A resident's comments about voters' option to "mix-and-match" candidates for the City Council and Mayor races brought a few things to mind.

First, there is no constellation of public service in which my star shines as brightly as Mark Azman's. He has served as the NOHOA president, the Planning Commission chair, and as a Council member for four years. His experience and thoughtful, reasoned approach are an indispensable asset. Mark should be reelected.

Second, Krista Wolter has served on the NOHOA board and as our mayor for the past four years. She is hard-working, organized and tenacious, and has delivered strong results for our community (see link attached below for the Wolter/Azman Council's achievements). Fritz Johnson is a good neighbor and deserves credit for stepping up. But he brings no experience in City government at a time when, to quote F.A.R.'s own campaign literature, "North Oaks is at an important crossroads [that] calls for experienced … leadership." **Exactly**! That is why we should reelect Krista Wolter as Mayor.

That leaves, in my opinion, Andrew, Riki, and me as your mix-and-match options. Running for office takes real commitment and North Oaks is fortunate to have neighbors like Andrew and Riki who care. Where we differ is not about who cares more. It's about how the next Council will face challenging decisions on the aging infrastructure in the heart of North Oaks.

Think of it in terms of two classic songs. F.A.R.'s campaign sounds a lot like *Let It Be:* things are just fine as they are and the cesspool/septic system problem can keep waiting. Our slate sings a different tune: *The Times They Are a-Changin'.* Pleasant Lake is polluted. Cesspools and seepage pits sit close to its shores, with more within a block of the lake, and even more throughout the core of the community. By credible estimates, scores of septic systems have failed or are about to fail, and some homeowners have no room left for a replacement. We've let this problem be for decades.

The time has come for a comprehensive study of the problem, an engineering analysis of possible solutions, a full accounting of the costs, continued open public participation and debate, and a phased, cost-effective plan that leaves our infrastructure sound for our children and grandchildren.

I come to this race with an open mind and skills I believe can help. If you mix me in with the two leaders who have earned reelection, you'll get a fair, balanced look at the future. Based on their campaign message, if you mix in Andrew or Riki, I believe you'll get more of the past.

With respect and gratitude to all the candidates: after you have filled in the oval for Mark and Krista, I would ask that you fill in one more for Greg Peterson. Thank you.