

Message from the Mayor #16

Let's talk about one of the greatest weeks in the City of Trenton all year. It's Teapot Festival week! I just love everything about it, the Parade, the Tractor Pull, the Teapot Sing, the Music Feast, the Fireworks and so on and so on. I love all of it and it's really a time for Trenton to shine. Thank you in advance for mowing your grass, trimming your bushes and plants, putting out your yard teapots and getting everything ready.

Have you bought your Jeff Bates tickets yet? Jeff is an up and coming new country star with a brand new album out. One of these days you'll be able to say you saw him at the beginning of his career. He has a hit on radio right now entitled "Long Slow Kisses". Maybe you have heard it? Better get those tickets quick before they are all gone.

I'll be participating in the parade for the 28th consecutive year, but this time, in another capacity. I would be lying if I told you I will not miss being with the Peabody Band of Gold, but I will be equally as proud representing the City of Trenton as Mayor. I look forward to seeing all the bands, floats, majorette groups, marching units and all that will be part of the parade. I have never seen the parade in its entirety because I have always marched beside a band, but I know the Trenton bands will be great because Leigh Boyce and Gil Rollins do a wonderful job with our young musicians.

The "Mock Crash" at Peabody last week was most impressive and it is my sincere hope it left an impression on the Senior class as they witnessed what happens when people decide to drink and get behind the wheel of a car. Chief Sanders explained to the group, this can happen, it has happened, and it will continue to happen. Dave Brown took the statement one step further when he told them that it will continue to happen until we take measures to stop people from driving drunk. I salute Dave Brown and his wife for coming to these "Mock Crashes" and delivering their personal testimony about the effect drunk drivers have on all of us. We continue to pray that Prom weekend, as well as every weekend, will be a safe one for our young people.

I hope you have visited the new city website at www.trentontn.net. It is amazing how many hits we have each week. We are still adding to and taking away in an effort to make it a world class site, but for the most part it is complete. Business owners send me your business name, address, phone number, and if you have one, website address and we will put you on our Trenton business page and link you to our website. Many already have and what harm can come of having your business advertised in one more place? You can contact me on the website at the "contact us" icon.

The Citizens for Action in Trenton group met last Tuesday night and to be honest, attendance was not as good as I hoped. I receive constructive criticism on a regular basis here at City Hall and I welcome it. These nights are your opportunity to come together in an open forum and state opinions that you have of our city. We meet quarterly with the next meeting being July 15th at 6:30 at City Hall in the Teapot Room. Mark your calendar now and plan on attending. We had some lively conversation last meeting and I predict the same for all our meetings. If you have an issue with the way something is done, this is the forum to make your views known. We continue to be very interested in your opinions and would love to hear them in July.

As I mentioned in my last article, we are sending out letters to those folks who need to do some trash maintenance to their property. Surprisingly though, we were taken back by the number of people who had already started to pick up and clean up. Are we at 100%? Of course not, but I think I see some progress even though we still have some holdouts. Picking up paper costs you nothing but a little time and effort. The positive effects of a clean city go a long way, not only with those of us who live here, but those who visit us. When the Civil War Trail starts coming through Trenton, we will have a lot more visitors. Do you own property around the Depot, High Street, the Court House, or the cemetery? What can you do right now to start preparing for tourists who will come to Trenton to eat, shop, buy gas, groceries and otherwise leave tourism dollars with us. For that matter, it doesn't make any difference if you live in these areas or not, visitors are coming and we all know what we do when we expect visitors.

In some bad news, our grant to renovate the gazebo at the cemetery was turned down. Over the years it has become dangerous because of its age and is in desperate need of fixing. They told us to try again next year and we will. Until then, if you would like to contribute a little money to get some repairs started, come down to City Hall and we will take donations and put them in the cemetery fund. We are one of the only cities that maintain a cemetery and a lot of the extras that go into

having the most beautiful cemetery around are done through donations. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

There is a city-wide revival that is taking place in May at the New Spring Hill Church that I understand is being sponsored by several area churches. There is a city-wide mission trip that is being spearheaded by First Baptist Church that is taking place in June. How many other positive things can we do here in Trenton? I submit the possibilities are endless. What can we dream for this place we live in? I am not only thinking of physical things, but also of ideals and philosophies. Our country is going to change leadership in the next months and it is my opinion we here in Trenton can change our attitudes to think positively about ourselves and our neighbors. It doesn't necessarily put food on the table, get us a job, or advance our bank account, but it is a start. I promise you, that we are working hard to bring the citizens of this city jobs and opportunities. It hurts me to think people in this city have the opinion they are not cared about. I am here to tell you that we are deeply concerned about the welfare of everyone in this city. We are doing everything in our power to keep the opportunities that we already have here. It is hard work but we are up for the task. Trenton isn't perfect, but we are working on it. Enjoy the Festival and God Bless Trenton.