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.”

Earlene Teaster, City Manager
**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**

**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.

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 …**

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).