

City of Fircrest Town Topics

June 2019

CITY COUNCIL

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

Mayor's Message



The voters of Fircrest spoke loud and clear on April 23 when they overwhelmingly approved the park bond to pay for a new pool and community center as well as other park improvements.

In case you haven't seen them, here are the final numbers from the special election:

YES: 1,716 79.15%

NO: 452 20.85%

The final vote tally was 2,168, which was far ahead of the minimum 1,418 needed in order for the results to be validated. And a final piece of trivia: 681 ballots were submitted via the Pierce County ballot drop box at Fircrest City Hall.

As they say on TV, "but wait, there's more!" We have promised to continue seeking grants and donations to fund this project, and I'm excited to let you know about a big achievement. The three-member delegation that represents us in the Legislature - Rep. Mari Leavitt, Rep. Christine Kilduff, and Sen. Steve O'Ban of the 28th Legislative District - helped us get a \$1 million grant from the state. That's the Legislature's second grant for this project, and it brings the state's total contribution to \$1.75 million. We are very grateful for the strong support from our legislators, and I hope you will take a moment to share your appreciation when you see them in the community.

On behalf of the City of Fircrest, I want to thank a number of people who contributed their time and talent to get us to this point.

First, I thank the residents who volunteered to serve on the project steering committee. This group of 15 people met throughout 2018 and into mid 2019 to do a deep dive into every aspect of the pool and community center, including building design, layout, landscaping, furnishings, and the business plan. They represented a cross-section of the community, including families, seniors, the Fircrest Soccer Club, the Kiwanis Club, and more.

Second, I thank our staff and City Council members. City Manager Scott Pingel and Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Grover served as the points of contact with ARC Architects and the steering committee. Councilmember Brett Wittner served as chairman of the steering committee, and Councilmembers Blake Surina and Shannon Reynolds helped represent the Council during those in-depth discussions.

This project began five years ago when we updated the City of Fircrest's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Since then, a lot of people have put a lot of work into developing and designing a new pool and community center that will serve future generations. Thanks to overwhelming support from voters, we are putting that plan into action.

Hunter T. George
Mayor



Building Project Tips-The What, Where, How and Who

What can I build? The City's development (zoning) code lists what is allowed in each neighborhood. Some things like houses are allowed outright; others, like "granny flats" or short-term rentals need special approval.



Where can I build? Different structures have different rules on where they can be built on the property. Generally speaking, other than fences, structures have a specific setback - i.e. how close it can be to the property line. Speaking of property lines, knowing where they are is very important. And while a survey gives the exact location, we can provide a map with estimated property lines.

How can I build? There are specific construction rules, design standards, and structure regulations that regulate anything from fences to sheds to pergolas.

Who knows all this stuff?! Your local planning and building department! They will help you understand what you can build, where you can build it, and how you get there. A conversation early in the process gives peace of mind and saves unnecessary headaches.

253-564-8902

planning@cityoffircrest.net

OTHER RESOURCES:

View your property via Pierce County's PublicGIS:
<https://matterhornwab.co.pierce.wa.us/publicgis/>

Verify your contractor via L&I's Protect My Home
www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Contractors/ContractorFraud/ProtectHome.asp

Fircrest's Development Codes
www.codepublishing.com/WA/Fircrest/

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City Manager's Corner



Hello Fircrest Residents,

For this edition of Town Topics, I want to share a couple of examples of great work on the part of your community and local government.

As we look to the future with the pool and community center project, we have worked hard to get the current pool ready for the 2019 pool season. Each year over the last few years, this task has become a little more difficult as the pool continues to deteriorate.

During last year's pool season, the pool sustained a major tear in the liner on the side of the stairs, as well as a tear at the bottom of the deep end. As the pool liner dried out in the off-season, it became brittle, and the tear turned into a rip all the way across the stairs. Options for repairing such a large rip were limited, especially since this will be the last summer for this pool. In looking for ways to repair the rip, Andy Piercy, our Parks Supervisor and Pool Operator, along with Jeff Grover, our Parks and Recreation Director, had the insight to contact a roofer rather than looking to traditional pool maintenance options. Acme Roofing, located in Fircrest, came out and sealed patches on the liner using a method for sealing roofs.

Hats off to Andy and Jeff for innovative problem solving, and hats off to Acme Roofing for coming through with applying a roofing method to a pool liner. While we were not able to

open the pool over Memorial Day weekend as we usually do, thanks to savvy staff and a great community partner, we were able to get the pool opened for the 2019 season.

Another example I would like to highlight concerns the City's Municipal Court and our Planning and Building Department. The City of Fircrest offers passport services, and this used to be provided out of the Municipal Court. At the beginning of 2019, the City of Fircrest began providing Municipal Court services for the City of Ruston. Providing court services for another city is a fairly major undertaking, so we decided to move passports services out of the Court.

As so many agencies are no longer providing passport services, the City of Fircrest wanted to keep providing the service. Moving this service to another department would require new staff to be trained and approved through the U.S. Department of State, and the additional time it takes to provide the service as patrons come through. Our two Planning and Building staff (Angelie Stahlnecker, Planning and Building Administrator, and Jayne Westman, Permit Tech) stepped up to take on passports through the Planning and Building Department, with Lindsay Davis, one of our Accountants, being trained to back them up. While the passport service can be busy at times, these staff have done a great job working it into their day-to-day work.

Scott Pingel
City Manager

Spring Reminders

Spring brings showers, flowers, and, unfortunately, nuisance complaints. Good communities balance individual personalities and preferences with their impact on adjacent neighbors. In the spirit of neighborhood bliss, we offer these friendly reminders as the weather warms:



- Please weed, feed, and cut your grass. Overgrown yards can be considered a nuisance under the City's code. Dandelion puffs pay no mind to property lines.
- In a related issue, take a stroll down your sidewalk. Have your bushes taken such a growth spurt that pedestrians are forced into the street? If you find that to be the case, give them a whack and cut them back.
- While bird feeders are not prohibited in the City, a plethora of feed can attract rodents and wildlife at such a level to negatively impact neighbors. Alternatively, consider planting flowers and plants that naturally attract birds and butterflies. Natural feed prevents squirrel greed.
- We love our pets, but no one loves what our pets leave behind. Whether it is in the parks, along the street, or on private property. Cleaning up after our pets is part of the gig and imperative to the health of a community. So, thank you for collecting your doggie - doo.

Civil Service Commission Vacancy

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? The Fircrest City Manager is looking to fill one position on the Civil Service Commission. The initial appointment for this position will be completing the term of a resigning member whose term ends April 1, 2020. Civil Service Commissioners serve 6-year terms.

The Civil Service Commission is created to oversee the selection, appointment and employment processes of police in 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 City Manager's Office
115 Ramsdell Street
Fircrest, WA 98466

Appointments are made by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council. Letters will be accepted until 5:00 pm Friday, July 12, 2019. Questions can be directed to Scott Pingel, City Manager, at 253-238-4121 or email spingel@cityoffircrest.net.

2020 Budget



We are only halfway through 2019 and yet the City is ready to begin the 2020 budget process. Staff will begin compiling data and crunching numbers this month. If you would like to see something added, please contact the City Manager for possible inclusion in the 2020 budget. The preliminary budget will be presented

to the City Council at the September 24th meeting. That will be followed by budget study sessions scheduled for Monday, September 30th as well as each Monday in October, all beginning at 6:00 pm. Public hearings are to be held Tuesday, October 8th and Tuesday, October 22nd beginning at 7:00 pm. All meetings will be held at City Hall.

National Night Out

On August 6, 2019 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, the Fircrest Police Department and the City of Fircrest will be joining over 16,000 other communities from all 50 states, US territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide in promoting "National Night Out Against Crime."



National Night Out is an opportunity to build neighborhood unity and strengthen the police community partnership that is so important to the success of our community policing efforts. Last year, our event included law enforcement agencies, fire departments, other emergency responders, civic groups, military, business groups, neighborhood organizations and public officials.

We are delighted that for last year's National Night Out event, Fircrest was recognized as the best NNO event in the United States for cities 15,000 in population and under.



Be sure to mark your calendars and come join us at the Fircrest Community Center for a night of fun, enlightenment, and relaxation.

Summer Drop-In Program

June 24 -August 15 Monday -Thursday
10:00 am -2:00 pm
Ages 8 -13 years old

FREE!

Let our trained recreation staff help your children learn a wide variety of skills including outdoor games, arts & crafts, board games and game room challenges to enhance their summer fun.

Summer Swim Lessons

Swim Lessons Start

June 24 – July 5
July 8 – July 19
July 22 – August 2
August 5 – August 16

Night Swim Lessons

July 9 – August 8

Sign-Up

June 20
July 3 (Wed)
July 18
August 1

Sign-Up

July 3 (Wed)



Fircrest Fun Days

Come Celebrate the Dog Days of Summer!
July 19th and 20th.

Bring your furry friends to the 2019 Fircrest Fun Days



The **First Annual Furry 4K Pet Walk** begins at the Pavilion at 9:00 am. Registration is required. The first 225 pets get cool swag bandanas sponsored by Fort Fido and drawstring backpacks sponsored by Mud Bay.

The **Kiwanis FURcrest Top Pet Contest** happens at 10:00 am right after the Furry 4K Pet Walk. Prizes donated by Chompers.



And we're excited to announce the **FIRST Annual FirCRUST Pie Baking Contest** and **Watermelon Eating Contest**.

We'll have prizes, t-shirts and clean old-fashioned fun! Registration required.

Sign up today for ALL contests online at:
jotform.com/oOBSCO/FFCONTESTS
OR call the Community Center at **253.564.8177**.

Mother & Son Dance

May 10th, 2019



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

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Upcoming Events

Strawberry Feed

June 23rd, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Listen to the great music of America's First Corps Band while enjoying the perfect summer time treat...strawberry shortcake. Shortcakes will be served at 5:30 pm and the music begins at 6:00 pm at Ron Russo Pavilion at Fircrest Park. Cost: \$2 for shortcakes

32nd Annual Fircrest Picnic and Rod Run

July 7th, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

A time - honored tradition is back again to showcase over 300 cars at Fircrest Park. The Fircrest Kiwanis will be on site serving a great breakfast and lunch.

Fircrest Fun Days

July 19th, 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm

July 20th, 9:00 am - 10:30 pm

Come celebrate the Dog Days of Summer! Friday evening will feature a 'Twilight Pedal around the Park', field games and Movie in the Park: A Dog's Way Home. Saturday activities kick-off at 9:00 am with **the First Annual Furry 4K**, followed by festivities throughout the day. There's something for almost everyone, including: live entertainment, artisans, crafters, food trucks, beer garden, karaoke, Kiwanis FURcrest Top Pet Contest, yoga in the Park, pony rides, train around the park, bouncy houses, pet adoption event, games, demonstrations and more. The day will conclude with spectacular fireworks over the park!

Concert, Picnic & Market in the Park:

August 1st and August 29th, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Enjoy an evening in the park with live music, local farmer's market and food trucks. August 1st will feature the Groovin Higher Orchestra – a music tribute to the 60's-70's.

Movie & Picnic in the Park

August 10th, 6:00 pm (movie begins at dusk)

The Aloha Pool Party will have a new look this year. We are taking advantage of the late pool opening to create an even bigger event. Save the date for Saturday, August 10th! We are combining the Aloha event with the Pool Party / Movie in the Park to create a big Summer Family SPLASH! We have a fun evening planned with a pool party, movie in the Park (Mary Poppins Returns!) and BBQ by the Fircrest Kiwanis.

