

# Town Topics



## City Council

Hunter T. George *Mayor*  
 Shannon Reynolds  
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 Denny Waltier  
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### Introducing Fircrest's New City Manager

The City of Fircrest is very pleased to announce the selection of Scott Pingel as its next City Manager. Mr. Pingel's first day on the job will be 12/4/2017. Mr. Pingel has served as City Manager for the City of Dayton, OR since 2013. prior to that time, he was the City Manager for the City of Stanfield, OR, from 2010 to 2013. Mr. Pingel has a Bachelor of Art degree in Political Science from Brigham Young University and a Master of Public Administration degree from West Virginia University.

### 2018 Update for Parks and Recreation

#### Whittier Tennis Courts

The City plans to resurface the tennis courts at Whittier Park in the spring. It has been well over 20 years since the courts were last resurfaced and they are in need of repair.

#### Fircrest Park Playground

With the help of Optimum Physical Therapy and the funds they raised at their golf tournament last summer, the City plans to replace the old playground and install new playground equipment geared towards older kids at Fircrest Park.

#### Whittier Park Irrigation

The City will be improving the irrigation system at Whittier Park in the spring. The irrigation system requires improvements to create ideal growing conditions at Whittier Park.

### Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Santa, Ms. Claus, and all their little helpers will be riding through town on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. Jolly Old St. Nick will be escorted by none other than our very own Fircrest Police Department.



On Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> you can find Santa at Whittier Elementary at 6pm. Afterwards, he will visit as many South End neighborhoods as possible. On Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, Santa makes his stop at the Fircrest Town Center at 6pm, then he will visit as many North End neighborhoods as possible. Free pictures with Santa, courtesy of Richard Trask Photography, will be available at 6pm on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at Whittier and at 6pm on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at Fircrest Town Center. Santa's helpers will be handing out candy canes and holiday wishes along the route. Both days will feature free hot cocoa and coffee, thanks to Fircrest Kiwanis, and festive holiday music, courtesy of Leanna Mason, owner of Entertainment Masters.

### 2018 Utility Billing Rate Increases

This is a friendly reminder that on 11/7/2016 the City Council adopted a 3 year rate increase for the utilities of water, sewer and storm drain, per Fircrest Municipal Code 21.04; 20.12; and 20.16. We are coming up on our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this 3 year increase. The new rates will start effective 2/1/2018 and you will begin to notice the increase on your April 2018 utility bill.

Rate adjustments for the water, sewer and storm utilities make the utilities sustainable, support the operation and maintenance of the utilities, and provide funding for capital improvements.

Capital Projects that the rate increase is paying for include the following projects:

- Replace the Alameda and Drake Sewer Lift stations (these are in need of upgrading as they are now 50+ years old)
- Repayment of existing loans that were obtained to repair and replace the backyard sewer mains and 70 to 80 year old pipelines
- Water main repair and replacement (the 70+ year old piping has reached its useful life)

- Painting and coating systems on the water tanks (water tanks need to be painted and coated to preserve them)
- Improvements to storm water outfall treatment system to help improve water quality where our storm water drains.

**What can you expect?** For single family residential (SFR) customers each billing cycle will increase \$11.40 (\$5.70/month).

#### **BREAKDOWN** for SFR increase:

Water Base fee will increase \$1.50 (\$34.00 to \$35.50)

- Tier 1 will increase \$.0004 (from \$0.0100 to \$0.0104 / cf)
- Tier 2 will increase \$.0007 (from \$0.0150 to \$0.0157 / cf)
- Tier 3 will increase \$.0011 (from \$0.0250 to \$0.0261 / cf)

Sewer Base fee will increase \$3.60 (\$60.40 to \$64.00)

Treatment will increase \$2.00 (\$79.20 to \$81.20)

Storm Drain free will increase \$4.30 (\$29.20 to \$33.50)

# Serving the community since 1925

## Public Works Update

### Emerson Sidewalk Project

The Emerson Sidewalk project has been completed. The new trees along the street have a warranty period and will be monitored and probably replaced next spring. The sidewalks are open and ready for use. This project was partially funded by a grant from Transportation Improvement Board.

### Alameda Lift Station

This project includes updating the 40 year old lift station with new pumps and a better control system. On site work has started with a completion date hopefully before Christmas; however, there may be some delays due to equipment availability. The project is being funded with the City's Sewer Capital Improvement Funds.

### Water Main Replacement on Ramsdell

Water main improvements are planned along Ramsdell from Contra Costa to Forest Park Dr. A design for the project is complete and bids will be received the first of next year with construction anticipated for early spring 2018. This project is being funded with the City's Water Capital Improvement Funds.

## Traffic Signal Safety Improvements

Improvements are planned for traffic signals at the intersections of Alameda & Regents and Alameda & Emerson. Equipment has been ordered with delivery expected in January 2018 and construction to begin Feb./Mar. 2018. The project will provide improvements to the existing traffic signals and pedestrian crossings at these intersections and updates to our signal equipment. We are anticipating only minor delays at these intersections during construction. Funding for this project is through a grant from the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program.

### Drake Street Lift Station

The 50 year old lift station will be updated with new pumps and a better control system. The project is under design, which should be completed by the end of this year. 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.



## Don't Let Porch Pirates Ruin Your Holidays



It's that time of year again. Everyone is gearing up for the holidays, which means online shopping and packages being mailed to your home. However, when the delivery trucks start rolling so do the porch pirates. In fact, according to theft statistics, each year more than 23 million (shocking!) Americans report packages stolen from their doorsteps. Sadly, Fircrest is not immune to this problem. So let's make sure it's a happy holiday by using these amazing tips to stop thieves from walking away with your packages.

**Use a Smart Package Locker.** If you are ordering from Amazon, you have the option of having your package sent to a secure locker near you. You can choose a locker located near you, have your package delivered there and Amazon will send you a secure code to open your locker. There are lots of locations including most Safeway Stores.

**Have it Delivered to Your Work.** If you work during typical delivery times, having your packages delivered to your work may be a great option. Of course, you should check with your boss first. This guarantees that the package will be brought inside to an employee instead of sitting on your porch for hours unattended.

**Install a Door Camera.** While this won't stop anyone from taking things from your porch it may deter them. Install a smart security camera at your front door and post signs stating that the area is under surveillance. Even if it fails to deter thieves you will have them on video, which enables officers to track them down.

**Require Signature on Delivery.** This means the driver cannot just drop the package off at your door and walk away. Someone must be home to sign for and accept the package. If you miss the driver they generally will leave a note on your door letting you know when they will attempt redelivery OR the location of the facility you can pick up your package from. This is not the most convenient option, but better than losing that hard won Cyber Monday find.



**Reroute or Reschedule.** Both FedEx and UPS have the option to sign up for a package tracking service. If you notice you won't be home for the delivery you can reroute or reschedule it from your computer or smart phone. Be aware that they typically charge you for this service.

Let's work together to make this a bright and happy holiday season for our entire community. If you see something, say something! Call 911 to report any suspicious activity. Happy Holidays from your Fircrest Police Department.

## City Buildings Will Be Closed:

December 25th—Christmas Day

January 1st—New Year's Day

January 15th—Martin Luther King Day



## Coyotes

Residents should be aware that coyotes live in and around wooded areas in Fircrest. You should keep small pets inside as much as possible and all pets should be brought in at night when coyotes roam.

