

Message from the Mayor #44 May 27, 2009

I am becoming more and more aware every day that summer is nearing in Trenton. The good old heat and ever present humidity have returned as it does during this time of year. I for one am glad to see (or should I say feel) it. It is one of the things that make us who we are. Maybe the rain will slack off a little but we can still use a good shower a couple times a week. It makes me glad I live in West Tennessee and I hope you feel the same.

Although it is business as usual weather wise, this summer will bring us some shaky economic times. We all are aware of the State's budget woes and it is no different for us on the municipal level. We too have experienced huge deficits in our local tax revenue collections. It has been a balancing act to prepare a budget that provides the same services that we have provided in the past without raising taxes. Two things we really are consciously trying not to do are raise taxes and lay off employees. This is not the time for either. I hope we will be successful. The new budget year starts July 1st, and our we will be asking the City Council to subscribe and pass the budget in June.

All is not bleak news as we have been visited as of late by industrial prospects looking at our empty buildings. Some are serious prospects while others are not but we are doing all we can to get that second and hopefully third visit. Our Trenton Industrial Board, with help from our Chamber of Commerce, the West Tennessee Industrial Association and TVA are constantly looking for prospects to bring jobs to Trenton and Gibson County.

Here is something maybe some of you are unaware of. Our Sanitation workers are only supposed to remove trash from your trash cans that is in a bag. Sometimes, they get a can with a lot of loose trash and it makes their job more difficult. Loose trash ends up on the ground and then blows into other people's yards and you get the picture. Please bag up all of your trash so that we do not have loose paper blowing all over and if you have loose trash in your yard, could I ask you to pick it up? One of my pet peeves and I'm sure one of yours also, are people who mow loose paper up with their mower. The vast majority of us do an excellent job but we still have one or two who let trash accumulate in their yards.

Our next Trenton Saturday on the Square event will be June 20th. We had a great crowd at our first event and I hope that you will attend if you could not the first night. This month we have a Blues/Rock night. The Blues Berry Jam Band and Riptide will be the performing groups providing entertainment. It all starts at 5:30 pm with the music starting at 6:00 pm. There will be food, crafts, fellowship and fun. The YMCA will have free activities for the children and in the words of John Lennon, "a splendid time is guaranteed for all". See you on the Square.

Speaking of musicians, three Peabody students will be attending prestigious music camps this summer. Tucker Glidewell, french horn, will be attending Interlocken Summer Music Camp in Michigan, Zach McCoy, percussion, will be attending Sewanee Summer Music Camp at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee and Shannon Moore, flute, has been selected to go to the Governor's School for the Arts at Middle Tennessee State University. The students had to audition for acceptance and the competition is very steep.

Also, speaking of Governor's School, Annie Williams was selected by audition to attend The Governor's School for Theater Arts also at MTSU and Thomas Adams will attend the Governor's School for Engineering at UT Knoxville. All of these were former students and I am extremely proud of their accomplishments. Congratulations to all and keep up the hard work.

If you have not visited Court Square Arts as of yet, you have missed something special. There are paintings, sketches, photography, jewelry, porcelain, and antiques not only on exhibit but for sale. There is no place outside of Memphis where you will have this experience. Bill Barron and Winter Hodges have combined to create a one of a kind place like Trenton has never seen. The art displayed was created by area and regional artists and if you have a small get together planned, there is no better place to host it. Here is yet again another drawing card to bring tourists into Trenton. When are we all going to realize that Trenton and Gibson County can be a destination for tourism? I can see it happening, but we need help making it a reality. Why don't you think about volunteering with the Gibson County Tourism Board? Wouldn't you like to say you were in on the beginning of the tourism boom in Gibson County?

If you are a Trenton merchant and you are not on the city website, what are you waiting for? It's free and all you have to do is notify us. We will come get pictures and info about your business and list it. It's free advertising and a no-brainer. Visit www.trentontn.net and look what we already have under businesses. If you like what you see, then allow us to put you on the site.

I hope you have some summer fun planned. All of us need a little down time to freshen up those batteries that we burn day and night. For some, they will have to reign in their usual summer trips to maybe enjoy relaxing closer to home. The great thing about that is we live in Tennessee and people from all over the world come here to vacation every summer. If you have a bigger trip planned, congratulations. I guess that as long as the people you love are with you, it doesn't make a whole lot of difference whether you go to France or Frog Jump. Wherever you choose to go or if you are staying home, enjoy any time off you have. But when the fun ends we're waiting for you back home in Trenton. This is the place we love and although Trenton is not perfect, we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.