

4th article for Enterprise

I was invited to speak on February 21 to Mrs. Brehmer's Leadership Class at Swanton Middle School. It was a great experience, and I wanted to share with Swanton citizens the message I shared with the students.

I gave a brief background of my life thus far, explained what brought me to Swanton, and why I ran for Mayor. Mrs. Brehmer also provided an outline of topics she suggested that I discuss. I spoke about the qualities I believe are qualities of leaders. Those include integrity, enthusiasm, knowledge of your chosen field, the willingness to research and continue learning, salesmanship, persistence, and completing tasks to the finish. I also shared with them women from history that I admire. Those were Abigail Adams, Indira Gandhi, and Margaret Thatcher, and I explained why each one impressed me.

At the end of my presentation, I asked for questions. The students initially asked what I specifically wanted to see improve in Swanton. I told them that I wanted to see an improvement in the overall visual and physical condition of our town along with the economic and commercial development.

I then asked the students for their ideas toward improvement. They suggested a community swimming pool, a skate park, and a YMCA!

The conversation ended with students wanting to know what they could do to help improve our town. I told them they could start taking better care of it by not littering, asking their friends not to litter, and picking up trash when they saw it as they walk through Swanton. They thought that was a good idea and fairly easy. But they wanted to know other ways. I then invited their class to help us prepare the downtown landscape for spring plantings.

They accepted the invitation, and as a class, are helping on March 13 to start the cleanup. We will have 29 pairs of hands, plus supervision from the street department and the fire department. I am really looking forward to working with the kids, and providing we have good weather, it will be a great day for the village and our youth.