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“Councilman Thad Murren”



Thad Murren, a recently appointed member of the Norfolk City Council, remembers listening in on government policy discussions when he was only ten years old. His aunt was a member of the South Dakota State Legislature and invited him along on a family retreat to the Black Hills with other members of the legislature and the governor of South Dakota.

“I was intrigued even then by the issues being discussed and interested in how government worked,” Murren said.

A native of Norfolk, Murren attended Dakota State University after his graduation from Norfolk High. He

had a two year internship with a roofing company in Sioux Falls, South Dakota before deciding to move back to Norfolk to work with his dad, Garry, in the family business, Western Roofing Company. The company is a commercial roofing business that currently employs fifteen people and has projects in a 150 mile radius of Norfolk.

In 2009, he became a partner in the business. Murren’s wife, Deb, works in the Faith Regional Cardio Pulmonary Department as an office assistant. They have two children, Morgan and McKenzie.

Although this is his first city government position, Murren has served as a leader in other groups in the area. He just completed ten years as president of the Elkhorn Valley Pheasants Forever Chapter. He was one of the leaders who six years ago headed up a committee to look into recreation issues in Norfolk. He has also helped coach his children’s sports teams and is involved in the Tom Osborn mentoring program.

“I can’t complain if I’m not involved and am not part of finding the solution especially when it affects the future of my community and my children,” Murren said.

Murren was appointed to his current Ward 4 position in September to replace Erik Wilson, who moved to a different ward in Norfolk. Since then he has seen what government policy means when it is put into action.

“People don’t realize how hard the employees in our city work to improve our community and how much work the mayor and city council do to help guide the city in the right direction,” Murren said.

He has also been impressed by the partnership between City officials, the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, Northeast Community College, Madison County and the Norfolk School Board.

“This is a great positive for our community-all of these entities working together to improve the Norfolk area,” Murren said.

He said his goal for the two years left of his term are to work on economic development and give citizens easier access to answers they need.