

**Message from the Mayor**  
**#50 08-28-09**

There are lots of great things happening in the city over the last few months. Maybe we have hit the bottom and we are bouncing back up. Last week, we received \$600,000 from the Department of Transportation for a Downtown Revitalization Grant to spruce up the downtown area. We have waited a year to hear about it and although it's not the \$895,000 we originally asked for, it will do a lot of good. Add \$600,000 to \$500,000 for sewer rehab, \$256,000 for property demolition, \$5200 for the downtown mural and that totals to \$1,361,200 we have received since July 1. We started writing grants a year and a half ago and finally some are coming to fruition. We still have several still pending and I hope our luck holds out.

Here is something I really want you to start thinking about. Up to now, we have been doing some minimal recycling with a small percentage of our citizens taking part. My thanks to all of you who separate some of your weekly trash to help make Trenton a "greener" community. Starting very soon, we are going to be asking everyone to get involved with a true city-wide recycling initiative that will put us on the forefront of small municipalities in Tennessee. This will be an opportunity for all of us to recycle not only paper, aluminum and cardboard but also plastics, glass and wood.

What is going to be the hardest part of the process? It is going to be convincing everyone and I mean everyone to start recycling. It is inevitable that we all will have to in the future. All I am asking now is for you to start thinking about it. We will be giving you details very soon.

I understand the mural at the future Downtown Pedestrian Park is causing some talk around town. It is true, as many people around the city have speculated that I was the model for the "First Monday" mule that is on the east side of the wall. Although the wall won't be finished for a while yet, some aspects of the work are becoming apparent. It was decided by the Pedestrian Park committee that instead of just putting pictures of buildings on the wall, that a history of Trenton and qualities that make us who we are be depicted there. It will be fun to try to figure out what the different parts of the wall mean. The portrait of Washington crossing the Delaware River and the two homes on the east side of the wall have special meaning to us. Do you what they represent and who lived in those homes? Some of you do. I can't wait for the park to be finished and hopefully it will be by next summer.

You know that all of the work is being financed by private donation so the speed of the work has to do with the donations and pavers we sell. Pavers are \$30 a piece or 4 for \$100. You might be interested in providing a bench or small tree. What part do you want to play in finishing this project? I hope it will be a positive one.

There will be a 50 year reunion happening this weekend at Trenton Rosenwald Middle School to commemorate the Class of 1969 or what I understand is the "lost" class. This, as I understand, was the last class that came from Rosenwald High School. I wish I knew more about it but I am going to have the pleasure of issuing a proclamation that day. I hope they all have a great time.

Let me talk to you about a problem that we have a hard time fixing. It is when two neighbors are having a civil disagreement. It might be over a tree limb or a dog coming over in a yard or possibly something from one yard blows into another. There are a billion things that can happen between neighbors. If no city ordinances are being broken there is nothing we can do about it. It falls between you and your neighbor. This is why people need to confront their neighbor before involving the city. Many times you can resolve the problem without making your neighbor angry. 90% of the times we end up involved in this type of incident, the neighbor knows exactly where the complaint is coming from and they are

upset because no one came to them first. They got the police or us involved and that really ticks them off. If it's something that involves an entire neighborhood against one individual, go together, in sincere concern, as a group.

Now obviously, if criminal activity is involved or you are in fear of harm, call us and we will help you. Many situations though may be resolved by just communicating with your neighbor. The good book tells us to "Love thy neighbor as thyself". That takes some major give and take at times because our neighbor might not want to be loved. It doesn't change what the Bible says though.

Good luck to our PHS and TRMS Football, Soccer, Band, Golf and Cheerleader students this fall. These young people work very hard and represent our community in a positive image. If you want to see youth at its best, go to a game, match or contest and support our local school teams. You will not be sorry you did.

Can you believe that this is the 50<sup>th</sup> article I have written since I took office? Sometimes I make a grammatical error or two but I really enjoy sharing what is going on with you. I apologize for getting "preachy" at times but I am very passionate about this city, county and state. I hope this article serves you well and if there is something that you want to know about that I need to share, e-mail me at [trentonmayor@bellsouth.net](mailto:trentonmayor@bellsouth.net). I don't have all the answers but I'll try.

We are making progress and things are getting better. I know this because of the number of complaints we get that deal with change. My answer for people who complain is simple: get involved. No one wants to hear that something is wrong; they want to hear the solution. We welcome any positive help that anyone wants to give us.

We live in a great city. The crime rate is low and although we have our share of drug dealers, users, and general low life, Trenton is a wonderful place to live. There is a majority of good people, wonderful schools, caring churches, and quality of life right here. If you don't think so, move anywhere else and test it out. I hope you love this place as much as I do. I am reminded at times that Trenton isn't perfect, but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.