

# City of Fircrest Town Topics

June 2023

## CITY COUNCIL

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



### City Spotlight— Dawn Masko Appointed City Manager



The City Council of Fircrest is very pleased to announce the appointment of Dawn Masko as it's next City Manager. "The City Council and I are excited that Dawn Masko has agreed to be our next City Manager. She is uniquely qualified and brings tremendous leadership skills to our City. We look forward to working with Dawn and are excited for the future of Fircrest," said Brett L. Wittner, Mayor.

Ms. Masko is a highly skilled professional local government manager with some 35 years of proven success and accomplishments. She started in various finance positions for the Metropolitan Park District and the City of Tacoma, served 5 years as the Finance Director for University Place, next as the City Administrator for Dupont, and then 9 years with the City of North Bend as their Deputy City Administrator. Dawn brings the breadth and depth of municipal experience needed as a City Manager. She has her Bachelors Degree in Business Administration/ Accounting from the University of Puget Sound. Dawn and her family have been actively involved in Fircrest and the surrounding communities for many years. Ms. Masko clearly brings the professional skills and community knowledge to the Fircrest City Manager position.

The City's consultants brought 17 applicants for the position to the Council. The four most qualified were selected for review and interviewed by the community, staff, and the City Council. While the four Finalists were all well qualified, Ms. Masko was the top pick by all. On April 25, the City Council unanimously approved her appointment as City Manager. She will assume her new duties on June 16.

"I am really excited to serve as Fircrest's next City Manager. While the City is generally in good shape, I look forward to the challenges ahead. John Cheesman's retirement means the hiring and introduction to the community of a new Police Chief. We face the challenges of meeting our share of the State's growth while protecting the historic character of the existing community. And then of course, we must maintain the City's high-touch customer service. I can't wait to get out into the community to meet everyone," said Dawn Masko, City Manager Select.

### City of Fircrest— SAVE THE DATE: 2nd Annual Resident Poker Walk

Please join us on Friday, July 14th between 11:30-2:30 for the 2nd Annual Resident Poker Walk sponsored by Fircrest Wellness. Fircrest Wellness is a program led by city employees who plan activities throughout the year to help staff stay active and engaged in health and wellness activities together.

Below are the five locations that will be used in the walk. Each location will have staff members present to meet you and will be doing building tours. We would love for the opportunity to show you the spaces where we work!

1. Public Works (120 Ramsdell St)
2. Public Safety Building (302 Regents Blvd)
3. Community Center Reception (555 Contra Costa Ave)
4. Pool house (545 Contra Costa Ave)
5. City Hall (115 Ramsdell St)

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, choose an envelope and write down the suit and number on your form.
- Put your card back in the box, and have a staff member sign off on your sheet. Once the walk has been completed, the 5 cards will have made 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!



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

## THANK YOU CHIEF CHEESMAN!



John G. Cheesman first joined the Town of Fircrest Police Department as a Commissioned Reserve Police Officer on September 1, 1982, advanced to become a Commissioned Peace Officer on February 1, 1983, and earned a promotion to Police Sergeant on July 1, 1987. Cheesman was appointed as the Fircrest Police Chief on November 16, 1998, and has served in that capacity since. John has dedicated his entire law enforcement career to the City of Fircrest through innovative community policing strategies and community involvement programs such as National Night Out, Law Enforcement Youth Camp, Special Olympics, Law Enforcement Torch Run, Terrific Kids, and Coffee with a Cop. All activities that brought regional and national recognition to the City of Fircrest. Cheesman retired on May 16, 2023, after 41 years of faithful and selfless service protecting the community. The City Council honors Police Chief John G. Cheesman for 41 years of loyal service and dedication to the City of Fircrest.



### The Department

The Fircrest Police Department operates on a 2023 budget of \$2.2 million and employs approximately 12 FTEs. The mission of the Fircrest Police Department is to work in partnership with the community to protect life and property and to enhance the quality of life in the City through proactive problem solving, fair and equitable law enforcement, and effective use of resources. Functions and programs include patrol, traffic enforcement, investigations, crime prevention, emergency response, narcotics, vice related activities, school lunch buddies' program, school safety programs and special services. The Department is committed to building relationships with community members while providing the highest level of service to keep the City's citizens safe.



### Law Enforcement Youth Camp



Law Enforcement Youth Camp (LEYC) purpose is to provide a privilege for good kids who may be in disadvantaged situation, in need of positive interaction with law enforcement, and/or whose family situations might limit them from experiencing the fun and leadership skills that camp provides.

The program also includes activities in the Spring, Fall, and winter. Campers are boys and girls ages 9 to 11. Many of our campers are kids we encounter, and get to know through our jobs.

### Volunteer Opportunity: Planning Commission

Have you ever wanted to be more involved in the development and future vision of Fircrest? Do you have an interest in the growth and feel of our neighborhoods? Consider serving on the Fircrest Planning Commission.

The position is voluntary and serves a 6-year term. Applicants must reside within the city limits and be a registered voter. If you are interested, submit a letter of interest (resume optional) addressed to:

Fircrest City Hall  
c/o City Clerk  
115 Ramsdell Street  
Fircrest, WA 98466

Appointments are made by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Letters will be accepted until 5:00 pm Friday, July 7, 2023. For more information visit: [www.cityoffircrest.net/planning-commission](http://www.cityoffircrest.net/planning-commission)

**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.**



# Serving the Community Since 1925

## The City of Fircrest and How it Functions



The City of Fircrest operates under a council-manager form of government, the manager is appointed by the city council to implement council goals and manage day-to-day city operations. The city of Fircrest is comprised of seven departments and offices in four buildings all intent on providing its citizens with efficient, courteous, and professional services. City departments include Administration and personnel, Finance/IT, Municipal Court, Parks & Recreation, Planning & Building, Police, and Public Works. The city operates on a 2023 budget of 32.7 million and employs 37.5 FTEs.

## Parks & Recreation

### Whittier Park Master Plan Project

The master planning project for the Whittier Park process will be a unique opportunity to unite City staff, the community, and stakeholders to unify planning for future improvements at Whittier Park. We will be led through this process by a firm that has decades of successful project experience working with various public agencies in local communities. This planning process is an essential first step to planning for any changes or updates to Whittier Park and will coordinate the community's shared intention for the park. We look forward to providing more information through the City website, social media, reader board, and Community Center postings as we begin to move forward.

### Upcoming Parks Projects

For information on the upcoming Fircrest Park Tennis Court Resurfacing and Fircrest Park Sports Field Improvement RCO Grant projects go to <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/government/parks-and-recreation/>.

## Edwards Family Aquatic Center 2023 Schedule

### MAY 27, 28, 29 (OPENING DAY MAY 27)

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| 11 am - 2 pm   | Open Swim |
| 2:30 - 5:30 pm | Open Swim |
| 6:00 - 8:00 pm | Open Swim |

### MAY 30 - JUNE 18

#### **Weekday Schedule**

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

#### **Weekend Schedule**

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| 11 am - 2 pm   | Open Swim |
| 2:30 - 5:30 pm | Open Swim |
| 6:00 - 8:00 pm | Open Swim |

### JUNE 19 - AUGUST 18

#### **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                   |
| 5:00 - 6:00 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**

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| 11 am - 2 pm   | Open Swim |
| 2:30 - 5:30 pm | Open Swim |
| 6:00 - 8:00 pm | Open Swim |

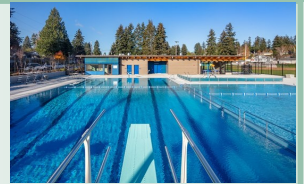
### AUGUST 19-SEPTEMBER 1 (LAST DAY SEPT 5)

#### **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**

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| 11 am - 2 pm   | Open Swim |
| 2:30 - 5:30 pm | Open Swim |
| 6:00 - 8:00 pm | Open Swim |



#### **Edwards Family Aquatic Center Info:**

Pool Managers / Madeline Garcia, Cooper Posada

Email / [pool@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:pool@cityoffircrest.net)

Phone Number / 253-564-8188

#### **Website**

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

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## Public Works

### Capital Projects 2023-24:



Over the next couple of years, the City will see a multitude of Capital Projects. These projects will range from the design and construction phases across all Utilities. Public Works is nearing the final design approval for the Lift Station upgrade project at 44<sup>th</sup> St W and 67<sup>th</sup> Ave W. The construction for this project may start in Fall of 2023 but will likely carry over into 2024 due to manufacturing constraints. Another Sewer Utility project scheduled for construction is replacing the backyard sewer main of the 100 block of Farallone Ave and El Dorado Ave via pipe bursting. There are also three Streets/Sidewalk projects in the preliminary design phase. The two street projects are asphalt grind and overlays for Regents Blvd from Alameda Ave to 67<sup>th</sup> St W and South Orchard St from Regents Blvd to Holly Dr. The South Orchard St project includes the intersection abutting the City of Tacoma and may go out construction bids in the Fall of 2023. Public Works staff are working diligently to join efforts with Tacoma to pave this entire intersection. The Emerson St sidewalk extension project from Woodside Dr to 67<sup>th</sup> St W is funded for design in 2023 and construction in 2024. Replacement of old undersized water mains will take place on both Rose St and Yale St from Contra Costa Ave to Del Monte Ave. The City has one current Stormwater project which may be completed by the time this article is published. This is a stormwater pretreatment project that will replace five separate catch basin structures to protect the headwaters of Leach Creek.

## Donna Basil's Retirement



Wainwright Intermediate School Principal Donna Basil recently announced that she will retire at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. She has been a principal for the past 10 years and has served the Tacoma School District for 32 years.

Donna began her career in 1991 as a long-term substitute and quickly transitioned to Boze elementary's highly capable program to support students in 3-5 grades. She later served as a multiage teacher, reading specialist, and instructional coach. With her administration credentials, she began as assistant principal at Giadrone Middle School and later principal at Whittier elementary.

Her big move came 7 years ago, when the superintendent chose Basil to be the first principal at the newly opening Wainwright Intermediate School, which houses fourth through eighth grade students. She felt proud to be part of the school's innovative design and an environment designed around students and flexible learning.

"This has been so fulfilling. It was a perfect career," Basil said, smiling, as she talked about her decision to go into education. "I wanted a career that can change lives and an environment in which students and teachers have been able to succeed. That is what I did, and I am so proud to have been here to do it."

She has been known throughout the Fircrest community over the years, she wants everyone to remember her as being compassionate and bringing a positive influence on the lives of both students and adults. She is looking forward to spending time with my family and exploring world culture.



## Small Business Spotlight: Browns Flowers

Brown's Flowers and Gifts is located on 620 Regents Blv. in the heart of the city. They offer a full variety of floral needs. whether it's weddings, services, anniversary, or birthdays they have you covered!

Little history about Brown's Flowers, it started in Lakewood in 1926, and moved to South Tacoma in 1934 where it stayed for over 80 years. Early this year they decided to move to a friendlier neighborhood. Where they could be part of a community and Fircrest seemed to be the right spot.

"For me I Started with Browns Flowers 26 years ago, where I learned their values, and standards. I had a great following of customers so when the shop came up for sale, my business partner/brother thought it would be a great investment, and we purchased the business. I always dreamt of having a flower shop, but one that we could be part of the community, and unfortunately South Tacoma was not giving me that. Moving a 96 year old business was not an easy decision but for the sake of the store was needed. With the support of my family, and staff we packed up and moved March 1st. Honestly, it was the best decision we have made. We just wanted to thank to the community of Fircrest for making us feel so welcome." -Thereesa

Stop by and say Hi. You can even feed their four turtles!



Hours

Monday ~ Wednesday 9am to 3pm

Thursday ~ Friday 9am to 4p

Saturday 9am to 2pm

