

City of Fircrest Town Topics

June 2021

CITY COUNCIL

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Mayor's Message



As I write this in mid-May, we are preparing to open the new Edwards Family Aquatic Center after more than 5 years of hard work by lots of people, and I am so excited!

The effort to replace the 1960s-era pool and community center began with conceptual designs in 2016, followed by community surveys in 2017 and 2018. A dozen Fircrest residents answered the call to join the City's project steering committee, which strongly influenced the design. In April 2019, we took the funding request to Fircrest voters, and a whopping 79% approved the park bond to pay for the bulk of the project.

Our legislative delegation in Olympia – primarily state Rep. Mari Leavitt, former state Sen. Steve O'Ban, and former Rep. Christine Kilduff – secured large state grants in 2018 and 2019 that demonstrated project viability to donors.

The William and Joyce Edwards Foundation and the Names Family Foundation (along with individuals and other foundations

associated with the Names family) combined to contribute over \$6 million in philanthropic gifts. A group of Fircrest families guaranteed ongoing support by creating an endowment fund to be managed by the new Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation

(www.FircrestForever.com). And hundreds of you showed support by purchasing personalized bricks that will be featured on the plaza outside the new center. All of this fundraising work was expertly guided by the City's fundraising consultant, Linda Kaye Briggs of The Briggs Group.

I am very excited for Fircrest Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Grover and his team. They are planning new and expanded activities in our larger, modern pool while complying with any COVID-19 regulations. I am particularly excited about the availability of lap swim sessions in the mornings. (If I write it here that I will be out there swimming laps at 6:30 am then I will have no choice but to haul myself out of bed and do it.)

Besides open swim sessions, other activities will include swim lessons, our swim team (Fircrest Amateur Swim Team), family swim

sessions for kids and parents/guardians, and pool events on the first Fridays and third Saturdays of the month. Keep checking www.CityOfFircrest.net for details. This is our first summer season with the new pool, so we will apply lessons learned this year to the 2022 season.

I want to thank ARC Architects and the general contractor, Kassel & Associates, for designing and building a pool that offers more opportunities for programming and fun. I also thank current and former members of the Fircrest City Council for their leadership and oversight, and I thank the City's hardworking staff for executing the project flawlessly.

And finally, I thank you, Fircrest residents, for having the faith that all these people would do their best to deliver a wonderful pool facility for the community.

Have a great summer and stay tuned for information about the new community center that should be ready to open at the end of the year!

Hunter T. George
Mayor
hgeorge@cityoffircrest.net

2022 Budget

We are only halfway through 2021 and yet the City is ready to begin the 2022 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 2022 budget.

The preliminary budget will be

presented to the City Council at the September 28th meeting. That will be followed by budget study sessions each Monday in October, all beginning at 6:00 pm. Public hearings are to be held Tuesday, October 12th and Tuesday, October 26th beginning at 7:00 pm. All meetings will be held at City Hall or via zoom

Note To Residents

NewCold Storage (the big, white cube off of Orchard Street) has requested a Comprehensive Plan amendment with the City of Tacoma. All but 3 acres of the existing 24-acre site is currently designated Heavy Industrial and zoned M-2. The proposal, with a subsequent rezone, would expand that designation and zoning to the entire parcel. According to the amendment summary, this "would keep the designation and zoning of the entire parcel consistent and allow future expansion of the existing facility." If you would like more information visit Tacoma's website: <http://www.cityoftacoma.org/2022Amendment>. City staff will be following the changes as an expansion could potentially impact Orchard Street traffic.

Summer Water Conservation Tips



In our effort to promote, educate and inform residents of the importance of using water efficiently, the City of Fircrest hopes you will join us in our quest to conserve water for future generations and the environment by following these conservation tips:

- ◇ Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time, and money
- ◇ Check the root zone of your lawn or garden for moisture before watering using a spade or trowel. If it's still moist 2 inches under the soil surface, you still have enough water. (You can also check this by sticking your finger into the ground).
- ◇ Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop. A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons a minute.
- ◇ Use sprinklers that deliver big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller water drops and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground
- ◇ Water only when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.
- ◇ Thatch and aerate your lawn at least once a year so water can reach the roots rather than run off the surface.

Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest Police - Scam Awareness



The Fircrest Police Department would like to remind its citizens to be cautious of various phone and online scams that occur daily throughout our nation. These scams are often internationally based, however, might show a local area code by using caller identification spoofing applications. These scam artists often prey on unsuspecting citizens and are persistent with their questions and threats.

Recently, the Fircrest Police Department has received reports from concerned citizens of scams in which the caller claimed to be a representative from their financial institution and deceitfully provided instructions to the unsuspecting victims to allow the suspects access to their computer remotely. In addition, some of these calls have included requests by the suspects for victims to purchase gift cards to pay "debts" that do not exist.

Please be mindful of such scams and please do not disclose financial information, social security numbers, addresses, or other personal identifying information unless the caller can be

verified through other means. If the caller is asking you to purchase gift cards for payments of liens, debts, taxes, etc., the call is a scam.

If you are concerned you are a victim of a scam or concerned for a family member or friend, there are various resources available to assist in prevention and federal investigations. Send complaints of scams and/or learn further about various other scams currently being tracked by the Federal Trade Commission and Federal Bureau of Investigation at their links provided below.

Federal Trade Commission:

<https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/>

Federal Bureau of Investigation:

www.IC3.gov.

Once again as a reminder, the less personal information you share with others the better protected you are from becoming a victim of a crime. The criminal element takes advantage of any tool they can get their hands on to further their cause, so let's not assist them in doing so.

John Cheesman
Fircrest Police Chief

Building & Planning - Property Lines

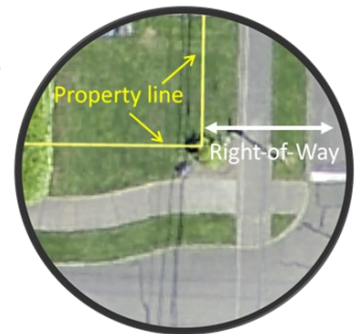
While we all know *what* a property line is, we often don't know *where* our property lines are. This can lead to disagreements between neighbors or conflict with the City's code.

Here are a couple of things to remember:

- In most parts of Fircrest, the property line is not the sidewalk or the curb.
- The area between your property line and the street is part of the City's right-of-way, so restrictions apply.
- This area is reserved for utility lines and expansion of streets, so no permanent structures, including fences and retaining walls, can be constructed without City permission.
- The property owner does have the responsibility to maintain their portion in good repair and keep clear of snow and debris.

How do you find your property line?

- Have a survey conducted. This does cost, but depending on your project, it may be worth it. This is the only legal determination of property lines.
- For a more general understanding, you can view your property lines online. Visit www.cityoffircrest.net/maps for the links.
- In addition, you can email planning@cityoffircrest.net to get a free .pdf of your property map.



A Friendly Reminder To Leash Your Pets At The Park



As COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease and more people are using our parks, we would like to remind everyone to please keep your dog on a leash when enjoying Fircrest's parks. Per Fircrest Municipal Code 10.12.040, "No dogs, cats or other animals shall be permitted to run loose in the parks." We have noticed an increase of off-leash dogs at Fircrest and Whittier Parks. We have compiled a list of off-leash dog parks in the area where pets can run freely without infringing on the safety of other park visitors.

Chambers Bay Off Leash Park - 6320 Grandview Dr W, Tacoma, WA, 98467

Ft. Steilacoom Dog Park - 8714 87th Ave SW, Lakewood, WA, 98499

Point Defiance Park - 5400 N Pearl St, Tacoma, WA, 98407

Wapato Lake Park - 6500 S Sheridan Ave, Tacoma, WA, 98408

Rogers Dog Park - 3300 East L St, Tacoma, WA, 98405

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Edwards Family Aquatic Center 2021 Summer Pool Program



Reservations start May 24, 2021

We are looking forward to opening the pool this summer. With our new pool design, and restrictions in place by the Health Department, our schedule and programming will look very different than they did with the previous pool in 2019.

We will be kicking off the 2021 pool season on Saturday, May 29th of Memorial Day weekend. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we must limit the number of people we have at the facility. Our grand opening weekend will be dedicated to Fircrest residents and we will be offering several swim sessions from Friday, May 29th through Monday, May 31st open to only Fircrest residents. To participate in the grand opening weekend swim sessions, you will need to create an account on the City's online registration software, RecDesk. You can do this by going to [Parks and Recreation Department](#) on the City's website and clicking on the Online Program Registration button.

The Edwards Family Aquatic Center will open to the general public on Tuesday, June 1st, and will continue to use our online reservation system as long as we are under COVID-19 restrictions with the State and Local Health Departments. We encourage everyone to go to the City's website and create their account ahead of time, as it can take up to two days to approve your account.

Below is a list of programs we will be offering this summer. For any pool-related questions, please email our Park & Recreation Director, Jeff Grover, at jgrover@cityoffircrest.net.

Adult Lap Swim:

Lap swim is for those age 18+ wishing to swim on their own and at their own pace. There is no coach on deck and lanes are first come first serve. Reservations are required; spots are limited.

June 7 - June 27

Monday – Friday 6:30 – 8:00 am

June 28 – August 22

M / W / F 6:30 – 7:30 am

August 23 – September 4

Monday – Friday 6:30 – 7:30 am

Swim Lessons:

Group lessons are for children ages 4 and up that are 32" tall at the top of the shoulder. All lesson levels are offered every half hour. If your child has not participated in swim lessons before or has minimal experience with swimming, we recommend starting in level 1. If your child can swim but needs work on basic strokes or treading water, please consult with one of our head lifeguards for guidance on what level to sign them up for. As of right now, swim lesson ratios are 3:1 student to instructor. Each session is 5 days a week for 2 consecutive weeks. Morning classes are offered from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm Monday-Friday. Evening swim lessons will be offered from 4:45-6:15 pm Monday-Friday. Swim lesson sign-ups will take place the Thursday before each session begins. Online registration only; spots are limited.

June 28 – August 20

Morning Lessons (1/2-hour session 5 days a week for 2 weeks)

Monday – Friday 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Evening Lessons (1/2-hour session 5 days a week for 2 weeks)

Monday – Friday 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm

Swim Team

The Fircrest Amateur Swim Team (FAST) is a developmental swim program that offers a low-pressure, fun swim program for aspiring swimmers. To qualify for FAST, your child needs to be able to swim 25 yards of freestyle and 25 yards backstroke. On the first day, we will test all swimmers to place them in the appropriate group and will let you know at that time if the swim team is the right fit for your child. If your child is not quite ready for FAST, our swim team coaches will recommend a swim lesson level that is appropriate for your child to learn the skills required to eventually join the swim team. Online registration is required; spots are limited.

June 28 – August 20

M/W/F 7:30 – 9:00 am



Family Swim (Reservation Times TBD):

Family Swim is a special swim session that is only open to children and their parents or guardians. Small water toys and floaties are allowed during family swim with lifeguard approval. Kids & teens 17 & under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during Family Swim. Admission will be required for all customers 6 years of age and older. Children 5 years of age and younger must be within arm's reach of their parent or guardian at all times while using the large pool. Reservations are required; spots are limited.

June 28-Sept. 3

Tuesday & Thursday 6:30 – 8:30 pm

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Summer Pool Programs - Con't

Open Swim:

Admission will be required for all customers 6 years of age and older. Children 5 years of age and younger must be within arm's reach of their parent or guardian at all times while using the large pool. Reservations are required; spots are limited.

Mid-Week Open Swim (Reservation Times TBD)

June 1 – June 25

M – F 2:30 – 6:00 pm

June 28 – Sept. 3 (Tentative)

Monday – Friday 12:30 – 4:30 pm

M/W/F 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Weekend Open Swim (Reservation Times TBD)

June 5 – Sept. 27

Sat. & Sun. 10:00 – 5:30 pm; 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

June 28 - Sept. 3 (Tentative)

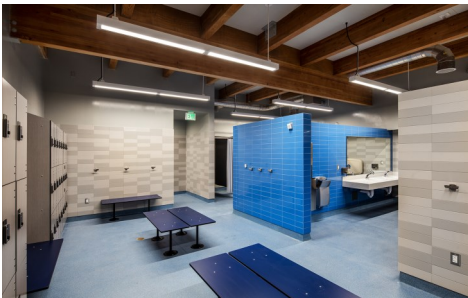
Sat. & Sun. 12:00-5:00 pm; 5:30-8:00 pm

Pool Events:

We will be offering evening pool events the 1st Friday and 3rd Saturday of the month, June through August. Reservations will be required, and spots are limited. Events will be posted on the City of Fircrest website calendar and on the City's Facebook page.

Facility Rental:

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are not currently taking facility rental reservations. We will update the City webpage as we continue to receive COVID-19 guidance from the State and Local Health Departments.



Summer Events

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Fircrest has made the difficult decision to cancel the following 2021 events:

**Strawberry Festival
Rod Run & Picnic
Fun Days**

These three events are held at Fircrest Park and usually attract 500 to 3000 participants. Holding these three large events at Fircrest Park would not meet the COVID-19 event guidelines. Due to the amount of time and resources it takes to plan these events and the openness of Fircrest Park, we are unable to put measures in place to regulate attendance and other COVID-19 restrictions. We understand that this will come as a disappointment to many, but this decision was given much consideration by staff and the City Council. It was determined

that the health and well-being of our community are of the greatest importance right now.

On the positive side, we have a number of other activities to keep our community engaged this summer. The new Edwards Family Aquatic Center will be opening on May 29th! We will be opening with limited capacity and reservations will be required for all swim sessions and programs. Get a head start and create an account on our new online registration system so that you are ready to go for the 2021 pool season. <https://fircrest.recdesk.com/Community/Home>

As restrictions begin to ease, we may be able to offer more in-person events throughout the summer. Please check out our website at www.cityoffircrest.net for information on upcoming events.

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.