

**PIGEON FORGE SPECIAL EVENTS**

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Fun for all ages at Wilderness Wildlife Week™

The award-winning events produced by the city of Pigeon Forge aren't just for our visitors. Spring events, in particular, should hold interest for residents, and each includes free activities.

A Mountain Quiltfest™, May 15-19, is highlighted by a large quilt show, displaying more than 300 works of art. Admission to the show is free and many of the submissions are created by local and area quilters.

Dolly's Homecoming Parade, May 6, is our town's way of saying thank you to Dolly Parton for her contributions to Pigeon Forge. The parade starts at 6 p.m. and travels north on the Parkway, between traffic lights 6 and 3.

Wilderness Wildlife Week™, May 18-22, is filled with seminars and workshops that focus on the great outdoors, many specifically on Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A number of activities are designed for youngsters. Everything at Wilderness Wildlife Week is free.

A Mountain Quiltfest and Wilderness Wildlife Week take place at LeConte Center at Pigeon Forge.

*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).*



Pigeon Forge City Hall  
225 Pine Mountain Road  
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863  
www.cityofpigeonforge.com

# MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF PIGEON FORGE



**COMMISSIONERS UPDATE**  
Earlene Teaster,  
City Manager

We experienced back-to-back record-setting revenue numbers in 2015, which tells us that citizens and businesses continue to work to make our town a place where people want to visit time and time again. We thank you for your ongoing support.

In addition to the special events that make spring one of the most popular times to visit—A Mountain Quiltfest™, Dolly's Homecoming Parade and Wilderness Wildlife Week™—we have another event coming up very soon that will open a new business and new era in Pigeon Forge.

It's our pleasure to invite Pigeon Forge residents to attend the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for Ripken Experience Pigeon Forge. The ceremony will take place on Wednesday, March 9, at 10 a.m. We are expecting both Cal and Bill Ripken to be in town for the event, along with other members of the Ripken Experience team.

Following the ribbon cutting, refreshments will be served in the clubhouse and tours of the facility will be offered.

We look forward to seeing you there.

As a reminder, the city commissioners meet the second and fourth Monday of the month, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. The meetings are open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

**JUST THE FACTS**

**PIGEON FORGE COMMISSIONERS**  
David Wear, Mayor  
Kevin McClure, Vice Mayor  
Joyce Brackins  
Ken Maples  
Jay Ogle

**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).

## PIGEON FORGE SCRAPBOOK



The back of this postcard contains this information: Lawson Lodge, State Highway 71, Pigeon Forge, Tenn., 7 Miles West Smoky Mountains National Park Entrance; cool modern cabins, private baths, home-cooked meals, reasonable rates. Northwestern Printing House, Chicago, Ill. Photograph courtesy of Janice Crowe

Mel Lawson built Lawson Lodge in spring 1938, according to his daughter Mary Gene Roberts. He and his wife, Ethel, managed the Central Hotel in Sevierville until a rent increase spurred them to move to Pigeon Forge, purchase seven acres of land and open a motel. Mrs. Roberts recalls that the Lawson Lodge had six units, two of them individual cottages. The dining room in the rear of their home was primarily for the convenience of the guests, serving breakfast and supper. The family had a garden, chickens and cows, and as many as eight chickens were dressed and prepared for guests during busy times. The Lawson's son, Earl, worked as a server and sometimes rode to Stott's Store for necessary food items to complete a meal.

In the 1950s, Lawson Lodge was sold to Tom and Sally Morrisey. The Morrisey couple changed the name to the Forge Motel and later sold it to Eugene and Alma Brackins who leased the business to Fred and Patsy Maples. The Maples purchased it, tore down the cabins and constructed the new Tennessee Mountain Inn. That business was sold to Southern Roadway Corporation (Brackins family) and renamed Tennessee Mountain Lodge. It is now under the ownership and operation of Luther and Fay Brackins.

## COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

Pigeon Forge Parks and Recreation Department will host the 14th annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 26, in Patriot Park. Games and activities begin at 10:30 a.m., and the egg hunt will begin at 11. The day's activities will include old-timey games, face painting and inflatables, as well as four egg hunts. The hunts are divided into age groups: 0-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. There will be a staggered start for each age group, so parents with children in multiple age groups can watch each child. All eggs will be filled with candy and prizes. Items will be raffled off throughout the event. The Easter Egg Hunt is free for all participants. For more information contact the Pigeon Forge Community Center at 429-7373.

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

**Festival of Nations**  
March 19-April 18

**Barbeque & Bluegrass**  
May 13-22  
Dollywood

**Breakfast or Brunch  
with Easter Bunny**  
March 26  
Old Mill Square

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
March 26  
Patriot Park

**Visit with Easter Bunny**  
March 27  
Christmas Place

## LIBRARY UPDATE

With a close eye on the calendar, the Pigeon Forge Library is preparing for its summer reading program. On Your Mark, Get Set...Read! will kick off at 1 p.m., Tuesday, June 7, with local magician Barry Mitchell. Returning favorites and brand new friends round out the summer, including Ron Cromer and his exotic snakes, Scott Shupe with his reptiles, Bright Star Theater from Asheville, N.C., author and poet Allan Wolf, and balloon lady Donna Pruet.

Children's programs will be offered each Tuesday through July 19. Preschool programs will continue throughout the year at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There also will be opportunities for teens and adults to read and win great prizes from our sponsors. Be sure to stop by the library to get all the details, or check us out on the web at pfpl.net and on Facebook at [facebook.com/pflibrary](https://www.facebook.com/pflibrary).



## TRAFFIC ALERTS

In addition to Dolly's Homecoming Parade on May 6, two other events will affect traffic in Pigeon Forge this spring. Please note them on your calendars. The Pigeon Forge Spring Rod Run is April 14-16. While the majority of the car show activity will take place at the LeConte Center at Pigeon Forge, this event always brings large numbers of visitors to town and multiplies Parkway traffic. Shrine FunFest Parade takes place on May 7. The parade traditionally enters the Parkway at Methodist Street, near Food City, and travels north before turning right at Jake Thomas Road. Start time for the Shrine FunFest Parade is 9 a.m., and northbound traffic will share the southbound lanes for the approximate two- to three-hour parade.

## SMOKIES HIKING CHALLENGE



The National Park Service is celebrating its centennial year in 2016. In honor of that milestone, Cassius Cash, superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, has committed to hiking 100 miles in the park during 2016. He has issued a challenge to the public to do the same.

To complete the Hike 100 Challenge, participants must hike any 100 miles of maintained trail within park boundaries between Jan. 1 and Dec. 6, 2016. Participants may choose to hike the same trail repeatedly or choose to hike different trails to reach the 100-mile mark. Those reaching the 100-mile goal will earn a commemorative Smokies Centennial Challenge - Hike 100 pin and be invited to a park celebration hosted by Superintendent Cash.

For more information about the Smokies Centennial Challenge - Hike 100 program, visit [nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/gsmnp-hike-100.htm](https://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/gsmnp-hike-100.htm).

## PFPD PATROL



Officer Lucas Atchley was the recipient of the Above and Beyond Award, presented by Tennessee Helping Hearts, a non-profit organization that assists military, police and firefighters that are injured in the line of duty.

Officer Atchley received the award for his work in DUI enforcement, as well as his work with his canine partner, Freek, in narcotic detection. Officer Atchley had a 97 percent conviction rate for his 2015 DUI arrests.

Receiving an Appreciation of Service Award were: Lt. Lynn Wilhoite, Lt. Gary Campbell, Cpl. Adam Malone, Cpl. Russell Parker, Officer Lynn Miller, Officer Jeremiah Woods, Officer Paul Ratcliff, Officer Jeremy Croce, Officer Aaron Clark, Officer Michael Emmott, Officer John Thornton and Officer Michelle Brown. Congratulations to all.

## 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](https://www.CityOfPigeonForge.com) and sign up.