

What's Happening At Fairmont?

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Summer 2023



A Few Words From The Managers

What great weather we have had! Lots of moisture came earlier but now we have enjoyable temps and so far, very little smoke! Makes for lots of "happy campers!"

We continue to struggle with hiring enough housekeepers but we are blessed with a wonderful crew now – some that have been with us for many years. They are team players and continue to carry the load for us. It would make everyone's job easier if we could add additional cleaners.

Speaking of staff, again we are blessed with great office & maintenance workers.

Our awesome board of directors have been very supportive. We appreciate their guidance. We will miss the input given by Jake Ketterling but we'll look forward to seeing him here when he and his family enjoy their timeshare weeks.

In the upcoming board election, we encourage your support of incumbents John Scheetz and D.K. Brooks.

Please take note of the dates for making your reservations for 2024 usage if you are a floating owner. About two weeks prior to the date of accepting reservations, you will receive a letter from us with the calendar dates for your season. They are also posted on our website fairmontestates.com.

Email is the preferred method to send your request as we will respond to you that your request has been received. We keep all requests in the order received but keep in mind we will be receiving hundreds of emails per minute! If you phone us, you will not reach a live person so please leave a message on the voice mail that includes your name, account number and your three preferences. Mailing your request puts you at a disadvantage and should be used as your last option.

Please note these dates:

High Season – Oct. 10, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Swing Season – Dec. 5, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Prime Season – Jan. 9, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Enjoy the remainder of summer! Fall will be here before we know it!

Don, Alice & Tawn Crum



Rick Forrette, Emily Hancock, John Scheetz, D.K. Brooks, and Mindy Slayton

Note From The Board

Hello to all owners of time share condos at Fairmont Estates. Your Board of Directors has been working with the excellent management staff of Alice, Taun, and Don Crum to ensure each and every owner has a pleasant experience while staying here.

We are happy to announce that we have a new Board member, Mr. DK Brooks, who has been appointed to fill in for Mr. Jake Ketterling who has decided to leave the Board after serving us for 29 years. Thank you, Jake, for your tremendous work and insight for many years in keeping FECA strong for all of us!

With the evolution of more and more electric vehicles being used throughout the country, I wish to remind our owners and guests that FECA **does not provide electricity to charge these car batteries.** Charging stations in Butte will have to be utilized for your car batteries. Running extensions cords from inside the condos is not permitted and is a safety hazard. Please keep this policy in mind when traveling to Fairmont.

The Board has adopted a policy to charge a fee for using credit/debit cards for payment of annual maintenance dues. This policy will help lower our administrative costs by over \$6,000/year. We feel it is necessary and dues can be paid by checks at no additional cost. The fee to continue to use a credit/debit card will be \$ 14 for a 2-bedroom unit and \$13 for a 1-bedroom unit. You will see this charge on

the dues statements that will be sent out on September 1st. Paying by check the dues will remain the same: \$425 (2 bedroom) and \$400 (1 bedroom).

Please remember upon leaving your condo unit that the housekeepers appreciate everything you can do to help them be efficient in cleaning for the next owner to arrive. They have a very short time period to get the unit in tip-top shape once again after you leave. Tips are very much appreciated as well for the housekeepers. Thanks!

Rick Forrette, President FECA

Newest Board Member

Mr. D. K. Brooks was raised in central Montana, graduating from Stanford High School in 1970. He attended MSU-Bozeman on an Army R.O.T.C. scholarship and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Health and Physical Education. Upon graduation from MSU in 1974, he was commissioned as a 2LT in the Infantry Branch. He served a tour with the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and was deployed to Beirut, Lebanon in 1983. He served two three-year tours in Germany. He served his final tour of duty with the 82nd Airborne Division, where he retired with the rank of Major.

He married his high school sweetheart, the former LaVonne Ketterling, in 1981 and together they raised two sons who have both served in the Armed Services.

Upon retirement from the Army in 1994, the family moved back to Montana so that D. K. could pursue his career in public education. In 1998, the family arrived in Three Forks. Mr. Brooks taught in the classroom for eight years before earning his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and assuming the position of School District Superintendent and Principal at Willow Creek Schools. In 2010, he was hired to be the Superintendent and High School Principal at Dutton/Brady Schools. He retired from that position in June of 2018.

Terms Ending

The term of board members John Scheetz and D.K. Brooks ends in October. John and D.K. have agreed to have their names on the ballot for another three-year term.

If you would like to have your name on the ballot for a board of director's position, please mail, email or fax a personal history to arrive at our office no later than August 22, 2023.

Please Help Us

We have the greatest owners and appreciate all the friendships that have developed over the years.

If you would please check in with the office upon your arrival, rather than going directly to your unit, it would be very helpful. However, if you arrive after office hours, please check in when the office opens or just give us a quick call.

Especially in the summer, we really appreciate arrivals **near** the four o'clock check-in time. It is difficult for us to have your unit ready early with so many condos to clean and to have the maintenance issues taken care of.

If something in your unit needs attention, please report it during your stay rather than at the time of check-out. Sometimes a quick fix will make your stay more pleasant!

Donations Galore!

Many thanks to our owners who have donated to our library of books, videos, games and puzzles! Jan, June, Jeff and Virginia donated books. Bryan, Laureen and Elaine donated movies. Johnathan and Tina donated board games. Bob and Katherine donated yard games.

We appreciate all of you!

Audited Financial Statements

We will be posting to our website – **fairmontestates.com** - our Audited Financial Statement for the Fiscal Year ending August 31, 2023. The posting should be completed by October 5, 2023. If you do not have access to the internet or would like to receive a copy of the statement in the mail, just let us know.

Web Site

Check out our web site: fairmontestates.com
It includes links to local weather, Fairmont Resort information, maps, exchanging information, the rules and regulations of the floating program, things to do in the area and the timeshare calendars.

Annual Owners Meeting

The Annual Owners meeting will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2023. It will begin at 1:30 p.m. in Room 108 at Fairmont Hot Springs. President Forrette will preside.

Following the annual meeting, board member John Scheetz, will be giving his presentation on exchanging your timeshare to other locations.

Scams!

Unfortunately, the timeshare industry is targeted by various scams. If you receive a phone call or letter inviting you to a meeting, raise the RED FLAG! These meetings are not conducted by our employees nor do they have our permission to represent Fairmont Estates. Typically, you are told that the meeting will be about improvements at Fairmont Estates or they will be discussing raising the annual maintenance fee. As you know, our maintenance fee is the lowest in the industry.

If you are contacted by someone you do not know regarding your timeshare, get their name and phone number and call us!! We have a contact at the Montana Office of Consumer Protection who is working to stop these scammers. Several of our owners have been duped and it ended up costing them thousands of dollars! Beware.

What's New?

Numerous upgrades have been completed recently.

The bathrooms in units B4, B5, C3, E3, and E5 have been updated which includes removing the wallpaper, texturing and painting, removing the glass tub doors, installing new floors and installing ADA toilets.

The kitchen and dining room floors have been replaced in units C3, E3 and E5. Also, Rev-a-shelf garbage systems have replaced the compactors in these same units.

The disposal was replaced in unit E7. New vacuums were placed in units A4 and E2.

New garbage compactors were placed in units B3 and C10.

A new BBQ was installed for unit F4. New dishwashers were installed in units C5, C6, D3, E3, E5, E6 and E7.

The sofa sleeper mattresses were replaced in units C8 and D4. A new sofa sleeper was placed in unit A2. New recliners were placed in units A2, E8 and E10. New queen mattresses were placed in units A3 and F3.

Unit E6 has a new TV. New DVD players were placed in units C4 and E10.

New hot water tanks were installed in units A2 and B2. New dining room chairs sets and bar stools were placed in units C2 and E1.

We continue to look at areas we can improve and update!

Terminology

Fixed Week: "Fixed Week" owners have use of their deeded condominium the same week every year. This will not necessarily be the same date but rather the same week number.

"Continued next column"

Floating Week: "Floating Week" owners need to make a reservation each year for a week that is in their season. See the reservation schedule for each season on the front page. These owners are also allowed "Bonus Usage" which is explained below.

Bonus Usage: "Floating Week" owners can ask for Bonus Usage by calling in no sooner than 2 weeks before their requested check-in-date. Bonus Usage is charged at \$95.00 a night for a one-bedroom unit and \$105.00 a night for a two-bedroom. A minimum of 2 nights is required.

Split Week: Floating owners can request a split week when making their reservation. The two parts of a split week are Friday to Monday and Monday to Friday. Upon use of the second split, a \$65.00 cleaning fee is charged, as your maintenance fee covers the cleaning for the first usage.

Rentals: Non-owners and owners can request to rent a condominium usually for a minimum of two nights. One-bedroom units are usually priced around \$200.00 a night plus tax and two-bedroom units are usually priced around \$225 a night plus tax. You are actually renting from another timeshare owner and they set the rental rate.

Housekeeping

We would like to recognize our incredible staff who put in extra hours to compensate for staff shortages. Janet, Christine, Kaila, Roberta, Patricia, Mary Dee, Julie, Susan, K.T., Shelly, Colleen, Teena, Katie, Amanda, Hazel, Taya, Jolene, Jordyn, Brihanna, Lorna, Samantha, and Corin.

Many thanks to this **great** crew that cleans and stocks your condo!



Mark

Mark continues to amaze us with his productivity! Along with fixing anything that is broken he has the grounds looking wonderful! Our thanks go to Mark!



Patricia

Another year. Wow! Time flies when you are having fun and I can honestly say it has been a good year here at Fairmont Estates working with all of you. Getting reacquainted with many of you and getting to know some of you for the 1st time has been a pleasure. I've enjoyed our interactions immensely and I feel honored to be able to work for and with you on your vacation needs. I look forward to our relationship continuing to grow and flourish. Have a spectacular year!



Mary Dee

I've been with Fairmont Estates for just over two years now. I started in housekeeping and I am now in the office 4-5 days a week. I love it here so much that my husband Evan and I are now proud owners of a one-bedroom floating swing condo! We look forward to our five children and two grandchildren walking up to the front desk one day and saying we've been coming here since 2023! I have heard so many happy people come in telling us about how long their family has enjoyed staying with us! That made me want to buy so my own family can have that same experience. I enjoy talking on the phone with all of you and meeting you in person too! We all feel like family here.

Exchange Tips

- If you are depositing your week, your dues must be paid for the year you are depositing.
- If you are depositing your week with Interval International, you will need to know your Interval membership number.
- If you are a floating owner, you must have already made your reservation with our office.
- On their online deposit form, there is a small box that says "float" and you will need to put in the unit number you have reserved.