps the greatest focus of the trip was the people. We sang with Ronnie, learned about mustard leaves with Randall, hunted to clean water with DJ and April, and adventured with Gary. Marie took us all over the county - from the Cumberland Gap to the County Commissioner's Meeting. Every person we met was so gracious and happy to host us. Even by the end of our first day, we felt like we belonged at Clearfork and were not out of our comfort zone. We were blown away at the hospitality that we experienced during our week.

We also made sure to have fun while in Tennessee. Whether it be splashing in some creeks, getting our car stuck in a mud, playing soccer in the backyard of CCI, or wandering down the railroad tracks, our group found joy in the simple pleasures of life. Tennessee is filled with such beautiful nature and we all relished the opportunity to be present in your home. As students, most of our time is spent thinking about class, projects, jobs, and more. We rarely get the chance to step back, reflect, be present, and gain perspective. We miss Eagan and everyone in the community already. We look forward to the next time we can come back and hope that your connection with Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns will continue of many years.



WHY?

By Gary Garrett

Earlier this week I spotted the **Claiborne County Highway Departments'** truck near the bridge at Eagan so I too had to risk my life and cross it. I couldn't believe my eyes and upon seeing I still can't believe it! **I must be dreaming!!** **After 42 years the bridge at Eagan gets weight limit signs!** **WHY?** Are they afraid someone is going to fall through it? What took them so long to figure that out? Do you reckon the signs might be more useful if they were to lay them on the bridge so that we'd feel safer driving across it? I know I'd feel better if they were. **Will it take 42 more years to get a real bridge?** By then we'll probably need more signs.

Ronnie Pittman, our Claiborne County Road Commissioner, in an article from the Claiborne Progress **stated:** **"Out of \$6.5 million, District 5 received \$86,400.00 while District 3 was given \$183,915.00 for road repair. District 6 got \$267,820.00, District 8 got \$465,264.00, District 1 got \$596,973, District 7 got \$732,000.00, District 4 got \$1.2 million, plus. District 2 got \$1.349 million."**

No mention of District 9 and what we were given. WHY? Is any of the remaining \$1,618,628.00 going to be spent if our district? Or was it already spent on the signs? Out of the 5 million dollar loan that the county received to pave all the roads in Claiborne County some years ago we got **NOTHING. At least this time we got some signs!**

Pittman also stated that it takes six months to set up a design and complete engineering and aquatic studies, in order to build a bridge. The people of Eagan have been waiting for 42 years!!

The bridge above my home that the **county owns** was washed out in 2012. **Shoot!** It was built in **4 hours** and **TDOT (Tennessee Department of Transportation)** gave it a sufficiency score of about 90 in 2013 which was a few months before the picture below was taken.

It was built out of culverts, gravel, rocks, dirt, had no side rails and was one lane, the approaches were off, no weight limit signs or any sign about it being a one lane bridge for two-way traffic and that railroad cross ties were in the culverts to hold the culverts up and still are. No mention anywhere on the 2013 report about it being a temporary bridge. I guess it just depends on who builds it or who inspects it.

He also stated: **"At that point it (the bridge) goes critical, they ("they" I assume means TDOT) can shut it down and in 30 minutes, your funds are cut off. You will receive no state-aid funds. You will not get a check, if you don't address that bridge immediately."** The bridge in Buffalo has been replaced. I was told by Jimmy Hatmaker that it was condemned by an inspector and after a thorough search I could not find a report of the inspection, maybe the inspector forgot to file a report and now we know possibly the **why**.

Inspections are only as good as the inspectors. For more information about bridges in our area examine them yourself (look closely at the first bridge on Rock Creek and the bridge going to Straight Creek; go underneath) and then search the web: Tennessee Bridge Surveys and Appraisals.

Explore your world and question everything!

Comments and Suggestions

Addressed TO;

What On Earth P O Box 81 Eagan TN. 37730

Email Woe.CCI@hotmail.com

Subscribe \$15.00 a year

Name-----

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Obituaries

Our condolences go out to the family of
Francis Geraldine Gibson (75) of Pineville

Joy Coffey (70) Clairfield

Kyle Allen (70) of Clairfield

Danny Henderson

Shirley Jean Parker

Ms. Deanna Kennedy (64) of Jellico

Kenneth King (77) of Eagan

Terry Houston Stanley (56) of Clairfield

Charlene Parker Hill (72) of Jellico

Lou Wanda Gibson (71) of Duff

“Gone from our sight but never from our hearts”

Community Calendar

COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

Claiborne County: 3rd Monday of the month in large court-room located on Main Street in Tazewell at 6:30 p.m.

Campbell County : Regular Business meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month.

CLEARFORK UTILITY BOARD MEETING 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00p.m

CLAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT: meets on the 1st Monday of the month.

SENIOR Crafts Second and Fourth Monday of the month

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	What On Earth PO Box 81 Eagan TN 37730