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Gary Harris, who became Moulton's Mayor this year, said like any other town, Moulton has a lot of positives and few negatives.

"We've been working to keep housing up and you can see there is progress there," he said. He added that there are still some old houses to dispose of, but there is a big difference from a few years back.

"We have some new construction going on in town. Superior Cable is building a warehouse on First Street, just off Main. Most of the surrounding towns have a problem with holding onto businesses and it's the same for us," acknowledging that businesses are very welcome in Moulton to keep things going.

"And we're very proud of our school," he said.

Other positive points include a new restaurant coming to town on Main Street south of the bank. And Moulton is very lucky to have its own ambulance service.

"We have a lot of EMTs who volunteer for Moulton First Responders, but of course most of them have to work during the day so they are not all available 24/7. We also have several paramedics on the team," said Harris.

There are very good senior housing apartments in Moulton and the manager, Lucille Bird, received an award as 2007 Manager of the Year.

"We have better control of animals now. We passed a license law for dogs. It helps us find missing dogs because we can locate the owners and it also helps cut back on strays. It was a big problem a few years ago," he said.

"We also have a wonderful library which the city council tries to help any way we can. We're very proud of our library (Garrett Memorial Library)."

Harris said he ran for mayor because people talked him into it and thought he would do a good job.

"I had been on the council before and am retired. I retired three years ago from carrying mail for the Post Office. I did that for almost 30 years. I hope I don't let the people down. I plan to do as much for the town as I can."

He was born three miles east of Moulton and attended a country grade school. He graduated from Moulton-Udell.

"I'm one of those hometown boys who left and then came back. I worked at the Ottumwa Hy-Vee and they trans-

ferred me to one in Des Moines. I just wanted to come back here. I wanted my kids in a smaller school like Moulton's," he said.

He married his wife, Judy, in 1965 while he was working at the Hy-Vee in Ottumwa.

When they came back to Moulton, they owned Harris Grocery Store, which is now T&L Market. Harris bought it in 1974 and owned it until 1990.

"I had some kind of heart flare-up and the doctor said it was from too much stress, so I sold the store in 1990. I had been carrying the mail full-time since 1987 and continued doing that. I walked the route up until 1984 when they got a Jeep. That cut my walking

Moulton mayor works for more positives in town



Moulton Mayor Gary Harris sits with City Clerk Vicki Withrow and talks about how he missed Moulton after leaving for a job in Des Moines. He has been back for 33 years now.

from 15 miles to eight miles. I had to carry everything in that bag, too.

"I feel sorry for mailmen in the winter because a lot of people don't shovel their walks. The first day after a big snow, hardly any are shoveled. I was bitten by a few dogs over the years, too," he laughed.

He said Moulton still has a lot of cleanup to do from the big ice storm, and Main Street has a lot of potholes that need fixing.

"We need some sewer repairs and have applied for a grant for up on Second Street. The street needs fixing, too,