Enjoy a Park

Fairmont’s beautiful lakes and extensive park and trail system aid in attracting and retaining residents. People are constantly utilizing the parks for swimming, picnicking, boating and fishing. Fairmont’s Park Department puts a lot of effort into these parks, i.e. grooming the grounds, repairing equipment, preparing docks, raking the swimming beaches and maintaining the picnic shelters. Visitors and residents seem to enjoy and appreciate their efforts. If we all continue to pick up after ourselves and our pets, our parks will be a better place for everyone.

Enjoy a Fairmont Park. Our parks have something for everyone.

Creating Balance

Amenities are hard to come by without the financial resources to acquire them, whether it’s park equipment, streets, water or sewer; it all costs money. By state statute, Fairmont must set its 2018 preliminary budget by September 30. Staff and council are busy discussing priorities, needs, and mandates to establish Fairmont’s preliminary budget. A few listed priorities include: repairing streets, cleaning up blighted properties, enhancing the trail system, replacing worn out equipment, addressing flooding in a couple areas of the City, completing the Pioneer Drive walking bridge, and working to offer more affordable housing.

Fairmont’s general fund budget is approximately $9.8 million, broken down as: General Government 15.0%, Public Safety (Police and Fire) 35.5%, Parks and Recreation 27.1% and Public Works (Streets and Storm Sewer) 22.4%. This excludes Water, Waste Water, Electric Utilities and the Liquor Store, as these are stand-alone enterprise funds. The average $150,000 household pays approximately $755.00 annually in property taxes to the City of Fairmont, excluding the School District and the County taxes. Of fourteen cities in comparable size, i.e. Albert Lea, Alexandria, Hutchinson, Marshall, New Ulm, Fairmont ranks second lowest in property taxes. Questions City Staff and Council often ask include, “Do we have all the amenities we need?” “Are our streets and infrastructure up to a high standard?” “If the answers to these questions are “no”, is it because we are not levying enough taxes?” “On the other hand, if Fairmont raises taxes, will we remain competitive as a City for economic development and attracting people to our community?” Creating a balance is the key.

I believe we have the ability to raise taxes and still have one of the lowest tax rates for a community our size, while continuing to provide excellent services and still be competitive.

~ Michael Humpal, City Administrator
It's Not Too Late...... to address some commonly reported code violations and to make sure your property is kept in a safe and respectable manner.

Grass and Weeds
Long grass or weeds is the number one complaint received throughout the spring and summer months. Section 17-2 of the Fairmont City Code states, “It is unlawful for any owner or occupant to allow grass or weeds to grow at a height greater than 6 inches.” Please, make sure grass and weeds are mowed and maintained throughout the growing season.

Junk
Items stored outside in yards should be items commonly found outdoors. Section 17-1 of the Fairmont City Code states, “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.” Please take some time each day to assess your property and pick up items that should be stored inside.

Solid Waste Storage
Dumpster, garbage and recycling containers are not allowed to be stored in the front yard EXCEPT the night before and throughout the day of garbage and recycling pick up. Containers must be stored so that they are not visible from the street or front yard. For a complete overview of solid waste storage, please see Section 22 of the Fairmont City Code.

The City of Fairmont greatly appreciates all your help in improving the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Fairmont!

To file a complaint or report a code violation, please contact: Darcy Jones, 507-238-3933 or djones@fairmont.org

Over the last year, the Fairmont Police Department (FPD) had numerous personnel changes. Michael Hunter was promoted to Chief of Police in December 2016, which promoted Officer James Tietje to Patrol Sergeant to fill the vacancy left by Chief Hunter. While Chief Hunter and Sergeant Tietje are familiar faces to our community, FPD added four additional officers to continue to serve and protect our community.

Officer Lily Paine joined the department in April 2016 after serving with the Madelia Police Department. In March 2017, Officer Josh Nelson and Officer Colin Hagert joined FPD after serving with the Northfield Police Department and Sleepy Eye Police Department, respectively. Most recently, Officer Jason Christenson joined the force in June 2017 after serving ten years as a Faribault County Sheriff’s Office Patrol Deputy. We are very pleased to add these new officers to our department.

We are pleased to announce the renewal of our partnership with the Fairmont Area Schools to reinstate the School Resource Officer position Fall 2017. Officer Mike Beletti has been selected to serve in this role. His focus will be on student safety and building positive relationships with students and staff.

The FPD personnel is very proud to serve our community and would like to thank you for your respect and continued support. Our officers and employees understand that FPD doesn’t just stand for Fairmont Police Department, but also for the expectation of how we provide service in our community:

Fair, Professional, and Dedicated.