



## MISSION: FAIRMONT

### Mike Humpal, City Administrator

In 1992, the City Council developed a mission statement that has guided and continues to guide the City Council and staff efforts:

**"To provide municipal services in a courteous, efficient and cost effective manner; to preserve, protect and enhance the natural quality of life and prepare for the future by recognizing, preserving and promoting unique community assets and values."**

In 1995, the Fairmont Economic Development Authority established its mission statement:

**"To maintain Fairmont as a quality community through business retention, expansion and favorable business climate."**

Both emphasize promoting a "quality community," "assets" and "values." Fairmont is a high quality community with very high values and extremely strong assets in its people and businesses. Promoting unique community assets and a favorable business climate should not be solely the responsibility of city government, but the responsibility of all citizens. Fairmont citizens do play a significant role. Volunteers step up in every facet of life in Fairmont; from animal care at the Humane Society to area youth sports, the Opera House, lake stewardship, senior care, senior fishing; the list goes on and on. In fact, one could write a whole newsletter on all the great accomplishments our citizen volunteers have achieved.

In my role as City Administrator, I have created a six-part community strategy that, I believe, is consistent with the City Council's and FEDA's mission statements and the idea that it takes all of us pulling together in a positive manner to create a really great community.

**"What I think it takes to make Fairmont a great place to raise a family and grow a business"**

**1. Fiscal Responsibility:** City leaders and staff need to manage the overall fiscal health of the city; focusing on manageable debt service, working creatively to increase the tax base, working to pursue a competitive tax climate that allows for community amenities while providing a financial framework that attracts businesses and people.

**2. Economic Collaboration:** Public and private partnerships need to work collaboratively so Fairmont continues to develop as a regional center by offering quality job opportunities, offering health care options that meet the needs of families and offering business opportunities for those wanting to invest. City policies enable us to meet the needs of existing businesses and help attract new business and investment.

**3. Human Capital:** Human and financial resources are available to build a community that is accepting of a diversified population. Those communities that grew in the last two census' grew by immigrant populations. Fairmont needs to be a community that is proactive in retaining and attracting young people in and to the area; using tools and programs that experts like the University of Minnesota Extension have developed to support ideas such as "Brain Gain."

**4. Community Infrastructure:** Allocating financial resources to address blight, to upgrade streets and infrastructure and to support new housing developments are vital components in building community infrastructure.

**5. Recreation and Amenities for All Ages:** Fairmont is a community of five lakes in which lake stewardship is a top priority. Funding for lake restoration and management must be maintained through multiple partnerships of private sector volunteers and city, county and state agencies all working toward a common goal. Lake access, boat ramps, docks and fishing piers should mirror the quality of our community, as should the parks which support playgrounds, picnic areas, swimming beaches and biking/walking trails.

**6. Supportive Government:** Local governmental units should be open and inclusive; encouraging community members to express their opinions and engaging them in open, civil discussions. Create an atmosphere where the city, school district and county work in cooperation to share services to meet the needs of the citizens. Support public/private partnerships to meet our public safety needs.

This newsletter will describe the City's resources which are available to follow through on this plan; the financial resources available to ensure Fairmont's positive fiscal position; the physical infrastructure that supports the community; the human resources and the economic development components and efforts that continue to grow our tax base and help our existing companies grow and prosper; and finally, examples of some challenges that we face as a community, but can overcome when working together in a positive manner.

### THANK YOU!!!

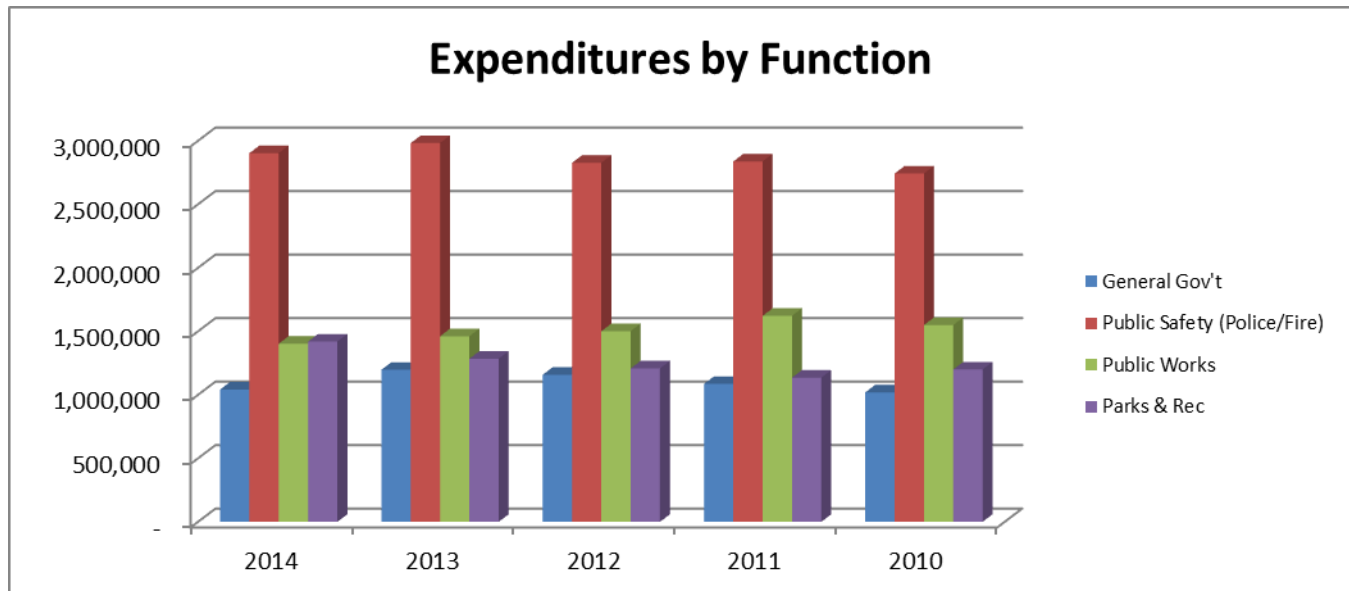
From all of us at the City of Fairmont, we appreciate the opportunity to serve you. Working together we can all make Fairmont a great community.

# Budget Review

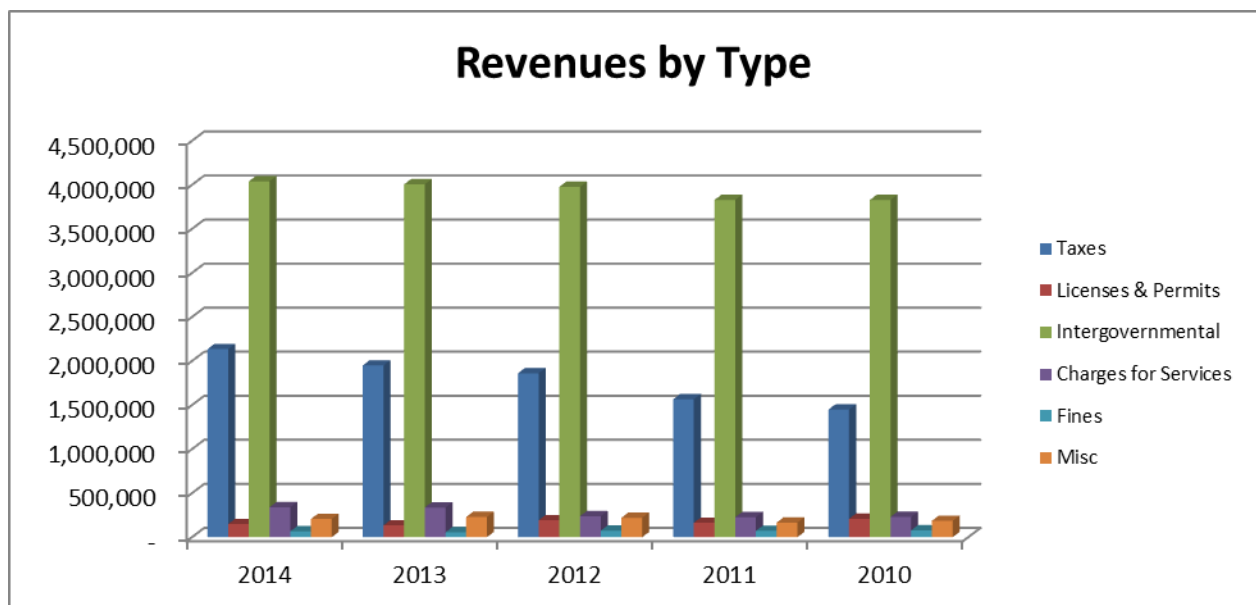
by Paul Hoye, Finance Director



As we begin planning for the 2016 budget, it is a good time to look back at how we finished up in 2014. Total General Fund operating expenditures for 2014 totaled \$6,765,518, down from \$6,923,918 in 2013. In 2014, the City employed two fewer full-time employees and capital purchases were down, thus decreasing expenditures. Below is a historical graph of the General Fund expenditures by function for the last five years. Over those years, expenditures have increased by only 0.8% per year.



Total General Fund revenues for 2014 totaled \$6,940,299 up from \$6,713,374 in 2013. Revenues rose in 2014 due to a 3% levy increase. Below is a historical graph of General Fund revenues by type for the last five years. Local government aid and local property taxes account for 89% of the General Fund revenues.



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Due to the limited increase in local government aid (LGA) over the last several years, the City has increased its property tax levy an average of 3.7% over the last five years. Even with this increase to the levy, the City's overall tax rate has decreased 9.6% over that time. Based upon a home valued at \$100,000, your property taxes in 2015 will be \$1,008.54 compared to \$1,116.13 in 2011. The City's overall tax rate is very competitive when looking at comparable cities. Below is information from the 2014 Property Tax Data Report put together by the League of Minnesota Cities.

#### **CITY SHARE OF LOCAL PROPERTY TAX**

City Rank	Home Values		
	\$95,000	\$150,000	\$250,000
Albert Lea	\$589.47	\$930.75	\$1,551.25
Alexandria	395.48	624.45	1,040.75
Blue Earth	799.33	1,262.10	2,103.50
<b>Fairmont</b>	<b>448.21</b>	<b>707.70</b>	<b>1,179.50</b>
Hutchinson	707.94	1,117.80	1,863.00
Jackson	722.38	1,140.60	1,901.00
Luverne	578.17	912.90	1,521.50
Marshall	475.19	750.30	1,250.50
New Ulm	708.79	1,119.15	1,865.25
North Mankato	513.09	810.15	1,350.25
Owatonna	553.85	874.50	1,457.50
Waseca	717.72	1,133.25	1,888.75
Winnebago	865.92	1,367.25	2,278.75
Worthington	501.03	791.10	1,318.50

#### **2013 CITY/COUNTY/SCHOOL TAX RATES**

City	LGA	County Rate	City Rate	School Rate	Special	Total
Albert Lea	5,158,721	48.65	62.05	24.93	2.44	138.07
Alexandria	1,463,786	53.86	41.63	22.62	2.36	120.47
Blue Earth	1,774,258	28.70	84.14	4.06	0.14	117.04
<b>Fairmont</b>	<b>3,740,909</b>	<b>28.01</b>	<b>47.18</b>	<b>27.85</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>103.39</b>
Hutchinson	2,213,199	55.42	74.52	15.00	3.68	148.62
Jackson	1,291,985	26.31	76.04	8.84	0.12	111.31
Luverne	1,349,790	18.74	60.86	10.74	0.12	90.46
Marshall	2,451,304	31.76	50.02	24.21	0.14	106.13
New Ulm	4,222,711	35.35	74.61	14.68	1.63	126.27
North Mankato	1,559,008	51.24	54.01	24.08	0.49	129.82
Owatonna	3,935,915	59.25	58.30	17.95	0.72	136.22
Waseca	2,631,156	51.30	75.55	17.96	2.00	146.81
Winnebago	524,077	27.66	91.15	2.63	0.14	121.58
Worthington	3,109,584	29.04	52.74	15.58	3.74	101.10

Source: League of Minnesota Cities, 2014 Property Tax Data

In addition to the City's competitive tax rate, another strength of the City is its current bond rating. In 2013, Moody's Investors Service gave the City a strong bond rating of Aa3. Some of the strengths identified in the bond rating was; "Regional economic hub for surrounding rural area," "History of conservative budgeting has led to the presence of healthy reserves" and "Alternate liquidity in Municipal Liquor Fund." Maintaining adequate reserves will continue to be a priority of City staff and should help ensure our strong bond rating in the future.





Linsey Preuss began her career as the City of Fairmont Economic Development Coordinator on February 5, 2015. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Finance from Minnesota State University - Mankato and an Economic Development Certificate from Hamline University.

Linsey's name might sound familiar as she spent the previous 6+ years with Faribault County Development Corporation providing economic development services to the City of Blue Earth and Faribault County. Linsey also spent her time as a Small Business Development Center Consultant working directly with businesses on financial planning, business and marketing plans and accessing capital.

Currently, Linsey serves as Chair to the Region Nine Development Commission's Community and Economic Development Committee, is a board member of the South Central Workforce Council and is Co-Chair of the South Central Workforce Committee. Linsey is also a member of the Economic Development Association of Minnesota, the International Economic Development Council and the Minnesota Marketing Partnership.

Linsey's duties include implementing development strategies for attracting and retaining desired businesses, marketing and promoting our area and assisting and advising businesses relocating to or expanding within Fairmont. Linsey also maintains information on assistance programs and site/building inventory. She continues to develop and maintain relationships with the local business community; including property owners, developers, lending institutions and other related organizations.

**"I look forward to serving the community of Fairmont and encourage you to contact me if you are thinking about an economic development project."**

Contact Linsey by  
email at [lpreuss@fairmont.org](mailto:lpreuss@fairmont.org) or  
by phone at 507-238-3925.

## Economic Development

by Linsey Preuss, Economic Development Coordinator

Linsey will be working specifically on the Fairmont Economic Development Authority's Strategic Plan, which includes six major economic development components, as listed below.

- 1. Business retention and expansion:** The City will work to help retain and expand local businesses and industries of all sizes.
- 2. Financing:** The City will maintain the best possible tool box of financial opportunities available for growing area businesses, i.e. low interest loans, tax increment financing, etc.
- 3. Workforce development:** We will work to attract and retain a diverse workforce by investing in education, job training and lifelong learning for our citizens by managing the Southern Minnesota Educational Campus and working with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.
- 4. Recruitment:** We continue to work on attracting businesses and people to Fairmont by maintaining a positive business climate for the region. We will develop and implement marketing strategies to target industries focused on value added agriculture, renewable fuels, warehouse distribution and food processing.
- 5. Site development:** The City will maintain a listing of available sites/properties for businesses to access for future growth and development. In addition, we will continue to maintain our shovel ready certified status, a program that markets Fairmont's industrial site as one of the best in the state due to the high speed in which development can occur.
- 6. Housing:** We will ensure Fairmont has a good inventory of safe, affordable quality housing options to attract people to Fairmont and retain our current population.

The Fairmont Economic Development Authority (FEDA) is working on the "Brain Gain" project, which is based on a study conducted by the University of Minnesota Extension. The results of this study found that high school students graduate, move out of the area to attend college and gain additional life experiences; and return to their hometown to raise a family when in their early 30's to late 40's. FEDA encourages people to return to the area by ensuring there are employment, educational and recreational opportunities available for them in the area.

Linsey and her husband Travis, Nutrition Services Manager at Mayo Health Systems – Fairmont MN, have two children: Dylan (6), Ayla (5) and one on the way. The Preuss' enjoy spending time with family and the great outdoors.



## The Employees

by Elizabeth W. Bloomquist, City Attorney and  
Tom Koeritz, Assistant Finance Office



When I was asked to write an article about the employees who work for the City of Fairmont I was a bit stumped as to a theme for such an article. As I thought about the topic, it occurred to me that while I know many of my co-workers (some better than others) I did not really know much about the group as a whole. So I asked Tom Koeritz, who works in the Finance Department and is the longest serving city employee at the moment (43 years) if he would help me develop a picture of the city employees as a group. Tom gathered together quite a bit of information and organized it in a way that brought to light some interesting facts.

The City of Fairmont has 84 full time employees, 4 part-time police officers, 8 part-time liquor store employees, 70 seasonal part-time employees (parks and lifeguards) and 30 volunteer firefighters. The 84 full time employees are working in the following departments: Police Department-18; Street/Parks Department-18; City Hall Administration/Finance-17; Water Department-11; Electric Line Department-11; Wastewater Department-5; Liquor Store-3; Airport-1. Most of these employees, in addition to the volunteer firefighters, are subject to call out in case of an emergency on a 24/7 basis and during all kinds of weather. Despite the call out requirements the City has a low turn-over among its employees. Currently the longest serving employee (Tom K.) has been here for 43 years. Including Tom, nine of our employees have been here for over 30 years; that is slightly more than 10% of the full time employees.

This is how the years of service break out:

<b>0-9 years</b>	<b>23 employees</b>
<b>10-19 years</b>	<b>31 employees</b>
<b>20-29 years</b>	<b>21 employees</b>
<b>30-39 years</b>	<b>6 employees</b>
<b>40+ years</b>	<b>3 employees</b>

The resulting average is 16.6 years of service.

By department the average years of service are:

<b>Electric Line Department</b>	<b>Avg. 20.5</b>
<b>Water Department</b>	<b>Avg. 19.5</b>
<b>City Hall Admin/Finance</b>	<b>Avg. 17.9</b>
<b>Police Department</b>	<b>Avg. 15.8</b>
<b>Wastewater Department</b>	<b>Avg. 15.8</b>
<b>Park Department</b>	<b>Avg. 14.9</b>
<b>Liquor Store</b>	<b>Avg. 5.7</b>
<b>Airport</b>	<b>Avg. 2.0</b>

That is a significant amount of institutional memory. These employees insure that the citizens receive the municipal services that they expect. A few additional facts - of our 84 employees, 44 have a college degree (A.A., B.A., B.S. or higher) and 19 have vocational training; 48 positions require specific licenses or certifications and 10 people have served in the military. The City of Fairmont has a well-educated and dedicated workforce that is going to be retiring at an increasing rate over the next 5-15 years. While this will be a challenge for the City it will also be an opportunity for people to change jobs or start new careers. This situation is not just in Fairmont but in municipalities around the state and the country. If there are young people in our community pondering career choices - public utilities, city administration/finance, streets/parks and public safety offer good futures to people interested in working to make communities better places to live and work.

# Congrats on your upcoming retirement Tom & Darla!

After more than 4 decades of dedicated service, Tom Koeritz (43 years of service) and Darla Guritz (41 years of service) will be retiring from the City of Fairmont.

On behalf of the City of Fairmont, we would like to thank Tom and Darla for their commitment and dedication to the citizens of Fairmont and wish them all the best.



Darla Guritz





## The State of our Community Infrastructure

by Troy Nemmers, City Engineer/Public Works Director

For many years there has been increasing discussion of the failing condition of local, state and national infrastructure. Here, in the City of Fairmont, there has been significant investment to maintain and improve our infrastructure in the past 5 years. Even during the economic downturn and overall budget reductions, elected City officials and members of City boards and commissions have made many important decisions to accomplish this work. All of these improvements have been important building blocks in the progression of our community.

Some of the accomplishments that have occurred include:

- Lair Road bridge and channel improvement
- Woodland Avenue channel improvement
- 2.5 miles of complete street reconstruction
- 12 miles of street rehab and maintenance
- 2.5 miles of water and sewer replacements
- Reconstruct of Runway 2/20 and 13/31
- Line dept. relocation and facility upgrades
- Lights and irrigation at Soccer Complex
- Winnebago Avenue Sports Complex
- 1.5 miles of new trails
- New water treatment plant
- Wards Park playground

The costs of these improvements exceeded \$54 million and present numerous benefits to the community. Benefits include job creation, improved reliability, improved mobility, improved visibility and enhanced recreational opportunities. While many of these improvements are new construction, there has also been significant investment in demolition and redevelopment. Over this time, 13 home demolitions and 9 commercial demolitions were completed. The redevelopment of these sites resulted in more than \$60 million in private investments. All of these combine to provide an increased quality of life for residents and stability for business and industry.

The City currently employs 48 public works/utility employees that operate and maintain a significant amount of community assets. A brief glimpse of this infrastructure includes:

- 1290 street lights
- 142 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines
- 83 miles of water main
- 75 miles of sanitary sewer
- 74 miles of streets
- 41 miles of storm sewer
- 30 sanitary lift stations
- 27 recreational parks
- 8 city-owned facilities
- 7 bridges
- 5 miles of paved trails
- 4 miles of shoreline

City of Fairmont employees encounter a variety of situations each day. This variety requires that the employees' possess a diverse background. From operating a snowplow, to treating water and wastewater, to changing out an electric transformer; each employee is trained to handle these situations.

Even with the past investments, the City's existing infrastructure continues to slowly fall behind due to the financial requirements of the necessary improvements. The community will be challenged to continue the progress and provide the resources necessary to maintain and expand this infrastructure. The public works/utility departments are committed to the maintenance and operation of these systems and meeting the future needs of this community.



For more information about City projects and for construction photos, log on to [www.fairmont.org](http://www.fairmont.org) and check out the construction blog.

To the left: Exterior photo of Cedar Creek Park Shelter house with new siding, shingles and stacked stone front.

To the right: Photo of the new Woodland Avenue channel.

## **Resurgence of Meth**

**by Greg Brolsma, Chief of Police**



Fairmont residents have probably heard about a resurgence of methamphetamine use around Fairmont and throughout the state. This article will outline what we are seeing, what's being done, but most importantly how you might help. We're fortunate to have many caring professionals and community residents interested in making this resurgence fade away....calling our community response: "Towards Zero Meth". Citizens are reminded that although this is a serious problem, there is hope and most Fairmont residents live healthy and responsible lives.

### **Upsurge in Trend:**

- In 2014, Fairmont Police experienced a 218% increase in the number of drug investigations involving meth since 2010, making it the worst year ever. We are at 2 ½ times that rate in the first part of 2015.
- Of the 98 offenders in 2014, almost half were parents. Only three were teens (one 18, two 19). Most were in their 20's and 30's. The Martin County Attorney's Office is experiencing a dramatic increase in the number of child maltreatment cases attributed to meth use.
- From 2009 to 2014, Minnesota experienced a 142% increase in the number of people committed to treatment for meth addiction, so the resurgence is being experienced around the State.

### **Criminal Justice and Community Response:**

- We have organized monthly meetings involving our partners in the Fairmont Area Schools, Human Services – Chemical Health and Child Protection, Martin County Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, Department of Corrections staff, various treatment providers and others to find ways to better combat the problem.
- We try to proactively enforce the law, which has resulted in a high narcotic arrest rate compared to 25 other communities.
- We are organizing presentations with educators, home visitors and other professionals to help them understand the risks and prevalence of meth in homes with children and among individuals.
- We are reaching out to Presentation College students to partner with them on prevention activities in the community.
- We continue to be involved in the important work occurring in Drug Court, Family Dependency Treatment Court, Fairmont Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and many other important community programs. They all play a part in the overall community strategy. Asset based prevention, strong families and a strong community can be the most effective ways to prevent the problem.

### **How can you help:**

- Visit our website at [www.fairmontpolice.org](http://www.fairmontpolice.org) to learn more about signs, symptoms and indicators of meth use.
- Take advantage of our pledge to assist family members (outlined more on our web page).
- Call law enforcement if you are suspicious of drug activity. Know and spread the word that Fairmont Police offers a \$500 reward for information leading to an arrest of a meth dealer.
- Most of all, educate yourself and loved ones about the harmful health effects of meth use and exposure. Never try meth or seek help if you are using the drug. Local treatment sources can also be found on our website.



## Spot the Difference

by Leanne Zarling, Community Development Coordinator

Many newspapers or magazines feature a game that asks you to focus on two pictures that appear the same but there are a number of differences. Fairmont's Community Development Staff would like you to "spot" the differences in the pictures below. Some are code violations while some are general maintenance items that, when addressed, clean up the appearance of the property.



### **Bags of garbage**

Code section 22-18(b) Garbage and similar putrescible waste shall be stored in one durable, rust-resistant, nonabsorbent, water-tight, rodent-proof, and easily cleanable containers, with close-fitting, fly-tight covers having adequate handles or bales to facilitate handling.

### **Location of garbage/recycling containers**

Code section 22-18(h) Refuse or garbage containers that are ninety-six (96) gallons or less in size are not required to be screened or enclosed but must be located so that they are not visible from the street or front yard of the dwelling. No dumpsters or garbage or refuse containers shall be allowed in the front yard except on the night before and through the day of garbage pick up.

### **No house numbers:**

The Uniform Building Code requires house numbers be legible from the street. It is important for public safety & emergency vehicles to be able to identify where you are.

### **Junk**

Code Section 17-1. 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.



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**Parking on front lawn**

Code section 26-653. Location. All accessory off-street parking facilities shall be located and restricted as follows: (4) In all zoning districts, vehicle parking shall not be permitted within any residential use's front yard, corner yard or side yard that abuts a street, except upon a properly surfaced driveway. The driveway width may not extend more than twelve (12) feet past the end of the garage or dwelling, if there is no garage.

**Grass clippings in street**

Code Section 22-21. It is unlawful for any person to throw or deposit in any street or any other public place any solid waste including nails, dirt, glass, tin cans, metal scraps, garbage, shreds or rubbish, grass clippings, or to empty any water containing salt or other injurious chemical thereon. Keeping yard waste off the street prevents it from entering the City's storm sewer system & improves the water quality in our lakes.

**General disorder**

When you look at these pictures there are other things that are not code violations, but do contribute to an unsightly property, i.e. set your lawn chairs up right, put items away when you are done using them (ladder, rake, watering can, buckets), close your garage door.

Take a look at your own property, make sure you do not have any code violations and take the time to put your property in order. It will make a huge difference in the overall aesthetics of our beautiful city.

**Disposal of Bulky Items**

Utility customers who are billed the monthly citywide clean-up fee on their utility statement should have received coupons to be used to dispose of unwanted bulky items during upcoming collection opportunities. As a reminder, you will be able to dispose of a maximum of 2 tires, 2 appliances, 2 electronics and 10 household items free of charge with the coupons received in the mail (additional items can be disposed of for an additional charge). Items must be brought to the collection locations with the coupons to qualify for free disposal. Please refer to the drop off dates, times and locations listed below or refer to the flyer enclosed with the coupons.

2015 DATES	TIME	LOCATION	COLLECTION
<b>Tuesday, June 9</b>	9 am to 3 pm	Martin County Highway Department 1200 Marcus St., Fairmont	Household Hazardous Waste, Appliances, Electronics, Tires
<b>Saturday, June 20</b>	9 am to 1 pm	Martin County Highway Department	Household Hazardous Waste, Appliances, Electronics, Tires
<b>Tuesday, September 15</b>	9 am to 3 pm	Martin County Highway Department	Appliances, Electronics, Tires
<b>Saturday, September 19</b>	9 am to 1 pm	Martin County Highway Department	Appliances, Electronics, Tires
<b>June 9 &amp; 20 September 15 &amp; 19</b>	See hours above	Fairmont Line Dept. 1120 Marcus St., Fairmont	Household items, Furniture, Scrap iron
<b>May – September Monday – Saturday</b>	8 am to 3 pm – M-F 8 am to Noon – Sat.	Southern MN Construction (SMC) 1100 Marcus St., Fairmont	Construction debris*
<b>April 1 - August 28 Monday - Friday</b>	7 am to 11 am 1 pm to 3 pm	Prairieland Solid Waste 801 E 5 <sup>th</sup> St. N., Truman	Furniture
<b>May – September Every Wednesday</b>	9 am to 3 pm	Prairieland Solid Waste	Household Hazardous Waste, Appliances, Electronics

There may be some confusion regarding disposal for the following items. Please read the bold items below carefully.

**Please note: Tire will ONLY be collected on the following dates: June 9, June 20, September 15 & September 19, 2015.**

**Prairieland accepts Household Hazardous Waste, Appliances & Electronics ONLY during the posted hours.**

In the event your household or business does not pay the monthly citywide clean-up fee or if you established utility services after April 25, 2015 you will not be included in this year's clean-up coupon distribution. However, you can still dispose of items for a nominal fee through the various disposal events that are sponsored by Prairieland Solid Waste. Please contact Prairieland Solid Waste Management in Truman, MN at 776-3232 for a listing of the Martin and Faribault County Collection events.

## Helpful Resources, Tools & Opportunities

Nearly everyday in any city, a resident will say, "I wish that I would have known that" or "Why didn't someone tell us?" When those comments are made, the city typically takes note and tries to find ways to improve. At the City of Fairmont, we continue to enhance communication with the community.

In addition to City information being published in the local newspapers, being distributed through newsletters and utility bill inserts or being aired on the local radio stations, the City of Fairmont has additional platforms to communicate with citizens. Below is a listing of the resources available to you.

**Website:** The City of Fairmont website has recently been updated in hopes to be more user friendly and to get more information into the hands of citizens. Be sure to bookmark, [www.fairmont.org](http://www.fairmont.org), as one of your "favorites".



**Facebook and Twitter:** Facebook and Twitter have been and continue to be popular tools to relay communication in this digital age. With so many relying on social media to stay informed, we are excited to offer these communication platforms to our community. We encourage you to "like" us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CityofFairmont>) or "follow" us on Twitter (@CityofFairmontM). We will continue to use our digital communication platforms to communicate City news and happenings.



**Local Access channel 13:** In addition to viewing the bi-weekly City Council and Fairmont Area School District Board meetings, this channel provides a wealth of information on upcoming events, important phone numbers and various City ordinances.

**On-line Bill Pay:** The newest resource available to customers is available on the City of Fairmont website at [www.fairmont.org](http://www.fairmont.org)/billing. This new tool allows for utility customers to:

- view monthly utility statements.
- make on-line payments 24 hours a day/7 days a week.
- sign up for automatic payments using your credit card, savings or checking account
- sign up for paperless billing.
- conduct a home energy analysis to pinpoint ways to reduce electric consumption and reduce your utility bills.

To sign up for this free service, visit [www.fairmont.org/billing](http://www.fairmont.org/billing) and sign up or contact a customer service representative at 507-238-9461, option 1.

In the event you are not tech savvy, don't have access to a computer or cell phone or just prefer to communicate the "good 'ol fashion way" please feel free to reach us by calling 507-238-9461 or by stopping in our office at 100 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont.

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In addition to providing various communication tools, City staff would like to communicate opportunities residents may be interested in taking advantage of.



#### Free Compost & Wood Chips!

Free compost and wood chips are available for pick-up at the City of Fairmont leaf dump site (based on availability). Remember to bring your shovel when loading these materials! Individuals are responsible for loading and hauling these materials themselves. Anyone requesting a huge quantity (dump truck box or semi load) of compost or chips are encouraged to contact City Hall at 507-238-9461. Directions to the site: Travel west on Lair Road, crossing over County Road 39 and travel 1 mile. The dump site is on the north side of the road.

#### Disposal of Biodegradable Vegetation

With spring in full swing and summer just around the corner, many of us have begun cleaning up our yards. Please dispose of your grass clippings, brush and other biodegradable vegetation at the leaf dump site, directions to site listed above. Grass/leaves/garden plants should be dumped in the "leaf dump" area and brush/twigs/branches should go in the "tree dump" area. Please separate your items accordingly and do not bag or box your vegetation. The site is open year round.



**Our Place... Our Planet...  
Our Responsibility**

#### Disposal of Bulky Items

The City of Fairmont will not be conducting a curbside collection. To properly dispose of unwanted bulky household items, please take advantage of the drop off events, as outlined on page 9.

## Parks & Pets

Many people like to bring their dogs or cats to the parks to enjoy the great outdoors. Your domestic pets are welcome in the parks if they are on a leash and kept close to you. You are responsible for cleaning up and properly disposing of any messes made by your pets. There is one exception to the leash requirement and that is for dogs being trained to retrieve. They may be off leash if they and their handlers are within 50 feet of a boat launching area. Your pets should behave politely and may not disturb, harass or interfere with any other park visitor or visitor's property. Also there is no hunting, trapping, pursuing, killing or disturbing of any species of wildlife in the park by human visitors or their pets.



Gomsrud Park shelter house

**Shelter Houses &  
Park Restrooms  
OPEN  
for the 2015 season!!!**



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Opening June 1!

Season Memberships

Purchase prior to 6/1 for a \$15 savings!

Purchase on-line, at City Hall or by calling 238-9461.

Swim Lessons



Cool Pool Event Days

Water Fitness Classes

Tiny Tot Swims



Southern MN's COOLEST WaterPark

Check our website for season dates, hours, rates &amp; pool events!

 Find us on  
Facebook

 follow us on  
twitter
1400 S. Prairie Avenue • Fairmont, MN • 507.238.9292 • [www.fairmont.org/aquaticpark](http://www.fairmont.org/aquaticpark)Connect with US!  
**Connect with US!**T  
V 13**CITY COUNCIL**  
Honorable Mayor, Randy Quiring

Bruce Peters	Ward 1	Jim Zarling	Ward 3
Chad Askland	Ward 2	Terry Anderson	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**

Mike Humpal.....	City Administrator
Paul Hoyer.....	Finance Director
Patricia Monsen .....	City Clerk
Elizabeth Bloomquist.....	City Attorney
Greg Brolsma.....	Police Chief
Troy Nemmers.....	City Engineer/Public Works Director

**CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS**  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
 PRSRTSTD  
 ECRWSS  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit No.

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*

**POSTAL CUSTOMER**