

Message from the Mayor #54 10-22-2009

There is a spirit of community alive in the City of Trenton. I know because I have witnessed it over the past few weeks. Is it something new to us? No, it has existed for a long time but there are some who don't believe it resides here. Well, they are wrong.

Many of you have spent time and energy to kick-off our Trenton "Clean and Green" recycling program over the last few weeks. I have witnessed volunteers of all ages from senior citizens to PHS students handing out recycling bags, educational brochures, talking to their neighbors and explaining the importance of reducing the amount of waste we send to landfills. There is no way I could thank everyone by name because so many were and are involved. Please accept many humble thanks for what you have done and mean to this community.

Our community volunteer coordinators Ralph Bobbitt and Bill Wood are doing a tremendous job at making this program work. My thanks go to them and all the volunteers that are assisting in the success of the program. If you would like to become a volunteer, please call City Hall and we'll get you in touch with the correct people.

Remember to put your recyclables out early on Tuesday and Thursday morning. These are the two days we pick up recycling. You can put all your uncontaminated paper, plastics (please rinse out), cardboard, and cans (aluminum and metal, again please rinse) in the green bags and put them on your curb to be picked up by the street trucks. When you put a bag out, you should get a replacement bag put back on your porch. If you need more bags, you can pick them up at City Hall or Foodrite. Paper plates that are covered with food cannot be recycled and please keep all food out of your recyclable materials. We will be asking other businesses in the future to help and I will let you know where they are as we add them. I want to thank you in advance for all your help.

You might be asking yourself about where we are in the progress of the Pedestrian Plaza downtown? As you can see, the mural is all but finished. The Last Drop Coffee Shop will be placing a door and a canopied patio in the area that is not part of the mural. We have put the electrical and water infrastructure in place so that we will be able to hook up the fountain and run electric to the performance stage later on. Right now, we are trying to get the area ready for the winter months ahead.

Next spring we will be building the walks with the pavers that have been purchased, sowing permanent grass, installing the fountain and putting in benches, tables and trash cans. The only drawback we are facing is money. Since we are not using tax dollars to fund the project (we are enlisting some city labor), our progress depends on the amount of pavers, plaques and donations we collect money for. We can only progress as far as our funds allow us.

Imagine a year or two from now when we have revitalized College Street downtown and we have a beautiful new Pedestrian Plaza and mural in that area. I hope it makes you want to be part of it. What would it be like to be contributing part of what downtown is going to become in the next few years? It can and will happen but we need help to make it so. I know you will do what you can. If you want to become part of this vision contact Frank Gibson and ask him how you can become part of the downtown renovation.

The YMCA has a 10 year anniversary coming up very soon as I am sure you have read about in the paper. Once again, I cannot state how important the Y is to the Trenton community. Let's not forget the obvious reasons like how much better physical shape you are in because of its programs, how much fun your children and grandchildren have had participating in soccer, flag football, summer camp, etc... and what prestige it carries when we tell our industrial and retail prospects that we have a Y in Trenton. I can't picture a Trenton without our YMCA. Hank and the gang do a great job and we wish them a very Happy Birthday.

When I mention institutions we can't live without, I have to also bring up Dyersburg State Community College. Do you know how many cities in Tennessee wish they had a community college in their municipal limits? How lucky we are and we should be taking every opportunity to support and promote them. Julie and the gang at DSCC have helped many Trenton and Gibson County residents get their dreams of a better future started. They are invaluable to us.

If you remember from my last article, I promised to scale back on the amount I write so let me finish up by asking you to please shop at home as much as you can. This time of year is crucial to business as the majority of the money they make each year is generated by the holiday season. If our businesses have a disappointing last quarter they might not be here come January. Please do all you can to keep our businesses in business.

There are good things happening in Trenton in a bad economic time. Let's pray for those who are jobless and pray for a business or industry to come here and supply jobs. Let's do all we can to improve our city while the chips are down so we can be that much ahead when prosperity returns. We will work hard for you in the meantime and although Trenton isn't perfect, we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.