



115 RAMSDELL ST · FIRCREST, WASHINGTON 98466-6999 · (253) 564-8901 · FAX (253) 566-0762

## WELCOME TO FIRCREST

**W**elcome to Fircrest. We hope you will enjoy living here. For your convenience and orientation, we have prepared this document to provide essential information, which may be of interest to you. Please feel free to contact City Hall if you have further questions.

### **HISTORY**

In 1907, financiers from San Francisco including, Major Edward J. Bowes of the "Original Amateur Hour" fame had a vision of a 'residential park, an enchanting spot to enjoy life and raise a family.' With that in mind, they purchased a parcel of land to the west of Tacoma and named the subdivision Regents Park. Their influence is reflected in the streets named after their California background and their value of higher education.

With its curved, aesthetically designed streets, sidewalks, and sewers Regents Park offered quiet living with a strong sense of community. The first store was established in 1919 on Farallone Avenue. The Fircrest Golf Club was incorporated in 1923.

In September 1925, Regents Park and its 306 residents incorporated as the Town of Fircrest in an effort to start new and reenergize the community. Incorporation gave them the financial stability and control to repair and develop the infrastructure and services.

Through the years, Fircrest continues to preserve its sense of community. During the depression, they provided milk and hot meals to needy school children. In 1936, ten dollars and ten days created one hundred dollars worth of Christmas toys for the children. A 150-acre fire threatened Fircrest in 1949, but no homes were lost.

In 1960, Fircrest retook ownership of its parks and built the community building, followed by the construction of the swimming pool and the dedication of Masko Park. Fircrest continues to rival any city in Washington for resources and facilities dedicated to recreational purposes. The Annual Strawberry Feed began in 1976.

The first woman councilmember was elected in 1973. Many changes occurred in 1988 including the change to a Council-Manager form of government. In 1990, the town that had started as a subdivision became the City of Fircrest, having grown in size and population. During the decade, they annexed surrounding properties to even out the boundaries and provide financial stability.

The Public Safety Building was completed in 1979. The 1990s saw the end of the volunteer fire department's fifty-two years, and a contract with the Tacoma Fire Department for emergency services. The new City Hall building was built in 1999.

Today, Fircrest has lived up to the dream of a residential park. The City has a reputation of quality living, great recreational facilities, and setting the standard for community oriented policing.

## **GOVERNMENT**

Fircrest is a non-charter code city and operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The Mayor and Council set policy and pass local laws for the City. City Council members serve four-year terms. Current council members are: Matthew Jolibois, Chris Gruver, Robert F. Thaden (Mayor Pro Tempore), David M. Viafore (Mayor), Michael Weinman, Denny Waltier and Kathy L. McVay. Biennially, the Councilmember's choose a Chair from among their number to serve as Mayor and a Vice Chair (Mayor Pro Tempore) to act as Mayor during any absence of the Mayor. The Mayor and Council do not keep regular office hours; however, messages can be left for them at the City Hall.

The City Manager is responsible for implementing policies and day-to-day activities of the City. The City Manager is Bill Brandon. His office is at the City Hall, 115 Ramsdell Street, and phone number is 564-8901.

The City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 PM and holds a study session the third Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at the City Hall, 115 Ramsdell Street. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

The Planning Commission meets at the City Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM. The Planning Commission is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council to make land use decisions and also recommend land use policy. Current members of the Planning Commission are: Greg Nellist, Randy O'Brien (Chair), Karen Patjens (Vice Chair), Jim Otness, and Jerry Foss. The Planning Department is at City Hall and their number is 564-8901.

The Civil Service Commission meets at the City Hall on the first Monday of each month at 11:00 AM. The Commission is appointed by the City Manager to oversee state and local civil service laws as they relate to Police employees. Current Commissioners are Alex Koerger, Joe M. Harrison and Jason Medley. Questions pertaining to the Civil Service Commission can be directed to Chief Examiner Rick Rosenblatt at City Hall, 564-8901.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

The City of Fircrest provides a variety of utility services including Water, Sewer, Storm drainage, and Streets. The Public Works Facility is located at 120 Ramsdell Street, across the street from City Hall. Their phone number is 564-8900.

Water is obtained from five groundwater wells located in the City and is fluoridated. The system consists of approximately fifty miles of water mains and three water storage reservoirs. During summer months, the Council implements odd/even water sprinkling regulations to help preserve our water supply. Residents with an odd last number in their house address water on the odd numbered days of the months and residents with an even last number in their house address water on the even numbered days. Hand watering is not subject to this regulation.

There are approximately thirty-three miles of sewer mains and four sewer lift stations. Sewage is pumped to the City of Tacoma for treatment.

### **HOURS**

Normal working hours for the Public Works Department are Monday - Friday 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM from May - September and 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM from October – April. If you have a problem or question with your water or sewer services, please call 564-8900. If you have an afterhours emergency, the phone number is forwarded to an answering service who will take your information and try to dispatch someone to investigate and respond.

### **UTILITY BILLS**

Utility bills for Fircrest water, sewer and storm drainage are mailed bi-monthly (even-numbered months). Payments can be made at Fircrest City Hall, 115 Ramsdell Street or by mail. After hour drop boxes are provided on both the front and back of City Hall. Sewer and storm drainage are billed on a flat rate basis as established by ordinance. Water is metered and billing reflects usage.

### **STREETS**

The City has regular street sweeping and snow removal programs including sanding icy streets and intersections during winter months. The street system consists of approximately thirty-three miles of streets, which have storm drainage systems. There is a monthly storm drain fee charged to each utility customer.

Property owners are responsible for keeping the sidewalk adjacent to their property in good repair and must correct any condition that renders it unfit for use. Owners or occupants of abutting property who fail to keep the sidewalk, curb, gutter or parking strip and any driveway across same, in good repair or free from obstructions are liable for damage/injuries that might result from failure to maintain such facilities.

Fircrest limits "on-street" parking and prohibits the use of public streets as parking and storage lots. Boats, recreational vehicles or other vehicles can be parked in driveways as long as they do not obstruct the sidewalk or create vision hazards for motorists.

## **OTHER UTILITIES**

### WESTSIDE DISPOSAL

Refuse collection is mandatory for all Fircrest residences per contract and ordinance. Fircrest contracts with Westside Disposal for collection of solid waste, yard waste and recyclables. The company offers curbside and off-curb services and collects garbage and recyclables Monday - Friday between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Westside Disposal offers garbage, recyclable, and yard waste totes at no charge to Fircrest residents. For more information, please inquire when you set-up your garbage service by calling 564-3212.

The only holidays Westside Disposal observes are Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Service for the balance of the week following a recognized holiday will be one working day late and the company will work Saturday, if necessary. Westside Disposal bills customers separately from the City of Fircrest utility bills. Should your garbage not be collected on your scheduled day and it is not a recognized holiday, you can report it directly to Westside Disposal, 564-3212.

### TACOMA POWER – Electricity

To set up service: 502-8600

All other questions: 502-8000.

### PUGET SOUND ENERGY - Gas

In Washington 888-225-5773

Outside Washington 425-452-1234

### QWEST - Phone

800-244-1111

### COMCAST – Cable/Internet

877-824-2288

### CLICK! NETWORK – Cable/Internet

253-502-8900

## **PLANNING/BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

If you are contemplating remodeling or new construction, you should first contact our Planning/Building Department, 564-8901, for the latest information on building and zoning requirements. Fences, re-roofs and structures are subject to permitting and zoning restrictions. If a variance to the zoning code is needed, it must be obtained from the Planning Commission prior to the issuance of the building permit.

Planning/Building Hours:      Monday - Friday      8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

## **BUSINESS LICENSES**

The City of Fircrest requires an annual business license to conduct business within the City. This is for both local businesses as well as contractors doing business within the city limits. In addition, a home occupation permit is required if the business is run out of one's home. More information and applications can be obtained from City Hall. Please call 564-8901.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

There are six parks in Fircrest offering a variety of courts, fields, and playgrounds. The Tot Lot is on the corner of Ramsdell Street and Contra Costa Avenue. Fully enclosed, this park is great for toddlers.

Fircrest operates an extensive Parks and Recreation Program. Facilities include tennis courts, play lots, swimming and wading pools, outside basketball and volleyball courts, baseball and soccer fields, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, gymnasium, and arts/crafts rooms. Many classes and activities are offered throughout the year.

Please look for the seasonal activities brochure or contact the Parks & Recreation Department, 555 Contra Costa Avenue, 564-8177, for information on current classes and programs. Also watch for details on annual events including the Easter Egg Hunt, Strawberry Feed & Band Concert, Fircrest Fun Days, Pumpkin Patch, and Tree Lighting Ceremony.

## **SCHOOLS**

The majority of Fircrest is located in Tacoma School District No. 10. The Southwest area by Southcreek Estates is located in University Place School District No. 83. Wainwright Elementary School (130 Alameda Avenue) and Whittier Elementary School (777 Elm Tree Lane) are both located in Fircrest. Most Fircrest 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students attend Hunt Middle School, 6501 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Most Fircrest senior high school students attend Henry Foss High School, 2112 South Mason or Woodrow Wilson High School, 1202 North Orchard Street. For further information on these schools, call Tacoma School District No. 10 Administrative Offices, 596-1000. For information on University Place School District No. 83, call 564-1400 or stop by their Administrative Offices at 8805 40th Street West.

## **BICYCLE AND SKATEBOARDS**

Bicycle helmets are required. No bicycle license is required. (FMC 16.49)

Skate boarding prohibited where posted. (FMC 16.46)

## **POSTAL SERVICE**

The nearest post office is the University Place Post Office at 6817 – 27<sup>th</sup> Street West.

United States Postal Service:	1-800-275-8777
	(1-800-ASK-USPS)

The Zip Code for Fircrest is "Fircrest, WA 98466".

*In filing any federal forms, particularly income tax returns, please remember to indicate Fircrest residency to assure Fircrest received the tax credit.*

## **FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**To report a fire or medical emergency, call 911.** The City of Tacoma Fire Department provides Fircrest fire protection and emergency medical services. The Fire Station is located at the Public Safety Building, 302 Regents Boulevard. The station is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Fircrest's current fire rating is Class 4. The average response time is 2.8 minutes in an emergency and approximately 10 minutes in a non-emergency. For general business during normal office hours, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, call 564-2581, or stop by the Public Safety Building.

## **POLICE**

The Fircrest Police Department is located at the Public Safety Building, 302 Regents Boulevard. Police protection is provided 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Dispatch is through the regional law enforcement dispatch service operated by Pierce County. The average response time is 0-3 minutes for an emergency and 0-15 minutes for a non-emergency.

**Please call 911** immediately for emergencies or if you notice any suspicious activity or persons. Your call could save a life, prevent injury or stop a criminal act.

For non-emergencies, call the Community Service Officer at 565-1198. The Department has Operation Identification for residents to mark their valuables. Electric pencils are available for loan from the Police Department. Functions and programs include patrol, traffic enforcement, investigations, crime prevention, emergency response, narcotics, vice related activities, school lunch buddies program, school safety programs and special services.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

The Emergency Management Division protects the public peace, health and safety, and preserves lives and property against existing and possible occurrence of major emergencies or disasters, either man-made or from natural causes. The City contracts with Pierce County to share and coordinate services in the event of an emergency situation and to assist in implementation of a Fircrest Emergency Management and mitigation plan.

Information is available for emergencies preparedness. Contact Pierce County Emergency Management: (253) 798-7470

[www.co.pierce.wa.us](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us) click Emergency Management

## **ALARM PERMITS**

Residential and commercial security alarms require an Alarm Permit. There is a one-time charge of \$15.00. A new alarm permit is needed each time there is a change in ownership/resident in order to maintain current information. Application can be made at City Hall or the Police Department, 302 Regents Boulevard.

