



Meet Your City Council

City Council Member Sara Van Asten

1. Please share a brief description of your professional background (in public or private service):

I have been teaching math for over twenty years, most recently as a Math Faculty Member at North Hennepin Community College (NHCC) in Brooklyn Park, MN. In addition to teaching courses, I have also taken on a wide variety of leadership roles on campus including Chair of the Mathematics Department, President of the NHCC Faculty Association, and member of NHCC's Shared Governance. I also served on the board of the Minnesota Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges (MinnMATYC) in a variety of roles and was the MinnMATYC Mentoring Program Coordinator for many years.

I recently launched Lantern Farm MN LLC and am in the process of expanding our farming enterprise with the hope of transitioning out of teaching full time and farming on the side to farming full time and teaching on the side.

I also served briefly on the Dayton Planning Commission before being elected to City Council.

2. What drew you to serve on City Council?

Dayton is at a key moment in its history when we can decide to be yet one more suburb like all the others, indistinguishable from Maple Grove, Champlin, or Rogers, or we can create our own, unique future, one that does more than give lip service to our rural character and instead finds creative ways to use our remaining agricultural land and green spaces to set ourselves apart.

There is a growing movement nationally to reconnect to our food, to get back to local small and mid-scale farms run by families, not corporations. Dayton could be a leader in this type of change, balancing housing, development, and growth with purposeful and profitable revitalizing of our agricultural core. My primary goal is to find ways to embrace, enhance, and truly utilize our rural character and remaining agricultural land to benefit all of Dayton while balancing the needs of a growing population.

3. Which City matters are you most passionate about? Example: Parks, Infrastructure, etc.

Managing growth and development wisely. Finding ways to better connect residents to the amazing natural resources and green spaces in Dayton. Ensuring residents' voices are heard and actually impact the decisions that are made.

4. Please share one fun fact about yourself.

I crochet kids blankets for all the new babies my friends and family keep having but don't actually know how to crochet. (A friend who does know, tells me I am just doing a modified chain stitch – but I have no idea what that means)