

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

# Town Topics



## Mayor's Message



If you're old enough, like me, then you have learned to automatically adopt certain habits, such as always wearing a seatbelt in the car, silencing your cell phone in the movie theater, and separating your garbage from your recycling.

But that recycling habit is becoming a lot less virtuous.

There has been a lot of news coverage about the precipitous drop in the recycled materials markets, but in case you missed it here's the gist: for years, the stuff you put in those big blue bins was sold and shipped overseas, mainly to China. But last year China stopped taking plastics, mixed paper and other materials from the United States. The market for our empty orange juice bottles, newspapers and cat food containers (well, there's a glimpse of what's in my can) suddenly dried up.

It doesn't take an economics degree to understand what happens when there's no market for certain goods. Recycling programs in cities across the country are bleeding red ink. Some cities are limiting what items they'll accept.

Our friends at the City of Tacoma are asking their customers for feedback on some drastic options that range from eliminating curbside recycling to maintaining full services and raising rates \$4 a month.

At the moment, there are no changes to the recycling program in Fircrest. But that doesn't mean there isn't an impact.

While the City of Tacoma operates its own garbage and recycling service, the City of Fircrest has a multi-year contract for those services with University Place-based Westside Disposal.

Westside Disposal used to offset some of its operational costs by earning an average of \$26,421 a year in revenue from selling its recycled commodities. However, last year the company had to pay \$32,307 to the recycling plant.

Earlier this year, the company asked the Fircrest City Council for permission to add a 2.57% surcharge to monthly bills for one year in order to recoup those losses. That would have added 81 cents to the most popular service (64-gallon bin).

It doesn't sound like much, but Councilmembers wrestled with the principle of it because that's why we have a contract — to protect you against fluctuations in rates.

For now, the City Council decided to decline the company's request. Councilmembers also agreed to revisit the issue (possibly at our study session on April 15). This is a global problem that affects a company that has provided outstanding and efficient service to our residents for many years. Let me know what you think by emailing me at [hgeorge@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:hgeorge@cityoffircrest.net).

**Hunter T. George**  
*Mayor*

## A Message from Police Chief John Cheesman: Protect Your Car From Theft

As the weather gets warmer and the days get longer, more and 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 2018, we responded to 109 thefts in our city and many of them were from vehicles. In several recent cases the victim vehicles were left unlocked and valuables were not only left in the victim's vehicle but also were left in plain sight. Let's not make it easy for thieves. Following these simple guidelines will make it difficult and less inviting for would be thieves to come into our community.

- Never leave keys inside the vehicle
- Ensure that the windows are all the way up before locking your vehicle
- Lock your vehicle even if you are going to be away for a short time
- Be sure to activate your vehicle alarm whenever you exit/lock your vehicle
- Remember to remove portable GPS devices
- Lock your vehicle even if it is parked in your driveway, inside your garage or on the street in front of your residence
- Do not leave valuables inside your vehicle even if it is locked (i.e. purses, wallets, cell phones, computers, cameras, shopping bags, backpacks, etc.)
- If you have a removable faceplate on your stereo, always remove it and take it with you.
- If you see anyone acting suspiciously in the area of your vehicle or in your neighborhood, please report it immediately by calling 911.
- Do not keep a "Hide-a-Key" in the wheel well. Vehicle prowlers will often look for this. When they find one not only will they be able to steal your property inside your vehicle, but you have now made it easy for them to steal your vehicle.

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.

# Serving the community since 1925

## City Manager's Corner



Hello Fircrest Residents,

For this edition of Town Topics, I want to recognize and introduce you to those serving on our regular volunteer commissions and committees. As we recognize them, we want to thank them for their service to the community.

### Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is made up of 5 members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The Planning Commission has the following responsibilities:

- Acts as a research and fact-finding agency for the City as requested or required by the City Council.
- Participate in regional planning activities as necessary.
- Develop recommendations on planning and zoning updates to the comprehensive plan and municipal code.
- Hear all requests and make recommendations on zoning, variances, and proposed plats or subdivisions.

Current members of the Planning Commission include the following: Karen Patjens, Kathy McVay, Cameron McGinnis, Sarah Hamel, and Karissa Carpenter.

### Civil Service Commission

The Civil Service Commission is made up of 3 members appointed by the City Manager with approval of the City Council. The Civil Service Commission is created to exercise the powers and perform the duties established by state law in connection with the selection, appointment and employment of police in the City. Current Members of the Civil Service Commission include the following: Joe Harrison, Alex Koerger, and Dominique' Jinhong.

### Fircrest Fun Days Committee

Judy Schmidtke, our new Community Events Specialist, has been reaching out to the community for the planning of Fun Days 2019. 12 volunteers have stepped forward to dedicate their time to planning this year's event. The committee is made up of the following members: Lexi Barnett, Chris Anderson, Bonnie Viafore, Donna O'Connor, Elisabeth Albers, Jenny Stryker, Josh Ricker, Lonneta Cunningham, Lynne Dickson, Peter & Mary Stream, Sue Schoettler, Valerie Chontofalsky.

### National Night Out Committee

The National Night Out Committee plans and organizes the National Night Out event each year. National Night Out is the first week of August and it is an event Fircrest is usually recognized for. Last year, our National Night Out event was the #1 rated event in the country. The National Night Out Committee is made up of the following members: Matt Brown, Aimee Brown, Dana Cheesman, Derek Stansbury, Sandi Trask, and Dick Trask.

**Scott Pingel**  
*City Manager*

## Planning Commission Position



Looking for 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 one position on the Planning Commission. This is a 6-year term beginning June 16 through June 15, 2025. The Commission is responsible for reviewing and recommending changes to land use and zoning codes for the City. The position is voluntary. Applicants must reside within the city limits and be a registered voter.

Interested residents should submit a letter of interest and resume 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 5:00 pm Friday, May 10, 2019. Questions can be directed to Angelie Stahlnecker, Planning and Building Administrator, at 253-238-4125.

## Comprehensive Plan Amendments 2019

The City of Fircrest Planning Commission has approved the schedule for the 2019 comprehensive plan updates. Map and text amendment applications will be accepted from April 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019 at 5:00 pm. For more information, please contact the Planning and Building Department, 253-564-8902 or [planning@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:planning@cityoffircrest.net).

## 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.

<b>Fircrest Residents:</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Non-Residents:</b>	<b>\$50</b>

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

<b>Sign-Up Hours:</b>	<b>Fircrest Residents:</b>	<b>6:30-8:30 pm</b>
	<b>Non-Residents:</b>	<b>7:30-8:30 pm</b>

	<b>Sessions Start</b>	<b>Sign-Up</b>
	June 25 - July 6*	June 21
	July 9 - July 20	July 5
	July 23 - August 3	July 19
	August 6 - August 17	August 2
	<b>Night Swim Lessons</b>	
	July 10 - August 9	July 5

## Public Works Capital Projects Update

### High Tank Site Painting Project

This project is to coat the exterior of both tanks at the High Tank Site. This helps preserve the tanks and will also provide a new logo on the high tank. The project has been awarded to Long Painting Company. The painting will take place mid to late summer to make sure the weather cooperates with us. This project is being funded out of the REET funds.

### Water Main Replacement on 400 Block of Summit Avenue

Water mains that are undersized and old will be replaced along this block. This will be done by our public works crews and is scheduled to be done in the summer months. This is funded by the water capital fund.

### Farallone Avenue Storm drain improvements

A new storm line will be installed along the 1200 block of Farallone. This work is funded from the storm capital budget and will be done by our public works crew. This is scheduled to take place during the summer months.

### Connection of Sanitary Sewer Main on 100 Block of Farallone

This project is connecting existing backyard sewer mains that were previously done and rerouting the sewer line to replace an existing line that runs underneath a house. The project is under design and construction is scheduled to take place early summer. The project is funded by the sewer capital fund.

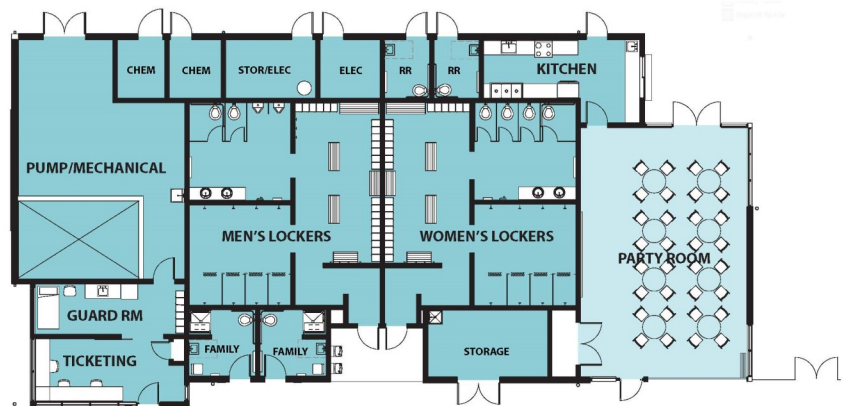
### Alameda Avenue Grind and Overlay Project

This project is resurfacing Alameda Ave. between Regents and Columbia. The City received a grant for this work from the Puget Sound Regional Council. The project is under design and should be constructed when school is out for the summer and completed before school starts again.

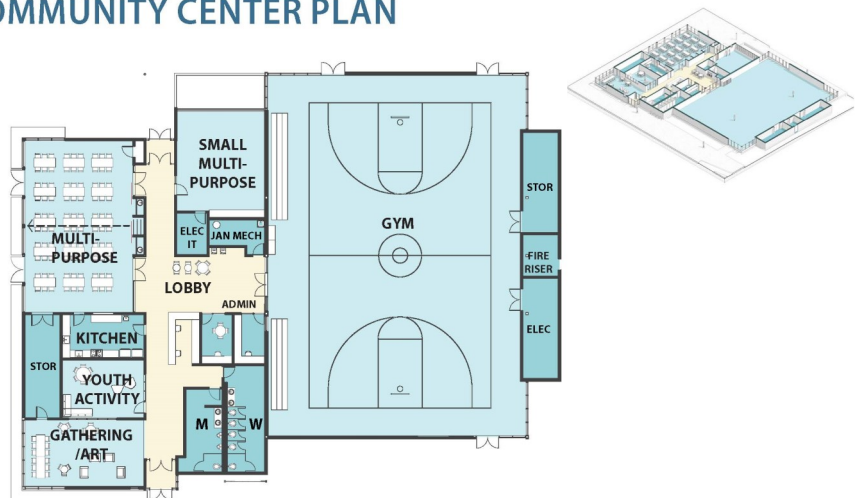
## Pool and Community Center Project



### BATH HOUSE PLAN



### COMMUNITY CENTER PLAN



Check out our **Up To Date Information** webpage [www.cityoffircrest.net/updates](http://www.cityoffircrest.net/updates) for the latest information, including current meeting agendas, minutes, resolutions, ordinances, and project updates.

# Serving the community since 1925

## Upcoming Events

### Spring Craft Fair

**May 4, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM**

Shop 30+ vendor boutiques showcasing purses, jewelry, candles, kid's art and decorative accessories for the home and garden.

### Mother & Son Dance

**May 10, 6:30-8:00 PM**

Moms, enjoy an evening aof 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 13

### 1st Annual Color Run 5K and Kids Dash Saturday, May 18 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am Fircrest Park

Whittier Elementary has partnered with the City of Fircrest for the 1st Annual Color Run 5K and Kids Dash.

The Color Run will take place on Saturday, May 18th. The 5K will begin at 9 am and the Kids Dash will begin at 10 am.

All proceeds benefit Whittier Elementary in Fircrest. Their goal is to raise enough money to provide field trips for all students.



### Classic Car Show

July 7<sup>th</sup>

### Fun Days – Movie in the Park

July 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

### National Night Out

August 6<sup>th</sup>

### Haunted Trails

October 24<sup>th</sup>

### Pumpkin Patch

October 31<sup>st</sup>

### Holiday Bazaar

November 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

### Tree Lighting Ceremony

December 1<sup>st</sup>

### Go Hawaiian Pool Party

**June 1, 5:30-8:30 PM**

Com celebrate the opening of our pool season with music, food, swimming and FUN!! Cost is \$2 per resident, \$5 resident family and \$3 non-residents.

### Community Garage Sale

**June 8, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM**

Come shop 'til you drop or sell your stuff! Join us for our annual Community Garage Sale which will take place rain or shine.

### Strawberry Feed & Bank Concert

**June 23, 5:30 PM**

Listen to great music at the Ron Russo Pavilion at Fircrest Park while enjoying strawberry shortcake. Shortcake will be served at 5:30 PM and the band will begin at 6 PM. Cost is \$2 per shortcake.



## Daddy Daughter Dance - March 15th

