



VOL. 1 ISSUE 8 • November 2019

Pittman Center Times

Official Newsletter of the Town of Pittman Center

Dear Subscribers,

We are proud to bring you the turkey stuffed Thanksgiving edition of the Pittman Center Times! Thank you for subscribing and please continue to spread the word!

If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to call Town Hall at (865) 436-5499 or you can email us at astownhall@gmail.com.

Your PC Times Staff



MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL

The Town of Pittman Center would like to thank all of the residents for the privilege of serving this wonderful community. We are thankful to work here every day!

We hope everyone has a safe Thanksgiving with their families and we look forward to seeing you at Yule Log on the 6th of December at City Hall!



Michael Borders
City Administrator



CHIEF'S CORNER

In this month's newsletter I want to touch on a subject that is near and dear to the Town of Pittman Center. The black bear is important to many in our community and I want to discuss some precautions that should be taken by everyone. Please do not in any way feed or otherwise attract bears to your property. This is very dangerous and is a violation of state law. Leave no food products outside including pet food. Bears are dangerous and have killed people in this region. A bear eating human food is being fed whether this is done purposely or not. I can tell you from my own experience that there are bears in the Town of Pittman Center that are in no way afraid or wary of humans and I have watched a bear walk within five feet of a police car during a traffic stop while strolling to a dumpster for his evening meal. Enjoy bear sightings, but enjoy them safely and legally.

Chief Clint Parton



TOWN MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Town meetings are open to the public, and members of the community are encouraged to attend! Complete minutes (after they are approved by the BMA) are available on the Pittman Center web site. Below is an unofficial and brief overview of the meetings.

Planning Commission

At the November 12th meeting the Commission:

1. Held a public hearing on the rezoning of lot 163.01 Map 118 off of Buckhorn Road from C-1 and RLD to C-3.
2. Recommended an Ordinance to rezone lot 163.01 Map 118 off of Buckhorn Road from C-1 and RLD to C-3 to the BMA for consideration.
3. Discussed changing the building height regulations in the Zoning Ordinance to utilize an average and maximum height.

Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA)

At a special called meeting held on November 13th the BMA:

1. Accepted an offer with conditions to sell Pinnacle Vista Lot 90.

During the regularly scheduled meeting held on November 21st the BMA:

1. Passed on first reading Ordinance No. 290: An Ordinance Amending the “Zoning Map of the Town of Pittman Center, Tennessee” By Rezoning Property from the RLD and C-1 to the C-3 District.
2. Passed Resolution No. 221: A Resolution Authorizing the town of Pitman Center to Participate in the Public Entity Partners’ Property Conservation Matching Grant Program.
3. Voted to donate \$1,500 to Sevier County Partners in Progress.
4. Voted to approve Employee Christmas Bonuses.

The Planning Commission will meet on Monday December 9th at 4:30

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

The Tree Board will meet on December 4th at 3:30.

The next Recreation Board meeting is yet to be determined.

If you have any questions regarding agenda items or action please contact the City Administrator at (865) 436-5499.



PUBLIC WORKS/INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

The Town's Maintenance Department has continued to work on small projects and has turned it's attention to City Hall facilities. They have been hard at work cleaning the siding of City Hall, the playground, mulching, putting up a new sign at City Hall, and doing some minor repairs on our maintenance building. In the next few weeks our Maintenance folks will be decorating the Town and getting in the Holiday spirit!



We have received a few calls and emails from citizens regarding Grassy Branch Bridge and the 321-widening project. At this time the Town is not aware of any updates to either of these projects.



PITTMAN CENTER ELEMENTARY FALL FESTIVAL UPDATE

I would like to personally thank each and every individual who participated in making this year's Fall Festival a huge success. The love and support of this school is shown daily throughout this community. It is so nice knowing that each year we can count on our neighbors to help out during our big fundraiser. The Fall Festival is a tradition in this community and it takes us all to make it work. Community efforts allowed us to raise over \$49,000 this year. This money will be used to continue updating our technology and security system. We recently purchased 38 computers and numerous picnic tables for our students to use in our outdoor classroom. This could not be done without the help of the king and queen candidates, their families, the faculty & staff, our students and their families, community members, businesses and numerous volunteers. Again, we are so very thankful for the support of our Pittman Center community.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Wendy Patterson, Principal
Pittman Center Elementary School



REMINDERS...

Please remember in order to participate in the citizens comment section at the Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting you must fill out a form provided by Town staff and return the form prior to the end of day Tuesday before the Thursday meeting. You may also contact Town staff and have the form filled out over the phone (865) 436-5499.

Yule Log will be Friday December 6th beginning at 5pm at Pittman Center City Hall.

Heritage Day will be April 25th at 9am at Pittman Center City Hall grounds.

GARBAGE PICKUP CHRISTMAS WEEK: Garbage will be collected from residential properties on Monday the 23rd and again on Thursday the 26th.

WHAT IS YULE LOG?



Pittman Center Yule Log

Brief History

The Yule Log is one of the oldest customs or traditions associated with Christmas. In fact, its origin was a tradition before Christ was born. Its beginning is part of the history and culture of the Scandinavian and European countries, as well as Iceland and Greece, and became a part of a celebration of the winter solstice, at which time huge bonfires and huge logs were set ablaze as a way of looking forward to the rebirth of the sun and giving hope for the return of summer.

Traditions and customs do not die easily. They may get altered, changed along the way and live on. Seldom are traditions dropped completely. Somewhere along the way, the church of the Christian faith sanctioned the Yule Log celebration with the Christmas season, emphasizing the burning log as representing the light of the Savior, rather than the Sun.

As this custom became part of our European cultural heritage and was brought to this country, the following items were observed in the Smoky Mountain country:

A huge log was pulled near the house, and sawed into an appropriate size for rolling into contained wide chimneys, up to five feet wide. When placed into the chimney, it was called a “backstick” and it served to fuel the other logs placed on to the fire thereafter. The rule was that the Yule log must be harvested on the owner’s property or be received as a gift. This would be true in the case of a widow or the elderly who had no means of harvesting their own Yule log. The tree fallen to produce the Yule log was burned up, a second and third would be placed into the chimney as the “Twelve Days of Christmas” was celebrated. The Yule log should be soaked in water to prevent fast burning, because the idea was hinged on the fact “no work as long as the log burned.” In fact, since this was the dead of winter, most households declared themselves a winter holiday lasting 12 days through January 5 (December 25-Jan 5 = 12 days of Christmas). There was no demanding work on the farm, so celebrations of various nature ruled, such as church attendance for worship, rabbit or other game hunting, home games, visiting, singing, dancing, fun and feasting during the declared 12 days. From the log dragged into the house, two or more Yule logs could be provided to assure the continued celebration.

In Greenbrier, Clon Ownby reminisced that he remembered that the Yule log was often too large for men to lift to the front porch and onto the hearth on Christmas Eve. Thus, a mule would drag the log to the front door. Men would roll the log onto the front porch. Most cabins had two doors opposite each other. Next, the same horse or mule would be taken around to the other side of the house, and with longer chains connected to the animal’s gears and also hooked in to the log, the animal would again assist in pulling the huge log through the front door and placed onto the hearth for ready lighting on Christmas Eve. The lighting of the Yule log was set aflame on Christmas Eve and became a festive occasion and required gathering of friends, family, neighbors in to celebrate in songs, stories, dancing, fun feasting and a chance for romancing.

Other ideas, customs or superstitions associated with the Yule log included:

Once the log was lit, it was with belief that sins, mistakes and bad choices of the past year were burned in the flame so that each member of the household could start a new year with a clean slate or a new start. The log must be lit with a piece of last year's Yule log, thus assuring continued prosperity, peace and the eternal light of heaven be upon the family. Ashes from the Yule log were saved. About a teaspoon full of ashes was dropped into the water of springs and well to assure the water would continue to flow clean. The bulk of the ashes were gathered and deposited around the trunk of fruit trees to assure abundant crops of fruit next year.

And remember a hunk or piece of the yule log must be saved to start next year's Yule log. Why? Because it is a tradition or custom. Need there be any other reason when it is acceptable?

As mentioned above and as time passes, tradition and customs get altered, changed or dropped. As time passed no Yule chimney was available and no Yule log needed. So, flour was fashioned into a Christmas cake or loaf of bread and was placed on the Christmas Eve table with accompanying candles. The festive occasion of this Yule log celebration continued on in this fashion, reminding the family of their European heritage. Light from the candles served as a reminder that Jesus Christ was the "Light of the World" and it is in Him we celebrated the true festive occasion.

So, in perpetuating this cultural tradition, the Town of Pittman Center holds its annual Yule log burning where the community family comes together at this time of the year for songs, stories, food, fellowship and give prayer of thanksgiving.

****This annual event is sponsored by the Pittman Center Recreation Board**

****As told by Glenn Cardwell**

Pittman Center City Hall Will Be Closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th

From all of the Staff at Pittman Center City Hall,
We wish your family a

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

