



4646 Dakota St. SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Jan. 20, 2013

A Message from the Mayor

A Great Foundation for Civic Pride

I'm honored to begin my term as Prior Lake's mayor. Despite running unopposed, I received votes from more than 9,000 residents, representing 65% of all registered voters. Wow! I feel both the burden and joy of representing all residents in our fine city for the next four years.

Expect to see a regular column from me. You'll see at least two different types of columns. The first will contain unabashed cheerleading for the city. While our city manager, Frank Boyles, might be considered the CEO of the city, and the City Council the Board of Directors, the mayor has a unique additional role, the CCC (Chief Civic Cheerleader - my term). Many columns from me will focus on the great things going on in Prior Lake and the things that make it a great place to live, work and play. I'm proud of Prior Lake and the residents and businesses that call it home. I consider it a wonderful place to call home and want everyone to hear exactly why I feel that way.

The second type of column will be issue focused, and I will strive to give you straight talk from city hall. In these columns, I'll obviously be speaking for myself, not necessarily the whole council, but I will make every effort to highlight the different sides of issues and encourage residents from every corner of the city to weigh in and give me and the council good input. Issue columns will contain more facts and analysis, so if you're interested in the topic and want to read them, please bear with me.

Here's some cheerleading.

Community pride is a magical thing. If we have it, it raises our quality of life, citizen engagement in the life of our city, and how good we feel about everything here. If community pride is low ... well it's just the opposite. For me, the accomplishments of our students – academic clubs and endeavors, the competitive success of our high school teams, and cultural/community programs – has a strong and direct impact on our community pride.

The PLHS athletic teams are on a real hot streak. Think about the football team playing in the State Tournament and the girls tennis team placing third at the State Tournament, recent top ten rankings of the boys basketball and hockey teams, year after year success of the girls cross country and track teams, repeated high rankings and state meet finishes for both the boys and girls swimming teams, the incredible results achieved by the boys wrestling teams. I could go on and on, and I'm surely missing many top notch teams. Doesn't it make you proud to read of these exploits in the Prior Lake American, the StarTribune, and hear about them on the news? I know it makes me proud.

What about the cultural and community programs? The school band and choral programs have been representing our community for decades with pride and conviction. Or did you know that more than 60 students participate each year in the Junior Optimists and cheerfully go to Feed Our Starving Children among other activities, and are joined by Boy/Girl Scouts and church group as well. How

about academic pursuits? The impact is quieter, but just as strong and often longer lasting. Did you know that 257 Prior Lake High School students were named School Board Scholars and had a cumulative GPA of 3.8 or higher? And I've been thrilled to hear about the incredible achievements of our robotics club. Imagine how many kids go on to excel in college and graduate school programs across the country – it's a growing number every year.

These young people are the emissaries of Prior Lake in the world, whether in academic pursuit, community service, music and cultural programs, or athletic competition. I just think about the outstanding talent, great coaching and advisor staffs, and strong school spirit that all come together to create high achievements and a self-assured attitude. I also know that these efforts and results stick with our youth for the rest of their lives. Success breeds success, and pride in accomplishment engenders self-confidence and a more positive attitude in every part of these kids' lives. What a great foundation for civic pride.