

Message from the Mayor #26 September 19, 2008

Did you know that Tennessee was selected by "Site Selection" magazine as the number one state in the country for an industry to locate a business? Why do you think we just got Volkswagen in Chattanooga? I learned all this last week at the Governor's Conference on Economic and Community Development in Nashville. Come to think of it, I learned quite a bit at the conference. Although the big news was Volkswagen, I was pleased to hear that industrial traffic in Tennessee has been up in the past few years.

That sounds correct because we have had more industrial traffic through Trenton lately. Will it land an industry? In most cases, probably not, but with enough bites, something positive will happen. You can't work as hard as our industrial board and others work and it not pay off. There will be new industry in Trenton eventually which means jobs and new opportunity.

Speaking of opportunity, I have heard from the people with the National Civil War Heritage Trail and they are planning to have our Battle of Trenton signs up starting the end of October. That means that we will be on national maps leading tourists to our city. What does that mean to us? That means people buying gas, food, shopping in our businesses, looking at available real estate, and basically evaluating the City of Trenton as a destination. Now let me ask you a question. When these tourists or any other person and even fellow Trentonians look at your home or business, what do they see? Would it make them want to visit, spend money or even live here? If your answer is no, what are you waiting for? I am not talking about complete home renovation; I'm talking about picking up trash, mowing the ditch in front of your house, cleaning and straightening up around your business. Even though the signs are going up around the Court House, the Neil House, the Depot and the Freed house, tourists from all over the place will be coming into town from every direction. This is an opportunity to bring business into Trenton so let's try to make the most of it.

We had planned to do a Saturday Night on the Square in October on the 25th but it looks as if we will have to postpone the event till next spring because of the current renovation work going on at the Court House. We are very excited that the county is doing the work and we all know it is much needed, but it will mean that we will continue the event probably starting next April. I hope that all of you will check it out next time as it was tremendously fun. I am always open to suggestions on how to make it better and I will be looking for different types of entertainment and sponsors for the event. I think it is a positive small step to improve our lives here and I will be excited to see how far we can take it.

I could not write an article this week without a word of celebration of the life of 'Coach' Walter Kilzer. He was best known as a football coach, but I

think he was more than that. I think he was a builder of solid, moral and caring people. I did not go to school at Peabody, I started teaching at Peabody after Coach Kilzer retired and I didn't play high school football anywhere for that matter, but I know he taught people the importance of good character. How do I know this? Look around at those he came in contact with. They are some of the most solid citizens this city has to offer. The older I get, the more I appreciate men and women like him. He was one of a dying breed of educators who realized that book knowledge is only a small part of what makes up a good person. Thank you Coach for all you meant to Trenton.

Trade Days will return on October 4th and 5th at the park. We are hoping that the interest will build month after month. If you are a vendor, booths are \$10.00 per day. No reservations please. If you need something special or just like looking around for different items, go out to the park on the 4th and 5th and make this event something we have in Trenton for a long time to come.

What are some events that are going on in the city over the next few weeks? Our first Merchants Alliance meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 25th at 7:00 at City Hall, the Christian Fellowship BBQ Competition will be held at Shady Acres Park on Saturday and Sunday Oct. 11th and 12th (I will write more on this later), and the Peabody Band of Gold will host their annual Marching Contest on Oct.18th at Freed Field. Who says there is nothing to do? I can't get to everything that goes on in Trenton.

Last but not least this week, I want to congratulate two city employees on their retirement after many years of service in Trenton. Melvin and Mildred Pittman are going to get to appreciate life a little after giving the city Light and Water Department their best for a long time. I just want to wish them the good luck and thank them for a job well done. Enjoy !

As I drive around the city, I witness a lot of people going out of their way to make Trenton a beautiful and pleasant place to live. If all of us did the same, we could not keep people from wanting to come here. I have said it on many occasions, if you don't like living here, then you are missing something important. I could not think of a better place to live. Yes, we need more job opportunities. Some will agree we need more retail opportunities but if you looked closely, you could find almost everything you need right here. These are things we are working on all the time. Remember, Trenton isn't perfect, but we are working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.