

Message from the Mayor #64 03-11-2010

I always have Trentonians asking me what they can do to help in the city. Well, here is a great opportunity. You should be getting or already have gotten your Census form in the mail this week. We have been talking about it now for several months and how important it is for you to fill it out and send it back. The future of Trenton depends on your efforts to return this form back to the Census Bureau accurately and promptly. Just a reminder that federal monies for grants, state and local funds for road and street improvements, state and regional representation in Nashville and Washington D.C. are all dependent on census figures. It is one of the most important documents you will fill out this year and in this decade.

The Census people have been very diligent in informing you about the 10 question, 10 minute form you will be receiving. The only purpose of this census survey is to count the number of people who live in Trenton. I want to urge you to fill out the form when you receive it and send it back quickly. We will all benefit from your efforts and I thank you in advance for helping Trenton.

Let's talk about young people for a few minutes. I have always contended that a few bad apples always get the publicity and cast a shadow on the majority of really great young people that live in Trenton and the surrounding area. I traveled with students all over the state and region when I was in education and our children were always some of the best behaved of all the kids we encountered. They were dedicated, smart and creative. Let me give you some examples of "good kids" right here in Trenton.

If you didn't get a box of Girl Scout cookies recently, then you missed two opportunities; first, the cookies are among the best made and second, you didn't get to meet some of our local scouts. Being involved in scouting is one of the most beneficial activities young people can be associated with. I cannot tell you how proud I am of the young women and men who participate. Parents, if you are looking for an opportunity to expose your child to one of the best character building experiences of their lives, check out scouting.

Next, what do Rachael and Sarah Schulze, Rachel Maxwell, JT Vernon, Shane Wofford, Robert Rayburn, Elana Smith, Katrina Sperl and Olivia Gibson all have in common? They are all stars on the new hit YouTube saga, Polarity. They have just recently been awarded the "Best Low Budget" video entry on the popular website. If you haven't viewed any of their productions as of yet, visit trentontnrsrshayman and see just how talented these young film makers are. Great job!

I have just recently listened to a music CD by the group Hockaday consisting of guitarists Brice Watson and Garrett Hinson along with Alex Jones on percussion and mandolin. It contains original songs written by the band and they are great. These guys are fine musicians and it wouldn't surprise me if we heard great things about them in the future.

Congratulations to our Peabody "Top 10" for 2010. I had the pleasure to have many of these scholars in class a few years ago and this is one talented bunch of young people. There are lots of talent, intelligence, creativity, and character in this group and these are just a few examples of the quality of young people that live in Trenton. I have but one request of all of them. Finish school, get some advanced education or learn a trade and then use it to make Trenton a better place to live. We will need you in the future and you can make Trenton "the" place to live in the future.

It won't be long till we kick off our Music on the Square events. We are scheduling 4 different nights for all of us to gather downtown, listen to great music, eat wonderful food, browse craft booths, fellowship with friends, and enjoy a good time. The dates for this year's events are: May 15th, June 19th, September 18th, and October 16th. If the weather won't cooperate, we will go to the gym at the YMCA and party anyway. Mark your calendars now so you won't forget to attend.

I recently attended the Tennessee Municipal League Conference in Nashville and as always, enjoyed hearing presentations from Deputy to the Governor John Morgan, Lieutenant Governor and Senate Leader Ron Ramsey, State Comptroller Justin P. Wilson, and Commissioner of Economic and Community Development Matt Kisber among many others. Although every opinion I heard was that we would not be back to the same revenue levels we were at in 2007 until 2014, the news was that things were looking up. You know, as well as I, that until there is some job creation in our area, we will continue to struggle on a regional level. But to hear that the economy was slowly turning around was good news. It is also good to hear that our Tennessee legislators were working together and keeping our budget spending in control on the state level. I wish our representatives in Washington D.C. on both sides of the aisle would take notice, quit fighting each other and create incentives for

industry and retail to expand. Job creation is too important for them to ignore and the only thing that will get us back on track. Pray for them.

Spring's around the corner and the Teapot Festival is at hand. What a great time to be a Trentonian, although, in my opinion, anytime is a great time to be a Trentonian. Wouldn't it be great if everyone would adopt a positive attitude about the place they call home and do some little thing to make it even better? We have challenges and we always will but all in all, this is still one of the best places on earth to be. Trenton isn't perfect but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.

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