

Sorry many of my sentences run together and did not stop much for grammar to get this done tonight for ya...good luck!

**City/ County Government Official: St. Ann Alderperson**

**As an alderperson, how does local government in the RSD aid in the betterment of RSD students and families you serve?**

St Ann actually has 3 schools within its boundaries; Hoech, Holy Trinity and Drummond - the decisions made/implemented have to keep all 3 in mind. That being said...Decisions made by local government can directly and indirectly impact the local school district, just as what is happening within the local school district can and does impact what happens in the community. 20-30 years ago people picked their future homes based on where they wanted to raise their families; the majority of this decision was based on the school district 1<sup>st</sup>, then the community. With all of the transfer decisions made over the years when a district is not meeting its accreditation standards this method of establishing a community has been negatively impacted. No longer do you have to be concerned about the needs of the school or the community because if the school fails your kid will just transfer to another one and there is no need to be concerned about the local community because it's proper maintenance is not needed to support the school and its reputation. The community suffers when the school's less attractive to home buyers and businesses because then it becomes difficult to sell and maintain housing stock in the communities and attract businesses to the area as many businesses are attracted to child friendly communities because people with kids Buy more than people without. Local government impacts the schools thru establishment, maintenance and enforcement of local ordinances and policies. An example would be the Dare Program, this aids the schools in Drug and Alcohol Prevention but is established through the local police department which is funded through the budget set by the Board of Alderman and Mayor of local government/cities. As well as the SRO program run at the Junior High level. Another example would be the Speed Camera put in front of Hoech. A very controversial decision which though meant to slow cars down in a school zone to prevent kids from being hurt, also put the community in the news negatively as a money grab possibly changing the views of possible home owners some negatively some positively.

**How long have you lived in St. Ann and/or a constituent? Did you attend the RSD? What was your educational experience compared to students today?**

I grew up in Hillsdale, Mo just one mile from Normandy Senior High School where I attended school from K-12. Graduated and have taken some classes at UMSL & Flo Valley CC but no degree. My 1<sup>st</sup> apartment was in St. Ann, I lived with a friend and her husband for a while in St. Ann and I had a Duplex in St. Ann for a couple of years. I worked at the Airway Twin Drive-In its last 3 years open in the concession. When I finally found my husband of 21 years I knew I wanted to live in St. Ann but back then you had to know someone who was selling to get into St. Ann because the houses would sell by word of mouth before a sign could get in the yard. My mom shopped every weekend at Northwest Plaza so though it's only been 22 years this April that I have been a home owner in St Ann it feels like a lot longer. By educational experience if you mean my K-12 years vs what I can compare which would be my kids K-12 experience, then I would have to say they were quite similar. I graduated in 1980 back then Normandy and Ritenour were the big schools to attend, I feel I got a very good education from Normandy. I also

feel Ritenour has done well by my kids. My oldest graduated with honors, today she goes to Kentucky Christian University, studying in Elementary Education with a minor in Bible and has a 4.0 and has been on the President's List every semester. My youngest has maintained the Letter R award every year of high school so far with a 3.69 gpa and plays Varsity Volleyball. Some of the methodology of teaching has changed but that is an argument for a different forum. The teachers work hard to get the lessons across, it's the students that must care enough to maintain the lesson in their memory. Normandy had good teachers then, probably still does now – Ritenour has good teachers now and for the last 15 years that I can attest to. Other than that I would have to say the only other difference worth noting is Technology. Technology continues to lead the way in how children learn differently today vs 30-40 years ago. 30 years ago typing was a required class, today most kids can use a keyboard before they get to Kindergarten and since you have spell check it's not as necessary to participate in the spelling bees of the past. Frankly the biggest difference between then and now is probably the family unit and 2 income families vs dad worked and mom was at home to help with the homework. When the PTA'S met it filled the entire gymnasium vs now when you are lucky if it fills one table in the Library. Parent's use to have a much greater say in what happened in the schools thru these parent teacher associations, this has faded along with the 2 income family.

### **What are your personal strengths and/ or vision for the St. Ann community?**

Personal Strengths are Organization, Problem Solving, ability to see both sides of any situation, financial analysis, communication and that I know that to be a good leader you do not need to know all the answers but do need to be able to ask for help in getting the correct answer.

**Vision-** as for my vision, much of it you see already in what I have written. I would like to see in the future a safe family/business friendly environment. This was St Ann's past and it worked quite well. It's what we will need to erase the negativity of the last 15ish years.

### **What does the future look like for incoming residents to the St. Ann community?**

+ 's St. Ann in 2003 hit rock bottom and neared bankruptcy having to take out a 500,000 dollar loan to pay its employees. Today with a lot of thinking outside the box to accomplish things St Ann looks forward to the redevelopment of our great mall now to be known as The Crossing at Northwest, which will tout its 1<sup>st</sup> anchor store Menards by Fall of 2014 if all stays on schedule, there is more to come but we are not privy to this information yet due to realestate dealings. Our housing stock is on the mend due to consistency in ordinance maintenance. We have established a beautification committee and volunteers to aid in this clean up effort. We have established a St Ann Business Association to aid businesses in their needs and to give them a voice in the city and with the election of our New Chief of Police we have a very aggressive police force establishing safety in all aspects of the community thru their work and the Neighborhood Watch program established by Chief Jimenez and the Chief also put the Dare program back into the schools. Thru proper financial planning we are rated A1 and A2 in the bond community allowing us to, at citizen request Renovate our Community Center to bring it up to code on ADA issues and add rental space and cardio/weight equipment, etc.

- 's to date though we know our developer has plans for our future at this time March 2014 we still do not have enough things for families to do in town, though we have great parks we lack kid friendly activities like bowling, movies, putt putt, giant slides, skate parks, drive in movies,

Holiday Hill Theme Park etc that we had in the past to keep kids busy and out of trouble, remember kids attract businesses. We could also use clothes shopping, more places to eat vs just fast food.

**As an alderperson in the RSD community, what does collaboration consist of when all 11 municipalities tackle school community issues or future decisions?**

St Ann being on the outside border of Ritenour in the past may not have seen much action on the collaboration of the 11 municipalities. I wish I had more information on this topic, I do not. What I can tell you though is that as a member of the RLAC- Ritenour Legislative Action Committee since Fall 2013 when it was established I have witnessed many of the community leaders coming together to aid in and establish legislation to help Ritenour with many of the decisions made in Jefferson City, Mo. today in regards to the schools and currently Accreditation. And we all look at and break down the issues, to come up with ideas we can live with, to present to Jeff City where those ideas are broken down and decided upon as well. I also am aware of the collaboration of the cities in the Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration Established 2 years ago where the cities and school worked together to bring this back together all cities pitching in whether it's thru monetary aid or safety patrols, etc.

Frankly the future of our communities and schools in my opinion will depend on both the local government and the schools working together, to make us both stronger. I am encouraged with the establishment of junior high sports as this will aid the kids in getting better at their sport before they get to the high school. And it pretty much still holds true that a successful high school football, soccer, basketball, etc., etc teams will bring the community up with them to surround and be a part of their success similar to what happens when the Cardinals win the World Series and the city turns Red. This could also be utilized to aid the communities thru the volunteer hours students must put in, if there was a way to have these athletes utilize 1 hour a week during season to help those in need in the community like maybe rake leaves etc for the elderly/physically unable...community involvement like this would establish a strong school and community where kids appreciate what they can do for others and other's appreciate kids and schools even when they have no kids in school.

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