PETERSBURG NEWS

A Lions Club Service to the Community **November 1, 2026**

From the Mayor's Office



Mayor
Kevin Coffield

We're coming into that time of year where celebration becomes the norm. It's actually my favorite time of year. Families have that rare chance to sit down together, share some good quality time, laugh, reminisce, watch some ball, share a meal or two. How can you not like that?

For those of us with family scattered from here to Timbuktu, like me, enjoy the friendships you've developed here in Petersburg in the most positive ways you can. Spooktacular, Thanksgiving, and the Christmas Parade always bring a smile to my face, and I hope yours as well, and that's just in the next couple of months! Oh, and New Year's. Can we claim it on this side of midnight, and make it the fourth event in the next two months, or should we save it for next year?

The recent OSHA inspection went exceedingly well. We received a **"No Violations"** certification! Thanks to everyone involved in setting the bar where you have and keeping us compliant!

Town Hall is busy getting ready for the tax season just ahead. Actually, Laura is taking the lead on getting things ready, and Jim is doing a yeoman's job helping get everything set up. Tables are being lined up to hold various forms. The record books are being brought back out and dusted off, being made ready for opening day.

So, here's to you all and the festival season ahead! Raise a glass for all those friends and family close at hand and those removed but not forgotten, never forgotten. Enjoy the holidays!

God bless Petersburg!

Kevin Coffield, Mayor

Town Hall Information

120 Eastside Square
Petersburg, TN 37144
(931) 659-9826

Open Mon.-Wed.-Fri. 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Closed Tue. and Thu.

BOMA Meeting: 11/10 @ 6:00 p.m.

Serving Petersburg Over the Past 25 Years

By Gene Roberson

As I look back on the past 25 years since joining the Peterburg Lions Club in 2001, I'm amazed at the huge variety of ways the Lions have served this community. Last month, I shared some memorable services the Club provided between about 2001 and 2010. This month, we'll look as some of the services provided to the community since.

By 2010, the Petersburg Lions Club had abundant evidence that BIG changes were would be required if the Lions were going to have the resources to seriously address the many needs that the evolving community was facing. The vast majority of the Club's fund-raising capabilities were dependent on events the club could conduct at Lions Pride Park. But the new Dollar General facility had eliminated a prime parking area for spectators, and the new owner of the former Morgan School property had taken away another parking area that previous owners had allowed us to use. The club needed a bigger facility. We decided to purchase and develop the property bordering the Lewisburg Highway and Free Silver Road. We renovated the building and designated it as the Lions Community Building. We established the club as a TN corporation. In the charter, we specified that the property would transfer to the Town of Petersburg if the Lions Club would ever cease to exist. We also completely re-contoured the property by relocating over 800 tri-axel loads of dirt and rock.

By 2015, the Club affiliated with TN Pullers to produce the annual Petersburg Lions Truck and Tractor Pull. It quickly became the source of most of the Club's revenue allowing the club to discontinue producing horse shows and chicken festivals- that allowed the club to evolve in two ways: (1) increased ability to take on projects that require big financial commitments, and (2) provided resources that the club could donate to other Petersburg Civic organizations. Since then, we have taken on some huge projects including completely renovating and upgrading the center of Petersburg's public square and restoring the Cumberland Cemetery on High Street.

In 2026, the Petersburg Lions Club has made the following donations to other Petersburg

("25 Years" continued on pg. 2, column 2)

Henry Hardaway Rives

Aug.13, 1817 - Dec.2, 1866



Dr. Henry Hardaway Rives

Another Petersburg son who followed the confederacy to an early end, his restored marker stands near the southwestern corner of the Cumberland Cemetery.

Henry Hardaway was the son of the esteemed Green Rives and Frances Hardaway. Green Rives, lifelong friend and ally of General Winfield Scott, was held in high regard by Congressman John Bright, Tennessee, a devotion extended to his son.

Born in Dinwiddie Co. Virginia, Henry, age 11, accompanied his family to Petersburg by wagon train lead by an overseer, "Jolley"

They were joined by neighbors, the Scott's, Wells, Gills and Rogers. Notable families of old Virginia became Petersburg founders whose names and descendants remain today.
Where Dr Rives studied medicine remains unknown, yet accepted that he was an educated and highly skilled physician. Entering Masonic Lodge #123, 1849, he quickly ascended to Master Mason.

He married three times, first to Martha Dandridge Stone (establishing kinship to Martha and George Washington). Daughter Sarah wed Charles Metcalfe, son of Barnett Metcalfe, whose property bound that held for the Cumberland Cemetery, Masons and early churches. Sons, notable educators, Thomas Jefferson and James Dandridge, joined the Confederacy, suffering wounds and capture before their parole.

Henry had one child with his second wife and was childless by his third with whom he raised his half-sister.

("Rives" continued on pg. 2, column 3)

Worship, Spiritual Development, and Fellowship

Cumberland Presbyterian Church



Accepting Responsibility

Pastor Troy Green

We all sometimes wish things were different, but to live well we must accept what is true. One truth many people today struggle with is responsibility. If you try to hold someone accountable for bad or evil behavior, you better also hold onto your hat because it will likely be blown off by a myriad of defenses: "I didn't know. It's not my fault. Nobody told me. They did it too. Don't judge me. You are not my judge. God is my judge. It's legal. I was sick...tired…trying. I didn't mean to. I couldn't help it. I plead not guilty. I plead insanity. I plead the fifth."

What you don't hear in any of that is ownership. It's not so much that such people don't think there is any responsibility (they get very upset if they are mistreated), but they don't think they bear any responsibility. Given that God has declared He will judge every single one of us for our character and actions, they are in for a serious surprise. In that judgment there will be no excuses, no rationalizations, no denials. The whole truth will be evident--including one's intentions. It is important to be honest and accept responsibility for what you say and do. It will not only help you fare better in God's judgment; it will help you live a better life here—a life where people can count on you, where you make a positive difference, where you willing to admit fault and make corrections. In contrast to the excuses above, it will sound like these: "I'm sorry. I can do better. You are right. I understand. I shouldn't have…." And most important of all, "Will you forgive me?"

"I doubt seriously we shall ever see a day so adorned as the changing color of a fall day in November." **– Author Unknown**

Petersburg Church Delegates from 32 Regional Churches



On Sunday afternoon, October 25, the Petersburg Cumberland Presbyterian Church (PCPC) hosted delegates from the 31 other churches in the Columbia Presbytery. This was the first time that the Presbytery had met in Petersburg in modern times. The PCPC was established in the 1830s with many of the first members coming to faith in the Brush & Arbor revivals in the 1828-32 period.

Pastor Troy Green of the PCPC is a former Moderator of the Presbytery, a member of the Permanent Committee on Theology and Social Concerns and a member of the Discipline Committee. He is a past president of the denomination's ministry council which is the denomination's board of directors for all its ministry teams.

("25 Years" continued from page 1, col. 2)

Civic orgs and their projects: Petersburg Parks & Recreation Committee- $1,000, Petersburg Community Center- $1,000, Our Town Fair $500, Volunteer Fire Department- $600, Senior Citizens Center Food Bank- $400, Morgan Park-$100.

He who permits himself to tell a lie once, finds it much easier to do it a second and third time, till at length it becomes habitual; he tells lies without attending to it, and truths without the world's believing him. This falsehood of the tongue leads to that of the heart, and in time depraves all its good dispositions.

-Thomas Jefferson

Petersburg Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting

It's just around the corner once again, Christmastime. We would love to have you and your children help us decorate our Petersburg Town Hall Christmas Tree following the parade.

The parade will be on Saturday, December 12 at 1 p.m. We will have the Mid-State Cloggers of Shelbyville, TN performing for you just before the parade starts, beginning around noon on the Petersburg Square. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy some great dancing and get in the Christmas spirit with the Christmas music and parade.

DJ Dave will be playing our favorite Christmas music while he performs his magic in bringing the snow to the square for the kids to run and play in while the parade is getting lined up.

Immediately following the parade this year, we will have Petersburg Town Hall open for you and your children to make ornaments for the town Christmas tree. Then, about 4-4:15 p.m., we will have the Petersburg Christmas tree lighting.

There will be vendors for shopping, entertainment, music, crafting, and the tree lighting. Please make plans now to join us on Saturday, December 12. Come early to get your spot.

For more information, check out our Facebook page, **Petersburg TN Parks and Recreation,** or contact Amy Wells @ (931) 652-7641.Happy Holidays from Petersburg Parks and Recreation!

("Rives" continued from page 1, col. 3)

At age 45, Dr Rives joined his sons and the Confederacy. Briefly surviving the war, its toll taken, he succumbed to the Cholera ravaging Petersburg.

Congressman Bright wrote of him, "Dr. Henry H. Rives was a man of more than ordinary ability. He was a physician of high standing..." His epitaph honors him best:

"He was generous to a fault"

First Baptist Church of Petersburg
107 Church St. 931-659-9957
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11a.m. Wed. 6 p.m.

Cumberland Presbyterian Church
High St 931-212-6479
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:35 a.m.

Medium United Methodist Church
Delina 931-993-6005
Sunday Services at 10 a.m.

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Mark 12:31)

Cane Creek Church of Christ
Hwy 431
Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday 5 p.m.

East Side Church of Christ
306 Water St. 931-659-9352
Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m., Worship 11a.m.

Hannah's Gap Baptist Church
283 Bledsoe Rd.- Petersburg
Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m.

Lone Oak Church of Christ
2419 Highway 130
Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

Petersburg United Methodist Church
301 Church St.
Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship 11a.m.
Bible study Wed. 6 p.m.

Howell Church of Christ
Worship Sunday morning 9 a.m.
Bible Study Sunday morning- 10:15 a.m.
Sunday night 6 p.m. Wed. night- 6:30 p.m.

Liberty Valley Church of Christ
2900 Liberty Valley Rd., Belfast
Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. & 5 p.m.
5th Sunday Service 10 a.m./Meal 11 a.m.
followed by Singing

Chili Fest was the Best

by Warren Gill

A hungry group of people joined with talented cooks got together on October 24 to enjoy delicious chili and cornbread at the Chili Fest and Fall Market at the Morgan Cultural Center in Petersburg.

Glenna August was named the winner of the of the Best Chili competition and Valerie Sanders won the corn bread contest. The best chili winner won a Lodge enameled cast iron pot and the best cornbread winner received a Lodge cast iron cornbread skillet.

Another feature appropriate during this 250th anniversary year of the American Revolution was a celebration of Petersburg's own Revolutionary War hero – Joseph Greer – the King's Mountain Messenger. Joseph Greer's story was told by Warren Gill who was dressed in period dress. Gill attempted to make himself look like Greer, but Gill is 5' 10" and Greer was 6' 8" so it was not very accurate. Joseph Greer's actual rocking chair was on display. (Note: it is very, very large!)

The event was also financially successful. All the net money will go toward building a pickleball court at the Cultural Center for all to enjoy this popular sport.

The Morgan Cultural Center is the old Morgan Prep School at 103 Alumni Ln, behind the Dollar Store on Hwy 431. This venue is available. Contact Warren Gill at 615-478-3828 or email him at warren.gill@mtsu.edu.



Morgan Cultural Center

Sometimes Good Things Happen



This Year's Lions Club Award Recipients

Every year, in the middle of October, the Lions Club takes a pause to enjoy the Year End Celebration. This year was no exception and while we couldn't quite dispose of the usual business paperwork, words like "Attendance", "Service Excellence", and "Quarter Century Award" replaced "Track Clean-Up", "Weeding", and "Clubhouse Availability". A nice change in seeing each other only during business meetings or working on projects.

Seeing everyone gathered together and being excited about not only the evening but the future the next year holds is always a smile.

The big event of the evening came in two parts; Gene Roberson being awarded his 25th Anniversary Award and the renaming of the Lions Clubhouse from that to The Roberson Community Building. That brought a well-deserved standing ovation.

Gene, Celia, thank you for allowing us to be part of your lives. We are all better for knowing you. Here's to the next year and seeing what's in store! We got this! ROAR!



NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

.by Donna Salyers

It's almost Turkey Time!!!! **Thanksgiving** is **Thursday, November 26**, and remember Thanksgiving calories don't count!

Lincoln County and Fayetteville City Schools will be **closed November 6** for staff development. **Lincoln County, Fayetteville City, and Marshall County Schools** will be **closed November 23-27** for **Thanksgiving Break.** Gobble, Gobble!

Petersburg Senior Citizens, 68 Morgan Circle, Petersburg, TN meet **Monday thru Friday 9 a.m.-noon**. Bingo is the first Thursday of each month from 9:30-10:30 a.m. If you are 55 or older, come see what's happening.

Come and visit the **Petersburg Community Library & Museum.** Located at Morgan Cultural Center, 103 Alumni Lane, Petersburg and is open on **Fridays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** Come see the Morgan/Petersburg memorabilia and check out the library.

Petersburg American Legion Post 155 will meet on **Saturday, November 14 @ 9 a.m.**

Pickin' and Grinnin' on Petersburg Square will be on **Saturday, November 14, 5-8 p.m.** Yall come see us.

Petersburg Parks and Recreation would like to remind anyone filling out **Angel Tree applications,** the **deadline** to turn it back in **is Wednesday, November 25t.** If you would like to **adopt an angel**, please contact **Amy Wells at (931) 652-7641.**

If you have or know of an event that will be happening in the coming month, please contact Donna Salyers. Call or text at (931) 625-2780 or email me at donnasalyers@hotmail.com**.**

I look forward to hearing from YOU!

"The future depends on what you do today."
- Mahatma Gandhi

The Lions Club is accepting a limited number of advertisements to offset the cost of producing this community newspaper. Ad space is $25 per month. If you want to advertise in the paper, please contact us at my email address: kevincoffield1953@gmail.com.

The Petersburg News

If you're interested in receiving The Petersburg News electronic edition, contact kevincoffield1953@gmail.com and he'll be more than happy to add you to our growing list of readers! The Petersburg News is produced by the Lions club for the people of Petersburg. We hope you enjoy!

When was the last time you messed up?

When was the last time you asked for forgiveness?

http://www.petersburgcpchurch.org/

Daily Lunch Specials
Monday- Thursday
6am-2pm
Friday- Saturday
6am-7pm
Paisley's Place
931-659-9548
147 Railroad Street
Petersburg, TN

Local Services Available

Carpentry-Plumbing-Electrical-Painting

Bathrooms, Kitchens, Any Room
Remodeling, Decks, Water Damage,
Termite Damage, etc.

References Available

Call Greg Merritt @ 931-205-5134

First Commerce BANK

Member FDIC LENDER

Lions Community Building Available for Reunions, etc.



Need a place to host wedding receptions, family reunions, etc.? The Lions Community Building may be just what you need. Rental = $100 + $50 deposit. The deposit will be returned if renters properly clean up after events. For more information, contact Nancy McDonald at (931) 637-0720.

Tables & Chairs for Events



Need tables and chairs for an event? The Lions Club has them for rent. Tables are $5, and chairs are $1.00. A $50 security deposit is required. Contact Nancy McDonald: Call (931) 637-0720.

HIGGINS FUNERAL HOME

213 Market St. E. • Fayetteville
931-433-2544 • higginsfh.com
Since 1903
Charles Higgins • Clay Higgins • Chris Ross

SPOOKTACULAR '26

by Parks and Rec

It's hard to believe, as hot as it has been, that Fall is here. That also means that the Petersburg Parks and Recreation is hosting the Spooktacular 2026. It was on Halloween, Saturday, October 31 from 6-8 p.m. The Petersburg Square was full with families enjoying the beautiful evening with over 200+ trick or treaters!



The Spooktacular Crew

We would like to thank all the people who took the time to decorate their trunks, giving out candy/toys, providing candy, great photo ops, and games for the children to enjoy!

Without all of you, we could not have such a wonderful event!!! This year we had around 30+ trunks for the kids to enjoy. You were all rocking it! Next year we hope to add a contest for the best decorated trunks/spots around the square. So put your thinking caps on.

DJ Dave was live on the square playing our favorite Halloween tunes. He kept us entertained with great music, his funny dad jokes, as well as, keeping everyone informed on what is coming up next. Thank you, DJ Dave.



A busy square!

The Pumpkin Contest had 5 decorated pumpkins. They were voted on by individuals picking their favorites by putting money in jars next to their favorite pumpkin. The one with most money won. The money collected goes to Petersburg Parks and Recreation to help buy the prizes for this contest. Olivia Warren won 3rd place with her painted Minecraft Creeper pumpkin. Riley "Tator Tot" Warren won 2nd place with his painted Pikachu pumpkin.

(continued next column)

. And Jacob Feldman won 1st place with his scary carved Vampire pumpkin. Great job to all the participants!



Pumpkin Contest Entries

Our "Merry Mailbox" is in front of Town Hall next to the community bulletin board. If you need help, blank applications are in the plastic container attached to the mailbox pole. When you get them filled out, please return them to the slot in the mailbox. Please have them returned by Wednesday, November 25.

Once again, thank you to everyone who participated in the Spooktacular 2026!!!!



Look at all the goodies!

2026 Angel Tree Application

Applications for 2026 Angels are available now through November 24 in the Merry Mailbox in front of Petersburg Town Hall. After you get it filled out, put in the slot on the locked part of the Merry Mailbox or give it to Amy Wells or Donna Salyers.

The deadline to get the applications turned back in for adoption is NOVEMBER 25. We will not be able to accept any after that date, so please share with everyone who needs help this year with their angels.

Also, if you sign up an angel, you will be notified when the gifts are ready for pick-up. Gifts will be unwrapped and you will have to be able to come and pick up the gifts. Petersburg Parks and Recreation cannot deliver them to you.

If you would like to adopt an angel you can contact Amy Wells (931) 652-7641.Thank you.