

Message from the Mayor #57 December 3, 2009

I would like to start this week out by acknowledging some young people in our community that are doing positive things. Folks, if you think that majority of young people are thugs, slackers and ne'er-do-wells, you are mistaken. An example of young people doing good work is two groups I read about in last week's paper; Boys to Men and Ladies of Distinction. These are young men and women in the Black Community that are helping others and setting a positive example for other children and young adults. Kids take their cues from those who are a little older than they are and BMT and LOD are attempting to give kids a positive role model to imitate. Thank you and my congratulations for your outstanding contribution to Trenton.

Annie Williams is another example of a "good kid". This young lady has worked hard with the PHS Band of Gold and the Jackson Ballet Arts group as well as many other school, church and civic groups. Annie is just one of many young people too numerous to mention here. When I think of all the great kids in our sports programs, band programs, area church groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, FFA, 4-H, and other organizations that I can't think of or am not aware of, I realize that Trenton will be in good hands in the years to come. Thanks for your contribution to our city.

I was lucky last week to run into the Gibson General Hospital Volunteers at lunch one day last week. They were all enjoying a little Christmas get together and it looked and sounded like a good time was had by all. What a great service they provide for our local hospital and I, along with many others, appreciate the time they contribute to make hospital stays a little more bearable. I want to thank you ladies for what you do.

What do you get the person who has everything for Christmas this year? Easy, buy them a personalized paver or plaque for the Downtown Pedestrian Park. Just think, this would be a gift that would be around for years to come. People will be reading your name 50...75.....possibly 100 years from now. Come to City Hall or see Frank Gibson to purchase yours.

Don't forget the City Stew on December 16<sup>th</sup> between 11a.m. and 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to come to the Fire Station to enjoy some really good stew. The food and the fellowship make it well worth the trip.

Let's talk about the Historical District for a minute. There are a lot of misconceptions about the district. First, your tax rate is not higher in the district. It is the same as everyone else's. Second, when a house has been burned or destroyed, it does not have to be replaced with a house that looks exactly the same. The owners of the property can build any style of house, as long as, it follows the building codes and residential requirements set forth in the City Charter. Third, the owner of the property has the right to do anything with the property that they so chose, as long as, it too, follows the proper codes and rules.

It is unfortunate when an historic home burns or falls into disrepair due to neglect, but there is little, if nothing the city can do short of condemnation. I can tell you now, that is something we dislike doing. We need as many habitable, taxpaying properties on the books as we can get. We are fortunate in Trenton to have so many beautiful "older" homes and it is a shame that the years have taken its toll on so many of our beautiful old houses. I would like to say one more thing. When you have a question about anything pertaining to the city, please call me and I will be more than happy to give you the proper answer. If I don't know the answer, I will ask someone who does and get back to you. So many times people call me with misinformation given to them by family or friends and have a hard time with the truth once it is presented to them. I will not lie to you. It might not be what you want to hear, but I'll tell you what I know to be true.

If you are like me, you haven't got all your Christmas shopping finished as of yet. Are you giving our local Trenton businesses consideration as you buy gifts for the holidays? I surely hope so, as it is so important to the local economy and to the businesses themselves. Let me give you an example of what you will miss if you do all your shopping away. A good friend of mine told me recently that she had priced a rocking horse at Peebles in Humboldt on sale for \$79.99. While she was shopping at CVS here in Trenton, she saw the same rocking horse on sale for \$29.99 and so obviously she purchased it here. Don't make the mistake of believing everything is more expensive here. Also, don't make the mistake that you can't buy it here. You would be surprised what you can get if you SHOP TRENTON!!!!

The Trenton Clean and Green recycling effort has really taken off over the past few weeks and people all over the city are getting on board. Tuesdays seem to be the big day for bag pickup as we thought it would be, but remember, you can also put your bags out Thursday to be collected. The program has been so successful, that we recently ran short of green bags and had to substitute blue bags for a time. We have since gotten a new shipment of green bags so we should be getting back to normal.

Let me give you a couple of pieces of recycling information: 1) If you have recyclables on the weekends or at night you would like to get rid of, you can bring them to the ROC and put them in the truck outside. 2) We will take your e-waste: Computers, monitors, printers, televisions, radios, etc.... if you bring them to the ROC. If it is after hours or on a weekend, put them in the truck. Thanks for your participation in our Trenton Clean and Green effort.

I want to mention the passing of a valued citizen of our City. Mrs. Evelyn Bingham was a treasure and we will miss her greatly. She was a community minded person who was not afraid to get her hands dirty and work. I did not know her extremely well, but I appreciated her sense of humor and her ability to change with the times. Her kind of person is what we need more of in Trenton. Who is going to pick up the ball and run with it in her place? We can't stand still, we have to push ahead and even though Trenton isn't perfect, we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.

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