

Message from the Mayor

I'd like to talk about a couple of really important entities in our city that are sometimes overlooked, but are extremely important. First, there is Dyersburg State Community College and the opportunities it affords us in Trenton.

Since it opened in December of 1991, over 4,300 students have attended classes on the Trenton campus. That is 4,300 lives changed because educational opportunities were opened up to them. Now, I will be the first person to tell you that education not only changes your life, but gives you the chance to have a secure, quality existence for you and your family and allows you to go through life loving what you do each and every day. Without an education, you are handicapping yourself to a life that is not all it could be. Did you know that the average high school dropout will make only \$25,039 per year, a high school graduate, \$31,539, an associate's degree \$40,588, a bachelor's degree \$50,944 a master's degree, \$61,273, and a doctorate, \$79,401? Now, are you aware you can get this whole process started right here in the city limits of Trenton? How lucky are we to have such an opportunity.

How important is having DSCC here? Well, one reason is obvious, you can get a post high school education. Other reasons would be a better workforce for those of you who employ other people, a bargaining chip for industry to locate here, an institution for your children to earn dual credit towards their college education, a reason for people to choose Trenton to live and a better quality of life for all of us.

Why am I writing about DSCC? Well, I happen to think that we, as Tretonians need to support this institution. Maybe it would as simple as taking a class at DSCC. It could be a monetary donation to the school or providing money toward a scholarship to a needy student. I'll leave that up to you but I would be remiss if I didn't tell what a loss it would be to Trenton if DSCC were to leave. DSCC changes lives for the better. How can you help? Contact the school at 855-1419 and see how you can make a difference.

The second place I would like to speak of is The Clothes Closet located out in Paul Arnold's strip mall across from the Maverick convenience store. Here is a place you can take those clothing items you can't wear anymore and let people that are in need have an opportunity to use them. They always need clothes and with the economy the way it is, it is certain that many people will also. By the way, I know that the 1st Baptist Church on High Street has a food pantry and there may be others around the city. It wouldn't hurt any of us who are more fortunate to help those in need. Most people's paychecks just don't go as far as they once did and there are many people trying to decide between utilities, gasoline, and food. We can do something about the food. I think I remember where I read in a book once, that we are supposed to help our brothers and sisters out when we can. Have you ever read that anywhere?

I'm writing this on Friday of Teapot Week so I can't predict how it is going to end, but it's great so far. Good food, good fun and good music has been the order of the day each day so far and I can foresee more of that for the weekend. Other than the Jeff Bates concert being rescheduled for July 11th, all has gone off without a hitch. Being in City Hall everyday has allowed me to be part of almost everything that has happened this week. Wow, what a great place we live in. I have witnessed the presence of wonderful community spirit all week and people enjoying the company of each other. Isn't that what community is all about? Sure it is and I have been lucky enough to be part of it. Good job Trenton. We were the place to be last week. The more I think about it, we are the place to be every week.

The city has been especially beautiful this spring. I guess after last years Easter freeze, it makes us appreciate when we have a "normal" spring. As I have been driving through town recently, I have noticed how hard most of you have been working on making Trenton somewhere not only you want to live, but where others would also. Speaking of that, we have had and are going to have some people driving through our city that are looking for a place to locate their industries. Keep your fingers crossed and wave at any out of state cars you see. Seriously, we are working hard to convince those folks that they need to settle right here.

I know times are hard and you are trying to figure out what your paycheck is going to have to pay for this month, but if we keep hanging in there, times will get better. The one thing going in your favor is that you live in a great place, a place where people do care about each other. I see it everyday. We have a way to go, but we can and will get there. Trenton isn't perfect, but we're working on it. Until next time, God Bless Trenton.