

Message from the Mayor #18

Here is a topic of conversation I would like to share with you this week. I am really concerned with individuals speeding on our city streets. For the most part, the speed limit is 31 mph all over town. There are a few places that are 45 mph and even a few 20 mph spots, but mostly it is 31 mph. I have personally witnessed cars in excess of 50 mph on some of our city streets and I am here to tell you, it scares me to death. What in the world are these people thinking? They could kill somebody. There are children all over this city and we are all responsible for their safety. Now, I would be a hypocrite if I told you that I have never broken the speed limit because I have. But I need to do better and if you are an offender, so do you. I know I will not get all the places where people speed in town, but it seems really bad on the Old Gibson Road west of the by-pass, coming into the Trenton city limits off of Hwy. 54 from Alamo, South College Street south of Armory going towards Humboldt, and Lexington Street north of Armory. There are even those who speed on my street (Margo) and it is a short street. By the way, if I can get the license number of that white pickup truck that speeds by my house, they are going to get a visit from our police department. I guess what I am saying to all who speed through town is SLOW DOWN !!!!!

Have you been lucky enough to sneak by without a city sticker up to now? Congratulations, because we have been going out of our way to ticket everyone we can find without one. I can not say enough that in a time when the economy is in a recession we are looking for every possible way to fund the city coffers without raising taxes. It is your civic duty to have a city sticker on all of your vehicles if you are a resident of Trenton. If your neighbor has to do it, why shouldn't you? And then next year, buy yours when they are \$15 and not afterwards when it could end up costing you \$95.

Maybe you have heard about the new subdivision that is being proposed in the wooded area between Lexington Street and the hospital? At the last city council meeting the aldermen voted to rezone that area to allow for smaller lots in order to accommodate the needs of those 55 and older who are the target for these new homes. Nice homes in a community where there is a proposed walking trail and a community center. That equals tax dollars and a welcome addition to Trenton. Who knows, in a few years I might be looking for a little less property to maintain.

Also, I don't know if you are aware, but we will hold a public hearing on May 27th concerning a proposed annexation of property on the northwest corner of the city. This will eventually encompass the connector road that will join Hwy. 457 with Hwy. 45 W. around the area of the old Trenton Motel. At some point in our future, this will be an area that will see some growth and will be an asset to the city. At this point, there are no houses or infrastructure involved in the annexation. Hopefully, at some point, this property will be of some value to the present owners.

Last Thursday, a group from California came to visit us about buying the Spec building and expanding their food processing business to the eastern part of the country. We were very excited about their visit and as of this writing; we were in the top two for their consideration. Keep your fingers crossed.

Also along that line, a lift company from Canada visited a couple of sites here in town recently and we were encouraged by their visit. They were particularly interested in the Quebecor building, which will be vacant soon. We can make them a real sweet deal on that building so we await word of a possible second visit. Cross all your fingers.

This brings up something that is hard for a lot of us to understand. Industry has so many places to look to settle that we have to be very aggressive in our approach to landing them. It is the number one priority in my day and although your day to day concerns are very important to me, I, along with some very talented people in our community work to bring jobs to this city every day. We will be successful and I hope all of us can benefit from it.

I want you to know that your day to day concerns are important to me. My door is always open to you because you have things you have to deal with daily. Nothing is too small or too large. If we can help you we will and if we can not, I will tell you. Remember, private property is off limits to us, as it should be. You don't want us working on your property. That belongs to you, not us. We have a list of things we are working on this spring, especially ditches and drainage problems. Something to remember is that for the most part, the ditches on your property are yours. Try to keep them cleaned out and your water problems will be minimal. If your ditch is filled with grass, leaves, or trash, you will have problems and so will your neighbors. Clean out those culverts under your driveway and give water a place to go. You will be surprised how much less water problem you will have.

Are you keeping your lawn mowed? I can't tell you how many letters we have sent out to people who just need to mow their grass. When you live in a community with other people, you take on a responsibility to maintain your property as others around you do. You may not like it, but that's the way it is. It is annoying and disrespectful to others when you allow grass to get too high, let trash accumulate in your yard, let your animals run free, block traffic in the streets, or anything else that causes someone else inconvenience. Now you might say, I don't care, but I say get over it and get with the program. If you're going to live with us, get it right and if not, well, you fill in the blank.

Think about a Trenton with no drug dealers, jobs for those who want to work, clean peaceful neighborhoods where people earn the respect of each other. We have great churches, great schools, and great people who care about their neighbors. I say it can be any way we what it to be if we want it bad enough. How hard are you willing to work to see it happen? I do know this; it can't happen if all, and I mean all of us, don't find our own special gift to accomplish our goals. What is it you have to offer this place you call home? How important is it to you that the place you call home becomes the greatest place on earth to live, worship, and raise your family. The next Citizen's for Action in Trenton meeting is July 15th. Mark your calendar and show up with some great suggestions for us. Remember, Trenton isn't perfect, but we are working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.