

City of Fairmont Newsletter

www.fairmont.org

100 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont • (507) 238-9461

A publication produced exclusively by the City of Fairmont for the citizens of Fairmont.



Cleaning Up Around Town

By Jim Zarling, Fairmont City Administrator

On August 25th at 5:30 p.m., the City Council will be holding public hearings on three new ordinances. These new ordinances will address several issues that have generated a significant number of citizen complaints about the appearance of the Fairmont community. The City Council is interested in hearing from you on the proposed ordinance changes. The three changes are explained in this newsletter and include:

- * Parking in yards will be restricted
- * Dumpster size limit and storage
- * Expanded Definition of junk



What's wrong with these pictures?

It's ugly!!

It's illegal!!

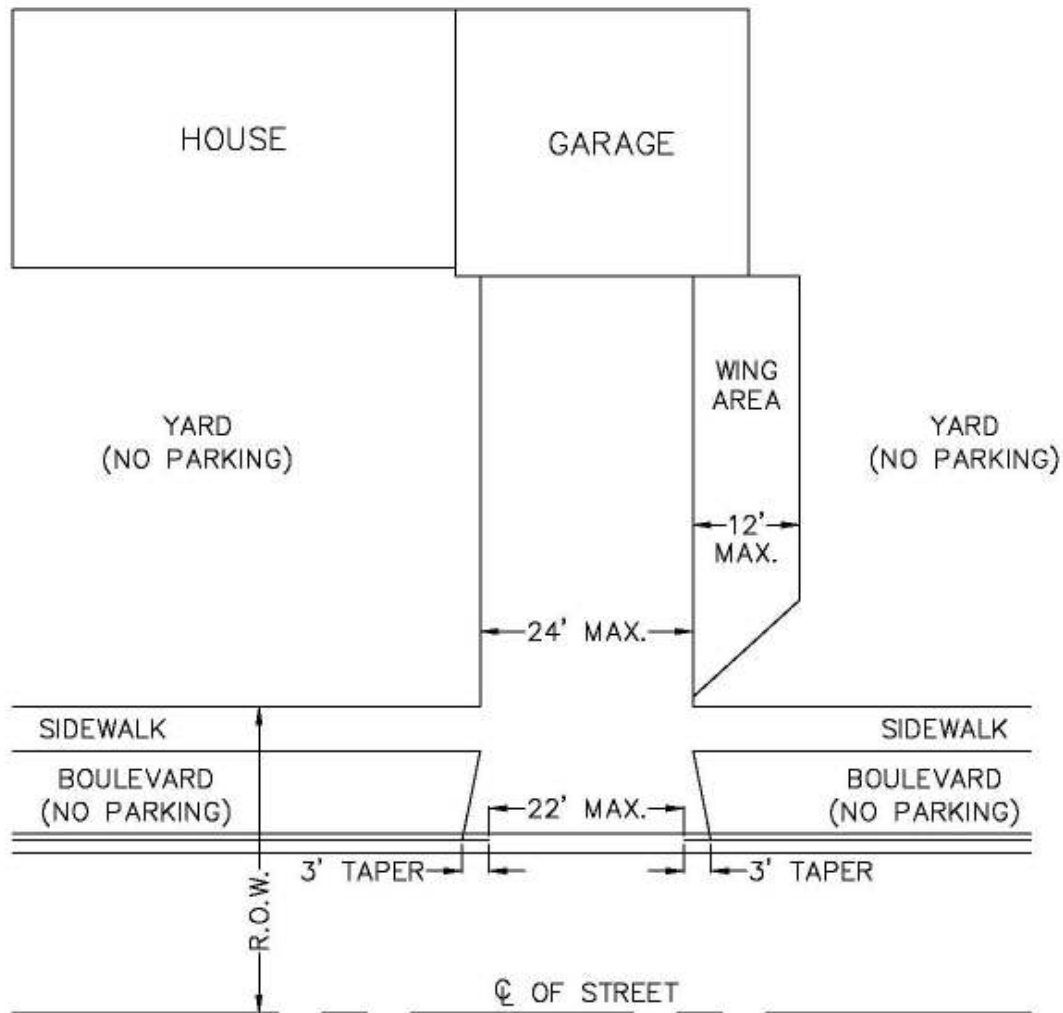
It costs you money!!



Periodically, the City spends several hundreds of dollars repainting our utility poles. It only takes a couple of applications of duct tape to damage the paint. It is illegal to post notices on public utility poles. A much better option is to place your garage sale sign on a wooden stake or a wire sign made for that purpose. Remember, it is a misdemeanor offense to attach these flyers to utility poles.

PARKING IN YARDS TO BE PROHIBITED

A growing complaint is people parking vehicles in their front yards on the grass. It doesn't take long for grass to disappear and the yard to become dirt. The result is erosion and a general degradation in the appearance of the property. The proposed ordinance would require parking on hard surface only and would limit the amount of lot surface that could be used. This diagram gives an example of where parking would be allowed.



The specific language of the ordinance is printed on page 5.



FAIRMONT PUBLIC UTILITIES ENERGY STAR REBATE PROGRAM



The Fairmont Public Utilities continues to offer rebates for Energy Star products. During times of high energy costs, one way you can help to control your utility costs is by replacing old, inefficient appliances. Listed below is a summary of the current rebates being offered by the Public Utilities.

<u>Rebate Program</u>	<u>Rebate Amount</u>
Central Air Conditioner	\$200 for 14 SEER plus \$75 for each SEER above 14
Air Source Heat Pump System	\$200 for 14 SEER plus \$75 for each SEER above 14
Room Air Conditioners	\$ 25 plus up to \$25 reimbursement for recycling old unit
Refrigerators	\$ 25 plus up to \$50 reimbursement for recycling old unit
Freezers	\$ 25 plus up to \$50 reimbursement for recycling old unit
Clothes Washers	\$ 50 rebate
Dishwashers	\$ 25 rebate
Ceiling Fan with Lighting	\$ 15 rebate
Dehumidifiers	\$ 65 rebate. Must recycle old unit to obtain rebate.
Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs	50% of the cost or \$2.00/bulb, which ever is larger
LED Christmas Lights	\$ 3.00 rebate for 69 Bulbs per string or less
(Uses 95% less Electricity)	\$ 4.50 rebate for 70 Bulbs per string or more

You must be a customer of the Fairmont Public Utilities to be eligible for a rebate.

A copy of the invoice and Energy Star logo must be submitted with the rebate form.



Customers requesting rebates for central air conditioners must agree to have a load management receiver installed on the central a/c unit.

There is no cost to you for installation of the load management receiver.

Contact Tom Koeritz at (507) 238-9461 ext. 2237

for additional information.



Marathon®

WATER HEATER PROGRAM

In addition to the Energy Star rebate program the Fairmont Public Utilities offers the Marathon Water Heaters to our customers. These units have a life time guarantee on the tanks and are up to 94% energy efficient. The utility offers these water heaters to our customers at our cost and then gives you a \$200 rebate off the purchase price. Customers that are building a new home are eligible for a free Marathon Water Heater. Customers purchasing the Marathon Water Heater will be required to participate in the utilities Load Management Program (LMP) in order to receive the \$200.00 rebate. The LMP allows the utility to control the electric water heater and central air conditioning systems during times of high electrical usage. There is absolutely no cost to the customer for installation of the load management receiver. In addition to the rebate customers with electric water heaters are put on a special electric rate which is approximately 10% cheaper than the regular Residential Electric Rate. For more information please call Tom Koeritz at the Fairmont City Hall at (507) 238-9461 Ext. 2237.



Safe and Efficient use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps:

Along with the energy savings that can be realized from the use of compact fluorescent lamps there is a safety factor that must be followed. The compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) contains a small amount of mercury. Despite the content of mercury in the bulb, CFL's are safe to use. No mercury is released when the bulbs are in use and pose no danger when used properly.

Compact fluorescent lamps must be disposed of properly. You can not put them in the garbage as you did with your incandescent lamps. Because of the mercury in the lamps, they must be recycled. The Fairmont Public Utilities conducts a recycling drop off program two times a year in May and October. You can bring your fluorescent lamps and ballasts to the K-Mart parking lot during the recycling program. You will be charged for the lamp recycling. Fill out the rebate coupon that you receive at the drop off site and bring it to City Hall with the payment receipt you received and the utility will reimburse you for your lamp and ballast recycling costs.

For more information on disposal of CFL's or the safe clean-up of mercury spills, please visit:

www.energystar.gov

www.earth911.org

www.epa.gov/mercury

www.SaveEnergyInFairmont.com

PROPOSED PARKING ORDINANCE

Section 26-651. Generally. (L) In residential zones, residential parking areas shall be used for vehicles only and shall not contain any outdoor storage for sales of goods and materials, commercial repair work or other such uses, with the exception of sporadic and temporary sales in the nature of yard sales or garage sales.

Section 26-652. Stall, aisle and driveway design. (n) In residential zones, all areas associated with residential buildings and used for vehicle parking and driveway shall be surfaced with concrete, bituminous or compactable rock or gravel to minimize dust and erosion.

Section 26-653. Location. (4) In a residential zone, vehicle parking shall not be permitted within any residential front yard, corner yard or side yard that abuts a street, except upon a properly surfaced driveway. The driveway may not extend more than twelve (12) feet past the end of the garage or dwelling, if there is no garage.

Large dumpsters are an efficient way to get rid of trash and garbage, but they can become an eye sore in residential areas when they are left too long. The second proposed ordinance will impact the size of dumpsters that are stored on site in a residential area. The proposed ordinance is:

Section 22-18 (h) A single family residence shall not be permitted to have a refuse or garbage container or dumpster of a size greater than 96 gallons on the premises for more than twenty-one (21) days. Refuse or garbage containers must be stored in a garage, shed or enclosure in the side or rear yards of the dwelling. No dumpsters or garbage or refuse containers shall be allowed in the front yard except on the days of garbage or refuse pick up, with the exception of dumpsters used for construction or remodeling purposes which must be removed within 21 days of placement.



The final proposed ordinance change is an expansion of the definition of junk. This subject generates the highest number of complaints about community appearance, other than unmowed lawns and weeds. The underlined parts of the ordinance are new.

Section 17-1. Junk. It is unlawful for any person to park or store any unlicensed, unregistered or inoperable vehicle, parts of motor vehicles or machinery, inoperable lawn equipment, construction materials not currently being used for a construction project, household furnishings or appliances originally intended for use within the interior of a building, broken or disabled bicycles or recreational conveyances, empty glass, metal or plastic containers, broken or obviously discarded tools, toys or electronics, or other similar items or materials on private or public property, unless housed within a lawfully erected building or in a zone wherein junkyards are a permitted use. Any violation of this section is a nuisance. Parking one (1) such vehicle on a private driveway is not a nuisance or a violation of this section, unless the vehicle has been parked longer than three (3) months.



On August 25th, at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, the Council will take public input on these ordinance changes to help clean up the appearance of our community.

Your comments will be greatly appreciated.

CITY COUNCIL
Honorable Mayor, Randy Quiring

Sue Anderson	Ward 1	Joe Kallemeyn	Ward 3
Harlan Gorath	Ward 2	Andy Lucas	Ward 4
Wes Clerc	Council Member-at-Large		

Council meets the 2nd & 4th Mondays at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers

STAFF

Jim Zarling	City Administrator
Mike Humpal	Assistant City Administrator
Paul Hoyer.....	Finance Director
Susan Olson	City Clerk
Elizabeth Bloomquist	City Attorney
Greg Brolsma.....	Police Chief

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 386
Fairmont, MN 56031

ECRWSS

**POSTAL
CUSTOMER
LOCAL**