



City of Oak Grove NEWSLETTER

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Mayor's Fall Newsletter *By Mark Korin*



I know this beautiful weather is about to change, something is in the air. I think it might actually be fewer mosquitos and no deer flies! I'd like to personally thank all the families, kids and residents that came out and enjoyed the wonderful Oak Grove "Acorn Day" get together! It was a perfect summer day. This event was made possible because of the support from the Oak Grove Lions, Acorn Day committee, City Council members and city staff. I'd also like to give a special shout out and a big thank you to **ALL** the sponsors, vendors and car show participants. Without your support and commitment this event would not have been possible. I truly enjoyed meeting and talking with those of you that rode with me in the tractor pulled hay wagon. I appreciated all the smiles and the **LOUD, "YES"** from the kids when I asked if any of them wanted to "**GO FAST**"! The Allis Chalmers WD is getting old and very tired but I know it still has more fun to give, so next year I'll have to find a new path throughout the city and make it even more enjoyable.

There have been lots of exciting changes over the summer. As many of you know the City Council has now hired a new City Administrator, Loren Wickham. Please come in to the city offices and give him a warm welcome! I hear good things about him and believe he will bring great leadership to the management of our city staff and continue to deliver excellent customer service for our residents. Another dramatic change to our city is our first traffic light controlled intersection at CR 9 and CR22. Oh I know, it's a mess through there right now, but it will be worth the short time inconvenience! Another long overdue road project is the repaving of Nightingale Street with the addition of adding a bypass lane at Sims road.

I want to get back to that word Leadership. That word means different things to different people. I've been entrusted to be your Mayor for the past six years and with two years left of my second term I regularly ask myself, does all the effort, dedication and work as a leader really matter? Is it worth the personal sacrifices and the criticisms by the government growth (bigger and more intrusive government) crowds? Does government work better with private sector leadership values? Honestly, I believe what the City Council has accomplished over the last six years has transformed our community and at the same time has set reasonable financial goals that's unmatched by any other community. After significant operational restructuring that permitted a total of **more than 33 percent decreases** to the levy, (City taxation) and adhering to our goal of a **ZERO PERCENT** increase for each of the last four years, it is a testament to our strong collective conservative leadership. **By the way, we are again the lowest taxed city in all of Anoka County!** We as a city council don't always agree on everything, but the one sure thing is we are focused in the same direction. Changes will happen, the economy will eventually pick up, building and staffing levels will always be evaluated for cost effective, performance based needs. I will **NEVER** stop asking; **WHY, HOW COME, ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES**, and the most important question, **IS THIS REALLY GOVERNMENTS ROLE?** Leadership.....

In my position in the private sector as a **CEO**, I've lived the "**Buck Stops Here**". I'm responsible to all my customers, for our products, my employees and the decisions that make great products and a solid company. In the position of Mayor, I believe is no different; leadership or working every day at being a Statesman, not a politician and a never ending commitment with hands on management will continue to guide Oak Grove in the right and prosperous direction for all residents. "**The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.**" Ronald Reagan
TO BE CONTINUED.....