

Message from the Mayor  
#76 08-27-2010

I wonder if you have been by Shady Acres Park lately. If you've been out there since the storm we had on August 14<sup>th</sup>, you have seen the damage the park sustained. Along with several trees and huge limbs, it blew over a light pole, tore some foul ball netting, crushed some fencing, and damaged our information center at the entrance to the park. It looked as if a bomb had gone off.

Several properties on the south end of the city had trees and roofs that fell victim to the storm. Luckily, no one was injured even though it hit the fairgrounds where the Fair was being held. Clean-up is still taking place and the city will pick up all storm damage debris that residents bring to the street. The law will not allow us to cut trees in your yard so you will have to bring the debris to the side of the road. Hopefully we will be able clean up all the damage in the next week or so.

I wanted to just take a minute to acknowledge the work that Terry Brown and his helpers do at the park. They keep the park looking great and have been working hard for the last couple of weeks to clean up after the storm. It has been a long process but slowly and surely things are getting back to normal. Terry takes great pride in the park and deserves our gratitude for the job he does.

Recently, the Mayors of Selmer, Tennessee and Corinth, Mississippi visited the ROC in Trenton to view what we are doing with our "Trenton Clean and Green" recycling program. These cities are just two of many cities that have decided to try a recycling effort. Along with Selmer and Corinth, Lexington, Dyersburg, and Jackson have all looked at our model and are adopting methods to reduce their solid waste to the landfill. If you will remember, our goal is to reduce ours by 30% by the end of a year. We are at 27% right now. I cannot thank you enough for the support that the city has shown. Thank you for recycling and if you are not at this time, please start.

We had a great time at Music on the Square in August. I won't say it wasn't hot because it was, but so was the music. The Heartland Jazz Review, Chad Karnes and Hockaday were great and next month will be equally as good with blues artist Jason Turner and the Bluesberry Jam Band. There might be a few other surprises thrown in also. If you have never attended an MOS event, give one a try. There is lots of food, crafts, music, and fun and September shouldn't be as warm as this past month. See you on the square.

I haven't spoken much about Shop Trenton lately. As a retired teacher, I remember that repetition is an effective tool. I can't stress enough that during economic times like these it is vitally important that we try to spend money at home. I know some of you are saying I can't get it here or the stores close too early. Stores close when they do for many reasons. One reason is they close when their business drops off. A prime example a few years ago was when our grocery stores tried staying open 24 hours a day. Because they did not get enough business between certain hours of the night it became feasibly unproductive to stay open. It was costing more to keep the lights on than they were bringing in with sales. What if a business had customers still coming through their doors at closing time? Well, I think you know the answer to that question. They would stay open longer as is the case with our dollar stores, grocery stores, and restaurants.

My point here is every time we leave Trenton to spend money, we rob ourselves of sales tax money we could use to make our city better. The City Council and I know you don't want your city property taxes to rise. We have spent the past three years keeping that from happening. We have cut the budget and lived within its parameters each year to keep from having to do that. But our Sanitation workers complain that their garbage trucks are worn out. The truth is, they are, but where do we find \$250,000 to replace the trucks? The more money you spend at home the more opportunity we have to replace old, worn out street equipment, buy new playground equipment at the park, fix sidewalks, pave streets and so on and so on. All we are asking is if you can buy it in Trenton please do. I know that sometimes it is a sacrifice on your part and to that I say thank you for Shopping Trenton.

We need jobs. Let me say it again, we need jobs. Milan, Humboldt, Jackson, Nashville, Memphis, Dallas, Las Vegas, New York, Tokyo, Paris and London need jobs. I have been to dozens of seminars and workshops and I have heard from experts in the field of industrial and workforce development who all say the same thing. We need jobs. There is no magic solution or formula to bring industry to an area. Industries look for money to start up or expand. We are in an economic period where money is tight and banks are not lending money like they were before. We are in a Great Recession and it is possible that 10 years from now this era might be classified as a small Depression. I know many of you are discouraged and frustrated. Your city leaders are working to leave

no stone unturned. We are offering incentives and discounted buildings to industrial prospects that come to look. It's all about bringing in jobs. We will keep working until we succeed because Trenton isn't perfect, but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.

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