

## **Message from the Mayor #40**

**04-03-2009**

I really don't like to pay taxes. It doesn't matter what kind of taxes it is: property, income, sales or wheel it is all the same to me. I really don't like to pay taxes but I do. I pay all my taxes. I do because it provides me with services I need to have a secure place to live and work. It provides decent roads to drive on, police and fire protection and so on and so on.

One of the taxes you pay in the city of Trenton is for a city sticker. We have had to do this as long as I lived here and I understand further back than that. You can start to buy them on October 1<sup>st</sup> and you are supposed to have it bought by December 31<sup>st</sup>, but in Trenton we give you two extra months to get them for \$15.00 with no penalty. During March, we add a penalty and sell them for \$22.50 but still do not ticket vehicles. Starting April 1<sup>st</sup> (no fooling) we start to issue citations to any non-stickered vehicle registered to a person who lives in the city limits of Trenton. It doesn't matter where the car is driven, where the person lives who drives it or who the car you drive is registered to. If the owner of the vehicle lives in the city limits of Trenton, it has to have a city sticker. There are somewhere between 4000 and 6000 vehicles in the city limits and we are lucky if we sell 3000 stickers. Our police department will be looking for those who don't have a sticker. If you are ticketed without a sticker at this point, the fine and court cost are just shy of \$100. Please come in and get yours.

I have a message for all you recyclers out there. You are doing a great job but we have had a little setback. It seems that for now we are not going to be able to recycle plastic anymore. I guess the market has gotten so low, that our recycler can no longer accept it. I am in the process of finding somebody who will take our plastics but for now, I have to ask you only to put cardboard, paper and aluminum in the bins.

If you haven't jumped on board as of yet, spring would be a good time to start your recycling efforts. You'll be shocked by the smaller amounts of garbage you'll put in your trash cans each week and you'll feel so much better about what you are doing for our environment.

In a letter to the editor sometime in the past couple of weeks, a nice lady complimented several agencies for helping to clean up our highways in and around Gibson County. She even thanked me for personally taking some signs off telephone poles and off the right-of-way. To that I say you're welcome. In the letter she also stated that she really thinks I have more important things to do and she is correct, I do, but I'm not too good to pick up a piece of paper, take down a sign or pull weeds out of a flower bed. I need to spend most of my day finding ways to bring jobs to Trenton, provide opportunities to our youth and our seniors, figure out ways to save the tax payers money, and make our community safer and I do. These are all important tasks but dealing with your problems is also my job. No matter what your problem is, I want you to know you can talk to me. No problem is insignificant or too small. You elected me to handle big and small situations and I promised I would. Sometimes I will be able to help you and sometimes I won't, but either way, I'll let you know.

Something we started last year but kind of fell by the wayside was our Citizens for Action in Trenton or what I like to call Team Trenton. We met quarterly and discussed ways to make Trenton a better place to live. We started out like a house on fire but our numbers thinned in the summer. Lately, I have been asked to crank the group back up and have another meeting. I thought we were doing good things with the group, so I'm willing to give it another go. We are planning a meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 at City Hall. This is an opportunity for you to not only list your concerns but more

important, give some solutions to the problems we face. That's the most important part. I still contend there is not anything that can beat us if we work together. Make your plans to attend on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

If you come down College Street between 7:30 and 8 a.m. on school days, you are aware that we have children on the streets in the area around the elementary school. Our first priority is to insure the safety of our children and you can be a huge help in the process. I have noticed that some parents stop their cars in the street and let their children out. This means their child is in the street and sometimes has to cross either in front or behind a vehicle to get to the school. This is dangerous. The proper procedure is to pull off to the side of the street to let your child out and then have them cross at the crosswalk where our crossing guard can assist them. When you stop in the street it causes a myriad of problems. It would be even better if you would let your child out around at the side where accommodations have been made for dropping children off. People who are late for work or school or would rather not have to stop in the middle of the road can sometimes get irritated or possibly cause an unsafe situation to take place. As I have found in my life, when I take shortcuts, it usually inconveniences someone else. Let's work to make our children safe and be good neighbors.

We have some great events scheduled to take place over the next few months and I for one can't wait. Of course, the Teapot Festival is almost upon us and I'll spend more time with that in my next article. We are bringing back Saturday on the Square and on Memorial Day we will be dedicating the newly renovated gazebo at Oakland Cemetery. I'll give you more info on these in the future.

Spring brings hope and new beginnings. I pray that our economy is turning around and soon we will have good news of jobs and better times. Till then, we will do what we can with

what we have and survive till brighter days arrive. Even when I think she is, Trenton isn't perfect but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.