

Message from the Mayor  
#55 11-05-2009

I owe an apology to Hugh Deaton and the folks at Deaton's Marketplace. It seems when I was listing places you could pick up recycling bags in my last article, I left their store out. It wasn't on purpose and I sincerely appreciate what Hugh and the crew do for the City of Trenton.

Speaking of recycling, everything appears to be going very well. We are receiving mountains of recyclables every Tuesday and Thursday. Keep up the good work and remember; put your green bags out either Monday or Wednesday night or early on Tuesday and Thursday morning. We are trying to pick up early so that we have time to process those days. One more tip: crush or wad up your paper and thin cardboard before you put it in the bag and you will be able to get a lot more materials in your bag. It is not important that you have a bag every recycling day, so feel free to fill the bag completely up before putting it on the street.

We will start leaving the number of bags we pick up at your home or business. If we leave more than you set out, the bags get short or we run out.

By the way, something I am really proud of happened on Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> at Peabody High School. The school sponsored a "Green Day" and the class who had the most members wearing green will get some special privileges in the future. My understanding is that of 430 students in the school over 365 students wore green. I cannot tell you how grateful and proud I am of our young people. My point: our youth realize the importance of recycling and protecting our environment so why shouldn't we adults. If you have not jumped on board as of yet, what are you waiting for? It's easy and responsible. Thanks for all you are doing.

Did you participate in the recent Holiday Open House that took place on November the 1<sup>st</sup>? If you didn't you were in the minority. The crowds were huge all over town in the different participating stores and it was literally shoulder to shoulder in many places I visited. I am now thinking that if we can shop in Trenton this once, why we can't do it on a regular basis. I'm sure that many of those visiting our stores did not realize all the things you could get right here in town. If we do not support our own this Christmas season, some of our businesses won't be here in January. Nobody expects you to get everything here, just do as much as you can.

The City Council approved the writing of a Phase II Downtown Revitalization Grant at their last meeting. We have already received \$600,000 for Phase I which will start late next summer between City Hall and Court Square. Phase II will allow us to improve the east, west and south sides of the square. Hopefully, we will hear about our acceptance for these monies next summer and be able to proceed in 2011. Fixing downtown will be an on-going project for the next few years but we are determined to make Trenton a place we can all be proud of.

There has been a rumor circulating recently that the city was intending to lay-off about 7 employees. There is absolutely no truth to that rumor. When we adopted our budget for the year we allowed for the number of employees we now have, so unless something really drastic happens, we will be keeping all the employees we currently have.

Check out the Pedestrian Park downtown if you haven't recently done so. The mural is completed and the grounds look great. Several Trenton area citizens donated the funds to have the park sodded for the winter. Also, concrete has been poured in the area we will put the ornamental fountain and the drinking fountain. Next Spring the sidewalks will be laid out and benches and tables will be added. Eventually there will be a patio added on to the side of the Last Drop Coffee Shop and a stage built to host the Music on the Square events, as well as, other community functions. Donations are key and if you would like the stage named after you or someone in your family that could be arranged. Thanks for everyone's help thus far.

We have tried recently to make the elementary school zone safer for our young people. We appreciate parents getting out of the roadway before dropping their children off. We wish you would encourage your children to cross the street only at the crosswalk in front of the school. Our greatest concern is for the safety of your children. Mrs. Barker wants your child to arrive at school safe and I appreciate the job she does.

We have so many projects on our list (yes, there is a list) to do and the rains of this summer and fall have severely hampered our efforts to get them accomplished. To those of you I have talked to; we have every intention of completing our work but it will take us some time. Please be patient.

In the months to come you will start seeing lots of activity going on here in the city. At the first of the year, old condemned properties will start coming down in substantial numbers, School Resource Officers will be assisting in our Middle and High School and a major sewer rehab effort will begin in the east side of the city. By

next spring our Downtown Pedestrian Park will be somewhere you could spend your lunch hour or just come and relax and late next summer or early next fall work will begin between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Court Square to begin Phase I of a three phase project to revitalize our downtown area. While all these projects are exciting and good for Trenton, the City Council and I never lose sight of the fact that jobs are scarce and we need opportunity here at home. I know you get tired of hearing it but we work at it every day and we will never get tired of searching for ways to make the quality of life better for Trenton. No one knows any better than us that Trenton isn't perfect, but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.

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