

City of Fircrest Town Topics

August 2021

CITY COUNCIL

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Mayor's Message



In June, the Fircrest City Council devoted much of a study session to discussing goals for the city as the staff prepares the 2022 annual budget.

Before we looked to the future, we revisited the recent past – specifically, a list of goals the Council developed in 2019. Here is a quick status report:

- Build a new pool: Done!
- Revise development standards for commercial/mixed-use zones: We adopted a whole new code for the Mildred Street corridor that should encourage thoughtful, planned developments.
- Expand technology use and training for improved service delivery: The city is installing advanced water meters, and the new system should be operational by early 2022. The Parks and Recreation Department launched a new registration software for recreation programs.
- Improve financial forecasting: Our city staff developed our first-ever financial model so that we can project revenues and expenses five years into the future.
- IT audit, plan, and implementation: We contracted our IT services with a third-party vendor and that has improved the reliability and security of our systems.
- Expand grants search and activities: we hired a grant writer who helped the city win several major grants.
- Build a new community center: In progress and on track to open at the end of the year.
- Other parks improvement projects funded by the 2019 voted-approved Park Bond: In progress.
- Online permitting for Planning and Building: In progress; staff are researching options to enable residents to get building permits online.

This is a very impressive list of accomplishments for the small staff of our small city, especially when you consider all the things they worked on besides the huge, time-consuming effort to manage construction of the new pool and community center. I hope you will join me in expressing appreciation for their hard work and commitment to excellence.

Now we're looking to the future.

Staff members are spending the summer developing a proposed 2022 annual budget to present to the City Council, which will be reviewed in the fall before voting by year's end on a spending plan.

We had an in-depth discussion during our monthly study session in June about a range of ideas, which include:

Body cameras: Our police chief and city manager believe that equipping our police officers with body-worn cameras will be essential in protecting the public and our officers. The chief is spending time this summer researching costs, which includes the additional staff resources that would be needed to process public records requests for the body camera footage.

Park Bond projects: As we close in on completing the Community Center, we will start planning the other park projects we would like to complete under the voter-approved Park Bond. In 2022, we anticipate these projects at Fircrest Park: resurfacing the tennis courts, improving the turf, upgrading the field lights, and improving the storage garage near the playground.

Whittier Park Master Plan: As we finish major improvements to Fircrest Park, there is a lot of interest in turning our attention to the many needs of Whittier Park. Those include renovating the restrooms, realigning the ballfield, resurfacing the tennis courts, and determining what to do with the basketball and bocce courts. Rather than do these projects as one-offs, it has been suggested that we work with the community to update the park's master plan, which then would guide future investments and improvements.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): The city is slated to receive \$1.9 million in federal ARPA funds appropriated by Congress and the President to assist local governments in responding to the COVID-19 emergency and reviving the economy. The staff and Council are studying the numerous rules guiding the use of this money, which includes assistance for businesses, renters and utility customers.

Establish a sustainability plan: This could include plans for retrofitting city facilities, establishing charging stations for electric vehicles, and equipment replacement.

As always, we'd love your feedback. If you have ideas for goals and initiatives the city should consider, please send me a note or share your idea with all Councilmembers by calling into a City Council meeting.

Hunter T. George, Mayor
hgeorge@cityoffircrest.net

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City Manager's Corner



Hello Fircrest Residents,

For this edition of Town Topics, we want to welcome a new Police Officer, say a fond goodbye to an employee you all likely know, and touch on the pool and community center.

First, our newest Police Officer is Killian Larson, who comes to us from the Kirkland Police Department. We are excited for the community to get to know him. He is about 6 foot 10, so you can't miss him. Officer Larson grew up in Puyallup. He played basketball at the collegiate level at Grand Canyon University, and then played professionally overseas for several years. The timing for hiring Officer Larson worked out great. The City had recently ordered 2 new police vehicles to replace our 2011 vehicles, so we are able to outfit one to accommodate Officer Larson's height. Also, with these new 2021 police vehicles, the City is getting hybrid vehicles for the first time.

Secondly, as of July 16th, we said farewell to Barb Gollinger, who is retiring. Barb has been the Office Assistant at City Hall since 2013. She has been the smiling, welcoming face at City Hall that has answered your questions or pointed you in the right direction, conversated with you, been a quick friend, and has happily taken

your utility payments for over 8 years. We will miss her and wish her all the best in retirement!

Suzie Cappiello, who has been working in our Planning and Building office, has taken Barb's place at City Hall. While Suzie is not a new City employee, she is likely a new face for most of you since the pandemic closed our doors to the public just a few weeks after she started with the City. We are excited for Suzie to take on this new role.

Finally, I want to thank the community for supporting our first season with the Edwards Family Aquatic Center! We opened the pool while still operating under pandemic restrictions. We are grateful for how much the community has utilized the pool, and we appreciate the community's patience as we transitioned to operating without restrictions and as we kicked off a new registration system for our pool and recreation programs.

The Community Center construction project continues on schedule to this point. We are still anticipating final completion of the new center in early December.

Scott Pingel, City Manager
City of Fircrest

Public Works Projects for Summer 2021

The City of Fircrest Public Works Department continues to maintain, operate, and preserve the City's utility infrastructure. There are no Capital Improvement projects for the summer of 2021, but there are a few noteworthy projects that are internally funded and in process.

Public Works is currently working with an engineering consultant on a Department of Ecology funded Stormwater Pretreatment Outfall project. This project is in the design phase.

The water system will see a main upgrade from a 6 inch to 8 inch at the 200 block of Contra Costa Ave. Additionally, the water meter exchange program, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), continues in a positive direction toward fully automating our meter reading and monitoring processes.

City Streets will see a paving project for the 1200 block of Farallone Ave. This project will consist of a grind and overlay in continuation of previous years paving.

The sewer conveyance system has three backyard pipe bursting projects tentatively scheduled for late August. Additional public outreach will occur once dates are finalized. The locations for these projects are between 1. Amherst St and Cornell St, East of San Juan, 2. Daniels Dr and Alameda Ave, North of Rosewood Ln and 3. Berkeley Ave and Alameda Ave, South of Columbia St.

Tyler Bemis
Public Works Director



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Crime Prevention Tips



Many people are victims of crime. Oftentimes, there are steps that people can take to protect themselves and reduce the risk that they will become victimized.

Below are some crime prevention tips that the Fircrest Police Department encourages you to employ to decrease your odds of becoming a victim:

- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed.
- If you are going to be away for a length of time, use automatic timers to turn lights on and off during the day. Submit a vacation check to the Fircrest Police Department.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- If you are on vacation, have the Post Office hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to pick it up.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
- Install deadbolt locks on all of your outside doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable however special locks are available for better security.

Don't Tempt a Thief:

- Lawn mowers, barbecues and bicycles are best stored out of sight
- Always lock your garden sheds and garages.
- Use curtains on garage and basement windows.

Get the Best:

- No lock, regardless of its quality, can be truly effective. Ask a locksmith for advice on your situation.
- Change locks immediately if your keys are lost or stolen.
- When moving into a new home, have all locks changed.

Targeting the Outside:

- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.
- Make sure your door hinges are on the inside.

Windows:

- Most windows can be pinned for security.
Drill a 3/16" hole on a slight downward slant through the inside window frame and halfway into the outside frame - place a nail in the hole to secure the window.

Alarms:

- An alarm system is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to homeowners, especially while on vacation. There are a wide variety of alarm systems on the market so make inquiries to different companies for the best security system available to you.

- **If you have a home alarm system, use it!** Alarm systems are only useful when you remember to activate them.

Group Picture from "Chiefs 2021 Challenge"



Teachin em' young at "Chief's 2021 Challenge"



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Fircrest Parks and Recreation Facility Rentals

Edwards Family Party Room

The Party Room is in the new Edwards Family Aquatic Center, it is available to rent 7 days a week from Noon to 9 pm. The room comes with a professional grade kitchen, outdoor serving window, restroom access, drop—down projector screen, and enough tables and chairs for 45 people. The Party Room looks out onto the Fircrest Park and is a great location for any occasion.

Picnic Shelters

Our picnic shelters are covered and will hold between 25 and 100 people. The shelters have plenty of open space for adults and children to play.

- Ron Russo Pavilion at Fircrest Park
- Whittier Park Picnic Shelter

Softball Fields

- Fircrest Park Softball Field
- Whittier Park Softball Field

Parks

Any large or public event that uses a park requires approval by the Fircrest Parks and Recreation Department. Examples of special uses are, but not limited to, religious or political activities; dances; tournaments; concessions; indoor events open to the public; outdoor events such as weddings, dog shows, car shows, running or walking events, amplified performances, art shows and events with inflatable toys.

Request a Facility

- Visit our facility webpage at <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/government/parks-and-recreation/facility-rentals/> for information on pricing and how to reserve a facility.



Party Room



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.