

JCHS alumni, business owner or mayor?

● Erica Overfelt

Students may have seen Carrie Tergin helping customers at her business, Carrie's Hallmark, or at a community event as one of the speakers. However, this former Jefferson City High School graduate added a new title to her repertoire this past April: mayor. Tergin is the second woman to hold this position in Jefferson City history.

Throughout high school, Tergin was involved in Future Business Leaders of America and Art Club. She joined FBLA because growing up she was always associated with her family's business named after her, hence the name Carrie's Hallmark, which was passed down to her in ownership. After graduating from JCHS, she continued her education at Missouri State University and majored in Business Management.

"I went to college knowing I had my career path laid out for me," Tergin said. "I knew college would give me that extra experience."

Apart from her business downtown, Tergin has been involved in city government directly for over six years. She was in city council for six years until she ran for re-election and lost to her opponent, Glen Costales, by 47 votes. However, this only motivated Tergin to run for mayor. When running she decided to have a different aspect for her campaign, a more positive one.

"I ran for mayor and had a different campaign than the others and that brought me to the position I have now," Tergin said. "Positive leadership, building partnership and bringing growth to Jefferson City."

Being mayor in any community is a large leadership position. The mayor is the head figure of the city and of course, very well-known. Tergin knows she doesn't always come off as the mayor. However, there have been countless times when she tells someone of her position and they are surprised by the news. Tergin doesn't take this the wrong way. Instead, it is just her breaking through barriers.

When thinking of her everyday job, anyone would agree that it can become stressful or even a bit too professional sometimes, leaving no room for fun. Tergin does indeed have opportunities to participate in fun community events such as canoeing on the Missouri River; however, there are hardships in the job. One challenge anyone can face is standing up for what is right and that is something our mayor strives to do and has learned throughout her experience in the council.

"Hardest part is that there are so many groups, and so many people I want to be there for just depending on time," Tergin said. "I don't want to turn down opportunities of talking to people."

Tergin has high hopes for the future of Jefferson City. One thing people may not realize is that Jefferson City is the only city in the country that has a river, state capitol and a state



[photo by Erica Overfelt]

Mayor Carrie Tergin poses in front of the city seal which is located behind her seat in the Chamber of Commerce.

penitentiary. The penitentiary is supposed to have over 25,000 visitors this year, which shows great potential for the future of the community. Tergin is working on making the goals for potential in the community a reality with other new leaders in the city.

With busy days and hectic schedules, reaching out to the community is something Tergin will never forget to do. Letting the community know what is going on in a city is vital. From updating her social media and her blog, which can be found at mayortergin.blogspot.com. She knows it is important to showcase what is going on in Jefferson City.

"I think people are genuinely glad to know what is going on in city government," Tergin said. "I am very active on social media. I am posting things and trying to be in touch."