

CITY MANAGER ED LAVALLEE 5-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

Ed's first day with the City was March 5, 2012. He was formerly City Manager of Newport, Rhode Island, a post he held for seven years. Since becoming Venice's City Manager, Ed has introduced the city's Holiday Card Contest for local elementary school-age children and the Employee of the Year award, along with the Think Tank interactive public forum and annual Employee Staff Retreat. He has also initiated Student Government Day, which is held in conjunction with Venice High School and pairs up students with Council members and staff for a day. This very successful event was recently held at City Hall on March 6.

Says Developmental Services Director Alan Bullock: "In my mind, he distinguished himself during the City Manager selection process in 2012 by staying behind late one evening to help Raeanne Keefe and me move tables after a public meet-and-greet in the City Hall lobby. All the other candidates had by this time left for their hotels, having done all they could to impress the citizens who had attended. To me, this speaks to the humility, down-to-earth approach and team spirit of the man."

Ed is, in fact, so down-to-earth that he has a print of the famous Salvador Dali painting, "The Average Bureaucrat," hanging in his office. The surrealist work depicts a government worker with only a few seashells and pebbles – instead of brains – filling his head.

Whenever Ed has the opportunity to meet with a number of city workers at one time, such as during the semi-annual New Employee Bus Tour, he makes sure to thank them for entering public service, characterizing it as important, influential work. He is a champion for staff and for recognizing their efforts and accomplishments.

Ed was also a former police officer and Police Academy instructor in Rhode Island, as well a Eucharistic minister. Not many people know he is also a “mean cook,” dabbling in all types of cuisine. He and his wife, Sharon, have three sons -- Ryan, Jared and Joseph, and three granddaughters -- Caroline, 17, Violet, 7, and Cora, 3. And, “Congratulations Ed” on the upcoming wedding of your youngest son Joseph, who is getting married March 25 in New Jersey.

Says Assistant City Manager Len Bramble: “Ed is without a doubt among the top managers I’ve worked with and supervisors I’ve answered to in my entire career of 36 years. And to top that, he and his wife Sharon are ‘just good folks’ -- mighty high praise from where I was born and raised.”