

Highlights from the week of
December 16 – CHRISTMAS! *

Finance and Administration Committee hears two Concerns; waiting on more Information before Decisions

The Finance and Administration Committee held its regular monthly meeting on December 19 at Covington City Hall. Present were chairman Alderman CH Sullivan, Alderwoman Minnie Bommer, Alderman John Edwards, Alderman Drew Glass, Alderman Jere Hadley, Alderman Mac McGowan, Mayor Justin Hanson, CPD Chief Buddy Lewis, CPW Director David Gray, MTAS Utilities Consultant Steve Wyatt, Utilities Manager Calvin Johnson, Personnel Director Tiny Barton, Recorder-Treasurer Tina Dunn, Assistant to the Mayor Sara Gangaware, Codes Department Officer Lessie Fisher, David Gwinn, Echo Day, Margaret Fleming.

Chairman Alderman CH Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:00 and called on Public Works Director David Gray to discuss the deficit in the gas fund.

- Dec 8, it was discovered that 2017 gas budget is \$285,000 in deficit. Gray took full responsibility for not keeping a closer watch, but stated that as soon as he discovered the discrepancy, he began to compare numbers and research gas costs in relation to gas rates.
- Gray distributed a packet of information, graphs, and expenditures which he referred to in his report to the committee. Gray went through the reports with the committee explaining how gas is purchased and how expenditures are calculated. He explained that because gas purchases and gas sales cover more than one budget year, and we have some gas in storage, there may be seem to be discrepancies.
- [MTAS](#) consultant Steve Wyatt also helped explain the process of purchasing gas, storing it, and setting rates for the consumers.
- Gray continued his explanation with committee by referring to gas revenue from sales. Gray explained that when you pull gas out of storage that was paid for in a previous budget year, the rates we are charging customers may not accurately reflect the cost of that gas which was purchased the previous budget year.
- Gray also stated the operating costs have increased upwards of \$200,000 over the years, but we have not increased the rates since 2000. Also contributing to the difference are more efficient gas heaters, warmer winters, and a huge loss of industrial gas use.
- Gray stated he did discover some mistakes in the PGA (purchase gas agreement) and checks and balances have been put into place to ensure this does not happen again. He also stated procedures for calculating billing have been changed and that he and other employees are receiving training through [MTAS](#).
- Recorder-Treasurer Dunn stated there was a posting error in her department, and she has also taken steps to resolve that. Gray went on to say he discovered processes in monthly rate changes with the potential for errors, so they have had in-house training to correct procedures that *could* result in these kinds of errors in the future.
- Chairman Sullivan asked if we can increase rates to cover the costs of operations, and Gray stated yes. Mayor Hanson stated we have not had a gas rate increase in 17 years.
- Wyatt stated we have an inherit problem in that we aren't covering our fixed costs in monthly bills.
- Alderwoman Bommer asked how much of a rate increase is needed to clear the deficit and cover our operational costs.

- Gray suggested having a study done to audit our department and recommend changes, however, he is not sure of the cost for having that done.
- Alderman Edwards asked Wyatt if [MTAS](#) could assist in a rate study. Wyatt said they could, but a specialized company would be able to pick up on more and produce a more in-depth audit. He stated [MTAS](#) would be glad to help, but since it has been 20 years since we have had an audit, we may benefit more from a more in-depth study.
- Alderman Glass asked what we can do to deal with this problem rather than pass the cost to the customer. Wyatt stated this is a problem every municipality deals with. He went on to say that we seem to have a fixed cost that is no longer covering our operational costs. He stated it will take a bump in our fixed rates to compensate for rate changes and volume loss. Wyatt stated that if we haven't had a rate increase in 17 years, it is most likely time to do that, citing all operational costs have certainly gone up over those 17 years.
- Alderman McGowan asked how many gas customers we have, and Gray stated there are several categories of customers (such as residential, commercial, etc), but ranges from a total of about 3000 to 3100.
- Alderman Edwards asked Gray what his recommendation is at this time, and Gray stated he doesn't have one at this time because he wants to do more research. Edwards then made a motion to take the issue under consideration while more research is done and Alderman Sullivan seconded.
- Alderman McGowan suggested thinking about doing the in-depth study, but also suggested moving forward to address the deficit we currently have with a rate increase.
- Wyatt stated this deficit will show up in an audit study, but there is no timeline for adjusting.
- Gray stated based on the revenue we brought in in 2016-17 from customer gas rates compared to actual expenditures, there's over \$100,000 deficit.
- Motion passed with McGowan voting no.
- Alderwoman Bommer expressed her concerns of passing on mistakes to customers and suggested considering small increases.

Alderman Sullivan moved on to item 2, which was another discussion of the new police facility. Recorder-Treasurer Dunn was charged with looking at our upcoming loans and budgets and coming up with how we can finance this.

Dunn stated that she had also asked for financial consultation from MTAS and they spent several days going over the books. That resulted in the following:

- We have had a rapid decline in cash balance with increased expenses and this looks to be the case through the year 2022
- Dunn stated that unless we find a new source of revenue, it doesn't seem we can afford any new payments at this time.
- Alderman McGowan stated we need the facility and suggested looking at other means by which to save monies. He suggested looking at making a decrease in compensating accumulating absences for employees, and/or other savings in spending. He went on to say that we have gone pretty far down this road with studies and surveys and we need to get our police force in their facility. He stated we need to find the money to get them the facility they need and deserve.
- Dunn stated the and the [MTAS](#) consultant had provided several spreadsheets for the committee to study
- Mayor Hanson went on to say that it is not reasonable to expect expenses not to increase. Pension, insurance, and operational costs will increase. Our only revenue is property tax and sales tax and we have either seen a decline or the stagnation of both in recent years. He stated he doesn't know how much more we can cut and continue to operate efficiently and effectively. Although some current loans will roll off in upcoming years, expenses continue to go up.

- Alderman Glass stated that according to the graphs, it looks like we need to find additional sources of revenue no matter if we build a police facility or not. Glass stated that while we need a police facility, it is hard to argue facts and the facts are in front of the committee. He stated this committee needs to make good decisions that will not put future mayors and Boards in a financially unsound position.
- McGowan stated that if we had plenty of money to build this facility, we might feel we have been overtaxing when there wasn't a need. He stated we have a need now and should prioritize and redirect our spending. McGowan referred again to accumulated sick leave and other accrued liabilities that are found in our audits. He also referred to 501c3s (non-profit expenditures) stating they have the ability to raise their own funds.
- Edwards stated he wants a police facility without taking anything away from our employees or the children.
- Alderman Hadley pointed out that the largest part of departmental budgets go to salaries/benefits, so if we start cutting those, we could also be cutting services.
- Mayor Hanson stated that the people in the city have spoken in recent strategic planning surveys and meetings and have overwhelmingly stated that public safety is their greatest priority.
- Alderwoman Bommer stated we are losing site of the fact that employees are the ones sitting in these buildings and we must always remember that the people who are working for us, they have the same needs and services we do. She stated we have to think carefully about cutting positions, salaries, or benefits.
- McGowan still expressed that phasing out some sick day accumulation pay could save us \$60,000 to \$100,000 per year.
- Alderman Hadley stated while people don't want to hear about raising taxes, we can take that to a referendum to the public and see how they respond to it. He said people may support raising taxes to build the facility. Hadley stated that in the years he has been involved with the City of Covington, the citizens have supported tax increases when they knew what those increases were for.
- Alderman Sullivan asked when property taxes were raised last and Dunn stated it was raised in 2013 by \$.10 for police officers and street department employees. Hadley made the point of how raising property tax a dime was sufficient enough at that time to get us what we needed.
- Mayor Hanson focused the discussion back to the police facility and asked Pat Harcourt of A2H and Chief Buddy Lewis to address the committee. Harcourt asked Dunn when the last property assessment was made in Covington and Hadley stated we do that every 7 years. Harcourt believes property values are on the rise and doing an assessment may help bring in more revenue.
- Hanson stated that a big problem with property values in Covington is blight, but we are in the process of eradicating that and that should increase property values throughout the city.
- Chief Lewis stated that when he came to this job he didn't come just to collect a pay check. He stated he has a real intrinsic desire to protect citizens and indeed has spent his life doing this across Tennessee. He stated that our police facilities are far below what is needed in our town, but if we can't afford it, then we need to tell our citizens that we can't afford to give them the best law enforcement they can have. Lewis stated this is not the fault of the law enforcement department, but nevertheless, if the city can't afford it, then we should tell the people we can't do it. Lewis stated that if the facility was placed in another location, it could save us over a million dollars.
- Alderman Edwards stated he doesn't want to equate the officers' ability to fight crime with the age and condition of the buildings they are in. Lewis stated that there is no way in the world 36 people can do what needs to be done in this city. He stated the Covington Police Department hasn't had what they need for years and years and years.
- Mayor Hanson asked if we can afford *NOT* to continue with our plans for the police needs. Hanson stated he has contacted several agencies and State departments to see if there are any grant monies or

other support for police facilities and have found nothing. Lewis stated that with every month that goes by, costs are going up. Harcourt referred to the proposed tax bill before Congress, and he is unsure how this may affect our ability to issue tax-free bonds. He reiterated that his point here is that interest rates may double or triple.

- Mayor Hanson updated the committee on the conversion of the property where the police facility was to be built and it is encouraging. The property is being surveyed and appraised and Hanson feels the conversion needs to take place whether the police department goes there or not. McGowan stated that building needs to come down because it is empty and just a liability to the city in that condition.
- Mayor Hanson asked Lessie Fisher to address the committee regarding an essential service (police – category 4) and as the building official, she felt it was essential that the police be moved from the building they were in. At the time, it was determined the police could stay in their temporary locations for 3 years – August 10, 2020.
- Alderman Edwards asked what would need to be changed in August of 2020 if police remained in their temporary buildings and Fisher stated those buildings would need to be retrofitted to meet essential services building standards.
- Sullivan stated that public outcry was for public safety, so we need to figure out how to make that happen.
- McGowan stated this committee needs to proceed and he hates to arbitrarily cut what's in the building as this is what was recommended from an in-depth study done by the [Center for Public Safety](#).
- Mayor Hanson stated that revenue is the problem – regardless if we build a police department or not. YTD we are below what was projected for sales tax revenue while operating costs continue to grow. We are still paying to catch up on an unfunded pension deficit, among other things, and will soon start payments on the Flatiron settlement. He doesn't expect to see relief until 2021.
- Mayor Hanson stated it is his preference to put the police facility on the old grammar school property and that is the exact place where this committee decided to put it as well. Hanson stated the building there must be torn down, and it is a central location adjacent to Highway 51 making it easily accessible.
- Alderwoman Bommer stated her preference is to build the police facility beside Krystal – if we have to downsize at all, this is an ideal property and is on the highway.
- Gangaware suggested a public meeting with citizens and our consultants who have been hired to assist us in strategic planning. Since people have overwhelmingly stated that public safety is a top priority, let's invite them back to a public meeting to specifically address this topic and see how they want us to proceed.
- Alderman Glass asked about building in phases, and Harcourt stated he doesn't believe there will ever be a cheaper price to build as it is right now. Steel is going up, masonry is expected to go up, and phasing in will overall increase the cost, since this will be done while people are in the building and temporary walls and other structures will be needed.
- Chief Lewis stated that one of the reasons he keeps going back to the ID Board property is because it is a substantial piece of property that would allow for future expansion on down the road.
- Sullivan stated there are already traffic issues on Mueller Brass Road and South College Street and building another facility will add to that traffic nightmare.
- McGowan stated that would also be 18 more acres to mow
- Mayor Hanson stated he will get with our strategic planning consultants and set up a meeting for further discussions on this topic. Hanson went on to say that the budget can be amended and we can find a way to make this happen if this is what the people want.
- Harcourt stated that people want to live in places where there are good schools and they feel safe. Tipton County Schools are already great and have a great reputation across the state, so it is important to focus on safety.

- McGowan stated he believes this issue will need to be addressed with a combination of increased taxes and budget cuts.
- McGowan stated that since the Mayor will meet with strategic planning consultants, and he expects to hear a report from them, he made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Hanson seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

DEPARTMENTAL TIDBITS

“keeping you up-to-date with what’s going on in our city”

HUMAN RESOURCES & SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Our civic center is now open and available for rentals. Call our Special Events office at 901-475-7139 for more information**

Career Opportunities:

[Lifeguard](#)

[Police Dept](#)

[Grounds Maintenance Keeper](#)

PUBLIC WORKS AND STREETS:

- **Public Works crews have been busy cleaning out brush and overgrown areas in front of the Sportsplex and behind and beside the Aquatic Center. Mayor Hanson stopped by to thank the workers for a job well done – and one that was certainly needed – as it makes our grounds cleaner and safer.**



The street sweeper has been out cleaning leaves and debris from the streets and storm drains to prepare for rain. If you see clogged drains or other debris in streets that causes problems, please call 901-476-9613 ext 118 or 113.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

- **Sportsplex closed December 24 & 25**
- **Jr. Grizzlies youth basketball begins January 13. Call 901-476-3734 for more info**
- **Look for information coming soon about NFL youth flag football**
- **If you haven't see the inside of the Covington Sportsplex lately – you haven't see the Sportsplex! Look for pictures coming soon of refurbished restrooms, new equipment, new flooring, and more! Check this out!**



Santa has delivered to the Covington Sportsplex!

COVINGTON AQUATIC CENTER:

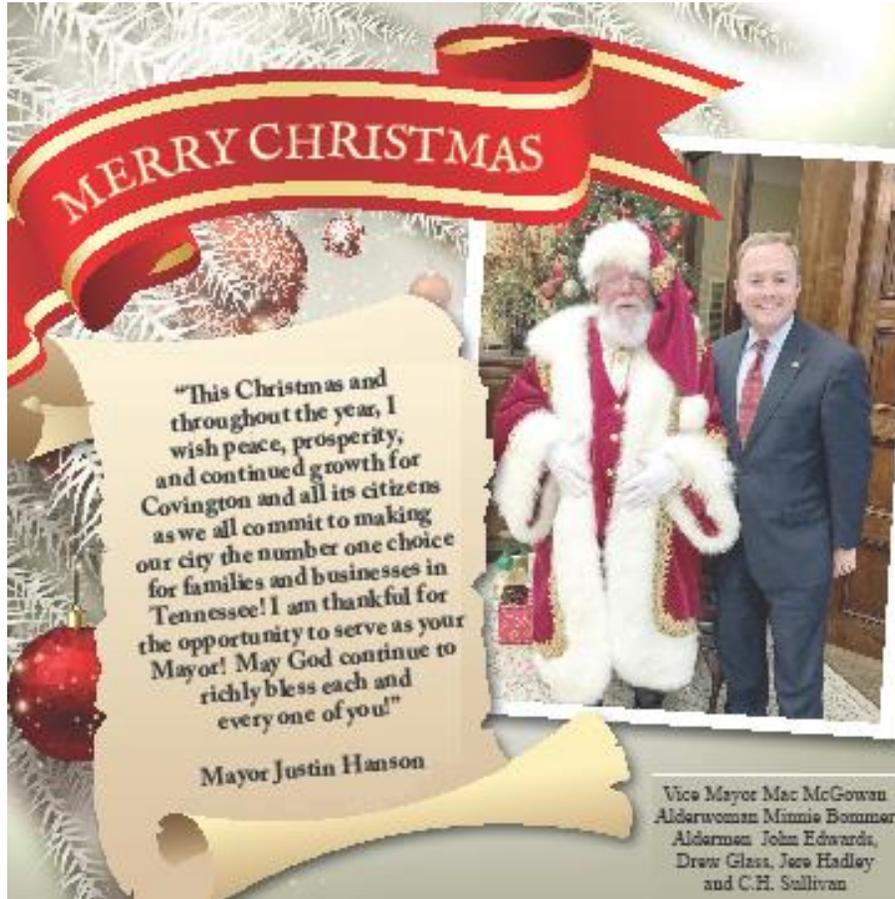
- **Pool will be closed December 24, 25, 31, and January 01**
- **Open swim times 1:00 – 6:00 December 19 – January 06**
- **Call today to schedule a party or register for classes – 901-476-9178 or 476-3734**
- **Give the gift of RENEWED health – get a gift certificate to the pool!**
- **Keep up with the latest pool news on their [Facebook page](#)**

COVINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- **Simple tips can ensure your holidays are happy and your home and loved ones are safe. For more information about home heating safety, NFPA has a tip sheet that can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/nfpaheatingsafety>. For more holiday safety tips from NFPA, visit <http://bit.ly/nfpaholidaysafety>. Through both links, you will find downloadable pdfs that you can save and share.**
- **The Covington Fire Department relies on brave men and women to volunteer their time to serve as volunteer firefighters to ensure that every call for help is answered. Men and women with almost every skill set are needed. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact us at 901-476-2578**
- **[Heating Safety Tips](#)**

CODES:

- **10-103. Pen or enclosure to be kept clean.** When animals or fowls are kept within the corporate limits, the building, structure, corral, pen, or enclosure in which they are kept shall at all times be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
- **10-104. Keeping in such manner as to become a nuisance prohibited.** No animal or fowl shall be kept in such a place or condition as to become a nuisance because of either noise, odor, contagious disease, or other reason.



Covington City Hall will close at noon on December 22 and reopen for regular business hours on December 27.



MUSEUM:

- **2018 Artist Series for Kids schedule announced...**



Tipton County Museum **“Artist Series for Kids”**

2018 Schedule

Saturday, February 10. 1 to 3 p.m.

Edouard Manet, “Two Pears”

Presented in Acrylic on Canvas



Saturday, June 2. 1 to 3 p.m.

Salvador Dali, “The Melting Watch”

Presented in Mixed Media on Canvas

Saturday, August 4. 1 to 3 p.m.

Wassily Kandinsky, “Color Studies 1927”

Presented in Oil Pastels on Canvas



Saturday, October 6. 1 to 3 p.m.

Auguste Renoir “Windy Landscape”

Presented in Chalk Pastels on Paper

Your child will be introduced to the famous artist, then paint one of their famous paintings. All materials are included. Program Fee is \$20 for Museum Members , \$25 for General Public. A Sibling Discount is available. A snack will be provided. Ages 10 and up. Preregistration is requested.

Tipton County Museum
751 Bert Johnston Ave., Covington, TN 38019
(901) 476-0242

Employees Enjoy Christmas Dinner

Covington employees enjoyed their annual Christmas dinner Thursday at the Covington Civic Center. Along with a delicious meal and fellowship, the group engaged in some fun singing competitions! Human Resources Department coordinated and served the food, along with the help of Mayor Hanson.





The Night Before Christmas....

Soys of Christmas Past

Come and see this magical exhibit and reminisce about your childhood at the Tipton County Museum! On display are rare and much loved toys and books from yesteryear. So visit us soon, listen to Christmas music, and enjoy sipping on complementary coffee or hot cocoa. Exhibit hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 to 5, and Saturday 9 to 3 through December 21, and 9 to noon on December 22. Group tours are welcome. See you there!

Where: Tipton County Museum, 751 Bert Johnston Ave., Covington

When: Normal business hours through December 21

Fee: Free!

Tipton County Museum

751 Bert Johnston Ave., Covington, TN 38019

(901) 476-0242



Your Red Kettle Dollars help Local Children

Scott Robinson and his wife Sandra have been ringing the Salvation Army bell for 7 years throughout Covington and Tipton County. This week's delivery of Christmas toys at the Covington Sportsplex gym was the result of quite a team effort – including all of you who dropped money in the little red kettle!



Rev. Tom Ralstin, Scott and Sandra Robinson, Mayor Hanson, TLC Principal James Fields, ALC Principal Steve Zurhellen (not pictured) and Salvation Army Regional executives helped unload Christmas presents for children who might not have gotten any without your help.



Crestview Elementary Christmas Concert

CES celebrated Christmas with a 5th grade Chorus Concert on Friday, December 15th. Parents, faculty, staff, and students were treated to a medley of Christmas favorites such as Frosty the Snowman, We Wish You a Merry Christmas, and more. Ms. Janice Smith, a kindergarten teacher, was a special guest performer with a fantastic rendition of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." Mrs. Sherri Ballard and the 5th grade chorus put on an outstanding performance.



Join us for Coffee with the Mayor



**Please Join Us for coffee and conversations –
7:30 – 9:00**

Tuesday, January 9 Pappy & Jimmie's 749 N. Main Street
Tuesday, January 23 Pappy & Jimmie's 749 N. Main
Tuesday, February 6 Pappy & Jimmie's 749 N. Main
Tuesday, February 20 Pappy & Jimmie's 749 N. Main
Tuesday, March 6 Pappy & Jimmie's 749 N. Main
Tuesday, March 20 Pappy & Jimmie's 749 N. Main

Tuesday, April 3 Sookies Bake Shop on the Square
Tuesday, April 17 Sookies Bake Shop on the Square
Tuesday May 1 Sookies Bake Shop on the Square
Tuesday May 15 Sookies Bake Shop on the Square



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

As we enter into the time of celebrating the Christmas season, we would like to say "Thank You" for your generous support throughout the year. Our hope is that each of you will have a truly wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Chamber Office Holiday Hours

<i>December 22</i>	<i>8:30am-Noon</i>
<i>December 25</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>
<i>December 26</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>
<i>December 27–28</i>	<i>8:30am-5:00pm</i>
<i>December 29</i>	<i>8:30am-Noon</i>
<i>January 1</i>	<i>CLOSED</i>

O CHRISTMAS TREE O CHRISTMAS TREE
Thy leaves are so unchanging;
O Christmas Tree O Christmas Tree
Thy leaves are so unchanging;
Not only green when summer's here,
But also when 'tis cold and drear.
O Christmas Tree O Christmas Tree
Thy leaves are so unchanging.





- December 22 – City Hall will close at NOON
- December 25 & 26 – City Hall **CLOSED** for Christmas
- December 29 – City Hall will close at 3:00
- January 1 – City Hall **CLOSED** for New Year’s Day
- January 9 – Coffee with the Mayor at Pappy and Jimmy’s 7:30 – 9:00
- January 11 – Millennial Meet-up – Danno’s Grill – 5:30 – scroll down for more info.....
- January 12 – Public Meeting to discuss Sewer Grant – Covington City Hall – 10:00
- January 19 *and* 26 – Intro to Acrylics by Barbara McBride – scroll down for more info.....
- January 23 - Coffee with the Mayor at Pappy and Jimmy’s 7:30 – 9:00
- February 10 – Artist Series for Kids begins at Museum - scroll down for more info.....

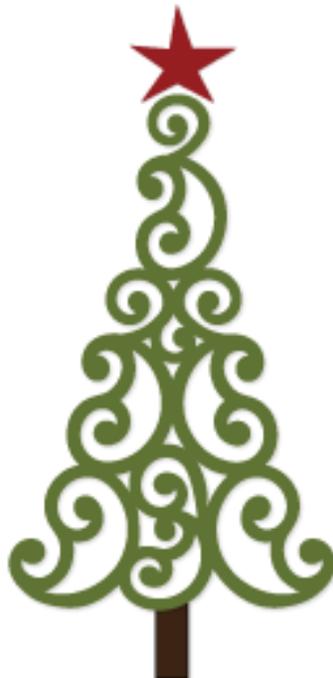


Keep up with News, Events, and Information in Covington and Tipton County

- [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](#)

*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





U.S. Department of Justice

D. Michael Dunavant
United States Attorney
Western District of Tennessee

800 Davis-Horton Federal Building
167 North Main Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, December 21, 2017

For Information, Contact Public Affairs
Cherri Green, (901) 544-4231

Western District of Tennessee to Receive Two Additional Federal Prosecutors to Fight Violent Crime

Memphis, TN – The Western District of Tennessee will receive two additional federal prosecutors to combat violent crime in the district, announced United States Attorney D. Michael Dunavant.

As one of many steps Attorney General Sessions has announced to counter the surge in violent crime afflicting communities across our country, the Department of Justice is allocating 40 Assistant United States Attorney positions to U.S. Attorney's Offices nationwide. These prosecutors will be solely focused on bringing violent criminals to justice through aggressive enforcement of federal laws.

The Western District of Tennessee is receiving two of the new dedicated positions. One of the additional prosecutors will be assigned to the Memphis office, and the other will be assigned to the Jackson office.

United States Attorney Dunavant said, "To those communities in the Western District that have been besieged by gangs and violent crime, I am thrilled to say that help is on the way. These dedicated prosecutors – working closely with our law enforcement partners – will help incapacitate violent offenders and remove them from our streets. I look forward to filling these slots promptly and putting these additional resources to work for the citizens of West Tennessee."

Violent crime is on the rise in Memphis and Jackson. For example, Memphis saw 228 murders and a major violent crime increase of 25% last year. And the violence is not confined to Memphis and Jackson. Other cities and communities in West Tennessee such as Dyersburg, Savannah, and Covington have also seen recent increases in these areas. These increases in violent crime led the Department to select Memphis and Jackson as two of the 12 cities in the National Public Safety Partnership (PSP). The Western District is the only district to have two cities selected for this program.

DSCC Plans January Orientation for New Students

Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC) will host several orientation events in January before the upcoming spring semester. **All new students are required to attend an orientation event.** They may complete this requirement either in person or by using the online orientation option located inside their MyDSCC portal. Students should be reminded that **spring semester classes begin Jan. 16.**

New student orientation will be held at the Dyersburg campus Tuesday, Jan. 9, from 2-4 p.m., and at the **Jimmy Naifeh Center at Tipton County Thursday, Jan. 11, from 2-4 p.m.**

Students will be able to meet with advisors and instructors, get information about financial aid, tour the campus, learn about academic programs offered, obtain student IDs and parking passes, and learn about student life and organizations. Students, parents and legal guardians are welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact Sherry Baker at 731-286-3242 or sdbaker@dsc.edu.



DYERSBURG STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

New Student Orientation

Spring classes begin January 16

January 11, 2 - 4 p.m.

DSCC Jimmy Naifeh Center at Tipton County
Baptist Memorial Health Care Academic Building

- Meet with instructors
- Learn about academic programs available
- Take a tour of the Center
- Obtain your student ID and parking pass
- Learn about student life and organizations



**ART CLASSES by
BARBARA McBRIDE
FOR KIDS OF ALL
AGES!**

**Call 901-237-4006 for
information**



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Covington Parks and Recreation
Christmas Hours of Operations



2017

Saturday December 23- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday December 24 - Closed

Monday December 25 - Closed

Tuesday December 26 - 5 a.m. - 8 p.m.



The Covington Sportsplex

Covington 
SPORTSPLEX



COVINGTON
AQUATIC CENTER

Holiday Hours

*Open Swim hours extended to
1:00-6:00 pm Dec 19 – Jan 3

*December 24- Closed

* December 25- Closed

*December 31- Closed

*January 1- Closed.

** We would like to wish all our patrons a very Merry
Christmas and a Joyous New Year!! Thank you for allowing
us to serve you this year. We look forward to many more
years of service and Aquatic Fun!!**

Save the Date!

Tipton County Young Talent Initiative - Next Millennial Meetup event



Sponsored by:
**COVINGTON
TIPTON COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE**

 *Millennial Meetup*

Business After Hours for Millennials
Thursday, January 11th
5:30pm - 6:30pm at Danno's Grill
112 Court Square East - Covington

The poster features a background image of people's legs and feet in a social setting. It includes a logo for the Covington Tipton County Chamber of Commerce, a green square with a white star, and the event title 'Millennial Meetup' in a cursive font. The event details are listed in a light blue box at the bottom.



Mayhue-Greer Scheduled to Speak at DSCC's MLK Luncheon

Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC) and the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce have announced that Estella Mayhue-Greer, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Mid-South Food Bank, will be the guest speaker during the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Luncheon at **noon, Jan. 12**, inside the E.H. Lannom, Jr. Gymnasium on the Dyersburg campus.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$10 each and must be purchased in advance by Jan. 10 at the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce or at the DSCC Business Office located in the Eller Administration Building.

Estella Mayhue-Greer became president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Mid-South Food Bank Jan. 1, 2011. She began her employment there in 1996 as an agency relations director. She was promoted to director of programs in 2002 and became senior vice president and chief operating officer (COO) in 2004. Mayhue-Greer started the Kids Cafe and Food for Kids Backpack programs to address childhood hunger. She also began the Mobile Pantry program to increase distribution of food to rural counties and increased both the quality and the quantity of food distributed to partner agencies to fight hunger in the Mid-South Food Bank's 31-county service area.

Before joining the Mid-South Food Bank, Mayhue-Greer was a lecturer at Christian Brothers University while maintaining her own public relations and marketing firm. Prior to this, she was employed as an adjunct instructor at the University of Memphis, a partner in JEL Communications, and worked in marketing and public relations with the City of Memphis, Methodist Health Systems and Regional Medical Center.

Mayhue-Greer is a graduate of Leadership Tennessee Class IV and Leadership Memphis. She is active in Kiwanis Club of Memphis; Justice, Unity, Generosity, Service International, Memphis Chapter; and The Links, Memphis Chapter. She currently serves on the Trezevant Manor Board of Directors and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Community Advisory Board.

Mayhue-Greer was recognized for her many accomplishments in 2015 with the Memphis City Council Humanitarian Award. She was named one of Memphis Business Journal's 'Super Women in Business' in 2015; a 'Woman of Courage' by Dress for Success in 2013; a 'Corporate Woman of Excellence' by Grace Magazine in 2013; and '50 Women Who Make a Difference' in 2007. She was also featured in Memphis Magazine's 'Who's Who in Memphis' and as a 'Power Player' in Memphis Business Quarterly.



For more information regarding the event, contact Edith Carlton at 731-286-3300 or carlton@dsc.edu.



DYERSBURG STATE **Reconnect**

Coming Fall 2018!

Ready to Reconnect? Get started now!
Whether you're ready to return to college or starting for the first time, we've got you covered - tuition free!

What is TN Reconnect?

TN Reconnect is an initiative to help adults enter higher education to gain new skills, advance in the workplace, and fulfill lifelong dreams of completing a degree or certificate. It provides adult students with a last dollar scholarship - allowing them to attend Dyersburg State Community College **tuition-free!**

What are the Eligibility Requirements?

In order to receive the Dyersburg State Reconnect Scholarship, students must:

- Meet DSCC admissions requirements. Visit www.dsccl.edu/admissions/admissions-requirements.
- Complete the 2018-2019 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at <https://fafsa.ed.gov>. DSCC's federal school code is 006835. The sooner you fill out the FAFSA, the better! Students may fill out the FAFSA beginning October 1, 2017.
- Enroll in at least 6 credit hours per semester.
- Be classified as an independent student (see FAFSA criteria).
- Not have earned an associate or bachelor's degree.
- Be a Tennessee resident for at least one year before completing the FAFSA.
- Not be in default on a federal or state loan or owe a refund of federal or state financial aid. Contact the DSCC Financial Aid Office at 731-286-3350 for assistance if this applies to you.
- Be registered for selective service if applicable. Visit www.sss.gov for more information.

www.TNReconnect.gov

For more information, contact Rebecca Reeves, Adult Student Coordinator, at 731-288-7514 or reeves@dsccl.edu.



DYERSBURG STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dyersburg • Covington • Trenton
1510 Lake Road, Dyersburg, TN 38024
731-286-3200 / www.dsccl.edu / enroll@dsccl.edu

Dyersburg State Community College does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs, and activities sponsored by Dyersburg State Community College. The following staff has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Dean of Student Services, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, fultz@dsccl.edu, Student Center, Room 123, 1510 Lake Road, Dyersburg, TN 38024, (731) 286-3234. Dyersburg State Community College's policy on nondiscrimination can be found at <http://www.dsccl.edu/node/6332>. A Tennessee Board of Regents Institution. PUB 10_17

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

 **TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension



Take a look at the upcoming programs and events from our friends at the Tipton County Extension Office...

[Click here to view flyers for upcoming 4-H and Master Gardener events!](#)

[The Library Corner](#)

Tipton County Public Library News

[Check out what's in store for you at our local Library this month!](#)



What's Happening at the Museum?

Check it out.... *Tipton County Pulse*

Click here to view: <https://youtu.be/ZGoLD5opQxY>

What's the BUZZ?

The Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center has been designated a “Pollinator Habitat” with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. This could not have happened without the help and hard work of our friends, the Tipton County Master Gardeners.





Gioiello Featured Artist



Nancy Foshee

A retired English and history teacher, Nancy was born in Memphis, but spent most of her childhood and youth in various army bases around the country. This diverse childhood enriched her love of history and story-telling which surfaces in every book she has written. Most recently, she retired from teaching part-time at Dyersburg State Community College where she taught developmental writing and education courses. She lives in Drummonds with her husband Frank where she enjoys writing and caring for their three cats. She is an award winning author and has written several historical novels, all of which are for sale in

Gioiello.



The Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center
Expansion Campaign:

Building for the Next Generation

As the Museum approaches its 20th year, the realization is we have outgrown the current facility and the necessity for expansion is essential. The Tipton County Museum is asking for the community's financial support in its endeavor to preserve Tipton County's rich cultural history.

Your contribution to the Museum's Expansion Fund is both necessary and appreciated. You can stop by with your donation, call the Museum to have a donation form mailed to you, visit our website at <http://www.covingtontn.com/museum.html> to download a donation form or donate online at: <https://tms.ezfacility.com/OnlineRegistrations/Register.aspx?CompanyID=5427&GroupID=1960714>.

Thank you for your help in preserving our legacy!

20 Years at the Tipton County Museum:

Embracing the Future While Honoring the Past

Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center

751 Bert Johnston Ave., P.O. Box 768,

Covington, TN 38019

(901) 476-0242



The Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial
& Nature Center

Veteran of the Month Reception

Every 2nd Tuesday Evening at 6:30

751 Bert Johnston Ave.,

Covington, TN 38019

901-476-0242



A Special Thanks to Our Program Sponsors:

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4840

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Unit 116

Woodmen Life, Neil Bringle



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

The Tipton County Museum Presents
Introduction to Acrylics

With Barbara Flowers McBride

Renowned artist Barbara McBride is returning to teaching acrylic painting on Friday mornings at the Tipton County Museum. Barbara will review the properties and applications of acrylic paint and will help you create beautiful artwork. Participants will provide their own supplies. Please call (901) 476-0242 for a supply list & registration.

When: January 19 & 26, February 2 & 9, 2018. 9:30—11:30 a.m.

Where: Tipton County Museum, 751 Bert Johnston Ave., Covington, TN

Fee: \$60 Museum Members, \$80 General Public

Tipton County Museum
751 Bert Johnston Avenue, P.O. Box 768,
Covington, TN 38019
901-476-0242



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

The Tipton County Museum
Presents

Artist Series For Kids
EDOUARD MANET

When: Saturday, February 10, 2018, 1 to 3 p.m.

Where: Tipton County Museum, 751 Bert Johnston Ave., Covington, TN

Fee: \$20 Museum Members, \$25 General Public

Children will learn about one of history's most fascinating artists, Edouard Manet, then will paint his "Two Pears" in acrylics. A sibling discount is available, and a snack will be provided. Ages 10 and up.

Tipton County Museum
751 Bert Johnston Avenue
Covington, TN 38019
(901) 476-0242

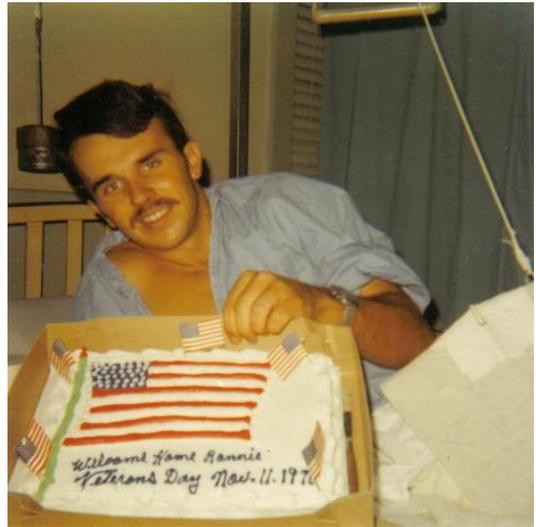




**The Tipton County Veterans
Council and the Tipton
County Museum,
Veterans Memorial and
Nature Center**

**Veteran of the Month for
December, 2017**

James Ronnie Dacus



Born on December 9, 1949, James Ronnie Dacus graduated from Brighton High School in 1967. On August 26, 1969 he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He attended Basic Training at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky and Advanced Training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana. He arrived in Vietnam on February 1st, 1970 at 5:30 a.m. in 85 degree weather. He joined the 50th Infantry Regiment after completing Jungle Warfare School in Vietnam. On April 1st, 1970, he was wounded for the first time in Le Hong Fong; he suffered a concussion and a perforated eardrum. He was wounded a second time in Le Hong Fong on November 2, 1970 when a bullet from a machine gun ambush shattered his right thigh. He spent 19 month recuperating at the Navy Hospital in Millington, Tennessee. He was granted a permanent "Chapter 64" medical retirement from the Army in 1974. For his service to our country he received the following medals: Vietnam Campaign Medal with one star, the Vietnam Service Medal, Two Purple Hearts, the Air Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Expert Marksman Badge for both rifle and machine guns.

Following his retirement from the Army he worked as a meat cutter for Seessel's and Naifeh's grocery stores, then from 1980 to 1982 he was a reserve Police Officer for the City of Munford. From 1983 to 1990 he worked as a Captain for the Tipton County Sheriff's Department. After retiring from the Sheriff's Department he returned to his previous career as a meat cutter. Then he retired from work permanently in 1999. He has two daughters, one who lives across the street from him in Brighton, and one who lives in Memphis. He has three grandchildren, one great grandchild, and another great grandchild on the way. Ronnie is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He was nominated for Veteran of the Month by City of Munford Police Chief Jim Harger.



Veteran of the Month Reception held at Museum

Surrounded by family, friends, fellow veterans, and community leaders, December Veteran of the Month James Ronnie Dacus was honored for his service.



Once again, the Tipton County Veteran's Museum along with the Tipton County Veteran's Council held a reception for Veteran of the Month. Viet Nam veteran James Dacus is the December 2017 honoree. Girl Scouts assisted in the program by serving refreshments.