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Circle Pines Mayoral Candidate Oct 23, 2007

**Dave Bartholomay**

City: Circle Pines

Candidate for: Mayor (unopposed)

**Occupation:** Vice president of business development at Avenet Web Solutions

**Political and civic experience:** Mayor of Circle Pines since 2006, council member for four years prior, active member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church, member of the Centennial Lakes Police Department and the Centennial Utilities Commission

**Education:** Bachelor's and master's degrees in political science

**Why are you running for office?**

I have worked for elected officials before (Governor Rudy Perpich), but ran for office myself to help our community work out rough edges on the townhouse development at Lake Drive and Lexington Avenue. Development can tear a community apart, but by becoming involved and helping find consensus on key issues, we were able to bring many folks together. This community's approach of inviting citizens into the conversation is exciting and works well for Circle Pines, and isn't found in all cities.

**Describe your most significant accomplishment.**

I think we've really improved communications; for example, the newsletter, the Web site and the cable TV channel. We've also kept our tax increases as low as possible, while still planning for the future rather than simply reacting to challenges. All of this happens, by the way, as a council and city staff, not as individuals.

**Who is a leader you admire?**

I don't look to Washington D.C., or the state capitol for much leadership these days, I look local. Folks like Superintendent Roger Worner, utility board member Donovan Mayne, neighbors like Dwight and Pat Benoy, John and Eleanor Yackel and Lynn Rossitor. They're successful people who take time every day to give back to the community, demonstrating compassion and offering support and advice to myself and others as we all work to make Circle Pines a great place to live.

**What kind of leader are you?**

I try to be thoughtful, thorough, articulate and inclusive. I have found that leadership in the mayor's position is about embracing consensus and finding a style that works for yourself, the city council and the community. I also want to better understand and practice servant leadership.

### **What are some top issues you feel need to be addressed in Circle Pines?**

Street and infrastructure maintenance is not a “new program” with a lot of glitz, but an important, necessary cost that must be managed proactively rather than timidly. Elected officials want to avoid spending more money and raising taxes, but the truth is that rebuilding deteriorating streets and sewer lines is an investment that has to be made.

Growing a sense of community is important in a small town like ours. Our unique history as a cooperative, our asset of a tremendous parks and trails system and our pride in our community need to be nurtured and lifted up, and not taken for granted.

Financial sustainability is important when state and federal resources have declined and the burden of community support falls mainly to local homeowners. Staying fiscally frugal while still maintaining a community we can be proud of is always a delicate balancing act.

### **What's the one issue that needs to be focused on?**

I believe there is an opportunity to strengthen the connections between city residents and the school district. Many residents no longer have kids in the school system yet pay property taxes to support our schools, and I think the city and schools can work better together to foster understanding, utilize resources, find efficiencies and support the youth. I'm working with others to develop a soon-to-be announced innovative partnership between Golden Lake Elementary School and Circle Pines that, if successful, could be expanded to include other elementary schools serving our city and our school district.

### **Why are you the best candidate for the job?**

Over the last two years, I've brought a lot of passion, experience and new ideas to the position of mayor. I try my best to be a good communicator and have worked very hard to represent the city well. I absolutely cherish the ability to work with our current city council and a talented, experienced city staff to help Circle Pines be the best run, most livable community in the state.