

## COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE



The 16th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be in Patriot Park on Saturday, March 31. The fun begins at 10:30 a.m., with inflatables, games, prizes and more. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 11 a.m., when four groups of children will have the opportunity to search for eggs filled with candy and prizes. The four age groups are 0-3 years old; 4-6 years old; 7-9 years old and 10-12 years old. The event is free and open to the public. Don't miss your opportunity to meet and have a photo taken with the Easter Bunny. For more information on this and other Community Center activities, please call 429-7373.

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

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

**Pigeon Forge Spring Rod Run**  
LeConte Center at Pigeon Forge  
April 19-21

**Music in the Mountains Spring Parade**  
Parkway  
May 4

**Wilderness Wildlife Week™**  
LeConte Center at Pigeon Forge  
May 8-12

### 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

While still in its infancy, 2018 already has left its mark on Pigeon Forge. We started the year celebrating a successful 2017 and the growth our city continues to enjoy. We also had to say farewell to a long-time city employee and friend, who also left his mark on Pigeon Forge.

Police Chief Jack Baldwin's service to Pigeon Forge cannot be measured in time only; his accomplishments during his 42 years are far too numerous to mention, and his leadership changed the face of law enforcement in our town.

Our police department is filled with exceptional men and women, so it is with a great deal of pride that one of our own has been promoted to wear the Chief's badge.



Richard Catlett, a 27-year veteran of the Pigeon Forge Police Department was named Police Chief on Feb. 2, and his credentials are outstanding. He is a Pigeon Forge native, a graduate of Sevier County High School, Walters State Community College and Bethel University. The former U.S. Army sergeant is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy and the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy. We are confident that Chief Catlett will be a great leader for a great team.

Also keeping it in the family, Lynn Wilhoite, a 29-year veteran of our police department, began 2018 in a new position with the city. He is now director of the Pigeon Forge Fun Time Trolleys. Lynn's experience in public safety and management makes him a great addition to the trolley department.

## 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

Now that winter is behind us, spring is the perfect time to head outdoors and check out the beautiful historical markers in and around Pigeon Forge. As you drive around town and visit these sites, you can learn about early settlers, rolling stores, first attractions, rural farms, small town industry, churches and other points of interest from our community's history. These markers were created and produced by library staff, particularly library historian Veta King. Joe Dunn, from the Pigeon Forge Planning Department, developed an interactive map that you can see at [pfpl.net/genealogy](http://pfpl.net/genealogy). For more information on these historical markers and other library services, call 429-7490.



## CAR SHOW ALERT



One of the city's largest car shows is slated for April 19-21. The Pigeon Forge Spring Rod Run will be housed at the LeConte Event Center, but as you know, the town will be filled with vintage cars and auto enthusiasts. Please note the dates on your calendars, as traffic will be heavy that weekend.

## PFFD NEWS



With cookout season just around the corner, your Pigeon Forge Fire Department offers a few tips to keep everyone safe around the grill.

- Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors
- Grills should be placed well away from the home and deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area
- Keep grills clean by removing grease or fat buildup from grills and trays below
- Never leave grills unattended
- Always make sure the gas grill lid is open before lighting
- Use only charcoal starter fluid to light charcoal grills; never add charcoal fluid or other flammable liquids to the fire
- When finished grilling, let coals cool completely before disposing in a metal container

## PFPD PATROL



Chief Jack Baldwin retired on February 2, 2018, after more than 42 years of service to the City of Pigeon Forge. During his tenure as Chief of Police, he was a catalyst for change within the department, emphasizing the use of modern technologies for law enforcement.

Jack Baldwin was appointed Chief of Police by the Pigeon Forge City Council in July 1975. Under his supervision, the Pigeon Forge Police Department saw many changes, which can be attributed to Chief Baldwin. The department has grown to 59 sworn officers and 14 civilian personnel. During this growth, Chief Baldwin incorporated the use of modern policing concepts by instituting comprehensive general orders and policies for the department.

The men and women of Pigeon Forge Police Department are going to miss the man who led them in their service to the city. Thanks for a job well done, Chief.

## PIGEON FORGE SCRAPBOOK



Families raised the windows and enjoyed the springtime air in early Pigeon Forge. This stately Butler family home looked out over a pastoral farm of wheat and hay fields and long rows of crops. The Butlers, as other Forge families, enjoyed visiting with neighbors on the front porch. This house stood east of the present-day Parkway, near where it intersects with Pine Mountain Road. Before the Parkway, the home faced the Little Pigeon River but was redesigned with an entrance on the new boulevard after it was constructed around the 1950s. Ashley and Mary Katherine Butler owned an expansive farm of more than 400 acres. *Photograph is from the Pauline Householder collection.*



Thanks to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, the Pigeon Forge Fire Department received two compressed air foam systems, valued at \$19,600. The systems provide fire suppression capabilities in areas without access to hydrants or other standard water sources, including brushfires, wildland fires, vehicle fires and exposure fires, and allow firefighters to provide safe and efficient services to the community.