

Message from the Mayor

#67 April 23, 2010

It's Teapot time in Trenton, Tennessee! The week is in full swing and I'm hoping you have already attended some of the events. Please take advantage of the fun and festivities that will mark this week and allow yourself to have a great time celebrating what it means to be from Trenton. Also, if you meet an out-of-towner this week, give them a big Trenton welcome. This is our time to shine. Again, my thanks to the Teapot Committee for all the work that goes into having this festival each year.

Speaking of out-of-towners, last Thursday and Friday, Gibson County and Trenton played host to WestStar. This is a group of professional men and women who have spent the winter and spring learning about West Tennessee and the issues and challenges that our region will face in the years to come. WestStar also allows this group to network with other leaders in the region and state that later on can be a resource for problem solving. Many of the ideas and advice I have used came from connections I made in my WestStar experience.

Since February, they have visited several counties and covered issues such as government, industry, business, tourism and education along with many other issues. The Gibson/Crockett County session will deal with energy issues that the world will face in the future. We were fortunate to host such a distinguished group of people who not only have the best interest of their local areas in mind but also the entire West Tennessee region.

I had the privilege of hosting the WestStar group at my home last Thursday night and I wanted to thank the Trenton Peabody FFA for preparing and serving the meal. These young people are examples of our local youth at its best. They were helpful, mannerly and represented you and our community well. Don't let anyone tell you that young people are no good. These young people would have made you proud.

Speaking of the issues that face Gibson County and our region, you have the privilege and obligation to vote several times in 2010. These upcoming elections may be the most important elections in recent Gibson County history. Times are changing and we will need dedicated, intelligent people with vision to lead us in the upcoming years. I don't know who you think that will be, but whoever you think should lead, you need to give them your vote.

There has been a little misunderstanding lately about events at the park. Recently, the city asked some of the baseball and softball teams not to use the fields because they had not provided current proof of insurance for their league. Each league is responsible for providing insurance for players and the city's insurer (the Tennessee Municipal League) requires us to have proof that the leagues are covered. This all came about due to the fatal racing car accident that happened in Selmer, Tennessee a few years ago.

Because teams were asked to vacate the fields one evening, a rumor got out that the city did not buy the insurance and that's why the children weren't allowed to play. This is not true. The city does not provide league insurance. That is the responsibility of each league. But since they do use city facilities, the city pays the utility bills and the city takes responsibility for some of the care and maintenance of the fields, we can decide under what conditions the leagues use city property. The City of Trenton is committed to providing a clean, healthy, and safe environment for our children to play in. As long as the leagues go by the rules, they will be playing there for many years to come.

I might need to apologize about something. Recently, one of my employees told me he had spoken with a nice lady in town that said, "All that Mayor cares about is recycling". I think she even said she wasn't going to recycle anymore. If I have given the citizens of Trenton that impression, I am sorry. I care about this city very much. I am concerned about lack of jobs. I am concerned about the amount of drugs that are sold and consumed. I am concerned about the domestic violence calls we receive on a daily basis. I am concerned about animal abuse, businesses failing, reckless driving, loud car speakers, the safety of our children getting back and forth to school, and on and on. I am proud of our recycling effort but it is not my only concern. If there is something that you don't think I am paying enough attention to, let me know.

I love to read. It is one of my favorite things to do but I don't have the free time to do it very often. It takes me a month to read a book because often times, I only get to read a chapter a day. Probably 90% of the knowledge I possess has come from reading books.

With Mother's Day coming on, I have to give credit to my mother for my passion to read. My mother was a librarian for many, many years and I cannot remember a time when books were not in our home. My

mother reads about 4 to 5 novels a week still and when she comes to visit, I always make a trip to our local library to get her something to read. Thanks mom, for instilling in me the love of reading.

I hope that you appreciate living in Trenton as much as I do. It is a beautiful place, filled with caring people. We have a lot going for us and at some point, we will have even more. I have lived here for 30 years and tried to be a good neighbor and good community member. If you don't think Trenton is a wonderful city, you are doing something wrong. Yes, you're right, Trenton isn't perfect but we're working on it. Enjoy the festival and until next time, God Bless Trenton.

Tony Burriss
Mayor, City of Trenton
309 South College Street
Trenton, Tennessee 38382
731-855-2013 (work)
731-695-6209 (mobile)
trentonmayor@bellsouth.net