

Message from the Mayor
#30 11-13-2008

Let's start out this week with a question. Is there a law in the Trenton Ordinance book against keeping your trash cans in front of your house all week long? Well, technically, no there is not. As long as they are kept upright with lids securely fastened so as not to allow trash to get out or let animals in, there is no specific ordinance. Now, I have another question for you. What is one thing you can do that really upsets the people who live around you? The answer is to leave your trash cans in front of your house all week long.

When I drive around town, I don't see a whole lot of houses with cans in front, but when I do most of them have over turned cans with garbage strewn all over the place. That gets my attention every time and that is against the city ordinance.

If you are someone who leaves your cans out front all the time, please, for your neighbor's sake, take them around back after the sanitation workers have emptied them. It makes your neighborhood look better and makes your neighbors happy. Also, please put all your garbage in a bag. You should not have loose trash in your can. We don't allow our workers to lift cans because it could cause them injury. They should be able to open your can, pull out your trash bags and be on their way. You know, now I think of it, if you are recycling all your paper, cardboard, aluminum, and plastic, you should have very little trash in your can anyway.

I have gotten a lot of positive feedback lately about the Revitalization Grant we have applied for to start fixing up our downtown. I sincerely hope it comes through for us but we will have to wait and see. Anyway, the Jackson Sun had a nice editorial giving their stamp of approval on the project last week and something I didn't know is that you can comment on the editorials in a blog on the Jackson Sun website. Well to make a long story short, someone commented that I had asked private citizens to consider building things like a bowling alley and a skating rink to give our kids something to do. They asked the question "What's up with that?" I want to thank this person for the nice things they said about me but I also wanted to let them know that cities don't build those types of businesses. That is left up to private enterprise. I wish we had those folks who would step out and try their hand. Other communities around us have these kinds of places and are doing well. That's something to think about and again I want to thank all those people on that blog for all the nice things they said about me.

Along the same line of conversation is the economy. I have really noticed in the past few weeks that this economic downturn is really hitting home. There are many more people asking me if I know of job opportunities because they have lost their jobs. Our sales tax figures for Trenton in the month of October were down several thousand dollars from September and in conversations with our restaurant owners, their business has markedly dropped off. Let me give you a few bright spots though; gas prices are down significantly and because of lower fuel costs and some much needed rain in East Tennessee, TVA is considering reducing their rates. Let's hope they can. If we all hang in there the best we can, maybe we can weather this storm, although it is going to take a while to pass. Buying here locally is something we all can do to help our situation. I cannot say enough to SHOP TRENTON FIRST!!

Let's finish this message with all kinds of good news. Blend, a group of young vocalists who specialize in 50's, 60's and Do Wop music will be performing on Saturday, November 22nd and Sunday November 23rd in the theater at Peabody High School. Saturday's performance is at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday's matinee starts at 2 p.m. If you want a preview of their talents, go to <http://myspace.com/blendspace>. See you there.

If you go past the Freed House, The Court House, The Depot, or the Gazebo in Oakland Cemetery, stop and look at the new Civil War Heritage Trail signs that have recently been put up. This is step 1 of our effort to promote the Battle of Trenton as a tourist destination. And speaking of something that is really going to look good, it won't be long till we are putting up our new Christmas lights. I really think they are going to really put us in the holiday spirit this year.

An event I hope that everybody will attend this year is the Community Thanksgiving Service at the Methodist Church on College Street. The service begins at 7:00 p.m. and is sponsored by the Trenton Ministerial Association. Last year we had a huge crowd and a wonderful worship with the Rev. Norman Carver preaching. I sincerely hope we can again have members of all of our Trenton area churches participate. Even with things in the world as mixed up as they are, we have lots to be thankful for and more than we deserve. Our God is truly great and this is an opportunity for us to "gather together to ask for God's blessing".

The City stew will be held at the City Hall on Thursday, December 18th from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and have lunch on the city and enjoy the fellowship as we get together to celebrate the season. Right after the stew, the City Council will meet for the final time in 2008. And speaking of the City Council, I forgot to give them the credit they are due in my 1st year article I wrote a couple of weeks ago. You are so lucky and you were so intelligent to select these six individuals to represent you in city government. They truly have your best interest in mind. There will be several controversial issues that will face them in the year to come but I am confident they will keep Trenton first in their decision making. As I told you, all the positive things that have happened in Trenton were a joint effort and they are a huge part of that effort.

This will be my last article before Thanksgiving, so from my family and I to your family, take some time to count your blessings, spend some time thanking the Lord for the bounty you have, tell the people around

you how much you love them, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I hope one of the things you are thankful for is the precious city in which you live. We all know Trenton isn't perfect but we're working on it. Until next time, God Bless Trenton.