



BIOGRAPHY



**Mark W. Eckert, Mayor
City of Belleville**

Personal History:

Mayor Eckert has been a lifelong resident of Belleville. He has been married to Rita Eckert since April 1986. Together, they have three (3) children: Kate, age 19, is in her second year of college at Murray State in Kentucky; Luke, age 18, is in his senior year at Belleville West High School; Lucy, age 10 ½, is in the 5th grade at Roosevelt School. Mark also has a son, Matthew, age 30, and a daughter-in-law, Leigh, who are both Medical Doctors and Captains in the United States Army. Mayor Eckert has been a lifelong member of St. Paul United Church of Christ. Mayor Eckert and Rita own Eckert Florist in the City of Belleville.

Professional History:

Mark was appointed Mayor of Belleville on December 20, 2004 to complete Mark Kern's term, and was elected in April, 2005 for a four (4) year term.

Prior to holding the Mayor's elected position, Mayor Eckert was elected to the Ward 5 Alderman position in 1997. He held this position until his appointment to Mayor in December, 2004. He is currently the Chairman of The Belleville Good Government Political Party.

During his tenure as Alderman, Mayor Eckert served as Chairman of Economic Development and Annexation. He was a member of the Master Sewer Committee, Police and Fire Committee and Health and Housing Committee and Chairman of Keep Belleville Beautiful Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee for West Main Improvements from 6th – 28th Street.

Mayor Eckert has organized school safety fairs for the children and parents of Henry Raab, Roosevelt and Union Schools for over ten (10) years. He organized and provided

Halloween Safe Stops for children for twelve (12) years at Franklin School, Henry Raab School and St. Paul United Church of Christ.

Mayor Eckert served as the President of Belleville Main Street, Inc. for two years. It is an organization that focuses on the revitalization of downtown Belleville with local business owners, citizens and tourism. He served for five years on the Board of Directors for St. Clair County Historical Society.

Mayor Eckert was co-founder and past Executive Director of the Franklin Neighborhood Community Association. The Association serves as a model neighborhood association, providing education, computer centers, summer day camps, after-school programs and a variety of community service programs. The Association directs youth in a more positive direction by creating positive alternatives, boosting self-esteem and providing a safer neighborhood.

Mayor Eckert has been very active at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Belleville where he has been a lifelong member and has also served on numerous boards, church council and is a past president of the church.

Mayor Eckert spent over eighteen (18) years of his life as an active Boy Scout leader. During the twelve (12) years he was a Scoutmaster, over twenty-five (25) young men earned their Eagle Scout rank.

Mayor Eckert has received numerous awards and recognitions from various organizations such as, the Distinguished Service Award from the Belleville Jaycees, the Belleville News Democrat SIUE Carol Kimmel Community Service Award, the Catholic Social Service Award, the Scoutmaster Award of Merit, the George Meany Award, and the 2008 Racial Harmony Outstanding Community Service Award. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Lindenwood University, the Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (SILEC), the St. Elizabeth Hospital Advisory Board, the Belleville Exchange Club and the South Side Improvement Association. Mayor Eckert is an Honorary Member of the German-American Friendship Society, the Honorary Civilian Chairman of the Belle-Scott Committee and the Honorary Chairman of the Belleville Sister Cities Organization.

All these opportunities in Mayor Eckert's life have created a very capable leader and Mayor for the City of Belleville. He has a very positive outlook on the growth and economic development of the City. Mayor Eckert strongly believes in good communication, and works diligently with the citizens of Belleville, elected officials, and all department heads including police and fire departments to improve the City of Belleville, making it an even stronger Community of Character.