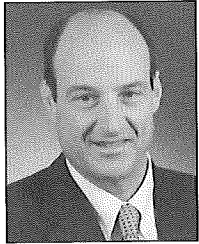


Making a difference

Tired of complaining, Rosenthal decided to get involved

By Nick Busse

Most lawmakers come to St. Paul hoping to make their mark in some way, but not many can say they literally changed the landscape of



Rep. Paul Rosenthal

Minnesota's capital city. Rep. Paul Rosenthal (DFL-Edina) managed to do it before he even ran for office.

Rosenthal, a currency trader by day, has spent the last several years aiding in the preservation of the St. Paul Municipal Grain Terminal — a historical landmark located about a mile from the Capitol, along the Mississippi River.

"It's the oldest farmers' cooperative grain elevator in the country," he explains, adding

that saving the building, which had been slated for demolition, involved multiple government agencies and "a whole series of craziness."

It was as good a training as any, perhaps, for the Legislature. Rosenthal, a newcomer to public office, said he ran because he had reached a point in his life where he was tired of talking about political issues and ready to do something about them.

"I got tired of hearing myself complain. I wanted to show my kids — who were also tired of hearing me complain, and my wife and friends — that if you believe in something, you have to work at it really hard and try and make a difference," he said.

Originally from New York, Rosenthal began his professional career there dealing in commercial real estate. After moving to

DISTRICT 41B

Population: (2007 est.) 36,548

Largest City: Bloomington

County: Hennepin

Top Concerns: Health Care, transportation and the economy

Minnesota nearly two decades ago, he met and married his wife, Elizabeth. The couple have two boys, Jack and Eddy, and ran a paint-your-own-pottery business together for several years before selling it.

He was always drawn to Minnesota, he said. As a child, he remembers his parents working on national campaigns for Minnesota politicians like Hubert Humphrey and Eugene McCarthy.

"Minnesota's always that sort of beacon on the hill: socially progressive and fiscally responsible," Rosenthal said, adding that he thinks that reputation has slipped. "We need to try and grasp that mantle again."