

City of Covington Newsletter  
Highlights from the week of  
April 4 - 8, 2016

**Monday**

Department Heads met with Mayor Hanson at City Hall to discuss business, progress, and upcoming events.

Karen Griffin, interim director of Parks and Recreation stated that Bar-B Que Festival forms are on our website and available at the Sportsplex. The applications are for anyone wishing to participate either by cooking or vending.

Music on the Square will begin on April 23 and be on Saturday nights through May 28. Mrs. Griffin is currently booking bands and collecting donations for these family fun events. She is also working with the Sports Hall of Fame Committee on plaques and will make a presentation at the Board of Mayor and Alderman meeting April 26 at City Hall. A reception will follow. Final details are being completed on the LPRF Parks Grant. That will be submitted to the State April 22.

Human Resources and Personnel Director Tiny Barton brought to the committee for discussion a possible new copier contract to consider. The proposal can save the city over \$2000 per year. She also announced that Life Signs will be offering comprehensive physical exams to employees. The dates for these will be announced soon. This comes in conjunction with the renewal of employee health insurance.

Mrs. Barton also reported she is making progress on the City of Covington Employee Handbook. She is working with an MTAS consultant on this project to help ensure a comprehensive update.

Pre assessment interviews are being scheduled at this time for a new director for Covington Parks and Recreation Department. These will take place April 12<sup>th</sup>. A new posting has been made for Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator. For this and more information on opening in the City, please visit our [website](http://www.covingtontn.com/purchasing--personnel.html):  
<http://www.covingtontn.com/purchasing--personnel.html>

David Gray, director of Public Works reported that bids have been accepted for Antioch Road Water Line Extension Project. C & S Construction of Covington was lowest of 5 total bids made on this project. Gray will submit this in Public Works Committee for approval.

Mr. Gray continues investigating number of rollouts for each resident. Garbage fees cover the cost of one rollout and curbside pickup. All additional rollouts require extra fees.

The Street Department has been hard at work addressing drainage issues, particularly in light of recent record-breaking rainfalls. If you have a drainage issue on your street, please contact Customer Service at 901-476-9613 and report the location and nature of the concern.

Street paving and line painting is coming up. Director Gray will have plans and estimates for this at the May meeting.

Fire Chief Michael Naifeh reported City of Covington will take possession of the new aerial truck on May 2. There will be an open house and reception for the christening of the truck at the North Fire Station on May 2 from 11:00 – 12:00. The public is welcome to come out and see this fascinating new piece of equipment for Covington Fire Department.

CFD will participate in the Paradise Church Children's Carnival Saturday, April 9 at 520 Simonton Street. The Red Cross Fire Safety House will be on location for safety information and drills. CARE officer Mark Heaston will be on hand with information about the Red Dot and Yellow Dot safety programs. It will be a fun and informational day for the entire community. CFD and CPD are participating.

## Tuesday

Coffee with the Mayor continues every other Tuesday. Please join us for coffee and lively conversations! The next one will be April 19 at the Covington McDonald's from 7:30 – 9:00. ***We want good ideas from you, but the coffee's on us!***

The Covington Planning Commission met this week and reviewed CODES and rezoning requests. Discussion took place concerning updating Regional Zoning Ordinance.



The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held Tuesday at City Hall. Public Works Director David Gray reported that bids have been accepted for an extension of the City's water line on Antioch Road. After hearing the details, the committee made a motion to move forward with this project. The motion was unanimously approved in committee and will go to the Board of Mayor and Alderman for consideration.

The electronic speed sign recently purchased to record speed in high density traffic and residential areas is out of order. Mr. Gray has contacted the company and is in negotiations with technical support for repairs and/or a refund.

The cost of handling residential garbage in Covington includes one rollout (container) and curbside pick-up. Since becoming public works director, Mr. Gray has discovered there are additional rollouts in circulation. He is working with customer service to make sure fees are allocated correctly. If you have or need more than one rollout, please contact customer service at 476-9613 ext 118.

Drainage issues have been reported in conjunction with the record-breaking rains we had in March. Currently, CPW is working on issues on South Tipton, Sherrod, Haynie, and Hill streets. If you have drainage or street concerns, please contact customer service to report those. Be prepared to give the nature of the concern along with approximate address of the problem.

Codes Enforcement Officer Lessie Fisher reported that the State of Tennessee requires all municipalities stay within 7 years of their most current edition of State codes. This is standard procedure to ensure the most current language is used across the State. She will review these updates and prepare a draft for discussion by the Finance and Administration Committee in May.

Ms. Saline Wilcox addressed the committee and gave an open invitation to the Paradise Church Carnival this Saturday starting at 10:00 am.

Mr. Calvin Johnson has assumed duties of Utilities Manager after an internal posting for the position. Director Gray announced he is settling in and taking responsibilities in his new job. The committee welcomed him and thanked him for stepping up. Mr. Johnson was originally hired as a meter reader several years ago. He has worked at the Waste Water Treatment Plant for the past ten years.



**City of Covington Public Works Department welcomes Calvin Johnson as the new Utilities Manager. Mr. Johnson has worked with the City for 10 years at the Waste Water Plant after being hired as a meter reader.**

Wednesday



Work began Wednesday on the Crepe Myrtle Project. This offers citizens the opportunity to have a lovely Arapaho Red Crepe Myrtle planted in honor or in memory of loved ones, or folks may simply donate to the project. This project is entirely funded by private support and is intended to beautify the main entrance to our square along West Liberty from Highway 51 to the Square. For more information, please contact Sara Gangaware at 476-9613. Covington Public Works crews are installing the plants and providing mulch. Here, Fred Davis operates the back-hoe, while Gavin Stang, Patrick Steinhouse, and Gene Hodge set the plants and spread mulch. Look for beautiful red blooms this summer!

## Thursday



Water aerobics continues to grow and is well attended. There are morning, evening, and Saturday classes making this a great fitness opportunity. Please contact the [Covington Aquatic Center](#) for more information at 476-9178.

## Friday

Mayor Hanson attended this month's West Star session in Gibson and Crockett Counties. The group listened to informational speakers and toured several facilities, including ABB Corporation – the largest manufacturer of bushings (electrical components) in North America.



Mayor Hanson and his West Star classmates toured the ABB Corporation in Alamo Friday.



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 1<sup>st</sup> 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!**

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