

Monday

Some City employees began participation in the VBLOC (Volunteers for Building Lives in Our Communities) mentoring program with 7th graders at Crestview Middle School.



Sara Gangaware was the guest speaker at last week's Rotary Club where she explained VBLOC to the Rotarians. She was welcomed by Rotarians Winston Howard and Bob Overall.

Mayor Hanson attended the Covington Lion's Club lunch meeting. They finalized plans for the annual Pancake Breakfast set for Saturday, February 27 at Covington Integrated Arts Academy, 760 Bert Johnston Avenue, Covington. Tickets are \$5 each. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser are used to provide eye care for those in need in our community.

Tuesday

Public Safety Committee Meeting

Covington Police Department (CPD) Chief Buddy Lewis gave his report, which included an update on the Clayton Bank robbery that took place on February 7. Covington Police Department is working with the FBI to analyze camera footage and gather more information.

Chief Lewis also gave statistics on a special operations event in the city regarding zero tolerance incidences. CPD officers have worked overtime to bring roughly 125 charges on nearly 40 people. People have been jailed, some of whom were on probation. Chief Lewis has met with Federal prosecutors and hopes to send these offenders to the Federal system for their crimes. He stated, "We will not tolerate shootings in the city or other dangerous crimes threatening life and property."

CPD is implementing a digital radar sign which can be moved around the City to determine areas where speeding might be problematic. This is highly technical and can give police a variety of information for their data collection. City code states that all speed limits within the City of Covington are 30 MPH unless otherwise posted.

Chief Lewis concluded his report by applauding the use of **V Academy** by the Covington Police Department. V-Academy is an online training program that allows officers to undergo training in the office rather than going out of town, as was previous procedure. Chief Lewis believes this is top-notch, up-to-date training and is proving to be a positive and worthy expenditure for the City. For more information please visit the [Covington Police Department Facebook](#) page.

[The National Drug Take Back](#) is scheduled for April 30. This coincides with clean up-fix up day and is a good time to clean out medicine cabinets and dispose of unused medications properly and safely. This date is set by the United States DEA and is the same all over the country. There is a collection box at Covington Police Department where people can bring old and unused drugs and drop them in for safe disposal.

Covington Fire Department (CFD) CARE Coordinator Mark Heaston represented CFD in Chief Michael Naifeh's absence. Chief Naifeh was in Baltimore at the National Fire Academy. Mr. Heaston reported on number and types of calls CFD has responded to over the past month. He also gave an update on the new fire truck CFD is acquiring through a grant. This new aerial apparatus is in week 9 of production with final inspection slated for March 13, 14, & 15 at the assembly plant in Appleton Wisconsin. For more information and pictures, please visit the [CFD Facebook Page](#).

CFD has 11 volunteer firefighters who are at various stages of the training process. All have completed the State required 16-hour class and have begun the 64-hour class. Five of these individuals have been cleared to function fully as fire fighters. All trainees are slated to go to the academy in April.

Chief Naifeh attended the Tennessee State Fire Commission and Tennessee Fire Chiefs conference in Murfreesboro, Tn Feb. 17-19.

Chief Naifeh has been chosen as an AFG grant peer reviewer and is in Baltimore (at the time of this meeting) for training at no cost to the City.

Tuesday night was a regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. The entire meeting can be viewed on the City's website at <http://www.covingtontn.com/covington-board-meeting-video.html>

Wednesday

Mayor Hanson attended the Site Selectors Guild Annual Conference in Nashville with many other mayors and county executives from across Tennessee and the southeast. The Site Selectors Guild is the only association of the world's foremost professional site selection consultants. Guild members provide location strategy to corporations across the globe and for every industry, sector, and function. There were industrial recruits from around the world in attendance at this event in Nashville and Mayor Hanson, along with industrial recruiter Duane Lavery with HTL Advantage and Tipton County Mayor Jeff Huffman, were actively recruiting for Covington and Tipton County.



Covington Mayor Justin Hanson networks with Brownsville Mayor Rill Rawls and Lauderdale County Executive Maurice Gaines at the Site Selector's Guild Annual Conference in Nashville.

Thursday

Covington Public Works crews continued clean-up operations at the old Covington Library building and the new Covington Municipal Center (CMC). They have also done extensive clean up and attended to drainage issues in Cobb-Parr Memorial Park. These improvements are the beginning of an overhaul in this park and also intended to help prepare the area for the upcoming Dixie Youth Baseball season.



CPW employees Jerome Tate and Earnest Prewitt finalize beautification project and landscaping at the new Covington Municipal Center.

The Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Council met with P & R interim Director Karen Griffin at the Sportsplex at 5:30 to determine needs for an [LPRF Grant](#). The Tennessee Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) provides grants to eligible local government entities for the purchase of lands for parks, natural areas, greenways, and recreation facilities. The funds may also be used for trail development and capital projects in parks, natural areas, and greenways. At least 60 percent of the funds allocated will go to municipal governments as authorized by TCA 67-4-409. All grant projects must be on publicly owned land.



Friday



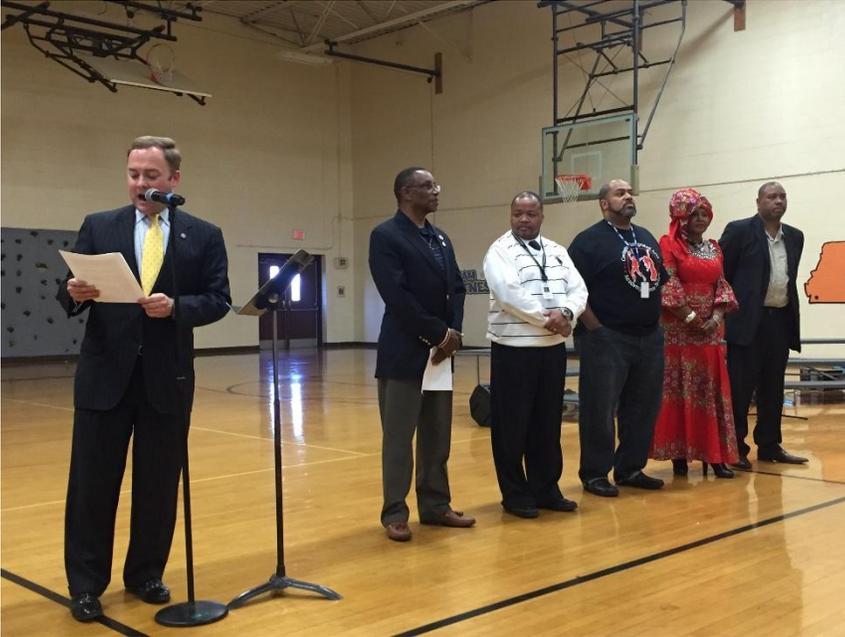
Covington Police Chief Buddy Lewis and Drug Free Tipton’s Kennisha Stowe & Robin Racine met with Mayor Hanson to discuss their new program TIP-411. Through this program (and yes, there’s an app for that!), citizens can place anonymous tips about crimes and illegal activity. Drug Free Tipton will provide a detailed announcement soon.

Mayor Hanson attended the West Tennessee Mayors' Association Meeting in Jackson along with Covington Police Chief Buddy Lewis and other mayors and police department representatives from across West Tennessee. Rex Barton, [MTAS Police Consultant](#), led the meeting with the presentation The 5 Things Mayors Need to Know about Police Departments.



Rex Barton, MTAS police consultant, Mayor Hanson, and CPD Chief Buddy Lewis at the West Tennessee Mayors' Association meeting in Jackson.

Mayor Hanson was a guest and speaker at Covington Integrated Arts Academy's African American History program. He highlighted the origins of Black History Month and recognized local people for their accomplishments and service. Mayor Hanson also introduced Winston Howard, Covington Branch Manager of Hamilton-Ryker Employment services, who shared his story at the event.



Mayor Hanson recognized local African Americans for their service and accomplishments at the Black History celebration at Covington Integrated Arts Academy

Other News and Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, February 27 – Covington Lions Club Annual Pancake Breakfast – 6:00 am – 11:00 am – Covington Integrated Arts Academy - 760 Bert Johnston Avenue Covington, Tn.
- Saturday, February 27 – Daddy Daughter Dance – 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm - Covington Sportsplex – 790 Bert Johnston Avenue Covington TN. **EVENT IS SOLD OUT!**
- Monday, February 29 – Coffee with the Mayor – 7:30 am – 9:00 am – Covington McDonald's
- Tuesday, March 1 – Public Works Committee meeting – 1:00 – City Hall Lower Level Conference Room
- Wednesday, March 2 – Clean Up/Fix Up Covington meeting – 8:00 - City Hall Lower Level Conference Room

- Water Aerobics classes at the Covington Aquatic Center continue to flourish and grow. Classes are available mornings, evenings, and Saturdays. For more information, please call 901-476-9178 or visit the [Aquatic Center Website at http://www.covingtontn.com/aquatics-center.html](http://www.covingtontn.com/aquatics-center.html)

- [The Tipton County Museum Veterans' Memorial and Nature Center](http://www.covingtontn.com/museum.html) at 751 Bert Johnston Avenue in Covington has recently opened a new Vietnam War exhibit. The museum is partnering with the Department of Defense's 50th Vietnam War Commemoration in bringing you "Stories from Home: The Vietnam War." This exhibit contains numerous stories of Tipton County Veterans' experiences during the Vietnam War and includes an entire section showcasing prisoner of war Nels Tanner. All of the artifacts displayed in the exhibit are from Tipton County Veterans. Information on this and other events at the museum can be found on their website at <http://www.covingtontn.com/museum.html> Please call for more information at 901-476-0242.

- Check out classes offered at our Sportsplex!



[Covington Sportsplex](#) offers a wide variety of exercise equipment choices, along with classes and pool memberships.