

## **Message from the Mayor #58 12-17-2009**

**Merry Christmas everyone and we hope that you have a wonderful and profitable New Year. This has been a year of ups and downs and next year is shaping up to be much the same way. Let's all pray that we see economic growth, as well as, job growth in 2010. We have to remain optimistic and jump on every chance that comes along to insure that life in Trenton, Gibson County and Tennessee will get back to some definition of normal.**

**The first way you can help Trenton is to fill out the Census form you will receive in the mail and send it back. The more people we have enrolled as residents of Trenton, the more we can expect in financial help from the Federal and State government. I can't tell you how important your registration is to us. Please urge your family, friends and all others to register. Your information stays with the Census Bureau. Check out [www.trentontn.net](http://www.trentontn.net) and click on the Census link on our homepage for all the details.**

**The next way you can help is to buy your city sticker for your automobile. It is not fair for you to buy a sticker and your neighbor not. We will be checking closer than ever before to insure everyone is doing their fair share. It is cheaper to purchase one for \$15.00 than to pay \$22.50 and \$75.75 in courts costs for not having one. The deadline is the last day of February.**

**2010 is important for many reasons least of these being that it is an election year. By then end of the year you will have picked among other people a County and City Mayor, a Sheriff, City Alderpersons, a new County Clerk, County Commissioners, and many others. These are important decisions and great thought needs to go into your selections. Who has the best grasp of the issues and who has the welfare of Trenton and Gibson County at heart? The first step is to get registered to vote, find out what your candidates think and believe is best for you and then exercise your right to vote when the time comes.**

**Recycling is going great. We are receiving a mountain of bags each week. Could I ask a favor of you? Please leave the screw caps off of plastic bottles when you put them in your bag. It makes them much easier to bail. Just throw the cap in the bag separately and we will handle it. Also, if you are not recycling, what's the holdup? It's no harder for me to recycle than not to. Please help your city, state and world by doing the right thing.**

**Do you know how important Dyersburg State Community College is to Trenton and Gibson County? Of course you do. It is allowing people to learn new job skills so that they can get back into the workforce. It is giving people self-worth and confidence and the most important and powerful thing a human can possess; an education. What is that worth? I'll tell you, it's priceless.**

**DSCC is like every other institution in this country and looks for funding to provide the opportunities that allow people to change their lives. Is there something you can do to help? Can you spare a few dollars to keep one of the most valuable assets in Trenton and Gibson County local and successful? It doesn't have to be a \$1,000 donation; it could be \$5 or \$10 or \$100. If educating the people of Trenton and Gibson County to become better citizens and helping people help themselves appeals to you, talk to Julie Griggs at DSCC, Billy Woods or myself about how to help.**

**I know that some of you have not gotten your leaves picked up like you would like but we're working at it. It is a big city when you think about all the different streets and the fact that we only have one leaf truck. We have had some days when we couldn't run the truck because of manpower shortages and a couple of days we had mechanical problems. Please be patient and we will get your leaves.**

**I want take an opportunity to talk just a little about our employees. I feel like the men and women who work for the City do a great job. They work hard and are truly concerned with the welfare of the people they serve. That is our #1 goal and they are always concerned about serving the citizens of Trenton. Oh yes, there is always a**

problem when an officer has to write you a speeding ticket or maybe our workers can't come on your private property to fix something for you, but all that is to serve the better good and the law is specific. We work with skeleton crews for the most part so it is difficult for us to do special projects because due to a lack of workers. They work each day to collect your sanitation, keep city property up, protect our streets, homes and businesses, keep the lights on and water running, keep you safe from fire, maintain the business of the city, and run our courts in an efficient and fair manner. I personally am proud of each and everyone who works for you to try and make your life a little easier.

While I am speaking about great employees, congratulations to Sgt. Rachel Raines of the Trenton police for being spotlighted on Music Highway recently. Rachel is a very talented singer-songwriter and we are very proud of her. It wouldn't surprise me if we hear her singing some of her songs on our radios soon.

Here we are at the end of another year and Christmastime is upon us. I wonder what Christmas means to you? I wish I could experience Christmas as I did 50 years ago but there's too much water under the bridge for that. Kathi and I love watching the grandkids and take great joy in being with family during this time. We miss those that have gone before us and realize that our Christmases will never be quite the same without them. This time of year is a joyous one because Kathi and I are positive beyond a doubt that there is reason for celebration. Jesus is born and because he lives, we can be joyful in the Good News. I hope that too is your belief and although I try not to do too much preaching, if Jesus is not the center of your life, it's not too late. Make no mistake; Jesus is the Reason for the Season. I hope you have all you need this Christmas and let's pray for each other and all those who are finding their lives difficult at this time. Don't forget our men and women in harm's way and tell your loved ones how you feel about them. Our lives, like Trenton, aren't perfect but we're working on it. Till next time, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and God Bless Trenton.

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