

From the Desk of Hank Evans

Dear Neighbor:

As taxpayers, we understand property taxes are necessary to provide basic city functions. These have traditionally included garbage collection, public safety, streets and sewers, and snow removal. However, we also know that costs for goods and services are often increasing, especially when it comes to things like health insurance for city employees.

This is why I am especially interested in who will be the next mayor of West Des Moines. I want our next Mayor to do two things, as I think most residents do:

1. Hold the line on property taxes.
2. Continue providing quality city services.

Some people may consider that “having your cake and eating it too,” but for me, it’s what I expect from our city government. I believe one candidate can deliver on my request, and that candidate is Steve Gaer.

Steve Gaer understands the burden that property taxes place on seniors, especially those on fixed incomes. Many seniors do not have the ability to generate extra income when taxes increase.

Steve Gaer also understands that the city has a responsibility to its citizens to provide quality city services and amenities for its residents. That includes safe and smooth streets, fire protection, garbage pick-up, green parks, trails and quality libraries.

Finally, Steve knows that for West Des Moines residents to “have their cake and eat it too” keeping our momentum moving forward in the area of job creation must be a top priority. When new jobs are created; whether that means existing companies expanding, or new businesses choosing West Des Moines that equates to an expanded tax base. An expanded tax base spreads out the cost of paying for our city services so individual homeowners, like you and I, are not burdened by increasing taxes to pay for rising costs of doing business.

I am voting for Steve Gaer on Tuesday, April 17, because I know he has the best interests of our seniors in mind. Please join me in supporting Steve Gaer. He’s ready to go to work for us.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Hank Evans

WDM Citizen of the Year 2006

P.S. Steve Gaer will protect property taxpayers. In fact, during his previous eight years on the West Des Moines council he never once voted for a property tax increase.