

If I Were Mayor
By: Abi Hemesath
Indian Hills Junior High

If I were mayor, I would make activities for families more accessible for all citizens, I would re-purpose empty businesses, try to increase the budget for educators and daycare centers and add more accessible food pantries and homeless shelters.

One thing I would do if I were mayor is make activities more accessible for all citizens. Many activities are going on in the community already, but lots of people don't know it's happening. I would send out monthly newsletters about all the things going on in my city. For example, there was an art class at a library, but there weren't very many people there and I think that is because many people did not know about the activity. Not only would I send out newsletters but I would also make sure activities are happening for every age group, even adults. Making activities available to every citizen makes an excellent city to live in.

Another thing I would do is re-purpose empty businesses into spaces citizens can use. There are many good buildings not being used. For example, Valley West Mall would be a great area to turn into apartments with space for business below and entertainment areas. Half of the apartments could be for senior citizens, which makes companies more likely to want to rent out space. There are many more spaces like Valley West Mall that could be great places to turn into something that could be useful.

Also, I would try to increase the budget for educators and daycare centers. Daycare centers are important for early child development, making sure our city has high-quality child care allows parents to go to work and ensures success for the future of the city. When parents go to work they make money, so then they can support their families and support the community. Along with daycares, public schools are also very important to keep funded. Education is not just teaching anymore, it also includes teaching kids important life skills, making sure that they are following the rules, and keeping them safe. To some kids these teachers are like family, the kids know that these teachers have their back on whatever they want to do in life. Going to a public school I know that these jobs can be difficult at times, which means we should try as best we can to keep the teachers who make better communities. Investing in daycares and schools will always be good for communities.

The last thing I would do is add more accessible food pantries and homeless shelters. A community needs to ensure that all residents have access to basic needs like food. You don't always know if a family is struggling, so it would be beneficial to have multiple food pantries in a city. In addition to food resources people also need housing. In the Des Moines metro, there are very few homeless shelters. As the leader of a city, I have to make sure all my citizens get the 5 basic needs (Clean water, food, clothing, sleep, shelter). Having a shelter for the unhoused helps them and keeps your city looking good.

If I were mayor I would make sure there were activities for all ages, re-purpose empty buildings into community spaces, increase the budget for daycares and educators, and I would add more accessible food pantries and homeless shelters. These are just the start of new ideas I have about what I would do to make our community better.