

Message from the Mayor #47 07-09-2009

Let's start this month talking about old historic homes in the city. In my opinion, there is nothing more beautiful than a well maintained home and a well maintained old home is especially beautiful. Trenton is blessed with old homes, some actually built before the Civil War Era. They are a vital part of the history of our town. They are one reason people who don't live here think our town is so beautiful.

But with old homes comes a problem. They are old. It takes a tremendous amount of maintenance, money and time to keep them livable, safe and pleasing to look at. Recently, the Harwood home was torn down and many people in the city were upset to see it go. I was upset on one level to see it go but on another level, some of this kind of activity is inevitable. I would like to say upfront that I wish that every historic house in this city could find committed persons to buy and restore it. Nothing would make me happier. I am a true lover of history, especially Trenton history, and it pains me when we lose a little part of why Trenton is Trenton.

But the sad truth is that unless persons are committed and willing to restore our old homes, many are going to fall into even more disrepair than they are now. Another truth is that many of you would rather see them go and be replaced by modern homes. I'm not saying that is a bad thing, it is just where an individual's priorities fall. My hat is off to those persons in our city who have made a commitment to restore some of our older homes. In talking to several of these folks, I have built a great respect and admiration for their dedication to a lifestyle that centers on restoring the project they call home.

What is going to happen to our neglected old homes? Unless interested people step forward, some are going to end up coming down. Many of these are just this side of too late to repair. I wish I had the answer.

Most of you have heard about the crosstie fire we had a couple of weeks ago. It started as a grass fire and spread to piles of splintered crossties discarded by the railroad during track rehabilitation. The majority of smoke was caused by spraying water on the ties in an attempt to put them out. We owe a debt of thanks to TWRA for supplying a bulldozer to create fire breaks which eventually allowed the fire to burn itself out.

Contrary to the belief of a few people in the city, we did not purposely set these on fire. What purpose would that serve? Also, I wish to thank the person who called WBBJ to tell them that we had purposely set creosote-laden crossties on fire. Why would we do that? By the way, they weren't interested. And then finally, I would like to thank the person who called the EPA about the smoke. That will only cost the city (if you'll remember, you finance the city through your taxes) several thousand dollars. We are not in the habit of putting people's lives in danger. We do not set things on fire to cause black clouds of smoke to billow over the city. We are on your side.

We will be voting on a resolution at the July 14th City Council meeting that would keep the ban on guns in our city parks. As you may know, our state legislature recently voted to allow people to carry guns into public places such as parks and bars. I don't know how the vote will go but you elected some pretty smart people to represent you, so I know they will do what is best for Trenton.

A couple of pieces of really good news lately begins with a \$256,899 grant for housing. I am going to Nashville to attend a workshop to explain how we should spend the grant money and who is eligible to receive the houses. I'm sure there will be some sort of public hearing to explain the process and take applications in the future. Watch the paper and my article for further developments. I am really excited about being able to help people with these monies.

Another piece of good news is the opening of R&D Manufacturing in the Plastic Lumber Building on Manufacturers Row. They will start with about 30 to 35 employees and hopefully will expand from there. We are hoping this is just the start of new industry and job opportunity in Trenton. We have had several people look at our buildings lately and anticipate several more. These people have hundreds of buildings to look at all over the country, so we try to do what we can in order to get a second look. Hey, what can you do to make Trenton look good to these people coming into the city? What does your yard or business say to a first time visitor to Trenton? We are all in this together.

I think the Chief of Police told me there were 8 or 9 fireworks complaints over the 4th holidays. This is a very small amount. I'm sure the weather had something to do with it but I am thankful that we did not have a lot of irresponsibility when it came to discharging

your fireworks. Thanks to everyone who handled their displays properly. You made it a safe holiday in Trenton. Thanks

I don't usually write about this sort of thing but I just have to tell you about the new Minister at the First Presbyterian Church. His name is Paul Tucker and he came here from the Paducah, Kentucky area. Paul is a native of Milan. His wife's name is Darla and they have three children; Abby, Bryant and Candace. They are a fun-loving bunch of folks and the Presbyterians are grateful to God for sending them to the Trenton church. I've told them Trenton is the best place on earth but when you meet them or see them, let them know that I'm not lying.

We are not doing Music on the Square this month because of several reasons but mostly because of the heat. We will resume on August 15th (yes, I know it will be hot then too) and we'll have a barbershop quartet, singer Maggie Martinez and headlining will be local boy made good, Steve Reid. I'm excited about the talent line-up. Let's see if we can get the whole city on the square in August.

Let's Shop Trenton, keep our property manicured, keep our pets at home and cared for, get along with our neighbors (it takes both parties), and do something positive for our city and county. I wasn't kidding when I said Trenton is the best place on earth. What are we doing to make it that way? I appreciate it when you call with constructive criticism but it's even better when it is accompanied by a positive solution or idea. It takes a lot of ideas to make a city run because Trenton isn't perfect but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.