

Message from the Mayor  
#63 02-25-2010

Did you know you live in a city full of caring and generous people? Of course you do. A recent example of generosity was shown when I called on Dan King at Trenton Pawn and Sales to donate a guitar for an auction to benefit Juvenile Diabetes. The story doesn't end there. The guitar traveled to Nashville to be signed by all the members of the rock band .38 Special. That guitar is going to make several dollars to help fight juvenile diabetes on the local level. Thanks to Dan King and all of you who answer those calls for help when folks are in need of some special attention.

I want to personally invite you to come to City Hall this Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Trenton's receiving of its first Greengoroo. Our goal at the beginning of our "Trenton Clean and Green" initiative was to have 20% residential participation at the end of the first year. Well, at the end of 6 months we are closer to 35%-40%. The program is much more successful than any of us anticipated. We are inviting you to come to City Hall and take part in our first recycling milestone. We want to recognize some of the people that have assisted in making this program the great asset to the city that it has become. Finally, if you aren't recycling, it's time to start. It's easy, responsible and the right thing to do.

In conjunction with the organization and coordination of the event, I would like to thank Pat Zarecor, Diane Overall, Carolyn Wade, Velma Wilson, and my wife Kathi Burriss. They are responsible for putting the program together and coordinating the celebration. Thanks ladies for the work and your community spirit.

By the time you read this, the deadline to pay property taxes and buy a city sticker for your vehicles will have passed. Of course, penalties and interest will be added to the original balances and they will be more costly to take of. The City allows another month window of opportunity for you to purchase your city sticker with the penalty attached before we start issuing citations. Starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, our police officers will begin writing tickets on vehicles not displaying a valid city sticker. If you are a resident in the city limits of Trenton, you must have purchased a sticker. Remember, it is only fair that if your next door neighbor had to buy a sticker, then you are also to be responsible to have one displayed on your vehicle. These tax dollars, like your property tax dollars, help pay for services that you receive from the city.

As I have said on many occasions, one of the biggest challenges we face in the City of Trenton is animal control, which mostly means dogs. Rarely a day passes in this office that someone does not call to complain of an animal that is some way making a nuisance of itself in someone's neighborhood. I'd like to first say, we welcome your calls and we try extremely hard to come to the rescue when you have a problem. But dealing with animals is a serious and major problem. I have told many of you that we picked up over 1600 stray dogs in the city alone in 2009 and we are on target to meet and surpass that number in 2010.

The city council and I are once again embarking on a effort to strengthen and expand our city ordinances in conjunction with animals that are in violation of our now existing laws. If everyone who owned an animal would be responsible to care for them and monitor their behavior; there would be no need to expand on what we already have. Also, if you suspect your animal would hurt or kill another animal or human, you need to make sure that there is no possible way they could get loose. Just because your pet has not acted aggressive towards you does not mean it will not be aggressive with someone else or someone else's pet. I personally have little tolerance for someone who thinks they can read their animal's mind. They are animals and do not reason the same way humans do. I also have difficulty someone who mistreats or starves an animal, and I see that more often than I would like to. Take responsibility for your pet. Your pet depends on you to keep it safe, nourished and out of trouble.

I, like you, am ready for temperatures to warm up and a beautiful Tennessee Spring to take over. I guarantee you that temperatures will raise over the next couple of months. As they do, we all have thoughts of getting outside and working in our yards and getting ready for the Teapot Festival and summer. Sometimes just digging in the dirt keeps me from going crazy. I love to plant flowers and tend the vegetation in my yard.

Now is a good time to take some time and start getting your yards cleaned up again. Sometimes in winter, we get a little slack because it's too cold to be outside. Maybe it's picking up a little paper that passers-by have tossed out or maybe it's just taking some stuff that you have been piling up out to the street to be hauled off. All of us need to do our part to keep Trenton "Clean and Green". I can remember 3 years ago when we started our weekly "ride thru" and we would have 2 pages of residences that needed grass mowed or trash picked up out of the yard. Now, we find 3 or 4 residences. The vast majority of us have done a terrific job

cleaning up the city. The greatest by-product of that are the compliments I get from visitors who rave about how pretty the city is. I agree and I know you do also. Trenton is a great place to live and as I have said in every article, "we are not perfect". But as always, we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.

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