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| Make A Difference |
| **RSVP of Etowah & Cherokee County** | **October – December, 2021** Volume 20, Issue 4 |
| In the News*Reading Buddies**Unusual Recognition Event*ContentsSuccess Story 2Volunteer Opportunities 2Station Needs 2Upcoming Events 3Puzzle 3Volunteer Recognition 4Birthdays 5RSVP Advisory Council 6 | **The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is a federal program charged with leading efforts to expand the use of service and volunteering as key solutions that respond to our nation’s most pressing challenges. Our mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement, through service and volunteering. RSVP is sponsored locally by the Etowah County Commission, and federally by the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS).** |
| Director’s CornerI’ve been going through old photos and the people and the times are all running together. How can everyone who was once so young and vibrant now have grey hair and bad knees?Aren’t we all so lucky to have lived as long as we have, seen the things we’ve seen and done the things we’ve done? Some things I would never do again, but I don’t regret my experiences and life lessons.There’s so much going on in our world today, but I hope you never forget the influence you have already had on countless people, the impact you continue to have on people every day, and the effect that this has on our neighborhoods, cities, towns, counties and this country. Where would we be without you?Nostalgia – that’s the autumn, dreaming through September. Just a million lovely things I will always remember. – Jackie Kennedy OnassisSeptember is definitely a dreamy, nostalgic time. Leaves are just beginning to change colors, the weather is cooling a little, school is in session, you don’t have to bundle up to watch a football game yet.  |
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| News |
| While some elementary schools are limiting the number of people coming into the building, some are not. We have Reading Buddies in place at many schools, but we still need volunteers who would like to help children learn to read and comprehend at Attalla Elementary, Glencoe Elementary and West End Elementary. If you know of someone in these areas who would like to work with children, help us spread the word!We are going to have a recognition event (of sorts) for our volunteers this year, but nothing on the scale of what we normally do. We can’t, in good conscious, have an event with lots of people in close proximity and hugging and eating.  So – check your mail every day to see what we’re doing to show you some of the appreciation you so richly deserve!Also, thanks to our anonymous benefactor the craft kits will continue! We are going to have one month dedicated to our recognition, which is for all of our volunteers, then you’ll see the craft kits again. |  |  |
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| **Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the Fall.****~ F. Scott Fitzgerald*** **Etowah County Animal Shelter –**Volunteers are needed to exercise and socialize with the pets that are up for adoption, or help in the office and answer phones.
* **Etowah Free Community Clinic –** volunteer dental hygienists and assistants are needed
* **Etowah Baptist Missions Center –** volunteers are needed to sort clothes. During this pandemic you do need to wear a mask, and gloves are encouraged for this activity!
* **MANNA –** volunteers are needed to deliver meals to homebound people. This only takes about an hour!
* .**For these & other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP @ 256-549-8147!**

**STATISTICS**New volunteers – 2Total volunteers – 235Total stations – 51Volunteer Hours – 4089Value of Hours – $95,906.10(According to federal guidelines, the value of a volunteer’s time is $20.84 per hour) | Success Story |
| So many volunteers have continued to work during this pandemic – all of you are success stories! But let me tell you about a fundraising event that RSVP volunteers helped with – the Council on Aging Speakeasy Casino Night. Six of our faithfuls came out to help on a Friday night and stayed till the bitter end. These guys helped with parking and set up and serving food and clean up. And because of their help the Council on Aging made money so that they can continue to serve ALL senior citizens with Medicare issues and some of our more vulnerable senior citizens with needs that no one else is helping with.And do you know about all of the senior nutrition centers in Etowah and Cherokee Counties? And these volunteers are still helping at these places daily to make sure that seniors have at least one healthy meal each weekday.*“Quality is not an act – it is a habit.”*RSVP volunteers have this habit down pat! |  |  |
| Volunteer Opportunities |
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| Volunteer Recognition |
| It is an honor for me to recognize three of RSVP’s unsung heroes. Mrs. Carol Hudson, Mrs. Ellie Higgins and Mrs. Dolly Thomas have spent many months and over 700 hours traveling the highway with me to deliver craft kits to our volunteers during this pandemic when many of the usual volunteer stations were closed. Thank you for the generous gift of your time and your heart – it’s been amazing!~ Faye Russell, RSVP Volunteer CoordinatorThe winner of our on-time, time sheet drawing is Mrs. Faye Shelton! Faye is a faithful volunteer at the Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center, with RSVP since 2007, and she has 1452 hours of service on record! |  |  |

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| Upcoming Events |  |
| * **October 7 –** Choose Life event benefitting Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center. Call 256-442-6101 for info and tickets!
* **October 15-December 7 –** Medicare Open Enrollment period. For help or to make an appointment call Council on Aging at 256-492-0230.
* **October 31 –** Halloween
* **November 7 –** Daylight Savings Time ends. Remember to set your clocks back one hour.
* **November 11 –** Veterans Day

**C:\Users\tpondick\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\LQBSRYFB\military-vets-onyx-truth[1].jpg*** **November 25 –** Thanksgiving
* **December 9 –** Smarter Seniors Workshop. Details coming soon!
* **December 25 –** Christmas
* **December 31 –** New Year’s Eve.
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| “Autumn – the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful.” ~ Unknown | Volunteer Stations |
| AARP, COOSA VALLEY CHAPTERAMERICAN RED CROSSATTALLA HEALTH & REHABBIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERSBOYS & GIRLS CLUBCARVER SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERCATHOLIC CENTER OF CONCERNCENTRAL-CARVER MUSEUMCHEROKEE COUNTY HEALTH & REHABCHEROKEE VILLAGECIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE OF ETOWAH COUNTYCITY OF GADSDENCOOSA VALLEY HEALTH CARECOUNCIL ON AGINGEL SENOR CLUBELLIOTT SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERETOWAH BAPTIST MISSION CENTER | ETOWAH COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCYETOWAH FREE CLINICETOWAH HISTORICAL SOCIETYETOWAH PREGNANCY TESTING CENTEREXTENDED FAMILYFAMILY SUCCESS CENTERFIRST CALL FOR HELPFLOYD CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTERGADSDEN HEALTH & REHABGADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARYGADSDEN QUILTERS GUILDGADSDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTERGEORGE WALLACE SENIOR CENTERH D BUTTRAM SENIOR CENTERHABITAT FOR HUMANITYHEAD START | MANNAMCGUFFEY HEALTH & REHABMOUNTAIN COVE NORTHSIDE HEALTH & REHABPADEN RIDGE PHYSICIANS WHO CAREPILOT CLUBREADING BUDDIESRIVERVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTERRSVP ADVISORY COUNCILRSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE RX HELPSALVATION ARMYSMARTER SENIORS WORKSHOPSTAX COUNSELINGTELE CHEKTHE LOVE CENTERUNITED WAY |

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| HAPPY BIRTHDAY! | The older you get, the better you get. Unless you’re a banana. ~ Betty WhiteC:\Users\tpondick\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\LQBSRYFB\67526-card!-birthday-happy-free-download-png-hq[1].png |
| Sarah Trammell 10/01Carolyn Jentzen 10/02Betty Woodward 10/03Jeanne Chambers 10/06Connie Wappelhorst 10/6Mary (Liz) Howell 10/08Susan Wolford 10/10Shirley Steapleton 10/12Cynthia Toles 10/13Betty Causey 10/14Dianne Williams 10/18Troy Word 10/20Bess Estis 10/21Bonnie Childs 10/22Rose Higgins 10/24Sonya Nesbitt 10/24Theresa Beverly 10/25Danny Phillips 10/26Glenda Thornton 10/26Ann Johnson 10/29Barbara Mosley 10/29Ellie Higgins 11/01Ray St. John 11/04Sherre McGinnis 11/11Alma Alford 11/23Treasia Spelce 11/24Millie Cartrett 11/26Jimmie Leonard 11/29Rebecca Hilleke 11/30Portia Foster 12/01Dolly Thomas 12/02Sally Shamblin 12/04Kathy Blattel 12/05Kenneth Mayo 12/07Eloise Turk 12/07Judy Smith 12/08Rebecca Tinker 12/08Sammy Griffin 12/13Nina Tenerani 12/17Maureen Latronico 12/18Elizabeth Cline 12/20Evelyn Westcott 12/21Erma Davidson 12/22Kenneth Means 12/22Sandra Coffey 12/25Frances Lipscomb 12/25Steve Scharfenberg 12/26Linda Ellison 12/28Pat Hill 12/28EllaJay Willis 12/29  |  |  |
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| We’re on the Web!See us at:www.etowahcounty.org**Friend us on Facebook!**facebook-...**https://www.facebook.com/groups/327258517069/****Follow us on Twitter!**https://twitter.com/images/resources/twitter-bird-blue-on-white.png**Twitter.com/etowahrsvp** **Follow us on Instagram!****C:\Users\Traci\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\T8NRO31N\instagram[1].jpg****@volunteers\_of\_etowah**Director – Traci PondickVan Driver/Volunteer Coordinator – Faye RussellAdmin. Asst./Reading Buddy Coordinator - Darlene JonesRSVP800 Forrest AvenueRoom 219Gadsden, AL 35901Phone256-549-8147Fax256-549-5351E-mailtpondick@etowahcounty.orgGETTING THINGS DONE. | RSVP Staff |
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| RSVP Advisory Council |
| *Chairperson –* Kenneth Hudson*Vice Chairperson –* Portia Foster*Secretary/Treasurer –* Deborah LankfordTheresa FryeJenifer GracePat HillCarol HudsonJudith MoonJeff LittleCraig ScottDelma SmithCynthia TolesSarah TrammellTowanna Wilson |  |  |
| Please shop at these local businesses & say “Thank You!” for supporting RSVP!

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| ABSOLUTE FITNESS | JOHNSON’S GIANT FOODS | RED LOBSTER |
| ACE HARDWARE | LEGACY DENTAL | REGIONS BANK |
| ADVANCE AUTO PARTS | LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA | RIVER BANK & TRUST |
| ADVANCE CARDIOVASCULAR | MYERS INSTITUTE OF HAND & PLASTICSURGERY | RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL |
| ALABAMA TEACHERSCREDIT UNION | NOCCALULA FALLS PARK | SMITH & BAILEY DENTAL |
| B & C TIRE | O’REILLY’S AUTO PARTS | BARONE’S PIZZA |
| BAKER TIRE | OBSERVER SUPPLY | SUPER BEE PHARMACY |
| DISCOUNT PEST CONTROL | PEOPLES BANK | SUTTON BRIDGE EXXON |
| EXCHANGE BANK | PEPPERMINT PONY | TAMING OF THE EWE |
| FAMILY SAVINGSCREDIT UNION | PHYSICIANS HOME HEALTH SUPERSTORE | TOP O’ THE RIVER |
| GADSDEN FOOT CLINIC | PROFESSIONAL OPTICIANS | LINDA BARRETT-VAUGHNREVENUE COMMISSIONER |
|  | PUBLIX | WAL-MART |

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