



Mayors Fall 2018 Newsletter

By Mark Korin

TO BE CONTINUED..... will be no more. As the old saying goes, “It’s not over until the fat lady sings” and I hear her song loud and clear. I made the very tough and difficult decision to write another chapter in my life. I chose not to run for re-election, to be your voice as the Mayor for the city of Oak Grove, Minnesota. Looking back I have spent the last 26 years of my life actively involved in Oak Grove leadership. I have held every volunteer position and appointed as Chairman for both the Parks and the Planning and Zoning Commissions writing ordinances, policies and helped rewrite the last four Comprehensive plans. I served as a City Council member for two years prior to being elected as your Mayor. In my first Mayoral four year term, I was appointed to work as the Interim City Administrator for almost a year and did so for no additional pay. It has been a privilege to work for you as your Mayor for the last eight years with a decisive common sense voice, bringing positive changes and conservatism, with promises of making reduced government operations a reality. Working diligently, we accomplished the impossible by **lowering taxes 34%**, but more importantly, holding the spending down, allowing the levy to stay at a **ZERO PERCENT INCREASE** after the reductions and holding strong for the last six years. What this means to our residents is we started as the 19th HIGHEST taxed city out of 25 and became the **LOWEST TAXED CITY** in all of Anoka County. By the way, we have stayed there for the last three years! As Mayor, I shared my knowledge of what I have learned from both local government operations and in the private sector sharing the years of problem solving, management and business expertise. I have held firm to my beliefs and kept steadfastly to the goals I have promised from the very beginning of being elected. I stood up decisively against the naysayers and entrenched government growthers and proved them wrong. The City Council and I have led the city with proven private sector business values, allowing city operations to function more efficiently, but focused on “best operational and lowest costs possible at the best value for the needed services”. **The changes we implemented over the last 10 years for our city have been monumental, unmatched across this state.** I viewed the title of Mayor to be a hands-on job, not just a position, one that would focus on correcting government operations, speaking out as your voice, to make the tough decisions to right size the staff, the benefits, the budgets and make “**Oak Grove Great Again**”. I also had the honor to be the lead for Oak Grove at the Capitol driving the never ending mission to take our city back from an out of touch, unreasonable, over bearing Met Council and bring back major decisions dealing with development rights and growth direction to the leadership of our own community. There are many aspects of this position that I am going to miss. **Most of all**, I am going to miss meeting people across our city, county and state that I would never have had an opportunity to meet otherwise. A special thank you to all the residents that put your faith in me, that supported our goals, our mission and supported our decisions throughout the years. All I ask is that you, as residents, elect strong knowledgeable leadership willing to stand firm against unreasonable government intrusion by using the foundations we have worked so hard to build. That brings me to this; in every one of my articles from the very beginning I have closed with a “**TO BE CONTINUED.....**” Well, **GOD** has a path for all of us. So instead, I would like to leave you with this. May **GOD** continue to bless each and every one of you. May **GOD** continue to bless our great city, the leadership and most importantly, keep our first responders safe. And last but not least, may **GOD** continue to bless all of the wonderful staff that keeps our city operating, safe and a great place to live, work and call home. **UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.....**

Notice of General and City Election November 6

To the citizens of the City of Oak Grove in the County of Anoka and State of Minnesota:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a General and City Election will be held in all of the election precincts of the City of Oak Grove at:

PRECINCT 1

Oak Grove City Hall
1990 Nightingale
Street NW

PRECINCT 2

Abundant Life Church
3840 197th Avenue NW

PRECINCT 3

Public Works Garage
815 Viking Boulevard NW

PRECINCT 4

Senior Center
1990 Nightingale
Street NW

On Tuesday, November 6, 2018, at which time the polls will be open from the hour of 7:00 a.m. to the hour of 8:00 p.m. of the same day, for the purpose of electing the following in the City election:

One (1) Mayor for four-year term: Dan Denno, Mike Wylie

Two (2) Council Members for four-year terms each: Guy Farah, Brad LeTourneau, Joel Tjepkes, Weston Rolf, John West
Kathy Nielson, City Clerk

Water quality articles

- No well is an island
- Why are we concerned about phosphorus in water?

Learn more by visiting www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us/water

Voter Eligibility and Registration

REGISTER TO VOTE

Before you can vote, you must register. In Minnesota, you may register on Election Day at your polling place with appropriate identification showing residency in the precinct.

For more information, contact the Minnesota Secretary of State's office at 651-296-2803 or go online to www.sos.state.mn.us or call the Anoka County Elections office at 763-323-5275.

Your registration remains current until you move, change your name or do not vote for four consecutive years. You may update your registration

information by completing another voter registration application.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

You may register and vote in Minnesota if you:

- Will be at least 18 years old on Election Day
- Are a citizen of the United States
- Will have resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding election day
- Maintain residence at the address given on the registration form
- Are not under court-ordered guardianship in which the court order revokes your right to vote

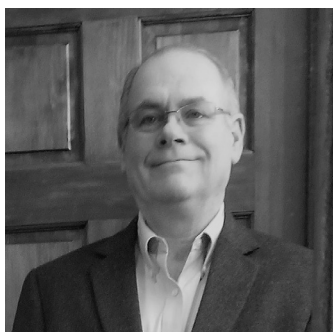
- Have not been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote
- Have the right to vote because, if you have been convicted of a felony, your felony sentence has expired (been completed) or you have been discharged from my sentence, and have read and understand this statement, that giving false information is a felony punishable by not more than five years imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both

Source: [www.anokacounty.us, Elections and Voter Registration](http://www.anokacounty.us/Elections%20and%20Voter%20Registration)

Oak Grove Mayor Candidate Profiles

DAN DENNO

For Mayor



I have been a member of the Oak Grove community for 40 years. My wife Lorraine and I have three children, Nicole, Dan Jr. and Chris. We are members of Horizons Church in Ham Lake. I presently work for Aid Electric Corporation in Blaine as a Project Manager/Estimator in electrical construction. I have been involved in the electrical construction industry for 45 years. I also work in real estate investments and in the past have been an

owner/operator of a Dairy Queen store. During my children's youth, I spent my spare time involved in activities with them. Like so many parents, I felt the responsibility to help the organizations they were involved in. I was active in the leadership of various organizations:

- Boy Scout Troop 418
- Coach, Board Member and Board President of St. Francis Youth Hockey
- Den leader, Pack Chairman and Cubmaster for Cub Scout Pack 167
- Brownie Scout Cookie Dad
- Coach and Board Member of Soderville Athletic Association
- Sunday School teacher and children's music leader at Our Saviours.

As our city grows, I have strived to keep the small town common sense approach to government that seems to elude councils

of large and small cities alike. I am proud of the fact that I was a major influence, with Mayor Korin and Councilman Lawrence, in the 34% reduction in both spending and taxes that took place over four years, from 2011 to 2014. In this term as a council member I have focused on working with other members of the council and city government leadership so that the city government represents the needs of the residents in the most efficient and cost-effective way. We need to be constantly vigilant concerning our spending. That is the only way to control the budget and taxes. We must not take the attitude that if a department asks for funding, they obviously need it and we should give it to them. With that attitude we will soon lose our status as the lowest taxed city in Anoka County.

Mayor Korin and I have
CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

always shared similar goals for the city and its operation, and as mayor I will continue in that same direction. Items of focus 1) The Ponds neighborhood issues, 2) working with new developments, 3) determine where it makes more sense to outsource functions than perform them in-house, 4) get the flashing yellow light on the stoplight functioning (frustrating).

I would ask for your vote for mayor so that you and I can both work to keep city government logical, off our backs, and as efficient and effective as possible. We've been doing a good job so far. Let's keep it going.

Phone: 763-443-4729

Email: dandenno1@gmail.com

Website: www.dandenno.com

MIKE WYLIE

For Mayor

Dear Friends and Neighbors,



After serving on the City Council for the past 12 years, I decided to run for mayor after learning that our current mayor, Mark Korin, chose not to seek reelection. If elected as your mayor, I will make it my #1 priority to keep you updated on what is happening with our City and be available for anyone who has questions.

As your mayor, my goals would be to:

- Advocate and practice sound fiscal management
- Keep taxes as low as

possible. Over the past 10 years, we have reduced taxes by 34%

- Maintain our rural lifestyle and 2.5 acre lots
- Continue improving our park and trail system

One area of particular concern to me is the initiatives by the Met Council. Recently, the Met Council was trying to force city sewer and water into the southeast section of the city. Residents were opposed to it and our council fought against it. We successfully defeated this initiative. As your mayor, I would work hard to ensure that any such efforts by the Met Council would only be agreed to if they were in the best interests of Oak Grove residents.

I have lived in Oak Grove for 35 years. In 1980, after serving four years in the U.S. Army, I was honorably discharged and entered the Anoka Technical College Welding Program. After five years as a welder, I switched careers and joined the Anoka County Sheriff's Department, retiring in December 2016 with 32 years of service. I am now running a small construction company, James Custom Homes, and active in the Lake George Conservation Club, Annual Cast Fishing Event on Lake George and Oak Grove Lions. For several years, I was also active on the Acorn Day Committee.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please feel free to call me at 612-845-5103 or email me at mike.wylie55@yahoo.com. I am also on Facebook and Nextdoor. I will promptly respond and look forward to hearing from you!

Please vote for Mike Wylie for Mayor. Thank you!

Oak Grove Council Member Candidate Profiles

GUY FARAH

For City Council



Hi. My name is Guy Farah and I'm running for the Oak Grove City Council with the goal to keep an open mind and listen to the residents of Oak Grove.

I grew up in the cities of St. Paul and Maplewood before attending the University of Minnesota-Duluth, earning a degree in business administration with a minor in marketing. I've been working in the freight transportation industry for 32 years and have developed many skills that will be helpful if elected. My wife, Lisa of 26 years and a lifelong resident, and I built our home in Oak Grove in 1995. We love the community feel, open space and wildlife in Oak Grove. It was a very pleasant change from the city life I was used to. We raised our children here Grant (25) and Isabel (19). As they grew I've been active with the Hockey Booster Club and held the position of Peewee Director for a year. I've also helped with fundraising efforts for the St. Francis High School Girls Soccer Booster Club by setting up events at a local restaurant.

My civic duty for the city of Oak Grove started a few years ago when my wife and I worked with a group of neighbors to research and provide information to the city council so they could make an informed

decision about a business that applied for permission to operate out of a local vacant building. I then applied for an opening on the planning commission and currently enjoy representing you and the city of Oak Grove. I've been active in working at the Oak Grove Recycling Day events held in the spring and fall. I take pride in events like these that help our residents keep their property in Oak Grove looking good. My wife and I also have been active with hosting the Night to Unite event so our neighbors get an opportunity to meet with each other along with the local fire and police department members that stop by for a visit.

If elected as your council member, I will work hard to maintain a balance with growth and the rural feel we all have grown to love and expect.

- Protecting residents' property rights – with larger lot sizes we allow accessory buildings and home occupations
- Keeping property taxes low while still maintaining a good balance with our fire, police and public works department
- I would also research if our city could implement a septic system maintenance program provided it would save our residents money by not being required to pump their septic tank every three years.

I would appreciate your vote for me, Guy Farah, on November 6 for city council so I could continue to help keep Oak Grove a safe and beautiful place to live. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns at guyfarah2018@gmail.com or by phone at 651-295-6260.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BRAD LeTOURNEAU

For City Council



Hello.

My name is Brad LeTourneau and I am running for re-election to the Oak Grove City Council. My wife Kim and I have lived here in Cedar for 32 years and have raised eight children. We just love our home and community.

I am currently employed as a foreman at the City of Blaine. I have always enjoyed being active in the community. I have been a member of the Cedar/East Bethel Lions for years and have served on local school site management committees. I am a member at St. Patrick's Catholic Church where I have taught Confirmation classes for the last 16 years, served on the Cemetery committee and am a member of the Knights of Columbus. I helped coach Gladiator Wrestling for eight years when my two oldest sons were little. I have many years as a Cub Scout leader and enjoyed helping when I could with the Boy Scouts. I served on the City Council from 2004 to 2008. During my time on Council we built Fire Station 2, constructed 201st and Flamingo Street and improved Holly Drive all without raising taxes. I also served four years on the Highway 65 Corridor task force.

If re-elected I would push for a two-year term for the mayor position. With a two-year term instead of the

current four-year term, as a community we wouldn't be stuck with a mayor who writes boring newsletters for a full four years. The mayor would have to be elected every time the alternating two council seats were up. This way any ruling majority could be broken up before too much damage is done. Something else that I would push for is cutting the city councilmembers' pay. I tried to cut councilmembers' pay when I was on the council last time. I think paying \$400+ per month for a council member to vote if someone can have extra chickens on their property is extravagant. I will push for \$2 per meeting.

If elected I would work with the Oak Grove Fire Department to start the process to repair/upgrade/ or replace Fire Station 1. It had issues 10 years ago. It's nice to have low taxes, but to be stupid about it and not maintain our infrastructure is unacceptable.

If elected, I will not increase taxes. There is plenty of tax capacity and reserves to accomplish some things to help improve our home values. Looking narrowly to just cut taxes has cost all of us about \$10,000 on our

Meet the Candidates

The Oak Grove Lions Club will be hosting a "Meet the Candidates" forum at City Hall, 19900 Nightingale Street NW, 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with the candidates for mayor and city council.

home values over the last eight years. If you think I'm kidding, ask a realtor; I did. I look forward to answering any questions you might have. Please call me at home at 763-753-3740, evenings.

WESTON ROLF

For City Council



My wife, Sarah, and I have been married for 14 years and have three children: Weston, Ashton and Anniston. I have worked in law enforcement for a metro suburb for the past eighteen years, fourteen years as a licensed police officer and most currently as the Detective Sergeant. Sarah and I have also owned a small business, Agape Moments Photography, for the past fourteen years. I will bring a fresh new perspective to our city council while also being fiscally responsible. With my business experience, I know how to successfully budget and know when money needs to be spent, when it does not and when it is appropriate to postpone spending. As an employee of a neighboring municipality, I am also very familiar with how things work within city government.

Top Priorities and Issues

- Keeping property taxes low – My goal as a member of our city council is to keep property taxes as low as possible; however, still maintaining quality in our essential services such as police, fire

and roads.

- Protecting your property rights – Most of us have chosen to live in Oak Grove to be able to do things that would not always be permitted in the suburbs such as hunting, home occupations and the ability of having accessory building structures. I will work to make sure that we do not lose those rights.
- Safety of the community – As a police officer, I believe that the importance of community safety is critical in preserving the health and security of our residents. It is critical to the continued safety of Oak Grove residents to be provided with high quality public safety services. I believe Oak Grove is a safe place to grow up in, raise a family, enjoy life and retire. I will execute leadership that will keep it that way.
- Encouraging civic participation – I believe that another way to ensure safety in the community is to encourage civic participation in community events, such as Night to Unite as well as raise awareness of what is going on in our community. Too often we believe we don't have a voice and allow someone else to be concerned about the direction the city is headed. With working together in our community and getting to know our neighbors a little better, I know that we will be able to better solve problems together and lay the plans for a better future.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to visit my website at www.westonrolf.com, on Facebook at [fb.me/rolfforokgrove](https://www.facebook.com/rolfforokgrove), or call me at 612-385-4036. I appreciate your vote on November 6. Thank you!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

JOEL TJEPKES*For City Council*

I've been a resident of Oak Grove for 2½ years and truly believe it is a great city! In my career, I've been in various leadership positions for approximately 20 years. I've had the opportunity to travel across the United States working with various companies, business leaders and cultures. My current employment is in a leadership role at a manufacturing company in Anoka County. I really enjoy leading people and being part of an organization that is focused on making a positive impact in the city, county and the state of Minnesota. Problem-solving is a skillset that I've acquired over my career and my approach is to first understand the true issues and then engage in researching and finding creative solutions. In my leadership roles, I've always been tasked with being fiscally responsible by managing budgets and timelines which is critical for taking proper action with plans. I have extensive

experience working with various business leaders that disagree and need to find common ground and win-win solutions. The reason I'm running for the Oak Grove City Council seat is to serve my community and to leverage my skillset to help make a positive difference within our city.

I hold a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Concordia St. Paul and I'm a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt obtained from Villanova University. I'm married and enjoy spending time with my family. We camp, hunt and fish together. One of my favorite activities is fly-fishing for trout which requires a lot of patience. For those of you that have tried fly fishing, you know it can be a challenging but rewarding experience.

Key Issues/Priorities

Key priorities for me are to quickly get up to speed with the innerworkings of the city and help dig into the real issues that Oak Grove is facing. I intend on asking hard questions of the city council team and mayor and to challenge the team to find creative ways to solve problems and not just go with the flow.

Contact Information

Jtj4835@hotmail.com

JOHN WEST*City Council**Background & Family*

I graduated from Anoka High School and am a veteran of the United States Marines who specialized in nuclear weapons security. I then attended both North Hennepin Community College and Minneapolis Metro College working toward a management degree.

Almost 19 years ago, along with my wife Annette of almost 23 years, we moved from Champlin to build our home in Oak Grove. Our four children (Brittiany, Shane, Abygail and John II) all attended the local school district and graduated from St. Francis High School. I was involved with Cub Scouts as a Den Leader and Scout Master for years and Boy Scouts as a volunteer. I also have been involved with coaching of various sports including baseball, basketball, football and youth precision shooting of which continues today.

Career & Leadership

After an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, I went to work in the security industry and have worked for local and national companies in various management positions. I started my own company (Integrated Protection Systems, Inc.) in 2007 located in Ham Lake. Being a small business owner, I understand the responsibility of having employees, hard work, budgets, spending and the

value of hard-earned money. I am currently a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Oak Grove, as well as being the chairperson for the Upper Rum River Watershed Organization.

Being involved with the American Legion is another way I like to serve the community. I am currently the 1st Vice (2nd in command under the Commander) for American Legion Post 622 in St. Francis. I am also the President and coach of the Long Rangers Youth Shooting Club and have been for almost ten years. The Long Rangers is a club that teaches youth and teens (10 to 18 years old) real life lessons through the rifle sports (self-reliance, responsibility, dedication, precision, planning and hard work). These sports are NCAA and Olympic sports and many of our athletes receive college scholarships to Big Ten and Division 1 schools as well as competing at the Junior Olympics at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Campaign Issues

- People make better decisions about how to spend their money than the government can
- Individual property rights
- Low taxes
- 2.5-acre lot sizes
- No high-density housing

Endorsements

I am currently endorsed by the current Oak Grove mayor, Mark Korin, and three sitting council members: Dan Denno, Scott Lawrence and Paul Tradewell.

If you are like me and want to keep our city the wonderful bedroom community it has become, please vote John West for City Council.

Notice of Proposed Final 2019 Budget and Property Tax Levy

At 7:00 pm on November 26, 2018, the City of Oak Grove will hold a Truth in Taxation meeting to receive public comments regarding the proposed 2019 budget and levy. This meeting will be included as part of the regular City Council Meeting. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 19900 Nightingale Street NW. Written comments will also be accepted. The preliminary budget can be viewed at www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us on the finance department page.



19900 Nightingale Street NW
 Oak Grove, MN 55011
www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us

PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 TWIN CITIES, MN
 PERMIT 30308

Website
www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us

City Hall
General Information
 19900 Nightingale Street NW
 Oak Grove, MN 55011
 Phone: 763-404-7000
 Fax: 763-404-7001

Monday-Friday except holidays
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Anoka County
Sheriff's Office
 (Police non-emergency)
 763-427-1212

Fire & Police Emergency
911

CITY STAFF DIRECTORY

City Administrator	Loren Wickham	763-404-7075
City Clerk	Kathy Nielsen	763-404-7007
Building Official	Andy Schreder/Rum River Const.	763-291-3704
Account Specialist	Lisa Hart	763-404-7022
Public Works Director	Tim Smith	763-434-1441

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor	Mark Korin	763-753-7389
Council Member	Scott Lawrence	763-753-8069
Council Member	Mike Wylie	612-845-5103
Council Member	Dan Denno	763-443-4729
Council Member	Paul Tradewell	612-910-7577

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council	Second and last Mondays	7:00 p.m.
Planning Commission	Third Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Parks Commission	Third Wednesday	6:30 p.m.

The *Oak Grove Newsletter* is a publication of the City of Oak Grove. Articles are provided by elected officials, staff and residents of Oak Grove. Your suggestions and comments are welcome! Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink. Partially funded by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and State SCORE funds.

