

**Message from the Mayor
#72 July 1, 2010**

You are familiar with the image of Uncle Sam pointing his finger and declaring "I Need You" in the hopes of getting people to volunteer. I know I'm not your Uncle and most of you wouldn't want me to be your third cousin once removed, but I do need you to volunteer your help.

Our Trenton "Clean and Green" Recycling program has reached a plateau of about 26% in waste reduction and we need to reach 30% and receive our second Greengoroo by the end of our first year. We reached 15% by late winter and climbed even higher since then but we have leveled off. We need to get this 4% and even more.

Here's how you can help. There is no better way to get information out than by word of mouth. What I am asking is for you to find one or two people that are not recycling and convince them to take part. If you are recycling, you understand how easy it is and how much of your throw away articles stay out of your regular trash. I'm asking you to try to convince your neighbors, relatives, church family, and co-workers that live in the city limits to join in. I personally am asking those of you who do not currently recycle to try it for one month. If you need a bag to start with, come to City Hall or go by the ROC on Manufacturer's Row and pick one up. Because Trenton started recycling last year the cities of Jackson, Dyersburg and Lexington are joining the ranks of responsible municipalities who are reducing their landfill waste production. Help Trenton to become a model city for others around us.

While we are talking recycling, here are a few reminders. Please do not put needles, syringes, dirty diapers, glass, or Styrofoam in your recycling bag. These articles are dangerous or unrecyclable. Also, remember to put your bags out on Monday or Wednesday nights or very early on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings. You can recycle cardboard, cans (aluminum or metal), paper or plastic which together accounts for 75% to 80% of your weekly trash. If you have questions, call us at City Hall (855-2013) and we'll help you any way we can.

I don't know about your yard, but my grass is growing so fast I need to cut it twice a week. I can't remember when the grass grew like this. As I drive through town I am pleased to say that the vast majority of Trentonians are keeping their yards neat and clean. I hate to send letters to people asking them to mow or clean up but that's what you elected me to do. If you have gotten a letter, it's nothing personal it's just a reminder to spiff up your property a little. There are a few things though that concerned citizens have asked me to write about. It helps when you walk through the yard and pick up the paper and debris before you mow. Nothing looks worse than little chunks of paper in the yard after the grass is cut. It looks better before the paper gets shredded. I wonder if some of the businesses on the by-pass are paying someone to mow their property. If I paid someone to mow and they left shredded paper everywhere I don't think I'd be very happy.

The next concern they have is when someone throws their grass out in the street when they mow their lawn. I have had numerous folks ask me to write about this in my message. While it is difficult to not get a little grass on the street from time to time, putting all of it in the street doesn't look good. It looked better before it was mowed. Many thanks go out to everyone who take pride in their property and Trenton.

Many of you have been asking about the state of the levee on North College that recently was breached during the flood. The good news is that it would take a rain event somewhat similar to the one that caused the flood for water to get over it again. The not so good news is that it needs repaired so it does not breach again if we have that kind of rain event in the future. We have talked the Corps of Engineers and it doesn't appear that they are going to be able to help us. The West Tennessee River Basin Authority has offered to help us if we can get some funds together to clear parts of the levee and haul in dirt to reinforce the wall. The City of Trenton has asked EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection) for a grant to do the repairs. We have not heard from them as of yet but we

have our fingers crossed. One way or the other the levee will need our attention at some point in the near future.

FEMA is still in Gibson County and as far as I know will be here till August. If for some reason you have not talked to them as of yet, please do not hesitate any longer. There are no guarantees as to the amount of aid they will give you but you won't know until you ask. I must truthfully say that every FEMA representative I have come in contact with has been extremely pleasant and helpful. I feel they have served Gibson County well.

I hope your July 4th weekend was restful, fun and found you in the company of people you care for. My sincerest hope is that by this time next year there will be more jobs and opportunity in Trenton and Gibson County. I promise you that the Board of Aldermen, the Industrial Board and I will go to any length to rebuild the local economy after this devastating recession. Trenton isn't perfect but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.