

Message from the Mayor
#56 11-19-2009

How would you like to be involved in something very positive this week? Tuesday night the Community Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Trenton Ministerial Association will be held at the First Baptist Church on High Street at 7:00 p.m. Reverend Paul Tucker of the First Presbyterian Church will be preaching and the Association is asking everyone to bring canned goods to help supply our local food pantry to help the needy.

Just think of it: you get to hear God's Word, help those in need, and spend time in community fellowship with your neighbors. If it gets better than that, let me know what it is. I know that many of you will not read this till Wednesday but I hope that all of you who do read this Tuesday will attend.

Many of you have raked your leaves and put them out by the street and are ready for the leaf machine to come by and pick them up. Please be patient and they will be there soon. It takes a while to pick up all the leaves in town and the leaf crew is working as fast as they can to get to you. These men do a great job and try to get to as many neighborhoods as they can each day. By the way, thank you for raking your leaves and making the city even more beautiful than it is.

Our recycling program is off to a great start. Thanks to all of you who are participating. I hope you have not only found it easy to do but the responsible thing to do. We are still working out some kinks but the amount of materials we are receiving each week is encouraging. Here are a couple of tips: rinse out your bottles and cans and just rinse off paper plates with food on them and they are good to go. Also, if you have e-waste such as old computers, radios, televisions, telephones, or any kind of electronic equipment, bring it to the ROC (recycling operations center) on Manufacturer's Row and will recycle it.

It is not too late to start and you can get started by just putting all of your paper, plastic, cans, and cardboard in your recycling bag and putting it on the curb to be picked up on Tuesdays and Thursdays. When you put a bag out, the street truck drivers will leave you a bag. If you have lost your bag, come by City Hall and pick one up. Recycling is something all of us will be mandated to do in the near future so you might as well start now. If we can get 70% to 80% of the city to recycle, our monthly garbage bill will decrease allowing the city to pass those savings on to you in the form of lower garbage collection fees.

Some of you were surprised to see FBI with our local police officers around town last week. The FBI was here to do some training for themselves and our officers in different locations in the city. We were able to offer them some opportunities here and in turn received a lot of great free training. This might be something we do as regularly as we can. To those out there that are selling drugs and making your living off the misery of others -- maybe training isn't the only thing we will ask the FBI to help us with. My advice to you is pack your worthless carcasses (now I'm being nice) up and get out of our city.

I received a wonderful clipping from Ateece Parramore a couple of weeks ago that she found in a Better Homes and Gardens magazine. The clipping talked about a program called Project 3/50. It deals with one of my favorite subjects; SHOPPING AT HOME. In the advertisement, it asks the consumer to think of three businesses in their city they would miss if they were closed and then go to those businesses and purchase something. It also suggested that each person commit \$50.00 of their consumer dollars to locally owned businesses per month. Why couldn't we do the first part but raise that to \$100.00 of our consumer monies each month? All of us are going to spend at least \$100.00 per month on groceries, gas, household supplies, etc..., so why not spend it in Trenton. A lot of us already spend many more dollars than that locally but if we all made the commitment, it would help. If businesses close, more than likely it means that their consumer traffic was low. Times are tight I know but there are things we buy no matter how little we have to spend. Please spend as much as you can at home and thanks Ateece for your concern.

The City Stew will be held on Wednesday, December 16th from 11 – 1 in the bay of the Fire Department at City Hall. Everyone is invited to come eat with us that day. The cost is free and a good time is had by all. If you have never been before, make your plans now and if you have been before, we are looking forward to seeing you again.

Something I will be talking about a lot in the coming months is the 2010 Census. For right now, I will only say that it is imperative for us to count everyone in Trenton. Many times federal and state funding is based on population with larger portions going to those with the bigger numbers. Start talking to your friends and neighbors about the importance of filling out your census forms that will be coming early next year. There is nothing to be afraid of and Trenton needs to get credit for everyone who resides and stays in Trenton.

This week we are celebrating Thanksgiving. Maybe some of you are wondering what to be thankful for because of lost jobs, financial problems, family situations, lost loved ones or a myriad of challenges you are facing. I don't pretend to know what you are going through but I hope that during this time you will be able to find something to be thankful for. The older I get the easier it is to come up with reasons to be thankful. It might be that I have fulfilling work, a wonderful caring wife, great children, and beautiful grandchildren. My hope is you have an unwavering faith in God that sustains you through hard times. If you do, then you have all the reason in the world to be thankful. No matter what your situation, Kathi and I hope that you will get to spend a little time with those you love, have enough to eat to satisfy you and find a reason to be thankful for what you do have and not be concerned with what you don't. Till next time, God bless you and God bless Trenton.

**Tony Burriss
Mayor, City of Trenton
309 South College Street
Trenton, Tennessee 38382
731-855-2013 (work)
731-695-6209 (mobile)
trentonmayor@bellsouth.net**