

Message from the Mayor

Congratulations are in order for our Peabody graduates who set out on a new road last May 23rd. I know it is an exciting time for them and their families as they take those first steps towards the rest of their lives. It is my sincerest hope that all of them go on to gain even more education and then settle here in Trenton to raise their families. Some of these young people say to me, "Mr. Burriss, there is not that much opportunity for us here." My answer is to get an education and bring something back to Trenton with them and help others find opportunity. Good Luck to all of them in their search for happiness and success.

Let's turn our attention for a minute to the 4th of July and the celebration of our nation's birthday. It won't be long until the holiday is upon us. I just love this day on many levels, but just relaxing with family really makes it a special time for a lot of us. Along with all the food and fun comes fireworks, a staple of the holiday and a fast becoming pain to our city. Over the last two years, the majority of citizens have done a responsible job of conducting their holiday displays, while a few have done nothing but cause trouble. Were you aware that a police officer was hit in the face with a roman candle last year while breaking up a group of individuals that were blocking the street? This is and always will be unacceptable. Now, I want you to know that I am not anti-fireworks, but I also want you to know that if that happens again this year, I will fight to ban fireworks in the City of Trenton. Because of these incidents, the City Council will be passing an ordinance allowing fireworks to be shot only on your property or on the property of someone who allows you to shoot there. Absolutely no shooting in the streets!!!! Let's all enjoy a safe 4th.

I want to talk again about recycling. Because of fuel surcharges that have been added to our bill to haul our trash out of the city limits, we find ourselves wondering more and more how to balance our trash budget. As you know with your own budget, rising prices are killing us. I wish I could convince people to separate paper and regular trash.

I have had recent conversations with people to provide separate bins to collect certain trash items. Maybe if we had a place to put our plastics and cardboard, we could cut down on our weekly trash disposal. Let's face it, recycling is going to become something that we are going to have to do in the future. We don't want to, but it is the responsible thing to do. Please think about separating your paper for now and if you already are; thank you very much.

Have you parents thought about activities for your children this summer. I am not one for bringing up the "Old Days", but my friends and I never lacked for something to do. The great thing was that 99% of the time, we were engaged in positive activities. We have very little to work with other than imaginations. It worked just fine. For all those who don't go to the YMCA or some other summer camp, have an XBOX, can't get to Orange Beach or whatever: try using your imagination in a positive way. It works!!!!

I want to send out a big congratulations to Larry Ridings on his retirement as superintendent of the Trenton Special School District. He was a great boss for the 16 years I spent in the system. One of the traits I respect about him was that when he tells you something, you can take it to the bank. It wasn't always what I wanted to hear, but that was the way it was going to be. He is also a great money man. I am sure that keeping our school system running at the level it does in a small city situation has been a challenge. Last but not least, he is always concerned that every decision made has the best interest of the students in mind. It is my hope that Mr. Ridings (sorry, old habits are hard to break) has a wonderful and lengthy retirement. I want to thank him for all he did for TSSD and the City of Trenton.

Thanks to the anonymous donor of two urns for the front of City Hall. They look great and make a wonderful addition to all that has been done to the outside of the building. I know you don't want anyone to know you gave the money, but it was a nice thing to do. Again, thanks.

I am going to have the great honor of recognizing the Reverend Versie Easter at the Martin Tabernacle C.M.E. Church on Sunday, June 8th. Rev. Easter has been in the pulpit for over 30 years and has received numerous awards and appointments. I am looking forward to being part of this celebration on June 8th. Why don't you join me there?

People ask me all the time if I like my new job and is it what I expected it to be? The answer is a resounding yes, I love my job. At different times it is challenging, exciting, frustrating, wonderful, difficult, heartbreaking, and fulfilling. Sometimes I feel as if I am doing alot of good, sometimes I feel like I'm spinning my wheels and other times I feel I have failed you. I have learned volumes of new

information and met multitudes of new people. It is wonderful to be able to start a brand new career so different from your previous one. It is also wonderful to try to better a place you love as much as I do Trenton. I make mistakes everyday, but how do you learn to succeed if you don't fail? Is it what I thought it was going to be? Some of it is, most is not. It's even better. My sincerest hope is that I can serve the city and do what's best for the whole, not the individual. Remind me when I don't.

Have you looked at the website lately? The address is www.trentontn.net and it is a great website. Drop me a line and let me know what you are thinking. Trenton is starting to look better in most places and we want to keep it up. Be considerate to your neighbors and keep your property looking good. Let's please separate that trash. As much as you can, spend your money here in town and keep those tax dollars where they can do you the most good. I know you understand that in a time when you have little disposable income, it really hurts our city tax revenues. If you are going to spend money, spend it in Trenton. If you ever need a police officer or a fireman, you'll be glad you did. Trenton is not perfect, but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.