

Jim Sharpe



Jim's service began in 1966, when he joined the US Air Force. Now, a proud veteran, he serves on the Grand Island Veteran's Memorial Wall Committee and is treasurer for Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Park Project.

After returning to Western New York, he worked in a variety of technical fields. He discovered a knack for networks, and worked as a technology consultant for the Niagara Falls School District from 1994-1999. Jim implemented creative systems and enhanced the educational experience, earning region-wide recognition. From 1999-2012 he was the Systems Engineer and Technology Director for the Sweet Home School District. Jim was awarded the Apple Excellence Award for Technology in Education in 2006 and again in 2009.

During this time, Jim began to devote his life to public service. In 1990, he successfully ran for Grand Island Town Council, and was reelected for a second term in 1994. He served as Deputy Supervisor from 1992-1994. He was appointed Deputy Supervisor in 2016-2018, and devotes many hours a week in his volunteer role. He manages the Town of Grand Island's Community Grants, and has secured over 1.5 million dollars for sidewalks, an elevator in Town Hall, Master Plan, Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan and Agriculture and Market Protection Plan.

Jim served on the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce board from 1998 until January of 2018, helping steer it to success as president from 2000-2004, holding positions of 1st and 2nd Vice President and Director at different times. He was honored with the *Citizen of the Year for Government* in 1993, *Vice-chair, Sesquicentennial Committee* in 2002 and the *Distinguished Director* award in 2007. Jim is well known at the Grand Island Schools, as the guy who has run KidBiz, for the past 20 years, a program that many other communities are using as a model. He has also served on various committees including: Telephone Book, Town Center/Long Range Planning, 4th of July Parade, Community Youth Programs, Scholarship, Citizen of the Year & Employees Relations, Media, Light Up the Blvd. Parade and Grand Island School and Business Alliance.

Jim is passionate about preserving Grand Island for future generations, tirelessly devoting years and years of service to this goal. He chaired the Master Plan from 1990-1994, as well the Parks and Recreation Plan Committee. The American Planning Association awarded him the *Public Education Planning Award* in 1994 for the town's Comprehensive Master Plan, created under

his supervision. He again Chaired the Long Range Planning for updating the Master Plan from 2006-2008 and has resumed this responsibility since 2016.

Jim also found time to serve on the Erie 1 BOCES Advisory Council and acted as President to The Landings Association at River Oaks, where he resides with his wife Cindy, and his son Eric nearby. He looks forward to continuing his service to the Grand Island community he loves, for years to come.