

Greater New Orlear

# Duck Derby paddles into Covington to raise Humane Society money



File photo: Race officials keep a watchful eye on the course at the 2015 Duck Derby at Bogue Falaya Park in downtown Covington. (Photo by Ann Benoit). *(Ann Benoit)*



By **Ann Benoit**

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One of the best and quackiest events in Covington is back. The annual Duck Derby will be held at Bogue Falaya Park in downtown Covington on June 11 from noon to 6 p.m.

Get your ducks in a row and mark it on your calendar now. Waddle on down with the kids, grandma, and your doggie too. Admission is free so the whole family can afford to come and people-friendly pets are welcome on a leash.

The Duck Derby raises money for the St. Tammany Humane Society and its corresponding festival includes live music by Big Al and the Heavyweights, beer and food from local restaurants.

The main event is the ducky race at 2 p.m.

You can "adopt" a rubber ducky for \$5. Adoptions are available for single birds or entire flocks. Participants cheer their adopted duckies on to the finish line. I recommend naming your duck something other than the No. 1 name for rubber ducks, Ducky.

## COVINGTON TOWN TALK

Race winners receive \$1,000 cash for first place, \$1,000 in groceries from Whole Food for second place, and a three-month fitness package donated by duck-cousin Pelican Athletic Club for third place.

I confess, last year I ate my way through the food booths, but the food was so delicious and, well, I told myself I was working it off by walking around.

This year's food sponsors so far include the delicious Sweet Daddy's BBQ, Saint Arnold Brewery, Whole Foods, Sugar Shack Snowballs and Champagne Beverage Company. More food sponsors are sure to come.

Kids can enjoy ducking around the many games, face painting, snowballs, cotton candy, and bounce houses. I had so much fun watching the kids have fun. Even the youngest can play the Pluck a Duck game.

Last year one young lady celebrated her birthday and held her birthday party at the park. There were so many kids having so much fun, it was infectious. Bunches of kids dressed up in animal costumes, which made everything even more special.

Humane Society's pets for adoption to "a forever home" will be at the party too. Last year I especially enjoyed the doggie misting station. This year I hope to bring a dog to enjoy it with me.

Have a friend who works or volunteers at the shelter?

You can help them out too. The shelter has five in-house teams competing for the most ticket sales. They are the Humane Society Front Desk team in the lead, neck in neck with Cluster Ducks. Following halfway down the track is Mother Duckers followed by Drunken Ducks. Trailing behind in last place is Quacky Docs.

STHS works hard at raising funds. I know, I see executive director Scott Bernier at every event where he could possibly raise funds for the shelter. He was at the Give Nola Day Northshore just a few weeks ago.

While it is all great fun, every "adopted" rubber duck helps a dog or cat in need.

You can adopt a duck a few different ways. You can adopt a rubber duck by going to the shelter at 20384 Harrison Avenue in Covington. Another, perhaps easier way to adopt a rubber duck is visit the website [www.stTammanyDuckDerby.com](http://www.stTammanyDuckDerby.com)

If there are any ducks available the day of the race, you might be able to adopt one then, but I warn you, last year the ducks were all sold out before the event.

The St. Tammany Humane Society is Louisiana's largest non-profit (501) (c), no-kill animal welfare organization and shelter. Founded in 1953, STHS helps abused and abandoned animals of our community. The shelter relies solely on the generosity of its supporters.

Additional sponsors include Nationwide Auto Sales, Pelican Athletic Club, the Pontchartrain Law Center, In Memory of Reba, Min Pins Rule, Dusty's Services LLC Heating and Cooling, Liberty Storage, Bevolo Gas & Electric Lights, Jamberry Nails, Damsel in Defense, and Perlis Clothing.

With cash on the line for the winning duck, it's important to get your duck in the game.

Maybe you will have the lucky duck this year.

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*Send all Covington news, events, meetings, interesting stories, and just plain fun to resident Ann Benoit via [CovingtonTownTalk@gmail.com](mailto:CovingtonTownTalk@gmail.com)*

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