

## COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE



Mark your calendars for these upcoming events at the Pigeon Forge Community Center.

**Daddy Daughter Dance**  
Feb. 10, 4-6 p.m.

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
March 31, 10:30 a.m. - Noon  
*Patriot Park*

For details on these and other Community Center activities, please call 429-7373.

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

**New Year's Eve Celebration**  
*Island in Pigeon Forge*  
Dec. 31

**Pigeon Forge Chuck Wagon Cookoff**  
*Clabough's Campground*  
March 3

**Smoky Mountain Gospel Jubilee**  
*Country Tonite Theatre*  
Feb. 8-9

**Corvette Expo**  
*LeConte Center at Pigeon Forge*  
March 2-3

**Winter Carnival of Magic**  
*Country Tonite Theatre*  
March 9-10

**North American Country Music Associations International**  
*Country Tonite Theatre*  
March 12-18

**Festival of Nations**  
*Dollywood*  
March 17-April 9

**A Mountain Quiltfest**  
*LeConte Center at Pigeon Forge*  
March 20-24

**Jimbo Whaley & Friends**  
*Country Tonite Theatre*  
March 24

### MAILBOX OR ONLINE?

If you had a preference, would you rather receive your quarterly copy of The Messenger online as opposed to regular mail? If so, simply go to **CityOfPigeonForge.com** and sign up.

The City of Pigeon Forge does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin in federal or state-sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d).

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# MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF PIGEON FORGE



## COMMISSIONERS UPDATE

Earlene Teaster,  
City Manager



Another year is coming to an end and as we reflect on 2017, we are thankful for the many blessings we are afforded here in Pigeon Forge.

On Nov. 7, we acknowledged the one-year anniversary of the 2016 wildfires with a grand celebration in Patriot Park. If you have not yet had a chance to see the tribute wall, please make a point to do so. The wall is a true display of our unending gratitude to those who answered the call during the fires and for months after.

We have seen new businesses open this past year, bringing more opportunities for employment and more reasons for visitors to spend time with us. As a town that relies on tourism for its very existence, having such a great variety of offerings ensures that Pigeon Forge will continue to grow and prosper.

As we close the chapter on 2017, please take time to gather with family and friends to celebrate the Christmas season with those you love. Remember, also, those who may be less fortunate and are struggling financially or personally this holiday season. Giving to others is often the greatest gift we can receive.

Merry Christmas. Happy New Year.

## JUST THE FACTS

### PIGEON FORGE COMMISSIONERS

David Wear, Mayor  
Kevin McClure, Vice Mayor  
Ken Maples  
Jay Ogle  
Tony Watts

### CITY HALL

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Monday-Friday  
453-9061  
City Hall wants to hear from you. Send questions and comments to [cityhall@cityofpigeonforge.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofpigeonforge.com).

### YOU ARE INVITED

The public is encouraged to attend the following Pigeon Forge meetings at City Hall:

**City Council**  
Second and fourth  
Monday at 5:30 p.m.

**City Planning Commission**  
Fourth Tuesday at 3 p.m.

### CONTACT

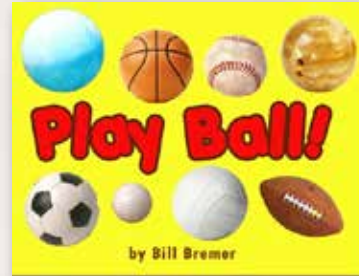
If you have a story idea you would like to share, or if you would like to request more information on a story you read in this issue, please contact Jessica Nichols at the Department of Tourism at 429-7364.

### KEEP IN TOUCH

Information about Pigeon Forge is right at your fingertips when you visit our website at [CityofPigeonForge.com](http://CityofPigeonForge.com).

## LIBRARY UPDATE

One of the resources the Pigeon Forge Public Library offers for our youngest patrons and their parents or caregivers is a collection of eBooks from Unite for Literacy, an educational group based in Colorado. These books are developmentally appropriate, and topics included in this collection are "Know and Learn," "Let's Go Outside," "Animals," "Create and Play," "Earth and Sky," "Healthy Me," "Family," "Technology," "Plants and Food," "Friends" and "Community." To access these books, search for Unite for Literacy from the online catalog on our website at pfpl.net. You will find a wealth of fun, colorful books for the youngest children in your life. You don't need a library card to access these books; they can be viewed and listened to on any device with Internet capability. These books also can be read and/or listened to with narration in either English or Spanish.



In January, the library will offer free genealogy workshops for adults. Basic computer skills are required, and participants may bring their own laptops or use a library computer. Contact the library for topics, times and registration details.

For more information on these or other library programs call the library at 429-7490, check out our Facebook page at Facebook.com/pflibrary or stop by to see us at traffic light 2B.

Look for information about upcoming Firewise activities at facebook.com/pigeonforgefiredept.

## PFPD PATROL

### Natalie Burnett



Natalie Burnett is a graduate of Sevier County High School with a degree in criminal justice and sociology from the University of Arkansas. She is a recent graduate of the police academy at Walters State Community College.

### Cody Clabo



Cody joined the department after serving as a patrolman for the University of Tennessee Police Department. He is a graduate of Berea College and currently serves in the National Guard.

### Alec King



Alec King is the new communications officer. He's a graduate of Pigeon Forge High School and currently majoring in criminal justice at Walters State Community College.

## PFFD NEWS



Half of home heating fires are reported in December, January and February. Here are a few safety tips to follow to prevent this from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from heating equipment.
- Have a three-foot kid-free zone around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Use the fuel specified by the manufacturer for fuel-burning space heaters.
- Have a sturdy screen on your fireplace.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

## PIGEON FORGE SCRAPBOOK

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS



Pictured here are two of Pigeon Forge's Pine Mountain residents, Osie Ownby (left) and Marjorie (Margie) Huskey with Roger Ball, son of Jim Ball, who performed with Gatlinburg's Smoky Mountain Ramblers. This photograph was made about 1967 when the group entertained at Heritage Hall by the Craft Center in Gatlinburg. Roger, a student at Pi Beta Phi, was performing after school. Marjorie, her sisters Brenda, Charlotte and Joda, and Osie's daughter Mary Jane were all musicians in their earlier years. Marjorie and Osie are now deceased. Osie once told that he began frailing a banjo around the age of five. His music introduced him to people such as Mother Maybelle Carter, Ramblin' Red Foley, and longtime friend "Grandpappy" Archie Campbell. Osie's half-brother, Brother Oswald, was a regular on the Grand Ole Opry, and many times he took him backstage for a closer look and to listen to the stars. Photograph is courtesy of Jo Huskey Harris.

## FOR THOSE WHO ANSWERED THE CALL NOVEMBER 7, 2017



First responders, family, friends and television crews awaiting the big reveal.



The Pigeon Forge wall dedicated to "Those Who Answered The Call"



First responders, family, friends and television crews awaiting the big reveal.



Pigeon Forge hosted a lunch for representatives from 39 fire departments. The departments were among those who came to the assistance of Pigeon Forge during last year's wildfires, and the luncheon was designed to show the city's gratitude and give the firefighters a chance to reminisce and reconnect with those who answered the call.