



**NEW FIRE STATION
READY FOR ACTION**

The new Pigeon Forge fire station, located on Veterans Boulevard, is open and ready to serve the city's residents and businesses.

The 8,750-square-foot facility includes three truck bays and was built largely with federal grant money under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). "This station is one of only 119 in the country and one in three in the state of Tennessee to receive funding from the ARRA," according to Chief Tony Watson. "Our goal with all of our endeavors is 'make it safe for the firefighter,'" Watson continued. "For instance, this new station has a state-of-the-art exhaust system to keep diesel exhaust at a minimum."

Other features included at the new station are a "decon room," which can be used to decontaminate firefighters and victims who are exposed to hazardous materials; and individual sleeping areas, which helps keep germs from spreading among the firefighters.

The new station will be one of the first in the area to receive LEED certification, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

Firefighters receive continuous training, and the new facility includes training by design features. "This means that we can simulate different scenarios onsite and train our firefighters how to respond to a variety of situations," said Watson.

With two stations, located on opposite sides of the Parkway, Pigeon Forge will see quicker response times to any emergency. According to Chief Watson, "When there's a lot of traffic, that congestion can contribute to response times. With this new station, that won't be a problem anymore."

Watson said that his staff was involved in this project from day one, offering input to ensure that the finished product was built to their specifications. "The City Administration was great to work with from start to finish. We're excited to be where we are today."

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SUMMER 2012

**PIGEON FORGE
MESSENGER**

A PUBLICATION FOR THE
RESIDENTS OF PIGEON FORGE

COMMISSIONERS
UPDATE



Earlene Teaster,
City Manager

Summer is always a busy time in Pigeon Forge. This one will be no exception.

Our town continues to grow. The addition of the new fire station on Veterans Boulevard is a great asset to Pigeon Forge. Chief Watson and his crew are to be congratulated on their efforts to bring this state-of-the-art facility to fruition.

Work continues on Wear Farm Park, and if weather permits, we expect the park to be completed by this November. In addition to the playing fields and walking trails, the park also will feature two large pavilions with capacity for up to 140 people.

We are happy to report that the first quarter was a revenue winner for the city, with gross receipts up 13 percent from the same time in 2011. First quarter numbers were positive for the national park as well, showing a 19.5 percent increase over 2011. Let's hope that the first quarter sets the pace for the rest of the year. With that thought in mind, we are happy to welcome Old Time Pottery back to Pigeon Forge. The retail store is sure to once again be a favorite shopping spot for residents and visitors alike.

The City Commissioners and I hope that this summer is a special time for our residents and their families. Whether you choose to travel or plan on staying nearby and enjoying the attractions here in your hometown, make the most of your time and create special memories with those you love.

JUST THE
FACTS

**PIGEON FORGE
COMMISSIONERS**

David Wear, Mayor
Kevin McClure, Vice Mayor
Joyce Brackins
Howard Reagan
Randal Robinson

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.

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 Sherri Kirby at the Department of Tourism at 453-8574.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Information about Pigeon Forge is right at your fingertips when you visit our website at CityofPigeonForge.com.

PATRIOT FESTIVAL

Bring the family to Patriot Park on July 4 to celebrate our nation's independence in your hometown.



There will be plenty of fun activities for the kids, food from not-for-profit vendors and a variety of entertainment throughout the day. Headlining the event will be The Lovin' Spoonful, members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and country music star John Anderson. A spectacular fireworks display will bring the day's festivities to a close.

Admission to Patriot Festival is free, as is parking at the municipal lot on Teaster Lane. Trolleys will offer free shuttle service to and from Patriot Park throughout the day. Bring blankets and lawn chairs for seating, and join us to celebrate America.

PIGEON FORGE SCRAPBOOK



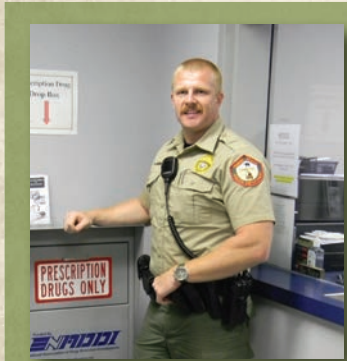
Pictured during the 1950s are sisters Billie (left) and Mary Frances Ogle, dressed for church. The two daughters of Ernest and Lucinda Oakley Ogle lived in the heart of Pigeon Forge. They were the granddaughters of Dave and Mollie Ogle and Wiley and Rebecca Oakley of Gatlinburg. In 1940, the Ogle family traveled to the New York World's Fair in a car provided by Henry Ford and lived in the "City of Tomorrow" for an entire week. They were the guests of the noted auto legend.



This photo of Joan Clevenger, a local high school student, was taken in the early 1960s. Joan was a teenager in the days of bobby socks, ponytails and rock 'n' roll. Her parents were Red and Lois Clevenger, who operated Red's Motel, circa 1955-1965, and Red's Café at the site of the old Tebo Watson's Café near the Old Mill around 1955. Red's Motel was one of the first, if not the first, to take Pigeon Forge from the days of roadside and riverside cottages into the era of motels. It is now the Mountain Breeze Motel.

DISPOSING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Medicines play an important role in treating conditions and diseases, but when you don't need them anymore, it's important to dispose of them properly to avoid harm to others.



Officer Donnie Masburn is pictured next to the Prescription Drug Drop Box, located at the Pigeon Forge Police Department.

Simply throwing old meds in with your household trash increases the chance of others finding and accidentally taking the medicines. Flushing is not an option as studies have found prescription drugs in drinking water and natural waterways. To make it easy for residents to dispose of prescription medications, Pigeon Forge has joined other communities in offering a drug take-back program.

You'll find a Prescription Drug Drop Box in the lobby of the Pigeon Forge Police

Department, 225 Pine Mountain Road, where you can drop off old medicines for disposal. You are asked to remove all labels from the bottles before depositing them in the box. Hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Dream Big — Read!, Pigeon Forge Library's Summer Reading Program, began on June 5 with special guest Chris Rumble, author of the "Adventures of Uncle Stinky" series.

Chris was a new guest to the library, as are several others who will be joining us this summer, including cartoonist John Rose, creator of the Snuffy Smith comic strip; Mr. Bond, the Science Guy; and Jim Dykes of Abrazoodabra, who will bring along some of his live animals.



Programs for children kindergarten through 8th grade will be offered each Tuesday through July 17. Preschool story times will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and teens will have their own program with a chance to win great prizes. Be sure to stop by the library to get all the details. For more information, call 429-7490.

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR THE SUMMER ...

... BUT BACK IN SESSION SOON

School calendars change from year to year. So even though the kids are about to say farewell to the classroom for this session, we want to remind you that Aug. 16 is the first full day of classes for the 2012/2013 school year.

That makes for a short summer, but Pigeon Forge residents are fortunate to be able to enjoy outstanding attractions right in our backyard any time of year. Enjoy everything our city has to offer this summer. The school bell will be ringing before you know it.



COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

Summer camp is just around the corner, and we are very excited about this year's program.

Our goal for summer camp is that campers have a rewarding experience they will remember for the rest of their lives. This summer we will utilize all of the Pigeon Forge Parks and Recreation facilities and have some special field trips.

Summer camp begins June 5 and ages to participate are from completion of kindergarten through age 12. Cost for camp is \$80 per week, and kids can go for one week or all summer long. Call 429-7373 for details.

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).