

City of Covington Newsletter
Highlights from the week of
February 28 – March 4, 2016



Assistant Covington Police Chief and Pastor Cavat Bass recognized Covington Fire Department’s Mark Heaston in a ceremony Sunday at St. Matthews Missionary Baptist Church in Charleston. Both Pastor Bass and Mr. Heaston were honored for their life of faith, hard work, dedication to family, and service to others. Mayor Hanson was a special guest at the service and spoke on behalf of both men.

Monday

Coffee with the Mayor met Monday at the Covington McDonald’s. This was the first time the group met at McDonald’s and the gathering will continue at this location through April 19. These are our opportunities to build relationships, be neighborly, and seek out good ideas that will have a positive impact on our community.



Mayor Hanson and Codes Officer Lessie Fisher met with Pastor Ben Allen about his ideas and plans for growth of his church in the Hyde Park community.



Mayor Hanson attended the Keep Tennessee Beautiful kickoff at The Pyramid in Memphis, along with Keep Tipton County Beautiful Coordinator Ruth Wallace and Barbara Rook, a member of their Board of Directors. This year's theme is **Plant the State Green**.



Mayor Hanson had the opportunity to network with Nelia Dempsey from the office of Senator Norris and Fayette County Mayor Skip Taylor at the Keep Tennessee Beautiful Conference

Tuesday

Public Works Committee Meeting:

Repairs are being made to well 5 in city's water system. Harvey Wilson, Water Quality Control Officer, stated repair team has been on site and repairs are expected to be finished by end of this week. Wilson stated once repairs are complete, this well will pump more than it ever has.

Covington Public Works Director David Gray gave a report on the high-tech portable radar sign that is being posted on city streets. Included in his report was a handout showing number of vehicles passing the sign, how many were exceeding speed limit, and how many were within acceptable speed limits. This report came from North Tipton Street near Baxter Avenue over a 24-hour period. According to data collected at this site by the radar sign, 441 vehicles passed the sign. 375 vehicles were respecting the limit and 66 were speeding. The sign will be moved around in the city to help determine where speeding is a problem. Police and Covington Public Works Department will work together to take care of the issues. There are also plans for more speed signs in Covington. Current City code states the speed limit is 30 MPH unless otherwise posted.

A resident asked how broken and disabled garbage containers (rollout cans) can be replaced. Gray stated to call and report the problem to the Public Works Department at 476-9613. He is in the process of getting replacement containers from Republic Waste.

Ditch cleanouts and drainage concerns are still being addressed. Gray reported his department will do some ditch work each month year round. A new culvert has been installed on Michael Street and another one is going in soon on Wortham Street. The State has approved a new water main on Antioch Road. Gray anticipates this project will begin in mid-April. Gray stated his crews have been working on drainage issues in Cobb-Parr Memorial Park, as well, and will continue to work there to help get the park ready for increased activity in spring and summer.

One of the city's knuckle boom trucks is out for repairs. Gray stated he believes the damages are a result of picking up loads that are too heavy and/or cumbersome. Size of loads will be addressed in revised City Codes.

Codes Enforcement Officer Lessie Fisher reported on number of animals handled by the City in February. There were 10 animal complaints handled by Codes Enforcement. Fisher asked people to be aware of city codes for animals, particularly as the weather warms and more people and pets are outside. Codes division also removed 25 signs placed illegally. New and edited codes have gone before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for one reading. Three readings are required. These will be read and discussed again at upcoming meetings, which are March 8 and March 22.

Wednesday

There was a meeting at City Hall for Clean up-Fix up Covington. Clean up-Fix up is a day set aside for Covingtonians to get involved in cleaning up and beautifying our communities. This is also part of Keep America Beautiful Month, which is April. Clean up-Fix up Covington is a week-long event beginning on April 23 and ending with a walk across Covington on April 30. This is a great opportunity to volunteer as an individual, a family, a work or church group, a school group, or just a group of friends and citizens who want to take pride in our community and help clean it and fix it up! Keep American Beautiful! If you want more information or wish to volunteer for this community event, please contact Jason Jenkins at City Hall at 901-476-9613.

Mayor Hanson and the 2016 WestStar class attended their sessions in Nashville today. They visited with legislators and discussed various policies and the policy making process in Tennessee. Here, the group gathered in the old Supreme Court Chambers in the Tennessee Capitol Building. Mayor Justin Hanson and Joel Howard represent Tipton County.



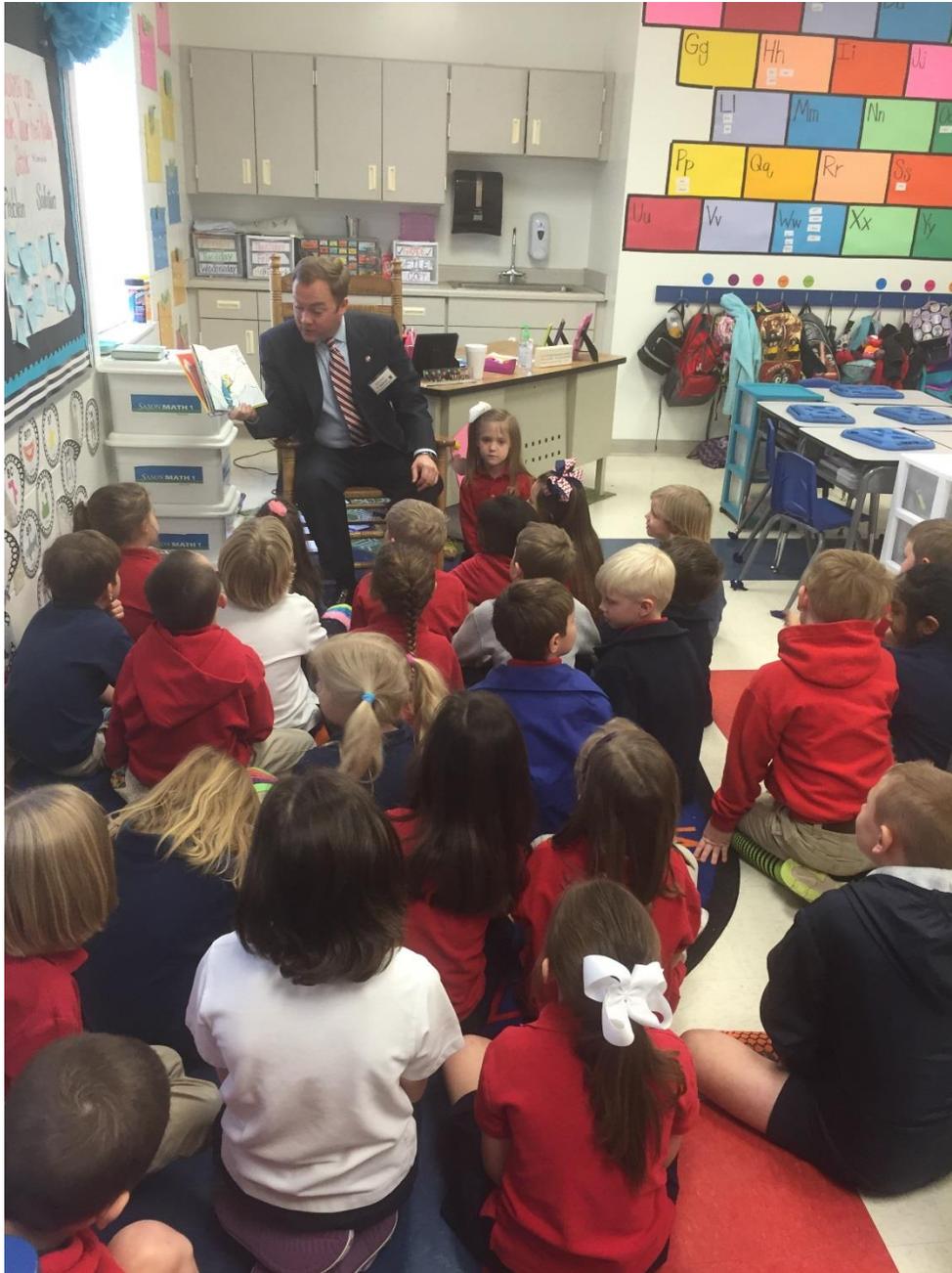
Thursday

Early this morning, Mayor Hanson met with students from the 2106 Total Youth Leadership class. These high school juniors from all Tipton County high schools and Tipton Rosemark Academy, have been selected to participate in this leadership program where they have opportunities to visit and interview people from a wide variety of careers and occupations. They have gone to Nashville and met the governor and other State dignitaries, spent the day at the Tipton County Sheriff's Department, and visited St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. They are also required to do community service, commit random acts of kindness, and participate in local civic events.



Mayor Hanson visited with the 2016 Total Youth Leadership class in his office. They discussed what it's like being a mayor, college majors, careers, taking care of the environment, and civic responsibilities. These students are from all Tipton County high schools and Tipton Rosemark Academy. They will graduate from this program April 6.

Mayor Hanson was honored guest of Tipton Rosemark Academy's first grade this morning. He read to the children in recognition of [Read Across America Week](#).



Friday

The South Tipton Chamber invites leaders in business, industry, and municipal government to come together on the first Friday of each month in a “meet and greet” aptly called [First Friday](#). They serve coffee and refreshments and have an agenda of importance to our communities. This Friday, Senator Mark Norris was the special guest and speaker, and the group met at the Cineplanet Movie Theater in Atoka to listen, learn, network, and mingle.



Mayor Hanson had the opportunity to visit with Tennessee Senator Mark Norris at [First Friday](#) in Atoka. First Fridays are sponsored by the South Tipton Chamber of Commerce.

For all the latest news from the City of Covington, including job postings, please visit our [city's website](#)!

Other News and Upcoming Events:

- March 8 – General Welfare & Public Relations Committee meeting 1:00 at City Hall
- March 8 - Board of Mayor and Alderman Meeting 5:30 in Board Room at City Hall
- March 13 – Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 15 – Coffee with the Mayor at Covington McDonald’s 7:30 – 9:00
- March 17 – Third Thursday – Business after hours - The Chamber Center - 5:00 - County Executive Jeff Huffman
- March 21 – March 25 – Spring Break for Tipton County Schools
- Clean up – Fix up Covington – April 23-30. To volunteer, please call Jason Jenkins at 476-9613 ext 146

- Water Aerobics classes at the Covington Aquatic Center continue to flourish and grow averaging about 12 people per class. Classes are available mornings, evenings, and Saturdays. For more information, please call 901-476-9178 or visit the [Aquatic Center Website](http://www.covingtontn.com/aquatics-center.html) at <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.