



# Tellico Reservoir Development Agency

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## Annual Report 2018

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### Leadership Change at TRDA



Photo by Michael Thomason, The Advocate and Democrat, May 28, 2018

A new era has begun at TRDA. In the spring, long-time Executive Director Ron Hammontree, announced his retirement. Mr. Hammontree has served the Agency for over 21 years. During that time the Agency's flagship property, the Tellico West Industrial Park has boomed, growing into one of the four largest marine manufacturing regions in the country, and the largest in Tennessee. Currently the Park employs approximately 4,500 individuals across 21 businesses, industries, and agencies.

At the May meeting the TRDA Board of Directors named Bryan Hall to succeed Mr.

Hammontree. Mr. Hall is a resident of Madisonville and is well know across the community. He attended East Tennessee State University where he earned a degree in Marketing in 1986. After graduation, he was employed at Langdale Forest Products where he began as a general laborer and advanced to the position of General Manager until leaving in 1995. He then pursued a career as owner and operator of a private retail and wholesale business from 1995 until 2013. In 2014 he accepted the position as Director of Monroe County Economic Development. Mr. Hall is a 2016 graduate of the Tennessee Certified Economic Developer Program. He presently serves on several boards and is very active in the East Tennessee Region and in his local community.

Mr. Hammontree has not completely left TRDA. He agreed to accept the position of Transition CEO to work on special projects currently underway. Mr. Hall shared with *Technovation*, "Ron's been a mentor to me. We've worked on many projects together, and I'm

excited and humbled to step into his shoes."

New leadership is not the only change at TRDA this year. Wade Russell also retired at the end of July. Mr. Russell had overseen TRDA's campground operations since July 2010.

Mrs. Lisa Samples joined the Agency in June to fill the position vacated by Mr. Russell. She will oversee campground operations and assist with economic development activities. Mrs. Samples comes to TRDA from Monroe County Economic Development where she served as the Administrative Assistant for 14 years. She attended Cleveland State Community College and received a Certificate in Workforce Preparedness. Mrs. Samples lives in Madisonville with her husband Philip and their sons Landon and Colin.



# MasterCraft Boat Company Celebrates 50th Anniversary



MasterCraft was founded in 1968 when it built its first ski boat in a two-stall horse barn on a farm in Maryville, Tennessee. Dissatisfied with the large wakes and pull of other ski boats, MasterCraft builders designed a hull that had the smallest wake in the industry; smooth and low at slalom and jump speeds; well defined at trick speeds. In its first year of operation, MasterCraft only built 12 boats. But the boat design was so revolutionary that the company began getting order after order for

its boats and MasterCraft soon became recognized as a major force in the tournament ski boat market. Fast forward forty-five years later, MasterCraft is producing thousands of tournament ski, wakeboarding, luxury and performance boats

annually to keep up with consumer demand.

MasterCraft has a single manufacturing facility located in Vonore, Tenn., where it employs over 400 people.

MasterCraft is by far the largest producer of inboard ski, wakeboard and luxury performance powerboats in the world. It sells boats in over 30 different countries and has over 130 domestic and international dealers. Every MasterCraft comes from Vonore and hundreds of owners, skiers and boarders visit the company's headquarters every year to see the birthplace of their most prized possession.



The first boat ever built on the right, and the 50th anniversary ProStar on the left.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/MCBoatCompany/>

## Items of Interest

- Many of the companies in Tellico West are currently hiring.
- A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed between TVA, the Loudon County Committee of 100, Lenoir City, and TRDA concerning plans for TVA properties at the new Highway 321 Bridge in Lenoir City. Concept Drawing have been developed by the Community Design Center of Knoxville outlining possible uses of the land.
- TDOT repaved Highway 444 and some turn lanes were constructed.
- A 40-acre tract of industrial land on Slag Road adjacent to the rail spur has been cleared of trees and brush to make the property more marketable. The site is rail accessible.
- HydraSports is the fastest growing company in Tellico West. It has grown from 30 to 130 employees in a short period of time
- Yamaha is completing its third expansion and has approximately 600 employees.
- Building permit fees and waste water treatment fees were both increased this year.
- TDOT created new turn lanes coming into to Tellico West to assist traffic flow on Highway 72.

## Tellico Corporate Peninsula Master Plan Complete



The Master Plan for the Tellico Corporate Peninsula is completed.

The suggested name for the project is "Timberlake" as it is an historic name for this area. This will be a live, work, play area. The Master Plan indicates a Town Center and an area for a resort/spa at the end of the peninsula. There will be areas for homes of varying price ranges. A full service marina will also be available.

The Master plan provides for industrial sites as well as recreation lands.







# Cleveland State Community College's Mechatronics Program has Increased Enrollment

Cleveland State Community College Monroe County Center has had another great year. The Mechatronics program has experienced an increase in enrollment by 50 percent from fall of 2017 and we were very excited with the placement of 3 of our dual enrollment students in internships at BH Electronics. These students gained experience in the manufacturing world and have since continued in programs at the College to enhance their skills.

Josh Futrell, a graduate of the Mechatronics Certificate program at the Monroe County Center, continued his training and was accepted into the Mechatronics Honors Institute this fall. The Mechatronics Honors Institute blends classroom instruction with on-site manufacturing experience at various industry partner sites. Classes such as Electrical Components, Mechanical Components & Electric Motors, Electro-Pneumatic & Hydraulic Control, and Digital Fundamentals and PLCs are

offered, among numerous other courses geared toward a career in the manufacturing industry. "The Mechatronics Honors Institute allows students first-hand experience, exploration and academic alignment in preparation for a career," stated Crystal Renner, DENSO Talent Acquisitions Supervisor. "DENSO is delighted to partner with CSCC to support the practical development of students and to create an earlier pipeline of well-educated and skilled talent to our industry." CSCC currently has partnerships with DENSO, McKee Foods, Bayer, Mayfield's, and Wacker. If you would like more information, please contact Pat Bryant at 423-884-2338.

In addition to CSCC's Mechatronics program at the Center, part of our strategic plan for the Center is to create a regional workforce development training center. Currently, our workforce team provides customized training to many of our industries within the Tellico West Industrial Park. Customized trainings have been developed in the areas of

Leadership, Industrial Maintenance, and Computer Skills—specifically Excel as well as Electrical training and welding. If you are interested in customized or non-credit training, please contact Patty Weaver, AVP Workforce Development and Economic Development, (423)836-2057 or by email: [pweaver@clevelandstatecc.edu](mailto:pweaver@clevelandstatecc.edu).

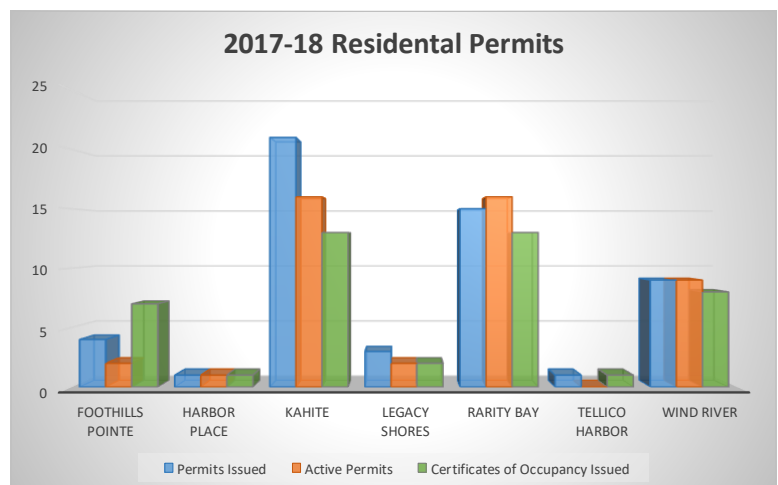
Beginning this spring, we will be launching a Marine Composites Boot Camp. The camp will include training in composites manufacturing, lamination techniques, safety, and basics of what you need to know before going into a composites shop among other topics. For more information regarding the Cleveland State Monroe County Center please contact Pat Bryant, Coordinator, at (423) 884-2338, 1-800-604-2722 Ext 479 or by email: [pbryant02@clevelandstatecc.edu](mailto:pbryant02@clevelandstatecc.edu)



## Residential Permit Issuance Grows Again

Nation wide residential housing permits were up 10.8 percent from 2017 to 2018 according to the National Association of Home Builders. The majority of this growth was in the South. Tennessee was up 3 percent and the Knoxville metro area grew by 11 percent. Statista: The Statistics Portal predicts home building will continue to rise through 2022 nation wide.

TRDA has reflected this trend with a 17.4 percent increase of permits issued during the 2017-18 fiscal year. A total of 54 permits were issued, 46 homes are currently under construction, and 45 certificates of occupancy were issued.



# MasterCraft Acquires Crest Marine, LLC

MasterCraft Boat Company announced in October it has completed the purchase of Crest Marine, LLC for \$80 million. Crest Marine is a leading manufacturer of high-quality pontoon boats, located in Owosso, Michigan.

Founded in 1957, Crest was privately owned and operated until the purchase and has a reputation for innovation and quality. In 2017 Crest had approximately \$69.9

million in net sales, and that number is expected to grow to approximately \$90 million in 2018.

With this purchase, and last year's purchase of NauticStar, MasterCraft is the only boat manufacturer with three complementary, dedicated brands serving the three fastest-growing segments of the powerboat industry.

Crest will maintain its current headquarters and



manufacturing facility in Owosso, Michigan.

Source: [http://investors.mastercraft.com/news-releases/news-release-details/mastercraft-signs-definitive-agreement-acquire-crest-marine-llc?field\\_nir\\_news\\_date\\_value\[min\]=2018](http://investors.mastercraft.com/news-releases/news-release-details/mastercraft-signs-definitive-agreement-acquire-crest-marine-llc?field_nir_news_date_value[min]=2018)



## TRDA Campgrounds Update

This past year has been another successful year for all three TRDA campgrounds. All seasonal sites were leased again this year with waiting lists at all three campgrounds. This summer we received many compliments from campers at Toqua Campground about the new bathhouse that is fully equipped with heat and air. Campers at Lotterdale Cove Campground and Toqua Campground enjoyed the newly installed fans at their pavilions. We installed interactive speaker boxes at each of the campground gates making it more

convenient for Campground Managers to quickly assist guests and visitors entering the campgrounds.

TRDA is looking forward to the upcoming camping season and thinks campers are really going to enjoy the improvements that have taken place while the three campgrounds have been closed this winter. Six new cabins have been purchased and should be in place for the upcoming 2019 camping season at Toqua Campground. These cabins will have an amazing view of mountains and Tellico Lake. Each one is equipped with kitchen, full bath, dining area,

sleeping accommodations for up to six people and scenic deck that will overlook Tellico Lake.

As mentioned last year, a new recreation area is in the planning stages. This new recreation area would be located on Highway 72 East near the Smoky Branch public boat ramp. Currently, we are in the design and review stages working with architects and landscape engineers.



# Sequoyah Museum Renovation Complete

A \$2.8 million renovation to the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum was completed earlier this year.

The Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore opened in 1986 to promote understanding and appreciation of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' history and culture. The centerpiece being the life and contributions of Sequoyah, creator of the Cherokee Writing System.

For the past thirty years, Sequoyah Birthplace Museum has successfully promoted this history,

which is the continued goal of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for the museum. The Sequoyah Birthplace Museum has completed the major renovation that began last year. The new museum experience includes the latest audio-visual technology bringing the Cherokee Nation and the man, Sequoyah, to life. Innovative exhibits are now enjoyed within the two main theaters, assorted audio-visual programs throughout, and life-cast figures created from living models to present Sequoyah in age progression from 10 years old to about 45 years of

age. The new collection of artifacts and engaging exhibits illustrates the forward thinking of this great man and takes each visitor back in time unfolding history.

Source: <http://www.mcminnlife.com/sequoyah-events/>



## Rollins Cemetery Restored

A project years in the making finally came to a head ... as local representatives, volunteers and family members celebrated the rejuvenation of an old cemetery that had at one point been long forgotten.

The cleanup was spearheaded by Tellico Village resident Gary Mulliner, who roughly 10 years ago started doing research on the graves. "Fifty-six of these graves were in Tellico Village in Kahite, and they moved them and I was doing research for Tellico Village, and I went to the site and, of course, there's nothing there," Mulliner said. "The big question is where are they? That took me another year, probably year and a half to find them where they were."

Mulliner's work led him to Rollins Cemetery in Greenback, which includes grave sites at one point located in Kahite and several other locations, and had some burials dating back to the 1790s. Rollins Cemetery was created in the 1970s by Tennessee Valley Authority prior to flooding the Tellico Reservoir project. Once he found the cemetery, Mulliner described the area as being in "non-repair." Grave sites were sunken, grass was overgrown, trees were everywhere, and it was overall difficult to access.

"I mean we had trees growing through the graves," Mulliner said. "... It was non-repair. This place was a jungle, you couldn't get in here. There were literally trees right here growing right over. When I first came in here you had

to crawl under the trees to get in here to even find it. You couldn't see the graves." Early on about eight years ago volunteers began conducting cleanups of small sections, but Mulliner said it wasn't until two years ago that work really began. "Two years ago we really decided we were either going to do it or we weren't going to do it," Mulliner said.

That work led to help from the community, including 400,000 pounds of gravel donated to create a real pathway to the cemetery, Mulliner said. Volunteers crafted a wooden fence and entrance, a kiosk explaining its history and new stones for grave sites.

One volunteer was Earl Smith, who represents the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp No. 87 in Knoxville. Mulliner approached the camp because three of the grave sites had Confederate soldiers. "These people deserve to be remembered just like hopefully when we're gone somebody will remember us," Smith said. "Confederate soldiers according to the VA are considered the same as U.S. veterans from that era. That was something that was enacted in the late '50s right before the centennial during Eisenhower's administration and they will provide government markers.

"Although we're having trouble getting markers for these because when I talked to the VA they said there's pictures showing for these graves already marked," he added. Hopes are to speak with U.S. Congressman John Duncan, R-Tenn., to help obtain markers for the sites, Smith said. If not, the group will pay for it



themselves.

For Norman Curtis, ...[the] ceremony was a little more special because he had family members laid to rest at the site. "It's absolutely unbelievable," Curtis said. "Years ago I had tried to find the cemetery, and I knew I had great-great uncles that had been re-interred. Now I couldn't find where it was, and we moved into Kahite, and Gary knocked on my door. We just started working together on it, but it's absolutely unbelievable to me the dedication that he has to do something like this." Even if he didn't have family in the site, Curtis believed rejuvenating Rollins Cemetery is important.

"It needed to be done," Mulliner said. "Respect for the folks that were here that were just lost, and everybody has a story. That's the thing that people don't really realize, that every one of these people had a life and it's pretty incredible that you can just abandon them, because that's what they were, they were just abandoned."

Nash, Jeremy. "Evrybody has a story." *News-Herald*, 11 Apr. 2018 [Lenoir City, TN], p. A9+.

**Residential**



**Industrial**



**Business Services Center**



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