

Old man winter is certainly here. In my opinion we have already had our share of cold weather. I think the school children have been out of school more than they have been in.

Even though it's cold there is still plenty to do here in Sevier County. Dixie Stampede has shows on the weekend and one or two days during the week. For a complete schedule their web site is <http://www.dixiestampede.com/> . Most of the theaters are open on the weekends and at least one day during the week. Go to our web site at <http://johnsonsinn.com/attractions.html> for a list of theaters in the area.

Or just stay in one of our deluxe rooms and cozy up in front of the fireplace and enjoy the peace. We even have deluxe rooms with Jacuzzis and fireplaces for a romantic get a way.

The Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce has launched a campaign for Gatlinburg to "go green" <http://www.gatlinburg.com/gatlinburggoesgreen/chamber/default.asp> and Johnson's Inn has jumped on the band wagon. We are excited about learning new ways that we can make a positive difference in how we treat the environment. Recycling bins are already in place and we are making the switch to "green" cleaning and laundry products along with switching to florescent light bulbs. Isn't it funny how the things we are now doing to "go green" is what every one did everyday 30 years ago. I remember that there was a dishwasher in back of the office when Hettie and Lura ran the motel and everyday they collected the used glasses from the rooms, ran them through the dishwasher and placed them back in the rooms. Sheets were hung out to dry as much as possible and there was nothing "disposable".

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and there are special events lined up through out the year. To find out about the special happenings going on check out their web site <http://greatsmokies75th.org/welcome-to-the-great-smokies-75th/>. I found the time line especially interesting. If you are interested in reading about the early days of the park and its people I would recommend The Wild East by Margaret Lynn Brown or Dorie: Woman of the Mountains by Florence Cope Bush. For a fictional tale about what it would have been like in the days of logging in the mountains try Serena by Ron Rash. I enjoyed all of these.

If this is your first newsletter, please check out our past newsletters at <http://johnsonsinn.com/newsletter.html> . If you prefer to no longer receive email from us, please return this with "remove me from your mailing list" and we will be happy to do so.

Hope to see you soon.

Vickie Johnson Bradshaw
And the staff at Johnson's Inn