

Message from the Mayor #34 January 15, 2009

Maybe you have noticed that your trash isn't being picked up at the same time as it was a month ago? Possibly it has come to your attention that the street trucks aren't out as early as they have been in the past. Well, there is a reason for that. The Street and Sanitation Department have new hours that started the first of the year. From now on they will be working from 7 till 4 instead of 6 to 3. One reason for the change was due it being still dark at 6:00 and not being able to get much done till the sun came up. Another was to give us more afternoon hours. When you call us after the crews have gone home, we cannot respond to your needs and concerns. When summer comes, we may have the need to go back to 6 to beat the heat, but for right now we will start at 7. While I'm on the subject, I think our guys do a great job and we are striving in 2009 to do an even better job.

Do you enjoy knowing what is going on in the city? I try to keep you up to date with the happenings here at City Hall through this article every other week. Another way to keep informed is to tune into Tidings from Trenton, a radio program that airs on Wednesdays at noon on 1500 a.m. on Grace Broadcasting's WTNE. Sherry Vaughn and I present a half hour show that reviews what is currently going on and events that are going to happen in Trenton. It is fun, informative and we try to do at least one live program each month. This month our live show will be on Wednesday, January 21st at noon. Our special guest will be Sandra Harper, director of schools in the Trenton Special School District. Mrs. Harper will talk about the District's State Report Card and other issues and topics that face the schools. Since it is a live broadcast, you will be able to call in questions and comments during the program. You can call us at 855-0098. I hope you will tune in on the 21st and every week as Sherry and I present Tidings from Trenton. If there is a guest you would like to see on the show (no, I can't get Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie), let us know and we will try to line them up. See you on the radio.

There is a new exhibit of children's art now being displayed in the lobby of City Hall. The works are colorful, fun and inspired. I have always been amazed at the talent that many of our young people possess when it comes to art. You owe it to yourself to stop by and spend a few minutes just admiring their work. The Gibson County Visual Arts Association sponsors the exhibits each month for which I am truly grateful. Some of the works are just for viewing and some are for sale. My wife and I have bought a couple of pieces from local artists to hang in our home. People never fail to ask where we found such wonderful pieces and when we tell

them they were done by local artists, they are truly impressed. Come by and see what talented people we have in Trenton and Gibson County.

Something else that will be very impressive will be happening on the weekend before the Martin Luther King Holiday. On January 17th, New Spring Hill Baptist Church will be hosting a Memorial Community Celebration at the church starting at 6:00 p.m. The Reverend Norman Carver will be presiding and the guest speaker will be State Representative Johnny Shaw of the 80th District of Tennessee. This is an event you do not need to miss. Then on January 19th at 10:00 a.m., the Martin Luther King Day ceremonies will start at the Gibson County Courthouse with some speakers and a proclamation presented by the city and continue with a march from the courthouse to the First Baptist Church on Gibson Road. The celebration will continue there with singing, worship and a host of inspiring activities. If you have never attended, I strongly urge you to come. It is an uplifting service that honors our God and also a time to recognize a true leader of the 20th century.

If you have been to Deaton's Market Place, Foodrite Grocery, To the Last Drop Coffee Shop, Cotton's Cafe, or City Hall you might have seen a suggestion box sitting on the counter. The purpose of the boxes is to pick up on ideas you may have about the mural we hope to paint on the wall at the Coffee Shop. This is one part of the Green Park Project slated for downtown. We are applying for a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission to help us with the project. I want to thank Berlynne Holman for writing that grant for us. Obvious ideas such as teapots, 31 MPH speed limit signs, references to famous Trentonians, and pictures of well known buildings are things that many of us come up with right off the bat, but you might have a suggestion that no one has considered. All suggestions will be put in consideration for inclusion on the wall. Your idea won't be there if you don't submit it. Let's make this a true Trenton mural, representing the past, present and future of our beloved city.

I have noticed lately that almost all the leaves are off the trees. That means that finally things will slow down a little for the leaf truck. We will still run the truck for a few months so you have the chance to get them out of your yard, but eventually, when the grass starts to grow again, we will switch the leaf truck crew back to the cemetery. We work hard to get to your street to pick leaves up, but it takes a while to go around the whole city. Be patient and we will eventually be back around to get your leaves again. Try to get your leaves taken care of by March, as we will be parking the truck till next fall.

Winter winds whip all kinds of things around in the air. One of them is paper. It doesn't take long to step outside and pick up the paper in your

yard. Your place will look better and your neighbors will appreciate your efforts.

If you haven't guessed yet, I am a hopeless optimist. I not saying I'm not a realist because I am aware of the challenges our economy is posing at this time, but things are going to get better eventually. While we brace ourselves for these times, remember some things that will help keep Trenton strong: SHOP AT HOME; buy your gas, groceries, vehicles, and as much as you can here in Trenton. There will be some businesses that will have difficulty making it through this recession. KEEP TRENTON CLEAN; we want to look inviting to others. More population equals more tax dollars. FIND AN ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT IT; there are worthy organizations here in our community who need your help. Volunteer; you'll be glad you did. Things will get better and although Trenton isn't perfect, we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton