

Message from the Mayor

Let's talk about a concept that I truly feel that we as Gibson County residents need to address and that subject is unity. Now, let me say up front I love Trenton above all cities in Gibson County and I am honored and privileged to represent this wonderful city everyday and everywhere I go. You already know that and that is not the point. The point is, whatever is good for Gibson County is good for all of us. Let me try to explain.

We now live in a totally different world than we did 20 years ago. Industrial opportunity and the recruiting of these opportunities have totally changed in the last quarter of a century. Major industries do not recognize city and county lines anymore. They just look at a map and point at where they feel like they need to locate. What we are hoping is that they point close to us. Now in saying that, I need to tell you that every industrial building we have in the city but one is occupied. The only empty building is the "Spec" Building. For the most part, that is not all bad, because if everything was full, there would be no reason for an industry to come to Trenton at all. Now here's the scary news: if someone came to Trenton today wanting to build a new plant, we have no land for them to go to. There is, at this time, no "shovel ready" land for a plant to locate. "Shovel ready" means the infrastructure is in place. Roads and utilities must be made available for them to put a building on, if they want to put their own structure up. The "good news" is that we are working on that we hope we will be ready when the time comes.

Now, here is where the unity part comes in. The County has already built a "shovel ready" site between here and Humboldt. Is it in Trenton? No, but if they land someone who employs 250 people, will we benefit? Well, sure we will. Jobs for Trentonians would mean a heightened economy right here in the city. This is not the only example of how we need to come together as a county to benefit all of us. How much better could we all live if we could drop the attitude that this is not a Friday night football game? Let's all get on the same page.

Let's change the subject. Can we look at "Shop Trenton" in a different light? Do your children go to school in the Trenton Special School District? Teachers are paid with tax dollars from this district. The more tax dollars the more money. The more money, the more and better teachers the system can afford. The more and better teachers we can afford the better education your children get. Am I sensing a pattern? Can you come up with a better reason to spend as much of your shopping dollars as you can right here at home? Think about it.

Chief Sanders is looking for about 30-40 volunteers to help him with a training in-service we are hosting in Trenton this March. The training is called Rapid Response to Shooter School. The purpose is to prepare police officers in the advent of a shooter entering a school or business with the intent of harming persons in the building. He needs the volunteers on March 13th from 7:30a.m. to 11:30a.m. to help officials simulate possible scenarios that might happen in conjunction with a shooter. This sounds interesting and exciting, so if you would like to help out, contact Chief Sanders at 855-1413. Here's a great chance to get involved.

I sincerely hope you had no damage in the recent storms. Unfortunately, some of you did. We can all thank God that most of us did not suffer the way our neighbors to the south did. If you have debris from the storm we can help you dispose of, please let us know and we will help you out. Try not to wait, as we will soon get busier as the temperatures rise and we start our spring work schedule. Maybe you have limbs or some shingles that blew off your house. We don't mind picking them up as long as you get them to the street promptly. Thanks to all those young people who picked up limbs and shingles on Quail Ridge. Your help was greatly appreciated by the residents.

Speaking of spring coming up, this is a good time to start cleaning up around your property. Winter blows around a lot of trash and debris that would only take a couple of minutes to gather up and put out for us to pick up. I promised when I took office to make an effort to "straighten up" the city, and I have every intention of doing so. Some of us have trash in our yards or we are using our front porches as a storage space for items that need to be in storage buildings out of sight. Some have old appliances and non-tagged vehicles out front and these items need to be hauled away or put out of sight. I will be asking our police officers to hand out warnings and citations to people who will not get on board with our clean-up campaign.

I have noticed that 98% of our businesses in the city do a wonderful job of keeping their shops and grounds looking good. By the way, business owners have to know that the way your business looks is in direct proportion to the amount of business you do. But we still have a few business owners who do not keep their property up to the standard that the majority of the citizens would like to see. Prospective

Trentonians drive by these places of business everyday. They are trying to decide if Trenton is where they want to settle. Does your property or place of business say "Please move to Trenton"? Are you driving future customers to another town? I personally would like every business in the city to really prosper and be here for years to come. Thank you to all of you who care about the appearance of our city and to those few others, get with the program.

Remember, property taxes and city stickers are due by March 1st. Don't forget !!! What a great city we live in. We are not perfect, but we are trying everyday to get better. I need to know what bothers you and the solution you have and if the mood hits, what you like about our fair town. I am here only to make your life better. That's why you hired me. I work for you. Send me an email at trentonmayor@bellsouth.net and we'll talk. Until then, God Bless Trenton.