

Message from the Mayor
#46 06-26-2009

It is always gratifying to hear when our city employees do something out of the ordinary to be of service to people in Trenton. Such a situation occurred on Friday, June 19th on 8th Street.

At that time, Mr. Charles Mathis had climbed under his house to repair a water leak when he got hung up and couldn't move. Mr. Mathis realizing that he was going to need help to get out, started calling for help. A young man walking on 8th Street (the real hero of the story) heard his calls for help and called emergency personnel. The Fire and Police departments arrived on the scene and after sizing up the situation, decided to let Officer Ron Bennett go under the house to try to dislodge Mr. Mathis. Officer Bennett managed to get Mr. Mathis free and bring him out from under the house.

Mr. Mathis made a trip to City Hall last week to let me know that he feels that the fire and police saved his life. He asked me to be sure and mention the incident in the paper. I wish I knew who the young man was because he played a major role in Mr. Mathis's rescue, but my thanks goes to Officer Ron Bennett, Captain Stephan Peay, Captain Odell Coleman, and Firefighter David Bates for their part in assisting Mr. Mathis.

It's the July 4TH holidays and that means celebration, food, fun, and fireworks. There should be a copy of the ordinances governing the types fireworks allowed (no bottle rockets), when they can be sold (June 28th – July 5th) and how and where they can be discharged available for you to read where you purchase your fireworks and at other prominent locations. It is the responsibility of each individual to be compliant when it comes to possessing and discharging fireworks. The City Council made it clear that any more issues and problems concerning fireworks would result in the Council banning fireworks permanently from the city. I am in total agreement. July 4th is not an invitation to break the law and act in an irresponsible manner. We will deal with violations in an appropriate manner. There are too many citizens who enjoy and safely display fireworks with their friends and families during the summer holiday. Please don't be someone who ruins this tradition for everyone else. Happy July 4th to everyone.

Let's talk about the area between the sidewalk and the street. In many places in the city, there is a grass strip there. This area is part of your property and you are obliged to keep it cleaned up. Many people get confused and think that space belongs to the city. Although the city does possess right-of-way, we do not own the property. I say all this to ask everyone to keep these areas mowed and trimmed. The upside to this is it makes your property look so much better. You might want to remind your neighbors about this also.

Speaking of sidewalks, city ordinance 16-109 states that it is your responsibility to keep your sidewalks clean. This doesn't only refer to cut grass, leaves and dirt but also to grass growing up through the cracks. Many of our walks have been compromised by weeds and grass. I wish we had the money to replace bad sidewalks (God knows we have sidewalks all over town that could use some work) but our budget will not allow it at this time. Please help us by doing what you can to keep our walks from getting worse. I do appreciate all you do.

Still, along the lines of clean-up, we sometimes get disillusioned when residents and businesses object to fixing their own ordinance violations by using the excuse that others are doing the same thing. It's like they don't think we know that. It doesn't change the fact that they are in violation and need to be responsible. Look around at businesses that keep their property neat and clean. Look at the business they attract. We have no intention of running anyone out of business, on the contrary, we want everyone's business to thrive and expand. We personally think that we are doing these people a favor but pointing out aspects of their property that could look better. And yes, we also realize the city could do a

better job, at times, with our properties but we're going to try to our best to get our house in order. We have had industrial prospect traffic in town lately and it's a shame when we have to avoid parts of the city because someone hasn't cleaned up because someone else hasn't first. You get the picture.

Alright, let's get positive. We had a great crowd for Music on the Square in June. It was hot outside and the music was hotter. Riptide rocked the house with their special blend of rock and the Blues Berry Jam Band played blues and rock standards with their twist. It was a wonderful way to spend a Saturday evening. MOS is a work in progress and I'm sure there will be some tweaking to make it even better. If you have not been yet, what are you waiting for? Future events will feature Christian Rock, Bluegrass, Pop, and as an extra special treat, our own Steve Reid will be appearing in August. If you have never heard Steve perform in Memphis and Tunica, you are missing something great. Don't miss him. See you on the Square.

In April our Local Option Sales Tax was over 100,000. That was the first time since I have been mayor that we have collected that much. Why the increase, I don't know, but we need to keep it up. Let's keep Shopping Trenton as much as we can. I know some of you run into problems from time to time but all of our merchants and consumers need to ban together and insure that we can do as much business here as possible. If you can't get it here, talk to our merchants to see if they can get it. Before you make the assumption you can't get it here, make a call to a few places to see. The price of gas is up again and you can save money by staying close to home. Don't automatically think that you have to spend time and money to leave town to get all you need. When you Shop Trenton you benefit by expanded city services, insuring a better education for your children and the knowledge that business will be here when you need it. Let's work together to make it happen.

Making Trenton a wonderful place to live is easy in some ways and hard in others. Good hard-working people live here and take pride in their city. Its people who know what their responsibility to the community is that make a city work. It's give and take. I can't thank those people enough. I wish I could convince everyone to make the effort to grow Trenton in the right direction. We will just keep working at it because we know Trenton isn't perfect but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.