



VOL. 2 ISSUE 4 • April 2020

# Pittman Center Times

Official Newsletter of the Town of Pittman Center

Dear Subscribers,

Thank you for continuing to read the Pittman Center Times! We believe this is one of the best methods to communicate with the citizens of this community. The Town of Pittman Center has now had a monthly newsletter for a year. We look forward to continuing communicating with YOU, the CITIZEN!

We hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy during this COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to call Town Hall at (865) 436-5499 or you can email us at [asutton@pittmancenter.tn.gov](mailto:asutton@pittmancenter.tn.gov).

Your PC Times Staff

## MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL

The Town of Pittman Center hopes that everyone is fairing as well as possible during these difficult times. April has been a difficult month as the Country has faced this pandemic from the health perspective as well as the economic fallout. Please remember The Town has partnered with community organizations to help assist citizens that have been affected (details later in the newsletter). As Governor Lee has made the decision not to extend the stay at home executive order the Town of Pittman Center will be opening City Hall with *limited access* on May 4<sup>th</sup> (details discussed later).

The Town will be holding a strategic planning and budgeting session in early to mid-May. Please check our Facebook and website for further details. Due to COVID-19 we are unsure how the meeting will take place at this time, but we will be complying with all guidance from the CDC and the Governor's office.



Michael T. Borders  
City Administrator

## **TOWN MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

### **Planning Commission**

During the regularly scheduled meeting held virtually on April 9<sup>th</sup> the Planning Commission:

1. Reviewed and Considered for Recommendation an Ordinance Amending the “Zoning Map of the Town of Pittman Center, Tennessee” by rezoning property from RLD (Low Density Single Family Residential) to the R-2 (Planned Residential District). The Ordinance was recommended to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for approval.
2. Reviewed and Discussed an Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Pittman Center, Tennessee by Adding a Definition of Transient Rental Homes and allowing them in certain zones. No action was taken.
3. Reviewed and Discussed Building Height Regulations. No action was taken.

### **Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA)**

During the regularly scheduled meeting held virtually on April 16<sup>th</sup> the Board of Mayor and Aldermen:

1. Appointed Tree Board Members: Kris Johnson, Diane Warwick, Stephani Sweeney, Kathy Brooks, and Sheila McMahan.
2. First Reading and Consideration of Ordinance No. 296: An Ordinance Amending the “Zoning Map of the Town of Pittman Center, Tennessee” by Rezoning Property from the RLD (Low Density Single Family Residential) to the R-2 (Planned Residential) District. The Ordinance Passed on first reading.

The Planning Commission will meet on Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen will meet on Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen Strategic Planning and Budget Session is yet to be determined.

The next Tree Board meeting is yet to be determined.

The next Recreation Board meeting is yet to be determined.

Please note we are unsure of how future meetings will be conducted due to COVID-19. Please check our website and Facebook for up to date information. If you have any questions regarding agenda items or action please contact the City Administrator at (865) 436-5499. Please note that meetings may be cancelled or held electronically which may or may not allow for Citizens Comments due to the current pandemic. Please check our website and Facebook for more information.

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Great Smoky  
Mountains  
National Park

107 Park Headquarters Road  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

865/436-1200 phone  
[www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm)

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## Great Smoky Mountains News Release

**Release Date:** April 30, 2020

**Contact:** Dana Soehn, [Dana\\_Soehn@nps.gov](mailto:Dana_Soehn@nps.gov), 865-436-1207

### Park Begins Phased Reopening on May 9

Following guidance from the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state and local public health authorities, Great Smoky Mountains National Park is increasing recreational access and services. The National Park Service (NPS) is working servicewide with federal, state, and local public health authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and using a phased approach to increase access on a park-by-park basis.

Beginning May 9, the park will reopen many roads and trails. The health and safety of employees, partners, volunteers, visitors, and local residents remains the highest priority in park reopening decisions. Park managers will examine each facility function and service provided to ensure those operations comply with current public health guidance, and will be regularly monitored. Park managers will also continue to work closely with the NPS Office of Public Health using CDC guidance to ensure public and workspaces are safe and clean for all users.

“We recognize this closure has been extremely difficult for our local residents, as well as park visitors from across the country, who seek the park as a special place for healing, exercise, recreation, and inspiration,” said Superintendent Cassius Cash. “We are approaching this phased reopening with that in mind, as we balance our responsibility to protect park resources and the health and safety of everyone.”

Park managers are implementing new safety measures in facility operations and services to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 as areas reopen to the public. Campgrounds, picnic pavilions, visitor centers, and many secondary roads will remain closed during the first reopening phase, which is expected to last for at least two weeks. Some of these measures will include disinfectant fogging operations for restrooms and public buildings, installation of plexiglass shields at visitor centers, personal protective equipment requirements for maintenance workers, new safety protocols for emergency services staff, and reduced group size limits.

While many areas will be accessible for visitors to enjoy, a return to full operations will continue to be phased and services may be limited. The park typically has more than one million visitors each month, May through October, from across the country. When recreating, the public should follow local area health orders, practice Leave No Trace principles, avoid crowding, and avoid high-risk outdoor activities. The CDC has offered guidance to help people recreating in parks and open spaces prevent the spread of infectious diseases. We will continue to monitor all park functions to ensure that visitors adhere to CDC guidance for mitigating risks associated with the transmission of COVID-19, and take any additional steps necessary to protect public health.

For the most up to date information about facility openings, service hours, and access, please visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/conditions.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/conditions.htm). Park rangers remain available to answer questions and help with trip planning via email or phone during business hours at (865) 436-1291, (828) 506-8620, or [GRSM\\_Smokies\\_Information@nps.gov](mailto:GRSM_Smokies_Information@nps.gov).

--NPS--

[www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm)  
[www.facebook.com/GreatSmokyMountainsNPS](https://www.facebook.com/GreatSmokyMountainsNPS)  
[www.twitter.com/GreatSmokyNPS](https://www.twitter.com/GreatSmokyNPS)  
[www.instagram.com/GreatSmokyNPS](https://www.instagram.com/GreatSmokyNPS)  
[www.flickr.com/greatsmokymountainsnationalpark](https://www.flickr.com/greatsmokymountainsnationalpark)

## City Hall Opening to the Public

The Town of Pittman Center is opening City Hall to the public on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We ask that if possible, for business to be conducted over the phone at (865) 436-5499, by email at [asutton@pittmancenter.tn.gov](mailto:asutton@pittmancenter.tn.gov), or by mail. If you need to meet with us or transact business in person, we ask that you wear a mask. Social distancing guidelines will be enforced and the number of visitors will be limited. We greatly appreciate your understanding.

## Mountain TOUGH

[www.mountaintough.org](http://www.mountaintough.org) has been re-launched as a website for Sevier County Residents to receive updated information regarding COVID-19. The Mayors and City Managers of the County authorized the Sevier County Economic Development Council to re-launch the site. The website contains a multitude of resources to help individuals and businesses affected by this pandemic.



## Continued Closure of Playground and Pavilion

The Town of Pittman Center has closed the City Hall Playground and Pavilion which will **remain closed** until further notice.

## Department of Health COVID-19 Testing

The Sevier County Health Department is doing **NO CHARGE COVID-19 Testing!**


## Maintenance Department

**COVID-19 Testing  
NO CHARGE**

Sevier County Health Department  
719 Middle Creek  
Sevierville, TN 37862

**Monday—Friday**  
9:00 A.M.—12:00 P.M.  
and 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Call (865) 453-1032 for an Appointment  
[www.tn.gov/health](http://www.tn.gov/health)

 Sevier County Health Department

The Town's maintenance department has been gearing up for multiple beautification projects around Town. Stay tuned to see their final product! Recently they were able to replace and install a drain to address drainage issues on Berry Clark.



## JOINT STATEMENT EXPLANATION OF TENNESSEE PLEDGE AND REOPENING ORDERS ON SEVIER COUNTY

As Sevier County and the cities of Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg, and Pittman Center begin the reopening process via Governor Lee's Tennessee Pledge, there is some confusion on how that process will work and why there may be differences between some counties in Tennessee.

In late March, the county and cities consulted with legal advisors and state associations on the authority of local governments to implement COVID-19 regulations. It was the opinion of the county and cities that only the State of Tennessee had the power to close businesses and quarantine individuals during a pandemic. On Monday, the state Attorney General released an opinion that confirmed our position.

The Tennessee Pledge dictates the reopening procedures for the State of Tennessee and its ninety-five (95) counties. Governor Lee signed Executive Order 30 on April 28, laying the framework for the state's reopening strategy. Within this order is the ability of the six counties that have their own locally run health departments and health officers to set directives separate from the Tennessee Pledge. These six counties are Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Madison, Shelby, and Sullivan Counties. Sevier County does not manage the local health department; therefore, our reopening orders are set within the Tennessee Pledge and are consistent with eighty-nine (89) other counties across the state. Thus, Knox County may reopen types of businesses on a different schedule than Sevier County.

The governor's most recent order, Executive Order 30, dictates many of the basic components of the Tennessee Pledge. It prohibits the opening of some businesses such as barbershops, hair salons, bars, live performance venues, bowling alleys,



theatres, race tracks, amusement parks, senior centers, and others. Also, it provides further guidance on returning to work, social gatherings, places of worship, etc. Although this order, including closures, are currently slated to last until May 29, the Governor has stated future guidance may allow the opening of currently closed businesses prior to that date. For example, the Governor is expected to announce in the coming days guidance allowing the reopening of barbershops and salons. Currently, Executive Orders 29 and 30 allow the reopening of restaurants, retail establishments, and gyms with additional state health guidelines. You can view all executive orders here: <https://sos.tn.gov/products/division-publications/executive-orders-governor-bill-lee>. Also, you can find more information on the Tennessee Pledge by going to [www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/economic-recovery](http://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/economic-recovery).

Given our tourism-based economy, the county and the cities, along with our tourism and economic development departments, will be issuing further best practice guidance to our local businesses and organizations. We ask all companies to follow this additional guidance to enhance the protection of our citizens and visitors.

## 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 can find the form at [www.pittmancentertn.com](http://www.pittmancentertn.com) go to the “government” tab in the ribbon bar then to “printable forms”. You may also contact Town staff and have the form filled out over the phone at (865) 436-5499.

## COVID – 19 Citizens Assistance Program



Town of Pittman Center Citizens,

The Town of Pittman Center has partnered with Hills Creek Baptist Church, Burnett Memorial United Methodist Church, and the Church at Pittman Center to provide services for those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you know of another community organization that would like to partner with us please reach out to us!

### Who is it for?

If you, a resident of the Town of Pittman Center, are in a higher risk population (as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) for the COVID-19 virus and have no one that can assist you in obtaining essential items such as food, hygiene products, or medicine (if it is a medicine that can be picked up by another individual) during this pandemic.

If you, a resident of the Town of Pittman Center, have become unemployed or suffered a loss of income due to the COVID-19 virus and need assistance to obtain food and hygiene products during this pandemic.

### How does it work?

1. Call Pittman Center City Hall at (865) 436-5499 8am-4pm Monday-Friday or email us at [asutton@pittmancentertn.gov](mailto:asutton@pittmancentertn.gov).
2. You will give us your name, address, contact information, general needs, and give us permission to share this information with our partnered Community Organizations.
3. Town of Pittman Center Staff will provide this information to Community Organizations.

4. A member of these Community Organizations will contact you and discuss how they can assist you in obtaining these products.
5. Community Organizations will drop the products off at your residence (on your porch or in another way to avoid contact) and disinfect the products.

It's that simple!

Please remember this program is only for those who are in a higher risk population as defined by the CDC for the COVID-19 virus and have no other way (family, friends, etc.) to obtain essentials or for those, of any population, who have suffered unemployment and loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and can no longer provide essential items for themselves or their family.

Thank you for being a part of the Pittman Center community and coming together during this pandemic!

## *A little beauty from Pittman Center*



### **Yellow Trillium**

Also known as: Yellow wakerobin

Botanical Name: Trillium luteum

### **Ilscented wakerobin**

Also known as:

Southern Nodding wakerobin

Botanical name:

Trillium rugelii



So, Pittman Center what have you done in the past month to stay strong? Gain the quarantine 15? Turn your home into a photo shoot for kids and pets? Garden? Exercise? Send us some pictures or comments of what you and your family have done to stay strong this past month to our email at [asutton@pittmancenter.tn.gov](mailto:asutton@pittmancenter.tn.gov). We will feature some of your pictures, recipes, comments, encouraging quotes, face mask hacks, tips and tricks to keep the kids busy and all of the fur baby shenanigans in our next newsletter!