

February 26, 2009

To the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Committee,

My name is Sal DiBenedetto and I intend to run for a seat on the Crystal Lake City Council. I have been a member of the Crystal Lake community for the past 14 years. Over the course of these 14 years, I have been steadily employed in Crystal Lake. My wife and I have planted our family roots here and our children have flourished in the Crystal Lake public school system. We enjoy many opportunities for recreation within Crystal Lake, from the beautiful parks and beach to movies, lazer tag, and skating, just to name a few. My family and I have worshipped in Crystal Lake as well. Through my faith, I have felt the necessity to volunteer at the McHenry County Correctional Facility where I spend time mentoring those in need. This has also motivated me to run for City Council.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve our community as part of the City Council and feel I will bring a balanced perspective to the board. I'm also passionate about creating and cultivating a community that allows families and business to thrive.

My credentials are quite different from the other candidates and will provide a productive counter balance to the decisions that affect our future. With my travel and relief work in South Africa, South America, and my current work here in McHenry, I have a broad sense of needs assessment and how to work with people to bring about change within a community.

As an average Crystal Lake resident, my heart desires a healthy value-based community in which businesses and families may prosper. It is the obligation of the Crystal Lake City Council to see to it that our community is driven by solid moral standards.

I firmly believe that small business is the foundation of any successful community. I also believe that as a city council member, one must provide opportunities and incentives to small business owners and entrepreneurs within Crystal Lake in order for those businesses to thrive and be successful. For example, tax breaks for startup companies and tax exemptions for businesses moving into or expanding in Crystal Lake would encourage small businesses to stay, develop, and evolve into prosperous local workplaces.

Each one of us can recall our first job experience which most likely took place within the community. During that time, that is where we developed a more mature understanding of hard work, responsibility, and dedication. Now as adult Crystal Lake residents, we should honor and reward our community businesses by continuing to shop locally. Awareness through advertising and continued networking events will provide residents with the opportunity to work in Crystal Lake, play in Crystal Lake, and stay in Crystal Lake.

I have no alliances, no pet projects and no favors to repay. I represent the average Crystal Lake resident and would consider it a privilege and joy to work with the rest of the City Council to protect the place we call home.

Sincerely,
Sal DiBenedetto