



# City of Oak Grove NEWSLETTER

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FALL 2014

## Notice of General and City Election November 4

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  
19900 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  
19900 Nightingale Street NW

On Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 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: Mark Korin

**Two (2) Council Members** for four-year terms each: Dan Denno, Paul M. Tradewell, Mike Wylie

Sherry F. Fiskewold, City Clerk

## 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 28.

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

## Voter Eligibility and Registration

To register, a person must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old on Election Day and a resident of Minnesota for 20 days. They must be finished with all parts of any felony sentence. A person can vote while under guardianship unless a judge specifically has revoked their right to vote. A person cannot vote if a court has ruled that they are legally incompetent.

You may pre-register until 21 days prior to an election (October 14 for the 2014 election). You may also register at the polling place on Election Day with acceptable identification allowed by state law:

- A registered voter living in your precinct who will vouch for your residency.
- An existing registration in the same precinct at another address. This applies only if the voter has moved within the same precinct.
- A combination of a photo identification: Minnesota driver's license, Minnesota identification card, U.S. passport, U.S. military photo identification or Minnesota college/high school identification along with a bill/account or start of service statement due within 30 days of election for: phone (cell/landline), television (cable/satellite), internet service, garbage service, electric/gas/water, banking/credit card, rent/mortgage payments.
- Valid Minnesota driver's license; learner's permit or Minnesota identification card; yellow receipt for a Minnesota driver's license; Tribal identification card.
- A "Notice of late registration" received from Anoka County.



Harry Bearl received a congratulatory handshake from Mayor Korin for more than 20 years of service to the City in maintenance and public works. Harry was recognized at the September 29 regular City Council meeting with a gift card and jacket. Harry is still an active member of the Senior Club so staff continues to enjoy his visits to City Hall.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## City Administrator's Update

By Rick Juba

OAK GROVE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

### 2015 Budget

On September 29, 2014, the Oak Grove City Council adopted a preliminary levy for 2015 with a zero percent increase from 2014. Moving forward, the levy may be further reduced prior to final adoption but not increased. There will be dedicated time at the city council meeting on November 24 and December 8 to accept public comment on the 2015 budget and levy. Both meetings start at 7:00 p.m. at Oak Grove City Hall. Feel free to stop by City Hall with your budget questions or call

us at 763-404-7000. The preliminary budget is available at the city's website [www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us](http://www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us) on the finance department page.

### Viking Boulevard Improvements

The bids that Anoka County received for resurfacing Viking Boulevard from University Avenue to the railroad tracks this summer came in too high to proceed with the project. This project has been moved back to 2015 and options to expand the resurfacing project are being considered. A stoplight at Viking Boulevard and Lake George Boulevard is planned to be installed in 2016.

### Fall Brush Burning Reminders

Burning of brush piles larger than 3' x 3' requires a burning permit, available at City Hall. Open burning of brush is only permitted between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. All fires must be attended until extinguished. Only clean wood which originated on site is permitted to be burned—no trash or leaves. Keep extinguishing equipment, buckets, shovels, garden hoses readily available. To check for fire restrictions, visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry) before burning. After 3" of snow has accumulated, burning permits are no longer required.

## Oak Grove Mayor and City Council Candidate Profiles



**MARK KORIN**  
For Mayor

As I sit down to write this, I started thinking about what I had said throughout all of my writings, newsletters, articles, speeches and conversations with residents and citizens across this state. I wanted to see if I have been consistent with my core beliefs and leadership direction after 20 plus years of dedicated learning, service and actions. At first I got involved because I wanted to learn and be able to understand exactly every nuance of government operations. This started by going to City Council meetings back

in the 1990's. The rest of the story is a long journey of being immersed in every aspect of local government operations. I've been part of **EVERY** volunteer City Commission, and chaired both Parks and Planning. I also helped write most of the City ordinances and took an active leadership role in the last three Oak Grove, Minnesota, Comprehensive Plan updates. I was first elected to the City Council in 2008 and after serving two years, I was elected MAYOR in 2010. With the absence of a City Administrator, I volunteered to step in and do the City Administrator duties for almost a year, at **NO ADDITIONAL COSTS** to the Oak Grove residents, actually saving the residents over \$150,000 in salary, benefits and search firm costs. This required a minimum of 30 hours a week at the city offices, but it allowed me to understand city operations and be a hands-on manager for the city staff while being the CEO of my engineering and manufacturing company.

This "in-side" opportunity proved that a government operation can and will run like a business if you implement private sector business values into the government structure.

As a business owner for the past 18 years and working throughout my career, I have managed departments, projects and people, solving problems, designing and creating new and lifesaving devices and let's not forget, providing jobs throughout a very tough economy. This experience has allowed me to grow in the private sector and share those experiences in the way I bring leadership as your Mayor. I am very proud to say that over the last four years, while working with other city council members, we have achieved an unprecedented **33.5% levy reduction** while restructuring operations, staffing and streamlining finances. I've always believed whether it's City, County, State or Federal Government operations must function in the background, minimized and

run effectively where the staff carries out duties for the residents at the direction of the leadership. We have a responsibility to the citizens to bring representative leadership and follow a constitutional foundation of what makes this country great and NEVER stop asking why, how come and is there a cost effective alternative?

Now, I know that I can't please everyone and no matter what we do someone won't be happy about the outcome. There are decisions that we make that are either mandated or are based on the current ordinances and policies that past leaders have put in place. I base my decisions on what's fair and equal for everyone and is in the best interest for the development of our city following the current laws and will work diligently at bringing common sense decisions into your city government leadership.

Being the Oak Grove

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Mayor has been an honor for me and if you'll allow me to continue on for the next four years, I would ask for your continued support by your vote on November 04, 2014. If you want to find out more about my core values and leadership structure, please go to **markkorin.com** or E-mail me at **markk@markkorin.com**, "**LIKE**", **oak grove mayor-mark korin** on Facebook! My name is Mark Korin and I approve this message, will you?



### DAN DENNO For City Council

My name is Dan Denno. I have been a member of the Oak Grove community for 35 years. During that time my wife Lorraine and I have raised three children, Nicole, Dan Jr. and Chris. We were married at Our Saviours Lutheran Church and have lived in the same home ever since. We are now 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 40 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:

- Adult leader in Boy Scout Troop 418
- Coach, Board Member and Board President (2 terms) 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 Lutheran Church
- Driver of the float for the St. Francis Pageant in 1998 (Drove in a parade almost every weekend that summer. Good way to keep in contact with your 16 year old daughter)

Now that my children are adults, I have the time and energy to focus on the adult side of the community. When I first moved to Oak Grove, I did so because the land was reasonably priced and the government was unobtrusive. Being a small township, the government was run more by logical thought and action than by bureaucratic functions. As our city grows, I have strived to keep the small town common sense approach to government that seems to elude large city councils like Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Those of you that know me from the years that I spent involved with children's activities would, I hope, know that I have a sense of fairness that I feel has been crucial in the way that I have acted on your behalf as a council member. I would ask for your vote so that you

and I can both work to keep city government logical and off our backs.

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 aware of our spending because that is the only way to control the budget and the taxes. I am proud of the fact that I was a major influence in the 34% reduction in both spending and taxes over the past four years in the city of Oak Grove, all with no reduction in the services given to the residents. When spending decisions are made there needs to be a reasonable need for the expenditure. There are things that are critical to a city the size of Oak Grove and things that are not, and we have to vote wisely.

I am a council member that believes more in controlling the cost of government than in controlling you, keeping the cost of government down and keeping the lowest possible property taxes for your home. I respect property rights and the right to enjoy your property as you see fit, within reason. We have paid attention to our city and its impact on our lives, and have been diligent in our concern over how our money and our freedoms are being handled at the city level. I still have the same vision for Oak Grove; less money out of your pocket and less government in your life.



### PAUL TRADEWELL For City Council

Hello, my name is Paul Tradewell and I have been a resident of Oak Grove for 42 years of my life. I was born and raised in Oak Grove from 1968 to 1988. I grew up on a hobby farm with beef cattle, horses, pigs, chickens and even ducks. I was in the fields at the age of eight pulling a two bottom trip plow behind a John Deere B, and is something that I still own today. I also used a John Deere model "R" and "A" to ready the fields for planting with my dad and later used to harvest and prepare again.

I moved to Champlin, Minnesota at the age of 20 and lived there for four years where I married my wife Deanna, who was also an Oak Grove resident and we have been married for 25 years. We moved back to Oak Grove in 1992 and raised our boys, Ryan who is 24 and Bryce who is 21.

We decided to build on acreage behind my in-law's property that required us to have the existing Lee Street extended. My father-in-law and I ran the Kinnan Estates Subdivision project to completion in the spring of 1992. I am told after that project the township of Oak Grove hired a city planner to help residents such as myself with these types of subdivisions and lot splits. We established our household in 1992 where I was the general contractor,

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