



July 2007

Telling the Oak Ridge Story - Preserving Oak Ridge History

Michael Toomey to share “Regional Voices of Our National Past” at July meeting



Dr. Michael Toomey, of the East Tennessee Historical Society, will be the featured speaker at the July monthly meeting of the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association. Dr. Toomey will speak on the subject, “East Tennessee: Regional Voices of Our National Past.” Since 1999, Dr. Toomey has served as Curator of History for The East Tennessee Historical Society as well as Managing Editor of The Journal of East Tennessee History.

In his presentation at the ORHPA meeting, Dr. Toomey will give a brief overview of the East Tennessee Historical Society as well as discuss the “growing power of the federal government in East

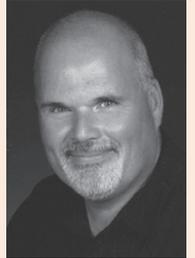
Tennessee in the mid-twentieth century with particular emphasis on Oak Ridge.”

Prior to his post at the East Tennessee Historical Society, Dr. Toomey was Dean of Academic Affairs and Associate Professor at Knoxville College as well as a Teaching Associate at the University of Tennessee. He is married to Lydia Birk and they live near Clinton in Anderson County.

ORHPA President Keith McDaniel said, “Dr. Toomey is one of the premier historians on East Tennessee history and I am thrilled that he will be speaking to our group.” The July ORHPA meeting will be held Thursday July 12th at 7:00 PM at the Midtown Community Center, on the corner of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Robertsville Road. The public is cordially invited to attend at no charge, of course.

From the President

I can't believe that 2007 is already halfway over! Time has really flown by. But, during the first 6 months of 2007, ORPHA members have been busy, busy, busy. Obviously, the past few months have been filled with preparing for and participating in the Secret City Festival. The A, B and C rooms were jam-packed with Oak Ridgers and visitors. I want to congratulate all those who worked on our exhibits for the festival. It was a tremendous success and a job well done! Also, you may have noticed that the landscaping around the Midtown Community Center certainly looks nice. We want to thank Boy Scout Logan Atkins from Troop 129 for his hard work. Logan took this on as his Eagle Scout project and he has done a fine job. Thanks Logan!



You may have read in The Oak Ridger about the possibility of Katy Brown and her crew from the Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau possibly moving into the Alexander Room at the Midtown Community Center. When I became president of this group, one of the things I really wanted to do was find a good use for that room. They are looking for a temporary location (3-5 years) for their offices and the Oak Ridge Visitor's Center. I have been working with Katy and her board for several months now and also keeping our board informed of the progress. It is still not a “done-deal” but things are progressing well. Can you imagine how exciting it will be if our building is the new home of the Visitor's Center? If the first building visitors to Oak Ridge enter is an original WWII building? We are all very excited about this possibility and are looking forward to the next few weeks working toward this goal. I will keep you updated on the progress.

Keith McDaniel
ORHPA President



2007 Secret City Festival

Visitors to the A, B and C rooms at the Secret City Festival enjoyed Oak Ridge history displays from ORHPA and its members. (Photo by Lloyd Stokes)