



VOL. 2 ISSUE 8 • August 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. We look forward to continuing communicating with YOU, the CITIZEN!

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@pittmancentertn.gov.

Your PC Times Staff



MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL

August was a much rosier month as we realized our state shared and local option tax revenue from June. Revenues have continued to grow and the revenues realized for the month of June were higher than the prior year. We hope this trend has been a reality for all the citizens and businesses in our community. This month we are happy to report that our paving projects for this fiscal year have been completed. We would like to thank Jonas Smelcer and the Sevier County Highway Department for their excellent paving job!

While we as a nation continue the fight against COVID-19 we have received positive news on our fight locally in Sevier County. Between July 24th (two weeks after the first Sevier County mask mandate went into effect) and August 28th, the 7-day average daily case rate decreased by more than 70%, the 7-day average daily positive rate fell by more than 11%, and the 7-day average hospitalization rate fell by half. The CDC recommends the use of face coverings as a critical tool against COVID-19 that could reduce the spread of the disease. On August 28th Mayor Larry Waters with the support of local leaders and the State of Tennessee Health Department extended the mask mandate for Sevier County until September 30, 2020.

The Town would also like to report that Lee Mellor, Cheryl Houston, Kris Johnson, and Billy McCarty have qualified for the November election. This November the citizens will be voting to fill two Alderman/Aldерwoman seats. We hope that everyone enjoys their last few weeks of summer as we head into Fall 2020 at the end of September.

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 website. Below is an unofficial and brief overview of the meetings.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission during the regularly scheduled meeting held on August 10th:

1. Discussion of Campground Regulations: After discussion it was recommended that a workshop be planned for September.
2. Consideration of Recommending a Temporary Sign Ordinance to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for Approval: The proposed Temporary Sign Ordinance was recommended to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for approval.

Board of Mayor and Aldermen

During the regularly scheduled Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting held on August 20th:

1. Reading and Consideration of Resolution No. 226 A Resolution Authorizing the Town of Pittman Center to participate in Public Entity Partners “Safety Partners” Matching Grant Program. The Board approved the Resolution.
2. Reading and Consideration of Ordinance No. 299 An Ordinance of the Town of Pittman Center, Tennessee Repealing Ordinance No. 159 in its entirety. The Ordinance passed on first reading.
3. Reading and Consideration of Ordinance No. 300 An Ordinance Amending Section 11-310 of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Pittman Center, Tennessee to allow mixed use developments in the C3 – Crafts Commercial District. The Ordinance passed on first reading.
4. Reading and Consideration of Ordinance No. 301 An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Pittman Center, Tennessee to allow Single Family Dwellings in the TR – Tourist Residential District. The Ordinance passed on first reading.
5. Consideration of Donation Disbursement Requests.
The Town approved the following donations:
 - Heritage Museum: \$3,500
 - Sevier Animal Care Center: \$3,300
 - Partners in Progress: \$1,500
 - Keep Sevier Beautiful: \$1,000
 - Pittman Center Community Volunteer Fire Department: \$5,000 + AirMed coverage for PCCVFD Members.

Upcoming Meetings

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen will meet on Thursday September 17th at 4:30.

The Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals/Design Review Commission will meet on Monday September 14th at 4:30.

The next Tree Board will meet on September 30th at 3:30 location TBD.

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.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

The Maintenance Department has been busy preparing for paving season! This year we paved Roth Road, Hook Road, a section of Spring Branch Road, Hills Creek (from the covered bridge to 416), over the tile, which was replaced earlier this year on Tunis, and several patches on Grassy Branch. This year paving was significantly scaled back due to our conservative revenue estimates for this year's budget.

We would like to once again thank Jonas Smelcer and the Sevier County Highway Department for the excellent paving job!



Hook Road

At this time, we have no further updates on the highway 321 widening project nor the Grassy Branch Bridge replacement project.



Roth Road

REMINDERS...

Please remember in order to participate in the citizens comment section of 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.gov 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.

THIRD PARTY NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

The Town has been contacted by several citizens that have not been receiving our newsletter distribution. After working through some scenarios with our IT folks it seems that the Microsoft Exchange server that we use is unable to send our newsletters to so many addresses! We are therefore looking into third party distribution services used by other government entities. If you are uncomfortable with using a third party distributor please contact us at asutton@pittmancentertn.gov and we will remove you from the newsletter list. We apologize for any inconvenience; we just want to make sure everyone is staying informed!

CENSUS 2020

The 2020 Census is nearing completion. Did you know you can help shape your community by participating? By counting all our residents, we ensure we will receive our fair share of federal funds to be used for schools, roads, and other public services. The data collected is also used to determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives. Visit 2020CENSUS.GOV to complete the 10-minute Census survey. The Census survey process ends **September 30th**.



DID YOU KNOW...?

The Town of Pittman Center recently updated it's website address from a ".com" to a ".gov"? Come check out our website at www.pittmancenter.tn.gov. Our website has our meeting agendas, minutes, updates, all of our previous newsletters, and much more!

SEVIER SOLID WASTE INC.

Ever wondered *where to responsibly dispose of paint, mattresses, or even electronics*? Try out the new Sevier Solid Waste app! This mobile app makes it even easier for residents to stay connected about waste and recycling collection programs. Compatible for Apple or Android smartphones, the SSWI app informs residents in Sevier County if and where material can be reused, recycled, composted, or disposed of. If you don't have a smartphone, you can also visit SSWI's website (<https://www.seviersolidwaste.com/>) and use our Waste Wizard tool to learn how and where to properly recycle or dispose of materials.



OLD PITTMAN CENTER ELEMENTARY

I, April Sutton, had an opportunity to sit down with Dr. A.J. Bennett, Principal of Gatlinburg Pittman Junior High School at a socially distanced 6 ft. for an interview this month. Principal Bennett met me at the entrance to the old Pittman Center School building that sits next to Pittman Center City Hall. Although we were both masked, I could tell he was smiling and his presence was very welcoming.

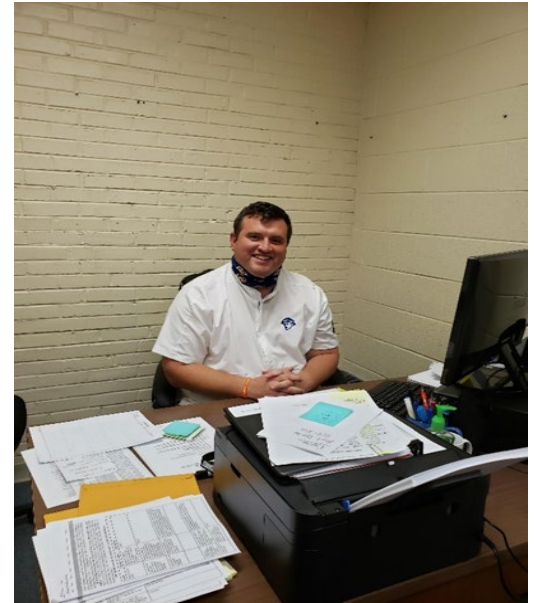
When asked what a typical day looked like he told me at the beginning of the day he starts by helping around the student unloading area and greeting students where they are being dropped off. The morning continues with checking the dress code and a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance. Through the day Dr. Bennett

remains visible and accessible for students, teachers, and staff as he accomplishes tasks throughout the day. Dr. Bennett's favorite part of being a principal is interacting with the students. His goal is to create a place that the kids will "enjoy coming here and hating to leave."

For several weeks, until the new Gatlinburg Pittman Junior High School is completed, Principal Bennett, 7th and 8th grade students, and 20 faculty along with 10 administrative staff will work from the school here on Webb's Creek Rd. The new high school has not been completed with building supplies being delayed due to COVID-19. When the school is completed the 10th-12th graders will move into the new building and the GPJHS students, which will consist of 7th-9th graders will move in to the existing GP High School.

Some challenges of opening the school during this time has been making sure that they are following all CDC and local Health Department guidelines and getting everything moved and set up for their temporary stay. When I asked Principal Bennett what the benefits of students attending a classroom versus online studies were, he felt that nothing can compare to face to face interactions with adults, positive mentor experiences, and positive peer relationships. While it is easy to get frustrated with COVID-19 and the social unrest in our country, Dr. Bennett recalls how these great kids enjoy interaction, just loving to be with one another.

Principal Bennett wanted to sincerely thank the community of Pittman Center, Chief Clint Parton and the Pittman Center Police Department, City Administrator Michael Borders and his staff for reaching out to him and the school to offer help and to give their support.



Dr. Bennett



A huge thank you to all of the Principals, Assistant Principals, Teachers, Admin Staff and Janitorial Staff that have tirelessly worked to make our schools a safer place for our kids in the community to return to their classrooms.

-PC Times Staff

COVID-19 Masks!

We asked folks to send us pictures with their favorite masks on! As you can see, we aren't letting masks cramp our style!



Charlotte C.



Bobby S.



Ken H.



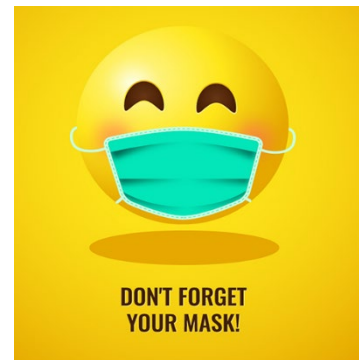
Andrea L.



Town of Pittman Center Administration. From left to right: Tammy Watts Rochester, Michael Borders, April Sutton



Aubree B.



Please note the Town of Pittman Center obtained permission to use the above pictures and names for the Pittman Center Times.