

**\*\* Special \*\*  
Election Issue**

**STAND UP AND BE HEARD!**

# City Watch *It's Time*



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## Preserve Your Right To Vote

**COUNTY MEASURE #1** (Shall the County take the currently elected position of Recorder, and make it an appointed position).

A **Yes** vote takes this office out of direct citizen control.

A **NO VOTE** means you wish to retain your right to elect by your vote the County Recorder.

**CITY MEASURE #2-** Amendment to Home Rule Charter. This measure only deals with your **RIGHT** to **VOTE** on the jail project.

A **YES VOTE** means that you want to have a chance to vote on Valley City's participation in the jail project.

A **No** vote means that you are giving up your right to vote on the jail project.

Again: Your vote on city measure #2 only indicates your desire to vote on the jail project, not whether you want the project or not.

Are you satisfied that you have all the information you need to feel good about the jail project? A "No" vote says you are.

A **YES VOTE** says that you want more information on it and that you want to preserve your right to vote on the project.

### *Mission Statement*

The Committee for Community Involvement is an inclusive nonpartisan coalition of Valley City area citizens working together for the following purposes:

\*To encourage local government to listen to and implement the wishes of the citizens

\*To encourage local government to provide accurate and complete information to the citizens

\*To encourage citizen involvement in local decision making

\*To encourage all members of local government to maintain high ethical standards and to remember always their accountability to the citizens they represent

\*To strengthen our community by protecting the individual liberties of citizens and their posterity

\*To provide citizens with a means to **Stand Up And Be Heard**



### **ELECTION PLATFORM**

Property Tax Reform - Reduce City Spending

Keep the Public Informed

Make City Hall User Friendly

To Be Fair and Consistent

Encourage Citizen Involvement in Local Decisions

Promote Valley City in a Positive Way

(CLIP AND TAKE TO THE POLLS WITH YOU)

### **\* ELECTION \***

**Mayor: Lloyd Nelson**

(Property Tax Reform-Reduce City Spending)

**Commissioner: Robert Drake**

(Property Tax Reform-Reduce City Spending)

**Commissioner: LeRoy Neubauer**

(Property Tax Reform-Reduce City Spending)

**City Measure #1: No**

(Another layer of Government with expenses without accountability)

**City Measure #2: Yes** (Protect your Right to Vote)

**County Election County Measure #1: No**

(Keep the Recorders office elected)

**County Measure #2: No**

(Another layer of Government with expenses without accountability)

# \*MEET THE CANDIDATES

## LeRoy Neubauer

**I am seeking the position of City Commissioner.**

I am a retired Engineer and Director of Public Works.

I have a degree in Electrical Engineering from NDSU and a Masters of Business Administration from RIT in NY.

You may remember me from my position as Superintendent of Municipal Utilities, Director of Public Works and/or my membership and participation in activities at Saint Catherine Catholic Church.

I am concerned about: escalating property appraisals and associated taxes; tax burden on senior citizens; arrogance by some in city hall towards taxpayers and their concerns; lack of good paying jobs in VC and lack of communications and response to public from city hall; unnecessary spending by city hall.

Valley City needs to work on: responding to taxpayer concerns; listening to citizen opinions; city planning; getting more and better paying jobs; more aggressive economic development.

I am running because I want to make Valley City a better place to live and work. I have almost 15 years experience in city hall and I know how city government works. I want to improve how city hall deals with city issues and responds to public concerns.

When I started in 1985, city hall was a good place to work. Commissioners like: Olson, Goff, Cummings, Hoss, Bischoff and Leon and Mick Pytlik had the best interest of VC in their decision making. In the "90s" things turned to "don't bother us with your ideas, we know what is best for you". When I started, we could not treat the public the way it is being treated today by a couple in city hall.

People should vote for me because I will listen to the taxpayers and citizens and work on their behalf. We need a CHANGE in city hall commissioners.

I want to make city hall user friendly; not a place to fear. There should be a number to call where there will be someone to voice your concerns and issues to and you can expect to get an answer back within a week.

I do a lot of volunteer work in VC. I do meals on wheels once a week, take people to Fargo or Jamestown for medical work, and volunteer at Abused Persons Outreach Center. I attend Saint Catherine's where I am involved with parish activities. I believe in the saying that we should leave earth a better place than what we found it. To that end, I think we should all ask what we can do for VC, not what VC can do for us.

## Lloyd Nelson

**I am seeking the Position of President of the City Commission (Mayor).**

I am retired from working for the Northern Pacific, Burlington Northern, and Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroads for 44 years, including being the Customer Service Representative for eastern North Dakota. My experience on the railroad will help me with my first duty of serving the citizens of Valley City - not only as my customers, but also as my employers.

I served in the North Dakota National Guard for 29 years in various capacities, including First Sergeant of a Headquarters Company in Valley City. I finished my military career as Command Sergeant Major with service in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq during the Persian Gulf War 1990-1991. My experience of working with, and for the soldiers in my units will aid me in working for the people of Valley City.

I am involved in several community areas: Sexton of St. Catherine Cemetery, Faith in Action, life member of VFW, ten years of teaching faith formation to eighth grade, Railroad Days for second graders, and volunteering my piano talents for various community activities. I am married to Donna Nelson, and we have raised four children in Valley City. My wife worked for 40 years in the healthcare profession, and is very active in various com-

munity organizations.

I am a candidate for the Commission in Valley City because I believe the citizens have not been properly informed on some key issues, and have been left out of some of the important decisions made by the City Commission.

I am very concerned with the recent mass assessment that was done by Vanguard Appraisals of Cedar Rapids, IA. Some properties in the community may have needed reassessing, however, the manner in which the mass assessment was done was very unfair to many of our citizens. The discrepancies that occurred must be corrected with the welfare of the citizen in mind. Making the correct decisions between what the City NEEDS, and what the City WANTS must control government spending.

Valley City's major strong point is the citizen - who is sincere, conscientious, and hard working with good work ethics. We are blessed to have our senior citizens who, during their life, have helped not only make Valley City what it is, but have also helped make North Dakota what it is. We have our middle-aged citizens who are living, working, and raising families in Valley City to keep the community thriving. We have our young people who are not only our future, but also our "here and now". First place speech team, science olympiad, and working to raise money for a skateboard park. We have many, good, viable industries in our community that we can be proud of. Sheyenne Care Center, the third largest long term care facility in the state. Mercy Hospital and two Medical Clinics to take care of people's health. Open Door program, John Deere, National Manufacturing, Alliance Pipeline, Lafarge, CDI, and Vansco are eight more major employers. Our higher education institution is very progressive with the addition of its Masters program. And, last, but by no means least, our uptown and around town businesses that are very important to keep our community moving forward.

We need to work towards keeping

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our community alive. This can be accomplished, not only with more industry, but more importantly by listening to the citizens and working with and for them.

I will appreciate your vote in the upcoming election of June 13th, because I believe the citizens of Valley City have not been listened to in recent years. I will not only be the voice of the people, but most importantly I will be YOUR representative.



### **Robert Drake**

#### **I am running for the position of Valley City Commissioner.**

I am running for this position because there does not seem to be anyone at city hall paying any attention to the taxpayer! You all remember Vanguard, our City Commissioners all jumped on the band wagon and said this is what Valley City needs; this will be good for Valley City! Now that it is election time they are all jumping off the Vanguard band wagon and on to the, we care and we want citizen involvement Band Wagon. I think it is a little too late for that. The start of their term would have been a better time to be concerned about the taxpayer.

I want to serve the people of Valley City as your commissioner because someone needs to stand in the way of tax breaks for the rich, out of control Special assessments and property taxes that are so far out of what is reasonable and affordable to the people here in Valley City that someone needs to do something about it and that is why I want to be a City Commissioner. I want you to vote for Nelson, Drake and Neubauer. Together this team will get it done!

There are solutions to all these problems, it just takes a few people to get the ball rolling, to get the community involved and before you know it the problem doesn't seem so big because everyone is working on it. Look what happened right here in Valley City two years ago. The Valley City Commissioners all voted to put the most restric-

tive building code ordinances in the state on the people of Valley City. It was not for safety it was not for our own good it was to generate money. One guy saw through the propaganda and said not on my watch-Keith Colville.

He organized the first Committee for Community Involvement meeting and look what happened? He got a few others who felt the same way and it snow balled after that because when We The People start banding together the powers that be just stand aside. When it was all said and done the people of Valley City won and won big. Not only did the citizens get what they wanted as far as building codes and fees, we did something that NO other community in North Dakota has ever done, we wrote three ordinances, we got people to support them, and We The People passed them.

That is what will Happen with property taxes and specials assessments, and the powers that be in Valley City and the state of North Dakota will just step aside because when the Taxpayers band together with a common goal, government is in trouble and rightly so.

I did not mean to get off the subject

of why I am running for commissioner but it seems to all be connected. I am running to empower the people and it seems that government wants to take the power away at every opportunity just like the recorders office. It is very important to vote to keep the recorders office elected because it is the first step in getting rid of every elected position at the county level. Do you really want one of the County Commissioners sister or brother in the recorders office and maybe another Commissioners son or daughter in another position, pretty soon one person is in charge and our right to vote is lost and our way of life is lost and it starts by removing the checks and balances in our system. Without the right to vote we are slaves to whoever is in charge. Keep that in mind in the voting booth on June 13, you have a clear choice this time ask yourself one question are you happy with the Commissioners that are at City Hall now? Then vote for them. If not, vote Nelson, Neubauer and Drake! Even if you do not vote for us please vote. It is your job, it is your responsibility, and it is your right, at least for now, let's keep it that way!

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## **Preserve Your Right To Vote**

*By CCI*

It has been said that "with great power comes great responsibility" but with great responsibility also comes great power. Voting is one such responsibility. An act that should not be so easily dismissed, and an act that, as history has shown us, is worth fighting for.

Voting is a precious right, and the battle for that right was neither short nor easy. Prior to the Civil War, white property owning males and white males who paid poll taxes had the right to vote. Even with these requirements, however, all adult white males were still not eligible. Post Civil War conditions created an even more pressing need for the elimination of racial barriers to voting. The foundation for overcoming this obstacle was accomplished

by the abolition of slavery via the 13th amendment of 1865 and the recognition of citizenship to all people born or naturalized in the U.S. via the 14th amendment of 1868. Finally in 1870 the 15th amendment secured the right to vote for all male citizens regardless of race, color, or previous conditions of servitude. And though the struggle for racial equality still existed after the adoption of these amendments, it was one step closer to expanding voter rights.

The next step came in 1920 with the 19th amendment to the Constitution. It was under this amendment that citizens of the U.S. could not be denied the right to vote on the basis of their gender. It was the direct result of the

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women's suffrage movement of the late 1800's and early 1900's. Due to the woman's expanding role including working inside and outside the home, women began to demonstrate more openly by picketing and making speeches in efforts to make their voices heard and their right to vote realized. Those tireless efforts and struggles were met with success and with it another obstacle was overcome.

Another important amendment that further the cause of voter rights was the 24th amendment of 1964. This amendment abolished the poll tax. Even though most states had rescinded their laws of poll taxing some still remained. But this amendment once and for all opened the doors to eligible voters regardless of a citizen's economic status.

Voting was becoming more and more accessible. But even with all of its progress there was still more to come. Extending voting rights to include citizens of 18 years and older was accomplished by the 26th amendment. The instigation of the extension was due largely in part by the numerous student protests in opposition to the Vietnam War. Students protested the fact that even though they could fight and die for their country at 18, they were still denied voting rights. And so, as a result, in 1974 the 26th Amendment was adopted.

Each of these Amendments held their own degree of personal sacrifice for those who fought for them. And it was personal. They suffered persecution emotionally and physically, they suffered financial loss, they put their reputations on the line and they devoted a great part of their lives to ensuring that citizens would always have a voice in government. Their efforts were not in vain. The Amendment process, referendums and recalls are just a few of the great examples of how all citizens benefit and keep their governments in check. Citizens need to let their voices be heard on many issues beyond elections for public officials, such as school matters, fiscal spending and imposing new taxes to name a few. We can not take for granted this long and bitterly fought for right. Nor can we forfeit it through negligence or apathy. So out of respect of the past, necessity of the present and preservation for the future, let us embrace this responsibility that gives us the power to initiate change, maintain the voting rights we have gained and to secure those cherished rights for our posterity.

Support and preserve your right to vote! Please join us in voting YES on city measure number two and No on county measure number one.

### ***See YOU and the Polls!***

Official publication of Committee for Community Involvement (CCI), **City Watch** is published approximately every two months. Articles are submitted by members and friends of CCI. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and may not reflect official policies of CCI. **Past issues of "City Watch" are available or if you would like to receive future newsletters electronically, just send us an e-mail at [valleycitycci@yahoo.com](mailto:valleycitycci@yahoo.com).** Contact information: CCI, Box 403, Valley City, ND 58072 or email [valleycitycci@yahoo.com](mailto:valleycitycci@yahoo.com).

## **Property Appraisals & Taxes**

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH:

- \* The "Vanguard" appraisals done on your property?
- \* With the 7 or 10 percent increase that you just got for this year?

IF YOU ARE THEN YOU SHOULD VOTE THE INCUMBENTS BACK IN CITY HALL.

IF YOU ARE 'NOT' THEN VOTE IN A TEAM THAT IS GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE PROBLEM!

We favor a Proposition 13 approach.

Properties only increase a modest 1 or 2 percent each year.

Property values are changed when the properties sell and the sales price becomes the appraised value.

You can improve the value of your property without the fear that a city appraiser will come in and increase your value for more taxes.

~ VC gains from the desire to fix up your property without fear of more taxes.

~ VC gains because on a national average, homes are sold every 5 to 7 years so properties are re-adjusted at the sales value.

~ VC gains from increased sales taxes, material sales, economic development, and more employment.

~ VC gains because it takes the guess out of property values.

It's A WIN-WIN SITUATION!

**VOTE FOR A TEAM THAT WILL GET IT DONE.**

## **Nelson - Neubauer - Drake**

### ***Comments That CCI Has Received***

I have read your last issue of the paper (City Watch) and found it very newsworthy. Therefore I would like to be put on your mailing list. I would also like your past issues as I would like to keep a copy of all your issues. Thank you so much. --Arlene

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You can drop off some signs at my place! I will gladly display them!!  
--James

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Dear Committee for Community Involvement,

It's Memorial Day weekend and I am catching up on reading the T-R. I read City Manager Mr. Dave Johnson's letter attacking Drake and CCI and felt compelled to write you guys and give you guys some encouragement. It seems to me it's his job that he is really worried about. I have been following along this campaign season with disgust. It is plain to see that the powers that be don't want you guys elected, especially Drake. Well it's not working with this voter, I'm going to vote for you guys and I'm going to especially darken the oval on the ballot for Drake.

As long as I'm writing you, I'd like to weigh in a couple of other issues. I was listening to the candidates forum on the radio the other night, someone should tell Ryan on the radio, he should make sure his mike isn't open when he starts spouting off on how he going to get Drake, and laughing like a hyena while the candidates are talking. I used to listen to him at times but no more, that was the last straw.

As far as the jail issue goes I read the article where Drake supposedly came out in favor of the jail. I noticed that the issue of the out of town inmates being released here in Valley City wasn't addressed by the jail people. I plan on voting yes on measure #2. I think they need more time to do this jail right.

Please withhold my name if you read this to the others in your group, I've lived in Valley City for close to 50 years and I don't want to end up on Mr. Johnson's list that he keeps on wanting and end up on some disgusting web site. Keep up the great work, I applaud you guys. -- Name withheld upon request.