

Covington Police Hold Training and Tour at Unilever



In a coordinated safety effort, Covington Police Chief Buddy Lewis conducted his monthly command staff meeting at the Covington Unilever facility. After the meeting, officers were taken on a tour of the Covington operations.



Covington Public Works has New Street Sweeper on Duty



After being approved in the 2016-17 budget and going through the order and licensing process, CPW's HD 600 street sweeper has hit the streets of Covington! Operator Eric McGee and mechanic Dalton Patrick will attend training in Waco, Texas next month for this specific model. This training has been provided by the manufacturer and is no cost for the City of Covington.

The Public Safety Committee held its regular monthly meeting on January 24, 2017, in the Lower Level Conference Room at Covington City Hall. In attendance were Chairman Alderman Mac McGowan, CFD Assistant Chief Richard Griggs, CPD Chief Buddy Lewis, Alderman Jere Hadley, Alderman CH Sullivan, Recorder-Treasurer Tina Dunn, Mayor Justin Hanson, Assistant to the Mayor Sara Gangaware, Alderman John Edwards, The Leader Managing Editor Echo Day, Mary Hunt Simonton Cook.

Mary Hunt Simonton Cook stated that she in an intercessor and asked if she could open the meeting with prayer. Chairman McGowan approved and she said a prayer.

Chairman McGowan called the meeting to order and called on Police Chief Buddy Lewis to report.

Lewis provided a handout for committee members and proceeded to read over it.

- Highlights from 2016 – a good year – Lewis stated he is proud of the work his officers have done, particularly because many were out on leave. Lewis reflected on these things as highlights for his year:
 - Placing Sgt John Delashmit's name on Memorial Wall in Washington DC
 - Began process for new police facility to be built
 - Established SWAT unit - on track and currently receiving training and getting equipment
 - Appreciates the Board's approval of additional officer in budget
 - Appreciates the Board's approval of 2 new vehicle and 2 additional drug unit vehicles
- 2016 CPD statistics – provided on second page in Lewis' handout, which included but not limited to...
 - Total calls responded to– 30,527
 - 1473 arrests were made – **most ever** for CPD in a year
 - 1156 citations issued
 - Tipton County leads this judicial district for domestic violence cases (144 in Covington). As a result, a new victim coordinator has been hired
 - 0 homicides for 2016

McGowan asked Lewis if he was going to provide maps indicating crime areas, and Lewis reported that is in the works and should be available soon.

Lewis gave a brief update and report on homicide that occurred in Covington last week. Lewis said while he can't give great details at this time, law enforcement agencies are making substantial progress through a group effort with TBI and Sheriff's office – all working together – and substantial progress is being made.

Update on new building – gentleman scheduled to come do the study next Tuesday. However, his mother has been diagnosed with cancer and Lewis isn't sure if/when he can come. However, right now, we are still looking for him to be here next week to do the feasibility study. Lewis has reached out and is expecting a response from him today.

In his last item of business, Lewis reported CPD has established a special crime unit – the SCU (Special Crime Unit) is composed of 4 CPD officers and will target drugs, gangs, and violent crimes in the City of COvington. This is in conjunction with the 25th judicial drug task force. CPD will also combine forces with sheriff and work together on these kinds of crimes. This unit will work different hours and work hard to reduce and prevent violent crimes in the city of Covington. Alderman Edwards recommended using people raised in high crime neighborhoods so they might be more familiar with the area. Lewis stated officers have been specifically selected for these duties and agreed with Edwards that being able to have intelligence from communities is important.

Next Wednesday, some of our officers will attend classes in Jackson. Chairman McGowan stated he was going to try and go to Jackson with these officers and understands that Alderwoman Bommer is going, as well.

Mayor Hanson motioned to approve Lewis' report and Sullivan seconded – motion passed unanimously.

CFD Assistant Chief Richard Griggs was present and gave report in Chief Naifeh's absence - who is in training this week at The Fire Academy in Murfreesboro, TN.

- Medical Director agreement has been signed and Doctor David Connor has begun work with CFD in this capacity (Medical Director)
- Promotional process will be announced in March
- SCBAs (air packs) are in that were purchased through grant funds – old air packs will be transferred to Three Star Volunteer FD with the signing of “hold harmless” agreement.
- Volunteer hours = 373 in November and 291 in December
- Report by incident was included in handout packet as was CARE Officer's monthly report. There were a total of 466 calls responded to, which included, but are not limited to
 - 159 EMS calls
 - 22 Structure Fires
 - 21 Fire Alarm calls
 - 20 Medical Alarm calls
 - 11 calls for information
 - 11 burns

Alderman McGowan asked Griggs to clarify 11 burns calls – Griggs reported these were controlled burns.

- Griggs also provided list of items to include in emergency backpack as outlined in community safety meeting led by Ron Childers last week at the north fire station in Covington.
- Three new firefighters are now working 24 hour shifts.

Sullivan moved to accept Griggs report and Mayor Hanson seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.



Covington Fire Chief Mike Naifeh participated in the All-Hazard Incident Management Team (AHIMT) training with fire personnel from across Tennessee. In conjunction with the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, Tennessee Fire Marshall's Office, and Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, these three IMT teams (one from each grand division in Tennessee) are being specifically trained to assist local jurisdictions in the event of emergency incidents as part of a more robust mutual aid system.

Chief Naifeh is pictured above with the team from West Tennessee.

Tennessee Changes Spelling Bee; Covington's Participants Prepare for Online Testing

Most elementary and middle schools in Tennessee have a spelling bee each year. This long standing competition usually existed of local events, followed by district, regional, and state championships. This year, the State has changed that up a bit.

Spelling Bee winners will not participate in the county wide spelling bee this year. Instead, there is a new **Tennessee Titans** semifinals test administered online. This year, the spelling bee program has been expanded to include 11 additional counties previously lacking sponsorship. With the 30 counties in middle Tennessee and the addition of these 11 counties, 41 total counties are eligible to participate in this year's regional bee program.

The assessment consists of a 50-item computer based spelling and vocabulary test. That is administered online during a testing window of January 18th-January 27th. The 70 highest scoring students in the semi-finals will qualify for the 2017 Tennessee Titans Regional Spelling Bee on March 11th, 2017, at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tennessee. Students who score in the top 70 will be notified of the test results by February 13th.



Crestview Middle Principal Steve Maclin congratulates the school's 2017 spelling bee winners (above L-R) Josh Rose, runner-up, and Lucas Ballard, winner. Lucas will take the online test for advancement. At right, Sisters came out on top at CIAA! Kaitlyn Avery took second place and Tyshuna Avery came in first. Tyshuna will advance to online testing as she tries to reach the Titans level in March. GOOD LUCK TO ALL!



Planning Underway for Tipton County Fair *and* BBQ Cooking Contest



The Tipton County Fair and BBQ Cooking Contest Planning Committee met at Covington City Hall recently to begin putting things together for this year's events scheduled to take place in Cobb-Parr Park in Covington June 1st, 2nd & 3rd 2017. Special Events Coordinator Karen Griffin chairs the committee.

CARE Officer from Covington Fire Department Mentors Memphis Counterparts



Mark Heaston (C), an Emergency Medical Technician and CARE Officer for the Covington Fire Department worked with his counterparts in the Memphis Fire Department to assist EMT trainees for licensure.

CFD Names Medical Director



Covington Fire Department's new Medical Director, Dr. David Conner, met with firefighters this week and is pictured here with firefighter Baker McCool. This is a large step in the Advanced Life Support Services the CFD is offering our citizens.

Dr. Conner, who is also the medical director of the BMH Tipton Emergency Department, graduated from Christian Brothers University in Memphis with a Bachelor's degree in science. He then graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and completed his residency in Emergency Medicine at Yale University.

Covington High HOSA Class Trains at CFD



CHS Health Occupation Students of America class spent the day in training at the north station of the Covington Fire Department. During the morning, they were in the training room receiving instruction. After lunch, they participated in training through the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) with firefighters. They put on real safety gear and were tested on skills for certification. Their teacher and facilitator is Jennifer Downing.



Domestic Violence Victim Coordinator Hired in Tipton County

District Attorney General D. Michael Dunavant has announced the hiring and appointment of Erin Allen as a new Domestic Violence Victim Coordinator in his Criminal Division serving Tipton County, to serve cases in a specialized Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit. Ms. Allen was hired at the beginning of January, 2017, through grant funding awarded to Tipton County government from the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) to provide domestic violence victim assistance and services in the Tipton County General Sessions Court.

The Office of the District Attorney General previously hired and designated a new Assistant District Attorney, Lindsey Williams, in September, 2016, to specifically target and prosecute domestic violence cases in Tipton County, where the incident rate of such cases is the highest in the 25th Judicial District. As the new victim coordinator, Ms. Allen will work directly with General Williams and the Tipton County General Sessions Court to provide much needed victim support and coordination in such difficult and important cases. This grant position will help to direct and provide information to victims about community support services; increase the prosecution and conviction rate in domestic violence cases to promote offender accountability; provide public awareness to increase reporting and general deterrence; provide added resources for law enforcement training and court coordination; and provide protection and justice for families in crisis.

Ms. Allen graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work in May, 2015, from the Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, and is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Social Work from Union University. Ms. Allen has previously served as a certified child forensic interviewer at the Carl Perkins Child Advocacy Center in Jackson, Tennessee, where she conducted forensic interviews with children suspected to be victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, and drug exposure/endangerment. Ms. Allen has already completed state domestic violence victim witness training by the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, and will be primarily assigned to the Covington Criminal Division office to help coordinate with victims in domestic violence cases in Tipton County.



District Attorney Mike Dunavant and General Sessions Judge Bill Peeler and Assistant District Attorney Lindsey Williams are looking forward to working with newly appointed Domestic Violence Victim Coordinator Erin Allen.

Retirees Tim Fayne and Mike Howard recognized at Board Meeting

During Tuesday night's Covington Board of Mayor and Alderman meeting, recently retired Covington Public Works Employee's Tim Fayne and Mike Howard were honored. Covington Mayor Justin Hanson presented both with a Resolution honoring their combined 70+ years of service to the city. Mayor Hanson also presented them with a "Key to the City". Below, Public Works Director David Gray and Mayor Hanson thanked Mr. Fayne and Mr. Howard for their years of hard work and dedication and wished them a happy and healthy retirement.



Covington High FFA and Drug Free Tipton Plant Tulips

Planting red tulips is part of a Drug Free Tipton program called "Plant the Promise". Students from around the county plant red tulip bulbs, which will bloom in the spring as a reminder to live a drug free life. A sign will be placed in each flower bed which states, "These flowers serve as a reminder of the beauty of life when it is Drug Free!" We plan to build on this annually. This year students planted 2,000 bulbs.



The Covington High School Landscaping class has been partnering with the Tipton County Drug Coalition to beautify fire stations and neighborhoods by planting tulips for several years, now. The landscape class also helps maintain the CHS grounds and usually tackles at least one public project. Last year they worked at the Board of Education and participated in Clean-Up/Fix-Up Covington. The goal is to demonstrate the importance of positive community involvement, partnering to accomplish goals, developing skills for life scenarios, and to remember to be drug free. CHS students and their projects are facilitated by their teacher, Liz Flanagan.

City provides insurance Q & A opportunity for Employees



Carla Witherington and Sam Stitt of [McGowan and Stitt Insurance](#) in Covington spent two days with City of Covington employees to allow them to ask questions and seek clear understanding about their coverage. The City of Covington pays 100% of employees' single coverage and 56% for family coverage.



Total Leadership Class met in Covington

South Tipton Chamber of Commerce Director Rosemary Bridges held the Total Leadership class in Covington Thursday. She welcomed HTL Director Duane Lavery, who talked to the group about industrial development, and Mayor Justin Hanson who welcomed the class to Covington, gave them an overview of the city, and provided lunch for the group. After the first session at The Chamber Center on the square, they continued at the Covington Unilever plant where they learned about that operation and toured the facility.



VBLOC in Second year of Working with Students at Crestview Middle
Volunteers for **B**uilding **L**ives in **O**ur **C**ommunities is a group of volunteers from a cross-section of communities to help youngsters set life-long goals, determine the steps necessary to meet those goals, and celebrate milestones along the way. It is the mission of the volunteer mentors in VBLOC to dedicate the time, efforts, energy, and wisdom to mentoring young people who may lack direction and/or are facing adversity. Mentors work with students at Crestview Middle after school once a week. VBLOC's facilitator begins the initial expectations and planning with students each year, then brings in special guests to help them understand the importance of self-direction, self-control, and having the courage to manage themselves to reach their goals.



Winston Howard, a Rotarian and the manager of the Covington Hamilton Ryker Employment Agency shared wisdom with students last week and challenged them to use hindsight to learn from mistakes.



Justin Jamerson, Business Development Consultant with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Office in Memphis also mentored the students this week. He shared stories of his childhood and discussed leaving a legacy. He challenged students to think about what kind of legacy they want to leave and stated they *do* have the power to control that. The students have created a personal “vision board” under the tutelage of Brandon Armstrong, REDI mentor at Brighton High School and learned personal skills for success from Mario Hayslett, REDI mentor at Covington High School. Speakers from law enforcement, entrepreneurs, and community leaders are on the schedule.

Dates to Remember

- **February 04 – Grandpa’s Vegetable Garden – part of the Garden Series – 10:00-11:30. Tipton County Museum – 751 Bert Johnston Avenue, Covington. Call 901-476-0242 for more information**
- **February 07 – COFFEE with THE MAYOR – Sookie’s Bake Shop – 7:30 – 9:00**
- **February 11 – Nature Symbolism and Enlightenment – 10:00 – 11:30 – Tipton County Museum – 751 Bert Johnston Avenue, Covington. Call 901-476-0242 for more information**
- **February 11 - Chocolate Tour on the Square in Covington – 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Buy tickets in advance for only \$5.**
- **February 14 – Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting – City Hall – 5:30**
- **February 16 – Tribute to Ms. Hattye Yarbrough for her contributions to Black History in Covington and at The Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. – [Tipton County Museum & Veteran’s Memorial](#), 5:30 – 7:00 - Call 901-476-0242 for more information.**
- **February 17 - Unity Within Diversity Gospel Extravaganza 7:00 pm Historic Ruffin Theater \$5.00**
- **February 18 – Getting your Lawn ready for Summer - 10:00 – 11:30 – Tipton County Museum – 751 Bert Johnston Avenue, Covington. Call 901-476-0242 for more information**
- **February 21 - COFFEE with THE MAYOR – Sookie’s Bake Shop – 7:30 – 9:00**
- **February 24 – Team Tipton continues walk across Tipton County - Cobb-Parr Park – Covington - 10:00**
- **February 24 – Reception at Museum for Artist in Residence Richard Reed - 5:30 – 7:00.**
- **February 25 – 62th Annual Lions Club Pancake Breakfast – CIAA – 6:00 am – 11:00 am \$5 - children under 3 are free with ticket-holding adult(s). Proceeds are used to help needy Tipton County citizens with eyesight and/or hearing problems.**
- **February 25 – How Does your Garden Grow? - 10:00 – 11:30 – Tipton County Museum – 751 Bert Johnston Avenue, Covington. Call 901-476-0242 for more information**
- **February 28 - Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting – City Hall – 5:30**



Keep up with News, Events, and Information from Covington and Tipton County

[City of Covington](#)

[Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Tipton County](#)

[Covington Sportsplex](#)

[Drug Free Tipton](#)

[Tipton County Schools](#)

[South Tipton Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Boys and Girls Club of the Hatchie River Region](#)

[Covington Aquatic Center](#)

[Tipton County Museum](#)

Mr. Gaetano “Guy” Critelli is the **Tipton County Veterans Service Officer**. His office hours are ***Monday thru Wednesday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm***. You are encouraged to schedule an appointment, but walk-ins will be seen.

1286 Munford Ave.

Munford, TN 38058

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Email: gcritelli@tiptonco.com

* Information in this newsletter is an overview of events. All official minutes and documents can be viewed at Covington City hall at 200 West Washington Street, Covington, TN.

or on our website at www.covingtontn.com

The City of Covington is an Equal Opportunity Employer



Congratulations to Tipton County Executive Jeff Huffman, Budget and Accounts Director W.T. Bailey, and their staff for State Audit Results

Tipton County has received a clean audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. This means the county's audit report was completed without any findings. Very few counties can claim to have an audit report without a finding, yet this is the second consecutive year Tipton County has earned this prestigious honor. Read more about the audit and review results here:

<http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/repository/NR/20170118TiptonCoCleanAudit.pdf>

Officer "Bella" displays her skills for Boy Scouts in Covington



The Covington Police Department would like to thank Cub Scout Pack 261 for inviting K9 Handler Officer Michael Gann, K9 "Bella", and Sgt. Andrew Hefner to speak at their pack meeting Tuesday night. During the meeting, the boys learned the importance of the K9 unit and how she works. The children were shown demonstrations on how illegal drugs are located using K9 officer Bella.



Covington Integrated Arts Academy held 3rd Annual Leadership Day

CIAA is the only school in Covington to practice **The Leader in Me**, and are in the third year of operation with these guiding principles. They have seen time after time how it has a positive effect on the entire school, including the adults. Part of the process of implementing The Leader in Me is to invite our community to come in, observe, and give the student “leaders” the opportunity to lead out loud! The Leader in Me is not a curriculum or a program. It is a culture of self-discipline and respect that goes beyond traditional school norms. Participants live by and practice “The Seven Habits of Happy Children” developed by Stephen and Sean Covey. You may be familiar with “The Seven Habits” books by these famous authors. At Leadership Day, you see the **children** doing the work, as shown in the pictures below.



On Leadership Day, guests gathered for breakfast in the café, the band serenaded, choir and dancers performed



Student Lighthouse Team President Dasia Beard welcomed guests, and students led tours throughout the building.



Student tour guides in each grade level explained how they apply the 7 Habits of The Leader in Me daily.



Teachers, parents, and students gathered at the end of the tours to take questions from the crowd. Everyone expressed how TLIM builds self confidence, improves behavior, and motivates students and adults alike.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE HATCHIE RIVER
REGION



Dove
self-esteem
project



January 30th 3:30pm-5:30pm

Covington Assembly of God

1861 Highway 51 South - Covington, TN

Join us for this exciting event for Middle and High School Girls! Boys & Girls Club of the Hatchie River Region is partnering with Dove Self-Esteem Project to help the young ladies in our community improve their confidence and self-worth.

GIFT BAGS FOR THE FIRST 100 GIRLS
DOOR PRIZES!

Call us for more information! 901-476-0180

GREAT FUTURES START [HERE.](#)



Scan me or go to Youth Sports on our website to register online

SPRING FLAG FOOTBALL

Ages 4-17



Sign up NOW
Games start in April

Only \$35

Would you like to Coach?
Be a team Mom or Dad?
Call or email us.



Call 901-476-3734 or email Sportsplex@covingtontn.com for more details.

This is a Coed league boys and girls may be on the same team.



**REGISTER FOR SPRING SOCCER AND
FLAG FOOTBALL [HERE](#) OR
CALL THE COVINGTON SPORTSPLEX AT
901-476-3734**

COVINGTON BASEBALL

2017 REGISTRATION

Sign-Ups for Covington Baseball
Will be held on **Saturdays in January**

January 7, 14, 21, & 28
Oak Grove Church 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Sportsplex Jan 7, 14, & 21 9:30 – 12:00 noon
Open to Ages 3-12

Registration Fees (ages 5-12) \$85
(Includes Shirt, Pants, Hat, Belt and Socks)

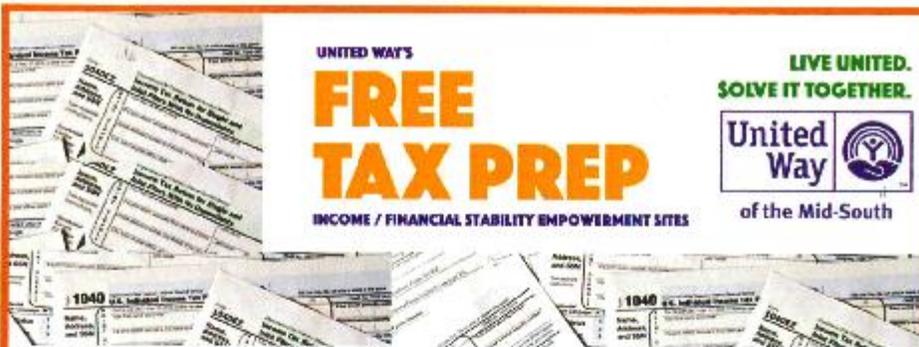
Registration Fees (ages 3-4) \$50
(Includes Shirt and Hat)

Can also go to Ted's Glass Monday – Friday 8:00-5:00

***** Copy of Birth Certificate is required to register *****

Families with 3 or more children will receive discount

QUESTIONS? Email us at **CovingtonDYB@gmail.com** or find us on
Facebook at **www.facebook.com/covingtondixieyouthbaseball**
Alicia Shires - 901-299-7306



Tipton County Public Library

3148 Highway 51 N.

Covington, TN 38019

for appointments call 2-1-1 or 901-415-2790

January 23- April 12

Mondays, 2 pm – 6 pm

Wednesdays, 2 pm – 6 pm

WALK-INS WELCOME

**Dyersburg State Community College
Annual College Transfer and Career Fair
RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY!**

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Dyersburg State Community College
Jimmy Naifeh Center at Tipton County
Baptist Memorial Health Care Academic Building
3149 Highway 51 South, Covington, TN 38019

Thursday, February 9, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Dyersburg State Community College
Dale F. Glover Education Center
1510 Lake Road, Dyersburg, TN 38024

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Dyersburg State Community College
Gibson County Center
2211 U.S. 45 Bypass, Trenton, TN 38382

This event is for **current DSCC students seeking to transfer to a four year college or university after graduation and for those seeking employment opportunities, internships, or job shadowing placement.**



Unless someone like you cares an awful lot, it's not going to get better...it's not!



Relay For Life Of Tipton County

Celebrity Waiter Event

Feb 10, 2017
7pm



Gateway Baptist Church
1915
Rosemark
Rd, Atoka,
TN





Chocolate Tour 2017

Historic Downtown Covington, Tennessee Saturday, Feb 11th 10am - 4pm



Tickets \$7 day of or
\$5 in advance



Visit All Participating
Merchants to have your Tour
Map entered for the Mega
Chocolate & Gift Basket
Prize Drawing



Enjoy Shopping & Delicious Treats
at more than 20 great Merchant locations on the
Downtown Square

Sponsored by:

Covington Economic and Development Corporation (CEDC)

For more information, contact Covington-Tipton Co. Chamber of Commerce at (901) 476-9727

Satisfy your chocolate craving and do a little shopping, too, at the 2017 Chocolate Tour on the square in Covington. Make plans to attend this fun event on February 11 from 10:00 – 4:00.



\$45 per couple **1st ANNUAL Sweetheart** 
Spikeball TOURNAMENT 

Mixed Doubles (Couples Only) Valentines Tournament

Games Start @3PM

1st 2nd & 3rd Place Prizes

February 11, 2017 @ Covington Sportsplex
 790 Bert Johnston Avenue
 Covington TN 38019

Couples Age 18+



<https://spikeball.com/pages/official-rules>

Portion of the proceeds to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of the Hatchie River Region

Juvenile Court of Tipton County
 in conjunction with the
 25th District Attorney General's Office
 invites you to attend an
Internet Safety Class



When : March 16, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Tipton County Justice Complex

Presenter: Assistant United States Attorney Deb Ireland





Covington High School Book Drive

Please donate any unwanted books to a local Chamber of Commerce, business, or directly to Covington High School.



All books will be used throughout Tipton County to promote literacy among students. Books not age appropriate will be sent to other Covington schools or traded in for more age appropriate material.

Thank you for your support of our students!

Please call Megan Young at 901-475-5850 or 901-552-8336 for more information.
She can provide a collection box and pick-up, if needed.

There is a drop-off box at Covington City Hall

What's Happening at the Museum?

Reception held at Museum for new Artist in Residence



On Tuesday evening, family and friends gathered at the Tipton County Museum for Artist in Residence Richard Reed's reception. Museum Director Barrie Foster (below L) spoke of his enormous talent and of his upcoming lectures and classes. Mr. Reed addressed the crowd (below) and told a little about himself. Everyone was able to visit with Mr. Reed and see his art exhibit in the conference room. It was a joyful evening. Director Foster invites everyone to come view the exhibit and register for the many classes offered.



The Tipton County Museum has online videos Available for All

Tipton County Museum has a **Youtube** channel! In their first video, Director Foster talks about the upcoming Watercolor Botanicals class, and gives a short demo on painting an apple in watercolor.

Click here to view: <https://youtu.be/4R9vmN1K3Lg>

Thank you for your continued support of the Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center. The number of visitors has increased, along with our membership. **Director Foster** extends her appreciation to the community for this and welcomes all to come in, look around, and get involved.



**A DAY OF ART
AT THE TIPTON COUNTY MUSEUM**

Lecture & Painting

Lectures 10—11: 30 a.m.; Free to Members, \$5 General Public

Class 1—4 p.m., \$35 Members, \$40 General Public

No previous art experience required.

751 Bert Johnston Ave., Covington, TN 38019

(901) 476-0242



Georgia O'Keeffe March 4, 2017

"Blue Morning Glories"

Henri Matisse May 13, 2017

"Les toits de Collioure"



Paul Cezanne July 8, 2017

"Maison Maria with a View of Chateau Noir"



Wassily Kandinsky November 18, 2017

"Winter Landscape"





Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center Winter 2017 Newsletter

The year 2016 was a fruitful one for the Tipton County Museum! On October 11, 2016, the Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center became a **Certified Wildlife Habitat** with the **National Wildlife Federation**. We are proud of this designation, and of our Nature Center, which provides our wildlife food, water, cover, and places to raise their young. Our **Nature Trail** behind the museum is an easy half mile hike, and is a great place to observe wildlife in their natural habitat. The trail makes a large loop, so there is no risk of getting lost. There is no charge to hike the trail, which is open during daylight hours.

Sherri Onorati is the new “**Archivist and Program Coordinator**” at the Tipton County Museum. Sherri is a retired Navy Chief, a genealogist, and a former reporter for the Leader. She has been busy perusing our artifacts, and has added many of them to our military exhibit. This new exhibit, “**More Stories from Home**” is now on display, and contains not only artifacts from the Vietnam era, but artifacts from World War I, World War II, and the Korean War as well. Please visit us soon and see what’s new!

In addition to our military and nature exhibits inside the museum, we are adding a third exhibit in, “**Tipton County: Our Rich Heritage**,” that chronicles the rich history of Tipton County. Featured in this exhibit is Historian **Ms. Hattye Yarbrough**, who taught school in Tipton County for many years. We are proud to recognize Ms. Hattye, who recently donated her scrapbook to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History. Please join us on Thursday evening, **February 16, 2017 at 5:30** as we celebrate **Black History Month**, our “Tipton County: Our Rich Heritage” exhibit, and we honor Ms. Hattye for her contributions to our community. Refreshments will be served and everyone is invited.

The **February Gardening Series** is returning! Every Saturday morning in February from 10 until 11:30 there a gardening lecture in our conference room. On February 4, Tipton County Master Gardener **Sherl Rose** presents “**Grandpa’s Vegetable Garden**.” On February 11, Garden Historian **Dominique Bellott** presents “**Nature Symbolism and Enlightenment**,” which is about the history of Japanese Gardens. On February 18, University of Tennessee Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent **Booker T. Leigh** presents “**Getting Your Lawn Ready for Summer**” and on February 25 Tipton County Master Gardener **Paula Sweatt** will talk about container gardens and vertical landscapes in “**How Does Your Garden Grow?**” Lectures are free to Museum Members and \$5 General Public. Museum memberships start at \$25 and are available at the door. Membership entitles you to free lectures, a 10% discount at our gift shop, and reduced program fees for art classes.

Our **Veteran of the Month** program continues to be a success! We now have honored twenty four Tipton County Veterans for their service and dedication to our country. It is vital we recognize and honor these fine men and women in their lifetime. This recognition stretches beyond the local level; **Tennessee State Representative Debra Moody** and **Tennessee Speaker of the House Beth Harwell**

award a proclamation and a U.S. flag that has been flown over the state capital in Nashville to each honoree. The Veteran of the Month reception is held the **second Tuesday evening of each month at 6:30**. Refreshments are always served, and everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. If you would like to nominate a Tipton County Veteran for this honor, please call the museum at (901) 476-0242 and we will gladly mail you a nomination form.

Richard Reed is our **2017 Artist in Residence**. Richard is an award winning artist, a retired Visual Arts Teacher from Munford High School, and a member of both the Tipton Art League and the Memphis Sketchers. His exhibit **“A Sketch a Day or More”** will be on display in the conference room beginning in January. You will have the chance to meet him on Tuesday evening, **January 24, 2017 at 5:30** when we have a reception in his honor. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome. We are looking forward to Richard lecturing and teaching art classes in 2017!

In addition to celebrating Black History Month in February, the Tipton County Museum will be celebrating **Women’s History Month in March** with a variety of events. On **Saturday, March 4**, Artist in Residence Richard Reed will lecture about **Georgia O’Keeffe** at 10 a.m., and he and Museum Director Barrie Foster will lead participants in **painting O’Keeffe’s “Blue Morning Glories”** from 1 to 4 p.m. in the conference room. The lecture is free to Museum Members and \$5 General Public, and the painting class is \$35 for Museum Members and \$40 General Public. No previous art experience is required, and we furnish all the supplies. We ask that you do register for the art class, so we can be sure to have plenty of art supplies for everyone. Then on **Saturday, March 11**, Garden Historian Dominique Bellott will be talking about the evolution of women landscape architects in **“Women in the Garden”** at 10 a.m. Her lecture is free to Museum Members and \$5 General Public. On **Saturday, March 18**, Military Women Across the Nation will present **“Women’s Military Service through the Years”** at 10 a.m. This event is free to Museum Members and \$5 General Public.

Director Barrie Foster continues to teach art at the Tipton County Museum. She will be teaching **“Watercolor Botanicals”** on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8. Class dates are **January 31, February 7, 21, & 28**. Program fee is \$60 Museum Members and \$80 General Public. **No previous art experience is required**. Please call the Tipton County Museum at (901) 476-0242 for a supply list and to register for the class.

Because of the generous support of our members, the City of Covington, and Tipton County, there is no admission fee to tour the Tipton County Museum. We also gratefully acknowledge the support of the Tipton County Veterans Council, Bank of Tipton, Patriot Bank, the Tipton County Master Gardeners, and our volunteers. If you are not already a member of the Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial, and Nature Center, please consider becoming one in 2017. Just call the museum at (901) 476-0242 and we will gladly mail you a membership application.

MUSEUM DOLLARS



TIPTON COUNTY
M·U·S·E·U·M
VETERANS MEMORIAL
NATURE CENTER

**At the Tipton County Museum
In Covington!**

Museum Dollars! We now have Museum Dollars at the Tipton County Museum in Covington. They may be purchased for any amount and may be used towards Museum Memberships, our Gift Shop, and Art Classes. They make great gifts and may be purchased at any time. Just call the Tipton County Museum at (901) 476-0242 and we will be glad to help you.

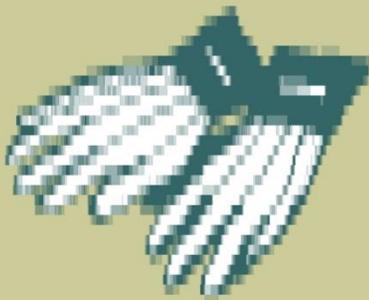
**The Tipton County Museum,
Veterans Memorial & Nature Center
751 Bert Johnston Ave., Covington, TN 38019
(901) 476-0242**

Successful Gardening—A February Event at The Tipton County Museum!



TIPTON COUNTY
M·U·S·E·U·M

VETERANS MEMORIAL
NATURE CENTER



ADMISSION PER
PROGRAM:

\$5.00 General Public

FREE to Museum

Refreshments will be served.

751 Bert Johnston Avenue

PO Box 768

Covington, TN 38019

Phone: 901-476-0242

Saturday, February 4th 10 - 11:30 A.M.

“Grandpa’s Vegetable Garden”

- Guest Speaker – Sherl Rose: Urban Homesteader, former President and Vice President of the Tipton County Master Gardener Association, founder of the Facebook gardening groups “The Hippy Homesteader” and “3 B’s Gardener”

Saturday, February 11th : 10- 11:30 A.M.

“Nature Symbolism and Enlightenment” - History of Japanese Gardens

- Guest Speaker – Dominique Bellott, Master’s Degrees in Speech Pathology and Romance Languages & Literature, University of Memphis Italian instructor, Rhodes College French Language and Literature instructor.

Saturday, February 18th: 10 - 11:30 A.M.

“Getting Your Lawn Ready for Summer”

- Guest Speaker – Booker T. Leigh, University of Tennessee Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent

Saturday, February 25th: 10 - 11:30 A.M.

“How Does your Garden Grow?”**

- Guest Speaker – Paula Sweatt, Tipton County Master Gardener. **Feel free to bring pass-a-long plants

This event is being made possible in part by the following
Corporate Sponsors:





**The Tipton County Veterans Council and the Tipton County Museum,
Veterans Memorial and Nature Center
Veteran of the Month for January, 2017**

Jesse Hill, Sr.

Jesse Hill, Sr. was born on August 4, 1923 in Covington, Tennessee, to Sloan and Mattie Tipton Hill. He is the middle child of three children. He attended Tabernacle School. In 1938, he joined Salem M.B. Church in Mason, Tennessee, where he has served as a choir member, deacon, and trustee, and is still a member. He served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946 as a construction machine operator, and he saw service in New Guinea and Luzon, Philippines. During his military career he was awarded the World War II Victory Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal Ribbon with Two Bronze Service Stars, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star.

After returning home from the service in 1946 he married the former Laura Mae Culbreath and to this union seven children were born. In 1956 he began working for Thornton's Construction Company. He also farmed, which included raising cattle and hogs, and growing vegetables to feed his family. He loved to hunt and fish. In 1963 he joined the Christian Aid Male Chorus and has been a member of that organization for fifty three years. In 1971 he retired from his civilian job and from farming, but he continued to hunt, fish, and grow vegetables. At ninety three years old, he planted a vegetable garden this year. He would like to do more, but his health has prevented him from doing so. Jesse Hill, Sr. can still remember things from many years ago.

As of 2016, Jesse Hill, Sr. and Laura Mae have been married for seventy years. They live in Covington with their daughter, Maggie Jean. Their son Jesse Hill, Jr., was also a United States Army Veteran but sadly passed away on January 30, 2013. Jesse and Laura Mae are proud grandparents of twenty grandchildren, twenty five great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. He was nominated for Veteran of the Month by his good friend Feaster Williamson, Jr.

VETERANS – Clinics are held WEEKLY to provide you with information – click [here](http://www.tiptonco.com/veterans_services/index.php) to learn more:
http://www.tiptonco.com/veterans_services/index.php



FEBRUARY is
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
at the TIPTON COUNTY MUSEUM



Local Teacher, Historian and Artist Ms. Hattye Yarbrough recently donated her scrap book to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History in Washington, D.C. Please join us as we honor Ms. Hattye for her contributions to our community.

When: Thursday evening, February 16, 5:30—7

Where: Tipton County Museum

751 Bert Johnston Ave., Covington

Refreshments will be served and everyone is invited!

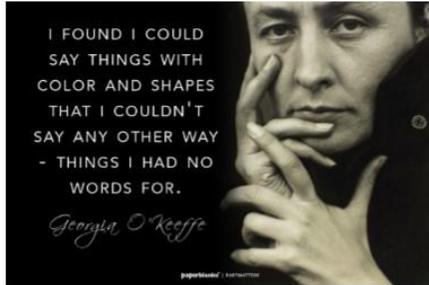
The Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center

751 Bert Johnston Ave., Covington, TN 38019

(901) 476-0242



MARCH is WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
At the
TIPTON COUNTY MUSEUM



Saturday, March 4, 10 a.m.—11:30, Artist in Residence
Richard Reed lectures about the life and artwork of
Georgia O'Keeffe, then leads participants in painting her
“Blue Morning Glories” in acrylics from 1 to 4.

Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m.—11:30, Garden
Historian Dominique Bellott talks about Women
Landscape Architects in “Women in the Garden.”



Saturday, March 18, 10:30 a.m.—11:00,
Military Women Across the Nation presents
“Women’s Military Service Through the Years.”

Lectures are FREE to Museum Members, \$5 General Public

O’Keeffe Art Class \$35 Members, \$40 General Public

The Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center

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