

Message from the Mayor #66 --- April 9, 2010

I hope you are geared up and ready because Teapot Festival time is almost here. Opening ceremonies are this Sunday and we have a full week of events planned to occupy all our schedules. Also, company is coming in the form of members of the Freed family and Dr. John Melton, who organized the first Teapot Festival. We are very excited to have them join us for the week.

An event coming back this year that is always a lot of fun is "Pie in the Eye". You will have the opportunity to put a pie in the face some local elected officials including a certain mayor of Trenton. I know some of you would like to put a pie in my eye. Also, we will be hosting a Gala and Auction in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the festival. You can get tickets from a Teapot Committee member or at City Hall. Tickets are \$30 each or you can get a table for 6,8 or 10.

Of course, all of your favorite events such as the Block Party, Music Feast, Teapot Sing, Pet Show, 5K Run/Walk, Truck and Tractor Pull, Fireworks, and the Parade will take place as always. There will be plenty of food, fun, and fireworks as we celebrate 30 years of Trenton Teapots and civic pride.

Something else new this year will take place at Court Square Arts downtown. We will be having tea on the square three times on Friday, April 30th. Noted antique dealer Ken Kowan will be giving a history on teapots around the world and hosting a tea at 10 am, 2 pm, and 4 pm. Call Berlyne Holman at 731-855-0976 for tickets and details. You can pick up festival schedules all over town and at City Hall. I will be seeing you all next week.

Want to win \$100 and get your picture in the newspaper? Starting this week we will be picking names at random and if we visit your house and you are recycling, you win \$100. If you are not recycling and want to get started, come by City Hall and get a bag. All prize money is being donated by Doxicom LLC, who is partnering with us in our recycling effort. The prize money will only be awarded to those who are involved in our recycling program.

It is my hope that you have filled out your 2010 Census form and have mailed it back. If you didn't receive one, we have them at City Hall. Again, I cannot stress the importance of filling out and mailing the document back as so much depends on accurate counts.

If you do not fill out the initial form, you will receive another and then eventually, a visit by a field representative. You can save millions in taxpayer dollars by sending your form back in the mail. It is important to you, Trenton, Gibson County and the State of Tennessee. If you want to see how Trenton and Tennessee are doing, go to www.1020census.gov and click on "view participation" to find what percentage of the population has returned forms. Thank you for registering.

Finally, after a lot of paperwork, environmental studies, selecting of contractors, and the bidding process, we are ready to start tearing down blighted homes as part of our THDA Neighborhood Stabilization Grant. This first group of properties is located on South and North Lexington Street, East 1st Street, West 5th Street, West 4th Street, East 2nd Street, and Huntingdon Street. In the future there will be about another 20-25 blighted homes and buildings demolished, making a big difference in the city.

The Gibson County Visual Arts Association will hold its' annual Art Show and Workshop starting on April 19th. The Art Show will be displayed in the lobby of City Hall that week. The work will be judged and awards given on Saturday, April 24th at the GCVAA reception held from 2-4 in the Teapot Room.

The workshop featuring renowned artist Jean Graftorf will take place at the Gibson County Agricultural Complex from Monday, April 19 to Thursday, April 22nd. The class is always full and artists from all over West Tennessee come for the week to study. On Friday, students from the area schools will get a chance to learn from this world class artist.

After the Opening Ceremonies of the Teapot Festival on Sunday, April 25th, the First Baptist Church will be hosting the musical group "Renaissance" from Bethel College. If you have never heard them in concert, you are missing a treat as they perform several different styles of music. Also that evening, at the First Methodist Church, Paul Saik, singer and keyboardist will be performing also. He is a very talented musician in his own rite and I will be running back and forth between events to try to hear both. I hope you will be able to attend these concerts involving these extremely talented people.

Pick up a VIP magazine in May because the City of Trenton and the Teapot Festival will be featured. Lyda Kay Ferree does a wonderful job of featuring us every year in the publication. She knows what all of us already know: Trenton is the most wonderful city on planet Earth.

It's about time to crank our city mowers up and get busy along the streets and on city property. Many of you call us to mow areas around your property. State law forbids us to work on private property. The people that own the land in question are responsible for taking care of those lots and fields. It's not that we don't want to; it's just that we are not allowed. You can help us by asking the owners to do the work or letting us know so we can contact the owners. If we all work together, we can keep Trenton looking nice. Trenton isn't perfect but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.

**Tony Burriss
Mayor, City of Trenton
309 South College Street
Trenton, Tennessee 38382
731-855-2013 (work)
731-695-6209 (mobile)
trentonmayor@bellsouth.net**