



Newsletter - April 17, 2020

Mayor Justin Hanson



***You may contact your
Alderman/Alderwoman by
clicking on the email links below.***

District 1 Vice Mayor Johnetta Yarbrough
Alderwoman Minnie Bommer

1122jwyatt@gmail.com
alderwomandist1@gmail.com

District 2 Alderman Jeff Morris
Alderman Keith Phelps

aldermanjeffmorris@gmail.com
kphelps@jamiesonandfisher.com

District 3 Alderman C.H. Sullivan
Alderman Danny Wallace

aldermanchsullivan@gmail.com
aldermanwallace@gmail.com



1st Tuesdays - Public Works Committee
Jeff Morris - Chairman, Minnie Bommer, Danny Wallace

2nd Tuesdays - General Welfare and Public Relations Committee
Minnie Bommer - Chairwoman, Keith Phelps, C.H. Sullivan

3rd Tuesdays - Finance and Administration Committee
C.H. Sullivan - Chairman, All Aldermen/Alderwomen attend

4th Tuesdays - Public Safety Committee
Keith Phelps - Chairman, C.H. Sullivan, Johnetta Yarbrough

All regularly scheduled committee meetings are at 4:00 pm in the Lower Level Conference Room at Covington City Hall at 200 W. Washington St. All Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of each month at 5:30 pm in the Board Room on the 2nd floor at Covington City Hall. ALL are open to the public. Official meeting minutes and agendas can be found by visiting www.covingtontn.com.

Present via Virtual Meeting: Chairwoman Alderwoman Minnie Bommer, Mayor Justin Hanson, Alderwoman Johnetta Yarbrough, Alderman Danny Wallace, Alderman C.H. Sullivan, Alderman Keith Phelps, Alderman Jeff Morris, Robin Anderson, Echo Day, Barrie Foster, Joe Mack, Tina Dunn, Rebecca Ray

Parks & Recreation Report – Director Joe Mack

Community Service Opportunity Postponed

- Spoke to bike ramp company, must postpone our community build
- Company is considered essential personnel and can complete the build themselves. If we do not hire the employee, we can afford to have them complete the build

Children and Family Services Building Roof

- Got 2 estimates for roof
- Director Mack is requesting an additional \$25,000 to replace roof. Artesian funds are not an option.
- Alderman Phelps inquired about Artesian funds, Director Mack explained that this is considered routine maintenance and Kent Archer, Mattie Cushman clarified that Artesian funds cannot be used.

Tourism and Health Tax

- Attorney Witherington is researching hotel tax
- Director Mack received info from TML (Tennessee Municipal League) on tobacco tax. Opinion was that it was against TN Constitution, but Director Mack thinks it doesn't account for impact of tobacco use. He will look into it further.
- Health Tax, submitted approval to add tax to sugary drinks.
- Alderwoman Bommer stated that it needs to go to Finance and Administration Committee
- Tourism, tobacco tax, and sugary drink tax needs to be forwarded to Finance and Administration
- Discussed roof replacement funds further. Director Mack feels like \$25,000 is a good price and needs to be done.
- Alderman Sullivan asked if we could use the COVID relief funds
- Alderwoman Bommer stated that this committee must decide whether it needs to be done and then send it to Finance and Administration Committee to decide how to pay for it
- Motion made to send roof replacement funding to Finance and Administration, roll call taken, approved
- We need to defer action on the Health Taxes, motion to move discussion on taxation until we answer all the questions, then take to Finance and Administration, roll call taken, approved.
- Motion to accept report, roll call taken, accepted.

Tipton County Museum Report – Director Barrie Foster

- Postponed Veteran of the Month and May festival
- Trying to post programs on Facebook, genealogy, nature trail, painting
- Won 5 awards from TN Association of Museums
- Motion to accept report, roll call taken, approved

Airport Report – Director Robin Anderson

Project Updates

Fuel Sales Total for March - 6,183

Fuel Farm

- We are ready to proceed when things return to normal
- Would like permission to go with Rebel Tool, Ripley, MS
- Motion made to use Rebel Tool, roll call taken, approved

Entrance sign quote expected soon

- Working with Tina Brooks with Graphic Systems, on getting a price

Quote for paving drive

- Maintenance grant should cover
- Start in late summer
- Quote is \$11,000-\$16,000

COVID-19 Precautions

- We are business as usual at the airport. We are locking our parking lot door trying to keep as many people out of the terminal as possible.

Motion to accept report, roll call taken, accepted

There being no further business, meeting is adjourned



**I'm challenging you to
complete the
2020 Census
today.**

#shapeyourfuture



No cost drive-through testing for COVID-19 will be available THIS SATURDAY, April 18th from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Brighton High School
8045 Highway 51 S.

Nurses and/or National Guard medics will be on site to collect nasal swabs from those who want to be tested. Test results may be available within 72 hours after the samples arrive at the lab, depending on lab volume. Those who come for testing can remain in their vehicles throughout the process.

For more information on COVID-19 testing visit www.tn.gov.



If you have been tested for COVID-19, follow the steps below to monitor your health and avoid spreading the disease to others:

Communicate with Public Health

- Public health will contact you with your results as soon as possible. It may be a week or longer, depending on demand.

Monitor Your Health

- ALL patients should **isolate while awaiting results** (regardless of symptoms).
- Stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home to the extent possible. Use a separate bathroom, if available. Household members can consider staying in a separate location, if available, to decrease their risk of exposure.
- Where possible, ask others such as friends or family, to get food or necessities for you.
- Get plenty of rest, stay hydrated and, if needed, take medication to reduce your fever.
- If your symptoms get worse and you need to seek healthcare, call ahead and tell the provider that you have been tested for COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

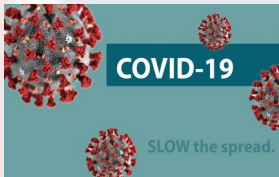
Practice Healthy Habits

- Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for ≥ 20 seconds, or use alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces regularly, including your phone.

Learn More

- Online: www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov

Tipton County Health Department has a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site on Mueller Brass Road in Covington. The National Guard has been deployed to assist with testing and supplies. The testing site will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Although anyone can drive-thru, not everyone will be tested. Each person will be asked a series of questions and a determination will be made on whether the individual is tested or not.



In order to further protect our employees and our community, effective immediately, all City buildings will be closed to the public until **April 30th**. Also keep in mind the following:

- All payments (utility bills, citations, fire fees, etc.) will be accepted through our two drive-through lanes, not in the lobby at City Hall.
- Many payments can be made via our website at www.covingtontn.com or by calling 844-876-2911.
- Business that requires face-to-face visits will be done by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call 901-476-9613.
- Job applications and many other forms can be obtained from our website at www.covingtontn.com

We want you to know that we are still here to serve you! Avoid crowded spaces, wash your hands, and if you are not feeling well, please stay home. We expect the number of confirmed cases to rise, but by putting these things in place, hopefully we can slow the spread.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Baptist Hospital - Tipton
Tipton County Health Department
Tennessee Department of Health

901-476-2621
901-476-0235
<https://www.tn.gov/health.html>

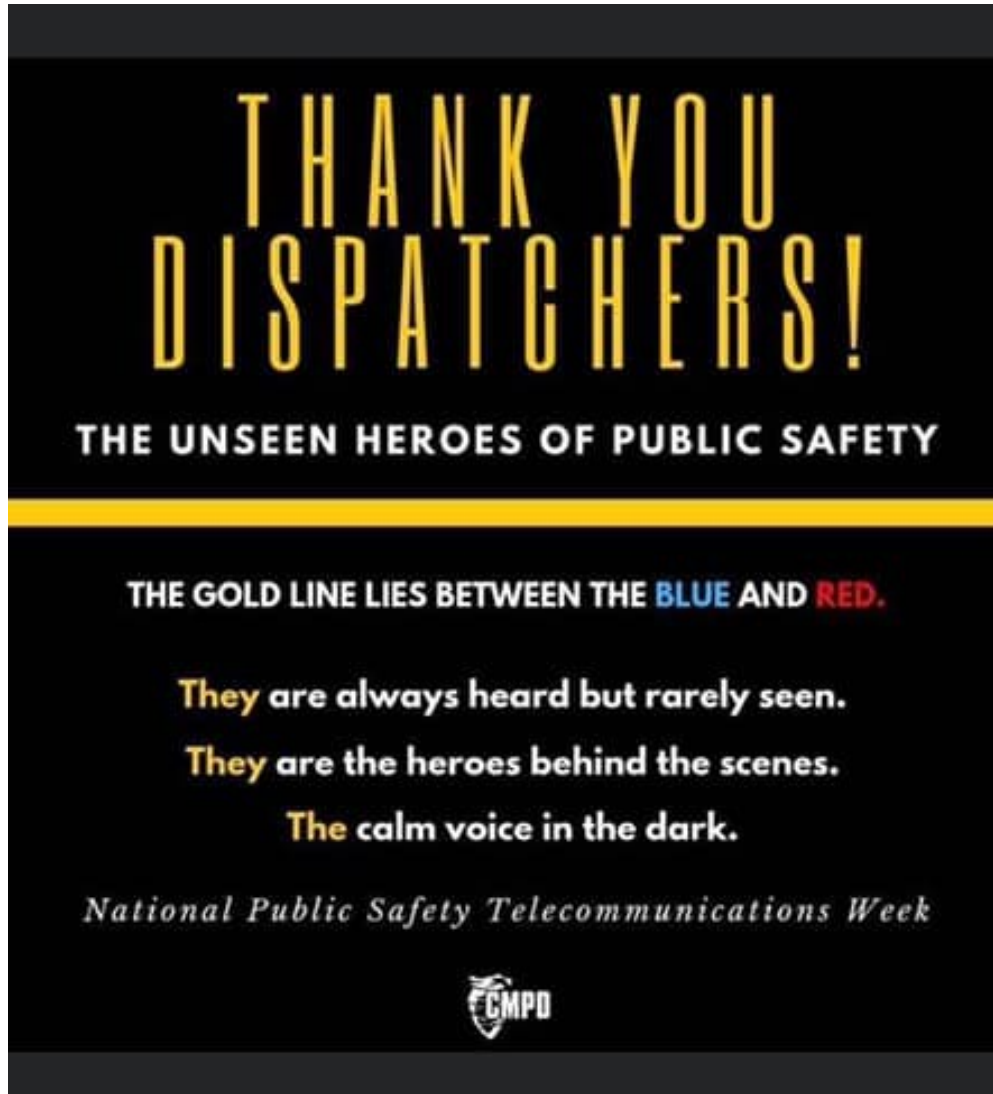


COVINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

101 Tennessee Avenue - Covington, TN 38019 - 901-476-2578



[Visit us on our Facebook page](#)



In an effort to keep our employees safe, please do not drop fire fees off at the Covington Fire Department. Please use the following options:

By Mail: 101 Tennessee Ave., Covington, TN 38019

Online: Covingtontn.com

Or visit the drive-thru at City Hall, 200 W. Washington Ave.



COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



[Visit us on our Facebook page](#)



This week, April 12-18, is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. We dedicate this week to the men and women of 911 Dispatch who are rarely seen but always heard. We thank them for their service as a vital link between the community and fire, medical, and law enforcement agencies!



if you
SEE
something
SAY
something™

**REPORT SUSPICIOUS
ACTIVITY** to Covington Police

Call 901-475-1261 or 901-475-4300

In an emergency dial 9-1-1



Photo Courtesy of The Leader

Ten communities to take part in seventh round of downtown revitalization program

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe today announced the 10 Tennessee communities selected to participate in the seventh round of the Tennessee Downtowns program. The communities selected include Collinwood, **Covington**, Decaturville, Dunlap, Halls, Hartsville, Madisonville, Somerville, South Pittsburg and Whiteville.

“TNECD remains focused on strengthening rural Tennessee, and for many communities, that means ensuring their historic downtowns are vibrant,” Rolfe said. “The Tennessee Downtowns program is an essential part of our rural development strategy, and we look forward to working with these ten new Tennessee Downtowns as they develop sustainable renewal efforts in their commercial districts.” TNECD provides the Tennessee Downtowns program to communities that want to pursue the Main Street America approach to downtown revitalization. Fifty-eight Tennessee communities have participated in the program since 2010. The Tennessee Downtowns program helps local communities revitalize traditional commercial districts, enhance community livability, spur job creation and maintain the historic character of downtown districts. The two-year program coaches selected communities and their steering committees through the steps of launching effective renewal efforts. Tennessee Downtowns includes community training in the Main Street America program and a \$15,000 grant for a downtown improvement project.

“We are proud to welcome ten new communities into the Tennessee Downtowns program and look forward to working with them on their goals for downtown revitalization,” Main Street Program Director Nancy Williams said. The ten newly selected communities all have downtown commercial districts established at least 50 years ago and demonstrated their readiness to organize efforts for downtown revitalization according to Main Street America principles. The highly competitive selection process was based on historic commercial resources, economic and physical need, demonstrated local effort, overall presentation and probability of success. Tennessee Downtown communities that complete the program are eligible for Commercial Façade Improvement Grants as well as Main Street designation. To date, six Tennessee Downtowns have advanced to the Main Street program. Each application was supported by the community’s senator and representatives in the Tennessee General Assembly.

For more information on the TDECD Downtowns Program visit

<https://www.tn.gov/ecd/rural-development/tennessee-main-street/tennessee-downtowns.html>



Dyersburg State Announces \$2000 Registration Blitz Giveaway for Students


Dyersburg, Tennessee – Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC) will award \$100 to 20 students in a random drawing during its April Registration Blitz. To qualify for the award, 1,400 students must register for May, summer or fall classes by April 30.

Students are encouraged to make an appointment to meet with their advisor online before registering. Online appointments can be made through the Navigate app, which can be downloaded at <https://dscn.navigate.eab.com>. An online appointment can also be made by visiting www.dscn.edu, clicking on “Current Students,” then “Make an Appointment.” Current spring semester students who are not working toward a degree do not need to meet with an advisor.

The DSCC website, www.dscn.edu/register, provides information on how to register, along with registration requirements. The website also includes information regarding financial aid and majors available such as Computer Information Technology, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, AEMT, EMT and EMT-Paramedic, Engineering Systems Technology, Health Information Management, Nursing, Paramedic to RN, and more. Also available are transfer programs such as Teaching K-6, Business Administration, Chemistry, Pre-Physical Therapy and Pre-Occupational Therapy. More majors and certificate programs can be found online at www.dscn.edu/programs-of-study.

Current and potential students may seek assistance with advising and registration by calling the Karlgaard One Stop in Dyersburg at 731-286-3350 or emailing mjones@dscn.edu; the Jimmy Naifeh Center at Tipton County One Stop at 901-475-3100 or emailing ross@dscn.edu; or the Gibson County Center One Stop in Trenton at 731-855-1419 or emailing penn@dscn.edu.


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Practical Nursing 2020

September 12-month Day Program
Begins September 1, 2020.
Paperwork Deadline July 7, 2020

October 18-month Evening/Weekend Program
Begins October 26, 2020
Paperwork Deadline August 5, 2020



For additional information, visit our website
<https://tcacovington.edu/programs/practical-nursing-day-program.com>
or email rarnold@tcacovington.edu.

DIGITAL AGRONOMY

Location: Covington
Campus | 1600 Hwy 51 S
Covington, TN 38019

NEW PROGRAM COMING FALL 2020



**Committed to
Training
Excellence for
Over 50 Years**

**Comprehensive
Training Program**

****Call us at
(901) 475-2526
to get your
name put on
the interest list****

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Digital Agronomy program will prepare individuals for the future of Ag technology. Students will gain a foundation in both conventional and regenerative agricultural practices, with a focus on 21st century technology. Instructional methods include classroom lecture, videos, audio and video conferencing, virtual and live work projects on actual farms.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Plant & Soil Science
- GIS Mapping
- Field Scouting
- Landscaping & Turf Management
- Drone Piloting
- Greenhouse & Nursery Management

COMPLETION AWARDS

- Digital Agronomy Helper CERTIFICATE (432 hrs)
- Digital Agronomy Junior Assist. CERTIFICATE (864 hrs)
- FAA Drone Pilot License CERTIFICATE (864 hrs)
- Digital Agronomy Assistant DIPLOMA (1296 hrs)



**TENNESSEE COLLEGE
OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY**
COVINGTON

www.tcatcovington.edu

901-475-2526

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Covington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex and disability. See <https://www.tcatcovington.edu/about/non-discrimination-statement>.

BUSINESSES CAN DONATE NEW, UNUSED PPE

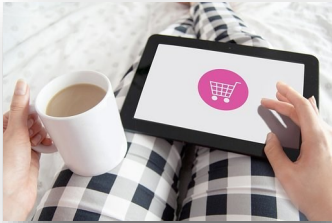
PPE DONATIONS

INFORMATION ON ACCEPTED SUPPLIES AND DONATION LOCATIONS IS ONLINE



www.tn.gov/tema/news

How to Support Small Businesses During COVID -19



Shop Online - Even though our merchants are not open to shoppers inside their stores, many are giving the option to purchase online. Call the store to see what your options are!

Purchase a Gift Card - Mother's Day, birthdays, a "happy" for an elderly family member... why not purchase a gift card as a present to be used when stores re-open? Our merchants need sales right now and a gift card is a way to support them now with a gift that can be used later!



Like and Share - One of the best ways to show your support without spending a dime is to Like and Share small business posts on social media. This greatly increases their posts' reach!

Have it Delivered - Do you see something you like on a small business website or social media page? Ask the merchant about delivery options or curbside pick up. Many stores are offering free delivery during this time!



Healthy Ways to Manage Stress

- Listen to relaxing music, draw or paint.
- Create routines with exercise.
- Watch your favorite comedy show or movie.
- Read the book you've been putting off, download educational podcasts, catch up on recorded shows on your DVR or pull out board games for family fun.
- Reconnect with yourself and loved ones.
- Spend time with people who matter most in your life — and that includes you!



 **BAPTIST**

baptistonline.org/coronavirus

{SUICIDE}

IS 100% PREVENTABLE

Reach out for **HELP.**

Reach out for **HOPE.**

Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network



CRISIS TEXT LINE |

Text "TN" to 741 741



"Saving Lives in Tennessee"

www.tspn.org



CONTACT: Myrtle Russell
731-421-6778
Myrtle.Russell@tn.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2020

Tennessee Department of Health, West Tennessee Region is proud to announce the appointment of Chelsei Granderson as County Director for Fayette, Lauderdale and Tipton counties.

Prior to accepting this position, Chelsei was the Community Health Coordinator at Vanderbilt University Medical Center where her responsibilities included project design and management of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Implementation Strategy process. She worked closely with local health departments, health systems, and other stakeholders to provide support and foster engagement throughout the CHNA process. Chelsei also worked at Meharry Medical College's Saltwagon Community Clinic as director of Quality Assurance and Research. While at Meharry, she developed policy and procedure related electronic health records, patient satisfaction, and primary care clinical success. She has direct clinical experience in electronic medical records as well as experience managing staff and supervising interns. Based on our observations, Chelsei possesses the leadership skills and professional experience necessary to thrive in this position.

Chelsei holds a Masters of Science in Public Health degree from Meharry Medical College. She is a native of Arlington, TN where she graduated from Bolton High School and is excited to return home and be closer to family.

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A graphic with a green background. On the left is a square with an orange and white checkered border containing a cartoon of a yellow bird-like character looking at a white egg with a smile and a musical note. On the right, text is arranged in white boxes with blue and orange text.

Happy Friday to
everyone

**THE TIPTON COUNTY
COMMUNITY CHORUS
MEETS MONDAY
EVENINGS AT 5:00
PM, ONLINE.**