

City of Covington Newsletter
Highlights from the week of
April 18 - 22, 2016

Saturday was a beautiful day in Covington, and several great outside activities were going on around town. Students from Mr. Sonderman's Biology class at DSCC volunteered to work on the grounds at the Tipton County Museum. In the pictures below, they are weeding the beds and cleaning the grounds.



These students from DSCC worked inside the Tipton County Veterans Museum fulfilling volunteer hours required for the Tennessee Promise.



Mayor Hanson was the Master of Ceremonies at the Dixie Youth Baseball Opening Ceremonies at Cobb-Parr Park in Covington Saturday. Mayor Hanson thanked the parents and Dixie Youth Association for their commitment and dedication to the sport and the youth of Covington. He also acknowledged Covington Public Works department for the work they have done to help with drainage issues and cleaning out brush and growth in the area. He also thanked Interim Parks and Recreation Director Karen Griffin, all the coaches, and all the parents and children for their participation and cooperation to make it possible for another successful Dixie Youth Baseball season in Covington.

Monday



Covington Public Works crews have completed the first phase of the Crepe Myrtle Project. There are now beautiful Arapaho Crepe Myrtles in each planter along West Pleasant from US Highway 51 up to Washington Street. CPW planted each one and covered the areas with mulch. We are looking forward to a beautiful blooming corridor from the highway to our square. This project has been completely funded through private donations and is still open for participation. Please contact Sara Gangaware or Tina Dunn for information at 901-476-9613.

Tuesday

Mayor Hanson, along with Public Works Director David Gray, Gas & Utilities Manager Calvin Johnson, CARE Director Mark Heaston and Street & Sanitation Director Tim Fayne attended the 18th Annual African American Leadership Conference at the Walter Barnes Conference Center in Jackson, Tennessee. The conference, sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Martin and co-sponsored by the City of Covington, was emceed by Ms Anne Banks, WestStar Class of 1997. Many of the presenters were also WestStar graduates. The Keynote Speaker was William Godwin, attorney, real-estate broker, and public speaker from Chicago, IL.



The regular meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee was held Tuesday in the Lower Level Conference Room at City Hall. The room was packed with all the City Board members, department heads, concerned citizens and guest presenters.

Mayor Hanson presented the 2016-17 budget for the Aldermen to take and review. He stated it is a fairly lean budget and that he has worked with department heads on several occasions to get this worked out. He stated it is a balanced budget and asked the members to review and be prepared to discuss it in coming weeks. Chairman Jere Hadley asked the committee to keep Tuesdays open for possible budget discussions.

Administrators from the Memphis Region of the YMCA addressed the group about the proposed transfer of management of the Sportsplex and pool to them. The City of Covington will retain control of the parks and youth sports such as baseball, softball, and soccer. The proposal with the YMCA is for family fitness programs only. Justin Inskeep of the Millington YMCA went through three scenarios of how the "Y" might move ahead taking responsibility of family fitness in Covington. He reiterated that they work with families with a sliding fee scale and focus on the whole family. The floor was opened for questions and the group spent some time questioning and discussing the options. Attorney Rachel Gangaware went through a draft agreement with the YMCA for the committee to consider. Both YMCA representatives and Board members took this with them for review. Once a final agreement for the lease is met, it will be presented to the Board of Mayor and Alderman for approval.

There was further discussion of the proposed solid waste ordinance that has been discussed in committee and passed through two readings before the Board of Mayor and Alderman. Citizens present asked that it be clear and fair. Mayor Hanson stated we don't want ordinances on our books we can't or won't enforce and encouraged the language in all ordinances to be clear. Alderwoman Minnie Bommer motioned that approved changes be made as discussed and start the approval process over. This motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Arran Addington and Michael Shelton of A2H Engineering addressed the group about a grant proposal that has been submitted to TDOT for sidewalks on James Street from College Street to Highway 51. They wrote this grant for monies the State has provided through TDOT. We must use these or lose them. Shelton, Addington, and Mayor Hanson studied the Transportation Master Plan and determined there was not only a great need for a sidewalk in this area, but there is also enhanced probability the grant will be funded. This is an 80-20 grant that requires the City to fund 20% of it. Alderwoman Bommer and Alderman Edwards had concerns about why James Street was selected for this grant and when the decision was made. Mr. Shelton and Mr. Addington explained there was an urgency to apply these monies before the deadline and that James Street is an area that has been identified on the Master Plan for improvements. Mayor Hanson stated he felt this sense of urgency and relied on Shelton and Addington's expertise when making this decision for improvements. The motion to accept the James Street sidewalk project as proposed through TDOT was passed 4-2.

Lessie Fisher distributed the draft of the updated Administrative Fees Ordinance. She went through this page by page explaining what changes are proposed and why. Fisher continued going through the pages of the proposed Administrative Fees Ordinance discussing changes with the committee and entertaining questions and comments. Motion to accept proposed increases was made by Alderwoman Bommer and Drew Glass seconded. No questions. Motion passed unanimously.

David Gwinn reported that CPW Director David Gray ordered white rock and it has been put down on the road in Townsend Cemetery to upgrade and improve accessibility there.

Wednesday

Mayor Hanson met with Matt McDaniel and Nikka Sorrells of the Tipton County Department of Public Health in his office to discuss a resolution that will discourage tobacco use and smoking of any kind in Covington parks. The State of Tennessee and Department of Public Health are serious about discouraging tobacco use and smoking of any kind – especially around children. The State is focusing on [Knock Tobacco Out of the Park](#), which is a nation-wide initiative encouraging smoke and tobacco free zones where children and families gather and play, particularly at ball parks and playgrounds. The State will provide signage, benches, and trash receptacles for parks and playgrounds that are identified as smoke and tobacco free. The General Welfare and Public Relations Committee heard this information last week and voted unanimously for Mayor Hanson to move ahead on this initiative. With the help of McDaniel and Sorrells, Mayor Hanson has drafted a resolution that will be presented to the Board next Tuesday night.



Tipton County Veterans Museum Director Barrie Foster met with Mayor Hanson to discuss long range plans for the Museum. They discussed artifacts inventory, fund raising ideas, and additional technology, safes, and storage needs.

Thursday



Mayor Hanson joined the members of Drug Free Tipton in their April meeting. The group is supporting a healthier Tennessee through multiple efforts to educate people and encourage healthy decisions. They sponsored a BMX bicycle show at Covington Integrated Arts Academy Thursday afternoon and gave away a bicycle at BMX Family Fun Night at Crestview Middle School.



After being welcomed to Covington Integrated Arts Academy by Principal Autrell Williams and Assistant Principal Dr. Bonnie Wright (L), Mayor Hanson participated in one of the BMX Bike show events. You can see the wheel of the bike in the upper right of the photo above as it flew over his head. Students also heard a message of health and safety at the event which was sponsored by Drug Free Tipton.



Covington Mayor Justin Hanson along with Munford Mayor Dwayne Cole, many well-wishers, and people from all over Tipton County welcomed CPL Christian Brown to his new home in Munford. The home was built to accommodate Brown after he sustained severe injuries serving in the US Marine Corps in the Middle East. Much organization and many donations and foundations, including The Gary Sinise Foundation, worked together to make this possible.

Friday



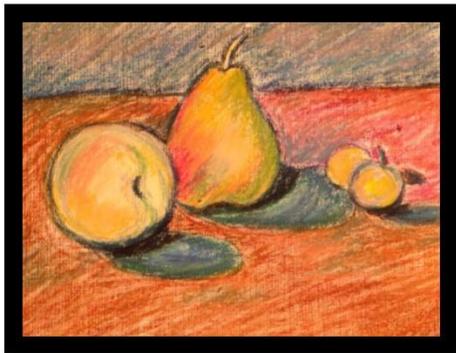
On display at the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the new fire truck specially built for the Covington Fire Department. The truck will be delivered next week. It is a state-of-the-art aerial apparatus that was made possible through a grant and will greatly enhance CFD's ability to keep our citizens safe. Chief Michael Naifeh attended the conference Friday. CFD will christen the new truck in a ceremony at the North Station on May 2.

Dates to Remember...

- April 23 – 30 – Clean up/Fix up Covington.
- April 25 – Tipton County Art Exhibit – 6:00 – DSCC Jimmy Naifeh Center
- April 30 – Walk Across Covington for Clean Up-Fix Up. Meet at City Barn on East Ripley Street at 8:00 am. This is a great opportunity for Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, classes, groups and families! Come help make our city clean and beautiful!
- April 30 – [GO LUCY GO 5K race](#). Race begins at 9:00 at COVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL.
- April 30 – Dancing with the Stars at Covington High School – Silent auction, dinner, and entertainment for Carl Perkins Center.
- April 23 – May 28 - Music on the Square on Saturday nights. **Seth Walker kicks off the event THIS SATURDAY!**
- May 3 – Lifeblood at City Hall **9:00 am – 3:00 pm** Sign-up sheet is at front desk at Covington City Hall.
- May 5 – **Community prayer** in recognition of National Day of Prayer – **Covington Square at noon**
- June 2-4 – Bar-Be Que Festival in Cobb-Parr Park

Free Legal Clinics.....Covington First Presbyterian Church.....11:00 – 1:00. 1-844-HELP4TN

- May 21
- July 23
- September 24



The Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial
& Nature Center Presents
Artist Series for Kids
Paul Cezanne

When: Saturday, May 14, 2016 , 10 a.m. until noon

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

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

Barrie Foster will introduce Paul Cezanne to the children, including where he was born and raised. The children will then paint one of Cezanne's own paintings in Oil Pastels. All materials will be furnished, and a snack will be provided. Ages 10 and up, please. Just call the Tipton County Museum at (901) 476-0242 to register. A sibling discount is available.



You're Invited to the
2016 TIPTON COUNTY
ART EXHIBIT
"LOCAL COLOR"

Awards Reception

Sponsored by
The Tipton Arts Council, Inc.
And
TN State Representative
Debra Moody



When: Monday, April 25

6 to 8:30 p.m.

**Where: DSCC Jimmy Naifeh
Center at Tipton County,
Learning Resource Center
3149 Hwy 51 Bypass S
Covington, TN**



The Tipton County Museum,
Veterans Memorial & Nature
Center

Presents:

2016 Artist in Residence Peggy Kunkel

Artist in Residence Peggy Kunkel is a calligrapher with over 25 years of experience and has taught calligraphy extensively throughout the Memphis area. She is a past President of the Memphis Calligraphy Guild and is a member of the Tipton Art League. Her exhibition, "This and That", is on display in the Conference room of the Tipton County Museum. She and her husband Keith live in Covington.

- March 22 **Reception:** Come out and meet Peggy! 6:30 p.m., **Free**
- June 4 **Lecture:** "Rock, Paper, Stone, plus a Demon" The History of Calligraphy, 10 – 11:30 a.m., Free to Members, \$5 Nonmembers
- July 23 **Workshop:** "Improve Your Handwriting", 10 a.m. – Noon,
\$10 Museum Members, \$15 Nonmembers
- August 13 **Workshop:** "Celtic Knots Simplified", 10 a.m. – Noon
\$10 Museum Members, \$15 Nonmembers
- Oct. 27 **Host:** "Museum Merchant Gala", Meet local artists, 6 – 8 p.m.,
Free and Open to the Public
- Nov. 19 **Lecture:** "The St. John's Bible", The 1st handwritten, illuminated Bible in 500 years, 10 – 11:30 a.m., Free to Members, \$5 Nonmembers
- Sept. 6, 20, 27, **Calligraphy Class:** "Italic Hand", Tuesday nights, 6 – 8 p.m.
Oct. 4, & 18 \$60 Museum Members, \$65 Nonmembers for the 5 week class

Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center

751 Bert Johnston Avenue

Covington, TN 38019 (901) 476-0242

The Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center

Presents:

Summer Lecture Series 2016

Saturday mornings in June

10 – 11:30 a.m.,

Free to Museum Members

\$5.00 General Public

- June 4 “Rock, Paper, Stone, plus a Demon; the History of Calligraphy.” Peggy Kunkel,
Artist in Residence
- June 11 “World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893; American Ingenuity on Display Then and Now.” Nancy
Fosheé, Award Winning Author
- June 18 “A Visual Voyage: The Art & Life of Claude Monet.” Tipton County Museum Director Barrie
Foster (Optional art class, “Painting with Monet” to follow in the afternoon. Separate
registration required.)
- June 25 “Everyday Art for Everyday Folk; how to incorporate discarded or reclaimed objects into
artwork.” Frank Lilly, folk artist & Vietnam Veteran

Refreshments will be served.

Museum memberships start at \$25 and are available at the door.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center

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