

THE FARIBAULT DAILY NEWS SUBMITTED ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE SIX CANDIDATES. HERE ARE THEIR ANSWERS:

Kay Duchene

Family: Husband: Jerry, 2 Children, 6 Grandchildren
Occupation: Cosmetologist. A successful small business owner in Faribault for over 30 years.
Education: Faribault High School Graduate, Rogers & Benner Cosmetology School, Minneapolis, Advanced cosmetology classes and classes from the U of M.
Political/community involvement: I have been on the Board of Directors at the Senior Center, BMX Track, Ice Arena, Swimming Complex and Soccer Complex. As a Council Person I have been on the General Affairs, Finance and Economics Development Committees. I have also participated in the Crime Free Multiple Housing, Drug Taskforce and Dog Park initiatives.



Why are you running?

I am running for Council because I believe I am an asset to both the Citizens and Council. I'm dedicated to the important work of the Council. I schedule specific time to review and study the issues before the Council, reviewing material presented and researching issues. I'm accessible to the Citizens I represent and always return their calls. It is important to me Faribault remains affordable to all its citizens.

What do you perceive as the three most important concerns for the city of Faribault?

Crime, Drugs and Economic Development. Seventy-five percent of crimes, thefts, assaults and burglaries are directly related to drugs. The crime rate in Faribault is 10% higher than the State and the National average. The Police Department had 19,286 calls in 2013. As of 9/15/14 they have responded to 15,781 calls and Community Service Officers have responded to 5,691 calls. Faribault has a full complement of 33 police officers. Currently 3 are on LOA. Having the resources to deal with the increasing case load is a problem. Economic Development continues to be a challenge. Faribault's demographics and income levels are an issue.

How can Faribault best improve the quality of life of its citizens?

Continue to improve education for all the children in Faribault. The addition to South Central College is definitely a step in the right direction. We are very lucky to have a number of educational facilities in Faribault which includes Public, Private, Parochial, Deaf, Blind and Charter Schools. The many options are important when working on attracting more new business to Faribault. Children are our future. Continue to support our Recreational Programs; Hockey, Soccer fields, Swimming, Library, Bike and Hiking Trails, Dog Park. Continue to support our unique Paradise Arts Programs. We need more market rate and Life Cycle Apartments as individuals continue to live longer lives. Support and utilize the valuable Health Care facilities in Faribault.

What is your vision for how Faribault should look 10 years from now?

Ten years from now I want to see the business and service programs we now have still available to the Citizens of Faribault. We need to help them grow. This includes a robust downtown with unique specialty shops and a blended diverse population with positive communications between all cultural groups. I also want to see new retail, commercial and manufacturing development. We need to find ways to entice investors to develop the land area West Highway 60. Perhaps this could include a theater, new box store or other retail stores. I want more citizen input in the completed Community Vision. Keeping Faribault a fiscally sound community that is responsive to the citizens is primary. Crime, Drugs and Economic Development will still be focus points as well as open communications with our diverse population. I think transportation will be another focus. Perhaps the mono-rail will be extended to Faribault.

Are there specific issues or areas of improvement you wish to be identified within the Community Vision-Faribault 2040?

Many of the specific issues or areas of improvement I wish to be identified within the Community Vision I have already discussed. These include:
 . Crime/ Drugs
 . Expanded Industrial Park
 . Job creation
 . Highway 60 development
 . Market Rate Housing
 . Health Care
 . Great Selection of Schools
 . Robust downtown
 . Fiber Optic Capacity
 These are all important for the future of Faribault. I hope to be able to continue the work that has been started. This is why I'm asking for your support in the upcoming election.

Brian Peterson

Family: Wife, 3 children
Occupation: Designer at Bosch Automotive Service Solutions for 18 years
Education: Mankato State University, South Central Technical College, Riverland Technical College
Political/community involvement: Currently on the Civil Service Commission, served as a part time on call fire fighter from 1993-1997, then 2001-2012. Was a youth leader at Christ Lutheran church for years.



Why are you running?

A comment made by a board member stated, "If you don't come down here and comment, I take that as you giving (the council) free reign to do whatever we want." I'd like to bring the council to the people and make interaction easier. I believe that the city government is far too involved in things that they should not be. The city is looking to add more, yet again, to the budget (plus what the county is looking for). It's got to stop and needs to begin to shrink.

What do you perceive as the three most important concerns for the city of Faribault?

The 3 largest concerns are taxes/fees, rules or regulations and public safety.

How can Faribault best improve the quality of life of its citizens?

The city will best improve the quality of life of its citizens by allowing them to be free to make their own choices. By allowing businesses to come in, or grow when they need to or want to, will bring alternatives for the citizens as far as employment and entertainment.

What is your vision for how Faribault should look 10 years from now?

My vision is for the city to be able to afford to plow the streets when needed, to change street lights when they need to, to hire another police officer when it's needed, to repair potholes and sidewalks when needed without having to worry about how to pay for it. My vision is to see existing businesses grow, in addition to businesses wanting to come to our community and for both to be treated equally and fairly without having to jump through hoop after hoop and get approval after approval to bring employment and entertainment for our citizens.

Are there specific issues or areas of improvement you wish to be identified within the Community Vision-Faribault 2040?

I don't believe that it's the role of government to come up with a vision plan for the next 25 years. The city should organically be allowed to grow on its own, not based on a plan that was created by a third party that the taxpayers had to pay for.

Thomas Spooner

Family: Wife: Jayne; Step-sons – Justin and Derek and one grandson
Occupation: Assistant Manager of Northfield Ice Arena
Education: Bemidji State University, Business Degree
Political/community involvement: 12 year member of the Faribault Planning Commission (past chair); Chairman, Joint Faribault Airport Zoning Commission; Community Vision Faribault 2040 Steering Committee Member; Divine Mercy Catholic Parish Pastoral Council Member (current); Past Buckham Memorial Library Board Member and SELCO Representative; Past Mill Town Trail Board Member



Why are you running?

I feel that my 12 years of experience as a Faribault Planning Commission and past involvement in community boards and commissions have given me the experience and knowledge to deal with the issues that face our community of Faribault.

What do you perceive as the three most important concerns for the city of Faribault?

1. Proper Land Use and Zoning – commercial and housing growth. Land use is a driving force behind the needs of our city. For example, transportation needs, infrastructure improvements, etc. is what's needed to expand our economic base.
2. Fiscal Responsibility – Stability of a low taxation rate and fiscal growth through growing of the community's economic base.
3. Embracing our Cultural Diversity – this has been a long standing issue in our city. We need to open up lines of communication with these many diverse groups to understand their needs and cultures but to also help them understand our needs and cultures here in Faribault.

How can Faribault best improve the quality of life of its citizens?

Faribault can best improve the quality of life through fiscal responsibility and maintaining low rates of taxation. Along with the city's steady growth of the overall tax base the city will be able to increase revenue levels which therefore will provide greater services to the citizens of Faribault.

What is your vision for how Faribault should look 10 years from now?

My vision for Faribault in the next 10 years is for steady growth of wide ranging economic base. We need to continue building on the many great resources we currently have in our community ranging from small businesses to medium and large manufacturing. With continual growth of our downtown, commercial and industrial park businesses, the community of Faribault has a bright future.

Are there specific issues or areas of improvement you wish to be identified within the Community Vision-Faribault 2040?

Community Involvement! The Vision 2040 statement is a plan being put together by a wide range of the citizens of Faribault. This process gave many groups the opportunity to embrace the city of Faribault and to step forward and be involved and help leadership make decisions that will build Faribault for the next 25 years. Through the input from several of the 'Meeting in a Box' events we have gained great insight into of how our citizens of Faribault want the community to evolve.

Janna Viscomi

Family: Married and Mother of 3
Occupation: I own 4 businesses in downtown Faribault. I am very proud to "literally" serve this community.
Education: I am a 1987 Faribault Sr. High graduate.
Political/community involvement: Being a mother, a business owner and resident, I have been involved and supported many organizations over the last 20 years.



Why are you running?

I bring a unique perspective to the council as I am a visionary and an entrepreneur. My business background has taught me how to see the detail of achieving my ideas. I believe all problems should be addressed immediately. Excuses don't solve problems, they perpetuate them. Ignoring issues only costs us more money in the long run. I have spent the last ten months advocating for improvements to residential inspections, commercial maintenance enforcement, community service officers, security cameras, a more effective use of the tourism tax, and a welcoming downtown. The scope of my advocacy is not limited to downtown, it was just a really good place to start.

What do you perceive as the three most important concerns for the city of Faribault?

Safety, security and prevention: I think city council needs to increase the number of police and we should have consequences that proactively address problems. We have allowed ourselves a perfect environment to harbor illegal activity. Children: We all have different views of what government should provide for families. Parks, recreation, student housing, the arts, education, and safety. As a council, we must continually improve what our youth experience here. Economic development: City council needs to focus on incentives to attract, retain and grow our business community. It must reward good behavior, enforce ordinances, and actively promote the investment opportunities we have here.

How can Faribault best improve the quality of life of its citizens?

The amenities: I would advocate for a community park around the viaduct. Imagine looking down onto an outdoor roller skating pathway that converts into an ice skating pathway in the winter. Beautifully lit trees, music and gas fire pits. Volleyball courts under the viaduct with a imaginative playground nearby. A shop to rent tubes, kayaks, skates, and cross country skis. Developed land along the river for camping and bicycle stays. A sledding hill across from Kwik Trip to reuse the tubes in the winter. Benefits: Healthy living, youth activities, increased tourism, beautification, creative use of natural resources and downtown revitalization.

What is your vision for how Faribault should look 10 years from now?

I see Faribault as a community we are so proud of, that we would never consider moving elsewhere. Let us be a charming small town filled with positive attributes. Stakeholders that set the bar, creatively inspire others, take pride in ownership and work hard to make this a more amazing place to live. If we don't appreciate and honor our own community, no one else will. We have immense potential here and we need motivational leaders to move our city in a direction that is competitive with other cities. Making proactive decisions now will create the changes we need to succeed.

Are there specific issues or areas of improvement you wish to be identified within the Community Vision-Faribault 2040?

The Vision Plan is a document that should be used to guide council when making decisions on behalf of Faribault residents. Studies are done, but rarely are pulled out of the filing cabinet after they have been read. Council should post the results on the walls and remind themselves of why they were electedAdvocate for the taxpayer. More money isn't always the answer, effectiveness is. Methods of 20 years ago may not be the best practices of today. We need creative solutions, innovative thinkers and ambitious leaders to follow through with any plan that relates to our future.

Kevin Voracek

Family: Gretchen, Ella and Everett
Occupation: Centurylink Network Technician
Education: Bethlehem Academy '97, Dakota County Tech College
Political/community involvement: Paradise Center for the Arts Board of Directors, Blue Collar BBQ and Arts Festival Co-Chair, Cub Scouts, Bethlehem Academy 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee



Why are you running?

I originally ran eight years ago for City Council because I wanted to know the truth about things that were really happening vs. what is perceived. IE City Council doesn't let business into town. I still feel very strong about getting the right info out to the public, and not the coffee shop rumors. I also believe in calling things what they really are.

What do you perceive as the three most important concerns for the city of Faribault?

Community Involvement is my first. If you want more, you have to partake in what you do have. Why would you get more if you don't make an effort to support what is here. Second, Integration. We have become a melting pot, we all know that, and it is not changing. We need to learn how to educate and cooperate. Third, keeping tax dollars under control. Watching where dollars are spent and trying to keep government to a responsible level and keeping out of competing with private enterprise where we can.

How can Faribault best improve the quality of life of its citizens?

Provide a clean, healthy, and active community. Quality has many different opinions, and options, but keep your eyes open, and you may discover something new.

What is your vision for how Faribault should look 10 years from now?

In a 10-year vision, I hope private enterprise steps up to the plate and provide entertainment options in Faribault, youth hangouts, movies, and other options. I would like to see stronger shopping options for middle class rather than leaving town to fulfill their wants and desires. I also hope the city keeps a watchful eye and keeps buffer zones between business, industrial and residential. It is no good when these items are not created in order.

Are there specific issues or areas of improvement you wish to be identified within the Community Vision-Faribault 2040?

My 2040 vision is similar to my ten year. It is hard to imagine what we would desire in 30 years that we don't desire in ten. As long as we continue and go back to more of a face to face community things should progress well. But if the only time we talk is on a digital device, then we only need faster internet. We need to leave our house and experience living, not typing, texting, and tweeting. Real life happens, every day, right in front of us. Let's keep our eyes open and notice the world around us.

Sonny Wasilowski

Family: I married my high school sweetheart, Lisa. Together, we have two children: Ridgeway, 6 and Maguire, 3. We also have an exchange student: Kate, 16, from Australia.
Occupation: Account Executive with Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc. (www.c-s-d.org), a non-profit by and for Deaf people. We provide adult basic education, domestic/sexual violence advocacy, on-site and video sign language interpreting (www.govineya.com), text relay services, and more.
Education: Jefferson Elementary, Faribault Junior High, Faribault Senior High School, Diploma from Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf. I hold a bachelor degree in Business Administration from Gallaudet University and a graduate certificate in Public Administration from Minnesota State University, Mankato.
Political/community involvement: I have assisted in the formation of three successful 501(c)(3) organizations. Past Student Body Government President of Gallaudet University. Past Director of Faribault Deaf Club. Current Vice President of Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens (one of the oldest civil organizations in Minnesota). Governor-appointed deaf community representative on the Board of Minnesota State Academies.
Campaign website or Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sonny-Wasilowski/48925892911



Why are you running?

I grew up in Faribault and I love this town. My family and I routinely take part in Faribault activities and feel safe in this town. To date, the Faribault City Council remains dominated by people affiliated with 'downtown Faribault' and does not accurately represent ALL of Faribault. Faribault is much more than just 'downtown Faribault' and I believe I am a candidate that truly reflects ALL of Faribault.

What do you perceive as the three most important concerns for the city of Faribault?

Elect me to be the voice of ALL of Faribault - not just 'downtown Faribault' Be a true ambassador of Faribault - show off what Faribault has, get on the top 10 list of the best cities in Minnesota! Support The Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. Be different, don't repeat history, get rid of biases, give ALL of Faribault a voice, be transparent.

How can Faribault best improve the quality of life of its citizens?

Our staff needs to reflect the current demographics of our town. We need to take a look at how we post our job openings and how we describe our job openings. I would love to have more people of color on staff. I would love to see more staff to be bilingual. This needs to apply from City Hall to Public Works to Park and Recreation and their youth staff. Support our police force with their requests to keep crime low.

What is your vision for how Faribault should look 10 years from now?

Faribault will continue to be more diverse and I hope by then our City staff will reflect that too. Faribault will be busier than ever with its excellent parks and activities in and around town. Maybe by then there will be a 18 hole disc golf course? I love the murals around town and I look forward to see what other murals there will be.

Are there specific issues or areas of improvement you wish to be identified within the Community Vision-Faribault 2040?

I would love to see the City of Faribault to keep its tax base low and at the same time - be innovative, be different. Take part in the styrofoam food containers and free plastic bag ban. Encourage more buildings to be LEED certified. Allow homes to have small wind turbines.