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City of Saint Charles Scholarship

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*"If I Were Mayor"*

As a citizen of St. Charles, I feel very proud of my hometown. I believe St. Charles as a whole is a very friendly place with much to offer its citizens and visitors. We have historic Main Street, which is the location of the first state capitol, and the starting off place for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Main Street offers something for everyone with quaint shops filled with nick-knacks and treasures, buildings and landmarks with rich history, and wonderful dining establishments where you can find just about anything to eat that is to your liking. St. Charles is also a very appealing place visually with our beautiful parks and gardens throughout town. The schools offer high-quality standards, both academically and in the arts and sports area, and serve as a safe place students can go to be among friends. Overall, St. Charles is a great place to live, but like most things, there is always room for improvement. If I were mayor, there are a few additions and changes I would pursue to make our hometown the best place it can be.

One of the first tasks I would tackle as mayor of St. Charles would be to improve it by becoming more of a "green city." As always, I believe it is best to lead by example, so I would join the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which is a committee for help cities "go green." Next I would form a committee to head up the "going green" project. Called the Eco Team, it would meet and discuss the best ways to prepare our hometown for environmental improvements. It would also be a responsibility of this team to develop empty plots of land into beautiful gardens, gather litter at the local parks, and write newsletters informing citizens on how

they can help at home. St. Charles currently has recycling bins set up around town, but that is not enough. We need more recycling, and we can come up with fun incentives to get more people involved in the process. As a “green” mayor, I would ask local businesses to support our “going green” project by encouraging them to donate funds for solar panels on stop lights and school buildings. “Going green” is something I believe is very important, and as a city, we need to come together to help maintain our planet.

Another topic that would be a top priority for me is to form more recreation centers for children and teens to get involved in. In St. Charles there are a limited number of places for kids to hang-out after school or on the weekends. A center like the St. Peters Rec-Plex would be very beneficial to getting the youth of our town out and about and to help keep them out of trouble. It could help create a deeper sense of connection to one’s community, and kids can form great bonds there. Our Boys and Girls Club is very outdated and run-down, so we have seen a decrease in the number of kids who use the facility. If we worked hard to build a place kids would enjoy going to, then it would benefit everyone in the community, adults and adolescents alike.

Being mayor is not an easy task, and it is very time-consuming, but I believe by working together for the betterment of our city, we are creating a larger sense of what it means to call St. Charles “home.” And in the words of Margaret Sangster, “There is nothing half so pleasant as coming home again.” Let’s keep St. Charles true to these words.