

Message from the Mayor

Let's talk about something important to all of us, our future. I know we all kind of cringe when we think of the upcoming Presidential race, but it is very important to us right here in Trenton who we choose. Now, I am not going to tell you who to vote for because, as of right now, I'm not sure who is the best candidate. I'm not even sure that there is a best candidate. I do know this; that if a candidate doesn't start fighting Big Oil, Big Drug Companies, Big Healthcare, the flight of industrial jobs to foreign countries, people who pollute our planet (that could be us), our lives will not be getting any better. Is that going to happen? The one bad thing about being a politician is they have to get elected. All these "Big" entities are going to make sure anyone opposing them will never get re-elected to any office. But you know what, I'm waiting on that person and I believe somewhere they exist. Here's something else I know, you have to choose the person you trust and then vote. Let me say that one more time; you have to vote. If you say "I don't vote because there is no one to vote for", I say get over it and get out there and exercise your right to have a choice.

I guess you all know that all this affects our life here in Trenton. Wouldn't it be great if industry became the number one option for jobs again? I think we know by now that for the most part, other countries can't even come close to the quality of product we are used to. How great would it be if we could all afford health care and insurance and the myriad of medicines our doctors prescribe? What if fuel didn't take a huge chunk of our weekly paychecks, there were not drug dealers living in our city who have beaten our court system and we started living within our financial means so they wouldn't have to foreclose on our lives. Who is the person who will fight for us and help us regain the quality and purpose that we all were once used to? Who will make the best President? Well, that's a decision you are going to have to make and then do something about it by voting for them. And by the way, after that, they will need all the help and support you can give them.

I certainly am glad I got that out of the way so now I can ask "Where would you like to see Trenton go in 2008". Here in the office we have been working on the first two parts of our effort to get things moving. First, we have been and are still in the process of cleaning up. We have torn down about 8 houses or so that were not only an eyesore but were being used by a criminal element for various purposes. We have asked many others to fix up existing property and some of them have started doing renovations. We have several other houses over the next few months to take care of so, at this point, everything is moving right along. Secondly, we are very close to having the new, much improved website up and running. This is very exciting and I think you will be well pleased when you see it.

Now, after that is completed, we can start our marketing campaign to draw interested parties into Trenton. If I lived in Jackson now, I think I would be looking for a safer environment with great schools, friendly churches, and affordable housing to bring my family to. If I were ready to retire and I lived somewhere up north, I might be looking for a quiet community with a moderate climate where my retirement dollar would go farther. If I were someone whose dream has always been to renovate and live in a great older house, what better place to look. Maybe you know someone who's looking for a better place to live. What are you waiting for, become a marketer for Trenton.

I hope you haven't, but a few people have received citations lately for old cars and trucks on their property. If you have a vehicle sitting on your property, it should have a license plate on it. If you drive it in the city, it should have a city sticker. You may store an old vehicle in a building if you wish but our goal is to get old unsightly cars and trucks off our streets and further enhance our goal of making our city a more attractive place to live.

I apologize for not getting the leaves up as quick as sometimes we have in the past. The Street Department personnel tell me that this was a crazy year for leaves. They all fell at once and along with some rainy weather, we got behind. It takes a long time to get to every street and neighborhood in the city. I hope that we are well on our way to getting caught up. I will not apologize for the work our Street Department does. They work very hard to collect your trash, get your leaves, sweep the streets, empty dumpsters at our businesses, and keep city property up. I have put an extra burden on them with the demolishing of condemned properties. I am proud of the job they do for me and for you.

I wanted to congratulate Mrs. Franchon Crider and Mrs. A.F. Bridges on their birthdays recently. They represent to me the class and gentility of a time I'm not sure exists anymore. I, for one, miss it. Did you all know that Mr. Fred Culp will celebrate a birthday soon? Mr. Culp was a great teacher. I know this because 20 years after he retired they were still talking about how good he was in the classroom. There might be a person that knows more about Gibson County than he, but I have never met them. He is a treasure to us here in Trenton and I wish him the best on his 80th birthday. I know others of you have celebrated birthdays recently and I also wish you a Happy Birthday.

Remember to separate your Christmas paper from your regular garbage. An important point: set your paper out on a different day other than garbage pick-up day. Also, be patient with us the week after Christmas as it is our busiest week of the year. Maybe something we all really need to focus on in the New Year is to be better stewards of the planet and everything "green" we can do helps us all. By the way, the garbage pick-up schedule for Christmas week is in the newspaper.

What's your New Years resolution? Mine always centers around weight and/or exercise. Yeah, you're right, it never works out. Are you spending money here in Trenton? Is your number on your house yet? What have you done positive in your neighborhood recently? The Trenton Citizen Action Group will meet again on January 15 at 7:00. Come find out how you can be a better neighbor. Our basketball teams are doing well. We all should go to a game. Do you play an instrument? January 3rd, 6:30 to 8:00, will be the first rehearsal of the Gibson County Community Band. What have you done today you are proud of? Send me an email @ trentonmayor@bellsouth.net. Let me know how you feel. Till then, God Bless Trenton.