

# Mayor candidates

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ing to Staples in 2003, I have served the community in several different capacities including acting as the current EDA President. I am currently sitting on the city's Forestry & Beautification board, the Green Committee, the Government Center Task Force, Intergovernmental Relations Committee and the Emergency Services Committee.

In 2004, I co-founded the Quad County Youth Football League and currently act as board chair. I also represent the City on the Board of Directors where I will serve as the Co-Chair of their Economic Development Committee. In the past I have served on the Staples Community Foundation Board and the Staples Motley Chamber of Commerce Board.

**1. HOW WOULD YOU PERSONALLY PLAN TO REPLACE OR REINSTATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AID (LGA) FUNDS TO CITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN CUT DRASTICALLY THE PAST FEW YEARS?**

LGA is critical to the survival of rural Minnesota cities and Staples is no exception. The math is simple; the city will levy its taxpayers for \$726,337 in 2010, which is 24 percent of our \$2.97 million budget. After the Governors cut, the City will receive \$957,573 in LGA or 32 percent of our budget. Without LGA, in order to maintain the current level of services, the City's levy would more than double. Replacing lost LGA with large tax increases is not

an option. Reinstating LGA is a state level legislative initiative. The City will need to work closely with the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, which has made LGA its top priority.

As a board member of the CGMC, I am participating in an interview process of each of the 2010 gubernatorial candidates as we are expressing the importance of the program. I have also worked hard at establishing a relationship with each of our State Representatives and Senators as they are the ultimate decision makers. I also encourage and support staff to participate in statewide policy making committees.

**2. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE PROPER ROLE OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)?**

I view the role of the EDA as community growth. How do we grow the community? Through not only chasing smokestacks, but by creating an inviting community that people want to live, work and play. By working with and encouraging local entrepreneurs to grow their business. By connecting with and encouraging out of area entrepreneurs to consider Staples as place for their manufacturing or retail facility. By understanding the needs of the community as it relates to why people do or don't live, work or play here.

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Aside from writing a check, I couldn't personally effect replacement of Local Government Aid. This revenue will again become available only through control of spending or tax revenue increases at state and federal levels. It is what it is.

We were alerted to these anticipated cuts almost three years ago (Feb. 15, 2007) and were cautioned to curb capital improvement spending. We didn't do that, so we must seek additional revenue locally (property taxes and franchise fees).

Strict spending control should be initiated until the one-in-six unemployed workers have jobs, the economy improves, LGA becomes available, the sun comes out, the bluebirds sing and life is wonderful again.

**2. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE PROPER ROLE OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)?**

The EDA has graduated to a full-blown city depart-

ment, like the public works or police departments and requires a full compliment of expense investment.

This department of Economic Development, like any other city department, should supply a service to the residents. Their multi faceted product would be; efficiently manage existing city development investments; assure that investment expectations are realized; acquire opportunities to broaden the tax base and strengthen the community (which should be put before the council and electors for traditional capital improvement approval).

This department should be held to the same "cost/vs/benefit" budget scrutiny as other departments managed by the city administrator.

The need for expanding the authority of this department is doubtful and (if legal) should obviously require Charter amendment and elector approval.

# City council candidates . . . . .

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To be absolutely truthful, replacing the LGA funds would either be a long term process through city growth, or a very painful process in which the city would either have to cut vital services, or increase our already heavy tax burden. The way I would prefer is to have the funds reinstated, there is already a large disparity between the tax rates in the Metro and rural areas of our state, roughly 10 percent and the LGA exists largely to help the small cities compete for business with Metro areas, you could adjust the LGA cuts to reflect the difference in tax rates, affecting cities like ours much less.

**2. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE PROPER ROLE OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)?**

It is my belief that the EDA should reflect the first two words in it's name more than the last. It should be an advisory board for the city council with the vast majority of it's time and energy focused on, bringing in new business and retaining the valuable resources that are our existing business members. I am all for improving our city in any way, including beautification projects, but, I am more concerned with keeping a business in it's building, than mandating how it looks on the outside.

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Assemblies of God Presbytery Board for three different terms totalling 11 years. I have served as president of the Staples Ministerial many different times over the past 27 years. I have lived in Staples.

**1. HOW WOULD YOU PERSONALLY PLAN TO REPLACE OR REINSTATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AID (LGA) FUNDS TO CITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN CUT DRASTICALLY THE PAST FEW YEARS?**

I believe that the loss of LGA funds is a sad thing for all cities. What can be done about that: cut down on spending which is real hard but nothing is impossible. And together with the help of all our citizens it can be done. I know the council is open to suggestions as to how that should be done. It is easy to make suggestions, it is another thing to make them work.

When I was first elected to the council several years ago, I had a lot of ideas only to find out they wouldn't work. We will make it through this time, unless all the economy fails, then every city and citizen of our country will be hurting. Yes, there will be increases in services. Hopefully they will be small. The tax levy this year was/ is almost a third of last year. That is a lot better than I thought it would be. I thought it would be in the double digits instead of 3.6 percent.

**2. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE PROPER ROLE OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)?**

EDA - I believe it is to help our community to bring in new business/new housing; to provide help in finding land/buildings and limited financial help (if we had a bigger pot of money we could help more) support existing businesses; and create jobs which would bring more people to our city.

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I would concentrate on efforts to work with our State Representatives for more support on funding.

**2. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE PROPER ROLE OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)?**

I feel they should try to expand their role to provide financing for new businesses and put more energies toward marketing throughout the 50 states and Canada.

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Staples City Hall Task Force; Member, Faith Lutheran Church Finance / Stewardship Committee; Treasurer, Staples Motley Cross Country Runners Club

**1. HOW WOULD YOU PERSONALLY PLAN TO REPLACE OR REINSTATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AID (LGA) FUNDS TO CITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN CUT DRASTICALLY THE PAST FEW YEARS?**

Try to make it clear to state government that cutting LGA to balance their budget just pushes the burden to local government, especially small towns. We need to let our state elected officials know how unjust our cuts were compared to some of the larger Metro suburbs with substantially higher tax bases. We as a city have dealt with the latest cuts very well by tightening our belts where we could, as evidenced by the three percent levy increase proposed for the 2010 city budget.

**2. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE PROPER ROLE OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)?**

I believe the role of the EDA is multi-faceted. It should try and attract and encourage new business growth while sustaining present businesses. It should try and increase city population by increasing job opportunities and attempting to make Staples an attractive place to live with housing in all price ranges.



## Work progressing

Steve Rudenick (standing, upper right) owner of Rudenick Concrete Pumping, used his hand-held controls to operate the boom from his pumper truck as workers with Gemstone Masonry from Frazee leveled the fresh concrete for the footings of the new Ernie's store building. The footings were being poured last Friday with trucks from Knife River Construction delivering the mix to the site. (Staples World photo by Tom Crawford)



## Crowded cab

The cab of Southern Pacific No. 4449 is pretty crowded, with a myriad of controls for the steam engine and oil fired boiler. Crews for the excursion trip, who have to meet all railroad rules and requirements, are members of a Friends of SP4449 non profit group. The home base for the steam engine is in Portland, the final destination for this trip. (Staples World photo by Tom Crawford)

## Veterans News

By Pete Berscheid  
Veterans Service Officer

### VA moves to simplify PTSD compensation rules

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki, announced the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking steps to assist Veterans seeking compensation of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The VA has published a proposed regulation in the Federal Register making it easier for a Veteran to claim service connection for PTSD. The proposed regulation will reduce the evidence needed if the stressor claimed by a Veteran is related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity. A final regulation will be published after consideration of all comments received.

Under the new rule, the VA would not require corroboration of a stressor related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity if a VA psychiatrist

or psychologist confirms that the stressful experience recalled by a Veteran adequately supports a diagnosis of PTSD and the Veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor.

Previously, claims adjudicators were required to corroborate that a non-combat Veteran actually experienced a stressor related to hostile military activity. This rule would simplify the development that is required for these cases.

For more information on PTSD claims and current VA regulations visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or speak with your County Veterans Service Officer

Hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Main Street Government Center (across from Post Office), 347 Central Ave., Suite #3, Long Prairie, MN 56347 320-732-4418 or 732-4419. Call Pete at 320-732-4419 Every Thursday: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Government Center, 611 Iowa Ave. NE Staples, MN 56479.

**MOTLEY**  
United Methodist Church annual  
*Fall Harvest*  
**DINNER**  
**Weds., Oct. 21**  
Serving 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
*Turkey with all the trimmings.*  
Adults: \$8  
Ages 6-12: \$5  
Under 5 Free  
Family Max.: \$25  
847 3rd Ave.  
South Lane, Motley

Look what  
**America**  
is reading!  
Public Notice  
Luxury autos for sale!  
Real estate offered cheap!  
Abandonments, foreclosures.  
Great deals for sharp shoppers!  
Follow the sales through your local newspaper.  
Participate in Democracy.  
Read your Public Notices.

**REMINDER**  
The second half of the Real Estate Taxes are due on or before October 15, 2009, except for property classified as **Agricultural**.  
State law requires that the penalty be applied to the unpaid balance on Oct. 16.  
These taxes are payable at the **Todd County Auditor-Treasurer's Office**, or you may pay by mail, with the envelope being postmarked October 15, 2009.  
**PLEASE BRING YOUR STATEMENTS AND/OR STUBS WHEN PAYING YOUR TAXES.**  
*Karen Busch,*  
**Todd County Auditor-Treasurer**  
w39-40c

**Good Medicine For Your Joints**  
Dr. Matt Nelsen is available monthly for treatment of orthopaedic and sports injury patients at **Boline Chiropractic, P.A. Clinic in Wadena, and Integrated Health Center in Alexandria.** Call for an appointment.  
Orthopaedic Associates is a team of experienced orthopaedic surgeons who specialize in:  
• Total Joint Replacement Surgery  
• Sports Medicine  
• Arthroscopic Surgery  
• Joint Ligament Reconstruction Surgery  
• Fracture Care  
• General Orthopaedics  
**Matt Nelsen, M.D.**  
Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon  
Dr. Mark Askew, Dr. Howard Berglund, Dr. Andrew Hvidston, Dr. Phillip Johnson, Dr. Mark Lundeen, Dr. Matt Nelsen, Dr. Jeff Staverger, Dr. David West  
**ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATES FARGO**  
Boline Chiropractic, P.A. Clinic • 11 Bryant Ave. S.W. • Wadena • 218-631-3003  
Integrated Health Center • 418 3rd Ave. E., Suite 101 S.W. • Alexandria • 320-762-2311

**Deadline** for all classified ads, including garage sale ads, is **5 p.m. Monday**  
to be published in Thursday's Staples World and **5 p.m. Wed.** for publication in Sunday's Square Shooter.