

# City of Fircrest Town Topics

December 2020

## CITY COUNCIL

Hunter T. George, Mayor  
Brett Wittner, Mayor Pro Tempore  
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Jamie Nixon



## Mayor's Message



As we reach the halfway point of replacing our pool and community center complex, I have some wonderful news to share about exciting new opportunities for you to be a part of the incredible legacy of this project.

The Edwards Family Aquatic Center is complete and will be ready for its grand opening next spring. The community center, including the Scott and Sis Names Gymnasium, is under construction and will be ready for its grand opening in late 2021 – a year ahead of schedule. To see what's coming, check out new artist renderings posted at [www.CityOfFircrest.net](http://www.CityOfFircrest.net). I can't wait!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Fircrest families and businesses, we have met our fundraising goal for construction costs. And yet, many of you have told us you still want to support Fircrest parks and recreation with meaningful gifts. So here are two new ways you can support our great little city and do so in a way that lasts *forever*. (Remember that word.)

### Introducing the Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation

At a community meeting earlier this year, two families approached us separately and shared the same idea – to create a nonprofit foundation and endowment to support Fircrest parks and recreation. City leaders were inspired by their enthusiasm and drive, so we facilitated introductions between the two families and pledged to help.

After months of research and strategizing, a group of residents filed papers this fall to establish the Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation. The Foundation will operate as an independent, grassroots 501(c)3 nonprofit. Here's a quick introduction of the founding board members:

- Rick Little (chair), a retired Weyerhaeuser executive and business owner.
- Blake Surina (vice-chair), the owner of Exercise Science Center, former Fircrest City Councilmember, and our City's unofficial historian.
- Andrew Imholt (treasurer), an executive at Pilkey, Hopping, and Eckberg Insurance.
- Joanne Williams (secretary), the owner of Flow Fitness and Physical Therapy and president of the Fircrest Soccer Club.
- Patti Betzendorfer, a human resources consultant with a long record of experience at Fortune 500 companies.
- Richard Brady, a Washington State assistant attorney general and general counsel for Tacoma Community College.

These dedicated residents agreed on this mission statement to guide the Foundation's work: *"To preserve and enhance the quality of Fircrest parks and recreation facilities and programming with a focus on community, livability, and equity."*

They created an endowment fund that will be managed by Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, which is a trusted financial partner to many nonprofit organizations in the area. The endowment was set up to last forever. Hence, the Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation can be found online at [www.FircrestForever.com](http://www.FircrestForever.com). In 2022, the Foundation will be ready to begin issuing annual grants to support programs and facilities that provide a strong and healthy community with access for all.

As the endowment gets started, the City of Fircrest has agreed to partner with this new Foundation in the following way: **Anyone who pledges \$1,000 or more to the Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation by January 15<sup>th</sup> will have their names included on two donor recognition pieces that will be placed at both the pool and the community center. This pledge can be fulfilled on a multi-year payment plan.**

The City contracted with Rotator Creative to design these beautiful ways to honor our major donors, which are pictured here.



# Serving the Community Since 1925

## Mayor's Message con't

This is a great way to support Fircrest parks and recreation forever! I hope you will take the time to check out the Foundation's website, learn more about its vision, and consider a financial gift in an amount that is meaningful to you. It's easy to contribute directly from the Foundation's website. Remember, the deadline to be included in the donor recognition at the pool and community center is January 15th.

### You Can Also Buy A Brick!

Many of you – and I do mean *many* of you – have been asking if there will be an opportunity to buy a brick or something that can be incorporated into the recreation complex. And now I can say the answer is yes!

The City is partnering with a company called BricksRUs that provides engraved bricks for projects. These gray 8 inch-by-8 inch bricks will cost \$100 each, and you can have up to 6 lines with 18 characters per line to recognize your family, or perhaps parents or grandparents or other loved ones.

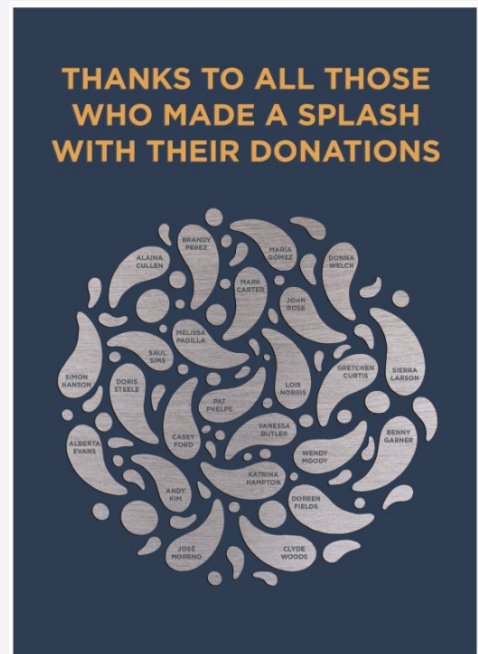
These bricks will be placed in the plaza on the northeast corner of the community center, which is sure to become a popular gathering spot overlooking Fircrest Park. You can see what the bricks look like and place an order by going to [www.CityofFircrest.net](http://www.CityofFircrest.net).

Of course, this effort to build a new pool and community center would not be possible without the support of voters who approved the park bond, the state legislators who delivered \$1.75 million in grants, and the current and former members of the Fircrest City Council who squirreled away \$1 million in savings over the years.

Every gift is meaningful, no matter how much. For Kathleen and I, making a donation above the \$1,000 level was important because we want our children and their children (someday, a really long time from now) to see our family's name on the recognition wall and know we built this for them. I hope that Fircrest residents two generations from now see this example we've set and pay it forward.

Have a great holiday. And please keep wearing masks and following public health protocols so we can get past this pandemic and resume events and activities we all love so dearly.

Hunter T. George, Mayor  
[hgeorge@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:hgeorge@cityoffircrest.net)



## Planning Commission Housing Discussion

At the January 5th Planning Commission meeting, we will be looking at some of the causes and possible responses to the current housing crisis. While our population in Pierce County has increased by approximately 41,500 households in the last 10 years, we have only increased the housing units by 27,700. This underproduction has caused housing prices, rent prices, and homelessness to escalate across the region. This is part of a Department of Commerce grant the City received in 2019.

Among the possible responses, the City will be specifically looking at allowing two-unit dwellings on corner lots. With high design standards, this unique housing option provides the potential of additional housing without changing the look or feel of a neighborhood. Intrigued? Want to learn more? Want to share your concerns?

Please join us at 6pm via zoom. Visit [www.cityoffircrest.net](http://www.cityoffircrest.net) for more information and the meeting link.

### Holiday Closures

December 24th  
December 25th

Closed at noon  
Closed



December 30th  
January 1st

Closed at noon  
Closed

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

## City Manager's Corner



Hello Fircrest Residents,

Please enjoy the latest renderings of the new Community Center below. They can also be found on the City's website at [www.cityoffircrest.net](http://www.cityoffircrest.net). The architect for the project, ARC Architects, has also put together a video rendering of the new Community Center. It can be found by following this link: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZUt78Nxj-5yETybz\\_q19KQ?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZUt78Nxj-5yETybz_q19KQ?view_as=subscriber).

As you will have noticed, construction for the new Community Center has begun. The old Community Center was demolished in early November. Site work for the foundation and foundation work should be completed by February 2021, at which point you will start to see framing begin. Much of the exterior building work will be completed by June 2021. Between June and November the interior will get done along with exterior concrete and asphalt work. We anticipate getting to substantial completion by mid-November 2021, and we are hopeful we can hold a grand opening by year end 2021.

Switching gears a bit, I also want to provide a word or two about leaving rubbish, garbage and/or old furniture around your property. Doing so invites pests. I have received a number of complaints lately about the presence of pests in areas where garbage, rubbish or furniture has been left out for an extended period of time. Please be neighborly and avoid doing this. It affects your whole area where you live, not just your property.

Scott Pingel  
City Manager



**City Hall** 253-564-8901 | **Municipal Court** 253-564-8922 | **Public Works** 253-564-8900 | **Community Center & Pool** 253-564-8177  
**Non-Emergency Police** 253-565-1198 | **Westside Disposal** 253-564-3212 | **Animal Care & Control** 253-627-PETS  
**Humane Society** 253-383-2733 | **Puget Sound Energy** 888-225-5773 | **Tacoma Power** 253-502-8600

# Serving the Community Since 1925

## Safety Tips From Your Police Department



The holiday season is upon us. This is the time of year people are shopping for gifts and ordering gifts online. Unfortunately, this is also the time of year thieves are looking to take advantage of unsuspecting shoppers.

Here are a couple of tips to help lower the chances of becoming a victim of theft this year.

When ordering gifts online try to use a smart package locker if possible. Amazon has secure locker delivery sites that allow you to have a package delivered there and secured until you can pick it up. These smart lockers are located in various locations including most Safeway Stores.

If possible, have your package delivered to your work where somebody will be there during delivery times to accept the package. If your work allows it, having the package delivered to a business is safer than having it left at the door of an unattended residence.

Install security cameras around the doorway of your residence. This will not prevent packages from being stolen but with the high quality of cameras on the market today, using your camera footage, we are much more likely to develop information on the thieves.

When ordering from online sources like Amazon there is usually a notes section on the order form for special instructions. If you have no other option than having packages delivered to your residence, use this box to ask the drivers to place packages in more out of sight locations such as behind planters or trash cans. This will help to keep packages hidden from view of the street.

Work with your neighbors. Talk with your neighbors and let them know if they see a package sitting on your doorstep that you would like them to pick it up and hold it for you. By working together with your neighbors, we can hopefully cut down on the amount of loss everybody may incur.

Lock your vehicles and remove all items from inside. We have found lately that most of the vehicle prowls we respond to come from vehicles that were left unlocked with items in plain view. Thieves are walking the neighborhoods checking car doors and making entry this way rather than breaking windows.

Don't leave anything in your vehicle that could interest anybody looking through your windows. You may leave an old gym bag that contains clothing and nothing of real value but to a thief that bag is enticing and they think there just might be valuable items left inside. They may enter the unlocked door or break a window to get the bag just to find out there is nothing inside they could use. Minimize the chance of becoming a victim by removing all items from your vehicle and locking it at all times.

Remember, if you see something that just doesn't look right, don't hesitate to call 911. We would rather respond to a call and find out nothing was wrong than to be told later about a crime we could have responded to sooner.

**Happy Holidays from your Fircrest Police Department**

## Who Do You Call ?

Do you have a question, but are not sure which department to call? From street sweepers to pool hours, fence permits to alarm permits, there is a City staff person who would be happy to speak with you. To help point you in the right direction, we have listed each department, with some of their most frequently asked about topics.

### **City Hall: 253-564-8901**

City Manager, City Council dates, Finance, agenda items, public disclosures

### **Municipal Court: 253-564-8922**

Tickets, court dates, impounds

### **Public Works: 253-564-8900**

Water, sewer, streets, utility billing, sidewalks

### **Planning and Building: 253-564-8902**

Remodels, additions, repair, fences, nuisances, trees, land use. Passports

### **Police Department Emergency: 911**

Active crime, suspicious activity, any other emergency

### **To report a crime NOT in progress: 253 798-4722**

### **Police Department Non-Emergency: 253-565-1198**

Alarm permits, parking concerns, follow-up

### **Parks and Recreation: 253-564-8177**

Hours, activities, sign-up, park concerns

### **Don't see your issue?**

Call **City Hall** at **253-564-8901** and we will be happy to direct you to the right person.

### **Other Agencies:**

**Westside Disposal**

**253-564-3212**

**Animal Care & Control**

**253-627-PETS**

**Humane Society**

**253-383-2733**

**Puget Sound Energy**

**888-225-5773**

**Tacoma Power**

**253-502-8600**

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