

Town Topics



City Council

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Planning Commission Topics: Marijuana and Signs

The Planning Commission anticipates holding a public hearing on a draft proposal for marijuana regulations at their Tuesday, August 16th meeting at 6 pm. Some of the topics being considered are which zones, if any, to allow retail sales; what, if any, performance standards (special regulations unique to this use) might be appropriate; and should the buffers for “sensitive areas” as defined by the State (childcare centers, transit centers, parks, game arcades) be reduced where allowed. Also, the topic of co-ops within the residential zones will be addressed. All meetings are open to the public and any interested party who wishes to testify on the issue may during the public hearing portion. The staff report and draft documents should be available on the website the Friday before the public hearing, if not sooner.

Also of interest, the Planning Commission is reviewing the City of Fircrest’s sign code. The sign code was adopted in 2003. Since then, changes in technology, the desires of communities and recent court cases dictate that the code be reviewed and updated. We anticipate that the hearing for the draft proposal will be in September. Notice will be published in the City’s paper of record (The Tacoma Daily Index) and posted on the City’s website, Facebook and buildings.

If you wish to see the City’s current sign code, it is found in the Fircrest Municipal Code, Chapter 22.26. An interactive online version can be found at <http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Fircrest>

Fircrest on Facebook

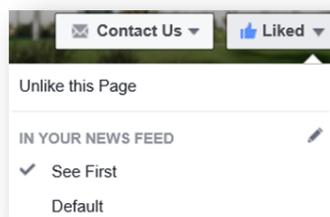
In July, the City launched its official presence on Facebook. Look to it for events, notices and other interesting facts about the City of Fircrest. As it is in its infancy, please be patient as we bring all departments on board and discover how best to share information. Also, it is important to know it is not monitored 24/7. Please call 911 for emergencies. Call the City directly at 253-564-8901 for any other time sensitive inquiries. There is a link to our social media guidelines on the website at www.cityoffircrest.net.



How to find us? From your Facebook page, search for City of Fircrest and select the one with the logo and the P. You have found the official City of Fircrest page.

Helpful Hint: If you want to keep the City of Fircrest posts a priority in your feed, hover over the “Liked” button and select “See First”.

The City of Fircrest is also in the process of updating its website, so look for improvements coming during the second half of the year.



Who You Gonna Call?

Do you have a question, but are not sure which department to call? From street sweepers to pool hours, fence permits to alarm permits, there is a City Staff person who would be happy to speak with you. To help point you in the right direction, we have listed each department, with some of their most frequently asked about topics.



City Hall (City Council dates, agenda items, City Manager, Finance) **253-564-8901**

Municipal Court (tickets, court dates, passports) **253-564-8922**

Public Works (water, sewer, streets, utility billing, sidewalks) **253-564-8900**

Planning and Building (remodels, additions, repair, fences, nuisances, trees, land use) **253-564-8902**

Police Department Emergency (active crime, suspicious activity, any other emergency) **911**

To Report a Crime NOT in Progress (253) **798-4722**

Police Department Non-emergency (alarm permits, parking concerns, follow-up) **253-565-1198**

Parks and Recreation (hours, activities, sign-up, park concerns) **253-564-8177**

Don’t see your issue? Call City Hall 253-564-8901 and we will be happy to direct you to the right person.

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

Serving the community since 1925

New Smoking Ordinances

At their July 12th meeting Council adopted two new ordinances making it unlawful for any person to smoke or use Electronic Smoking Devices on any park property. All park properties have been designated as smoke free areas. The law clearly declares that all park properties are designated smoke-free areas including parking lots, municipal pool, sports and athletic fields, walking trails, nature parks, and city owned gardens. The law does not include sidewalks.

It is a misdemeanor if someone should knowingly violate our new ordinance making it unlawful for any person to smoke or use Electronic Smoking Devices on park property. If someone were to be purposely defiant of the new ordinance this will allow us to cite the suspect into court. A misdemeanor crime under this section carries with it a fine not to exceed \$1000 or by a suspension of the privilege to use the park and recreation facilities of the city or any part thereof for a period not to exceed 90 days or both. If a suspect were cited into court the City Judge would then determine the appropriate fine if any, for each violation.

The new Fircrest Municipal Codes are:

FMC 10.12.170: Smoking within city parks prohibited.

FMC 10.12.180: Use of electronic smoking devices prohibited within city parks.

Fircrest Municipal Code can be found on the City Website.

There will be signs up in the near future advising people of the new laws.

Thanks to all of our citizens in advance for adhering to the new laws.



Increase In Whittier Traffic

Fircrest residents should be aware that Tacoma schools start on September 7th this year. When Whittier begins they will house students from 1st grade through 6th grade and kindergarten will begin on September 12th. For a short period of time Whittier will house K-6th grade students. We expect an increase in traffic activity in and around Whittier until Wainwright opens up. When Wainwright opens it will house 4th through 6th during its first year and Whittier will house K-3rd grade students.

Classes at Whittier will begin at 8:15 am this year instead of 8:55 am and classes will let out at 2:45 pm instead of 3:30 pm. Please be aware of these changes and you may want to plan accordingly when driving through the area at the beginning and ending of the school day.

The Tacoma School District is still unsure of the exact date Wainwright will be opening but as soon as we hear something we will be letting our residents know.

Know When To Call The Police Or 9-1-1

The Fircrest Police Department is staffed with Officers 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Calling 911 is the most effective and quickest way for an Officer(s) to be dispatched and updated with developing information while we are on our way to investigate the problem.

Emergencies

Call **911** if you see any suspicious activity, see a crime occurring, or are a victim of a crime **in-progress**.

In-progress means the crime or activity is occurring at the moment or there is a chance that a quick response by Officers would allow them to apprehend the suspect.



What to Expect

When you dial 9-1-1, keep in mind the person you will be talking to is attempting to help you right from the start. Remain calm and answer any and all questions asked by your dispatcher. **DO NOT HANG UP** until the dispatcher tells you to! Staying on the phone **DOES NOT** prolong emergency response. They will be dispatching the call while they are also on the phone with you.

QUESTIONS THE DISPATCHER WILL ASK WHEN CALLING 9-1-1

LOCATION! Be sure to verify that the dispatcher has the correct location before hanging up. Examples of locations: House numbers, street name, business, intersection, landmarks.

PROBLEM: Describe what is going on or what the problem is

TIME: When did this happen? Is it happening now?

WHO: Who is involved and where are they now?

WEAPONS: Are there any weapons involved?

INJURIES: Is anyone hurt or in need of medical attention?

STAY ON THE PHONE if it's safe to do so or until the dispatcher tells you to hang up.

Non-Emergencies

The Fircrest Police asks you to call **(253) 798-4722** to report a **CRIME** that is **NOT** in-progress. **We cannot stress enough that you as the citizens are the eyes and ears for us here at the Police Department. If you see or hear anything that seems suspicious or odd to you please call.**

Other Concerns

If you have questions or concerns that do not require an officer to take a report, we ask that you contact the Fircrest Police Office at **(253) 565-1198**. The office staff can generally answer any questions or direct you to someone that can. The office staff is also available to assist you with vacation checks, public disclosure requests, and other community related resources. The office is open Monday – Friday 8am until 5pm. **After office hours the calls to our office number are transferred to South Sound 9-1-1. Working together and looking out for ourselves and our neighbors we can make this a better and safer place for all of us.**

