

**Message from the Mayor
#69 May 2010**

It seems that life here at City Hall and all over Trenton has been dominated lately by the weather. If it can be rained out it has. The parade, tractor pull, Music on the Square, and ballgames all have succumbed to the unbelievable weather of recent weeks. I hope an end to all this is near.

The city is picking up all storm debris from the flood and the wind storm we had last Monday week. Put it out by the road and eventually we will get it. As you can guess, we are way behind and working to get caught up. Bear with us and we'll get back on a regular schedule as soon as we can.

Rumors have circulated lately that we are going to make up the parade. That rumor is false. A parade is almost impossible to make up and we will not be attempting a make-up date. We will however try to make-up the tractor pull. No date has been set but I understand a July date is the most favorable. Also, we are looking at trying to make up the May Music on the Square event. The MOS committee is meeting to find a suitable date. The regular scheduled June 19th date will take place featuring the Mt. Orange Men's Choir, the Cates/Jackson Jazz Duet, and the incomparable Steve Reid. What a show! Now everyone, let's hope it doesn't rain.

In conjunction with the flood, FEMA was in Trenton and Gibson County last week. People who had questions were urged to go by the Fairgrounds and get them answered. The FEMA inspectors were visiting damaged homes and businesses to determine how the water affected the local properties. They were extremely helpful to me by answering all the questions I had.

If you would like to donate money to help the flood victims get back on their feet, you can call the Christian Women's Job Corp at 855-3305 or take donations by the Family Closet in the Davy Crockett Mall across from Maverick. They also need sheets, towels, and furniture. Remember, some lost all they had in the flood and are in need.

The Gibson County Leadership Class is holding a clothing and food drive until June 7th to help flood victims. They have flyers around town listing designated drop off points. There are several places, one of which is the fire department here at City Hall. Here is yet another way to help. If you have questions call the Chamber of Commerce at 855-0973.

There have been some changes recently in the leadership of the Boys and Girls Baseball and Softball League. Part of the rumors surrounding these changes has to do with the City of Trenton trying to take over and control the leagues. While the city is always concerned with children's safety and welfare, the city has no intention or inclination to control the leagues. The large majority of parents involved are well suited to run the business of the ball leagues and do not need our interference. We will only step in when asked to do so. Since we provide the facilities, utilities, and maintenance, we have a vested interest in how the business of the leagues is conducted. More of our children need to be involved in ball and we continue to try to clear the way for organizations to provide opportunities for our young people.

Speaking of opportunities for our youth, I am aware that when I ran for this office, one of the issues I said I would work on was providing things for our children to do. While the Trenton Special School District, the North Gibson County YMCA, our baseball and softball leagues, and our local churches among others, offer a myriad of opportunities for our young people, there still is a concern that there is not anything to do in Trenton. I know a number of young people in this city that have a hard time finding the time to participate in everything they are involved in. With that said it sure would be great to have a movie theater or skating rink here. Personally, I think under the proper management either of these ventures could prosper here. The problem is that the city can't use tax payer money to build these. They have to be built by private investors. I can't tell you how many people have asked me why the city doesn't build a movie theater.

With the economy starting to climb out of the cellar, why doesn't someone make an investment in the future? I can see all of north Gibson County (Trenton, Dyer, Rutherford, Bradford, Yorkville, and Kenton) going

to the movies or going skating right here in town. They come to our restaurants, dollar stores, and convenience stores now as it is. As cheap as property and labor is now, it is a great time to get ahead of the game. Medina built a skating rink that is doing well and we are drawing from a much larger area than that. It is food for thought.

It has been easy for us to foster a negative attitude with the flood, the economy, the recent storms and whatever else is going on but this will all pass. We have got a lot accomplished in the last few years and we have more to go. Yes, we need jobs. There will be jobs again at some point. In the meantime, is there anything you can do to grow Jobs in Trenton? Is there an investment you can make?

We have weathered this economic storm pretty well by cutting the budget and not spending foolishly on things we do not need. We have cut personnel by not rehiring some positions and kept from raising your taxes. We need a break and let's work and pray it comes soon but until then we know Trenton isn't perfect but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.