

## Message from the Mayor

Let's talk about spring in the air. I don't know about you, but I am more than ready for some warm weather and being able to get outside and putter around the yard. If you haven't noticed, we have been puttering around down here at City Hall. It started with cutting down an old tree and putting up a new sign, and then we started getting rid of some of the old bushes, laid some new sod and hopefully by Teapot Festival time, we will have it really looking good down here. Much thanks to our city crew headed up by Alderman Frank Gibson for all the work they have put in. If you would like to help us with the project and donate something to be planted, go to Milligan's Nursery and the folks there will assist you in picking out something that we have in our landscaping design. It would be a good way to help the city and it would be a tax write-off. We hope this idea of "sprucing up" the place will rub off on a lot of people in town and we will see a beautification process happen all over the city. It doesn't take much time or money just to pick up some limbs and trash or to get rid some of those things that accumulated on your front porch this last winter. Let's see how good we can make Trenton look in the next couple of months.

Another idea that I have think would be great, is to not put our yard teapots away right after the festival. Let's leave them out and show off the theme of our city, "Teapot Capital of the World". It seems a shame to only display them for one or two weeks. They add a new dimension to our city that no one else has. Along that same line, if you don't have a teapot, get one. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see a vast majority of our yards with a teapot out front?

Someone recently talked to me about a concept they had adopted with their town. He told me to drive into Trenton from every direction as if it were the first time I had ever been there. Then ask yourself some questions concerning the way the city looks. Would industry move there? Would businesses move there? Would I move there? For the most part, we do very well, but we all know we can do better. What can you personally do to make Trenton a destination for people looking to establish businesses, industries, and homes? If you want to see Trenton grow, are you doing something to make it happen? There is one thing I have learned in this job that is a certainty; we will all have to work together to make this a great community. No one individual can do it alone. If you don't like living in Trenton, then maybe you are not doing your part in making it a place you want to live. Think about it.

I would like to say a word about James Frazier, our animal control officer. Since he has been with the city these past two and one half months, he has picked up over 100 stray dogs and taken them to the pound. I know some of you who let your animals run loose all over town don't like to see him coming, but he is doing a great job. We still have countless numbers of dogs roaming our streets, but he's working on it. The solution is to abide by the ordinances set up by the city. Your animals should be confined in a decent shelter, fed, watered, and vaccinated. Congratulations and thank you to all of you who do it the correct way.

Let me share some figures I receive each and every month. For the most part, these figures are consistently the same each month. These are the Local Option Sales Tax numbers and reflect the amount of sales tax accrued in a city over one month's time. They are sent to me by the Tennessee Department of Revenue. They are as follows for February 2008: Trenton, \$77,884.84, Bradford \$7,466.88, Dyer \$31,049.57, Gibson \$2,292.06, Humboldt \$209,443.12, Medina \$8,870.11, Milan \$212,384.69, Rutherford \$12,036.62, Yorkville \$609.91, and Kenton \$5,868.87. The only thing I can say is **SHOP TRENTON FIRST!** It is important that everything we can buy in Trenton we do. With fuel prices like they are now, it's cheaper to shop here than go to another town to buy something for a few cents less. If you can not buy it in town, I understand, but if you can, why are you wasting gas to go get it? Let's see if we can raise that sales tax number up and keep our money in our city.

March 24<sup>th</sup> was our first 1<sup>st</sup> Responders class held at DSCC. In 10 weeks we will have people trained to give aid to our citizens while we wait for an ambulance to arrive. I can't think of a more valuable way to spend tax money than on lifesaving services to our citizens. My hat is off to all those who are going through the training. Study hard and good luck.

Have you been on the new Trenton website? 1,331 people were last week. I know I'm not the guy that should be saying this, but I think it's great. I heard from people as far away as California. I also heard from people with Trenton ties that are living all over the country. I still need your ideas on how to make it better. Also, if you have business that you want to list, send me your business name, contact info and if you have one, we will link your website to our website. The address is [www.trentontn.net](http://www.trentontn.net).

Are you separating your paper products from your regular garbage? If you are, you are seeing a big difference in the amount of trash you are taking to the street each week. In my case, I usually have only one bag of garbage now versus 3 or 4 that I used to have. Paper makes up about 75% of my weekly trash. Here's how I handle it. My trash pick-up is on Mondays. I put my regular garbage out that day. On another day, other than Monday, I put out my paper and the street truck comes by and picks it up. You can put it in a plastic bag if you want because we are allowed a minute amount of plastic or you can secure it in paper bags. All of that will be burned here and not taken to the land fill in Union City. If all of us would do this, it would mean a big savings to the city. Some of you already are and have told me that it works. Let's all get on board. Tell your friends and neighbors about it.

I hope you had a wonderful Easter. I also hope you took some time to reflect on the real reason we celebrate the holiday. Giving so others can have more should be the central theme in all our lives, but at times all of us slip up. That's when the real reason for Easter kicks in. Forgiveness is a powerful thing. I think of all the violence I have heard of and witnessed in the past few months and have a hard time understanding why people do unspeakable things to each other, especially children and animals. Where could we be if we just learned to love and forgive? God, help us. If you can during the holiday, spend time with people you love and tell them so. We can't do that enough.

The more I learn about Trenton, the more I love it. We have a rich history here; some of it is pretty and some not so pretty, but it belongs to us. We need to celebrate who we are and what we stand for. What do you stand for? What is the central theme of your life? I don't know about you, but I ask myself these questions often. I want you to know that I love my job, and it is my purpose to help you if I can. I don't know what you want unless you tell me. You can do that at [www.trentonmayor@bellsouth.net](mailto:www.trentonmayor@bellsouth.net). I want you to remember; Trenton is not perfect, but we are working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.