Thurman “Tom” Nesbitt III’s family has deep ties to Ayr Township. His grandparents made a home out the community’s first post office, his parents were involved in local politics, and Nesbitt himself has spent the past 30 years as a supervisor, nurturing his home sweet home.

Home Sweet Home
Thurman “Tom” Nesbitt III
Ayr Township,
Fulton County
30 years of service

BY JILL ERCOLINO / MANAGING EDITOR

From a major ice storm on his first day in office to an election race that earned him the nickname “Squeaky,” Thurman “Tom” Nesbitt III has seen and been involved in a lot in his three decades as an Ayr Township supervisor.

And just as farming is in his blood, so is public service, a path he started down in his early 20s. While many of his peers were pursuing a good time, Nesbitt was doing more responsible things like helping his dad manage a herd of dairy cows and leading a community of around 1,900 residents.

“I guess I didn’t get off the farm much,” he says with a laugh.

But the truth is, Nesbitt’s attachment to the township where he was born and raised has had a significant impact. It’s helped the community stay true to its roots while making room for growth.

Welcome to the penthouse
A turning point for the township came in 1996 at the end of Nesbitt’s first term in office. For years, the three supervisors had met in an old dairy building, which was about the size of a one-room school building.

But because previous supervisors had made shrewd financial decisions, Nesbitt and his colleagues were able to use the savings to pay cash for nearly two acres of land, where they built the township’s first office with plenty of meeting and garage space.

To some, that might not sound like a huge accomplishment, but for a small, rural community with only one claim to fame — it’s home to JLG Industries, a global lift manufacturer — it was a big deal.

“The way one local newspaper put it, ‘We moved out of the outhouse and into the penthouse.’ But say what you will, we started growing after that.”
How PSATS has helped this Hall of Famer

Although he’s been in office three decades, Thurman “Tom” Nesbitt III says he continues to learn new things each spring at PSATS’ Annual Conference and Exhibit Show in Hershey.

“You’ve got everything in one place,” he says, “which makes it really easy to meet with vendors while getting an education at all of the workshops.”

Discover the PSATS Local Government Marketplace

The PSATS Local Government Marketplace searchable vendor database at www.psats.org puts municipal officials in touch with vendors that offer a broad range of products and services. Participants are PSATS associate members.

You can search by business name, type of product or service, and the county or counties in which the vendors do business.

Go to www.psats.org, choose the “Shop” tab, and click on “PSATS Local Government Marketplace.”

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