

Message from the Mayor
62 02-12-2010

Let's spend a little time updating the recycling program. We have made great strides toward making the process run efficiently, collecting recyclable materials and getting more and more people involved. The Board of Aldermen and I would like to personally thank all of you who are participating. The program so far is a huge success. With that said, let me update you on a few things that we are adjusting and things we need help with.

First, in an effort to bring down costs, we will be going to clear bags in the future. The cost of a green bag with writing on it is about \$.22 whereas the clear bag runs about \$.11. The clear bag will be 1 ply thicker and the same size as the green bag. As you can see, this will be a huge savings for us as we collect about 750-1000 bags per week. As we have always done, we will replace a bag for a bag when we pick up your recycling.

Speaking of that, it has come to my attention that we have some people in the city that are coming around and taking replacement bags out of people's yards. I don't know what they are doing with them but we are definitely going to be watching for these folks and bringing this to a halt. Also, we don't want people to use the bags for regular trash. We will have to start working on this challenge also.

Another challenge we face is people going through your recycling bag after you put it out. There are a few folks taking cans and other materials at night and my guess is selling them themselves. The problem lies with these people not tying bags back up and your recyclables end up all over your yard. I will be asking our police officers to discourage these people from pilfering through your recycling. Also if you see someone going through your bags, call the police, give us an address and we will send someone. Thanks for your help.

The next challenge we are facing is with syringes and needles. These materials are not recyclable and pose a huge threat to our workers. They should be placed in a container that cannot be penetrated and thrown away in the trash. I wish we could eliminate this problem as it could become a very serious situation if someone got a puncture wound handling them.

Other than these few challenges, the Trenton Clean and Green Program is a real success. We are at the point of earning our first "Greengooroo" months ahead of schedule. We will be displaying a banner at City Hall to show our progress as we continue. You should be very proud of what you have accomplished in such a short time. Please encourage those who have not joined us to become part of the future.

There will be a Relay for Life Kick-off meeting in the Teapot Room on February 18th to discuss this year's event. My understanding is that it has been difficult this year to find volunteers to handle the campaign. There have been a faithful group of people that have been organizing and pulling off the fund-raiser for several years now and they need some reinforcements. Cancer has touched the lives of most of us and it is hard to think of something that needs to be wiped out any more than cancer does. The key is in the research. The American Cancer Society has made huge leaps in the treatment of this disease in the last 25 years. If you had to make a choice to be involved in one cause in your lifetime, a cure for cancer very well might be the most important cause you could support. Come by on the 18th and see how you can help. You won't be sorry.

By the time spring gets here you will be noticing lots of construction and deconstruction projects happening in the city. Between the finishing of the Winfrey Center homes, new school construction, College Street revitalization, Presbyterian Church additions, sewer rehab on Lexington Street, abandoned home demolition, Shady Acres Park improvements and other projects, Trenton will look like there is a lot going on and there will be a lot going on. I am excited about Trenton growing and looking better. I hope you are too.

Speaking of a growing Trenton, I hope you are watching for your 2010 Census form and are ready to fill it out and send it back. I cannot tell you how important it is for you and our city to participate. Our local state tax money and our governmental representation pivot on these numbers.

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the New Spring Hill Baptist Church on the passing of their pastor the Reverend Norman Carver. Rev. Carver held a special place in my heart as he was a great pastor to his flock and a friend. He preached at the first Community Thanksgiving Service that was held after I was elected Mayor and he blew the congregation away. He also could quote more scripture from memory than any 3 people I know. My sympathy goes out to his wife and family. The City of Trenton and I will miss him very much.

Lastly this month, I want to say something about the demolition of the historic Neil House on High Street. For me it is a lose/lose situation and absolutely no city money or state or federal grant money is being

used in the demolition of the property. It is a shame that houses do not last forever without tender loving care but they don't and we will all lose something when it goes.

Our Local Option Sales Tax for Trenton in December was \$97,571.99. This was up from \$81,000 in November. SHOPPING TRENTON works and we need to keep it up. Thanks for your part in helping our local economy. Let's remain diligent about making things better and although Trenton isn't perfect, we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.