

Monday

Department Heads met with Mayor Hanson in their regular monthly meeting Monday morning. Department heads are Tiny Barton, City of Covington Human Resources; Chief Michael Naifeh, Covington Fire Department; Chief Buddy Lewis, Covington Police Department; Tina Dunn, City of Covington Recorder/Treasurer; Karen Griffin (interim) Covington Parks and Recreation; and David Gray, Covington Public Works. Each leader gave a report from their department and presented the Mayor their budget requests for the 2016-17 budget year. Mayor Hanson will begin budget planning with each of them in upcoming weeks.

Press release from Covington Police Department:

In a recent special unit operation conducted by members of the Covington Police Department, there have been 113 arrests made. Covington Chief of Police Buddy Lewis announced Monday these arrests have resulted in 184 various charges ranging from possession of illegal drugs to convicted felons in possession of firearms to traffic offenses. “We have made a major statement is it pertains to drugs and gang activity in our city. Over the past several weeks, we have had out officers working overtime to target our violent crimes involving gang and drug activity. Many of the people we arrested have multiple arrests for drugs, guns, and other violations.” Chief Lewis stated.

During the month of February, the Covington Police Department arrested a total of 144 people. “These types of operations will continue as long as we have people who continue to violate the law. I am very proud of the work our officers have done and are continuing to do. In the past several weeks. We have locked up four of our noted gang members and have charged them with additional felonies. Those arrested include Willie Lee Somerville, Ramell Jackson, Jesse James Somerville, and Lejarvius Taylor. I encourage anyone who has information about illegal drug activity and gang activity in Covington to call 901-475-1261.” Chief Buddy Lewis concluded.

Tuesday

The regular monthly meeting of the General Welfare and Public Relations Committee met and discussed several matters related to the Parks and Recreation Department and the Covington Municipal Airport. Park & Recreation Interim Director Karen Griffin has attended a BBQ Festival meeting in Atoka and is planning one in Covington soon. The BBQ Festival in Cobb-Parr Memorial Park in Covington is scheduled for the first week in June.

The City of Covington has conducted a public survey (online) and public meetings over the course of the last year trying to determine a plan of action for addressing park needs in the city. Mrs. Griffin reported on the final stages in the current [LPRF grant application](#) through the State of Tennessee. She has held three public meetings and worked with the newly formed citizen advisory committee to help hone best ideas for this year’s grant process. She brought before the committee today a plan for adding additional baseball facilities in Cobb-Parr Memorial Park. This will be a baby step in a long term plan for developing this area for multiple uses for all citizens.

Alderman John Edwards asked for additional consideration for Frazier Park. The committee was updated with information about a grant that was submitted earlier this year to TDOT for over \$700,000 that, if approved, will provide ADA accessible sidewalks, crosswalks, and additional lighting in Frazier Park. The proposal is for connectivity from the Price Terrace Community Building to the Boys and Girls Club of the Hatchie River Region right through Frazier Park. This

grant also has provisions for sidewalks to Head Start and to existing asphalt paths in the park. The City hopes to hear from this grant by summer 2016. Covington also submitted a TDOT grant for a multimodal pedestrian pathway to TCAT and DSCC, but that one was not funded.

Committee Chairperson Drew Glass submitted a landscape maintenance plan for all City owned parks and recreation areas. He asked the committee to examine it and come back to the table next month for additional ideas, changes, and discussion. Glass asked CPW Director David Gray to figure approximate costs for regular spraying of the parks and to do research to determine if regular maintenance and spraying might cut down on number of times these areas need mowing. The committee also asked for mulch to be added in the Memory Garden in Frazier Park and also at the Covington Municipal Airport.

Airport Director Robin Anderson asked for approval to move forward on securing grant funds for asphalt and runway repairs. He reported that the electrical vault improvements to the airport are complete and the automatic weather system will be upgraded as soon as approved by Board of Mayor and Alderman.

The regular meeting of **Board of Mayor and Alderman** was held Tuesday night in the City Hall Board Room. You can watch the meeting in its entirety on the city's website or [click here](#).

Highlights from the meeting are:

- Covington Police Officer Kerby Wiseman was honored for his bravery for entering a burning building because he thought there might be people inside
- The Mayor and Board presented a resolution in memory of Tim Sloan to his family honoring his years of service to the City of Covington
- The Board approved a resolution to apply for a LPRF grant to build a baseball facility at Cobb-Parr Memorial Park
- They approved partial blocking of street for Paradise Baptist Church's Children's Carnival on April 9
- They approved an extension of an agreement between the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Covington Municipal Airport for the continuation of the AWOS weather observation system
- The Board approved listing for sale two city-owned buildings on Main Street to lowest bidder Harold Morris. These buildings are adjacent to the Covington Municipal Center, formerly Covington First Baptist Church



Covington Police Officer Kerby Wiseman was recognized for valor at the March 8 Board of Mayor and Alderman meeting at City Hall. Officer Wiseman entered a burning home to rescue whomever might be inside. Thankfully, no one was inside, but he exhibited great bravery and heroism none-the-less. Police Chief Buddy Lewis, Mayor Justin Hanson, and the Board thanked him for his service.



The life and public service of the late Tim Sloan was recognized and honored at the March 8 Board meeting. Mr. Sloan served on the city council & county commission, and was widely recognized for his tireless efforts to make Covington, Tipton County, and West Tennessee a better place to live. Here, Mayor Hanson presents a proclamation to Mr. Sloan's family in his honor and memory.

On Tuesday, March 8, World War II Veteran M.B. Howard was honored for his service and dedication to our country at a reception at the Tipton County Museum in Covington. He was presented with a Certificate of Honor, a proclamation and U.S. flag from Representative Debra Moody's office, and several gifts. M.B. then spoke about his experiences during the war, and explained that 71 years ago *that very day* (March 8) he watched his crew in the plane in front of him get shot down. Family, friends, and neighbors were all there to honor him. The Veteran of the Month program is jointly sponsored by the Tipton County Museum and the Tipton County Veterans Council. If you would like to nominate a Tipton County Veteran for this honor, please call the Tipton County Museum at (901) 476-0242.



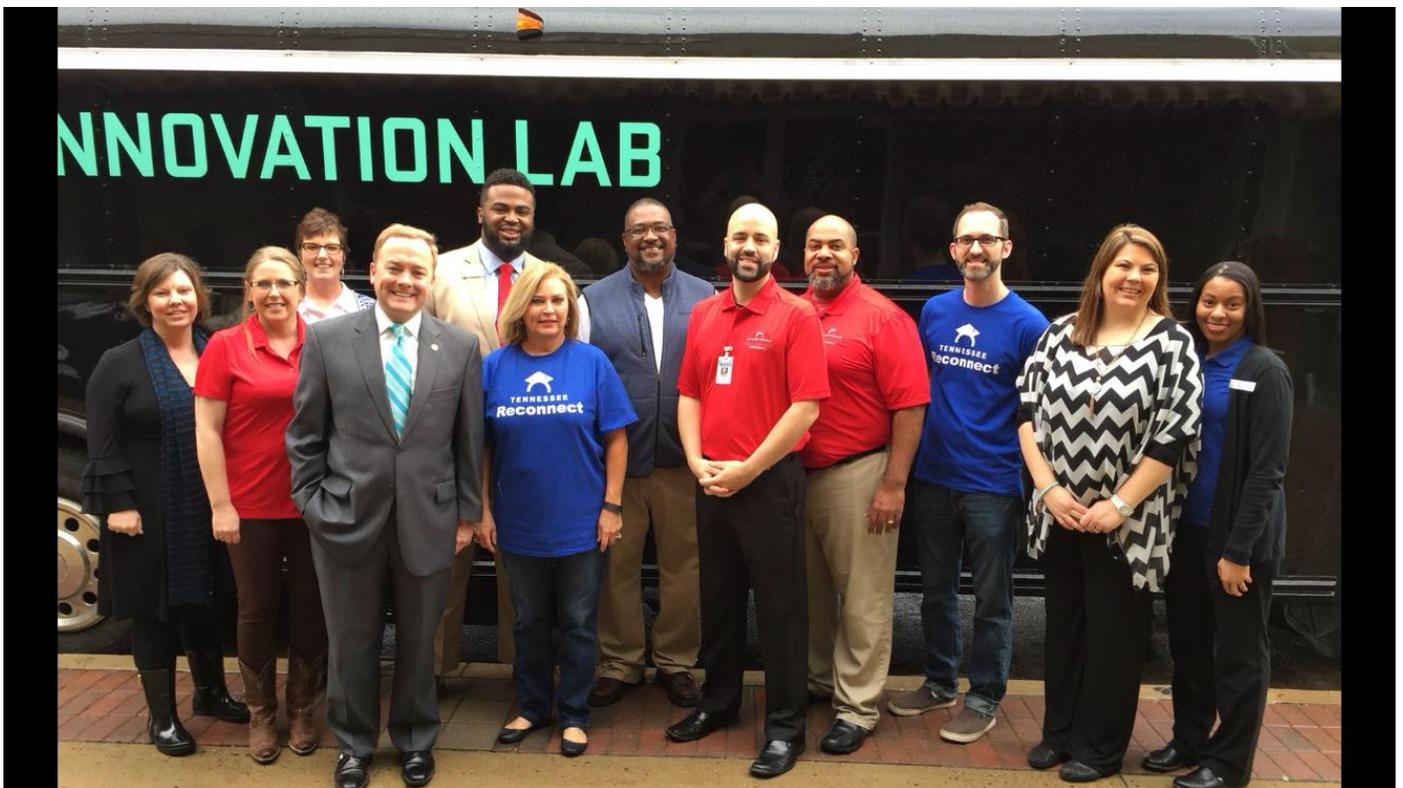
Tipton County Veteran's Council Chairperson Kathy Desjarlais and Museum Director Barrie Foster congratulated M.B. Howard for his service to our country in the March *Veteran of the Month* reception at the Tipton County Museum.

Wednesday

Mayor Hanson visited the [Tennessee Reconnect](#) Mobil Unit that was on the square today as they launch what is being called '[the first mobile college access bus in Tennessee](#)'. This bus is equipped with the latest in technology and wireless connectivity to serve adult students in West Tennessee. It will be at designated areas in each West Tennessee County to help connect adults to college advisors from across the region. This is being funded by a Tennessee Higher Education Grant as an **adult learner outreach program**. Southwest Reconnect provides **FREE** advising, career counselling, support, and personalized path through college. It is a part of Governor Haslam's Drive to 55 initiative which seeks to increase Tennessee's college degree attainment from 37% to 55% by the year 2025. Currently, over 900,000 adults in Tennessee have some college credits. Through this program, they can apply those credits and move forward to a degree. Read more here:

<https://www.tnreconnect.gov/>

<http://driveto55.org/>



Mayor Hanson, along with members of [Tennessee Reconnect](#) and [REDI](#), Tipton County officials and other visitors toured the bus that is equipped to reconnect adults with some college credits so they can complete a degree. This bus is equipped with the latest in technology and wireless connectivity to serve adult students in West Tennessee as part of Governor Haslam's [Drive to 55](#) initiative.



Mayor Hanson's office was filled with representatives from A2H Engineers, Architects, & Planners, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), Covington Public Works, and Lehman Roberts Construction to discuss application for a TDOT grant that, if approved, will improve the roadways of Witherington Drive and John Turner Drive around the industrial areas of Unilever, US Cold Storage, and CSC Sugar. The city is moving forward with this application which is 100% funded by TDOT, if approved.

Thursday

[Covington Police Department](#) will begin accepting applications for a police officer beginning Monday, March 14 through Thursday, March 31. Applications may be picked up at the Covington Police Department, 133 East Pleasant Street, Covington.

Change your smoke alarm batteries while you "spring forward" this weekend



The Covington Fire Department would like to remind everyone that checking the batteries in your smoke alarms is important to ensure that they work properly. We recommend that smoke alarm batteries be checked when you "spring forward" this weekend. If you need help in checking the batteries or need a smoke alarm please call the Covington Fire Department at 476-2578.

Friday



Mayor Hanson served as a REDI volunteer at Covington High School Friday morning in a college registration simulation. The simulation, organized by [REDI mentors Mario Hayslett, Brandon Armstrong, and Kathryn Markley](#), served as a practice activity for seniors as they prepare themselves for the college experience.



A ribbon cutting grand opening ceremony took place at Southern Lawn and Pest, Inc. 157 Holly Grove Road in Covington.



Austin Peay Elementary teacher Leah Isome brought her 5th grade newspaper staff to City Hall to meet the Mayor and tour the facility. Principal Jill McIntyre accompanied the group.

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 15 – Coffee with the Mayor – Covington McDonald’s – 7:30 – 9:00
- March 16 – Finance and Administration Committee meeting – City Hall – 1:00
- 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
- March 22 – Reception at Tipton County Museum to welcome artist in residence Peggy Kunkel – 6:30 pm - **FREE**
- 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 15 people per class. Classes are available mornings, evenings, and Saturdays. For more information, please call 901-476-9178 or visit the [Aquatic Center](http://www.covingtontn.com/aquatics-center.html) Website 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.

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

751 Bert Johnston Avenue

Covington, TN 38019 (901) 476-0242