

# CITY NOTES

*From the desk of Mayor Mike Cooper*

**Friday, June 24, 2016**

Summer Issue



## In This Message . . .

- Covington Hurricane Preparedness / Resources
- New Contract with Progressive Waste
- City of Covington Makes List of Top Workplaces 2016
- City Infrastructure Updates
- State Honors Covington Cultural District
- The Council's Corner
- City Events in July / August

## CITY UPDATES

### COVINGTON READIES FOR HURRICANE SEASON

"Well in advance of the start of hurricane season on June 1, my staff and I have completed our annual review of our City's Hurricane Incident Plan. Any revisions that were deemed necessary have been made and copies of our 2016 document have been distributed to key personnel. Our incident plan outlines standard operating procedures prior, during, and after a storm. With the hurricane season here, please take the time now to have your personal readiness plan in place. Below you'll find a list of resources that may be of help to you and your family in keeping safe and prepared in the event of an emergency," Mayor Mike Cooper.

### NEW CONTRACT WITH PROGRESSIVE WASTE SOLUTIONS EFFECTIVE JULY 1

As the City's current contract term for solid waste collection, recycling services and green waste collection was scheduled to expire this summer, on April 7, 2016, the City initiated the required public bid law process and began to advertise request for proposals (RFPs), to be opened on Thursday, April 28, at 2:00 p.m., at City Hall. Three complete bid packages were presented to the Review Committee, comprised of members of the City Council and representatives of the City Administration, for evaluation and examination. After an extensive appraisal period of the proposals, and based on the review of the Technical Proposal and subsequent review of the Financial Proposal, the Review Committee recommended that Progressive Waste be selected for the upcoming contract term. In addition to Progressive's proficient Technical Proposal, collection fees quoted by Progressive Waste of \$15.25 per month were considered in our citizen's best interest, when compared to two other bidder's fees at \$20.81 and \$22.74 per month. On May 12, upon the recommendation of the Review Committee, Mayor Mike Cooper selected Progressive Waste to provide the garbage collection, recycling services and green waste collection services for the citizens and businesses of the City. The new contract term will begin Friday, July 1, 2016. Garbage and recycling curbside pickup will remain on Wednesday of each week.

### CITY OF COVINGTON MAKES LIST OF TOP WORKPLACES 2016

The City was nominated and selected as one of the "Top Workplaces" in the New Orleans region for the second year in a row. Nearly 1,900 businesses, professional offices, and service companies competed for the recognition and 40 were chosen. NOLA.com and The Times-Picayune partnered with WorkplaceDynamics, an employee survey firm, to host the event and determine the region's Top Workplaces. "To once again be critiqued by our own employees and selected above hundreds of other nominees, truly exemplifies the dynamic character of our 'team-player' atmosphere which is driven by the outstanding leadership of each of our City departments. The energetic spirit our employees share results in enhanced customer service experiences for our citizens," Mayor Mike Cooper.



City of Covington honored as a "Top Workplace". The only government entity to receive this distinction in 2015 and 2016.



Catherine Cooper, Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser & Mayor Mike Cooper at the Louisiana Culture Connection Award Ceremony in Baton Rouge.

### STATE HONORS COVINGTON WITH 2016 CULTURAL AWARD

The City of Covington was selected to receive the 2016 Cultural District Award. This award recognizes a cultural district that exemplifies the strategic use of creativity, arts and culture to build a climate for cultural expression, improve quality of life, enhance existing assets and strengthen economic opportunity while respecting the quality of the area. "This prestigious State of Louisiana award presented to the City of Covington genuinely personifies our placemaking initiatives, validating our labors and inspiring creativity in our ongoing efforts," Mayor Mike Cooper.

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS / RESOURCES

### CITY OF COVINGTON (Emergency Preparedness)

[http://www.covla.com/residents/emergency\\_preparedness/index.php](http://www.covla.com/residents/emergency_preparedness/index.php)

NIXLE (Nixle is a Community Information Service dedicated to helping you stay connected to your local police department and community.)  
<https://nixle.com/covington-police-department/>

### ST. TAMMANY PARISH GOVERNMENT

<http://www.stpgov.org/>

ALERT ST. TAMMANY (sign up for emergency alerts thru St. Tammany Parish government)  
<https://stpgov.onthealert.com/Terms/Index/?ReturnUrl=%2f>

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA RED CROSS (covering the Northshore)  
<http://www.redcross.org/local/louisiana/local-chapters/Southeast-Louisiana>

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

## CONTACT US:

CITY OF COVINGTON • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR • 317 N. JEFFERSON AVENUE • COVINGTON, LA 70433

985.898.4715 • [pkeller@covla.com](mailto:pkeller@covla.com)

[www.covla.com](http://www.covla.com)



Follow City of Covington  
Cultural Arts & Events



Council Office • City Hall • 317 N. Jefferson Avenue  
Monday - Friday • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Council Clerk Bonnie Champagne  
Phone - 985.898.4722 • Email - council@covla.com

**THE  
COUNCIL'S  
CORNER**



**COUNCILMEN**

Sam O'Keefe • At Large      Lee S. Alexius • At Large  
John Callahan • District A      Mark Wright • District C  
Jerry L. Coner • District B      Larry Rolling • District D  
Rick Smith • District E  
*Mayor Mike Cooper (front center)*

**CITY EVENTS IN JULY / AUGUST**

SPARKS IN THE PARK - Friday, July 1, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Bogue Falaya Park

SUNSET AT THE LANDING - Friday, July 15 & August 19, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm, at the Columbia St. Landing & every third Friday of the month through October

COFFEE WITH MAYOR COOPER - Wednesday, July 27, 9:00 am - 10:00 am, at the Covington Trailhead Museum

COLUMBIA ST. BLOCK PARTY - Friday, July 29 & August 26, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm, in downtown Covington & every last Friday of the month through October

OnSTAGE IN COVINGTON presents "An Evening with Danny Kaye," Saturday, August 27, 8:00 pm, at the Fuhrmann Auditorium

*For a complete calendar of events held in the City of Covington,  
contact the CA&E office at 985.892.1873 or email gottaluvcov@covla.com*

## INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT REPORTS

### W. 15TH AVENUE BRIDGE AT MILE BRANCH

The removal of the existing bridge and related work is approximately 95% complete and the required utility relocation is 75% complete. This project which includes construction of a new concrete bridge is on schedule for completion by the end of October.

### W. 15TH AVENUE/RIVER FOREST STREET & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

The contractor has installed the subsurface drainage pipe from the River Forest entrance to Michelle Drive and is currently forming and pouring new concrete from the entrance to Patricia Drive. Concrete replacement from Patricia to Michelle will proceed in the next two weeks, pending site conditions, as recent rain has slowed construction. The project is still estimated for completion in August.

### W. 15TH AVENUE WASHOUT AT RATTLESNAKE CREEK

The Plans and Specifications are complete and the project has received approval from LA Wildlife and Fisheries Scenic Rivers. Two additional approvals are needed before quotes can be requested from contractors - GOHSEP/FEMA approval and Army Corp of Engineer's approval. Both approvals are expected to be received within the next two to four weeks.

### S. TYLER STREET BRIDGE AND HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Louisiana DOTD project to widen La. 21 from Bootlegger Road to W. 11th Avenue is moving forward. Crews are currently milling and removing old roadway and are scheduled to begin removing the old bridge within the next two weeks. Drainage work on the east side of the roadway should begin in approximately three weeks. Two weeks ago traffic switched to one new southbound lane. Temporarily reconfiguring of the traffic pattern will allow the contractor to do more work in the middle section of the roadway in preparation for another shift with northbound traffic going onto the southbound lanes, in approximately one month. The current completion time frame is projected in Spring 2017.

CONTINUE TO CHECK OUR CITY OF COVINGTON WEBSITE FOR UPDATES ON CITY NEWS AND EVENTS  
[www.covla.com](http://www.covla.com)



**CITY OF COVINGTON**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
317 North Jefferson Avenue  
Post Office Box 778  
Covington, Louisiana 70434