

Marlene Dirkes

1. **Why are you seeking the position of Rice Lake City Council member?**

I believe the City Council of Rice Lake needs more diversity. I feel like I would add to that by being female and of retirement age.

2. **What can the City of Rice Lake do to attract a viable new workforce?**

The city should start by recruiting and advertising outside of the region highlighting the many benefits of living in the area. We are a growing rural community with great schools and many opportunities for outdoor recreation. The city could also help with relocation assistance and finding housing in the area.

3. **What will be your top 3 priorities for the City of Rice Lake this year?**

My three top priorities will be to work with the city to be more fiscally responsible in their spending. Also, to work on a plan to implement an affordable transportation program for our residents who would benefit from a service like this. Lastly, to include community input in the future spending and planning for the city of Rice Lake.

4. **Do you think our main street/downtown is healthy and successful? If not, what would you do to change that?**

I think it is as healthy as any small town can be with the current economy and increasing tendency for consumers to shop online.

5. **If elected, what three steps would you take to put our city on a firmer financial footing?**

Be more aware of where the spending is going. I would be more open to input from the other council members and the community on where the money should be spent. Evaluate if there are any new programs where funds should be allocated.

6. **If you received a \$1 million grant to use for the city any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?**

Invest in a public transportation program for the elderly and other residents to use to get groceries, go to the bank and to go to doctor's appointments, etc.