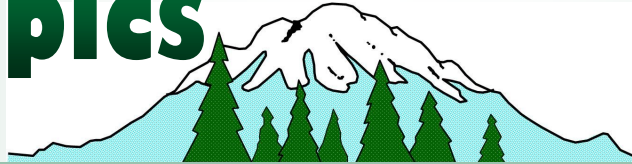


City of Fircrest Town Topics

June 2022

CITY COUNCIL

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



City Council Spotlight—Nikki Bufford

As this is my first Town Topics article, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, our community.

These past few years have been difficult for all of us, and I find comfort in the support that we as a community have provided for each other. Collectively we thrive in spaces in which we build social connections and develop a sense of belonging. By rising to the occasion, we as a community continue to find new ways to gather and new ways to celebrate the individual stories and cultural diversity of our neighbors.

Community is what compels so many of us to settle here in Fircrest. As I reflect on the new Roy H. Murphy Community Center, a place for us to be in community with each other, I am excited for what will come. We are known for our amazing events and recreation programs. With this new center we can take those events and programs to the next level by planning with intention and connecting with all populations of our community.

When it comes to community engagement, you - our residents, never fail to deliver. I have met so many of you as volunteers during events such as Fit Week, Haunted Trails, and the Holiday Tree Lighting. And it would be remiss of me not to mention those who volunteer to maintain our local parks and greenspaces such as Whittier Park (Pierce Conservation District) and Thelma Gilmer Park (Gilmur Grubbers).

The amount of time and effort that volunteers donate to our City to keep these events going, and growing, seems insurmountable. And yet you make it happen. It is amazing what is possible when we work together!

Speaking of working together, Fircrest has been busy! In April we celebrated the grand opening of our new Community Center, a significant feat for any city and an even greater accomplishment for one as small as Fircrest. We as a community worked together for years to see this vision come to life – from volunteers to voters and everyone in between.

We also passed the first City proclamations recognizing Black History Month (February) and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May). I anticipate additional proclamations will be brought forward throughout the year. As the first person of color to serve on the Fircrest City Council I am motivated by this great launching point for us to strengthen our sense of belonging while celebrating Fircrest's diversity.

As a colleague has said, Fircrest is small but mighty. It is an honor to both serve and celebrate our community.

See you at the next event!

Nikki Bufford, Fircrest City Council
nbufford@cityoffircrest.net

City of Fircrest—1st Annual Resident Poker Walk!



Please join us on Tuesday, July 19th between 11:30-2:30 for the 1st Annual Resident Poker Walk sponsored by Fircrest Wellness. Fircrest Wellness is led by a group of city employees who plan activities throughout the year to help city staff stay active and engaged in health and

wellness activities together. You may have seen us out and about doing Poker Walks in the past!

Below are the five locations that we will have for the walk. Each location will have staff present to meet you and give building tours if desired! We would love for the opportunity to show you the spaces where we work.

1. Public Works (120 Ramsdell)
2. Police Station (302 Regents)
3. Community Center Reception (555 Contra Costa)
4. Pool House (545 Contra Costa)

5. City Hall lobby (115 Ramsdell)

Poker Walk forms will be available at the first location. The instructions are easy:

- Each stop will have a box with 52 envelopes in it, each with a card from a deck of cards
- Open the envelope and write down the suit and number of your card on your form
- Put the card/envelope back in the box.
- Once you have completed the walk at City Hall, your five cards will make up your "Poker Hand."

We will have snacks and goodies for the first 250 people. Please make sure that you turn in your completed Poker Walk form with your name and phone number on it at City Hall —prizes will be awarded later to those with the highest & lowest hands! Please call City Hall if you have any questions (253-564-8901). We hope to see you there!

Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest Police



PREVENTING THEFT FROM YOUR VEHICLE

As the weather gets warmer and the days get longer more and more people are out moving around and enjoying this time of year. Unfortunately, our law-abiding citizens are not the only ones out and about more. The criminal element is as well. This is the time of year when we see a rise in vehicle prowls in Fircrest. In 2021 we responded to 144 thefts in our city and a majority of them were from vehicles. In several recent cases, the victim's vehicles were left unlocked, and valuables were left in plain sight.

Let's not make it easy for thieves. Following these simple guidelines will make it difficult and less inviting for "would-be" thieves to come into our community. We are encouraging you to employ some basic preventative measures:

- Never leave keys inside the vehicle.
 - Park in well-lit areas.
 - Ensure that the windows are all the way up before locking your vehicle.
 - Lock your vehicle even if you are going to be away for a short time.
 - Be sure to activate your vehicle alarm whenever you exit/lock your vehicle.
 - Remember to remove portable G.P.S. devices.
 - Lock your vehicle even if it is parked in your driveway, inside your garage or on the street in front of your residence.
 - Do not leave valuables inside your vehicle even if it is locked. (i.e., purses, wallets, cell phones, computers, cameras, shopping bags, back packs, etc.)
 - Do not leave any items inside your vehicle that a "would-be" thief may think contain valuables even if they don't. (i.e., bags, back packs, etc.)
- If you have a removable faceplate on your stereo, always remove it and take it with you.
 - If you see anyone acting suspiciously in the area of your vehicle or in your neighborhood, please report it immediately by calling 9-1-1. You are the eyes and ears of your police department.
 - Have an alarm installed and place a sticker on your window indicating your vehicle is protected.
 - Do not keep a "Hide-a-Key" in the wheel well. Vehicle prowlers will often look for these. When they find one not only will they be able to steal your property inside your vehicle, but you have now made it easy for them to steal your vehicle.

These simple steps will deter most "would-be" thieves. Do not hesitate to call 911 immediately if you see ANYTHING or ANYONE that seems out of place or suspicious. We cannot do our jobs effectively without the help and assistance of those we serve. Don't become a victim and as always, let's watch out for each other.

Chief John Cheesman



Summer Water Conservation Tips



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 con-

- ◇ 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

Planning & Building

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

If you plan to do any repairs or improvements to your home, there is a good chance a permit is needed. What does the permit get you? With each permit, the City:

- Reviews the project to see if it meets the applicable rules and codes.
- Verifies that your contractor is licensed, bonded, and in good standing with the Washington State labor and industries.
- Conducts inspections to ensure the minimum standards were met.
- Provides proof of what and when work was completed.

When it comes to who can do the actual work, State law allows two options: Property owners and registered contractors.

Property owners are allowed to work on their own property without being licensed contractors. Construction permits would still

be needed in most cases to ensure all work meets the minimum standards in the International Residential Code.

Registered contractors may be hired to complete the work. They must maintain a surety bond, have liability insurance, have a Washington business license, and a City of Fircrest business license, which helps protect the property owner.

Hiring someone who is not a registered contractor brings risk and liability. Besides the fact that they are not licensed and bonded, you could be considered their employer and could be held liable for any medical expenses, missing wages, and overtime. Find out more information about hiring a contractor at Protect-MyHome.net.

Discussions with City staff are free – email permits@cityoffircrest.net, call 253-564-8902, or stop by for a visit

Watch out for these Weeds!

Non-native plants can become a problem and be termed a noxious weed (or "invasive species") if they can establish successfully, crowd out native plants and cause other negative impacts. Please watch for these 3 weed species that are currently infesting some areas of Fircrest, including our parks:

- Shiny Geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) is the highest priority for control as it is not yet established
- Herb Robert (aka Stinky Bob; *Geranium robertianum*)
- Itadori Knotweed (aka Japanese Knotweed; *Fallopia japonica*) and other related knotweeds are established in some areas

but are expanding in to Fircrest.

Please see the following link to see photos of these species and other information including control methods <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/blog/>. For more information see the Pierce County Noxious Weed Board's website with links to more resources <http://piercecountyweedboard.org/> and contact Fircrest Public Works Department <http://www.cityoffircrest.net/government/public-works-department/> if you see these species in Fircrest public spaces or need assistance.

Fircrest Parks and Recreation

Roy H. Murphy Community Center

We're excited to begin implementing programming in the new Roy H. Murphy Community Center. As programs start up in the new center, we continue to plan a variety of fun, engaging, and welcoming programs for children, adolescents, and adults at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center. We are striving to present programs that will fully utilize the new Community Center and that will deepen connections to the community and each other. Any ideas and recommendations are always welcome. Please stay tuned to the website for updates!

ROY H. MURPHY COMMUNITY CENTER

PROGRAMS COMING SOON

YOUTH	SPORTS	ADULT
YOUTH DANCE CLASS YOUTH GUITAR CLASS ART CLASS YOUTH ART CLUB ORGANIZED VIDEO GAMES YOUTH COOKING CLASS SNAPOLOGY BALLET	PICKLEBALL TABLE TENNIS BASKETBALL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE SPORTS BASKETBALL CLINICS DODGEBALL OPEN GYM	FITNESS CLASSES BARRE & JAZZ ADULT DANCE CLASS ADULT GUITAR CLASS ART CLASS NEWS, COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS SENIOR CARDS SENIOR LECTURE SERIES MEDITATION CLASS EVENING YOGA
FAMILY		
FAMILY OPEN GYM TOT GYM FAMILY ART CLASS		

SCHEDULES FOR THESE PROGRAMS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON OUR WEBSITE & RECDESK

City Hall 253-564-8901 | Municipal Court 253-564-8922 | Public Works 253-564-8900 | Pool 253-327-1213
Community Center 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

Fircrest Parks & Recreation—Pool Schedule and Upcoming Events

Edwards Family Aquatic Center 2022 Schedule

MAY 31- JUNE 26

Weekday Schedule

6:30 – 9:30 am M-F	Adult Lap Swim
3:30-6:30 pm M-F	Open Swim

Weekend Schedule

12:00-5:00 pm	Open Swim
5:30-8:00 pm	Open Swim

JUNE 27-AUGUST 21

Weekday Schedule

6:30 – 7:30 M/W/F	Adult Lap Swim
7:30-9:00 M/W/F	Fircrest Swim Team Practice
9:30 - 12:00 M-F	Morning Swim Lessons
12:30 - 4:30 M-F	Open Swim
4:45 – 6:15 pm M-F	Evening Lessons
6:30 – 8:30 pm M/W/F	Open Swim
6:30 – 8:30 pm T/TH	Family Swim

Weekend Schedule

12:00-5:00 pm	Open Swim
5:30-8:00 pm	Open Swim

AUGUST 22-SEPTEMBER 5 (LAST DAY SEPT 5)

Weekday Schedule

6:30 – 9:30 M-F	Adult Lap Swim
12:30 - 4:30 M-F	Open Swim
6:30 – 8:30 pm M/W/F	Open Swim
6:30-8:30 pm T/TH	Family Swim

Weekend Schedule

12:00-5:00 pm	Open Swim
5:30-8:00 pm	Open Swim

Edwards Family Aquatic Center Info

Pool Manager / Madeline Garcia

Email / mgarcia@cityoffircrest.net

Phone Number / 253-312-1213

Website: <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/government/parks-and-recreation/swimming-pool/>



We look forward to welcoming you all back to the pool this summer! Above you will find our schedule. Please be sure to login and create your Rec Desk account if you don't have one so that you can make reservations and sign up for swim lessons. We are also happy to welcome our new Pool Manager, Madeline Garcia! She is happy to answer any questions you may have about the swimming pool, lessons, etc. You can also find out more about the swimming pool and what we have to offer this summer on the Parks & Rec page on our website. We hope to see you at the pool this summer!

Join us! City Council Meetings are held the 2nd & 4th Tuesday's of the month at 7:00 pm, Council Study Sessions are the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 pm, & Planning Commission Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm.