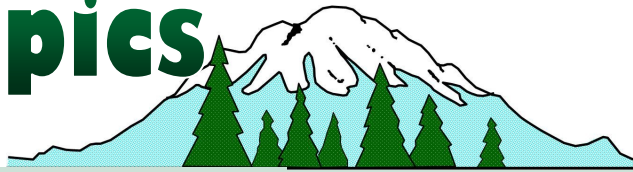


# City of Fircrest

# Town Topics

August 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



As summer winds down, the City of Fircrest's management team and City Council are gearing up for our most important duty—deciding what gets funded in next year's budget.

It's meticulous (some might even say tedious) work, but it sets the stage for what we can and cannot do each year. In some ways, it resembles the way you think about your household or business finances. You don't buy a new car or put an addition on your house every year because that costs more than you're bringing in. But you can do those things when you predict those expenses in advance and therefore plan and save for them.

Most of our spending (approximately \$5.5 million in 2019) is through the General Fund, which is our main operating account. It covers the costs of our Police, Parks and Recreation, Finance, Administration, Information Technology and some of our building and facility expenses.

We have separate accounts for other basic services: street maintenance and repairs, the storm water system, the water

system, and the sewer system. All of these are critical services that support our community, and we must maintain regular maintenance. We've seen what happens when other cities across the nation defer regular maintenance, and we never want to put ourselves into that kind of situation.

Over the past couple of months, the City's department heads have been meeting with City Manager Scott Pingel to discuss their recommendations for spending in 2020. Scott will take all of that into consideration and then present the City Council with a proposed 2020 budget in September.

The Council will schedule several special meetings in October to review every department's budget in detail. Those meetings will be announced and open to the public. The Council will vote to adopt a final budget in November or December.

We'd love your feedback as we discuss our collective priorities for the City of Fircrest.

**Hunter George**  
*Mayor, City of Fircrest*

## City Manager's Corner



Hello Fircrest Residents,

For this edition of Town Topics, we say goodbye to a great public servant and welcome another. I also want to touch briefly on paperless utility billing.

First, we want to thank Karen Patjens for her 20 years of service on the Fircrest Planning Commission. Karen recently completed her final term on the Planning Commission and will be moving on from this service. Karen has been an invaluable member of the Planning Commission. As Planning Commission Chair for several years, she provided excellent leadership guiding the Commission in its duties of reviewing land use projects and establishing long-range planning goals that nurture and protect the City's character and charm.

In saying goodbye to Ms. Patjens, we also want to welcome Shirley Schultz, who was recently appointed to the Fircrest Planning Commission. Shirley comes to the Commission with a planning and land use background. She is currently a Principal Planner for the City of Tacoma where she provides leadership and mentoring to Tacoma's planning staff. She is excited to fill this role on the Planning Commission and have the opportunity to work on planning and land use issues from a Fircrest resident's perspective, which she sees as being quite different from her professional background.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to remind the community (or let you know) that you have the option of receiving your utility bill electronically. Currently, a little over 500 Fircrest utility customers have chosen this option (out of about 2,700). As more things become paperless, we want to make sure you are aware that you have this option with Fircrest utilities as well. If you choose this option for your utility bill, Town Topics will also come electronically. In order to change to the paperless option, you can go to [xpressbillpay.com](http://xpressbillpay.com) to sign up. You will need your account number.

**Scott Pingel**  
*City Manager*

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

## Public Works Capital Projects



1990

### High Tank Site Painting Project

The exterior of both tanks at the High Tank Site were scheduled to be newly coated which helps preserve them. The painting project, which has been completed on budget and ahead of schedule, included a mural of the Fircrest logo on the high tank for all to see. This project was funded from the Real Estate Excise Tax funds.



2019

### Alameda Avenue Grind and Overlay Project

The City of Fircrest received a grant from the Puget Sound Regional Council to resurface Alameda between Regents and Columbia. The project should be complete by the time you read this. The primary goal was to finish the work prior to the start of school.

### Farallone Avenue Storm Drain Improvements

A new storm line is scheduled to be installed along the 1200 block of Farallone in September. The work is funded from the storm capital budget and will be done by our Public Works crew.

### Water Main Replacement

Water mains that are old and undersized will be replaced along the 400 block of Summit Avenue. This work will be done by our Public Works crew mid to late August. Funding for this project will come from the water capital fund.

### Connecting Sanitary Sewer Main (100 block of Farallone)

This project is connecting existing backyard sewer mains previously done and rerouting the sewer line to replace an existing line that runs underneath a house. The project is ready for construction, which is scheduled for late August. The project is funded by the sewer capital fund.

## When Do I Call 9-1-1?

Fircrest Police Department is staffed with officers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Calling 9-1-1 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 **9-1-1** 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 ask 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 at the Police Department. Please call if you see or hear anything that seems suspicious or odd to you.**

### 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 question or direct you to someone that can. The office staff is also available to assist you with vacation checks, Telephone Reassurance program, and other community related resources. The office is open Monday – Friday 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. **After office hours, the calls to our office number are transferred to South Sound 9-1-1. By working together and looking out for ourselves and our neighbors we can make this a better and safer place for all of us.**

*Chief John Cheesman*

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## Parks and Recreation Update

### Whittier Park New Sprinkler Installation

Earlier this summer, the City hired a contractor to install a new sprinkler system at Whittier Park. The old system, which was installed in the 1970's, was constantly needing repairs and did not provide adequate coverage. This left dry patches in several places throughout the park which then turned to mud in the fall. The Whittier Sprinkler project is complete, and we are now growing healthy grass for everyone in the community to enjoy.



### New Pool Construction to Begin!

We hope you have had a chance to enjoy the final season at the Fircrest Pool. The Pool and Community Center project has been in the works for over 5 years, and thanks to the efforts of the City Council, staff, Steering Committee, and most of all the residents, it will begin very soon. The last operational day for the Fircrest Pool is August 18th. The contractor will begin staging and preparing the site the following week to accomplish as much as possible before the winter weather hits.

Thank you for all of your support and understanding during these exciting construction projects! See you at the pool in 2020!

### Concert, Picnic & Market in the Park August 29th, 5:30 pm-8:30 pm

Enjoy an evening in the park with live music, local farmers market and food trucks.

### Fircrest Summer Camps

**Monday –Thursday, 10:00 am–2:00 pm**

Camps will continue through Thursday, August 15th.

### Fircrest Swimming Pool

**Refer to schedule on website**

Pool will be closing on Sunday, August 18th.

### Fircrest Fall Clean Up

Fircrest Fall Clean Up, sponsored by Westside Disposal, will be held Saturday, October 5th and the following Saturday, October 12th. Items can be dropped off at Westside, located at 2815 Rochester West in University Place, between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

This is an opportunity to dispose and/or recycle some unwanted items and yard waste **free**. Each Fircrest resident is allowed one load per day.

### Planning a Special Event?

Whether it is a block party or a business anniversary celebration, a special event permit may be required.

*Why?* Anytime streets are going to be used, obstructed or closed, it is important that Police and Fire are aware so response vehicles can be redirected in the event of an emergency. Also, there may be zoning or liability issues.

If you are planning an event this summer, please submit your permit application to the City Clerk 30 days in advance. A \$25 fee is required for a special event but block parties are free.

### Yard Sales

Spring cleaning leads to yard sales. If you find that you have items that need to go but might be useful to others then a yard sale is the answer.

If you are planning to hold a yard sale, here are a few things to remember:

- Up to four sales are allowed per year.
- One freestanding sign is allowed on the property not to exceed 6 square feet or 4 feet in height.
- Directional signs up to four square feet in area are allowed in the planting strip or along the curb.
- Signs are not allowed in traffic islands, on the sidewalk or any other location that will block pedestrian or vehicle traffic.
- Signs may not be attached to utility poles, street signs or trees.



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Strawberry Feed



Fircrest Fun Days



Fircrest Car Show

