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January 7 – 13, 2014

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Covington Kicks Off Carnival Season Local Club Hosts First March on the Northshore for 2015



The St. John Fools of Misrule formed in 2011 to announce the arrival of Carnival season on the Northshore, establishing their first Twelfth Night celebration in 2012. The walking group, composed of local "Fools" and "Jewels", will hold the annual "Feast of Fools & March" on Saturday, January 10th. The members-only Feast begins the festivities that carry on into the public March led by the "Lord of Misrule", starting in front of Columbia Street Tap Room at 7 pm with flambeaux and a brass band, then continuing throughout the streets of downtown Covington while visiting various local establishments of merit. Merrymaking will include cowbells, costumes and masks. All masked merrymakers are encouraged to participate, but non-masked individuals beware! Much hoopla and shenanigans will ensue as Covington ushers in Carnival season for the Northshore!

For more information about the St. John Fools of Misrule go to www.foolsofmisrule.com

CBA Hosts January Meeting at STAA Welcomes New Membership, Invites Local Businesses

The Covington Business Association (CBA) hosts the first meeting of 2015 this Wednesday, January 7th at the St. Tammany Art Association, 320 N. Columbia Street. All Covington business owners are invited to attend a meeting to learn more about the organization. An informal meet and greet begins each meeting starting at 5:30 pm, meetings start at 6 pm. Light food and refreshments are provided. To learn more about the CBA visit the website www.covingtonbusinessassociation.org

2015 A Year Of Action Says LOGA By Timothy Gates, Covington Weekly Correspondent

In an email exchange between St. Tammany Director of Economic Development Don Shea and St. Tammany Chief Deputy Assessor Troy Dugas from May 2014, Shea states, "The general heat will die down, except for the loonies." The email, one of several released by Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany, continues to ring true. With respect to the theme, Covington Weekly introduced Tammany J. Frog, the singing and dancing amphibian sensation who likes to entertain the Parish administration. (See "St. Tammany's Own Michigan J. Frog," - CW.)

While Shea's comment reveals disdain for the growing opposition to hydraulic fracturing in St. Tammany Parish, the action detailed in the communication is inconsistent with the basic principles of a representative democracy. Dugas proceeds to outline a strategy for subverting public discourse that was admittedly used to influence past public meetings (read the email at covingtonweekly.com). Despite efforts to sway public opinion, several lawsuits are filed, local municipal officials have officially stated their concerns, and the citizens responded by packing standing-room-only meetings. Perceptibly, the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA) is now on the warpath.



Yosemite Sam in
"14 Carrot Rabbit"
wikipedia.org

There would be little argument against the statement that St. Tammany is a fairly conservative community with a Republican bent. The local municipal leadership familiar to this writer fits the description of both "conservative" and "business friendly." Valid concerns about a specific technology or practice within a particular industry are not an indication that an individual is unfriendly to business or liberal, in a general sense. CONT. >>

Friday Night Music Club At COPA Luther Kent And His Trio Perform For This Friday

The Friday Night Music Club is back this year, and Center of Performing Arts is bringing you plenty of local flavor to celebrate the return of this concert series. For the Spring 2015 season, a series of five concerts, they are bringing in noted New Orleans musicians once a month for an intimate evening of songs and stories.

Each concert is from 8pm-10pm, and will feature two sets of music and an intermission. Attendance at these events includes Meet and Greet time with the artists before the show and at intermission.

COPA opens the season this Friday January 9th with Luther Kent. Along with his longtime drummer, Allyn Robinson, Ed Wise on upright bass, and Bruce Elsensohn on piano, Luther performs on Saturday nights at the Hotel Monteleone in the historic French Quarter. For one night only, they will be bringing their show to the northshore. This soulful singer has been a part of New Orleans music since the early 70s, when his band Luther Kent & Trick Bag, mixing swinging blues with New Orleans R&B, took the city by storm. While many of you have seen his big band perform, the trio provides a more intimate look at Luther's warm song stylings.

Upcoming Friday Night Music Club shows include Debbie Davis & the Mesmerizers, The Pfister Sisters, Tim Laughlin, and Papa John Gros. Individual tickets for upcoming concerts can be purchased on the Center of Performing Arts website: www.centerofperformingarts.net.



Adoption Is Always An Option At STHS



Quote of the Week

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Last Quarter



Tuesday 13th

2015 A Year Of Action Says LOGA, Cont.

Briggs harbors resentment for judges that "blatantly rule against the industry," suggesting that all positions of influence be occupied by people who will decide only in favor of the industry, in every situation. Besides being undiplomatic, this solution more accurately describes a plutocracy, a political ideology contrary to St. Tammany Parish's Home Rule Charter. The notion also conflicts with local control of the preservation, security and protection of our immediate environment and resources, concepts outlined in our State and Federal Constitutions.

Rather than push for unrestrained industrial development, an action LOGA could take is to ensure accountability in the existing industry. This is lacking, outlined in a report by the Louisiana State Legislative Auditor's Office with regard to Orphaned and Abandoned Wells from (May 2014, link at covweekly.com). In an earlier December 3 LOGA article ("OPEC Threatened By US Shale Plays"), Briggs chides OPEC for attacking the shale industry by refusing to cut production, commenting that participating countries' social programs will suffer, as they are subsidized through oil. Evidenced by data found in the State Legislative Auditor's report, some Louisiana operations inadvertently become social programs, because the public is led to pick up the tab in the mitigation of abandoned and orphaned wells.

Instead of parish correspondence that denigrates the citizenry and conspires to manipulate public meetings, establishing truthful and rational dialogue relative to the future of our community would be a good start to restoring public trust between citizens and parish administration. The consequences of fracking are generating such alarming data by independent sources that support of the practice is now decreasingly a partisan issue. Acknowledgement of a community right to self determination would preclude the perceived mutual exclusivity of economic development and community preservation, which is not partisan either.

One thing is for certain: for good or ill, 2015 is here, and early signs indicate that the new year will indeed be a Year Of Action. As the action unfolds, you can bet that the Loonies will be paying close attention.

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

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Keep Covington Beautiful: Arbor Day 2015

Keep Covington Beautiful will celebrate Louisiana Arbor Day with the annual tree give-away at the Covington Farmers Market on Saturday, January 17, 2014, from 8:00 a.m. until noon, or until the tree seedlings are all given away. A variety of native bare-root seedlings will be available – Buttonbush, Mayhaw, Chickasaw Plum, Bald Cypress, Longleaf Pine and White Oak. Volunteers are needed to help wrap the seedlings and hand them out, contact kcb@covla.com for more information.

The idea for Arbor Day originated in Nebraska in the 1800's. As pioneers moved there, trees were needed as windbreaks, for fuel and building materials, as well as for shade. J. Sterling Morton, journalist & newspaper editor, proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the state Board of Agriculture. The date was set for April 10, 1872.

Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for properly planting the largest number of trees on that day. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day! Morton was proud of the success and noted, "Other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future."

Although national Arbor Day is currently observed on the last Friday in April, many states observe the day in correlation with the best tree-planting weather. In Louisiana, Arbor Day is the third Friday in January.

The Arbor Day Proclamation by Mayor Cooper reminds us of the many reasons to plant trees and to protect our woodlands: Reduce topsoil erosion; Cut heating and cooling costs; Moderate temperature; Clean the air & produce oxygen; Provide habitat for wildlife; Renewable resource for many wood products; Increase property values; Enhance the economic vitality of business areas; Beautify the community.

If you have a favorite tree in your yard or anywhere in the Covington, please share it with Keep Covington Beautiful. Send us a photo with the location of the tree and a short explanation of why you like it. The photos will be used as part of our current Urban & Community Forestry grant to document what trees add to our local environment. Join Keep Covington Beautiful in the celebration of the natural beauty that surrounds us, which we too often take for granted. visit www.keepcovingtonbeautiful.org or contact KCB at 985-867-3652 or kcb@covla.com.

Tammany Together Hosts Evening With Allies Denton, TX Couple Visits In Wake Of Victory Over Frack



I Support
a Frack-Free
St. Tammany



www.GRASSROOTSOLUTIONSLOUISIANA.BLOGSPOT.COM



Join Tammany Together for 'An Evening With Allies', a party full of fun – no frack – at the Pontchartrain Yacht Club in Mandeville this Friday, January 9th starting at 8 pm. The event will honor Adam and Amber Briggie, two of the architects behind the ban on fracking in Denton, Texas, who have now come to St. Tammany to share their success story and help guide the efforts in place here.

Tickets are \$15 a person and include food catered by Kaysey Hasslock, live cajun/zydeco/swamp pop music by Waylon Thibodaux and jazz by the Dave Easley Trio, a silent auction, raffle, and a cash bar. All at the beautiful Pontchartrain Yacht Club on the lakefront! Tammany Together asks that reservations be made in advance at frackingabsurd.com to have an accurate count on attendees. All proceeds over costs will go to the Tammany Together Education Fund Fracking Education Campaign.



Fracking Symposium Saturday In Covington

If you would like to learn more about the efforts being made by Tammany Together and other groups active in the cause, a Symposium will be held Saturday January 10th at the Covington City Council Chambers. This event is hosted by Adam and Amber Briggie, who will be explaining what the people of Denton, TX, did to put a ban on fracking in place. The Symposium will begin at 1 pm, right after the Farmers Market.

Both events are sponsored by Tammany Together, bringing together St. Tammany Parish citizens to unite their efforts, learn from one another, have a lot of fun, and strengthen the community while they're at it.

Visit fracking-101.webs.com for more info

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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 Pat Lester and Jerry Hess will be playing music in the gazebo.
Covington BrewHouse Brewery Tours - Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm @ Covington BrewHouse 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 Sipiorski, 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.

St. Tammany Humane Society's
Fine Wines for Canines 2015
5 Course Gourmet Meal
with Wine Pairings
Friday, January 16th
7pm - 9pm
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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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