



VOL. 1 ISSUE 5 • August 2019

# Pittman Center Times

Official Newsletter of the Town of Pittman Center

Dear Subscribers,

Thank you for the tremendous support for the newsletter project! Approximately 136 folks have signed up to receive the PCTimes. Please let us know if we missed someone, or if you know of someone who would like to receive the newsletter.

Welcome to the back to school edition of the Pittman Center Times!

If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to call Town Hall at 436-5499 or you can email us at [astownhall@gmail.com](mailto:astownhall@gmail.com).

Your PCTimes Volunteers

## MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL

School is back in session and we hope everyone has had a fantastic first week back and end of summer vacation! Newsletter staff have met and have determined that the best way to get up to date information to the citizens is to send the newsletters out within a week to week and a half of the last Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting. We are going to maintain that as our future goal.

This month the Town has another addition to its family of employees! Mr. Ben Ogle will be joining us the week of the 26<sup>th</sup> as a Police Officer. Mr. Ogle has previously worked for the Sevier County Sheriff's Office as a Patrol Officer for a little over three years. Chief Parton and I are very excited to get our Police Department up to four officers and provide an increased level of service. We believe we have extremely capable folks serving this community.

Our Maintenance Department should be receiving the recently ordered Dodge 3500 dump truck this week or early next week. We are very excited to get this in service so that we may begin working on the roads around Town. Our employees are also working with the Sevier County Highway Department this week on a paving list for major roads along with estimated costs. We will then propose this to the Board for approval and will hopefully have some paving done in the near future.

Our administrative staff have been working diligently on year end closing financial and many other behind the scenes administrative functions. However, we have also made significant stride in Town communications through our increased website and social media presence! Please bookmark our website at [www.pittmancentertn.com](http://www.pittmancentertn.com) and follow us on Facebook! It is the quickest and easiest way to learn about everything from meeting agendas to road closures! Until next time!

Michael Borders  
Town Administrator



## MEET OUR CITY EMPLOYEES!

Matt Holt is one of our newest faces in Pittman Center. Matt has been protecting and serving the community of Pittman Center since May 2019. Officer Holt proudly comes from a long family line of law enforcement. Matt's career in law enforcement began over 14 years ago with Sevier County.



### **What do you do?**

Patrol Officer for Pittman Center Police Department

### **What do you like about your job?**

Getting to know & serve the citizens of Pittman Center.

### **What do you like about Pittman Center?**

Getting to experience God's wonderful creation on a daily basis & interact with all of the citizens.

### **Anything Else?**

Matt was born and raised in Sevier County! He loves fishing and spending as much time as possible with his family. Enjoying the great outdoors is near the top of the list for pastimes.

## **TOWN MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All town meetings are open to the public, and members of the community are encouraged to attend! Complete minutes are, or will be, available on the Pittman Center web site. Below, is a brief overview of each board meeting.

At the August 12th **Planning Commission** meeting commissioners discussed short-term rentals (**no action was taken**) and approved a subdivision of land of the Audie Kear property.

At the **BMA** meeting on August 15th, Board Members:

1. Discussed short-term rentals and finalized a joint Planning Commission and Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting to further discuss and have citizen input on the topic.
2. The Board wanted further information before participating in the State of Tennessee Local Government Investment Pool.
3. The Board did not participate in the USACE Sevier County Flood Preparedness Study due to a lack of information regarding possible preemptive warning systems in relation to flooding.
4. Appointed Jim Coykendall to replace Jody Trammel, who resigned due to moving, on the Planning Commission
5. Approved resolution No. 220 to apply for a "Safety Partners" Matching Grant Program through Public Entity Partners (Insurance Provider).

### **Regularly Scheduled Upcoming Meetings:**

The Planning Commission will meet on September 9th, at 4:30.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen will meet on Thursday, September 19th at 4:30.

## **!!SPECIAL CALLED MEETINGS!!**

The Town will have a special called joint Planning Commission and Board of Mayor and Aldermen workshop on August 29<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss short-term rentals. Please come and share your thoughts! If you are unable to attend the meeting please feel free to email Town staff at [asutton@pittmancentertn.gov](mailto:asutton@pittmancentertn.gov), call us at (865) 436-5499 or send us a letter at the above address with your thoughts. Please include your name, phone number and at least one address of a property you own or reside at in Pittman Center. Correspondence without the above information will not be considered.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT**

**Webbs Creek Road:** Webbs Creek Road will be undergoing bank stabilization on the creek side in the coming weeks. During this time the road will be down to one lane.

## **DID YOU KNOW ...?**

### ***Herb Williford: Community Leader and Expert Craftsman***

Herb's long life began in Dandridge, where his family lived until Douglas Lake was built. He was one of five brothers with two sisters and deep family roots in the area. Herb recalls Dandridge would be under water had several townswomen not gone to Washington and persuaded TVA to build a dike around the town. The Williford home was in the dike's path, so the family moved to White Pine where his father joined a relative in operating a grist mill. Herb learned to operate the mill and picked up carpentry skills before joining his brother in highway construction, working on Boyd's Bridge in Knox County and many more in the region. He was helping build a new road from Gatlinburg to Pittman Center in 1950 when he met his future wife, Betty Branam, and within a few months began a happy marriage that lasted almost 50 years before she passed away.



**PICTURED: HERB WILLIFORD  
AND ROSEMARY NICHOLS**

Herb served in the U.S. Air Force in Okinawa from 1952 to 1955 then settled down at the head of Spring Branch near Betty's family and built his present house in 1960 on 22 acres. He helped build the original Gatlinburg tramway and worked with Clon Owenby on a sawmill they built in Emerts Cove, grew sorghum and made molasses (as featured in an episode of 'On the Road with Charles Kuralt still found on YouTube). Herb remembers Clon as a 'sensible man' with good skills, developed working for Little River Lumber Company.

Herb began working for Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1976, first on the trail crew then for many years on the historic buildings crew. His experience with grist mills came in handy repairing Cable and Mingus mills as well as many houses, barns and churches. He especially enjoyed working in the remote and peaceful Cataloochee Valley.

Herb retired from the Park in 1993 and has since stayed busy woodworking: he made furniture, bird houses, wooden toys and three beautiful grandfather clocks. He grew a large garden until he tired of fighting groundhogs and now just enjoys watching them. He helped build the Pittman Center covered bridge, was a



featured craftsman at Heritage Days, active in Hills Creek Baptist Church, and a founder and longtime member of the Pittman Center Volunteer Fire Department. His daughter Rosemary Nichols continues that tradition as fire chief. Rosemary and her sister, Lisa White live nearby and the whole family takes good care of Herb. He enjoys visitors and makes delicious strawberry preserves.

*Sevier Animal Care Center*



PICTURED: ASHLEY THOMAS, DIRECTOR

The shelter provides a clean, cheerful and safe environment for animals awaiting adoption. Cats enjoy a climate-controlled, quiet space with large enclosures featuring tunnel-cubbies for napping; dogs have trampoline-like beds and lots of toys and treats. Outside a spacious lawn next to the river provides a place for dogs to play and relax a few hours every day in shaded enclosures.



Stray animals are kept for 72 hours before becoming available for adoption, or longer if leads on ownership are found. The adoption fee for dogs is \$75, for cats \$50, and includes vaccinations, de-worming, microchip and spay/neuter. Trial adoptions are routine to ensure compatibility.

Whether you are looking for a new companion or would just like to help out, keep the Sevier Animal Care Center in mind and help support this valuable asset to our community.



*School is in Session!*

*Start your day with a good breakfast. Take extra care to watch for children entering and exiting buses. Hands off your cell phones while in the car. Slow down. Help our police officers directing school traffic stay safe by being attentive to their directions. Have a safe 2019-2020 school year!*

*Thank you to all of our principals, teachers, school resource officers, and many staff that serve our community by caring for our children!*