

**Message from the Mayor
#68 05-07-2010**

We have just gone from a week of celebration to a week of disaster. The worst flood in nearly 30 years has devastated and disrupted the lives of everyone in the city. I can't begin to understand what those who lost everything have gone through, but they are in my prayers and I hope they are in yours.

There are many people who were invaluable to us over the past week and I am going to attempt to thank some of those here. I was amazed at the emergency help that came running when we called and the dedication of our city employees when we called on them.

I would like to acknowledge the Gibson County Emergency Management Agency headed up by our own Ricky Graves and all the volunteers from different parts of the county who brought boats to evacuate residents, manned the shelter at the high school, helped get us bottled water from the state, put our county damage assessment together for FEMA, and many other things.

Also thanks goes to Summers Landing for providing a place for some of our families displaced by the flood. Wally Vernon and his staff worked tirelessly to provide shelter for those who needed it.

But most of all, I want to thank our city employees. The police, who worked around the clock to keep the city safe and helped to assess the damage we had in Trenton, the fire personnel who helped with traffic control and distributed water, our street department that is still picking up debris and furniture destroyed by the flood, and my office staff who fielded questions, answered the phones, and helped to get information out as quickly as we received it.

I know I am forgetting some individual or group, but I want you to know how grateful I am to everybody who helped in some way or the other. In keeping that thought, anyone who had flood damage of any kind will need to call FEMA at 1-800-621-3362. Any pictures, receipts, and any flood documentation you have will help. They have set up a place at the Gibson County Fairgrounds for victims to come to.

There is a problem we need to address with our recycling efforts. Please do not put needles or syringes of any kind in your recycling bag. I understand that they are plastic but we are running the risk of being stuck by a needle. We are asking you to dispose of them properly in a sharps container. Please help us with this as it could be a life threatening situation.

Here is some good news. Our first Music on the Square event will be taking place this weekend. The Gibson County Community Band, Chad Karnes, and the Heartland Jazz Review will be performing starting at 6:00. Food vendors and crafts booths will be opening at 5:30. Bring your lawn chairs and your appetite and come to the square to relax and enjoy a night out with your neighbors.

Also, this Saturday night will be our Teapot Truck and Tractor Pull and Fireworks display. The Pull starts at 7:30 and the Fireworks will be somewhere around 9:00. Come to the square and then go out to Shady Acres Park to enjoy the show.

If you have been past Shady Acres Park recently, you have noticed some work being done. We have redone the restrooms at the concession stand and are completely renovating the pavilion. Our goal in the future is to add on to the pavilion to allow for more picnic tables. The City Council and I are committed to making our park a great place to go.

Lastly this week, many of us were inconvenienced by having to boil water or buy some extra bottled water last week. I apologize to the residents but the state and the city wanted to make sure our water is safe. I apologize to the businesses for the inconvenience they suffered economically and let's pray it never happens again. But for some in our city, their loss was total. It wasn't an inconvenience; it was the stark reality that they have to start again from square one. I can't imagine what that feels like. This was not an event that happened one weekend and then went away. There

are those that will never recover and their lives will never be the same. We should hurt for those people, pray for those people, and help those people because even though the flood happened over a week and a half ago, the effects are still with us. All of us should remember how blessed our lives are and be grateful for what we have. Mother Nature turned this beautiful city ugly for a time. I can't wait till it is beautiful again and it will be. I guess the truth that Trenton is not perfect came home to us in a colossal way. Now, with God's help we will work on it together. Till next time, God be with us all and God Bless Trenton.

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