

<p>QUESTION 1 PARKING:</p> <p>The parking associated with Carleton College and with downtown businesses and shopping currently overflows into east side streets, causing inconvenience to some residents. This situation is likely to become more of a problem with the development of Carleton's Arts Union and the possible expansion of the Public Library.</p> <p>What might the new City Council do to improve this situation?</p>	<p>QUESTION 2 Rental Ordinance:</p> <p>After 18 months of meetings, The Northfield City Council passed a New Rental Ordinance that: 1.limits the number of rental structures* to 20% of any one block in most Northfield neighborhoods (the so-called "20% density rule"); 2. proscribes a cap of three unrelated adults per rental unit, with a provision for up to five unrelated adults in large units originally configured with five bedrooms, and 3. establishes the Rental Board of Appeals (now up and running) to hear cases for special exceptions, e.g. for economic hardship, or difficulty selling a home, etc.. The Ordinance was initiated and passed on account of the large number of blocks in which rental houses have become predominant, and the evident neglect of houses and yards in many of those blocks. It is intended to help safeguard the value of Northfield properties, rental and owner occupied alike.- As a City Council Member, will you support the rental ordinance as written? Why or why not?</p>	<p>QUESTION 3 Preserving Northfield's Character:</p> <p>The Land Use Principles outlined in 2008 Comp Plan begin with the preservation of Northfield's "small town character," which it specifically defines as "'Old Northfield' including the downtown core and older historic neighborhoods" (i.e. this one). The Plan also calls for 2). the "protection of Northfield's rural character," which it defines as "rural roads, expansive agrarian views, and rural architectural vernacular;" 3). the preference for locating new development in infill and redevelopment locations before expanding on the edge of existing development; and 4). the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and green open spaces. ...</p> <p>If elected to the Council, how will you work to preserve Northfield's rural landscape and protect this neighborhood from the consequences of additional residential development to our east?</p>	<p>QUESTION 4 Participatory Government:</p> <p>There has been a lot of talk in this election about restoring trust in our City Council and our City staff. Beyond your having the requisite skills -"bringing people together," "communication," "team building" etc.</p> <p>What specific steps will you take as a City Council member to foster the substantive input (i.e. not window dressing) and informed participation of Northfield's residents (including city Advisory Commissions) in the processes of local governance?</p>
--	--	---	--

MAYOR

<p>P A U L H A G E R</p>	<p><i>I strongly support enforcement of City parking standards for the new Arts Union. Carleton should provide off street parking space for faculty and staff who work at the Arts Union. I want to see parking available for citizens who wish to use Central Park. I do not want to see cars circling Central Park, neighboring streets, nor the Arts Union, and I would support restrictions on day-time parking in the area, with exception made for residents who live adjacent to the Arts Union.</i></p> <p><i>I support creating a parking ramp in the downtown, perhaps near the Library or the at the corner of Fifth and Washington St. This ramp/ structure is needed to meet the demand for parking in the downtown business and retail core.</i></p>	<p><i>I believe far too much time and money has been spent on this issue to re-open the discussion. I will support the ordinance and monitor its effectiveness in addressing the problems that were the basis for creating a new ordinance. If the ordinance fails to remedy some of the existing problems, then it needs to be amended, improved, fixed. As to the ordinance itself, there are parts I like and those I question, but let's try it, let the review board serve its purpose, and see if the ordinance is successful.</i></p>	<p><i>At the Planning Commission public hearing on September 30, I told the Commissioners that Northfield cannot sustain development in all four quadrants at the edge of the City, as the Comprehensive Plan seemed to suggest. It is not in our best interest to suggest such grow for it leads to sprawl. Omni-growth is too expensive and it impinges on land in agricultural production. I think the Comprehensive Plan should more accurately be titled a "Comprehensive Guide" and the Planning Commission should create a focused Plan that identifies where we, the citizens of the community, specifically want growth and development to occur- growth and development that is in keeping with the character of our City and is financially feasible.</i></p> <p><i>Far too often in the past we have been in a reactive mode to developer's proposals and pressured to grow (in an area we hadn't really planned to develop) to meet their desires. We are going to grow. We need sustainable growth that doesn't bankrupt our character and our pocketbook.</i></p> <p><i>We have a 3-5 year inventory of open land for residential development. We are in a recession. We have a huge inventory of housing for sale. Ten permits for new home construction have</i></p>	<p><i>I favor adding the "Open Mic" feature to the Council's work sessions- that's where the issues are in play and citizen input should be encouraged and considered. By the time an issue makes to the Council meeting, most minds are made up and citizens feel frustrated that their ideas and concerns, voiced at the open mic, are not addressed or considered before passage of a resolution. It is too late in the process. Boards and Commissions should have a regular reporting method to the Council- via paper, web, or in person- that report on goals, topics, actions, and recommendations. Such communication should arrive at the "work session" stage and not be "window dressing" at the start of council meetings.</i></p>
--	--	--	---	---

			<p>been issued by the City from January to August of this year. We do not need to annex and develop new agricultural land to add housing (roads, sewers, holding ponds, and traffic) to our City's overhead.</p> <p>I do not favor growth to the East of Northfield on Wall Street Road because it doesn't make sense for many of the reasons listed above.</p>	
	<p>QUESTION 1 PARKING: What might the new City Council do to improve this (the parking) situation?</p> <p>(All questions: Background info on page 1)</p>	<p>QUESTION 2 Rental Ordinance: As a City Council Member, will you support the rental ordinance as written? Why or why not?</p>	<p>QUESTION 3 Preserving Northfield's Character: If elected to the Council, how will you work to preserve Northfield's rural landscape and protect this neighborhood from the consequences of additional residential development to our east?</p>	<p>QUESTION 4 Participatory Government: What specific steps will you take as a City Council member to foster the substantive input (i.e. not window dressing) and informed participation of Northfield's residents (including city Advisory Commissions) in the processes of local governance?</p>
MAYOR - CONTINUED				
M A R Y R O S S I N G	<p>We need to distinguish between what is an occasional inconvenience and what it a chronic problem. One of the attractions of living on the east side is that it is close to Carleton and also to downtown, which makes it a very walk-able neighborhood. But with this close proximity to "the action" comes some negatives.</p> <p>In my experience there are currently three occasions when downtown parking expands into the neighborhood beyond Union Street. They are DJJD weekend, Winter Walk, and Crazy Days. I suspect this will be more of an issue if the library is expanded across Third Street and parking spaces are lost. Neighbors and downtown merchants will need to be part of this discussion and insist on no net loss.</p> <p>The neighborhood association has been working with Carleton on parking issues in regard to the Arts Union, and some progress has been made. There will have to be compromise on both sides. Again, I would think that the inconvenience would be occasional— primarily in the evenings, when downtown parking would be less used. Perhaps an occasional use agreement with the UCC church could be reached. It depends on timing and frequency</p>	<p>This document has cost the city an incredible amount of money, and still it is incomplete. The impetus was to address the bad behavior of renters. Landlords also have a responsibility to keep their property up so as not to detract from the neighborhood.</p> <p>I first rented an apartment as a student at St. Olaf. Young renters need to be taught what is acceptable behavior in a residential neighborhood. Behavior guidelines should be part of a lease and student renters need to know that the colleges will be notified of negative behavior. Buy-in with the colleges is essential. Enforcement of the law (noise, public urination, ZAPP) can be used to curb behavior issues by the city, followed by reprimands from the colleges.</p> <p>The 20% rule will not address bad behavior. The "3-unrelated" rule discriminates against lifestyle choices, and this could become a human rights issue for the city. With the deepening economic crisis, more people may need to rent and homeowners will be stuck if they are unable to sell or are on sabbatical leave. The rental code board of appeals needs to get up and running. Then we can decide if we need to revisit the ordinance.</p>	<p>I have an immense amount of respect for the members of the planning commission who have struggled with the nuances of this document. This is a fine piece of citizen work. The historic east side and the downtown are important assets that need protecting. Developers will always challenge the Comprehensive Plan, and we need to use it as a guide when weighing the merits of proposals.</p> <p>It is imperative that we concentrate on economic growth during the next four years rather than expand housing. We must expand the tax base in Northfield. We need to make sure that the EDA has the tools to move us ahead in this direction, and not be swayed by housing developers who promise us easy revenue while gobbling up scarce land. This will be important as we begin to develop a master plan for the 530 acres on the west side of town. This needs to be saved for commercial and industrial growth.</p> <p>One of my first initiatives will be to hold an Infill and Redevelopment Summit bringing representatives from the EDA, NDDC, and the Chamber to the table with Landowners who have developable properties within the city.</p>	<p>As mayor I will sit down with each of the council members individually, inviting them to share their goals and what they want to accomplish during their tenure. The best way to understand the group dynamics as well as how to best make use of each council person's unique skills is to understand their motivation for serving. This will set the groundwork for a council that respects each other's opinions even during difficult discussions.</p> <p>It is important for all those serving on boards and commissions to feel appreciated and respected. They do diligent research, have informed discussions and put careful thought into their recommendations. If the council is clear about the intended direction and this is communicated effectively to the boards and commissions then we can all move ahead in an efficient way</p> <p>The mayor must be a team player. She must respect the time and talents of citizen volunteers and staff members, giving clear guidance without micromanaging. She must have emotional maturity, be approachable, must be able articulate the big picture and keep a positive attitude about both the process and the final product. It is essential that Northfield once again take pride in their city government.</p>

<p>QUESTION 1 PARKING: <i>What might the new City Council do to improve this (the parking) situation?</i></p> <p><i>(All questions: Background info on page 1)</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 2 Rental Ordinance: <i>As a City Council Member, will you support the rental ordinance as written? Why or why not?</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 3 Preserving Northfield's Character: <i>If elected to the Council, how will you work to preserve Northfield's rural landscape and protect this neighborhood from the consequences of additional residential development to our east?</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 4 Participatory Government: <i>What specific steps will you take as a City Council member to foster the substantive input (i.e. not window dressing) and informed participation of Northfield's residents (including city Advisory Commissions) in the processes of local governance?</i></p>
--	--	--	---

2ND W A R D

<p>B E T S E Y B U C K H E I T</p>	<p><i>With new projects, parking (as well as traffic patterns and volume) must be part of the development. Carleton's Arts Union and the Library will need to add off-street parking, but utilizing on-street parking is one way we help keep Northfield compact, use financial resources wisely, and help encourage walking and transit use.</i></p> <p><i>Parking isn't free. Building a municipal parking ramp or lot will require a large capital investment by the City; are residents willing to pay more in taxes or by paying to park? For the Colleges to provide more parking might involve using valued green, buffer areas at the edge of the campus or perhaps buying additional east side property to construct parking; is this a price neighbors are willing to pay? Alternatively, area permits could be issued to allow residents only to park in certain areas; again that would come with a fee. Northfield needs to weigh the costs and benefits before building additional parking.</i></p> <p><i>Beyond parking, Northfield should address safety issues related to parking immediately. One example: it is difficult to see pedestrians in the heavily used crosswalk across Washington at 3rd Street by the Library; we could limit street parking near this intersection to improve visibility.</i></p>	<p><i>The process of adopting the rental ordinance has not been smooth or swift; I support the rental ordinance as adopted although not without question. Before advocating changes, however, I would like to see clear, consistent enforcement for a period of time to be able to assess its effectiveness.</i></p> <p><i>One concern: We've rented our house during my husband's academic sabbaticals; other east side faculty has or plans to, too. The "sabbatical exception" does not exist under the new ordinance meaning; faculty (or anyone hoping to rent their home for a short time) must get a license or fly under the legal radar.</i></p> <p><i>Larger concerns which have not been addressed:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>College expansion (including buying older homes) policies affect the neighborhood. The City has not, even in its new Comp Plan, addressed how a college development zone can be successful given the lack of a clear boundary between College and town.</i> <i>Council's decisions in 2000-2002 to approve a great deal of market-rate residential development created a glut of new homes. With so much new housing available, our older neighborhoods became less desirable for homebuyers and more likely to be sold for rental property.</i> 	<p><i>The example given - the proposal to annex 50 acres for residential development - is an example of how our system works well.</i></p> <p><i>Developers may submit applications to the City for projects they believe are desirable including requests for rezoning and amending the Comprehensive Plan. In the example given, NESNA acted swiftly and generated strong, unified citizen opposition to the proposal. The Planning Commission held a hearing, took testimony and decisively recommended against the proposal in accordance with their planning principles. I believe the developer withdrew the proposal before the Council considered it.</i></p> <p><i>I know the Comp Plan and am closely following the writing of new land use regulations. I've served on the Planning Commission and know that their recommendations must carry great weight. The new Plan and development regulations clearly indicate that development at the edges is less desirable and that our historic neighborhoods are the model which should guide the growth of the city. I've been an advocate for strong planning and compact development since serving on the Planning Commission, if elected I'll work to follow these development tools and implement them consistently.</i></p>	<p><i>Northfield's boards and commissions (other than the Planning Commission, Economic Development Authority and Housing and Redevelopment Authority which are authorized by state statute) have long been underutilized. There is no mandated process for citizen boards to give input; their voice is heard if and when the Council wishes to listen. I will work to ensure that our development process and other city policies specifically include citizen board review and comment to ensure that these talented and expert voices are not lost.</i></p> <p><i>Council and city staff should continually improve participatory strategies, but it will need to be a two way street. Northfield has improved. When appointed to the Planning Commission in 2001, the City held only the legally required public hearings for projects. Planning Commission and staff looked for opportunities for earlier input; neighborhood meetings in advance of large projects, open houses, and opportunities for on-line comment have been the result.</i></p> <p><i>The City can do more, but Northfield residents need to make an effort, too. Groups like NESNA have helped influence the city through organized efforts; keep up the pressure. I'll continue my blog (betseybuckheit.wordpress.com), town hall meetings were suggested on locallygrownorthfield.org. Tell me how you'd like to be heard, but you must speak.</i></p>
	<p>J E R O L D</p>	<p><i>There are generally two solutions to limited parking. Expand the number of parking places and/or encourage a more efficient use of cars.</i></p> <p><i>Some residents have suggested an aesthetic, low-profile parking garage near downtown. I think this is a good idea. If a sizable garage is built, it will support surrounding businesses, encourage the</i></p>	<p><i>The 20% density rule is fraught with problems, so I do not support it as written. Its purpose was to lessen the effect of unruly tenants, particularly Carleton students, assuming that less rental density leads to fewer unruly students.</i></p> <p><i>First, I come from the philosophy that a person's house is their castle. I do not think</i></p>	<p><i>As a lifelong environmentalist, I agree that Northfield's development should be infill and, if necessary, building up rather than out. Taking undeveloped or agricultural land for new construction is not wise for our city nor our environment. If there are occasions when it's in Northfield's best interest to develop more land, I will work to ensure that the affected community is happy with the plans, and that</i></p>

<p>F R I E D M A N</p>	<p><i>development of new businesses, and relieve the parking stress of nearby residents.</i></p> <p><i>Some residents who come to downtown would be more likely to leave their cars at home if Northfield had a better mass transit system or if our streets were safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. Our mass transit should be reviewed periodically to help ensure that it's as effective as it can be. In better economic times, we should consider building a pedestrian/bicyclist bridge spanning Highway 3. Such a bridge would maximize safety and accessibility for residents on both sides of the highway.</i></p> <p><i>As a last resort, we can implement permit-only parking for residents who live near downtown. A program like this would allow parking for nonresidents during daytime business hours, but in the evening and early morning, only vehicles with permits would be allowed. Permits would be granted to homeowners, and provision would need to be made for their guests.</i></p>	<p><i>that the government is right in telling a homeowner in how they can use their house unless it relates to zoning rules and building codes. The ordinance automatically permits some homeowners (under 20%) to rent their house but denies other homeowners unless they go through an administrative hearing with uncertain results, which I think is unfair. If a homeowner is leaving Northfield and has no choice but to rent the house, it should not be up to the city to decide if that's acceptable. Second, the police are better equipped to handle actual unruly students than arbitrarily assuming that blocks under 20% are placid. It's possible for a block to have 50% or more rental density with respectful and law abiding tenants. Further, the 20% rule affects rental units not rental occupancy, and rental density along a street can be very high if adjacent blocks have most of their rentals abutting the street, so it's doubtful that the 20% rule can achieve its mission as written.</i></p>	<p><i>the impact on the ecosystem is minimal.</i></p> <p><i>Further, we should not allow new residential development until there is sufficient demand. We had a recent boon in residential construction followed by a drop in demand. If Northfield wants a balanced economy, we should not oversupply the city with new homes.</i></p>	<p><i>never or seldom show at Council meetings.</i></p> <p><i>I am also developing relationships with constituents and business owners so that I will always have a broader view of what the people need and want. This may include a mass e-mail system to those who want to participate, to inform them of especially important matters and to invite their feedback. This would have the effect of an informal advisory commission.</i></p> <p><i>I am committed to represent my Ward's interests. If my constituents largely agree on a matter after a full exposé of the underlying facts, my vote will be consistent with their vote.</i></p>
---	--	---	---	---

<p>QUESTION 1 PARKING: <i>What might the new City Council do to improve this (the parking) situation?</i></p> <p><i>(All questions: Background info on page 1)</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 2 Rental Ordinance: <i>As a City Council Member, will you support the rental ordinance as written? Why or why not?</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 3 Preserving Northfield's Character: <i>If elected to the Council, how will you work to preserve Northfield's rural landscape and protect this neighborhood from the consequences of additional residential development to our east?</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 4 Participatory Government: <i>What specific steps will you take as a City Council member to foster the substantive input (i.e. not window dressing) and informed participation of Northfield's residents (including city Advisory Commissions) in the processes of local governance?</i></p>
--	--	--	---

AT-LARGE (4-YEAR TERM)

<p>D A N A G R A H A M</p>	<p><i>There was a study done a few years ago that concluded that there were a sufficient number of parking spaces downtown for our usage. It also concluded that people don't want to walk very far from their intended destination. That was then. I have an office downtown and, if I'm not in early, it can be very difficult to find a space to park, even blocks away. I agree that there are parking issues connected with events at Carleton's Arts Union and the possible expansion of the library. We also hope that our retail establishments and restaurants continue to grow and attract more visitors. What we see now as a problem could be an opportunity. This could be a great example of collaboration between the college and the city to ease a problem. We need leaders who will seek to work with the college by having an open discussion, along with residents from the area. We need to put all options on the table and discuss them. Do we need a parking ramp? Is there an area that can be expanded and used as a parking lot for both downtown users and Arts Union users? What are the costs? Who will benefit? Who will pay? If we don't have thorough and probing discussions, we will never come up with the answers. I look forward to working with the new mayor and council and address these issues.</i></p>	<p><i>This is an issue that stirs emotions from those who it affects most directly- mainly residents who live near the two colleges and owners of rental properties. City council should have been the driving force behind the updating of this ordinance. Instead, what we got, initially, was a document that was staff driven and rubber stamped by the council and then found to be illegal. I believe that this is another example of lack of leadership exhibited by this council in the last couple of years. Eventually, after many concerns were voiced, some proper research was done by simply finding out what other communities are doing and an ordinance that could pass the legal test was written. I can support this document. We must listen to our citizens and take into account their concerns and make sure, as elected officials, that we are the ones that are giving direction to how we want the final document to read. In this case, we must have a document that recognizes our need to co-exist with renters while making sure that we are maintaining the character of our neighborhoods and providing living space for all. And, of course, we must have the appropriate enforcement.</i></p>	<p><i>The purpose of the Comp Plan is to be our guide to growth. As you know, there is ongoing discussions about annexing 530 acres on the NW part of the city. I am in support of this action for many reasons. It makes sense, to me, that our expansion and economic development opportunities go in this direction. I am not in favor of expansion on all four corners of the city. It is important that we protect Northfield's rural character. While I am not familiar with the specific proposal to annex 50 acres on the east side of fourth street for the purpose of construction of 200 homes, it does not make sense to me. I am also not in favor of expanding in environmentally sensitive areas. We don't know what the future will bring or what proposals will be put forward for consideration but, I believe that there are parts of our city that must be left untouched so that we are assured of preserving that character and our environment.</i></p>	<p><i>We must be transparent. This will encourage citizens to want to get "involved". City council members must be held more accountable for their actions and decisions or lack of. We elect a mayor and city council, not city staff, to be our leaders. We have to set the tone immediately. Let staff know how we will direct them. Let the boards and commissions know that we will seek to have good communication with them and, let everyone know how we will invite citizen participation. When I was a city council member representing ward 2, I held three ward meetings per year. This enabled me to hear directly from people I represented, in a less intimidating atmosphere with no time constraints. What we are doing now is not working. We need to get our pride back and make people feel like they want to help and be a part of framing our future.</i></p>
<p>K R I S V O H S</p>	<p><i>When we expand the public library, we have to increase the parking for that facility. Carleton is expanding their parking in conjunction with their new student housing on campus. The new Rental Code and Ordinance should help alleviate some of the parking problems because it requires off street parking for the tenants. The old Middle School/Carleton Arts Union will need further attention for parking as we approve their plan and the Planning Commission approves their development. Parking has to be part of the building process.</i></p>	<p><i>I support the Rental Ordinance as it exists. I do like the idea of 3 unrelated people. I believe there are regulations in place so if we do have problems we will be able to remedy the situation or the rental license will be revoked.</i></p>	<p><i>Specifically land to the east of the cemetery and north of Wall Street Road should remain agricultural. The City has real challenges to supply infrastructure and the land is not needed at this time. It does provide transportation challenges that are not easily or cost effectively remedied. Our Comp Plan calls for infill and higher density. This is where we should concentrate our efforts.</i></p>	<p><i>Ethics, honesty, full transparency and the whole picture for all residents to see is the ONLY way to build trust in our system. Being accessible to all residents to talk face to face with no hidden agendas is very important as we move into the next 4 years and beyond. Citizens should feel they have as much input as Advisory Commissions. Being available to talk with a group of residents is very important. Neighborhood meetings should be on a regular basis to receive residents input on current City issues and their neighborhood needs.</i></p>

<p>QUESTION 1 PARKING: What might the new City Council do to improve this (the parking) situation?</p> <p><i>(All questions: Background info on page 1)</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 2 Rental Ordinance: As a City Council Member, will you support the rental ordinance as written? Why or why not?</p>	<p>QUESTION 3 Preserving Northfield's Character: If elected to the Council, how will you work to preserve Northfield's rural landscape and protect this neighborhood from the consequences of additional residential development to our east?</p>	<p>QUESTION 4 Participatory Government: What specific steps will you take as a City Council member to foster the substantive input (i.e. not window dressing) and informed participation of Northfield's residents (including city Advisory Commissions) in the processes of local governance?</p>
--	--	--	---

AT-LARGE (2-YEAR TERM)

<p>J O E G A S I O R</p>	<p><i>I believe the city needs to consider a two-pronged approach. A short-term solution should be considered for implementation while working on a more permanent solution. The long-term solution should include both increasing parking options downtown as well as working with Carleton to bring as much parking back to campus as possible. Parking overflow in residential areas should only occur on rare instances, not on a regular basis.</i></p> <p><i>One short-term solution may involve limiting non-resident parking in the area through time restrictions and permits. For example, parking could be limited in the neighborhood to 2 hours from 8am to 5:30pm except for Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays. However, residents could obtain a permit that would exempt them from the restriction. Each residential structure would be allotted a limited number of permits, which would in-turn be tied to a specific vehicle. This allows residents to still park on their street.</i></p> <p><i>This is one possible idea to remedy the current parking problem and others are out there. Regardless of where the ideas originate, involvement of the pertinent stakeholders, in this case, the residents of the area, is critical to developing a workable solution to the problem.</i></p>	<p><i>I support the rental ordinance as written. I believe the ordinance needs to be given a chance to work. The Rental Board of Appeals is in place and can be used as a tool to determine what issues may still exist. This also provides a means to generate ideas for possible solutions to future issues relating to rental structures. After a reasonable amount of time, if there are any issues or concerns that arise from the ordinance, the council can take up action to correct whatever the problem may be.</i></p>	<p><i>The city has an obligation to its residents to follow through on what the city says they plan to do. This is the central purpose for the Comprehensive Plan currently being finalized. The best and most consistent course to take and the one I plan to pursue if elected is to utilize the comp plan as a guide to my development decisions. That doesn't mean that someone else won't come along and make a similar request. It is their right to do so. However, if the proposed plans are not consistent with the Comp Plan, they should be rejected.</i></p>	<p><i>To start with, we need to have citizen involvement in the hiring of a new city administrator. I would also promote more involvement of the advisory commissions in discussions about decisions or actions that would directly affect them and the areas of their responsibility.</i></p> <p><i>Another step is to make myself available to the public to discuss issues of importance to them, but then following up with the resident in the future. This could be in the form of a quick email or perhaps a personal invitation to attend a particular meeting when a topic of concern to a particular resident is discussed. It is important for whoever is elected to remember that they are there to represent the ideas, concerns, needs and wants of the city's residents. That cannot be done if officials close themselves off.</i></p>
	<p>R P H O W N D E A L L</p>	<p><i>There is currently a group of citizens from the Library Board and the NDDC who are working on the parking issue per the City Council's request. My stance will be that with any new construction there has to be adequate provision for parking. Aside from this I will push for the acquiring of any land that could be made into parking.</i></p>	<p><i>I believe the rental ordinance is a much needed document and I plan on supporting it as written. Renters and owners should be held to a higher standard. Northfield is known for its historic neighborhoods. It's what draws people to our town. We need to make sure that these neighborhoods are prospering.</i></p>	<p><i>I'm confident that Northfield is going to grow. I will work to make sure that any growth is done responsibly and in a way that enhances the character and charm of Northfield that people love.</i></p>

<p>QUESTION 1 PARKING: What might the new City Council do to improve this (the parking) situation?</p> <p>(All questions: Background info on page 1)</p>	<p>QUESTION 2 Rental Ordinance: As a City Council Member, will you support the rental ordinance as written? Why or why not?</p>	<p>QUESTION 3 Preserving Northfield's Character: If elected to the Council, how will you work to preserve Northfield's rural landscape and protect this neighborhood from the consequences of additional residential development to our east?</p>	<p>QUESTION 4 Participatory Government: What specific steps will you take as a City Council member to foster the substantive input (i.e. not window dressing) and informed participation of Northfield's residents (including city Advisory Commissions) in the processes of local governance?</p>
---	--	--	---

AT-LARGE (2-YEAR TERM) CONTINUED

<p>V I C T O R S U M M A</p>	<p><i>Proximity of the eastside residential neighborhood to our downtown is an asset in "walkable" Northfield.</i></p> <p><i>Every asset has a downside ... for some, at some juncture.</i></p> <p><i>In your premise statement, one phrase stands out: "causing inconvenience to some residents. " ... but parking (in the DT) has been a question for decades.</i></p> <p><i>For some, more parking would make the DT stronger ... that's good for Northfield. Others, Others, perhaps on the near East side might remark: " as the DT grows, the residential neighborhood suffers. "</i></p> <p><i>When we spend money today, more than ever before, expenditures must solve a problem and serve the entire community.</i></p> <p><i>The fix for these problems is parking in the DT. As your elected representative, and as a member of the EDA, I'm looking at how the EDA might use Master Development District TIF funds for such an improvement.</i></p> <p><i>I'm a "stewardship" candidate ... eager to lead open dialogue ... bring ideas to Council using the boards and commissions and citizens ... then move forward with a strong community plan, which staff will execute.</i></p> <p><i>One caveat. What's best for Northfield might not necessarily be best for E Fourth Street ... or Wall Street Road or Manitou Street, across the river</i></p>	<p><i>As an experienced landlord ... A Qualified YES: with concerted effort, enforcement, and a timeline to make the ordinance more community friendly.</i></p> <p><i>The Ordinance includes ALL rental units, but is essentially a product to control the use of homes in R1 and R2 zones. The problem, as it came to the City Council, was in response to owner/occupants of single family homes in "residential" zones, especially in the neighborhoods surrounding the colleges.</i></p> <p><i>For decades the City's inability to enforce its rules, has been unacceptable.</i></p> <p><i>It is interesting to note that even after almost 2 years and 70,000 dollars later, the current Council and the Current staff, still haven't got it together.</i></p> <p><i>Had the council listened to Don McGee's (candidate in ward 3) original complaint, simple enforcement would have held Tenants and Landlords responsible for deteriorating conduct and properties.</i></p> <p><i>Clearly owner/occupants of historic Northfield homes have legitimate concerns about the conditions of their neighborhoods.</i></p> <p><i>Unfortunately Council and Staff's haphazard efforts brought ill advised ideas that caused a firestorm of citizen protest ... both neighborhood groups and landlords. The Council denied the college student component and among other ridiculous ideas, recommended paving over lawns to provide off-street parking.</i></p> <p><i>I'd advocate for a subcommittee to continue a policy discussion, including the 20% rule, implement the Board of Appeals and use enforcement mechanisms: fines ... levied at the occupants behavior, and the landlords violations.</i></p>	<p><i>I understand NESNA's concerns. Ubiquitous is not a term I like when talking about Northfield ... but, I believe here, the good answer IS ubiquitous. e.g. All decisions should be in community wide best interests.</i></p> <p><i>The Planning Commission's position was the proper conclusion. As a Councilor you should support that decision, regardless of self interest opposition.</i></p> <p><i>The prudent vote if you can not support the PC ... is, send it back for more deliberation ... work toward a compromise.</i></p> <p><i>My goal for Northfield is to become a development role model; reasonable and balanced growth are two main factors. These goals are no longer speculative. They are commitment to values and principles when facing challenges ... not the least of which may be those of your neighbors. Do we have the will?</i></p> <p><i>Recent political splits (nearly 50/50) on defining issues can make the choice difficult. Strong leadership will find the proper course.</i></p> <p><i>Measuring the willingness of community to "pay the price" is the Council's responsibility. Staff and consultants need to allow the community to define itself.</i></p> <p><i>Seek the sense of the Community ... Focus on public information gathering; we must have good ideas and better discussions, based on strong goals that are best for all of Northfield.</i></p>	<p><i>Citizen's voices, varying in form and style should not be discounted.</i></p> <p><i>The Open Mic is an example. Users feel the frustration of not being heard.</i></p> <p><i>Most important are Boards and Commissions. Sanctioned by Charter, they and their cousins (task forces) provide council its most relevant advice.</i></p> <p><i>This system was initiated for in-depth analysis and to provide citizen direction to the Council.</i></p> <p><i>As a Councilor and Charter Commission member, I will strengthen the role of Boards and make every attempt to better value and utilize public opinion.</i></p> <p><i>I'd suggest:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Citizen Boards / Commissions, study issues, arrive at recommendations, and deliver advice to the Council.</i> <i>2. Staff may provide differing opinions; these should be evaluated appropriately.</i> <i>3. Council discussion includes citizen advisor and staff participation, reviewing jointly prepared agenda packets.</i> <i>4. Council makes a decision</i> <i>5. Staff implements.</i> <p><i>Expanded involvement will strengthen the will of the people, provide needed advice for the official decision, lessen the need for outside consulting</i></p> <p><i>Rivalries exist in City Hall: Boards / Commissions should not be caught in that trap.</i></p> <p><i>A vital strength of any mayor, is his/her right to fill (BC) vacancies. The Council's questions and approval are vital checks ... but it's the Mayor call. The current situation is a black mark on this Council, not the Charter driven process.</i></p>
--	--	--	---	--

<p>QUESTION 1 PARKING: <i>What might the new City Council do to improve this (the parking) situation?</i></p> <p><i>(All questions: Background info on page 1)</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 2 Rental Ordinance: <i>As a City Council Member, will you support the rental ordinance as written? Why or why not?</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 3 Preserving Northfield's Character: <i>If elected to the Council, how will you work to preserve Northfield's rural landscape and protect this neighborhood from the consequences of additional residential development to our east?</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 4 Participatory Government: <i>What specific steps will you take as a City Council member to foster the substantive input (i.e. not window dressing) and informed participation of Northfield's residents (including city Advisory Commissions) in the processes of local governance?</i></p>
--	--	--	---

AT-LARGE (2-YEAR TERM) CONTINUED

<p>L Y N N V I N C E N T</p>	<p><i>When the library is expanded build into the plans an underground city parking facility beneath the library. Put in "no parking" signs.</i></p> <p><i>Require in the permit to Carleton College to build the union to include in the plans an underground parking facility for students and citizens beneath the Arts Union.</i></p> <p><i>Negotiate with Carleton to create even more parking on college land.</i></p> <p><i>Promote the use of non-motorized transportation and construct bicycle kiosks or stands for parking them. Develop a "White Bike" program using confiscated cycles from the police department, paint them white, add saddlebags, and scatter them around the city for use by citizens.</i></p> <p><i>Develop a transit system that will reduce the use of individuals driving their own cars, and create roads and pathways designed for bicycles that are clearly marked. Adopt an ordinance that governs the use of non-motorized transportation and set fines for violators.</i></p> <p><i>Create a "park and ride" system on the outskirts of town or at an infill site with transit runs into the city or the union.</i></p>	<p><i>As I read the ordinance there are detailed regulations about upkeep, tidiness, parking and behavior restrictions that are to be enforced. I could think of no other restrictions to apply. As for the 20% rule I understand from reading the ordinance, a block is one street and counting the number of dwellings on that street on both sides of the street from one intersecting road to the next intersecting road.</i></p> <p><i>I'd like to ask the audience a few questions concerning this ordinance.</i></p> <p><i>How many buildings could be rental buildings under the 20% rule?</i></p> <p><i>What is it that concerns or pleases the Eastside Association about the ordinance?</i></p> <p><i>Was the Association involved in the task force or commission that researched and designed the ordinance? Were there sufficient hearings for the Association to voice concern and provide suggested solutions?</i></p> <p><i>The ordinance was written to cover the needs and concerns of a great number of parties including landlords, neighboring homes, students and other renters, and I think for the most part it accomplished what was needed though it may not please everyone. As it stands now I would support the ordinance unless the Association can give good reason for non-support.</i></p>	<p><u>Implement the Comprehensive plan</u> – it was not designed to be a shelf ornament but a guideline for the work of the city. Pull from the Comprehensive plan a set of criteria to be applied to any decision about annexation or residential development.</p> <p><i>Design traffic routes east and west that circumvent the east side and draw traffic away.</i></p> <p><i>Designate the neighborhood as a historically significant area, and get it on the National Register.</i></p> <p><i>Would it be more reasonable to designate some of the current annexation as residential for homes closer to work sites?</i></p> <p><i>Land could be designated as green space or prairie restoration to the east.</i></p> <p><i>Build significant green space between neighborhoods into any future expansion plans.</i></p>	<p><i>Attend meetings of commissions and task groups as a liaison between the government and the commission to keep communication lines open.</i></p> <p><i>Initiate Army After Action Review at end of meetings.</i></p> <p><i>I like the suggestion about a Myers Briggs approach to get to know how each person prefers to interact.</i></p> <p><i>Hold periodic informal meetings to hear concerns and suggestions. Provide feedback through letters, flyers, web site, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Be available to any citizen as long as the conversation took place during reasonable hours.</i></p> <p><i>Continue the commissions approach - it gives voice to citizens for grassroots participation and calls on the greater expertise that resides in the citizenry.</i></p> <p><i>Citizens provide insight to the needs of the community and input to possible solutions. The council sets policy and governance. When all parties are at the table we can explore together options for solutions and find ways all parties will benefit, it's a win-win.</i></p>
---	--	--	---	--