

Message from the Mayor #74 07-30-2010

I want to start this week by congratulating two of our Trenton police officers for completing their Officer Certification training. Officer Ben Whitehead graduated last Friday in a ceremony held at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy in Nashville. The training combines academic classroom law enforcement training as well as a rigorous physical fitness program. It is a 3 month, 5 days per week school that all of our Trenton police officers have to complete in order to work in our Police Department.

Our other graduate is Officer James Garofalo who came to us from Connecticut. Jim was a police officer in the town where he lived and moved his family to Trenton a little over a year ago. He was hired by our Police Department a few months ago and because he was a certified officer in Connecticut, Officer Garofalo only had to complete a 3 weeks course at the Academy. He will be finishing up at the end of this week. Congratulations to both of them on a job well done.

I am extremely proud of our Police Department and the job they do. The work they do is dangerous and serious and sometimes they are not always as friendly and warm as you would like them to be. Remember, at one minute they can be doing something as easy as unlocking your car and the next minute they may be on the scene of a horrible car accident or a domestic assault, fight, or a robbery. They put themselves in harm's way to protect you and your property. Sometimes they issue you a ticket for a traffic offense. Their job is to keep this city safe and they do a great job.

Someone told me that there has been talk on some website lately about Trenton or possibly the County bringing back First Monday. Two years ago the City of Trenton worked in conjunction with Bubba Darnell to try to bring First Monday back at Shady Acres Park. We tried it for 4 weekends and had little to no turnout for the event. Mr. Darnell and his wife advertised and contacted vendors. We really wanted it to work but it just didn't.

Now, here's the upside. If someone would like to give First Monday another try or has an idea on how to make it work, come see me. I'm always open to great ideas contrary to what a few think. Maybe you have the solution.

Speaking of your ideas or opinions, did you know that at each City Council meeting there is an opportunity for any citizen to address the Board of Aldermen on any subject they want to? We allot a 3 minute restriction on each person but there is no stopwatch involved. I heard a rumor that my office and the Board of Aldermen don't listen to the ideas and opinions of others. If you don't come in to see me or voice your opinions at a Board meeting, how would we know what you are thinking? We welcome anyone to speak to us; that's why we added the Citizen Input time into our meetings. Come on and get involved.

I have had several people ask me if I am going to seek a second term as mayor. I most definitely am. I haven't formally announced as of yet because the election is not till November and there are enough politicians running for office at this time. I have enjoyed serving the city and I would like to see the programs and policies we have introduced over the last three years come to pass. I will make a formal announcement of my candidacy later in August or early September.

By the time you read this the Neil House will probably be in Jackson being set up behind the Old Country Store in Casey Jones Village. For better or worse, the City of Trenton needed something to happen to the house. It has been in disrepair for decades. Old houses need someone to love them. They need personal care and attention and it takes a special person to love them. Clark Shaw and his family fall into that group. They will bring the Neil House back to life again with a new purpose. It raises the question; what is more important, the house or the location? I don't have the answer to that, so I leave it up to you. It will be wonderful to see the Neil House restored one of these days even if I have to drive to Jackson to do it.

It is getting increasingly easy to adopt a negative attitude in the times we live in. People are out of work and some have had to live without unemployment benefits. People in my own family are struggling. I thank God that my wife and I have satisfying work to go to every day. Those of us who do should try to be positive and help each other search for ways to survive when it seems like everything around us is falling apart. Are you trying to be part of the solution or are you a complainer who criticizes the efforts of others? That's the easy way but I don't buy into it. If you think your life is going to get better through the efforts of others while you sit back, wait, and criticize, you are going to be disappointed with this life. People who try to make things better around them are going to fail sometimes, they are going to make mistakes, but every once in a while they are going to do something good for themselves and others around them. That's the kind of person I like to surround myself

with and the kind of person I try to be. Just like Trenton, you don't have to be perfect, just keep working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.