

## PFPDPATROL

### Citizens' Police Academy Scheduled

The Pigeon Forge Police Department will host Session 15 of the Citizens' Police Academy beginning Tuesday, Jan. 27. The 13-week course will take place each Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the police department, 225 Pine Mountain Road. Topics include patrol operations, domestic violence, K9 operations and the DARE program.

If you are interested in participating, applications are available at the Pigeon Forge Police Department, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Applications must be returned by Jan. 16. Any questions about the Citizens' Police Academy can be directed to Lt. Catlett or Lt. Campbell at 453-9063.



A Strategic Self-Defense & Grappling Tactics Class took place in August at MainStay Suites. Pigeon Forge Police Officer Lynn Miller assisted class instructor Johnny Smith. Officers from throughout the area participated to become certified to teach the Equalizer Program, a women's self-defense class.



Officer Brett Maggard and his drug dog Kalif are shown reading to a class at Pigeon Forge Primary School.

## PFFD NEWS

### Pigeon Forge Fire Department Receives Award

The Pigeon Forge Fire Department was one of only four fire departments in the state of Tennessee to receive the Life Safety Achievement Award for fire prevention accomplishments in 2013.

The National Association of State Fire Marshals Fire Research and Education Foundation, along with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company gave the award for organizing educational programs targeted toward specific age and at-risk groups.

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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

As another year draws to a close, it's good to reflect on the last 12 months and the exciting things that have happened in our town.

The most recent activity was the groundbreaking ceremony for the Ripken Experience. This attraction will be a major asset to Pigeon Forge when it opens in 2016, and we are proud to be associated with such a fine organization.

LeConte Center at Pigeon Forge brought thousands of new visitors to town and will continue to be a shining star in coming years.

Many new attractions opened this past year, along with new hotels, restaurants and shops, providing new venues for residents and visitors alike. There are more openings on the horizon, so stay tuned to see what's coming next.

We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of Winterfest, and next year will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Dollywood. Looking back at the last quarter of a century, and beyond, it's fun to reminisce on where Pigeon Forge once was, take pride in where we are today and anticipate the excitement that the future holds.

Our town is successful because of the people who live here, who love Pigeon Forge and who work to make this a welcoming destination for visitors. Thank you for your support.

On behalf of the Pigeon Forge City Commissioners, I wish you all a blessed Christmas season and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015.

## JUST THE FACTS

### PIGEON FORGE COMMISSIONERS

David Wear, Mayor  
Kevin McClure, Vice Mayor  
Joyce Brackins  
Jay Ogle  
Howard Reagan

### 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 Sherri Kirby at the Department of Tourism at 429-7368.

### KEEP IN TOUCH

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

## LECONTE EVENT CENTER – YEAR ONE

LeConte Center at Pigeon Forge recently celebrated its first anniversary. Since opening on Oct. 9, 2013, the facility has welcomed thousands of visitors and made lasting impressions on all who walked through the doors. Here's a brief recap of Year One, by the numbers.

### As of Oct. 16, 2014, LeConte Event Center has welcomed 150,000 visitors at 20 events, including:

- Eight large assembly events
- Five consumer shows
- Three city-sponsored special events
- Two hosted buyer trade shows
- Two athletic events

The recent National Quartet Convention (NQC) was the largest event the city has seen, with more than 40,000 in attendance. During NQC week, the Pigeon Forge Fun Time Trolleys carried more than 106,000 passengers and set a new daily record of 19,000, shattering the previous record of 6,000 passengers in a single day.

Congratulations on a very successful first year. The future of the LeConte Center at Pigeon Forge is bright.



## SPECIAL EVENTS WITH A LOCAL ATTRACTION



City-sponsored events in Pigeon Forge have won numerous awards throughout the years. As a new year is about to begin, this is a good time to remind residents that these events aren't just for tourists. There is something at each event that everyone can enjoy, even those of us who live and work here.

Two major events at the LeConte Center at Pigeon Forge are on the horizon as 2015 begins, both with offerings of interest to Pigeon Forge.

Wilderness Wildlife Week™, Jan. 24-31, is filled with interesting lectures and seminars about the outdoor world, and specifically about the Great Smoky Mountains. All activities are free, and you may see some of your friends and neighbors reminiscing about growing up in the area.

Saddle Up™, Feb. 18-22, is filled with cowboy and Western music and storytelling. One activity that may be of interest to residents is the Buckeroo Roundup on Saturday, Feb. 21. Visit Clabough's Campground on Wear's Valley Road to see demonstrations on branding and roping, hear live music and eat from authentic chuck wagons. There is a charge for lunch (\$12.50 per plate); all other Buckeroo Roundup activities are free.

Come join the fun and see why these special events have been recognized for their excellence.

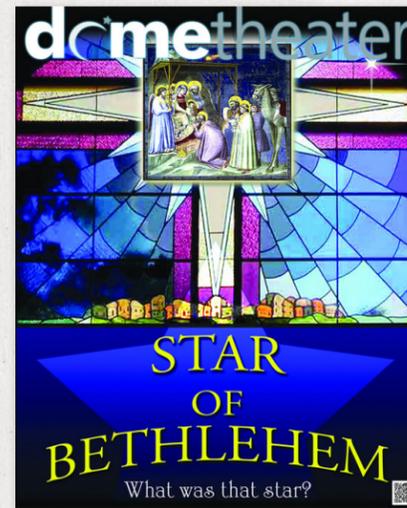
## LIBRARY UPDATE

Libraries are much more than just books! Pigeon Forge Public Library offers a variety of programs throughout the year for preschoolers, children and adults. In December, we will have something you might not expect to see inside a library building: a planetarium. On Thursday, December 4, the Dome Theatre, a mobile digital theater featuring innovative and educational programs, will be in the library.

Programs offered include "Season of Light," an elegant and sophisticated feature about the coldest and darkest of seasons, a time that holds some of the warmest and brightest celebrations of the year.

We also will show "Star of Bethlehem." For millennia, people have wondered at the Biblical account of the Star of Bethlehem. The Bible recounts unusual astronomical events at Christ's birth.

For many doubters, the account of the Star is easily dismissed as myth. For many believers, it is a mystery accepted on faith. What happens if you combine historical scholarship, astronomical fact,



and an open mind? Come see "Star of Bethlehem" and judge for yourself.

Experience the galaxy, as well as dinosaurs, volcanoes and hurricanes, in a whole new way. At 11 a.m., we'll show *Secret of the Cardboard Rocket*, a show designed just for preschoolers, who will experience a visit to the planets. All of these programs will be housed inside an igloo-like structure that is professionally staffed and handicap accessible.

Shows run every half hour, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome but reservations are encouraged. Call 429-7490 to reserve your spot today.

## PIGEON FORGE SCRAPBOOK Remac's Drive-In

Before piling a large group of friends into the car and watching a movie under the stars, teens in the 1960s, '70s and '80s cruised Remac's Drive-In restaurant in Pigeon Forge. Locals will remember the cheeseburger baskets, root beer floats and mouthwatering coleslaw sold there. Remac's Drive-In Restaurant opened in Pigeon Forge in 1961. It was named for owners Becky and Newt Reagan and Bill and Della McCarter—"Re" for Reagan and "mac" for McCarter. The McCarters purchased the entire business after the first year and operated it until it closed in the 1980s. The Conner family farmland, with tobacco curing in the barns, a portion of the Midway Drive-In marquee and parking spaces for movie fans are pictured near the restaurant.



Image courtesy of the McClure Family

## COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

### New Playground At Wear Farm City Park

Representatives from the city of Pigeon Forge, the Forever Parks Foundation and the Rotary Club participated in an October groundbreaking ceremony for a new inclusive playground at Wear Farm City Park. This is the first project of the Forever Parks Foundation and a Rotary project. This photo is of Phase One of the three-phase project that cost \$100,000 dollars, all of which came from generous donations. Funds are now being raised for Phase Two, which will include more equipment specifically for special needs children.



If you are interested in being part of this exciting project, you can make a donation to the Forever Parks Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit, at [foreverparks.com](http://foreverparks.com). Naming rights for trees, benches, buildings and facilities also are available. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a loved one while giving kids access to this special playground.



Contact Simon Bradbury at [sbradbury@cityofpigeonforge.com](mailto:sbradbury@cityofpigeonforge.com) for more information.

## LOCAL CHURCH REACHES MILESTONE

Congratulations to the leadership and members of First Baptist Church of Pigeon Forge on celebrating their 100th anniversary in October. Through the years, the church congregation has grown from an original 35 members to more than 1,200 today. There have been 21 pastors who have shepherded the congregation.

In honor of the occasion, Mayor David Wear proclaimed Oct. 5, 2014, as First Baptist Church of Pigeon Forge Day.

## 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](http://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).*