

HALLOFFAME

This is the story of **Dave Sedon**, a supervisor for Glade Township in Warren County, who knocked on doors, listened to his neighbors, and has been making a difference in his community — and beyond — ever since.

He listened and learned

Dave Sedon

Glade Township, Warren County

31 years of service

BY JILL ERCOLINO / MANAGING EDITOR

What do you do when you want to make a difference in your community?

If you're Dave Sedon, you run for township supervisor. While his first election attempt failed, he wasn't quite ready to abandon the idea — and it's a good thing he didn't.

"One of my neighbors told me I had to knock on doors," Sedon says, "so I spent a whole month going through the township, and — by God — I got elected."

Now, some 30 years later, the seeds he has planted in Glade Township, Warren County — much of it the result of what he heard and learned while door-to-door campaigning — continue to bear fruit in his community and beyond.

New ideas and approaches

Chair of the board of supervisors since his first township meeting, Sedon entered office with ideas, enthusiasm, and two goals: to save money and take action.

"When I was knocking on doors, residents said they really wanted to see the township do something," the supervisor says, "so that's what I've focused on."

Sedon played a key role in the formation of the Warren County Intergovernmental Co-Op, a ground-breaking



Glade Township Board of Supervisors Chairman Dave Sedon has been making a difference in his community since he first knocked on doors to get elected.

regional partnership that has helped municipalities secure grants for equipment and other projects.

Glade Township and the City of Warren were the group's charter members. Today, however, 20 municipalities are active in the organization, which received the prestigious Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence in 2008 for intergovernmental cooperation.

"Before the co-op, there was very little rapport between the townships and the city," Sedon says. "Everybody seemed to want to go their own way.

"With time, that's changed," he adds.

"We really do all work together well now."

Sedon has also worked with his fellow supervisors to make improvements closer to home. For instance, he's proud of the ordinance the board passed that prohibits supervisors from working for the township.

"At one time, all of the township supervisors were employees, and that's another reason why I ran: I didn't like that," Sedon says. "It gives too few people too much power. They can do what they want, and no one questions it."

A heavy equipment operator, he also understands the value of well-maintained roads so it's no surprise that Glade Township devotes a significant portion of its budget and resources to their upkeep.

"We have the best roads in Warren County," Sedon says, noting that the township sticks to a strict road maintenance schedule. "Money may be tight, but we do it because it will end up costing us three times as much if we don't."

'Time to say goodbye'

After 30-plus years in office, Sedon plans to retire when his term ends in 2020. He says it's time for the next generation to take over and build on what he and his colleagues have accomplished for Glade Township.

Ready for a change, the supervisor is looking forward to transitioning from public official to private citizen.

"I'm almost 70, and it's time to say goodbye," he says. "I don't think I missed three township meetings in 30 years. It's been good, but it's time to move on." ♦