

City of Fircrest

February 2018

Town Topics



CITY COUNCIL

Hunter T. George, Mayor
Denny Waltier, Mayor Pro Tempore
David Viafore
Shannon Reynolds
Brett L. Wittner
Blake L. Surina
Jamie Nixon

CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

It has been a wonderful couple of months serving as your new City Manager. I appreciate the warm welcome I have received from so many of you. The community support and spirit here is incredible.



City Manager Pingel

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself just a bit and what brought me to Fircrest. I grew up mostly in Las Vegas, NV and Orem, UT. My wife, Lindsey, was born in Bremerton and grew up in Kennewick, WA. We met at BYU and we have been married for 15 years, and we have 5 children (Easton 12, Lucas 11, Max 8, Ginny 6, and Landon 3) that keep us on our toes. I love my family, and I am excited for you to get to know them as well.

I love sports. I grew up playing football, basketball and baseball. I'm excited about all of the golfing opportunities in the area, and hope to be able to find time to take advantage of it. I've enjoyed coaching 3rd grade basketball over the last couple of years, but few things in life give me more anxiety. I also enjoy keeping up on world affairs, and I love politics, but more from a how political systems work perspective rather than a partisan perspective. The super geeky side of me gets into organizational theory a bit.

I received my Bachelor's degree in Political Science from BYU (Go Cougs!) and received my Master of Public Administration degree from West Virginia University (Go 'Eers!). I started my career working in the City Manager's Office in Federal Way. Since then I have been the City Manager in Stanfield, OR (2010-2013) and Dayton, OR (2013-2017). I tried to pour my heart and soul into those communities, and I am excited to do the same in Fircrest. When the Fircrest opportunity came up, I was excited about the potential of coming back to this area. As I learned more about Fircrest, I really liked the fit, and we are hopeful that the move will be more permanent for us, especially as our family grows and kids approach high school age. We are definitely ready to lay down more permanent roots. I really look forward to becoming more a part of the community!

I am excited to continue to work with the community, City Council, and City staff to provide the best possible services for Fircrest. I find great satisfaction in this work! My door is open, and I hope you won't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns about City services or projects.

Scott Pingel, City Manager

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It's an incredible honor to serve as mayor of a city as wonderful as Fircrest. Your City Council members frequently talk about the characteristics that make Fircrest so special, and we remind ourselves that our paramount duty is to guide the city in these modern times without losing that feeling.



Mayor George

We have a busy year ahead. A survey of City residents last year showed significant support for preserving the aging recreation center and pool. Both were built in the early 1960s and are in dire need of repairs and updates. The pool, especially, developed major leaks last year. City staff members are assessing options for repairing the leaks, but that will only buy us some time.

The Council and staff will be asking for your input as we assess options for the pool and recreation center. We are collecting as much information as possible about repairs, replacement, financing and design options. We expect to discuss it at every Council meeting for the foreseeable future. We will create a citizen advisory committee and share updates and requests for feedback in a variety of ways, including the City's website and Facebook page.

There are lots of other important initiatives under way, including plans to systematically replace our aging infrastructure, particularly water pipes that date to the mid-20th century. And we continue to update our zoning and development codes so the city is welcoming to small businesses.

I look forward to sharing more updates throughout the year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Mayor Hunter T. George

Who to Contact

City Hall

253-564-8901

Municipal Court

253-564-8922

Public Works

253-564-8900

Community Center & Pool

253-564-8177

Non-Emergency Police

253-565-1198

Other Agencies

Westside Disposal

253-564-3212

Animal Care & Control

253-627-PETS

Humane Society

253-383-2733

Puget Sound Energy

888-225-5773

Tacoma Power

253-502-8600

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PLANNING UPDATE

The City Council, Planning Commission, and staff conduct periodic review and evaluation of the City's Comprehensive Plan and Development Codes to ensure they maintain their effectiveness and respond to changing conditions. Below are some highlights of the past year and a preview of the coming year.

2017 in Review

- *Frequently Flooded Areas:* This update to the development code ensures compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Updated FEMA maps are available at City Hall.
- *Short-Term Rentals & Home Occupations:* Both of these sections were amended to recognize the changing in technology and home business trends. If you run an Airbnb or operate a home business, please give us a call to make sure you are in compliance.
- *Annexation of the "chair":* The previously unincorporated parcels in the 44th St West and 62nd Ave West area have been annexed to the City. We welcome our newest residents!

Preview 2018 - A few of the highlights included:

- *Commercial Zoning Districts:* The future vision, allowed uses and development standards will be reviewed for our two commercial districts as well as the building design standards. We anticipate public outreach to the parcels and businesses in this zone as well as the surrounding neighborhoods.
- *Code Compliance:* Staff will be taking a comprehensive look at the code enforcement regulations for planning, building, and nuisances to improve consistency, responsiveness, and success rates.
- *Comprehensive Plan Update:* As part of this annual review, staff will be amending the Comprehensive Plan to reflect the changes related to the recent annexation. Also, the Planning Commission will consider any private applications received. Please contact the Planning Department for more information.

The full work plan, tentative schedule and ongoing updates to current land use projects can be found on the website – on the home page, under the *Services Tab*, click *Land Use Projects*.

City of Fircrest Seeks High School Seniors for AWC Scholarship Opportunity

A scholarship is available for one graduating high school senior in Fircrest from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Center for Quality Communities Scholarship. AWC is offering six \$1,000 scholarships for high school students planning to pursue their education at an accredited college, community college, or trade school in the 2018-2019 school year.

The City of Fircrest is seeking applications and will be nominating one student for consideration by the AWC to receive the scholarship. Applications and further information are available on the City's website at www.cityoffircrest.net and are due to the City Clerk by February 21st. Questions can be directed to the City Clerk at 253-564-8901.

Pierce County Flood Hazard Management Plan 2018 Update

Fircrest residents will be receiving information in the mail in Spring 2018 from Pierce County on its update to the Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan with a goal to complete the update by April 2018. The plan is a comprehensive approach to reduce damages and protect public safety from major river flooding and channel migration. Residents can view the County website regarding the plan update process: www.piercecountywa.org/floodplanupdate

COMING UP

February 2018

16th *Daddy Daughter Dance*
7:00-9:00pm

19th *President's Day*
City Offices Closed

March 2018

24th *Fish & Fun*
8:00am

31st *Easter Egg Hunt*
10:00am

PROJECT UPDATES

Emerson Sidewalk Project

This project is substantially complete. The contractor will be fixing a few remaining cleanup items. The street trees have a warranty period and will be monitored and probably replaced next spring. The sidewalks are open and ready for use. The City received a *Healthy Community Platinum Award* from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department for this project.

Alameda Lift Station

This project is in the final stages of construction as the startup phase has begun. The final restoration will follow depending on weather conditions for the site work. This project is being funded with the City's sewer capital improvement funds.

Traffic Signal Safety Improvements

Traffic Signal improvements are planned to the signals at the intersections of Alameda & Regents and Alameda & Emerson. The project has been bid and awarded to Northeast Electric, LLC. The contractor is scheduled to start up work in mid-February with construction taking about a month to complete. This project provides for improvements to the existing traffic signals and pedestrian crossings at these intersections and updates our signal equipment. Hopefully, minor delays at these intersection will be limited during the construction time. This project is being funded by a grant from the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program.

Water Main Replacement on Ramsdell

Water main improvements are planned along Ramsdell from Contra Costa to Forrest Park Drive. This project is out to bid, with the bid opening scheduled for January 30, 2018. Construction should take place hopefully beginning in early March. This project is being funded with the City's water capital improvement funds.

Drake Street Lift Station

This project is updating this 50 year old pump station with new pumps and a better control system. The project is under design, which should be completed by the end of January. The project is scheduled to be bid early 2018 with construction during the summer of 2018. This project is being funded with the City's sewer capital improvement funds.