

What's Happening At Fairmont?

Fairmont Estates Condominium Association
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Summer 2024



A Few Words From The Managers

Another busy year is almost in the books! The year has been filled with improving and updating the condos. Mark has the grounds looking exceptionally nice!

We continue to struggle with hiring enough housekeepers but we seem to get through each week. Thankfully we have a core of experienced housekeepers that show up every Friday and are team players. They pull us through! There are about ten weeks remaining until we will see a break in the action!

Speaking of team players, we are blessed with great office & maintenance workers.

Our awesome board of directors are very supportive. We appreciate their input and guidance.

In the upcoming board election, we encourage your support of incumbent Rick Forrette. He is the current president of the board and we

appreciate his service over the past twenty-eight years.

Please take note of the dates for making your reservations for 2025 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 or calling in with your request puts you at a disadvantage and should be used as your last option.

Please note these dates:

High Season – Oct. 8, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Swing Season – Dec. 10, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Prime Season – Jan. 7, 2025 10:00 a.m.

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

Don, Alice & Tawn Crum



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

Note From The Board

The Fairmont Estates Condo Association (FECA) welcomes you to another annual newsletter. On behalf of the Board of Directors I want to share a few things with our owners.

FECA continues to be one of the very best places to visit and enjoy what Montana has to offer. Many of our guests trade in their week from their home resort to come to Fairmont and truly enjoy the Montana lifestyle. FECA does not do formal activities for the guests, but we prefer to let them find their own activities: swimming, hiking, golfing, exploring the many wonderful places within a day's drive of Fairmont.

Thank you to the owners for helping to maintain and improve the condition and appearance of all of the condos. The housekeeping staff does a great job in a very short period of time when they have to thoroughly clean each unit in preparation for the next owner to arrive every Friday. Tips are greatly appreciated by the housekeeping staff, please be generous to them! On a busy Friday with up to 40 units need to be cleaned, they do a remarkable job.

Our management staff / maintenance staff / office staff and housekeeping staff all do a superb job in focusing their energies to do everything possible to ensure our owners can enjoy their stay at Fairmont to the best of their abilities. We couldn't operate without them!

Rick Forrette, President FECA

Term Ending

The term of board member Rick Forrette ends in October. Rick has agreed to run for another three-year term.

If you would like to have your name on the ballot for the board of director position, please mail, email or fax a personal history to arrive at our office no later than August 23, 2024.

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. The housekeeping staff does not like to be surprised by guests that go into the units. However, if you arrive after office hours, please check in when the office opens or just give us a quick call. The office is open 9:00 am to noon on Saturday.

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 you plan to check out prior to Friday, please let us know so we can better plan our housekeeping.

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! Roger donated movies. Susanne and Jane's family donated puzzles. William & Diane donated movies, games and puzzles. Lavonne donated books.

We appreciate all of you!

Sizzling Summer Sale!

The board of directors has given us permission to sell our unsold weeks at reduced prices!! Just mention this newsletter special and you will receive a 25% discount on any new purchase.

We currently have both 1- and 2-bedroom condos in all three seasons – Prime, High and Swing – for sale. You may look at our website – fairmontestates.com to see our inventory or call us and we will mail or email the list. Please note this discount does not apply to the owner owned resale units.

We can only offer this discount through the month of August 2024.

Audited Financial Statements

We will be posting to our website – fairmontestates.com - our Audited Financial Statement for the Fiscal Year ending August 31, 2024. The posting should be completed by October 8, 2024. 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

If you are looking for information about Fairmont Estates, please check out our web site: fairmontestates.com. The website 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. It is a great resource for immediate answers to your questions.

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?

Upgrades are an on-going part of managing the condos. We currently have only eight 2-bedroom units that need the bathrooms updated. Once we have some vacancies, we will work on them. Recently the bathrooms in B-3, C-1, C-4, C-10 and F-6 have been updated.

Range hoods have been added in condos in B-3, C-2, C-6, C-8, C-10, D-2, E-6, F-1, F-3 and F-6. The additional lighting in the kitchen is a great improvement.

New tv's have been purchased for B-2, B-4, D-1 and F-4. Compactors have been removed in units C-1 and D-3 and rev-a-shelf trash units have replaced them. Table lamps with a USB port and electric plug-in have been placed in condos A-1, B-1, B-2, B3, B-4, B-5, B-6, C-2, C-3 C-5, C-7, C-10, D-1, D-2, D-3, E-1, E-6, E-10, F-3 and F-6.

The kitchen and dining room floors have been replaced in C-1 and E-6. New ranges were purchased for A-1, A-2 and C-10. New water heaters were installed in B-1, E-3, E-4, E-7 and F-6.

The cookware was replaced in A-4, B-4, C-2, E-1 and E-8. A pair of recliner chairs were purchased for B-6 and units C-4, C-7 and F-6 have new dinette sets. E-2 has a new dryer and E-6 has a new dishwasher. The downstairs of C-4 was re-carpeted and the furniture in both bedrooms was replaced.

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

Annual Owners Meeting

The Annual Owners meeting will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2024. 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. If you have questions about exchanges, John is the one to ask! He has a wealth of information and experience.

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.

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 \$115.00 a night for a one-bedroom unit and \$125.00 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 \$225.00 a night plus tax and two-bedroom units are usually priced around \$250.00 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. Mary Dee, Janet, Patricia, Israel, Susan, Amanda, Jacqueline, Christina, Falcia, Kaila and Denver.

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



Mark

Mark is our Mr. Fix-It! We have been unable to find something that he can't fix (unless it just needs to be replaced). Not only is Mark a great team-player, but he has a very calm demeanor when panic seems a likely option! The grounds are looking superb! Our thanks go to Mark!



Patricia

There are so many reasons why Fairmont Estates is a wonderful place to work. Each year I am grateful for these. This year I want to share some of those reasons.

One owner told me how he proposed to his girlfriend in a unit that became his when his parents passed. That girlfriend became his wife and every year they celebrate the anniversary of that proposal, even now, some 15 years later, in that same unit.

Another owner said her family has owned here since the place was built. She came here as a child and has fantastic memories. Four generations (with the fifth one on the way) of making memories here.

A beautiful lady spent every year here with her husband since 1982. In 2020 her husband passed. She didn't know if she would return because it would cause too much pain. But she realized he would want her to come and be happy. So, she comes every year, now with a friend or two, knowing that he is still here with her.

I witnessed the owner who, against good advice, tried to leave in the middle of an enormous snow storm. She got stuck in a large and dense snowdrift. After struggling to move the vehicle and not being able to she started to shovel. Twenty minutes later, making no headway, neighbors from other condos had donned snow pants, gloves and boots to help in the blinding and whirling snow. A good hour later the car was out of the snowdrift. The lady thought better of leaving and everyone who had helped spent the afternoon drinking (hot chocolate?) and swapping "snowstorm stories".

Some stories I hear are sweet, some bittersweet. You've shared happy moments, sad moments, thrilling adventures and scary instances with me. You've sworn me to secrecy. You've made me laugh and even cry.

I have a wonderful management team, a superb board of directors and great co-workers. I feel fortunate in that. Yet, it's a special gift that you, as owners, give to me each year. It truly is my pleasure to work with you and for you. Most importantly, it has been my honor and privilege to be allowed to share your journey through your stories.

For that I thank you.



Mary Dee

Fairmont Estates is such a great place to work and vacation! I really enjoy my job and my one-bedroom swing season unit. My family is so glad we bought a timeshare here. We are making memories just like all of you. I feel like I'm starting to make friends with some of you and that makes my job even better. Have a great year!

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.



Conner

Conner has been with us almost a year now and helps Mark with maintenance tasks, yard care, furniture refinishing and snow removal. Conner is also our “runner” on Fridays when a majority of the units are getting cleaned and extras are either removed or put into the units per the owner’s requests.