

Some GREAT things that happened in Oak Ridge in 2011! Part 4

(As published in *The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking* column on February 7, 2012)

This series has been a tremendous success! Thanks to those of you who contributed accomplishments. Without you we would have missed many excellent examples of positive things that happened in 2011.

I know I have not used all that was sent me, some editing seemed necessary, unfortunately. I have tried to keep as much as possible that reflects representatively the wide array of accomplishments.

Let's begin with some thoughts from Ray Evans:

Ray says, "A bit more of a parochial view on my part. I have been impressed by the expansions and the aesthetic upgrades to several of our existing retail/commercial properties. I'm not blind to the 800 pound gorilla in the center of town but all in all the tide is rising. Here's a list of examples that quickly come to mind: C and D Tire; Eddie Hair; Snappy Tomato (former Todd Maytag building); Subway (former Direct Oil site); AT&T store (former carwash site); McDonalds; Salsarita's and other shops in the former Hollywood Video building."

"2012 already offers great promise with the announcement of Aubrey's restaurant, an expanded Panera's Bread, a new restaurant and related new businesses in the former Jackson Square Pharmacy building and CapitalMark Bank.

Myron Iwanski suggested the Roane State Community College expansion decision was a very positive accomplishment with a huge potential for future benefit to Oak Ridge and Anderson County. He noted the expanding enrollment as being significant as well. Myron also noted the continuing high level of performance of Oak Ridge schools.

David Coffey's recent article in *The Oak Ridger*, *Achieving Essential Reading Skills* provided proof of the excellence in education in Oak Ridge. The Glenwood and Woodland schools ranked third and fourth respectively when measuring reading proficiency of third graders.

David Coffey also commented, "I thought Myron hit the biggest known forward steps. If carbon fiber lives up to the promised cost reductions it will be a huge plus (as Rick pointed out) and the Roane State expansion complements and adds to our future prospects in many areas. Otherwise the contractor extensions are the other known positive items. We await other breakthroughs from our world class Spallation Neutron Source, materials science, supercomputers and bioscience. They will come."

Anne Garcia Garland commented that she would like to be sure that the Woodland development accomplishment includes credit to Walter Wise and T.K. Wheeler for their vision, thorough preparation, and persistence. She said, "The project was proposed two years ago and met with some barriers. Mr. Wise and Mr. Wheeler, despite having been hit as hard as any other of the local developers, persisted in finding solutions until they finally had a product that everyone was eager to sign onto. I especially admire their vision which encompassed other people's property potentials to the benefit of the city as a whole."

She also recommended that I look into the establishment of the Eugene Rod Harris Foundation and its activities during 2011. I was glad to do this as it is an example of an accomplishment that could easily be overlooked as it is neither economic development nor technological advancement. It is, however, vitally important to the continued growth of our community.

Virginia Jones sent an email detailing the substantial accomplishments of this nonprofit foundation. Rod Harris, a mentally ill person was shot and killed on July 18, 2010, when he failed to respond to police direction to drop a knife and continued to show aggressive behavior including stabbing a police dog as well as failing to stop his action when struck by a taser.

Ultimately, he was shot and killed. The positive outcome of this tragedy has been the establishment of the foundation and the subsequent activities they have pursued in 2011 such as additional education

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regarding the mentally ill with emphasis on understanding the behavior of the mentally disturbed. I am pleased to include this accomplishment among other, often more technical or economic accomplishments, as it most certainly represents positive action and is historically significant for our community.

The Eugene Rod Harris Foundation has presented five public events to date. A presentation to DFET (Democracy for East Tennessee) August 11, at which Donna spoke about their brother, Rod Harris, and Mary sang. A picnic welcoming Jim Akagi, the new Police Chief at which Mary presented certificates of appreciation to ORPD Officers who received Crisis Intervention Training in May and June. A benefit performance for the Foundation was given by The Frost Bottom Boys. This event garnered more members and increased awareness.

National Alliance on Mental Illness President, Leslie El- Sayad, Joan Cassens, Charles Jones, and Donna Sanders made presentations and the audience was thoroughly entertained. The Foundation and NAMI sponsored a program on "The Physical Causes of Mental Illness" with a video presentation "In Our Own Voices" and a personal experience shared by Darlene Woods at the Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium.

A Day of Prayer for the Understanding and Healing of Mental Illness, was held at St. Stephens Episcopal Church. Thanks to Virginia Jones who provided the information on this accomplishment.

Now let's look the Y-12 National Security Complex's top ten accomplishments of 2011. Remember Y-12 is a part of our community that many people see as a secret facility that supports the nation's nuclear weapons program. True, but Y-12 is much more as will be seen in this list of ten significant achievements.

Number 1: Y-12 exceeded unit requirements for the W76 Life Extension Program by reducing unit cost approximately 15 percent. Increased surveillance work by 400 percent, including a B61 study supporting future Life Extension Program decisions and W84 and B83 tasks not performed in more than a decade. Dismantlement requirements were exceeded by completing W70 components and by starting up two complex dismantlement programs. More than \$6M in dismantlement and surveillance efficiencies enabled critical equipment upgrades.

Number 2: Y-12 validated 370 initiatives and \$71.8 million in efficiencies and cost avoidances against an aggressive stretch goal of \$55 million, exceeding all prior years' performance. In the past four years, Y-12 delivered more than \$225 million in efficiencies and cost avoidances. Productivity results were generated through the efforts of Y-12 employees across all organizations.

Number 3: Y-12 demolished approximately 250,000 square feet of buildings, disposed of 2M cubic feet of waste material, and reduced the security footprint. 68 percent of all highly enriched uranium on the Y-12 site was consolidated into the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility. The Uranium Processing Facility team completed more than 60 percent of its design work and met all milestones while undergoing 10 external reviews. Six American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects were completed. ARRA work expected to cost \$219 million was accomplished for \$202 million, allowing \$17 million of additional scope in FY 2012, once authorized by the Department of Energy — Oak Ridge Office.

Number 4: Y-12 minimized staff increases in Protective Forces and achieved effective security against an adversary two to three times more capable by integrating advanced information systems, force-multiplier technology, and security features and tactics.

Number 5: During FY 2011 Y-12 supplied safe and secure materials to fuel foreign research reactors; trained more than 1,000 professionals responsible for counterterrorism, counterproliferation, and nuclear threat response; established a center to accelerate R&D in uranium detection; developed the nation's uranium forensics archive; and provided quality material to fuel the Navy's propulsion reactors.

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Number 6: Y-12 achieved 9 months and almost seven million hours without a lost-time injury. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects reached a milestone of two million safe hours worked in a nontraditional, high-risk work environment. We also pursued Voluntary Protection Program Star status to promote safety and health excellence and showcased cooperative efforts between labor and management through the VPP Road Show presentations for all employees.

Number 7: Y-12 led the Nuclear Security Enterprise in Governance Transformation and became the first NNSA site to achieve Line Oversight Contractor Assurance System affirmation — confirming the success of federal and contractor efforts to fulfill Y-12's missions safely and efficiently. Y-12 also initiated reviews of compliance and oversight activities to reduce work that doesn't add value.

Number 8: Y-12 became the first NNSA site to implement the American Society of Mechanical Engineers NQA-1-quality standard for nuclear facilities. We also simplified the process for a graded approach to quality and focused resources on the characteristics most important to safety.

Number 9: During FY 2010 Y-12 maintained production capability and infrastructure availability at 98 percent in a 60-year-old facility. Doing so required the replacement of approximately 240 sprinkler heads at or beyond the 50-year life cycle. Additionally the site-wide fire alarm system was upgraded, there were focused efforts in Energy Management, Nuclear Facility Risk Reduction, Utilities upgrades, PrYde, and the Facility Management Enterprise System to ensure Y-12 remained a safe, efficient, and productive site.

Number 10: By matching a rotary calciner with direct electrolytic reduction and electrowinning, enriched uranium salvage processing and purified metal production will be simpler, safer, and more cost-effective. Y-12 deployed High Energy Digital Radiography to certify weapon subassemblies for the first time at Y-12, eliminating film processing and the associated chemicals and reducing set-up and operation cycle time. Two smart technologies were deployed in Production: the Facility Management Enterprise System and wireless sensors.

Next we will examine the Oak Ridge National Laboratory's accomplishments in 2011 as well as take a look to the future.

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Darrel Kohlhorst, President and General Manager of B&W Y-12, Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, Tom D'Agostino, Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration and Ted Sherry, Manager of the Y-12 Site Office at the time are shown in one of the weapons disassembly areas of Y-12 as they stand behind a B83 display. Understanding Y-12 from the inside view is necessary for the congressman to effectively support the national and international missions of the Y-12 National Security Complex.

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding allowed demolition of a portion of the Biology Complex. Here Building 9224 comes down. The complex has been empty since ORNL moved out several years ago and as funds are found to support the demolition, the buildings are being removed.