

Community Services

City of Dixon

by Susan E. Hohman

Whether mowing Lion's Club park grounds, patching city streets, repainting parking guides, picking up trash, patrolling the streets, or a myriad of other tasks, Dixon city workers are on the job! A crew of 41 both full- and part-time personnel is employed by the City of Dixon, which includes officers, maintenance, administration, city council, and the library. With so much to do, these workers stay busy, both maintaining and enhancing our city for its residents.



of the city jail, which houses up to six prisoners at a time, is also part of the police department's responsibility.

The most recent improvement to the Lion's Club Park is the addition of a new basketball court in 2018. Other enhancements, such as sidewalk, lighting fixtures and benches, and the "Betty Crews Walking Trail," a paved path at the park, help beautify this city-owned property.

Maintenance Supervisor, Josh Lachowicz oversees the city's water supply, sewer maintenance, trash handling, street repair, and park upkeep that are managed by the city's workers, usually recognizable by their bright yellow-green shirts. Also included on the city payroll is the Dixon Police Department, headed up by City Marshal, Gary Brankel, and four other officers, both full- and part-time. Oversight

Current City Council consists of six aldermen and alderwomen, led by Mayor Mycal Brown: Barbara Thomas and Betty Thilges—ward 1, Dawna Fleming and Marilyn Timmons—ward 2, and Paul Watson and Marlene Blackburn—ward 3. These individuals usually meet once a month on the first Monday at 6:00 pm at the Jessie E. McCully Memorial Library (JEMM) to discuss the business of the city. Anyone is welcome to attend the public session of meetings, as council members hear residents' and business owners' concerns, work on budgets, and plan for improvements.

In addition, Municipal Judge John Ward presides over court, held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, to handle local cases of law-breaking incidents. Rounding out the employee roster are Collector Gwen Miles, City Clerk, Jesse Fleming, Court Clerk, Kathy Smith, Assistant Clerk, Lue Mentzer, Library Director, Patty Binder, and Assistant Librarian, Tammy Phillips, all of whose jobs enable to city of Dixon to function at its utmost.



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Dixon Rural Fire Protection District

by Susan E. Hohman



"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

— Winston Churchill

That statement would seem, then, to include those who volunteer, since they typically "give" more than they "get." An important, but often unheralded, form of volunteering is to be a member of a local volunteer fire department. Giving of their time and energy, and devoting countless hours to instruction and serving, participants in local firefighting efforts aptly fit that description.

What began years ago with equipment made from scrap today is a viable, up-to-date, integral part of our community. The Dixon Rural Fire Protection District encompasses approximately 250 square miles of coverage in three counties: Pulaski, Phelps, and Maries. Citizens in those counties included in the district pay a minimal tax for its use.

From its humble beginning, the Fire Department has grown to its current facility with all updated equipment. In the recent past, rescue trucks, a command vehicle, and a transport vehicle were garnered for the District and the department was able to institute a junior firefighting program. Students age 16-18 are classified as junior firefighters; while those age 14-16 sign on as cadet firefighters. Although some restrictions apply (for example, they cannot enter a burning building), these adolescent firefighters may attend a fire and some are allowed to direct traffic around a fire scene.

The Dixon firefighting crew also extend their volunteering efforts to include the support of a burn camp. Firefighters devote time to raising funds to send at least one area child who has suffered burn injuries to Missouri Children's Burn Camp, located at Camp Sabra in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

The fire department is made up of 30 volunteers, led by Fire Chief, Dennis Lachowicz. These men and women, though not paid for this job, make themselves available 24 hours per day to fight fires and attend rescue operations. Many times, one can observe them training in full fire-fighting regalia, in preparation for the dirty, hot task of dousing fires. Also, those of the crew who are available, meet each Thursday evening from 7:30 to approximately 10:30 pm to assess their efforts and discuss methods and glean instruction. They currently use 15 vehicles and operate out of three fire stations – Dixon, Brinktown, and Hayden.

A five-member board meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm to discuss updates and plans for improvement, as well as the fiscal health of the department. MaLinda (Mindy) Bassett, secretary-treasurer, serves as the only paid member on staff. For questions about the District, or to notify firefighters of a planned controlled burn, the fire department contact phone number is 573-291-4883.

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