

Marshman keeps mind sharp as he contributes services to community

Date: March 23, 2015



Times photo/Ty Thaxton

DUNKIRK — For Dan Marshman, retirement is not sitting around the house, waiting to go to Florida for the winter. For him, it's about helping make his town and county a better place for its residents.

Marshman is in his second term as a member of the Dunkirk Village Council.

Originally having no intentions of ever running for public office, he became interested after being made aware of an open seat. "Now that I've been on it, I like it a lot," Marshman said.

"I like to be busy – it keeps you active, keeps your mind sharp and you feel like you're contributing to the community." After finishing out the term of the seat he filled, Marshman has been elected twice. "Whether I run another term or not, I'm not sure, not because I don't like it, but I'm supposed to be retired and doing things like going to Florida for the winter or taking a trip," he said. "I stay so busy, (my wife, Brenda, and I) can't do that. So I'm thinking, well, I'm not getting any younger, so maybe it's time to do that."

On council, Marshman is a member of the finance committee and is council's representative to both the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance and the Northern Hardin County Fire District Board. For Marshman, originally of Blooming Grove, being a member of the local village council is reminiscent of his time as superintendent of Hardin Northern School, hearing ideas and concerns from community members. "It's like being the superintendent of schools – you come across someone on the street, they come up and say, 'Dan – or Mr. Marshman – do you have a minute?' he said. "You hear about concerns they have and think, gee, maybe we can do something about that, maybe we can fix that, or maybe not. But you feel like you're contributing." "People have concerns, and rather than being a complainer, you're actually being a part of it and helping to make it a better place to live," Marshman added.

The challenging part of the job, he said, is seeing things around the village that need taken care of, or ideas for new things around the village that can't always come to fruition due to financial constraints. "I wish we had more funds, because the main goal for me – and actually for most of council – is we really like to do more to make the community more attractive: clean up houses that have been abandoned, have someone fix them up or tear them down, but there's no funds for it. That's the most aggravating part of it," he said.

Marshman also finds himself helping out the Hardin Northern school board as its representative to the Apollo Career Center in Lima. Having previously held the position of superintendent for 13 years, he still enjoys helping out where and when he can. "I really appreciate the Hardin Northern board for approving me for that volunteer position, because I've really enjoyed it," he said. "Here again, I feel like I'm contributing to Hardin Northern." He also

volunteers to help with the school's sports programs, is on the FFA Advisory Board and helps out with the Hardin Northern restaurant at the county fair each year. "I try to volunteer to help out, but I don't want to overextend my welcome either," he said.

Marshman is also a board member of the Hardin County Red Cross, as well as its DAT (Disaster Action Team) program. "Here again, I feel like I'm contributing to the greater community – the county, not just Dunkirk," Marshman said. "It's just what I like to do. It takes time, but you have this good sense of accomplishment. You feel like you're helping folks who are in need." "I have a difficult time saying no. Every time someone asks, 'Do you want to help out with such and such,' I say, 'Oh, OK,'" he said. "My wife is now a board member with the humane society, so guess who gets to be a volunteer for the humane society?" He is in his fifth term as a member of the Allen Auglaize Hardin County Mental Health Board, works part-time for Huntington Bank and Signature Closers in the mortgage department, and work's part-time for T & L Graphics in Belle Center. Marshman is a member of the Kenton Elks, Indian Lake Moose Club, Hardin County Shrine, Arlington Sports Club, National Rifle Association, Hardin Northern Athletic Boosters and Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

By TY THAXTON

Times staff writer