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Pittman Center Times

Official Newsletter of the Town of Pittman Center

Message From Your PCTimes Staff

With the continued support of the community, the Pittman Center Times has grown! You are now one of almost 100 subscribers, and still growing!

We are continuing to refine our newsletter process, and can now say the newsletters are being posted to the web site, pittmancentertn.com. Additionally, the Heritage Day pictures can be viewed by clicking “Newsletters”, then “Monthly Newsletter”. Under the PCTimes, May 2019, there will be an option for “Heritage Day Pictures”. Check them out! We had a good time!

We hope you enjoy and appreciate the content. And, as always - if you have any suggestions or comments, please contact City Hall at (865) 436-5499.

Your PCTimes Volunteers

City Administrator Report

Citizens of Pittman Center,

I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer so far!

The Town is proud to bring you the third edition of the newsletter.

I am very excited to announce that we have recently hired our new maintenance supervisor, Leonard Riggins. Leonard most recently came from open road trucking and was looking for an opportunity to get off the road. He also worked for TDOT for over 7 years where he ended his career as a crew supervisor. Leonard has a plethora of experience with road work repair, as an equipment operator, right of way maintenance, mechanical work, and many other skills! Leonard also serves as a lieutenant at the fire department. We are very excited to have him as part of the team.

In other news the Town is currently working on publishing and printing the 3rd Glenn Cardwell book to hopefully be ready for distribution by the end of fall 2019. This is an exciting part of maintaining Pittman Center's mountain heritage!

Other ongoing developments include acquisition of a dump truck to increase our maintenance capabilities, working towards hiring an individual or firm for building inspections, passing the budget for fiscal year 2020, working on our website, social media presence, and much more! I would also like to thank everyone for the patience with right of way mowing and maintenance, our tractor is currently out of commission and we are working diligently on getting it back in service.

I can honestly say we have a great group of folks working for the Town and we are excited to come to work and serve this amazing and unique community every day. Feel free to stop by and say hello!

Michael Borders

MEET OUR TOWN EMPLOYEE!

Ronnie Lee has family from Wisconsin, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Florida, but grew up in the Everglades, close to the water, with his mother and Marine father. Never roaming far from his passion of Florida fishing, Ronnie eventually moved to the Tampa Bay Area, where he retired as an Animal Control Officer. Pittman Center is fortunate to have such a dedicated and hard working team member, and we are glad he is batting for our team now! Ronnie tends to be on the quiet side. However, if you could get him to talk, he might share his other passion - building monster trucks. We are pretty sure he probably has some great fishing tales, too!

What do you do?

Maintenance for Pittman Center for 2 years.

What do you like about your job?

Everyone willing to lend a helping hand when a situation calls for it.

What do you like about Pittman Center?

The small relaxing, small town way of life.

Where is your hometown?

Manatee County, Florida

Anything Else?

Married for 39 years, two grown sons. 7 grandchildren and a grandchild on the way.



TOWN MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please note that we are working on having official minutes of all future meetings posted on the web page, and below represents “highlights” only. For official records of the meeting please request a recording or official minutes once they are available.)

Planning Commission Report

At the May 13th Planning Commission, the Town Administrator reported that a permit had been issued to David Kear for framing. He additionally reported that the Town would most likely be hiring a part-time building official who will provide building reports in the future.

A subdivision plat to be reviewed and considered was presented by David Kear, but was denied at this time. Mr. Rockwell, ETDD Planner, will confer with the applicant's engineer on possible solutions. There was a brief discussion, then general consensus not to allow subdivisions off of easements.

In a separate topic, the Commission agreed to keep the present Planning Region.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding regulation of short term rentals, including rental cabins, Airbnb, and Vrbo properties. Mr. Rockwell advised the Commission of the state law that set precedent and guidelines for a permitting process that provided oversight for the Town. He will consult with MTAS regarding how to confirm occupancy, and liability issues.

BMA Report

The BMA minutes for May will be approved at the June BMA meeting.

Tree Board Report

The meeting for May was cancelled due to lack of agenda.

Next meetings:

Planning Commission - July 8th, 4:30 (June meeting cancelled due to lack of agenda)

BMA - June 20th, 4:30

Tree Board - June 26th, 3:30

Public Works Projects

- We are happy to announce that the Hills Creek Road project has been completed and all related signage has been removed from the site.
- Old Hills Creek Road repairs have been delayed due to a backup of work from the contractor. We hope to see this project completed in the coming weeks.

· We do not have any updates for the Grassy Branch Bridge, but we will definitely keep everyone up to date with developments as they occur. (If you were unable to attend the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, 5/16/19, meeting where TDOT gave a brief presentation regarding this project the meeting was recorded and is available to anyone who would like the audio file).

Summer time is vacation and fun time - a time to throw your cares away ... to chill and let go of rules, and just ENJOY life! We all do it ... and if we don't we should every once in a while. We want to have a good time, and we want our kids to have a good time! Excursions in a golf cart are always fun and relaxing, and provide a great distraction for the family, but they also come with a responsibility of the awareness of the laws - whether you are on vacation or not! Drivers of golf carts on public roads must possess a valid driver's license, you are driving with cars on the road after all! Please remember these rules are to protect everyone on the road.... SAFETY FIRST!



PITTMAN CENTER LIBRARY

Director of Sevier County Public Library System, Rhonda Tippit, notes that our library is a satellite, not a branch, and is open when town hall employees are present to provide access. A satellite library fits nicely with the summer reading program theme "A Universe of Stories". Children's stories will be presented by Miss Jennie, whose renown is such that -- like Beyonce and Lady Gaga ---she does not require a last

name. The dates are June 18 and 25 and July 9 and 16 from 9:30 to 11 AM; for more information call the main library at 865-453-3532.



The Six BearWise Basics



Never Feed or approach Bears

Intentionally feeding bears or allowing them to find anything that smells or tastes like food teaches bears to approach homes and people looking for more. Bears will defend themselves if a person gets too close, so don't risk your safety and theirs!



Secure Food, Garbage and Recycling

Food and food odors attract bears, so don't reward them with easily available food, liquids or garbage.



Remove Bird Feeders When Bears Are Active

Birdseed and grains have lots of calories, so they're very attractive to bears. Removing feeders is the best way to avoid creating conflicts with bears.



Never Leave Pet Food Outdoors

Feed pets indoors when possible. If you must feed pets outside, feed in single portions and remove food and bowls after feeding. Store pet food where bears can't see or smell it.



Clean & store Grills

Clean grills after each use and make sure that all grease, fat and food particles are removed. Store clean grills and smokers in a secure area that keeps bears out.



Alert Neighbors to Bear Activity

See bears in the area or evidence of bear activity?

Tell your neighbors and share information on how to avoid bear conflicts. Bears have adapted to living near people; now it's up to us to adapt to living near bears.



STORY, LEGEND OR TRUTH

Remembering Emert's Cove in the 1930's

David Barber first visited Emerts Cove around 1933 when his parents took him and his brother Dean on a camping trip from their home in Knoxville. He was around twelve and caught his first fish in the Middle Prong near where the family's tent was pitched. The Barbers liked the area so much that they



inquired of a local resident, Newt Ogle, about purchasing land. Amos Marshall was willing to sell two acres on the river where the Barber's built a cabin, joining the several Smoky Mountain Hiking Club members who had cabins in the area. David and Dean spent the next few summers working on the cabin but progress was slow because they took frequent breaks to swim and fish with their new friends in the neighborhood. The Ramsey children asked them to swim several times a day; David later learned the reason for such popularity was that the Ramsey parents would not let the children swim unless the older Barber boys came along. They enjoyed swimming at the Corner Hole and Flint Rock, where David met the 'much younger' Dolly Parton and her parents.

Greenbrier Island was the local ball field, where adult teams from Gatlinburg, Pittman Center, Cosby and the surrounding area played baseball while the fans spread picnics and visited. The boys fished up and down the river and sometimes found moonshine in glass jars which they dumped out and refilled with river water as a prank. Squirrel hunting was a regular pass time, and when David enlisted in the Marine Corps he impressed the officers by hitting the bullseye while other recruits were missing the entire target. He went on to serve in the Solomon Islands during World War II, attended the University of Tennessee on the GI Bill and enjoyed a career coaching football in Florida. He returned to Sevier County in 1979 for an encore career in local law enforcement for twelve years. At age 98 David continues to serve his community as a volunteer at Leconte Medical Center, where he spends most weekdays at the Information Desk. Stop by and say 'Hi'!

