

City of Fircrest

April 2018

Town Topics



CITY COUNCIL

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

City Manager's Corner

Hello Fircrest Residents,

For this edition of Town Topics, I want to provide some information regarding the Pool and Community Center project. As Mayor George has pointed out in his message, the City Council recently approved a contract with ARC Architects for schematic design for the Pool and Community Center project. The schematic design process will include presentations to the City Council as well as public meetings to present information to the public and receive feedback. The schematic design process should get us to a few specific layouts and design options from which to choose from. The City Council will ultimately make the final decision on a design option. As we continue to move forward with the Pool and Community Center project, we will continue to update information on the website here: www.cityoffircrest.net/community-center-pool-project/. Visit this page for information on what's happened to date.

Speaking of the website, the City continues to strive to improve the City website to make it a great information hub for things going on in the City. Please don't hesitate to provide feedback about your experience as you try to find information on the website. I wanted to bring a few specific items to your attention as to things going on within the City. While you may follow the links provided below, you can also go click on the "Up-To-Date Info" link at the top of the home page.

First, there are several Public Works projects in various stages of work and completion. You can find information about these projects at: www.cityoffircrest.net/category/public-works/.

Second, the City Council and Planning Commission held a joint meeting on Feb. 6th to discuss two main topics: a potential renewed vision of the City's commercial area and consideration of changing to a Hearing Examiner system for specific planning and building processes. City staff put together a webpage with information from that meeting here: www.cityoffircrest.net/jointmtg18/. A major discussion point was plans the City of University Place has regarding their commercial area across Mildred Street from Fircrest.

Third, NewCold Tacoma (that big cube building on the east side of Orchard Street) recently presented information to the Fircrest City Council. Information about NewCold can be found on the website here: www.cityoffircrest.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/NewCold-presentation.pdf.

Scott Pingel, City Manager
City of Fircrest



Mayor's Message

I love springtime in the Pacific Northwest. Our parks and yards feel fresh and ready for something new. (To be honest, it helps that I don't suffer any allergies...)

The City feels that way, too. Our new city manager and new City Council have been busy setting work plans and priorities. At the top of the list is the important work of ensuring that the 1960s-era Roy H. Murphy Community Center and pool are restored and updated in a way that keeps them viable for years to come.

In recent weeks, we hired contractors to assess and repair cracks in the main water pipe that serves the pool. It's a short-term fix that should enable us to keep the pool operating for another season or two while we work on long-term plans for the facility.

Regarding those long-term plans, I have good news to share:

First, the City hired ARC Architects to develop schematic designs. This firm specializes in recreation and community centers, and we are excited about utilizing their expertise. We also will appoint a citizen steering committee to help guide the project through 2019. If you are interested in serving on that committee, contact City Manager Scott Pingel. And if you feel you don't have the time to offer to that committee, that's OK. We will use a variety of means to keep you updated — including this newsletter — and seek your feedback.

There's more good news — the Washington Legislature awarded Fircrest a \$750,000 grant to help our small city rebuild the community pool. We have a lot of work to do with ARC and the community to develop the pool's design, but this grant will help alleviate some of the cost. We are grateful to the legislators who serve the 28th District — Sen. Steve O'Ban and Reps. Christine Kilduff and Dick Muri — for sponsoring our grant application and working to make sure it was included in the State's construction budget.

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

Hunter T. George
Mayor



Thanks to your donations, the flags, and hanging flower baskets will be going up in May. If you wish to help keep this tradition going, please consider a donation no matter how small (or large). We will list your name as a donor in a future edition of the Town Topics. You may also memorialize a loved one or celebrate a joyous event. Flyers are included with your utility bill or feel free to contact City Hall.

Like us on Facebook



Serving the community since 1925

Annexation

It's official! Our community has expanded. The City Council and staff wish to welcome out newest residents, the area historically known as "the chair." These thirteen parcels were officially annexed to the City of Fircrest on February 4th. The Planning staff had a wonderful opportunity to go door-to-door and personally greet our new residents. We loved meeting each of them and sincerely hope they feel a part of our family-friendly community.



Look What's Happening This Spring & Summer!

Mother Son Dance

Friday May 11, 7-9 pm

Moms, enjoy an evening of fun hanging out and dancing with your son and other families and friends. Pizza and refreshments provided. Pre-Registration Required. Cost is \$20 per couple, \$5 per additional child. Tickets available beginning Saturday, April 14th.

Fircrest Pool Opens

Saturday, May 26, 1:30 pm

Pool schedules with complete information about lessons and other activities will be available beginning May 7. Sign up for Swim Lessons on June 21, lessons begin June 25.

Go Hawaiian Pool Party

Saturday, June 2

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Fircrest Pool

Community Garage Sale

Saturday, June 9

9 am – 2 pm

Fircrest Park

Sellers pre-register at Community Center

Strawberry Feed & Band Concert

Sunday, June 24, 6 pm

Fircrest Park

Movie & Picnic in the Park

Friday, July 20

Picnic 6 pm

Movie 9:45 pm

Fircrest Park

Classic Car Show

Sunday, July 8

10 am – 3 pm

Fircrest Park

Fircrest Fun Days

Friday, August 10,

5 – 10 pm

Saturday, August 11,

10 am – 9 pm

Swim Lessons

Your child must be 32" at the shoulder to be enrolled in swimming lessons. Morning lessons are a half hour long between 9 am – 12 pm every weekday morning for two weeks.

Night lessons will be offered on Tuesday & Thursday nights for five weeks in half-hour sessions 5:30–6:00 pm or 6:00 – 6:30 pm.

Fircrest Residents: \$40
Non-Residents: \$50

Sign-ups will be held on Thursday evenings at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center four days before the session begins,

Sign-Up Hours: Fircrest Residents: 6:30-8:30 pm
Non-Residents: 7:30-8:30 pm

Sessions Start

June 25 – July 6*

July 9 – July 20

July 23 – August 3

August 6 – August 17

Night Swim Lessons

July 10 – August 9

Sign-Up

June 21

July 5

July 19

August 2

July 5



PROTECT YOUR CAR FROM THEFT

As warmer weather approaches, more people are out moving around and enjoying this time of year. Unfortunately, our law abiding citizens are not the only ones out moving about more; the criminal element is as well. This time of year we see a rise in vehicle prowls in Fircrest. In recent cases, the victim's vehicles were left unlocked. In almost all of the cases, valuables were not only left in the victim's vehicle but also in plain sight. We would like to remind residents to be more diligent about removing valuables and locking the doors when parking their cars. These simple steps will deter most would-be thieves. Do not hesitate to call 911 immediately if you see ANYTHING or ANYONE that seems out of place or suspicious. We cannot do our jobs effectively without the help and assistance of those we serve. Don't become a victim and as always, let's watch out for each other.

Chief John Cheesman

The Municipal Court is located at Fircrest City Hall, 115 Ramsdell, and processes passport applications during the following hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Applications are not processed on Wednesdays

Please be aware that as of April 2, 2018, the Passport Execution Fee set by the US Dept. of State will increase from \$25 to \$35. For questions, please contact us at: 253-564-8922.



For more information, please visit Parks & Recreation at:

www.cityoffircrest.net/government/parks-and-recreation

Planning Commission Position (Volunteer)

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? Have you ever wanted to be more involved in the development of Fircrest? Do you have an interest in the growth and feel of our neighborhoods?

The Fircrest City Council is looking to fill two positions on the Planning Commission – one serving an unexpired term through June 2021 and one serving an 6-year term beginning June 16 through June 15, 2024. The Commission is responsible for reviewing, recommending, and making decisions on land use and zoning issues for the City. Applicants must reside within the city limits and be a registered voter.

Interested residents should submit a letter of interest (resume optional) addressed to: Fircrest City Hall
c/o Mayor's Office
115 Ramsdell Street
Fircrest, WA 98466

Appointments are made by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Letters will be accepted until 5 pm Friday, May 15, 2018. Questions can be directed to Angelie Stahlnecker, Planning and Building Administrator, 253-238-4125.