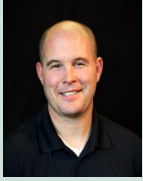


Town Topics



Brett L. Wittner, *Mayor*
 Joe Barrentine, *Mayor Pro Tempore*
 David M. Viafore
 Shannon Reynolds
 Hunter T. George
 Nikki Bufford
 Jim Andrews

City Manager's Corner



Hello Fircrest Residents,

With our recent election and new year, the City has two new City Councilmembers, a new Mayor and a new Mayor Pro Tempore that I would like to introduce to you. Also, elsewhere in this edition of Town Topics is updated information regarding the new Community Center and our tentative timeline for opening and celebration.

Our two new City Councilmembers are Jim Andrews and Nikki Bufford, whose terms run from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2025. Congrats to our new Councilmembers! At our January 11th City Council meeting, Brett Wittner was selected as the Mayor. Congratulations Mayor Wittner! Also at the January 11th City Council meeting, Joe Barrentine was selected as Mayor Pro Tempore. Congratulations Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine!

Councilmember Andrews was elected to the Fircrest City Council in November 2021. He and his wife have been married for 41 years and have four children and 10 grandchildren. They have lived in the University Place/Fircrest area since 1982. Jim sees the primary role of municipal government as providing top-quality public services. This includes:

- Police/Courts and strong Medical Aid/Fire Services
- Parks and Recreation services for all age groups
- Quality Public Works

Jim has a Masters in Business Administration in Management and retired as the Chief of Police of University Place with 29 years in Law Enforcement. He has 34 years active and reserve service in the United States Army Rangers 2/75 and is a retired Captain in the United States Coast Guard Reserves. In his careers he has worked with both large and small budgets as a finance officer and will bring this knowledge and expertise to our City Council to help keep Fircrest fiscally sound. Jim belongs to the following organizations:

- Disabled American Veterans
- Reserve Officers Association
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- American Legion
- American Ex- Prisoners of War

Councilmember Bufford was elected to the Fircrest City Council in November 2021. She currently works in the utility space as an Energy Risk Management Lead and brings to Council over 14 years of success in finance roles spanning both the public and private sectors.

After completing dual undergraduate degrees in finance and economics from Central Washington University, Nikki has molded her career around a keen interest in compliance and continuous improvement. She has championed many operational and change management initiatives to develop and implement new processes and efficiencies while improving collaboration and cross-departmental communications.

Nikki is committed to utilizing a forward-looking and inclusive approach to building connections with the community and fostering a sense of belonging. She is proud to call Fircrest home and is excited to work together with residents, City staff, and City Councilmembers to ensure that decisions are made with input and involvement from all community stakeholders.

If you're out for a walk you'll likely find Nikki near Thelma Gilmur Park. She and her husband, Staley, live in the south end of Fircrest with their dog Watson and feline roommates Jerry, Fuego, and Olivia. Nikki is the third of four sisters and grew up in University Place, where her parents still reside and extended family often gathers. In her downtime Nikki enjoys hiking, rock climbing, crafting, and exploring new activities.

Mayor Wittner has been a City Councilmember since November 2015. During this time, he served as Mayor Pro Tempore from 2020 to 2022 before his recent selection as Mayor for the next two years. He also served as the Chair of the Fircrest Pool and Community Center Steering Committee.

Brett has been an attorney practicing in Tacoma since 1997 focusing on the areas of bankruptcy, immigration, business, and estate planning. He and his family have lived in Fircrest since 2006. He has three children who have grown up in Fircrest and who have attended Whittier Elementary, Wainright Intermediate, Truman Middle School, and Tacoma's Science and Math Institute. When not working and spending time with his family, Brett enjoys running marathons and hiking. He has completed 71 marathons to date, including the Boston Marathon three times.

Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine was elected to the City Council in November 2019 for a January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2023, term. He works in the communications office at the Port of Tacoma. Previously he worked in print journalism for 18 years serving as a photo editor, photographer and video journalist for the Seattle Times, The News Tribune and the Spokesman-Review. Joe also runs the Tacoma Diaper Drive and helped organize the Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Scott Pingel
 City Manager

Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest Police



When Should I Call 9-1-1?

The 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 **911** 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 asks you to call **(253) 287-4455** 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 here at the Police Department. If you see or hear anything that seems suspicious or odd to you, please call.**

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 questions or direct you to someone that can. The office staff is also available to assist you with vacation checks, public disclosure requests, and other community-related resources. The office is open Monday – Friday 8am until 5pm. **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

Planning-Comprehensive Plan

The City of Fircrest is hereby giving notice that the Planning and Building Department will be accepting applications for Comprehensive Plan amendments beginning March 1, 2022 and ending April 29, 2022 at 5:00PM. Except as provided for in FMC Chapter 23 and RCW 36.70A.130, amendment requests received after the deadline will not be considered during the 2022 amendment process. Please contact us at 253-564-8902 or planning@cityoffircrest.net for more information pertaining to the Comprehensive Plan and amendment process.

Public Works

2022 Utility Rate Increase

This is a friendly reminder that on December 14, 2021 the City Council adopted a 2% water rate increase. The rate adjustment will assist in making the utility sustainable, support the operation and maintenance of the utility and provide funding for capital improvements to repair and replace existing worn and outdated infrastructure. The new rate will be effective 2/1/2022 and you will begin to notice the increase on your April 2022 utility bill.

What can you expect?

The water base (ready to serve charge) will increase \$0.37/month

Current Bi-Monthly Billing Rate	\$37.00
New Bi-Monthly Billing Rate	\$37.74

Water usage tiers will increase as follows:

Tier1: 1 – 1,000	from \$0.0109 to \$0.0111 /cf (cubic feet)
Tier2: 1,001 – 4,000	from \$0.0163 to \$0.0166 /cf
Tier3: 4,001 - +	from \$0.0272 to \$0.0282 /cf

Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest Parks and Recreation

Community Center Update

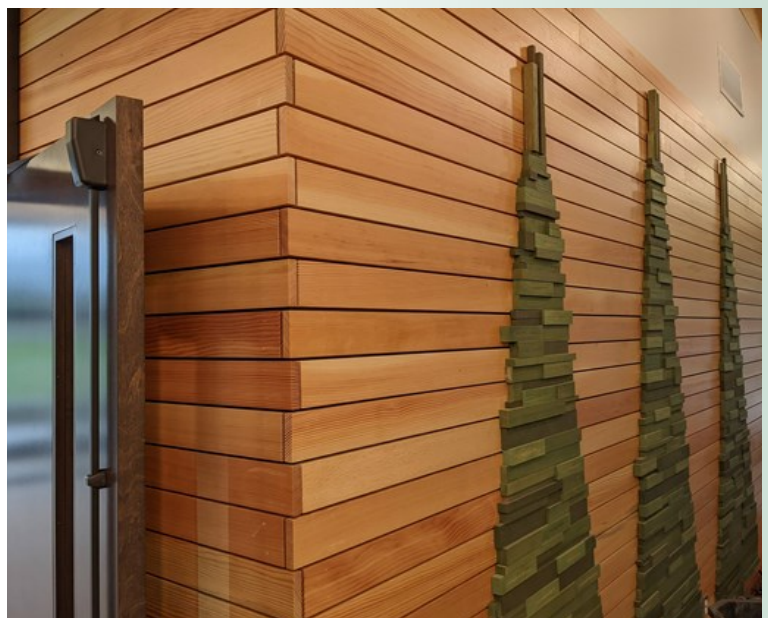
Progress continues on the Community Center. Unfortunately, our initial completion date was not attainable due to manufacturing and shipping delays that significantly affected the project. The contractor and design team have been working together to keep the project moving forward and are hoping to establish final completion within the first few weeks of March. We will be tracking the progress and providing up-to-date information on the City website to keep citizens informed with grand opening dates, new programs, classes, and events. The information will be posted at this address: <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/community-center-pool-project/>

See photos below and on the next page of the progress!

Youth Sports

We have partnered with Metro Parks Tacoma for our annual youth basketball this season. After taking 2020/2021 off due to COVID-19 related protocols, Metro graciously included our 23 teams into their league so that our basketball teams may utilize Tacoma Schools for practices and Metro Parks community centers for games. We are so appreciative of Metro Parks Tacoma, our Fircrest families, and our volunteer coaches for being so flexible with the league changes due to the Community Center construction delays. We are looking forward to holding next year's basketball season in the new Roy H. Murphy Community Center and Names Family Foundation Gymnasium, along with many other sports leagues, clinics, camps, and drop-in programs.

Progress Photos of Community Center



Serving the Community Since 1925

Progress Photos of Community Center Continued



Fircrest Parks and Recreation Upcoming Events

Medallion Madness

Thursday, March 17th

150 limited edition wooden medallions will be hidden around our community on St. Patrick's Day. Join in the fun and see if you can find one! If you find a medallion, take it to OPTIMUM Physical Therapy to claim your "bag of gold" (chocolate coins)!

Fish 'N Fun

Saturday, March 26th

9:00 am—4:00 pm

Bring your fishing pole and get ready to have some fun! This free activity is for children ages 3—10. Sessions are 45 minutes long and registration is required. Space is limited so be sure to sign up if you are interested!

Easter Egg Hung

Saturday, April 16th

Join us at the Community Center at 9 am for easter bunny photos, games & refreshments! The easter egg hunts will be at staggered start times at the Tot Lot, Community Center plaza & Pool Party room patio.

OPTIMUM Physical Therapy and Fircrest Parks & Recreation present

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MEDALLION MADNESS

MARCH 17th

On St. Patrick's Day 150 limited edition Fircrest medallions will be hidden around our community. Find a medallion to claim your "bag o' gold" (chocolate coins).

THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT TO FIND

1027 Regents Blvd. For more information visit the City of Fircrest website.

Fircrest Parks & Recreation Presents

FISH 'N FUN

MARCH 26

9am-4pm

BRING YOUR FISHING POLE and get ready to have some fun!

A FREE activity for ages 3 to 10 years
Sessions are 45 minutes long

FREE REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- Fish cleaning
- Trout recipes
- Refreshments
- Prizes
- Photo Station

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

ON-LINE REGISTRATION BEGINS:
Fircrest Residents: March 1st
Non-residents: March 21st

SPACE IS LIMITED
Only one adult per child

Visit the City of Fircrest website for more information.

FIRCREST PARKS & RECREATION AND KIWANIS CLUB PRESENT THE ANNUAL

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022

NEW STAGGERED START TIME:

10:00 am	4 years & under - Tot Lot
10:15 am	5 - 6 years - Community Center Plaza
	7 - 9 years - Pool Party Room Patio

9 AM - JOIN US AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER FOR
EASTER BUNNY PHOTOS • GAMES • REFRESHMENTS

www.cityoffircrest.net

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.