

Make A Difference



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).

In the News

Tax Program

SWAT Team

Contents

Success Story	2
Volunteer Opportunities	2
Volunteer Recognition	2
Upcoming Events	3
Puzzle	3
Volunteer Stations	4
Birthdays	5
Advisory Council	6
Staff	6
Merchants	6

Director’s Corner

Did you know that the term “Spring Fever” can mean a feeling of renewal, invigoration and restlessness *OR* a feeling of laziness or listlessness, all because of warmer weather? I guess it all depends on how you look at it.

Fortunately for RSVP, most volunteers are invigorated people to begin with, or they

wouldn’t be volunteering in the first place.

Sometimes it’s hard to be energized & full of life, and there are times when we all don’t feel quite up to par. There may be something going on in your life, with your family or with your health that keeps you from being joyful. Know that this is only a season, and things do get better.

But hopefully this spring season will be free from worries, and allow all of us to see the best in our circumstances, our surroundings and all of the people we come in contact with. Pay attention to the flowers blooming, the birds singing & the butterflies dancing around.

The weather’s gorgeous – get out there!

News

Tax season is almost over, just a couple of more weeks until the deadline to have a return filed. Our 23 volunteers have been working tirelessly to make sure that all returns are filed correctly and quickly. There is something new every year, and this year is no exception. But this group has a wonderful way of rolling with the punches and coming out on top. They have filed

over 1200 federal returns so far, which means 1200 families in Etowah & Cherokee Counties get all of their refund money because they don’t have to pay for this service. If you know any of our volunteers be sure to tell them thank you for all of their hard work and dedication!

Another group of RSVP volunteers is one we call our SWAT Team. In our

case, SWAT stands for Senior Workers Available Today. These unpaid workers usually don’t volunteer anywhere on a regular basis, but they enjoy helping at special events and one-time-only affairs. This year already, we have had 7 different agencies call on us for help with a special event, and these people have really come through!



Success Story

RSVP has a new volunteer project! We have talked with some of our volunteers and with some local elementary schools, and we now have Reading Buddies helping some students who may need a little extra practice with their reading skills and comprehension. We currently have volunteers at West End & Glencoe

Elementary, and are working on more schools and more volunteers. So if you think this sounds interesting, give us a call!

Our last Quarterly Workshop was presented by students from Pathways Academy (a local homeschool group). They gave some good info on texting and also gave us some good one-

on-one assistance in how to use different devices to text.

Our next SOD workshop is scheduled for April 21st at 10:00 in the Etowah County Courthouse. The speaker will be Leigh Ann Black and she will be talking about the 5 wishes that everyone needs to make – and have to write down!

“April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go.” ~Christopher Morley, John Mistletoe

STATISTICS

New volunteers – 13
 Total volunteers – 326
 Total stations – 50
 Volunteer Hours –6795
 Value of Hours – \$141,607.80

(According to federal guidelines, the value of a volunteer's time is \$20.84 per hour)

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Council on Aging** – volunteers are needed to help with clerical duties & answering the phone.
- **Gadsden Public Library** – help is needed in the Bookstore!
- **Head Start** – volunteers are needed to be greeters and helping teachers in classrooms.
- **Alabama Cooperative Extension System** – needs volunteers several times during the year to be judges for their contests and shows.
- **Big Brothers/Big Sisters** – volunteers are needed to be mentors for children, and also in schools to oversee High School 'Bigs' with elementary school 'Littles'.
- **Habitat for Humanity** – volunteers are needed to help build houses, help families who are applying for houses, coordinate with churches & for the Dragon Boat Festival!
- **For these & other volunteer opportunities, call RSVP @ 256-549-8147!**

Volunteer Recognition

In this newsletter, we want to recognize an RSVP volunteer who is simply outstanding. Ms. Erma Davidson volunteers with the Friendly Nursing Home visitors, she helps with reminder calls for Council of Community Service

Meetings, and she also volunteers for special events. I don't think Ms. Davidson has ever said no when we call her to ask for her time, and she always shows up with a smile on her face! The winner of our on-

time time sheet drawing is Ms. Lois King who has volunteered at the Cherokee Medical Center & H.D. Buttram Senior Center since 2010 & has 1,560 hours of service on record. Congratulations Ms. King & thank you for what you do!

Upcoming Events

March 31 – GMOs and other myths (What does it all mean?) presented by Extension Service @ Boaz Public Library, 6 PM. Call 256-582-2009 to register.

April 15 – Last day of RSVP Free Tax Preparation. Call 256-549-8147 for our schedule.

April 20 – Council on Aging Health Fair at Convention Hall, 9:00 – 11:00 AM. *Live Life to the Fullest – Laugh Out Loud!*

April 21 – RSVP Quarterly Workshop will be in the Etowah County Courthouse, Room 205 @ 10:00 AM.

What are your Five Wishes? Call 256-549-8147 to register.

May – RSVP Annual Recognition Luncheon will be this month. Be on the lookout for your invitation!

May 1-31 – Habitat for Humanity is taking applications for new homes. Call 256-543-1898 for qualifications and details

May 4 – Senior Fun Day @ Convention Hall

May 8 – Mother's Day

May 13 – AARP Safe Driver's Class @ the Etowah

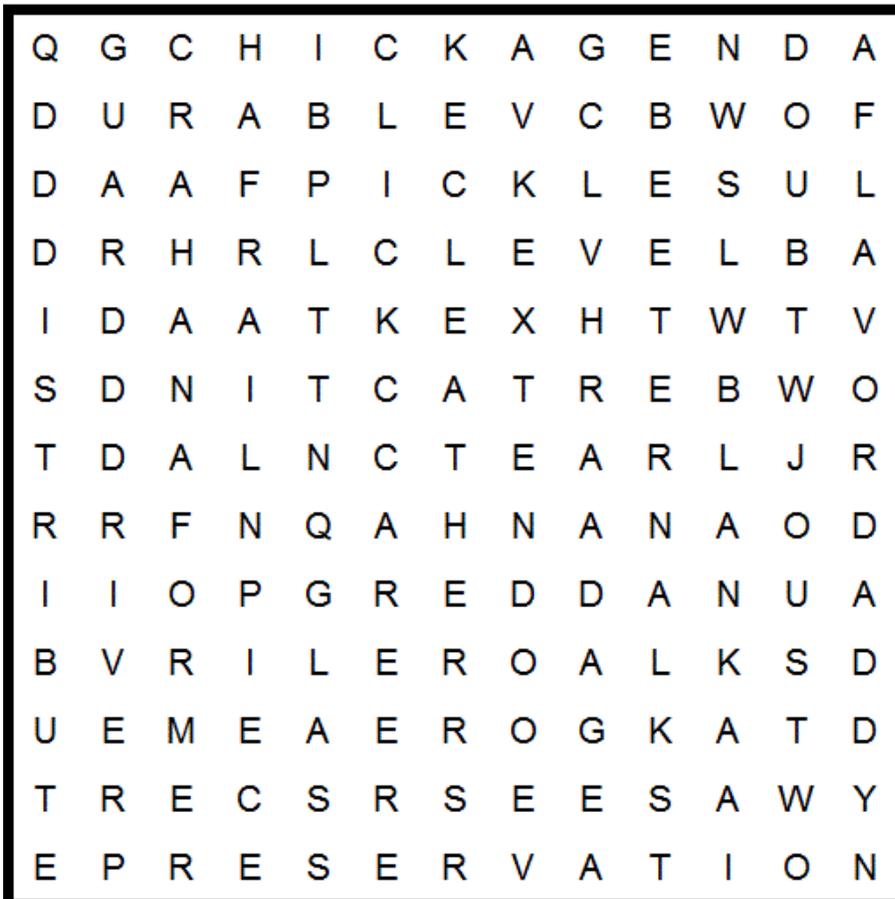
County Courthouse, Room 205. Call 256-549-8147 to register.

June 1 – Gadsden's Ice Cream Bingo Bash at the Senior Activity Center.

June 14 – Flag Day

June 19 – Father's Day

The Etowah County Council of Community Services meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month in the Gadsden State Cafeteria @ noon. Feel free to join – lunch is Dutch Treat! Call 256-546-4357 for more info.



WORD SEARCH

ADAGE	GLASS
AGENDA	GUARD
BEET	HATCH
BLANK	JOUST
CAREER	LAWN
CHICK	LEATHER
CLICK	LEVEL
DADDY	PEEL
DANGER	PICKLES
DISTRIBUTE	PIECE
DOUBT	FRAIL
DRAIN	QUART
DRIVER	RILE
DURABLE	SEESAW
ETERNAL	TACT
EXTEND	TEAR
FLAVOR	WEAN
PRESERVATION	

RSVP Volunteer Stations

"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine." ~Anthony J. D'Angelo

AARP – COOSA VALLEY CHAPTER #3337	ETOWAH COUNTY DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES	MOUNTAIN VIEW HOSPITAL
ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	ETOWAH COUNTY PREGNANCY TESTING CENTER	NORTHEAST ETOWAH COMMUNITY CENTER
AMERICAN RED CROSS – ETOWAH & CHEROKEE CHAPTERS	ETOWAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY	PILOT CLUB READING BUDDIES
BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS	EVEN START EXTENDED FAMILY	RIVERVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
CATHOLIC CENTER OF CONCERN	FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER OF CENTRE	ROC-1 ST BAPTIST CHURCH
CENTRAL-CARVER FOUNDATION, INC.	FIRST CALL FOR HELP	RSVP ADVISORY BOARD
CHEROKEE COUNTY HEALTH & REHAB.	FRIENDLY NURSING HOME VISITORS	RSVP COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
CHEROKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM	GADSDEN MUSEUM OF ART	RSVP DISASTER VOLUNTEERS
CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER	GADSDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY	RX HELP
CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE OF ETOWAH COUNTY	GADSDEN QUILTERS GUILD	SENIOR NUTRITION CENTERS
CITY OF GADSDEN	GADSDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	SWAT
COUNCIL ON AGING	HEAD START	TAX COUNSELING PROGRAM
CULTURAL ARTS CENTER	HUMANE SOCIETY PET RESCUE & ADOPTION	TELE-CHEK
ETOWAH BAPTIST MISSION CENTER	MANNA	THE CHAMBER
ETOWAH COUNTY COURTHOUSE		UNITED WAY OF ETOWAH COUNTY

VOLUNTEER BIRTHDAYS

Pat Trotter	04/04	Wanda Neal	05/02	Amelia Collins	06/02
Carolyn Elkins	04/05	Jean Foster	05/04	Deborah Henderson	6/3
Rick Lankford	04/05	Shirley Pollard	05/05	Sarah Vance	06/05
Mildred Taylor	04/05	Eloise Ramer	05/06	Annie Leeth	06/06
Gary Batson	04/12	Danny Wagnon	05/06	Jerre McNeal	06/06
Emma Cylar	04/13	Jerry Howell	05/09	Danny Long	06/07
Bonnie Link	04/13	Joyce Howell	05/10	Sarah Spear	06/07
Loyd Watkins	04/13	Ruby Jo Boyle	05/17	Martha Yates	06/07
Jewell Moore	04/15	Katherine Buchanon	5/19	Claude Burnett	06/11
Carolyn Hammond	4/16	Lessie Fluharty	05/19	Betty Roberts	06/12
Mary Ann Hill	04/17	Ruth Farmer	05/20	Beatrice Brooks	06/14
Jean Pettis	04/17	Mary Jo Wilson	05/20	Louise Mullican	06/14
Margaret Long	04/20	Vicki Spelce	05/20	Betty Ann Watkins	6/14
Gloria Hope	04/20	Jan Kelley	05/21	Deborah Salter	06/15
Joyce Hilburn	04/21	Carol Warmack	05/21	Doug Belyue	06/17
Rose Hawkins	04/26	DeAnna DeVille	05/24	Delores Cerecke	06/18
Gerrie Jordan	04/27	James Thornton Jr.	5/24	Suzanne Scharfenberg	6/21
Louise Anderson	04/28	Joyce Wheeler	05/24	Ann Boatwright	06/22
Mary Sue Grissom	4/28	Alma Boswell	05/25	Dee Waller	06/23
Ping Pondick	04/28	Betty Brannon	05/27	John Parks	06/24
Craig Scott	05/01	Jenell Twilley	05/28	Dorman Robinson	6/24
Orville Hubbard	05/02	Marie Cylar	05/30	Doris Smith	06/25
James Mashburn	05/02	Bettye Knowles	06/01	Shirley Johnson	06/28
		Alvatine Blackwell	06/02	Mary Owens	06/29

Happy
Birthday

*"Youth is a wonderful
thing. What a crime to
waste it on children.*

~George Bernard Shaw

RSVP

800 Forrest Avenue
Room 219
Gadsden, AL 35901

Phone

256-549-8147

Fax

256-549-5351

E-mail

tpondick@etowahcounty.org

GETTING THINGS DONE.

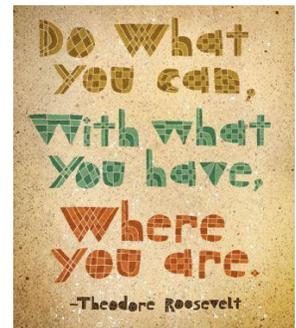
RSVP Staff

Director – Traci Pondick

Van Driver/Volunteer

Coordinator – Faye
Russell

Secretary/Bookkeeper –
Sarah Kelley



RSVP Advisory Council

Chair – Pat Hill

Vice Chair – Joyce

Farrell

Treasurer – Jane

Brittain

Secretary– Millie

Cartrett

Lisa Dobbins

Thelma Edgar

Theresa Frye

Jenifer Grace

Jennifer Harold

Deborah Henderson

Sandra Jackson

Carolyn Parker

Jean Pettis

Craig Scott

Doralynn Thomas

CiCi Whiteside

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.etowahcounty.org

Please shop at these local businesses & say "Thank You!" for supporting RSVP!

Friend us on Facebook!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/327258517069/>

Follow us on Twitter!



[Twitter.com/etowahrsvp](https://twitter.com/etowahrsvp)

ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	GOLD'S GYM	PHYSICIANS HOME HEALTH SUPERSTORE
APPLEBEE'S	THE CHOICE	RAINBOW AUCTION
BELKS	JOHNSON'S GIANT FOODS	RED LOBSTER
REP. CRAIG FORD	KEYSTONE BANK	REGIONS BANK
FAMILY SAVINGS CREDIT UNION	EXCHANGE BANK	REGIS SALON
FIRST EQUITY HOME LOAN	MCCLELLAN CHIROPRACTIC	SPORTS MANIA
GADSDEN EYE ASSOC.	OBSERVER OFFICE SUPPLY	STEVIE B'S PIZZA
SOUTHERN BANK	PACK'S NURSERY	SUTTON BRIDGE EXXON
GADSDEN VARIETY & ANTIQUE MALL	PAPA JOHN'S	TOP OF THE RIVER
DISCOUNT PEST CONTROL	ETOWAH FOOT SPECIALISTS	FLIPSIDE CAFÉ
GENERATIONS BANK	JACK'S OF GADSDEN	KEYSTONE BANK
LINDA BARRETT-VAUGHAN	MCDONALDS	PACK'S NURSERY
PRUETT'S BBQ	SHEAR CLASS SALON	WELLS FARGO BANK

