

Town Topics



City Council

Matthew Jolibois *Mayor*
 Shannon Reynolds
 Brett L. Wittner
 Blake L. Surina
 Hunter T. George *Mayor Pro Tempore*
 Denny Waltier
 Jason Medley

Thelma Gilmur Remembered



Located at 1404 Evergreen Drive (Evergreen Drive and Emerson Street) is a seven acre nature park known as Thelma Gilmur Park. The park has foot trails, interpretive signs, and water outlooks in a wetland area. It is the only wetland park in Fircrest.

On October 24, 1995 the Fircrest City Council named the park after Thelma Gilmur. Thelma was an accomplished woman. She was a teacher for 37 years, a founder of the Audubon Society, a recipient of the Cascade Land Conservancy Helen Engle Lifetime Achievement Award and a tireless advocate for preservation of wild areas and parks. Thelma was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science by the University of Puget

Sound for her lifelong work devoted to the protection of wilderness areas and the promotion of open urban green spaces.



Thelma passed away in January but her efforts have preserved this park from development. A new entry sign will be put up this summer so you can more easily find your way into the park. Come and see this wonderful natural park and when you do, think kindly of Thelma and her life's work.



Comprehensive Plan Amendments

The Comprehensive Plan helps identify the community's vision for the future and contains policies to guide the development of the city's physical, social and economic character. The Plan reflects the long-term values and aspirations of the community as a whole and shows how various aspects such as land use, housing, transportation, and capital facilities work together to achieve the desired vision.

While the Comprehensive Plan is meant to provide a strong and constant vision for the future, it is also a living document that must be able to accommodate change. It is therefore regularly updated to meet changing issues or opportunities facing Fircrest, while still maintaining the core values of the community.

As the Comprehensive Plan may only be amended once a year, the City is providing notice that applications for proposed 2016 amendments will be accepted between April 1, 2016 and May 31, 2016. Official notice will be posted in the Tacoma Daily Index and on the website. For more information contact the Planning Department, 253-564-8902 or planning@cityoffircrest.net.

Who To Contact

City Hall 253-564-8901
 Municipal Court 253-564-8922
 Public Works 253-564-8900
 Community Center 253-564-8177
 Non-Emergency Police
 253-565-1198

www.cityoffircrest.net
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

Community Sponsorship Program



The City of Fircrest strongly relies on donations from both citizens and businesses to support activities throughout the year. These include Fish 'n Fun in March, the Easter Egg Hunt in April, and Santa's annual sleigh ride over the Christmas holiday.

Donations come in various forms: citizens and businesses volunteer time, contribute money and donate gifts and other items. In addition, the City of Fircrest conducts a fundraising campaign in the community each year. Now in its 17th year, the Community Sponsorship Program provides for the beautiful hanging baskets you see along Regents each summer. Also, the flowers on the islands and the fireworks at Fun Days are provided through generous donations from the community.

It's not too late to participate in the City's beautification program. Information about the 2016 Community Sponsorship Program and the donor forms are included with your utility bill and this newsletter. Thank you citizens and businesses of Fircrest for your continued support and contributions to the City. It is what makes Fircrest such a great place to live!

Serving the community since 1925

Trees Create Sustainable City

Trees are an essential part of our Fircrest community and the ecological systems in which they exist. Trees provide significant economic, social, and ecological benefits – such as air quality, carbon sequestration (long term storage of carbon dioxide), reduction of urban heat island effect (increased air temperatures due to urban development and increase in pollution), energy conservation, reduction of storm water runoff, control flood and erosion, improvement of water quality, and increased value of the city’s parks and residential properties. Maintaining trees and planting trees can benefit our city to become more sustainable and help reduce the negative impacts on ecosystems from urban development.

Although preservation of existing healthy trees through planning and design is crucial to our health, the city understands that trees may occasionally need to be removed. Most trees on developed, residential lots can be removed without permits. But trees on vacant parcels, underdeveloped land, designated open space or regulated critical area and buffers (Leach Creek, steep slopes, etc.) need prior approval from the City. If trees have become damaged, diseased, hazardous, or dead, there are options, but it may require working with a licensed arborist. The city encourages residents to call when questioning whether or not to cut trees.

The Planning Commission and City Council both support trees as essential to the health, safety, and welfare of everyone that takes part in our community. Let’s work together as a city to provide a sustainable community. If you have any questions regarding trees or other landscaping, please contact the Planning and Building Department at 253-564-8902 or planning@cityoffircrest.net.



Public Works’ New Street Sweeper



Public Works took delivery of our new street sweeper, an Elgin Crosswind 600, on March 10. We had to retire our old sweeper after 12 good years of working for the City.

Our new sweeper is a regenerative air sweeper. This type of sweeper not only sweeps the street, but vacuums the area as well. The primary purpose of street sweeping is to keep debris and contaminants out of our storm water system. It also provides for cleaner and more attractive streets.

Public works continues to emphasize the street sweeping program and will continue to follow the schedule as outlined on the flyer on the website.

Emerson Sidewalk Project

The City was awarded a grant from the state to fill in the gaps of sidewalks along Emerson Street from Orchard to Alameda. The engineering firm of KPG has been hired to proceed with the design work, which is currently underway. Construction should begin this summer. What would summer be without some construction?

Public Works will keep you posted as the project progresses. If you should have any questions please contact Public Works. 253-565-8900.

Upcoming Events

MAY



7th Spring Craft Fair
9:00am-4:00pm

13th Mother-Son Dance
6:00pm-8:00pm

28th Fircrest Pool Opens

30th Memorial Day
City Offices Closed

JUNE

4th Go Hawaiian
Pool Party

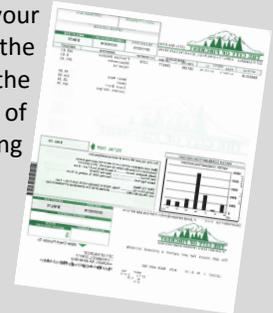


Understanding Your Utility Bill

The City of Fircrest utility bills are billed every even month, based on a 60 day billing cycle. They are due the last day of the month in which you receive your bill. Sewer and storm drain charges are a flat rate, meaning the charges do not fluctuate from month to month. However, the charge for water will increase once you exceed the City of Fircrest’s “allowable consumption”. Based on the 60 day billing cycle, single family residential charges inside city limits, are:

Storm Drain	\$25.00
Sewer	\$114.00
Water Base	\$44.00 – Allowable Consumption 0-1400 cubic feet (cf) (1 cf = 7.48 gals.)

*Usage between 1401-4000 cf is charged at \$.01 per cf
Usage above 4000 is charged at \$.016 per cf*



When billing is being processed, accounts are audited for higher than normal water usage. If you receive a courtesy notification of high water usage, it is for informational purposes to notify you of a possible leak in your service line.