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Dec. 24 - Jan. 6, 2014

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Covington Street Improvement Project Mayor Cooper Announces Roadwork Completion

Covington Mayor Mike Cooper stated that the 2014 Local Street Improvement Project was finalized on Friday, December 19 with the widening and asphalt overlay of W. 8th Avenue between S. Tyler Street and S. Jefferson Avenue and E. 10th Avenue between S. Jahncke Avenue and S. New Hampshire Street.

"We are glad these improvements will be completed before the Christmas holidays. We thank the citizens for their patience during this construction process," stated Mayor Mike Cooper.

A new task order will be issued in early 2015 for additional street and sidewalk improvements in the City.



Photos Courtesy: City Of Covington www.covla.org

CCST Files To Intervene In Fracking Suit Group To Join Existing Parish Suit If Motion Is Granted

On December 17, 2014, Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit between St. Tammany Parish and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Relative cases ask the Court to review St. Tammany Parish zoning laws and DNR's decisions relative to a Helis Oil & Gas Company proposal to develop the first hydraulic fracturing operation to drill for oil and gas in St. Tammany Parish.

"These lawsuits are very important and address St. Tammany Parish's ability to exercise fundamental rights granted to it under the Louisiana State Constitution and the Parish's Home Rule Charter," said Rick Franzo, President of CCST. Franzo continued, "The Parish government should have a right to control land use and protect St. Tammany residents against the many risks associated with fracking. CCST hopes that the Court grants our request to intervene to actively protect our interests in these precedent-setting matters." Learn more: www.ccstp.org. Full press release: covingtonweekly.com

St. Tammany's Own Michigan J. Frog By Timothy Gates, Covington Weekly Correspondent



Tammany J Frog
Michigan J Frog
at wikipedia.org

"...the general heat will die down, except for the loonies." - Don Shea
This is an excerpt of one of several emails referencing the St. Tammany fracking controversy publicized by the Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany as a result of records requests for official Parish correspondence. The State responded by releasing over 8,000 emails to CCST. Find out more about CCST at www.ccstp.org. Many remember the popular Looney Toons character, Michigan J. Frog. Michigan breaks out in song and dance for only one man, who, driven by money, tries desperately to get the frog before the public, to no avail.

Meet Tammany J. Frog, Michigan's Southern cousin. Tammany differs from his Northeast counterpart with his mustache and yat dialect, offering gifts of money. For a while, Tammany J. Frog sang and danced for the parish officials only. Now the public is beginning to see the song and dance, and something seems slightly out of tune.

St. Tammany Director Economic Development Don Shea, when asked by Parish Councilman Jacob Groby at the February 2014 Parish Council Meeting if there were any pending business proposals with regard to the Economic Development Districts, responded, "No sir, we're quite ahead of the development curve." (Watch the video at www.stpgov.org) While public discussion of the leaked emails exists, one noticeable discrepancy is unaddressed by the media. The tone and dates of the emails (the emails discussed in this article took place in April and May 2014 - see covingtonweekly.com) suggest a relationship that extends well beyond February 2014.

In a separate April 2014 email between Shea and Parish President Pat Brister, Shea writes that a resolution to ban fracking would hamper their efforts to grow the tax base, "give a very harmful signal to Helis of course," and disappoint the "already substantial" oil & gas employment sector in STP. Efficiency and industriousness of our parish officials aside, it is difficult to imagine that the Parish Council or the public is expected to believe that Shea was not aware of a hydraulic fracturing project of the magnitude proposed by Helis Oil & Gas in February, a short time before the emails were written.

cont.>

Merry Christmas From Mayor Mike Cooper

"The holiday season is truly a time for joy and celebration. It is a wonderful time to look back with gratitude, giving thanks for our blessings, and to look forward with hopefulness and enthusiasm. It is an appropriate time for reflection on the events of the past year - rejuvenated by successes and gaining knowledge from our experiences.

We pause with thoughts of others less fortunate, understanding how this festive season may be difficult for many to embrace, and offer our heartfelt prayers. Let us remember it is not in the material gifts we give and receive that measure the true meaning of Christmas, but those in our minds and hearts. Let us commit to dedicating ourselves to our family, our work and our community in the New Year.

I wholeheartedly extend my best wishes to all of you this Christmas and in 2015!" - Mayor Mike Cooper, City of Covington

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2014

Local Law Enforcement Spreads Holiday Cheer CPD, STPSO Extend Helping Hands For The Holidays



On Tuesday December 23, the Covington Police Department went throughout the City of Covington handing out 100 dollar bills, thanks to the generous gift of an anonymous donor. www.covla.com

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office held its first "Shop With a Cop" event in Slidell Saturday December 20. The event was a tremendous success, and plans are already underway to make it an annual tradition. Sheriff's Office employees committed to sponsoring approximately 65 children. The children were all referred to the Sheriff's office by the Youth Service Bureau. "Words cannot express what this meant to these children and our employees," Sheriff Jack Strain said. www.stpsso.com



Quote of the Week

"The future can be better than the present, and I have the power to make it so."

- David Brooks

Tammany's Own Frog, Continued

While the development districts were promoted to the Council as a tool to aid accountability and transparency, the released emails convey a certain degree of contempt for the public and illustrate a need for greater public oversight of Parish activity. After speaking with Mr. Shea on the phone, this writer was referred to Ronnie Simpson, Parish Director of Public Information and Intergovernmental Relations, who was not available for comment.

Timothy Gates may be reached at 985-288-9609 or by email at codexproventus@gmail.com

Washington Parish Sheriff Saves Christmas

Children throughout Washington Parish can sleep soundly tonight. Washington Parish Sheriff Randy Seal has arrested the famed Christmas thief, The Grinch. Grinch, 56, a green male who resides on Mount Crumpit near Whoville, had been hiding in Washington Parish, waiting to steal Christmas trees, ornaments, decorations and presents for parish children.

Sheriff Randy Seal said, "We received a tip from Cindy Lou of Whoville who told us Grinch was heading to our parish. We set up surveillance and were able to spot his dog, Max, who was traveling on the shoulder of Highway 10 between Bogalusa and Franklinton. We secretly placed a microphone on his collar and let him go. Thankfully, he went to Grinch who was hiding in the woods near Highway 62. Grinch tells his dog everything, so we were able to listen in on his plans to ruin Christmas."

Once investigators had the evidence, they were able to apprehend Grinch after a short foot chase. When told that they had listened while he confessed his plans to his dog, Grinch said, "How could it be so? It came without ribbons! It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags!"

GRINCH
ARRESTED



File Photo: wpsa.la.gov

First Quarter



Sunday 28th

Full Moon



Monday 5th

Winter Squash Stuffed Cabbage Rolls

Farmers Market Recipes

Recipes inspired by local, fresh ingredients found at the Covington Farmers Market

Ingredients:

1/2 cup uncooked brown rice
1 head of cabbage
1/2 red pepper, diced
1/2 yellow pepper, diced
2 cloves of garlic, minced
1 small onion, diced
2 pounds winter squash
fresh parsley, chopped
fresh cilantro, chopped
1 1/2 cup tomato sauce
juice from 1/2 fresh squeezed lemon

Cooking Instructions:

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Cook the rice according to package instructions. Sauté the onion, garlic, peppers, mushrooms and herbs in a little oil on medium heat. Add the cooked rice and salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.

For the cabbage, you will want to cut off the leaves from the base at the bottom and use 12 - 15 of the biggest, longest leaves. Place these in a pot of boiling water to soften them. Mix the tomato sauce with the lemon juice. No heat is required for this step.

Once the cabbage leaves are soft enough to work with, strain them and allow them to cool enough to handle. Lay them out flat and scoop a large spoonful of the rice and veggie filling in the middle of each leaf. Fold in the sides and roll them up. Place these rolls in a deep baking dish with a lid, seam down, and smother with the tomato sauce. Cover and bake in the oven for 40 - 45 minutes

Farmer's Market For December 27th



Food Demo: Chompers BBQ Music: Crispin Schroeder

Farmer's Market For January 3rd



Food Demo: Korean BBQ Music: Jerry Hess

Acquistapace's Covington Supermarket, Bayou Barber, Beck-N-Call Cafe, Barbers & Bombshells, Behrens & Associates Real Estate / Elizabeth Pale Piner CPA, Blue Willow Bed & Breakfast, Braswell Drugs, Brooks' Bike Shop, Camellia House Bed & Breakfast, Campbell's Coffee & Tea, Candy & Tobacco Discounts, Center of Performing Arts, China City, Coffee Rani, Columbia Street Mercantile, Columbia Street Natural Foods Market, Columbia Street Rock-N-Blues Cafe, Columbia Street Tap Room, Copper Rooster Antiques, Cottage Inn Antiques, Country Inn & Suites, Covington Massage & Wellness Centre, Covington Trailhead Museum & Visitors Center, Eclectic Designs, The English Tea Room, Eyewear Society, The French Mix, Garden Inn, Gilsbar Inc., Good Dog Naturally, Gracie's, The Green Room, Gulf Coast Bank & Trust, Hampton Inn, Hebert's Cleaners, Heritage Bank, History Antiques & Interiors, Homewood Inn & Suites, Jewel's Cigar & Briar, La Quinta Inn Hwy. 21, Lola's Restaurant, Mac's on Boston, Mail, Ship & Copy, Marsolan's Feed & Seed, Matina Bella, Mellow Mushroom Covington, Mo's Art Supply, Motif, New Orleans Food & Spirits, Nonna Randazzo's Italian Bakery, O'Keefe Feed & Seed, Oil & Vinegar, Our Place Studio, P.J.'s Hwy 190, P.J.'s Hwy 21, P.J.'s Hwy 25, P.J.'s (St. Tammany Parish Hospital), Popcorn Bistro, Roy's Knife & Archery Shop, Sala Thai, Shop Soul Boutique, St. John's Coffeehouse, St. Tammany Art Association, St. Tammany Humane Society, St. Tammany Parish Library (Covington Branch), Sunshine Garden Health Food Store, Toad Hollow, The Whimsy Shop, Winos and Tacos, Vazquez Restaurant, The Yoga School, Zita's

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Happening This Week In Covington

Covington Farmer's Market - Wednesdays 10 am - 2 pm @ the Covington Trailhead Stop by for lunch! Rain or shine, live "front porch jam," fresh local produce and delicious prepared foods. - 419 N. New Hampshire St.

Covington Farmer's Market - Saturdays 8 am - 12 pm @ 600 block Columbia St. Local, fresh produce, meats & prepared foods, plants & more! Food Demo by Chompers BBQ and Crispin Schroeder will be playing music in the gazebo.

Covington Brewery Tours - Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm @ Covington Brewery Free tours of Covington's own brewery. - 226 E. Lockwood St.

Music with the Maestro - Tuesdays 7 pm @ The Lake 94.7 FM Local music program featuring Robert Sturcken of Center of Performing Arts with local musicians.

Artists At The Galleries

Henry Hood Gallery "Contemporary Visions" at Henry Hood features Charles Blank, Andrew Boyd, Cissy Carville, Jean Flint, Jacquie Inda Hood, Lucille Hunter, Linda Katz, Maggie McConnell, Jeff Mickey, Laura Mitchell, Dale Newkirk, Brian Schmidt, Dennis Siporski, Ruth Siporski and Keith Villere. - 325 E. Lockwood St.

Tammany Art Association "Nature's Essence: Two Visions" - Paintings by Marcia Holmes and Jim Seitz - 320 N. Columbia St.

Tripole Gallery Featuring Paula Blackwell, Morgan Cameron, Robert Cook, Tracey Davis, Molly Duet, Donna Landry Duffy, Michael Eddy, Elizabeth M. Haskins, Steve Hasslock, Ken Tate, Craig McMillin and Michael Zavison. - 323 N. Columbia St.

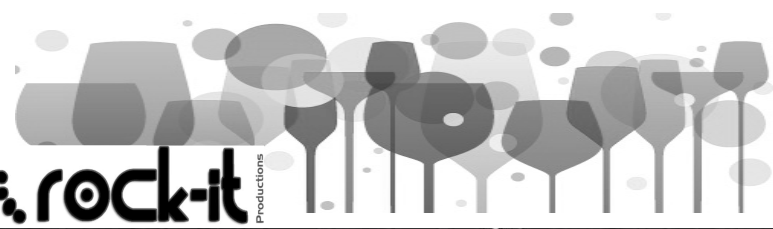
Three Rivers Gallery Group Members Exhibit "Small Works" - 333 E. Boston St.

Live Music At The English Tea Room

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Wednesday Service Industry Night/Karaoke -- **Thursday** Comedy Night with Corey Mack 9 pm - **Friday** - Supercharger **Saturday** - Christmas/New Year's Halftime Party ---- **Wednesday** New Year's Dance Party -- **Thursday** Comedy Night with Corey Mack 9 pm - Available for Catering and Private Parties! VIP area available for shows!



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