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Ancient Europe had many traditions for the new year. It is said that the first person to enter a home at the start of the new year represented the fortune of the household in the upcoming year. This "first-footer", as they were called, should carry a gift, such as a coin for prosperity, bread for food, salt for flavor or whiskey for good cheer. In Ireland, mistletoe was handed out to ward off bad luck, and often hung around the house to remain until the next new year. Home owners would pound on their windows and doors with bread, to cast out evil spirits and ensure food for the year to come. The Chinese, however, had a different method to chase away evil spirits - noise makers and fireworks. Their new year is celebrated on the second new moon after the solstice, a date chosen to signal farmers that it is time to begin preparing their crops. People will wear red, and the dragon and lion will dance in the street. In Japan there is also much preparation for the new year. The house must be thoroughly cleaned, all disagreements are resolved and forgiven, all debts are paid. The new year is started with a clean slate, and the first day of the year is called "First Writing Day", when people write their hopes and dreams for the new year. Firework displays are held around the world, some of the most famously lavish at Sydney harbor, Rio de Janeiro, Madeira, London, Disney World in Orlando Florida, and New York City, where the descent of the giant crystal ball marks the last moments of the new year.



FREE Covington Weekly

Dec. 26, 2012 - Jan. 1, 2013

IMPORTANT NOTICE :

THE COVINGTON FARMERS MARKET WILL NOT HAVE A WEDNESDAY MARKET
DECEMBER 26 & JANUARY 2 DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS.

Covington Farmer's Market - Saturday December 29, 8 am - 12 pm @ the 600 block of Columbia St. Fresh local produce, raw and prepared foods, plants and vegetables, live music by Brian Bonura beginning at 9:30, and Chefs Keith and Nealy Frentz of LOLA Restaurant will drive their food truck Lola Deux to the market. - **600 block of Columbia St.**
Winos & Tacos Grand Opening - Monday December 31, starting at 6pm @ Winos & Tacos Contemporary rustic Mexican cuisine prepared by chef Joel from 7 - 10 pm. Live jazz band, Cafe Au Lait plays at 9 pm. Champagne toast at midnight. \$15 cover. Limousine service first come first serve Mandeville/Covington area. - **321 N. Columbia St.**
Columbia Street Rock N Blues Cafe End of the Year Countdown - Monday December 31, doors open at 5pm @ Rock N Blues Cafe Come see the biggest laser and light show ever on the Northshore and four DJs starting at 9pm -til. Admission is \$5 per person, and every 25th entry receives a door prize. Must be 21 to enter. - **407 N. Columbia St.**

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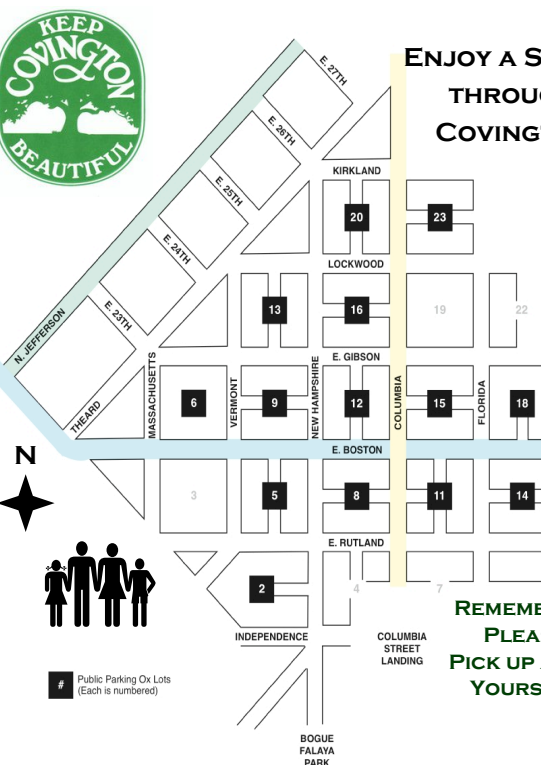
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Happy New Year

Galleries (featured artists)

St. Tammany Art Association 320 N. Columbia St. - Wax On
Covington Trailhead Museum 419 N. New Hampshire - David and Clariza Kern
Henry Hood Gallery 325 E. Lockwood St. - Maggie McConnell, Suzy Moritz
Brunner Gallery 215 N. Columbia St. - Rick Brunner, Byron May
Tripolo Gallery 323 N. Columbia St. - Bill Binnings, Craig McMillin, Juli Juneau, James Michalopoulos, Al Ormsby, Rebecca Rebouche, Scott Ewen, Ken Tate, Gail Ruggiero, Scott Upton, Donna Duffy, Barbara Hansen
Three Rivers Gallery 333 E. Boston St. - Roy Robinson, Roy Pfister, Harriett Blum, Robert Baumgartner, David Barfield, Gail Glassman, Peggy Hesse, Suzanne King, Charles Macgowan, Donald Maginnis, Valerie Stangl Melancon, John Preble, Max Ryan
Roy's "Art"chery 319 N. Columbia St. - Roy Blaum, Jessica Porter Blaum, Billy Porter

Covington Live Music Listings for Dec. 26 - Jan. 1

Wednesday: Front Porch Jam @ the Wednesday Covington Farmers Market (Covington Trailhead) / Harpist Jessica Meltz @ The English Tea Room 12:30-2:30pm / Open Mic Night @ The Green Room
Thursday: Ladies Night with DJ Gene @ The Green Room / Mike Epstein @ Columbia Street Tap Room 8 pm
Friday: Open Mic Night @ St. John's Coffeehouse 7pm / The Mockingbird @ the Green Room 10 pm / The Justin McCain Project @ Columbia Street Tap Room 8:30pm
Saturday: Brian Bonura @ Covington Farmer's Market 9:30am / Marcos Maciera + Crescent City Groove Trio @ the Green Room 10pm / Five Finger Discount @ Columbia Street Tap Room 10pm
Sunday: Open Mic Poetry @ St. John's Coffeehouse 2pm / Karaoke with DJ Bobby Blaze @ the Green Room 9pm
Monday: Cafe Au Lait @ Winos & Tacos 9pm / DJ Racks + DVJ Hollywood + DJ U-Neek + DJ Kchemical @ Columbia Street Rock N Blues 9pm / All Requests with DJ Jacob Durr @ the Green Room
Tuesday: Singer/Songwriter Timothy AG @ The English Tea Room 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Save the Date

THE FIRST COVINGTON BUSINESS RESOURCE WORKSHOP

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Tuesday, January 15, 2013
8:30 am - 12 noon
Bogue Falaya Hall
(In Greater Covington Center)**

**HOSTED BY: THE COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AND THE CITY OF COVINGTON**

New Year, New Vision . . . New Business

Participants to include: Mayor Mike Cooper
Parish President Pat Brister • St. Tammany Economic
Development • SCORE • SBA • SLU Economic and
Business Development • Covington Business Association



MIKE COOPER
Mayor